

News from Senator

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DOLE AMENDMENT MAY BE USED FOR GRAIN SALES TO PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

LARNED, KANSAS--Senator Bob Dole said today that his amendment to the Agriculture Trade Act of 1978 which authorizes short term credit sales to the Peoples Republic of China should enable government and private negotiators to finalize the pending sale of 6 to 9 million metric tons of grain to the Chinese.

"I hope the Administration will use the short term credit authorization provision I authored two years ago under the Trade Act to establish a long and fruitful trading relationship with the Chinese. The market potential in China is huge and should increase significantly in the years ahead", Dole said.

Under the Dole amendment to the Agriculture Trade Act of 1978, China is eligible to purchase U.S. agricultural commodities with short term credit (not to exceed 3 years) provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

"It is interesting to note that we have been encouraging the administration to work with the Chinese for the past 3 years and the administration waits until just before the presidential election to leak a story that they are close to concluding a major grain agreement with the Peoples Republic."

"If an agreement is signed I hope present and future administrations will not treat the Chinese as we have the Soviets. I know the Chinese are concerned about the reliability of the U.S. We seem prone to embargoe grain whenever domestic or foreign problems indicate grain embargoes might help solve the problem. As far as I know embargoing grain has not solved any problems. They have just created severe income problems for farmers. I hope grain embargoes will not be a part of U.S. domestic or foreign policy except in the most extreme of emergencies," Dole said.