

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER/
DALE TATE 224-3135

DOLE NAMES KIRKPATRICK TO CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KAN) TODAY NAMED FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS JEANE KIRKPATRICK TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION CREATED BY THE 99TH CONGRESS.

The Commission, charged with monitoring the status of any Central American negotiations and the activities of the democratic resistance forces, the so-called Contras, was established under the Contra aid legislation, which was included in the 1987 Continuing Resolution. Under the legislation, each of the four principal Congressional leaders -- the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the House Speaker and Minority Leader -- name one Commission member. Senator Byrd and Congressmen O'Neill and Michel had earlier named their designees. The four designees will pick a fifth member, who serves as chairperson.

"I'm pleased and excited that Jeane Kirkpatrick has agreed to serve on the Commission," Dole said. "In terms of intellectual capabilities and foreign affairs credentials, she is in a class by herself -- and in a position to make a contribution to the Commission that no one else I can think of could."

"She also happens to have many other important responsibilities and enormous demands on her time. It is a reflection of the importance she attaches to Central America and U.S. security interests there that she has agreed to serve."

Dole indicated he and Kirkpatrick had already discussed possible nominees for Commission chairperson. "One person that both of us think would be ideal is former Florida Senator Dick Stone," said Dole. "Some might be surprised I would suggest a Democrat as Chairman. But Dick, like Jeane, is a person of high ability and unquestioned integrity, and he's an expert on Central America. In addition, when Dick was in the Senate, he had the respect of all of us on both sides of the aisle -- a big help in trying to build the kind of bipartisanship we need on Central American policy."