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U.S. Bars Sale Of Butter To Russia At Cut Rates

By Robert J. Donovan

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WASHINGTON—The United States will not sell butter to Communist countries at prices much lower than the American housewife pays, Commerce Sec. Weeks said Friday.

The prevailing retail price in Washington is 73 to 75 cents a pound; it is advertised at 69 cents a pound in sales in New York City grocery chains and 71 cents in Chicago chains. Under the price support program the government has paid about 65 cents a pound for butter it has bought and stored.

Recently, Dwayne Andreas, a Mankato (Minn.) businessman, submitted to the government an offer he is understood to have received from Russia and one of its European allies to buy surplus American butter and cottonseed oil. The price quoted for butter in the Communist offer is between 40 and 50 cents a pound.

Weeks would not say whether his statement on butter also applied to the cottonseed oil offer.

Asked whether he would approve an export license for nonstrategic materials to Russia if price were not a factor, he said he would have to consider each case on its merits and decide it in a manner "consistent with overriding government policies."

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department lifted some restrictions on nonstrategic trade with Hong Kong, the British crown

colony known as "the gateway to Red China."

A number of goods—including wool, paper, coal, stoves, farm machinery and rubber products—were added to the list of products U.S. exporters may ship to Hong Kong without individual export licenses.

Blizzards Start New Alp Slides; Aid Curtailed

VIENNA (AP)—Fresh blizzards touched off new avalanches in the Alps, slowed aid for victims and caused a U.S. helicopter to crash-land in Austria's "valley of death."

The blizzards struck Friday as severe weather blanketed much of West Europe. Whether further deaths attend the new avalanches remained to be determined.

Snow slides since Monday have caused 149 deaths in four nations—Austria, Switzerland, West Germany and Italy. In Austria, nine persons are still missing and hundreds injured.

Most of the work of evacuating the sick and homeless from snowbound Austrian villages fell to five U.S. helicopters.

The storms brought ground rescue work almost to a standstill. Men who had been digging for the missing feverishly began shoveling deep trenches in the path of possible new ava-