



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1977

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today requested Agriculture Committee hearings to "explore with the Administration ways to expedite the programming of P.L. 480 commodities. Early programming is needed to: 1) improve the farm export situation at a time to provide maximum assistance to producers; 2) help meet food needs of developing countries; and 3) provide for an even flow of shipments throughout the program year." Dole made the request in a letter to committee chairman Herman Talmadge. The letter was cosigned by fifteen members of the committee -- Senators Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern, James Allen, Jesse Helms, Dick Stone, Milton Young, James Eastland, S.I. Hayakawa, Henry Bellmon, Richard Lugar, Carl Curtis, John Melcher, Edward Zorinsky and Dick Clark. Following is the text of the letter:

We are distressed that two months of the new fiscal year will have soon passed without the signing of any Title I, P.L. 480 agreements between our Government and developing countries needing food and other commodity assistance.

The delay is said to be associated with the new legislative provision concerning human rights passed in July 1977. While we expect the Executive Branch to administer this new requirement more expeditious programming could and should be effectuated.

We are disturbed by the fact that no P.L. 480, Title I agreements have been signed or will likely be signed before December.

The delay comes at a time when there is an urgent need to increase U.S. farm exports as well as to help developing countries feed their hungry and malnourished people. The FY 78 Title I allocation, announced by the USDA on October 21, 1977, (which was due to have been announced by the USDA on October 1) covers \$800 million worth of commodities broken down as follows: wheat, 4.4 million tons; rice, 600,000 tons; corn/barley/sorghum, 294,000 tons; vegetable oil, 187,000 tons; cotton, 175,000 bales; and tobacco, 2,700 tons. It appears now that none of these commodities will be signed in agreements before December and none shipped before January 1978 at the earliest.

For comparison purposes, last year over \$300 million worth of commodities were signed into agreements in October and November representing almost 2 million tons, with shipments beginning immediately after agreements were signed.

Mr. Chairman, we request that hearings be held at the earliest feasible date by the Committee in order to explore with the Administration ways to expedite the programming of P.L. 480 commodities. Early programming is needed to: 1) improve the farm export situation at a time to provide maximum assistance to producers; 2) help meet food needs of developing countries; and 3) provide for an even flow of shipments throughout the program year. We need to know the complete situation in order to assure avoidance of similar problems in the future.

Do send a copy of the above letter to President Carter, along with the following letter:

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
BUDGET
FINANCE
SELECT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES
NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 17, 1977

The President
The White House

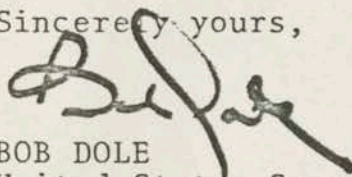
Dear Mr. President:

As indicated in the enclosed letter, my colleagues on the Senate Agriculture Committee and I are distressed that two months of the new fiscal year will have soon passed without the signing of any Title I, P.L. 480 agreements between our Government and developing countries needing food and other commodity assistance. Consequently, we have asked our Chairman, Senator Herman Talmadge, to schedule Committee hearings to explore ways to expedite Food-for-Peace programming for the reasons stated in our letter to Chairman Talmadge.

Mr. President, I was pleased that in your commencement address at the University of Notre Dame, last Spring you expressed a keen sensitivity to the problems of hunger when you stated that "We know a peaceful world cannot long exist one-third rich and two-thirds hungry" and that "Most nations share our faith that in the long run, expanded and equitable trade will best help the developing countries to help themselves. But the immediate problems of hunger, disease, illiteracy, and repression are here now."

Mr. President, my colleagues and I would greatly appreciate your personal intervention in expediting Food-for-Peace programming to accomplish the objectives set forth in the enclosed letter which are in accord with your Notre Dame statement.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE
United States Senate

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Enclosure