

## Trade With Cuba

There is one last subject on which I should like to say a few words, since there has been so much misunderstanding about it. I refer to the matter of Canadian trade with Cuba.

Let there be no misunderstanding about our policy. We have no intention of allowing Canada to be used as a backdoor to frustrate the effect of the trade controls now being exercised by the United States. First, no commodity of United States origin may be exported from Canada to Cuba unless it is of a kind which may still be exported direct from the United States to Cuba. There is therefore no basis whatsoever for the fears which have been voiced that Canada's trade with Cuba will provide for a backdoor evasion of the United States embargo. Second, we have not authorized for export from Canada to Cuba any shipment of arms, ammunitions, military and related equipment or materials of a clearly strategic nature. This is in keeping with our policy of refraining from the export of such goods to areas of tension anywhere in the world. Third, a tight control is exercised on the export of goods such as aircraft engines which may in certain circumstances have strategic significance. The circumstances of each case determine whether the export of goods should be given an export permit. The fourth feature of our policy is that there are no restrictions on the export to Cuba of Canadian goods of a non-strategic nature.

It is quite important that this peaceful trade should also be seen in perspective. No other country, including each of the NATO allies such as the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Norway, has taken any action to impose a trade embargo similar to that of the United States. Cuba has been a traditional market for certain Canadian food exports and the United States itself has continued to ship livestock, food and drugs to Cuba and in much greater volume than the total of all exports from Canada. Since the United States embargo was imposed, Canadian trade with Cuba shows no evidence of any dramatic increase in the volume of trade. Our total exports to Cuba in 1960 were only \$13 million, which was less than the figure for 1959.

I offer these remarks to make it abundantly clear that there is no basis for the fear expressed in some United States newspapers that Canada's chief concern in its relations with Cuba has been to make a quick commercial profit at the expense of the United States. Canada is offering no special inducements or incentives on exports to Cuba and no loans or other special financial arrangements are being considered.

Apart from these commercial and economic considerations, there are of course important political and international factors which must not be overlooked. The Canadian Government is by no