

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE PRAISES PRESIDENT'S STRONG LATIN AMERICA POLICY STATEMENT

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY PRAISED PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH'S FOREIGN POLICY REMARKS AS A "CONCISE, LEVEL-HEADED REVIEW OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, GOALS AND POLICIES TOWARD LATIN AMERICA." DOLE ASKED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS BE INSERTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD AND COMMENDED THEM TO ALL SENATORS AND ALL AMERICANS. THE FOLLOWING IS DOLE'S STATEMENT:

MR. PRESIDENT:

IN REMARKS TODAY AT A SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICA'S, PRESIDENT BUSH GAVE A CONCISE, LEVEL-HEADED REVIEW OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, GOALS AND POLICIES TOWARD LATIN AMERICA. I WANT TO SHARE THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WITH MY COLLEAGUES, BY INSERTING THEM IN THE RECORD.

THE WHOLE SPEECH IS WORTH READING, BUT I WANTED TO SPECIFICALLY MENTION TWO SECTIONS.

THE PRESIDENT LAYS OUT, ABOUT AS WELL AS I HAVE SEEN DONE, OUR GOALS IN NICARAGUA. IT BOILS DOWN TO THREE THINGS: AN END TO SANDINISTA AGGRESSION; AN END TO SOVIET INTERVENTION IN THIS HEMISPHERE, THROUGH MASSIVE, TOTALLY UNWARRANTED MILITARY AID TO MANAGUA; AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUE DEMOCRACY INSIDE NICARAGUA.

THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T MINCE WORDS. HE MAKES CLEAR WE WILL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE THREE GOALS; AND EQUALLY CLEAR THAT -- IF MOSCOW AND MANAGUA DO NOT AMEND THEIR POLICIES -- THEY WILL BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESULTS. AS THE PRESIDENT SAYS IN CONCLUDING THIS SECTION OF THE SPEECH: "THE CONSOLIDATION OF TYRANNY [IN NICARAGUA] WILL NOT BE PEACE; IT WILL BE A CRISIS WAITING TO HAPPEN."

(MORE)

THE OTHER PART OF THE SPEECH I WOULD ESPECIALLY NOTE IS THE SECTION ON PANAMA. PRESIDENT BUSH AFFIRMS THAT WE HAVE NO MORE TOLERANCE FOR NORIEGA'S THUGGERY, THAN WE DO FOR ORTEGA'S TYRANNY. IF THE UPCOMING ELECTION IN PANAMA IS THE SHAM IT IS SHAPING UP TO BE, PRESIDENT BUSH DECLARES, WE JUST WON'T BUY IT; AND WE WILL SHAPE OUR RESPONDING POLICIES ACCORDINGLY.

I KNOW MANY OTHER SENATORS JOIN ME IN SAYING THAT WE ARE DETERMINED THIS IS NOT SOME KIND OF IDLE THREAT, BUT A REALISTIC PREDICTION OF AMERICAN POLICY. I HOPE NORIEGA READS THE SPEECH, AND GETS THE MESSAGE, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE FOR A PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTION OF THE PANAMANIAN SITUATION.

MR. PRESIDENT, IN CONCLUSION, LET ME PULL A LINE OUT OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH TODAY -- ACTUALLY A QUOTE THE PRESIDENT CITED FROM ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF SALVADORANS WHO BRAVED THE THREAT OF GUERRILLA VIOLENCE TO VOTE IN THAT COUNTRY'S RECENT ELECTION. WHEN ASKED WHY HE DID, THE MAN ANSWERED: "WE JUST CAN'T ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD EACH TIME WE'RE THREATENED."

THAT IS THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, AND THE KERNEL OF OUR POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA. WE CAN'T ROLL OVER EVER TIME WE'RE THREATENED; DEMOCRACY CAN'T GIVE IN OR COMPROMISE EVERY TIME IT CONFRONTS TYRANNY.

I COMMEND THAT MESSAGE, AND THE PRESIDENT SPEECH WHICH ARTICULATES IT, TO ALL SENATORS, AND TO ALL AMERICANS.

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