

On December 8, 1973, Canada and the USSR signed a two year programme of scientific, academic and cultural exchanges for the period 1974-75 at the conclusion of the Second Session of the Canada/USSR Mixed Commission on General Exchanges which was held in Ottawa from December 6 to 8. The Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. J. G. H. Halstead, Head of the Canadian Delegation, signed on behalf of Canada and Mr. I. N. Zemskov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed on behalf of the Soviet Union. Represented on the Canadian Delegation were federal government departments and agencies, provincial governments and organizations and members of the academic community.

The Canada/USSR Mixed Commission was established by the General Exchanges Agreement which was signed by Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Kosygin in October 1971 in Ottawa. Its first session was held in Moscow in June 1972 when it worked out the Programme of Exchanges which expires at the end of December this year. Under the agreement the Mixed Commission meets alternately in Moscow and Ottawa.

There are seven major areas of co-operation included in the programme: science, education, the arts, cinematography, television and radio, sports and tourism. The guiding principles of all aspects of the programme are mutual benefit and reciprocity.

A number of major new features are included in the 1974-75 programme, including an agreement to develop sports exchanges on the basis of an agreement on principles of co-operation between sports organizations signed the same day by representatives of the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Committee for Physical Culture and Sport of the USSR.

The programme provides for further work to be done on programmes relating to the arctic sciences. It envisages the conclusion of an agreement on medicine and public health and includes a new programme of exchanges in social sciences.

In the field of education, the programme provides for the continuation of exchanges of students, professors and translators as well as delegations of educational officials and specialists.

In the field of the arts, it provides for exchanges in the performing arts, exchanges of art exhibitions, the loan of works of art, the exchange of writers and poets and the visits of theatre directors and designers, choreographers and teachers of the arts.

It also includes an exchange of publishers, editors and journalists and a new programme of co-operation between libraries and archives in Canada and the Soviet Union.