
News Release

October 6, 1995

No. 186

OFFICIAL VISIT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VICTOR S. CHERNOMYRDIN OCTOBER 4-6, 1995

PRIORITY DIRECTIONS FOR CANADA-RUSSIA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Victor S. Chernomyrdin, discussed a broad range of issues, particularly the ways and means of developing and strengthening bilateral ties in the spirit of the Treaty of Concord and Co-operation between the Russian Federation and Canada, signed in Ottawa on June 19, 1992.

Further to discussions between Prime Minister Chrétien and President Boris Yeltsin in June 1995 in Halifax and earlier in Moscow, the two leaders agreed on the importance of increasing economic co-operation. They underlined the significant contribution this can make to growth, job creation and prosperity in both countries.

Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC)

Prime Minister Chrétien and Mr. Chernomyrdin participated in the inaugural session of the Commission on October 5. The IEC, which includes government and private-sector representatives, will provide a framework to enhance economic co-operation between Canada and Russia and assist the private sectors in both countries in doing business.

The two leaders expressed their support for efforts to create the best possible conditions for trade and investment, including further liberalized trade and effective management of trade disputes, noting that the IEC has a useful role to play in this regard.

Trade and Investment

Prime Minister Chrétien and Mr. Chernomyrdin welcomed recent positive results in Russia's efforts to stabilize its economy. They noted that continued progress toward a market economy and the development



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

of a more open environment for commercial activities and foreign investment will enhance the prospects for bilateral trade.

Mr. Chernomyrdin confirmed that to encourage investment, the Russian government intends to pursue a decisive economic reform program, including the reduction of the budget deficit, and other anti-inflationary measures, as well as privatization and comprehensive taxation reform.

The two leaders affirmed their intention to have negotiations begin on a revised Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA) at an early date. A FIPA would enhance investment protection, increase investor confidence and help promote investment flows.

Canada supports Russia's efforts to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and will continue to provide assistance to Russia related to the development of a trade regime that would be consistent with WTO obligations.

Russia welcomes Canada's technical co-operation program. Private-sector development is among its key objectives, particularly in areas in which Canada has expertise or Canada and Russia share common experience, such as management training, energy, agriculture, northern development and environmental protection.

Multilateral Co-operation

Prime Minister Chrétien and Mr. Chernomyrdin expressed satisfaction with the results of the Halifax Summit. They noted the continuing relevance of a comprehensive multilateral treatment of Russia's external public debt, and Russia's interest in working in close co-operation with the Paris Club.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to seeking co-operative solutions to global problems. In this connection, they welcomed the forthcoming meetings in Ottawa on combatting terrorism and transnational crime.

The leaders stressed the importance of the Moscow Nuclear Safety Summit scheduled for April 1996, which is aimed at broadening co-operation in the areas of nuclear safety, and reaffirmed their readiness to work together in making this unique forum a success.

The first visit to Canada by the Chairman of the Russian government was a timely opportunity for Prime Minister Chrétien and Mr. Chernomyrdin to review key bilateral and international issues, move the economic agenda forward and lay the foundation for a future state visit by Russian President Yeltsin.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874