

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE: IF ORTEGA BALKS, RESUME MILITARY AID TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY URGED THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO THE NICARAGUAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS IF THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA FAILS TO HOLD AND ABIDE BY FREE ELECTIONS NEXT FEBRUARY. DOLE'S STATEMENT CAME IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN NICARAGUA. DOLE'S COMMENTS:

FREEDOM IS OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE, AND A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. WE -- THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- WE ARE THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. THAT IS NOT JUST RHETORIC. IT IS VERY HARD REALITY.

BUT NOWHERE IS THE ISSUE OF FREEDOM MORE CLEARLY DRAWN THAN IN NICARAGUA...

THE ONLY QUESTION IN MY MIND IS: CAN SUFFICIENT PRESSURE -- FROM WITHIN, OR WITHOUT -- BE MUSTERED, TO FORCE THE SANDINISTAS TO DO WHAT, CLEARLY, THEY DON'T WANT TO DO, AND WILL RESIST DOING, GIVING FREEDOM TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE?

I DON'T WANT TO FLY UNDER ANY FALSE FLAGS HERE TODAY. IN MY VIEW, BY FAR THE BEST WAY TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE SANDINISTAS WOULD HAVE BEEN TO CONTINUE EFFECTIVE AID TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. BUT, REALISTICALLY, THAT IS NOT AN OPTION FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

AND I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH REMAINING POINTS OF LEVERAGE TO PUT REAL HEAT ON MANAGUA TO LIVE UP TO ITS OWN COMMITMENTS, AND ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CITIZENS OF NICARAGUA. I HOPE I AM WRONG.

I HOPE THAT THE BIPARTISAN ACCORD WHICH WE RECENTLY REACHED ON CENTRAL AMERICA WILL SEND A STRONG ENOUGH MESSAGE TO THE SANDINISTAS, THAT THEY WILL SEE AS A CREDIBLE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR CONTINUING ASSAULTS ON AMERICAN INTERESTS, THEIR PEACEFUL NEIGHBORS, AND NICARAGUAN DEMOCRACY WILL LEAD TO A STRONG AMERICAN COUNTER-REACTION.

I HOPE THAT A COMBINATION OF OUR CONTINUING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, THE POLITICAL AND MORAL SUASION OF THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES, AND WHATEVER INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE CAN BE

(MORE)

BROUGHT TO BEAR WILL CONVINCED THE SANDINISTAS THAT -- TO GET ALONG IN THE WORLD -- THEY WILL NEED TO GO ALONG WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF CIVILIZED, DEMOCRATIC CONDUCT WHICH WE SHOULD DEMAND OF ALL NATIONS...

I HOPE ALL OF THAT HAPPENS.

I HOPE SO. BUT, CANDIDLY, I AM NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC. THE RECORD SO FAR IS HARDLY ENCOURAGING.

AND WHAT IF MY LACK OF OPTIMISM TURNS OUT TO BE WELL-FOUNDED?

WHAT IF NEXT FEBRUARY COMES AND GOES, AND THERE IS NO FREE ELECTION, PERHAPS NOT EVEN ANY ELECTION?...WHAT THEN?

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I THINK THE AMERICAN RESPONSE SHOULD BE.

I HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL CALL UPON THE CONGRESS, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO MAKE A CLEAR AND FIRM COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL SETTLE FOR NO FINAL GOAL LESS THAN TRUE DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA.

I HOPE THAT WE WILL ARTICULATE AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY THAT WILL APPLY DIRECT AND EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON THE SANDINISTAS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE RESUMPTION OF SIGNIFICANT MILITARY AID TO A REVITALIZED DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE; PRESSURE THAT WILL BE SUSTAINED UNTIL THE SANDINISTAS ACCEDE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUE DEMOCRACY, OR ARE SWEEPED AWAY BY THE FORCE OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

I HOPE THAT WE WILL SAY TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND MEAN IT WHEN WE SAY IT: THIS IS NOT YOUR HEMISPHERE, AND WE WILL NOT TOLERATE YOUR MASSIVE INJECTION OF ARMS AND ADVISORY PERSONNEL INTO OUR BACKYARD; AND IF IT CONTINUES, YOU WILL FIND THAT THE BENEFITS YOU HOPE TO DERIVE FROM IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WILL JUST NOT BE THERE.

I HOPE THAT WE WILL SAY TO OUR ALLIES, IN PLACES LIKE WESTERN EUROPE: WE EXPECT A CERTAIN STANDARD OF CONDUCT FROM OUR FRIENDS, AND A CERTAIN REAL COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY FROM FELLOW NATIONS THAT SHARE OUR DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT; AND WE EXPECT YOUR POLICIES TOWARD THE SANDINISTA REGIME TO BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERESTS, AND YOUR OWN IDEALS.

AND, FINALLY, I HOPE WE WILL SAY TO ANY WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR THE SANDINISTAS; WHO CONTINUE TO SAY, "GIVE THEM ONE MORE CHANCE;" WHO CONTINUE TO URGE US TO GIVE THEIR TOOTHLESS, PIE-IN-THE-SKY PEACE PROCESS "ONE MORE CHANCE;" I HOPE WE WILL SAY TO ALL OF THEM -- YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE. NOW IT IS TIME TO GIVE THE FORCES OF FREEDOM A CHANCE, AND THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA A CHANCE, TO WORK THEIR WILL.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION: I'VE BEEN IN POLITICS A LONG TIME. I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE REAL DIFFERENCE, IN THIS CITY, BETWEEN WHAT IS DESIRABLE -- AND WHAT IS DO-ABLE.

AND I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT I PRESCRIBE, EVEN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF SANDINISTA PERFIDY AND SUPPRESSION, WILL BE DO-ABLE. BUT I DO KNOW THAT I WILL BE PREPARED TO LEND MY EFFORTS, AND MY VOICE, TO THOSE WHO SAY: IT MUST BE DONE.

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