

EVENTS AND VISITS

- The Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament co-hosted, along with the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies, a conference on Canada-Soviet Co-operation in the Arctic from February 17-23 in Moscow and Leningrad. The meeting, a follow-up to one held in Ottawa in October 1989, studied progress in the fields of transportation, science and technology, native issues and Arctic security.
- "Glasnost and the Global Village" was the title of a major conference held at York University in Toronto, February 19-22. Topics on the agenda included economic restructuring, communications and expression, political culture and global ecology.
- Ed Broadbent, President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, visited Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in early February. Mr. Broadbent met with human rights activists, feminist organizations and scholars in an attempt to strengthen ties and advise the Task Force on projects which might be undertaken in the Region.
- The Department of Justice welcomes a delegation of high-level officials from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, March 22-31. While in Ottawa, the group, which includes Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky, the country's Attorney General and the President of the Supreme Court, will discuss constitutional law, human rights and the rights of national minorities.

WITNESSING THE TRANSFORMATION

7

Canadian Ambassador Derek Fraser agrees that his posting to Budapest comes at a "fascinating period of transition" in Hungary's history.

Since arriving in September 1988 to head the Canadian Embassy in Hungary, he has witnessed a political transformation—when democratic elections ended the rule of the Hungarian Communist party—and now he is on hand to see the country's economic change-over from a state-run to a market economy.

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Ambassador Derek Fraser

The Ambassador is playing a key role in Canada's efforts to ease that transition through the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe. He acts as a link between Hungarian government officials and agencies and the wide range of Canadian non-governmental groups, private enterprises and government departments which are offering their time and expertise. Canadians, he points out, are actively involved in training bankers, lawyers and managers as well as assisting in worker retraining.

The economic upheaval presents a trying time for Hungarians, Ambassador Fraser says: "The next two years are going to be particularly difficult because of the process of economic reform, as well as the incredible increase in the price of oil." He is convinced, however, that Hungary's future is promising: "I think that the Hungarian proposals for economic reform are on the right track, and provided they continue to follow it, the country could be poised for an economic take-off in about three or four years time." ■