

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE HAILS NEW US-SOVIET GRAIN ACCORD

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today hailed the conclusion of a new long-term grain agreement with the Soviet Union as "the end of a long quest to restore the unquestioned reliability of the United States as a supplier of agricultural exports to the world market."

"The appreciable increase from six to nine million tons of wheat and corn in guaranteed annual sales reflects recognition by the Soviet Union that the U.S. is and will remain a principal source for meeting its agricultural import needs," said Dole, who has played a key role in reestablishing a grain trade dialogue between the two superpowers.

The new five-year agreement was announced by Deputy Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer, the chief of the U.S. delegation, following three days of negotiations in Vienna, Austria. Both sides agreed to raise the minimum for Soviet annual grain purchases from 6 to 9 million tons, and the maximum from 8 to 12 million tons. The Soviets will have the option to substitute 500,000 tons of soybean or soybean meal purchases for one million tons of grain required under the minimum. Purchases are to be roughly divided equally between wheat and corn. Additional sales beyond the 12 million ton maximum would require consultation by both sides, as under the existing agreement negotiated in 1975. The new agreement will take effect upon expiration of the 1975 accord on October 1, 1983.

"I want to congratulate Secretary Block, Ambassador Brock, and their deputies in Vienna, Bob Lighthizer and Undersecretary Dan Amstutz, on the successful conclusion of these negotiations," Dole continued. "U.S. farmers could have received no better news than the announcement of a new and improved grain agreement with the Russians."

"Some of us have worked long and hard for over three years to reverse the negative trend in U.S.-Soviet trade relations since the 1980 grain embargo," Dole stated. "I am glad to have played a part in getting both sides together. In my three meetings with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin and during my visit to Moscow last November, I became convinced that the Soviets were prepared to be a reliable customer if we were ready to return to our role as a reliable supplier," Dole added. "It is clear that both sides have kept this commitment and followed their own economic best interests in reaching this important accord."