

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur
October 12, 1990

No. 237

INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO THE U.S.S.R.

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced that he will lead a trade mission consisting of 30 Canadian companies on a visit to the U.S.S.R., from October 20 to 28.

"The Soviet Union is going through historic economic as well as political changes," said Mr. Crosbie. "Although conditions are unsettled at present, Canadian businesses have told me that a carefully planned approach can and does reap valuable results for the right firms."

The companies participating in the mission, which will visit Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev, and the republic of Kazakhstan, represent a range of sectors from resource development to food processing, and high technology. Several already have joint ventures in the U.S.S.R. or are planning similar linkages with Soviet enterprises. Some of the participating companies, which include large, medium and small firms, are Northern Telecom Ltd., Canac International Inc., Canadian Marine Drilling Ltd., Canadian Helicopter Corp., Canadian Satellite Communications Ltd., and SEP Specialized Equipment Products Inc.

"I am anxious to assist these companies to position themselves to respond to the present and future requirements of the Soviet economy," said Mr. Crosbie. "The immense human and natural resources of the U.S.S.R. make it an important business partner for us now, and in the long term."

The Minister's agenda includes a wide range of meetings and activities. Among these events:

On October 22, in Moscow, Minister Crosbie will open the Ninth Canada-U.S.S.R. Mixed Economic Commission meeting. Along with federal officials, provincial representatives from Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan will be participating in the deliberations of the Mixed Economic Commission.

On October 24, in Moscow, the Minister will address a "Know Canada" seminar, organized by the Canada-U.S.S.R. Business Council (C.U.B.C.). Canadian company officials will have the opportunity during the seminar to exchange views with representatives of leading Soviet commercial organizations. Mr. Crosbie will also officially open the C.U.B.C. Moscow office.

On October 25, the Minister will visit a Partec Lavalin Inc. sour gas project in Tenghiz, Kazakhstan.

In addition to supporting the thrust of current and new Canadian business development initiatives in the Soviet Union, Minister Crosbie will meet with Soviet leaders to explore the direction and substance of Soviet economic reform, and its implications for Canada.

For example, on October 26, in Kiev, Minister Crosbie will meet with the President of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, and the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Also included on Minister Crosbie's agenda are meetings with: the U.S.S.R. Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, the President of U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chairman of the State Commission for Foreign Economic Relations, the Prime Minister of the Russian Republic, the Moscow City Council, and the Soviet Minister of the Oil and Gas Industry.

- 30 -

For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874