

Statement of Mr. McCURDY

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I won't take the Committee's time to review the debate we have heard so recently on the Floor and in the other body. I think we all recognize -- no matter what position we take on this issue -- that the present situation is most unsatisfactory. We have no clear policy and no consensus.

The amendment I propose to offer is an amendment to the text of Senate Joint Resolution 283. I will try to highlight the major differences. It provides for serious bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Government of Nicaragua, provided only that a cease-fire is established before we begin such negotiations. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the President has already agreed to a 90-day delay before additional military assistance is made available, in order to pursue regional peace negotiations. I see no reason why we should not, at the same time, pursue bilaterals if a cease-fire is in place. Daniel Ortega has effectively used the lack of bilaterals as an excuse for dragging his feet on regional negotiations, and it seems to me that we should call his hand once and for all on this point.

The amendment provides, in effect, that the \$30 million in the Senate resolution can be used at any time during the effective period -- until September 30, 1987 -- for purposes authorized by current law and for training. The additional

funds provided in the Senate resolution could not be used unless, on or after July 28, two events occur: One, the President must report to the Congress that the Central American countries have not concluded a Contadora agreement, that Nicaragua is not engaged in a serious dialogue with representatives of the opposition, and that there is no reasonable prospect for reaching an agreement without additional assistance to the resistance. Second, the Congress must enact a joint resolution approving the use of such funds. If such a resolution is enacted, \$25 million of the additional assistance provided in the Senate resolution would be available immediately, and \$15 million after each subsequent 90-day report from the President. Unless and until both of these events occur -- Presidential certification and a Congressional vote of approval -- the additional assistance provided in the Senate resolution remains "fenced".

In addition, none of the funds provided in the Senate resolution could be used for any purpose on or after July 28 unless the President determines and reports to the Congress that certain conditions have been met by the groups receiving assistance. These include agreement on a plan for attaining democracy in Nicaragua, which must also take into account the special needs of the Indian population; training in human rights and steps to prevent abuses; and restructuring of UNO to ensure full subordination of military commanders to the political leadership.

Finally, the amendment would add two new sections: The first provides that the Secretary of State or his designee shall be responsible for coordinating and supervising all U.S. government activities under the resolution, and, second, that the Administration shall develop, by May 31, a plan for full funding of the Kissinger Commission proposals.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be glad to try to answer any questions the Committee may have.