

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE DEMOCRACY AND DIPLOMACY -- SANDINISTA STYLE

A DELEGATION OF NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO COSTA RICA TODAY, TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT ARIAS THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP, SINCE SEVERAL OF THEM ARE AMONG THE APPROXIMATELY 40 OPPOSITION LEADERS THROWN IN JAIL YESTERDAY -- FOR THE CRIME OF ENGAGING IN A PEACEFUL RALLY, DEMANDING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT PAPER IN NICARAGUA, LA PRENSA, WOULD HAVE GONE TO PRESS TODAY, TO REPORT ON THE RALLY AND THE ARRESTS. BUT ITS READERS WILL LOOK IN VAIN FOR IT ON THE STANDS, SINCE THE PAPER HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN BY THE SANDINISTAS -- FOR THE CRIME OF REPORTING THE TRUTH.

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT RADIO STATION IN NICARAGUA, CATHOLIC RADIO, WOULD LIKELY HAVE REPORTED TODAY ON THE DEMONSTRATIONS, THE ARRESTS AND THE SHUT-DOWN OF LA PRENSA. BUT LISTENERS TURNING THEIR DIALS IN SEARCH OF THE NEWS BROADCASTS WILL BE OUT OF LUCK, SINCE THE SANDINISTAS HAVE CLOSED DOWN CATHOLIC RADIO -- FOR THE CRIME OF BROADCASTING THE TRUTH.

AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF WOULD HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED TODAY KEEPING US INFORMED OF EVOLVING EVENTS. BUT THEY WILL BE TOO BUSY PACKING, SINCE THE AMBASSADOR AND SEVEN OTHERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED OUT OF THE COUNTRY -- FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CRIME OF OBSERVING AND REPORTING ON REPEATED SANDINISTA LIES AND OPPRESSION.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VIOLETTA CHAMORRO, THE EDITOR OF LA PRENSA, AND THE OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN AND JAILED -- THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND DANIEL ORTEGA IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE. THEY BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH, AND DANIEL ORTEGA LIVES BY LIES.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE NICARAGUA, AND THE SANDINISTAS, IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE. THE OPPOSITION BELIEVES IN FREEDOM, AND THE SANDINISTAS DON'T.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES WHO ARE SIGNATORY TO THE PEACE ACCORDS, AND THE SANDINISTA REGIME IN NICARAGUA, IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE. THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES PERMIT THEIR OWN PEOPLE THEIR LIBERTY, AND THEY KEEP THEIR WORD. THE SANDINISTAS DON'T.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE SANDINISTAS ARE DIFFERENT THAN WE ARE. WE WANT FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FOR NICARAGUA. AND THEY WANT TYRANNY, AND ARE WILLING TO SELL-OUT NICARAGUAN SOVEREIGNTY IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET ARMS AND RUBLES.

THE SANDINISTAS ARE DICTATORS. THEY ARE LIARS. THEY ARE COMMUNISTS.

THAT IS THE TRUTH. IT'S ABOUT TIME WE ACTED ON THAT TRUTH. AND IT IS MY INTENTION, AND THE INTENTION OF OTHER SENATORS, TO GIVE THE SENATE A CHANCE TO DO JUST THAT, AS SOON AS WE CAN.