



news release

Date FEBRUARY 28, 1984

84/31

For release

AGREEMENT ON REFUELLING FOR AEROFLOT FLIGHTS AT GANDER

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Transport, today announced that the Government of Canada has agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated with the Soviet Union in 1983 to provide for refuelling facilities at Gander Airport for Aeroflot transit flights.

The Memorandum also provides for specific transfer arrangements for crews of Soviet fishing vessels being repaired at the CN Dockyard in St. John's.

"Significant economic benefits to Newfoundland will be generated by this agreement", Mr. MacEachen said. Local contractors are expected to build and manage all aspects of Aeroflot refuelling facilities and to provide catering and technical services to the airline.

"More than 100 jobs will be created at Gander Airport when the refuelling facilities are in place", Mr. Axworthy said, "and there will be another 100 jobs in St. John's at the dockyard".

- 30 -