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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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U.S. RECOGNITION OF SERBIA

WITHHOLD RECOGNITION UNTIL ATTACKS AND REPRESSION END

WASHINGTON - THE SENATE LAST NIGHT PASSED A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) ON U.S. RECOGNITION OF SERBIA. THE RESOLUTION CALLS ON THE UNITED STATES TO WITHHOLD DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION FROM SERBIA AND THE "NEW YUGOSLAVIA" UNTIL SERBIA WITHDRAWS ITS FORCES FROM BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA AND CROATIA, AND UNTIL IT CEASES ITS BRUTAL REPRESSION OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE. SENATOR DOLE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

EVENTS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA ARE AN "INSTANT REPLAY"; THE SCENES BROADCAST FROM THAT NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE ARE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO SCENES WE HAVE SEEN FROM CROATIA OVER THE LAST 10 MONTHS -- ONLY THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE KILLED AND THE PLACES DESTROYED ARE DIFFERENT. IN CROATIA, THE CITIES TARGETED WERE DUBROVNIK AND OSIJEK; IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, THEY ARE MOSTAR AND SARAJEVO. IN CROATIA, CHURCHES WERE DESTROYED, IN BOSNIA, MOSQUES ARE BEING DESTROYED.

EVENTS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA HAVE MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WHAT SOME OF US HAVE KNOWN SINCE SLOVENIA WAS ATTACKED IN JUNE -- THE AGGRESSOR IS SERBIA, WHOSE RULER, SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC IS A TYRANT OUT OF CONTROL, AND WHOSE MURDEROUS RAMPAGE NEEDS TO BE PUT TO AN END.

THE LIST OF MILOSEVIC'S VICTIMS GROWS DAILY -- MUSLIMS, CROATIANS, ALBANIANS, SLOVENIANS, HUNGARIANS AND EVEN SERBS WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND UP AGAINST HIS WARRING TACTICS.

SERBIA AND ITS ALLY MONTENEGRO, PROCLAIMED A "NEW YUGOSLAVIA". WELL, IN MY VIEW, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT GRANT THIS NEW "YUGOSLAVIA" DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION UNTIL IT CEASES ITS AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES AND REPRESSIVE POLICIES.

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE CEASEFIRES IN BOSNIA AND CROATIA ARE BEING VIOLATED; SERBIAN FORCES ARE OCCUPYING SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF BOSNIAN AND CROATIAN TERRITORY; AND SERBIAN FORCES ARE STEALING HUMANITARIAN AID SENT TO BOSNIA BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO HELP THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES IN FEAR OF THE BROADENING SERBIAN OFFENSIVE. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SERBIA IS SENDING A GROWING NUMBER OF FORCES INTO KOSOVA, IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PRELUDE TO EVEN GREATER BRUTALITY AGAINST THE TWO MILLION ALBANIANS WHO HAVE LIVED UNDER THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF MARTIAL LAW FOR THREE YEARS.

I BELIEVE, AND THE COSPONSORS OF THIS RESOLUTION BELIEVE, THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE UNITED STATES SEND A MESSAGE TO SERBIA, AND TO MILOSEVIC, THAT SERBIA WILL BE TREATED AS A PARIAS AS LONG AS IT BEHAVES IN A CRIMINAL MANNER. SECRETARY BAKER HAS CLEARLY COMMUNICATED THAT SERBIA'S RESPECT OR LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLICS AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE THE KEY FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THE UNITED STATES WILL RECOGNIZE SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

THIS IS THE RIGHT POLICY TO PURSUE -- IT PUTS THE UNITED STATES ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE. I HOPE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL STICK TO THIS COURSE AND ENCOURAGE OUR ALLIES TO DO THE SAME. MOREOVER, IF MILOSEVIC DOES NOT SOON RESPOND, OTHER MEASURES TO ISOLATE SERBIA WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. SERBIA'S AGGRESSION HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH; WE HAVE WATCHED AS THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN UPROOTED FROM THEIR HOMES, WOUNDED AND KILLED. THE UNITED STATES MUST TAKE A FIRM STAND. THIS RESOLUTION SIGNALS SUCH A STAND.

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