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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 19, 1991

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YUGOSLAVIA FOOD AIRLIFT

ADMINISTRATION OK'S DOLE REQUEST TO AIRLIFT FOOD FOR CIVIL WAR VICTIMS IN CROATIA

ONCE AGAIN, THE MORNING NEWS WAS FILLED WITH TRAGIC NEWS FROM WAR-TORN CROATIA -- THIS TIME, PICTURES OF THE FALLEN CROATIAN CITY OF VUKOVAR. LAST WEEK, IT WAS THE DISTRESSING REPORTS FROM THE BESIEGED CITY OF DUBROVNIK.

IT'S EASY TO FORGET THAT ONLY SIX MONTHS AGO, THE PEOPLE OF VUKOVAR, DUBROVNIK AND OTHER CROATIAN CITIES AND VILLAGES VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR FREEDOM. INSTEAD THEY GOT THE BRUTAL ONSLAUGHT OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY, AIR FORCE AND THE SERBIAN MILITANTS.

MILOSEVIC: THE LAST HARDLINER

I'VE TRAVELLED TO YUGOSLAVIA, AND HAVE SEEN THE GREATNESS OF ITS LAND AND ITS PEOPLE. AND IN THE KOSOVA PROVINCE, I'VE SEEN THE POWER OF ETHNIC SUPPRESSION WHERE A SERBIAN MINORITY BRUTALLY CRUSHES THE RIGHTS OF THE TWO MILLION ETHNIC ALBANIANS. SOME OF US HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OUT FOR A LONG TIME -- FIRST ON THE POLITICAL DETERIORATION IN YUGOSLAVIA, AND NOW ON THE FULL-SCALE CIVIL WAR, PERPETRATED BY ONE OF THE WORLD'S LAST HARDLINE COMMUNISTS, SERBIAN PRESIDENT SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC.

BUT I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE COURSE OF A CIVIL WAR. IF THE TRAGIC SCENES WE'VE SEEN THIS WEEK WON'T SHOCK THE WORLD INTO TAKING HUMANITARIAN ACTION, NOTHING WILL.

THANKFULLY, THE WORLD IS FINALLY GETTING OFF THE SIDELINES AND GETTING INTO THE GAME. I WELCOME THE DECISION BY SOME WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO CREATE A "HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR" TO PROTECT RED CROSS VESSELS EVACUATING WOUNDED CIVILIANS FROM WAR-RAVAGED TOWNS ON THE CROATIAN COAST.

BAKER OK'S AIRLIFT

HOWEVER, THERE IS MORE TO BE DONE IN THE AREA OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. THERE ARE MORE THAN 400,000 REFUGEES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND IN NEIGHBORING SLOVENIA, BOSNIA AND HUNGARY. THREE WEEKS AGO I MADE A REQUEST TO THE PENTAGON AND STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO NEEDY CIVILIANS IN CROATIA.

SPECIFICALLY, I REQUESTED THAT A PORTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S EXCESS FOOD SUPPLIES BE AIRLIFTED TO AUSTRIA OR ITALY AND THEN TRUCKED, OR SHIPPED TO CROATIA, TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE RED CROSS.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT TODAY I WAS INFORMED BY SECRETARY BAKER THAT HE HAS APPROVED THE AIRLIFT OF FOOD SUPPLIES FOR THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA. I AM GRATIFIED THAT THE SECRETARY HAS APPROVED MY REQUEST AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SOON JOIN THE EUROPEANS IN HELPING THE VICTIMS OF THIS WAR.

MORE SANCTIONS NEEDED

BUT, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS SHOULD STOP THERE. TOGETHER WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WE NEED TO ISOLATE THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY -- THROUGH EXPANDED TRADE SANCTIONS AND AN OIL EMBARGO. I ALSO BELIEVE WE MUST SERIOUSLY PURSUE THE OPTION OF DEPLOYING U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCES TO YUGOSLAVIA. BUT, WE MUST DO SO IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT LEGITIMIZE THE OCCUPATION OF CROATIA, OR ANY OTHER REPUBLIC, BY THE YUGOSLAV ARMY.

SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC HAS WAGED A WAR AGAINST FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN CROATIA. HE WILL CONTINUE THAT WAR -- IN KOSOVA, BOSNIA AND MACEDONIA -- IF THE WORLD DOES NOT UNITE TO STOP HIM.

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