

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, June 26, 1986

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DOLE ASKS SOVIET HELP ON VISAS FOR KANSAS AG REPORTERS

Washington, DC -- A group of agriculture reporters - four from Kansas and 10 from neighboring midwestern states - who have been denied visas for a visit to the Soviet Union got a boost from Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today.

During a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin, Dole asked the ambassador to intercede in the matter. "A similar group visited (the U.S.S.R.) last year and found their stay in your country highly useful and informative," Sen. Dole said in a letter for Mr. Dubinin. "Indeed, at the conclusion of that trip, they were invited by their Soviet hosts to return this year.

"I would appreciate it if you could look into this matter personally, to determine if it would be possible for this fine group - entirely non-political in nature - to travel to your country as planned. I believe their visit would be a significant step forward in improving communication between our nations on important agricultural issues," said Sen. Dole.

The Kansas newspaper and broadcast reporters planned to visit the Soviet Union in July but their visa requests were turned down, without explanation, according to Sen. Dole.