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John Neagle

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## **Argentine Secretariat Charges U.S. With Escalating Trade War In Agricultural Commodities, Instability In Grain Markets**

*by John Neagle*

*Category/Department: General*

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On May 4 the Argentine Secretariat of Industry and Foreign Commerce expressed "profound displeasure" at the recent US decision to sell four million tons of subsidized wheat to the Soviet Union. In a message to US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, the Secretariat under the direction of Roberto Lavagna, said that Washington's "attitude" constitutes a new and open aggression against producer countries in competitive conditions. Next, the United States was accused of escalating the trade war in agricultural commodities, and instability of world grain markets. The US decision to sell subsidized grain to the USSR, said the message, violates principles that should regulate free trade and demonstrates a "dangerous indifference" to global economic realities, and particularly the situation of developing debtor nations. The latter, said the statement, can only hope to participate in international financial and economic arenas on the basis of the growth and valuation of their export products. Next, the message to Yeutter stated that the subsidized sale cannot be justified on the basis of promoting economic growth in a developing country, since the buyer is a developed nation. (Basic data from Argentine news agency, DYN, 05/04/87)

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