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DEA/4171-D-40

*Extrait d'un télégramme du haut-commissaire au Royaume-Uni
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Extract from Telegram from High Commissioner in United Kingdom
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 501

London, April 19, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Following for M.W. Sharp, Department of Trade and Commerce, repeat W.C. McNamara Wheat Board, from Wilson, Begins: Your telegram 615 April 17† received and statement made in Executive Committee yesterday afternoon based on paragraph 5 of my telegram 483. Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, Brazil, India, Netherlands, South Africa and Dominican Republic representatives spoke in that order in appealing to United States delegation to have their instructions altered to acceptance of three year agreement. I included in my statement that if Canada had no alternative but to accept two year agreement or no agreement at all, Canada would face its responsibilities in pursuing objectives of agreement and reluctantly accept two years although earnestly hoping that United States would not confine the conference to these two alternatives. Haeffner for Germany spoke similarly. Gartoff in summarising the appeal referred to Canada and Germany as giving qualified support to two year agreement. This the Chairman Haeffner and I emphatically denied and stressed the appeal for their acceptance of three years, in accordance with the wishes of the forty other countries. Over the past two days only Argentine and Mexico indicated that they would be content with a two year agreement.

2. Although Gartoff later accepted our statements in the sense intended and is seeking fresh instructions, if you agree I think it would be useful for you to telephone McLain directly to ensure that he is apprised of the overwhelming support still remaining for three years.

3. Ceylon reported yesterday new instructions to accept 175,000 tons in place of the 240,000 earlier submitted. The Netherlands advised yesterday only 600,000,000 bushels would be put into the Agreement for signature and that they would consider adding 100,000 tons next summer if satisfied on all points by Canada and United States in matter of recordings. As soon as I learned Netherlands had no intention of putting the 100,000 tons in question into agreement for signature, I declined to discuss merits of their complaint further, saying this was a matter for them to work out with Wheat Board within the Council. Will write McNamara further on this point.

4. With these alterations in quantities, the new grand total is now 8,004,000 tons. This figure is so low that I anticipate great difficulty in keeping the Canadian figure above a flat 100 millions in the meeting with other exporters on quantities this morning. Unless we come out above 100 millions, I shall reserve Canada's position on quantities forthwith.

5. In Executive Committee we have cleaned up all outstanding textual points in agreement. In Article XX we have provided that agreement should be open for signature in Washington until May 18. Instruments of acceptance are to be deposited by July 16 or notice of intention given by then, followed by actual acceptance not later than December 1. On this basis agreement will come into operation if two-thirds of guaranteed purchases and sales are represented by acceptances or notifications by July 16.
