



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 79

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the following Joint Communiqué was issued in Moscow on Wednesday, October 12, on the conclusion of the visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson:

From October 5 to 12 as a guest of the Soviet Government, the Canadian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Lester B. Pearson visited the U.S.S.R.

During his stay in Moscow, Mr. Pearson met leading statements of the Soviet State and had discussions with the Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., Mr. V. M. Molotov; the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. I. G. Kabanov; and with the acting Minister for Culture of the U.S.S.R., Mr. S. V. Kaftanov.

In discussions during these meetings there took part on the Canadian side the following persons accompanying Mr. Pearson: the Associate Deputy Minister for Trade and Commerce, Mr. M. W. Sharp; the Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. J. W. Holmes; as well as Mr. J. B. C. Watkins, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada in the U.S.S.R.

On the Soviet side there took part in discussions the Deputy Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., Mr. V. A. Zorin; the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. in Canada, Mr. D. S. Chuvakhin; and the Chief of the Second European Department of the Foreign Ministry of the U.S.S.R., Mr. V. Y. Yerofeyev.

These meetings and discussions took place in a cordial atmosphere and ranged over a wide variety of subjects, including matters of major international significance. The exchange has resulted in a clearer understanding of each other's point of view which should assist in promotion of good relations between the two countries.

It was recognized that there were no problems between nations or group of nations which were incapable of solution by peaceful means if goodwill and a sincere desire for strengthening peace and friendly relations between nations were present. Mr. Molotov and Mr. Pearson expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the points of view in the United Nations sub-Committee on disarmament of which the U.S.S.R. and Canada are members had come closer together and it was established that both sides had common views with regard to the necessity to facilitate early solution of the disarmament problem. It was agreed that for such an achievement the development of confidence and trust between nations and growth of a sense of security was vitally important. This end should be served by measures directed at further relaxation in international tensions. It was noted with satisfaction that the decisions of the conference of Heads of Governments of the Four Powers in Geneva in July last had facilitated relaxation of tension in international relations although many problems still remained to be solved.

* specific concern to their two countries as well as others of . . . 2

In connection with Mr. Molotov's co-Chairmanship of the Geneva Conference and Canada's membership in the International Supervisory Commission for Indo-China an occasion for discussion of problems of Indo-China was presented. It was agreed that in spite of difficulties, the object of implementation of the Geneva Agreements while maintaining the truce and avoiding further hostilities should be pursued.

Advantage was also taken of Mr. Pearson's visit to explore the possibility of concluding a trade agreement between Canada and the U.S.S.R. on a mutually beneficial basis with the most favoured nation principle being observed. The desirability of measures directed towards removal of barriers to international trade generally was recognized by both Ministers. There was a sufficient measure of agreement to warrant resumption of negotiations shortly in Ottawa which were started in Moscow, ^{and} which will, it is hoped, produce positive results of benefit to both countries.

In the course of the discussions held, it was agreed that mistrust and misunderstanding could be to some measure dispelled by greater exchange of visits, both official and unofficial. It was agreed that every effort should be made to remove obstacles to the freer flow of information and views and to develop as much as possible cultural, scientific and technical contacts. It was agreed in the first place to consider means of scientific and technical co-operation between the U.S.S.R. and Canada in industry, transport, and agriculture and an exchange of information on scientific research in Arctic regions.

It was also agreed that visits by Parliamentary Delegations could contribute to better mutual understanding between the U.S.S.R. and Canada and strengthen the ties between them.

The Foreign Ministers recognized that their governments' differences of approach to political and economic problems should not be a hindrance to co-operation on many practical subjects on the basis of mutual interest and desire to promote peace and good neighbourly relations. Such co-operation would be based on the principle of noninterference by each country in the domestic affairs of the other and would be inspired by a desire by both to work together for the establishment of international peace and ensuring of security.

Before leaving the U.S.S.R. Mr. Pearson visited the Crimea where he was received by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Mr. N. A. Bulganin, and by the member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R., Mr. N. S. Khrushchev.
