

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOSNIA UPDATE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today sent the following letter to the President urging him to act immediately in response to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Bihac:

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

November 16, 1994

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply concerned about the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Bihac region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. News reports and information I have received from the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic, indicate that this latest Serbian assault on Bihac involves artillery, ground-launched rockets, helicopters, and ground troops, not only from Bosnian Serb forces, but from Serb forces based in occupied areas of Croatia -- the so called U.N. protected areas (UNPAs). This action has made a mockery of U.N. designated protection areas and U.N. designated safe areas, and raises serious doubts about the impact of President Milosevic's announced embargo of the Bosnian Serb forces.

The offensive on Bihac is yet another manifestation of the Serbs' continued defiance of the international community, which unfortunately is not surprising in light of the Contact Group's failure to honor its commitments to stronger military action in its July 30 communique. Equally as troubling as recent developments in Bihac is the absence of any concerted high-level administration pressure on the United Nations to end, once and for all, its obstructionism and defacto "veto" of militarily effective NATO air strikes.

Enough is enough. In the name of consensus, for over two years the United States has complied with the failed policies of the U.N. and European Union while the Bosnian people and the credibility of the NATO alliance have paid a heavy price. The United Nations has simultaneously blocked the Bosnians from exercising their inherent right to self-defense and blocked NATO from taking actions it has pledged to take to confront Serbian aggression. The United States must begin to exercise the leadership necessary to reverse this trend.

Therefore, Mr. President, I urge you to act now to end this brutal Serbian assault. By acting now, the United States and NATO can prevent what the U.S. Ambassador in Zagreb warns could become a humanitarian catastrophe, while beginning to reestablish NATO's credibility.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole

BOB DOLE