

*Report by External Affairs Minister*

We have agreed with the Soviet Union to enter into early negotiations for the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on cultural, scientific and technical exchanges in order to ensure better reciprocity and to raise further the level of mutually beneficial exchanges between the two countries. We have also agreed on the opening of a Soviet Consulate General in Montreal to deal with the growing flow of trade and persons both ways. It was agreed that Canada has the right to open a comparable office in the U.S.S.R. whenever it wishes.

It is true, as news reports stated, that Mr. Gromyko raised with me the questions of the extradition of alleged "war criminals" and the so-called "anti-Soviet campaign" in Canada. I explained to him the Canadian law on the former subject, law designed to protect the individual against arbitrary action. On the latter, I made it clear that there was not and had not, as suggested, been any "anti-Soviet campaign" inspired or encouraged by the Canadian government. I pointed out that Canada is a free country and that the government is not in control of the news media.

I also urged Prime Minister Kosygin, on humanitarian grounds, to continue facilitating the movement of close relatives from the U.S.S.R. to Canada in order to assist the reunification of families. I have every hope that there will be an amelioration in the reunification of families as a result of what Mr. Kosygin said to me. I sought to impress on him how much this means to Canadians who come from that part of the world.

In Italy, needless to say my talks took place in the very easy and open atmosphere to which we have long been accustomed in our relations with Italy, our friend and ally. We were readily able to reach agreement on some bilateral matters, and in large measure we found ourselves in agreement on the international issues.

I was happy to explain to Italian government leaders the implications of the recent white paper in regard to immigration from Italy, and to assure them both of our great appreciation of the contribution made by the Italians who have already come to Canada and our hope and desire that the flow should continue. I signed with Mr. Fanfani, foreign affairs minister, an exchange of letters providing for the creation of a Canadian institute in Rome. This, and the cultural agreement on which we agreed to open negotiations soon, will help greatly to enhance cultural and academic exchanges between Canada and Italy.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

In all three capitals, I held useful discussions on the current problems before the United Nations and on the efforts being made at the eighteen nation disarmament committee and elsewhere to achieve certain partial measures of disarmament as tangible steps toward our objective of general and complete disarmament. I do not of course, intend to report on the policy positions of the countries I visited with respect to these several questions. That is for them to do. But I did find everywhere a recognition of the importance of the further strengthening of the United Nations. I explained the Canadian stand on some of the current subjects before the organization, particularly our hope that this assembly will be able to come to some agreement on peace keeping. Mr. Gromyko raised with me his government's interest in the item of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, and I assured him of our general agreement with this standard of international conduct, as well as our support for the principle of the self-determination of peoples.

The Polish and Soviet governments, I conclude, are anxious, as we and the Italians are, about the possible further proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world. There have been recent bilateral discussions between the United States and the U.S.S.R. on the subject of non-proliferation, and the Soviet side assured me that they are anxious to arrive at a treaty in this respect. I already know from my talks with Secretary of State Rusk that this continues to be the wish of the United States. If this were achieved, it would be a very important step which would undoubtedly contribute toward the reduction of tensions in Europe and other parts of the world.

I confirmed by my talk in Poland and the Soviet Union that there is in those countries a desire to work for a further détente in Europe and an improvement in the atmosphere there in order to create conditions for a satisfactory settlement of the outstanding European problems. I pointed out that as a NATO member this was very much the Canadian view.

In all of my discussions I made it clear that Canada continued to support the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and that it should not be concluded, because we were disposed to seek the best possible relations with all countries, including the two with whom I was first having discussions, that there was in any way a lessening of our interest in and of our support for the organization and the alliance.