

In 1989, Knud Simonsen Industries signed a contract for a \$30 million meat-processing facility near Sofia in Bulgaria. This was the largest single Canadian contract in recent history in the market, won against strong European competition and the backdrop of an increasing hard currency debt situation for Bulgaria.

Although Canada is active in multi-lateral support groups such as the G-24, it is the increased participation of excellent Canadian companies that will have the most positive, long-term economic benefits for the region.

Academic, Cultural and Scientific Relations

The past year witnessed a great interest in cultural, scientific and academic activities and exchanges. Many provinces, universities and groups sent delegations to Eastern Europe and have signed a variety of agreements. In particular, the current program of Academic, Scientific and Cultural Exchanges with the U.S.S.R. continued the tradition of informal contact between Canadian and Soviet scholars, experts and graduate students. Approximately 40 Soviet researchers and post-graduate students came to Canada with federal funding available under the

program, and a similar number of Canadian academics and students pursued studies in the U.S.S.R. Memoranda of Understanding in the fields of academic relations, sport and culture were signed with the German Democratic Republic and Poland, and discussions towards similar agreements continued with Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

Highlights of Canadian cultural endeavours in Eastern Europe included an exhibition of the work of Czech emigré literature, organized in Prague, in collaboration with Joseph and Zedna Skvorecky. Over 1,000 people, including President Havel, attended the opening. EAITC supported a very successful exhibition of Slovak emigré writers that travelled to Bratislava and Prague, organized by Dr. Ilja Cickvak. The Amici Trio of Toronto performed in Warsaw, Prague and Bratislava also with the assistance of the Department.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's tour of the U.S.S.R. was organized for June 1990. Universities in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary received grants to start Canadian Studies Centres. The Medical Research Council of Canada announced its Eastern European Exchange Program, which will provide up to \$1 million over the next three years to encourage