

At the invitation of the Soviet Government, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, paid an official visit to the U.S.S.R. from November 18 to 24, 1973.

During his stay in the U.S.S.R. Mr. Sharp and his party visited Moscow and the Caucasian Black Sea coast as well as Kiev and Leningrad. They had an opportunity to see how Soviet people live, as well as to acquaint themselves with their achievements in the fields of economics, science and culture.

Mr. Sharp laid wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Moscow and Kiev and at the Peskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery in Leningrad.

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs was received by Mr. N. V. Podgorny, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., President of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, and Mr. A. N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers.

Detailed discussions took place between Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. A. A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., on matters concerning the further development of Canadian-Soviet relations and on international problems of interest to both countries.

Officials participating in the talks were:

On the Canadian side: Mr. R. A. D. Ford, Ambassador of Canada to the U.S.S.R.; Mr. J. G. H. Halstead, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; Mr. E. P. Black, Director General, Bureau of European Affairs, Department of External Affairs; Mr. A. S. McGill, Director General, Bureau of African and Middle Eastern Affairs; and other officials.

On the Soviet side: Mr. S. P. Kozyrev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; Mr. A. N. Yakovlev, U.S.S.R. Ambassador to Canada; Mr. V. P. Suslov, member of the Collegium of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and other officials.

The discussions took place in an atmosphere of frankness, cordiality and mutual understanding, in keeping with the good neighbourly relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. Both sides noted with satisfaction the steady expansion of Canadian-Soviet relations in recent years and the particular emphasis given to their development by the exchange of visits in 1971 between the Right Honourable P. E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. A. N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers. They emphasized that the agreements and arrangements concluded in 1971 placed relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. on the foundation of the principles of peaceful and mutually beneficial co-operation. They also provided a strong and constructive base for the further general development of Canadian-Soviet relations in the fields of foreign policy, trade, economics, science and technology, as well as in the fields of education and culture.