

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 28, 1988

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## DOLE HAILS NEW GRAIN PACT

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) applauded announcement of a new grain pact with the Soviet Union as a positive development for American grain farmers. The Agreement extends the most recent Long Term Grain Agreement (LTA) for two years through December 31, 1990.

"Given the importance of the Soviet market and its impact on our markets and prices, it is important to have minimum purchase levels for wheat, corn and soybeans locked in place," said Dole. "It is especially good news for wheat farmers since it will allow us to move ahead with wheat sales to the Soviets, which have stalled since the expiration of the LTA on October 1."

"Although we would have welcomed higher minimum purchase levels, the extension will ensure a structure is in place for continued U.S. grain sales and provide more time to negotiate for a new multi-year agreement to coincide with the beginning of the Soviet's next 5-year farm plan beginning in 1991," concluded Dole.

Dole had urged Secretary Lyng and Ambassador Yeutter earlier this fall to push for an extension of the current agreement if they could not secure higher purchase commitments. The extension obligates the Soviets to buy at least 4 million metric tons of wheat and corn each, and an additional 1 million metric tons of wheat, corn, soybeans and soybean meal, or any combination thereof. The agreement also allows the Soviets to buy 3 million metric tons of additional wheat and corn annually without further consultations with the United States. The Soviets have purchased 6 million metric tons of corn since October 1 but have bought no wheat.