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External affairs minister discusses bilateral relations on USSR tour

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark led a Canadian delegation to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, March 30 to April 7, to expand relations between the two countries. The eight-day, four-city Soviet Union visit, which was the first by a Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs since 1973, included regions and cities where Canadian interests — commercial, cultural and humanitarian — are engaged, including Siberia and the Ukraine.

The delegation included seven members of parliament. Mr. Clark said they would be "assigned tasks after the visit within their specific areas of expertise and interest".

Arrival in the north

The USSR tour began in Leningrad, where Mr. Clark visited the Scientific Research Institute of Arctic and Antarctic Studies. He said that Canada, like the Soviet Union, has an Arctic to be developed. He was able to view some Soviet methods of frontier development and he said the USSR has demonstrated progress in Arctic research.

At an early-morning meeting with Canadian students studying Russian at the Pushkin Institute in Leningrad, Mr. Clark acknowledged the value of educational exchanges when the students expressed their unanimous endorsement of them.

In a major Siberian industrial and administrative centre, Novosibirsk, Mr. Clark and his delegation were received by the chairman of the Novosibirsk regional government. They visited the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences in Akademgorodok. Common interests in northern and frontier development were discussed.

Meeting with Mr. Gromyko

The highlight of the visit were the talks between Mr. Clark and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on April 3. The two ministers discussed a number of bilateral issues including the resumption of officially sponsored cultural, scientific and educational exchanges between the two countries and questions of arms control, human rights and trade.



Andrew Vaughan

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark (left) was met by Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko upon his arrival in Moscow.

Mr. Clark remained firm on the Canadian position on US weapons research including both the cruise missile and the Strategic Defence Initiative. He said that Canada and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries support the research initiative for a ballistic missile defence system and that deployment of a space-based defence system which goes beyond the limits imposed by the Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABM) Treaty should be a matter for negotiations and discussions. Mr. Clark reiterated that in light of ongoing Soviet activities in this field, Western research on ballistic missile defence was prudent.

Regarding the testing of cruise missiles in northern Canada, Mr. Clark said the missiles being tested are unarmed and he pointed out "that Canada is one of the few nations with nuclear capability that chose not to go that route".

In response to Mr. Clark's attempt to raise Canadian concerns on human rights and



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