

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Aide Mémoire*

Ottawa, December 10, 1958

With reference to the Aide Mémoire from the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. dated November 28, 1958, pertaining to the trade agreement between the Soviet Union and Canada, the Canadian Government welcomes the willingness of the Government of the U.S.S.R. to extend the validity of this trade agreement for an additional 3-year period including the exchange of letters concerning values for duty. The Canadian Government wishes to encourage the further development of mutually advantageous trade relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. and to this end would be prepared to continue the present trading arrangements. The Canadian authorities have noted, however, that the Soviet Aide Mémoire makes no reference to the exchange of letters of the present agreement under which the Soviet Union undertook to purchase annually specified minimum quantities of Canadian wheat.

In the Canadian view this undertaking is fundamental to the present trade arrangements and the Canadian Government attaches particular importance to the inclusion of similar Soviet commitments in any renewal or extension of the present Agreement.

The Canadian authorities will be glad to enter into preliminary discussions concerning the various matters related to renewal of the Agreement with Soviet representatives in Ottawa. In the light of these exploratory discussions, the Canadian Government would be prepared to consider appointing an official delegation to conduct formal negotiations with the U.S.S.R. at a time and place to be agreed.