

all of our other recommendations. Notwithstanding the quality of our diplomatic representatives, Canada does not have enough people in the Soviet Union and, as a result, it is our impression that many agreements remain good intentions on paper that cannot be effectively implemented. We were told, for example, that there are as many staff in the Canadian consulate in Boston, a fraction of the U.S. total, as there are in the Canadian Embassy in Moscow which is currently our only diplomatic, consular and trade office in the Soviet Union.

To this it may be replied that the economic payoff in Boston is quicker and surer than in the USSR. No doubt this is true but it is also shortsighted and misses the point entirely, namely that Canada's national interests in the Soviet Union are long-term, diverse and fundamental. Neither our economic nor many other interests in the Soviet Union are amenable to a quick fix. Unless we are prepared to invest in closer relations with this extraordinary country in the exciting and turbulent early days of its second revolution, the returns to Canada will not be there when the dust settles.

**In light of the above considerations, the Committee recommends that as a matter of priority the Government increase Canada's diplomatic and trade representation in the Soviet Union, in addition to the planned establishment of Consular Offices in Kiev and Leningrad.** ✓

Apart from increasing the numbers of Canadian trade and diplomatic officials in the Soviet Union, we are also concerned about their mastery of languages. Unfortunately, only a few of the Canadian staff in the Embassy in Moscow are truly fluent in Russian or any of the other Soviet languages. There may have been a time when it mattered less whether foreign diplomats spoke the local language because there was scant opportunity to meet the people, but those days are happily over. Diplomats now have much greater freedom to travel and everywhere they go there are groups springing up and people who are prepared to talk, or even make a deal. In these circumstances, it is a poor second best to have to communicate with people through interpreters. In seeking explanations for this situation, we have been told, variously, by officials that it is a consequence of an earlier expulsion of Canadian diplomats by the Soviet Union and the result of shortcomings in language training programs caused by funding cuts. Whatever the explanation,

**The Committee recommends that high priority be given to recruiting and assigning to the Soviet Union officers fluent in Russian and/or one of the other main languages of the Soviet Union such as Ukrainian.** ✓

In addition to upgrading Canada's diplomatic representation in the Soviet Union, we want to see many more "people-to-people" contacts between our two countries. We were