

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE: TASS AND SOVIETS CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY ACCUSED PANAMA MILITARY STRONGMAN MANUEL NORIEGA OF SINKING TO NEW LOWS IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO STEAL AN ELECTION FROM THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE. IN A STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR, DOLE ALSO BLASTED THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS FOR PRAISING NORIEGA'S DECISION TO INVALIDATE THE ELECTION RESULTS. DOLE'S STATEMENT:

IT SEEMS TO ME THERE IS NO BOTTOM TO THE ABYSS INTO WHICH GENERAL MANUEL NORIEGA HAS TOSSED HIS OWN COUNTRY.

IT SEEMS THERE IS NO END TO NORIEGA'S AFFRONT TO HIS OWN PEOPLE -- AND TO PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THE MOST RECENT PRANK OF PANAMA'S DRUG-DEALING DICTATOR WAS TO STEAL AN ELECTION FROM A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO CAST THEIR VOTE FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE TRULY BROUGHT NORIEGA TO NEW LOWS.

THOUSANDS OF PANAMANIAN CITIZENS LINED THE STREETS TO BEAR WITNESS TO A FACT EVERYONE ALREADY UNDERSTOOD: THE ELECTION WAS CLEARLY WON BY OPPOSITION CANDIDATES GUILLERMO ENDARA, RICARDO ARIAS CALDERON AND GUILLERMO FORD.

INSTEAD OF DECLARING THE ENDARA TICKET THE VICTOR, NORIEGA VOIDED THE ELECTION AND SENT HIS THUGS AFTER THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WITH WATER CANONS, TEAR GAS, CLUBS AND BULLETS.

ENDARA, ARIAS AND FORD WERE ADMINISTERED SOUND BEATINGS, AND TODAY THE POPULARLY ELECTED LEADERS OF PANAMA ARE IN HIDING.

(MORE)

NOW NORIEGA WOULD HAVE THE WORLD BELIEVE THAT THIS SITUATION IS THE RESULT OF OVERBEARING NORTH AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. IT WON'T WASH. ASK ANY PANAMANIAN, FOREIGN OBSERVER, REPORTER OR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: NORIEGA STOLE THE ELECTION AND WENT ON A RAMPAGE AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME OF THOSE FEW WHO BELIEVE NORIEGA LIVE IN MOSCOW. YES, MOSCOW.

THIS MORNING'S POST REPORTS THAT SECRETARY BAKER AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE MADE SOME PROGRESS ON REGIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING CENTRAL AMERICA. BUT AS BAKER WOUND UP HIS MOSCOW VISIT, TASS WAS SAYING THAT NORIEGA WAS RIGHT TO NULLIFY THE ELECTION BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES RIGGED THE ELECTION.

THE SOVIETS CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. IF THEY WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH US; IF THEY WANT US TO BELIEVE THAT GLASNOST AND PERESTROIKA REALLY MEAN A NEW FOREIGN POLICY, THEN THIS SORT VERBAL ASSAULT WILL HAVE TO STOP.

LET'S FACE IT, PERESTROIKA OR NOT, THE KREMLIN STILL CONTROLS TASS. SO WHAT IS MOSCOW'S POSITION? ARE THEY GOING TO STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OR TAKE COLD WAR POT-SHOTS AT UNCLE SAM?

IT IS ALSO TIME FOR SOME PLAIN TALK TO MANUEL NORIEGA. IN ADDITION TO HIS OWN CITIZENS, HE HAS SET HIS THUGS LOOSE TO HARASS AMERICAN MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS.

LATER TODAY, PRESIDENT BUSH WILL ANNOUNCE WHAT MEASURES HE FEELS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT AMERICANS AND AMERICAN INTERESTS IN PANAMA. I WILL SAY RIGHT HERE AND NOW THAT WHATEVER THE PRESIDENT DECIDES, HE WILL HAVE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN CONGRESS, AND THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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