

On November 27, 1975, Canada and the USSR signed a two-year programme of scientific, academic and cultural exchanges for the period 1976-77 at the conclusion of the Third Session of the Canada/USSR Mixed Commission on General Exchanges which was held in Moscow from November 24 to 27. The Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. A.J. Andrew, Head of the Canadian Delegation, signed on behalf of Canada. Mr. I.N. Zemskov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of the Soviet Delegation, signed on behalf of the Soviet Union. Represented on the Canadian Delegation were federal government departments and agencies, provincial governments and organizations, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

The Canada/USSR Mixed Commission was established by the General Exchanges Agreement which was signed by Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Kosygin in October 1971 in Ottawa. Under the agreement, the Mixed Commission meets alternately in Moscow and Ottawa.

Seven major areas of co-operation figure in the Agreement: science, education, the arts, cinematography, television and radio, sports and tourism. The programme for 1976-77 notes that the representatives of Canada and the USSR were guided in its preparation by the principles set out in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In the area of science, the programme provides for Soviet consideration of new Canadian proposals on environment, oceanography and aquatic ecosystems. Existing academic, educational and cultural exchanges have been broadened in scope, and new articles have been included to encourage the teaching and study of the English, French and Russian languages. Stronger emphasis has been given to the reciprocal dissemination of information between the two countries through exchanges of speakers, editors, journalists, and representatives of publishing houses and the holding of seminars and book exhibitions. The new programme also provides for an exchange of delegations of specialists in social security for the purpose of familiarization with the organization of social security services in the two countries.