

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

U.N. BUREAUCRACY

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole gave the following statement on the second degree amendment offered by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, to withhold \$20 million until the Secretary of State can certify the identities of the "deadbeat diplomats" and that the U.N. Secretary General is getting the debt paid. Senator Dole's remarks follow:

There are many problems in the United Nations system but today's front page story in the Washington Times is another outrageous example of the lack of accountability in the United Nations. More than \$9 million in overdue debts have been accumulated by foreign diplomats and foreign missions in New York. Bills for landlords, hospitals, banks, stores and restaurants all go unpaid while the diplomats hide behind the United Nations blue flag.

The U.N. Secretary General issued a report recognizing the problem was serious. For example, some missions have not paid rent for two years, property owners were in danger of losing properties but diplomatic tenants cannot be evicted. The Secretary General, however, refused to name names. Instead, he suggested a "working group" to study the problem. I think we all know how to solve the problem. Don't form yet another layer of bloated bureaucracy -- just get the bills paid.

This second degree amendment is very simple. It withholds \$20 million -- roughly double the amount owed by deadbeat diplomats -- until the Secretary of State certifies two things: first, the identities to the deadbeat diplomats by name; and second, that the U.N. Secretary General is addressing the problem and getting debts paid.

The money we appropriate for the United Nations is not an entitlement. And, yes, the administration may have committed our government to more money that we are willing to appropriate. But Congress does not have to sit by while the United Nations provides cover for deadbeat diplomats getting special treatment.

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* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 3:45 p.m.