

- The Export Development Corporation continues to re-assess its activities in the Russian market with a view to increasing its activities there. Last year it expanded a \$20 million agri-food insurance credit facility to cover building materials and services.
- Canada and Russia are negotiating a foreign investment protection agreement to replace the one signed with the Soviet Union in 1989.

Technical Co-operation, Governance, and Humanitarian Assistance

- Through its technical cooperation program, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has supported the process of reform in Russia since 1991. The program helps Canadian firms, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions to undertake projects that assist the transition to a market-based economy and democratic development. The program also aims to improve Canadian trade and investment links with Russia.
- CIDA has committed over \$250 million to more than 200 technical co-operation projects. The Russia Program, with over 50 projects now under way, has a budget of \$22 million for 2001.
- Projects supported by the technical co-operation program cover a wide range of activities, including legislative and regulatory reform, management of natural resources (especially oil and gas), environmental protection, agriculture and land registration, promotion of small business, development of civil society, and issues of Arctic management and Indigenous peoples.
- Over the past five years, CIDA's Renaissance Eastern Europe program has provided over \$500,000 to help establish partnerships with Russian firms. Seven Canadian companies received funds to implement joint ventures, while another three carried out viability studies.
- Many CIDA projects support the rule of law and the establishment of a democratic system of government in Russia:
 - The Spirit of Democracy Project, between the University of New Brunswick and the Russian Association for Civic Education, aims to promote the understanding of democratic ideals among Russia's youth, while strengthening Russian teachers' capacity to design and teach civic education courses. The project is using innovative distance learning technology to promote civic education in Russia.