

Soviet treatment of dissidents, Mr. Gromyko said that "we don't discuss internal matters with any state, so let's pass on to other matters".

After two sessions totalling four hours and a lunch with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Clark said Mr. Gromyko had described the talks as "frank and useful", a characterization that he shared. While the two ministers failed to agree on arms control and human rights issues, they felt greater bilateral contacts might be useful in trade and exchange programs.

Wheat contract renewal

After meeting with First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkipov, it was announced that the Soviet Union plans to renew its wheat purchase agreement with Canada when the current five-year deal expires in 1986.

The agreement, signed in 1982, called for minimum shipments to the Soviet Union to increase by 500 000 tonnes a year over the life of the five-year pact. Soviet imports consistently exceeded the minimum pur-

chase requirement, which was six million tonnes last year.

Wheat exports accounted for all but \$115 million of Canada's \$2.1-billion exports to the Soviet Union in 1984, a 24 per cent increase over the 1983 total.

Mr. Arkipov also said a Canadian engineering firm, Lavalin Inc. of Montreal, is part of a consortium awarded a contract to develop the Tenguz oil field near the Caspian Sea.

Mr. Clark held other meetings with Yuri Israel, the Soviet minister responsible for the environment, and Vitali Vorochnikov, the Russian premier and chairman of the Council of Ministers who will visit Ottawa and Alberta at the end of May.

In the meeting with Mr. Israel, Mr. Clark agreed to a proposal for a joint Canada-Soviet scientific symposium on acid rain next year.

Mr. Clark's tour ended in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. He then flew to Paris where he and Finance Minister Michael Wilson chaired a two-day annual ministerial meeting of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development.



Joe Clark met with Vitali Vorochnikov during his visit to the USSR. Mr. Vorochnikov, who is the Russian premier and chairman of the Council of Ministers will visit Canada in May.

Canada-China agreement for petroleum development



External Relations Minister Monique Vézina and Chinese Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Vice-Minister Li Ke sign the memorandum of understanding between the two countries for a \$6.3-million Petroleum Development and Technical Co-operation Project.

Canada and China signed a memorandum of understanding on March 28 for the \$6.3-million Petroleum Development Technical Co-operation Project which is designed to help China improve its energy conservation and optimize oil and gas recovery.

External Relations Minister Monique Vézina, the minister responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency

(CIDA), signed the agreement for Canada, and Vice-Minister Li Ke of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade signed for China during the vice-minister's visit to Canada for the annual review of Canadian development assistance to China.

Mrs. Vézina said that "energy has been identified as one of four sectors for concentration by Canada in the CIDA-China pro-

gram. Within the energy sector, petroleum is regarded as having significant potential as an energy source for future industrialization".

The Petroleum Development Technical Co-operation Project is aimed at strengthening the planning and operating capabilities of two oilfield administrations in the Ministry of Petroleum Industries near Beijing, Chaheji and Banqiao. Two feasibility studies will be undertaken, one to design an oilfield energy conservation program to optimize recovery of oil with high wax content and the other to design a condensate field engineering system to optimize recovery of gas and oil.

Since the processing methods used at the Chaheji and Banqiao fields are different, the project will be developed as two sub-projects. Once the feasibility studies have been developed, it is expected that they will have wide application to other parts of the country.

One of the major components of the program will be to upgrade the skills of 42 Chinese specialists through on-the-job training in China and Canada, study tours and academic courses in Canada as required.

China is the largest oil-producing nation in Asia. Beginning with only three oilfields in 1949, China today has some 200 oilfields producing more than 100 million tonnes a year.

During his visit to Canada, Vice-Minister Li toured the Syncrude project at Fort McMurray in Alberta, to see Canadian oil technology at work.