



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS
202-224-8947

DOLE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE ACT OF 1978 PASSES SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON - The International Emergency Food Reserve Act of 1978, offered by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), today was reported out of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The act provides the President with funds in order to make emergency purchases of food in order to meet "urgent humanitarian" needs in foreign countries, and to enable the United States to comply with international obligations to provide such assistance.

Five hundred million dollars of the funds and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation would be utilized by the secretary of agriculture to carry out the act.

"I am pleased the Senate Agriculture Committee chose to set up a reserve fund of \$500 million for the President to use in case of international food emergencies," Dole said. "This is much better than using the money to buy food in advance of when it is needed and then having to pay interest and storage costs on the food."

The secretary of agriculture may acquire food under this act for donation for the following purposes as determined by the President:

(1) To provide urgent humanitarian relief in any foreign country which suffers a major disaster as determined by the President and whose need for relief cannot be satisfied in a timely manner under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954,

(2) To assist any developing country to meet its food requirements at any time that the domestic supply of food in the United States is so limited that quantities of some commodity cannot be made available for such disposition under the criteria of Section 401(a) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, and

(3) To fulfill any lawful international obligation.

The Kansas senator also said the act establishes that it is the policy of the United States, "That governmental acquisition and perpetual maintenance of large additional stocks of food would depress producer prices, destroy production incentives, disrupt markets, impair the capacity of the United States to meet the urgent humanitarian and foreign policy objectives of this act, and require the expenditure of large sums of public monies for the storage and handling of such food."