

NEWS

Committee on International Relations

U.S. House of Representatives

Henry J. Hyde, Chairman

CONTACT: Tiernen Miller, (202) 225-5021,

July 1, 2002

For IMMEDIATE Release

**HYDE OPPOSES U.N. CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OVER
PEACEKEEPERS IN BOSNIA**

(WASHINGTON) - Today, U.S. Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-IL), chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, made the following statement regarding consideration by the United Nations Security Council of options for renewing the mandate for peacekeeping operations in Bosnia:

"I commend the Bush Administration for its dogged efforts in the United Nations Security Council to defend American sovereignty.

No one should expect the United States to deploy its Armed Forces around the world on humanitarian missions on behalf of the United Nations if those forces are to be exposed to prosecution by a United Nations court whose jurisdiction we reject. Other countries can ask us to send our Armed Forces on such missions, as we have done in Bosnia. Or they can insist on the purported right of the International Criminal Court to prosecute United Nations peacekeepers in places like Bosnia. But it is arrogant for anyone to suggest that we must simultaneously keep our Armed Forces in places like Bosnia and acquiesce in United Nations claims of criminal jurisdiction over them.

I find it bizarre that some countries appear to be more interested in exercising criminal jurisdiction over Americans than they are in enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping efforts around the world.

I am particularly puzzled by the claim that granting immunity from the International Criminal Court to United Nations peacekeepers will somehow provide comfort to rogue regimes. The solution to this problem, if it is a problem, is to prevent rogue regimes from participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations. It is not to treat all participants in United Nations operations as if they were rogue regimes."