

Hon. Mr. Martin: I would remind honourable senators that the protocol makes reference to the 1956 trade agreement between Canada and the Soviet Union. That agreement was signed in Ottawa on February 29, 1956. It continues to be the basis of our trading relationships with that country. It will be recalled that when the agreement was signed following negotiations undertaken by the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson as Secretary of State for External Affairs in that year, there was wide acclaim in both Houses of Parliament.

The communiqué agreed to by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Prime Minister of Canada on May 19 specifies that the negotiations for the renewal of the current trade agreement will begin late this year, probably in November. It should be pointed out, however, that that agreement when renewed will simply be a continuation of the agreement initialled in 1956.

It is well also to recall that in 1959, during the Prime Ministership of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, the National Research Council was authorized to enter an agreement with the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. That agreement provided an opportunity for exchange visits between Canadian and Russian scientists. In the more than ten years that have elapsed, more than 100 Canadian scientists have undertaken research projects in the Soviet Union. A comparable number of Soviet scientists have carried out research in Canada. The 1959 agreement, which has since been renewed, has provided for the exchange of scientists in genetics, electrical engineering, mining engineering, plant pathology, geological sciences, insect pathology, oceanography, metallurgical chemistry and earth science.

The protocol which we are now discussing notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the agreement between the two countries on Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Science and Technology. That Agreement was tabled in this chamber on February 9 this year, and was briefly discussed by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Flynn) and me. At that time I mentioned the hope that this instrument would aid in the exchange of information, visits of experts and businessmen, and licensing agreements in particular technological areas. I suggested that both countries had a common concern in studying such matters as permafrost conditions and severe climates, and that working groups had been assigned to investigate construction, power, the oil industry and the gas industry in the common conditions we share. The Leader of the Opposition, thinking no doubt of the National Research Council's agreement of 1959, among other matters, quite properly indicated that there had been considerable co-operation for some ten years between the Soviet Union and Canada in the scientific and technological field, and I readily acknowledge now that that was the case.

Precedents for the Soviet-Canadian Agreement on Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Science and Technology are to be found in the agreement between the Soviet Union on the one hand, and the United Kingdom, France and Italy, among other countries, on the other hand.

[Hon. Mr. Martin.]

In addition, there have been visits of political personalities to the Soviet Union. These have been on the increase, I think happily so, in recent years. I myself, as Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited the Soviet Union in 1967. Mr. Pearson was in 1956 the first foreign minister from the western world to go to the Soviet Union, other than Mr. Eden who had gone there during the period of war. A number of distinguished senators, among them our respected Speaker, Senators Connolly and Aird, and the Leader of the Opposition, visited the Soviet Union somewhat over a year ago. I am sure there are other senators, whose names do not come to mind readily, who have paid visits to our northern neighbour. In recent months the Leader of the Opposition in the other place, and the former Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, have been welcomed to the Soviet Union.

It is the intention, as is quite clear from the protocol of May 19, that future bilateral contacts and exchanges should be seen, not only as a function of relations between governments but also in the greater movement back and forth of non-governmental personalities in all fields, such as commercial, developmental, scientific, technological, cultural and touristic, all primarily in the name of particular purposes, but basically as part of the kind of intercourse that must prevail if we are to maintain a world more stable and more peaceful.

If I have spent a few moments elaborating on the earlier stages of the development of our relationship with the Soviet Union in these matters, it is because I wish to put these recent events in perspective. Last Friday I heard it suggested that the Government was embarking on a completely new course in a new direction, and was engaged in charting a voyage in new waters. Certainly the protocol and communiqué that have been tabled are important documents. The Government has said so; I reaffirm it now. They do not indicate, however, a completely new course in a completely new direction, as a reading of both the communiqué and the protocol will indicate. The communiqué admittedly is a lengthy one, longer than most communiqués. However, that is in full compliance with the tradition of the Soviet Union, in both bilateral discussions and multilateral exchanges.

As the communiqué has not been as widely published as it might have been, I mention again that it is longer than our own communiqués, but that was because as the Soviet Union was host country we took no objection to the length provided we were satisfied with the substance of the document. Matters of particular bilateral interest, such as northern development, Arctic conditions and environmental problems, were dealt with in the communiqué, because they were matters that were discussed and negotiated. Beyond that, however, as well the communiqué mentioned aspirations with regard to a settlement in Vietnam, the common desire that Ambassador Jarring should persevere with his work in the Middle East for the United Nations, and the interests of our two countries in matters of underground nuclear testing, the prohibition of biological weapons, and the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons on the ocean floor.

The matter of future and regular consultations, which was dealt with in the protocol, has attracted a certain