

THE HONOURABLE NELLIE J. COURNOYEA
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

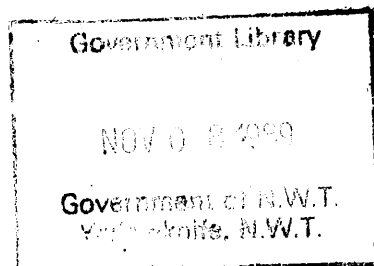
NO. _____
DATE _____

**CANADA/USSR ARCTIC SCIENCES EXCHANGE PROGRAM
THEME III - NORTHERN CONSTRUCTION**

I AM PLEASED TO RISE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TODAY TO PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF NORTHERN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CANADA/USSR ARCTIC SCIENCE PROGRAM. THE CURRENT PROGRAM WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR AND NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON EXTENDING THE PROGRAM AND ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WERE USED IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

1. THE PROGRAM IS TO BE BALANCED WITH EQUAL PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES.
2. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE THE PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY SPECIFIC PROJECTS.
3. THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THOSE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH EACH SPECIFIC PROJECT.
4. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE THE STAFF INVOLVED SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH SPECIFIC PROJECT.
5. THE PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY THOSE PROJECTS THAT CAN BE REALISTICALLY ACHIEVED WITHIN THE TIME FRAME FOR THIS NEXT PHASE.

I AM PLEASED TO ADVISE YOU THAT BASIC AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH OUR SOVIET COLLEAGUES.



OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE THOSE PROJECTS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF PROVIDING CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE NORTH. THESE INCLUDE:

1. THE PROJECT TO PREPARE A NEW TOWN PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY OF VOTCHA IN THE KOMI AUTONOMOUS SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC IN THE SOVIET ARCTIC. THE TOWN PLAN AND THE RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING ROADS, WATER AND SANITATION, HOUSING AND ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS IS BEING PLANNED AND DESIGNED ACCORDING TO NORTHERN CANADIAN TOWN PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

FOLLOWING REVIEW AND HOPEFULLY APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PLAN WE EXPECT THAT THE GNWT AND NORTHERN PRIVATE CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTUAL DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES THROUGH SOME FORM OF JOINT VENTURE WITH SOVIET COMPANIES.

2. A JOINT PROJECT TO DESIGN A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR USE IN SMALL NORTHERN COMMUNITIES BOTH IN CANADA AND THE USSR, IS TO BE INVESTIGATED. THE INTENT IS TO DEVELOP AND PRODUCE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR AN IMPROVED SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED AS A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE SOVIETS.
3. THE FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND APPLICATION OF SOVIET TECHNIQUES IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ICE BRIDGES AND WINTER ROADS IS INTENDED TO PERMIT EARLIER OPENING OF ICE BRIDGES AND ROADS. THIS WILL RESULT IN MINIMIZING THE TRANSPORTATION COST INCREASES WHICH OCCUR DURING FREEZE-UP AND BREAK-UP WHEN ONLY AIRCRAFT TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE.

THESE AND OTHER PROJECTS NEGOTIATED IN THE NEW TWO YEAR PROGRAM HAVE THE POTENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR EXCHANGING OUR LATEST

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO TO REDUCE COSTS AND PROVIDE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONSULTING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES IN THE N.W.T.