



Visit to the
U.S.S.R.
by Prime Minister
Brian Mulroney

November 20-25, 1989

La visite du
Premier ministre
Brian Mulroney en
URSS

du 20 au 25 novembre 1989

CANADA IN THE EAST-WEST CONTEXT

An important evolution in East-West relations has occurred in the past few years. Attesting to this are substantive high-level visits and summits between the U.S.S.R. and the West, arms control progress, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the INF Agreement, announced cuts in future Soviet military budgets and the improvement of the Soviet human rights situation.

It is now clear that the revolutionary changes championed by President Gorbachev offer the best chance for East-West relations in the post-war era.

It is in Canada's interest that the process of reform in the U.S.S.R. succeed; and we are in a position to co-operate with the reformers in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe, especially through increased contacts and the development of common interests. Indeed, during the last two years, Canada-U.S.S.R. relations have acquired a previously unparalleled momentum. This is a trend which should be encouraged.

The fact that Canada and the U.S.S.R. share many characteristics means that Canada, of all the NATO allies, has a unique capacity to develop a wide range of co-operative ventures with the Soviet Union in its chosen course of action. This common ground includes the Arctic, multicultural heritages, specific environmental concerns, and the challenges posed by resource-based economies.

Canada is inviting the Soviet Union to draw upon Canadian experience in all these areas as we, in turn, draw upon their areas of expertise. As co-operation between the peoples of Canada and the Soviet Union increases, East-West relations as a whole can only benefit.

