



Fourth District — Oklahoma

Congressman Dave McCurdy

Washington News

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RE: Aid to Contras in Nicaragua
4/23/85: Contact: Steve Patterson, 202-225-6165

Fourth District Congressman Dave McCurdy said today that all channels of diplomatic, economic and political pressure on Nicaragua must be exhausted before he will support U.S. assistance to paramilitary or military options in the war-torn Central American country.

In a statement on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, McCurdy said he will support a compromise package of assistance to Nicaraguan refugees and the Contadora peace process in Central America. McCurdy, a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, recently returned from his third fact-finding trip to Central America.

He said he was "disturbed during his most recent trip by evidence of growing Sandanista repression, censorship and duplicity, and by the escalation of their military forces. Democratic changes are under way throughout Central America, except in Nicaragua. I believe as I always have that the Sandinista government poses a clear threat to the security of its neighbors and that it must abide by the promises it made to the Organization of American States in 1979."

McCurdy said the so-called Barnes-Hamilton Substitute offered in the House encourages the peace process without direct funding to anti-Sandanista military operations in Nicaragua.

"It (the Barnes-Hamilton substitute) provides no funds for military or paramilitary operations, although I do not believe these options should be ruled out," he said. "It seeks to impose multinational pressures on Nicaragua, including the possibility of trade sanctions. And, it supports the peace process."

McCurdy called the substitute a "bipartisan determination to stand firm for democracy in Central America."