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BOB DOLE

(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER, SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

PRESIDENT SIGNS DOLE AG COMMISSION INTO LAW GROUP TO STUDY WAYS TO BOOST FARM EXPORTS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS), senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, today hailed President Reagan's signing of legislation authored by the Kansas Republican to establish a national commission on agricultural trade and export policy.

"I am pleased and gratified that the President has joined with a broad spectrum of farm groups and private companies, and with a strong bipartisan coalition in Congress, to set up this important commission," Dole said. "Our farmers and ranchers recognize that agriculture is heavily dependent on the growth and maintenance of foreign markets in order to assure a fair price."

"The work of this commission should be of great assistance when Congress writes the farm bill next year, and its final report in 1986 should serve as a blueprint for the direction of our trade policies through the rest of the century."

Dole introduced the resolution to establish the export commission on June 21, and guided it through Senate consideration and passage prior to the August Congressional recess. It provides for a 35 member commission, including 20 from the private sector selected by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and 12 members of Congress, including the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of each of the six House and Senate Committees directly concerned with agricultural trade.

As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, with jurisdiction over trade policy and international agreements, Dole will serve as a commission member. The remaining three members will be appointed by the President from among the various affected executive agencies.

"The resolution signed today gives the commission a broad mandate to examine all policies, programs and practices of the United States as they affect our farm export performance," Dole indicated. "With an initial report due by the end of next March, in time for the farm bill, and a final report due by July 1986, the commission has a big job ahead of it. I intend to make sure we come up with some useful and effective findings and recommendations."