

therefore, that while continuing to offer exchanges on an official level, the Embassy should supplement this by trying to get whatever information it can from the bookshops, possibly in liaison with the United Kingdom or United States officers who are responsible for such work.

11. I should be pleased to receive your comments on this whole problem.

I have etc.

L.B. PEARSON

1093.

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*Le président du Conseil national de recherches au
sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures*

*President, National Research Council
to Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, November 18, 1948

Dear Mr. Reid:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION FROM U.S.S.R.

A few months ago, the Council was approached by the Acting Commercial Counsellor of the Legation of the U.S.S.R. (Mr. N.S. Skvortsov) with regard to information on the testing of asbestos fibres. Since this was a purely technical inquiry, Mr. Skvortsov was directed to Mr. D. Wolochow, who is now the head of the Codes and Specifications Section of the Division of Building Research.

Before the war, Mr. Wolochow had been active in connection with research work on asbestos and had prepared a report in which were given details of a special testing device for use in connection with asbestos. One copy of this report (priced at \$25.00) was still available, and after consultation with the appropriate officers of the Council, Mr. Wolochow gave this copy to Mr. Skvortsov with our compliments.

In so doing, he had an interesting conversation with this gentlemen and, at the request of Mr. R.F. Legget, the Director of the Division of Building Research, asked Mr. Skvortsov if it might be possible for the Council to obtain some information regarding current research work in the U.S.S.R. on snow and ice in which the work of the Council is greatly interested. Mr. Skvortsov stated that he thought it would be possible to obtain some information of this character and Mr. Wolochow stated that a written request would be made in due course.

Realizing the delicacy of such an inquiry, a check has been made with officers of your Department, who advise that such an inquiry should be directed through you. I therefore write to advise you of the foregoing facts and to ask if you would be good enough to transmit this inquiry to the Legation of the U.S.S.R. if you consider that it is entirely proper for such an inquiry to be made.

It might be helpful if I add that we know the U.S.S.R. have two or three research institutes devoted to the study of snow, ice and permafrost. No publications from