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FRANKNESS, A MEASURE OF FRIENDSHIP

Pointing out that frankness, in good spirit, is a measure of friendship, President Eisenhower of the United States, referred in his address June 9 to Members of the Senate and of the House of Commons to problems confronting Canada and the United States in their relations with one another.

The President said that differences which from time to time are expressed "never affect the similarity of purpose which binds our two countries together".

Commenting on the United States surplus wheat disposal policies, Mr. Eisenhower said in part:

"I do not think anyone can quarrel with our purpose though some of our methods may seem unorthodox by traditional standards. Simply stated, our wheat disposal programme has three aspects.

"In times of local famine or disaster we give wheat away. We have also bartered it for strategic materials. Finally, we sell wheat for local currency to countries which cannot afford to purchase it commercially. In these cases our policy is to lend back to the Government in question most of the proceeds for local economic development. Our intent is not to damage normal commercial markets and in this I think we have been generally successful.

"I know that in the past there was criticism of certain aspects of these programmes and particularly of our barter arrangements. I believe that the basis for these objections

has been largely removed. Increasingly close consultation between officials of our two Governments has ironed out many misunderstandings respecting our surplus disposals. Your Government knows in detail what we are planning. I assure you that it is our desire and intention to keep the doors of consultation fully open. There must never be a final word between friends.

"In several respects, despite inconvenience and even occasional damage in the past, Canada stands to benefit from our moving some surplus agricultural commodities into consumption overseas. First and most evident of all, many hungry people around the world have had food which they otherwise would not have had. Secondly, had these products remained in dead storage they would have had a depressing influence on the world market and world prices. Finally, the funds which we have been enabled to make available to recipient countries should in the long run help to raise standards of living and create enlarged markets for all of us."

Turning to the question of the imbalance of trade between Canada and the United States, the President said:

"First of all, the United States and Canada are not state traders. All the products of industry manufactured in the United States and sold to customers abroad are sold through the enterprise of the private seller. These articles come to you here in Canada only because of the desire of the individual Canadian con-