

Canadian businessmen, scholars, artists, athletes and tourists are visiting the Soviet Union in increasing numbers and with considerable success. While my party was in Leningrad yesterday a ship unloaded a valuable cargo of sophisticated, heavy-tracked vehicles purchased by the Soviets from a Calgary manufacturer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Earlier in my visit I was delighted to be told that an Edmonton girl, Miss Elizabeth Carruthers, had placed first in one of the events at a championship diving meet in Riga and that two of her Canadian teammates came third and fourth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Against this steadily developing background it was only natural that steps be taken to place Canadian-Soviet relationships on a more structured and orderly basis, and this was the purpose of the protocol which was signed in Moscow last week and tabled in this House by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) on the same day.

This document, which I believe to be an important one, goes some distance toward placing Canadian-Soviet consultations on the same basis as has existed for a number of years with the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan. Hon. members will recall, Mr. Speaker, that a similar arrangement was entered into with Mexico as part of the work of the ministerial committee which travelled to Latin America, and that agreements for regular consultation with both New Zealand and Australia were reached during my visits to those countries last May.

[*Translation*]

This process of broadening Canadian relationships is an ongoing one and was spelled out in the foreign policy review. The principles of that review have been discussed widely in Canada and were studied at length by a parliamentary committee. The foreign policy of this government has been to contribute where it can to a peaceful world and to strengthen our relations with a number of countries. In both respects this policy is designed to serve basic Canadian values and interests. The Canadian-Soviet protocol is a natural manifestation of that policy.

As the communiqué which was tabled this morning reveals, the protocol will ensure continuing consultations at a variety of levels on matters of the kind discussed by me and the Soviet leaders, President Podgorny, Premier Kosygin and Secretary General Brezhnev. The communiqué refers to the desirability of relaxation of international tensions and of stability and détente in Europe; economic, scientific and technological cooperation; Canadian-Soviet trade; Arctic and northern development including the safety of navigation and the prevention of pollution; the significance of the forthcoming U.N. Conference on the Human Environment; the conviction that international issues be resolved in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and that the effectiveness of the U.N. be enhanced; satisfaction at the

conclusion of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and the treaty prohibiting placement of weapons of mass destruction on the ocean floor.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative party cannot be suggesting in its motion that discussions on subjects of this importance to Canada should not take place with the Soviet Union. Nor, surely can the opposition now contend that the government's policy of widening and strengthening relations with a selective number of countries is not known to them or is not desirable.

If the purpose of the motion and of this debate is to make known to Parliament and to Canadians the constructive and imaginative foreign policy initiatives of this government, then I welcome the opportunity. And I remind the House that the foreign policy review stated that we would seek actively opportunities to further Canadian interests; that wherever possible we would not wait passively for events to occur and then to react to them; that, in sort, we would pursue in as judicious and advantageous a way as possible the broad range of policies which are permitted to Canada as a country which is well-respected abroad.

These things we have been doing, and these things we shall continue to do.

While in no way diluting our friendship or our contacts with those countries such as the United States, Britain, France and others with which we have had traditional and friendly relations, we have taken a fresh look at the world and at the Canadian interests in it. Areas of the world which have not in the past figured prominently in Canada have been sought out consciously as friends, as prospective trading partners, as sources of information and advice, as contributors to an independent Canada; a Canada not overwhelmingly dependent upon or dominated by any one state or group of states; in short, a Canada with a singular identity and well recognized as such both by Canadians and by citizens of other countries.

We have been active in the world in those areas where we could contribute positively and usefully: economic and technical assistance, through the creation of the Canadian International Development Research Centre; fresh juristic concepts for the prevention of pollution in waters off our shores and for the conservation of fisheries; studies and proposals in the fields of disarmament and arms control. We have looked to Latin America and are seeking permanent observer status in the Organization of American States; we have expressed our many-faceted interest in the countries of the far rim of the Pacific; we have adjusted our defence posture to remove from it any elements that could be regarded as provocative, and to ensure that our policy adequately but truly reflects the needs of Canada for national defence; we have been successful in establishing useful and official contacts with the most populous nation in the world, the People's Republic of China; we have entered wholeheartedly the new Francophonie organization.

All this has been done, Mr. Speaker, while retaining Canadian membership in NATO and NORAD, while strengthening our relationship with such economic associations as the OECD and GATT, while contributing