



Visit to the
 U.S.S.R.
 by Prime Minister
 Brian Mulroney

November 20-25, 1989

La visite du
 Premier ministre
 Brian Mulroney en
 URSS

du 20 au 25 novembre 1989

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 Dept. of External Affairs
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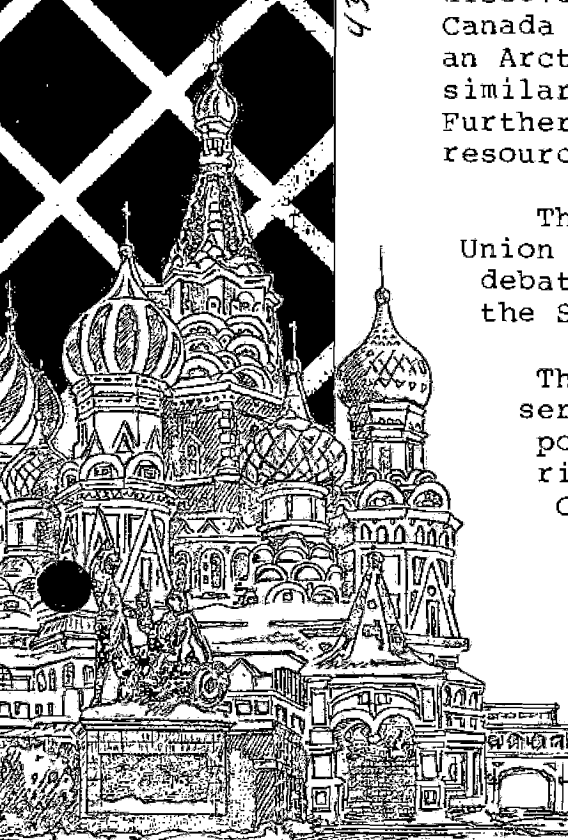
As large northern countries, Canada and the Soviet Union share many of the same environmental challenges. Through closer bilateral co-operation the two countries hope to reach effective and lasting solutions to the problems they face.

The Agreement Concerning Environmental Cooperation, which will be signed during the Prime Minister's visit, will formalize links between Environment Canada and Goskomiropreda, the newly created Soviet Committee for Environmental Protection. Canada also envisions more extensive co-operation with the Soviet Union on atmospheric and water research, the prevention of marine pollution in the Arctic, and general environmental concerns in the Arctic and Far North.

Canada and the Soviet Union co-operate at present through regular scientific exchanges and joint projects monitoring the Arctic climate and atmospheric pollution. For example, with the discovery of an "ozone hole" over Antarctica, Canada and the Soviet Union began development of an Arctic "ozone map" to try to determine if a similar phenomenon existed in the Far North. Further collaboration is possible, drawing on the resources and experience of both countries.

The environmental movement in the Soviet Union is growing. Concerns figure prominently in debates in the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet.

The newly elected deputies must tackle such serious environmental problems as industrial pollution, toxic accumulation in lakes and rivers, the depletion of the Aral Sea in Central Asia due to excessive irrigation, and widespread health problems caused by pollutants--especially in Central Asia, and in the Ukraine and Belorussia, where the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe are still being felt.



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