

FOR RELEASE----Monday, P.M.'s

*Date 77
August 8*

Congressman Bob Dole (1st District--Kansas), speaking at the annual Convention of the Missouri Farmers and Mid-Continent Farmers Association at Columbia, Missouri today, told delegates that if it were not for the size of U.S. agricultural exports the deficit in U.S. "balance of payments" in 1965 would have been twice as large as they were, and the threat to our economic stability that much greater.

Dole stated, "Few realize that from 1929 through 1944, a period of 16 years, our exports of wheat averaged only 65 million bushels annually. In eight of those years our exports were less than 50 million bushels."

"While exports have increased markedly since 1952, dollar sales have remained relatively stable. It would seem obvious therefore, that our wheat surplus pile has been cut down not so much by a reduction in production as by an increase in use of wheat," the Kansas Congressman, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, asserted.

Dole predicted that if world population trends continue, by 1970, U.S. wheat and flour exports may average more than 1 billion bushels annually. He stressed the need for the enactment of the Food For Peace program, containing his proposal adopted by the House of Representatives for a "Farmer to Farmer" program to provide technical assistance to under-developed countries.

The Kansas legislator warned that the U.S. cannot alone avert a world food crisis and that it is imperative that the agricultural know-how of other nations be developed if disaster is to be averted.