

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

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## **BOSNIA UPDATE**

### **GAO REPORT CONFIRMS U.N. NOT DOING ITS JOB IN BOSNIA; UNPROFOR OPERATION NOT WORTH DENYING BOSNIA RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE**

On Monday more than a 1000 shells fell on Sarajevo -- five people were killed and 25 wounded. Yesterday Bihac was being shelled. Today a Sarajevo marketplace was hit by a mortar shell. The response to these attacks on U.N. designated "safe havens" reflects the U.N.'S latest de facto policy: blame the Bosnian government for trying to defend its people, and dispatch NATO planes to buzz overhead. Meanwhile, Contact Group negotiators are desperately trying to sweeten a deal for Serbian President Milosevic.

Let's face it, the protection of U.N. safe havens has become a fraud. The enforcement of weapons exclusion zones has also become a fraud. The U.N. is not fooling anyone even with its blame both sides rhetoric.

According to news reports, the U.N. is considering "mandate reduction" for its forces in Bosnia. In my view that has already happened -- and without a U.N. Security Council vote.

The General Accounting Office recently released a study on U.N. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina prepared at my request. In painstaking detail the report explains how the U.N. is not doing the job it was tasked to do in Bosnia.

The GAO report confirms what many of us already knew: that the U.N. operation in the former Yugoslavia is ineffective, that UNPROFOR is not carrying out its mandates. It also indicates that UNPROFOR has lost its credibility and has impeded NATO's ability to carry out air strikes in defense of U.N. designated safe havens and U.N. forces -- facts that are very clear in light of events over the last two days in Bosnia.

I would remind my colleagues that even though there are no Americans participating in UNPROFOR, the U.S. has been subsidizing this failed endeavor for several years now, to the tune of more than \$1.1 billion in direct support and \$1.4 billion more in indirect support.

It is high time that we review our support for this flawed policy. The facts are clear: this operation is a failure, an expensive failure. It seems to me that increasingly UNPROFOR's real reason for being is to prevent a change in policy -- specifically, to prevent the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia.

I urge all of my colleagues to read the GAO's report. I believe that after reading it, one would be hard pressed to argue that the this operation is worth Bosnia being denied its fundamental right to self-defense.

I would say to my colleagues, I have been working in concert with Senator Lieberman, and it is our hope that we will be able to vote on lifting the arms embargo in the United States Senate sometime in June. It seems to me that things are falling apart. We are getting less and less response from the United Nations. And I must say I have no quarrel with the the men and women in UNPROFOR, they are certainly exhibiting courage and bravery. But, it seems to me the time has come for a total review of our policy. And I would suggest to the President of the United States that he provide the leadership in this review and that we do it as quickly as possible.

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\* Remarks delivered on the Senate floor approximately 12:10 p.m.