

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR JAPANESE TRADE COMMITMENT

WASHINGTON -- In a meeting with top Japanese trade officials today, Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) urged the Japanese to make a longterm commitment to open their markets to more American goods or face protectionist legislation by the United States Congress.

In a frank and cordial half-hour meeting this morning with Shintaro Abe, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry, Senator Dole focused on the alarming trade defecit between the U.S. and Japan: 15-billion dollars in 1981, and a projected 50-billion dollar defecit in 1990.

"Japanese products have flourished in the United States thanks to this country's vigorous free marketplace. American industry must have the same fair and equal treatment overseas. There must be greater access for competitive American goods in the Japanese marketplace," Dole said.

Senator Dole reminded the Japanese trade minister of American agriculture's abundant and available supplies of wheat, corn and beef. The Kansas Senator also mentioned wood, chemicals and computers as just some of the the other U.S. products eager for a chance on the Japanese marketplace.

Senator Dole told the visiting trade delegation he will meet with administration officials and key Senate members later this month to discuss what measures can be taken to lessen the growing trade defecit between the U.S. and Japan.

Trade Minister Abe told Senator Dole Japan was genuinely concerned about the trade defecits and was already working on possible solutions. Abe asked Senator Dole to delay Congressional action until the Japanese have had the opportunity to effect changes in trade policy.