

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 13, 1994

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HAITI POLICY

DOLE RENEWS CALL FOR BIPARTISAN FACT-FINDING COMMISSION

It's high time for cooler heads to prevail on U.S. policy toward Haiti. We seem to be heading for another foreign policy mistake. The administration appears to be lurching towards the use of U.S. military force in Haiti, without thoroughly considering the consequences of such action and the history of U.S. involvement in Haiti.

Moreover, the administration is not taking into account the views of the majority of members of Congress on this matter who believe that any deployment of forces in Haiti should be authorized by the Congress. Today, there are reports, too, of opposition among a number of our friends in Latin America.

U.S. policy in Haiti needs to be reviewed, and the first step toward a rational consideration of U.S. options in Haiti should be the establishment of a bipartisan fact-finding commission, an idea I have proposed to the President. The findings of such a commission could form the foundation for a new policy.

Everyone wants to see democracy return to Haiti. However, it is not in the U.S. interest for Haiti to become a de facto U.S. colony. It is not in the U.S. interest to send American troops to put President Aristide back in power. I urge the President to support an independent commission as a critical first step toward a policy that does reflect U.S. interests.

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* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 2:05 PM.