

- (b) to stop sending any material whatsoever;
- (c) to try to force bargains.

4. I am sure you will agree that we cannot continue sending material into the void. The second alternative, to stop sending any material at all, means that when a government department asks us to try to obtain Soviet material (whether it offers something to the Soviet authorities in return or not), we shall have to be prepared to inform the department concerned that there is no use in our forwarding the request or transmitting any material. I do not see how we can adopt this policy with a government department. We could, of course, suggest, as Mr. Holmes mentions, that the process is so arduous for the staff at the mission as to make it scarcely worthwhile, and that the Soviet authorities are hardly likely to supply any material even if we offer something in exchange. This will not meet the reply which the departments can make, namely, that one of the reasons why we have a mission in Moscow is to meet governmental requests even when they are arduous and frustrating, and that there is no harm in trying, especially when the department concerned is anxious to get certain specific material and is willing to offer something in return. In my view, we cannot refuse to take action on requests by Canadian government departments, and I feel that the only practical procedure is to try to "force bargains". While it is extremely unlikely that the Soviet authorities will meet the requests of the government departments, I think that it is better for the blame to fall on the Soviet Union for having refused to agree to a satisfactory reciprocal exchange.

5. Our exchanges with the Soviet Union are of three principal types, not all of which can be handled in the same way. These are:

(a) exchanges of government material of a scientific nature, for technical purposes;

(b) exchanges of government material of a cultural nature for information purposes;

(c) exchanges by non-governmental Canadian organizations (such as the *Canadian Geographical Journal*).

6. With regard to the exchange of government material of a scientific nature, we should rigidly adhere to the principle of reciprocity and should "force bargains" in all cases. This principle has already been laid down in general terms but has not always been strictly adhered to. From now on, when a government department sends us material (such as seeds, technical publications, etc.) for transmission to the Soviet Union, we shall inform the department that our policy is to make the supply of such material conditional upon *prior* agreement for a reciprocal exchange. We shall then request you to inform the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Canadian government departments have certain material which they would like to exchange for certain Soviet material (or for any corresponding material of a general type if the Canadian department does not list any specific material which it would like to obtain). You would then ask the Soviet authorities whether they are interested in such an exchange and whether they agree to supply the information in which the Canadian government department is interested. If the Soviet reply is satisfactory, the Canadian material will be forwarded. In this way, the Canadian mate-