

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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CHINESE INTERESTED IN SWAPPING CRUDE OIL FOR FOOD, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON-- China is interested in exchanging crude petroleum for American grain.

That was the message Chinese Finance Minister Zhang Jingfu delivered to Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) at a meeting between the two this morning.

Dole, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee and a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, met for 30 minutes with Zhang in the Senate office building.

"We discussed the future of trade between our two nations and, in the course of the conversation, agreed in principle that both the United States and China could benefit from a barter agreement involving Chinese oil and American farm products," said Dole.

Senator Dole is an advocate of increased trade between China and the United States. During the last session of Congress he successfully pushed to attach an amendment to the Export Trade Stimulation Act, following hearings Dole initiated, specifically including the People's Republic of China. He has been a strong supporter of granting trade credits to China to allow them to purchase U.S. agricultural goods.

Dole said he told the Finance Minister that he hopes to support "most favored nation" status for China.

Barter agreements between western and communist states are becoming more common. Pepsico, the American cola manufacturer, and the Soviets agreed on a barter deal swapping syrup for Stolnizhnaya, a vodka; and the Poles and Coca Cola have agreed to trade syrup for Krakus beer.

Good News For Farmers

Senator Dole termed Zhang's statement on a crude-food swap "good news for the American farmer and good news for the American consumer," but he cautioned against any false euphoria.

"Clearly this is a trial balloon. An actual deal would be some time away and it is unclear how many barrels would actually be available for export to this country, given China's own requirements for oil. Still," added Dole, "I think this is a significant development worth pursuing."