

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

No. 135

June 14, 1990.

SOVIET TECHNOLOGY TO BE SHOWCASED AT CROSS-CANADA MEETINGS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that a delegation of 12 Soviet technology and business experts will visit Canada, June 19-29, to participate in Canada-USSR technology round-table meetings.

The sessions will take place in Montreal, June 19-20, Toronto, June 21-22, and Edmonton, June 25-26. They will provide Canadian firms with an opportunity to learn more about appropriate technology that is available in the USSR, how to go about acquiring such technology, and how, generally, to conduct business with the USSR.

"We welcome this opportunity to meet Soviet experts in the field of technology," Mr. Crosbie said. "These meetings will provide Canadian businesses and research organizations with up-to-date information on technology-based opportunities with Soviet organizations. The emphasis will be on the possibility of joint ventures, licenses and other strategic alliances in both countries."

The delegation will be led by the Deputy President of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, Kirill M. Dumaev, and will include senior officials from state corporations whose expertise ranges from arctic and marine transportation to advanced building technology and materials.

These meetings were developed following the September 1989 meetings of the Canada-USSR Mixed Economic Commission, when both countries renewed the Canada-USSR agreement to facilitate economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's visit last November to the Soviet Union, when he led a delegation of over 200 Canadian business leaders and signed a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement with the USSR, also indicates Canada's support for increased trade and investment between the two countries.

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Complementary to the presentations to the private sector in Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton, the Soviet delegation will hold meetings with government departments, private sector organizations and other agencies in Ottawa on June 28. The Ottawa sessions will focus on technology transfer opportunities with public sector agencies and departments, and will build on existing co-operative science and technology arrangements between Canada and the USSR.

"The Soviet Union has long been a reliable and valued market for Canadian exports, particularly wheat," Mr. Crosbie said. "These meetings will introduce us to some of the best of their technological products, and could pave the way for a greater diversification of our bilateral trade relations."

The visit of the Soviet delegation is being organized by External Affairs and International Trade Canada, in conjunction with Industry, Science and Technology Canada, and with the co-operation of the Canada-USSR Business Council.

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