

Canadian products, if possible, products of the Maritime Provinces. In other words we would not offer a concession merely to induce the Cubans to maintain the status quo.

9. The conclusions of the Interdepartmental Committee seem to be acceptable from the point of view of this Department.²

A.D.P. H[EEENEY]

972.

DEA/9100-X-40

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

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

TELEGRAM GATDEL 3

Ottawa, February 10, 1951

SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Following for McKinnon, GATT Delegation, Torquay, from Abbott, Begins: Reference your No. 280, February 2nd.†

1. It is desirable to try to find a solution which will avoid, if at all possible, a tariff war with Cuba. We have considered implications of an offer to Cuba under which Canada would undertake bulk purchase of world sugar (non Empire) of 100,000, repeat one hundred thousand tons, in each of next three years, or grant a tariff quota for the same amount. Owing to administrative features involved the choice between these two alternatives must be at our option. You might explore with the United Kingdom, BWI and Cuba whether in the circumstances this proposal offers the possibility of agreement with the parties concerned. You should discuss proposal with these parties in the order you consider advisable.

2. If acquiescence from parties affected cannot be obtained we would wish to reconsider our position since we do not envisage a situation where denunciation of existing preferential agreements is involved.

3. You should explore also, as alternative, possibility of shifting discussion of this matter into arena of International Sugar Council, since from many points of view problems involved can more appropriately be dealt with through machinery of an international commodity agreement. Ends.

² Le 9 février 1951, le Cabinet a décidé que la délégation à la Conférence Torquay ferait savoir à Cuba et au Royaume-Uni que le Canada était disposé à acheter 100 000 tonnes de sucre cubain en vertu d'un contingent ou d'un achat en vrac.

Cabinet agreed on February 9, 1951 that the delegation to the Torquay Conference indicate to Cuba and the United Kingdom that Canada was prepared to buy 100,000 tons of Cuban sugar under a quota or bulk purchase arrangement.