



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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A CANADIAN LEADER LOOKS AT THE SOVIET UNION

A Statement by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau
in the House of Commons, May 28, 1971.

...The Soviet Union occupies a vast land-mass extending through 11 time-zones, some of which I am still feeling, with climates varying from the desert heat of Central Asia to the frigid temperatures of the Arctic. While in the U.S.S.R., I was taken by the Soviet Government to six cities in addition to Moscow. We travelled some 12,400 kilometres while doing so. Two of those cities, Murmansk and Norilsk, were within the Arctic Circle, the largest communities in the world that far north. They offered evidence of the advantages to be gained by Canada in the development of our North through closer co-operation and exchanges with the Soviet Union.

This visit to the U.S.S.R., which concluded just three hours ago, was the first by a Canadian Prime Minister, while in office, to that country. It was by no means, however, the first occasion on which a Minister of the Canadian Government has travelled in the Soviet Union. Our relations with that country have been developing and increasing in complexity since Canada first opened an embassy in Moscow in the early 1940s.

...Canada has long had treaty arrangements with the Soviet Government. Our first trade agreement was signed in 1956. Since that time, in every year except 1969, we have enjoyed a favourable and often substantial balance of trade in our favour. I might add that while in Moscow our trade in wheat was reviewed, including the Soviet assurance that, when the U.S.S.R. has requirements to import wheat, it will in the first instance apply to Canada as a preferred source of supply. In January of this year, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce concluded an important agreement with the U.S.S.R. on the industrial application of science and technology, an agreement that reflects the recognition in the U.S.S.R., of Canada's increasing stature as the owner of important, advanced technology and of our awareness of the important progress made by the Soviets in a number of fields.

This increasing interest in the Soviet Union has not been confined to the Government. A wide range of contacts has been established in recent years by persons who recognize the Soviet Union as a near neighbour, as a country of great influence, as a market-place and trading partner of immense potential, as the home of wide cultural attainments and as a fascinating land. I believe we have much to gain in this process of increasing awareness....

Canadian businessmen, scholars, artists, athletes and tourists are visiting the Soviet Union in increasing numbers and with considerable success. While my party was in Leningrad yesterday, a ship unloaded a valuable cargo of sophisticated, heavy-tracked vehicles purchased by the Soviets from a Calgary manufacturer.

Earlier in my visit, I was delighted to be told that an Edmonton girl, Miss Elizabeth Carruthers, had placed first in one of the events at a championship diving meet in Rega and that two of her Canadian team-mates came third and fourth.

Against this steady developing background, it was only natural that steps be taken to place Canadian-Soviet relations on a more "structured" and orderly basis, and this was the purpose of the protocol which was signed in Moscow last week and tabled in this House by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the same day.*

This document, which I believe to be an important one, goes some distance toward placing Canadian-Soviet consultations on the same basis as has existed for a number of years with Britain, the United States and Japan.... A similar arrangement was entered into with Mexico as part of the work of the ministerial committee which travelled to Latin America, and...agreements for regular consultation with both New Zealand and Australia were reached during my visits to those countries last May.

This process of broadening Canadian relations is an ongoing one and was spelled out in the foreign policy review. The principles of that review have been discussed widely in Canada and were studied at length by a Parliamentary committee. The foreign policy of this Government has been to contribute where it can to a peaceful world and to strengthen our relations with a number of countries. In both respects this policy is designed to serve basic Canadian values and interests. The Canadian-Soviet protocol is a natural manifestation of that policy.

As the communiqué tabled this morning reveals, the protocol will ensure continuing consultations at a variety of levels on matters of the kind discussed by me and the Soviet leaders, President Podgorny, Premier Kosygin and Secretary-General Brezhnev. The communiqué refers to the desirability of relaxation of international tensions and of stability and *détente* in Europe; economic, scientific and technological co-operation; Canadian-Soviet trade; Arctic and northern development, including the safety of navigation and the prevention of pollution; the significance of the forthcoming UN Conference on the Human Environment; the conviction that international issues should be resolved in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and that the effectiveness of the UN should be enhanced; satisfaction at the conclusion of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and the treaty prohibiting placement of weapons of mass destruction on the ocean floor.

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While in no way diluting our friendship or our contacts with those countries, such as the United States, Britain, France and others, with which we have had traditional and friendly relations, we have taken a fresh look at the world and at the Canadian interests in it. Areas of the world which have not in the past figured prominently in Canada have been sought out consciously as friends, as prospective trading partners, as sources of information and advice, as contributors to an independent Canada; a Canada not overwhelmingly dependent upon or dominated by any

* See page 5.

one state or group of states; in short, a Canada with a singular identity and well recognized as such both by Canadians and by citizens of other countries.

We have been active in the world in those areas where we could contribute positively and usefully: economic and technical assistance, through the creation of the Canadian International Development Research Centre; fresh juristic concepts for the prevention of pollution in waters off our shores and for the conservation of fisheries; studies and proposals in the fields of disarmament and arms control. We have looked to Latin America and are seeking permanent observer status in the Organization of American States; we have expressed our many-faceted interest in the countries of the far "rim" of the Pacific; we have adjusted our defence posture to remove from it any elements that could be regarded as provocative, and to ensure that our policy adequately but truly reflects the needs of Canada for national defence; we have been successful in establishing useful and official contacts with the most populous nation in the world, the People's Republic of China; we have entered wholeheartedly the new Francophonie organization.

All this has been done while retaining Canadian membership in NATO and NORAD, while strengthening our relations with such economic associations as the OECD and GATT, while contributing in an effective and constructive fashion to the UN and to the Commonwealth.

These activities are good in themselves, are good for Canada and, I am convinced, are supported strongly by the majority of Canadians.

It is in this context that my visit to the Soviet Union should be viewed. As we have looked traditionally south to the United States and east to Europe and, more recently, west to Asia, so should we not disregard our neighbour to the north. The relations between Canada and the Soviet Union in the postwar years have not all been of a wholesome or a desirable nature. I harbour no naive belief that as a result of this protocol our two countries will find themselves suddenly in a relation that will reflect nothing but sweetness and tender feelings. As I stated in my speech in the Kremlin, there remain many fundamental differences between us; differences relating to deep-seated concerns springing from historic, geographic, ideological, economic, social and military factors.

But, surely, the only way to resolve these differences and eliminate these concerns is by increased contact and effort at understanding. That is what the protocol proposes. That is what, in a different way, is achieved by prime ministerial visits. Through them an opportunity is created by the pens of journalists and the cameras of photographers for the people of both Canada and the Soviet Union to learn much more about one another -- their respective histories, their sufferings, their aspirations.

No one can travel in the Ukraine and not absorb the instinctive and passionate desire for peace on the part of a people who lost nine million of their countrymen during the Second World War, a number approaching in magnitude the entire population of Canada at that time. No one can walk through the cemeteries of Leningrad and view the mass graves of tens of thousands of residents of that city who died of starvation during the cruel 900-day siege and not understand that the Russian people fear desperately the repetition of an experience which no Canadians, fortunately, have ever suffered. The death of half the people of a city - 600,000

of them women, children and civilians - did not spare a single Leningrad family. The survivors of that cruel conflict do not regard war as an abstract concept, as a glorious pursuit or as a credible means of resolving disputes. War to them is the loss before one's eyes of loved ones, of home, of possessions, of hope.

To achieve a satisfactory, just and continuing peace requires a climate of confidence, a climate in which men of differing social and economic systems trust one another. There is no simple way in which this can be done, but neither is there the slightest doubt that it must be done. Equally, confidence can be engendered only by increasing contact of governments and of people. In this way, gradually, and sometimes painfully, we can continue and accelerate the slow progress toward a world in which the foremost goals of every government of every country must be the attainment of social justice, fundamental human rights and the dignity and worth of all human beings.

Because tolerance and good will are nowhere so evident as they are in Canada, Canadians are possessed of an uncommon opportunity to urge all men everywhere to pursue these universal goals. I attempted to do so while in the Soviet Union, where I expressed to Premier Kosygin the widespread concern in Canada over the alleged refusal of the Soviet Government to permit its Jewish citizens to emigrate to Israel or to other countries of their choice. I was assured by Mr. Kosygin that these allegations were not well-founded and that, in particular, his Government had permitted the exit to Israel for many months of significant numbers of Soviet Jews. I might add that Mr. Kosygin's statement has been corroborated by the Canadian Government from other, independent sources.

I seized the opportunity to urge Mr. Kosygin to permit persons of all ethnic origins with relatives in Canada to come here and thus reunify the many families which have been split tragically for many years.

He assured me that his Government would not place unjustifiable barriers in the way of those persons and he promised that he would give personal attention to the list of names of such persons which I took with me to Moscow.

In another area entirely, I was able to discuss with Mr. Kosygin the concern and fear expressed by our East Coast fishermen over the practices of Soviet Atlantic fishing fleet. I pointed out to him the immense increase in recent years of the Soviet catch, the decrease in the Canadian catch and the vital need for conservation of this important food resource in the interests of both our countries. Mr. Kosygin observed that the Soviet Union was a party to the North Atlantic fisheries convention and had a profound interest in a long-lasting and healthy fish stock. We agreed that this issue was deserving of further talks.

Only time will tell whether the warm welcome which was accorded me in the U.S.S.R. reflects the commencement of an era in Canadian-Soviet relations as advantageous as we all hope will be the case. I prefer to be optimistic and I am urging all government departments to exploit these new openings. I urge Canadian businessmen to accept the new challenge. For our part as Canadians, I assured the Soviet leaders that there was no impediment in our desire for better and more mutually beneficial relations. In the pursuit of those benefits I am happy to report to the House the exceedingly high reputation and the impressive competence of the Canadian

Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. R.A.D. Ford, and his conscientious and professional staff.

As the House is aware, I invited Premier Kosygin to visit Canada at a time convenient to each of us, and he accepted with pleasure. I am certain that on that occasion Canadians will respond to the Soviet leader with the same warmth and congeniality as was shown to me by persons in every city I visited. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Kosygin who spent some 20 hours with me and whose daughter acted throughout the visit as the hostess for my wife....

U.S.S.R.-CANADA PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATIONS

(Tabled in the House of Commons on May 20, 1971,
and in the Senate on June 2, 1971.)

Inspired by a desire to develop and strengthen relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual confidence between the two countries.

Expressing a desire for co-operation in the interests of maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and

Conscious of the responsibilities of the Soviet Union and Canada as members of the United Nations to promote the preservation of peace,

Believing that the Soviet Union and Canada can contribute toward the above goals by acting in a spirit of co-operation, mutual respect and reciprocal benefit,

Endeavouring to improve and further develop relations between the two countries by means of high-level contacts, expanding ties and exchanges in the fields of economy, trade, science, technology, culture and northern development,

Noting with satisfaction the conclusion of the Soviet-Canadian Agreement on Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Science and Technology, and the development of trade on the basis of the 1956 Trade Agreement,

Conscious of the responsibility of the two sides to preserve and protect the environment of the Arctic and the sub-Arctic areas,

Fully determined to go on developing political and economic co-operation,

The Prime Minister of Canada and the Soviet leaders have agreed on the following:

1. The Soviet Union and Canada shall enlarge and deepen consultations on important international problems of mutual interest and on questions of bilateral relations by means of periodic meetings. Such consultations will embrace:

- questions of a political, economic and cultural nature, environmental questions and other subjects concerning relations between the two countries;
- international questions, including situations causing tension in various parts of the world, with a view to promoting *détente*, furthering co-operation and strengthening security;
- problems which are the subjects of multilateral talks, including those considered at the United Nations;
- any other subjects in respect of which the parties may find it useful to have an exchange of views.

2. In the event of a situation arising which, in the opinion of the two governments, endangers the maintenance of peace or involves a breach of the peace, the two governments will make contact without delay in order to exchange views on what might be done to improve the situation.

3. The provisions set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above do not affect obligations previously assumed by the parties in respect of third states and are not directed against any of them.

4. The conduct of such consultations between the Soviet Union and Canada is designed not only to promote the welfare of their peoples and develop relations between them but also to contribute towards better relations among all countries.

5. These consultations, at levels to be determined by mutual agreement, will have a regular character. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs or their representatives will meet whenever the need arises and, in principle, at least once a year. Either party is free to recommend the holding of such consultations, including the time and level at which they should be held.

Moscow, May 19, 1971

Chairman of the Council of
Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

Prime Minister
of Canada.

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