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*Le chef de la délégation du commerce
au directeur par intérim de la Direction des Relations
internationales du commerce du ministère du Commerce*

*Head of Trade Delegation
to Acting Director, International Trade Relations Division,
Department of Trade and Commerce*

Quito, November 2, 1950

Dear Dr. Weeks:

PROPOSED MODUS VIVENDI WITH ECUADOR — PRESS RELEASE

Yesterday we received your letter of October 26,† your file 30810-A, together with your first draft of the Ecuadorean press release as and when it might be required. In this letter we propose dealing only with the press release.

During our negotiations the Ecuadoreans have tried very hard to obtain the inclusion in the prospective modus vivendi of lists of products which each country would undertake to buy in larger quantities from the other. We have of course resisted this proposal and have now obtained the reluctant agreement of the Ecuadorean officials that such lists should not be included in the modus, but in order to give them some consolation we have offered to ask our friends at Ottawa to see that the press release, if one is eventually issued, shall include a list of the goods that the Ecuadoreans would like to sell in Canada, and an expression of hope that the conclusion of this agreement will do something to promote trade in these articles. In this connection we stated to the Ecuadoreans in a letter that:

“At the same time we have no objection to its being made known to the citizens of Ecuador and of Canada that as a result of our negotiations it is our hope that the trade in certain commodities will benefit. We have in Canada an official publication issued by our Department of Trade & Commerce, and circulated in thousands of copies to business houses all over the country, as well as to the press. If we are successful in arriving at a mutually satisfactory modus vivendi here, we should be glad to arrange for the insertion in this publication of an announcement listing the names of the particular commodities which it is the wish of Ecuador to sell in Canada, and we should at the same time see that this statement is circulated to the entire press in Canada. We should be glad if the Ecuadorean authorities at the same time would be willing to arrange for a similar announcement in Ecuador. It is our hope that by this method the desire of both countries to stimulate trade in commodities of major commercial importance to them can be brought to the knowledge of the public even more effectively than by putting a list in a treaty, and by the method of publicity just suggested there would be no implication that, for example, Ecuador was obligating itself to purchase its wheat from Canada or Canada was obligating itself to purchase its coffee from Ecuador.”