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# **Ronald Reagan Library**

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Withdrawer

KDB 12/30/2015

File Folder

USSR (12/20/83-12/29/83)

**FOIA** 

F03-002/5

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171869 MEMO	R. LEHMAN AND J. MATLOCK TO R. MCFARLANE RE PROSPECTS FOR MEETINGS	2 12/20/1983 B1			
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171880 REPORT	EUR/IG REPORT ON THE RENEWAL OF THE US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION15	3 ND B1			
171881 CABLE	MOSCOW 15915 (W/REAGAN INITIALS)	2 12/26/1983 B1			
171882 CABLE	MOSCOW 15915 (UNINITIALED COPY OF DOC #171881)	2 12/26/1983 B1			
171883 REPORT	RE ANDROPOV  PAR 10/8/2010 CREST NLR-748-24	1 12/28/1983 B1 B3 <b>1-46-8-3</b>			
171884 CABLE	RE ANNOUNCEMENT	1 12/28/1983 B1			

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MATLOCK

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KEYWORDS: USSR

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FROM STEARMAN

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171871 MEMO

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W. STEARMAN TO R. MCFARLANE RE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (W/ADDED NOTE)

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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171874 MEMO 1 12/27/1983 B1

R. KIMMITT TO C. HILL RE US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION

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171876 MEMO 1 12/27/1983 B1

T. COBB TO R. MCFARLANE RE US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT

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171877 MEMO 3 12/23/1983 B1

C. HILL TO R. MCFARLANE RE US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION15

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EUR/IG REPORT ON THE RENEWAL OF THE US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION15

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#### U.S./U.S.S.R. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT:

#### AN ASSESSMENT

#### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S./U.S.S.R. Agreement on Housing and Other Construction is just completing its second five-year phase. The U.S. must notify the U.S.S.R. by December 28 if it does not wish to have the Agreement automatically renewed. In anticipation of this decision, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has conducted a review of the over-all Agreement in the six original Working Group areas. One, on New Towns, has completed its work. Of the five remaining, two have been very active, with significant private sector involvement: Utility Systems and Building Materials.

As a result of its own internal review and a survey of over sixty private sector participants, HUD has concluded that the Agreement should be renewed. This decision results from a weighing of benefits and costs of the Agreement and an understanding of how it can be made more effective, by focusing on more clearly defined technical areas.

While there are few broad general areas of Soviet technology with immediate application to the U.S., several specific areas have been singled out by American private-sector participants as useful to them in the industry's developmental work. These include, among others, construction in permafrost areas, earthquake zone building, fire-preventive coatings for wood, and other fire-resistance techniques, district-size and integrated utility systems, low energy use designs and technologies, and the use of large scale models for research in design. Experts in HUD and other participating agencies generally concur in this identification.

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While it is impossible to measure the total flow of technical information in either direction, HUD recognizes the larger and more complex U.S. technological base offers the Soviets more access and a greater potential to benefit. Under this agreement the U.S. has benefited in a number of the projects, while the U.S.S.R. has benefited in others. HUD has attempted to ensure a mixture of projects which would yield a balanced outcome—with some benefiting the U.S. side and some the U.S.S.R. The latter benefits are necessary for the Soviets to continue the exchange in good faith.

In the technical/commercial area, HUD believes that the value of the Agreement to the U.S. is two-pronged: in fields where Soviet technology has something of interest, the U.S. gains expertise; where Soviet technology is weak and where exchanges can allow Americans to demonstrate the superiority of their product, a climate favorable to American marketing can be created in the U.S.S.R.

The professional, societal, and personal benefits of the program are very high.

Some of the past exchanges have lacked focus, and discussions in general have received more emphasis than site visits, to the consternation of some of the American participants. However, definite improvements have recently been made towards the end of a more substantive exchange. The success of the program will depend upon how well these recent trends are followed through by the Soviet side, with the U.S. setting a high standard.

On the basis of its recent review, HUD is in a position to enter into a new period, with a much leaner program and a more highly focused effort. If

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the Agreement is renewed HUD will convene the project leaders from government and business to develop a more productive project structure for early planning with the Soviets.

#### II. BACKGROUND

The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Housing and Other Construction, signed on June 28, 1974, is one of ten agreements signed by the United States and the U.S.S.R. between 1972 and 1974. Although the Agreement has been in effect for about nine years, active project work has been underway for only seven, with an initial renewal in 1979.

To identify and implement projects of interest to the U.S. and to evaluate information received from the U.S.S.R., the Department of Housing and Urban Development established six Working Groups. Each has a Soviet counterpart and they are

- Building Design and Construction Management;
- / Utility Systems;
- Building Materials and Components;
  - Construction in Seismic Areas;
  - Building for Extreme Climates and Unusual Geological Conditions;
- Wew Towns.

The American working groups are largely composed of experts from industry, selected universities, technical and trade associations, and private design and engineering firms. Staff from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Bureau of Standards, the General Services Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

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and the Forest Service manage several projects and support others. During the last five years there have been 27 specific projects.

In most of the projects, the most significant involvement and the largest benefits have been in the private sector. As a consequence, businesses and other private organizations have contributed two to three times the government amount of staff and financial resources to the operation of the bilateral exchange effort.

Earlier this year HUD deemed it important to know the opinions of Americans who have participated in the program. Delphi Research Associates, a HUD contract organization, was asked to survey a substantial number of former and current participants in the program for their evaluations of the exchanges. This survey was designed to weigh the candid reactions of Americans who travelled to the Soviet Union or who received Soviet delegations in the U.S. Its findings are one important element to be considered in déciding whether the Agreement should be continued and how, if it is, the exchange program might be made more effective and more beneficial to the U.S.

That review has given expression to the views of over sixty key participants in the form of written evaluations, telephone interviews, informal letters, published articles, and trip reports. Many of the documents resulting from the various study trips and joint seminars are a matter of public record and have been incorporated into this summary.

#### III. ASSESSMENT

#### A. Technical Benefits to the U.S. Side

The technical benefits to the U.S. side have been moderate, ranging from

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very useful in some fields to nonexistent in others. It is generally agreed that American building and construction techniques are superior to those of the Soviets, and that while this suggests the possibility of commercial potential to the U.S. (with the U.S.S.R. as a possible market), there is little in the area of broad technical applications or systems to be learned from the Soviets. Benefits to the U.S. on a general basis have been largely in such areas as the scope on which planning is done, the use of full-scale models for testing, and the generally very high quality of Soviet theoretical work. Production and installation standards fall way below their U.S. counterparts.

However, it is clear the U.S. side has benefited in certain specific areas--either from the point of view of learning directly from Soviet technology, or learning from the process of comparison itself. Below are examples from two of the most active working groups. Their results are generally paralleled in the other groups.

For Working Group 10.02 ("Utility Systems"), the following areas have been singled out as instances where Soviet advances were of interest and benefit to the U.S. side:

#### Water Supply

- Municipal waste water treatment, and use of ozone in water treatment;
- Packaged small to medium size water and waste water treatment plants (a weak point in the infrastructure of small communities in the U.S.);
- Sludge treatment (the U.S. needs to improve efficiency in this area, and Soviet technologists have made some inroads);

- Use of plastic pipes for water supply systems (this is seen as a health hazard in the U.S., but has not been proven to be so);
- Water conservation methods, and sizing of tubing in distribution systems;
- Innovations in utility systems, such as pear-shaped pipes.

#### Energy

- Roadway lighting techniques;
- Theory (though not necessarily practice) on energy conservation;
- Use of peat and oil shale in generating energy;
- District heating systems in cities, and district heating from nuclear electric power plants.

For Working Group 10.03 ("Building Materials and Components"), the following areas were likewise seen to be of benefit to the U.S. side:

#### Design

- The use of structural and mathematical models for research particularly in the area of seismic design and construction of concrete and masonry buildings;
- Discussions of the pro's and con's of novel approaches to design;
- Procedures for generating design;
- Scale modeling of heating, ventilation and air conditioning of buildings;
- Model experimental communities in suburbs.

### Building Technology

- Technology of construction in cold-weather areas;
- Standardization of practices in industrial construction;
- Handling of material (especially moving and yard storage);
- Fire-protection coating for wood;
- Effects of insulation in different climatic regions;
- The use of light-weight concrete.

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The Soviets have developed very novel and successful techniques in creating 8' x 8' utility tunnels containing most utility services for the neighborhoods being developed; other highlighted areas are fire resistance and the so-called "box form" of construction which yields entire perfabricated rooms made of one unit of gypsum walls--a system which does not exist in the U.S.

The benefits have been uneven among the project teams, but HUD has attempted to insure that there be a balance, so that the number of projects of greater benefit to the U.S. be equal to or greater than those of primary importance to the Soviets.

In defining areas of future joint research in Working Group 10.03 of benefit to the U.S. side, HUD has singled out four areas in which the U.S. could benefit: concretes and cements, fire resistance approaches, wood use, and industrialized building systems.

In addition to these areas, there is important intangible advantage in knowing more directly the strengths and weaknesses of Soviet techniques, particularly as a means of dealing with the U.S.S.R. as a potentially attractive market for U.S. products, licenses, or turn-key operations (the last two being more likely). While Soviet building techniques may have little direct application in the U.S. building trade, it can be of great benefit to U.S. firms working in Third World countries, where specifications and standards are different from those in the U.S.

#### B. Technical Benefits to the Soviet Side

Soviet technicians have probably benefited generally from the program in

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the information gathered. The U.S. technological base offers greater opportunity for information exchange than the Soviet one. There are doubts, however, about the ability of skilled Soviet technicians to put that information to use within a cumbersome system resistant to innovation. Americans' appraisals of their Soviet counterparts are respectful of their theoretical skills, but consider that poor workmanship often undermines the appearance and completion of even the finest engineering schemes.

Areas where the Soviet side may have benefited from the exchange were

- Reinforced masonry design;
- Waste water treatment technology;
- Wood construction (the U:S. side also benefited in this area);
- Electrical distribution technology;
- Consideration of economic forces when engaging in building projects;
- Techniques for testing wood products and for improved production procedures:
- HYAC control systems and energy conservation in buildings;
- Environmental engineering (HVAC) technologies in buildings;
- Insulating materials and plastics (an area of likely commercial interest in the U.S.S.R. for purchase of U.S. materials or plants);
- General discussion on method and approach, which most U.S. delegates felt were of greater benefit to the Soviets than to the Americans;
- Single family housing technology and utilities.

#### C. Commercial Potential for the U.S.

The inherent paradox of the program is seen by American businessmen as largely favorable to the U.S. side: where the Soviets have something to

teach, the U.S. enhances its own technology; where the Soviets trail behind U.S. technology, the U.S. can use the exchanges to prepare them as a potential market. Because the Soviet system is cumbersome in adopting innovations, information imparted does not necessarily lead to a true technology transfer, but rather serves to convince the Soviets of American superiority in certain technical areas. This in turn creates the potential for commercial transactions of benefit to the U.S.

#### D. Professional and Personal Benefits

On this point, the American participants are nearly unanimous: Eighty-five percent of those polled feel that the program was of considerable benefit, and a majority of those rank the experience as "highly rewarding."

A selection of comments from private and government sector participants follows in Appendix 1 of this report.

Though a handful of U.S. participants have expressed doubts about the value of the program, the overwhelming majority feel that it is important to maintain a dialogue with the Soviet side and, as one participant said, "to keep the political, professional, and social doors open."

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Although HUD recommends that the Agreement continue, there are ways in which the overall program could be better managed in the future. Project areas need to be redefined to eliminate unproductive ones. Certain deficiencies must also be corrected at the project procedure level. It is expected that early negotiations with the Soviets in the new period would result in constructive changes; the Soviets have expressed similar needs for changes.

The following aspects of the program need attention:

- The reluctance of the Soviets to show their laboratories and building sites, usually out of embarrassment;
- The difficulty in maintaining ongoing communications with the Soviets and in sustaining professional relationships;
- The slowness in establishing a communication network in the U.S. for the speedy dissemination of findings and materials resulting from the meetings;
- The overemphasis on cultural activities and non-specific professional discussions, to the detriment of a true exchange of technical expertise on focused topics;
- The devotion of too much time to theoretical discussions and not enough to technical site visits.

It is noted, however, that steps have already been taken by the Soviets to make the exchange more responsive to U.S. delegate needs. A recent trip report for Projects 1.1 and 1.2 of Working Group 10.02 indicates that "the visit was a good 'new start'... Expectations were clarified and good will was demonstrated by both sides... there appeared to be a greater degree of mutual trust; freedom of movement and program flexibility were very apparent." During the June, 1983, trip to U.S.S.R., the 10.03 Working Group of Project 3.1 observed that there was more open discussion than ever before regarding the Soviet weaknesses in industrialized building systems, and an official acknowledgement of a need for more focused discussions.

The Protocol signed on June 23, 1983, by the Soviet and American delegation leaders reads, "it was agreed that future visits will no longer take the form of familiarization tours of a general nature, but will be related only to activities pertaining to specific cooperative projects."

Appendix 2 to this report provides a list of areas which, if well managed, would be of benefit to the U.S. side. The U.S. can now build on the learning experience of recent teams to enhance the benefits in a new Agreement period. The judgments of the two most recent, largely private, U.S. delegations to travel to the Soviet Union (May and June 1983) support this position. Their expressed views are compatible with the following HUD/conclusions:

- The Agreement has been of technical and professional benefit to the U.S. side;
- 2) U.S. private sector participation in and support for the program have greatly bolstered the program, and the private sector has also been the prime beneficiary of the results;
- 3) The Agreement, if continued, may open up areas of commercial potential for the U.S., for export of goods and services;
- 4) Past weaknesses are susceptible to improvement;
- 5) Continuation of the Agreement for another two to four years would be necessary to fully realize the potential of several current projects.

Therefore, HUD recommends the renewal of the Agreement, with the condition that early discussion be held with the Soviet working group and project leaders to streamline the work plan and increase the effectiveness of exchange visits.

#### APPENDIX 1

Selected personal comments from American participants of the private and government sector:

Specific technical answers are not the point of these meetings: what is useful is the discussion of common technical problems with people from a different culture and social background.... As the general U.S. political stance becomes more insular, and relations with the U.S.S.R. deteriorate, it becomes more important to maintain relationships on the technical level where the interest in the subject transcends political attitudes. If we don't continue these kinds of exchanges we will end up talking only to ourselves and becoming more and more complacent.

- Christopher Arnold Developer

It expands the professional horizon, stimulates new ideas and approaches, and, properly applied and exploited, is bound to be beneficial to both sides. . . Direct exposure to the workings—and shortcomings—of another system is indispensable for sober appraisals and unbiased judgments of a given situation without prejudice, and without being influenced by political or media slogans or propaganda.

- Ernst Kremeyer
Export Consultant

Increased contact and interchange is the best way to overcome Soviet xenophobia... At no time in the past has it been more imperative to promote technology exchanges with the Soviets. This program should be increased, for socio-political reasons.

- John Harrison Engineer

I gained insights into the research environment in the U.S.S.R. which I have been able to share with my colleagues. These have had some useful effects on the way

I view my own work. Also, I formed or strengthened working relationships with members of the U.S. team.

- Dr. Geoffrey Frohnsdorff National Bureau of Standards

The shortcomings of the Soviet economic system became apparent. However, their visits to the U.S. help to dispel the false image their propaganda gives of the U.S. . . . I felt sorry for the Russians, the way they live. Even if the program had no commercial or technical benefit to the U.S.--and I believe it did--it seems to me we ought to help people so they can live better.

 Ion Caloger Engineer

My impressions have been almost totally positive as to the importance of this Agreement to the United States. The private sector participants who gave of their valuable time to participate in this meeting, and others who do the same at other times, would not do so unless they believed in the value of their contributions. There have been and undoubtedly will be technical gains. Those gains may not be spectacular, but they are real. The technical advances aside, though, the people-to-people, builder-to-builder relations are invaluable.

- Shirley McVay Wiseman
Deputy Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development

#### APPENDIX 2

Future areas of exchange which would benefit the U.S. side, including areas already explored which the American participants feel should be developed further:

#### 10.02 Utility Systems

#### Water Supply

- Problems in the installation and maintenance of small watertreatment plants;
- Sludge treatment, its ultimate disposal and beneficial use;
- Protection of drinking water sources against contamination;
- Water conservation in public and private buildings;

#### Energy

- Lighting techniques, especially public roadway lighting and mass transit;
- District heating and cogeneration;
- Synthetic fuels for urban use.

#### Other

- Urban transit--an area where the Soviets have much to teach the U.S.;
- Service continuity and reliability in utilities;
- Conservation techniques--resource recovery and recycling (biomass, agricultural residue, forest residue);

#### 10.03 Building Materials and Components

#### Materials

 Reinforced plastics and roofing materials with the Soviet Chemicals Ministry included in the Agreement;

- Soviet use of aggregates in mixing cement;
- Use of plastics in piping systems for drain, waste, and vent systems;
- Studies of flame spread, smoke generation, and toxicity of building materials.

#### Design and Procedure

- Building diagnostics, its use in facilitation of building design procedure;
- Research management;
- Mathematical modeling as a tool in construction research;
- Standardization of practice, and safety standards.

#### Other

- Techniques for construction in cold regions, with comparisons between conditions in Alaska and Siberia;
- Low-energy dwellings;
- Thermal electric technology and insulation;
- Worker training, manpower, and manpower utilization;
- Welding technology;

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Desiring to develop cooperation in the field of housing and other construction;

Realizing that a more effective application of new and traditional building materials and techniques can contribute to more rational utilization of the resources available to both countries;

Desiring to exchange information and techniques in the field of housing and other construction;

Believing that cooperation in the field of housing and other construction offers benefits for both the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Convinced that such cooperation will serve to contribute to the improvement of relations between the two countries;

Noting cooperation already being implemented in these areas under existing agreements, and in accordance with the General Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Contacts, Exchanges, and Cooperation, signed June 19, 1973; [1]

Have agreed as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> TIAS 7649; 24 UST 1395.

#### ARTICLE I

The Parties will develop and carry out cooperation in the field of housing and other construction on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.

#### ARTICLE II

This cooperation will be directed to the investigation and solution of specific problems of mutual interest in the field of housing and other construction.

Initially, cooperation will be implemented in the following areas:

- a. innovative techniques for the improvement of life safety, reliability, quality, and economy of buildings and building materials including: organization and management of construction, new methods and materials, and the improved use of traditional methods and materials;
- b. performance criteria for housing and other construction in seismic areas with special consideration of the impact of geophysical conditions;
- c. improvement of construction methods in areas of extreme climatic conditions, such as cold and arid regions, including techniques for erection and finishing of buildings under sustained freezing, and foundation construction under unusual soil conditions;
- d. Services to housing and other buildings, including water supply, waste disposal, heating, lighting, and ventilation, with special reference to combined utility functions; and
- e. planning, design, and construction of new towns.

  Other areas of cooperation may be added by mutual agreement.

Cooperation pursuant to this Agreement may be implemented by the following means:

- a. exchange of experts, advanced students and delegations;
- exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation;
- c. conducting joint conferences, meetings and seminars;
- d. joint development and implementation of research programs and projects; and
- e. other forms of cooperation which may be mutually agreed upon.

Such cooperation shall be conducted in accordance with the constitution and applicable laws and regulations of the respective countries.

#### ARTICLE IV

In furtherance of the aims of this Agreement, the Parties will, as appropriate, encourage, facilitate and monitor the development of cooperation and direct contacts between agencies, organizations and firms of the two countries, including the conclusion, as appropriate, of implementing agreements for carrying out specific projects and programs under this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE V

1. For the implementation of this Agreement, there shall be established a US-USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in Housing and Other Construction. This Committee shall meet, as a rule, once a year alternately in the United States and the Soviet Union, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

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- 2. The Joint Committee shall take such action as is necessary for the effective implementation of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, approval of specific projects and programs of cooperation, designation of appropriate agencies, organizations, and joint working groups to be responsible for carrying out cooperative activities; and making recommendations, as appropriate, to the Parties.
- 3. Each Party shall designate its Executive Agent which will be responsible for coordinating and carrying out this Agreement, and, as appropriate, in their respective countries, shall assure the cooperation of other participating institutions and organizations. During the period between meetings of the Joint Committee, the Executive Agents will maintain contact with each other and will coordinate and supervise the development and implementation of cooperative activities conducted under this Agreement.
- 4. Unless an implementing agreement contains other provisions, each Party or participating institution, organization or firm shall bear the costs of its participation and that of its personnel in cooperative activities engaged in under this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE VI

Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to prejudice other agreements between the Parties or their respective rights and obligations under such other agreements.

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#### ARTICLE VII

- 1. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and remain in force for five years. It will be automatically extended for successive five year periods unless either party notifies the other of its intent to terminate this Agreement not later than six months prior to the expiration of this Agreement.
- 2. This Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties.
- 3. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of implementing agreements concluded under this Agreement between interested agencies, organizations and firms of the two countries.

DONE at Moscow on June 28,1974, in duplicate in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA:

FOR THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:

President of the United

States of America

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Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Richard Nixon

A.Kosygin

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