

# Soviet guests bring 'glasnost' to state

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
Great Plains Editor

HUTCHINSON — Kansans extended a hand of goodwill to the Soviet Union Monday and, as state secretary of agriculture Sam Brownback noted, they hardly had to leave their farms.

"There is a lot of warm feeling," he said. "No one wants to fight. We all want to get along."

And get along they did — a delegation of 10 Soviet officials, including Yevgenyi Primakov, chairman for the Council of Union for the Supreme Soviet, and a group of Americans, including Sen. Bob Dole, Gov. Mike Hayden and Brownback.

The Soviets arrived in Kansas Sunday and continued their visit Monday with tours of a grain elevator and a nearby food processor in Hutchinson and the family farm of Lois Schlickau, president of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, and her husband, George, near Haven.

There were many smiles and much joking throughout the day.

At the Union Equity terminal elevator here, Primakov, the Soviet equivalent of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, presented Jim Wilcoxon, president of the company that built the facility, with a blue and white ceramic figurine. Wilcoxon gave the Soviet leader a small pewter elevator to represent the county elevators that dot the Kansas countryside.

"We are prepared to exchange these products for your elevator. The deal is done. We are bartering," Primakov joked in English.

Weather conditions were cool, windy and overcast, so the visitors spent much of their time inside the office of the elevator instead of outside watching workers load grain into a rail car.

Bill Allen, president and chief operating officer of Union Equity, told the Soviet delegation about the



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Hutchinson elevator, which is nearly a half-mile long and capable of storing more than 17 million bushels of grain. It was built in the 1950s.

The company has 17 elevators, including two on the Gulf of Mexico. Allen said about 44 percent of the wheat sold to the Soviet Union in recent years has been handled by the port elevators.

"One of the reasons we feel these trips are so important is not only wheat, but other products as well,"

he said. "Hopefully, this will be the stepping stone to many positive endeavors."

Hayden expressed similar sentiments during the visit to the Schlickau farm.

"This visit has opened up a lot of new areas of communication between Kansas and the Soviet Union," he said.

He said state officials talked with the Soviets about the possibility of selling to their country such products as agricultural and food

processing equipment and plant and animal genetics.

While the Soviets toured the Schlickaus' 3,000-acre farm and prize-winning Hereford operation, Andrei Braun, a member of the Soviet Council of Nationalities, seemed especially interested in breeding techniques.

As he questioned George Schlickau, a combine made its harvest rounds in the sorghum field where they stood.

Afterward, the Soviets were

guests at a beef dinner in one of the Schlickaus' farm sheds. More than 150 attended.

Dole, who arranged the visit, said the foreign delegation had experienced life in the heartland of America.

"Agriculture is important to our state, and agricultural exports are important to our state and the nation. The Soviet Union has been a reliable customer over the past

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## Soviet

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several years and under the long-term grain agreement, they are entitled to buy 4.5 million tons of wheat.

"Since October 1, they have purchased a considerable amount of corn, but no wheat. We have been pointing that out to them as we have been going around," he said.

But the senator said the presence of the Soviets in Kansas may have a more lasting effect than trade.

"Those of us who have experienced war are always looking for peace," Dole said. "It's a very difficult path, a very difficult course sometimes."

"But there is no doubt the relationship between our country and the Soviet Union is improving on a daily basis. This (visit) is another indication of that."

Chairman Primakov, who received a standing ovation when he stepped to the microphone set up in the shed, thanked the Schlickaus for their hospitality.

Primakov also said he had enjoyed

shaking George Schlickau's hand because it was a "working man's hand." He talked through a translator.

"I really think you're beginning to develop a good lobby for yourself in the Soviet Parliament," he told the crowd.

He also talked about the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We really have to be friends not because we're simply people, but because we're representatives of two countries that have a phenomenal means of destruction in their hands," Primakov said.

He predicted there will be a formal summit between President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in late spring or early summer and there will be another breakthrough in relations that will help "stabilize overall international relations."

Primakov is a top foreign affairs adviser to Gorbachev.

He wished his Kansas audience "stability, peace and well-being."

After a visit to Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base, the Soviet delegation left for Los Angeles.

# BUSINESS & FARM

## Will disaster aid be resurrected?

### Dole says need will be met, despite Yeutter's warning to farmers to buy crop insurance

By Tom Webb

Eagle, Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Remember when Congress and the Department of Agriculture warned farmers to buy crop insurance to protect against drought, because disaster aid would never be approved again?

Well, times do change in Washington. On Monday, the same day the New York Times reported that Kansas and other winter wheat states were suffering another dry spell, Sen. Bob Dole was asked whether Congress would consider more disaster relief.

The Kansan replied, "Well, every year we make these statements, 'No more disaster aid; it's going to be crop insurance or disaster aid.' We've haven't reached that point yet. It may come up in the farm bill next year. So I guess if there's another

disaster, we're going to respond."

That's very different than what Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter has warned farmers all year: Buy crop insurance and stop counting on the government to help you through a disaster.

"We simply cannot afford each year to superimpose an ad hoc drought-disaster relief program atop of federal crop insurance," Yeutter said last summer when President Bush signed the 1989 drought law. "That's not a cost-effective way to deal with these kind of issues."

Taxpayers now subsidize the cost of federal crop insurance, as well as paying for disaster relief. Yeutter says farmers will not pay for crop insurance if Congress keeps bailing them out in a disaster.

Dole has voiced the same view, but he explained that the struggling crop-insurance program wouldn't be revamped until the 1990 farm bill was complete next year.

Until then, he indicated, all declarations are on hold.

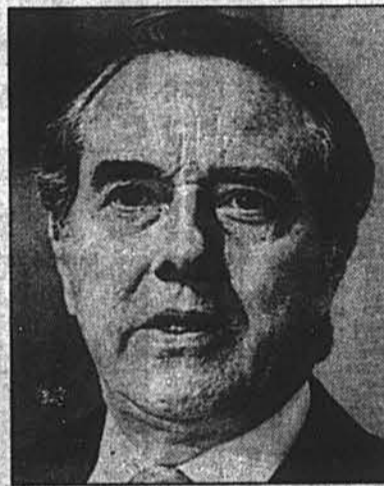
"I said we were going to address it in the farm bill," Dole said. "I guess I really didn't think we'd have two bad droughts in a row."

"It's tough, no doubt about it," Dole said of the Kansas dry spell. "We tried to convince some of my colleagues that we were sort of an island out there, that we were really hit harder than any other state. Now it appears that if we don't get some moisture fairly soon, it's going to be a repeat performance."

Dole also encouraged farmers to sign up for federal crop insurance.

On other farm-related topics, the Senate minority leader said he expected the 1990 farm bill "to be pretty much like the '85 farm bill." And he said he hopes Congress enacts a farm bill very early next year.

The 1985 Farm Bill sharply cut world prices for crops, which led to a surge in U.S. grain exports, yet also retained high subsidy levels, which helped farmers but sent taxpayer costs soaring.



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## Dole says farmers may again seek disaster aid

By The Associated Press

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Monday that Congress could face another request for disaster aid next year if winter wheat farmers are hit with a second straight poor harvest because of drought.

Dole, R-Kan., said a dry fall in Kansas has raised fears of another bad crop for winter wheat producers. But Dole noted that it's too early to predict what would happen because the 1990 crop won't be harvested until next summer.

"Now it looks like if we don't get some moisture fairly soon, it's going to be a repeat performance," he said.

Dole made it clear that if next year's crop was greatly reduced, then lawmakers probably would be forced to consider providing emergency aid similar to a nearly \$900 million assistance package enacted this year to help cover farm losses from bad weather, including drought.

A \$2.9 billion farm disaster package was enacted in 1988 because of drought-related losses.

"I would guess if there is another disaster, we're going to respond," Dole said.

Dole acknowledged that many in Congress, including himself, want farmers to start relying on federal crop insurance to take care of bad harvests but he said that won't happen until lawmakers improve the program and make it more workable.

During the debate over this year farm disaster relief package, many lawmakers warned that it would be the last time Congress would come to the rescue of farmers.

"Every year we make these statements: 'No more disaster aid. It's going to be crop insurance,'" Dole said.

"We haven't reached that point yet. It may come up in the farm bill next year."

The question of how to overhaul the crop insurance program is expected to be handled

next year when lawmakers write new farm legislation to replace current federal agricultural programs, which expire in 1990.

Hard red winter wheat, which is the main bread-making wheat grown in Kansas, is planted in the fall and is harvested early in the following summer.

The 1989 Kansas wheat crop was reduced by about a third from 1988 because of dry conditions, extreme temperatures and high winds.

On other subjects, Dole said: ■ It was premature to speculate on the extent or affects in Kansas of possible defense cuts in coming years.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has ordered the military services to develop proposals for cutting \$180 billion in spending by fiscal 1994.

Dole acknowledged that "there will be less defense spending, no question about it" because of the budget deficit and political

changes in Europe. But he cautioned "I don't think we've reached the point to start dismantling our defense and bringing home all the troops."

Dole said a big reduction in troop strength and other cutbacks could affect a proposed expansion of Fort Riley, but he declined to elaborate.

The Army is considering a proposal to acquire 100,000 acres in northeast Kansas to expand Fort Riley.

■ President Bush is in a "strong position" going into this weekend's summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dole said Bush has "all the cards" because of the general economic stability in the United States.

Dole speculated that Gorbachev may seek U.S.-Soviet trade improvements during the meeting but he said, "I don't think Bush has to be over there with a basket full of goodies" for the Soviets.



Sen. Bob Dole says Kansas farmers fear another bad wheat crop next year.