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British Deal Regrettable, U.S. Says

The State Department expressed "regrets" yesterday over the British government's decision to extend long-term credits to the Soviet Union.

A contract was signed Monday in London for sale of a fiber plant valued at about \$85 million. When asked for comment, Robert McCloskey, United States State Department spokesman, said:

"Our views are well known to all countries concerned. We disapprove of granting long-range credits to Communist countries and therefore we regret the action taken by the British."

The credit agreement between Britain and the Soviets is for 15 years. The United States opposes credits of more than five years for Communist countries, holding that longer terms would represent a form of economic aid.

The British agreement came as no surprise here. British Prime Minister Douglas-Home made it clear during his visit to Washington last February that Britain would extend credits longer than five years to the Soviet Union and likely to other bloc countries, if necessary.