

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1984

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DOLE APPLAUDS POSITIVE TONE OF US-PRC GRAIN TALKS

WASHINGTON -Kansas Senator Bob Dole today applauded the reportedly positive tone of the just-completed grain talks between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Chinese had requested a consultation with U.S. officials to discuss the U.S.-Chinese grain trade.

"Although further details will be forthcoming on the meeting in Peking, I am glad to hear that officials felt the proceedings had a positive tone," said Dole. "Following this news, I wrote Ambassador Wenjin and indicated that although the question of renewing the existing long term agreement (LTA) may remain unresolved for the time being, the U.S. market remains open and accessible for an expanded Chinese grain trade."

"I am disappointed that China will not be able to purchase and ship enough grain to fulfill the terms of the current four-year grain pact due to expire December 31, but the positive tone of this meeting indicates that the Chinese could expand grain trade with the U.S. even in the absence of a new LTA. There may be a variety of reasons why China has not fulfilled their current obligation, but it appears they intend to treat the U.S. as a major supplier," said Dole.

"The Chinese obviously represent a tremendous market that we can't ignore, and you can bet that our competition will do everything they can to increase their market share with the PRC. Hopefully we can work with the Chinese to address any underlying trade obstacles which may exist. We would like to increase our grain trade with China and I indicated to Ambassador Wenjin that I would look forward to working with him in an effort to maintain a positive climate for further trade negotiations," said Dole.