

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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YUGOSLAVIA

TIME FOR U.S. TO LEAD; N.Y. TIMES EDITORIAL ON TARGET

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING THE NEW YORK TIMES' EDITORIAL REGARDING THE CONTINUING POLITICAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

"THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY CALLED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE LEAD IN FORGING AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO CONFRONT THE AGGRESSION OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC.

"I FULLY AGREE WITH THAT ASSESSMENT. TWO WEEKS AGO I SENT A LETTER, TOGETHER WITH THIRTEEN OF MY COLLEAGUES, TO THE PRESIDENT URGING THAT THE UNITED STATES ABANDON ITS BACK-SEAT ROLE AND TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE. IN THAT LETTER, WE RECOMMENDED THAT A SPECIAL ENVOY BE SENT TO YUGOSLAVIA TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF CROATIA, SERBIA, THE MEMBERS OF THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY AND EC MEDIATORS.

"THIS SUGGESTION, WHICH IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE WHITE HOUSE, IS ONLY ONE WAY IN WHICH WE CAN ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN THIS CRISIS--THERE ARE OTHERS. AND, AS THE PRESIDENT SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED DURING THE WAR IN THE GULF, HE IS SKILLED AT CREATING COALITIONS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS.

"CLEARLY, NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO LEAD, NOT TO FOLLOW. WITHOUT DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO FALL SHORT.

"THE UNITED STATES CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE MILOSEVIC'S SAVAGE GRAB FOR TERRITORY IN AN EFFORT TO CREATE A "GREATER SERBIA". FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW WE HAVE SEEN MILOSEVIC'S INCESSANT AND INHUMANE REPRESSION OF THE ALBANIANS OF KOSOVA; WE HAVE SEEN HIS ALLIES IN THE YUGOSLAV ARMY VIOLENTLY ATTACK SLOVENIA; AND NOW WE SEE HIS GUERRILLA PROXIES IN CROATIA SEIZING VILLAGES BY BRUTAL FORCE.

"MANY OF US HOPED THAT THE END OF THE COLD WAR WOULD USHER IN A AN ERA OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND STABILITY IN EUROPE. BUT, MILOSEVIC'S ATTEMPTS AT EMPIRE BUILDING THREATEN THE STABILITY OF EUROPE, AS WELL AS THE PROSPECTS FOR A EUROPE MADE SOLELY OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC NATIONS.

"THE UNITED STATES HAS A GREAT STAKE IN A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC EUROPE. IT IS TIME THAT WE PLAY A ROLE COMMENSURATE WITH THAT STAKE. "

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