News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 12, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-5358

YUGOSLAVIA PROTESTS

SERBIAN DEMONSTRATORS GET TASTE OF COMMUNIST BRUTALITY; KOSOVA NIGHTMARE COMES TO BELGRADE

FOR OVER A YEAR NOW WE HAVE WATCHED AS THE HARDLINE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA HAS BRUTALLY REPRESSED THE ALBANIAN POPULATION OF KOSOVA. BUT, LAST WEEKEND, THE WORLD WITNESSED THE SAME BRUTALITY IN BELGRADE, AS SERBIAN POLICE -- JOINED BY YUGOSLAV FEDERAL TROOPS -- TRIED TO DISPERSE A LARGE CROWD USING THE SAME VIOLENT TACTICS I WITNESSED IN THE STREETS OF PRISTINA LAST SUMMER -- CLUBS, TEAR GAS, RUBBER BULLETS. OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE ARRESTED. TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND MANY MORE WERE INJURED.

SERBS CLUBBED

ON SATURDAY, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SERBS -- MOSTLY YOUNG SERBS -- TOOK TO THE STREETS OF BELGRADE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC. THESE STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS, AND INTELLECTUALS, MADE THEIR WAY TO BELGRADE'S MAIN SQUARE TO SAY THAT THEY WERE FED UP; FED UP WITH COMMUNISM AND ITS CONTROL OVER THE ECONOMY, WHICH IS IN RUINS; FED UP WITH TV AND RADIO CENSORSHIP AND ONE-SIDED MEDIA REPORTING; AND FINALLY, THAT THEY WERE FED UP WITH HARD-LINER MILOSEVIC AND HIS HENCHMEN.

SERBIANS FED UP WITH HARDLINERS

TODAY, A GROUP OF OPPOSITION PARTY LAWMAKERS LEFT THE SERBIAN PARLIAMENT TO JOIN ANTI-COMMUNIST PROTESTERS IN YET ANOTHER DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST MILOSEVIC'S HARD-LINE AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THESE GOVERNMENT. DEMONSTRATIONS ARE SPREADING TO OTHER CITIES.

DESPITE MILOSEVIC'S FINGER-POINTING, THESE PROTESTERS RECOGNIZE THAT THE BLAME FOR THE SEVERE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN SERBIA DOES NOT REST WITH THE OPPRESSED ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA, OR WITH THE DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED NON-COMMUNIST REPUBLICS OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA; THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PERSUADED BY THE ALLEGATIONS THE SERBIAN PRESIDENT MAKES IN HIS SPEECHES AND REPEATS THROUGH HIS PUPPETS IN THE PRESS. THESE THOUSANDS OF SERBS REALIZE THAT MILOSEVIC HIMSELF IS TO BLAME. THEY KNOW THAT MILOSEVIC AND HIS 1950s STYLE COMMUNIST POLICIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LACK OF BASIC FREEDOMS AND THE ECONOMIC TURMOIL THAT HAS AFFECTED THE LIVES OF MOST SERBS. THE MILOSEVIC MYTH OF "ANTI-SERBIAN FORCES" AND "ENEMIES OF SERBIA" IS MELTING AWAY AND REALITY IS TAKING ITS PLACE. 'THE REALITY IS THAT MILOSEVIC AND HIS SUPPORTERS WHO ADVOCATE HARDLINE COMMUNISM ARE THE REAL "ENEMIES OF SERBIA."

MILOSEVIC STRANGLES PRESS
MILOSEVIC SENT SERBIAN POLICE TO THE STREETS WITH ORDERS TO USE VIOLENCE. MILOSEVIC HAS STRANGLED THE PRESS AND WIPED OUT FREEDOM OF SPEECH. MILOSEVIC HAS BROUGHT THE ECONOMY OF SERBIA TO NEAR RUIN -- DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE STOLE \$1.3 BILLION IN

DINARS FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE STILL THOUSANDS OF WORKERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PAID IN A MONTH, TWO MONTHS OR MORE.

AS THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE SHOWN TO THE WORLD, THE SERBIAN PEOPLE WANT TO GET RID OF COMMUNISM. THE SERBS WANT THE SAME FREEDOMS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE PEOPLE IN SLOVENIA AND CROATIA ARE CREATING FOR THEMSELVES IN THEIR NEW DEMOCRACIES AND FREE MARKET ECONOMIES.

THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS HIGHLIGHT ONCE AGAIN WHO THE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA REALLY ARE: THE COMMUNISTS IN THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT. THESE COMMUNISTS MAY HAVE CHANGED THEIR NAME TO "SOCIALISTS", BUT THEIR METHODS AND POLICIES REMAIN THE SAME.