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NEWS FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, April 5, 1996 Contact: Clarkson Hine (202) 224-5358

CLINTON ON BOSNIA: WHAT IS RHETORIC -- WHAT IS REALITY? DOLE TASKS COMMITTEES WITH INVESTIGATION INTO PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL OF IRANIAN ARMS SHIPMENTS TO BOSNIA

BAL HARBOUR, FL -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today requested the Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Judiciary, and Intelligence immediately to begin investigations into this serious matter. Senator Dole's statement follows:

"The fact that Iran provided arms to the Bosnians is not news. However, the reports that President Clinton secretly approved Iran's shipments <u>is</u> news -- very disturbing news. Not only are there questions raised about whether administration officials were intentionally duplicitous in their dealings with the Congress, but also whether laws were broken and a covert operation was conducted.

"Therefore, I have written to the Chairmen of the Intelligence, Judiciary, Foreign Relations, and Armed Services Committees to request that they immediately begin investigations into this serious matter. Upon the Senate's return, I will meet with them to discuss the possibility of establishing a joint committee to investigate these reports.

"Since 1993 until the Dayton Accords were signed -- in contrast to candidate Clinton's position -- the Clinton administration policy as publicly stated and presented to the U.S. Congress, was adamantly opposed to lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia. If the <u>LA Times</u> reports are true, the Clinton administration refused to assert the leadership necessary to reverse a bad policy of denying the Bosnians the means to defend themselves, and preferred to allow the Iranians to do so. Now, ironically, administration officials are wringing their hands about Iranians who remain in Bosnia.

"The American people are entitled to have the facts and certainly Congress has the right to know. These investigations will be a top priority."

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