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Some U.S. firms producing equipment where there is considerable competition have attempted on their own to make purchases from Czechoslovak producers in order to improve their competitive position. One large U.S. firm, involved for a number of years in trade with Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries, made efforts during this period to work out with Czechoslovak banking and economic officials a system of international trading certificates which would give greater flexibility in the countertrade area. Negotiations on this matter are continuing and the outcome is not known at this point.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

The Czechoslovak government continues to give little encouragement to private enterprise, which is basically restricted to small service businesses and a limited amount of private agricultural production.

German Democratic Republic

General Assessment

While U.S. exports to the GDR declined modestly during this reporting period, GDR exports to the U.S. were 75 percent greater during the past six months than during a similar period last year. Overall commercial relations remained stable.

Business Working Conditions

Access to GDR officials appears neither to have worsened nor to have improved. Though the GDR continues to require that all East Germans get prior government approval for business or social contacts with U.S. and other Western representatives, this approval was granted quickly at the last two Leipzig fairs. The requirement that foreign businesses deal through a limited number of approved GDR service organizations still keeps access below the level desired by foreign business representatives.

There have been no new U.S. business offices established, nor has there been a change in official policy toward the development of Western commercial ties during this period. Four U.S. companies have offices; two are staffed by GDR citizens, one by an Austrian national, and one by a Belgian national. Foreign business must locate their East Berlin offices in the International Trade Center, where rents are high and access controlled or in sole-occupancy buildings.

Availability of Hotel Accomodations for Visiting Business Representatives and of Housing Accomodations for Resident Business Representatives

Visiting business representatives are required to stay in expensive hotel accommodations and in hotels which require payment in convertible currencies if the city has such hotels. In cities without these types of hotels, accommodations are less expensive and payment may be made with GDR marks. Given these conditions, the availability of hotel accommodations appears to be adequate.

Resident business representatives are allowed to rent, but not buy, housing in the GDR. Available housing is usually expensive and standards vary. All housing services must be obtained through a state-operated agency which determines the rent as well as the location of housing available to foreigners.

Business Travel and Visa Restrictions

Foreign business representatives have not experienced problems with travel and visas. Travelers in possession of GDR hotel vouchers are generally issued visas upon arrival at border crossing points. In addition, visas for day visits to East Berlin are obtainable at Berlin sector-crossing points with little delay. The GDR continues to issue multiple entry visas valid for one year to some Western business representatives residing in, or maintaining offices in, the GDR. Non-resident business representatives generally receive a one-entry visa unless a multiple-entry visa is requested on their behalf by a GDR trading partner.

The inauguration of nonstop flights to Leipzig from the FRG during the Leipzig fair facilitated travel for fair visitors. Generally, those using these flights are issued visas in Leipzig which limit travel to the Leipzig district.

Non-resident foreign business representatives, like virtually all visitors to the GDR, are required to exchange approximately \$10 per day into GDR marks during their stay. Of this sum, any unspent GDR marks cannot be converted back into Western currency upon departure, but must be either forfeited or deposited in a special account for use upon the visitor's return.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

The type, quality and timeliness of economic and commercial information released by the GDR is considered unsatisfactory by Western businesses. The main source of GDR economic data is

the annual statistical yearbook published by the GDR State Central Administration for Statistics. The yearbook is not published on a timely basis (final 1982 statistics appeared in January 1984). The small portion of the report devoted to foreign trade usually lumps export and import figures together; many business representatives question its reliability.

The GDR foreign trade bank's (Deutsche Aussenhandelsbank) annual report offers only highly aggregated information on GDR hard currency trade, and no specifics on GDR foreign debt. In general, it does not serve the needs of banks and firms seeking to evaluate potential business relationships. The GDR does not provide information on total balance of payments, aggregate net and gross foreign debt, cash flow projections, or statements on sources of funds.

During this reporting period the GDR increased the frequency, but not the quality of its reporting on national output by industrial sector. In its major newspaper, Neues Deutschland, it began publishing on a monthly, rather than semi-annual, basis the percentage share of total national output produced by each of twelve major industries. It also showed each month the distribution of output by district.

Policies Concerning Economic and Commercial Cooperation Arrangements

Joints ventures which involve joint ownership of business undertakings are not permitted under GDR law. The GDR is, however, interested in joint ventures and other cooperative ventures in third country markets, and in the past a few French and Austrian firms have been involved with the GDR in cooperative ventures in third markets. The GDR prefers to pay for Western technological investment through buybacks. No U.S. firms have joint ventures in the GDR.

Official Visits

There were no significant official visits of an economic or commercial nature during this reporting period. Preparations were made for a mid-October visit to the United States by staff-level officials from the GDR Ministries of Foreign Trade and Foreign Affairs to discuss possibilities for the expansion of U.S. - GDR trade within the existing framework of our bilateral relations.

Policies toward countertrade arrangements

The GDR actively seeks countertrade arrangements as a way to avoid spending hard currency, and often setting this arrangement is a condition of sale. Cooperation agreements for production within the GDR are often coupled with countertrade. Difficulties in obtaining the quantity or quality of goods desired, limitations on what the GDR can or is willing to supply, and the unmarketability of GDR products inhibit some U.S. firms from entering countertrade arrangements.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

In general small and medium-sized enterprises do not encounter problems different from those faced by larger enterprises.

Hungary

General Assessment

Hungary's implementation of Basket II provision remained satisfactory during the reporting period. Foreign exchange reserves are stronger, despite first half hard currency export performance that was not quite as strong as the Hungarian Government would have liked, as import restrictions are being withdrawn gradually. Companies are trying to restock supplies now, after drawing down inventories since mid-1982 when the financial liquidity crisis forced more stringent rationing of foreign exchange. An increase of only \$100 million on a current account surplus of \$400 million is projected for 1984. Convertible currency financing facilities are far more favorable, as Western bankers reassess their risk on the strength of the impressive balance of payments adjustment in Hungary over the past two years.

Business Working Conditions

Working conditions for Western Businessmen remained satisfactory during the reporting period. Deluxe and first-class hotel accommodations for business travellers, as well as for convention and tourist purposes, are still expanding. Medium-level, medium-priced hotel rooms are still at a premium, though several hotels falling into this category are undergoing renovation. Business access remains generally satisfactory. Businessmen with small and medium sized firms still experience some difficulty and delay in getting access to end-users. On the other hand, some end-users are exercising new autonomy with recently gained foreign trading rights and have actively sought out Western business partners without a

governmental or foreign trading organization middle man. The total number of Hungarian firms permitted such full foreign trading rights continues to grow. The representatives of three U.S. firms with accredited offices are well established and enjoy excellent accommodations but costs of operations are still high.

Western firms seeking office and housing accommodations can expect considerable delays. Other facilities, such as telephone and telex, also require substantial time to obtain. Two new West German firms established Budapest offices during the reporting period.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

Business and commercial information, while not usually available in forms such as Western-style annual reports, is disseminated fairly freely in newspapers, journals and specialized economic publications. Enterprise and plant visits continue to provide detailed information since Hungarian commercial representatives and managers have shown a disposition to discuss matters freely when specific questions are posed. Hungarian cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank (as well as a domestic realization that more data need be available) have resulted in a fundamental qualitative improvement in economic and financial information available in the west.

Policy Developments

The number of active cooperation arrangements between U.S. and Hungarian firms remains about sixty. Western companies are encouraged to explore new ways of doing business beyond traditional buying and selling and one-time-only commission work. Industrial cooperation arrangements continue to be touted as the basis for Hungary's trade expansion program. The Hungarian government has maintained its commitment to promote joint ventures and other forms of cooperation, pursuing systematic trade promotion and marketing in U.S. regions. Recently a West German firm was able to enter into a joint venture pursuant to which, for the first time, the Western partner owns 51 percent.

In late 1982 the Hungarians announced new, more liberal regulations on the possibility of foreign investors utilizing duty free zones in the country. So far they have not proven to be a substantial inducement in expanding foreign investment though a Danish firm has begun to utilize this arrangement to

build housing which it hopes to sell both in Hungary and Western Europe. The United States and Hungary renewed the bilateral Civil Air Agreement through 1984 without changes.

Official Visits

A high level Eximbank delegation, including President William Draper, met with senior Hungarian bank and finance officials in September. Several large American corporations sent trade missions to Hungary during the reporting period.

Policies Toward Countertrade Arrangements

Hungarian enterprises continue to demand countertrade arrangements, although Hungarian banks downplay strict countertrade arrangements.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Hungarian policies toward small and medium-sized enterprise do not differ significantly from the general pattern described above.

Poland

General Assessment

There has been no change in the government's policy and attitude toward economic/commercial cooperation during the last six months. Relaxed passport regulations combined with the slightly improved economic situation have facilitated business travel but generally the economic crisis has as it did in the previous reporting period, kept Western commercial interest to a minimum. During the reporting period, the Polish government signed a debt rescheduling agreement with its commercial bank creditors. The signing of this agreement has improved Poland's credit relations and led to the restoration of some short term trade-related credit facilities, which may in the future increase Western business interest in Poland. There has been full cooperation in permitting travel of U.S. business, commercial and agricultural representatives to Poland.

Business Working Conditions

There were no new developments affecting good access to Polish business contacts and commercial officials in Poland. No American firms applied for permission from the Ministry of Foreign Trade to open representative firms, but several U.S.

business representatives have, with the permission of local officials, established so-called "Polonian" businesses, bringing the total of such U.S. operations to 62. Hotel accommodations for visiting business representatives remain readily available. Business representatives who wish to reside in Poland can generally find suitable housing, though it remains in short supply. There are no restrictions on business travel within Poland, and, for the most part, business visas are not difficult to obtain. Air service to and from Poland is adequate, though the choice of flights is limited.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

The Western business community has full access to organizational information, although the accounting methodology is different from that used in the West and, as such, is sometimes of little use to the business visitors. The government publishes regular economic statistics, which include foreign trade and industrial production data. Most of the disaggregated information is not current and does not contain enough detail to permit thorough economic analysis or adequate market research.

Policy Developments

There have been no significant developments in Poland's attitude or policies toward industrial cooperation arrangements. Poland continues to seek foreign investment in underutilized industrial capacity, but has yet to pass enabling joint venture legislation to encourage this. Licensing arrangements remain possible, as is joint production in and for third markets, both in goods and services. There have been no major cooperative arrangements involving U.S. firms during the reporting period, though small-scale cooperation arrangements continue to be made.

Official Visits

Official visits continued during the reporting period. Planning took place for U.S. delegations to visit Poland in October and November 1984 to negotiate renewal of bilateral textile and Civil aviation agreements respectively

Policies Toward Countertrade Arrangements

Poland neither encourages nor discourages countertrade, and no new legislation relating to countertrade was passed during the reporting period. The frequency and nature of countertrade

requests vary, and generally are possible only in products of which Poland possesses an oversupply.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

SME's have not experienced any particular problems during the reporting period, with the exception of certain firms operating under the "Polonian" law. The Polish government levies up to 85 percent income tax on earnings by these firms, thus making it very difficult for many of them to operate profitably and, in some cases, at all. Red tape associated with receiving permission to open such an enterprise remains heavy. In some cases harassment by officials and excessive delay in obtaining permission to open an office cause would-be Polonian investors to give up. Most Polonian firms continue to prosper, and their existence enjoys official backing when their operations help fulfill Polish government economic aims. During the reporting period there has been no new legislation affecting these small and medium-size enterprises' participation in trade and industrial opportunities.

Romania

General Assessment

Romanian performance remained satisfactory during the reporting period. Romanian trade policy continues to stress the need to build up foreign exchange reserves and retire foreign debt. Romanian trade officials are encouraged to limit hard-currency imports. They also require that Western firms which conclude sales contracts with Romanian Foreign Trade Organizations (FTOs) accept payment in counterpurchase of Romanian goods, decreasing the number of contracts concluded by Western firms. Also contributing to this decline are policies limiting investment and reorganizing foreign trade. Romania's overall trade volume has increased so far in 1984, reversing a trend of the past several years; the proportion of Romania's trade with CEMA countries has grown.

Business Working Conditions

Embassy officials have good access to Romanian Government officials involved in U.S.-Romanian trade and economic relations. Senior U.S. officials and business leaders are frequently received at the highest levels of the Romanian Government. Business representatives have access to FTO directors and staffs but continual personnel and organizational changes at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the FTOs make it

difficult for them to pinpoint responsible Romanian decisionmakers for negotiations.

During the reporting period no U.S. firms opened or closed businesses, leaving a total of 28 U.S. firms with representative offices in Romania. It still takes six to eight months or longer to process applications by Western firms to open offices. Costs of maintaining a business office remain high; rents charged by Romanian agencies are comparable to market rates in world commercial centers. Telephone and telex services remain extremely costly, impeding the development of commercial relations. Hotel accommodations are available at rates comparable to world commercial centers. Housing is difficult to obtain. Prices are comparable to those in Western Europe but furnishings and facilities are inferior. Rental charges have remained constant over the past several years.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

Performance on publication of statistical data, already poor, continues to deteriorate. Data are published only once a year, generally more than 12 months following the close of the year covered. Data are often not comparable from year to year; economic indices are neither adequately defined nor reliable. Romania does distribute in several languages a range of information on doing business in Romania. As a result of foreign debt rescheduling, Romania continues to provide financial information to foreign banks, foreign governments and international financial institutions.

Policies on Economic and Commercial Cooperation

The Romanians continue to promote joint ventures and production collaboration, but only one joint venture with a U.S. firm exists in Romania. There are four joint ventures in the United States. Romania remains very interested in cooperation, particularly in third markets and in the development of natural resources in those markets. No such cooperation projects exist yet.

Romanian emphasis on countertrade has increased in the last year with a corresponding decline in the number of Romanian purchases of Western goods without countertrade. At the same time, Romanian organizations want U.S. firms to buy Romanian goods with hard currency and not link them to purchases of U.S. goods. Romanian countertrade demands make it difficult for U.S. firms to conduct business.

Official Visits

Romanian Vice-President Manea Manescu visited Washington in September and met with President Reagan, Vice-President Bush, Commerce Secretary Baldrige, and Acting Secretary of State Dam, and Council of Economic Advisers Deputy Chairman Niskanen. Nicolae Eremia, President of the Romanian Bank of Foreign Trade and William Draper, President of Eximbank also met in September in Washington. Both the American-Romanian Joint Economic Commission and the Romanian-U.S. Economic Council plan to hold sessions in Washington, D.C. in December 1984.

Soviet Union

General Assessment

Soviet performance on improving economic and commercial cooperation continued to be poor. General business conditions underwent little change during the reporting period. Several business visitors have experienced slightly greater difficulty in obtaining visas, particularly when applications are made through the Soviet Embassy and Trade Representative in London.

Business Working Conditions

U.S. business representatives are generally able to obtain appointments with Soviet trade officials and have few complaints about interference in their business activities. Access to end-users has never been good in some industries and has not improved.

No new American companies received Soviet accreditation for representation offices during the period under review. In all, there are twenty-seven accredited U.S. firms with offices in Moscow.

Hotel and housing accommodations for businessmen have not changed. Visiting businessmen have generally been able to obtain suitable hotel accommodations. Housing is satisfactory, although there is an ongoing problem about the lack of adequate provision for fire safety in the housing made available to business representatives.

Travel and visa restrictions are essentially unchanged. Business representatives have lodged few complaints about travel and visa restrictions but ongoing problems occur for business representatives travelling by automobile for equipment installation inspections. They are barred from using

restricted roads, thus extending their travel time. The Nakhodka-based representative still must use the Khabarovsk airport instead of the much closer one in Vladivostok.

Accredited representatives of U.S. firms, whether actually resident in Moscow or not, occasionally have had difficulty renewing their accreditation. Denials tend to be made without explanation, but appear to reflect official opposition to marriage with, or emigration of, Soviet citizens.

Western business offices in Moscow which have been promised direct dialing out of the USSR still have not yet received it. Direct dialing for roughly half of the FRG firms with accredited offices in Moscow has been reinstituted with the remaining firms still waiting for such service to be renewed.

Several firms have negotiated with the Ministry of Finance the tax liabilities for income deemed to have been received from subsidiaries for services provided by Moscow offices. Settlements have been worked out according to the national method, based upon number of visits by subsidiary delegations. While preliminary exemption determinations have been rendered by the Ministry for U.S. firms with subsidiaries based in Switzerland and Belgium, one firm with a joint venture in the United Kingdom has been found liable for taxation, even though the United Kingdom is negotiating a double taxation treaty with the Soviet Union.

Disputes concerning taxation of income derived from on-site services are diminishing as business representatives have become more careful about distinguishing installation or erection from other services. The outstanding question concerns income tax liability for on-site services when payment is received from a third party working under a contract with a Soviet Foreign Trade Organization.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

The availability of economic and commercial information is unchanged. The availability of general information on the economy and statistical data remains limited and the quality of the information which is made available is often poor. Access to Soviet officials to discuss current economic developments remains severely limited.

Policy Developments

Soviet Policy toward cooperation arrangements has not

changed. Soviet officials encourage such cooperation under mutually beneficial terms whenever an opportunity arises, although there is some skepticism about long-term relationships with U.S. firms. We are not aware of any new complications for existing cooperation arrangements with U.S. firms.

Official Visits

There were no official U.S. visitors related to CSCE Basket II concerns. Business visits continue, including those by senior executives of major U.S. firms.

Policies Toward Countertrade Arrangements

The trend continues away from requiring Western firms to link specific sales contracts with purchase contracts. The Soviets continue to insist that companies they buy from engage in purchasing activity in the Soviet Union.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Policies affecting SMEs are not different from those affecting other companies.

CHAPTER FOUR

IMPLEMENTATION OF BASKET III: COOPERATION IN HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER FIELDS

Basket III is intended to promote the free flow of information, ideas and people among the participating states.

This section of the Final Act contains specific measures which the participating states resolve to undertake to foster human contacts, improve access to information, and promote cultural and educational exchanges. Basket III and Principle Seven of Basket I, strengthened by provisions of the Madrid Concluding Document, incorporate the principal human rights provisions of the Helsinki process.

HUMAN CONTACTS

In the Final Act, participating states commit themselves to facilitate family reunification and meetings, marriage between citizens of different states, wider travel for business or professional reasons, improvement in the conditions of tourism, meetings among young people, and sports contacts.

In addition, the Madrid Concluding Document contains a number of provisions that strengthen and extend the human contacts commitment in the Final Act. The participating states have pledged: to deal favorably with applications for family meetings, reunification and marriage; to decide upon marriage and family reunification applications within six months; to ensure that rights of applicants for family reunification are not prejudiced; to provide necessary forms and information to applicants for emigration; to reduce emigration fees; to inform emigration applicants of decisions expeditiously; to assure access to diplomatic missions; and to facilitate contacts among representatives of religious faiths.

Family Visits

To some extent, the Helsinki process has led to freer travel policies in the East, but much remains to be done to achieve CSCE goals in this field. In general, the Eastern countries have maintained a policy of stringently limiting and controlling their citizens' movement abroad. It should be noted that the U.S.S.R. has ratified the U.N. Charter and other international documents on human rights, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in which the right to leave one's country and return thereto is

enumerated. But in practice the regime denies Soviet citizens this right. Travel outside the U.S.S.R. is prohibited except for the departure of limited numbers of authorized personnel. Even in those cases, travel is restricted primarily to Eastern countries and is under strict government control. Reunification of divided families is the only officially recognized basis for emigration from the Soviet Union, but the actual Soviet record of compliance even in this regard is poor.

Restrictive practices in the countries of Eastern Europe vary considerably. Some countries are nearly as restrictive as the Soviet Union. Others have been relatively lenient in allowing their citizens to travel abroad.

The U.S. Government regularly intercedes with Eastern governments on behalf of relatives of American citizens who have been refused permission to emigrate to join their families in the United States. U.S. Embassies abroad submit periodic lists of these people to local governments. The accompanying table shows the number of these cases being monitored officially by the United States as of October 1, 1984.

The following section examines in detail the situation of family reunification and family visits in individual countries.

Divided Family Cases

	<u>Nuclear Families</u> ¹		<u>Nonnuclear Families</u> ²	
	Cases	Individuals	Cases	Individuals
Bulgaria	3	3	3	10
Czechoslovakia	2	3	2	8
G.D.R.	0	0	10	20
Hungary	0	0	0	0
Poland	145	261	249	859
Romania	96	129	508	981
U.S.S.R.	94	386 ³		

¹Spouses and their minor children.

²These cases involve the separation of other relatives such as brothers and sisters.

³Figures for the U.S.S.R. include both nuclear and nonnuclear families.

Bulgaria

There is a certain degree of unevenness in exit permit issuance policy. 191 U.S. visas were issued to Bulgarians for visits to family members in the United States during the past six months. It is usually easier for Bulgarians to obtain permission to see parents, children or siblings residing in the United States than more distant relatives or friends. Permission is likely to be denied or delayed if the U.S. relative was a highly publicized defector. Ethnicity also seems to play a role. While ethnic Bulgarians and Armenians have been issued exit permits, the Embassy has noted that no members of Bulgaria's ethnic Turkish minority have been granted passports for travel to the U.S. and few are given for Turkey. Permission for Bulgarian citizens to travel abroad is limited by government control over hard currency outflow at least as much as by official suspension of such visits. Bulgarian citizens must present an affidavit of support from their U.S. relatives when applying for a passport and exit visas.

Americans wishing to visit Bulgarian relatives and stay in their homes must be related as spouse, parent, sibling or child. Upon application at a Bulgarian consular post abroad, the visitor must specify that he intends to stay in his relative's home and present an affidavit of support from the relative. If this procedure is not followed, the visitor will be compelled to stay in a hotel. Even then, many American visitors have complained to the Embassy that they followed the procedure but were still denied the privilege of staying at the Bulgarian relative's home, or obtained permission only with difficulty. Visitors must register with authorities upon arrival. There are frequent long lines at Interior Ministry offices, and actual registration can sometimes take most of a day.

The Embassy has continued to represent before the Bulgarian authorities problem cases of persons seeking exit permission for travel to the U.S. during the period under review. Exit permission was granted to four Bulgarian citizens whose cases had been represented by the Embassy. The Embassy has also repeatedly reminded the Bulgarian authorities of their responsibility to allow American citizens to stay in the homes of their Bulgarian relatives.

Czechoslovakia

The travel of Czechoslovak citizens to the West continues

to be severely restricted, although the number of travelers has increased somewhat. A total of 2,849 visas was issued to Czechoslovak citizens for family visits during the period under review. This represents an increase of 10% over the same period last year.

Most of the Czechoslovak citizens allowed to visit relatives in the U.S. are retired and elderly. Persons in the work force are not usually allowed to travel abroad with a complete family unit. Most U.S. citizens obtain visas to visit Czechoslovakia without difficulty, often in one day. Many U.S. citizens of Czechoslovak origin, however, especially those who departed Czechoslovakia after 1948, continue to be refused visas with no explanation, sometimes after receiving several visas in the past. The Embassy has made representations to the host government on behalf of the 21 such citizens during this reporting period. Since the replies received from the Foreign Ministry are often equivocal, e.g., "the person should reapply at the Embassy in Washington, D.C.," the Embassy does not know what its success rate is, although it is probably around 30 percent. The host government has indicated that special humanitarian considerations -- extreme age or serious illness of family members -- may be helpful. In a few such cases Embassy representations have been successful.

German Democratic Republic

The GDR continues to limit severely travel by its citizens to the United States or other Western countries for family visits. Approval or denial of applications to travel for such visits is a political decision made by the GDR authorities, and the criteria for these decisions are not made public. As an exception, pensioners (age 60 for women and 65 for men) are generally permitted to travel to the West. Non-pensioners can apply to visit close relatives as a rule only on the occasion of certain events such as death, birth, life-threatening illness, wedding, 25th or 50th wedding anniversary celebration, confirmation, first holy communion, and 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th and any further birthday celebrations. Western media reported that in 1983, 64,025 non-pensioners were permitted to travel to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), as compared with 45,700 in 1982. In all cases, the applicant must provide documentation proving both the relationship and the purpose of travel. The total number of applications submitted and denied is not publicly available, but there are many cases of applicants in the above categories who are refused permission to travel. During this reporting period the Embassy issued 768 visas for family visits, about the average for the

April-October period in recent years. The Embassy has no indication that Americans have recently been refused permission to visit relatives in the GDR.

Emigrants from the GDR must generally wait five years before they can return to the GDR to visit relatives. GDR citizens in positions deemed "sensitive" by their government may not be visited by close relatives who live in the West.

Hungary

Hungary continues to follow a relatively liberal travel policy for its citizens. Hungarian citizens enjoy the legal possibility of visiting the west at least once each year if financial support is available from friends or relatives for hard currency expenses. Hungarians can purchase hard currency for one private tourist trip in three years. The length of exit permission reflects the amount of leave time authorized by the place of employment; permission is usually issued in increments of 30 days with 30 and 90 days being the most common.

4251 Visas issued for family visits to U.S. The increase from the previous six-month period reflects a normal seasonal adjustment. The figure is up slightly from 3,931 in the equivalent period a year ago indicating a continued liberal approach to family visitation by the Hungarian government.

The two most frequent reasons for which exit permits are denied Hungarians who wish to visit the U.S. are insufficient time (less than a year) since the last visit to the West or insufficient proof of ability of the U.S. sponsor to provide support. Also, a Hungarian usually may not visit a person who has remained away from Hungary under circumstances considered illegal under Hungarian law until five years have elapsed. An exit permit may also be denied if the potential visitor is responsible for a close relative having remained abroad. The Hungarian press claims that 99 percent of applications for travel to the West and 97.6 percent of applications for travel to socialist countries are approved. The Embassy has no basis to dispute these figures.

Visas are seldom denied to Americans for family visits to Hungary. The foreign ministry never supplies reasons for the five to six such refusals annually of which the Embassy is aware but will consider the Embassy's request for review, sometimes with positive results.

Hungary's record concerning visas for American visitors

continues to be good.

Some Hungarian male applicants of military age are receiving exit permits for tourist (although not immigration) travel to the West which, experience indicates, would have been denied several years ago. The Hungarian authorities recently published regulations that for the first time provide prospective travelers with military obligations an indication of their rights. They indicate that normally an applicant in this category may not be denied permission to travel because of pending military obligations unless service is scheduled to begin within six months.

Poland

The liberalization of passport issuance, which was announced at the end of martial law in July 1983 and incorporated into law during the spring of 1984, has continued. The U.S. Embassy estimates that 10,000 exit permits and 8,200 visas were issued for visits to family members in the U.S. during the reporting period. For travel to the U.S., a notarized letter of invitation signed by a friend or relative and verified by a Polish consulate in the United States is still required in order to obtain a tourist passport. Despite the liberalized issuance policy, many Poles still experience problems in obtaining passports.

Difficulties in obtaining passports for travel to the U.S. are threefold:

- o The necessity of obtaining an invitation which has been certified by a Polish consulate in the U.S. These invitations, valid for six months, often expire before the passport has been issued. This means that a second invitation is often required, leading to more delay.

- o Passports are often denied to immediate family members of individuals who left Poland on tourist passports and failed to return.

- o Trained professionals such as engineers, doctors, and skilled artisans often cannot obtain even tourist passports. They are deemed essential to the well-being of Polish society and are not always allowed to go abroad on unofficial travel.

To our knowledge, there are no restrictions or difficulties for Americans seeking visas to visit their relatives in Poland. However, Polish consular officials frequently require

naturalized American citizens of Polish descent to travel to Poland on Polish consular passports if they are still considered to be Polish citizens under Polish law.

Romania

Opportunities for travel abroad by Romanians remain limited. Passport issuance procedures are arbitrary and unpredictable, and only those persons approved by the Communist party are assured of receiving tourist passports. Many Romanians who would appear to qualify under Romanian law are refused without explanation. Others may receive tourist passports only after months, or sometimes years, of waiting. Rarely are entire families issued passports at the same time for a visit abroad. Usually, at least one member of the immediate family must stay behind to insure that his relatives return. Should the traveler(s) not return to Romania, it is often years before the remaining member(s) will be permitted to leave the country. Family members remaining in Romania often endure considerable pressure to divorce or renounce those who have left, and are harassed if they refuse.

Nevertheless, there was a dramatic increase in the number of exit visas and U.S. tourist visas issued during the reporting period over the number issued during the preceding period. Most of the 1556 tourist visas issued during the last six months were for this purpose.

Americans rarely encounter problems in obtaining visas to visit relatives in Romania. Although some visitors obtain Romanian visas in advance of travel, the majority arrive at Bucharest's international airport, or at land borders, without visas. Entry permission is almost always granted on the spot and the fee is moderate (\$7.00 with an additional \$7.00 processing fee, though higher, seemingly arbitrary amounts often apparently are charged). First-degree relatives of Romanian citizens are exempt from the prohibition against staying at other than government-run facilities, as well as from the requirement to purchase ten dollars of local currency per day of the anticipated stay.

Soviet Union

Soviet practices with regard to family meetings remain as described in previous semi-annual reports. In general, few Soviet citizens are granted exit permission to visit relatives in the U.S. Most are retired and have close family members in the U.S. It is rare for an entire Soviet family to receive permission to travel to the U.S.

The Embassy has no access to Soviet figures concerning the number of people issued exit permission to the United States, but issued U.S. visas for private visits to the United States to 786 Soviet citizens during the period April 1, 1984-September 30, 1984. The Soviet authorities often arbitrarily refuse visas to U.S. citizens seeking to visit relatives in the U.S.S.R. During the period covered by this report, some Americans have been denied the opportunity to visit their Soviet spouses and fiances.

The U.S. Embassy continues to make regular representations to the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Soviet applicants for U.S. visitors' visas. Regrettably, during the reporting period, the Soviet authorities reversed an earlier refusal of exit permission in only one instance following an Embassy representation.

Family Reunification

Bulgaria

Emigration is provided for by law in Bulgaria, but cooperation on family visits and reunification since the Belgrade CSCE review meeting in 1978 has been uneven. Prospective emigrants have faced difficulties once their desire to leave became known. Promotion, educational opportunities, and other government-controlled benefits usually dry up for them and often for their families.

Bulgarian government performance has moderated slightly during the six-month period. Half a dozen problem cases of reunification represented by the Embassy were solved, but an equal number developed and will soon be represented. Fifteen immigrant visas were granted to Bulgarian citizens during the period by the U.S. Embassy.

Czechoslovakia

Generally, the Czechoslovak record on family reunification is good, at least regarding immediate relatives -- spouses, children and parents of U.S. citizens. The Czechoslovak government does not regard married sons and daughters or siblings of U.S. citizens as needing reunification since their basic family units are with them in Czechoslovakia.

During this period, the U.S. Embassy received 34 new immigrant visa cases involving 45 persons, an increase of 12

cases over this period last year. It also received 9 new visa cases concerning families of refugees involving 13 persons. The Embassy issued 34 immigrant visas to family members of U.S. citizens and permanent alien residents during this period, a decrease of 1 from a year ago. Four family members of refugees were processed.

The Embassy's divided families list includes three cases (nine persons): one minor son of a U.S. citizen; two married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens, and their children. Two cases have been resolved since the previous report; one husband of a U.S. citizen and one married daughter of a U.S. citizen and her family were issued Czechoslovak exit documents.

Generally, the immediate families of U.S. citizens are allowed to emigrate relatively expeditiously. However, since Czechoslovak policy is to discourage emigration of the work force, married sons and daughters or siblings of U.S. citizens often experience great difficulty in obtaining exit documents and often must wait many years, reapplying repeatedly before receiving exit permission. Decisions on exit documentation often seem arbitrary and dependent on where the applicant lives and applies for permission to emigrate. We have on file approved petitions for over 100 immigrant visas but have had no word from most of those concerned since we sent notification of petition approval, presumably because of the difficulty in obtaining exit documentation. The families of refugees can expect lengthy waits -- indeed they may have to wait until the refugee is naturalized as a U.S. citizen -- before they can obtain exit permission. In at least one case, a Czechoslovak renounced her Czechoslovak citizenship in order to receive exit documentation -- which was granted immediately.

Assembling the documents needed to apply for emigration usually takes a minimum of six weeks. Processing an emigration application takes from six weeks to six months from the date the completed application is submitted; the average time is three months. If the application is refused, it is possible to file an appeal within 15 days; if it is refused a second time, the applicant must wait three months before submitting a new application. Often people are told it is useless to reapply, but it is rare that a new application is not accepted. Occasionally an applicant will unexpectedly and inexplicably receive documentation after many months of failure. This was the case with one family on our divided families list: the daughter of a U.S. citizen finally after many applications received exit documentation and emigrated with her family.

An emigrating Czechoslovak's most severe expense is often the education payment levied, in theory, to reimburse the government for university and post-graduate education. Some applicants have had to pay up to the Czechoslovak crown equivalent of \$1000 (six months' average wage).

German Democratic Republic

The GDR issued approximately 16,000 exit visas during this reporting period. Many of these people left for family reunification, others for political reasons. The vast majority of the 16,000 visas were issued between April 1 and the end of June. The number of visas issued since that time indicates that the GDR has reverted to its practice during previous years, when an average of 600-1,000 visas were issued monthly. Only a fraction of those desiring to leave the GDR have been allowed to do so some Western sources estimate that as many as 500,000 applications are still pending.

It is too early to see what effect the October 1983 GDR law on emigration will have on family reunification. The law addresses only emigration for the purpose of reunification with first degree relatives (parents and children) or for joining a spouse. While some applicants with relatives in the West who are not first degree have been allowed to emigrate, the law has been used to restrict those who do not have first degree relatives in the West.

The experiences of exit visa applicants vary. Some applications have been acted upon within weeks of their submission, others have taken three or more years. While some East Germans have continued to lead normal lives after submitting an exit visa application, others have been subject to reprisals of varying degrees of severity. West German human rights groups believe that half of the estimated 6,000 - 9,500 political prisoners in the GDR were imprisoned after filing for exit permission or attempting to leave the GDR illegally. Some applicants have lost their jobs or had to take on menial work. GDR authorities sometimes visit the homes of exit applicants and try to intimidate them into withdrawing their applications. Occasionally children face discrimination and harassment in school. Successful applicants must usually renounce their GDR citizenship and are issued stateless passports.

During the last reporting period, the Madrid concluding document was published in the GDR's major newspaper and the new

regulation dealing with emigration was published in the GDR's Legal Gazette. To our knowledge, since that time no government information on emigration has received wide distribution and information on procedures for emigration is hard to come by. GDR officials commonly tell applicants that it is not possible to submit an exit application, but submission of a written statement requesting exit permission is generally accepted by GDR authorities as a de facto application. Applicants are usually not informed of the status of their case until the GDR makes a final decision.

Additionally, the GDR practice of severely limiting access to Western missions has inhibited potential emigrants from visiting these missions to inquire about emigration procedures. In April and May there was a large increase in the number of uniformed police and plain-clothes members of the ministry for state security patrolling the areas around many Western missions and the presence of these security forces intimidated, and, at times, prevented visits to foreign missions. This security cordon was relaxed somewhat after May, but virtually all non-official visitors to the U.S. Embassy can expect to be stopped by GDR police, have their identification cards checked, and possibly be detained. In August, the International Society for Human Rights reported that this year more than 400 East Germans had been arrested after visiting the FRG mission and that the majority of those arrested were still in prison. The Embassy recently received information that four East Germans were arrested after visiting the U.S. Embassy. One of the four was expelled to the West after being imprisoned for seven months. To our knowledge, the other three are still in prison. Many East Germans have been warned to have no contact with western missions, under threat to their well-being, and there are reports that some people have been required to sign a document acknowledging that visiting a foreign mission without permission is a violation of the law for which they will be subject to prosecution. Even some who have been granted exit visas have been advised to apply for permission at least two weeks before the date of their visit.

Many GDR citizens who have applied for emigration to the Federal Republic or West Berlin intend eventually to join relatives in the U.S. Others apply for emigration to the U.S. intending to remain in the Federal Republic or West Berlin. It is therefore difficult to know the exact number of persons allowed to leave the GDR for family reunification in the U.S.

The Embassy issued one immigrant visa for the purpose of family reunification during this reporting period. In other

cases, applicants who have been given very limited periods in which to leave the GDR have been documented for U.S. destinations to enable them to meet GDR exit requirements.

The Embassy makes representations to the GDR by periodically presenting a list of cases of direct interest to U.S. citizens. Lists given to the Foreign Ministry during the last reporting period included 18 cases involving 50 people who wished to go to the U.S. for family reunification. Fourteen of these cases involving 39 people were resolved by the end of this reporting period. A new list presented to the foreign ministry on August 22, 1984, contained 10 cases involving 20 people under family reunification.

Emigration fees are not burdensome: a passport costs about 6 dollars, an exit visa about 3 dollars.

Hungary

Hungary's performance in this field is liberal for a Warsaw Pact country. For example, in many recent cases the government has granted emigration permission to achieve family reunification at the first application even though the applicant may have been ineligible under strict application of Hungarian law.

The Embassy has issued immigrant visas to all 45 of the Hungarians who applied to emigrate for family reunification during the rating period. The Embassy expects to present two divided family cases to the Foreign Ministry; one is nuclear, the other non-nuclear, involving a total of 8 individuals. A pending emigration case involving a dual U.S.-Hungarian citizen and daughter is expected to be resolved shortly.

Official reasons for refusal of emigration permission are: (1) requesting emigration to a relative remaining abroad illegally for a period of less than five years or for whose illegal absence one is responsible; (2) not having attained the legal minimum age for emigration (55); (3) requesting emigration to a relative not prescribed by law; (4) lack of permission from the Hungarian Ministry of Defense -- in the case of males of military age who have not fulfilled their military obligation; (5) emigration would be contrary to the public interest or a combination of the above.

An emigration passport cost 1,000 forints (approximately 20 dollars). Minors under 14 are included at no extra charge. In addition there is a passport application fee of 250 forints

(approximately 5 dollars). If the passport application is refused, the cost of the passport is refunded, but the application fee is forfeited.

Poland

The Polish government is apparently taking the problem of family reunification more seriously than in the recent past. During the reporting period, our list of divided families has grown more slowly than previously. During this six-month period, approximately 1,000 individuals applied for immigrant visas to join family members, and the Embassy issued 976 immigrant visas for this purpose. Additionally, the Embassy facilitated travel to the United States by 307 spouses and children of asylees and refugees for family reunification purposes.

The Embassy's divided families list contains the names of families who have been denied permission to emigrate to join their family members in the United States. As not all individuals having problems obtaining an exit permit inform the Embassy, the list cannot be considered comprehensive. On September 30, 1984, the list contained the names of 397 families consisting of 1,131 individuals. In this period a total of 75 cases involving 201 persons was added to the Embassy's divided families list, while 76 cases, involving 161 persons, were resolved. If Polish citizens going to the United States to join nuclear family members are considered separately, 40 cases involving 75 persons have been added to the divided families list in the reporting period, while 53 cases involving 107 persons were resolved. Thus, the Polish government has been fairly responsive to the emigration requests of Polish nationals on the divided families list.

Representations by the U.S. Embassy appear to be helpful in many of the cases on the divided families list, although it is not possible to measure this quantitatively. In addition, many recent emigration passport issuances appear to be based on the provisions of the new passport law.

Romania

Host government performance on family reunification is about the same as during the previous reporting period, both in the waiting time and the numbers of family reunification cases resolved. There is, however, a large number of unresolved family reunification cases; the average waiting period from initial application to final approval is well in excess of the

six months envisaged in the Madrid concluding document. Embassy experience is that a minimum of eight to twelve months is required in the average family reunification case. Official Romanian policy remains opposed to emigration, with family reunification the only officially recognized exception. For would-be emigrants, the application process remains a frustrating and uncertain experience which entails real hardships, and often lengthy delays. Applicants for emigration often face public denunciation, reduction of job status and wages or out-right dismissal, loss of public services, and sometimes arrest. Their children at times are discriminated against in school.

The cost of Romanian exit documents is exorbitant in relation to the Romanian worker's average monthly income (2,500 lei). A Romanian passport (with citizenship) and exit visa costs 1,165 lei and the cost of an extension of the exit visa is 965 lei. The cost of a stateless passport is also 1,165 lei, but renunciation of Romanian citizenship adds an additional 3,000 lei to this figure. (U.S. \$1.00=15.00 lei)

The number of Romanians applying for U.S. entry documents to be reunited with their relatives was 1,060. 149 emigration visas and 1279 third-country processing (TCP) cases were completed during the reporting period. (Approximately forty percent of TCP issuances are for the purpose of family reunification.) Also, 420 visas 91, 92 and 93 cases were issued entry documents during the reporting period.

The Embassy currently has 191 persons on its emigrant visa representation list. Approximately 800 "visas 93" (family of refugees) applicants are awaiting passport issuance. Of the nearly 4,700 persons registered for the TCP program who are awaiting passports, approximately 1,300 to 1,800 are seeking emigration for the purpose of family reunification.

The Embassy has found it necessary and useful to present the government with a "representation list" of outstanding emigrant visa cases each quarter. The Romanian government has been reasonably responsive to the Embassy's representations, with a few notable exceptions. The Embassy's June 1983 emigration visa representation list contained 444 persons; the one to be presented in October 1984 contains 191.

Soviet Union

Soviet authorities have continued their poor performance in fostering family reunification during the period of April

1-September 30, 1984. While they continue to recognize family reunification as the only grounds for issuance of exit permission, their definition of "family reunification" is now so narrow that, in practice, only immediate family members receive exit permission. In some cases, the authorities have refused exit permission if any applicant in a family has more relatives in the Soviet Union than in the United States. During the reporting period, 60 percent of all Soviet emigration cases to the U.S. involved the reunification of parents with children. Soviet authorities continue to deny applications for exit permission on the grounds that applicants had access to "state secrets"--a broad and undefined concept. In many cases, applicants have been denied exit permission with no reason given or with only the vague comment that "your emigration is not feasible at this time" or "the international situation does not warrant your emigration."

During the period in question, persons who received exit permission to emigrate to the United States reported that it took from one month to five years to receive exit permission. The authorities responded to applications for exit permission in an average of three months. Emigration officials continue to refuse certain applications for emigration to join family members in the United States. In these cases, the spouse left the U.S.S.R. with temporary exit permission and applied for refugee status in the U.S. In other cases, the relative in the U.S. obtained exit permission to go to Israel, but then went to the U.S. In both the foregoing categories, the Soviets refuse to recognize the U.S. relative's invitation to Soviet family members.

45 Soviet Nationals applied for U.S. immigrant visas for family reunification during the reporting period. In addition, 48 Soviet citizens applied for reunification with relatives in the United States under the accelerated third country processing program (ATC).

45 immigrant visas were issued for family reunification, compared with 32 issued in the previous reporting period. 48 persons were documented for admission to the U.S. under the ATCP program, compared with 57 during the previous reporting period. 50 percent of all persons in both programs were Armenian.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Soviet citizens refused exit permission, since many refusals are not reported to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The Embassy now has on file, however, 406 immigrant and fiance (E) petitions. In addition,

approximately 1,000 other families, comprising approximately 3,000 persons, have expressed interest in being reunited with relatives in the U.S. through the ATCP program. Some individuals have been seeking Soviet exit permission for more than a decade. The Embassy also has a list of 1,763 individuals who have repeatedly been denied Soviet exit permission to Israel, but continue to apply. From April 1 to August 20, 1984, a total of 423 Jews departed the Soviet Union via Vienna, the primary exit point. This compares with 629 during the corresponding period one year ago, and 21,610 five years ago. A large number of Soviet citizens continue to apply for emigration to the FRG, although only 356 were successful from April 1 through August 31, 1984, as compared to 522 for the corresponding period in 1983. Each year several thousand Soviet citizens apply for and are denied exit permission to join relatives abroad.

While there continues to be considerable interest in U.S. intervention in support of Soviet citizens applying for exit permission, Soviet authorities have been completely unresponsive to these representations during the reporting period. In every case in which the authorities have responded to an Embassy representation on behalf of a divided family, the response has been negative. The Embassy maintains a representation list which contains names of Soviet citizens who have repeatedly been denied permission to join relatives in the U.S. Over the past six months, only one case, involving three persons, has been favorably resolved.

Binational Marriages

In accordance with the Final Act, the participating states pledge to consider favorably applications for entry or exit for citizens of the participating states to marry citizens of another participating state. There is a mixed record of implementation of this commitment by the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries. In the Madrid Concluding Document the participating states committed themselves further to deal favorably with binational marriage applications, and to decide on applications in normal practice within six months. The following chart indicates the problem cases that the United States was monitoring as of October 1, 1984.

Bulgaria	1
Czechoslovakia	1
German Democratic Republic	12
Hungary	0
Poland	3

Romania	45
Soviet Union	18

Bulgaria

Bulgarian compliance in the area of binational marriages remains generally satisfactory and does not usually require U.S. intervention.

There were six cases of American citizens or permanent residents marrying Bulgarian citizens. The Embassy knows of only one case in which the Bulgarian authorities have denied an exit visa to a spouse for over six months. This case remains unsolved.

Czechoslovakia

Although marriage applications generally require three months or so to process, the Czechoslovak record is generally good on binational marriages. However, there have been cases of U.S. citizens of Czechoslovak birth being refused entry visas and the Czechoslovak fiances being refused exit visas for the purpose of marriage. We know of two such cases during this period. Embassy intervention in one case was not successful.

The U.S. Embassy estimates that 15 entry permits were issued to U.S. citizens for the purpose of binational marriage and that 15 exit permits were issued to spouses of U.S. citizens.

German Democratic Republic

The GDR appears to be following faithfully the letter of the October 1983 law which provided that applications for binational marriage cases would be settled within six months of application. The GDR does not consider an application to have been made until all required documents have been presented, and there can be a problem with the acceptance of the documents. Once the documents are accepted, permission to marry and emigrate is generally granted within three months, provided the couple marries in the GDR. All binational marriage cases involving U.S. citizens pending at the time of the submission of the last report were resolved during this period. The Embassy is also aware of two East Germans who were allowed to marry U.S. spouses and depart the GDR without Embassy intervention. The Embassy issued two immigrant visas for the purpose of joining a spouse in the U.S. during this reporting period.

Hungary

Binational marriage presents no problem in Hungary. During the reporting period, the Embassy received or approved 18 petitions for binational marriage immigrant visas. The Embassy issued 21 immigrant visas to Hungarian spouses of American citizens and, in one case, a legal resident of the U.S. One spouse of a U.S. citizen has several times been denied permission to emigrate but still has one more legal remedy to try.

The percentage of cases of Hungarian males of military age who received emigration permission (after having served at least a portion of their active duty requirement) continued to increase. This favorable trend applies broadly to young applicants, including highly trained personnel such as physicians.

Poland

The marriage of American citizens to Polish citizens is much easier to accomplish in the United States than in Poland. The permission of a Polish court must be sought to marry in Poland, with the average length of court proceedings being about four months. Complications arise from the fact that, as the U.S. government does not issue documents stating that an American citizen is free to marry, the United States citizen must convince the court that he or she is unmarried. Furthermore, the Polish government does not recognize U.S. divorces involving Polish nationals. An American divorce must therefore be repeated in the Polish courts, which generally takes six months. The number of binational marriages is impossible to estimate, as no formal statistics are compiled on the subject.

During the six months of April 1984 through September 1984, the Embassy issued 43 visas to Polish citizens for binational marriage. During the same period, 44 exit permits were issued to Polish nationals for the same purpose. Approximately four exit permits for binational marriage were delayed by the local government for more than six months.

In this reporting period the Embassy made two special representations to assist in emigration passport issuance to the spouses of American citizens. In both instances the Polish

Romania

Marriage to foreigners is officially discouraged, and obtaining approval is difficult. Although most applicants are eventually successful, securing official approval is a trying and time-consuming undertaking which requires a wait of twelve to twenty-four months. There has been no appreciable improvement of Romania's performance concerning binational marriages during the reporting period.

The U.S. Embassy estimates that the Romanian government approved 17 binational marriages and delayed 42 more than six months during the reporting period. It also estimates that Romania issued 26 exit permits/entry visas for binational marriages during the period.

Soviet Union

During the review period, 87 percent of the spouses whose applications were processed by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow received exit permission on the first application. While most of the remaining received exit permission on the second application, one spouse of a U.S. citizen and one spouse of a U.S. legal permanent resident were refused exit permission on a second application. Eight spouses who had been previously refused at least twice were again denied exit permission.

The Soviet authorities have introduced new procedures for fiance(e)s applying for visas to come to the Soviet Union to marry Soviet citizens. While in the past, Soviets occasionally denied visas to fiance(e)s in order to prevent registration of certain marriages, the new procedures seem designed to make it even more difficult for Americans to enter the Soviet Union to marry Soviet citizens. Although Soviet authorities have refused to clarify the new and confusing procedures, these seem designed to act as a hinderance to further binational marriages. Since a majority of the few Soviet citizens who are allowed to emigrate to the United States are spouses of Americans, a reduction in the number of binational marriages will mean that the number of Soviet citizens who are allowed to emigrate to the U.S. will be even smaller than at present.

Americans who marry Soviet citizens are not required to register with the Embassy or the Consulate General in Leningrad. The Embassy generally learns of binational marriages when an American files government was responsive to our representations, and emigration passports were issued. an immigration petition for a Soviet spouse or has the Embassy

notarize a statement required by Soviet authorities to register the marriage. Between April 1 and September 30, 56 American citizens and permanent resident aliens requested a "marriage statement" at the Embassy.

During the reporting period, 29 Soviet citizens were issued immigrant visas to join American spouses. In addition, 24 Soviet citizens received exit permission and were documented for U.S. entry through the ATCP program to join spouses. The Embassy is aware of at least 4 cases in which fiancé(e)s have sought reunification without success. Not infrequently, the American is denied a visa to enter the U.S.S.R. to marry, while the Soviet citizen is denied exit permission.

The Embassy maintains a representation list of Soviet citizens who have repeatedly been denied permission to join American citizen spouses. During the reporting period none of these cases was favorably resolved.

Travel for Personal or Professional Reasons

The Final Act signatories agreed to facilitate travel for personal or professional reasons. Nonetheless, the Soviet Union and most other Eastern European countries basically do not permit personal or professional travel abroad by their citizens except under conditions of strict government control and monitoring. They generally encourage visitors from the West. However, visitors who attempt to see refuseniks or dissidents, or who bring in forbidden religious articles or literary materials, are subject to harassment.

Bulgaria

Very few Bulgarians are permitted to visit the U.S. solely for tourism as opposed to family visitation. Those traveling on tourist visas for reasons other than family visitation are usually quasi-official, such as sportsmen participating in competition. There were 38 such visas issued during the period.

The U.S. Embassy estimates that approximately 3,000 Americans visited Bulgaria as tourists during the period. Americans applying for Bulgarian visas in the United States and elsewhere occasionally report the process taking longer than seven working days. U.S. visas are normally issued to Bulgarians within seven working days after receipt of application, under a visa facilitation agreement.

A tourist exchange rate of 1.8 Bulgarian leva to the dollar is offered at some major hotels. The official exchange rate hovers at near equivalency between the lev and the dollar. Black market rates are between three and five leva per dollar, but exchange memos must often be shown to make purchases for services or accommodations in leva. There are no minimum per diem hard currency exchange requirements, and hard currency need not be declared upon entry into Bulgaria. US visitors (except diplomats) may visit most areas of Bulgaria, with the exception of frontier zones, which are off limits to Bulgarian citizens as well without special permission.

Czechoslovakia

Theoretically, Czechoslovak citizens are allowed to travel to the West every three years. The actual granting of exit documentation for this purpose, however, varies considerably. Some individuals travel to the West every year; others are never allowed to leave Czechoslovakia; others may only travel to other countries in Eastern Europe. One major restraint on tourism of Czechoslovaks to non-"socialist" countries is the need to receive foreign currency allotments. When the Czechoslovak tourist has a guarantee from a U.S. citizen immediate relative that all expenses will be paid, the exit documentation is often forthcoming. Tourism to Czechoslovakia in general is encouraged, although former Czechoslovak citizens frequently experience difficulties in obtaining entry visas.

Officially, the government is required to respond to all applications for exit permission with 30 to 60 days of submission. In fact, the process often takes much longer. In addition to applying for passports and exit permission, persons desiring to visit countries outside the Warsaw Pact must submit an application for a hard currency allocation in January of the year in which they wish to travel. The maximum allocation is currently 360 dollars, based on a total of eighteen dollars per day per adult (no dollars for children). In obtaining this hard currency, Czechoslovaks must pay 25 Czechoslovak crowns for each dollar, a rate which may approximate the free market rate in the West, but which is more than twice the "official" ratio of crowns to dollars -- almost 12:1 -- given to U.S. tourists in Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovaks visiting close relatives in the U.S. are not required to change more than a minimal amount.

Czechoslovaks applying to travel outside the country also need permission from their employer and a police certificate. In an attempt to restrict the flow of refugees to the West

through Yugoslavia, Czechoslovaks traveling to that country must now apply for a special "gray" passport valid only for Yugoslavia.

The Embassy issued 3442 tourist visas during this period, an increase of approximately 11 percent over a year ago. Total non-immigrant visa issuance was 4447, an increase of approximately 15.5 percent over last year.

U.S. tourists are required to change the dollar equivalent of 30 deutsch marks daily (about 12 U.S. dollars). Children and certain exceptional cases are required to change only half the amount.

Tourists are not restricted in their travel around the country, although certain localities (for example, around military establishments) are off limits. However, if a tourist loses his travel and identity documentation, he usually has to wait 3-5 days before he receives exit permission. Embassy efforts to assist in hastening departure approval in such cases have met with very limited success. Three days delay is usually the minimum.

Currency exchange regulations are strictly enforced and the Embassy frequently receives after-hours telephone calls during peak travel months from American tourists who did not exchange enough money, allowed their visas to lapse, and found that Czechoslovak hotels were not allowed to house them. Embassy officers have had to contact police authorities and arrange for exceptions to be made until the tourists were able to change money and extend their visas.

German Democratic Republic

Most GDR citizens remain restricted from travel to the West. Only pensioners obtain permission to go to the West relatively easily. Exit formalities for GDR citizens who can travel abroad usually take four to ten weeks. The total cost of a GDR passport and visa is about 9 dollars.

A July 1984 agreement between the Federal Republic and the GDR resulted in a minor easing of travel restrictions between the two countries. Included in the agreement were: reduction of mandatory daily currency exchange requirements from 25 to 15 deutsch marks for most West German pensioners travelling to the GDR or East Berlin; extension of duration of visits to the GDR from 30 to 45 days; and expansion of travel opportunities for GDR pensioners to visit the FRG for purposes other than family

visits.

Westerners can generally obtain visas to visit the GDR without difficulty, although a currency-exchange requirement holds down the number of travelers. Exceptions are those who have emigrated recently from the GDR or who wish to visit relatives in the GDR who have filed exit applications. In one instance, a 15 year old boy, whose family had recently left the GDR, was turned back by GDR authorities when he attempted to transit East Germany en route to Sweden with his classmates from a West Berlin school for those with learning disabilities.

GDR tourist and business visa applications take about six weeks to process if the application is made in the U.S., less time if made in the Federal Republic or West Berlin. If a traveler is in Berlin and purchases a voucher showing pre-paid reservations in GDR hotels, a visa can be obtained the same day. Day visas limited to East Berlin can be obtained by Americans in a few minutes at specified crossing points in West Berlin.

A GDR single entry tourist or business visa costs about 6 dollars; multiple entry, about 17 dollars. A day visa for East Berlin costs about 2 dollars. In addition, the GDR official travel agency which processes visa applications charges those over 16 a handling fee of 22 dollars per person. With the exception of most Federal Republic pensioners, who must purchase about 5 dollars in GDR currency per day, the GDR requires those fifteen and over to purchase about 10, and 14 year olds to purchase about 3 dollars, in GDR currency per day. Those under 14 are exempt from currency conversion requirements. This money cannot be reconverted to hard currency or taken out of the GDR.

U.S. visitors are prohibited from travelling in areas adjacent to military installations, and permission must be obtained for travel within five kilometers of the GDR border, except when entering or leaving the country.

U.S. tourist visas are issued within one working day, except for cases which require waivers of ineligibility. The latter take an average of ten days to two weeks, and include the majority of applicants because of affiliations with Communist organizations. Those wishing to travel to the U.S. for business reasons who are not ineligible generally wait five working days for a visa, although this can be waived in an emergency. A U.S. tourist visa costs 8 dollars for a single entry, 16 dollars for two entries. The Embassy issued 785

tourist visas and 505 other non-immigrant visas to GDR citizens during this reporting period. No information is available on how many GDR visas were issued to Americans.

Hungary

Hungarian performance continues to be good in this area. According to official statistics, almost 4.8 million Hungarians traveled abroad in 1983, 22 percent more than in 1982. Of these travelers, 4.2 million went to socialist countries and 558,000 to non-socialist countries. Travel to Hungary, particularly from non-socialist countries, also continues to increase. Summer 1984 statistics are not yet available, but are expected to show an increase. There has been comment in the press that Hungarians prefer to travel abroad rather than in their own country.

Hungarian travel agencies continue to allow Hungarian citizens to purchase a wide variety of services, including airplane tickets, hotel rooms and some tour costs, in forints, thus reducing to some extent the pressure on the private traveler to obtain convertible currency.

More liberal provisions for Hungarians to work abroad for up to five years were adopted in mid-1983 (the regulations require that the individual have a firm job offer before application is made). The press reports that several hundred applications have been approved, mainly to the FRG and Austria, during the reporting period. It is still too early to assess how many Hungarians will be able to take advantage of this situation. The promulgation of the new regulations, however, appears consistent with the commitment in the Helsinki Final Act to increase the opportunities for travel for professionals and personal reasons. At the same time, Hungarian authorities continue to respond arbitrarily to applications for travel for personal or professional reasons submitted by dissidents. Some applications are approved, but others are denied or delayed without explanation to the individuals concerned. The program is designed to mesh with the European guest worker system. Only in rare cases can the American immigration structure accommodate these applicants.

Hungary has continued to facilitate visits to Hungary by foreign tourists. The Hungarian government estimates that 50,000 American tourists visited Hungary during the reporting period. 1984 figures are expected to rise by 15 percent over 1983.

6834 U.S. tourist visas were issued to Hungarians during the review period. Once again, seasonal factors account for the substantial increase from the last reporting period. The figure is an increase from the equivalent period a year ago (5,138) and appears to reflect the attractiveness of the new possibilities for purchasing the air ticket in forints. 1,588 other non-immigrant visas were issued to Hungarian citizens. This is an increase from the 1,207 figure of the parallel reporting period last year.

74 percent of Hungarian applicants (non-Communist affiliation waiver cases) received visas in one or two days. 26 percent, for whom waivers of ineligibility were required from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Vienna or Washington, received visas within two weeks. Emergency cases were handled within one day. A single entry U.S. visa costs six dollars; a double entry, nine dollars; and a multiple entry, twenty-one dollars.

The Hungarian Embassy in Washington generally issues visas within 24-48 hours to non-official visitors. Visas are available at the Budapest airport and some land borders, but the Embassy is aware of 5-6 refusals annually to dual nationals. Official USG visitors are generally covered by the seven-day reciprocal agreement.

Generally a 30-day period is necessary to receive a passport for tourism to the West. Processing for a visit to a socialist country takes two weeks. Exit permits for tourism, whether to the West or to socialist countries, cost 350 forints (approximately 7 dollars). In addition, the applicant must pay a postage fee of approximately 2 dollars for exit permission to a Western country. The full price for an exit permission for a family visit to a Western country is 350 forints (approximately 7 dollars.)

Western permits are valid for a single trip. Permits to socialist countries are valid for multiple trips during a five year period. The above fee schedules were changed during the last reporting period. They have become more uniform. Western exit permits have become cheaper and socialist country permits more expensive. Previously the price for a Western tourist permission was 600 forints and for a family visit 400 forints. The price for socialist country visit of both types was 100 forints.

Hungary has no currency conversion requirement for U.S. visitors. Applicants may have to produce proof of sufficient

funds to cover planned stay and departure, particularly when extensions of stay are requested.

There are no travel restrictions except for military areas.

Poland

The Polish government actively seeks U.S. tourism. This is an important source of hard currency for the Polish economy. American tourists visiting Poland during the reporting period experienced few difficulties with local authorities. There are no restrictions on American citizens for travel within Poland. There is little necessity for the U.S. government to facilitate travel and tourism by American citizens to Poland.

American visitors to Poland are required to exchange fifteen dollars per day at the official exchange rate. If they are visiting family in Poland only seven dollars and fifty cents must be exchanged daily.

The Embassy issued 11,669 non-immigrant visas during the reporting period, 9,108 of which were tourist visas. This represents a significant increase, as less than half that number of visas was issued during the previous reporting period. The Embassy cannot estimate the number of tourist and other non-immigrant visas issued to Americans desiring to visit Poland.

The estimated average duration of the visa application process for Americans visiting Poland is unknown. The Embassy is able to process non-immigrant visa applications from Polish citizens for family and tourist visits within three hours, unless a waiver of ineligibility must be sought because of Communist party membership. Waivers of ineligibility are obtained from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service within seven to ten days. Tourist visas cost ten dollars or the equivalent in local currency, based on reciprocity between the two countries.

The average duration of host country exit formalities for Polish citizens is two months. The estimated average total cost is twenty dollars.

Romania

Opportunities for Romanian citizens to travel abroad for tourism remained restricted during the reporting period. Western tourists, on the other hand, are encouraged to visit

Romania and rarely encounter problems obtaining entry visas. 1556 tourist visas were issued to Romanians during the reporting period. 1231 other non-emigrant visas were issued to Romanians during the reporting period.

The Romanians counted approximately 14,000 arrivals in Romania by Americans. The U.S. Embassy assumes that the number contains some multiple entries by the same individuals.

Tourist visas for the United States are normally issued on the day of application, unless a waiver of ineligibility is required. Waiver cases take from three to five working days to complete. U.S. visa fees are set to reciprocate the fees being charged by the Romanian for corresponding visas. Romanian and U.S. fees are currently 98 lei (7 dollars) for a single entry tourist visa and 630 lei (46 dollars) for a multiple entry tourist visa. Romania encourages tourism, and visas are granted freely to tourists on application abroad (usually within three to five working days)-or upon arrival at points of entry.

The time required for Romanians to complete Romanian exit formalities varies from weeks to years. Such travel remains a rare privilege. The total cost for a new tourist passport with exit visa is 440 lei. If a person has a valid passport on file with the passport authorities, the cost of the new visa alone is 75 lei.

U.S. visitors to Romania are required to convert ten dollars per day. American tourists generally encounter no restrictions on travel within Romania. U.S. evangelists, however, who attempt to meet with Romanian religious groups or families are likely to be questioned and warned to refrain from such activities. Purely social contacts with Romanians are also difficult since the government discourages Romanians from associating with foreigners without prior approval.

Soviet Union

As a general matter, the Soviet Union encourages western tourism. Relatively inexpensive rates are offered to large groups, which are less troublesome to program than the individual tourist, who pays for his comparative liberty at premium prices. On August 6, the Department of State issued a travel advisory for Leningrad in response to numerous serious incidents which appeared to indicate a pattern of harassment of U.S. tourists and officials there. In one instance an American tourist required hospitalization after a beating. Soviet

authorities are seeking to define tourism in an increasingly narrow way which rules out contact with any Soviet citizens other than in meetings arranged by tourist agencies. The travel advisory for Leningrad may have discouraged some Americans from traveling to the Soviet Union, although there was apparently no appreciable drop in the number of scheduled tours.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow has no means of estimating the total number of tourist and other non-immigrant visas issued to Americans by Soviet embassies and consulates. It appears, however, that there has been no reversal in the decline in the number of American tourists visiting the Soviet Union noted after the KAL incident in September 1983. Representatives of American tour agencies have reported that their companies sponsored only about two-thirds as many tours during the summer of 1984 as in previous years.

Approximately 786 tourist visas were issued to private Soviet visitors during the reporting period. A total of 1,461 visas in other non-immigrant categories were issued, including diplomatic, United Nations secretariat, journalist, business, exchange, and transit visas.

Pursuant to a bilateral exchange of notes on July 30, 1984, several new categories of visa applications now require expeditious processing. The U.S. Embassy must now make a decision on applications for visas for personnel assigned to the Soviet UN Mission, as well as for Soviet officials in transit, within seven working days. Similarly, the requirement that U.S. visas for diplomatic personnel be issued or denied within five working days has been expanded to include employees of the Soviet Consulate General in San Francisco. These new requirements apply, mutatis mutandis, to the same categories of U.S. official personnel applying for Soviet visas. In the short period of time since the exchange of notes and the end of the reporting period, the Embassy has noted several cases in which the Soviets have not conformed with the time limits specified. Outside these official categories, Americans applying for visitor visas must wait varying lengths of time, dependent upon the purpose of their travel and how the Soviet authorities perceive the trip. Thus, authorization may be granted in as little as two days; more commonly, a private visitor must wait two or three weeks, often until the very eve of departure, to learn whether his visa has been granted or denied. Private Soviet visitors receive their non-immigrant visas on the day they apply, with no charge. The Soviet Embassy in Washington charges a 10 dollar fee for private

applications.

Religious Contacts

The Final Act confirms the legitimacy of religious contacts among the participating states. In the Madrid Concluding Document, the 35 CSCE states committed themselves to implement the Final Act further so that religious faiths and their representatives can "develop contacts and meetings among themselves and exchange information." Nonetheless, as noted in more detail in the section on religious freedom in Chapter Two of this report, unfettered religious contacts and exchange of information are actively suppressed in the Soviet Union and some Eastern European countries, where strict state supervision of religious activities is the rule.

Bulgaria

Religious institutions continued to endure tight official scrutiny, with the Bulgarian Orthodox church enjoying a favored position. There were no significant changes noted in the frequency of religious contacts or Bulgarian policy toward proselytizing. Church sermons tended to stress matters of personal devotion. If social topics were touched on at all, the clergy was careful to hew to officially approved positions.

Czechoslovakia

The performance of the Czechoslovak government in facilitating travel to Czechoslovakia of religious officials is mixed. When the proposed visit serves the purpose of the state, or takes place between an officially recognized religious institution in Czechoslovakia and counterparts from Western Europe or North America, visas are usually granted with relatively little difficulty.

Unofficial or unsanctioned visits from religious groups seeking to meet for purposes considered illegal by the Czechoslovak government, such as importing bibles and other religious literature printed in the Czech or Slovak languages in the West, carrying on religious training, and similar activities, meet with severe punishment when discovered by the regime. At the very least, the travelers from the West are refused entry at the border or deported; quite often they are arrested and detained for a time. Occasionally, they may receive prison sentences. The Czechoslovak government has also shown itself to be quite sensitive about members of Western religious peace groups who have traveled here to make

unofficial contacts with Czechoslovak citizens such as Charter 77 spokespersons.

German Democratic Republic

During the review period, clergy and lay members of Western churches have been permitted to attend church synods and conferences held in the GDR and some GDR religious leaders have been allowed to attend similar meetings in the west. There is a small exchange program of U.S. - GDR pastors.

Hungary

Hungary has a good record in this field. There are substantial contacts, and travel is considerable in both directions. The Embassy is not aware of particular difficulties for any denomination.

Poland

The Embassy currently issues non-immigrant visas to clergymen at the rate of approximately four per week. Most Polish clergy seem to have no difficulty in obtaining passports for traveling abroad. Frequently they are able to do this on significantly shorter notice than other Polish citizens. To our knowledge, representatives of various U.S. religious denominations have been able to travel to Poland without interference from the Polish government.

Romania

Romania ignores the generally accepted sense of the human rights elements of the Helsinki accords, especially those dealing with freedom of religion. Officially sanctioned religious meetings are usually held in controlled surroundings, with little chance for spontaneous discussion. Even unofficial contacts with the outside religious world are actively discouraged and sometimes obstructed. Unsanctioned gatherings are illegal and are suppressed. Although the government has allowed high officials of some church organizations to attend international conferences abroad, it has denied travel authorization to members of other faiths going for similar purposes. State power appears to reward religious groups which conform, notably the Romanian Orthodox church, and to frustrate the efforts of churches which are growing or which put their religious beliefs and principles ahead of state ideology.

Soviet Union

The Soviet government does not oppose contacts with religious groups from the West as long as only approved representatives of officially registered churches participate on the Soviet side. During the current review period a group of Soviet religious leaders from various denominations traveled around the United States at the invitation of the U.S. National Council of Churches. Subsequently a group of 266 American religious leaders affiliated with the National Council toured the U.S.S.R. in June, visiting a number of cities and participating in many officially-sponsored church events. In April, a number of Western (including U.S.) religious and other persons were invited to the U.S.S.R. by the Russian Orthodox church for round-table discussion on the subject of space without weapons. In June, a workshop on confidence building and human rights was convened in Moscow, which attracted a number of Western religious and other participants. During the period of these recent exchanges and meetings the Soviet press continued to run articles warning against the pitfalls of religion and proclaiming the virtues of atheism.

It is not common for Soviet church leaders to invite individual Western churchmen to the Soviet Union. Among other visitors during the review period, Evangelist Billy Graham came to the Soviet Union in September and spoke at a number of church gatherings. Individual Soviet citizens (including Baptists, Orthodox Christians, and Seventh Day Adventists) also travel to the U.S. for stays of up to one year, often at the invitation of local U.S. churches.

Information

The Final Act signatories agreed to facilitate freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, to encourage cooperation in the field of information and exchange of information with other countries, and to improve the working conditions of journalists. The Madrid document contains a number of new provisions which strengthen the Final Act. Included among these are provisions that commit the participating states to: encourage the sale and distribution of printed matter from other states; decide journalists' visa applications without undue delay; grant permanent correspondents and their families multiple entry and exit visas valid for a year; provide more extensive travel opportunities for journalists; increase possibilities for foreign journalists to establish contacts with sources; and allow journalists to

carry with them reference material and personal notes.

Dissemination of Information

The dissemination of all types of information is under strict state control in the Soviet Union and most of Eastern Europe. The authorities there exert control over the information available to the public and have a powerful censorship apparatus to ensure that what is published or broadcasted conforms to ideological standards established by the government and Communist Party. As a general rule, information from foreign sources is strictly limited and controlled. Contrary to the Final Act's aim of freer dissemination of information, several Eastern countries continue to jam Western radio broadcasts.

Nonetheless, examination of individual countries reveals a varied pattern of adherence in practice to Final Act principles on information.

Bulgaria

There has been no change in Bulgaria's poor performance concerning printed, filmed and broadcast information. All the media in Bulgaria are tightly controlled by the Party and there is no likelihood this will change in the foreseeable future. Although the government allows the presentation of some western television programs and films, censorship is heavy and the programs are selected primarily for their acceptability to socialist audiences.

There are no American newspapers or magazines sold openly or regularly in Bulgaria. Since the last report, the Embassy has not seen even occasional copies of the International Herald Tribune sold in local kiosks. The availability of Western European papers and magazines is even more sporadic than before.

In theory, any Bulgarian with legal access to foreign currency may subscribe to Western newspapers and journals. Because most Bulgarians do not have legal access to foreign currency, they cannot spend their money on private subscriptions. Libraries do offer most Western publications, but access to them is controlled by special passes. Official subscriptions to Western publications are limited to those with a need to know.

Bulgaria actively encourages the sale of publications from the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries. This material

is often priced lower than Bulgarian language material. Translations of Western authors are sometimes available, and in such cases long lines form at bookstores.

Western television programs are shown on Bulgarian television, but the Bulgarian language is almost always dubbed in as a means of censorship. Western films are also regularly available at local theaters. "On Golden Pond" and "The Grapes of Wrath" were two recently popular titles shown here. The Bulgarians have not proved immune to the videorecorder craze. Videorecorders are proliferating in Bulgaria and the government has even promulgated regulations on the establishment of video clubs.

Bulgaria began jamming the VOA Bulgarian language service in July but ceased in mid-August. Radio Free Europe Bulgarian and Radio Liberty Russian broadcasts are partially jammed. The Bulgarian language service of Deutsche Welle is jammed, while the BBC Bulgarian language programs are not.

Czechoslovakia

The performance of the Czechoslovak government concerning the dissemination of printed, filmed, and broadcast information continues to be poor. Although information originating from socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, is prominently published and broadcast, information from other sources, notably the United States and Western Europe, is hard to obtain and often restricted by the Czechoslovak government. Broadcasts and publications that shed unfavorable light on Czechoslovakia or Soviet society and policy are particularly disapproved of by the authorities.

No American publications are sold openly in Czechoslovakia except for a few copies of the U.S. Communist party newspaper "Daily World," which are seen on the newsstands irregularly.

American books and periodicals are not generally available, although some are housed in technical and university libraries. During the reporting period, the government of Czechoslovakia did not interfere overtly with the operation of the American Embassy library in Prague, which makes its nearly 5,000 American books and 107 current U.S. periodicals (in English) accessible to the public daily. Access to the library, however, is not facilitated by the presence of armed Czechoslovak police guards outside the Embassy and the widespread fear among Czechoslovak citizens, by no means discouraged by the Czechoslovak government, that they will have

difficulties with the authorities if they visit the library. English departments at the major Czechoslovak universities maintain collections of American literature, but these contain many gaps, particularly in recent American fiction and criticism. Moreover, the departmental libraries are generally open only to faculty members and students majoring in English. The Embassy's press and cultural section periodicals presentation program distributes 149 subscriptions to American periodicals (97 titles) to Czechoslovak officials and institutions. The press and cultural section, however, continues to receive complaints from private individuals that subscriptions to American magazines, American Embassy library "outreach" materials, the USIA Czech-language magazines "Spektrum," and other publications are often interrupted. A 1983 directive issued by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Communications and the Federal Office of Press and Information that changes the terms of payment for subscriptions to periodicals from "non-socialist countries" from Czechoslovak crowns to U.S. dollars or other convertible currency is still in force. Since payment by individuals and institutions (even those relatively few permitted access to Western publications) is a real burden, the long-term result of the directive probably is a substantial reduction in the number and variety of foreign publications purchased from the West.

American films make up a sizable percentage of films shown commercially, more than for any other Western country. Among the U.S. films screened in Prague's dozen principal central city moviehouses during the reporting period were "E.T." and "Tootsie." Six new U.S. films were screened for the public during the 24th Karlovy Vary film festival in July, 1984. These films were also shown in principal moviehouses countrywide. Most U.S. films, however, are at least several years old and contain nothing that could be considered offensive to socialism or to the Czechoslovak government. American films rarely appear on Czechoslovak television. In a recent Ceteka (Czechoslovak news service) story on the "Prague Autumn Cultural Season," it is claimed that appearances by foreign performances, plays written by westerners and screening of Western film productions "thus implement(s) the Helsinki Final Act resolution on cultural exchange."

Radio Free Europe is jammed heavily in Prague, but it is often possible to receive it outside the capital and, by changing frequencies, to pick it up in Prague from time to time. Jamming has been reported in Bratislava, Slovakia, and elsewhere as well. Voice of America is not jammed, nor is Rias (Radio in American Sector).

German Democratic Republic

GDR media coverage of U.S. foreign and domestic affairs continues to be sharply critical and distorted. However, about 80 percent of the GDR public has unhindered access to West German television. In general, printed materials not licensed by the state are illegal and are regularly confiscated at border and sector crossings. A July Federal Republic-GDR accord included a GDR agreement to be more flexible with respect to the types of literature and other printed matter allowed into the GDR as well as with the mailing of phonograph records. The effects of this agreement can not yet be determined.

U.S. magazines and newspapers, except for those published by the U.S. Communist party, are not available to the general public. Libraries and official institutes do receive U.S. magazines and scholarly journals but circulation is restricted. The International Herald Tribune is sold in a few hotels catering to Western visitors.

It is difficult to purchase U.S. books and periodicals, other than those of the U.S. Communist party, at bookstores and newstands. U.S. materials in libraries are for restricted circulation. Except for a small number of researchers and experts, subscriptions are not possible because the GDR will not grant the postal license necessary to send these publications through the mail. About 20 U.S. titles per year are translated and printed by government-owned publishing companies, but the printings are small and the books often hard to obtain. The Embassy is able to distribute uncensored policy texts and analytical material to some 160 selected GDR recipients without prior submission to the foreign ministry. There is no encouragement of any kind for wider usage of U.S. books and periodicals. On the contrary, GDR control of visitors to the Embassy library has become even more thorough, and there are almost no library visitors at the present time.

The number of foreign films, including American products, shown on GDR television has greatly increased. American films are also screened more regularly in GDR theaters.

Hungary

Western publication, including the International Herald Tribune, The Frankfurter Allgemeine, Time, Newsweek, The Economist, Der Spiegel, etc., are available at between 50 and

60 outlets in Hungary. Such publications are normally available at the major hotels and can be purchased for forints (The Herald Tribune sells for 37 forints, 74 cents, and the Frankfurter Allgemeine sells for 40 forints or 80 cents). Some American Communist publications are also visible, but the numbers and the percentage of the market are unknown.

It is possible, but expensive, for a Hungarian citizen to subscribe to Western periodicals, and payment can be made in forints. We cannot gauge the number of Hungarian citizens who subscribe to Western periodicals, but it is probably insignificant. Government and party officials, and many who work in the media, have access to such publications, and most established institutions receive a limited number of subscriptions. The Embassy library receives the International Herald Tribune, The Sunday New York Times, USA Today, and a full range of magazines, but these are read mostly by younger people, rather than older, more established Hungarians. To compensate for reluctance on the part of some of our contacts to use the facilities, the post has expanded its outreach program. Tables of contents of periodical and lists of new books are sent to major institutions. The response has been gratifying. Some old periodicals are kept to service these requests; the rest are donated to appropriate institutions. This service continues to expand.

Hungary translates a large number of foreign literary works: in 1983 36 U.S. works were published in 2,202,000 copies while 42 Soviet works were published for a total of 774,000 copies, indicating the preference for American literature. In all 315 foreign literary works were translated for a total print run of 10,827,000 copies. The Hungarian media closely follow Soviet positions on foreign policy issues, with some notable exceptions (e.g., the development of relations between East and West Germany). Generally, the U.S. is criticized as the primary cause of East-West tension. Media rhetoric is often strident toward the U.S., but both radio and television have given access to American spokesmen through interviews on such issues as arms control. The line reflected in the media seems to have hardened over the last several months. The U.S. Embassy has been told that all responsible editors have been put on notice that none of them is irreplaceable should he act out of line. At the same time, personal relations with all levels of the media - in particular television - could not be more cordial.

American films remain very popular. In 1983, Hungary imported 198 films, of which 40 were American and 29 were

Soviet. American films remain the favored attraction for Hungarian audiences. Hungarian TV regularly features American films on TV series.

Hungarians regularly listen to Western radio broadcasts. The Hungarian language services of RFE, VOA, and BBC are all popular. There has been no evidence of jamming.

Poland

Although not as open as during their Solidarity heyday, the Polish media still remain the least shackled in the Warsaw Pact. While following the approved government line on international issues, and attacking VOA and RFE, the press continues to be a forum for lively debate on some domestic issues.

Long articles appearing in periodicals such as "Tygodnik Powszechny," "Tu i Teraz," and "Polityka" present contending views on economic reform, party ideology and cadre policy, the extent of dialogue with various spheres of society, the role of the church, administrative reforms such as the proposed territorial self-management councils, and most recently, proposed reform within the judicial system. The press also openly discusses social and family problems, acute housing conditions, drug and alcohol abuse, poor medical services, problems in education, difficulties faced by students, and many related issues which highlight the imperfections of life in Poland. Well-known officials and journalists participate in these discussions. Many journalists dismissed after "verification" of political orthodoxy, or who resigned in protest over martial law, are now active in small-circulation periodicals.

The more orthodox government authorities attempt to retain tight control over what they consider the most influential print and electronic media. Their goal is for journalistic products to be characterized by single-minded adherence to the prevailing government line. They have not succeeded in much of the print media, however, and often have to be satisfied with an absence of criticism as opposed to enthusiastic backing. Poland is still a country where press censorship is practiced, and many articles are self-censored before they reach official eyes. The controversial articles which appear are often the result of prolonged bargaining with the censors. Within the imposed and perceived parameters, however, the Polish audience is exposed both to ideas and to means of handling controversial issues which would receive little or no public exposure in most

other Eastern European countries.

No American periodicals are sold publicly in Poland. Personal and institutional subscriptions to some titles are still possible, depending on the availability of hard currency. The USIA-produced "Ameryka" continues to be banned from distribution. In April, the government banned the distribution of another USIA product, "Problems of Communism."

No American periodicals or books are sold at newsstands, although some US news weeklies are found in public reading rooms. Public and university library purchases of new books and periodicals from the U.S. are severely limited by lack of hard currency. The Embassy has received no reports of the removal of books from library shelves. Thus, American books and periodicals already in library collections -- principally university libraries -- remain available.

Gift subscriptions to American periodicals paid for abroad usually arrive through the Polish mails. By contrast, the public sale of books and periodicals from the U.S.S.R. and other Communist countries is widespread, and prices are comparable to those for Polish publications. The government facilitates private subscriptions to periodicals from Communist countries by permitting subscribers to order them through the Polish central subscription office.

Sixteen American films are playing in nineteen of the city's forty-two main theaters. Titles which have arrived most recently include "Rosemary's Baby" (first time in Poland), "The Dogs of War," "The Border," and "Tootsie." Polish television continues to show old American films with fair regularity.

Approximately 75 percent of VOA Polish service shortwave broadcasts were jammed during this period. No VOA Polish mediumwave broadcasts have been jammed, and reception on this band continues to be good enough to be heard on a car radio. Eighty percent of Polish RFE broadcasts were jammed. VOA English service has not been jammed.

Romania

Overall, Romania restricts information available domestically. Strict censorship is enforced; foreign and even local news items which appear are carefully selected. The media and film are used primarily to inform and educate the public according to party dictates, to exhort and to enhance the image of the government, the party and especially its

leadership.

During this reporting period, no Western periodicals or publications were sold in Romania, as far as the Embassy can ascertain. No American Communist publications have been noted in Romania.

No American books or periodicals are sold at Romanian newstands or by subscription through the mail to Romanian citizens. Limited numbers of Romanians have access to American and other Western publications through foreign missions' information centers and libraries. Some American books are available for sale in second hand book stores.

Romania does not encourage the sale or distribution of printed matter from other states, and in fact seeks to control and restrict foreign publications.

Romanian TV shows at least one American film per week, and at least one American science item per week. Older American films are shown regularly in commercial theaters.

Soviet Union

There have been no changes during the period under review concerning access by Soviet citizens to information in general and to U.S. media and opinion specifically. American films continue to be shown to Soviet audiences on a selective basis only. All VOA native language program and RL broadcasts are still jammed.

Working Conditions for Journalists

Bulgaria

No American journalists reside in Bulgaria, although five Americans resident in other countries are accredited in Bulgaria. The U.S. Embassy understands that UPI recently hired a Bulgarian stringer. During this period, the Embassy was not aware of any problems that might have been encountered by US journalists who travelled to Bulgaria.

Although the Bulgarians do not seem to dissuade Western journalists from coming to Bulgaria, the government seeks to control their freedom of movement by requiring them to obtain "working visas" and to make all arrangements through the Sofia press agency which programs their schedules. In theory, a journalist may travel to all areas of Bulgaria other than

border and military areas. However, the Sofia press agency in making arrangements could tell a journalist that it was unable to schedule a visit to a particular area and, thus, controls the journalist's movement.

The sources for Western journalists are usually Bulgarian officials who have government permission to talk to journalists. Journalists do not have free access to other Bulgarian citizens and, if the journalist were to attempt to sustain a relationship with a Bulgarian who does not have permission to do so, the security services would ensure that the contact is broken. There are no press centers in the Western sense, but the government maintains a press club at the Park Hotel Moskva which is open to foreign journalists.

Czechoslovakia

The government's handling of Western journalists in Czechoslovakia has not changed significantly since the last reporting period. A press center for foreign journalists functions in Prague, and another in Bratislava, but the quality of information provided is low. Working conditions for foreign journalists are not dangerous, but access to government officials and "newsworthy" data is sharply restricted.

Local authorities granted nearly a dozen short-term visas to American newsmen in connection with permanent accreditation. Visas for Western journalists not permanently accredited totaled approximately seventy, according to Czechoslovak officials.

In August 1984, VOA Eastern European correspondent David Leht was refused permanent non-resident accreditation, after waiting almost one year for an answer. Two CBS correspondents have been waiting since February 1984, for a response to their requests for permanent non-resident accreditation.

There are six non-resident American journalists accredited to Czechoslovakia. The sole resident U.S. journalist represents the Daily Worker, the organ of the central committee of the U.S. Communist party.

There are no travel restrictions for accredited journalists except in security areas. Several journalist tours for resident correspondents are organized by the MFA press department of the Foreign Ministry each year. However, the government has not undertaken measures to provide more extensive travel opportunities for American journalists.

There have been no increased possibilities or improved conditions for foreign journalists to establish and maintain personal contacts and communications with their sources.

The Czechoslovak government permits radio and television journalists to bring their own technicians and equipment, but encourages the use of locally supplied technical personnel and equipment. Journalists are permitted to carry reference material for professional purposes with them but such material can be, and usually is, perused by border guards and customs officials both on entering and leaving Czechoslovakia.

The U.S. Embassy knows of no American journalist expelled during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, nine new U.S. visas were granted to Czechoslovak journalists for permanent accreditation and shorter visits. At present there are four accredited Czechoslovak journalists in the U.S.

German Democratic Republic

Conditions for journalists are formally correct but Western journalists' contacts with individuals and institutions are tightly controlled.

A representative of the Communist Daily Worker and an AP Correspondent (who is not an American citizen) are permanently accredited to the GDR. They have multiple entry and exit visas valid for a year. The number of temporary visas issued to American journalists during this reporting period is unknown to the U.S. Embassy but visiting U.S. journalists enter and travel in the GDR without apparent difficulty. The U.S. Embassy knows of no American journalist who has been refused a visa or experienced delay in obtaining one. Western media reported, however, that three reporters from the Evangelical Press Agency in the FRG were refused permission to enter the GDR to cover a church synod in September.

All travel outside of Berlin by journalists must be approved by the foreign ministry.

Western journalists must have foreign ministry approval for interviews or any significant contact. By GDR law, the average citizen may not maintain contact with foreign journalists. In short, access to information and people is tightly controlled.

Authorization to bring technicians, equipment and reference

materials into the GDR has generally been granted. However, services such as drivers must be arranged through the GDR and the prices charged are steep.

No American journalists have been expelled during the review period.

Two GDR journalists received U.S. visas for permanent accreditation and eight GDR journalists received visas for shorter visits during this reporting period.

An international press center with facilities open to foreign journalists is located in East Berlin.

Hungary

American journalists visit Hungary often and experience no difficulty in obtaining visas. The foreign ministry has a press center, Pressinform, to assist foreign journalists. Reports of its cooperation and efficiency have been generally favorable. This press center is open to national as well as foreign journalists. By appointment, foreign journalists also have access to the press center of the Hungarian journalists association.

Several U.S. journalists have entered Hungary using the system of multiple entry visas approved in 1982. With advance notification to either a Hungarian embassy or the foreign ministry, radio and television journalists can bring their own technicians and equipment, which must be registered with customs both upon entering and leaving the country. They can also take with them without difficulty reference materials for professional or personal use. The U.S. Embassy is not aware of any difficulties imposed on foreign journalists who seek to establish and maintain personal contacts and communications with either official or non-official sources. There are no areas closed to travel in Hungary. During the reporting period, no visas were refused or delayed more than six months. There are no U.S. journalists permanently accredited to Hungary, although both AP and UPI have Hungarian representatives, along with "Daily Worker" and "Amerikai Magyar SZO." The Embassy knows of no American correspondents who have been expelled from the country.

During the reporting period seven visas were granted to Hungarian journalists permanently accredited to the U.S. Twenty-two were issued to Hungarian journalists for shorter periods.

Poland

Although interviews with government officials must be arranged through the government press enterprise "interpress" and the foreign ministry press department, resident and visiting American journalists rarely report difficulty in obtaining access to important sources and, in fact, rank Poland high on the list of Eastern European countries in terms of general access. The government spokesman schedules weekly press conferences for foreign correspondents which are well attended and often go far beyond a simple statement of government views. Foreign journalists may travel freely without prior permission, although many have been stopped by provincial authorities for document checks and inspection of the contents of their motor vehicles. TV correspondents have been subjected to harassment, including temporary detention and seizure of equipment when they attempt to cover demonstrations.

Technical equipment is imported without restriction, but technical assistance is not: American television networks are allowed one permanent accredited correspondent as well as an accredited producer. Additional permanent technical personnel, such as film crews, must be hired locally.

Although resident correspondents are not required to hire personnel through a central government office, as is the case in some Eastern European countries, Polish national employees must be approved and registered with the foreign ministry. The authorities continue to harass some news organizations with bureaus in Warsaw by refusing to allow selected employees of these organizations to continue working and rejecting work permit requests for others.

During the review period, six new permanent accreditations were granted to U.S. media representatives, including one for a new bureau opened during the reporting period. We estimate some 19 visas have been granted to U.S. journalists not permanently accredited.

The U.S. Embassy knows of no refusals of visas, or of any visa extension requests having been denied. One visa requested by a visiting correspondent was delayed for six weeks before being issued.

There are now 13 permanently accredited U.S. journalists in Poland. They and their families have multiple-entry visas which must be renewed every six months. However, the

government recently announced revisions in visa regulations for foreign correspondents, effective October 1, which would extend the validity of multiple-entry visas for resident foreign correspondents to one year.

There are no travel restrictions in Poland for resident or visiting foreign journalists.

No American journalists have been expelled from Poland during the reporting period.

No visas for permanent accreditation to Polish journalists were issued during the reporting period. 14 visas were issued to journalists for short visits to the U.S. No U.S. visas were refused to Polish applicants, nor were there any delayed decisions by the Embassy.

A press center, Interpress in Warsaw, is open to both national and foreign journalists.

Romania

Working conditions for foreign journalists in Romania are a function of the government's attitude toward them. It regards them with suspicion and seeks to manipulate and control them without overtly appearing to do so. Western journalists frequently complain of bureaucratic frustration, obfuscation and misrepresentation, despite government protestations of frankness and cooperation. All interviews must be cleared by the Romanian news agency "Agerpres" or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The government thus exercises almost complete control over Western journalists' contacts here. Many Western journalists do manage to make some unofficial contacts with Romanian citizens and officials; however, Romanian law requires citizens to report each substantial contact with foreigners to internal security authorities. By and large, Western journalists depend heavily on diplomatic and Western business contacts as sources of information.

No permanently-accredited American journalists reside in Romania. Three American journalists have accreditation but reside outside the country and have multiple entry visas. Approximately 20 visas per year are granted to visiting American journalists. No visas were refused American journalists during this period; however, at least two American journalists have sought Embassy assistance in obtaining visas which were not immediately forthcoming. Some visas are granted journalists expeditiously while other applications seem

arbitrarily involved and drawn out.

Romania provides opportunities for journalists to travel under controlled conditions, usually only to areas selected by the government, and always accompanied by state guides and escorts.

Some American and Western news agencies employ Romanian citizens as stringers in Romania. These are hired with the approval of the Romanian government.

There have been no problems in getting Romanian authorization for radio and television journalists to bring their own technicians, equipment and professional reference materials into the country. There is a meticulous recording of serial numbers. In the case of typewriters, a sample of the type face of the equipment must be submitted as well.

No American journalists have been expelled from Romania in recent years.

Between five and ten U.S. visas are granted each year to Romanian journalists, primarily for short visits. Visa applications are handled expeditiously but are usually received from the government on very short notice. Of note is the fact that four Romanian journalists went to the U.S. to cover the Olympic games. One defected. Two journalists defected to the U.S. during this period.

American and other national press centers are allowed for certain events. There is an operating Romanian Foreign Press Club, at which periodic press conferences are held.

Soviet Union

There have recently been indications of increased harassment and pressure being brought to bear on a number of foreign journalists and news organizations in the U.S.S.R. An American correspondent was threatened with prosecution and imprisonment on trumped-up charges as a result of Soviet displeasure over articles appearing in the publication for which he writes; a journalist employed by the Associated Press was, over a period of three months, repeatedly called to appear at the prosecutor's office and questioned at length in the course of a Soviet criminal investigation, despite protests that the journalist had no relevant information about either the accused or the crime; a skilled interpreter working for the New York Times was forced to leave his position as a result of

Soviet suspicions that his loyalty to the Times might be impinging on his dependability as a Soviet government employee and informer. In each of these incidents, the opportunity for the journalists in question--and, by extrapolation, for Moscow-based journalists in general--to establish contacts within the society and to practice effectively their profession was deliberately undermined by Soviet authorities.

A recent campaign of attacks in the Soviet press on foreign journalists has been specific, malicious, and vitriolic. This, too, has made life for foreign journalists working in Moscow more difficult and has weakened their ability to function normally as journalists.

Over the past six months, six American journalists have been granted visas in connection with permanent accreditation in the Soviet Union. 36 journalists and TV personnel have received visas for working here temporarily. One visa in connection with permanent accreditation (AP Bureau chief) was refused, but no visas for temporary accreditation were rejected. With few exceptions, visa applications are decided upon without undue delay. The 18-month delay in connection with the accreditation of a Wall Street Journal correspondent stems from the as yet unacted upon request for the establishment of an office for the paper in Moscow.

There are 30 American journalists permanently accredited to the Soviet Union. This number includes journalists from the Daily World and Pilot. In addition, there are seven resident, permanently accredited American technical personnel. All have multiple entry-exit visas valid for one year.

No American journalists were expelled during the review period, although, as noted above, authorities tried through intimidation to force one correspondent to leave.

In the past six months, six permanent and six temporary visas have been granted to local national journalists traveling to the United States. No such visas have been refused and no decisions were unduly delayed.

COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION

This section of Basket III commits the signatories to facilitate cultural and educational exchanges, improve access to cultural achievements, expand contacts between educational institutions increase international scientific cooperation, and encourage the study of foreign languages.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Exchanges are an integral aspect of relations among the 35 participating CSCE nations. The examples listed in this section constitute a partial accounting of exchanges between the U.S. and Eastern European countries during the reporting period. These highlights are indicative of the scope of the exchanges and cooperative ventures in progress, many of which have been underway for some time. Some are conducted under U.S. Government auspices with U.S. funding. Others are strictly private and only come to our attention through the visa application process or when problems arise.

Bulgaria

Cultural and educational exchanges between the U.S. and Bulgaria are governed by a bilateral exchanges agreement. Strained political and economic relations between the two countries, however, have had a negative effect on bilateral cultural ties during this rating period. On the positive side, however, a USIA exhibit, "American Theater Today," enjoyed a very successful showing in Sofia during this period.

Czechoslovakia

Overall bilateral relations in the field of culture have remained static during the reporting period. Czechoslovak authorities have displayed a lack of enthusiasm for U.S. efforts to expand programs in the cultural area. At the same time, American artists have performed in Czechoslovakia during this period without any apparent difficulties with Czechoslovak authorities. Twelve U.S. specialists visited Czechoslovakia under USIA sponsorship for lectures and meetings with colleagues in such fields as American literature, environment, library science, education, film and international relations.

German Democratic Republic

There is no bilateral agreement on cultural and educational exchanges between the German Democratic Republic and the U.S. The United States has had only very limited success in arranging visits by specialists, U.S. participation in fairs and festivals, or exchanges of magazines and performing artists. GDR national media have, however, reported positively on these limited cultural programs and visits. In the field of education, several U.S. institutions are involved in academic exchange agreements with universities of the German Democratic

Republic. The record for honoring commitments and arranging access for American scholars has generally been good. The greatest barrier to cooperation in the field of culture is the problem of access imposed by the government of the German Democratic Republic. Public access to the U.S. Embassy and library (in the Embassy) remain a problem. The presence of guards at the entrance and regular I.D. checks in the vicinity tend to dissuade many visitors.

Hungary

U.S.-Hungarian cultural relations expanded significantly during this reporting period. Over the past year more than twenty Hungarians travelled to the U.S. on the International Visitor Program, which has exceeded the numbers established in the Program of Cooperation and Exchanges signed in 1983. The Fulbright Lecturer Program also has expanded beyond the numbers of participants stipulated in the new agreement. The document provides for an exchange of two lecturers each way; however, four lecturers travelled in each direction during the past year.

Poland

In the case of Poland the imposition of martial law in December 1981 has affected each category of cooperation falling under the CSCE review with the exception of the U.S.-Polish Fulbright exchange program. Some traditional U.S.-Polish cultural exchange programs which were flourishing before martial law have not returned to significant levels of activity. There is no official bilateral exchanges agreement between the U.S. and Poland. Through non-governmental organizations, Poland continues to present art exhibits and other such attractions in the United States: these activities are not the result of cooperative efforts between our respective governments and embassies. American artists continue to visit Poland under private arrangements, as do Poles who continue to visit the U.S. A shortage of hard currency to pay western performers, rather than any concerted attempt to exclude Americans, tends to keep the number of American visiting artists at a low level.

Romania

The two year Program of Cooperation and Exchanges between the U.S. and Romania was extended through the end of 1985 late last year. The current status of bilateral cultural relations has somewhat deteriorated over the last year. The main difficulty has been the lack of responsiveness and cooperation

on the part of the Romanian Ministry of Education. While the American side sends the maximum number of exchangees allowed under the Agreement, Romania has not fully utilized its quotas for research scholars in the U.S. American researchers continue to face problems and delays in obtaining access to materials. On the positive side, a record 80,000 Romanians attended the U.S. exhibit "American Theater Today" in Bucharest during its October 1984 showing. Romania also participated actively in the International Visitor Program during the reporting period.

Soviet Union

As we have noted in previous reports, the decision of the United States to curtail government-funded exchanges with the Soviet Union following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is of special relevance in this section. Our General Agreement on Contacts, Exchanges, and Cooperation with the U.S.S.R. expired in December 1979 and has not yet been renewed. The United States Government does, however, continue to support certain academic exchanges, as well as several privately administered university-to-university exchanges between the United States and the U.S.S.R.

Cultural exchanges and cooperation remained at a very low level during this reporting period. The opening of negotiations on a new bilateral exchanges agreement in late August, however, may hold some prospect for expanding relations in this field. The USSR Ministry of Secondary and Higher Specialized Education cancelled for 1984-85 the exchange of secondary school language teachers, which is conducted jointly with the American Field Service. The reason cited for the cancellation is the absence of an official bilateral agreement on exchanges.

Individual Americans participated in international fairs, festivals and cultural meetings in the Soviet Union (such as the Moscow International Music Festival in May 1984), although levels of participation were lower than they were in the 1970s. A limited number of American performing artists and cultural specialists have travelled to the USSR on their own initiative as tourists or at the invitation of Soviet cultural organizations; this has generally been for purposes of seeing Soviet performances or meeting with counterparts. Some Soviet artists have been invited to the United States for similar purposes, but are often not permitted to accept such invitations.

CULTURE

Books and Publishing

The United States and the U.S.S.R. continue to distribute in each other's country their official monthly publications, America Illustrated and Soviet Life. Soviet authorities continue to return a high number of the U.S. publication as "unsold." In Poland the restriction on newsstand sales and distribution of the U.S. Government Polish-language publication Ameryka continued in effect during the reporting period.

Performing Arts

The Bowling Green High School Madrigal Choir gave concerts in six Polish cities in March and April 1984. The tour was arranged by the Almatour, the Polish youth tourist organization.

The Chicago-based Lira Singers toured Poland's major cities in August 1984 on a private tour, facilitated by the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw.

The Trade Winds Jazz Band of the University of Massachusetts toured Poland during the reporting period. The trip was organized by Friendship Ambassadors with assistance from Almatour.

American Pianist Dean Kramer gave concerts in Hungary and Romania during this period. His tour was arranged under USIA's Artistic Ambassador Program.

A seven-person U.S. delegation, led by International Theater Institute (NYC) Director Martha Coigney, attended the Festival of Bulgarian Drama and Theater in Sofia during the period June 11-15, 1984.

The U.S. dance ensemble Black Jazz Ballet gave two performances in Bulgaria in June 1984 as participants in the Sofia Music Weeks festival.

Exhibits

A USIA exhibit, "Filmmaking in America," opened in June 1984 in Budapest.

A "Bionics USA" exhibit, prepared by USIA, was shown at the Brno Trade Fair in September 1984.

The "American Theater Today" exhibit (USIA), shown in Sofia June 28 to July 15, 1984, was visited by 34,000 persons. The same exhibit opened in Bucharest on October 4, 1984, and was seen by 80,000 persons.

Exchange Visits by Specialists

Bulgaria

Stephen Ives, a specialist in international marketing with Wald, Harkrader and Ross (Washington, D.C.), and Stuart Mandall of the University of Lowell (Mass.) visited Bulgaria and Hungary in June 1984 under USIA's American Participant program. The topic of their meetings with officials in both countries was marketing in the U.S.

Herbert Alexander, Director of Citizens Research Foundation (University of Southern California) travelled to Bulgaria and Romania to meet with specialists interested in the 1984 U.S. presidential campaign and election.

Charles Anderson, Professor Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University, lectured on nineteenth century American literature in Bulgaria during May 1984. His visit was sponsored by USIA.

Czechoslovakia

Gene Allen, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, completed a USIA-sponsored trip to Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic during the reporting period.

Maurice Freedman, System Director Westchester Library (Elmsford, NY) visited Prague under USIA's American Participant program to discuss education and library technology in the U.S.

German Democratic Republic

David Yoffie of Harvard University visited the German Democratic Republic under USIA auspices to discuss U.S. trade policy.

Hungary

Mihaly Simai, Deputy Director of the Institute for World Economy, Budapest, visited the U.S. in September 1985. During his stay he met with American economists on a program arranged by USIA.

Mark Christensen, a University of California (Berkeley) specialist on energy conservation, travelled to Budapest in the course of a USIA-sponsored lecture tour.

Poland

Paula Dobriansky, National Security Council, visited Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in June 1984 to discuss U.S.-East European relations with host country international affairs specialists and media representatives.

Romania

Michelle Fratianni, Professor of Economics, Indiana University, travelled to Romania during the reporting period to discuss U.S. monetary policy with officials and economists in Bucharest. The visit was arranged by USIA.

Alexander Vernescu, General Inspector, Ministry of Geology (Bucharest) visited the U.S. for two weeks under USIA's International Visitor Program. The purpose of his visit was familiarization with hydrogeothermal systems.

Wilton Beckly, Professor of American Literature at Drake University, met with American literature specialists in Romania under a program organized by USIA.

Herb Asher, Special Assistant to the President, Ohio State University, visited Bucharest to lecture on the 1984 U.S. campaign and election.

Soviet Union

Marijo Dougherty, a specialist on contemporary American graphic art (University Art Gallery, SUNY), visited the USSR and Romania under USIA auspices in May/June 1984.

Loren Graham, Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, completed a USIA-sponsored visit to the Soviet Union in May 1984. In the course of his stay in the USSR Professor Graham discussed current trends in science and technology in the U.S.

Albert Gollin, Vice President, Newspaper Advertising Bureau (NYC), visited Moscow in April 1984. His visit was arranged by USIA.

EDUCATION

Fulbright Program

The following table shows the number of lecturers and researchers exchanged during the reporting period under the Fulbright program.

	<u>From U.S.</u>	<u>To U.S.</u>
Bulgaria	2	6
Czechoslovakia	2	2
Hungary	2	7
Poland	21	25
Romania*	11	1
USSR	1	0

* Note: Five Romanians had arrived in the U.S. during the previous reporting period.

Language

Programs for Russian language study between American colleges and universities and Soviet academic institutions such as Moscow's Pushkin Institute and Leningrad State University remain active. American students travel to Leningrad State University for language study under the auspices of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). CIEE receives a grant from USIA in support of its language program in the USSR.

The American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR), Ohio State University, and Middlebury College provide opportunities for American college students to undertake advanced language study in Moscow at the Pushkin Institute. In addition, a number of private U.S. commercial organizations have language study programs in Leningrad for American college students.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding private exchange programs in Poland, U.S. students were able to participate in Polish language and culture courses under the auspices of the institution-to-institution agreements existing between U.S. and Polish universities, such as the SUNY (Stony Brook)-University of Warsaw and the University of Connecticut-Jagiellonian University programs.