

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 11, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

BOSNIA VETO

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

Unfortunately, President Clinton's veto of S. 21, the Dole-Lieberman bill, reflects the only aspect of the administration's approach to Bosnia that has been consistent: its opposition to lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I hope that the President would keep in mind that the overwhelming votes in the Senate and the House are a repudiation of the administration's approach -- which is to support a failed U.N. operation in Bosnia and to deny the victims of aggression the right to defend themselves.

As for the White House predictions of having enough votes to sustain the President's veto, I think those predictions are premature. A lot can happen over the next few weeks before the Congress returns and votes on overriding the veto. Already, we have seen evidence of mass graves outside of Srebrenica. And, let us keep in mind that Sarajevo is still under siege. Furthermore, the President has not suggested anything but minor modifications to a failed policy.

Finally, the lesson of the action taken by Croatia to reestablish control over its territory -- accomplishing in four days what the U.N. could not accomplish in four years -- is that if adequately armed, the Bosnians can take matters into their own hands. And, that is their right, a right recognized in Article 51 of the U.N. Charter. When the Congress returns, the vote will still be about America taking the lead to support the Bosnians' fundamental right to self-defense, instead of following a failed policy.

###