NEWS from
U.S. Senator
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DOLE MTN PROPOSAL ALLOWING FILING OF COMPLAINTS BY PRIVATE PARTIES APPROVED

WASHINGTON -- The Senate Finance Committee today approved a proposal by

Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) to amend the recently concluded multilateral trade nego-

tion (MTN) trade agreements to allow a private party to file a complaint with

the U.S. International Trade Commission when it feels that one of the agreements

with the United States has been violated.

"We have the opportunity in this implementing legislation to give the
private sector some leverage in persuading the executive branch to enforce the
obligations of the codes," Dole said. "For all the sacrifices the private sector
is being asked to make in these trade agreements, we should, at the very least,
provide them with some effective means by which they can ask for relief if a
code is being violated."

Once a complaint is filed, the International Trade Commission, as an in-
dependent forum for the consideration of the complaint, would then file an ad-
visory report with the President's special trade representative. If the com-
mission's report found the trade agreement to be violated, and the executive
branch decided not to file a claim internationally, it would do so in light
of the published ITC report.

"I feel that this provision would make for a more vigorous assertion of
our rights under the new trade agreements," Dole said. "Not only should we
insist that trade be a two-way street between countries, but we should apply
the same standard in the relationship between the private sector and our govern-
ment. If our negotiators and Congress are willing to bind the private sector
to the rigors of the codes, the private sector should have the most effective
means possible to see that those codes work."

Dole is the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee.

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