

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE HAILS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S EXTENSION OF U.S.-SOVIET GRAIN PACT

WASHINGTON -- Calling it "a welcome assurance to farmers", Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today applauded President Reagan's offer to extend the current grain agreement with the Soviet Union for another year.

The decision followed a recent series of Cabinet-level and National Security Council meetings during which a number of approaches to continuing grain trade with the Soviets was discussed in light of continued political oppression in Poland.

"The President's action is a welcome assurance to U.S. farmers that their vital interest in maintaining access to foreign markets is recognized and respected by the Administration," Dole said. "The one-year continuation is evidence of the President's commitment to pursue every opportunity to maximize sales of surplus U.S. corn and wheat," Dole said. "Although for the time being the possibility of formally negotiating a new long term agreement has been ruled-out, today's announcement will keep the door open for extension of grain sales to the Soviets -- at least the framework for a new LTA will remain in place. I am particularly encouraged that the Administration is prepared to schedule consultations at which additional quantities of grain would be made available. If the Russians want to buy additional grain, we can certainly fill their order."

Dole noted that the original long-term agreement negotiated in 1975 was extended for one year last August, four months after President Reagan lifted the grain embargo imposed by President Carter at the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Following declaration of martial law in Poland last December, President Reagan indefinitely postponed plans to renegotiate the agreement, a decision not affected by today's announcement. If accepted by the Soviet Union, the extension will commit the U.S.S.R. to buy and the U.S. to supply between six to eight million metric tons of corn and wheat during the year beginning October 1, 1982.

"Today's announcement by the White House will certainly clear up any confusion surrounding the determination of U.S. agricultural trade policy," Dole continued. "Coupled with the details of the 1983 crop wheat program released earlier this month, farmers now have the essential information on domestic and foreign grain policy needed to make long-range production and marketing decisions."

"The Administration has sent a clear signal to producers that it intends to remove the threat of government intervention and disruption of the agricultural marketplace," Dole concluded.