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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*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, August 29, 1952

Dear Mr. Wilgress,

I have delayed replying to your letter of June 30 until the Minister's plans with regard to heading a Mission to Latin America had become more definite.

The departure date has now been tentatively set for January 5 and the return date about February 14, with the Mission travelling by R.C.A.F. plane, but here again details have still to be worked out. The countries to be visited include Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Cuba, with a stop-over en route to Trinidad.

I welcome your offer of co-operation in making the Mission a success. In this connection, while I should appreciate your advising the various Heads of Mission of what is proposed, I would suggest, however, that official advice to the Governments concerned be delayed until some time late in October, when further information will be available as to the exact date of arrival in each city.

Your proposal to have an External Affairs officer accompany the Mission is acceptable to the Minister, because, like you, he feels that the political implications may be well worthwhile. I assume that whoever may be selected from External Affairs would be available for assisting in supervising the many duties that cannot be avoided in carrying through a successful Mission of this kind.

I shall be pleased to keep you advised as to what progress we are making with regard to persuading Canadian businessmen to form part of the Mission. Up to the present, both Mr. Jim Duncan, of Massey-Harris Company Limited, and Mr. Doug Ambridge, of Abitibi Power & Paper Company Limited, have indicated their willingness to accompany the Mission.

Yours faithfully,

WM. FREDERICK BULL