

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) 2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1982

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
( 202 ) 224-6521

## DOLE DISAPPOINTED WITH RESULTS OF GENEVA TRADE CONFERENCE

### FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW IMPACT OF GATT MEETING ON U.S. TRADE POLICY

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole ( R.-Kan. ), whose Finance

Committee has jurisdiction over international trade, today expressed disappointment with the outcome of the recently concluded General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting in Geneva.

Dole, who led a Congressional delegation to the Geneva Conference last week, said the results could well produce a protectionist backlash in Congress next year.

"When I was in Geneva, I warned the member nations that failure to reach accord on a number of pressing trade issues could set the stage for a wave of protectionist legislation. Unfortunately, this kind of legislation is now more likely than ever. I am disappointed that the meeting failed to obtain more substantial results, because I believe it represented a unique opportunity for the trading nations of the world to preserve and strengthen the GATT trading system," said Dole.

Dole noted his particular disappointment that the meeting failed to make any meaningful progress concerning agricultural export subsidies.

"These foreign government subsidies allow inefficient producers to undercut U.S. farmers in world markets," Dole said. "This was an issue of the highest priority for the United States and the failure to achieve meaningful results can only serve to increase the pressure for drastic action to help our agricultural producers."

Dole also underscored other concerns with the questionable results of the meeting.

"While the ministers apparently did commit to refrain from taking new protectionist measures, they did not support the U.S.-backed position of eliminating existing trade barriers. The U.S. had also sought, but unfortunately did not achieve, a specific agreement on rules further defining the emergency circumstances under which nations may take actions to protect their industries from imports," Dole said.

"In another key area the ministers failed to support U.S. efforts for a specific agreement to streamline the procedures for settling trade disputes before the GATT. The U.S. had proposed that such disputes be brought before a permanent group of neutral experts and decided on a timely basis with binding results."

"The ministers also rejected a U.S. proposal for a new round of negotiations between developed and developing countries based on greater access to each others markets," said Dole.

"Finally, the U.S. had sought major studies of emerging issues such as trade in service industries and high technology products. In many industries like insurance and banking, U.S. firms are unable to operate in foreign countries. Because two-thirds of U.S.

workers are now employed in service industries, the U.S. had supported a work program leading toward liberalized trade in this area, but achieved only a promise for preliminary studies. No agreement at all was reached concerning a study of high technology issues like freedom from unfair restrictions on trade in items such as computers and telecommunications equipment which are strategic U.S. concerns," Dole continued.

"As I stated in Geneva, I am convinced that the GATT system is in serious difficulty. Countries with major stakes in world trade have become free riders--they seek only the advantages, but not the responsibilities, of the multilateral system. The United States cannot afford unilaterally to participate in and to defend a system that works in reality far different from what we intend."

"I have directed the Senate Finance staff to work with the Administration to begin an immediate and thorough analysis of the GATT ministerial agreement," Dole continued. "As I announced in Geneva, the Finance Committee will hold hearings on January 25th to review the results of the Geneva Conference and to reassess U.S. involvement in the GATT system," Dole concluded.