

JOINT STATEMENT ON SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS TALKS

CONTINUING COMMITTEE: The Acting Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and the Chancellor of the United Kingdom Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, on September 24 issued the following joint statement.

During the past three days discussions have taken place between the Chancellor of the Exchequer, accompanied by senior officials of the United Kingdom Government, and the Acting Prime Minister and the following members of the Canadian Government: The Ministers of Trade and Commerce, Agriculture, Finance, National Revenue and External Affairs. Canadian Ministers were assisted by senior officials.

The discussions ranged over the whole field of economic and financial relations between the United Kingdom and Canada and included an examination of their likely course during the continuance and on the completion of the European Recovery Plan.

Discussion centred on the difficulty of the dollar-sterling balance of payments problem and the efforts which would be required on both sides to help to narrow to manageable proportions the gap in the exchanges between the two countries.

The United Kingdom will make every effort to expand the volume of its exports to Canada so as to raise them materially above the pre-

sent level.

It will no doubt be necessary to make some adjustments in United Kingdom import programmes of recent years, but both governments will do everything they can to avoid any sudden change in the pattern of trade between the two countries.

The two governments are satisfied that, in spite of present difficulties, there is a prospect of a large continuing trade between the two countries and that Canadian raw materials and foodstuffs will continue to play a vital part in the recovery of the United Kingdom.

With this object in view it has been agreed that recommendations will be made to each government for the establishment of a continuing committee of representatives of the two countries to meet regularly in Ottawa and in London. The members of this committee would review progress and consult together with a view to submitting recommendations for the adjustment of the imports and exports between the two countries in the light of changing circumstances. The appointment of this committee would facilitate the free and prompt exchange of the fullest information on commercial and economic matters of mutual concern.

DISCOVER TWO ISLANDS: Addition of more than 5000 square miles to Canada's territory, the result of discovery of two previously unknown Arctic islands by an RCAF photo survey plane, is announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa. The two islands, the larger of which is between two and three times the size of Prince Edward Island, lie close together in Foxe Basin off the west coast of Baffin Island, north of Hudson Bay, and were found by the crew of a Lancaster of 413 Photo Survey Squadron from Rockcliffe, engaged in the aerial photography of Baffin.

Discovery of the islands came on July 14 when the Lancaster photo plane was returning to its base at Frobisher, on the southern end of Baffin Island, after a photo trip over Melville Peninsula. While flying over Foxe Basin Flying Officer A.E. Tomkinson, DFC, of (634 Admirals Rd.) Victoria, B.C., the navigator, sighted land through a break in the

clouds. Thinking his navigation had gone amiss, for the aircraft should have been above water according to existing air charts, he revised his estimated time of arrival at Frobisher. The Lancaster was still 60 miles from base, however, at the revised and expected time of arrival, and it was decided that night after the aircraft had landed that an unknown land area, taken to be part of Baffin Island, had caused the error in navigation.

A reconnaissance was later made of Foxe Basin and the two islands were marked on the map and photographed from the air. It was thought at first that the islands were mud flats or shoals which appeared only at low tide, but further flights showed them to be definite land masses, covered by the usual northern vegetation of moss and lichen, with numerous small lakes. The larger of the two islands is approximately 85 miles long and 75 miles wide, the smaller being 20 miles long and 10 miles wide.