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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE URGES BERGLAND TO EXPAND AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today urged Secretary of Agriculture designate, Bob Bergland to "make every effort ^{to} aggressively expand our exports of agricultural products." Pointing out that exports last year were \$22 billion, Dole suggested Bergland set a goal of \$25 billion in agricultural exports by 1980. "Expansion of export markets for U.S. farm commodities is the key to our farm policy," Dole said.

Dole also urged that one of the three principal appointments in the Office of the Special Trade Representative be an agricultural trade expert with the rank of Ambassador to represent the U.S. in Geneva as multinational trade agreements are negotiated. "If agriculture agreements are not negotiated simultaneously with industrial and other sectors of trade," Dole said, "we will have difficulty in making progress in liberalizing agricultural trade. We will continue to have unfair competition for our agricultural exports such as we have seen by the European Common Market."

The ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee said that while he and Bergland will differ in their approach to the solution of some farm problems, "President-elect Carter has selected a capable and qualified Secretary of Agriculture." Bergland today appeared before the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee during confirmation hearings on his appointment. Dole said he is confident the Committee will support Bergland's nomination.