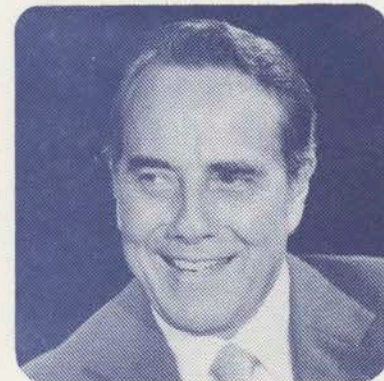


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE WELCOMES RELEASE OF TWO NICARAGUAN POLITICAL PRISONERS;
URGES CONTINUED INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON MARXISTS

WASHINGTON--Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today welcomed the release of Nicaraguan Human rights activists Lino Hernandez and Alberto Saborio, but warned that "What we really need are not a few cynical gestures but the restoration of democracy in Nicaragua."

"As pleased as I am with the announcement of the release of these two courageous men, the fact is they should never have been in jail in the first place," Dole said. "It is only in Communist and other dictatorships, like the Sandinistas run, that people end up in jail for trying to express their political views in a peaceful and lawful way."

In a face-to-face meeting with Sandinista President Ortega in Managua last week, Dole and four other Senators pressed for the immediate release of the two men. Subsequently, the five Senators were turned back when they tried to visit the men in jail.

"The only reason we have even this much forward movement is we're keeping the pressure on," Dole said. "And we have to keep applying that pressure until the Sandistas take really meaningful steps -- such as ending the emergency decrees, releasing all the political prisoners, reestablishing freedom of religion and the press, and holding free elections."

"The fact is, while Hernandez and Saborio are out of jail, they -- and millions of other Nicaraguans -- are still in a kind of prison, and are going to be there until democracy is restored in Nicaragua."

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