



SSEA: I was here eighteen years ago as Deputy Minister, as a bureaucrat, when I accompanied Mr. Lester Pearson who later became Prime Minister of Canada, when he was the Foreign Minister. On this occasion I have been invited by the Soviet Government on an official visit and I had an opportunity yesterday to talk about both bilateral and international questions with Mr. Gromyko, the Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., whom I have encountered on a number of occasions throughout the world since he visited Canada four years ago. In recent years there has been a very great development in relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R.; we have signed a number of agreements and, in particular, the Protocol on Consultations which, in a sense, is the umbrella under which we are holding the talks here in the U.S.S.R. A great deal of the emphasis to our developing relations came about as a result of the visit here in the U.S.S.R. of our Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, and the visit of Mr. Kosygin to Canada in 1971. The U.S.S.R. is one of the close neighbours of Canada, our closest neighbour in the North, and, moreover, we have had continuing relationships with the U.S.S.R. in such places as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe of which Canada is a member. The discussions that I had yesterday reflect the nature of the relations between our two countries. During the morning, for example, we discussed bilateral relations between our two countries. We talked about cultural exchanges, we talked about human contacts, particularly the reunification of Canadian families; in the afternoon we talked about the international questions in which our two countries are very closely involved. The principal topics of conversation in the afternoon, for example, were the Middle East situation, Canada's participation in the United Nations' Emergency Force and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We found in our discussions some questions on which we were fully in agreement, some questions on which we were partly in agreement and more questions on which we had strongly differing views. And in my opinion it was very important that we should have had this exchange of views, not only on the questions on which we were in agreement, but particularly on those questions on which we had a differing point of view. On those questions on which we had differing points of view I believe it is important that we should have an exchange of views so that there is no room for misunderstanding, that both countries understand why they hold differing views and in the hope of influencing one another towards agreement.

Reunification of Canadian families: There are in Canada a number of Canadians who wish to bring members of their immediate family to Canada and thus reunite their families which often have been separated for a good many years. There is another question which relates to the concerns of Canadians about the general question of human contacts, reunification of families in a general sense which applies to many groups and, insofar as Canadians are concerned, since there are many of those racial origins in Canada, to the Jews and to the Ukrainians. On the first question of reunification of Canadian families very substantial progress is being made. During the last few years substantial proportions of the cases that have been brought forward by the Canadian Government have been dealt with satisfactorily. The general question of reunification of families and freedom to travel and so on, I did not raise except in the context of the concern of Canadians. I did not make representations on behalf of the Canadian Government as I did in connection with reunification of Canadian families, and on that question Mr. Gromyko replied that that was a matter of internal concern to the U.S.S.R. and was not an appropriate question for discussion in a bilateral context, and I should add that in the reunification of Canadian

families there are Jews, there are Ukrainians, there are people of all racial origins representing the various national groups in the U.S.S.R. When I raised the question of dissent within the U.S.S.R. Mr. Gromyko's attitude was "Well," he said, "you are quite familiar with dissent in Canada and we have some here in the U.S.S.R. and it shouldn't surprise you."

- Q. In which field of the exchanges you had do you feel you may have the most positive results, whether it is in the political, economic or cultural exchanges field?
- A. I am particularly satisfied with the progress we have made in these talks on three areas. First, on the reunification of families. Very substantial progress is being made and I believe this will do much to improve relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. In the field of cultural affairs we are agreed on the desirability of continuing the very successful cultural activities and sports activities between our two countries, and in the field of trade we are agreed that there now must be more substance to the negotiations that have been going on, to translate studies into contracts.
- Q. Re areas of difference.
- A. I think one of the areas in which we have a considerable difference of opinion, and I would not want to over-emphasize this because it may be that in the course of negotiations we may come closer together, but we do take a somewhat differing view on the negotiations now going on in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Canada, like other western countries is trying to reduce the barriers that now interfere with the movement of peoples, ideas and information. Mr. Gromyko, speaking on behalf of the Soviet Government, places greater emphasis on such questions as the inviolability of frontiers, the principle of non-involvement in the internal affairs of countries, the questions of non-aggression. This is a difference in emphasis. When I have met Mr. Gromyko in the past we have both agreed that in any agreement that is worked out within this conference there is a place for both concepts. So this is not a difference of point of view so much as a difference of emphasis, but it is nevertheless a very important difference of emphasis and I have made my point clear to Mr. Gromyko on a number of occasions, including the talks yesterday.
- Q. Re Soviet attitude on a Middle East cease-fire.
- A. In our discussion we both agreed upon the necessity of maintaining the cease-fire. We did not leave any differences on that point, needless to say. I did, however, explore with Mr. Gromyko the possibilities in the next phase, the question of negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. And on that question the impression I gained was how difficult is the problem of reaching a settlement that is considered fair and just by both sides. Mr. Gromyko made it very clear to me that he was very strongly in support of the Arab point of view.
- Q. Re the energy crisis.
- A. No we did not discuss the energy question. I don't think there is any basis for a discussion of this question between Canada and the U.S.S.R. We are not likely to be suppliers by one to the other of energy, at least in the immediate future.

Q. Re Soviet attitude to the Kissinger mission and the Middle East.

A. Mr. Gromyko did not discuss with me the American attitude toward the Middle East crisis. At one point, however, he said that they had been carrying on discussions with the Arab countries and United States of America.

Q. Re Palestine refugees.

A. Yes, we had very long talks on this subject because I had expressed the view that this was at the heart of the problem and that unless some satisfactory solution was reached it would be very difficult to achieve a settlement that would be considered just by the two sides. This was one of the reasons why I came to the conclusion that the problem of a settlement is going to be extremely difficult.

Q. Are you satisfied with your visit and to what extent?

A. Yes, I am very satisfied so far with the visit and before I leave the U.S.S.R. I am sure that I am going to feel even more satisfied. In the first place it is quite clear from the way that I have been received here and by the serious way the talks have been conducted that the U.S.S.R. wishes to have good relations with Canada. The second reason that I am pleased is that I will have had an opportunity of speaking at some length with three leading members of the Soviet hierarchy: the Foreign Minister, the President and the Prime Minister, Mr. Kosygin. Finally, I am satisfied because during the talks we have not engaged in platitudinous remarks but we have discussed really very difficult problems. And that to me is the greatest source of satisfaction.