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JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ CONCERNING THE VISIT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO
THE U.S.S.R., NOVEMBER 18-24, 1973

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

At the invitation of the Soviet Government, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, paid an official visit to the U.S.S.R. from November 18 to 24, 1973.

During his stay in the U.S.S.R. Mr. Sharp and his party visited Moscow and the Caucasian Black Sea coast as well as Kiev and Leningrad. They had an opportunity to see how Soviet people live, as well as to acquaint themselves with their achievements in the fields of economics, science and culture.

Mr. Sharp laid wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Moscow and Kiev and at the Peskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery in Leningrad.

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs was received by Mr. N. V. Podgorny, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., President of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, and Mr. A. N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers.

Detailed discussions took place between Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. A. A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., on matters concerning the further development of Canadian-Soviet relations and on international problems of interest to both countries.

Officials participating in the talks were:

On the Canadian side: Mr. R. A. D. Ford, Ambassador of Canada to the U.S.S.R.; Mr. J. G. H. Halstead, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; Mr. E. P. Black, Director General, Bureau of European Affairs, Department of External Affairs; Mr. A. S. McGill, Director General, Bureau of African and Middle Eastern Affairs; and other officials.

On the Soviet side: Mr. S. P. Kozyrev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; Mr. A. N. Yakovlev, U.S.S.R. Ambassador to Canada; Mr. V. P. Suslov, member of the Collegium of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and other officials.

The discussions took place in an atmosphere of frankness, cordiality and mutual understanding, in keeping with the good neighbourly relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. Both sides noted with satisfaction the steady expansion of Canadian-Soviet relations in recent years and the particular emphasis given to their development by the exchange of visits in 1971 between the Right Honourable P. E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. A. N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers. They emphasized that the agreements and arrangements concluded in 1971 placed relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R. on the foundation of the principles of peaceful and mutually beneficial co-operation. They also provided a strong and constructive base for the further general development of Canadian-Soviet relations in the fields of foreign policy, trade, economics, science and technology, as well as in the fields of education and culture.

Both sides particularly noted the usefulness of the Canadian-Soviet Protocol on Consultations of May 19, 1971. Being guided by the goals of this protocol, both sides spoke in favour of more extensive and regular use of its possibilities for further expansion of political consultations on important international problems of mutual interest and on questions of bilateral relations.

Both sides confirmed their intention to make further efforts in a spirit of reciprocity and mutual benefit, to give added substance to existing accords and understandings between the two countries and to expand co-operation in various fields.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the further increase of contacts between government and political leaders of both countries, between representatives of commerce, science and technology, culture, non-governmental organizations and between tourists. Both sides expressed their mutual intention to deepen these contacts further.

Both sides reviewed the progress made in their joint efforts to expand co-operation in economic, scientific and technological fields under the Agreement on Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Science and Technology signed on January 27, 1971. It was agreed that the implementation of arrangements made at the third session of the mixed commission that took place in Moscow in October should lead in the near future to concrete economic results to the benefit of both sides. Both sides also believe that there are considerable possibilities for further expansion of mutually advantageous trade between Canada and the U.S.S.R.

Both sides were pleased to note that exchanges and co-operation in scientific, cultural and other fields had been increased and enhanced by the General Exchanges Agreement between the two countries. They looked forward to positive results from the mixed commission established under that agreement, which is scheduled to hold its second session in December in Ottawa in order to draw up an agreed programme of exchanges for 1974-75. Confirming the importance attached to the Arctic regions of Canada and the U.S.S.R., both sides agreed that opportunities exist for greater co-operation in this field on the basis of mutual interest.

Both sides expressed their hope for a successful completion to the negotiations on a maritime navigation agreement between Canada and the U.S.S.R.

During the exchange of opinions on international problems the ministers expressed their conviction that the determining trend in the present development of international relations is the deepening process of relaxation of tension, consolidation of security, and peaceful co-operation between states. They expressed the intention of the Canadian and Soviet governments to act in every possible way to promote the consolidation of this trend to secure a lasting and stable peace.

The two sides agreed that the first stage of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which took place in Helsinki had provided a good basis for the second stage of the negotiations now going on in Geneva. They attach great importance to these negotiations and think it necessary that

they should be continued in a constructive spirit and business-like manner. Canada and the U.S.S.R. reaffirmed their readiness to contribute to the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe as soon as possible, and expressed their wish that the conference would attain the goal of strengthening peace and security and extending co-operation and contacts between people in Europe. They believe that successful completion of the second stage of the conference should make possible the holding of its final stage at a very high level.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the opening in Vienna on October 30 of the negotiations on mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe. They agreed that these negotiations constituted an important element in the continuing process of relaxation of tension and increasing co-operation in Europe. They believe that the indispensable condition for obtaining mutually acceptable decisions in these negotiations is to observe strictly the principle of ensuring undiminished security for all participating countries.

Both sides confirmed their support for the objective of achieving general and complete disarmament covering both nuclear and conventional weapons, under strict and effective international control. They consider it necessary that further practical steps should be taken to end the arms race and to achieve disarmament, particularly in regard to weapons of mass destruction -- nuclear, bacteriological and chemical. Among important achievements in this regard are the treaty banning nuclear weaponstests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, the prohibition on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the convention on the prohibition of production, development and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) weapons and toxins and their destruction. Canada and the U.S.S.R. fully support efforts taken by the Committee on Disarmament to seek early agreement on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. It is the intention of both sides to continue furthering the adoption of other partial disarmament measures. They were agreed that the convening of a world conference on disarmament at the appropriate time would be useful in the consideration of questions of disarmament in their entirety.

In the course of the discussions there was a constructive exchange of views on a proposal put forward in the United Nations by the U.S.S.R. for a ten percent reduction of military budgets of permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations and for using a portion of the savings to assist developing countries.

With respect to the situation in the Middle East, satisfaction was expressed over the cease-fire and cessation of military operations in this area. The ministers expressed the determination of Canada and the U.S.S.R. to promote, together with other countries, the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of a prompt, immediate and consistent fulfilment by all sides participating in the conflict; of the appropriate resolutions adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations, namely, 242 of 1967, and 338, 339 and 340 of 1973.

Both sides believe that the decision by the United Nations' Security Council to despatch a United Nations' Emergency Force to the Middle East, under its guidance, should contribute to the normalization of the situation in this area in accordance with the Security Council decisions.

Both sides declared their resolution to promote the increased effectiveness of the United Nations on the basis of the strict observance of its charter. Both sides believe that the main efforts of the United Nations must be directed to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the development of fruitful co-operation among states.

Having exchanged views on the question of the forthcoming international conference on the law of the sea, both sides expressed themselves in favour of resolving the problems which will be considered at the conference, on an international basis, with due regard for the interests of all states.

Canada and the U.S.S.R. proceed from the fact that the development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries meets the interests of the Canadian and Soviet peoples and is an important contribution to the consolidation of world peace and security.

At the conclusion of the talks, Mr. Sharp expressed gratitude and satisfaction for the warm hospitality he had enjoyed in the U.S.S.R. and extended an invitation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., Mr. Gromyko, to visit Canada at a mutually convenient time. This invitation was accepted with pleasure.