

expansion of the exchange of goods between our two countries in keeping with the spirit of the trade agreement which was signed in 1956. In due course Canadian businessmen may decide to pay a visit to the U.S.S.R. in order to explore further the possibilities of trade between our countries. I can assure you that the Canadian Government would be willing to be associated with such an undertaking. We were pleased at the goodwill that was engendered by the visit of the Russian hockey team which toured Canada this winter and we have been happy to learn that performances by Canadian artists in the U.S.S.R. have earned widespread acclaim. We shall certainly continue to give close attention to the development of good relations in these various fields. We would welcome a sign of willingness on the part of the Soviet authorities to permit freedom of movement for those persons who wish to leave the U.S.S.R. and join relatives in Canada as well as for any persons in the U.S.S.R. who hold Canadian citizenship.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the people of the Soviet Union share in their hearts the aspirations of the Canadian people in wanting to live in peace and security and in desiring to be free to pursue their individual and national development, unhampered by the burden of armaments and untroubled by suspicions and fears. May I urge that we all work towards the achievement of a state of affairs in which these aspirations can be realized.

Since giving consideration to your letter I have received your further letter of January 8, 1958 which was handed to me by your Ambassador on January 10; it also will be studied carefully and replied to in due course.

Yours sincerely,

John G. Diefenbaker