

sugar to Canada during the war. Until 1954 we had imported from the Dominican Republic almost half of our extra Commonwealth sugar requirements from this country; however following the nationalization of the Ozama Sugar Company, previously held by Canadian major interests, our imports of this commodity have been negligible.

3. The establishment of a Canadian Embassy in Ciudad Trujillo in 1954 following a visit here by the then Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce generated a great deal of good will for our country. The visit of the HMCS *Quebec* in 1955 during the Peace Fair had also a great impact; however, the unfavourable trade balance of the Dominican Republic with Canada since 1954 amounting yearly to about \$4 million became, in the last year especially, troublesome. Coupled with that, we turned down a Dominican suggestion to establish a standing committee to promote trade relations with Canada, and this has no doubt hurt their pride.

4. The overthrowing of General Batista by Dr. Castro's guerillas had direct repercussion on our traditional friendship, The Generalissimo, being threatened by an invasion, turned to Canada to purchase some twelve old Vampire jets. The export permit was refused. The publicity abroad given this refusal incensed the Generalissimo. It is easy to understand this reaction since the Canadian Government's refusal was considered to be disapproval of the Trujillo régime and as an encouragement to the Dominican revolutionaries abroad. The displeasure of the Dominican authorities was felt by the personnel of this Embassy: exonerations were delayed and the coolness of some high officials was noted; however I must say that this did not reach the lower echelon of the government and the press did not hint anything on the blow suffered in our friendship.

5. It must be pointed out however that government inspired editorials have emphasized the importance of "buying from those who buy from us" and a list of countries showing the unfavourable trade balance was published, with Canada leading. In my personal dealings with high Dominican officials the conversations show their concern over our not buying more Dominican sugar and show the importance of balancing our trade.

6. I am inclined to think that following a suggestion of a recent editorial to the importers to take note of the countries having an unfavourable trade balance when placing their orders, might put the Canadian exporter in a difficult situation in the future. Indeed, in a small tightly ruled country [such] as this, we can expect that importers will govern themselves accordingly. In the international agencies Canadian candidates and proposals might not obtain the Dominican vote as in the past and for a while the Generalissimo will not, for sure, offer any decorations to Canadians.

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