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ANOTHER BIG WHEAT DEAL WITH THE U.S.S.R.

The Canadian Wheat Board recently announced the sale to the Soviet Union of 4.6 million tons of wheat and 400,000 tons of wheat in the form of flour. This sale amounts to the equivalent of approximately 187 million bushels.

The wheat and flour have been purchased for cash, and delivery is to be made between August 1965 and July 1966. Shipment of the entire quantity will be made from St. Lawrence River and Atlantic ports.

This contract is in addition to the sale of 700,000 tons of wheat and 20,000 tons of flour to the U.S.S.R. announced on August 5, and to smaller contract quantities announced earlier this year but for shipment during the period August-December 1965. In total, purchases of wheat from Canada by the U.S.S.R. for delivery in the current crop year now amount to approximately 222 million bushels.

STATEMENT BY MR. SHARP

At a press conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on August 11, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, made the following statement:

"The Soviet trade delegation is in Canada for three main reasons:

- (1) To acquaint Canadian businessmen with the range of Soviet goods available for sale and to promote the sale of Soviet goods generally. The delegation will be touring Canada for this purpose. Mr. Ossipov, head of the Soviet delegation, was in Montreal yesterday for the beginning of the tour.
- (2) To engage in preliminary discussions for renewal of the Canada-Soviet Trade Agreement, which

expires in April 1966. These preliminary discussions have already taken place, and I feel confident that the agreement will be renewed on mutually beneficial terms.

(3) To buy wheat.

It is in connection with this third purpose that I have called this press conference and have asked the head of the Soviet delegation to be present.

"Last week the Wheat Board announced the sale of 700,000 tons and 20,000 tons of flour (approximately 27 million bushels) to the Soviet Union, for shipment from the Pacific Coast during the current crop year....

MARKET ASSURED

"This massive sale of another five million tons (approximately 187 million bushels) means that, once again, as in the crop year 1963-64, Canada will have an assured market for every bushel of wheat that can be moved through all our ports during the next 12 months. In fact, the total demand for our wheat is even greater than it was in that astounding year. I wish to stress, however, that, as was the case in 1963-64, the Canadian Wheat Board has taken every care to ensure that it will be able to supply our traditional markets with their normal requirements.

"With the co-operation of all concerned, we shall establish another record, which could not come at a more propitious time for the producers who have such excellent crop prospects and for the country at large....

"In announcing another massive sale to the Soviet Union, I said that this could not have come at a more propitious time. It means, in effect, a market for the