

experience significant internal changes. The Western nations cannot simply abandon the initiative to the other side or ignore the possibilities of accelerating or modifying such changes as are relevant to Western interests.

Canadian Relations with European Communist Nations

I outline these points not as laws governing complex political situations but as impressions derived from experience.

Although Canada recognized the Soviet Union in 1924 and had a Soviet trade mission established in Montreal for three years after that, relations were scarcely developed in any very definite sense in the period between the wars. Trade was intermittent and erratic, subject to political problems and the considerable difficulties arising from differences in the trading systems.

The establishment of resident diplomatic missions in 1942 did open a new era in relations between the two countries, but friendship generated by wartime co-operation was affected by some of the severe political problems of the years immediately following the war. These missions were not headed by ambassadors between 1946 and 1954.

In the nine years intervening between that time and the noticeable East-West "thaw" of the summer of 1963, our experience was very much the same as that of most Western nations. The major world crises imposed definite limits on the development of friendlier relations, but there were some moves towards a more normal situation.

In 1955, for example, Mr. Pearson, who was then Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited the Soviet Union. In 1956, a trade agreement was signed which has been extended, at intervals, since that time. Certain contacts and exchanges did develop, of which the arrangement between the Canadian National Research Council and the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1959 is a good example.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, where we had established missions in Prague, Warsaw and Belgrade soon after the war, our experience followed similar patterns -- except, of course, in the special case of Yugoslavia.

Since the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and related agreements, the possibilities of a move towards friendlier and more normal relations in all fields have certainly appeared greater. I give you the impressions derived from personal involvement.

You will be interested in the significant trends in our relations with the European Communist countries, particularly with reference to:

- (1) formal diplomatic contacts;
- (2) trade;
- (3) scientific and cultural exchanges;
- (4) political discussions.