



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE COMMENTS ON GRAIN SALES TO RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"Let's sell Russia more grain as long as they continue paying cash," Senator Bob Dole said today commenting on reports of additional sales to Russia.

"We have adequate supplies of wheat and feed grains for our consumers and to sell to Russia and other cash customers," Dole said. "Our grain farmers are suffering from low prices now coupled with poor prospects for the wheat harvest due to drought conditions. Additional export sales at this time could improve prices for the grain they have on hand and what little they may produce this year."

Dole commented in regard to a Washington Post article stating that U.S. government officials were discussing the sale of an additional 3.7 million tons of grain with the Russians. This is the amount remaining of the 17 million tons we agreed to supply this year. Russia has signed an agreement to purchase 6 million tons of grain each year for the next five years, starting October 1, 1976. The agreement, however, stated that purchases over 8 million tons would have to be negotiated with the U.S. government.

"Such controls are ridiculous," Dole said. "If we expect farmers to produce at full capacity as we have asked, then they must be assured that exports will flow freely to stimulate farm prices here at home."