



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

GENERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT (GENEXAG)

Canada and the Soviet Union signed the General Exchanges Agreement (GENEXAG) in 1971. Between 1971 and 1979, four two-year programs were negotiated, resulting in an increased number of exchanges, particularly in the academic and scientific areas. The program was suspended in 1980 as a result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Official exchanges were resumed in 1986.

The 1987-88 program provided 85 person-months of academic exchanges annually. The 1989-90 program increases this total to 105 person-months each year, and is a framework for more institution-to-institution exchanges. External Affairs and International Trade Canada pays all costs.

Complementing the academic exchanges are at least six bilateral, university agreements. Canadian community colleges, high schools and general interest groups have also become involved in arranging exchanges and twinning activities with their counterpart schools and communities in the Soviet Union.

On the cultural side, the program seeks to encourage visits by performers. Under previous programs, experts have surveyed the performing arts scene in the two countries and made recommendations for groups which could be invited to tour. Canadian and Soviet visual arts delegations have visited each other's country; and an agreement concerning audio-visual matters has recently been concluded, along with a protocol on film co-production.

A protocol on Arctic co-operation under GENEXAG, signed in 1984 and mainly administered by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, has served as a framework for increased exchanges in this area. A protocol for co-operation in sport was signed in 1988.

