

USSR

Sport Exchange

A Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and the USSR was signed November 15, detailing principles of cooperation in sport. This was an extension of an original agreement signed in 1974, and would remain in effect until the end of 1988. The renewal was signed for Canada by Fitness and Amateur Sport Minister Otto Jelinek, and for the USSR by Ambassador Alexei A. Rodionov in Ottawa. Initial exchanges in the first year of the agreement will include Canadian participation in a number of Soviet athletic competitions, and a similar visit of athletes from the USSR to Canada. Mr. Jelinek stated that the signing indicated a willingness on the part of the Canadian government "to seek cooperation and understanding with the USSR," and that the exchanges would prove beneficial to competitors from both countries through the exchange of "skills and experience . . . in the course of competition" (Fitness and Amateur Sport Ministry communiqué, November 15).

Arms Talks

Disarmament Ambassador Douglas Roche announced upcoming consultations between Canada and the USSR on arms control during an October 20 address before the Canadian Conference on Nuclear War (at the University of British Columbia). Mr. Roche indicated that the talks would be held in Ottawa between government officials from both countries and would focus on both arms control and international security (*The Citizen*, October 22). Mr. Roche stated that middle power countries such as Canada could "help improve the atmosphere and put specific workable ideas on the agenda" of arms control discussion. Said Mr. Roche, "there is not a human being unaffected by the vast ramifications of the nuclear arms race."

The consultations were held November 14-15 and covered "a range of arms control and disarmament matters as well as international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and efforts to promote the non-proliferation regime," according to an External Affairs communiqué of November 14. The meeting was designed to provide Canada and the USSR with "a clearer picture of the other's views" on those issues discussed. The Soviet delegation was headed by Ambassador Vladimir F. Petrovsky, Chief, International Organizations Department, USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Representing Canada, Stephen Heeney, Director General of the Bureau of Energy, Transport and Science, chaired discussions on international nuclear cooperation, while Louis Delvoie, Director General of the Bureau of International Security and Arms Control, handled the arms and disarmament talks.

THE VATICAN

Diplomatic Representative

An earlier decision by the former Liberal government to extend automatically to the Papal representative in Canada the status of dean of the diplomatic corps in Canada was reversed by the Mulroney Conservative government this fall (see "International Canada" for August and September 1984 — Vatican). Archbishop Palmas, the papal pro-nuncio, received written notification from External Affairs Minister Joe Clark that the Government had decided to return to the traditional practice of having the status of dean conferred on that member of the diplomatic community possessing the greatest seniority. However, in the case of Archbishop Palmas, who already holds seniority, no change in incumbency would be involved (*Globe and Mail*, November 9).