

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **BOSNIA UPDATE**

### **LONDON CONFERENCE: BOTTOM LINE - NO NEW POLICY; TIME FOR U.S. TO EXERCISE LEADERSHIP & LIFT U.S. ARMS EMBARGO**

The opposition to lifting the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina has been an elaborate exercise in buying time.

It has been more than 11 months since the Senate last voted to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. Following that vote in conference, the administration worked with the distinguished Senator from Georgia on a compromise -- the Nunn-Mitchell provision -- which ultimately was adopted.

The Nunn-Mitchell compromise essentially provided time -- time for the Bosnian Serbs to sign the Contact Group plan; time for UNPROFOR to improve its performance; and time for the administration to work out a multilateral lift of the arms embargo.

None of these things occurred.

Eleven months later, the situation is far worse than when the Senate last voted 58-42 to unilaterally lift the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia. Thousands have died. Tens of thousands have been forced from their homes -- homes which were in U.N. "safe havens." Tens of thousands of more are facing the same fate -- in Bihac, in Sarajevo, and in Gorazde.

Furthermore, NATO is dangerously close to losing what credibility it still has and the United States is no closer to exercising leadership in a new direction.

President Clinton called me last week to ask for more time -- he asked me to delay the vote on the Dole/Lieberman legislation until after the London meeting.

The London meeting has come and gone and there is no change on the ground in Bosnia. The London conference did not result in a reaffirmation of the U.N. obligation to defend the U.N. safe havens. The conferees wrote off Srebrenica and Zepa, vowed to protect Gorazde -- at some point, that point not being clear -- and declined to respond to the dramatically worsening situation in Bihac and Sarajevo.

Yes, there were modifications to the dual key arrangement, but the dual key remains. The bottom line is that the London meeting did not result in significant changes in approach; it did not result in a new policy. It is essentially reaffirmed business as usual with the possibility of a few displays of force some time in the future. And so the commander of the Bosnian Serbs, General Mladic -- who interestingly enough was delivered the London conferees' ultimatum in Belgrade -- is probably not shaking in his boots, but more likely laughing all the way to Bihac.

Today there are reports of more NATO military planning. But, planning was never the problem. Executing those plans was and still is the problem. This debate has never been about policy options, but about political will.

It is high time that the Clinton administration abandon its flimsy excuses for the U.N.'s pitiful performance, shed the false mantle of humanitarianism, and face the reality of the United Nations' failure in Bosnia.

I intend to take up the Dole/Lieberman legislation tomorrow and hope that we can vote tomorrow.

The clock has run out. Now is the time for the United States to fulfill its role as leader of the free world -- to do what is right and what is smart. Now is the time to pass the Dole/Lieberman legislation. We have an obligation to the Bosnian people and to our principles to let allow a U.N. member state, the victim of aggression defend itself.

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\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 3:20 p.m.