



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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CANADA-USSR NEGOTIATIONS ON OFFICIAL
EXCHANGES AND HUMAN CONTACTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada and the Soviet Union have agreed to renew their programme of official exchanges in the fields of scientific, academic and cultural affairs. Mr. Clark and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, agreed that negotiations will take place in Ottawa from October 27 to 29 to work out a new two-year programme of exchanges. These exchanges will take place under the provisions of the General Exchanges Agreement signed between Canada and the USSR in 1971.

Mr. Clark also announced that the two Ministers had decided to renew discussions on facilitating human contacts between Canada and the USSR. Negotiations will begin later this year or early in 1987 on a wide variety of issues, including family reunification and consular matters. Mr. Clark stressed that progress on family reunification will be important to the successful conclusion of any agreement.

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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.