

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

BOSNIA/CARTER UPDATE

PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS HARD TO COMPREHEND;
CLEAR WHO AGGRESSORS & VICTIMS OF ETHNIC CLEANSING ARE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding former President Jimmy Carter's remarks today in Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to press reports, Carter told Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that "It may be that today is one of the rare chances to let the world know the truth and explain the commitment of the Serbs to peace." President Carter is also quoted as telling Karadzic "I cannot dispute your statement that the American people have heard primarily one side of the story." Senator Dole's statement follows:

"I find President Carter's comments in Pale somewhat hard to comprehend. Prior to his trip, President Carter was extensively briefed on the horrors of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Bosnian Serb forces. Moreover, there has been vast media coverage of the war against Bosnia-Herzegovina. It seems to me that by now he should know who the aggressors are and who the victims are. President Carter should also be aware of the Bosnian Serbs' tactics over the past three years: Radovan Karadzic speaks of peace while his forces continue their strategy of 'ethnic cleansing' which has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent civilians.

"If we are to believe what Radovan Karadzic has told President Carter, we must see evidence. The only way that Radovan Karadzic can demonstrate his stated commitment to peace is through his behavior and the behavior of his forces. Once ethnic cleansing is halted, convoys of humanitarian assistance are allowed to move unimpeded, and U.N. peacekeepers are no longer taken hostage, then perhaps one can start to believe that Karadzic has undergone a change in attitude."

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