

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ENCOURAGED BY SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES

WASHINGTON ---- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) said today's reported sale of 350-thousand tons of corn to the Soviet Union is an encouraging sign for American agriculture. Senator Dole said today's purchase puts this week's total grain sale at 500-thousand tons following wednesday's announced sale of 150-thousand-tons of corn to the Soviets.

"The return of the Soviet Union to the U.S. grain market is a welcome sign for farmers across the country. Despite continuing trade tensions created by the political crisis in Poland, it is apparent the Russians are still very interested in American grain. I hope our mutual interests in continued grain sales will not be further affected," Dole said.

Delivery terms on the 500-thousand-ton corn deal were not immediately available, but the grain is expected to be moved sometime in March. This week's sale represents the first purchase of U.S. grain by the Soviets since late November, 1981. The USSR has the authority to buy up to 23-million tons of U.S. grain shipments before October under the sixth year of the extended U.S./U.S.S.R. agreements.

"We need to take whatever measures are possible to keep trade channels open while maintaining our options to respond to possible developments in Poland," Dole said.

"U.S. grain prices have suffered greatly from rumors that there would be no further trade this year. This week's renewal of grain trade is an encouraging signal for the American farmer. If there are future sales of corn or wheat, farmers should see some improvement in market prices," Dole said.