

In light of the foregoing explanations, I should like to examine with you some of the issues surrounding three of the ministerial missions I have had the pleasure of leading over the past year or so.

Mission to the U.S.S.R.

What were the problems to solve in the mission to the U.S.S.R.? We observed:

- 1) That the economies of the U.S.S.R. and Canada are not complementary in the traditional way -- we produce and export a lot of the same things;
- 2) that the U.S.S.R. is an advanced country technologically;
- 3) that it is difficult to make direct contact with Soviet end-users.

The conclusion: let's have an agreement with the U.S.S.R. for co-operation in science and technology in areas of mutual interest that would lead to closer contacts with operating ministries, to the exchange of know-how and to sales of sophisticated machinery.

That is why the mission to Moscow last January included, in addition to officials and a politician, 12 businessmen knowledgeable in the industrial applications of science and technology in their respective fields of business. The politician was there to conclude a Scientific and Technological Agreement. It established a number of mixed "working groups" whose purpose was to study and identify areas where co-operation might be mutually beneficial. The existing working groups cover: architecture and construction and building materials; forest-based industry; non-ferrous metals industry; electric-power industry; oil industry; gas industry.

Each group has met at least once, either in the U.S.S.R. or in Canada, since the Agreement was signed.

Two more groups will be created at the next meeting: one on the transport industry and another on "agri-business".

Already, there are clear indications that the Agreement has opened doors for the sale of a diverse range of goods and services. A few examples are: prefabricated housing; forest-harvesting equipment; sawmill complexes, pulp-and-paper plants; plywood mills; geophysical survey equipment; evaluation and planning of new mines; truck block-heaters; air-traffic-control equipment; large four-wheel-drive tractors; poultry incubators.

Furthermore, the signing of the Scientific and Technological Agreement, Mr. Trudeau's visit to Russia last spring and Mr. Kosygin's visit to Canada last fall have brought about a closer working relation with the Soviet