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**NEWS
FROM:**

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BOSNIA ASSISTANCE

DOLE-MCCONNELL AMENDMENTS ENSURE U.S. AID TO BOSNIA IS USED WISELY; CONDITIONAL STEPS HELP GUARANTEE INDEPENDENT & DEMOCRATIC BOSNIA, END TO IRANIAN PRESENCE

I rise to offer on behalf of the distinguished Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee and myself an amendment which would prohibit the release of funds to Bosnia under this Act until the Bosnian Federation is in compliance with Article III of Annex I-A of the Dayton Agreement. This means that all foreign forces must leave Bosnia before funds for civilian implementation can be released.

I also send to the desk another amendment on behalf of Senator McConnell and myself, which established several conditions for the use of the funds provided for civilian implementation projects in Bosnia. In my view, these two amendments should enjoy bipartisan support.

I am pleased to cosponsor with the distinguished Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee these two amendments to the Bosnia supplemental portion of the continuing resolution. Before I speak on these amendments, I wanted to address the issue of offsets for this \$200 million in civilian implementation funding. I understand that this portion of the supplemental was designated as "emergency" by the Appropriations Committee, but was offset by the House. I hope that the conferees will ultimately offset this \$200 million request.

Civilian Aspect of Dayton Agreement Poses Toughest Problems

As we have seen over the past few months, the military aspects of the Dayton Agreement have been the easiest to implement. It is the civilian side of the equation that poses the toughest problems, among them: facilitating the return of refugees, conducting free and fair elections, establishing a professional civilian police force.

Indeed, the reports we are getting from Sarajevo have demonstrated that integrating the capital is more difficult than separating the various military forces. The military task is limited and clear, while the civilian task is wide-reaching and complex, with only vague lines of authority. The United States has made a tremendous commitment of personnel and resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While many of us disagreed with the administration's decision to send troops to Bosnia, while many of us advocated a different policy, those American forces are now there. And therefore it is essential that we succeed. Our credibility and that of NATO is on the line. It is essential that we and the international community get Bosnia back on its feet. Otherwise this risky deployment of thousands of American and NATO soldiers will be for nought -- it will end up being a brief interlude in a long war.

The challenges are immense. There are more than two and a half million Bosnians who have been displaced from their homes. At least 60 percent of housing in Bosnia has been damaged or destroyed. Most Bosnian Muslims and Croats have no paying jobs and have been dependent on humanitarian assistance for nearly four years.

(More)

Bosnia Must Halt Military & Intelligence Relationship With Iran

No doubt about it, the Bosnians need and deserve our help. However, there are problems that we cannot and should not ignore. First and foremost, is the continued presence of Iranian military personnel in Bosnia -- and Iranian intelligence officials. They pose a potential threat to our forces -- but also to Bosnia's place in the international community. The McConnell-Dole amendment requires the president to certify that the Bosnians are in full compliance with Article III of Annex 1-A of the Dayton Agreement mandating the withdrawal of foreign forces, and to certify that Bosnian government-Iranian government cooperation on intelligence matters has been terminated.

It seems to me that through our actions today we can send two beneficial signals: that we are seriously committed to assisting Bosnia, but that the Bosnian government's continued military and intelligence relationship with Iran must be halted. We know that Iran provided military aid to Bosnia when the rest of the world refused to. I opposed the policy of refusing the Bosnians the means to defend themselves. The Congress opposed that policy. But, that is the past. And now the Bosnian government must make choices that will affect Bosnia and Herzegovina's future. Will Bosnia be part of Europe and the West or not? A continuing military and intelligence relationship with Iran clearly jeopardizes Bosnia's future as a pluralistic democratic state in Europe.

Conditions on \$200 Million

Looking further at developments within Bosnia, we need to make sure that our economic assistance has a positive effect on the social, economic and political situation there and that other donors are doing their fair share. So, besides limiting U.S. aid to projects in the U.S. sector, the second McConnell-Dole amendment would add criteria including:

- Prohibiting funds for the repair of housing in areas where displaced persons or refugees are refused the right of return due to ethnicity or political party affiliation;
- Establishing, in advance, GAO audit access to the banking and financial institutions that will receive A.I.D. assistance;
- A certification by the president, after 90 days, that the total U.S. contribution to reconstruction for this year, \$532 million, has been matched by a combined total of bilateral donor pledges.

These amendments do not address all problems related to the civilian effort in Bosnia, but they go a long way. For example, more congressional oversight and work will need to be done on the matter of civilian police and the international police task force which is partially funded in this supplemental. Right now houses are being looted and burned in Sarajevo and a handful of international police are standing by and watching -- because they have no arms and no authority. Another vital issue is that of arming and training Bosnian Federation forces -- which is critical to the long-term stability of Bosnia. That of course, can also only be achieved once the Bosnian government ensures that Iranian military units are no longer on its territory. Helping Bosnia and its people is the right thing to do. However, we must do so wisely -- and these two amendments will ensure that U.S. dollars are spent prudently and in a manner that supports our broader goals. It is not only in Bosnia's interest, but in our interest to have a Bosnia which is pluralistic, democratic, multi-ethnic and able to defend itself.

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* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 10:15 a.m.