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The Prime Minister of New Zealand to the Prime Minister of Canada

13 May 1970

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

I refer to your letter of today's date proposing the establishment of a Joint Canada-New Zealand Consultative Committee, which reads as follows:

"I refer to discussions which have been held recently between representatives of our two Governments concerning economic relations between New Zealand and Canada.

I propose that our Governments agree to the establishment of a Joint Canada-New Zealand Consultative Committee to provide a forum for periodic discussions on general bilateral and multilateral matters and especially those of commercial and economic interest to the two countries. The terms of reference would be:

1. To consider matters affecting relations between New Zealand and Canada particularly in the economic field;
2. To exchange information and views on matters which might adversely affect the existing levels or future development of trade, investment and other business activity between the two countries;
3. To consider matters relating to science, technology and transport as they affect relations between the two countries;
4. To review other matters of common interest such as international political developments and multilateral trade and economic conditions.

It is proposed that, in preference to regular meetings at fixed periods the Committee would meet from time to time as deemed appropriate by the two Governments, and in any case not less frequently than every two years. Meetings of the Committee could be held either at the Ministerial or official level depending on the nature of the agenda and other relevant factors. The Committee would normally, as mutually convenient to the respective Governments, meet alternately in Canada and New Zealand. When at Ministerial level, Canadian Ministers might, depending upon the agenda, include the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Agriculture, and others as appropriate; and New Zealand Ministers might, depending upon the agenda, include the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Overseas Trade, the Minister of Industries and Commerce, the Minister of Customs, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Finance, and others as appropriate.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of New Zealand, I propose that this letter, which is authentic in English and French, and your reply to that effect should constitute an agreement between our two Governments, which shall enter into force on the date of your reply and shall remain in force until terminated by either party on six months' notice to the other."