

Mr. Martin Visits Poland, the Soviet Union and Italy

THE Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, made an official visit, which lasted from November 4 to 16, to Poland, the U.S.S.R. and Italy. On November 17, in the House of Commons, he made a statement concerning the visit, in the course of which he said that he had been cordially received and expressed his thanks to the Governments of Poland, the Soviet Union and Italy for their invitations.

Mr. Martin went on to say :

"The leaders in Poland and in the Soviet Union listened to the Canadian views I presented. I think we made progress on a number of bilateral matters. On some major international issues there was evidence of common interest. However, I would not want to hide the fact that there is still a considerable distance between us in many areas.

"In all three countries, while my most extensive discussions were with the Foreign Ministers, I also had an opportunity to meet and talk with many other leaders. In Poland, I was taken by the Foreign Minister for a talk with the Prime Minister and later with the Chairman of the Council of State, President Ochab. In the Soviet Union I talked with President Podgorny, Prime Minister Kosygin, the First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Polyansky, who was in Canada during last summer, and with General Secretary Brezhnev. Finally, in Italy, I was able to exchange views with President Saragat, Prime Minister Moro and Deputy Prime Minister Nenni."

Poland

"The Polish Government," Mr. Martin went on, "is desirous of settling the long-outstanding matter of the claims of certain Canadians arising out of postwar nationalization, and in the very near future we expect to enter into detailed negotiations to that end."

U.S.S.R.

"We have agreed with the Soviet Union," Mr. Martin stated, "to enter into early negotiations for the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on cultural, scientific and technical exchanges in order to ensure better reciprocity and to raise further the level of mutually beneficial exchanges between the two countries. We have also agreed on the opening of a Soviet consulate general in Montreal to deal with the growing flow of trade and persons both ways. It was agreed that Canada has the right to open a comparable office in the U.S.S.R. whenever it wishes.

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