

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CLINTON U.N. SPEECH

U.S. INTERESTS, NOT U.N. AGENDA, SHOULD GUIDE FOREIGN POLICY;
DOLE SUPPORTS REFORM OF UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, travelling today in New York City, issued the following statement regarding President Clinton's foreign policy address to the United Nations:

"President Clinton outlined several foreign policy objectives and proposals in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly, including greater efforts to strengthen democracies, to stem proliferation and to reform the United Nations. What was missing from his speech is a review of what the United Nations is actually doing -- in New York and around the world. If we look, we'll see that there is a large gap between U.S. interests and U.N. operations.

"When we fail to recognize that gap, we drift into questionable missions, like nation-building in Somalia. We also see the gap between U.S. interests and U.N. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. President Clinton stated that in the post-Cold War world we should align ourselves with new democracies. Well, one of the new democracies and U.N. member state, Bosnia-Herzegovina, is being dismembered -- with the help of the United Nations -- and the United States is going along. For the past 18 months Bosnia has been denied its inherent right to self-defense, and consequently has lost most of its territory. And, now the United States is contemplating sending 25,000 troops to Bosnia to implement a U.N.-mediated plan which rewards aggression. Should U.S. lives be risked to enforce gains made through ethnic cleansing?

Promote U.S. Interests

"Although the President outlined operational criteria for U.S. participation in peacekeeping operations, he left out the most important consideration: does a proposed mission promote U.S. interests? The President laid out some of the right questions for U.S. participation in U.N. operations -- such as whether an end point to the mission can be identified -- but he has not answered this question concerning U.S. involvement in Somalia.

Reform the U.N.

"I support the President's call for reforms at the United Nations and I stand ready to work with him, especially in reducing the U.S. assessment to reflect global economic changes. The facts are that the U.N. bureaucracy is bloated and inefficient, that corruption is commonplace at U.N. headquarters, as well as in countries where the U.N. has a presence. But, we must be clear, the United Nations does not simply need a makeover, it needs reconstructive surgery. And that surgery should be completed before new responsibilities are undertaken, whether in peacekeeping or other areas.

Arms Control

"While I welcome the call for a broadening of the Missile Technology Control Regime and efforts to strengthen biological and chemical weapons agreements, I have serious concerns about the President's proposals to pursue a comprehensive test ban treaty. In my view as long as the United States relies on a nuclear deterrent, we should not take actions which would call into question the safety, survivability or reliability of our nuclear arsenal. As for the global ban on the production of highly enriched uranium and plutonium, I have doubts about whether such a ban would be verifiable.

"The bottom line is that U.S. interests and U.N. interests are not synonymous. We must avoid adopting the U.N. agenda whether in Somalia, in Bosnia, in Haiti, or elsewhere, when it does not meet our standards and principles. The key to making the world safe for democracies and not for dictators, is not to 'reinvent' the United Nations, but to assert U.S. leadership in support of U.S. interests."

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