



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 431

16 January 1975

### AUSTRALIA/USSR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

The Prime Minister, Mr. E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., and Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. A.N. Kosygin, yesterday signed in Moscow an agreement between the Australian and USSR Governments for scientific and technical co-operation.

In the first instance five fields are to be given priority for co-operation. They are: earth sciences, plant industry, radioastronomy, entomology and textile technology. Small groups of experts in these fields will exchange visits so that long-term programs for co-operation can be prepared.

The first of these visits has been made by an Australian group of earth scientists which toured the USSR in December 1974, for discussions with their Soviet counterparts. Soviet groups in textile technology and radioastronomy will visit Australia in February for talks with Australian scientists and inspections of laboratories. Other exchanges will take place in subsequent months.

As a result of the prior negotiation of the agreement there has already been a strengthening of scientific co-operation between Australia and the USSR in some of the priority areas. It is hoped that the agreement will benefit scientific development in both countries, and thereby contribute to furthering bilateral relations between Australia and the USSR. The agreement will facilitate increased co-operation in both the natural and the social sciences.

The text of the agreement is attached.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Expressing satisfaction with relations established in the sphere of science and technology between various organizations of both countries,

Taking into consideration the cooperation of both countries in international scientific programs,

Desirous of facilitating further growth of scientific-technological cooperation and exchanges between government scientific, technical and industrial research organizations of both countries,

Convinced that the implementation of such cooperation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding between the Australian and Soviet peoples and the strengthening of good relations between the two countries,

HAVE AGREED on the following:

Article I

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will facilitate the development of scientific-technical cooperation between government research organizations of both countries on the basis of mutual benefit and reciprocity.

Article II

With the consent of both Governments, such cooperation may be implemented in the following forms:

(a) the exchange of visits of scientists, technical specialists and delegations with the aim of carrying out scientific research or for familiarization with the scientific-technical achievements in each country;

(b) the organization of bilateral conferences and symposia on current problems in the development of science and technology;

(c) the exchange of scientific-technical information and documentation;

(d) the pursuit of joint research activities and any other joint activities for the furtherance of scientific and technical cooperation;

(e) other forms of cooperation, which will be mutually agreed upon.

### Article III

In the spirit of the agreement, both Governments will facilitate the establishment of direct contacts and cooperation between scientific and technical organizations of both countries and the conclusion where necessary of separate implementing arrangements.

Such implementing arrangements will be concluded in accordance with the laws of both countries.

### Article IV

1. Both governments will, as far as possible, seek to create favourable conditions for the carrying out of visits and of exchanges of scientific and technical specialists within the framework of the Agreement. Such visits and exchanges will be implemented on the basis of reciprocity in accordance with the laws of each country.

2. Programs, itineraries of trips, times and dates of arrival, and other details of such visits and exchanges will be agreed upon in advance, in principle no less than 30 days beforehand.

3. Expenses connected with the implementation of visits will be paid by the Government of the sending country unless some alternative arrangement is agreed by the organizations concerned on other bases of funding. Supplementary financial arrangements will be determined where necessary for the support of other forms of cooperation.

#### Article V

The present Agreement does not preclude visits and exchanges, outside the scope of the Agreement. The Government of one country shall inform the other, by diplomatic channels, of such visits and exchanges with the aim of rendering necessary assistance in their organization.

#### Article VI

Subject to consultation between the two Governments scientific information, obtained as a result of joint scientific research, carried out within the framework of the Agreement, may be passed to international scientific organisations.

#### Article VII

Wherever necessary, representatives designated by the respective Governments will meet to discuss areas and specific programs of scientific-technical cooperation, stages in the implementation of agreed measures and also other questions relating to the present Agreement.

Article VIII

The present Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature;

The present Agreement shall remain in force initially for four years, and thereafter shall remain in force until such time as either Government has received the written notification of the Government of the other side of its intention to terminate the Agreement, in such case the Agreement will cease to have effect 180 days after the receipt of such notification.

Done at Moscow.....this.....fifteenth.....day of  
January.....one thousand nine hundred and.....seventy five.....  
in two copies each in the English and Russian languages,  
both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of Australia

E.G. WHITLAM

For the Government of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics

A.N. KOSYGIN