

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE IN  
OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON 12 NOON EST,  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1953.

The Department of External Affairs today announced that the Governments of the United States and Canada have concluded an agreement establishing a Joint United States-Canadian Committee on trade and economic affairs. The agreement was effected by an Exchange of Notes between the Canadian Ambassador in Washington and the United States Secretary of State on November 12. The Canadian members of the Committee will consist of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Commerce and Agriculture or Fisheries. The United States members will be the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce.

The suggestion that a Joint Committee of this type might be established was originally made during the visit of the Prime Minister to Washington last May. Both governments have recognized that the free world is vitally interested in promoting a healthy flow of international trade. The activities of the Joint Committee will constitute one aspect of the efforts of both countries in promoting satisfactory trade relations on a multilateral basis throughout the free world.

The Joint Committee which will meet at least once a year alternately in Washington and Ottawa will consider broad questions affecting the harmonious economic relations of the two countries. After receiving reports of the Joint Committee's work each government will have an opportunity to consider measures to improve economic relations and to encourage the flow of trade.

Exchange of Notes between Canada and the  
United States on the Establishment of a  
Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs.

Note from the Canadian Ambassador in Washington to the  
Secretary of State:

Excellency:

I have the honour to refer to recent conversations between representatives of our two Governments concerning the establishment of a joint economic committee. These discussions revealed a desire on the part of both Governments to make arrangements for periodic consultation between their respective Cabinet members having major responsibility for economic policy.

I have the honour to propose, therefore, that our two Governments agree:

- (a) That there shall be established a Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs to consist,

for CANADA, of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Commerce, and either the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Fisheries;

and

for UNITED STATES, of the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce;

together with such other officials of Cabinet rank as either Government may designate from time to time, as the need arises.

- (b) That the Committee's functions shall be:
- (1) To consider matters affecting the harmonious economic relations between the two countries;
  - (2) In particular, to exchange information and views on matters which might adversely affect the high level of mutually profitable trade which has been built up;
  - (3) To report to the respective Governments on such discussions in order that consideration may be given to measures deemed appropriate and necessary to improve economic relations and to encourage the flow of trade;
- (c) That the Committee shall meet once a year or more often, as may be considered necessary by the two Governments;
- (d) That the Committee shall meet alternately in Washington and Ottawa, the Chairman to be a Canadian member when the meetings are held in Canada, and a United States member when meetings are held in the United States.

If the Government of the United States is agreeable to the foregoing proposals, I suggest that the present Note and Your Excellency's reply to that effect should constitute an agreement between our two Governments which shall take effect this day and shall remain in force until such time as either Government shall have given notice in writing of its desire to terminate the agreement.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

Ambassador of Canada.

Note from the Secretary of State to the Canadian Ambassador in Washington:

Excellency:

I have the honour to refer to your Note of November 12, 1953, in which you made proposals for the establishment of a Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the United States concurs in these proposals and agrees that your Note and the present reply should constitute an agreement between our two Governments which shall take effect this day and which shall remain in force until such time as either Government shall have given notice in writing of its desire to terminate the agreement.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

Secretary of State.

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