

*U.S.S.R.-Canada Protocol*

arrangements are very flexible. They are as useful as we want to make them. In effect, it is for this that these arrangements provide.

As I have suggested, the form used to establish arrangements of this kind can vary depending upon circumstances. Informal consultative arrangements also exist with France. We have a commission mixé. These arrangements were brought into being without any written exchange and without debate in the House, and have proven no less useful and effective for those reasons.

● (12:50 p.m.)

I do not intend to rehearse today the circumstances in which all our arrangements similar to the Canada-U.S.S.R. Protocol were worked out. In addition to those I have dealt with, we have consultative arrangements with Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Tunisia. In no case was any of these arrangements reached after debate in the House.

It cannot be argued that the signing of the Protocol augurs any change in the direction of our foreign policy. The Prime Minister has stated publicly in Moscow that Mr. Kosygin signed the Protocol in the full understanding that Canada intends to continue its full membership in the North Atlantic Alliance and as a close ally of the United States in the defence of North America. The Prime Minister and I on a number of occasions have stated in this House and elsewhere Canada's firm intention to increase its bilateral contacts with the nations of Eastern Europe. A definitive statement of government policy on this matter is there for all to read in "Foreign Policy for Canadians."

The North Atlantic Alliance, in its search for detente, has urged upon its members, including Canada, the advantages to be gained by the multiplication of contacts and consultations between its members and members of the Warsaw Pact, so that far from doing anything that is suspicious to our allies we are in fact carrying out what has been decided upon as sound policy in the interests of promoting peace and stability in the world.

In this connection hon. members will recall that a protocol providing for consultations on a wide range of issues was signed in Moscow last October by President Podgorny of the Soviet Union and President Pompidou of France, one of our NATO allies. And apropos of the point made by the hon. member opposite that we did not consult with our allies in advance of our signing this Protocol with the Soviet Union, I can assure the House that France did not consult her allies before signing that protocol with the Soviet Union. We took no exception to it. We welcomed it, and I hope that today the hon. member has welcomed our signing a similar protocol. I know that our Protocol with the Soviet Union will be welcomed by our allies as carrying out a firm and declared policy of NATO.

The development of Canada's bilateral relations with the Soviet Union has been steady and positive, although there have been a number of setbacks. After the euphoria

[Mr. Sharp.]

that characterized the immediate post-war period our relations might have been described as correct. The cold war thawed briefly in the period 1955-56 and a trade agreement between Canada and the Soviet Union was signed at Ottawa on February 29, 1956. This was followed by a visit to the Soviet Union by the right hon. Lester B. Pearson, then Secretary of State for External Affairs. This was the first visit made by a Canadian secretary of state for external affairs to the Soviet Union.

The present phase of our relations with the Soviet Union can be said to date from 1965 which saw the first academic exchanges and the first posting of Canadian newsmen in Moscow. These moves stemmed from the first large sales of Canadian wheat, from the détente arising from the settlement of the Cuban crisis, and the signing of the test ban treaty. Continuing wheat sales and the growing Soviet need for western sources of technology encouraged the Soviet Union to seek closer relations and wider exchanges, cultural, technological and scientific, with Canada. Soviet participation in Expo 1967 brought Deputy Premier Polyansky to Canada in 1966 and 1967. A number of other Soviet ministers also visited Expo 1967, as did some 6,000 other Soviet citizens. In the same year Senator Martin, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited the Soviet Union, as did other ministers.

The Soviet Union, after the freeze in east-west relations brought about by the invasion of Czechoslovakia, moved quickly to re-establish contact with a number of western countries, including Canada. In July, 1969, Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, stated that:

The Soviet government attaches substantial significance to our relations with Canada. In recent years, a widening of mutually beneficial links have developed in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields—

**Mr. MacInnis:** Would the minister accept a question?

**Mr. Sharp:**

—and a good basis laid for political contacts between our countries. We are for a further development of relations with Canada.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond seeks the consent of the minister to ask a question at this time.

**Mr. MacInnis:** I wonder if the minister realizes the synchronization between himself and the three members in the gallery was slightly off on the turning of that last page. One fellow was a little slow.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I compliment the hon. member for Hillsborough. His witticisms were far superior.

**Mr. McBride:** That isn't hard.

**Mr. Sharp:** This was closely followed by Mr. Gromyko's visit to Ottawa in October, 1969. This visit gave