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DOLE MEETS CHINA'S TRADE MINISTER--  
URGES INCREASED CHINESE WHEAT PURCHASES

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole has encouraged the top trade official of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to consider increasing that country's imports of U.S. wheat. In an hour-long private meeting in the Senator's Capitol Hill office, Dole urged PRC Trade Minister Chen Muhua to meet the required six million tons (294 million bushels) of wheat imports called for under the current long-term agreement between the U.S. and China for this year.

"I also asked Madame Muhua to review increasing China's future purchases from six million tons to as much as 16 million tons in future years. The Minister didn't say 'yes,' but she didn't say 'no' either," Dole said.

"I told the Minister that we understand the need to balance China's considerable imports of grain from our country with increased U.S. purchases of their products. Trade is a two-way street, and we need to be willing to meet one of our best cash customers halfway."

In the past year, disagreement over administration of U.S. quotas on imports of Chinese textiles have disrupted and threatened to reduce Chinese wheat purchases from the U.S. Senator Dole was instrumental in easing tensions through letters to President Reagan and through an exchange of notes with PRC Ambassador Zhang Wenjin.