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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
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DOLE URGES LONGSHOREMEN TO SUPPORT GRAIN EXPORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In a telegram to Thomas Gleason, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, Senator Bob Dole urged "support for wheat shipments to the Soviet Union and other grain importing nations." The Kansas Senator said the threatened refusal to load wheat "could ruin the livelihood of farmers and the well being of American agriculture." Dole also offered to meet with representatives of the ILA to discuss the importance of wheat exports to the American economy.

Following is the full text of Dole's telegram to Gleason:

FARMERS IN KANSAS AND OTHER STATES AS WELL NEED AN ADEQUATE INCOME JUST AS LONGSHOREMEN DO. THE THREATENED REFUSAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION TO LOAD AMERICAN WHEAT FOR SHIPMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION COULD RUIN THE LIVELIHOOD OF FARMERS AND THE WELL BEING OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. AMERICAN FARMERS RESPONDED THIS YEAR WITH ALL-OUT PRODUCTION IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP FOOD PRICES LOW. HOWEVER, THE COST OF PRODUCTION HAS RISEN SHARPLY SO THAT, ONLY AFTER THE SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION WAS ANNOUNCED, HAVE MARKET PRICES RISEN TO A LEVEL ADEQUATE TO COVER INCREASED PRODUCTION COSTS. REFUSAL TO LOAD AMERICAN WHEAT FOR SHIPMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DESTROY MARKET PRICES AND DESTROY THE INCENTIVE OF AMERICAN FARMERS TO MAINTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF PRODUCTION. SUCH A RESULT WOULD MEAN HIGHER FOOD PRICES AND WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO INTERESTS OF LONGSHOREMEN AND ALL AMERICAN CONSUMERS. I UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS OF MEMBERS OF THE ILA BUT RESPECTFULLY URGE SUPPORT FOR WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER GRAIN IMPORTING NATIONS. I WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU PERSONALLY AND DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN GREATER DETAIL.