

*Bob Dole*



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## YUGOSLAVIA

### DOLE RESOLUTION SENDS TOUGH MESSAGE TO COMMUNIST HARD LINERS: SENATE STANDS ON SIDE OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

THE U.S. SENATE ON APRIL 17 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA. FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT OF SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE AND THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION:

IN SHORT, THIS RESOLUTION PUTS THE SENATE ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. I AM PLEASED THAT THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN AND RANKING REPUBLICAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM IDAHO, SENATOR SYMMS, HAVE COSPONSORED THIS RESOLUTION. THEY ALL AGREE WITH ME ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SENDING A STRONG SIGNAL TO THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA, THAT THE SENATE STANDS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY ALL AGREE THAT SUCH A MESSAGE NEEDS TO BE SENT NOW--NOW WHILE THE SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA IS FLUID AND SO UNCERTAIN.

YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS A GREAT DEAL OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF A MILITARY CRACKDOWN. THE SIX REPUBLICS AND TWO PROVINCES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A SORT OF TUG-OF-WAR. THE FOUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS ARE TRYING TO RENEGOTIATE THE STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA, BUT ARE MEETING RESISTANCE FROM THE HARDLINERS, LED BY THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT, WHO WANT TO PERPETUATE A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM AND RETAIN A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR THE HARDLINE YUGOSLAV ARMY.

MEANWHILE, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES CONTINUE IN PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVA, REPRESSIVE MEASURES CONTINUED AND INTENSIFIED OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ALBANIANS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS, HUNDREDS HAVE BEEN BEATEN AND ARRESTED. AS I SAW FOR MYSELF, LAST YEAR, KOSOVA IS A POLICE STATE.

BUT, WE HAVE SEEN THESE POLICE STATE TACTICS USED IN THE CAPITAL OF SERBIA, BELGRADE. JUST LAST MONTH, SERBIAN AUTHORITIES, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC AND HIS CRONIES, FIRED UPON A LARGE CROWD OF ANTI-COMMUNIST PROTESTERS--THEY FOLLOWED UP WITH TEAR GAS AND CLUBS. MOST OF THESE PROTESTERS WERE YOUNG SERBS WHO ARE FED UP WITH COMMUNIST POLICIES AND WANT THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME WITH DEMOCRACY--THEY SEE THE EMPTINESS OF COMMUNIST PROMISES.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS RESOLUTION CALLS ON THE HARDLINERS TO CEASE THEIR REPRESSION AND REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE AND COERCIVE TACTICS. IT ALSO NOTES THAT IN VIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES THAT CONTINUE IN PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, THAT THE CRITERIA ON AID TO YUGOSLAVIA ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 599A OF THE FY 1991 FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL HAS NOT BEEN MET. FINALLY, THIS RESOLUTION SENDS A WARNING TO THE COMMUNIST FORCES IN YUGOSLAVIA: IT STATES THAT IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY CRACKDOWN AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC GOVERNMENTS THE SENATE URGES THE PRESIDENT TO SUSPEND ALL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS RESOLUTION DOES NOT SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA-- THAT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA TO DECIDE AND THEY WILL--IN REPUBLIC REFERENDUMS TO BE HELD BY THE END OF MAY. INSTEAD, THIS RESOLUTION SEEKS TO SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC FORCES WITHIN ALL OF THE REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES OF YUGOSLAVIA. IN YUGOSLAVIA, WE ARE WITNESSING A STRUGGLE BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNISM AND WE NEED TO TAKE A STAND FOR DEMOCRACY.

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