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Secretary of Transportation
Elizabeth Dole to Speak at May Symposium

At the request of Senator Larry Pressler, Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, will highlight the Pecora XI Symposium, "Satellite Land Remote Sensing: Current Programs and a Look to the Future," to be held in Sioux Falls, SD, at the Holiday Inn City Centre May 5-7.

Allen H. Watkins, Chief of the Geological Survey's EROS Data Center, said, "We are extremely pleased that Secretary Dole will participate in this important meeting. It comes at a crucial time as the U.S. land remote sensing program is in a state of confusion and disarray. Commercialization of the Landsat program faces critical funding problems. The future of U.S. remote sensing research activities and the future of the EROS Data Center are undergoing in-depth scrutiny. These issues are confronting the scientific community and the legislative and administrative bodies of our Nation.

"Senator Larry Pressler, Honorary Chairman of the Pecora XI Program Committee, was instrumental in obtaining Secretary Dole to be the featured speaker at the Symposium. Her presence is indicative of high-level Administration interest in this international symposium and the issues that will be addressed."

Secretary Dole is expected to discuss Administration policies and issues relating to the Nation's space activities and launch-capability concerns following the recent Shuttle disaster. The Dole address will be open to the public. Information about the availability of tickets will be announced later. Business and civic leaders from throughout South Dakota are expected to attend.

Between 300-400 leaders from the world scientific remote sensing community and policy makers in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia are expected to participate in this year's meeting, which is sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Included among the senior policy makers invited to participate in Pecora XI are the administrators of NASA and NOAA, the Director of the Geological Survey, and key representatives from the State Department, ABC News, George Washington University, the National Security Council, the European Space Agency, the United Nations, the United States Congress, and the Earth Observation Satellite Company, commercial operator of the Landsat system.

(For further information, contact Phyllis G. Wiepking, Technical Information Office, EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD 57198, telephone (605) 594-6551.)

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