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NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE WOULD MANDATE IMMEDIATE SALE REPORTS

Washington -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today he will introduce legislation to require by law the immediate announcement by the government of large export sales of grain or soybeans.

The Department of Agriculture was informed on March 25 of the sale of 390,000 tons of soybeans to the People's Republic of China, but did not make this information public until six days later. During that time, May futures on the Chicago Board of Trade increased by over 57 cents a bushel.

Dole demanded an explanation from Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland of why the information was withheld. After insisting at first that export sales of extraordinary size would continue to be announced only in the routine weekly export reports, Bergland changed his mind. His office said the government would return to the Ford Administration's policy of announcing major farm product sales to the Soviet Union and China within 24 hours of the completion of the sale agreement.

So that there can never be any question about this practice in the future, Dole said the requirement should be written into law. "In a market as volatile as soybeans, farmers should be given this marketing information as soon as it is reported to the government," the senator asserted in a statement. He said the export sale information bill would be introduced in the Senate on Tuesday.