

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS
FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 25, 1993

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BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO

DOLE URGES U.S. TO LEAD ON EVE OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE

Washington -- The following is the text of a letter today from Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole to President Clinton urging U.S. leadership to push adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution lifting the arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dear Mr. President:

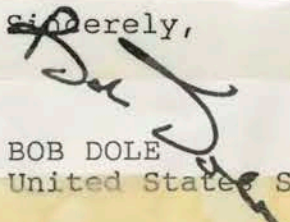
It is my understanding that the U.N. Security Council has begun debating a resolution to lift the arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that a vote is expected later today or tomorrow. As you know, I have advocated taking such action for some time now, and have strongly and publicly supported your preferred 'lift and strike' option. In my view, this Security Council resolution can only pass if the United States puts on a full-court press to persuade the British, French and Russians not to object. Without active U.S. support I fear the measure will fail. Therefore, I would urge that you and your foreign policy team take the actions necessary to ensure passage of this resolution.

The debate and vote on this resolution is an opportunity to do not only what is right, but what is smart. The facts are clear: (1) The current arms embargo violates Bosnia-Herzegovina's right to self-defense and has guaranteed the overwhelming advantage of Serb forces, thereby creating an environment of cost-free aggression; (2) Europe has failed in its efforts to end the war and instead of reversing course, its leaders are trying to disguise their acquiescence to aggression by giving diplomatic cover to the cannibalization of Bosnia; (3) In the absence of effective international diplomatic support and without military power, the Bosnian government is left without negotiating leverage. However, if the Bosnian government were armed it would not only be able to extend its authority and restore some measure of order to its lands, it would also be in a position to create a military stalemate that would provide the basis for a genuine negotiation.

Mr. President, this is a defining moment in U.S. history -- the Bosnian crisis is a critical test of American global leadership in the post-Cold War era. Will the United States stand by the principles that form the basis of the international order, such as the territorial integrity of internationally recognized borders? Or will the United States retreat from its traditional global role and relinquish its responsibilities to multilateral organizations which have proven time and time again to be incapable of decisive and effective action without U.S. leadership?

Failure to act decisively now will all but guarantee the spread of disorder not only in the Balkans, but elsewhere around the globe.

Sincerely,


BOB DOLE
United States Senate