



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 BILATERAL GRAIN AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today introduced a Resolution urging the President to "immediately attempt to negotiate" a bilateral agreement with the Soviet Union under which the U.S. would agree to sell and the Soviet Union would agree to buy annually a specified quantity of grain to be agreed upon by the two countries. The agreement would be for three or more years.

"Any such agreement must be mutually beneficial to both countries," Dole said. "I strongly believe that the agreement envisioned by my Resolution would resolve the complaints of the Russian grain sale critics about inflation of consumer food prices, yet it retains the many advantages that we receive from selling grain to the U.S.S.R. and other nations."

While the Senator's Resolution stipulated that the amount of grain could be negotiated, Dole suggested that USDA estimates show a need for an average of about 12 million tons annually by the Soviet Union for the next five years. Dole stated that American farmers could easily produce the amount of grain and soybeans necessary to meet this and all our other needs. As long as the Soviet purchase could be planned for by farmers planting an amount adequate to cover all requirements, the inflationary impact on consumers would be negligible.

The Senator said that international grain officials have indicated that world food reserves would be unnecessary if such an agreement could be reached. The agreement would also protect regular U.S. customers from other countries.

The Resolution also urged the President to "intensify efforts to obtain from the Soviet Union that information concerning crop prospects and grain import requirements of the Soviet Union which was to be supplied in accordance with the terms of the Cooperation in Agriculture Agreement entered into by the United States and the Soviet Union on June 19, 1973."