

*Soviet concerned
about the gap in
technology*

ternal Affairs, visited the U.S.S.R. and the first trade agreement between the two countries was concluded.

The present phase of relations dates from early in 1965, when the U.S.S.R. seems to have decided to follow up contacts that stemmed from the first large Canadian wheat sales to the U.S.S.R. about 18 months earlier. By 1965 the Soviet leadership was becoming increasingly concerned about the gap between the U.S.S.R. and Western industrialized states in technology — particularly in the application of computer science and in automated techniques. Outside help would enable the Russians to close and eventually eliminate this gap. Canada represented a key North American source of advanced technical, scientific and managerial information. Canada was well placed in other respects — its environment was similar to that of the Soviet Union and it had close links with the United States.

From the Canadian point of view, there was a desire to improve relations on the practical basis of co-operation in areas of mutual interest — northern development, trade, scientific exchanges, and Arctic questions, for example. There were, moreover, prospects for encouraging progress in East-West understanding, attempting to counter traditional Russian distrust of the West through increasing contacts and discussion.

Air-sea links

With this kind of motivation on both sides, a readiness to co-operate manifested itself in a number of ways: a rapid development of direct air and sea transportation links; growth in scientific, technological and cultural exchanges; a Soviet decision to participate in Expo 67; and visits in both directions. Soviet Deputy Premier Dmitri Polyansky visited Canada in 1966 and again in 1967, followed by a number of other Soviet ministers. Paul Martin, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, and a number of Canadian ministers visited the U.S.S.R.

With the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia in mid-1968, there was a lull in the interchange, but in the post-1968 period there were fresh Soviet initiatives to resume the efforts aimed at closer relations. In a broad foreign policy statement of July 1969, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, noted a "widening of mutually beneficial links" in recent years between Canada and the U.S.S.R. These burgeoned in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields and a good basis had been laid for political contacts. "We are for a further development of

relations with Canada," Mr. Gromyko said.

The Canadian Government decided to invite Mr. Gromyko to pay an official visit to Canada. During his talks with Canadian leaders in October, 1969, the Soviet Foreign Minister invited Mr. Trudeau and External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp to visit the Soviet Union in the future.

When Mr. Gromyko visited Ottawa on the subject of a formal agreement on scientific, technological and industrial exchanges came up, but the question of an agreement in a somewhat broader form had been initially raised in discussions between the two countries three years earlier. The Canadian Cabinet approved a recommendation in 1966 that Canada proceed toward negotiating a comprehensive agreement with the U.S.S.R. on cultural, scientific, technical and other exchanges. When Mr. Martin visited the U.S.S.R. at the end of the same year, it was agreed that negotiations on such an agreement would start soon.

Work on a draft was interrupted by other priorities and resumed again after Mr. Gromyko's 1969 visit. Canadian authorities then saw an agreement confined to industrial exchange as having practical value after examining the experience of other countries such as Britain, Belgium and France in negotiating various forms of exchange agreements with the U.S.S.R.

The agreement was discussed with M. Gvishiani, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, during his visit to Canada in 1970, and negotiations on the text were conducted through the summer and autumn of that year. Prime Minister Trudeau proposed to have signed the accord on his scheduled visit to the U.S.S.R. in October 1970, but when that trip was postponed because of the Quebec terrorist crisis, the Industrial Exchanges Agreement was signed in January 1971, by Soviet leaders and visited by Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Jean-Luc Pepin.

With Mr. Pepin and Leonid Yefremov as co-chairmen, a Mixed Commission made up of Canadian and Soviet representatives from government and industry was set up and commission members conferred for several days in Moscow after the signing of the agreement. They mapped plans for working groups to operate in various areas under the commission's umbrella.

Such working groups, made up of eight to 12 representatives from each side, were set up on: architecture, building m-