Canada's Trade With Cuba Is Expected To Nosedive

By JACK BEST

OTTAWA (CP) — Canadian trade with Cuba is expected to take a nosedive this year.

The anticipated decline to perhaps an even lower level than before the United States applied economic sanctions against the Castro regime may remove a thorny irritant from Canadian-American relations.

Authorities here are convinced that, barring unforeseen developments, Cuban purchases from Canada in 1962 will be only a fraction of the $31,104,000 they reached in 1961.

They reason that the total ban on Cuba's dollar - earning exports to the U.S. will dry up the Caribbean country's supply of convertible currency used to finance purchases from Canada.

One estimate is that Canadian exports to Cuba will just about level out with Cuba's sales to Canada, not much higher than the $5,000,000 to $6,000,000 expected to be the final 1961 figure.

NEW ORDERS DROP

New orders from Cuba are reported to have practically ceased in the last several months.

The $31,104,000 in Canadian sales to Cuba last year, compared with $13,038,000 in 1960 and $15,222,000 in 1959, represented about one-half of one per cent of this country's total export trade.

Canadian exports have not come anywhere near taking up the slack left by the U.S. embargo on shipments to the Red-controlled island republic, first imposed in the fall of 1960 and since tightened up.

In 1959, the last full year before the break in economic relations, the U.S. shipped to Cuba $438,592,000 worth of goods and imported from Cuba $474,663,000 worth. In 1960 these figures fell to $222,734,000 and $357,165,000 respectively.

As late as last year, however, U.S.-Cuban trade was still appreciably higher than between Canada and Cuba.

KENNEDY'S BAN

American exports totalled about $14,000,000—less than half Canada's — but American imports dwarfed those of Canada, running well over $20,000,000.

Cuban sales to the U.S. this year — mostly cigar tobacco—were running at about the same clip as 1961 until President Kennedy on Feb. 7 banned all purchases from the island.

This move is believed to have crippled Cuba's ability to buy from Canada since trade all along has been on a dollar basis. It is considered possible, however, that the Soviet Union will help fill the gap by providing Cuba with more hard currency in payment for sugar. If this should happen Cuban purchases from Canada might remain fairly brisk.

Trade officials here had always expected—and so warned exporters — that the relative boom in trade with Cuba would be shortlived.

TEMPORARY MEASURE

It was seen as an outgrowth of Cuba's need to keep its economy going in the transition period of reorienting its trade toward the Soviet bloc.

Some observers estimate that this year 85 to 90 per cent of Cuba's foreign trade will be with the Communist countries, mainly barter.

Long before February's U.S. ban on imports, trade officials had noted a falling-off in some of the heaviest lines of Cuban purchases from Canada.

In the first 10 months of 1961 Canada sold $600,000 worth of cattle to Cuba, an average of $60,000 a month. In November, sales sank to $13,000.

Swine sales in the first 10 months reached $1,061,000. In November there were none.

This could mean Cuba has completed its herd-building program.

Sales of baby chicks and hatching eggs continued heavy, possibly a reflection of Cuba's policy of emphasizing consumption of high-protein foods such as eggs and chickens.

SHIPPED WOODPULP

More than $2,700,000 of Canadian exports to Cuba last year were in woodpulp, used in making paper. Other sales included potatoes, tallow, chemicals and insecticides for agriculture, power-pole transformers, flour, steel sheet and strip, synthetic rubber, copper tubing, containing board, veterinary medicines and biological products, and milk powder.

Many officials here feel that American criticism of Canada's trade with Cuba has been unfair. They maintain that, with the possible exception of the U.S. itself, no country has done more than Canada to restrict trade in strategic goods with Castro.

Canada has had an embargo against shipment of arms and strategic materials since 1958. When the U.S. was still shipping military hardware to Fulgencio Batista and maintaining a military mission in Cuba to train his troops, Canada had cut off sales to both sides in the civil war. Batista was overthrown Jan. 1, 1959.

The strategic list was tightened in 1960 when Canada applied to Cuba the NATO list of goods to be withheld from shipment to any Communist country.

Canadian officials have been vigilant to see that this country is not used as a back door for clandestine shipments of goods from the U.S. to the Cubans.

To obviate any possible U.S. complaint, authorities forbid shipment of any American-made goods to Cuba, even though the particular consignment may have originated in Canada. This even applied to a shipment of bibles.

The Canadian embassy in Washington has been trying to explain the Canadian position to whomever will listen but this hasn't been altogether successful. Officials believe the U.S. government has come to accept the Canadian attitude but there are still criticisms made in public from time to time.

Canada's position is that it has no grounds for breaking off commercial relations with Cuba and that Castro's government has gone out of its way to see that no pretext is given.

Pearson Claims Government Amiss In Northland Policy

WHITEHORSE, Y.T. (CP) — Liberal leader Pearson said here the Conservatives government has been mesmerized by roads in its vision of Northern development. A Liberal government would provide more air strips and radio communications for the north.

Mr. Pearson flew to Whitehorse from Edmonton to become the first national party leader to visit the Yukon during a general election campaign.

Northern development, he said, was the result of normal business enterprise taking advantage of circumstances and was not due to "the government's tender care."

He was not opposed to the building of roads, but more air strips, better radio communications, more up-to-date mapping and better surveys of all kinds were needed.

"Unfortunately, the government, mesmerized by the idea of roads, hasn't understood all the priorities," he said. "It has done very little indeed to step up the other fundamental activities that will encourage northern development."

Mr. Pearson said that between 1956 and 1961 average personal incomes in the Yukon and Northwest Territories fell 12 per cent while in the last five years of the previous Liberal government personal incomes rose 62 per cent.

His remarks for delivery at a moose meat barbeque were distributed to reporters in advance.

Before leaving Edmonton, Mr Pearson told reporters that if elected he would re-examine the survival training program to see if the results of it justified the expense of continuing it.

One of its faults has been that once trained the participants are lost unless they join the militia forces, he added.

He was questioned on his attitude towards the Lord's Day Act and said: "Oh, I wouldn't want to commit myself on that, being the son of the grandson of Methodist ministers."

Translation Of Bible Made By Nfld. Woman

TORONTO (CP) — Millicent Howse, a United Church of Canada missionary in Angola for 35 years, has just completed translation of the Bible into Umbundu, an African dialect.

She recently completed revision of second proofs at her home in St. John's, Nfld., and expects first copies to come off the presses in London, Eng., shortly.

Miss Howse told the annual meeting of the Toronto conference of the United Church today that it will be the only diglot Bible in existence—Portuguese authorities in Angola insist all publications must be bilingual.

AMBITIOUS, SAYS SOCIETY

The Bible includes both the old and new testaments and will cover 1,000 pages in one volume.

Miss Howse worked in conjunction with the British and Foreign Bible Society, which describes it as the most ambitious translation they have handled.

She started on the translation in 1956 at a United Church mission in southern Angola.

"Much of my work consisted of revising translation made by a number of missionaries over the past 85 years," she said.

The new Bible will be the 230th complete translation known to the Canadian Bible Society, though scriptures have been translated into 1,081 dialects.

Miss Howse is on holiday in Canada and hopes to return to the Portuguese colony soon.

She was born in Tilt Cove, Notre Dame Bay, Nfld, and educated in St. John's.

Her brother, Rev. E. M. Howse, is president of the Toronto conference.

Bowling pins are made of hard white maple, lacquered and heat dried.

Deans Named By Ottawa U

OTTAWA (CP) — The University of Ottawa's faculty of law —the only one in Canada providing instruction in both the common law of the English-speaking provinces and the civil law of Quebec — announced Friday the appointment of full-time deans to head each section.

Dean of common law is to be Thomas G. Feeney, 38, of Fredericton and Ottawa. He has been director of common law studies at the university since 1957.

Dean of civil law is to be Dr. Pierre Azard, 49, a native of Paris, France, who directed the university's law faculty's doctoral course in civil law from 1957 to 1960.

The university said reorganization of the faculty is a result of the resignation of Mr. Justice Gerald Fauteux of the Supreme Court of Canada.

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