

Butz Cites Mixup Over Grain Deals

Indianapolis

"A genuine misunderstanding" between the Soviet Union and the United States brought the postponement of a 3.4 million ton shipment of corn and wheat to the Soviets, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz said yesterday.

Butz said, "I believe there was a genuine misunderstanding between both countries. The Soviet Union agreed to make modest purchases. We just had a misunderstanding about what 'modest purchases' constituted."

At a news conference, Butz said it is possible the halted shipment will be delivered to the Soviet Union anyway at a later date.

"The Soviet Union has been a good customer," Butz said. "We need to keep them as a customer. Frankly we needed them two years ago when we had large crop surpluses."

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