

Visit of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Poland

At the close of External Affairs Minister Allan J. MacEachen's visit to Poland September 29 to October 4, on the invitation of Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Stefan Olszowski, the Governments of Canada and the Polish People's Republic issued a joint communiqué. The passages relating to bilateral relations between the two countries are reprinted below:

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Both Ministers made a comprehensive review of bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction over their steady development in recent years. They agreed that there existed possibilities for further substantial growth of Canadian-Polish co-operation and reaffirmed their determination to work toward achieving this objective. The two sides further expressed their determination to promote long-term and mutually beneficial co-operation between their states on the basis of full equality and mutual respect.

The two Ministers noted that any questions which might arise in bilateral relations between Canada and Poland could be solved in the interests of both countries through their joint efforts. Traditional ties of friendship between the two nations are reinforced by the existence of Canadians of Polish origin who create a bridge that has great importance for mutual relations.

Both Ministers noted the important role which visits, contacts and consultations held at various levels have played in the development of friendly relations and co-operation between Canada and Poland. They agreed that consultations between them or their representatives should be held regularly at an appropriate level.

The two Ministers also confirmed their support for efforts aimed at developing mutually beneficial co-operation in the economic field, in science, technology, culture and other spheres, and noted with satisfaction the ongoing co-operation in many areas, and agreed to consider further ways to foster such co-operation.

Expansion of trade

The Ministers were pleased to note the increasing frequency in trade exchanges between the two countries. They noted the fourfold increase in over-all trade in the last four years, and agreed

that further efforts should be made to take advantage of all existing possibilities to augment the volume of trade and to diversify its structure.

They stressed that the periodic consultations between the foreign trade ministries of the two countries contributed considerably to the development of trade and economic co-operation between Canada and Poland.

Guided by their desire for broadening and accelerating trade relations between the two countries, the two Ministers agreed that the establishment of a Joint Canadian-Polish Commission on Trade will be considered.

Emphasizing the role of industrial co-operation for the economic collaboration between Canada and Poland, both Ministers agreed to lend their support to efforts aimed at the further expansion of contacts and co-operation between firms and enterprises of the two countries. They noted that the provision of favourable financing would facilitate bilateral trade exchanges and industrial co-operation.

Air routes and fisheries

Both Ministers agreed that the establishment of regular air connections between Canada and Poland would be desirable. The Ministers expressed the hope that talks starting December 1 would result in the signing of an inter-governmental agreement and in the early establishment of regular air services between the two countries.

The two Ministers attached great importance to future co-operation in the field of fisheries. They expressed their satisfaction over the fact that officials of their two countries would meet at an early date in order to consider the elaboration of a bilateral agreement on fisheries co-operation that would establish the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by the Polish fleet in waters off Canada's coasts, in accordance with the joint *communiqué* issued in Ottawa on September 19, 1975.

Cultural co-operation

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction over the development of cultural co-operation. They considered possibilities for its further expansion, by promoting mutual access to science, literature, music and other fields of arts. They agreed that cultural co-operation and dissemination of information play an important part in promoting understanding and friendship among nations.

In order to strengthen further contacts between the people of Canada and the people of Poland, both sides agreed to encourage development of tourism, contacts and co-operation between civic, scientific, sports and youth organizations, to facilitate wider travel by their citizens for personal and professional reasons and to support the extension of exchanges and co-operation between the mass media of the two countries.

Both Ministers pointed to the role played by scientific and technical co-operation in the development of relations between Canada and Poland; they expressed gratification at the existing level of contacts, and they agreed to explore specific proposals which might arise in this area. They agreed to encourage and promote further co-operation and contacts between scientific institutions, universities, and research institutes as well as between individual scientists.

The two Ministers agreed, that the development of relations between Canada and Poland in all fields, followed by growing movement of people between both countries, would be greatly facilitated by the conclusion of a consular convention. Discussions to this end have been initiated and detailed negotiations will begin at the end of this year.

The two Ministers recognized the importance of solving humanitarian problems affecting citizens of the two countries.

They agreed to consider what further facilities in visa procedures would be desirable.

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The Ministers expressed their conviction that the participation of the Polish and Canadian units in the United Nations Emergency Forces in the Middle East is an important contribution of both countries to the implemen-