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Mr. Sharp's visit to the Soviet Union

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, visited the U.S.S.R. from November 18 to 24 at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

On November 24, the Governments of the Soviet Union and Canada issued the following joint communiqué:

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During his stay in the U.S.S.R. Mr. Sharp and his party visited Moscow and the Caucasian Black Sea coast as well as Kiev and Leningrad. They had an opportunity to see how Soviet people live, as well as to acquaint themselves with their achievements in the fields of economics, science and culture.

Mr. Sharp laid wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Moscow and Kiev and at the Peskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery in Leningrad.

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs was received by Mr. N.V. Podgorny, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, President of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, and Mr. A.N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers.

Detailed discussions took place between Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. A.A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., on matters concerning the further development of Canada-Soviet relations and on international problems of interest to both countries.

Participants

Officials participating in the talks were:

On the Canadian side: Mr. R.A.D. Ford, Ambassador of Canada to the U.S.S.R.; Mr. J.G.H. Halstead, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; Mr. E.P. Black, Director General, Bureau of European Affairs, Department of External Affairs; Mr. A.S. McGill, Director General, Bureau of African and Middle Eastern Affairs; and other officials.

On the Soviet side: Mr. S.P. Kozyrev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of

the U.S.S.R.; Mr. A.N. Yakovlev, U.S.S.R. Ambassador to Canada; Mr. V.P. Suslov, member of the Collegium of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and other officials.

The discussions took place in an atmosphere of frankness, cordiality and mutual understanding, in keeping with the good neighbourly relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. Both sides noted with satisfaction the steady expansion of Canada-Soviet relations in recent years and the particular emphasis given to their development by the exchange of visits in 1971 between the Right Honourable P.E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. A.N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers. They emphasized that the agreements and arrangements concluded in 1971 placed relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. on the foundation of the principles of peaceful and mutually beneficial co-operation. They also provided a strong and constructive base for the further general development of Canada-Soviet relations in the fields of foreign policy, trade, economics, science and technology, as well as in the fields of education and culture.

Both sides particularly noted the usefulness of the Canadian-Soviet Protocol on Consultations of May 19, 1971. Being guided by the goals of this protocol, both sides spoke in favour of more extensive and regular use of its possibilities for further expansion of political consultations on important international problems of mutual interest and on questions of bilateral relations.

Both sides confirmed their intention to make further efforts in a spirit of reciprocity and mutual benefit, to give added substance to existing accords