

acknowledgement within the Soviet Union necessary for the exchanges to have proved satisfactory from the Canadian point of view.

24. As the Departmental files were incomplete, and did not indicate, in many instances, whether particular exchange operations had in fact progressed satisfactorily, and had been of real value, it has been decided to circulate the report (based on the Department's files) to the various Government Departments concerned, and to request the views of each Department on:

(1) The operation of past exchanges, and whether the material supplied by the Soviet authorities in the past had proved of real value;

(2) Whether it would be profitable and feasible to continue and to expand the exchange of material with the Soviet Union in certain specific fields.

25. The ultimate purpose of this enquiry is to formulate a firm policy regarding any future exchanges of information with the Soviet Union, and to ensure that any such exchanges are carried out on a strictly controlled basis, and subjected to periodic review so as to ensure that reciprocity is constantly maintained. (December 23, 1947)

1091.

DEA/50185-40

*Le chargé d'affaires en Union soviétique
au chef de la Direction de l'information*

*Chargé d'Affaires in Soviet Union
to Head, Information Division*

PERSONAL

Moscow, August 11, 1948

Dear Saul [Rae]:

We have been worrying here recently about the policy which should be adopted with regard to the presentation of Canadian publications to Soviet authorities or institutions. As I am by no means certain in my mind as to what we should do, I thought I would like to raise the matter first of all informally with you. Our latest discussions on the subject have been provoked by the receipt of your Despatch No. 664 of July 22nd,† asking us to present volumes of the Canadian Geographical Journal to the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. We have had several communications of this kind of late. In some cases both the Department and this Embassy are merely agents for carrying out the requests of private organizations like the Canadian Geographical Society or the Arctic Institute. In other cases the donor is more officially the Canadian Government.

2. There are certain inescapable facts in connection with this sort of activity. In the first place, as I am sure you realise, there is little likelihood of these donations being acknowledged or any information being given to us as to the disposition made of them. It is very doubtful, in fact, whether we can present such material to any Soviet institution except through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some time ago we received new instructions from the Ministry to the effect that foreigners could communicate with Soviet offices and institutions only through the Ministry.