

7.6 million tonnes of red spring wheat, durum and barley. The export deal almost equalled total Wheat Board sales of 7.8 million tonnes in the previous crop year (Wheat Board press release, October 13).

Senator Argue said that part of the payments will be by cash, and part will be made under short term credits at the commercial rates of interest guaranteed by the Government of Canada.

Canadian farmers, grain companies and railways will be working at full capacity to meet the export commitments. The resulting continual cash flow to farmers will be "a stabilizing influence on the economy," according to the President of United Grain Growers (*The Citizen*, October 14). The Soviet Union is expected to buy more grain during the crop year ending in July 1983. Mr. Argue called the grain business "one of the bright lights in our Canadian economy" (*The Gazette*, October 14).

Following the announcement, Soviet Agriculture Minister Valentin Mesyats was in Canada for an eleven-day working visit and to co-chair the first meeting of the Canada-USSR Agricultural Commission. During the late-October sessions, both sides approved a long-term program of agricultural cooperation and the exchange of agricultural specialists in 1983-84. Mr. Mesyats also visited agricultural facilities in several provinces. Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan said the "session was very constructive and I look forward to future meetings" (Agriculture Canada press release, October 19 and 28).

Death of President Brezhnev

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau expressed condolences to Soviet presidium Chairman Tikhonov on the death of Soviet President Brezhnev. A message sent to Mr. Tikhonov November 11 from Mr. Trudeau, who was visiting West Germany at the time, said:

I am saddened at the death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev . . . a man who served his country in so many capacities over so many years. Mr. Brezhnev will be remembered as a strong and forthright leader who was motivated by a profound commitment to the welfare of the Soviet Union. I trust that relations between our two countries will develop in the spirit of detente with which Chairman Brezhnev was so closely associated.

Also on November 11, Mr. Trudeau made a further statement regarding past dealings with Mr. Brezhnev: Officially, we obviously had very significant areas of policy difference and that was particularly apparent in more recent years. But I think it was an advantage to Canada and to the western world that there was predictability and stability in the direction he gave to the policies of the Soviet Union . . . I sincerely believe he was a man who wanted peace and who went about seeking peace in ways which are obviously different from ours. I may disagree with his ideology, but I would think that in his heart he wanted peace for his people.

Mr. Trudeau also expressed the hope that Mr. Brezhnev's successor would be involved in strategic arms limitation talks "with renewed vigour." After learning that the new Communist party chief would be Yuri Andropov, Mr. Trudeau said that the leadership change could be a good chance for the West to "try to turn over a new leaf with the Soviet Union," and use the opportunity to work harder

towards nuclear disarmament and better East-West relations (*The Citizen*, November 15).

Mr. Trudeau and a delegation of about a dozen Canadians, including Wheat Board Minister Senator Hazen Argue, attended the funeral of Mr. Brezhnev November 15 (*The Citizen*, November 15).

While in Moscow, Mr. Trudeau met with Chairman Nikolai Tikhonov. According to the Soviet news agency Tass, the two men discussed bilateral issues, the arms race and ways of strengthening detente. The agency reported, "In the course of the conversation . . . they stressed the importance of a broad political dialogue between countries in the interests of strengthening detente, warding off the threat of nuclear war, curbing the arms race and effecting disarmament" (*Globe and Mail*, November 16).

Delegation to Moscow

Diplomatic negotiations took place in Moscow November 18 and 19 between a Canadian delegation headed by de Montigny Marchand, Deputy Minister of External Affairs, and a Soviet delegation headed by Nikita Ryzhov, the Soviet counterpart. These talks were called the "high-level, formal diplomatic negotiations between the two countries" since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 (*Globe and Mail*, November 19). The meetings had been planned before the death of Soviet President Brezhnev a week earlier.

Through the talks, Canada was hoping for an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union. According to *Globe and Mail* (November 19), the resumption of scientific and other contacts relating to Arctic problems and academic exchanges were high priorities for the Canadian delegation.

External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen was questioned by reporters November 19 regarding the renewed dialogue. He said that all Canada had done was to resume some contact where it was in the interest of Canada, and had not relinquished its chance to tell the Soviet Union where it disagrees. Issues such as Afghanistan, Poland, human rights and the arms race would not be overlooked, and western concern about these issues "is bound to have some impact but I don't think that the impact is going to be delivered or recognized as dramatic shifts," Mr. MacEachen said (*Globe and Mail*, November 20).

PC external affairs critic John Crosbie (St. John's West) questioned Prime Minister Trudeau in the House of Commons on November 23 about the purpose of the diplomatic exchange. He wanted to know whether the Canadian government had asked the delegation to impose conditions on the Soviet Union for the resumption of these contacts. The Prime Minister responded that he was not aware of the detailed mandate given to the high-level committee. Mr. Crosbie said that he considered conditions such as allowing emigration, withdrawing armed forces from Afghanistan and encouraging the revoking of martial law in Poland as essential before Canada should resume warmer relations with the Soviet Union.

Human Rights

A motion was given unanimous consent in the House of Commons November 19, "That this government condemn the actions of the Soviets in the case of Anatoli