



Visit to the
U.S.S.R.
by Prime Minister
Brian Mulroney

November 20-25, 1989

La visite du
Premier ministre
Brian Mulroney en
URSS

du 20 au 25 novembre 1989

THE CANADA-U.S.S.R. BUSINESS COUNCIL

In late 1988, a number of prominent Canadian firms came together to explore the potential of a business organization tailored to the needs of companies seeking to pursue opportunities in the Soviet market. The result was the proposal to establish the Canada-U.S.S.R. Business Council (CUBC). It lists among its members almost all Canadian firms involved in or contemplating major involvement in the Soviet market. A significant number of Soviet ministries and enterprises will also become members.

The Council will convene its inaugural meeting in Moscow during the Prime Minister's visit. There will be numerous activities and business meetings; both the Council's mandate and its future activities will be discussed.

Although the charter and agenda have yet to be confirmed, the CUBC likely will seek to develop a role in Canada-U.S.S.R. trade and investment similar to that played by other comparable associations involving the Soviet Union and the business communities of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As of early November 1989, there were 28 founding members on the Canadian side of the CUBC. By the end of 1989, organizers anticipate a total membership of up to 150. The U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce and Industry has predicted an initial membership of over 40 Soviet ministries, enterprises and business associations.

The Canadian government has given direct assistance to the creation of the Canada-U.S.S.R. Business Council and endorses it as a vehicle for increasing trade and investment. The Canadian government looks forward to a close collaborative relationship with the Council in pursuing deeper, more extensive commercial relations with the U.S.S.R.

