



CANADA

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CANADA -- U.S.S.R TRADE AGREEMENT

The following is a statement by Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, in the House of Commons on April 25, before tabling copies of a Protocol renewing the 1956 Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement and of the letters exchanged by the signatories to the Protocol:

"...I now table, for the information of the House, the text of the Protocol signed in Moscow on April 18, 1960, which renews for a three-year period the Trade Agreement between Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of February 29, 1956, as well as the understanding set out in the letters which the two Parties exchanged at that time concerning the right of the Canadian Government to fix under the Canadian Customs Act values of goods for ordinary and special duty.

"The Protocol also provides that each of the two governments will give sympathetic consideration to any representations which the other government may make concerning the implementation of the renewed Agreement and with regard to other matters which may affect their commercial relations. The Protocol is in force provisionally from the date of signature. It is to be ratified as soon as possible, and will enter into force definitively on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification, which is to take place in Ottawa. An early opportunity will be provided for a debate in Parliament, and a resolution of approval will be introduced to this end.

"I also have pleasure in tabling copies of letters which I exchanged with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. N.S. Patolichev, setting forth certain additional understandings concerning the development of trade between the two countries....

PROVISIONS OF PACT

"The House is familiar with the provisions of the 1956 Agreement, which is now being extended. In brief, Canada and the U.S.S.R. exchange most-favoured-nation treatment and, on a reciprocal basis, provide for non-discriminatory treatment of merchant ships in the seaports of the two countries. Either government may, however, apply prohibition or restrictions of any kind directed to the protection of its essential security interests. Our strategic export controls are therefore not affected. The Protocol extending the Agreement broadens the basis on which representations can be addressed to either of the two Parties. Previously, the two governments had agreed to give sympathetic consideration to representations concerning the implementation of the Agreement. The scope for such representations has now been enlarged to include any other matters affecting commercial relations between the two countries. Should the necessity arise, this would permit Canada, for example, to take up with the Government of the U.S.S.R. any special problems which may be encountered in respect of the sale in world markets of Soviet

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