

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 30, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

BOSNIA & NATO ACTION

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

Wolfeboro, NH -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the NATO air and artillery attacks against Bosnian Serb targets:

"I strongly support the NATO action against Bosnian Serb targets. This long-overdue demonstration of resolve could signal an important shift in the war in Bosnia -- if the U.S. and NATO are prepared to stay the course and keep the pressure on Serbia and its Bosnian Serb allies. A coordinated and sustained response to aggression is the only way to ensure Bosnian Serb forces will conclude that peace is the best option. Diplomacy without force is ineffective, and the ongoing air and artillery attacks could help move diplomacy forward.

"There can be little doubt that the bipartisan efforts of Congress played a critical role in NATO's show of resolve over the past 24 hours. While the West stood by for months and months, Congress provided the leadership needed to strengthen the resolve of NATO, the UN, and the Clinton administration. The West knew what would happen if it didn't respond to the latest Bosnian Serb atrocity -- Congress would override President Clinton's veto of the legislation lifting the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia, possibly as early as next week.

"In my view, lifting the unjust arms embargo to let Bosnia defend itself is as overdue as a decisive Western military response to genocide. I am willing to consider postponing Senate action if the recent Western attacks prove to be part of a new and effective policy which leads to a just and lasting peace settlement. However, one day of military action does not make up for three years of passivity and failure. In view of that history, I am only cautiously optimistic about the prospects for a peace settlement which will end the suffering of the Bosnian people."

###