

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1983

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DOLE URGES CHINESE TO COMPLETE GRAIN PURCHASE COMMITMENT --  
SENATOR CITES END OF U.S./CHINA TEXTILE DISPUTE

WASHINGTON -- In a letter to the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Kansas Senator Bob Dole called on that country to fulfill its agreement to buy six million tons of U.S. wheat by the end of this year.

The Chinese had suspended its purchases of American grain when the two countries became embroiled in a dispute over textile quotas. The dispute has since been settled.

Dole, senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, played a key role in the resolution of the textile stalemate through a series of letters to President Reagan.

The following is the text of Senator Dole's letter to  
Ambassador Zhang Wenjin:

"I welcome you to Washington as the envoy of the People's Republic of China to the United States, and trust your tenure will see continued improvement in our countries' relations.

I do wish to mention an issue that could cloud recent progress in expanding commercial relations. A number of members of Congress contacted President Reagan in July to urge his Administration to resolve the long dispute over U.S. import quotas on Chinese textiles and apparel. It was our belief, based on reports from Chinese officials, that this textile dispute was preventing the People's Republic of China (PRC) from honoring its full commitment under the current bilateral grain supply agreement. When a satisfactory resolution of the textile question was achieved on July 23, and the PRC decided to reverse the reduction in planned imports of U.S. agricultural products on September 6, we were highly encouraged.

I now understand that, despite these positive actions and statements, the PRC is indicating that it may not complete its grain obligation of six million tons by the end of this year. Statements attributed to Chinese officials suggest that factors not covered under the terms of the agreement should now be considered, and could relieve the PRC of responsibility for meeting its full import commitment.

I am certain that the circumstances which impeded PRC purchases of U.S. grain this year are unique, and that they warrant full discussion during early consultations. In the absence of agreement on how to resolve this issue, however, a reduction in the level of grain sales would reflect poorly on our efforts in Congress to maintain balance and equity in commercial relations.

I very much hope that a satisfactory solution to this issue can be found that will preserve the integrity of our commercial relations as a foundation for improved understanding between our countries in the future."