

interest in human rights, both within the context of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and in terms of facilitating the emigration of persons in the USSR desiring to join close relatives in Canada.

Optimistic, Mr. Lapointe said: "I attach great importance to meetings of this kind. For only if we talk can we ever hope to bridge the serious gap in understanding between East and West. The potential of our relationship, to which your visit is testimony, can only be truly realized in an improved international climate.

"Take the message home, that Canadians, like Soviet citizens, care about life, care about peace, care about *détente*;

convey the message that we are determined to see a new beginning in international co-operation, that no one has a monopoly on peace but that, together, we can make peace a reality," he concluded.

Agricultural interest

Deeply involved in agricultural affairs, among other responsibilities within the Soviet Politburo, Mr. Gorbachev and the Soviet delegation — accompanied by Agriculture Minister Whelan — toured a number of farming areas in Ontario and Alberta, observing various facets of Canada's agri-food industry.

These included farm facilities, food processing plants and farm machinery

manufacturing plants.

"A visit by such an important representative of the Soviet government," said Mr. Whelan, "is a special event for Canada at the agricultural, commercial and political levels. It provides an excellent opportunity for Canada to outline to the Soviets our views on several international, bilateral and multilateral issues."

Pleased with the cordial relations during the visit, Mr. Whelan noted that Canadian and Soviet agriculture have much in common, including geography and climate.

"We can both benefit from better mutual understanding and greater co-operation in this area," Mr. Whelan concluded.

Major breakthrough in toxic organic waste disposal

A major new breakthrough in toxic organic waste disposal with energy-producing potential has been perfected in Ontario and is attracting attention from the world.

The process, called Wetox, was refined over nine years by the Ontario Research Foundation (ORF) and is now being marketed under licence by WetCom Engineering Limited of Scarborough.

Basically, the system takes liquid organic wastes, oxidizes them and reduces them to the basic elements of water, carbon dioxide and acetic acids. After

carbon filtering, the remaining material is neutral enough to pass through a normal sewage treatment plant.

Bob McCorquodale, president of WetCom (the name stands for "wet combustion"), calls it "a system for oxidizing organic materials under water, applicable to anything that will burn".

To any company which generates liquid organic waste as a result of its production process, the financial and environmental advantages are obvious.

A mobile plant for the Wetox process was developed by ORF after study of a

prototype built by an American firm for the Skylab project. The Ontario government helped with funding, both for initial research and for the pilot project.

ORF refined the technology to the point where it was commercially viable. Mr. McCorquodale formed WetCom in co-operation with Toronto Copper-smithing International Limited and acquired world rights to Wetox.

First commercial application of the process is at Uniroyal Chemicals in Elmira which, with financial help from the federal government, is just finishing building a \$1.3-million Wetox plant to get rid of residues from production of chemicals.

"One of the big benefits of Wetox is that we will be able to destroy, on-site, strong wastes previously shipped off-site," said project manager Louis Klink. He estimates that there will be a \$200 000 annual saving in transportation costs.

In the Wetox process, the liquid waste is pumped through a heat exchanger and then into a reactor where it is mixed with compressed air. The oxygen in the air reacts with the organic matter to produce mainly carbon dioxide and water. The heat produced helps keep the liquid material in the reactor at the required high temperature.

The entire process is co-ordinated by a microprocessor. The processor monitors and controls the process at all times, and can signal when there is a problem.

The company is currently handling requests for demonstrations of the process from the United States, the Netherlands and England.

(Article in Ontario Technology News, November 1982.)



Pilot plant: Ontario Research Foundation's 2 273 litre mobile unit demonstrates capabilities of the Wetox system, a breakthrough in the disposal of toxic organic waste.