

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

POINDEXTER PLAYING CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE

I WANT TO MAKE A FEW BRIEF COMMENTS ABOUT TWO ASPECTS OF OUR EFFORT TO WORK OUT A CONTRA AID PACKAGE.

FIRST, I WANT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT THE ROLE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER HAS BEEN PLAYING AND PARTICULARLY PLAYED YESTERDAY IN OUR ATTEMPT TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON WHICH MANY OF US COULD SUPPORT A BILL.

JOHN POINDEXTER CAME UP HERE AT MY REQUEST, AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MINORITY LEADER, TO SEE IF HE COULD HELP US BRIDGE SOME FINAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. HE SPENT THREE OR FOUR HOURS WITH US -- AN ENORMOUS COMMITMENT OF HIS TIME, CONSIDERING WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE GULF OF SIDRA AND IN HONDURAS. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, EVERYTHING HE DID WHILE HE WAS UP HERE WAS CONSTRUCTIVE, HELPFUL AND AIMED AT HELPING US ACHIEVE AGREEMENT.

HE DID DEFEND THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT AND SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE ELEMENTS OF A PACKAGE THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE PRESIDENT'S STRATEGY -- AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO DO. BUT HE DID NOT TORPEDO ANYTHING AND KEEP US FROM REACHING AN AGREEMENT WE OTHERWISE MIGHT HAVE REACHED.

THE SIMPLE FACT IS THERE WERE TWO ISSUES WHICH DIVIDED US AND -- DESPITE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS ON ALL SIDES, INCLUDING ON THE PART OF ADMIRAL POINDEXTER -- WE WERE NOT ABLE YESTERDAY TO BRIDGE OUR DIFFERENCES.

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