

**STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13210

January 25, 1968

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The Honorable Wayne Morse
The United States Senate
417 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Morse:

At your Committee's hearings on Monday, January 22 in testimony concerning forest resources and log exports to Japan, I was asked to supply such information as might be readily available on coniferous timber inventories for various countries of the world. I am enclosing summaries of the latest available data, compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Tables I, II, and III show forest area, inventory volume, and estimated wood harvest by major world regions. In these tables, "North America" means the United States and Canada; therefore, in Table IV, I have assembled comparable data for each of these separately. In Table V, commercial forest area and inventory for the United States and Canada as reported in the latest available source (1960) are given. All of these data are from survey inventories and estimates made in 1960 or earlier in the various countries.

The more useful figures are those on the existing inventory volume of standing timber (growing stock) for the commercial or productive forest areas; within these figures, the data on conifers are considered to be much more accurate than those for hardwoods because the conifer resources have long been more important and more widely used in the countries having them.

Your Committee will note from Tables II and IV that the United States has about 12 per cent of the world's coniferous timber inventory by volume, and Canada has about 12 per cent. These data for the United States include the South and other regions besides the Pacific Northwest. The USSR, on the other hand, has about 50 per cent of the world's softwood resources, most of it being in Siberia. In view of our own Nation's present and rapidly enlarging wood needs, there would appear to be far less justification for our exporting log supplies to the Japanese market than for Canada or the USSR to do so.

Your Committee and staff members will find a most useful interpretive analysis of the United States' position in the world balance of trade in wood in the 1960 publication of the Resources for the Future, Inc., by John A. Silvaska. Although this little 105 page book is distributed by the Johns Hopkins Press in Baltimore,