

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
SCOTT RICHARDSON (202)224-6521

DOLE "GRATIFIED" BY CONCLUSION OF
CHINA TEXTILE DISPUTE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today expressed satisfaction at the resolution of the long-standing dispute over U.S. quotas on imported textiles from the People's Republic of China.

"Failure to resolve the textile quota issue was doing severe damage to U.S. wheat sales to China," said Dole, who sent a letter to President Reagan protesting the impasse on July 20. "I am gratified that the Administration has responded, and hopeful that the Chinese will renew wheat purchases from the U.S. in the near future."

Resolution of the dispute came over the weekend as negotiators in Geneva initialled a five-year agreement which includes a small increase in the U.S. quota for Chinese textiles and apparel. The talks were the seventh since January, when the previous quota agreement expired and the U.S. imposed stringent import limits. The Chinese retaliated by cutting off all imports of U.S. cotton, soybean and wheat for the past six months. The wheat suspension has been estimated to have cost the producers more than \$500 million.

"China is our most important wheat market," Dole said. "Combined with the new and improved long-term agreement with the Soviet Union, the Administration has taken some very important steps in restoring farmer confidence in our export policies."

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