

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **BOSNIAN SERB WAR CRIMES**

**DOLE URGES ADMINISTRATION NOT TO SWEEP HIDEOUS CRIMES UNDER RUG  
AS PRICE FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT;**

**BOTTOM LINE: CONGRESS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MILOSEVIC'S ROLE**

Today's Washington Post reveals shocking news about what happened to the men of Srebrenica after this so-called "safe area" fell to Bosnian Serb forces in July. 12,000 men from this U.N. designated "safe area" tried to flee to Bosnian government-held territory and more than half were brutally butchered by forces under the command of General Ratko Mladic.

Yesterday's Christian Science Monitor reported that Serb officers -- from Serbia -- actively participated in the massacre of Muslims from Srebrenica.

No doubt about it, General Mladic and his forces are directly responsible for these war crimes. But, these reports beg the question: what was the role of the Yugoslav army in this attack on Srebrenica and the subsequent massacre of Muslims. And more importantly, what was Slobodan Milosevic's role in these savage war crimes?

Reportedly Mladic is often in Belgrade -- where he coordinates with senior Serb officers, including the chief of staff of the Yugoslav army. The Yugoslav army has continued to actively assist Bosnian Serb forces. And, Bosnian Serb and Serb air defenses are integrated.

### **Milosevic: Butcher of the Balkans or Peacemaker?**

The bottom line is that the Congress -- and the American people -- need to hear what the administration knows about the relationship between Bosnian Serb forces and the Yugoslav army, and the relationship between Mladic and Milosevic. Have we been told everything the administration knows about Milosevic's possible culpability in this hideous war crime?

Frankly, I am highly skeptical that the buck stops at General Mladic. In any event, these questions need to be answered by the administration now.

Next week, the proximity talks will begin in Dayton and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic will attend. We need to know whether we are rolling out the red carpet for a war criminal. We need to know who the administration is dealing with -- the butcher of the Balkans or the peacemaker of the Balkans?

Furthermore, the President should publicly commit his administration to ensuring that these war crimes will not be swept under the rug as part of the price of a peace settlement. If Milosevic is responsible for war crimes, he should be held accountable -- even if this complicates the peace negotiations.

### **If Administration Fails, Congress to Address War Crimes**

If the administration fails to effectively address the matter of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, the Congress will. The FY 96 Foreign Operations Bill includes an amendment I offered on the Senate floor which would prohibit bilateral assistance to any country that provides sanctuary to individuals indicted by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal on Yugoslavia. It also instructs U.S. Representatives in multilateral institutions to vote against aid to any country that provides sanctuary to indicted war criminals.

The United States is the leader of the free world -- this requires not only political, but moral leadership. We cannot repeat the U.N.'s grievous error of looking the other way when confronted with enormous crimes against humanity.

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\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 12:30 p.m.