

Consequently, when we receive material such as the sets of the Canadian Geographical Journal, we will send them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asking them to pass them on to the Academy of Sciences. Whether they ever reach the Academy of Sciences, we have no way of knowing. The extent of our difficulties may perhaps be realized if I add that there is in Moscow no such thing as a telephone directory, a directory of institutions, or any way except by means of a gossip chain of finding out the names of persons associated with private or public offices. Consequently there is no such thing as an informal approach. When one makes a presentation of this kind, one simply sends the material off into a void.

3. Naturally one tends to become exasperated with the unfairness and the discourtesy with which one is treated. One is tempted to say that if the Russians cannot even thank us for what we give them, let alone show some desire to reciprocate, then we should cease to present any more gifts. I have no doubt that whether or not the sets of the Canadian Geographical Journal or the magazine "Arctic" reach the institutions for which they are intended, the Soviet authorities would be pleased to have them. It is extremely unlikely, however, that they would ever be made available to the general public, but they might well be useful for specialists.

4. There are, I think, three courses we can adopt, and I am by no means determined which is the right one. (1) We may continue our present policy of sending along materials with our compliments simply in the belief that, although there are no immediate rewards, we are making at least a gesture in the direction of good relations which may some day bear fruit. We might also be spreading a little propaganda which, however narrow its circulation, is perhaps sowing a few seeds of doubt in fanatical minds. (2) We could stop sending any complimentary material. The reasons for doing so would be that we see no reason why we should go on giving gifts to people who show no signs of appreciating them, and that by being so soft we are only making fools of ourselves. (3) We should try to force bargains — that is, we should definitely tie our presentation of certain materials to the presentation in exchange of some journal or document we should like to have. This, in principle, is a good idea, but it is very difficult to work. The Soviet authorities consider a good deal of their published material to be secret, and they are hardly likely to pass it on to us, regardless of what we offer in exchange. Nothing that is published in Canada is secret to them, because they can obtain copies through their own channels. However, in this country a good deal of material can actually be published and circulated without our being able to lay our hands on it. The trouble also with arranging an exchange is that the process is so arduous that it is scarcely worth while. One can never communicate direct with the particular Soviet authorities concerned. One can only send notes to the Ministry which may or may not be answered within six months or a year. I am inclined to wonder if this understaffed and overworked Embassy has not wasted too many man hours on this kind of useless correspondence.

5. You might also in this connexion like to consider the related question of presenting National Film Board films to Soviet government departments and other bodies. Our last correspondence on this subject was your letter of April 10th† concerning the proposal to give films to the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture.