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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ASKS EXPLANATION OF GRAIN TRADE POLICY CONFUSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Citing conflicts between statements of the Secretary of Agriculture and earlier Presidential pronouncements, Senator Bob Dole has wired President Ford asking whether Administration commitments on international food sales would be lived up to.

Dole took issue with Secretary Butz' Sunday announcement that there is "practically a hold" on additional grain sales to the Soviet Union. This "hold," Dole said, "would amount to nothing less than export restriction and would be in direct contrast to your (President Ford's) May 1st assertion that 'our farm products must have unfettered access to world markets'."

If there has been a change in that stated Administration policy, Dole told Ford, it will surely come "as a profound disappointment to American farmers who understood they had a commitment from their government" that there would be no such interference in export sales. Dole added that such a "hold" policy on further export sales has "no consumer benefit."