



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

N^o:
No.: 169

October 2nd, 1986.

CANADA AND THE SOVIET UNION

SIGN BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, announced today that Canada and the USSR have signed a number of bilateral trade agreements, including the Canada/USSR Grains Agreement.

Mr. Clark and Miss Carney were present when the Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board), the Honourable Charles Mayer, and the Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Viktor M. Ivanov, signed the Grains Agreement on behalf of their respective governments. The Agreement calls for the Soviet Union to purchase a minimum of 25 million tonnes of Canadian wheat and feed grain over the next five years.

Miss Carney and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, renewed the Canada/USSR Trade Agreement for a further five years providing for the mutual exchange of most-favoured-nation treatment for goods traded between Canada and the USSR. As the Agreement was originally signed in 1956, this year marks its 30th anniversary. During that time, the Canada-USSR trade relationship has grown to the point where the Soviet Union is Canada's fourth largest export market.

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