

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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BOSNIA POLICY UPDATE

BIPARTISAN DOLE-LIEBERMAN AMENDMENT OFFERED TO DEFENSE BILL; LIFT U.S. ARMS EMBARGO BY MID-NOVEMBER

I am offering this amendment on behalf of myself, the distinguished Senator from Connecticut, Senator Lieberman, and others. I am especially pleased that among this amendment's cosponsors are senators who opposed the previous Dole/Lieberman amendment to end the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia.

The text of this amendment is essentially the same as our earlier amendment -- except that it gives the President more than three months to terminate the U.S. arms embargo on the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina -- the embargo is to be terminated no later than November 15, 1994.

Bosnians' Right to Self-Defense

The intent of this amendment is the same, as well: to allow the Bosnian government to exercise its inherent right to self-defense -- a right which is being violated by the U.N. arms embargo that was imposed on the former Yugoslavia, a state that no longer exists.

We all know that the administration is pursuing a relatively new multilateral approach through the so-called contact group. While the Bosnian government unconditionally agreed to the contact group's partition plan, the Bosnian Serbs have rejected the contact group proposal at least four times.

Lack of Resolve for Serious Response

Watching the events of the last few weeks makes me feel like I am watching a rerun -- a rerun of the spring of 1993, when the Vance/Owen plan was hailed as the new hope for peace. While some of the actors have changed, the plot and the dialogue are the same. Once again, the Bosnian government has signed up to a bad deal; once again the Bosnian Serbs are defiant; once again there are unfulfilled promises of tough action; and once again, the situation in Sarajevo and throughout Bosnia is rapidly deteriorating.

The administration insists that this time is different, this time the international community is serious and tough. Well, maybe it's a problem of definition. To me, last week's microscopic NATO air strike -- which destroyed one 76mm gun -- is not a sign of toughness. Indeed, it is another indication of a lack of resolve to seriously respond to blatant Serbian violations of the NATO ultimatum and the NATO exclusion zones.

Give Administration One Last Chance

Setting my skepticism of the contact group's approach aside, this amendment is intended to give the administration one last chance and more than 90 days to do what they have said they would do for months now -- seek a U.N. Security Council vote on lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia.

And so, this amendment is designed to give the administration more time -- even though many of us believe more time is not warranted, that this action is long overdue. However, if such action is not taken multilaterally, the United States will definitely end its involvement in this immoral and illegal arms embargo on November 15, 1994. By setting a November deadline, this amendment also gives those allies with troops on the ground in Bosnia time to redeploy or withdraw. According to statements made by Ambassador Chuck Redman to the DOD authorization conferees, the British and French have said they need up to 90 days to withdraw their forces.

Now some have argued that the United States cannot act unilaterally because of the potential effect on other U.N. embargoes. I believe that this argument is used to confuse the issue and as a scare tactic. The arms embargo on Bosnia-

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herzegovina, which is the victim of international aggression. I think that we and our allies are capable of understanding the difference between the arms embargo on Bosnia and sanctions against Iraq and Libya.

U.S. Must Demonstrate Leadership

And so, the only question before us today, is whether we will act to finally bring this matter to a close or whether we want to be here next year, after another peace plan has failed, debating whether the Bosnians should be allowed to exercise their inherent right to self-defense in the wake of three years of aggression and ethnic cleansing.

I believe that we must act now -- this vicious circle must be broken this year. The United States must lead the world in doing what is just and right.

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*Remarks delivered on the Senate floor, approximately 3:00 PM.

MR. DOLE, for himself, and Mr. Lieberman, Mr. McCain, Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Wellstone, Mr. Exon, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Hatch, Mr. DeConcini, and Mr. Lugar, *Mr. Helms*

submitted the following amendment:

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Viz: At the appropriate place, add the following:

Sec. Termination of Arms Embargo. -

(1) Termination. - The President shall terminate the United States arms embargo of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina no later than November 15, 1994 so that Government may exercise its right of self-defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

(2) Definition. - As used in this section, the term 'United States arms embargo of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina' means the application to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina of -

(A) the policy adopted July 10, 1991, and published in the Federal Register of July 19, 1991 (58 F.R. 33322) under the heading 'Suspension of Munitions Export Licenses to Yugoslavia'; and

(B) any similar policy being applied by the United States Government as of the date of receipt of the request described in paragraph (1) pursuant to request described in paragraph (1) pursuant to which approval is denied for transfers of defense articles and defense services to the former Yugoslavia.

(3) Rule of construction. - Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as authorization for deployment of United States forces in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina for any purpose, including training, support, or delivery of military equipment.