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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 30, 1965

On Saturday, August 28, Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kan), in a telegram to President Johnson, expressed his opposition to any consideration of wheat sales to Russia at this time. Dole suggested as an alternative that this country take the initiative to obtain an agreement among Free World countries to suspend trade with any Communist country aiding or abetting the Communist cause in Viet Nam.

The text of the telegram is as follows:

"While I agree that the administrative requirement that 50 per cent of commercial agricultural sales to Soviet bloc countries be shipped on U. S. vessels is necessarily restrictive, I am opposed at this time to sales of any agricultural commodity, including wheat, to Communist Russia.

"Perhaps wheat for gold would aid our balance of payments and the American farmer, but what do we tell the parents of young Americans giving their lives in Viet Nam.

"Respectfully urge that any consideration of sale of wheat to Russia be postponed and that instead, efforts be initiated to obtain agreement among Free World countries to suspend trade with any Communist country aiding or abetting the Communist cause in Viet Nam. I strongly believe in "food for peace" but cannot endorse "food for war"."