

A few weeks ago, Canada and the Soviet Union signed a two-year programme of scientific, academic and cultural exchanges for the period 1987-88, at the conclusion of the Sixth Canada-USSR Mixed Commission Meetings in Ottawa. The signature of a programme of general exchanges is in keeping with the Government's view that people-to-people exchanges can play an important part in the promotion of international understanding and can help ease East-West tensions.

It is this sort of exchange programme, involving direct people-to-people exchanges, that can help to foster East-West understanding. After all, we must break down the barriers of mistrust and suspicion that too often characterize the East-West relationship, if we are to achieve progress in other areas including our common desire to slow the arms race that diverts so much of our resources and to achieve concrete arms control and disarmament measures. For mutual understanding is, in my view, a prerequisite to disarmament measures.

I was pleased to see, for example, that Soviet scientists took part recently in a technical workshop in Ottawa sponsored by the Canadian Government for seismic data communications experts from 16 countries. They met to discuss the exchange of seismic waveform data as a means to verify an eventual comprehensive test ban treaty. We were also pleased