



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Following is the text of a joint communique issued simultaneously in Ottawa by the Department of External Affairs and in Washington by the United States Department of State:

The Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs, which met in Washington in March 1954, held its second meeting in Ottawa today. The United States was represented by:

The Honourable John Foster Dulles,
 Secretary of State

The Honourable George M. Humphrey,
 Secretary of the Treasury

The Honourable Ezra Taft Benson,
 Secretary of Agriculture

The Honourable Sinclair Weeks
 Secretary of Commerce.

Canada was represented by:

The Right Honourable C. D. Howe, M.P.,
 Minister of Trade and Commerce and Defence Production

The Right Honourable J. G. Gardiner, M.P.,
 Minister of Agriculture

The Honourable L. B. Pearson, M.P.,
 Secretary of State for External Affairs

The Honourable W. E. Harris, M.P.,
 Minister of Finance

In addition to the members of the Joint Committee, His Excellency Douglas Stuart, United States Ambassador to Canada, and His Excellency A. D. P. Heeney, Canadian Ambassador to the United States, participated in the discussions.

This Committee was established by the United States and Canadian Governments to provide an opportunity for Cabinet members of both countries concerned with economic and trade matters to meet together periodically and review developments of common interest. Its existence symbolizes the close and friendly relations existing between the two countries and is evidence of the interest which each country has in a great number and variety of economic questions affecting the other. Its meetings supplement and reinforce the daily exchanges which take place between official representatives and between private citizens of the two countries.

At today's meeting the exchanges of views dealt mainly with general commercial policies and prospects, with progress being achieved in dealing with broad international trade and pay-

ments problems, and with policies relating to trade in agricultural products.

The Committee emphasized the importance of encouraging a large and growing volume of mutually beneficial trade between the United States and Canada. They discussed the difficulties which were experienced from time to time in this connection. They shared the view that this trade would develop most satisfactorily as part of a widespread system of freer trade and payments. Such a multilateral pattern of trade would also best serve to sustain relations between the United States and Canada, and between each of them and the many countries with which they are associated throughout the world, on a wholesome and durable basis. The Committee recognized that policies and practices which promoted these purposes were important to the national well-being and security of the two countries.

The Committee noted that, with the high rates of employment and economic activity which had prevailed in most parts of the world, the level of international trade had generally been well maintained during the past year. While some progress had been made in removing restrictions and reducing discrimination in many countries, there remained however a need for further advances in this field.

It was realized that difficult, although it is hoped temporary, problems existed as a result of the accumulation of large quantities of some agricultural products in several countries. These problems, if not handled carefully, could adversely affect the trade in such products and might also have damaging consequences for international trade generally. The members of the Committee were able to acquaint one another with their views on these matters. It was agreed that in dealing with these problems, there should be closer consultation in an effort to avoid interference with normal commercial marketings.

It was recalled that the initiative for the creation of this Committee had come from conversations between President Eisenhower and Prime Minister St. Laurent in 1953, reflecting the keen desire which both have always shown to improve understanding and strengthen relations between the two countries. At the meeting today the Canadian members expressed their deep sympathy with President Eisenhower in his illness and their hopes that he would soon be restored to full health.

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