

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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DOLE COMMENDS U.S.-SOVIET FLEXIBILITY IN LTA GRAIN TALKS --  
NEGOTIATIONS HEAD TO ROUND THREE IN VIENNA

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today commended U.S. and Soviet negotiators on their progress toward reaching a new long-term grain agreement, and urged "continued flexibility" in the discussions.

Dole's comments followed announcement by the U.S. Trade Representative's Office that a third round of talks between U.S. and Soviet negotiators will be held in Vienna, Austria, on July 26-27. After discussions opened in London early this month, negotiators for both sides met again in Moscow on June 20-22.

"The talks appear to be proceeding well, and will produce a mutually satisfactory agreement if each side is prepared to accommodate the other's vital interests," said Dole, who played a key role in reopening the LTA dialogue between the two superpowers. "The key to a successful LTA is the willingness of both parties to restore reliability and mutual respect in their agricultural trade relations. This necessary cooperation will be demonstrated if the final accord includes adequate grain supply guarantees at levels that reflect the expanded potential for U.S.-Soviet agricultural trade."

The purpose of the meetings is to work out the terms of a new agreement covering the sale of U.S. corn, wheat and possibly other farm products to the Soviet Union, to become effective when the current agreement expires on September 30, 1983. The U.S. now guarantees the export of from six to eight million tons of basic grain to the U.S.S.R. annually, with provisions for additional sales if supplies are adequate.

Reviewing the need for maintaining a structured framework for U.S.-Soviet agricultural trade, Dole stated that the LTA mechanism has been beneficial for both countries since it was developed in 1975. However, its usefulness is determined in large measure by the extent to which the minimum and maximum supply guarantees realistically reflect current and anticipated U.S. export availabilities and Soviet import requirements.

"Those of us who have worked hard to make these talks happen have a considerable interest in seeing that both sides show the necessary flexibility to bring them to a successful completion. I am confident that this essential element will be demonstrated and that the talks will produce a mutually acceptable agreement," Dole concluded.