

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

## YUGOSLAVIA

YUGOSLAV ARMY, COMMUNIST HARDLINE TACTICS JEOPARDIZE STABILITY;  
U.S. MUST SUPPORT PEACEFUL DIALOGUE

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

ON TUESDAY, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM YUGOSLAVIA. THE PARLIAMENTS OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA ISSUED THESE DECLARATIONS IN RESPONSE TO REFERENDUMS ON SOVEREIGNTY WHICH WERE HELD IN EACH REPUBLIC--REFERENDUMS IN WHICH OVER 90% OF THE CITIZENS IN THE REPUBLICS OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE.

IT APPEARS THAT THESE DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE ARE MORE DECLARATORY IN NATURE, THAN AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE REALITY OF THE TWO REPUBLICS' STATUS VIS-A-VIS THE REST OF YUGOSLAVIA. THESE DECLARATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE ACTS OF SECESSION. IN A LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE BAKER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA STATED, "WE REMAIN UNITED AND DETERMINED TO GAIN FULL LIBERTY NOT BY SECESSION, BUT BY DECENTRALIZED CONFEDERATION." NEVERTHELESS, THESE DECLARATIONS HAVE LED TO SPECULATION AND FEAR ABOUT THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. I, TOO, AM WATCHING NEWS REPORTS CLOSELY WITH THE HOPE THAT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WILL NOT SPREAD OR ESCALATE.

SOME SAY THAT BY ANNOUNCING THEIR INDEPENDENCE, CROATIA AND SLOVENIA ARE TRIGGERING VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA.

I THINK WE NEED TO ASK, "WHO HAS THEIR FINGER ON THE TRIGGER?"--AND I THINK THE ANSWER IS CLEAR: IT IS NOT SLOVENIA, NOT CROATIA, BUT THE YUGOSLAV ARMY AND THE HARDLINERS IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

### FORCE & INTIMIDATION NOT THE ANSWER

IN RESPONSE TO THESE DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE, THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF YUGOSLAVIA--WHICH I REMIND MY COLLEAGUES IS MADE UP OF UNELECTED, COMMUNIST HOLDOVERS--CALLED ON THE YUGOSLAV ARMY TO TAKE MATTERS INTO ITS OWN HANDS. AND TODAY, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DISCUSS INSTITUTING A SO-CALLED "STATE OF EMERGENCY", IN OTHER WORDS, MARTIAL LAW.

NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE YUGOSLAV ARMY IS ON COMBAT ALERT, AND IS MOVING TANKS, AIRPLANES AND TROOPS THROUGHOUT SLOVENIA AND CROATIA. THE SLOVENIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER WITH AUSTRIA HAS BEEN BLOCKED AND CLOSED BY THE YUGOSLAV ARMY, AND THE AIRPORT OUTSIDE LJUBLJANA HAS BEEN CLOSED--APPARENTLY SO THAT THE ARMY CAN MOVE IN REINFORCEMENTS.

THIS MOVE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND ARMY TO RESPOND TO POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH INTIMIDATION AND FORCE IS WHAT SHOULD REALLY CONCERN US--THESE TACTICS CAN HARDLY FACILITATE PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC DIALOGUE.

THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO MAINTAIN A FIRM STAND AGAINST THE USE OF FORCE BY THE YUGOSLAV ARMY TO "RESOLVE" THE SITUATION TO ITS LIKING.

### SUPPORTING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION CAN BE ACHIEVED. THE GOVERNMENTS OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA HAVE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THEY WISH NEGOTIATIONS AND DIALOGUE TO CONTINUE WITH THE OTHER REPUBLICS AND THAT THEY REJECT THE USE OF FORCE. WE NEED TO SUPPORT THIS PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION. MOREOVER, WE NEED TO PRESS THE HARDLINE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP BLOCKING THE ROTATION OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENCY. BECAUSE OF SERBIA'S OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS, YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN WITHOUT A PRESIDENT OR A COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY FOR THE PAST SIX WEEKS.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE REPRESSIVE AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC POLICIES OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC ARE AT THE HEART OF MANY OF YUGOSLAVIA'S PROBLEMS--PROBLEMS WHICH THE CROATIANS AND SLOVENIANS, THROUGH THEIR DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE, WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND.

I DON'T HAVE ANY SOLUTIONS TO OFFER WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA. BUT, PLACING INCREASED PRESSURE ON THOSE LIKE MILOSEVIC WHO ARE PUTTING UP ROADBLOCKS TO DEMOCRACY AND DIALOGUE--AND WHO ADVOCATE THE USE OF FORCE--WOULD, IN MY VIEW, HELP TO FACILITATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AMONG THE REPUBLICS OF YUGOSLAVIA.

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