

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 28, 1986

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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE THE RETURN OF COMRADE ORTEGA

ORTEGA IN NEW YORK

ONCE AGAIN THE HEAD OF THE SANDINISTA REGIME IN NICARAGUA, DANIEL ORTEGA, IS VISITING OUR SHORES, TO USE THE PLATFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ATTACK OUR COUNTRY AND OUR POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. AND, AS USUAL, HE'S HERE TO MAKE CERTAIN HE GETS PLENTY OF AIR TIME TO MAKE THE SANDINISTA CASE TO THE U.S. PUBLIC.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR MR. ORTEGA, THE REALITY IN NICARAGUA SPEAKS MUCH LOUDER AND MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN HE DOES. AND THE REALITY IS THAT THE SANDINISTAS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING A TOTALITARIAN, MARXIST SYSTEM; THAT THEY WILL TRY TO CRUSH ANY POLITICAL FORCE AND ANYONE THAT STANDS IN THEIR WAY; AND, MEANWHILE, THAT THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY IS IN NEAR COLLAPSE.

THE SORRY RECORD

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN NICARAGUA SINCE ORTEGA'S LAST VISIT TO NEW YORK? THE ECONOMY HAS VIRTUALLY COLLAPSED, LEAVING THE VAST MAJORITY OF NICARAGUANS MIRED IN MISERY AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY DEPENDENT ON SOVIET HANDOUTS. THE SANDINISTAS HAVE SCUTTLED THE MOST RECENT AND HOPEFUL ROUND OF TALKS IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS, CONFOUNDING THEIR SYMPATHIZERS IN THIS COUNTRY.

THEY HAVE INVADDED HONDURAS, HAPPILY WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANY OF THE GOALS OF THAT MILITARY OPERATION. THEY'VE ACCELERATED THEIR MILITARY BUILD-UP IN NICARAGUA, AND THE SOVIET PRESENCE THERE CONTINUES TO GROW AND GROW -- SOVIET PILOTS NOW FLY AERIAL

RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. AND THE SANDINISTAS HAVE LAUNCHED YET ANOTHER HARSH CRACK-DOWN ON THE INTERNAL DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION: LA PRENSA, THE LAST FREE VOICE IN NICARAGUA, HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN, AND BISHOP VEGA HAS BEEN EXILED, FOR THE CRIME OF SPEAKING OUT ON BEHALF OF LIBERTY.

AND I MIGHT SAY AS AN ASIDE HERE THAT THE U.S. MEDIA WOULD GET A LOT MORE REALISTIC IDEA OF DANIEL ORTEGA'S FEELINGS ABOUT RELIGION AND CHRISTIANITY BY TALKING TO BISHOP VEGA THAN BY FOLLOWING ORTEGA AROUND TO HIS CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED PHOTO OPS AT SUNDAY SERVICES IN NEW YORK.

IN SHORT, THE SANDINISTAS HAVE ABANDONED THEIR OWN REVOLUTION, SUPPRESSED THEIR OWN PEOPLE AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF IRRETRIEVABLY WRECKING THEIR OWN COUNTRY. THAT IS THE REAL RECORD -- AND THAT OUGHT TO BE THE REAL ISSUE -- IN NICARAGUA.

SANDINISTAS HELL-BENT ON AGGRESSION AND SUPPRESSION

WE'VE GIVEN THE SANDINISTAS EVERY CHANCE TO DO WHAT THEY OUGHT TO DO -- TO LIVE UP TO THEIR OWN PROMISES -- IN THEIR COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION. THEY HAVE TURNED A DEAF EAR -- TO US, TO THE O.A.S., TO THE CONTRADORA PROCESS, AND TO THE PLEAS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE. THEY REMAIN HELL-BENT ON THE COURSE OF AGGRESSION AND SUPPRESSION, AND HAVE ARROGANTLY BOASTED THAT NOTHING WILL TURN THEM AROUND.

CONTRA AID BARRIER TO SANDINISTA PLANS

WELL, THERE IS ONE WAY THAT THEY CAN BE STOPPED -- BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE NICARAGUAN ELEMENTS WHO REMAIN TRUE TO THE SANDINO-INSPIRED REVOLUTION; WHO REMAIN WILLING TO FIGHT AND DIE FOR FREEDOM; WHO REMAIN DETERMINED TO WIN THEIR COUNTRY BACK FROM MOSCOW'S CONTROL AND ORTEGA'S POLICIES.

I DON'T KNOW IF ORTEGA PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO THE SERMON HE HEARD IN NEW YORK, BUT I DO KNOW THAT WE IN THE SENATE WILL SOON HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND HIM A MESSAGE HE CAN'T IGNORE. WE WILL VOTE ON PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRAS. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL VOTE, AS WE HAVE BEFORE, TO PROVIDE THAT ASSISTANCE.

ORTEGA AND HIS MARXIST CRONIES ARE A DETERMINED BUNCH. BUT WE ARE DETERMINED, TOO. DETERMINED TO GIVE NICARAGUA A NEW CHANCE FOR EVENTUAL PEACE, FOR REAL DEMOCRACY, FOR THE HOPE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

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