



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE TELLS JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER 'TRADE MUST BE TWO-WAY STREET'

WASHINGTON-- At a meeting he co-chaired this afternoon at the Capitol, Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) told Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira that "our trade relationship with Japan must be a two-way street."

Dole, who chaired the meeting with the Prime Minister along with Senators Jacob Javits (R.-N.Y.), Frank Church (D.-Idaho), and Russell Long (D.-Louisiana), also said that, "Our trade deficit with Japan has been a chronic irritant, in an otherwise solid relationship, and I must tell you, in all candor, that we in Congress feel it must be resolved."

Dole, who is Ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, said, "We appreciate that you have made some forward steps in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) and bilaterally. All of us realize that import-liberalizing measures are politically difficult. But I hope that you understand that, after years of increasing deficits, despite partial measures and Japanese pledges, the American people and the Congress are impatient and and skeptical about promised future solutions and gradual measures. A 12 billion dollar deficit is unacceptable, but so is an 8 billion dollar deficit, as in 1977, or a 5 billion dollar deficit, as in 1976.

"I believe American farmers and businessmen can sell much more to Japan, if you open up your markets," Dole said. I know it is difficult for you to tell your farmers they must face competition, but how can we explain to our cattlemen or tobacco manufactures why their products should cost several times more in Japan than in this country? How can we open our government procurement to Japan if U.S. exporters can't even bid for Japanese contracts, or face a variety of formal and informal barriers to

(MORE)

-2-

to acceptance of our bids? And what should we tell the American worker who has lost his or her job because a surge of dumped Japanese imports or because our exports can't compete with credit terms offered by the Japanese government?

"All of us would prefer that the trade problems be resolved by increased U.S. access to Japanese markets and cooperative efforts to eliminate unfair practices. The alternative is unilateral action against Japanese imports, a step which benefits neither of our peoples, but which we will be forced to take if we do not see credible, expeditious action to improve the situation."

Dole said he was very appreciative to have the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister.

"All of us have the highest respect for the Japanese government and people," Dole said.

The Kansas Senator said he felt the meeting was, "very useful."

"We had a good, honest exchange. I think the Prime Minister better understands the mood of Congress."

-30-

PICTURE CUTLINE: FRIENDLY BUT FIRM-- Senator Bob Dole met with Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira last week in Washington to discuss foreign trade and U.S.-Japanese relations. Dole called the meeting a "good, honest exchange."

-30-