

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE U.S. GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION

AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, PRESIDENT REAGAN'S OFFER TO SELL THE SOVIET UNION U.S. GRAIN AT WORLD MARKET PRICES EXPIRES. THAT OFFER WILL END WITH A WHIMPER.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT VERY EAGER TO TAKE THE PRESIDENT UP ON HIS OFFER. AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO DO US ANY FAVORS AS WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO THEM ANY EITHER. IN FACT, THE SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY BUYING HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED WHEAT AT ALMOST GIVEAWAY PRICES FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS, WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW FAR THE GRAIN SUBSIDY WAR IS GOING. THE FRENCH, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE JUST SOLD MOSCOW ABOUT ONE MILLION METRIC TONS AT \$75 PER TON. THAT'S \$30 BELOW THE WORLD MARKET STANDARD.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER WAS AT LEAST A SIGNAL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES THE BARRIERS AMERICAN AGRICULTURE EXPORTS ARE FACING OVERSEAS. THE ARREST OF NICHOLAS DANILOFF, HOWEVER, MEANT THAT ALL BETS WERE OFF WITH THE KREMLIN -- ON ALL FRONTS, INCLUDING ANY KIND OF GRAIN DEAL. THE SENATE SPOKE OUT -- QUICKLY AND EMPHATICALLY -- AGAINST THIS OUTRAGEOUS ACT AGAINST AN AMERICAN CITIZEN: THE SENATE RESOLUTION WE PASSED LAST WEEK SPECIFICALLY URGED AGAINST ANY NEW ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS WITH MOSCOW UNTIL THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF DANILOFF.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL THREE YEARS REMAINING ON OUR LONG TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. DURING THAT TIME, I AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR RESPONSIBLE WAYS TO ALTER AMERICAN FARM POLICY TO MAKE OUR WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTS COMPETITIVE IN ALL FOREIGN MARKETS.

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THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS, UNDER GREAT PRESSURE, FINALLY LET NICK DANILOFF GO DOESN'T END OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR OFTEN RECKLESS AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF HUMAN BEINGS. THE FACT THAT A FEW DISSIDENTS ARE TO BE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE -- AS MUCH AS WE WELCOME THAT DEVELOPMENT -- DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN WIPE HUMAN RIGHTS AND EMIGRATION QUESTIONS OFF THE LIST OF THINGS WE NEED TO PRESS IN ICELAND.

NOR CAN WE FORGET AFGHANISTAN, OR CAMBODIA, OR A HOST OF OTHER SERIOUS PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH MOSCOW'S OVERSEAS ADVENTURES.

TIME TO RALLY BEHIND PRESIDENT

FINALLY, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE EVERY MEMBER OF THIS BODY TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO THEIR VOTES ON THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES THAT WE WILL BE CONFRONTING, IN RAPID FIRE ORDER, ON THE CR AND THEREAFTER.

WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN SITS DOWN ACROSS THE TABLE FROM GORBACHEV -- WHEN THE TWO MEN LOOK EACH OTHER IN THE EYE -- I WANT GORBACHEV TO SEE A PRESIDENT WHO HAS THE CLEAR AND STRONG SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE, AND WHO HAS THE UNQUESTIONED MANDATE TO SPEAK FOR US ALL ON NATIONAL SECURITY QUESTIONS.

THE EXPLORATORY MEETING IN ICELAND REPRESENTS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS ON A WHOLE RANGE OF IMPORTANT ISSUES. BUT WE WILL MAKE THAT PROGRESS ONLY IF WE ARE UNITED AND WE ALL DO OUR PART -- THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE.

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