

# News Release

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Communiqué

Secrétaire  
d'État aux  
Affaires  
extérieures

No. 264

November 15, 1990

## CANADA-CSFR AGREEMENTS AND INITIATIVES

### ANNOUNCED IN PRAGUE

Prague -- The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today signed two important bilateral agreements in Prague with his colleague Mr. Jiri Dienstbier, Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR). These are the Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cultural, Academic and Sports Relations.

FIPA covers both Canadian investment in the CSFR and Czech and Slovak investment in Canada. It will provide both CSFR and Canadian investors with additional confidence in developing solid, long-term business relations. The MOU on Cultural, Academic and Sports Relations is designed to encourage contacts and exchanges in these three areas and is a significant first step towards a closer and expanded overall cultural relationship between the CSFR and Canada.

The CSFR and Canadian Ministers also had the pleasure of being present for the signing of an MOU between CSFR government authorities and the companies Ekotrans Moravia, a.s., of Prague and SNC International Ltd. of Canada. The MOU sets up a co-operative Task Force to undertake the development, construction and management of the World Trade Centre to be built in Prague.

In the sphere of economic and commercial co-operation, Minister Clark announced that a special mission of Canadian experts, representing the private sector and government and non-government organizations, will visit the CSFR at the end of November. This mission will work with their Czech and Slovak counterparts to define and develop proposals for a series of practical, people-oriented co-operative projects aimed at encouraging democratic reforms and the establishment of an open market economy in the CSFR. The experts are being sponsored by Canada's Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe.

"My country is committed to deepening bilateral relations with the CSFR and to supporting the courageous political and economic change undertaken by the Czech and Slovak people," said Mr. Clark.

While in Prague, Minister Clark also stated that Canada was firmly in favour of Prague being selected as the site of the new Secretariat of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

"In recognition of the very constructive role which the CSFR is playing as the CSCE develops an expanded co-operative framework for European issues, Canada heartily supports Prague as the location of the permanent Secretariat," noted the Minister. The question of the site of a new Secretariat will be reviewed at the November 19-21 CSCE Summit in Paris.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874