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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

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The Soviet Minister came to see me today to ask about how arrangements stood for Canadian participation in the Third Soviet Protocol. I explained the procedure we had in mind, and said I did not think the separate adherence of Canada to the Protocol would materially change the arrangements for supplying materials and munitions to the Soviet Union. The most important feature of the new arrangement would probably be its political and psychological aspect, under which Canadian aid to the Soviet Union and to others of the United Nations would be furnished direct instead of through the United Kingdom or the United States as intermediaries.

He asked if there had been any developments with regard to the establishment of the International Relief Organization. His latest information was that the Soviet Government had informed Litvinov that they welcomed the arrangement under which Canada would become Chairman of the Suppliers Committee. In due course this would be communicated by Litvinov to the other members of the Ambassadors Committee in Washington.

We had some conversation about the Soviet-Polish difficulties. He did not regard the frontier question or the position of Polish nationals in the Soviet Union as insoluble or even very formidable questions. Given goodwill and mutual loyalty, he thought acceptable agreements could be reached on both these points. What was really serious and disturbing was the general attitude of the Polish Government. Their hostility to the Soviet Union had led them into playing the enemy's game by their appeal to the International Red Cross, which could only have been calculated to hopelessly embitter a difficult situation. He complained of the Polish press in the United Kingdom protesting all the time against Russian actions and passing over the behaviour of the Germans, and taking the line that Poland's interest was to see Germany and Russia exhaust each other without participating too actively on either side of the struggle. He felt there were pro-Fascist elements in the Polish Government and the Polish press which were actively disloyal to the cause of the United Nations, and until they were purged he did not see how a real reconciliation could be effected between the Polish and Soviet Governments.

Mr. Gousev went on to talk about resolutions he had noticed in Canadian-Ukrainian newspapers, passed by Ukrainian Nationalist organizations, advocating an independent Ukraine and