

CHAPITRE XI/CHAPTER XI  
AMÉRIQUE LATINE  
LATIN AMERICA

PREMIÈRE PARTIE/PART 1

BRÉSIL  
BRAZIL

970.

DEA/2588-40

*Note*

*Memorandum*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], December 12, 1951

BRAZIL: COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CANADA

Present Canadian trade policy towards Brazil is governed by the GATT, to which both countries subscribe. We exchange most favoured nation treatment under our trade agreement of October 17, 1941. Due to shortage of dollar exchange, Brazil has a quite strict import control directed against all hard currency countries.

Brazilian import controls have latterly had a drastic curtailing effect on their imports of Canadian codfish. We have been trying to have them accept some Newfoundland codfish, to which they indicated their willingness on the condition that we make newsprint available to them.

The Economic Division of this Department and the Department of Trade and Commerce are desirous of keeping the Government out of this transaction, and are satisfied that the private entities are making slow but satisfactory progress. The firms involved are: for codfish, NAFEL (Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited) through their Brazilian agents and other importers; and for newsprint, Bowaters Limited. No action is needed, and our Embassy in Rio has promised to keep us informed of developments.

Resulting from the problems raised at the time of these negotiations it was decided to ask the International Trade Relations Division of the Department of Trade & Commerce to make a general investigation of Canadian-Brazilian trade relations. Their summary, dated July 1951, is attached. It covers general factors, and on Page 7 reviews the history of the codfish negotiations.