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POLAND

General Assessment

There has been no official 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 below normal. The Polish government signed a debt rescheduling agreement with its commercial bank creditors and has made progress in negotiating rescheduling arrangements with its official creditors. These developments have marginally improved Poland's credit reputation and have 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 good cooperation in permitting travel of U.S. business, commercial and agricultural representatives to Poland. A marked increase in U.S. business travel to Poland was noted during the reporting period.

Economic difficulties persist, despite slightly improved results in 1984. Exceptionally cold weather throughout January and February set the economy back, although the initialling of a rescheduling agreement with the Paris club creditor governments provided a bright spot in an otherwise bleak picture.

Business Operating Conditions

There were no new developments affecting access to Polish business contacts and commercial officials, which is excellent for an Eastern European Country. No American firms applied during the reporting period for permission from the Ministry of Foreign Trade to open representative firms. U.S. business representatives continue to establish so-called "Polonian" business bringing the total of such U.S. operations to seventy. Hotel accommodations for visiting business representatives remain available, business representatives who wish to reside in Poland can generally find suitable housing, through 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.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

The Western business community has full access to organization information, although the accounting methodology is different from that used in the West and, as such, is sometimes of little use to the business visitor. 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.

Policies Concerning economic and commercial cooperation

There were no changes in Poland's policies or attitudes concerning economic and commercial cooperation during the reporting period. Poland continues to seek foreign investment in under-utilized or idle industrial capacity, but has yet to pass enabling joint venture legislation to encourage this process. Licensing arrangements remain possible, as well as joint production arrangements in and for third markets. There have been no major cooperative arrangements involving U.S. firms during the reporting period, though small-scale cooperative arrangements continue to be made.

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

Small and medium size businesses 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 difficult for many of them to operate profitably. Furthermore, in February, the Parliament enacted legislation raising the mandatory escrowed safety deposit such firms pay to \$5,000 from \$1000. Despite these obstacles, most Polonian firms continue to prosper, and their existence enjoys official backing when their operations help fulfill Polish government economic aims. (Firms which would compete directly with a Polish enterprise or exporting

agency are usually denied permission to operate.)

During the reporting period there has been no new legislation affecting small and medium-sized enterprises' participation in trade and industrial opportunities.

HUNGARY

General Assessment

Prudent central bank management has provided Hungary with reserves totalling \$2.5 - \$3 billion, more than equal to Hungary's short term debt obligations. Net indebtedness is down to about \$4-4.5 billion, and has been restructured to eliminate short term/high interest borrowings in favor of medium term and/or concessional interest loans. The last of the import restrictions which were introduced as a result of the 1982 liquidity crunch have been withdrawn. However, problems will remain on the current account side, as Hungary needs to seek other hard currency markets for its agricultural goods and develop manufactured items salable in non-ruble markets in order to continue to generate a current account surplus. Fortunately for Hungary, it is seen in a highly favorable light by the international banking community, and private bank lending is available to help meet Hungary's development needs. This replaces IMF lending, the Fund and Hungary having mutually agreed to forego a third one year standby program. Cooperation between the government of Hungary and the Fund nonetheless remains close in the financial sector. The larger question of restructuring the economy which was ducked at last year's April Central Committee meeting has been evaded once again, and therein may lie the seeds of Hungary's future problems.

Business Operating Conditions

Working conditions for Western business 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 in 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 government 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 (Pan Am, National Bank of Minneapolis and Dow Chemical) are well established but costs of operations are still high. Experience shows that Hungarian laws and regulations do not formally apply to such business representatives, and services affecting everyday life in Hungary are sometimes neglected because no Hungarian office wants to take responsibility for decision making, particularly in regard to issuing certain permits (e.g., rental contracts). Western firms seeking office and housing accommodations can expect considerable delays. Other facilities, such as telephone and telex, also require substantial time to obtain.

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.

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. In late 1982 the Hungarians announced new, more liberal regulations on the possibility of new investors utilizing duty free zones in the country. So far they have not proven to be a substantial inducement in expanding foreign investment. The United States and Hungary renewed the bilateral Civil Air

Agreement through 1984 without changes.

Official Visits

Hughes Aircraft, McDonald's, Tenneco, General Motors and General Foods sent major 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 as true business enhancers.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

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

German Democratic Republic

General Assessment

Cooperation during the last six months in the fields of economics, science and technology continued at about previously noted levels.

Business Working Conditions

Access to GDR officials was somewhat improved during this reporting period, particularly during the 1985 Leipzig Spring Fair. The GDR continues to require prior approval for U.S. - GDR business and social contacts. Foreign businesses are required to deal through a limited number of GDR service organizations effectively curtailing their contacts with GDR officials.

Five U.S. companies now have offices in Berlin, an increase of one during this reporting period. Operating conditions for established offices remain unchanged. Two are staffed by GDR citizens, one by an Austrian national, and one by a Belgian national. Western firms wishing to establish offices in East Berlin are required to rent space either in the International Trade Center, which has strict access controls, or in a building which is only for the use of the firm.

Visiting businessmen are normally required to stay in expensive hotel accommodations which require payment in convertible currencies. However, less expensive accommodations and payment in GDR marks is permitted in cities lacking first class hotels. Travel is virtually unrestricted, and no U.S. business representatives have complained to the Embassy about unavailability of hotel accommodations.

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

Restrictions on travel and visas for foreign business representatives have not caused problems to the Embassy's knowledge. Persons in possession of GDR hotel vouchers are generally issued visas upon arrival at border-crossing points. In addition, visas for day visits to Berlin (East) are obtainable at designated Berlin-sector crossing points with little delay. Eastern business representatives residing in or maintaining offices in the GDR are often issued multiple-entry visas valid for one year. Non-resident business representatives generally receive one-entry visas unless multiple-entry visas have been requested on their behalf by a GDR trading partner.

All visitors to the GDR including non-resident foreign business representatives are required to exchange approximately ten dollars per day into GDR marks. Any unspent GDR marks cannot be converted back into Western currency, but must be either forfeited or deposited in a special account for use upon the visitor's return.

GDR customs regulations prohibit the importation of printed material with the word "German" in the text or in the address. This has continued to create certain problems when business literature containing this word arrives and cannot be distributed.

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 business. 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 issued on a timely basis; it is usually 10 to 15 months late. The small portion devoted to foreign trade usually lumps export and import figures together in one number. Furthermore, Western business representatives often question the reliability of the information provided.

The GDR foreign trade bank (Deutsche Aussenhandels Bank) annual report offers only highly aggregated information on the hard currency value of GDR imports and exports, and provides no specifics on GDR foreign debt. It does not fully serve the needs of banks and firms seeking to evaluate potential business relationships. The GDR also does not provide information on total balance of payments, aggregate net and gross foreign debt, cash flow projections and statements of sources and uses of funds.

Policies Concerning Economic and Commercial Cooperation Arrangements

Joint ventures involving joint ownership and foreign ownership of business in the GDR are not permitted under GDR law. However, the GDR is interested in engaging in joint ventures and other cooperative arrangements in third countries. A few French and Austrian firms have been involved with the GDR in such cooperative ventures in third markets. The GDR prefers to pay for Western technological investment by shipping products back to the Western partner under countertrade arrangements.

The first joint manufacturing effort between the GDR and U.S. industry was agreed to in October 1984. The accord called for the production of compact "M-25" GDR trucks in Columbus, Ohio over the next five years. U.S. participants are "Technik and Trade" of Cleveland, and "Trident Motors" of Columbus. A major new cooperative arrangement was also concluded in late 1984 with Volkswagen for production of VW engines in the GDR.

Official Visits

There were no significant visits of an economic or commercial nature during this reporting period.

Policies Toward Countertrade Arrangements

The GDR actively seeks countertrade arrangements to avoid paying in hard currency. The GDR will usually seek to purchase

goods abroad only on condition that payment for the imported goods will be in GDR goods rather than hard currency. Cooperation agreements for production with the GDR are often coupled with "buy-back" features. Most U.S. firms dislike these arrangements, especially since they often experience difficulties in obtaining the type, quantity or quality of goods desired. GDR pressure for countertrade may ease with improvements in the GDR's hard currency situation.

Policies Affecting Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

Small and medium-sized enterprises do not generally encounter problems different from those faced by larger enterprises.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

General Assessment

The past six months saw no substantial change in Czechoslovakia's economic policies. Trade with the Soviet Union and other "Socialist" countries rose faster than other trade in 1984 and accounted for nearly seventy-seven percent of total trade. Foreign financial policy remained conservative as Czechoslovakia continued to reduce its net hard currency debt and to refrain from taking on significant debt obligations with "non-socialist" countries.

Political relations with the United States remained cool during this period and there was little significant activity in commercial relations between the two countries. Bilateral actions of note included a one-year extension of the Civil Aviation Agreement which permits Czechoslovak airlines to continue operating to New York and the negotiation of a Voluntary Restraint Arrangement (VRA) on steel exports to the U.S. which should permit Czechoslovak steel products to retain a place in the U.S. market.

Contacts between foreign businessmen and their Czechoslovak counterparts are strictly controlled by the Czechoslovak government. Foreign businessmen often find it frustrating and time-consuming to attempt to do business with Czechoslovakia. To some extent, however, this is due to the cumbersome and bureaucratic nature of the system rather than to any specific discrimination against foreigners. It is difficult in most cases for businessmen to make initial contacts with end-users. Such contacts are generally possible only after relations have been established with Foreign Trade Organizations (FTO's).

Business Operating Conditions

No new American business offices were established during this period nor were any existing offices closed. One U.S. firm is reported to have made an agreement with a local FTO to establish a significant inventory and sales organization which will promote its business in areas of advanced technology. One U.S. firm reported that it faces the loss of the lease on its local office space which is being rented from a private landlord. Other U.S. firms with offices in Prague appear to have adequate space, generally in convenient locations, but firms faced with losing existing space would probably have problems in locating suitable space quickly.

There are no resident American businessmen. Other resident Western businessmen appear to have suitable housing. Some is obtained through official Czechoslovak offices; others are able to locate space and arrange accommodation directly with private landlords.

Visas for foreign businessmen are generally not a problem. It may be difficult to obtain visas due to the small number of Czechoslovak visa-issuing offices abroad. Visas are rarely denied to businessmen, except in the case of businessmen who were originally Czechoslovak citizens.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

Many foreign business and government analysts continue to believe that the extent and timeliness of economic/commercial information made available in Czechoslovakia is inadequate. The detail of available information in the foreign trade area, for example, is not sufficient for many market research purposes. Information on plans for investment for the new five-year plan (1986-90) is very limited. To some extent this is a result of continuing discussion and lack of final decisions of the matter; but more importantly, however, it is the reflection of a policy of limiting availability of economic/commercial information.

There is no joint venture law in Czechoslovakia so there is no opportunity for direct foreign investment in Czechoslovakia. There are, however, a considerable number of Czechoslovak-owned and controlled firms in Western countries. These firms generally are involved in promoting sale of Czechoslovak goods, maintaining inventories and in installing and providing service for Czechoslovak equipment. In the United States such firms are involved, for example, in sale of machine tools, motorcycles, textile equipment and other manufactured items.

In Czechoslovakia, long-term cooperation agreements exist with some Western firms. We are not aware of significant agreements of this type involving U.S. firms.

During this period, progress was made on implementation of licensing agreements with U.S. firms in the petrochemical industry which were signed during the previous period. Negotiations continued on some additional licenses for technology in this industry.

Official Visits

Deputy Special Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer visited Czechoslovakia in March to negotiate a Voluntary Restraint Arrangement (VRA) on exports of steel to the United States. Agreement in principle was reached and it is anticipated that final details on wording of the arrangement will be worked out quickly. Conclusion of this understanding would permit Czechoslovakia to continue exporting to the United States a modest quantity of steel (i.e., up to 40,000 tons per year) related to its traditional exports in this market as part of the arrangement. Dumping actions which were brought against Czechoslovakia by U.S. steel producers in this period will be withdrawn.

The sixth plenary session of the U.S.-Czechoslovak Economic Council was held in Prague, October 29-31. Representatives of over fifty U.S. and Czechoslovak industrial firms, banks and government agencies participated in the session, which reviewed the course of U.S. - Czechoslovak commercial relations and considered problems and solutions affecting such trade. In February, the United States section selected a new chairman to replace the outgoing chairman.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade Development, David Diebold, visited Prague to take part in the Economic Council session.

The CEO and Chairman of a major Fortune 500 consumer goods producer visited Prague in November for discussion with government officials and business partners. A number of other U.S. businessmen, including representatives of most major banks also visited Czechoslovakia.

Policies Toward Countertrade Arrangements

Czechoslovak firms continue to request countertrade commitment in dealings with U.S. firms. The Czechoslovak government states that countertrade is not official commercial policy of the government. During this period, one U.S. firm in the capital goods

industry signed a letter of intent under which it would purchase ten million dollars worth of Czechoslovak components for its U.S. and European production. The letter follows major purchases of the U.S. firm's equipment for use in a Czechoslovak project in a third market. In general, U.S. firms have not reported that Czechoslovak countertrade demands are unduly onerous. In some instances, U.S. firms have on their own instituted significant purchases from Czechoslovakia unrelated to specific Czechoslovak purchases in the belief that the goodwill engendered by such purchases could be beneficial even in the absence of specific countertrade demands.

Policies Affecting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

No developments indicating changes in policy toward small and medium-sized enterprises came to our attention during this period. Private enterprises continue to be restricted to some private agricultural production and small service businesses. At least one regional government organization pointed out during this period that a larger number of permits had been given to small service personnel during this period.

Bulgaria

General Assessment

Although Bulgaria continues its heavy orientation towards the CEMA it has shown a parallel interest in increased trade with the developed West. There are both economic and political reasons to manifest "normal" contacts with the West. The Soviet Union continues to demand higher quality goods from its CEMA partners and Bulgaria has responded by attempting to modernize its facilities. Most investment projects have been directed towards renovation.

The harsh 1984-85 winter may have jeopardized Bulgarian efforts in industrial intensification as authorities were forced to spend scarce hard currency for energy.

Bulgarians still produce low-quality products. They are fully cognizant of their need to rely on Western licenses, processes and equipment. For this reason, Bulgarians generally give red carpet treatment to businessmen who might provide certain technologies. Businessmen who represent industries that do not interest the Bulgarians encounter difficulties.

Business Working Conditions

Although Bulgarian officials now seek expanded contacts with Western business in selected high-technology areas, business

conditions have not improved noticeably during the period.

No U.S. firms opened business offices in Bulgaria during the period. Many U.S. businessmen remain hesitant about entering into business relationships with Bulgarians. Bulgarian joint venture laws are unrealistic and too bureaucratic for most profit-conscious Western businessmen. Bulgarian officials have made positive overtures toward the U.S. government signalling Bulgaria's desire for increased bilateral trade.

Bulgarian authorities have not taken any steps during the period to improve accommodations for Western businessmen. Hotel accommodations suitable for Western businessmen are expensive. Resident Western businessmen are subject to complex rules and procedures regarding permanent housing. Rents for offices are quite high. Bulgaria is considered a hardship post by almost all resident Western businessmen. All foreign business will eventually be required to locate at a Moscow-styled "International Trade Center" when its construction is completed.

Availability of Economic and Commercial Information

The Bulgarians disseminate relatively little useful economic information, and eliminate any references to local economic problems. For example, the 1984 Statistical Yearbook omitted a standard section on overall agricultural production (which confirmed that 1984 was a bad year for agriculture in Bulgaria).

Official Visits

There were no official U.S. visits during the period.

Policies Toward Countertrade Arrangements

Toward the end of the period countertrade demands by the Bulgarians appeared to be on the rise, probably reflecting the hard currency difficulties brought on by the scramble to obtain energy. The rise in countertrade demands has been especially significant toward Western European countries and Greece in particular. However, countertrade demands are not made against the highest priority goods, such as electronic components. The Bulgarians always seem to find ample hard currency to make purchases in this area.

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, constitute 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 commitments 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 6 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 UN 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. The 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 April 1, 1985.

Divided Family Cases

	Nuclear Families ¹		Nonnuclear Families ²	
	Cases	Individuals	Cases	Individuals
Soviet Union	108	381 ³	-	-
Romania	82	122	554	1073
Poland	187	384	269	871
Hungary	2	4	0	0
GDR	0	0	8	19
Czechoslovakia	1	1	2	8
Bulgaria	10	18	2	5

¹ Spouses and their minor children

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

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

SOVIET UNION

Soviet practices concerning family visits remain as described in previous semi-annual reports. In general, few Soviet citizens are granted exit permission to visit relatives in the United States. Most are retired and have close family members in the

United States. It is rare for an entire Soviet family to receive permission to travel to the United States.

The Embassy has no access to statistics on the number of people granted exit permission by the Soviet authorities for visiting the United States. During the period October 1, 1984, to March 31, 1985, the Embassy and Consulate General issued U.S. visas to 557 Soviet citizens for private visits to the United States.

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.

Officers of the U.S. Embassy continue 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 did not reverse any earlier refusals of exit permission.

ROMANIA

Most of the 849 tourist visas issued to Romanians during the reporting period were for visits to relatives in the U.S. This represents a decline from the level of the previous reporting period, part of which is due to seasonal factors. In general, opportunities for Romanian citizens to travel to the West are rare. By contrast, relatives of Romanians are encouraged to visit Romania and rarely encounter problems obtaining entry visas.

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, 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 ensure 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.

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 (\$11.50). 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 \$10.00 of local currency per day of the anticipated stay.

POLAND

The liberalization of passport issuance announced at the end of martial law in July 1983 and enacted into law during the spring of 1984 has led to a relative easing of difficulties associated with travel to the U.S.

The Embassy estimates that about 23,000 exit permits were issued for visits to family members in the U.S. during the reporting period. The number of visas issued by the Embassy and Consulates in Poland was 18,039.

A notarized letter of invitation, signed by a friend or relative and verified by a Polish consulate in the United States, is required in order to obtain a tourist passport. The letter is considered valid for six months from the date of verification. Despite the liberalized issuance policy, many Poles, particularly professionals, still experience problems in obtaining passports. Difficulties in obtaining passports for travel to the U.S. are threefold:

- o the need to obtain an invitation certified by a Polish consulate in the U.S. Since these invitations are valid for only six months and often expire before the passport has been issued, a second invitation is required in many cases.
- 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 are considered essential personnel and often cannot obtain passports for unofficial travel.

The U.S. Embassy knows of no restrictions or difficulties for Americans visiting their relatives in Poland.

HUNGARY

During the preceding six months, 2060 visas were issued for family visits to the U.S. The decrease from the previous six-month period reflects a normal seasonal adjustment. The figure is up

slightly from 1972 in the equivalent period a year ago. The figures indicate a continued liberal approach to family visitation by the Hungarian Government.

The two most frequent reasons for denying exit permits to 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 the 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 illegally. An official statement published in the Hungarian press claims that 99 percent of applications for travel to the West and 98.6 percent of applications for travel to Socialist countries are approved. The U.S. Embassy doubts that the figure is so high but has no statistics to dispute it.

Visas are seldom denied to Americans for family visits to Hungary. The Foreign Ministry never supplies reasons for the five to six annual refusals of which the Embassy is aware but considers Embassy requests for review, sometimes with positive results.

Some Hungarian males of military age are receiving exit permits for tourist (although not immigration) travel to the West which probably would have been denied several years ago. The Hungarian authorities have published regulations that 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. This is apparently a step to increase the predictability and reduce the arbitrariness of the travel system as applied to applicants of military age.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The GDR continues to limit travel by its citizens to the United States or non-Communist countries for family visits severely. The approval or denial of applications for such travel is a political decision. 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. As a rule, non-pensioners can apply to visit close relatives only on the occasion of a specified family event, such as a death, birth, life-threatening illness, wedding, 25th or 50th wedding anniversary celebration, confirmation, first holy communion, and 60, 65th, 70th, 75th, and any further birthday celebrations.

In all cases, an applicant wishing to travel in the West must provided documentation proving both the relationship and the purpose of his travel. The total number of applications submitted and denied is not publicly available, but many applicants in the above categories are refused permission to travel.

During this reporting period, the Embassy issued 477 visas for family visits to the United States. We are aware of only one case in which an American citizen has been refused permission to visit the GDR since December 1982.

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

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The travel of Czechoslovak citizens to the West continues to be severely restricted, although the actual number of travelers from all categories has increased somewhat. 1300 exit permits were issued for visits to family members in the U.S. during the past six months. An equal number of U.S. visas were issued for such visits, a decrease of fifteen visas over the same period a year ago.

Most Czechoslovak citizens allowed to travel easily to the U.S. to visit relatives are retired and elderly. Persons in the work force are not usually allowed to travel abroad with all members of their immediate family. Most U.S. citizens obtain visas to visit Czechoslovakia without difficulty, often in one day. Many U.S. - citizens of Czechoslovak origin, however, 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 six such citizens during the 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."), we do not know what our success rate is, although we estimate it at around thirty percent. We have received suggestions from the host Government that citing special humanitarian considerations -- extreme age or serious illness of family members -- may be helpful. In a few such cases, our representations seem to have been successful.

BULGARIA

Exit permit issuance policy is uneven. U.S. tourist visas were issued to 226 Bulgarians during the past 6 months, many for visits

to family in the U.S. 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.

Bulgarian citizens must provide an affidavit of support from their U.S. relatives when they apply for a passport and exit visa. Delays in issuance extend from months to years. The delays sometimes appear arbitrary, and some administrative units appear more willing to issue the necessary documents than others. Ethnicity continues to play a role in visa issuance. The Turkish Embassy reports that no persons from the ethnic Turkish community have left Bulgaria legally during the period. The Government has suspended issuing passports valid for travel to Turkey. Americans wishing to visit Bulgarian relatives still face difficulties once they reach Bulgaria. Despite official efforts to encourage persons born in Bulgaria to return, these persons face problems in obtaining permission to reside with their Bulgarian relatives during the visit, and registration procedures are cumbersome and time-consuming.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

SOVIET UNION

Soviet authorities continued their poor performance in fostering family reunification during the period October 1, 1984-April 1, 1985. While they continue to recognize family reunification as the only grounds for issuing 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, 65 percent of all Soviet emigration cases to the U.S. involved the reunification of spouses. Of the remaining cases, half involved the reunification of parents with children and half were cases of reunification of siblings. The 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 one year. The authorities responded to applications for exit permission in an average of three to four months. Sixty percent of those persons joining a relative other than a spouse had been refused exit permission on an earlier application. Emigration officials continue to refuse to accept 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.

Twenty-eight Soviet nationals applied for U.S. immigrant visas for family reunification during the reporting period. In addition, 39 Soviet citizens applied for reunification with relatives in the United States under the Accelerated Third County Processing Program (ATCP)

Twenty-eight immigrant visas were issued for family reunification, compared with 45 issued in the previous reporting period. 39 persons were documented for admission to the U.S. under the ATCP program, compared with 48 during the previous reporting period. Fifty percent of all persons in both programs were Armenians.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Soviet citizens who are refused exit permission, since many refusals are not reported to the Embassy. The Embassy now has on file, however, 414 immigrant and fiance(e) visa petitions. In addition, approximately 1,000 other families, comprising approximately 3,000 persons, 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 October 1, 1984, to February 28, 1985, a total of 327 Jews departed the Soviet Union via Vienna, the primary exit point. This compares with 423 during the corresponding period one year ago, and 18,876 five years ago. A large number of Soviet citizens continue to apply for emigration to the FRG, although only 273 were successful from September 1, 1984, through February 28, 1985, as compared to 523 for the corresponding period in 1984. It remains clear that 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. interventions 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 one person has been favorably resolved.

ROMANIA

Host government performance has improved somewhat during the current reporting period, both in terms of waiting time and numbers of family reunification cases resolved. There are, however, a large number of unresolved 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 for purpose other than family reunification. For would-be emigrants, the application process remains a frustrating and uncertain experience which entails real hardships, and often lengthy delays. Applicants nearly always face reduction of job status and wages or, in some cases, reportedly, outright dismissal, along with loss of public services. Many are exposed to public denunciation in one form or another, and their children may be discriminated against at school. Finally, access by visa applicants to the Embassy consular section is carefully controlled by Romanian militia guards. Periodically, would be applicants are prevented from entering our compound. Others have been warned by officials not to approach to Embassy.

The number of Romanians applying for U.S. entry documents to be reunited with their relatives was 1,188 during this reporting period. Emigration visas and third-country processing (TCP) cases completed during the reporting period were 172 and 1,634 respectively. Approximately thirty percent of TCP issuances are for the purpose of family reunification. Also, 473 visas "91", "92" and "93" cases were issued entry documents during the reporting period.

The Embassy has found it necessary and useful to present the government with a representation list of outstanding emigrant visa cases each quarter. The government has been reasonably responsive to the Embassy's representations, with a few notable exceptions. Of the 198 cases (544 persons) on the Embassy October 1984 representation list, 35 cases (64 persons) have now been resolved. Taking into account additions to the list since October, the

Embassy expects to present the Romanian Government with a list of approximately 200 cases (550 persons) in early April.

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. (One U.S. dollar equals 13.50 Lei).

POLAND

The Polish Government is apparently taking the problem of family reunification more seriously than in the recent past. During the reporting period, the Embassy's list of divided families has grown more slowly than previously. The Embassy's divided families list contains the names of families who have been denied permission to emigrate to rejoin their family members in the United States. As not all such individuals inform the Embassy of their problems, the list is not comprehensive. On April 1, 1985, the list contained the names of 446 families consisting of 1,257 individuals.

During this six-month period, approximately 1,150 individuals applied for emigrant visas to join family members. 1,118 emigrant visas were issued for the purpose of family reunification during the past six months. The Embassy further facilitated the travel of 233 spouses and children of asylees and refugees to the United States for family reunification.

Embassy representation appears to be helpful in many cases on the divided families list. The Embassy is unable to measure precisely the impact of its interventions, as the Polish Government does not indicate whether issuance of an emigration passport is linked with U.S. representations. Many recent issuances appear to be based on the provisions of the new passport law.

In this period a total of nine families involving twenty persons were added to the Embassy's divided families lists, while nine cases involving eighteen persons were resolved. If Polish citizens going to the United States to join nuclear family members are considered separately, five cases involving thirteen persons have been added to the divided families list in the reporting period, while four cases involving ten persons were resolved.

HUNGARY

Hungarian performance on family reunification continues to be good. 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 the strict application of Hungarian law.

After a period of few or no divided family and emigration problem cases, the Embassy now counts three cases of eight persons. Two are divided families and one an emigration problem. One divided family case was solved during the last six months. The current list was presented in February. The Embassy believes that the divided family problems stem from lower-level officials strictly applying Hungarian law to the applicants. A favorable solution to the divided family cases is expected; the emigration case would involve an extraordinary application of a relief clause in Hungarian law.

Thirty-eight Hungarians applied for immigrant visas for family reunification during the reporting period, and the Embassy issued 38 visas for the same purpose. There are several official reasons for refusing emigration permission.

- o requesting emigration to a relative remaining abroad illegally for a period of less than five years, or for whose illegal absence one is responsible
- o not having attained the legal minimum age for emigration (55)
- o requesting emigration to a relative not prescribed by law
- o lack of permission from the Hungarian Ministry of Defense -- in the case of males of military age who have not partly or completely fulfilled their military obligation
- o emigration would be contrary to the public interest or a combination of the above

An emigration passport cost 1,000 Forints (approximately \$20.00). Minors under 14 are included at no extra charge. In addition there is a passport application fee of 250 Forints (approximately \$5.00). If the passport application is refused, the cost of the passport is refunded, but the application fee is forfeited.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The GDR issued approximately 5,000 emigration visas during this reporting period. Many of these people left for family reunification. The number of visas issued after a surge in early 1984 was consistent with previous years, when an average of 600 to 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 pending.

During this reporting period, the GDR gave wide publicity to a claim that 20,000 prior emigres to West Germany now wanted to return to live in East Germany, many for family-reunification reasons. Shortly afterward, GDR authorities announced that some applications to return would be approved, particularly cases of families with children. As yet there are no reports of anyone actually returning under this program, and it appears that only a few may actually apply and be admitted.

An October 1983 GDR law on emigration addresses only emigration for reunification with "first degree" relatives (parents and children) or joining a spouse. While some applicants with relatives in the West who are not first degree have been allowed to emigrate, the law has in general been used restrictively against those who do not have first degree relatives in the West.

The experiences of exit visa applicants vary. In most cases, applicants wait at least a year for exit permission from the GDR, but some cases have taken three or more years. While some East Germans have been able to lead normal lives after submitting an exit visa application, others have been subject to reprisals of varying degrees of severity. Some human rights groups believe that half of the estimated 7,000-10,000 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 have had to take menial work. GDR authorities sometimes visit the homes of exit applicants to try to intimidate them into withdrawing their application. Occasionally children face discrimination and harassment in school. Successful applicants must usually renounce their GDR citizenship and are issued stateless passports.

GDR officials commonly tell applicants that it is "not possible" to submit an exit application, but if applicants persist with submission of a written statement, it will generally be accepted by GDR authorities as a de facto application. Applicants are usually not informed of the status of their case until a final decision is made. Denial of the application is given orally without explanation, and some people thus refused are advised that

any future applications could lead to difficulties with the police or worse.

A few GDR citizens who have applied for emigration to the FRG or West Berlin intend eventually to join relatives in the U.S. Others apply for emigration directly to the U.S., though they intend to remain in the FRG 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. Some applicants who have been given very limited periods as deadlines for leaving the GDR have been documented for a U.S. destination to enable them to meet GDR exit requirements.

The continued GDR practice of severely limiting access to Western missions has inhibited potential emigrants from visiting these missions to inquire about emigration procedures. Virtually all non-official visitors to the U.S. Embassy can expect to be stopped by GDR police, have identification cards checked, and possibly be detained following their visit to the Embassy. Many East Germans have been warned to have no contact with Western missions, under threat to their well-being, and some people have been required to sign a document acknowledging that visiting a foreign mission without permission is a violation of GDR law which makes them subject to prosecution.

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 10 cases involving 23 people who wished to go to the U.S. for family reunification. Seven of these cases involving 18 people were resolved by the end of this reporting period. One emigration application (3 people) was denied with no reason given. The most recent list presented to the Foreign Ministry on February 13, 1985, contained 10 cases involving 27 people under family reunification. Three of the cases (9 people) were resolved in March. One additional case (1 person) was added in March. Seven cases (11 people) remain unresolved.

Emigration fees are not burdensome. A passport costs about \$6.00, an exit visa about \$3.00.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovak record on family reunification is generally good, at least regarding the 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 twenty-nine new immigrant visa cases involving forty-nine persons, nine more than during this period last year. The Embassy also received nineteen new "visas 93" (family of refugees) cases involving thirty-seven persons.

The Embassy issued twenty-eight immigrant visas to family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents during this period, a decrease of five from a year ago. Three family member of refugees (two "visas 93" cases) were also processed.

The Embassy's divided families list includes three cases (nine persons): one minor son of a U.S. citizen; two married daughters of U.S. citizens; and their children. One of the daughters of a U.S. citizen has been informed that she and her family will be allowed to renounce Czechoslovak citizenship and emigrate on stateless passports.

Immediate families of U.S. citizens are generally allowed to emigrate relatively expeditiously. However, since Czechoslovak policy is to discourage emigration of the work force, married sons and daughters of siblings of U.S. citizens frequently 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 as dependent on where the applicant lives and applies for permission to emigrate as on the merits of his case. The U.S. Embassy has on file approved petitions for over 100 immigrant visas but has had no word from most of those concerned since they were sent notification of their petition approval, presumably because of the difficulty in obtaining exit documentation. Families of refugees -- visas 93 cases -- can expect lengthy waits. Almost all have to wait until the refugee is naturalized as a U.S. citizen before they can obtain exit permission. In two cases, visas 93 beneficiaries renounced Czechoslovak citizenship in order to receive exit documentation -- which was granted almost immediately. Czechoslovak families of non-Czechoslovak refugees in the U.S. are usually granted exit documentation without difficulty.

Assembling the documents needed to apply for emigration usually takes a minimum of six weeks. The processing of 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 fifteen days; but 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.

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 to \$1000, -- six month's wages for an average wage earner.

BULGARIA

There has been no general change in Bulgaria's attitude toward freedom of emigration. Nevertheless, the Bulgarian Government has promised to resolve 16 out of 18 of the divided family cases the U.S. Government has represented to it during the reporting period. These 18 cases involve 54 persons who should become eligible to emigrate. We expect the Bulgarian authorities to honor their promise to allow these persons to emigrate. As of this writing, however, none of the persons involved has come to the Embassy for his visa, although we have heard informally that one woman received her Bulgarian passport.

BINATIONAL MARRIAGES

In accordance with the Final Act, the participating states pledge to consider favorably applications for entry or exit for 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 6 months. The following chart indicates the problem cases that the United States was monitoring as of April 1, 1985.

Soviet Union	20
Romania	49
Poland	5
Hungary	0
GDR	11
Czechoslovakia	1
Bulgaria	0

SOVIET UNION

During the review period, 81 percent of the spouses whose applications were processed by the Embassy received exit permission on the first application. Of the remaining spouses, 55 percent were granted exit permission on the second application, and 45 percent on the third. During this period, ten spouses who had been refused exit permission at least twice previously were again denied.

Although Soviet authorities informed the Embassy that they had introduced new procedures for fiance(e)s applying for visas to come to the Soviet Union to marry Soviet citizens, these procedures seem to have been arbitrarily enforced. None of the applicants following the new procedures has been successful in obtaining a "fiance(e)" visa, although some Americans have married Soviet citizens while in the Soviet Union on tourist visas. It would seem that Soviet authorities have applied the new regulations selectively to prevent certain marriages from taking place.

Americans who marry Soviet citizens are not required to register with the Embassy or Consulate General. The Embassy generally learns of binational marriages when an American files an immigration petition for a Soviet spouse or has the Embassy notarize a statement required by Soviet authorities to register the marriage. Between October 1, 1984, and March 31, 1985, 63 American citizens and permanent resident aliens requested a "marriage statement" at the Embassy and Consulate General.

During the reporting period, 25 citizens were issued immigrant visas to join American spouses. In addition, 19 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 3 cases in which fiance(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, one of these spouses received exit permission, according to the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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 change in the Romanian Government's approach to binational marriages during the reporting period. It approved 14 binational marriages during the period. The Embassy estimates that the Government issued 25 exit permits and entry visas to spouses for the purpose of binational marriage. The Embassy estimates that 36 binational marriage cases were delayed more than six months during the reporting period.

POLAND

The marriage of American citizens to Polish citizens is much easier in the United States than in Poland. The permission of a Polish court is required to marry in Poland, with the average length of court proceedings about four months. Complications arise from the fact that the U.S. Government does not issue documents stating that American citizens are free to marry, so the United States citizen must convince the court that he is unmarried. Also, as the Polish Government does not recognize U.S. divorces involving Polish nationals, such a divorce must be repeated in the Polish courts. This process generally takes six months.

The number of binational marriages is impossible to estimate, since no formal statistics are compiled on the subject. During the period October 1984 through March 1985, the Embassy issued 28 visas to Polish citizens for binational marriage. During the same period, the Polish authorities issued 28 exit permits to Polish nationals for the same purpose. No exit permits were delayed for more than six months. During the reporting period, the Embassy made one special representation to assist in the issuance of an emigration passport to the spouse of an American citizen. The Polish Government was responsive to our representation and issued the passport.

HUNGARY

Binational marriages continued to present no problem in Hungary during the reporting period. The Embassy received or approved 25 petitions for binational marriage immigrant visas.

The Embassy issued 35 immigrant visas to Hungarian spouses of American citizens and one to the spouse of a legal resident of the U.S.

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.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The GDR appears to be following the letter of the October 1983 law which provides that applications for binational marriage cases will 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. Once the documents are accepted, permission to marry and emigrate is generally granted within six months, provided the couple marries in the GDR.

Before mid-1983, an applicant was permitted to emigrate to marry a foreigner in his home country. With the law of October 1983, this permission was generally restricted, forcing applicants to apply first for permission to marry in the GDR. Now emigration can normally be granted only after marriage, although the Embassy was aware of a few exceptions to this rule in December 1984 and early 1985.

Of the 13 binational marriage cases on the Embassy's list as of October 1, 1984, 8 cases were resolved during the last six months. One additional case previously unknown to the Embassy was also resolved. One application to marry in the GDR was denied with no reason given. Five new cases came to the Embassy's attention during the reporting period, making a total of 10 cases on the most recent list dated February 13, 1985.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Although the processing of marriage applications is lengthy (approximately three months), the Czechoslovak record is generally good on binational marriages. However, some U.S. citizens of Czechoslovak birth have in the past been refused entry visas and some Czechoslovak fiances have been refused exit visas for the purpose of marriage.

During this reporting period, ten binational marriages came

to the attention of the Embassy, the same number as a year ago.

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

BULGARIA

There were five binational marriages during the period involving American citizens or permanent resident aliens. While the authorities do not officially discourage binational marriages, obtaining the necessary approval is a cumbersome process.

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.

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. 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 Embassy 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 significant reversal in the decline in the number of American tourists visiting the Soviet Union noted after the Korean Airlines incident in September 1983. Officials of the Soviet travel agency Intourist have stated that as many as 60,000 tourists visited the U.S.S.R. during 1984. If such figures are accurate, the number of private Americans visiting the Soviet Union is approximately fifty times the number of Soviet citizens permitted to make private

visits to the United States.

The USG travel advisory for Leningrad was lifted on March 6. Since that time, however, some American tourists have been harassed and intimidated by Soviet authorities after meeting privately with Soviet citizens.

Approximately 542 B-2 visas were issued to private Soviet visitors during the reporting period. Over 1,813 visas in other non-immigrant categories were issued, including diplomatic, United Nations Secretariat, journalist, business exchange, and transit visas, as well as visas for Soviets on officially-sponsored tourist trips.

Pursuant to a bilateral exchange of notes on July 30, 1984, several new categories of visa applications now require expeditious processing. The Embassy must now make a decision on applications for visas for personnel assigned to the Soviet U.N. 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. The new requirements apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the same categories of U.S. official personnel applying for Soviet visas. During the reporting period, the Embassy has noted numerous cases--mostly involving temporary assignments to the Embassy--in which the Soviets have not conformed with the time limits specified. Outside these official categories, Americans applying for visitors visas must wait varying lengths of time, depending 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. To reciprocate for the practice of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, which charges a \$10.00 fee for private applications, the Embassy and Consulate General on March 1, 1985, introduced a \$10.00 charge for tourist and some other visas.

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.

The time required for Romanians to complete 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 (about \$31.00). If a person has a valid passport on file with the passport authorities, the cost of the new visa is 75 Lei. The Embassy issued 762 tourist visas (B-2) to Romanians during the reporting period. 774 other non-immigrant visas were issued to Romanians during the same period.

In 1984, the government counted approximately 20,300 arrivals in Romania by Americans. Figures given to the U.S. Embassy by the government count arrivals rather than the number of visas issued, and the 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 charged for corresponding Romanian visas. Romanian and U.S. fees are currently 98 Lei (\$7.00) for a single entry visa and 630 Lei (\$46) 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.

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 officially discourages Romanians from associating with foreigners without prior approval. U.S. visitors to Romania must change \$10.00 per day

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 placed upon American citizens for travel within Poland. There is therefore little necessity for the U.S. Government to facilitate travel and tourism by American citizens to Poland. The Embassy cannot estimate the number of tourist and other non-immigrant visas issued to Americans desiring to visit Poland.

American visitors to Poland are required to exchange \$15.00 per day at the official exchange rate. If they are visiting family in Poland, only half this amount must be exchanged.

The Embassy and constituent posts at Krakow and Poznan issued 20,095 non-immigrant visas in the reporting period, of which 18,039 were B-2 (tourist) visas. This represents a significant increase, since less than half that number of visas were issued during the previous reporting period.

The average duration of host country exit formalities for tourist travel is two months. The estimated average total cost is \$20.00.

The estimated average duration of the visa application process for Americans visiting Poland is unknown. The Embassy can process non-immigrant visa applications for tourism from Polish citizens within three hours, unless a waiver of ineligibility must be sought for Communist Party membership. Waivers of ineligibility are obtained from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service within seven to ten days. Tourist visas cost \$10.00 or the equivalent in local currency, based on reciprocity between the two countries.

HUNGARY

Hungarian performance continued to be comparatively good. According to official statistics, almost 5.6 million Hungarians traveled abroad in 1984, about 20 percent more than in 1983. Of these travelers, 5.1 million went to Socialist countries and 600,000 to non-Socialist countries. Travel to Hungary, particularly from non-Socialist countries, also continues to increase and is encouraged. 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. As noted above, in many cases Hungarians may purchase tickets on Western airlines in forints.

Since mid-1983 more liberal provisions for Hungarians to work abroad for up to five years have been in force. 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 (the regulations require that the individual have a firm job offer before application is made).

Hungarian authorities continue, however, 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 reasons being provided to the individuals concerned.

The U.S. Embassy issued 1345 tourist visas to Hungarians during the period. Once again, seasonal factors account for the substantial decrease from the last reporting period. The figure is an increase from the equivalent period a year ago (1109) and appears to reflect the attractiveness of purchasing air tickets in forints. 1298 other non-immigrant visas were issued to Hungarian citizens. This is an increase from the 1173 figure of the parallel reporting period.

Based on information received from the Hungarian government, the estimated number of American tourists visiting Hungary during 1984 is 93,000. This is an increase of 20 percent over CY 1983 and is expected to increase by at least 15 percent more in 1985.

Seventy-two percent of Hungarian applicants (non-Communist affiliation waiver cases) received visas in one or two days. Twenty-eight 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 (sooner -- within one day, in emergency cases). U. S. visas cost:

Single Entry	six dollars
Double Entry	nine dollars
Multiple Entry	twenty one dollars

Visa fees are normally reciprocal, but it is believed that Hungarian fees are 40 percent higher than ours. Upon confirmation of this, which is expected shortly, Embassy will adjust U.S. visa fees upwards.

The Hungarian Embassy in Washington and Consulate in New York generally issue 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 \$7.00). In addition, the applicant must pay a postage fee of approximately \$2.00 for an 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 \$7.00). Western permits are valid for a single trip. Permits to Socialist countries are for multiple trips and valid for five years. 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 visits 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 their planned stay and departure, particularly when extensions of stay are requested.

There are no travel restrictions except for military areas. There are no significant problems in the field of travel/tourism.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Most GDR citizens remain unable to travel to the West. Only pensioners can obtain permission to go to the West with relative ease. Exit formalities for GDR citizens who travel abroad usually take four to ten weeks. The total cost of a GDR passport and visa is about \$9.00.

Currency exchange requirements diminish travel to the GDR by Westerners. Westerners can, however, generally obtain visas to visit the GDR without difficulty. Exceptions are those who have emigrated recently from the GDR or who wish to visit East German relatives who have filed exit applications.

The processing of GDR tourist and business visa applications takes about six weeks in the U.S. and less time in the FRG 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 Berlin sector crossing points.

A GDR single entry tourist or business visa costs about \$5.00, a multiple entry about \$14.00. A day visa for East

Berlin costs about \$2.00. In addition, the official GDR travel agency which processes visa applications charges those over 16 a handling fee of \$22.00 per person. With the exception of most FRG pensioners, who must purchase about \$5.00 in GDR currency per day, the GDR requires those fifteen and over to purchase about \$10.00, and 14 year olds to purchase about \$3.00, in GDR currency per day. Those under 14 are exempt from such currency conversion requirements. This money cannot be reconverted into hard currency or taken out of the GDR.

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

The Embassy issued 477 tourist visas (B-2) and 460 other types of non-immigrant visas to GDR citizens during this reporting period. These represent normal figures for such a period. No information is available on how many GDR visas were issued to Americans.

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 affiliation 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. A U.S. B-2 visa costs \$8.00 for a single entry, \$16.00 for two entries.

The U.S. Embassy has not intervened in any case involving tourism and travel.

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 countries in Eastern Europe. One major restraint on the travel of Czechoslovak 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 by its own regulations to respond to all applications for exit permission within 30 to 60 days of submission. In fact, the process often takes much longer.

The U.S. Embassy issued 1,447 tourist visas during this period, a decrease of approximately 100 over a year ago. Total non-immigrant visa issuance was 2,534, approximately the same as last year.

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 \$380.00 based on a total of \$18.00 per day per adult (\$9.00 for children). In obtaining this hard currency, Czechoslovaks must pay 25 Czechoslovak crowns (KCS) for each dollar, a rate which may approximately reflect the free market rate in the West, but one which is more than twice the current "official" ratio of crowns to dollars -- over 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, however. Czechoslovaks applying to travel also need permission from their employers and a police certificate.

U.S. tourists are required to change about \$10.00 into local currency daily. Children and certain exceptional cases are required to change only half the amount. Currency exchange regulations are strictly enforced, and the Embassy frequently receives after-hour telephone calls during peak travel months from American tourists who failed to exchange enough money, allowed their visas to lapse, and found as a consequence 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 and extend the visas.

Tourists are not restricted in their travel around the country, although certain localities are declared 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. A three-day delay is usually the minimum.

BULGARIA

Very few Bulgarians are permitted to visit the United

States 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.

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 exchanges of information are actively suppressed in the Soviet Union and some Eastern European countries, where strict state supervision of religious activities is the rule.

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. The Russian Orthodox church, indeed, is an active propagandist for official Soviet policy on questions of arms control and disarmament. From February 11 to 13, 1985, the Russian Orthodox church hosted a third annual roundtable discussion in Moscow on the topic of "New Dangers to the Sacred Gift of Life: Our Tasks." The discussion included a number of U.S. church leaders as well as participants from other countries.

It is not uncommon for Soviet church leaders to invite individual Western clerics to the Soviet Union. In addition to introducing such guests to places of religious and historical interest, church leaders emphasize the theme that the Soviet people sincerely want peace and that the only roadblock to reduced tensions in the world is the intransigence of Western political leaders.

Travel abroad is also allowed for certain church representatives, and a number of Soviet Baptist leaders visited various U.S. Baptist churches during the reporting period. They, like the Russian Orthodox clergy, are careful to echo official Soviet propaganda in their dealings with foreign churches.

ROMANIA

Unofficial contacts with the outside religious world are actively discouraged and sometimes obstructed. During the current reporting period, the Romanian authorities have denied a visa to at least one Western pastor, and refused entrance to at least three other religious activists in possession of valid tourist visas issued by Romanian consular officials abroad.

In December 1984, a delegation from Christian Response International succeeded in meeting with state and country officials responsible for religious affairs and with members and leaders of several religious groups, with the notable exception of Father Calciu-Dumitreasa. The group was expressly forbidden by the Romanian authorities from attempting to make contact with Father Calciu. An official request for a meeting was denied. The Government appears to reward those religious groups which conform, and to frustrate the efforts of others which put their religious beliefs ahead of state ideology.

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 travel abroad. Frequently, they are able to do this on significantly shorter notice than other travelers. As far as we are aware, representatives of various U.S. religious denominations have been able to travel to Poland without interference from the Polish Government.

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.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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 private exchange of U.S. and GDR pastors.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovak record on facilitating travel to Czechoslovakia by 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. However, the Government has thus far shown no intention of allowing Pope John Paul II to visit Czechoslovakia, despite petitions, signed by thousands of Czech and Slovak Catholics, inviting him to lead celebrations scheduled for July 1985 in honor of the 1100th anniversary of the death of St. Methodius.

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. Three Slovak Catholics were given sentences of sixteen to eighteen months in March 1985 for having tried to carry religious material from Poland into Czechoslovakia. Similarly, three Slovak Protestants were detained in Kosice in October 1984, allegedly with a carload of Bibles destined for the Soviet Union.

The Czechoslovak Government has also shown itself to be quite sensitive about members of Western religious peace groups who have traveled to the country to make unofficial contacts with Czechoslovak citizens, e.g., Charter 77 spokespersons.

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.

INFORMATION

The Final Act signatories agreed to facilitate freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, to encourage

coöperation 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 broadcast conforms to ideological standards established by the Government and the Communist Party. As a 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.

SOVIET UNION

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

ROMANIA

Overall, the Romanian Government restricts information available domestically. Strict censorship is enforced; foreign and even local news items 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.

In the last reporting period, no Western periodicals or publications were sold in Romania. No American Communist publications have been noted here. ---

No American books or periodicals are sold at Romanian newstands or by subscription through the mail to Romanian citizens. Limited numbers of Romanians gain access to American and 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 every three weeks, and at least one American science item per week. Older American films are shown regularly in Romanian theaters. Due to the severe energy crisis in Romania this winter, ROMTV cut back its air time drastically. As a result, opportunities for the airing of American productions were reduced. During this period, at least one American-made serial appeared weekly.

POLAND

Although not as open as during the 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 such periodicals as "Tygodnik Powszechny," "Tu I Terza," 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 reform within the judicial system. The press also freely discusses social and family problems, acute housing conditions, drug and alcohol abuse, poor medical services, problems in education, difficulties raised by students, and many other issues highlighting the imperfections of life in Poland. The recent trial of Internal Affairs Ministry officials in the case of the murder of Father Popieluszko was widely covered by the Polish media. The most interesting aspects of the proceedings were

excerpted verbatim in the Catholic press, and Polish radio carried special evening coverage with taped excerpts of the day's testimony. Well-known official and journalists participate in press and media discussions of public issues. 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 adhere to the prevailing Government line. However, they often have to be satisfied with an absence of criticism rather than enthusiastic backing. Press censorship is still 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 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" and "Problems of Communism" continue to be banned.

No American periodicals or books are presently sold at newstands, although some U.S. 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 a 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 to users.

The control of hard-currency expenditures outside of Poland makes it almost impossible for an individual to subscribe to an American periodical. Gift subscriptions 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.

Twenty-three American films are playing in Warsaw's cinemas. Titles which have arrived most recently include "Return of the Jedi," "Missing," "The Border," "Coma," "E.T.," "Brubaker," "Blue Thunder," "War Games," and "Terms of Endearment." Polish television continues to show old American films with fair regularity. A Jane Fonda film festival was recently featured on Polish TV, and some of the most recent offerings include "Shogun," "Paper Moon," "New York, New York," "A Bridge Too Far" and several sequences from "The Wonderful World of Disney."

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. Eighty percent of Polish RFE broadcasts were jammed. VOA English service has not been jammed.

HUNGARY

Embassy information programs have experienced a major up-swing in the past six months, beginning with the visit of VOA Director Gene Pell. The visit of USIA TV Deputy Director Richard Levy also broke new ground and uncovered considerable interest in USIA's WorldNet product. The Hungarians had already approached the Embassy to provide them satellite coverage of the elections, and have expressed great interest in receiving WorldNet. The Embassy is planning a WorldNet program on cardiology with the official blessing and active participation of the Ministry of Health.

Copies of Western publications, including the "International Herald Tribune", the "Frankfurter Allgemeine", "Time", "Newsweek", "The Economist", "Der Spiegel", etc., are, as a rule, available at between 50 and 60 outlets in Budapest and elsewhere in Hungary. Such publications are usually sold at the major hotels and can be purchased with local currency. A recent exception to the usual availability of Western publications took place when two issues of "Time" carried excerpts from a book written by a Soviet defector. Neither issue was available in Budapest, even though the Embassy ascertained that both issues were received from the distributor. 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. Probably only an insignificant number of

Hungarians avail themselves of this opportunity. 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. They are read mostly by younger people. 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 periodicals and lists of new books are sent to major institutions.

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 follows 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 when dealing with the U.S., but both radio and television have given access to American spokesmen through interviews on such issues as arms control. At the same time, personal relations with all levels of the media -- in particular television, could not be more cordial.

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

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

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

To the maximum extent feasible, the GDR Government attempts to control information available within its territory. All media have as a prime responsibility the inculcation of values and beliefs favorable to the Government and to the economic and social system it has established. A subsidiary goal is to present countries with differing political, social and economic structures, including U.S., as unsuccessful in meeting the basic needs of their citizenry. GDR coverage of U.S. foreign

and domestic affairs continues to be on the whole critical, often quoting negative comments from the U.S. press out of context or presenting distorted pictures of life in the United States. There are occasional positive comments about the U.S., but these are exceptions to the rule.

The print media are effectively controlled. In general, only publications listed in the GDR's postal publication register may be imported. Materials not listed are regularly confiscated at border and sector crossings. The Embassy has been able to distribute to official and unofficial contacts a variety of printed materials including the USIA-produced magazines "Dialogue," "English Teaching Forum" and "Problems of Communism". To the Embassy's knowledge, these publications usually reach their recipients, whether mailed or delivered by hand.

GDR broadcasting stations are state-owned and directed, but television and radio from abroad cannot be easily controlled. About eighty percent of GDR households receive television from the FRG, and practically every household receives Western radio stations. The state does not discourage receiving foreign broadcasts but does try to counter criticism in foreign newscasts with stories on its own programming.

U.S. magazines and newspapers, other than those published by the U.S. Communist Party, are not available to the general public. Libraries and official institutes do receive U.S. magazines, scholarly journals and daily papers. The circulation of all of these publications, even within those university sections or institutions permitted to subscribe to them, is restricted. "The International Herald Tribune" and other Western papers are also sold for hard currency to foreigners 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. Only a very few researchers and scholars have subscriptions to U.S. publications. Although that is due in part to the difficulty of paying for them in hard currency, it also reflects official reluctance to grant the postal license necessary to receive such materials through the mail. About thirty U.S. titles each year are translated and printed by Government-owned publishing companies, mostly titles in the public domain, but the printings are small and the books often hard to obtain. The Embassy sends books to recipients in the GDR and has exhibited books both in the Embassy library and in

the book fair in Leipzig. The GDR law holds that books "whose content violates the preservation of peace or in some other way is counter to the interest of the socialist state and its citizens" may not be distributed. There is no encouragement of any kind for wider usage of U.S. books and periodicals. GDR visitors are occasionally permitted access to the Embassy's library facility to attend special events.

In theaters in the GDR, approximately 120 foreign films will be shown in 1985. Of these, about 15 will be U.S. films. In addition, GDR television purchases older U.S. feature films for broadcasts. A wider variety of films on American life is now shown than two years ago; some of the films are chosen for their entertainment value and not just because they present negative or violent views of U.S. society.

VOA, RFE, and RIAS broadcasts are not jammed in the GDR. GDR journals, however, contain articles accusing these services of being agents of the CIA and presenting anti-GDR propaganda.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovak Government's record on 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 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 Czechoslovak except for a few copies of the U.S. Communist Party newspaper "Daily World," which appear on newstands irregularly.

American books and periodicals are not generally available, although some are available on a restricted basis 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 50,000 American books and 114 current U.S. periodicals (in English) accessible to the public daily. Free access to the library, however, is impeded by the presence of armed Czechoslovak guards outside the Embassy and the widespread fear among Czechoslovak citizens, by no means discouraged by their government, that they will have

difficulties should 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 distributes 164 subscriptions to American periodicals (105 titles) to Czechoslovak individuals and institutions. The Embassy, however, continues to receive complaints from private Czechoslovak citizens that subscriptions to American magazines, Embassy library "outreach" materials, the USIA Czech-Language Magazine "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 changed the terms of payment for subscriptions to periodicals from "non-socialist countries" from Czechoslovak crowns to U.S. dollars or other convertible (hard) currency and is still in force. Since payment by individuals and institutions -- even those relatively few who are 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 the films shown commercially. Among the U.S. films screened in Prague's dozen principal central city moviehouses during the reporting period were "E.T." and "Tootsie." Most U.S. films are at least several years old and contain nothing that could be considered offensive to socialism or the Czechoslovak Government. American films rarely appear on Czechoslovak television.

Radio Free Europe is jammed heavily in Prague and other major cities, but it is often possible to receive its transmissions in the countryside. Voice of America is not jammed. RIAS (Radio in American Sector) is not jammed, but the signal is not strong enough to be heard clearly.

BULGARIA

The media in Bulgaria remains tightly controlled by the Party, and the likelihood for any change is slim. No Western periodicals, except for those published by Western Communist Parties, are sold in Bulgaria. Embassy officials have seen Western publications such as the "International Herald Tribune" in the offices of officials and presume these are acquired by

special subscription. Bulgarian citizens are not permitted to hold private subscriptions to Western journals. This is as much a function of the inability of Bulgarian citizens to hold convertible foreign currency as it is restriction on what they may read. Western publications are available in the national library for those who are able to get a membership.

Books by selected American authors are available in translation but they are not abundant and are often sold out immediately. Some textbooks in English are stocked.

During the past six months, Bulgarian television has shown more Western films on a regular basis. Western films and in particular American films are regularly shown -- and are popular -- in Bulgarian cinemas. Two recent films were "Love Story" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." One Bulgarian cinema is currently showing an American film every Monday and Friday.

WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

SOVIET UNION

During the reporting period, the harassment of journalists continued. An AP correspondent was accosted and photographed on a public street where she was walking with a Soviet acquaintance. The men involved identified themselves as members of the KGB. Later, the correspondent was attacked in the press. Another American journalist was accused falsely of immoral activities. Repeated Embassy intervention was necessary to get the Soviet authorities to ease the pressure that had been exerted on the journalist. Six months later the journalist was attacked in "Komsomolskaya Pravda" for tendentious reporting. Quasi-private and public attacks and harassment are attempts to intimidate Moscow-based journalists as well as Soviet citizens who might come into contact with them. The message is that Soviet citizens must beware of contacts with foreign journalists. The Soviet authorities, through conscious policy, continue to deny American and other foreign journalists conditions needed for the legitimate practice of their profession.

During the past six months, Soviet visas have been granted routinely to journalists accredited to Moscow. A number of temporary visas have been granted, not only for journalists coming to Moscow as temporary replacements for Moscow-based colleagues, but also for journalists coming to the Soviet Union on various assignments of their own.

Soviet authorities continue to refuse approval of the longstanding application of the "Wall Street Journal" to open a Moscow bureau. They have not denied the request, but have said frankly that they will take their time "studying the application." In discussions regarding the applications, Soviet authorities have made it clear that the cause of the long delay is official Soviet displeasure with the publication's editorial policies. The "Washington Times" has also applied for permission to open a Moscow bureau. They have met the same stonewalling tactics encountered by the "Wall Street Journal" and for the same reason -- the Soviets do not like the editorial opinions expressed in the newspaper.

Thirty-two American journalists are 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 authorities tried through intimidation to force two correspondents to leave.

In the last six months, three permanent and eleven temporary visas have been granted to local national journalists, including the family members of permanently assigned journalists, traveling to the United States. No such visas have been refused; however, action on a Soviet application to send a teletype operator to the Tass office in the U. S. has been held up as part of the effort to encourage Soviet approval of the "Wall Street Journal" and "Washington Times" bureaus. At Soviet request, two of the three I visas granted during the reporting period to a Tass correspondent and his wife were cancelled in favor of a replacement.

ROMANIA

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. 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. Some American and Western news agencies employ governmentally approved Romanian citizens as stringers in Romania.

No permanently-accredited American journalists reside in Romania. Three accredited American journalists reside outside the country and have multiple entry visas. One of these, as a result of article he wrote, was advised by the authorities not to return to Romania. Approximately 20 visas per year are granted to visiting American journalists. Some visas are granted journalists expeditiously while other applications seem arbitrarily involved and drawn out.

One American journalist was refused a working visa during this period. Two others have asked for Embassy assistance in obtaining visas which were not forthcoming after three months' wait.

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

There have been no problems in getting government authorization for radio and television journalists to bring their own technicians, equipment and professional reference material into the country. There is a meticulous recording of serial numbers. In the case of typewriters, a sample of the type face 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 Romanian government on very short notice.

American and other national press centers are allowed for certain events. There is an operating Romanian foreign press club, where periodic press conferences are held. Other activities at this press club are very rare.

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 the seizure of equipment, when attempting to cover demonstrations. Selected Western media representatives were allowed to cover a recent trial in Torun.

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

The Embassy has heard no reports of either visiting or resident journalists not being able to carry reference material for professional use.

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.

There are now 13 permanently accredited U.S. journalists and two television producers in Poland. They and their families have multiple-entry visas which must be renewed every year. The government recently extended the validity of multiple-entry visas for resident foreign correspondents from six months to one year.

Two new permanent accreditations were granted to U. S. media representatives. The Embassy estimates that some 27 visas have been granted to U. S. journalists not permanently accredited. The Embassy knows of no refusals of visas, or of any visa extension requests having been denied. The Embassy

knows of no delays in issuing visas for visiting correspondents.

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.

One visa for permanent accreditation was issued to a Polish journalist during the reporting period. Four visas were issued to journalists for short visits to the U.S. No U.S. visas were refused to Polish applicants nor did the Embassy delay any decisions.

One press center, Interpress in Warsaw, is open to both national and foreign correspondents.

HUNGARY

American journalists visit Hungary often and experience no difficulty obtaining visas. The Foreign Ministry has a press center, called Pressinform, to assist foreign journalists. Reports of its cooperation and efficiency have been generally favorable. The 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 use. The 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. A Dutch journalist, however, intending to cover the XIIIth Party congress, was reportedly denied a visa because of his contacts with Hungarian dissidents. There are no U.S. journalists permanently accredited to Hungary, although both AP and UPI have Hungarian

representatives, along with the "Daily Worker" and "Amerikai Magyar Szó."

The Embassy knows of no American correspondents who have been expelled from the country. During the reporting period, five visas were granted to Hungarian journalists permanently accredited to the U.S. Twenty-two were issued to Hungarian journalists for shorter periods.

The press section of the Foreign Ministry and Pressinform have been very helpful. There have been no notable problems.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Foreign journalists are accorded courteous and correct treatment. Their ability to report on events in the GDR is hampered by laws which limit their ability to travel without prior permission, to make appointments directly with GDR officials and individuals, and to receive needed information. These laws, however, are not always applied.

A representative of the "Communist Daily Worker" and an AP correspondent are permanently accredited to the GDR. The number of temporary visas issued to American journalists during this reporting period is unknown, but due to the demand for coverage of events in this country the number probably increased over the last reporting period. Occasionally, visa requests for technical crew, television cameramen and the like are denied -- evidently to encourage the use of local crews. No journalists have been refused visas to our knowledge. The non-American journalists employed by AP and the "Daily Worker" correspondent have multiple entry visas valid for one year.

The new AP correspondent was kept waiting for accreditation for several months, evidently while the GDR authorities tried to convince the Associated Press to send a U.S. citizen as its reporter rather than a European.

All travel outside of Berlin must be approved by the Foreign Ministry. In practice, the authorities usually are tolerant of travel without prior approval, but they have the legal basis to stop such travel if they wish.

Western journalists must have Foreign Ministry approval for interviews or any significant contact. By GDR law, many GDR citizens may not maintain contact with foreign journalists. Access to information and people remains carefully controlled by the state.

Authorization to bring technicians and equipment into the GDR has generally been granted. For certain events, the GDR has claimed insufficient time to process applications. GDR authorities insist that foreign journalists, like other foreigners, are subject to restrictions on the printed material they can bring into the GDR. In fact, however, journalists generally have had no trouble in bringing in needed materials.

Only one visa was issued to a GDR journalist during this period, a representative of the East German news service (ADN) to the United Nations. GDR journalists, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on their behalf, have claimed that the U.S. issuance of only single entry visas, and the requirement that new visas be requested when the journalist has traveled outside the U.S. violates freedom of travel for journalists. GDR officials also complain that it usually takes about two weeks for a GDR journalist to get a U.S. visa, whereas corresponding visas are issued within a couple of days to U.S. journalists.

An international press center with facilities open to foreign journalists is located in East Berlin. During the Leipzig fairs, a press center is also open in Leipzig.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Government of Czechoslovakia's handling of Western journalists has not changed significantly since the last reporting period. Press centers for foreign journalists function in Prague and 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. Two press centers are open to foreign journalists in Prague and Bratislava. Nearly a dozen short-term visas were granted to American newsmen by local authorities in connection with permanent accreditation. Visas for Western journalists not permanently accredited totaled approximately seventy, according to Czechoslovak officials. VOA Eastern European correspondent Jolyon Naegele was granted long-term non-resident accreditation in March 1985. Two CBS-TV correspondents have been waiting since February 1984 for a response to their requests for permanent non-resident accreditation. There are half a dozen non-resident American journalists in Prague. The sole resident U.S. journalist represents the "Daily World," 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 tours for resident correspondents are organized by the Foreign Ministry press department each year. However, the government has not provided more extensive travel opportunities for American journalists.

The opportunities for foreign journalists to establish and maintain personal contacts and communications with their sources have not improved.

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. VOA correspondent Naegle was subjected to a 45-minute search of his belongings upon exiting Czechoslovakia in December 1984.

To our knowledge, no American journalists were expelled during the reporting period.

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

BULGARIA

Although there was an increase in visits to Bulgaria by Western journalists during this reporting period, working conditions for journalists are still poor. If a journalist is willing to follow a government-prepared program he is likely to enjoy his stay in Bulgaria. Journalists who are looking for news usually leave Bulgaria disappointed if they expect frank responses from government officials. During the period, the AFP correspondent resident in Vienna and accredited to Bulgaria was told not to visit Bulgaria again because the government did not like the "tone" of his articles. During a Government-sponsored press conference on narcotics in February, selected Western journalists were called out to receive an oral reprimand for their reporting on the campaign against ethnic Turks. The authorities have also tightened up the visa regime, requiring journalists to declare in advance which areas they want to visit during a trip to Bulgaria. Some journalists who attempted to cover the assimilation campaign were detained by

police and forcibly returned to Sofia by the authorities. Others were allowed to "visit" ethnic Turkish areas as long as they remained with their government-appointed guides.

No American journalists reside in Bulgaria. The VOA correspondent in Vienna was recently accredited, raising the number of Americans accredited to six. TV and film crews are allowed to bring their equipment into the country. However, uncontrolled contact with regular Bulgarian citizens is discouraged. Bulgarian citizens realize they might be subject to harassment or formal charges if they speak to a journalist.

The Bulgarians have opened a new press center at the Park Hotel Moskva, which falls under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry. It is not staffed on a day-to-day basis, but the press club which is co-located with the press center is available to accredited journalists during regular working hours. Prior to the cancelled Warsaw Pact Summit in January, a special press center was set up at a more expensive hotel. Visiting Western journalists, however, had to learn from reports outside of Bulgaria that the Summit had been cancelled.

COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Reporting Period: October 1, 1984 - April 1, 1985

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.

I. 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. government financial assistance. Others are strictly private and only come to our attention through the visa application process or when problems arise.

SOVIET UNION

During the reporting period negotiations for a new official exchanges agreement on cultural, educational, scientific and technical and other fields between the U.S. and the USSR have been continuing in Moscow. If an agreement is concluded, it would be the first official bilateral exchanges agreement renegotiated since 1979, when negotiations were suspended after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

Cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation remained at a rather low level during this period, although there were a few signs of an expansion of activity. In November, singer John Denver gave a series of concerts in Moscow and Leningrad. Individual Americans continue to participate in international fairs, festivals and cultural meetings in the Soviet Union, although levels of participation are lower than in the late 1970's, and some Soviet artists and performers have been invited privately to the U.S. for similar purposes, but sometimes Soviet authorities do not permit them to travel.

The ACYPL (American Council of Young Political Leaders) sent a delegation to the Soviet Union to explore possibilities for further ACYPL exchanges with the U.S.S.R. This was followed by a return visit of a Soviet delegation.

Participation in educational exchange programs administered by the USSR Ministry of Higher Education continues to rise each year. Late placements and delays in visa issuance continue and sometimes lead U.S. candidates to withdraw. Over seventy participants from each side are expected to take part in these exchanges during the 1985-86 academic year (an increase of fifteen over the current academic year) if current expectations are correct.

ROMANIA

Under the current two-year Program of Cooperation and Exchanges, U.S.-Romanian academic/educational relations continue at an acceptable level for the U.S., but 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. The "American Theater Today" exhibit had a successful showing in Bucharest and is scheduled for additional showings in two provincial cities in summer 1985.

POLAND

There is no official bilateral exchanges agreement between the U.S. and Poland. Through non-governmental organizations, Poland continues to send orchestras, art exhibits and other such attractions to the United States. Various American artists and musicians continue to visit Poland and Poles continue to visit the U.S. under private arrangements. A shortage of hard currency to pay Western performers tends to keep the number of American visiting artists at a low level. The Fulbright and private academic exchanges continue.

HUNGARY

The current two-year bilateral exchange agreement between the U.S. and Hungary will be renegotiated in fall 1985. These two-year implementing programs have expanded since the signing of the general umbrella agreement in 1977. Over the past year more than twenty Hungarians travelled to the U.S. on the International Visitor Program. The Fulbright Lecturer Program also has expanded. The first privately funded Chair in American studies, in the memory of Otto Salgo, at Budapest's Elte University, is in its second year, and there have been a number of other university initiatives without official U.S. involvement.

One indication of the state of U.S.-Hungarian educational relations is the increased interest in academic exchanges: the Agricultural University has requested assistance in establishing an exchange program with the U.S.; the University of Pecs now requires third-year English students to spend a year abroad, preferably in the U.S., and is seeking American partner institutions; Hungary is now interested in Fulbright student exchanges and, for the first time, a binational cooperative selection process.

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 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 been generally good. The greatest barrier to cooperation in the field of culture are the problems of access imposed by the government of the German Democratic Republic. Public access to the U.S. Embassy and the Press and Cultural Section remains a problem. The presence of guards at the entrance and regular I.D. checks in the vicinity tend to dissuade many visitors.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Overall bilateral relations in the field of culture have remained static during the reporting period. Czechoslovak authorities have displayed some marginal interest in U.S. efforts to expand programs in the cultural area by approving an American art exhibit at a Prague museum for June-July 1985. A major Czechoslovak exhibit, "The Precious Legacy: Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections," opened in Washington in November 1983 and is now in the fifth city of a six-city tour of the U.S. American performers have performed in Czechoslovakia during the reporting period with no apparent difficulties. Several Czechoslovak specialists have participated in USIA-sponsored International Visitor group projects during this period. The Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been somewhat less reluctant to approve visits by American specialists under U.S. Embassy sponsorship. Thirteen such visits took place during the reporting period.

Cooperation and exchanges in the field of education have not changed during the past six months. The Fulbright Program between the U.S. and Czechoslovakia remains a modest one, with two Americans at Czechoslovak institutions and three Czechoslovaks in the U.S. Exchanges under IREX (the International Research and Exchanges Board) have not increased significantly. No expansion is planned for the English-teaching seminars held in Czechoslovakia during the summer in which five American lecturers participate with Embassy support. During the reporting period there have been no complaints from U.S. exchangees regarding access to archives and libraries.

BULGARIA

Cultural and educational exchanges between the U.S. and Bulgaria are conducted under a two-year bilateral exchanges agreement. The agreement was renegotiated in December 1984. The government of Bulgaria has shown increased interest in

student exchanges. For the first time the agreement calls for an exchange of graduate students, and Bulgarian officials have expressed interest in sending Bulgarian graduate students to U.S. universities. Although educational exchanges are part of the exchanges agreement, more private exchanges take place without the involvement of the U.S. Embassy in Sofia. While the Bulgarians appear to have accepted the Fulbright program, most private exchanges involve only short-duration visits by scholars rather than more permanent arrangements.

CULTURE

BOOKS AND PUBLISHING

The United States and the USSR continue to distribute in each other's country their official monthly publications, America Illustrated and Soviet Life. Out of 60,000 copies of America Illustrated delivered for newsstand sales, Soviet authorities continue to return several thousand copies, ostensibly as unsold. In Poland prohibition of newsstand sales and distribution of the U.S. Government Polish-language publication Ameryka continued during the reporting period.

PERFORMING ARTS

Public performances in Moscow and Leningrad by American singer John Denver were organized by the Soviet-American exchange program of the California-based Esalen Institute. The Institute also fielded an exhibit of American books on health issues in January in Moscow and Novosibirsk. A return exhibit of Soviet books is planned for Los Angeles and San Francisco in spring of 1985.

In March 1985 American dance lecturer Leslie Friedman, under sponsorship of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, gave modern dance demonstrations at several Soviet institutions in Moscow and Leningrad. Friedman also completed a similar program in Hungary under USIA sponsorship, appearing before audiences at the University of Pecs, the Budapest Artists' Club, the ballet company of Gyor, and at the Ballet Institute.

American pianist Martin Berkofsky performed at the Prague Conservatory on December 7, 1984. His visit was arranged by the U.S. Embassy in Prague.

The Prague Symphony Orchestra began a 40-day concert tour of the U.S. during the reporting period. Other Czechoslovak performing artists touring the U.S. during this period

included: opera soloist Peter Dvorsky, thirteen soloists of the Czech Chamber Orchestra of the State Philharmonic (Brno), and the Panocha Quartet of the North Bohemian Philharmonic (Teplice).

American Guitarist Pat Metheny and the "Pat Metheny Group" gave four concerts during a one week tour of Poland. The tour was arranged by the Polish Jazz Society.

American soprano Myrna Bismarck performed the title role in "Turandot" in Warsaw in March 1985.

American musicians were well represented at the 1984 Jazz Jamboree in Warsaw October 25-28, 1984. Among the U.S. artists in attendance were Ornette Coleman, Cecil Taylor, New Yoruba, the Ray Charles Group, and Woodie Shaw.

The Joanne Brackeen Quartet gave three performances in Hungary in October 1984 under USIA sponsorship.

FILM

A "Festival of the Films of Hungary" began a ten-city U.S. tour in March 1985. The festival was arranged by Hungarofilm and The American University, with assistance from USIA.

EXHIBITS

A "Bionics USA" exhibit on U.S. medical advances displayed at the American Embassy Library in Prague was visited by over 5,000 Czechoslovaks during the period January 21 - February 10, 1985. This exhibit was also displayed in Budapest during the reporting period.

The USIA exhibit, "American Theater Today," completed its showing in Bucharest in October 1984.

EXCHANGE VISITS BY SPECIALISTS

Ingmar Hucl, Pro-Rector for Research, Slovak Technical University (Bratislava), and Frantisek Zaloudek, Special Assistant, Department of Higher Education, Czechs S.R. Ministry of Education, participated in the USIA-sponsored International Visitor Program "New Technology for Higher Education," February 16 - March 15, 1985.

Jiri Kotalik, Director of the Czechoslovak National Gallery, visited the U.S. in February 1985, to attend the

opening of a Rousseau exhibit as the guest of the Museum of Modern Art.

Alan Platt, Director of European Arms Control Issues for the Rand Corporation, visited Prague under USIA auspices in November 1984. His program included meetings at the Institute for International Relations in Prague.

U.S. radio commentator and jazz specialist Felix Grant gave a series of talks on the latest developments in American jazz in Prague December 10-13, 1984. His visit was arranged by the U.S. Embassy in Prague.

William Hanna of Hanna-Barbera Productions visited "Film Polski" studios to explore opportunities for cooperation in cartoon animation in November 1984.

Antol Bokay, Associate Professor and Vice Dean, Janus Pannonius University (Hungary), visited the United States under the auspices of the International Visitor Program in March/April 1985. The purpose of the visit was to discuss with university administrative officers the organization and administration of institutions of higher learning.

Karoly Bogi, Head of the Department for Water Resources Management, Institute for Water Management (Budapest), visited the U.S. in March 1985 under the International Visitor Program.

Jozsef Veress, Deputy Director of the Hungarian Film Institute, completed a one-month visit of the U.S. under the International Visitor Program in February/March 1985.

Mihaly Kornidesz, President of Hungarian Television, visited the United States in November 1984 under the International Visitor Program. The purpose of the trip was to meet with U.S. television companies and with the Radio-Television Department of the United Nations.

Endre Gomori, Foreign Editor of Hungary's "Magyorország," a weekly magazine on international affairs, visited the U.S. in November 1984 under the International Visitor Program.

Angelov Trifonov, Vice Rector of the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Shumen (Bulgaria), visited the U.S. in October and November 1984 under the International Visitor Program.

Lyubomir Nikolov, Poetry Editor for "Literaturen Front" (Sofia), participated in the International Writers Program of

the University of Iowa during the period September-November 1984.

Ilion Stamboliev, Associate Professor and Vice Dean of the Higher Insititue of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (Sofia, Bulgaria), visited the U.S. in December 1984 to study developments in the area of medical electronics.

Author Erskine Caldwell attended the Fifth International Meeting of Writers in Sofia in October 1984.

George Bullock, President of Bullock Associates (Washington, D.C.), visited Bucharest under USIA auspices to discuss the results of the 1984 U.S. elections.

Economist Walter Goldstein visited Bucharest under USIA auspices in November 1984. In the course of his stay Goldstein spoke on U.S. monetary policy and other economic issues at the Romanian Academy of Economic Studies and the Romanian Institute of World Economy.

Ioan Grigorescu, Vice-President of the Romanian Filmmakers Association, visited the U.S. in October/November 1984 under the International Visitor Program.

Romanian film director Andrei Blaier and Alexandru Tatos visited the United States in November 1984.

II. 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>
Soviet Union	7	5
Romania	3	0
Poland	1	2
Hungary	2	0
German Democratic Republic	0	0
Czechoslovakia	0	0

Bulgaria

2

1

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Program

Figures for the IREX program in the USSR and other East European countries follow:

	<u>From U.S.</u>	<u>To U.S.</u>
Soviet Union	24	43
Romania	2	6
Poland	8	5
Hungary	6	0
German Democratic Republic	7	14
Czechoslovakia	6	4
Bulgaria	4	3

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). 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. Approximately two hundred and twenty Russian-language students from the U.S. will study on these programs during the coming year.

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.