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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 26 -- U. S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) in a letter to President Nixon has asked the President to "maintain and strengthen" the status of the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

Dole said a number of national farm organizations and other commodity organizations had expressed concern to him over the future status of the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations. The Office, established in 1962 by an Act of Congress, was "deemed to be the best means of making certain that the interests of agriculture, industry, labor and the consumer would be adequately and properly represented," said Dole.

The Senator further expressed in his letter to Mr. Nixon, "The maintenance of this post in the Executive Office of the President is vital to the welfare of American agriculture and to our national economy...The post should be strengthened by the appointment of a Special Representative who is familiar with agricultural trade problems."

"Failure to maintain this position and to strengthen it will, I am sure, create widespread dissatisfaction and substantial difficulties for the Administration in gathering the necessary support for its trade policies," he said.

Dole has asked for a meeting with the President to discuss the matter of maintaining and strengthening the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

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