

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **March 29, 1999**

Do reasons for our military fiasco in Yugoslavia stand up to scrutiny?

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. attack on Yugoslavia is a textbook example of the folly of foreign intervention: So far, the American air assault has accomplished the exact *opposite* of what supporters promised, the Libertarian Party noted today.

"It's Vietnam 101," said David Bergland, the party's national chairman. "Our bombardment has accelerated attacks on innocent civilians, caused the conflict to spill over to neighboring nations, and inflamed anti-American sentiments around the world.

"Instead of bombing our way to peace, we're apparently bombing our way into a regional war that could last for months or years."

After six days of pounding Yugoslavia with air strikes and missiles, Pentagon officials admit the situation is deteriorating. Yugoslavian forces have stepped up their attacks on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, thousands of refugees are pouring into neighboring countries, and NATO officials are hinting that ground troops may be required to stop the fighting.

But before the U.S. causes the situation to get even *worse*, it's time to reconsider the reasons President Clinton originally gave for intervention, suggested Bergland.

"Our policy in Yugoslavia is not working, but that's no surprise," he said. "Like almost every policy pronouncement from our nation's Liar-In-Chief, Bill Clinton's explanations for attacking Yugoslavia ranged from slippery to confused to blatantly wrong."

In a speech on March 23, Clinton listed a number of reasons why the U.S. should intervene in Yugoslavia, arguing it was . . .

■ **For "our children," who deserve a peaceful Europe.** "In fact, our children deserve not to have their fathers, brothers, mothers, and sisters risk their lives in a foreign conflict," countered Bergland. "Our children will derive scant comfort from a peaceful Europe while standing at the graves of dead family members."

■ **Because American prosperity requires a Europe that remains a "good partner with us for trading."** "Global trade does *not* require a global military presence, and our military is not a private security force for U.S. corporations," said Bergland.

■ **To stop the genocide caused by "primitive urges" to kill people over "what they think is different about" other ethnic groups.** "The reality is that Kosovo, as tragic as it is, doesn't even rank in the top dozen bloodiest conflicts around the globe," said Bergland. "Over the past few years, far more people have died in civil unrest in Rwanda, Turkey, Russia, and Sierra Leone — to name just a few. Is Bill Clinton prepared to send Americans to be the heavily armed referee in every bloody conflict around the globe? If not, why are we muddling around in Yugoslavia — making a tragic situation worse?"

#