

as the main supplier of arms, whether or not the ceasefire holds is very much in Moscow's hands.

The communiqué contented itself with endorsing a settlement on the basis of the United Nations Security Council resolutions; that amounts to an agreement to disagree, since the resolutions have been given different interpretations by the different parties involved.

Trade arena

Trade — getting it beyond talks to contracts — was raised with all three of the leaders Mr. Sharp met, but with Mr. Kosygin he got down to details. Even though Mr. Kosygin is considered the economic genius among Soviet leaders and the man who is pushing for technological development, the details of trade with Canada remain pretty vague.

Trade to the Russians means producer goods — the technical equipment to increase Soviet productive capacity. Few firms in Canada are in a position to undertake the kind of industrial development that Russia has been able to derive from Italy, for example, with the Fiat automobile plant, or from the United States, with an entire chemical industry. Unless the Russians are prepared to increase their direct importation of consumer goods, trade with Canada is not likely to rise much above the present \$20-million-a-

year level.

There probably won't even be usual wheat sales this year. Soviet production has hit 215 million tons — about 100 million tons above the annual target of 195 million set by the latest five-year plan. (The Canadian Wheat Board will probably breathe a sigh of relief. Export sales have exceeded production in Canada for the last three years and the carry-over is due to a little more than one year's domestic consumption.)

Canada and the Soviet Union are not close neighbours across the North Pole. Just how close neighbours they are is evident when Mr. Sharp visited the Institute of the Arctic and Antarctic in Leningrad and saw the intensive mapping of the Arctic Ocean that has been carried out by Soviet manned and unmanned ice-stations over the years.

When dealing with a country like the Soviet Union, a good-neighbour policy is the only sensible one — just as it has been and continues to be with the United States. It is becoming increasingly easy to be a good neighbour to both, since the U.S.S.R. is itself developing friendlier relations with the United States.

Mr. Sharp noted that, while the Soviet leaders had expressed their concern about China, not one word had been spoken about that lifelong bogeyman of Communism, "American capitalist imperialism."

Few companies in Canada set to undertake industry plan sought by U.S.S.R.

Making a mark in Moscow...

By David Levy

Mitchell Sharp awoke on the morning of November 21 to the sight of robust Russian workers jogging and exercising on the grounds below his balcony in the spectacular high-rise holiday hotel at Pitsunda in which the Canadian party had been lodged. High above the glades of a prehistoric species of pine, and with the sound of the Black Sea surf on the pebbled shoreline lulling the Canadians gently into consciousness, it was a far cry from Moscow's slush and murk, and a long way from the Kremlin's protocol machine.

A shining Tupolev 134 VIP jet had brought External Affairs Minister Sharp and his retinue of officials and newsmen to this salubrious spot within walking distance of the vast Soviet government holiday mansion occupied at that moment by

Premier Alexei Kosygin. It was, incidentally, in that same mansion that, years previously, Nikita Khrushchov had been vacationing when the Central Committee was locked in the fierce debate about Moscow that ended with his being toppled from power.

The hotel where the Canadians were the night swarmed with vacationing Canadians from all over the Soviet Union. In the lobby and on the grounds they gathered and stared uninhibitedly at the foreign guests, proud and pleased that they themselves were also seen in such enviable surroundings. At breakfast, Mr. Sharp quaffed his glass of sour milk, the traditional Russian relic of longevity, with a relish that most Canadians matched only with suspicious diffidence and outright rejection.