

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, JULY 7, 1986

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## DOLE: NO "LIBERTY WEEKEND" IN OPPRESSED NICARAGUA

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) today underscored the latest human rights violations in Nicaragua by asking the "apologists" for dictator Daniel Ortega to finally confront the truth of the Marxist dictatorship.

"The holiday blaze of fireworks must have blinded all of those Congressional apologists for dictator Daniel Ortega. While our nation basked in the glory of Lady Liberty, the Central American king of oppression was busy bullying the church and shutting down the press," said Dole. "Yet you wouldn't know it for all the rhetoric on freedom pouring out of some politicians this week."

The Kansas Republican noted that during the weekend, dictator Daniel Ortega expelled Catholic Bishop Antonio Vega, a move that Pope John Paul II called "an incredible act...profoundly disturbing." On June 26, Ortega closed down La Prensa, the last opposition newspaper in Nicaragua.

"Even the Pope's outrage is not enough to catch the ears of the Ortega fan club: they won't listen to President Reagan; they won't listen to a majority of Congress; they won't listen to the Pope; and sadly, they won't even listen to the cries of the Nicaraguan people who have been brutalized by the Marxist dictatorship," Dole said.

"If we are really serious about the democratic principles of the Statue of Liberty, it is long past time to come to the aid of the oppressed peoples of Nicaragua," Dole concluded.