

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE ON CUBA TRADE AMENDMENT

THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS TO TURN THE ECONOMIC SCREWS ON FIDEL CASTRO AND THE TYRANNY HE'S ESTABLISHED IN CUBA. CASTRO RUNS A POLICE STATE -- AND JUST LAST WEEK, SENATOR DECONCINI AND I HOSTED A RECEPTION IN THIS BUILDING FOR ARMANDO VALLADARES , WHO SPENT 22 YEARS IN CASTRO'S PRISONS -- SURVIVING TORTURE, DEPRIVATION AND EVERY OTHER POLICE STATE TRICK CASTRO AND HIS GOONS COULD CONCOCT.

RIGHT NOW, CASTRO HAS 40,000 TROOPS IN ANGOLA -- FOREIGN TROOPS; "COLONIAL" TROOPS, BY ANY REASONABLE DEFINITION OF THAT WORD. THEY ARE THERE TO PROP UP ANOTHER CORRUPT, ILLEGAL REGIME. THEIR PRESENCE IS THE LARGEST SINGLE SECURITY THREAT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

RIGHT NOW, CUBA IS A BASE FOR SOVIET SPYING ON THIS COUNTRY; FOR SOVIET SUBVERSION IN THIS HEMISPHERE; AND FOR SOVIET EFFORTS TO DESTABILIZE AND OVERTHROW DEMOCRACIES AROUND THE WORLD.

WE NEED TO KEEP THE HEAT ON CASTRO. AND WE WILL.

SPURIOUS CRITICISM

BUT THE ATTACK MADE ON THE AMENDMENT IGNORED ALL THAT. IT WAS BASED ON THE SPURIOUS CHARGE THAT THIS AMENDMENT WOULD SOMEHOW HURT AMERICAN FARMERS; THAT IT WOULD SOMEHOW HURT AMERICAN GRAIN EXPORTS TO THE SOVIET UNION.

THAT JUST ISN'T SO. CERTAINLY, IT WOULD MAKE NO SENSE TO DO A LITTLE DAMAGE TO CASTRO, BUT A LOT TO OURSELVES. BUT ENACTING THIS AMENDMENT WOULD NOT DAMAGE US ECONOMICALLY. WE HAVE BUILT IN SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING.

THERE IS VERY LITTLE TRIANGULAR SHIPPING NOW; AND THAT SHIPPING IS NOT IN SECTORS WHICH WOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO RETALIATION AGAINST US. FUTURE INCREASED SHIPPING GROWING OUT OF EXPANDED GRAIN SALES -- SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR YEARS TO ACHIEVE -- THAT COULD BE EASILY ACCOMODATED BY THE SOVIET FLEET, WITH NO REFERENCE TO CUBA.

(more)

JUST TO BE SURE

BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE SURE. AND, TO BE SURE, I HAVE INSISTED, AND MY FELLOW SPONSORS HAVE AGREED, THAT WE INCLUDE IN THE LEGISLATION A PROVISION ALLOWING THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE ANY SHIPPING PROHIBITION IN EFFECT IF IT DOES SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ANY SECTOR OF THE U.S. ECONOMY. THE PRESIDENT CAN WEIGH THE BENEFITS FROM INCREASING PRESSURE ON CASTRO, ON ONE HAND; VERSUS ANY DAMAGE TO OUR OWN ECONOMY, ON THE OTHER -- AND MAKE AN INFORMED JUDGMENT ON WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE SANCTIONS.

SO WE HAVE CAREFULLY CRAFTED THIS AMENDMENT, TO DO WHAT WE WANT IT TO DO -- AND TO AVOID ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR OWN ECONOMY. IT IS AN AMENDMENT THAT DESERVES TO BE DEBATED AND VOTED ON; I BELIEVE IT DESERVES TO BE PASSED. AND I -- AND I AM SURE SENATOR CHILES AND THE OTHERS -- INTEND TO PUSH FORWARD WITH IT, UNTIL THE SENATE CAN ACT.