

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CRISIS IN YUGOSLAVIA

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA:

TWO DAYS AGO I CAME TO THE FLOOR TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE WORSENING SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA. TODAY, I AM SORRY TO SAY THE SITUATION IS RAPIDLY DETERIORATING--THE NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA ARE BEING INTIMIDATED, AND THREATENED BY THE YUGOSLAV ARMY.

THIS CRISIS WAS NOT CREATED BY THESE TWO REPUBLIC GOVERNMENTS, RATHER IT WAS PROVOKED BY THE YUGOSLAV CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHEN IT ISSUED A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WITH A DEADLINE CALLING FOR CERTAIN MILITARY UNITS--INCLUDING POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD UNITS IN THE REPUBLICS OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA-- TO DISARM OR BE DISARMED BY THE YUGOSLAV ARMY.

ALTHOUGH IN THE FIRST HOURS AFTER THE DEADLINE THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY SEEMED TO HAVE BACKED DOWN FROM THIS THREAT, YESTERDAY THE YUGOSLAV DEFENSE MINISTRY TOOK A DIFFERENT POSITION AND ISSUED ITS OWN ORDER FOR CROATIAN MILITIA UNITS TO DISARM AND DISBAND.

AND, THE YUGOSLAV ARMY APPEARS TO BE PREPARING TO CARRY OUT THIS THREAT OF MILITARY ACTION. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE CROATIAN AND SLOVENE CAPITALS, THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT DISPERSAL. AT SOME MILITARY FACILITIES TANKS AND ARMORED VEHICLES ARE BEING READIED FOR DEPLOYMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE YUGOSLAV ARMY IS "RESTRUCTURING" BY SENDING CROATIAN AND SLOVENIAN SOLDIERS OUT OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA AND INTO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.

WE ARE SEEING ALL THE SIGNS OF PREPARATION FOR A MILITARY TAKEOVER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS. WE COULD BE ONLY HOURS AWAY FROM A YUGOSLAV ARMY ATTEMPT TO CRUSH DEMOCRACY AND TO REPLACE IT WITH HARDLINE COMMUNIST RULE, SIMILAR TO WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVA.

ONCE AGAIN, I AM HERE TO URGE THAT THE UNITED STATES NOT SIT QUIETLY ON THE SIDELINES. WE MUST MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND THE YUGOSLAV ARMY THAT THE CONGRESS WILL NOT DO "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH YUGOSLAVIA IF THESE DEMOCRATIC REGIMES ARE SNUFFED OUT. INDEED, I AM CONFIDENT THAT, IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY CRACKDOWN OR TAKEOVER, THE CONGRESS WILL REACT IMMEDIATELY AND DECISIVELY.

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