

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2 -- Congressman Bob Dole today urged the Administration to utilize the farmer-to-farmer program, approved recently by the House and Senate Agriculture Committees as part of the Food for Peace program (P. L. 480).

Dole is a ranking member of the House Committee which last week approved a one-year extension of P. L. 480 which expires December 31. The Senate committee approved a three-year extension of the Act authorizing concessional sales and donations of farm commodities to developing nations.

"America must do everything to ward off the tragedy of threatening world famine," the Kansas Congressman said. "In our eagerness, however, we must not render the food-needy nations dependent upon us for continuous handouts."

The farmer-to-farmer program, sponsored by Dole and adopted in 1966, provides "export of America's most valuable product -- farm 'know how' and 'show how'."

Emphasizing the self-help concept of the program, Dole said, "Today more than ever, America must demonstrate not only a genuine humanitarian instinct and motivation, but also the desire to help others become more independent."

During recent Congressional hearings on renewal of the Act, the National Grange, National Association of Wheat Growers, Ohio Council of Churches and the Friends Committee on National Legislation urged implementation of the farmer-to-farmer program.

Dole, who expects the Congress to renew the Act soon, said, "The Food for Peace program has not only helped create a favorable image of America abroad, but has also made it possible to export billions of dollars worth of farm products."

"How the Administration pursues the program will be a key factor in raising or lowering farm prices," Dole added.