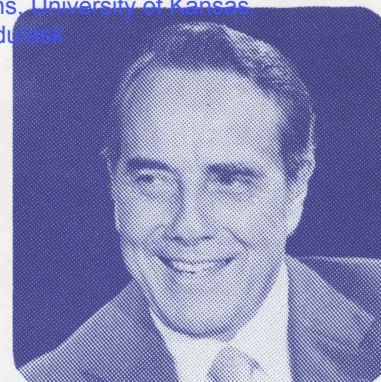


# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986

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## DOLE CALLS FOR FULL FUNDING FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES

WASHINGTON -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) HAS URGED PRESIDENT REAGAN TO PROVIDE THE FULL \$300 MILLION IN AID TO FOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES APPROVED AS PART OF THE 1987 CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

Responding to reports that the \$300 million for Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala would be handled as a "floor" level rather than incremental aid, Dole wrote the President it was "essential" the money be treated as "incremental."

In his December 2 letter, Dole set out the reasons. First, the countries "need and deserve additional American aid." Second, the \$300 million was understood by members of Congress to be an increase when it voted the aid as part of the overall Contra aid package. Changing that "could jeopardize our chances of sustaining those majorities in the 100th Congress, where critical votes could occur as early as February" Dole said.

The text is on the reverse side:



BOB DOLE  
KANSAS

## United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 1986

The President  
The White House  
Washington

Dear Mr. President:

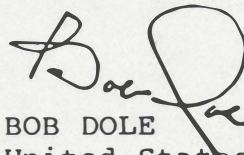
I am deeply disturbed by reports that the State Department may treat the \$300 million in aid to Central American democracies, approved by the 99th Congress in the Continuing Resolution, as a "floor" level of aid rather than an increment over amounts already planned for FY87.

It is essential that this aid be treated as incremental for two reasons. First, the four affected countries -- Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala -- need and deserve additional American aid. They are "front line states" in the battle against Marxist aggression in Central America, an aggression fueled by massive amounts of Soviet military and economic assistance. Unless they have our help, they may suffer the same fate as Nicaragua.

Second, the \$300 million was clearly understood as an increment in aid when it was approved as part of the package which won a majority of votes in both houses of the 99th Congress. If the State Department succeeds now in reinterpreting the \$300 million as a "floor" level of aid, it could jeopardize our chances of sustaining those majorities in the the 100th Congress, where critical votes could occur as early as February.

In light of these considerations, I would urge that you direct the State Department and other appropriate officials of your Administration to treat the \$300 million in question as an increment of aid for the Central American democracies, as it should be and was intended to be by the 99th Congress.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE  
United States Senate