

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

LONG TERM AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS PICKS UP STEAM IN SENATE

DOLE ADDS CO-SPONSORS TO TRADE RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today announced the addition of 25 more Senate co-sponsors to his resolution calling for negotiations on a new long term agreement on agricultural trade with the Soviet Union.

"I greatly appreciate this strong bipartisan support for a measure that seeks to restore the United States as a principal supplier of farm products to the Soviet Union," said Dole, who authored the resolution along with Senator Charles Percy (R.-Ill.)

Introduced on March 21, the resolution requires the President to immediately indicate his intention to open talks on a new agreement to take effect when the current accord with the Soviets expires on October 1, 1983. Since lifting the 1980 grain embargo in April 1981, the Administration has negotiated two one-year extensions of the original 1975 agreement. The Dole/Percy resolution also encourages including higher minimum and maximum supply guarantees than the six to eight million ton range in effect for the last seven years, and supports the addition of processed or value-added agricultural products.

"We simply must restore stability to our export policies. Previous grain embargoes have seriously tarnished our reputation as a reliable seller, and now that the last embargo has been lifted we should make it clear that we are ready to trade -- we have the goods and the Soviets have the need."

Dole indicated that additional co-sponsors will be sought before the resolution is brought to the Senate floor. "Because this measure lacks the force of law, broad-based support is needed to strengthen our commitment toward reestablishing agricultural trade between our country and the Soviet Union," Dole said.