

these institutes are known to be available to us and it was this type of information which we hoped might be received in response to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

C.J. MACKENZIE

1094.

DEA/50185-40

*Le chargé d'affaires en Union soviétique
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Chargé d'Affaires in Soviet Union
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH 485

Moscow, November 26, 1948

SECRET

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 851 of October 29th concerning the exchange of information with the Soviet Union.

2. I fully agree with the views which you have expressed on the necessity of evolving a co-ordinated policy on the exchange of all types of information with the U.S.S.R. In paragraph 6 of your despatch, you stated that when a government department sends you technical material, you would take steps to see that there is an actual exchange and not a gift. I should be very interested to know the present scale of exchanges or gifts. As you no doubt know, nothing addressed to Soviet institutions passes regularly through this Embassy; I understand that Canadian departments send their publications or other materials directly through the ordinary post. We therefore have no idea of the present volume of exchanges, and we would be grateful to receive any lists of current transactions which may be available. If you do not have exhaustive lists of material being sent directly to the Soviet Union by Canadian government departments, I should suggest asking all departments concerned what is now being despatched to this country; it may well be that you have done this already. Obviously, the policy which you have in mind can be implemented only if government departments cease their present practice of sending their information directly through the open post.

3. I agree that there is little point in continuing to send cultural material to the Soviet Union, and I think we should stop doing so even though this will not impose any hardships on the Soviet authorities who are at liberty to supply themselves through Ottawa bookshops.

4. The material which non-governmental organizations send to the Soviet Union is not of great importance in either content or volume, and the Russians can certainly obtain it in Canada without any difficulty. Nevertheless, if it is possible to do so, it might be well to discourage Canadian organizations from continuing to make gifts of this nature, if only because in the Soviet mind it seems to weaken our insistence on reciprocity in all matters of scientific and cultural information.