



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)      **New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521**  
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## STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

Hays--President Ford's announcement that certain grain sales to the Soviet Union are being held up has raised fears among many about export controls. Kansas farmers raise wheat and corn to sell. It is my understanding that the action by President Ford is directed only at Soviet purchases of grain and will have no affect on our agricultural exports to other countries. At the same time, we must not and will not run out of grain. But the President's move was necessitated by actions of Russian trade representatives who this week either ignored or misunderstood the conditions for buying U. S. grain as set forth by Secretary Butz in several previous meetings. For whatever reason, the Russians failed to abide by these conditions.

Secretary Butz informed me that he had met with Soviet Ambassador Dobrinyan and told him that the Russians should not negotiate large purchases of grain until our 1974 crops are totally in so that we would not have a repeat of the 1972 problems. In spite of this caution being repeated only a few days ago, the Russians went simultaneously to two large American grain firms and negotiated grain purchases for 125 million bushels. In view of the size of these purchases, the Russians obviously ignored the disruption this would cause in our markets.

It's this kind of dealing that Secretary Butz explicitly warned them against but in going ahead to negotiate in this fashion, the Russians demonstrated what some of us have known all along -- namely, that even in this age of detente, you have to keep both eyes open when you are dealing with the Russians.

Actually, there is no reason why we couldn't or shouldn't make significant sales to the Russians if only they would abide by our trading terms. They can and should be good customers for our grain. I believe that Kansas farmers can and will sell a large amount of grain to the Soviet Union this year.

In any event, I have just been advised by Secretary Butz that a meeting between the President, Secretaries Butz and Simon and the two American grain companies was held at the White House and that the two companies have agreed to hold their sales of grain to the Russians until Secretary Simon can go to Moscow to discuss the total purchases sought by the Russians for this season.

I think President Ford has acted prudently. I have urged Secretary Simon in a telegram to work out some negotiations with the Soviet Union when he goes to Moscow next Friday. But certainly they must appreciate the fact that we mean what we say and that in this country, we deal fairly or we don't deal at all.

Government interference in the market must not destroy the prices farmers receive, as it did last year in the cattle market. But I am greatly concerned that the Russians should not purchase an extremely large amount of grain before farmers understand the impact it will have on the market and can take advantage of increases in the price of wheat and corn.