

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE SAYS SOVIET OFFER TO NEGOTIATE NEW LTA IS "GOOD NEWS"

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole said today he was delighted by the announcement that the Soviet Union has accepted President Reagan's offer to negotiate a new long term grain agreement.

"We were expecting good news and we got it," Dole said. "With so many confusing signals being sent in other areas of our relations with the Russians, I am heartened that both sides have decided to get down to business on agricultural trade."

Dole, the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, played a key role in re-establishing a grain trade dialogue between the two super powers.

"I am pleased to have played a part in the LTA saga," Dole said. "It seemed clear to me in my meetings here with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin and other Russian officials in Moscow, that the Soviets were willing to be active buyers if we would only indicate that we would be reliable suppliers. Now both sides will be sitting down at the negotiating table."

On March 19, 1982 Senator Dole met secretly with Ambassador Dobrynin in Washington in an effort to reopen communications and enhance the possibilities of a new LTA. Three publicized meetings followed, sandwiched around Senator Dole's trade delegation visit to Moscow in November, 1982. On March 21, 1983, almost one-year after his initial visit with the Ambassador, the Kansas Republican introduced a Senate resolution requiring President Reagan to negotiate a new LTA with the Russians. The Dole Resolution has picked-up 54 co-sponsors and is expected to win unanimous approval on the Senate floor.