

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE MEETS JAPANESE OFFICIALS --

### PRESSES FOR INCREASE IN JAPANESE BEEF IMPORTS

WASHINGTON -- Pointing to the huge imbalance in Japanese-U.S. trade, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today urged visiting Japanese officials not to alienate U.S. agriculture interests when setting quotas on American farm products, particularly beef and citrus.

"I made it clear to the Japanese that the best friends they have during trade debates in the Senate Finance Committee and in the Senate are U.S. farm groups, who recognize the importance of free trade to agricultural exports. Without farmer resistance, protectionist legislation damaging to Japan -- such as the local content bill requiring U.S.-made parts in cars -- would have a much greater chance of passage. I would urge the Japanese Government to take this fact into account in weighing future restrictions on farm imports."

Dole's remarks came during an hour-long Washington meeting with top members of the Japanese Diet and ruling Liberal Democratic Party, including Takami Eto, Chairman of the Overall Agricultural Policy Research Council. The Delegation is in Washington to discuss trade differences with senior Administration officials and congressional leaders. The beef quota issue is particularly important due to the current low limit on imports and the Reagan Administration's efforts to obtain complete liberalization when the quota expires on April 1, 1984.

"Japanese automobile manufacturers understand the need to maintain access to the U.S. car market in order for their industry to survive and prosper," Dole explained. "In the same sense, our farmers and ranchers are businessmen who must expand their sales of beef and other commodities to Japan and other markets."

"The Japanese must understand that import restrictions must be reduced dramatically if a new wave of global protectionism is to be averted; a tragedy that would do the greatest damage to those countries most dependent on exports for economic prosperity, and that means Japan," Dole warned.