

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ANNOUNCES MARKUP OF RESOLUTION ON
LONG-TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today announced that the Committee will mark-up his Senate Resolution calling for the President to negotiate a new and expanded long-term grain agreement (LTA) with the Soviet Union.

Senate Resolution 95, introduced by Senators Dole and Charles Percy (R.-Ill.), now has 47 cosponsors. The markup will occur at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 5, in the Senate Finance Committee hearing room.

"Now that the Administration has offered to negotiate a new LTA with the Soviets, we have a responsibility to update our Senate Resolution. Some of the initiatives in the resolution have now been expressed by the Administration," Dole said. "Still, we have details of the LTA negotiations yet to be worked out, such as the inclusion of higher minimum purchases and processed products. We intend to move quickly on this measure in order to get it to the floor and insure its passage prior to the resumption of LTA negotiations in June."

Purchases of wheat and corn by the Soviet Union are conducted under an LTA signed in 1975. That agreement set minimum and maximum levels of purchases. It expired in September 1980, but has been extended twice for one year. S. Res. 95 calls for a new agreement to replace the existing one at its expiration September 30, 1983. The resolution further calls for the inclusion in such an agreement of higher minimum and maximum purchase levels and of purchases of value-added agricultural products.

On April 22, the President announced that he had proposed the negotiation of a new LTA.