



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SCORES ADMINISTRATION FAILURE TO SUBMIT FOOD ASSISTANCE REPORT AND P.L. 480 PLANS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- "The Administration's failure to to submit to Congress a report containing a global assessment of food production needs and setting forth planned programming of food assistance under Title I of the Food for Peace program -- as required by law -- has caused unnecessary uncertainty in export markets," Senator Bob Dole said today. The International Development and Good Assistance Act of 1977, Sec.213 (b) requires that "not later than September 30 of each year, the President shall submit to the Congress" such a report.

In a letter to President Carter, Dole pointed out that in the first month (October) of fiscal year 1977, the Ford Administration signed agreements with P.L. 480 countries for the exportation of 1.6 million tons of grain worth \$260 million. "This year," Dole added, "it appears that no Title I agreements will be signed in October."

"This needless delay," Dole pointed out today, "comes at a time when farm profits are at a 43-year low -- after allowing for inflation -- when prices received by farmers have dropped since September, 1976 from \$2.88 per bushel of wheat to \$2.17, and for corn from .60 to \$1.63. It comes at a time when the farmers' best hope for income improvement lies in increased exports, and when millions of people in developing countries need food."

"I urge the President to cut through the bureaucratic red tape that seems to have entangled the various Executive Branch agencies' dealings with P.L. 480 matters and resume the programming of P.L. 480 commodities immediately."

Dole has also recommended to Secretary Bergland that Title I programming for FY 1978 be increased to \$1 billion worth of farm commodities.