DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES FROM THE SOVIET UNION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Soviet Government has agreed to allow the exit from the Soviet Union of 22 families involving 57 people separated from relatives in Canada. These were among 42 families included on a family reunification list presented by Mr. Clark to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze during his official visit to Canada in October, 1986.

Mr. Clark welcomed this action by the Soviet Union as a step in the right direction in addressing a major issue in relations between Canada and the Soviet Union. He said that the Soviet Government's decision is an indication of the willingness of Soviet authorities to move relations between Canada and the USSR forward along the constructive lines he had discussed with Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Clark added that the Canadian Government will monitor these cases closely to ensure that the families receive their passports soon from local Soviet officials and join their relatives in Canada as soon as possible.

Mr. Clark emphasized that Canada will continue its efforts with the Soviet Union to assist in the reunion of all families who remain separated from their relatives in Canada. In view of the encouraging decision of the Soviet Union to permit the exit of these 22 families, he expressed hope that the reunification of the other families will occur in the future.

Further discussions will be carried out to facilitate the development of human contacts between the two countries.

Canada

APPLICANT		DESTINATION
1. Bedrossian	(3)	Montreal, P.Q.
2. Volpov	(3)	Richmond, B.C.
3. Tsirinskaya	(1)	Edmonton, Alta
4. Meri	(1)	Meaford, Ont.
5. Kalep	(5)	Toronto, Ont.
6. Wessosky	(5)	Winnipeg, Man.
7. Gleske	(1)	Sardis, B.C.
8. Jansons	(1)	Toronto, Ont.
9. Balciunas	(1)	Sarnia, Ont.
10. Loceriene	(4)	Hamilton, Ont.
11. Kecha	(1)	Edmonton, Alta.
12. Elnitskaya	(1)	Ottawa, Ont.
13. Berkovich	(3)	Montreal, Que.
14. Popok	(3)	Vancouver, B.C.
15. Walth	(5)	Virgil, Ont.
16. Zablotsky	(3)	Winnipeg, Man.
17. Rabinovich Michael	(1)	Downsview, Ont.
18. Kachanowska	(4)	Winnipeg, Man.
19. Woroniuk	(3)	Edmonton, Alta.
20. Kipnis	(1)	Regina, Sask.
21. Butko	(3)	Toronto, Ont.
22. Vaikla	(1)	Cannifton, Ont.