



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

ARCTIC CO-OPERATION

Until the 1980s, Arctic co-operation between Canada and the U.S.S.R. was sporadic. Occasional joint efforts took place between individual scientists, but there was no lasting institutional basis for bilateral co-operation.

This situation has changed dramatically in the last five years. In 1984, our two countries signed the Protocol on Arctic Cooperation, which provided for exchanges in four areas: geoscience and Arctic petroleum, northern environment, northern construction, and education and ethnography.

The protocol was re-negotiated and expanded in 1987. Since then, hundreds of Soviet and Canadian scientists, business people, officials, scholars, native peoples and technical experts have visited each other's northlands. The new Agreement on Arctic Cooperation, which will be signed during the Prime Minister's visit, should further facilitate such exchanges.

Both Canada and the U.S.S.R. are involved in multilateral circumpolar co-operation through the International Arctic Science Committee and the Finnish Initiative on the Arctic Environment.

A major conference on Canadian-Soviet Arctic co-operation was sponsored by non-governmental bodies in Ottawa in October 1989. It brought together a broad range of interests.

The Northwest Territories, Quebec and Alberta have co-operative programs with the Russian Federated Socialist Republic (which covers all northern territories of the Soviet Union). The Canadian Marine Transportation Group and the Soviet Merchant Marine are working together on a multi-faceted project on Arctic shipping. The 1988 Polar Ski Trek by Canadian and Soviet skiers was a prime example of closer relations.

