

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SEN. DOLE URGES INCREASE OF SOVIET WHEAT PURCHASE CEILING

WASHINGTON, D.C.....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today urged the Carter Administration to increase the eight million metric ton limit on Soviet grain purchases during the fourth year of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. grains agreement, which begins October 1, 1979.

In letters to President Carter and Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland Sen. Dole said, "The limit on Soviet grain purchases was raised during the present year from 8 million metric tons to 15 million metric tons. I believe an increase in the limit for the upcoming year is needed to permit increased wheat purchases."

"The U.S. has large carry over stocks of wheat and with a 300 million bushel increase in 1979 production over last year the U.S. has adequate supplies to take advantage of increased world demand for wheat," said Dole.

"I believe now is the time to increase the limits on Soviet wheat purchases. The limits on other grains could be temporarily maintained until the fall harvests are completed. If the present ceiling of 8 million tons is not lifted the Soviets will probably limit their wheat purchases to 3 million tons and buy 5 million tons of feed grains," said Dole, a senior member of the Agriculture Committee.

"The American wheat farmer needs increased markets for his wheat. I believe the Soviets are in a position to purchase more wheat if the limit were raised. The prompt clearance of increased purchases would permit continued orderly wheat marketing and the movement of wheat in export markets. The U.S. balance of payments would benefit."

"I urge the Administration to raise the limit now. Let's not wait and miss the opportunity to market our increased wheat production. I feel the U.S. should take the initiative to open up additional markets for our wheat producers who have been suffering operating losses for several years," the Kansas Senator said.