



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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SENATOR DOLE URGES PRESIDENT CARTER TO APPOINT A SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) today called upon President Carter to appoint a special agricultural trade negotiator to make sure the interests of American farmers are protected at the Multilateral Trade Negotiations now being held in Geneva.

Senator Dole in a letter to President Carter said, "I urge you to appoint a highly-qualified, tough-minded, articulate agricultural trade representative and spokesman."

Senator Dole, the Ranking Minority Member of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, stated in his letter:

"American agriculture contributes greatly to our supply of exports and to reducing our balance of payments deficit. With agriculture in a position of low prices and severe losses it is imperative that we do everything to keep agricultural exports moving now and in the future.

I have talked to many hundreds of farmers during the past few days. They are concerned about our ability to break down the trade barriers that exist around the world that are stopping the export of our commodities.

Farmers are concerned that agriculture might not receive equitable treatment in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations that are now going on. Farmers are afraid that these negotiations might result in agriculture being short-changed, similar to what happened in the Kennedy round of the G.A.T.T. agreements.

I would urge you to appoint a highly-qualified, tough-minded, articulate agricultural trade representative and spokesman at the negotiations to make sure the interests of American farmers are protected. I would hope this representative would have your full support and cooperation to make sure agriculture receives equal treatment with industrial goods.

We can no longer afford to keep agricultural products on the back-burner in trade negotiations and can no longer agree to sell our food to foreign countries under a cheap food policy that does not even cover the cost of production."