

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE MEETS WITH INDIAN FOOD SECRETARY; APPLAUDS TODAY'S
ANNOUNCEMENT OF 800,000 METRIC TON WHEAT OFFER TO INDIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- AFTER MEETING WITH INDIAN FOOD SECRETARY T. VAJAYASKEKARAN, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY APPLAUDED THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S OFFER OF 800,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT TO INDIA UNDER THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (EEP).

USDA'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED A LETTER FROM DOLE TO SECRETARY RICHARD LYNG ENCOURAGING APPROVAL OF INDIA'S REQUEST AND CONTINUED EEP INITIATIVES.

"THIS NEW OFFER SENDS A STRONG SIGNAL TO OUR WORLD TRADING PARTNERS THAT THE U.S. WILL HAVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF WHEAT ON-HAND FOR DOMESTIC AND EXPORT USE AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING HARD TO MAINTAIN THE MARKET SHARE THAT WE'VE GAINED UNDER THE 1985 FARM BILL," SAID DOLE.

"YESTERDAY'S SUPPLY AND DEMAND REPORT INDICATED WHEAT EXPORTS COULD DECLINE BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT FROM THE JUNE ESTIMATE. HOWEVER, THE REPORT ALSO INDICATED THAT WINTER WHEAT HARVEST HAS BEEN RELATIVELY UNHARMED BY THE DROUGHT, WHICH HAS SEVERELY AFFECTED PRODUCERS OF SPRING WHEAT IN NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA AND MONTANA," DOLE SAID.

"WITH A 1.2 BILLION BUSHEL CARRYOVER AND THE 1.8 BILLION BUSHEL HARVEST ESTIMATED IN YESTERDAY'S CROP REPORT, IT APPEARS WE WILL HAVE ABOUT 3 BILLION BUSHELS OF WHEAT ON HAND TO MEET DOMESTIC AND EXPORT DEMAND DURING THE CURRENT MARKETING YEAR.

"I URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE EEP SALES ON A CONSISTENT AND SYSTEMATIC BASIS IN THE FACE OF CONTINUED COMPETITION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND OTHER WHEAT EXPORTERS. IT IS CLEAR THAT AN SUCH A POLICY WILL NOT HINDER CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ANY NEEDED DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO U.S. FARMERS. AS WORLD PRICES RISE, BONUSES UNDER EEP SHOULD CONTINUE TO FALL.

"I ALSO INDICATED TO INDIAN OFFICIALS THAT WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN OUR MARKET SHARE THROUGH AN AGGRESSIVE EEP POLICY THAT OFFERS COMPETITIVE PRICES," CONCLUDED DOLE.

DOLE WAS A KEY ARCHITECT OF THE EEP DURING CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS IN 1985 AND CREDITS THE PROGRAM WITH THE STRONG RECOVERY IN WHEAT MARKETS THAT HAS BEEN EXPERIENCED SINCE THAT TIME. THE COMPETITIVE EXPORT PROGRAM USES EXCESS INVENTORIES OF GOVERNMENT COMMODITIES TO DISCOUNT SALES TO TARGETTED MARKETS.