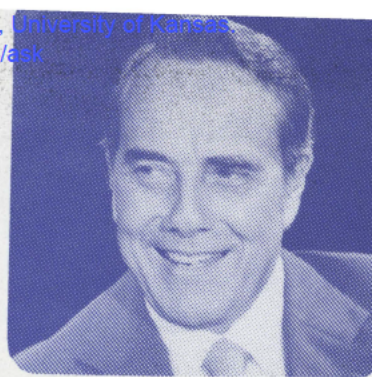


# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1986

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## STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE AMERICAN CAPTURED IN NICARAGUA

ON SATURDAY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE GOING TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND, FOR DISCUSSIONS WE ALL HOPE WILL BRING US PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL, HUMAN RIGHTS AND REGIONAL CONFLICTS -- ISSUES ABSOLUTELY FUNDAMENTAL TO AMERICAN INTERESTS AND TO THE HOPES OF THE WORLD FOR PEACE AND SECURITY.

BUT IF YOU WATCHED LAST EVENING'S AND THE MORNING NEWS BROADCASTS, YOU MIGHT HAVE COME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MOST EARTH-SHAKING THING GOING ON IN THE WORLD WAS HAPPENING DOWN IN MANAGUA, WHERE AN AMERICAN CIVILIAN HAS BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE SANDINISTAS AFTER HIS PLANE, ALLEGEDLY CARRYING ARMS AND SUPPLIES TO THE CONTRAS, CRASHED INSIDE NICARAGUA.

IF YOU STICK TO THE FACTS, IT ISN'T MUCH OF A STORY. WE'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT SOME PRIVATE AMERICANS WERE ACTIVELY HELPING THE CONTRAS. THEY'VE MADE NO SECRET OF IT; THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE REPORTED IT, AGAIN AND AGAIN. NOW ONE OF THESE SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE, APPARENTLY, HAS BEEN CAPTURED; THREE OTHERS HAVE DIED, TWO OF THEM AMERICAN, TOO. ALL OF THAT IS TRAGIC -- BUT IN ANY CASE, THE FACTS JUST DON'T -- SHOULDN'T, ANYWAY -- ADD UP TO BANNER HEADLINES OR LEAD STORIES.

AND SO THIS ONE AMERICAN, BEING PARADED FROM PILLAR TO POST BY SOME SANDINISTA GOONS JUST SO THE PRESS CAN GET A GOOD CAMERA ANGLE, BECOMES THE SYMBOL OF ALL KINDS OF IMAGINED EVIL. "ADMINISTRATION LIES AND DISINFORMATION; SHATTERED CREDIBILITY; A SECRET WAR IN NICARAGUA" -- THOSE ARE THE CHARGES FLOATING AROUND. THAT'S THE KIND OF SILLINESS THAT PASSES FOR "HOT" NEWS AROUND THIS TOWN THESE DAYS.

(MORE)

THERE IS IMPORTANT NEWS IN NICARAGUA WHICH OUGHT TO BE COVERED, AND IN HEADLINES AND LEAD STORIES ON THE NIGHTLY NEWS. THE MARXISTS IN NICARAGUA ARE SHUTTING DOWN THE FREE PRESS, EXILING CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND DRIVING THEIR OWN PEOPLE INTO THE HILLS, WHILE DANIEL ORTEGA MAKES HIS PERIODIC VISITS TO NEW YORK, DRAGGING HIS DOTING MEDIA ENTOURAGE AROUND TO COCKTAIL PARTIES AND APPOINTMENTS WITH HIS EYE DOCTOR.

THESE -- AND EVENTS LIKE THE UPCOMING REYKJAVIK MEETINGS -- ARE THE REAL NEWS. AND IT'S TIME THEY GOT THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE.

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