

weapons, we would have achieved a great thing, not only in terms of possible destruction of another war, but in terms of the resources that would be freed for more useful purposes.

Q. A great deal hinges on the attitudes of the Soviet Union, of course, towards the West. How much progress have we made towards more normal relations ourselves with the Soviet Union?

A. Quite a bit. You look back at relations with the Soviet Union in recent years. Expo '67 was a sort of a turning point. Six thousand Soviet citizens came to Canada in connection with Expo '67, had a good look at our country, and probably revised their views about what we are like. And certainly it created an atmosphere of good will and interest in Canada. In October of 1969 I had Mr. Gromyko here--the Soviet Foreign Minister, and at that time he extended an invitation to Mr. Trudeau to go to the Soviet Union. The crisis we had over the kidnapping prevented Mr. Trudeau from going in 1970, but he'll be going in 1971. This would mark a new high point in our relationships. My colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, M. Pepin, is going over to Moscow early in the new year to sign an agreement on co-operation and the industrial application of science and technology. This would be the first inter-governmental agreement on exchanges between the Soviet Union and Canada. We've been working with the Soviet Union on Pacific fisheries, and we've had agreements with them there. So I think we're making progress. There are bound to be conflicts, but we seem to be learning how to deal with them. This, I think, is an augury of good will for the future.

Q. That brings up the subject of the United Nations, and a year ago you were rather critical of the performance at the U.N. Has there been any marked improvement, in your view?

A. Well, a remarkable thing happened this year in the United Nations. I remember when the session began people were rather pessimistic about what might be done this year. In fact, a great deal was accomplished. Not spectacular things. The United Nations didn't end the Viet Nam war, or the Middle East War, but it did some very useful things, particularly in the field of the disarmament of the seabed, in the launching of the Second Development Decade, in the field of the environment. While there was a good deal of pessimism about the Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebrations and some disappointment that more of the world figures didn't emerge, and appear before the United Nations and make their speeches, it wasn't a bust after all. We have been moving ahead with our initiatives in trying to improve the procedures. As I said a year ago, the United Nations is in danger of drowning in a sea of words. We spent a good many more words deciding what to do about it, but at any rate, we've now got a resolution approved which authorizes a study of these procedures and presumably there will be some improvement there. There was also an agreement that the