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*Le sous-ministre du Commerce au sous-secrétaire d'État  
aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce to Under-Secretary  
of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, August 11, 1945

I refer to your letter of August 1st<sup>†</sup> and attached teletype No. WA-3978 respecting relief supplies for Italy.

With regard to the proposed visit of certain Italian officials and Mr. Harlan Cleveland, Executive Director of the Economic Section in the Allied Commission, we see no objection in principle. However, we do feel that perhaps it would be advisable before making definite arrangements for such a visit to obtain more precise information as to the nature of the procurement or other difficulties now being encountered and any specific proposals the Italians intend to suggest.

The question of relief for Italy has so far been the joint responsibility of Canada and the other Western Allies. We would not want to take any action that would imply acceptance by Canada of any increased share of responsibility in this regard though we do not wish to avoid any that now devolves upon us or to refrain from taking a proper share in what must be done for Italy.

We notice that the despatch from Washington was dated July 28 and although we have not had definite word we understand that since that time the commission has withdrawn from the field of foreign trade which now comes under the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. This might have some bearing on the nature of the discussions.

As you know we are desirous of having some trade representation in Italy as soon as possible, but have not yet been able to get a trade commissioner into Italy since the war. The whole subject of resumption of private trade with Italy is obscure and we should like to obtain further light upon it. Would the proposed delegation be able to contribute any such light?

There are some commodities (viz. cherries in brine and raw silk) which Canadian importers are desirous of importing from Italy. We have not yet been able to ascertain whether they are available, from whom, on what terms, and how transactions can be concluded. We are not in a position to answer many such questions that are now beginning to be asked of us.

M. W. MACKENZIE