



GERALD R. FORD

December 4, 1995

Dear Bob:

I congratulate you on your statesmanship in supporting the 20,000 American troops sent to Bosnia as a part of a NATO peacekeeping force. Your decision is in the finest tradition of foreign policy bi-partisanship. Your support of our military forces in this crisis will be most helpful in convincing the Congress and the American People that the decision is appropriate diplomatically and militarily.

I strongly urge both Houses of Congress to pass resolutions supporting the U.S. troops deployed to the troubled and dangerous Bosnian Area.

Many Americans raise questions about putting U.S. troops on the ground in Bosnia. They question whether U.S. national interests in Bosnia warrant the considerable risk to which our troops would be exposed, what exactly they will and will not be expected to accomplish, and how and when they can get out and come home. Those questions deserve clear, consistent, persuasive answers. Congress should insist that the Administration provide them.

In my judgment, our vital interest is the importance of U.S. Leadership in the world and in NATO.

The President has determined what he considers the correct policy on Bosnia and has embarked on that policy. To undercut America's course of action at this juncture would do enormous damage to U.S. leadership in the eyes of the whole world. We would be seen as totally unreliable.

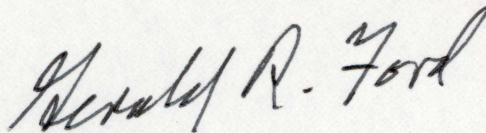
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Significant damage to NATO would incur if the President was forced by Congress to change position.

In this crisis, the Executive and Legislative branches, Democrats and Republicans must work together so that U.S. troops on their way to Bosnia have the united support of our Country.

With compliments on your leadership and statesmanship,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "D".

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S230 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510