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Le ministre du Commerce au Premier ministre
Minister of Trade and Commerce to Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

Edmonton, December 4, 1943

Dear Mr. King,

I have just received a copy of the Report, forwarded to me from Ottawa, containing the recommendations of the officials of External Affairs and of Trade and Commerce, who have been giving close study to the manner in which the Foreign Services of the two Departments can best be co-ordinated in future.

I understand that this Report is already in your hands and that in submitting it to you Mr. Robertson had a reservation to make in regard to one recommendation, i.e., the part of Section 2 under VI, which appears at the top of page 4. The reservation which Mr. Robertson has made in respect of this section is one in which Trade and Commerce would readily concur.

My purpose in writing you is to let you know that I am well satisfied with the recommendations made by the Committee, and with the "proposed framework of co-ordination" which the Committee has submitted. It represents, I think, a thoroughly practicable method of ensuring the closest co-operation between the External Affairs offices abroad and the Trade Commissioner offices, and it provides a most useful means of regular consultation between the senior officials of the two Departments at Ottawa.

I am rather anxious, therefore, that this plan should be put into effect as soon as possible — especially so as it will facilitate progress in some measures of re-organization which I have in mind in connection with the Commercial Intelligence Service and which I think should be carried through with the least possible delay. I hope, therefore, that it will be possible for you to give early consideration to these recommendations.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. MACKINNON