

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 27, 1981

CONTACT: BILL KATS
(202) 224-6521

DOLE SUPPORTS U.S. GRAIN SALE TO SOVIETS

WASHINGTON -- "I am greatly encouraged by the announcement by Secretary of Agriculture John Block Friday that the Soviet Union has purchased over 17.5 million bushels of U.S. corn, the first grain sale since President Reagan lifted the Soviet grain embargo on April 27," Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) said today.

"I hope and anticipate that further sales will be made before U.S. and Soviet negotiators meet in Vienna, Austria, in early August to discuss terms of a new grains agreement, and that these talks will serve to re-establish normal agricultural trade relations between the two countries."

Friday, exporters indicated that the corn transactions had been completed under an agreement reached between U.S. and Soviet government officials in early June. Under these conditions, the U.S.S.R. is authorized to buy up to 110 million bushels of wheat and 115 million bushels of corn for delivery before Oct. 1, 1981, and similar quantities for shipment thereafter.

"I'm hoping that the Soviets will want to take advantage of as much of the offered wheat and corn as possible before the Vienna talks begin," Dole said. "I fully support Secretary Block and U.S. Trade Representative Bill Brock in their effort to keep the U.S. side as flexible as possible in order to maximize the volume of U.S. grain sold to the Soviet Union in the coming year."

"We are in a position now to take the first steps toward repairing the damage done to U.S. wheat and corn farmers by suspension of grain sales in January 1980. With current low prices and record wheat production prospects in 1981, we must use every available means to regain our share of world markets, and our reputation as a reliable supplier to all importing countries."