

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
THURSDAY, OCT. 4, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE PRAISES DECISION ON GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION AS 'PRUDENT'

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today expressed his approval of the Department of Agriculture's decision to allow the Soviet Union to buy as much as 25 million metric tons of wheat and corn during the next 12 months.

Dole, who originally urged President Carter and Sec. of Agr. Bob Bergland to allow the sales on August 5th, said today he is "very pleased the Administration has taken this action. It will be of great benefit to the American farmer and our balance of payments situation," said Dole, adding "the farmer carries our economy."

"From an economic standpoint, I believe this was a prudent decision. We had record corn and grain crops this year thus our supply availability for this type of sale is very favorable."

Dole said he expects the sale will have "a minimal effect on consumer prices in the United States."

"I certainly don't believe this will force prices up significantly," said Dole, a senior member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

Transport Problems

Dole expressed continued concern about U.S. transport problems, however.

"We must insure that our crops can move to markets. The problems with rail car shortages, the Rock Island and the port of Duluth indicate just how vulnerable we are in this vital area," said Dole. "This seems to be an annual problem-- and one we really can't afford."