

Soviet Visit to Canadian North

AN IMPORTANT step was taken in the field of scientific and technical exchanges between Canada and the U.S.S.R. recently when the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Honourable Arthur Laing, was host to Mr. Andrei I. Slivinsky, Vice-Chairman of the State Construction Committee (Gostroy) and a member of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

It was the second time that a member of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. had visited Canada. An engineer and construction specialist himself, Mr. Slivinsky was accompanied by five experts in the field of construction in permafrost areas during his 18-day tour in Canada last August. The Soviet delegation, guided in the North by the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Ernest A. Coté, visited Churchill, Fort Smith, Pine Point, Hay River, Inuvik, Yellowknife, Whitehorse and Mayo, where Canadian experts are faced with problems similar to those encountered by their Soviet colleagues in places like Irkutsk, Bratsk, Yakutsk and Norilsk.

During their tour of Canada, the six Soviet construction experts were offered opportunities to discuss technical problems with Canadian technicians, not only in the North but also in the larger cities. On his return to Ottawa, Mr. Slivinsky held further discussions with the Department of Northern Affairs on the possibility of continuing to develop exchanges between Canada and the Soviet Union in fields related to construction under permafrost conditions.



The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Honourable Arthur Laing, holds a press conference in Ottawa with members of the Soviet team of northern experts following their 18-day tour of Canada. Left to right— Mr. G. V. Porkhaev; Mr. Andrei Slivinsky; Mr. Laing; Professor P. I. Melnikov.