



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION · DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS · OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 21 No. 45

November 9, 1966

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## CANADA AND THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE

*The following is part of an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, at a meeting sponsored by the World Affairs Council in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 26:*

...There are certain fundamental points about the present world situation, as we have seen it in Canada, which can serve as an introduction to my remarks:

(1) In spite of the Vietnam situation, there appear to be possibilities for better relations with the Soviet Union and the European Communist nations which are worth exploring.

(2) The policies of individual Western nations in this field may not always be the same, but this situation is not necessarily a weakness from the standpoint of general Western interest.

(3) Although settlement of many of the greatest problems depends finally on relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, there can be significant discussion and action by lesser powers.

(4) The search for better relations in Europe must almost inevitably at present be directed towards bilateral questions; but progress in this field is very likely to have an important bearing on the eventual solution of the underlying and general problems.

(5) The European Communist nations seem likely to maintain a fairly vigorous and increasingly sophisticated campaign to achieve their objectives in relations with the West. Whether they fully intend this or not, they are likely to experience significant internal changes. The Western nations cannot simply abandon the initiative to the other side or ignore the possibilities of accelerating or modifying such changes as are relevant to Western interests....

### RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST EUROPE

Although Canada recognized the Soviet Union in 1924 and had a Soviet trade mission established in Montreal for three years after that, relations were scarcely developed in any very definite sense in the period between the wars. Trade was intermittent and erratic, subject to political problems and the considerable difficulties arising from differences in the trading systems.

The establishment of resident diplomatic missions in 1942 did open a new era in relations between the two countries, but friendship generated by wartime co-operation was affected by some of the severe political problems of the years immediately following the war. These missions were not headed by ambassadors between 1946 and 1954.

In the nine years intervening between that time and the noticeable East-West "thaw" of the summer of 1963, our experience was very much the same as that of most Western nations. The major world crises imposed definite limits on the development of friendlier relations, but there were some moves towards a more normal situation.

In 1955, for example, Mr. Pearson, who was then Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited the Soviet Union. In 1956 a trade agreement was signed, which has been extended at intervals since that time. Certain contacts and exchanges did develop, of which the arrangement between the Canadian National Research Council and the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1959 is a good example.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, where we had established missions in Prague, Warsaw and Belgrade soon after the war, our experience followed similar