

possibility of agreeing to a longer agreement and that the two year duration will be a condition of U.S. participation.

2. As you know Canada was prepared to accept a one year extension of the present repeat present Agreement as a device to permit further study and negotiation and prevent the death of the Agreement. On the other hand, we were also prepared to accept a new Agreement for three years basis one dollar and fifty cents minimum, two dollars maximum. An agreement of only two years duration appears to us to be too short to be of much effect considering the small quantities that will be included.

3. It is the Minister's view, however, that Canada could not refuse to go along on a two year agreement at minimum one dollar and fifty cents, maximum two dollars if importers are agreeable and, of course, if quantities are acceptable. McNamara's letter¹³ provides guidance on question of quantities. You should therefore state firmly Canada's preference for a three year agreement but be prepared at the appropriate time to go along on a two year basis. Ends.

837.

DTC/20-25

*Le haut-commissaire au Royaume-Uni
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in United Kingdom
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 483

London, April 17, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Following for M.W. Sharp, Dept. of Trade and Commerce Repeat W.C. McNamara Wheat Board from Wilson, Begins: Following receipt of your telegram [...] ¹⁴ yesterday morning Lawrie and I met with American and Australian delegations at which procedures were discussed in view of American instructions. At this meeting I asked Garthoff if in his opinion a two year agreement was their final position. He replied that he would have to have the two year proposal fully explored and rejected before going back to his authorities which he hoped would not be before Wednesday when McLain will be returning to Washington. After the meeting Sir Edwin McCarthy showed me a telegram he had received from McEwen who was in Washington on April 12 and saw McLain who indicated that two years was not necessarily the final position of the United States. Because of these indications that the American position is not as firm as that mentioned in paragraph one of your telegram, there seems to be some advantage in manoeuvring the Americans into seeking further instructions by Wednesday.

2. At Executive Committee meeting yesterday afternoon several importing countries reported acceptance of two dollar maximum one dollar fifty minimum conditional upon a three year agreement and [enforced?] [...] guaranteed quantities. To put it mildly the American statement threw the importers into confusion. After the Executive Committee meeting the importers and exporters met separately and [...] reported later that the

¹³ Non retrouvée./Not located.

¹⁴ Ce télégramme a été reconstitué à partir d'une très mauvaise copie carbone. Les crochets indiquent que le texte était illisible.

This telegram was reconstructed from a very poor carbon copy. The square brackets indicate illegible text.