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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

EXCHANGES OF VISITS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE
COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA
AUGUST 1961 - OCTOBER 1962

Note by the Canadian Delegation

I. Synopsis

Although Canada does not have cultural agreements with the Soviet Union or any of the Soviet Bloc countries, a considerable number of exchanges both official and unofficial do take place. During the 12 months from August 1961 to August 1962, the visits have been varied and have followed fairly closely the pattern established in previous years. It has been a period of some frustrations, particularly in proposed Arctic exchanges, but in other areas the arrangements have been reasonably satisfactory. While the Soviet Union sent large groups such as the Red Army Chorus to Canada in 1961 and the Moscow Circus in 1962, the visit of the Montreal Symphony to the Soviet Union was the first large scale cultural manifestation sent by Canada to any of the Communist Bloc countries.

2. A large number of visitors from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were concerned with trade, either trade delegations invited by Canadian Government Departments and agencies or business groups where arrangements have been made directly by them with private Canadian firms or organizations. There were also a number of visitors from the Soviet Union interested in tours of industrial enterprises, e.g. steel, cement, construction, the aircraft industry and so forth. Many of these were reciprocal, while for others, there was no indication that Canadian firms were interested in sending representatives to the Soviet Union in exchange. It is a policy of the Canadian Government, if informed by a firm of its intention to invite Soviet visitors to Canada, to suggest that the firm should consider the advantages of requesting a reciprocal visit to the Soviet Union. Most firms indicate that reciprocal visits are

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envisaged and agreed to by the Soviet authorities. In instances where arrangements have been made privately and where in the view of the Canadian Government the principle of reciprocity is not being observed or the visit is not considered in Canadian interests, visas may be and have on occasion been refused.

II. Specific Visits

3. The following is a list of the main visits (not including visits concerned with trade), which took place over the past 12 to 14 months.

A. Cultural

USSR to Canada

1. Red Army Chorus - August - September 1961
2. Galina Veshnevahaya - Opera Singer November 1961
3. E.M. Gilels - pianist - January 1962
4. Ukrainian Dance Group - April 1962
5. Igor Oistrakh - February and April 1962
6. Bolshoi Dancers - Two dancers performed with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet December 1961
7. Moscow Circus - August - September 1962
8. D. Hnatiuk - Baritone - October 1962
9. Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra - October 1962
10. Bolshoi Ballet - December 1962
11. Exchange of Symphony Orchestra Conductors - Lvov - Calgary, planned for early 1962

Canada to USSR

1. Miss Maureen Forrester - contralto - November 1961
2. Montreal Symphony Orchestra - April 1962
3. Miss Teresa Stratas - soprano - April 1962
4. Mr. Robert Turini - pianist - April 1962

5. Four Canadians, Michael Kilborn (cellist) Raymond Pannell (pianist), Elaine Keeler (pianist) and Betty Jean Hagen took part in the Second Tchaikovsky Competition - April 1962
6. Elgar Choir (Vancouver) July 1962
7. The Travellers - Group of six folk singers - July 1962
8. Lois Marshall - soprano - September 1962

4. In cultural exchanges the balance is in favour of the Soviet Union. This situation will, no doubt, continue to prevail because:

- (a) the large population of the Soviet Union makes it possible for that country to have greater cultural resources for export than Canada with a much smaller population;
- (b) the Soviet Union by its system of state support exports culture on a scale which Canada, depending upon private initiative and finances, cannot meet. Nevertheless, the Canadian response to Soviet cultural visits has been reasonably good and the Canadian artists have, on the whole, been well received in the Soviet Union.

5. Cultural exchanges with the other Communist Bloc countries have not been extensive. The following is representative of the type of cultural activities which have taken place, most of which have not been arranged on any specific reciprocal basis:

To Canada

1. Mazowsze Dance Group from Poland 1961
2. Plades Video - baritone - Yugoslavia 1962
3. Visit of Polish Theatrical Group 1962
4. Yugoslav Exhibit of Frescos - October 1962

To Communist Bloc and Yugoslavia

1. International Exposition of Childrens' Drawings to Poland 1961
2. Exhibition of Canadian Eskimo Art 1961 - 1962 to Poland and Czechoslovakia
3. Exhibition of Canadian Art - Poland 1962

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4. Canadian Guild of Potters display of Ceramics at the International Exposition of Contemporary Ceramics in Prague 1962
5. Entry from Montreal in the International Marionette Festival in Poland - June 1962
6. Visit of Dr. Charles Comfort (National Art Gallery) to Poland to observe the centenary of the Polish National Museum.
7. Visit of Dr. W.S. Dale of the National Gallery to Poland - lecture tour on Canadian art.

B. Agriculture

1. Visit of three Canadian officials of the Department of Agriculture to Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Roumania - August 1961
2. Dr. D. G. Hamilton of the Department of Agriculture to the USSR - September 1961
3. Visit of Soviet agricultural officials to Canada (November 1961) - this visit was an exchange for one made by the Co-operative Union of Canada to the Soviet Union earlier in the year.
4. Visit of three Soviet officials to Canada to inspect and purchase livestock - July 1962
5. Visit of Mme. M. Wostowicz (Poland) for purpose of studying Dairy Research - studies ended June 1962
6. Early in January 1962, the Department of Agriculture proposed an exchange of agricultural specialists in northern areas. The proposal was turned down by the Soviet authorities.

C. Engineering

1. Private visit of Soviet steel specialists to Canada - December 1961
2. Brief private visit of Soviet technical officials to the aircraft industry after attending ICAO conference.
3. Visit of three Soviet specialists to attend meetings of the Canadian Diamond Drilling Association. Papers were presented by the Soviet officials.

D. Fisheries

1. Visit of Dr. Kazimierz Patalas (Poland) to make scientific studies at the invitation of the Fisheries Research Branch 1962.

E. Scientific and Technical Visits

1. Plans were drawn up for a visit to Canada of two Soviet scientists in return for the visit made in 1961 by two officials of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. This visit was postponed at the request of the Soviet authorities. After a second request for postponement the visit was cancelled for 1962.
2. Two Soviet geologists visited Canada (July - August 1962) in return for the visit made to the Soviet Union in 1961 by two officials of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.
3. Visit of Soviet surveying specialist to Canada to return the visit made by an official of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in 1961.
4. Visit of Dr. S. Leszczycki, Director of the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Science on invitation of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. June 1962.
5. Visit of Mr. Vladimir Palaiy of the Academy of Sciences of Czechoslovakia for six months study at the University of British Columbia - 1962.
6. Apart from the foregoing, there was also the exchange of scientists arranged within the terms of the agreement reached in 1959 between the National Research Council of Canada and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. During the period October 1961 - August 1962, while the National Research Council has been frustrated by Soviet delays in replying to its proposals, the agreement is generally working out in an acceptable manner. The delay has meant however, that many of the visits to the USSR which should have taken place before August 1962, are only now taking place. In line with the agreement, the National Research Council has accepted seven research workers and two senior lecturers from the Soviet Union during this period.
7. In addition to the foregoing, the National Research Council and the Polish Academy of Sciences arranged for reciprocal visits (1962).

F. Tourists

The number of Soviet tourists to Canada since August 1961 has not been large, but has followed much the same pattern as in previous years:

1. American Express Tour - 15 tourists August 1961
2. American Express Tour - 21 tourists June 1962
3. American Express Tour - 5 tourists August 1962

The number of tourists from other bloc countries has not been calculated, but the majority would consist of individuals visiting relatives in Canada. For Canadian tourists visiting the Communist Bloc countries, it is estimated that the number would run into several hundreds to the Soviet Union and a considerable number also visited the other Communist Bloc countries particularly Poland.

G. Scholarships and Awards

No precise figure is readily available for the scholarships and awards granted to personnel from the Communist Bloc countries and Yugoslavia for the purpose of study in Canada. The following list, however, gives an indication of the activity in this area:

1. International Atomic Energy Agency - fourteen applications were received for study in Canada under IAEA sponsorship from Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Roumania and Czechoslovakia. About half of these applications were approved.
2. Agency for International Development: six applications from Yugoslavia were approved.
3. United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance: three applications from Yugoslavia were approved.
4. Post doctorate scholarship provided for foreign students by the National Research Council and Canadian Universities - Czechoslovakia 1; Poland 6 and Yugoslavia 5.

H. International Conferences in Canada:

There were over twelve international conferences held in Canada during the period August 1961 to October 1962. Communist Bloc delegates (mostly Soviet) attended most of these either in the rôle of participants or as observers.

I. Education

1. Forty Canadian students attended the Thirteenth International Seminar (World University Service) held in Poland in the summer of 1962.
2. Exchange of students arranged by the World University Service of Canada with Poland. Two Canadian students have proceeded to Poland. The Polish students have not yet come to Canada.

J. Sports

1. Visit of Chatham Maroons (hockey) to Czechoslovakia December 1961.
2. Trail Smoke Eaters (hockey) to Moscow February 1962.
3. Canadian Ski Team participated in World Ski Jumping Championships in Poland February 1962.
4. Canada Speed Skater, Paul Alan Enoch, competed in World Championships in Moscow February 1962.
5. Visit of Soviet cyclists to Canada for Tour de St. Laurent - August 1962.
6. Soviet Hockey Team to Canada - November 1962.
7. Maria and Otto Jelenick - figure skaters to Czechoslovakia, March 1962.
8. Saskatoon Quakers hockey team to Czechoslovakia - December 1962.

Conclusion

The pattern of exchanges and visits between Canada and the Communist Bloc for the past twelve to fourteen months has generally followed the pattern established over the past four or five years. While it has not been spectacular it has been generally considered profitable in the sense that it has helped in a small way to open up the Soviet bloc and its people to Western ideas and contacts.

In the absence of a cultural agreement, some imbalance on exchanges will obtain. A concerted effort is made, however, to ensure that reciprocal visits are arranged if it is considered

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to be in the Canadian interest. Although it is perhaps unfortunate that exchanges in the academic world, especially in the liberal arts, e.g. university professors (other than scientists) students and writers have been negligible, the exchanges in the scientific, cultural and technical fields have been sufficient to warrant a continuation of the present policy.

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