

BOB DOLE



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DOLE MEETS WITH SOVIETS, BACKS BRANSTAD CALL FOR IOWA MEETING

Washington, DC -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) on Wednesday urged officials from the Soviet Union to consider Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad's proposal for a trade conference with American officials in Cedar Rapids next summer.

In a letter to Soviet Minister of Trade Boris Aristov, Sen. Dole said, "I think this idea is an extremely good one and support the proposal strongly. I hope your government will give this matter favorable consideration. It seems to me it could be of great mutual benefit."

Dole said the Iowa location would make a perfect setting for such talks. "The meeting could, of course, be held anywhere - Washington, Moscow, Geneva or a host of other sites. But conferences held in those cities rarely lead to frank, straight talk.

"What is needed most is an atmosphere which will contribute to common sense discussions, and Cedar Rapids has that. It is an important agriculture and manufacturing center in Iowa - a real Midwestern city that would inspire candid discussions which could lead to better trade relations between our two countries," said Sen. Dole.

Dole met with Aristov and Soviet Ambassador U. V. Dubrinin yesterday afternoon to discuss trade and human rights issues. According to Dole, Gov. Branstad has proposed a one or two-day conference in 1987 at Cedar Rapids "to explore items of interest in our bilateral trade relations."