

Another development was the Conference of Major Wheat Exporting Nations, convened in Washington on May 4-6, 1959, by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, following President Eisenhower's proposal to explore means of using food "in the interest of reinforcing peace". One of the most important results of this conference was the decision to establish a Wheat Utilization Committee, which would be a consultative body of the governments attending the conference and would be composed of ministers or senior officials. The Committee's terms of reference included the consideration of possibilities of expanding the world's commercial trade in wheat, including the development of new markets, and ways of increasing and making more effective the utilization of wheat surpluses for the promotion of economic development and the improvement of nutritional standards.

The Committee held two meetings, the first June 15-17, and the second October 14-16. These meetings were held in Washington and Canada invited the Committee to hold its third meeting in the spring of 1960 in Canada.

#### *Double Taxation Agreements*

The double taxation convention negotiated with Finland late in 1958 was signed in March 1959 and will come into force on ratification. In September a convention with Switzerland for the avoidance of double taxation of air and shipping profits was brought into force by an exchange of notes. A supplementary convention amending the ownership clause for Canadian subsidiaries of Dutch parent companies in the Canada-Netherlands agreement of 1957 was signed and will come into force upon ratification, which is expected to take place early in 1960. In September talks were held with Norwegian officials with a view to concluding an agreement with Norway on a comprehensive double taxation convention.

#### *East-West Trade*

Early in 1959 the three-year trade agreement between Canada and the U.S.S.R. expired, although most-favoured-nation tariff treatment continued to be extended, pending the outcome of discussions to renew the agreement. Soviet trade, in the past, has been largely within the Soviet bloc, but there are now signs of a considerable expansion of trade between the U.S.S.R. and countries outside the bloc. Although the U.S.S.R. and Canada tend to be competitive rather than complementary in the composition of their exports, there are still a good many fields in which an increase in trade between the two might be possible.

There was some development of trade with other Eastern European countries, particularly Czechoslovakia and Poland, the latter buying a substantial amount of Canadian wheat and barley.

Trade with the countries of this group continues to be governed by certain restrictions on the export of strategic materials, although such restrictions are sufficiently narrow in range to leave ample scope for increased trade if mutually satisfactory terms can be agreed.

#### *Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy*

Canada negotiated four more bilateral agreements for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. An agreement with Pakistan was signed on May 14; with Japan on July 2; with Australia on August 4; and with