



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

71/8

CO-OPERATION IN INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A Statement to the House of Commons on February 4, 1971, by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin.

...I should like to table, in the two official languages, copies of the agreement between the Governments of Canada and the U.S.S.R. on co-operation in the industrial application of science and technology, the protocol of the first meeting of the Canadian-Soviet Mixed Commission, as well as the communiqué issued at the end of those talks.

I had the honour of leading the Canadian delegation composed of civil servants and businessmen. The purpose of this visit was to sign the agreement referred to, and to hold the first meeting of the Canadian-Soviet Mixed Commission set up under the agreement.

We were greeted warmly, our discussions were constructive, and everything seems to indicate that they will lead to mutual benefits.

The agreement aims at encouraging co-operation between the two countries in the field of industrial science and technology. That co-operation could take the form of exchanges of information, and visits of businessmen and experts. It could also lead to licensing agreements in specific areas of technology.

It might lead to all kinds of "joint ventures". I suggest it will also lead to increases in two-way trade between the two countries.

Numerous meetings were held in Moscow between members of the Canadian delegation and their opposite numbers in various industrial and research sectors of the Soviet Administration. These discussions identified a considerable range of subjects of mutual interest to the two countries. As a result, six working groups have been established in order to further identify prospects for mutually beneficial exchanges. The groups are as follows: architecture, construction and building materials; forest-based industry; the non-ferrous metals industry; electric power industry; the oil industry, and the gas industry. Formation of an additional group to consider airport design, facilities and servicing is under consideration.

Certain features that emerged from the discussion are worthy of special mention:

- (1) Problems arising from severe climatic and permafrost conditions are of considerable interest to both countries and have been identified for study by the working groups in construction, electric power, the oil industry and the gas industry.
- (2) The naming of the six working groups I have mentioned does not, of course, exhaust the area of possible co-operation in the industrial application of science and technology. In addition to working groups, other contacts will continue, and further working groups may be established by agreement.

I was impressed by the speed with which our Canadian businessmen and experts were able to get down to specifics with their Soviet counterparts.

The next session of the Mixed Commission will be held in Ottawa early in 1972.

While I was in Moscow, I met separately with Mr. Patolichev, the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade. We engaged in a useful review of trade developments and of prospects for the further expansion of trade. I was invited also to call on Mr. Polyansky, Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union. Our discussions covered the broad range of relations between Canada and the Soviet Union. Mr. Polyansky particularly asked me to convey to the Governor General of Canada and to the Prime Minister the greetings of Mr. Pödgorny, President of the Soviet Union, Premier Kosygin and First Secretary Brezhnev. He also asked me to tell the Canadian Prime Minister -- and I do so now -- how much the Soviet Government is looking forward to welcoming him to the Soviet Union later this year.