

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No.67

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 9, 1966

Communiqué on the Visit to Canada
of Mr. Vaclav David, Foreign
Minister of Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic

The Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Mr. Vaclav David paid an official visit to Canada December 6 - 11, 1966, at the invitation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Hon. Paul Martin. During his stay in Ottawa, Mr. David was received by the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. Robert H. Minters, Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Hon. Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons and the Hon. J.J. Connolly, Leader of the Government in the Senate. Following his visit to Ottawa, Mr. David paid a visit to Toronto and will also visit Montreal where he will tour the site of Expo '67 and visit the Czechoslovak pavilion.

2. During his visit to Ottawa, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister had comprehensive talks with the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Those participating in the talks were:

On the Czechoslovak side: Dr. Miroslav Zemla,
Ambassador of Czechoslovakia;
Dr. Zdenek Trhlik, and
other officials of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the Canadian side: Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Under-
Secretary of State for
External Affairs;
Mr. John Halstead and other
officials of the Department
of External Affairs.

3. In their discussions of the world situation, Mr. David and Mr. Martin emphasized the desire of the Czechoslovak and Canadian Governments to reduce international tensions. In this context, they expressed their serious concern with regard to Vietnam, and the threat to world peace inherent in a continuation of the conflict in South-East Asia. There was a frank exchange of views

on the problem of restoring peace in this part of the world.

4. The Ministers reviewed developments in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee and the United Nations General Assembly and reaffirmed their support of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. They underlined the urgency of concluding effective international agreements which would prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons in all forms. They emphasized the importance of various partial measures aimed at the relaxation of international tension, including a total ban of nuclear tests and an agreement on the peaceful uses of outer space. They also stressed the importance of promoting and extending the international safeguards system with respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

5. Views were exchanged on the situation in Europe and the Ministers welcomed the efforts directed at an improvement of relations among European states with different social systems and at a solution of the problem of European security. They regard the multiplication of contacts at all levels between European countries as conducive to an atmosphere in which the solution of European problems may be found.

6. The two Ministers confirmed their belief that the United Nations is an important instrument for the resolution of international differences, for safeguarding world peace and security and for the development of international co-operation. They voiced their support for efforts within the United Nations to encourage friendly relations and co-operation among states and the renunciation of the use or threat of force for the settlement of international disputes. They agreed that universality remains the objective in United Nations membership. They emphasized the need to assist the developing nations in their efforts to better the conditions of their peoples.

7. Note was taken of the progress made in the improvement of relations between the two countries in the political field and in the fields of economy, culture, science and technology. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction over the growth of trade and agreed that there were possibilities for its further promotion and diversification. Both sides showed interest in the development of trade and international co-operation on a multilateral basis, particularly within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

8. The Ministers expressed their sincere desire that co-operation between the two countries should be further developed in all fields. Mr. Martin stressed

the importance of Czechoslovak participation in Expo '67, the International Exhibition to be held in Montreal next year, as a tangible indication of expanding and improving relations between Czechoslovakia and Canada.

9. The two Ministers agreed to give appropriate attention to consular matters concerning the citizens of both countries, including the reunification of families. They also agreed that attention would be given to the basis for the negotiation of a settlement of outstanding financial questions and claims between the two countries.

10. It was agreed that the current discussions, which were marked with cordiality, frankness and respect for differing approaches, had been fruitful, and that such discussions made an important contribution to the consolidation of friendly relations between Czechoslovakia and Canada, and on a more general plane to the development of peaceful co-operation between states of different social systems.

11. Mr. Martin accepted with pleasure the kind invitation of Mr. David to visit Czechoslovakia at a time to be decided later.