

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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BOSNIA RELIEF UPDATE

KANSAS GOODS AMONG 12 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF DELIVERED TO SARAJEVO UNDER DOLE INITIATIVE

WASHINGTON -- Twelve tons of humanitarian relief supplies have reached the people of war-torn Bosnia in the past month, under an initiative launched by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas).

American businesses, including Kansas companies, responded to a call from Senator Dole and the National Retail Federation last month by donating hundreds of thousands of dollars of the goods needed most by the Bosnian people. The contributions, from large and small retailers, include medical supplies, shoes, children's clothing and children's toys.

Senator Dole personally delivered the first of the supplies to a hospital in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on June 5th. Due to the volume of supplies donated, the bulk was later transported from America to Zagreb, Croatia by the U.S. Air Force and from there to Sarajevo by United Nations aircraft. The supplies are now being distributed in Bosnia by private humanitarian relief agencies.

"These businesses have demonstrated that there's a lot of heart in America's heartland for the war-weary people of Bosnia," Dole said. "One visit to Sarajevo, and you can see how this kind of aid can make a real difference in the lives of innocent people victimized by brutal aggression. The U.S. military and the Kansas National Guard deserve a special salute for their efforts in making this airlift possible, and I'm especially grateful to our Kansas contributors, Payless Shoe Source, Weaver's, and MedVentures, for lending such a generous helping hand."

In a letter today to Senator Dole, Bosnia's Ambassador to the U.S., Sven Alkalaj, said "on behalf of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I thank you for your humanitarian efforts in easing the plight of the residents of Sarajevo. ... Your actions serve to show that we are not alone."

Companies donating items include the following. Medical supplies: MedVentures, Inc. (Topeka, Ks.), Johnson & Johnson. Shoes: Payless Shoe Source (Topeka), Footlocker. Children's clothing: The Gap/Baby Gap, Spiegel, Mervyn's, Montgomery Ward, Parisian, Target, Weaver's (Lawrence, Ks.). Children's toys: F.W. Woolworth & Co. (books & crayons), Horne's. Blankets: Kmart and Beacon Manufacturing.

The distribution of the relief supplies is being handled primarily by the International Rescue Committee. Distribution of medical supplies began this week. Some of the children's clothing has been delivered to kindergartens in the Sarajevo school system.

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