

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1985

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

DOLE SAYS FARMERS HURT BY UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES;
KANSAN PRESSES INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS FOR REFORMS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND -- In a meeting with top officials of the organization that oversees world trading relations, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kans.) warned that improving the climate of international trade will be difficult unless something is done to break down the barriers confronting U.S. agriculture exports.

Dole told Arthur Dunkel, Secretary General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or GATT, that "the success or failure of the world trading system, and of any effort to relieve protectionist sentiment now building up around the world, will depend in large part on our progress in resolving the proliferation of unfair trade practices in agriculture. There is no benefit to U.S. farmers for us to get mired down in another six or seven year negotiation. A lot of Kansas farmers won't be around that long if we don't get farm prices up soon."

Senator Dole is in Geneva as the leader of a 10-member Senate Observer Team to the Nuclear Arms Control Talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Accompanying Dole to the GATT meeting were Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) and Senators Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), Don Nickles (R-Okla.), Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), and John Warner (R-Va.).

"U.S. farmers can compete with anybody if everyone plays by the same rules," Dole told the GATT representatives at the meeting. "It's only when the rules get bent or broken -- or when there are no rules -- that we need to respond in kind. If the purpose of trading rules and new negotiations is to restore fairness to world trade, then I'm all for them. If the purpose is to protect those who are currently violating the trading rights of others, then you can count some of us out."