

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **INVESTIGATE U.N. AID TO BOSNIA**

### **DOLE CALLS FOR GAO PROBE OF U.N. AID PROGRAM: PURSUIT OF POLITICAL GOALS MAY BEAR HEAVY HUMANITARIAN PRICE**

Washington -- Saying he is "deeply concerned about reports that the United Nations is engaged in the manipulation and use of humanitarian assistance for political objectives" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole has requested a government investigation of the U.N. aid program in Bosnia, and the possible role of U.S. agencies and officials in these U.N. activities.

Dole expressed dismay over indications that the U.N. may have prevented the stockpiling of food and medicine in Bosnia, "apparently to avoid giving the Bosnian government hope that it can survive another winter without a peace settlement. Such efforts would violate Congressional intent and legislative language," according to Dole, and could amount to using aid to further the flawed Owen/Stoltenberg negotiations, instead of meeting the needs of hungry Bosnians.

Dole made his request Wednesday for a General Accounting Office probe in a letter to Charles Bowsher, Comptroller General of the United States. The text of the letter follows:

Dear Mr. Bowsher:

I am writing in regard to United States and United Nations practices regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina. I am deeply concerned about reports that the United Nations is engaged in the manipulation and use of humanitarian assistance for political objectives. In view of the fact that the United States is the largest contributor to the United Nations, and has the largest bilateral humanitarian assistance program for Bosnia-Herzegovina, I am requesting that GAO investigate whether these reports are accurate, whether U.S. officials are aware of or are involved in any way in such U.N. activities, and if so, at what level and in what manner.

Recent news articles report that the United Nations -- through the U.N. and European Community mediators and certain segments of the U.N. Protection Forces -- has been involved in efforts to channel humanitarian aid to the Bihac area as a means of putting pressure on the legitimate government of Bosnia-Herzegovina (these reports in the Christian Science Monitor and in the Los Angeles Times are enclosed). Moreover, there are indications that U.N. officials have prevented the creation of large stockpiles of food and medicine in Bosnia, apparently to avoid giving the Bosnian government hope that it can survive another winter without a peace settlement. Such efforts would violate Congressional intent and legislative language regarding the provision of humanitarian aid -- which require the non-political provision of food, medicine and winterization assistance -- not using aid to further the U.N./E.C. negotiations. In addition, such actions would undermine the authority of the legitimate government of Bosnia-Herzegovina which is recognized by the United States. I am also troubled about the lack of U.N. response to persistent reports of UNPROFOR involvement in black marketeering in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Finally, it is essential that information about the humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina be readily accessible and available for public discussion. There are some indications that information relating to the humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been classified to limit such public discussion rather than to protect sources and methods. Therefore, I am requesting that GAO examine whether or not State Department and Agency for International Development cables and/or documents regarding the humanitarian situation in Bosnia and the provision of assistance by the United States and other organizations, including the United Nations, are classified according to normal government procedures and standards.

Please address the following questions in your investigation:

- (1) Are the allegations about U.N. manipulation of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia-Herzegovina correct? What is the extent, purpose and impact of any such efforts?
- (2) Were any U.S. officials aware of the provision of humanitarian aid through a secret pipeline to the Bihac area prior to the Christian Science Monitor article on October 8, 1993?
- (3) If so, what agencies and officials were aware of this secret pipeline and how were they informed of this effort, i.e., through official U.N. channels, through the French Government or through independent U.S. sources? Were any U.S. agencies or officials involved in assisting this U.N./French effort?
- (4) Once made aware of this pipeline into Bihac (either prior to or following news reports), what actions, if any, were taken to protest this effort to the United Nations and to the French government (whose troops reportedly transported this aid into Bihac)? Were any efforts undertaken by U.S. officials to assess whether assistance or funds contributed by the United States were involved in any manner, and if so, whether U.S. laws on humanitarian assistance were complied with?
- (5) Has there been any response by officials from the United Nations or the French government in response to the news reports or any U.S. follow-up action?
- (6) Were any U.S. officials aware of efforts by U.N. officials to prevent the establishment of stockpiles within Bosnia-Herzegovina? If so, were any actions or responses undertaken? Did any U.S. officials attempt to determine the possible motives behind any U.N. opposition to stockpiling (for example, as a means of maintaining "pressure" on the Bosnian government)?
- (7) Have U.S. government officials obtained information related to other U.N. efforts to manipulate the provision of humanitarian assistance for political purposes in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Have any U.S. government officials been involved in opposing or supporting such efforts?
- (8) Have U.S. officials received reports or information about UNPROFOR soldiers, commanders or units engaged in improprieties, including black marketeering in goods and people? Have U.S. officials made any protests to the United Nations or foreign governments providing troops to UNPROFOR about corruption, improper conduct or black marketeering by certain UNPROFOR elements?
- (9) Does UNPROFOR have the will or the capability to monitor, safeguard, and enforce steps to prevent and punish improprieties, such as black market activities by UNPROFOR forces?
- (10) Has the Bosnian Government requested any type of United Nations assistance to strengthen the capabilities of the government's police forces to restore order and ensure unimpeded distribution of humanitarian assistance, particularly in Sarajevo? If so, how did the United Nations respond? Were U.S. officials aware of any requests, and if so, were any recommendations made to U.N. officials?
- (11) Have cables and/or other documents containing information regarding the humanitarian situation throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina been classified by U.S. government officials according to normal procedures? Are classification decisions on the Bosnia-Herzegovina humanitarian situation made in the same manner using the same criteria as classification decisions on other humanitarian situations? Is there any evidence of a policy to classify material to avoid public discussion rather than to protect sources and methods?

In conducting your review, please examine all U.S. executive agencies, including the Department of State (including the U.S. mission to the United Nations), the Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Council. Thank you for your assistance.

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