

Department of External Affairs was being pressured not to respond to the Soviet proposal.

In fact, the seven months which had elapsed between the submission and publication of the draft text were taken up by normal bureaucratic procedures and attempts at interdepartmental coordination rather than by any diplomatic chicanery. The Soviet move of going public with their comments was inept. In a letter to *The Globe and Mail*, the Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed his displeasure over this Soviet manoeuvring.¹¹ The incident did not, however, change the Canadian government's commitment to respond to the Soviet proposal. In a more recent letter to the editor of *The Globe and Mail*, Mr. Clark noted: "We are nearing completion of a review of the Soviet proposal for a bilateral treaty on Arctic cooperation and expect to respond in the near future."¹²

OTHER ARCTIC-RELATED ACTIVITY

In addition to the federal government's moves to expand the scope of its bilateral cooperation with the Soviet Union on Arctic issues, there has been a number of other examples of Arctic-related activities involving the two countries. These have been undertaken for the most part without direct federal government involvement, although there was some administrative and financial assistance from the Departments of External Affairs, and Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

- In 1986 a programme of scientific and technical cooperation was concluded between the governments of Quebec and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. Nine areas of research were outlined, most of which had a northern focus. This programme is still active.
- In the summer and fall of 1987 there was an exchange of Ministers from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Possibilities for cooperation in the areas of education of northern native people and northern construction were discussed.
- In the cultural sphere, the possibility for increased contacts between native people appears more promising than it has for many years. In June 1987 a Soviet Chuckchi dance group performed at an international folklore festival in Vancouver. An invitation has been sent to the Soviet Union by Inuit Tapirisat of Canada to have Soviet Yuit (Inuit) attend the Canadian-sponsored Inuit Youth Camp. Although previous invitations have never been answered, there are now indications that Soviet authorities may be prepared to send participants in the future. The Canadian Inuit Broadcasting Corporation has had correspondence with the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio about the possibility for joint filming in the Soviet and Canadian Arctic.
- One of the most publicized Arctic ventures was the transpolar ski trek, called the "Polar Bridge." A

thirteen-member Canadian-Soviet team skied from Novaya Zemlya in the Soviet Arctic across the North Pole to Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island. While predominantly an expedition, the team conducted scientific experiments as well.

- Canada and the Soviet Union participated in a round of multilateral discussions at the end of March 1988 in Stockholm, the purpose of which was to lay the groundwork for the establishment of an International Arctic Science Committee.
- In the academic sphere, discussions will take place in 1988 between representatives of Canadian and Soviet universities to establish contacts and a possible exchange between universities in Canada and the Soviet Union which specialize in northern and Arctic studies. In the fall of 1987 a Canadian Inuk spent four months in the Faculty of Northern Peoples at Leningrad's Herzen Institute under the aegis of the Canada-USSR academic exchange programme.

As is apparent from this list of activities, the recent trend is toward expanding Arctic cooperation in a number of different areas. While many do not entail direct federal government involvement, they all have materialized, at least in part, as the result of expanding intergovernmental contacts at the federal level. First and foremost, the federal government's commitment to foster contacts with the USSR on Arctic issues has been translated into practice through the renewal and expansion of the Programme of Arctic Science Exchanges. In addition, the increased dialogue and contacts with Soviet counterparts engendered by that Programme have led to the broadening of relations in other areas.

CIRCUMPOLAR COOPERATION AND CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

The expansion of Canadian-Soviet Arctic cooperation in this broad range of subjects has created a new challenge for Canadian foreign policy. Largely because of our expanding relations with the Soviet Union, the Arctic is now a region where non-military cooperation joins the more traditional military strategic focus. This changing northern dimension has attracted considerable attention in the past two years, especially after it was highlighted as a separate chapter in the Report of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations.¹³ The theme was subsequently taken up in a Report of a Working Group of the National Capital Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs entitled *The North and Canada's International Relations*. The gist of the recommendations in these two reports is on the one hand to examine closely our security needs in the Arctic while on the other hand to work toward expanding non-military cooperation with other Arctic countries including the Soviet Union.

These suggestions pose some specific challenges when considering relations with the Soviet Union. One must always be cognizant of Soviet intentions for developing