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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
KOREAN INFLUENCE-PEDDLING IMPUGNS THE INTEGRITY
OF THE FOOD-FOR-PEACE PROGRAM

Mr. Dole. Mr. President, since the money for the alledged Korean influence-peddling was apparently derived from Public Law 480 (Food-for-Peace) rice "sales commissions" and considering that such so-called "sales commissions" were, no doubt, covered in the price of the rice that was financed by the U.S. Government at taxpayer expense, the need for corrective changes in the operation of the program can wait no longer.

Attention Called to Issue in 1975

During the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on grain inspection irregularities and problems in June of 1975, I raised the issue of alledged influence on members of Congress by Tongsun Park, a Korean National, and a possible relationship of his activities to shipping interest and the rice trade. I further suggested that the "best way to put some of these stories to rest, or to expose whatever may be there, is to have the facts from the Department of Agriculture."

Investigation Began

In December of 1975, the Office of Investigation, USDA, began an investigation of allegations of abuse of the PL 480, Title I rice program by Tongsun Park, and of Congressional pressure on certain PL 480 recipient countries, and program administrators to obtain favored treatment for a large rice exporter and a certain shipping agent. The results of the USDA investigation were furnished to the Department of Justice where the investigation continues. As currently indicated in the news media, the allegations of wrongdoing are substantial, shocking, and abhorrent.

Need for Corrective Actions Urgent

It has been seventeen months since the initial USDA investigation began. The problem areas have been identified and those who have impugned the integrity of the program are known. This Senator, who has been a strong supporter of the PL 480 program since it was signed by President Eisenhower in 1954, regrets seeing this program abused and its good name marred by wrongdoers. Therefore, I have proceeded not only to ask the Attorney General of the United States to reassess the appointment of a special prosecutor to pursue the allegations, but I have also offered certain amendments to the Senate Farm Bill which, if they become law, will help prevent the kind of program abuses that have occurred and which will increase exporter participation in the PL 480, Title I program thereby lowering the cost of the program to the U.S. taxpayer.

PL 480 Amendments to the 1977 Farm Bill

The amendments that I have offered to the Talmadge/Dole Farm Bill of 1977 and their purposes are as follows: