

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOSNIA POLICY

**WHILE PRESIDENT HAS PLAN TO GET TROOPS INTO BOSNIA,
DOLE WANTS TO ENSURE WAY OUT: ADMINISTRATION TESTIMONY LEAVES
EXIT STRATEGY VAGUE & CONFUSED; DOLE UNDERSCORES EFFECTIVE
EXIT STRATEGY CONDITION FOR SENATE SUPPORT**

WASHINGTON - Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

"Following today's Senate hearings on the Clinton administration's planned Bosnia troop deployment, I remain deeply concerned that the plans and commitment of the administration to an immediate program for the equipping and training of Bosnian forces is vague and confused. Confusion on this point raises a serious question as to whether the safe and honorable withdrawal of U.S. forces at the completion of their mission can be assured. Therefore, I call on the administration to present to the Congress without delay a concrete, detailed, and effective plan to assure that Bosnia will be able to defend itself at the time of the American withdrawal.

"I want to underscore the point I made yesterday -- that such a plan is essential to my support, and the Senate's support, for the deployment of U.S. forces to Bosnia. If the President wants to win the support of the Congress he should immediately and publicly commit his administration to lead an effort to enable Bosnia to defend itself -- especially in light of continued administration ambiguity and wavering in today's hearings. Yesterday, I put the administration on notice that I intend to propose a resolution in the Senate that will require such a plan as a condition for supporting this operation.

"In my view, a Bosnia and Herzegovina able to effectively defend itself is necessary to a timely American withdrawal. In short, President Clinton has decided the way in to Bosnia -- I want to make sure there is a way out. Insisting on a credible exit strategy will ensure that American men and women in uniform going to Bosnia will be able to return to their families as soon as possible."

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