

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

HOUSE ACTION ON CONTRA AID

HOUSE FINALLY TO ACT

NEXT WEEK AT LAST -- AT LONG, LONG LAST -- THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE AND LET THE HOUSE VOTE ON AN AID PACKAGE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE IN NICARAGUA, THE SO-CALLED CONTRAS. AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT THE SPEAKER IS SAYING THIS WEEK.

ONE MORE CHANCE FOR THE SANDINISTAS

THOSE OF US WITH LONG MEMORIES RECALL THAT THE SPEAKER MADE HIS COMMITMENT TO HAVE THIS VOTE AS PART OF A LAST DITCH EFFORT TO BLOCK HOUSE APPROVAL OF AN AID PACKAGE BACK IN APRIL. THE ARGUMENT THEN WAS: LET'S GIVE THE PEACE PROCESS -- THE CONTADORA PROCESS -- TIME TO WORK. LET'S NOT PLAY THE CONTRA CARD IF WE DON'T NEED TO.

AND LET'S REMEMBER THAT PLEA WAS MADE IN THE FACE OF WHAT TO MOST PEOPLE WAS ALREADY A CLEAR-CUT RECORD OF NICARAGUAN TREACHERY -- A RECORD OF NICARAGUAN INVASIONS OF ITS NEIGHBORS; A RECORD OF SANDINISTA SCUTTling OF ONE PEACE EFFORT AFTER ANOTHER; A RECORD OF MANAGUA STONEWALLING EACH TIME WE TRIED TO ENGAGE IN DIRECT, SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS; A RECORD OF CLOSER AND CLOSER TIES BETWEEN ORTEGA'S GOVERNMENT AND ITS MENTORS IN MOSCOW AND HAVANA.

BUT SET THAT ASIDE, SAID OUR PRESIDENT'S CRITICS. LET'S GIVE ORTEGA AND HIS CROWD ONE MORE CHANCE. LET'S GIVE PEACE ONE MORE CHANCE. AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK -- IF THE SANDINISTAS DON'T RESPOND TO OUR CONCERNS -- THEN WE'LL ADMIT THE FACTS; WE'LL RALLY BEHIND YOU, MR. PRESIDENT; WE'LL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE TO SUPPORT THE CONTRAS AS THE ONLY AVENUE LEFT OPEN TO TRY TO ACHIEVE OUR LEGITIMATE GOALS IN LATIN AMERICA.

THAT'S WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICS SAID THEN.

WELL, WE'VE GIVEN THE PEACE PROCESS YET ANOTHER CHANCE TO WORK. WE'VE HAD ANOTHER INTENSIVE ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND WE'VE HAD A NEW DEADLINE FOR THE SIGNATURE OF AN