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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., March 27 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said the International Grains Arrangement (IGA) "confronts the U.S. grain producer and marketer with problems which appear to result in a minus quantity for the United States."

In remarks at a luncheon during the 73rd annual convention of the Grain and Feed Dealers National Association here, Dole added, "The fears of those who felt the IGA would adversely affect the U.S. farmer were apparently well-founded."

A member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Dole noted wheat exports since 1966 have rapidly decline. Hard red winter wheat, he said, dropped from 121 million bushels in 1966 to 52 million bushels in 1968. U.S. exports of soft red winter wheat dropped from 33 million bushels in 1966 to 13 million bushels in 1968.

Dole said the IGA presents four problems for the U.S.:

- 1) The U.S. is the only nation willing to take action to restrict production.
- 2) There is no protection from non-IGA member competition or from IGA-member deviations.
- 3) There are no means for sharing in exports equitably when the U.S. abides by the IGA, and others undercut the prices set by IGA.
- 4) The increased minimum price levels discourage consumption, especially in developing countries.

Pointing out he has urged Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin to support a "review and evaluation of the IGA in order to regain a competitive position for the U.S. in world wheat markets", Dole said, "The situation is most serious and of utmost importance to our balance of trade and our wheat export interests."

"If we are going to maximize our exports," Dole said, "we must offer the best quality wheat at competitive prices. There is no substitute for price and quality when it comes to competing for commercial markets abroad. Every policy we pursue must be aimed at strengthening the operation of the market -- including the market price."