

materials and construction; forest-based industries; non-ferrous metals; electrical power industry; oil and gas industries. Two other groups have been proposed since the commission sessions, one in transportation and the other in agriculture, on "agri-business"; discussions are continuing on the feasibility of creating such groups.

Six groups meet

All six of the original working groups had met either in Canada or the U.S.S.R. by the end of last year — first to exchange information and then to tour projects and firms in their fields of interest. They examined potential areas for co-operation and looked into the possibility of the exchange of experts. The Mixed Commission set up under this agreement will meet again, this time in Ottawa about mid-May. In the field of atomic energy, the two countries had had links long before conclusion of the Industrial Exchange Agreement. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and the State Committee of the U.S.S.R. for Utilization of Atomic Energy worked out an agreement for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in 1964. The two agencies have established a satisfactory relation, with at least two exchange visits a year to nuclear establishments, universities and other research centres. The tendency is to emphasize scientific rather than nuclear-power subjects.

The Protocol on Consultations, signed in May of last year, had a shorter history than the Industrial Exchanges Agreement. The Soviet Union broached the subject of consultative machinery in 1970 and Canada said it was prepared to study any proposal. The subject was raised again in the spring of last year when Mr. Gromyko suggested a declaration or protocol about the desirability of regular consultations between the two countries should be worked out and endorsed during the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Union felt that such a document would provide a framework for consultation on bilateral questions and international affairs. The U.S.S.R. has an affinity for this kind of legal framework, setting out its relations with other countries in a more systematic way.

Canada agreed that such a protocol was in keeping with the kind of relations both countries wanted to encourage and a protocol much like the one approved by France and the U.S.S.R. six months earlier was drafted and signed in May during Mr. Trudeau's talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow.

In Mr. Trudeau's words during his speech in the Commons on his return from the U.S.S.R., the protocol would go "some distance" toward placing Canadian-Soviet consultations on the same basis as those in existence for a number of years with Britain, the United States and Japan. It would ensure continuing consultations at a variety of levels on international and bilateral issues.

By the time of the Kosygin-Trudeau meeting in Ottawa during October, both governments agreed that the protocol had been of value in strengthening "mutual confidence, friendship and good neighbourliness". They cited as examples the September meeting in New York of Canadian and Soviet foreign ministers, the consultations between the two countries' permanent representatives at the UN and between Canadian and Soviet spokesmen in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva. The tempo of consultations has been maintained since then with an exchange of views on such international questions as the Indo-Pakistan conflict.

The negotiations leading to the Industrial Exchanges Agreement paved the way for another accord last year. At Canada's suggestion, the Soviet Union committed itself to discussion of a much broader General Exchanges Agreement, embracing exchanges, visits and contacts in cultural, scientific, technical, educational and other fields.

Even without such an intergovernmental agreement, there had been general exchanges in academic and scientific realms. For example, three Canadian agencies — the National Research Council, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources — had worked out exchange agreements with their Soviet counterparts. Two Canadian universities — Carleton University in Ottawa and the University of Toronto — had conducted exchanges with Soviet institutions. But Canadian authorities felt that a general agreement by the two governments would provide an incentive to much wider exchanges and would also ensure a better degree of balance and reciprocity.

The Canada-U.S.S.R. General Exchanges Agreement was finally approved during Mr. Kosygin's visit to Ottawa in October and signed by the two leaders. Under the pact, professional, technical and administrative contacts are to be encouraged and facilitated in a long list of categories ranging from atomic energy to opera. A Mixed Commission will be set up to implement the agreement.

Both countries will foster exchange of

Canada looked to incentive of general pact