

in the Embassy or at the United Kingdom Embassy cinema. In view of our limited outlets, our needs would naturally not have high priority.

(ii) *Films* The Embassy once suggested offering to the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture certain old Canadian documentaries for which neither the Embassy nor the National Film Board has any further use. Your letter of April 10 refers. As these films are too slight to form the basis of any exchange, may we now destroy them? (The National Film Board has already agreed that we may either destroy them or give them away.)

(iii) *Arctic* We have on file a copy of the journal of the Arctic Institute of North America, which was sent under cover of your despatch No. 541 of June 2. It was not sent to a Soviet organization until the broad question of exchange of information was settled. May it now be left in the Embassy library?

(iv) *Canadian Weekly Bulletin* We have received no reply to our note of February 9th in which we asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs what periodical we might receive in return for the *Bulletin*. Mr. Holmes' letter of May 7th to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs refers. Shall we take no further action until the Ministry answers our note?

(v) *Books* In view of the difficulties of buying specified books when they are requested, and in order to increase the amount of published information about the Soviet Union which we can acquire, could we have a small allotment of funds to use whenever the opportunity to buy useful books presents itself? An estimate of one hundred or two hundred dollars a year would probably be more than sufficient to buy all that it is possible to find of a useful nature.

9. I should be glad to receive your views and instructions on the matters which I have raised.

I have etc.

J.B.C. WATKINS

1095.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures
au président du Conseil national de recherches*

*Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to President, National Research Council*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, December 16, 1948

Dear Dr. Mackenzie,

In your note of November 18th informing me of the approach made by Mr. N.S. Skvortsov, Representative of the Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R., for information on the testing of asbestos fibres, you mentioned that Mr. Skvortsov was given a report on this subject prepared by the Codes and Specifications Section of the Division of Building Research, and that he was asked at the same time if the National Research Council could be given information on research work in the U.S.S.R. on snow and ice. As requested in your letter, I have transmit-