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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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LIFT U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ON BOSNIA SENATE ADOPTS DOLE AMENDMENT

Washington -- Last night the Senate adopted an amendment offered by Senator Dole to the State Department Authorization bill by a vote of 87-9. Senator Dole made the following remarks upon the introduction of the amendment, which urged the President to lift the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia:

THE SIEGE OF SARAJEVO BEGAN ON APRIL 6, 1992, AND SINCE THAT TIME, THE WORLD HAS WATCHED WITH HORROR AS THE CITIZENS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY TERRORIZED, DRIVEN OUT OF THEIR HOMES, AND MURDERED BY THE TENS OF THOUSANDS.

THE LEADERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE FAILED TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY OR EFFECTIVELY TO THIS BLATANT AND BRUTAL ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST A U.N. MEMBER STATE.

SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED AGAINST SERBIA IN MAY OF 1992. BUT, BY THE SUMMER OF 1992 -- WITH ABOUT 65% OF BOSNIA UNDER SERBIAN OCCUPATION -- IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HARD LINER SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC AND SERBIAN-BACKED IRREGULAR FORCES WOULD NOT RESPOND TO ECONOMIC OR DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HOW DID THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REACT TO SERBIAN INTRANSIGENCE? -- BY BOLDLY MOVING FORWARD WITH MORE RESOLUTIONS, MORE SPEECHES, AND MORE DIPLOMATIC HAND-WRINGING.

INDEED, THE ONLY REAL U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE CLERKS WHO TYPED AND PHOTOCOPIED NUMEROUS PAGES OF RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS. SURE, A NATO "NO-FLY ZONE" EXISTS, "SAFE HAVENS" HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND AIR STRIKES ARE A POSSIBILITY -- BUT ONLY IN THEORY, IN U.N. AND NATO DOCUMENTS.

IN THE FALL OF 1993, WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THESE PAPER THREATS WOULD FAIL TO DO THE TRICK, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REDEFINED THE WAR IN BOSNIA AS A CIVIL WAR -- TURNING A BLIND EYE TO SERB AND CROAT SUPPORT OF IRREGULAR FORCES, AND TO THE PRESENCE OF REGULAR YUGOSLAV ARMY AND CROATIAN ARMY UNITS IN BOSNIA. FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE EUROPEANS AND UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH THEIR ENVOYS, LORD OWEN AND THORVALD STOLTENBERG, HAVE BEEN PRESSURING THE BOSNIANS TO SURRENDER AND SIGN A DEAL LEADING TO A THREE-WAY DIVISION OF BOSNIA -- LEAVING THE BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT IN CONTROL OF ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THEIR ORIGINAL TERRITORY.

MR. PRESIDENT, LET'S FACE IT, THE EUROPEANS NEVER HAD THE RESOLVE TO TAKE ON THE SECOND-RATE FORCES DIRECTED BY BELGRADE. AND, THE U.N. LACKED THE WILL TO USE FORCE IN EVEN IN LIMITED WAYS -- TO IMPLEMENT THE SO-CALLED "SAFE HAVENS" RESOLUTIONS OR TO FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF FOOD TO STARVING BOSNIANS. THE FACT IS THAT ALMOST ANY THUG WITH A GUN CAN STOP A U.N. CONVOY.

BUT, PUTTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S LACK OF COURAGE AND PRINCIPLE ASIDE, WHAT IS MOST EGREGIOUS AND INDEFENSIBLE IS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS MAINTAINED AN ARMS EMBARGO ON THE BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT. IN EFFECT, THE WORLD HAS SAID, "WE WON'T DEFEND YOU AND WE WON'T LET YOU DEFEND YOURSELF. YOUR ONLY OPTION IS TO SURRENDER." AND SO, THE TRIGGER-HAPPY TERRORISTS IN THE HILLS AROUND SARAJEVO CAN TARGET A SCHOOL, A HOSPITAL OR A PLAYGROUND AND KNOW WITH ALMOST COMPLETE CERTAINTY THAT THEY NEED NOT FEAR ANY REPRISALS -- THEY CAN SLAUGHTER INNOCENT CHILDREN AT PLAY WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.

I CANNOT FORGET THE PICTURES SHOWN THIS WEEK ON CNN OF BLOOD-SOAKED SNOW WHICH ONLY MOMENTS EARLIER HAD BEEN THE SCENE OF CHILDREN SLEDDING. WHAT IF THESE HAD BEEN PICTURES OF PARIS OR LONDON? WOULD THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL CLAIM THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES?

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