

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Ministre du  
Commerce  
extérieur

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## SOVIET MINISTER FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

### TO VISIT CANADA FEBRUARY 16-23

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced that USSR Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Konstantin Katushev, will visit Canada, Feb. 16-23. This is Mr. Katushev's first visit to Canada.

"I am delighted that Minister Katushev is able to accept my invitation, at a time when the Canada-USSR trading relationship is growing rapidly," Mr. Crosbie said. "His visit will help develop the links established by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney during his November visit to the Soviet Union, and Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski's visit in September for the Canada-USSR Mixed Agricultural Commission meeting."

In addition to Mr. Katushev's meetings with Mr. Crosbie and other senior federal Cabinet Ministers, External Affairs and International Trade Canada has arranged meetings with Ontario and Quebec provincial government leaders and with Canadian companies active in trade and investment with the USSR. Mr. Katushev and his delegation will visit Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

While in Toronto, Feb. 19-20, Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Katushev will participate in a major conference entitled "Getting Down to Business in the USSR: The Soviet Market in the 1990's". The conference has been organized by York University and sponsored by the Canada-USSR Business Council.

At 4:00 p.m., Feb. 19, the two Ministers will hold a joint news conference at the King Edward Hotel, where the conference is being held.

On Feb. 21, the Soviet Minister will travel to Ottawa, where he will hold further meetings with federal Cabinet Ministers. Topics of discussion will include the state of economic reforms in the USSR, the growing scope for Canada-Soviet trade and investment, and the Soviet Union's desire to become integrated into the international economic system.

"Canadian business has shown a strong interest in participating in the exciting developments in the Soviet economy," Mr. Crosbie said. "During the Prime Minister's visit in November, he was accompanied by representatives from 154 Canadian companies, and even in that brief visit, discussions were held on projects worth in excess of \$1 billion."

Overall Canadian exports to the Soviet Union have averaged about \$1 billion per year in recent years, mostly in agricultural products, and imports have ranged from \$25 million to \$156 million.

"We are now focusing on ways in which we can diversify Canadian exports, increase the level of imports from the USSR, and foster more joint ventures," Mr. Crosbie said.

Currently there are 24 Canada-Soviet joint ventures registered in the USSR, with an estimated additional 20 signed and awaiting registration.

For more information, media may contact:

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