

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: CLARKSON HINE
(202) 224-5358

DOLE HAITI AMENDMENT

LAYS DOWN MARKER FOR ADMINISTRATION: PUT CONGRESS ON RECORD BEFORE DEPLOYMENT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS TO GET A "TIME OUT" TO USE SENATOR LUGAR'S PHRASE -- IN THE KIND OF NON-EMERGENCY SITUATION WE NOW FACE IN HAITI.

AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, I MADE MORE THAN A DOZEN CHANGES IN THE TEXT TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS. I HAVE REMOVED THE FUNDING LIMITATION AND MADE THIS "SENSE OF THE CONGRESS." I DID EXPLICITLY ENSURE THE AMENDMENT DOES NOT COVER THE NAVAL BLOCKADE -- EVEN THOUGH I REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT THE BLOCKADE IS THE BEST COURSE -- BUT THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY DEPLOYED THE FORCES. I FINE-TUNED THE CONDITIONS, MOVED SOME PARAGRAPHS AROUND, AND TRIED TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY CONCERNS AS POSSIBLE.

DON'T PUT TROOPS CASUALLY IN HARM'S WAY

WITH THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS, IT IS CLEAR THAT U.S. TROOPS SHOULD NOT CASUALLY BE PUT IN HARM'S WAY IN HAITI -- AS TRAINERS, CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS OR ANYTHING ELSE. TWO WEEKS AGO -- BEFORE THE HAITIAN "RENT-A-MOB" SCENE ON THE DOCK IN PORT-AU-PRINCE -- I URGED THE PRESIDENT NOT TO DEPLOY AMERICAN TROOPS, AND TO WITHDRAW THE ADVANCE TEAM ALREADY THERE. THAT MISSION DOES NOT MEET THE PRESIDENT'S OWN CRITERIA FOR U.N. OPERATIONS: WHAT IS THE THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE, WHERE ARE THE CLEAR OBJECTIVES, WHAT IS THE END POINT, AND WHAT WILL IT COST. HAD THAT MISSION GONE FORWARD, IT WOULD HAVE VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED AMERICAN CASUALTIES FOR ANOTHER QUESTIONABLE EXERCISE IN NATION-BUILDING. WITH THE PROPOSED GROUND RULES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT, IT WOULD HAVE MADE MORE SENSE FOR THE U.S. SOLDIERS TO WEAR TARGETS THAN TO WEAR CAMOUFLAGE. WHEN WE ANNOUNCE THAT U.S. TROOPS WILL WITHDRAW AS SOON AS THEY ARE SHOT AT, WE ENSURE THAT ANY HAITIAN WITH A GUN HAS AN INCENTIVE TO BE THE ONE "WHO CHASED OUT THE YANKEES."

WHEN WE ANNOUNCE THAT U.S. TROOPS ARE ONLY THERE TO TRAIN AND TO BUILD ROADS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WONDER WHY -- WHY WE CAN'T TRAIN IN THE U.S OUT OF HARM'S WAY, AND WHY A.I.D. OR CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS CAN'T BUILD ROADS. WITH 80% UNEMPLOYMENT IN HAITI, SOMEONE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER PUTTING HAITIANS TO WORK BUILDING ROADS.

MY AMENDMENT LAYS DOWN A MARKER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION: TREAD VERY CAREFULLY IN USING AMERICAN FORCE IN HAITI.

QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS HAITI

I AM NOT SURE WHAT OUR POLICY IN HAITI IS. WE SEEM DETERMINED TO PUT ARISTIDE BACK IN POWER -- EVEN THOUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT HE INCITED MOB VIOLENCE WHILE HE WAS PRESIDENT. I AM NOT SURE SOMEONE IS AUTOMATICALLY A "SMALL D' DEMOCRAT JUST BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED A LOT OF VOTES. I DO NOT THINK WE OUGHT TO LOSE ONE AMERICAN LIFE TO RETURN ARISTIDE TO POWER. RESTORING DEMOCRACY IS ONE THING, RESTORING ARISTIDE IS A DIFFERENT MATTER ALTOGETHER. THE OFFICER WHO WANTED U.S. TROOPS IN HAITI FOR TRAINING -- GENERAL CEDRAS -- WAS SUPPOSED TO RETIRE LAST WEEK, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ANY IDEA WHO WILL REPLACE HIM.

AMERICA DOES HAVE AN INTEREST IN HAITI -- IN PREVENTING THE MASSIVE OUTFLOW OF HAITIANS SEEKING TO LAND IN THE UNITED STATES. AND WE ALL AGREE THAT DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN HAITI WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT SUCH AN EXODUS. BUT, THE PROBLEM IS THAT HAITIAN HISTORY DOES NOT GIVE MANY EXAMPLES OF GOOD GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO TRY TO IMPOSE ARISTIDE. MAYBE WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS STEP BACK IN HAITI -- WE COULD LOOK AT THE VATICAN FOR MEDIATION, WE COULD LOOK AT AN INDEPENDENT FACT-FINDING COMMISSION. WHAT WE SHOULD NOT DO IS

(MORE)

RUSH INTO A MILITARY INTERVENTION. WE TRIED THAT FROM 1915 TO 1934 WITH THE U.S. MARINES AND IT DIDN'T GET A WHOLE LOT OF NATION-BUILDING DONE.

NO COMFORT FOR KILLERS IN HAITI

FINALLY, I WANT TO MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT NOTHING IN MY AMENDMENT SHOULD BE READ AS ANY COMFORT TO THE BLOODTHIRSTY KILLERS RUNNING WILD IN HAITI. I CONDEMN, AS I AM SURE EVERY MEMBER OF THIS BODY CONDEMNS, POLITICAL MURDER AND INTIMIDATION IN HAITI -- AND EVERYWHERE ELSE. UNFORTUNATELY, POLITICAL VIOLENCE SEEMS TO BE THE RULE NOT THE EXCEPTION IN HAITI.

THIS AMENDMENT PUTS THE CONGRESS ON RECORD BEFORE OUR TROOPS ARE DEPLOYED IN LARGE NUMBERS. IT MAKES CLEAR WE WANT NO CONFUSION OVER THE MISSION OR OVER OUR ROLE DOWN THE LINE. THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD VIEW THIS AS HELPFUL TO THEIR POSITION. THEY NEED THE INPUT OF CONGRESS AT THE FRONT END. MY AMENDMENT WOULD LET THEM KNOW WHERE WE STAND. I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT.

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