

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE PHONY SANDINISTA CONSTITUTION

NEW SANDINISTA CONSTITUTION

BECAUSE OF THE PASSING OF A CLOSE FRIEND, I HAVE BEEN NECESSARILY ABSENT FROM THE SENATE THE PAST TWO DAYS. BUT I DID WANT TO TAKE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON AN EVENT WHICH OCCURRED LAST WEEKEND -- AN EVENT WHICH, I'M CONFIDENT, WILL BE LOOKED UPON IN RETROSPECT AS A RATHER INFAMOUS EVENT: THE ISSUANCE OF A NEW CONSTITUTION BY THE SANDINISTA REGIME IN NICARAGUA.

EVERY TIME I'M CONVINCED THE SANDINISTAS HAVE HIT A NEW HIGH IN CHUTZPAH -- AND I THINK BACK TO OCCASIONS LIKE DANIEL ORTEGA'S APPEARANCE AT THE UN LAST YEAR, WHEN HE LECTURED US ON AGGRESSION -- JUST WHEN I THINK THEY'VE HIT THEIR HIGH POINT, THAT THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING MORE OUTRAGEOUS, THEY PROVE ME WRONG.

AND DANIEL ORTEGA AND HIS CROWD HAVE DONE IT AGAIN. THEY'VE ISSUED A NEW CONSTITUTION, CLAIMING THAT THIS PIECE OF PAPER WILL PROTECT THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE -- CIVIL LIBERTIES THEY HAVE SPENT THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TRAMPLING IN EVERY WAY IMAGINABLE.

CONSTITUTION FULL OF LIES

THEY ISSUE A NEW CONSTITUTION, GUARANTEEING FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY DETENTION. BUT THEY CONTINUE TO IMPRISON THOUSANDS, SENTENCED BY "REVOLUTIONARY COURTS" FOR THE CRIME OF OPPOSING SANDINISTA OPPRESSION.

THEY ISSUE A NEW CONSTITUTION, GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. BUT LA PRENSA IS STILL SHUT DOWN.

(MORE)

THEY ISSUE A NEW CONSTITUTION, GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF RELIGION. BUT BISHOP VEGA IS STILL BARRED FROM THE COUNTRY AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH RADIO IS STILL SILENT.

THEY ISSUE A NEW CONSTITUTION EXTOLLING POLITICAL PLURALISM. BUT WITHIN HOURS SANDINISTA GOONS SUMMON OPPOSITION LEADERS FOR INTERROGATION, BAR THEIR POLITICAL MEETINGS AND CONFISCATE THEIR POLITICAL BANNERS.

AND -- TO PUT THE OFFICIAL AND FINAL TOUCH ON THIS -- THE INK ON THIS NEW CONSTITUTION IS NOT EVEN DRY YET, WHEN DANIEL ORTEGA PUTS HIS PEN TO AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, SUSPENDING ALL THESE RIGHTS THAT THIS HALLOWED PIECE OF PAPER JUST PUT INTO EFFECT HOURS BEFORE.

TRAGEDY OF NICARAGUA CONTINUES

IF THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA WASN'T SO TRAGIC -- IF PEOPLE WEREN'T DYING, DEPRIVED AND ROTTING IN SANDINISTA PRISONS -- THIS WHOLE AFFAIR WOULD BE A JOKE.

BUT IT'S NOT A JOKE. IT'S A VERY REAL, VERY TRAGIC AND VERY SERIOUS SITUATION. THE FREEDOM OF AN ENTIRE NATION IS AT STAKE. THE PEACE OF CENTRAL AMERICA IS AT STAKE. THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES, ULTIMATELY, COULD WELL BE AT STAKE.

THAT'S THE REALITY IN NICARAGUA. A MUCH MORE URGENT AND IMPORTANT REALITY THAN SOME OF THE SIDESHOW ISSUES THAT HAVE PREOCCUPIED US IN RECENT MONTHS.

THE NEW SANDINISTA CONSTITUTION IS A SHAM. IT'S NOT GOING TO FOOL ANYONE. IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE SITUATION INSIDE NICARAGUA, EXCEPT MAYBE FOR THE WORSE; IT DOESN'T DIMINISH THE URGENT NEED FOR US TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON MANAGUA. IT JUST BECOMES PART OF A LIST OF OTHER POLICIES AND ACTIONS WHICH STAND AS A LIVING, GROWING MONUMENT TO SANDINISTA TREACHERY AND DECEIT.

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