

News from Senator

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DOLE SLAMS ORTEGA FOR PROVIDING ARMS TO NORIEGA

MR. PRESIDENT:

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLY TOGETHER. IN THIS CASE, THE BIRDS ARE VULTURES.

TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT NICARAGUA'S COMMUNIST DICTATOR, DANIEL ORTEGA, HAS JOINED FORCES WITH PANAMA'S DRUG-RUNNING DICTATOR, MANUEL NORIEGA -- IN A COMMON FRONT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

DRAWING ON HIS BULGING WAREHOUSES OF SOVIET AND CUBAN ARMS, ORTEGA IS PROVIDING WEAPONS TO NORIEGA, BOTH AS A POLITICAL SIGN OF SUPPORT AND TO PREPARE NORIEGA FOR ANY SHOWDOWN WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THESE TWO ARE ARM-IN-ARM. NORIEGA HAS MADE HIMSELF A PARIAH IN THIS HEMISPHERE -- HE WILL TAKE FRIENDS ANYWHERE HE CAN FIND THEM; ESPECIALLY FRIENDS WHO CAN HELP HIM ARM HIS GOON SQUADS.

AND ORTEGA UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS OWN FATE MIGHT BE TIED IN AN INDIRECT WAY TO NORIEGA'S FATE. IF THIS HEMISPHERE JOINS TOGETHER AS IT SHOULD TO EFFECT THE OUSTER OF A DICTATOR LIKE NORIEGA, IT WOULD SET WHAT WOULD BE SEEN IN MANAGUA AS A PRETTY SCARY PRECEDENT.

MR. PRESIDENT: AT HEART, ORTEGA IS JUST AS MUCH OF A TYRANT AS NORIEGA; OR, AT LEAST, HE ASPIRES TO BE. IT MATTERS NOT THAT ONE BRANDISHES A TYRANNY OF THE RIGHT, AND THE OTHER OF THE LEFT. TYRANNY IS THE MEETING POINT FOR THE EXTREMES OF BOTH ENDS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. AND TYRANNY IS SOMETHING THAT HAS NO PLACE IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

NICARAGUA AND PANAMA ARE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, REQUIRING DIFFERENT KINDS OF STRATEGIES; BUT THE BOTTOM LINE PROBLEM IN BOTH IS THE SAME -- THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES ARE BEING DENIED THEIR RIGHTS, AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES REPRESENT A THREAT TO THE FREE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE. NEITHER PROBLEM IS GOING TO BE SOLVED, UNTIL THESE DESPOTIC AND CORRUPT REGIMES ARE REMOVED, AND DEMOCRACY IS ESTABLISHED.

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