



communiqué

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EXPULSION OF SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that the Soviet Embassy has been asked to withdraw Mr. Mikhail N. Abramov from Canada. Mr. Abramov is a trade representative with the Soviet Commercial Office in Ottawa.

The RCMP Security Service, under the direction of the Solicitor General, the Honourable Robert Kaplan, with the assistance of a Canadian businessman, has effectively thwarted Mr. Abramov's attempts to purchase certain forms of high technology. After a careful review of the evidence, which included offers of large sums of money to buy and illegally export fibre optic and other restricted high technology products, the Canadian Government has decided that Mr. Abramov, having clearly engaged in activities which are incompatible with his status, should leave Canada within ten days.

It was pointed out to the Embassy that this is the third such incident in the last four years. These incidents only serve to raise questions as to the sincerity of Soviet Government officials in their repeated statements that they wish to improve relations with Canada and develop a useful and mutually profitable working relationship. Such activity will not be tolerated by the Canadian Government and the consequences of these activities are entirely the responsibility of the Soviet Government.