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

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, September 17, 1952

Dear Mr. Sharp,

I wish to acknowledge Mr. Bull's letter of August 29 in which he was good enough to give me preliminary information regarding your Minister's plans for the good-will Mission that he will be leading to Latin America early next year.

2. I understand that the tentative itinerary is now being considered by Mr. Howe and I trust you will be able to inform me shortly of the dates selected for the visits to each country. I should also welcome receiving the names of those who are to accompany Mr. Howe. As soon as these details are available I shall be glad to ask our heads of mission in the countries to be visited to approach the governments concerned. As you will appreciate, the more advance notice these governments have of the fact that a special Mission is contemplated, the greater will be their interest in it.

3. I note from Mr. Bull's letter that it is now planned to include stops in Argentina and Uruguay. This raises the question of whether feelings will be hurt in Chile and Peru (particularly the former) if, when the Mission passes so close to these countries, it does not include stops in Lima and Santiago as well. General Odria is in power in Peru and General Ibanez will doubtless have taken office as the new President of Chile by the end of the year. The latter's government, like that of General Odria, will probably be authoritarian and friendly to General Peron. It is quite likely that in government circles in Peru and Chile and/or in the press of these countries there will be some reference to the fact that Chile and Peru are not considered "important enough" for the Mission to visit. Such references are perhaps not likely to have very serious political repercussions but might lead to some form of interference with trade such as the withholding of import licences or stricter application of currency controls. This is a matter that would be of more direct concern to your Department and I realize that to travel down the West Coast and stop over in Peru and Chile, while not involving any greater mileage, would mean prolonging the trip by about five days which your Minister might be reluctant to do.

4. I am glad to hear that you have been able to arrange for a number of important Canadian businessmen to join the Mission. The Embassies in Latin America will, I feel sure, be glad to provide every assistance to the Mission that may be required.

Yours sincerely,

L.D. WILGESS