

October 5, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Representatives of Continental Grain Company and Cook Industries, Inc., met today with President Ford and other officials of the United States government, to discuss recent grain contracts by the two companies with the Soviet Union. The President expressed his strong concern over the potential domestic impact that such sales could have at a time when the U.S. is experiencing a disappointing harvest of feed grains.

After discussions with Secretary Simon, Secretary Butz and Ambassador Eberle, the company representatives evidenced their full willingness to be responsive to these crucial domestic concerns. The two companies are now making arrangements for the cancellation of these contracts, in accordance with the government's request.

Government-to-government discussions are also being undertaken and Secretary Simon is planning to meet with appropriate officials of the Soviet Union during his visit to that country next week.

Grain exporters are being invited to Washington, D. C. on October 7 to help formulate a system of voluntary cooperation and reporting that will assure reasonable supplies to both domestic and foreign users. It is anticipated that this voluntary cooperative effort will enable the United States to avoid the imposition of general export controls.

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