

properly the concern of all of us. The CSCE and other multilateral arrangements are important vehicles for cooperation. But bilateral relations are fundamental to momentum and texture in international affairs.

The visit of my delegation is, your excellency, intended to demonstrate the time and attention which we, for our part, are prepared to devote to Canada-Soviet relations. The programme and hospitality extended to us suggest that you have a similar approach.

The new Canadian government believes that our bilateral relations should continue to have a distinctive character. We attach importance to our protocol on consultations with the Soviet Union. We intend to broaden our contacts with the Soviet Union and thus the base on which our relationship rests. It is for this reason that I have brought seven members of the Parliament of Canada with me to become acquainted with their Soviet counterparts, and to gain first-hand knowledge of your country and its political life.

Your Excellency, there is an extensive record of cooperation between Canada and the Soviet Union. We have found significant areas of common interest, common effort and common purpose. There is much upon which to build. As in any relationship, there are issues about which we do not agree, but I believe our talks -- in New York last fall and now here in Moscow -- have established a political dialogue in which both countries have an important stake. This was fully reflected in the conversations last month between Prime Minister Mulroney and General Secretary Gorbachev.

Our economic relations are strong, with excellent potential for development in both directions. The Soviet Union is Canada's fifth largest trading partner, but I believe that the structure of our trade needs attention. We must, while continuing to develop our important trade in commodities, move ahead in the manufacturing sector, and in the modern technology of industry and of agriculture.

The northern regions of our two countries hold great promise, and we have a program of cooperation under way. My visit to Novosibirsk, and to the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences, confirms my belief that our common Nordicity offers us much to share.

We have set a good agenda for the coming year, and a busy calendar lies ahead. A Canadian delegation recently visited Moscow to discuss cultural, scientific and academic exchanges. In the consular field, which does influence the quality of relations, I look forward to accelerated progress on the reunification, in Canada, of those families so tragically separated by war and circumstance.

But bilateral relations are more than any sum of events, agreements or negotiations. They are based on principles. Principles of frankness and mutual respect, consistency and stability, reliability and predictability, and a perspective well beyond short-term advantage.