

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLE NAMES REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CENTRAL AMERICA OBSERVER GROUP

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY NAMED SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.) CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED CENTRAL AMERICA OBSERVER GROUP. SENATORS THAD COCHRAN AND STEVE SYMMS WERE ALSO NAMED AS REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

"EARLIER TODAY, THE SENATE PASSED A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SENATE OBSERVER GROUP TO MONITOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA WHICH GROW OUT OF THE PRESIDENT'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. IN ACCORD WITH THAT RESOLUTION, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE SELECTION OF THREE OUTSTANDING REPUBLICANS AS MY APPOINTEES TO THE GROUP," DOLE SAID.

"AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP, I HAVE DESIGNATED JOHN MCCAIN OF ARIZONA. SENATOR MCCAIN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE, THOUGHTFUL AND ARTICULATE SENATORS ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE ON THE ISSUES RELATING TO CENTRAL AMERICA. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, AND WILL BRING THAT EXPERTISE TO THE GROUP'S EXAMINATION OF THE SECURITY AND MILITARY ISSUES OF THE REGION, WHICH ARE GOING TO BE CENTRAL TO ANY CEASEFIRE AND SETTLEMENT, ." DOLE STATED.

"THE OTHER TWO SENATORS I AM NAMING TO THE GROUP ARE EQUALLY OUTSTANDING. THAD COCHRAN IS A MEMBER OF OUR REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP, REFLECTING HIS GREAT TALENT, INDEPENDENT THOUGHT AND THE RESPECT HE ENJOYS FROM REPUBLICANS ACROSS OUR IDEOLOGICAL SPECTRUM. AND SENATOR STEVE SYMMS OF IDAHO, A MEMBER OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN A MAJOR SPOKESMAN OF CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN THOUGHT ON MANY, MANY NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES."

"SETTING UP THIS GROUP HAS BEEN A REMARKABLY TIMELY EFFORT. NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE THE NEW NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE, BUT I UNDERSTAND THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS HAVE INITIALED THEIR OWN DOCUMENT TODAY. WE ARE NOW AWAITING THE TEXT OF THAT DOCUMENT -- I UNDERSTAND IT WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS EVENING. SO FAR, REPORTS ARE TOO SKETCHY TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON IT. BUT I WILL CERTAINLY BE LOOKING AT IT MYSELF, AND ASKING THOSE SENATORS I HAVE JUST DESIGNATED TO TAKE THEIR OWN CAREFUL LOOK IN THE DAYS AHEAD."

"WHEN SENATOR BYRD AND I INTRODUCED THIS RESOLUTION EARLIER TODAY, I REMARKED THAT WE EXPECTED IT WOULD HAVE THE SAME IMPACT, AND THE SAME KIND OF VERY POSITIVE EFFECT ON EXECUTIVE-CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS IN THIS VITAL AREA, AS THE SENATE ARMS CONTROL OBSERVER GROUP HAS HAD. WITH THE CALIBER OF SENATORS I HAVE NAMED -- AND I KNOW THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER WILL ALSO BE MAKING OUTSTANDING CHOICES -- I AM EVEN MORE CONFIDENT THE GROUP WILL SERVE THE SENATE, AND THE COUNTRY, IN OUTSTANDING FASHION."