



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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MEETING BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND THE HEAD  
OF THE SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), met today with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. While here, Mr. Gorbachev will be holding talks on issues of bilateral and international importance as well as examining the potential and capabilities of the Canadian agricultural sector.

During their discussions, Mr. Lapointe reaffirmed the Canadian interest in the development of constructive and productive relations between Canada and the USSR. The Minister of State noted that in specific sectors, such as agriculture and trade, substantial progress has already been accomplished. Other opportunities for future cooperation in relation to the exchange of information and experience on problems related to the development of the arctic were also discussed.

Mr. Lapointe reiterated Canada's strong interest in matters concerning human rights both within the context of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and in terms of facilitating the emigration of persons in the USSR who have indicated a desire to join close relatives in Canada.

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The Minister of State and Mr. Gorbachev exchanged views on a variety of topics of international importance including arms control and disarmament issues, Afghanistan, Poland, the Middle East situation and conditions in Central America.

Following their discussions, Mr. Lapointe was host at a luncheon in honour of Mr. Gorbachev and his Parliamentary colleagues.