

"Canadian business has shown a strong interest in participating in the exciting developments in the Soviet economy," Mr. Crosbie said. "During the Prime Minister's visit in November, he was accompanied by representatives from 154 Canadian companies, and even in that brief visit, discussions were held on projects worth in excess of \$1 billion."

Overall Canadian exports to the Soviet Union have averaged about \$1 billion per year in recent years, mostly in agricultural products, and imports have ranged from \$25 million to \$156 million.

"We are now focusing on ways in which we can diversify Canadian exports, increase the level of imports from the USSR, and foster more joint ventures," Mr. Crosbie said.

Currently there are 24 Canada-Soviet joint ventures registered in the USSR, with an estimated additional 20 signed and awaiting registration.

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