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*F- UI-Sov Exchange*

*2725*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET~~

April 4, 1985

INFORMATION

Natl Sec Advisor  
has seen

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: JACK F. MATLOCK *JFM*

SUBJECT: Rhinesmith Update on U.S.-Soviet Exchanges

Stephen Rhinesmith, Coordinator for the President's U.S.-Soviet Exchange Initiatives, has just returned from a ten day trip to Moscow. Attached at Tab I is his detailed report. Progress toward implementing the initiatives has been good, and Rhinesmith concludes that, despite complaints about the state of the overall relationship since Geneva, the Soviets are still eager to move ahead with the exchanges.

Attachment:

Tab I Progress report on Geneva Exchange Initiatives

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Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED

Sec. 3.4(b), E.O. 12958, as amended  
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2006  
BY NARA *LM* DATE *5/28/25*

President's United States - Soviet  
Exchange Initiative

Office of the Coordinator



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April 2, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: AMBASSADOR JACK F. MATLOCK

FROM: Stephen H. Rhinesmith  
Coordinator

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Geneva  
Exchange Initiatives

I have just returned from ten days of discussions in Moscow on the implementation of the Geneva Exchange Initiatives. It was a highly productive visit.

Project Status

The Soviets and we have reached agreement on specific projects to implement each of the six people-to-people concepts agreed upon by the President and the General Secretary in Geneva. These project areas are:

- Exchange of ten professors annually;
- Exchange of at least ten undergraduate students annually;
- Increased language exchanges;
- Cooperation in the application of computer software to elementary and secondary education; and the exchange of school children;
- Increased sports competitions and interchanges;
- Resumption of joint cancer research.

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Classified by: Stephen H. Rhinesmith, Coordinator  
President's U.S.-Soviet Exchange Initiative  
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BY LM NARA DATE 5/28/25

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In addition, we are moving rapidly to implement a series of exchange projects under the General Exchanges Agreement. These cover nine different areas: education, youth and citizen exchange, professional exchanges, language study, sports, health, performing arts, exhibits and film.

We carried thirty-seven (37) private sector projects with us representing thirty (30) different organizations. While there, we discussed an additional twenty-one (21) project concepts. Of the total of fifty-eight (58), the Soviets did not reject any out-of-hand. We agreed in principle to thirteen (13); forty (40) more are being seriously considered; and the remaining five (5) we jointly agreed were duplicative or unnecessary.

We will continue intense discussions, including with the U.S. private organizations, over the next eight weeks in order to start some of these exchanges by the end of June.

We expect a visit by a delegation of Soviet officials to the United States the beginning of May for specific discussions with U.S. private sector organizations.

#### Additional Observations

You may be interested in the following observations:

1. Tone - After each incident in recent weeks at the political level, i.e., the U.N. Personnel reduction order, the Crimea exercise of "Right of Innocent Passage," the underground tests and the Libyan demonstration of International Maritime Freedom, the Soviets expressed concern. They saw these as related tests of the political relationship between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and warned repeatedly that cultural relations could not go ahead as fast as they would desire, if the "overall political relationship" was not favorable. I also believe that they feel these incidents have embarrassed General Secretary Gorbachev domestically and have made it difficult for him to agree to discuss dates under "mixed signals" of American commitment. Nevertheless, we could detect no direct significant impact on their willingness to go forward with expanded cultural programs during the time we were there.

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2. Youth exchanges - It is clear that the exchange of teenagers will not come easily. The barriers are cultural, economic, organizational and political. Culturally, teenagers are still considered too young by many parents to be sent abroad to the West. Economically, sending teenagers abroad is not seen as good use of hard currency or scarce Aeroflot space. Organizationally, the Soviets are not structured to select young people to go abroad and do not currently have the manpower, policies or procedures in place to accomplish this. And fourth, the reward of a trip to the United States is so sought after as a political payment by various government and party officials that the thought of using this leverage to send young people will be difficult for them to adjust to. In spite of this, they understand the President's personal interest in youth exchange and I believe they will be responsive in sending selected teen-age groups to the United States this summer.

3. Readiness in health, sports, performing arts, exhibits, TV and film exchanges - It is clear that they are ready to move quickly in these areas and we are already feeling the impact with a telebridged exchange of New Year's greetings, the National Gallery Exhibition in Leningrad and Moscow during the last month, and the visits of Horowitz to the Soviet Union and the Kirov Ballet to the United States in the near future. Many of the 58 projects mentioned earlier are in these areas.

### Conclusion

The Soviets appear eager to develop a broad range of contacts between the people of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. through the Geneva Exchanges Initiatives and the cultural agreement. They are pressing ahead in spite of their expressed concerns about the overall political relationship. We look forward to many projects this year and are fully prepared for a Summit meeting which could demonstrate a great deal of progress in this area since Geneva.

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

9788

Raymond:  
F- US-SN Exchanges

INFORMATION

December 13, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: WALTER RAYMOND, JR. WZ  
SUBJECT: U.S.-USSR Videoconference

**NOTED**

USIA will be holding a USSR videoconference on December 16. This is the useful follow-up to the Geneva meeting and gives us an opportunity to begin to get American faces on Soviet television. There is one rub, and that is that among the participants on the Soviet side will be Dr. Chazov. According to Jack Matlock, Chazov is one of the top physicians in the Soviet Union, and was recently nominated for the Nobel Prize. The press has been critical of his affiliation with a peace group and for his anti-Sakharov stance. There may be some adverse press comment in the U.S. as a result of the USIA videoconference. I have authorized USIA to proceed but not to hype the conference.

Jack Matlock and John Lenczowski concur.

Attachment

Tab I Ltr fr Wick, Dec 5, 85

cc: Ed Djerejian  
Karna Small

**United States  
Information  
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

DEC 06 1985  
Office of the Director

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4544  
December 5, 1985

Dear John:

USIA is preparing a U.S.-USSR videoconference for December 16 which presents exciting public affairs opportunities. The program will last two hours and be devoted to a discussion of advances in medicine between panels of prestigious American and Soviet cardiologists.

This videoconference will be the first USIA-facilitated dialogue with the Soviet Union since the Geneva meeting. It is non-political and, I believe, can be an excellent vehicle to advance the good work which you and the President and other members of the administration so ably began in Geneva.

USIA is planning activities related to the videoconference: attendance at the videoconference by prominent physicians, members of Congress, and administration officials, reception of the feed by Embassies in Europe together with invitations to interested guests, and a press conference to precede the videoconference.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick  
Director

The Honorable  
John Poindexter  
National Security Council  
The White House

F- VI-12  
Exchange

Wm 7

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

December 19, 1985

Dear Nick:

There are a number of organizations and people who have contacted me concerning the upcoming exchange program with the Soviet Union. I will send them to your office for follow-up.

In this case, I am forwarding a letter from John Richardson, President of the Youth for Understanding. John has long been active in East-West exchange serving at one point as an Assistant Secretary of State for Educational, Cultural Affairs. His counsel will be most helpful to you in many ways. His organization, Youth for Understanding, may be specifically relevant but at the same time it would be worth your while to spend some time seeking his views. John also serves as the Chairman of the Board for the National Endowment for Democracy and is a previous President of Radio Free Europe.

Congratulations on your new assignment, and I look forward to working with you in this area.

Sincerely,

Walt

Walter Raymond, Jr.  
Special Assistant to the  
President

Attachment

Ambassador Nicholas Salgo  
c/o Dale Herspring  
Office of the Director  
United States Information Agency  
301 4th Street, S.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20547

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**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING**  
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December 6, 1985

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*Affiliations for Identification Only*

**The Honorable Walter Raymond, Jr.**  
Special Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
National Security Council  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20506

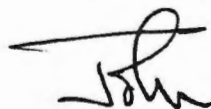
Dear Walt:

My colleagues and I were heartened by President Reagan's Summit proposal to promote youth exchange with the USSR and delighted that General Secretary Gorbachev appeared receptive to the idea.

Having dealt with the Soviets on such matters in the last period when increased exchanges were sought, I am well aware of the difficulties. On the other hand, I agree wholeheartedly on the importance of trying--and persisting.

As one of the oldest, largest and most experienced international youth exchange organizations, Youth for Understanding stands ready to assist in any way we can be useful. I am enclosing a copy of our latest newsletter and our 1984 Annual Report and would appreciate your sharing them with others interested in this initiative.

Sincerely,



**John Richardson**  
President

JR:mk  
Enclosure

9  
*There are only two lasting  
bequests we can hope to  
give our children.*

*One of these is roots;  
the other, wings.* ✨

*Hodding Carter, Jr. Journalist*