News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1985

CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE 202/224-3135

DOLE HAILS PRESIDENT'S NICARAGUAN TRADE SANCTIONS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today welcomed the decision of President Reagan to impose economic sanctions against Nicaragua. "The President has made the right move at the right time," Dole said. "We cannot have business as usual with a regime which is willing to turn its country into a base for the Russians and Cubans and is trying to subvert its democratic neighbors."

The President announced four specific sanctions, prohibiting:
(1) the import into the US of any Nicaraguan-origin goods;

(2) the export of any American goods or services to Nicaragua, except to the organized democratic opposition; (3) Nicaraguan air service between the two countries; and (4) access to U.S. ports by Nicaraguan commercial vessels.

In the recent Congressional debate over continuing funding for the so-called contras, the democratic opposition to the Sandinista regime, Dole and other Senators had suggested that the Administration consider a trade embargo. Sandinista President Ortega's just-completed travel to Moscow, indicating Nicaragua wants to develop even closer ties with the Soviets, has led to renewed calls for some appropriate U.S. action to protect our legitimate security interests in Central America.

Like the President, Dole sees the new sanctions as an effective way to keep up the pressure on the Sandinistas to curb their military build-up, end their support of subversion, reduce ties to Moscow and Havana and stop suppressing their own people. "The Nicaraguan regime can get an end to these sanctions quickly, if it wants to," said Dole. "All it has to do is stop threatening its neighbors and suppressing its own people and start acting like a responsible member of the inter-American system."

MEMORANDUM

May 1, 1985

To:

SENATOR DOLE

From:

AL LEHN

Regarding:

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES NICARAGUA SANCTIONS

The President has officially announced a trade embargo and suspension of commercial transportation with Nicaragua, effective May 7.

I thought you might want to announce this action to the Senate this afternoon. Attached is a draft statement for that purpose.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE SANCTIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA MAY 1, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT:

I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT I HAVE JUST RECEIVED NOTICE THAT THE PRESIDENT -- ACTING PURSUANT TO HIS AUTHORITY UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY POWERS ACT, THE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT, CHAPTER 12 OF TITLE 50 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE AND SECTION 301 OF TITLE 3 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE -- HAS ANNOUNCED SANCTIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA. SPECIFICALLY, THE PRESIDENT HAS PROHIBITED:

- 1. THE IMPORT INTO THE US OF ALL NICARAGUAN-ORIGIN GOODS AND SERVICES;
- 2. THE EXPORT OF ALL US GOODS AND SERVICES TO NICARAGUA, EXCEPT THOSE DESTINED FOR THE ORGANIZED DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE;
- 3. NICARAGUAN AIR CARRIERS FROM ENGAGING IN SERVICE BETWEEN THAT COUNTRY AND THE US; AND
 - 4. NICARAGUAN VESSELS FROM ENTERING INTO US PORTS.

IN EFFECT, THE PRESIDENT HAS ENDED ALL TRADE AND COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION IS EFFECTIVE MAY 7. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, THE PRESIDENT HAS SUBMITTED A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON HIS ACTION.

I DO NOT WISH TO GET INTO AN EXTENDED DEBATE OR COLLOQUY ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS POINT, BUT I DID WANT THE SENATE TO KNOW OF THIS ACTION. I WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IN THE RECORD AT THIS POINT THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON THIS ACTION AND HIS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.

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4. U.S. application of these sanctions should be seen by the Government of Nicaragua, and by those who abet it, as unmistakable evidence that we take seriously the obligation to protect our security interests and those of our friends. I ask the Government of Nicaragua to address seriously the concerns of its neighbors and its own opposition and to honor its solemn commitments to non-interference, non-alignment, respect for democracy, and peace. Failure to do so will only diminish the prospects for a peaceful settlement in Central America.

RONALD REAGAN

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 1, 1985.