

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)

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For Immediate Release  
October 8, 1963

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas), representing the largest wheat producing district in the United States, and a member of the House Agriculture Committee and Wheat Subcommittee, released the text of his letter to Committee Chairman Harold D. Cooley concerning probable sale of wheat to Russia and other communist countries. Congressman Dole urged Chairman Cooley to call an executive meeting of the Committee immediately to hear views of witnesses of the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency concerning the security implications of sale of wheat to any communist nation, particularly Russia.

Dole stated, "I am prompted to make the suggestion because of continuing American casualties in Viet Nam, the Resolutions of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars opposing sales for security reasons and concern for the American servicemen now on active duty.

"If there are security implications, we should know them. It would seem Defense and C.I.A. officials can provide this information better than the Secretaries of Agriculture, State, Commerce and Treasury. All Americans desire this vital information and nearly every Kansas farmer I have discussed the probable sale of wheat with, while wanting to expand wheat markets, likewise wants positive assurance the sale of wheat, or any other commodity, will not endanger the life of one single American, here or abroad, now or ever, nor "bail out" communism in Russia, or any other spot in the world."

(Text of the letter to Chairman  
Cooley attached.)

October 8, 1963

The Honorable Harold D. Cooley  
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
Room 1310, House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cooley:

Throughout considerations and discussions of a probable sale of U. S. wheat to the Soviet Union, an important agency of our government has remained silent. That agency is the Department of Defense.

When our Agriculture Committee met jointly with the Foreign Affairs Committee recently, Cabinet officials representing the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and State appeared, but no representative of the Defense Department was present.

As you know, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Department accumulate a great deal of intelligence information concerning the Soviet Union. That information, particularly in the area of agriculture, is of vital importance now that a major wheat transaction is being considered. The long-range and strategic implications of such a transaction could also be effectively presented by Defense Department officials.

I would therefore urge you to immediately call a meeting of our Committee, in executive session, to hear both policy and intelligence officials of the Defense Department and the C.I.A. The implications of expanded U. S.--Soviet agricultural trade are paramount, in my opinion, and it would appear information from these agencies would be a prerequisite to approval or disapproval of any trade with Russia or its satellites.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Bob Dole

BOB DOLE, M. C.

BD:nr