

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine  
(202) 224-5358

## BOSNIA UPDATE

Yesterday, I addressed some of the criticisms made by opponents of our legislation. There are others I would like to review at this point.

### Unilateral Lift After U.N. Withdrawal

The first criticism is that this legislation is unilateral in nature. Yes, this bill is unilateral. It provides that the United States will lift the arms embargo, but only after UNPROFOR withdraws. I would like to repeat -- after UNPROFOR withdraws. This fact is being ignored by the administration and by some of our allies.

In my view unilateral action as provided by this legislation is hardly a negative, but a positive. What the last three years of multilateral hand-wringing have demonstrated is that if the United States does not lead, action is not taken.

We are witnessing this right now. Thousands of civilians have begun to flee Zepa as the Serbs close in. The U.N. has written Zepa off and the hand-wringing is beginning with respect to Gorazde -- the third eastern enclave. The French are reported to have a proposal for Gorazde which they are advocating. The British oppose stronger action and want the status quo. And the White House spokesmen say the administration is "leaning" toward action -- but it is not clear if the main objective is to forestall the fall of Gorazde, or to thwart this legislation.

In any event, leaning toward more aggressive action is not a substitute for action.

### NATO Air Power: Appropriate But Not Substitute For A Policy

Furthermore, this legislation does not preclude air strikes which the White House appears to be considering. The obstacle to air strikes has been and continues to be opposition from some of our allies, namely the British. And unless that hurdle is overcome, all the reports that the President is "leaning toward" air strikes is meaningless. Moreover, while many of us in the U.S. Congress have urged that NATO conduct something more than pinpricks, we must realize that the robust use of NATO air power now is an appropriate, if overdue, reaction to Bosnian Serb actions, but not constitute a policy in and of itself.

### Going First Is Not Going Alone

What this bill does is commit the United States to leading the way in lifting the arms embargo. But, going first does not mean going it alone.

Last fall, nearly a hundred countries voted in the U.N. General Assembly in support of lifting the arms embargo. I believe with the United States in the lead, others would follow. I believe that a number of countries in addition to the United States would also provide military equipment or the funds to purchase such equipment.

### U.N. Resolutions Not Neutral

I would also like to turn for a moment to the argument that UNPROFOR is neutral and lifting the arms embargo would eliminate that neutrality.

First I would point out that the U.N. resolutions are clearly not neutral. In imposing sanctions on Serbia they recognize who the aggressor is. In committing to protecting the safe havens -- on paper -- they are acknowledging that the Bosnians need protection from this aggression. Finally, in perpetuating neutrality on the ground operationally, the U.N. peacekeepers are helping the very aggressors that have threatened and attacked not only the Bosnians, but the U.N., as well. This is not only absurd, but a moral outrage.

Finally I would like to comment on the idea raised by some that there should be another ceasefire and more negotiations.

(more)

It seems to me that for negotiations to be successful in Bosnia, there needs to be some leverage on the side of the Bosnians. Why should the Serbs agree to anything when they are given free reign to overrun U.N. designated safe havens? At this point, the only negotiations that the Serbs might be interested in are talks to arrange the surrender of the Bosnians.

Well, the Bosnians are not ready to surrender. They are ready to fight and die for their country -- if we only let them.

###

\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 4:05 p.m.