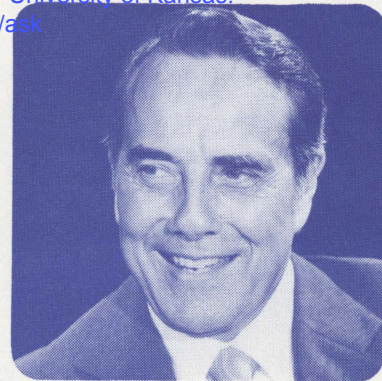


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1986

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

DOLE MEETS NICARAGUAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS, PLEDGES SUPPORT

WASHINGTON--TWO OF THE TOP POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE NICARAGUAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS PAID A VISIT TODAY TO SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) AND RECEIVED A PLEDGE FROM THE SENATE LEADER THAT SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRAS WOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY IN 1986.

Arturo Cruz and Adolfo Calero, two of the three co-leaders of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, met with Dole in the Leader's office this afternoon. The Kansas Republican reiterated his support for the Contras in their battle against the Marxist Sandinista regime now ruling the Central American country.

"The situation in Nicaragua gets grimmer by the day. The Sandinista dictatorship is not only attacking its neighbors, it is also attacking its own people. Massive human rights violations are a way of life for the oppressed citizens of Nicaragua," Dole said. "I am pleased Arturo Cruz and Adolfo Calero are here to tell the American people of the tragedy of the Marxist regime in their native land. We must do all we can to help the Freedom Fighters in their struggle. Last year, we made a start with humanitarian aid. In my view, more aid is needed."

Cruz was a member of the ruling Sandinistas after they dumped President Somoza in 1979 and served as their ambassador to the U.S. for several months. However, Cruz grew disenchanted with the Marxists in early 1981 and broke with the regime to help start the resistance movement.