



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

N°:
No.: 187

October 30, 1986.

CANADA-USSR GENERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT
MIXED COMMISSION - 1987-88 PROGRAM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announces that on October 30, 1986 Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a two-year programme of scientific, academic and cultural exchanges for the period 1987-88 at the conclusion of the Sixth Canada-USSR Mixed Commission Meetings which were held in Ottawa from October 27-29, 1986.

The Mixed Commission was established following the signing of a General Exchanges Agreement between Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Ottawa on October 20, 1971. The Mixed Commission normally meets once every two years, alternately in Canada and the USSR, to review the progress of the existing programme and to develop a programme for the next two-year period.

The official programme of exchanges was suspended in 1980 following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Private exchanges were not affected. In 1984, official sports exchanges were renewed and an exchange focussing on Arctic sciences was begun. The signature of a programme of general exchanges is in keeping with the Government's view that people-to-people exchanges can play an important part in the promotion of international understanding and can help ease East-West tensions.

On the Canadian side the administration of the academic and scientific components of the programme will be contracted to an outside agency, to be announced at a later date.