

MARCH 19, 1975

GLOBE & MAIL

~~Trade Minister~~ Gillespie in Cuba with Trade Delegation

Dictated by phone

RB 121

Alistair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arrived here this afternoon at the head of a ~~twenty~~ twenty-six ~~sixty-two~~ ~~businessmen~~ delegation of/Canadian businessmen. ~~sixty-two~~ The delegation was met at the airport by ~~the~~ the Cuban Trade Minister, Marcelo Fernandez, and a large group of top Cuban trade and ~~and~~ industry officials. Gillespie is the highest ranking Canadian government official to visit Cuba since the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959.

~~Gillespie~~ Gillespie said upon his arrival ~~that he had spoken to~~ that he had spoken to

Prime Minister Trudeau before he left Ottawa and ~~that~~ ~~quote~~ that ^{quite} there is no question that he is most interested in this mission." He added, "I think we all recognize it as being an important event in ~~the~~ terms of developing Canada-Cuba relations."

The Canadian Foreign Trade Minister said that the Canadian businessmen see opportunities to sell ~~the~~ the Cubans machinery for agricultural purposes, agricultural products, fish processing equipment, locomotives, ~~communications~~ ~~systems~~, air traffic ~~systems~~ control systems, communications systems, ships ~~as well as~~ ^{and} other products. ~~Gillespie~~ Gillespie

also said that it is possible that some kind of ~~financing~~ agreement/will be signed during his stay here.

Gillespie ^{also declared} ~~also~~ said that Canada is a developing market for Cuban sugar. ~~He~~ He pointed out that ^{in 1974} Cuba doubled its sales of sugar to Canada in terms of tonnage, ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~1974~~ multiplied it by ten in terms of value.

Headline: Canadian Trade Minister Gillespie in Cuba with Trade Delegation of 26 businessmen (over)

Notes: ~~that trade is~~ ~~street~~ ~~equipment~~ ~~and~~ ~~also~~ ~~declared~~ ~~also~~ ~~said~~ ~~that~~ ~~Canada~~ ~~is~~ ~~a~~ ~~developing~~ ~~market~~ ~~for~~ ~~Cuban~~ ~~sugar~~ ~~He~~ ~~pointed~~ ~~out~~ ~~that~~ ~~Cuba~~ ~~doubled~~ ~~its~~ ~~sales~~ ~~of~~ ~~sugar~~ ~~to~~ ~~Canada~~ ~~in~~ ~~terms~~ ~~of~~ ~~tonnage~~ ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~1974~~ ~~multiplied~~ ~~it~~ ~~by~~ ~~ten~~ ~~in~~ ~~terms~~ ~~of~~ ~~value~~

DOING

Gillespie also referred ^{to} the possibility of ~~an~~ an air agreement between the Canadian and Cuban governments and a ~~direct~~ regular air link between the two nations. "I see it as a very important link and I hope that the negotiations will get underway ~~very soon~~ shortly," ~~he said that the actual~~ *he said and added that* ~~negotiations~~ *for an air agreement* will be conducted by the Department of External Affairs but "I ~~will~~ in a general way, be discussing the ~~interest~~ interest of ~~Cubans~~ and ~~certainly~~ the Canadian government in establishing an air link."

The Cuban Minister of Trade, Fernandez, expressed optimism about the results of the Canadian delegation's visit. He said that his discussions with Mr. Gillespie and the business men meetings with Cuban officials should be fruitful ~~in themselves~~ *ful* and ~~said that it is very possible~~ *might* that some concrete agreements will be announced before the Canadian delegation ~~leaves~~ leaves for Caracas, Venezuela next Sunday.

March 19, 1975
Gillespie Arrives

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