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WASHINGTON, D.C., March 20 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today continued his appeal for a "review and evaluation" of the International Grains Arrangement (IGA) in a speech to his Senate colleagues.

Wednesday Dole released a letter he sent recently to Agriculture Secretary Clifford Hardin, urging "a complete review and evaluation" of the IGA to help make the U.S. "more competitive" in world wheat markets.

Today the remarks of the Senator, a member of the Agriculture Committee, emphasized that the Arrangement is the object of "increasing criticism as a major impediment to wheat trade expansion."

Since March 13, Dole said, IGA member Canada has dropped its Atlantic export price on Manitoba No. 3 wheat by 10¢ a bushel, below the IGA fixed minimum prices.

"This is the type of Canadian wheat," he said, "that most competes with U.S. hard red winter wheat, much of which is grown in Kansas, the ranking wheat state in the U.S."

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Others who have indicated the IGA is not helping the U.S. wheat export position, he said, include Senator Walter Mondale (Minn.), two officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Producers Export Company in Kansas City, Mo. and the Continental Grain Company.

"If our domestic wheat economy is to prosper, we must depend upon exports as outlets for substantial portions of annual production because we have the capacity to produce so much more than we can consume domestically," he added.

"With prospects for U.S. wheat exports sharply reduced this year and with prospects for wheat exports in other countries climbing upward," Dole said, "it is essential that the U.S. evaluate the IGA in order to regain a competitive position in world wheat markets."

The Kansas Senator said he is "pleased" the USDA will hold an April 2 meeting with representatives of producer, trade and exporter organizations "to discuss improvements in the IGA which will best serve U.S. interests in preserving producer income and increasing export earnings."