



SENATOR BOB DOLE

of Kansas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 1976

DOLE PROTESTS PRUNE AND WALNUT CURBS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today asked the Office of the Special Trade Representative to protest the European Economic Community's variable import duties on dried prunes and walnuts.

"The economic future of 15,000 farmers who produce these crops for exports amounting to over \$70 million annually is being threatened," Dole said, "and we must prevent such unilateral actions. These producers have made investments in their operations based on the long-term agreements under which they have been exporting these commodities. Such actions are also a threat to the 50,000 year-round jobs these commodities provide in the western United States, largely in California"

The variable duties protested by the Senator were initiated by the EEC in the summer of 1975, and will be effective on January 1, 1978. Initially, the duties would affect only prunes, but duties on walnuts are threatened. The variable feature would allow the EEC to impose whatever duty would be necessary to protect European growers, who are located mainly in France. The variable duty would be in addition to an existing 16 percent duty.

Dole urged the Special Trade Representative to protest the variable levy at an investigative panel that will be meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in September to look into EEC regulations which hinder U.S. soybean exports. The investigative panel will be conducted in the context of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations being held in Geneva.

Dole made his request in a letter to Ambassador Frederick Dent who heads the Office of Special Trade Representative and is responsible for the U.S. representation at the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva.

A copy of Dole's letter is attached.