

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF EISENHOWER INITIATIVE
DOLE INTRODUCES "FOOD FOR PEACE DAY" RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today introduced a joint resolution in the Senate to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Food for Peace Program (P.L. 480) on July 10, 1984. Dole was joined by 65 of his Senate colleagues.

"As a true humanitarian effort, the Food for Peace Program reflects the recognition that food -- the most basic human necessity -- should be shared with others less fortunate. This program is far better than other programs more costly or with less vision and it is the program for which our generation will be remembered by the world's children," Dole said.

"Food for Peace Day" on July 10 will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the date President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation into law in 1954. Since then, more than \$34 billion worth of U.S. farm commodities and products have been donated or sold at concessional rates to nearly 150 foreign countries. Many of these recipient nations have grown into important commercial customers for U.S. agricultural exports as a result of the economic and market development objectives of the P.L. 480 program.

"We must not forget that the Food for Peace Program is as much a commitment to U.S. farmers as it is to hungry and malnourished peoples overseas. By choosing to make the world, in an important measure, dependent on U.S. food supplies, we also made U.S. agriculture dependent on foreign markets. And it is the ability of the world market to provide a fair return to our producers that is now under serious scrutiny and question by many of our farmers."

Noting current confusion and disagreement over the future course of farm policy, Dole raised the possibility of making a significant increase in P.L. 480 food assistance, suggesting that "such a straightforward action could begin the process of simplifying the complex decisions facing U.S. agriculture in 1985 and in future years."

The Dole resolution will be passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to their scheduled recess on June 29.