

## Canada — U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement

*On April 18, Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. N. S. Patolichev, Minister of Foreign Trade of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed in Moscow a Protocol renewing for three years the Trade Agreement between Canada and the U.S.S.R., as well as the understanding on the valuation of goods for duty. The purpose of this Agreement is to expand and diversify trade between the two countries.*

*The following is the text of a statement which Mr. Churchill made in the House of Commons on April 25 when he reported on the Agreement:*

. . . I now table, for the information of the House, the text of the Protocol signed in Moscow on April 18, 1960, which renews for a three-year period the Trade Agreement between Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of February 29, 1956, as well as the understanding set out in the letters which the two Parties exchanged at that time concerning the right of the Canadian Government to fix under the Canadian Customs Act values of goods for ordinary and special duty.

The Protocol also provides that each of the two governments will give sympathetic consideration to any representations which the other government may make concerning the implementation of the renewed Agreement and with regard to other matters which may affect their commercial relations. The Protocol is in force provisionally from the date of signature. It is to be ratified as soon as possible, and will enter into force definitively on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification, which is to take place in Ottawa. An early opportunity will be provided for a debate in Parliament, and a resolution of approval will be introduced to this end.

I also have pleasure in tabling copies of letters which I exchanged with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. N. S. Patolichev, setting forth certain additional understandings concerning the development of trade between the two countries. . . .

As Honourable Members are aware, the negotiations for renewal of the Trade Agreement with the U.S.S.R. took considerable time. They were initiated before the 1956 Agreement lapsed on February 28, 1959, and the early discussions were not without difficulties. However, common ground was eventually found and the Agreement is being renewed on terms which I consider satisfactory from the Canadian point of view, particularly taking into account the changed trading circumstances since the earlier agreement was concluded.

The House is familiar with the provisions of the 1956 Agreement, which is now being extended. In brief, Canada and the U.S.S.R. exchange most-favoured-nation treatment and, on a reciprocal basis, provide for non-discriminatory treatment of merchant ships in the seaports of the two countries. Either government