

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Following is the statement of Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole on S.J. Res. 81, Disapproval of Contra Aid:

## THE ISSUE OF ACCOUNTING

FIRST, I WANT TO RESPOND BRIEFLY TO THE CHARGE I HAVE HEARD AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT WE HAVE HAD NO ACCOUNTING FOR EARLIER AID TO THE CONTRAS.

THAT ASSERTION IS FALSE. WE HAVE HAD GOOD ACCOUNTING FOR THE \$60 MILLION ALREADY PROVIDED IN FY87 MONEY -- THE LAST \$40 MILLION OF WHICH WE ARE VOTING ON TODAY. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROVIDED MONTHLY REPORTS, UNDER PROCEDURES WORKED OUT WITH THE APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. WE HAVE THAT INFORMATION IN THE SENATE. IT IS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS.

I AM ALSO ADVISED THAT THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY REVIEWED THE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES IN PLACE FOR THE \$100 MILLION, AND HAS APPROVED A 30 PAGE STAFF REPORT WHICH ESSENTIALLY COMMENDS THE PROCEDURES. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THERE IS AN UNCLASSIFIED LETTER FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TO THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP WHICH ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMS THAT CONCLUSION. REGRETTABLY, THAT LETTER HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC, TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

WE HAVE ALSO HAD SUBSTANTIAL ACCOUNTING FOR THE \$27 MILLION EARLIER PROVIDED IN HUMANITARIAN AID. THE GAO REPORT ON THAT MONEY -- A REPORT, I MIGHT NOTE, WHICH HAS BEEN MISQUOTED AND BADLY DISTORTED BY SOME -- THAT REPORT FOUND NO FRAUD OR WRONGDOING IN HOW THE MONEY WAS ADMINISTERED. AND, IN EVALUATING THE QUESTION OF THE \$27 MILLION, LET'S ALSO NOT FORGET THAT THE CONGRESS DECREED THAT THE MONEY COULD NOT BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CIA OR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT -- THE TWO MOST EXPERIENCED AND WELL-EQUIPPED AGENCIES FOR THIS EFFORT. AND WE ALSO DECIDED THAT U.S. PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE ON SITE FOR EVERY TRANSACTION. IF THAT WAS A MISTAKE, IT WAS OURS IN CONGRESS; IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BLAME NOW ON THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE CONTRAS.

FINALLY, ON THIS POINT, LET ME STRESS THIS. WE DO NEED THOROUGH AND ACCURATE ACCOUNTING. TAXPAYERS MONEY IS INVOLVED. THE REPUTATION, AND HENCE THE EFFECTIVENESS, OF BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY AND THE CONTRAS THEMSELVES, ARE ON THE LINE. SO WE HAVE TO HAVE THE TIGHTEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING, AND I THINK WE DO HAVE IT.

BUT LET'S BE REALISTIC AND FAIR. WHAT IS GOING ON HERE IS NOT SOME DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT PROGRAM; IT'S NOT A CORPORATE TAKEOVER OR OTHER PRIVATE TRANSACTION HERE IN THE UNITED STATES; IT'S NOT A TEA PARTY. IT'S A WAR, PURE AND SIMPLE. IT'S NOT A SITUATION WHERE GREEN-EYESHADE ACCOUNTANTS ARE GOING TO BE PEERING OVER EVERYONE'S SHOULDER; WHERE TIMECARDS ARE BEING PUNCHED.

#### NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

THE SECOND MAIN POINT I WANT TO MAKE IS: THIS IS NOT A PARTISAN MATTER. DEMOCRATS, AS WELL AS REPUBLICANS, WILL VOTE FOR CONTRA AID. REPUBLICANS, AS WELL AS DEMOCRATS, WILL VOTE AGAINST.

I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT WE CAN NEVER ACHIEVE OUR GOALS -- OUR ABSOLUTELY LEGITIMATE GOALS IN NICARAGUA -- UNLESS WE KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE SANDINISTAS TO RESPOND TO OUR CONCERNS.

I JUST CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE SANDINISTAS WILL EVER HOLD A FREE ELECTION; WILL EVER SEND HOME A SINGLE SOVIET OR CUBAN ADVISER; WILL EVER SEND BACK THE MASSIVE MILITARY MACHINERY THE SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED; WILL EVER STOP INTIMIDATING AND SUBVERTING THEIR DEMOCRATIC NEIGHBORS -- WILL EVER DO ANY OF THESE THINGS, UNLESS THEY ARE PRESSURED TO DO SO.

AND THE SIMPLE FACT IS: SUPPORTING THE CONTRAS IS ABOUT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY WE HAVE FOUND SO FAR OF KEEPING THE HEAT ON MANAGUA.

#### WE MUST DO A BETTER JOB

AID TO THE CONTRAS IS NOT A POLICY. IT IS ONE MEANS -- ONE INSTRUMENT -- TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS WE WANT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE POLICY WE DO HAVE NEEDS TO BE BROAD-BASED. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF AID TO THE CONTRAS OR ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEMOCRACIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF AID TO THE CONTRAS OR PURSUIT OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. WE NOT ONLY CAN -- WE NEED TO -- PURSUE ALL THESE TRACKS AT THE SAME TIME.

AND LET ME BE CANDID: OVER THE YEARS, THOSE OF US WHO SUPPORT AID TO THE CONTRAS HAVE NOT DONE A GOOD JOB MAKING OUR CASE. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT DONE A GOOD JOB. CONTRA AID SUPPORTERS IN THE CONGRESS HAVE NOT DONE A GOOD JOB.

AND WE BETTER START DOING A BETTER JOB NOW. I THINK WE'LL  
WIN THIS VOTE TODAY, AND THAT WILL SEND AN IMPORTANT -- A NEEDED  
-- SIGNAL OF AMERICAN RESOLVE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

REAL TASK LIES AHEAD

TODAY'S VOTE IS NOT THE END, BUT THE BEGINNING. IT IS NOT  
FINAL VICTORY, BUT A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO CONVINCING THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE WHAT WE ARE DOING IS RIGHT. I'M GOING TO BE DOING  
EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE; CONTRA AID  
SUPPORTERS IN THE CONGRESS; AND THE MILLIONS OF PRIVATE  
AMERICANS WHO ALREADY UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S  
POLICIES -- THAT ALL OF US TOGETHER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS  
OPPORTUNITY.

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