

pen in late February or early March of this year. Canada has suggested that efforts to improve the trade flow in both directions would be enhanced if regular trade consultations could be established within the context of a renewed trade pact. For its part, the Soviet Union, during Mr. Trudeau's talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow in May 1971, put forward a draft treaty on development of economic co-operation between the two countries. This was not intended, according to Soviet officials, to replace or substitute for any existing agreements but to establish a comprehensive "economic umbrella" for future co-operation in the economic, scientific, technological and industrial spheres. The Soviet proposal, with its broad scope and implications for existing agreements, is at present being studied in depth.

Other elements in dialogue

There have been other elements in the Canadian-Soviet dialogue of the past seven years — co-operation in northern development, discussion of specific problems in the Arctic and concerning fisheries.

The Soviet Union and Canada are the two largest nations in the world with a sizable portion of their territories north of the Arctic Circle. Both have experienced similar problems in development of northern areas, although development in some senses has proceeded much further in the U.S.S.R. The first meaningful contact about the North between Canadian and Russian authorities came in 1965, when Arthur Laing, then Minister of Northern Affairs, accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union and travelled to several Siberian centres, including Norilsk. A year later, a Soviet delegation from Gosstroy (the State Committee on Construction) visited Northern Canada and an informal agreement on exchange visits was reached by Gosstroy and the Department.

Canadian authorities have pursued a policy of expanding northern exchanges with the U.S.S.R. in an effort to deepen knowledge of northern science and technology in such fields as design and construction of buildings on permafrost, management and development problems linked to conservation and anti-pollution measures, raising of living standards and assisting development of native populations and development of northern industrial and transportation networks.

In mid-summer of last year, Jean Chrétien, Minister of Northern Development, made a 17-day, 10,000-mile tour of Soviet northern regions. During that visit, the two countries agreed in principle that

a joint committee should be established to define areas of Arctic science in which co-operation would be possible and desirable. Mr. Chrétien said in Moscow at the end of the tour he hoped co-operation would develop in the fields of hydro-electric dam construction on permafrost, building construction, and gas-pipeline construction in the Far North. During a subsequent visit of Soviet officials to Canada in September, there was a further agreement to set up the committee on Arctic science on a temporary basis with a first meeting planned for Moscow by the end of the year. Canada designated committee members to deal with areas of particular interest such as atmospheric, biological, hydraulic and earth sciences, education, social and health sciences.

Canada's legislative initiative to combat pollution in Arctic waters was supported by the U.S.S.R. and prompted another set of consultations with Soviet authorities. These consultations established that Canada and the U.S.S.R. shared similar views as to the special status of Arctic waters and the special rights and responsibilities of Arctic coastal states to ensure safety of navigation and prevention of pollution. Various forms of co-operation in this field have been considered, but no agreement has been reached on Canada's proposal for an international legal framework for anti-pollution measures by states with Arctic coastlines.

Soviet fishing operations off Canada's west coast gave rise to problems in 1969-70, but these problems were resolved by the conclusion of two bilateral agreements signed in Moscow in January 1971.

Fishing limits

The first agreement provided that the Soviet fishing fleet would move off a designated area of the high seas off Vancouver Island, where incidents had occurred involving Canadian vessels. In return, the U.S.S.R. acquired certain port privileges and permission for Soviet vessels to fish and conduct loading and unloading operations in designated areas of Canadian waters. The second agreement established certain provisional rules of navigation, applicable to both countries. These were intended to avert collisions and damage to fishing gear off the Pacific coast of Canada.

In the fisheries field, Canada is also seeking to reach an accommodation in such international forums as the 1973 Law of the Sea Conference between the interests of such distant-water fishing states as the U.S.S.R. and the special interests

*U.S.S.R. supported
Canada's approach
in Arctic waters*