

GENERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE USSR

Signed: October 20, 1971 at Ottawa  
In Force: October 20, 1971  
Suspended: January, 1980

The General Exchanges Agreement is intended to provide a framework for the development of exchanges between Canada and the Soviet Union in scientific, technical, educational, cultural and other fields on the basis of mutual benefit and reciprocity. Included in this are exchanges of professors, lecturers and university students; tours of performing artists; and sports and other exchanges.

The official programme of exchanges was suspended in 1980 following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, but private exchanges were not affected and have continued with Canadian Government support and encouragement. This 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. In 1984, official sports exchanges were renewed and an exchange focussing on Arctic sciences was begun.

Negotiations on a new two-year programme of official exchanges will be held in Ottawa from October 27 to 29, 1986.