

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

JAPANESE TEAM TO STUDY BENEFITS OF BUYING, STORING GRAIN IN U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Fumihiko Togo, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, today told Senator Dole that "a study team will shortly be coming from Tokyo" to consider purchasing grain from the United States and storing it here. Togo's letter came in response to a letter Dole sent him urging his country to "explore the desirability ... of participating in a grain storage program in the U.S." Legislation authored by Dole established this program.

Following are the texts of both letters:

SENATOR DOLE'S LETTER TO AMBASSADOR TOGO:

The abundance of the U.S. grain production this year affords a unique opportunity to purchase and store some of this available grain in the United States. As author of the legislation that permits this practice and representing Kansas, a wheat state, that has excess wheat supply, I recommend this as a course of action for the Government of Japan.

As one of our most valued agriculture customers we want to do everything in our power to meet your present import requirements and insure to the greatest extent possible meeting your future requirements. Now is an excellent time to buy U.S. wheat and store it in our country for future shipment to meet the import needs of Japan.

The U.S. Department of Commerce is expected soon to issue regulations implementing the legislation which allows U.S. storage of foreign owned grain.

A team of Japan's grain advisors would be welcome and I will direct my staff to assist with the itinerary for such a proposed team, if you concur, to explore the desirability of the Government of Japan to participate in a grain storage program in the U.S.

I urge serious consideration of this proposal and stand ready to assist you in any way to further the possibility of Japanese purchases of grain to be stored in the United States.

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AMBASSADOR TOGO'S LETTER TO SENATOR DOLE

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1977 on the subject of purchase and storing of grain in the United States.

As you are aware, my Government has been studying the possibility of importing larger quantities of grains as part of the implementation of the external economic measures announced on September 20, 1977. The storing of purchased grain in the United States involves a number of problems and my Government will study very carefully the regulations to be issued by the Department of Commerce.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and thank you for your offer of assistance. A study team will shortly be coming from Tokyo, and your suggestion came to me very timely.

With best wishes.