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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOSNIA INACTION

DOLE WELCOMES ADMINISTRATION REVIEW OF BOSNIA POLICY;
NOT TOO LATE FOR U.S. TO DO MORE --
ASSERT POSITION AS WORLD'S SUPERPOWER

According to news reports, the Clinton Administration has been meeting to review various aspects of its Bosnia policy. Ironically, this review appears not to have been prompted by the 4000 shells that fell on Sarajevo last weekend -- just as the mediators Owen and Stoltenberg were trying to convene peace talks -- but by the Serbian artillery attack on French UNPROFOR forces.

In any case, I welcome this review. I hope that Secretary Christopher has reconsidered his remarks that the United States is "doing all it can", because I believe there is more that the United States can do, more than just protect UNPROFOR forces in Bosnia and more than just engage in "aggressive diplomacy." At the very least we should help the Bosnians help themselves, by lifting the arms embargo.

The stakes in Bosnia are high. By allowing Bosnia to be cannibalized, we are sending a green light to would-be aggressors around the globe. Let's not fool ourselves, even if Bosnia's dismemberment is ratified and blessed through the Owen/Stoltenberg process, we are not getting rid of a "difficult problem", but sowing the seeds of new problems.

It's not too late to do the right thing. The United States must shed its pretense of impotence and assert its position as the world's sole superpower.

If President Clinton does not act now, I believe he will regret his inaction in years to come.

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Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 1:20PM EDT.