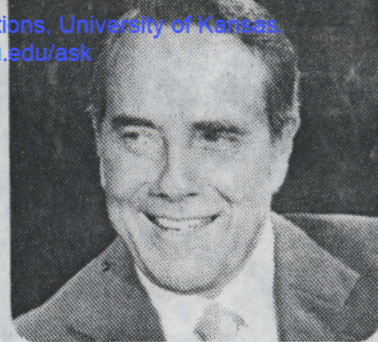


# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DOLE COMMENDS PRESIDENT'S SANCTION-LIFTING AID PACKAGE TO PANAMA

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR:

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN IN SUPPORTING THIS BILL. IT WILL HAVE OVERWHELMING, BIPARTISAN SUPPORT -- AS IT SHOULD.

A NEW DAWN HAS EMERGED IN PANAMA. OPERATION "JUST CAUSE" HAS TOPPLED NORIEGA, AND LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE -- COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY -- AND DETERMINED TO THROW OUT THE DRUG CARTEL'S "PUPPET POLITICIANS" AND SECRET BANK ACCOUNTS.

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HELP THE HEALING AND BUILDING PROCESS IN PANAMA.

OUR POLICY OF SANCTIONS AGAINST NORIEGA WAS THE RIGHT ONE -- BUT IT DID BRING DEVASTATION TO THE PANAMANIAN ECONOMY. OPERATION "JUST CAUSE" WAS THE RIGHT MOVE -- BUT THE RESULTING FIGHTING AND UNREST DID CAUSE WIDESPREAD PHYSICAL DAMAGE AND DISLOCATION.

OF COURSE, WE ALSO HAVE AN ENORMOUS STAKE IN PANAMA. IT ANCHORS THE SOUTHERN END OF CENTRAL AMERICA -- WHERE THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY GOES FORWARD.

IT IS HOME FOR THE PANAMA CANAL -- WHICH REMAINS AN ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT STRATEGIC WATERWAY.

AND PANAMA HOSTS THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS -- SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS -- WHOSE WELFARE AND SAFETY ARE ALWAYS UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS.

THIS IS A MODEST PACKAGE -- A GOOD BEGINNING. IT LIFTS THE SANCTIONS, AND PROVIDES SOME IMMEDIATELY NEEDED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, TO THE TUNE OF \$32 MILLION. IT WILL PROVIDE SOME ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING TO INSURE THAT PANAMANIAN FORCES CAN INSURE SECURITY.

PANAMA IS BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK -- THIS PACKAGE WILL HELP KEEP IT THERE.

WE WILL NEED TO DO MORE -- BUT, AGAIN, THIS IS THE RIGHT FIRST STEP.

I COMMEND THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE -- CHAIRMAN PELL, RANKING MEMBER HELMS, AND THE MEMBERSHIP; AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE -- CHAIRMAN BENTSEN, RANKING MEMBER PACKWOOD AND THE MEMBERSHIP. THEY WORKED QUICKLY, EFFECTIVELY AND IN A BIPARTISAN WAY.

I COMMEND THE ADMINISTRATION, TOO, FOR MOVING FORWARD ON THIS EXPEDITIOUSLY, AND WORKING WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES ON THE BILL.

MOST OF ALL, I OFFER CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA. THEY HAVE THEIR FUTURE BACK AGAIN, AND I AM PLEASED AND PROUD THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO HELP THEM MAKE IT A GOOD FUTURE.

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