

REPUBLICANS SUPPORTED TIMELINE, DATE CERTAIN IN BOSNIA

Republicans Insisted Upon an Exit Strategy Despite Zero Casualties

On June 24, 1997, House Republicans brought to the Floor an amendment that would set a timeline and a date certain for withdrawal from the U.S. peacekeeping mission in Bosnia – a mission that was only eighteen months old:

H.Amdt. 203: Buyer (R-IN) Amendment

- **Timeline:** By December 15, 1997, President Clinton was required to report to Congress on political and military conditions in Bosnia;
- **Date certain:** By June 30, 1998, all troops had to be withdrawn.

REPUBLICAN ACTION BEFORE AND DURING THE BOSNIA WAR:

November 17, 1995: Voted to prohibit funds for Bosnia Deployment. [H.R. 2606 – Passed 243-171; Boehner, Hastert, Hunter voted yes]

December 13, 1995: Attempted to prohibit funds from being used for deployment on the ground in Bosnia. [H.R. 2770, Failed, 210-218; Hastert, Hunter, Hyde voted yes]

December 13, 1995: Passed a resolution expressing “serious concerns and opposition to deployment.” [H.Res. 302, Passed, 287-141; Boehner, Hastert, Hunter, Hyde voted yes]

December 13, 1995: Failed to pass a resolution unequivocally supporting forces in Bosnia. [H.R. 306, Failed, 190-237; Boehner, Hastert, Hunter, Hyde voted no]

December 21, 1995: TROOPS DEPLOYED TO BOSNIA

June 24, 1997: Voted to set a timeline and date certain for withdrawal. [Buyer Amendment, Passed 278-148; Boehner, Blunt, Hastert, Hunter, Hyde voted yes]

Despite past support for providing the Commander in Chief with timelines and benchmarks, Republicans continue to support a stay the course strategy in Iraq. Ironically, Republicans supported timelines and benchmarks in a conflict where the US had suffered zero casualties, been involved for a mere 18 months, and spent \$7 billion.

A COMPARISON:

	BOSNIA*	IRAQ**
Length of Involvement	18 months	48 months
Cost	\$7 billion	\$379 billion
Casualties	0	3,210

**as of June 24, 1997; **as of March 19, 2007*

Stephen Buyer (R-IN): “The civilian leadership of the region and the international community in general have failed to make sufficient progress on reconstruction and reconciliation. The time is near for the United States to withdraw its ground forces from the region.” [Floor statement, 6/24/97]

David Hobson (R-OH): “We have done the military job. The longer they think we are going to stay there, the less they are going to move on the civil side. That is why we need to set a date certain and get our troops out, get them home, let the people of the area get on with their lives, hopefully in a peaceful fashion.” [Floor statement, 6/24/97]

Cliff Stearns (R-FL): “The bottom line here is this is going on and on with no definite time when this is going to end. ...It is time Congress put an end to this unauthorized operation by creating a date certain for the exit of United States combat troops on the ground in Bosnia.” [Floor statement, 6/24/97]

Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) (Former Chairman, International Relations Committee): “None of us should have any doubt that in the end the President may have to renege on his second deadline, just as he did on the first, unless we step in and hold him to his word.” [Floor statement, 6/24/97]

Floyd Spence (R-SC) (Former Chairman, Armed Services Committee): “Today's votes will call for the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops from a peacekeeping operation of growing expense and seemingly unending duration.... The time is long overdue for Congress to express its will on behalf of the American people. It is important that the Clinton administration be held accountable for the Nation's foreign policy and in this case for Bosnia policy.” [Floor statement, 6/24/97]