

agreement there is nothing which would prejudice in any way our security interests because of the safeguards that have been written into the agreement. It may well be that because of this agreement the Soviet Union may wish to set up in this country certain trade facilities for the carrying out of the agreement, more particularly the obligation to purchase wheat. For that purpose it may wish to open a trade office in this country.

Indeed the Government has already received from the Soviet Government a request to that effect, namely for the opening of a small trade office more particularly for the purpose of purchasing wheat. That request is now under consideration and a decision with regard to it will be taken very shortly. No request has been made for the opening of any office with diplomatic privileges or immunities, and the Government would not be disposed to agree to the establishment in this country of any diplomatic office outside of the embassy in Ottawa.

Trade is one field in which it is possible for us to bring about at this time a more normal relationship with the Soviet Union without prejudice to our own security or our own ideals, and without diminishing in any way our close association with our friends in other parts of the world. In this treaty we are not, of course, giving the Soviet Union anything that we have not at least in equal measure given to all friendly countries long ago. It would have been unreasonable, in my opinion—and I think this opinion is shared in all quarters of the House—for the Canadian Government to have failed to take advantage of this opportunity to enter into a sensible and useful agreement. I think we would have been open to justifiable criticism from responsible and moderate people, both here in Canada and abroad, if we had turned our backs on the possibility of a reasonable working relationship with the Soviet Union in this field.

We all long for the day when there may be sufficient mutual trust that reasonable arrangements of this kind, even with communist countries, not only in trade but in many other fields, will become the rule rather than the exception. If this trade agreement and the experience of both countries with its operation over the next three years help toward that end by reducing suspicion, we shall have good cause to be satisfied with it on political as well as economic grounds.

NORTH ATLANTIC MINISTERIAL SESSION

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VI. The members of NATO are by their treaty dedicated to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law".

Their first seven years of working together have resulted in marked success and have strengthened the bonds between them.

The members of NATO are determined to remain united and steadfast to their ideals. They face the future with confidence.