

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 1990

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

FREEDOM WINS OUT IN NICARAGUA:
ORTEGA, NORIEGA HISTORY: TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO,
TIME AGAIN TO RE-EXAMINE U.S FOREIGN AID PIE

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

IT APPEARS THAT DANIEL ORTEGA USED THE SAME POLLSTER I DID IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. THIS TIME, THOUGH, THE RESULT IS ONE I CAN ENTHUSIASTICALLY CELEBRATE.

AS I LOOK AROUND THIS HEMISPHERE -- AT PANAMA, AT NICARAGUA, AT CUBA -- IT SEEMS TO ME IT IS: TWO DOWN, AND ONE TO GO.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT: IT IS A DAY -- YET ANOTHER DAY -- TO CELEBRATE. THE MESSAGE FROM MANAGUA IS THE SAME SIMPLE MESSAGE WE HEARD IN POLAND, AND IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND IN FACT IN LITHUANIA JUST YESTERDAY -- GIVEN A FREE CHOICE, PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE FREEDOM.

GIVEN A FREE CHOICE BETWEEN SANDINISTA TYRANNY AND DEMOCRACY -- THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE IGNORED INTIMIDATION, OVERCOME A STACKED-DECK, AND TAKEN BACK THEIR OWN FUTURE.

WE CONGRATULATE THEM -- THEIR PRESIDENT-ELECT, MRS. VIOLETTA CHAMORRO, AN EXTRAORDINARILY BRAVE AND TENACIOUS WOMAN; ALL OF THOSE FROM U.N.O. (oo-no) WHO STUCK TOGETHER WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN; AND MOST OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF NICARAGUA. THEY HAVE SUFFERED GRIEVOUSLY FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. THEY DESERVE PEACE, FREEDOM, AND A FAIR SHOT AT PROSPERITY.

THEY HAVE TAKEN A GIANT FIRST STEP. BUT THEY STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

LAST AUGUST, I VISITED POLAND, ARRIVING ON THE VERY DAY THAT PRIME MINISTER MAZOWIECKI TOOK OFFICE. DURING THAT VISIT, I ALSO MET WITH PRESIDENT JARUSELSKI.

PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING THING THAT JARUSELSKI SAID TO ME WAS THAT HE WAS DETERMINED, IN HIS REMAINING DAYS, TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO HELP HIS COUNTRY -- NOT AS A COMMUNIST, BUT AS A POLE.. I WAS CONVINCED AT THE TIME THAT HE WAS SINCERE. EVENTS SINCE HAVE INDICATED HE WAS.

I HOPE THAT DANIEL ORTEGA WILL FOLLOW PRESIDENT JARUSELSKI'S EXAMPLE.

MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENS IN THE COMING WEEKS WILL BE UP TO HIM, AND HIS SANDINISTA COLLEAGUES. THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE SPOKEN, LOUD AND CLEAR. WITH EVERY ADVANTAGE, FAIR AND UNFAIR, IN HIS FAVOR -- ORTEGA HAS BEEN REJECTED BY SOMETHING LIKE A 3-TO-2 MARGIN.

THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE "THROWN THE RASCALS OUT." I HOPE THE "RASCALS" WILL ACCEPT THAT VERDICT, AND GIVE UP ALL THE LEVERS OF POWER -- NOT ONLY THE PRESIDENCY, BUT THE ARMED FORCES, THE STATE SECURITY APPARATUS, AND THE ENTIRE RANGE OF GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY.

THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA HAVE ELECTED U.N.O. STARTING ON INAUGURATION DAY, APRIL 25 -- U.N.O. SHOULD RULE.

(MORE)

WHAT ABOUT OUR OWN POLICY? OBVIOUSLY, WE ALL JOIN IN CELEBRATING THIS VICTORY FOR FREEDOM. OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE HAD DIFFERENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR RESTORING DEMOCRACY TO NICARAGUA. BUT WE HAVE SHARED A COMMON GOAL. THERE IS REAL HOPE, NOW, THAT OUR GOAL CAN BE ACHIEVED.

IT IS TIME, NOW, THAT WE TRY TO FORM A SOUND, BIPARTISAN POLICY, TO SUPPORT MRS. CHAMORRO'S GOVERNMENT AND HELP INSURE ITS LONG-TERM SUCCESS. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE -- AS I SAID -- WE SHOULD INSIST THAT THE SANDINISTAS REALLY GIVE UP POWER. SO FAR, ORTEGA IS SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS. I HOPE THE SANDINISTAS FOLLOW-UP HIS "GOOD WORDS" WITH "GOOD DEEDS."

IF THEY DO, OUR THREE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF.

-- NICARAGUA'S UNHOLY ALLIANCE WITH MOSCOW AND HAVANA.

-- SANDINISTA SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN EL SALVADOR.

-- AND SANDINISTA SUPPRESSION OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE.

UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO MOVE SWIFTLY TO HELP MRS. CHAMORRO SUCCEED.

THE FIRST STEP, OF COURSE, IS ELIMINATING ALL OF THE SANCTIONS NOW IN PLACE AGAINST THE SANDINISTA REGIME. I HOPE WE WILL DO WHATEVER WE NEED TO, SO THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHEN MRS. CHAMORRO BECOMES PRESIDENT CHAMORRO ON APRIL 25.

BUT MUCH MORE WILL BE REQUIRED. WE SHOULD -- WE MUST -- PROVIDE HER NEW GOVERNMENT WITH AID. AND LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES: WE'RE TALKING ABOUT "BIG BUCKS" IN AID.

THE NICARAGUAN ECONOMY IS FLAT ON ITS BACK. "CAPITAL FLIGHT" ISN'T A PROBLEM -- BECAUSE THERE IS NO MORE CAPITAL LEFT TO "FLY." FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS NOTHING BUT A MEMORY. DOMESTIC INVESTMENT IS ZERO.

MEANWHILE, THE COUNTRY IS PHYSICALLY DEVASTATED BY YEARS OF WAR. INFLATION IS SKY HIGH. UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE RULE, NOT THE EXCEPTION.

IF ANY NEWLY-ELECTED LEADER EVER FACED AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMERGENCY, MRS. CHAMORRO DOES.

SHE NEEDS OUR HELP, AND SHE DESERVES IT.

BUT IT RAISES THE SAME OLD QUESTION -- THE QUESTION WE ARE FACING FOR EASTERN EUROPE, FOR PANAMA. WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET THE MONEY?

I HOPE THAT THE UNDERSTANDABLE EXHILARATION THAT WE ALL FEEL THIS MORNING WILL GIVE WAY LATER TODAY TO RENEWED, SOBER CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC BURDENS WE IN THIS COUNTRY FACE.

THE WORLD IS CHANGING. THE FRONTIERS OF FREEDOM ARE EXPANDING. BUT OUR "BANK ACCOUNT" ISN'T.

WE HAVE GREAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES, AND MAJOR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. BUT WE DON'T HAVE ONE SINGLE CENT IN NEW REVENUES TO PAY FOR IT.

AND, AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE DON'T HAVE A WHOLE BUNCH OF SENATORS LINING UP TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO SPEND MORE IN FOREIGN AID.

SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY FOR IT ALL?

ON THIS DAY OF NEW FREEDOM IN THE HEMISPHERE, I DON'T WANT TO RAISE AN OLD CRY. BUT THE FACT IS: THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO PAY FOR NEW AID TO NICARAGUA, PANAMA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- IS TO LOOK INTO THE FOREIGN AID BUDGET THAT NOW EXISTS, AND MAKE SOME TOUGH CALLS.

THERE IS A NEW REALITY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS -- AND IT DEMANDS THAT WE AT LEAST ASK THE QUESTION: ISN'T IT TIME TO CONSIDER SOME NEW PRIORITIES IN AMERICAN AID?

I POSE THAT QUESTION, AGAIN, TODAY. I HOPE THAT ALL SENATORS WILL CONSIDER IT, SERIOUSLY, IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

###