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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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USDA CLARIFIES POLICY ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION REQUEST

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In response to his Thursday telegram, Senator Bob Dole has been told by the Department of Agriculture that it does not view yesterday's request for prior notification of grain negotiations as a move toward export controls.

That word came from Assistant Secretary Bell who informed Dole's office that the Department's request only makes public a practice that has been followed on a voluntary basis for the past several months. He stated that the reporting would be kept under strict confidentiality so as to avoid discouraging any export sales.

"Pending the outcome of the feedgrain crop," Dole said, "it appears we have a more than adequate grain supply for our own uses and our regular customers. It would be a mistake for USDA to act contrary to the policy stated by the President on May 1 that farmers must and will have complete access to the world market."

USDA also indicated that the Department's keeping in close touch with export negotiators should help defuse consumer advocates' fears and arguments for stricter controls.

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