

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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DOLE COMMENDS LONG-TERM AGREEMENT NEGOTIATORS --

"DISASTROUS CARTER EMBARGO IS OVER"

WASHINGTON -- Following a special briefing today, Kansas Senator Bob Dole joined other members of the Senate Agriculture Committee in commending the U.S. negotiators who concluded talks last week on a new five-year grain agreement with the Soviet Union.

"Obtaining a 50 percent increase in guaranteed Russian purchases of U.S. wheat and corn was a significant accomplishment -- particularly when both countries have big crops this year," said Dole.

Senator Dole's comments followed a Senate Agriculture Committee briefing by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer and Undersecretary Daniel Amstutz, the top U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) official on the negotiating team, on the details on last week's three-day session in Vienna, Austria.

The new agreement, which takes effect October 1, raises minimum annual Soviet purchases from 6 to 9 million tons and allows the maximum level of exports without prior consultation to increase from 8 to 12 million tons. The guaranteed sale of wheat and corn were negotiated up from 3 to 4 million tons each, with Soviet discretion to substitute 500,000 tons of soybeans or soybean meal for the balance of 1 million tons.

"With this agreement, farmers can look forward to another avenue for selling their produce, something they haven't had for a few years. We are all glad the disastrous Carter grain embargo is now over -- President Reagan should be commended for fulfilling his promise to end the embargo and to repair the tarnished image of the United States as a reliable trading partner," Dole added. "The American farmer is still picking up the pieces of Jimmy Carter's mistaken policy but at least now there is the stability -- and the hope -- this new LTA brings."