

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Press Secretary, White House Office  
of: Press Releases and Press Briefings  
**Folder Title:** Press Releases: 9365 11/21/1985  
**Box:** 118

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Geneva, Switzerland)

FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM Local  
4:00 AM EST

November 21, 1985

U.S. FACT SHEET

US-USSR GENERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

On November 21, 1985, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a general exchanges agreement in Geneva. Formal cultural and educational exchanges with the Soviet Union have existed for more than twenty-five years. The signing of this Agreement is the culmination of a one and a half year process which began in June, 1984 when President Reagan announced that the U.S. was prepared to initiate negotiations on this important agreement.

More Direct Contact Between U.S. and Soviet Peoples

In last Thursday's Address to the Nation on his meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev, President Reagan said, "enduring peace requires openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly." Over the years a major vehicle for this important process has been the General Exchanges Agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This agreement is a concrete expression of that desire.

Goals

In addition to the mutual benefit that comes from sharing expertise, resources, and data in solving common problems, and the cultural richness both sides gain from sharing their best with each other, exchange programs also can help break down barriers, lessen distrust, reduce the levels of secrecy, and bring forth a more open world. As the President said in his 1984 speech to the Smithsonian conference on U.S.-Soviet Exchanges: "Civilized people everywhere have a stake in keeping contacts, communication, and creativity as broad, deep, and free as possible."

What the Agreement Includes

Specific exchange activities addressed in this agreement include:

- reciprocal U.S. and Soviet traveling thematic exhibits on aspects of each country's life and society, to travel throughout the other country accompanied by language qualified guides;
- exchanges of at least ten individual performers and at least ten major performing arts groups of each country;
- expansion of academic and educational exchanges, including: 15 Fulbright teaching professors, 40 long-term IREX researchers, language teacher training programs, language teacher exchange, exchanges between archives and joint seminars;
- exchanges in a wide variety of professional fields such as art, theater, sports, film, architecture, music, law, journalism, medicine, museums, radio and television;
- exchanges of publications, including book exhibits, magazines, technical publications between libraries;

- distribution in the Soviet Union of the magazine America Illustrated and in the United States of Soviet Life;
- exchanges of parliamentarians and other government officials at federal, state, and local levels;
- expansion of civic and social organization exchanges as tourism and sports contacts.

#### Background

Official exchange agreements between the U.S. and the Soviet Union have existed since 1958. The American National Exhibition provided the setting for the famous 1959 Nixon-Khrushchev "kitchen debate." From 1959-72, these activities were sustained by a series of two-year agreements. On June 19, 1973, President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev signed a six-year agreement. U.S.-Soviet exchanges expanded through the 1970s when there were nearly a dozen bilateral cooperative agreements in force in cultural, educational, and scientific and technological fields.

The Exchanges Agreement, while between governments, paves the way for the U.S. private sector to be deeply involved in exchanges. Universities, dance companies, theater groups, athletic organizations, churches, and professional organizations of doctors, lawyers, can all invite their Soviet counterparts to visit the United States for conferences, concerts, tours, professional symposia. In return Americans will pay return visits to all corners of the Soviet Union.

President Reagan has repeatedly called for increased access to television and other media in both countries by agreed representatives. In his speech of last week, the President asked, "If Soviet spokesmen are free to appear on American television, to be published and read in the American press, shouldn't the Soviet people have the same right to see, hear, and read what we Americans have to say?" The agreement now includes the principle of television appearances by representatives of each country.

# # #

## THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Geneva, Switzerland)

FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM Local  
4:00 AM EST

November 21, 1985

U.S. FACT SHEETUS-USSR GENERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

On November 21, 1985, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a general exchanges agreement in Geneva. Formal cultural and educational exchanges with the Soviet Union have existed for more than twenty-five years. The signing of this Agreement is the culmination of a one and a half year process which began in June, 1984 when President Reagan announced that the U.S. was prepared to initiate negotiations on this important agreement.

More Direct Contact Between U.S. and Soviet Peoples

In last Thursday's Address to the Nation on his meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev, President Reagan said, "enduring peace requires openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly." Over the years a major vehicle for this important process has been the General Exchanges Agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This agreement is a concrete expression of that desire.

Goals

In addition to the mutual benefit that comes from sharing expertise, resources, and data in solving common problems, and the cultural richness both sides gain from sharing their best with each other, exchange programs also can help break down barriers, lessen distrust, reduce the levels of secrecy, and bring forth a more open world. As the President said in his 1984 speech to the Smithsonian conference on U.S.-Soviet Exchanges: "Civilized people everywhere have a stake in keeping contacts, communication, and creativity as broad, deep, and free as possible."

What the Agreement Includes

Specific exchange activities addressed in this agreement include:

- reciprocal U.S. and Soviet traveling thematic exhibits on aspects of each country's life and society, to travel throughout the other country accompanied by language qualified guides;
- exchanges of at least ten individual performers and at least ten major performing arts groups of each country;
- expansion of academic and educational exchanges, including: 15 Fulbright teaching professors, 40 long-term IREX researchers, language teacher training programs, language teacher exchange, exchanges between archives and joint seminars;
- exchanges in a wide variety of professional fields such as art, theater, sports, film, architecture, music, law, journalism, medicine, museums, radio and television;
- exchanges of publications, including book exhibits, magazines, technical publications between libraries;

more

(OVER)

- distribution in the Soviet Union of the magazine America Illustrated and in the United States of Soviet Life;
- exchanges of parliamentarians and other government officials at federal, state, and local levels;
- expansion of civic and social organization exchanges as tourism and sports contacts.

#### Background

Official exchange agreements between the U.S. and the Soviet Union have existed since 1958. The American National Exhibition provided the setting for the famous 1959 Nixon-Khrushchev "kitchen debate." From 1959-72, these activities were sustained by a series of two-year agreements. On June 19, 1973, President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev signed a six-year agreement. U.S.-Soviet exchanges expanded through the 1970s when there were nearly a dozen bilateral cooperative agreements in force in cultural, educational, and scientific and technological fields.

The Exchanges Agreement, while between governments, paves the way for the U.S. private sector to be deeply involved in exchanges. Universities, dance companies, theater groups, athletic organizations, churches, and professional organizations of doctors, lawyers, can all invite their Soviet counterparts to visit the United States for conferences, concerts, tours, professional symposia. In return Americans will pay return visits to all corners of the Soviet Union.

President Reagan has repeatedly called for increased access to television and other media in both countries by agreed representatives. In his speech of last week, the President asked, "If Soviet spokesmen are free to appear on American television, to be published and read in the American press, shouldn't the Soviet people have the same right to see, hear, and read what we Americans have to say?" The agreement now includes the principle of television appearances by representatives of each country.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Geneva, Switzerland)

FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM Local  
4:00 AM EST

November 21, 1985

U.S. FACT SHEET

US-USSR GENERAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

On November 21, 1985, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a general exchanges agreement in Geneva. Formal cultural and educational exchanges with the Soviet Union have existed for more than twenty-five years. The signing of this Agreement is the culmination of a one and a half year process which began in June, 1984 when President Reagan announced that the U.S. was prepared to initiate negotiations on this important agreement.

More Direct Contact Between U.S. and Soviet Peoples

In last Thursday's Address to the Nation on his meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev, President Reagan said, "enduring peace requires openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly." Over the years a major vehicle for this important process has been the General Exchanges Agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This agreement is a concrete expression of that desire.

Goals

In addition to the mutual benefit that comes from sharing expertise, resources, and data in solving common problems, and the cultural richness both sides gain from sharing their best with each other, exchange programs also can help break down barriers, lessen distrust, reduce the levels of secrecy, and bring forth a more open world. As the President said in his 1984 speech to the Smithsonian conference on U.S.-Soviet Exchanges: "Civilized people everywhere have a stake in keeping contacts, communication, and creativity as broad, deep, and free as possible."

What the Agreement Includes

Specific exchange activities addressed in this agreement include:

- reciprocal U.S. and Soviet traveling thematic exhibits on aspects of each country's life and society, to travel throughout the other country accompanied by language qualified guides;
- exchanges of at least ten individual performers and at least ten major performing arts groups of each country;
- expansion of academic and educational exchanges, including: 15 Fulbright teaching professors, 40 long-term IREX researchers, language teacher training programs, language teacher exchange, exchanges between archives and joint seminars;
- exchanges in a wide variety of professional fields such as art, theater, sports, film, architecture, music, law, journalism, medicine, museums, radio and television;
- exchanges of publications, including book exhibits, magazines, technical publications between libraries;

- distribution in the Soviet Union of the magazine America Illustrated and in the United States of Soviet Life;
- exchanges of parliamentarians and other government officials at federal, state, and local levels;
- expansion of civic and social organization exchanges as tourism and sports contacts.

#### Background

Official exchange agreements between the U.S. and the Soviet Union have existed since 1958. The American National Exhibition provided the setting for the famous 1959 Nixon-Khrushchev "kitchen debate." From 1959-72, these activities were sustained by a series of two-year agreements. On June 19, 1973, President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev signed a six-year agreement. U.S.-Soviet exchanges expanded through the 1970s when there were nearly a dozen bilateral cooperative agreements in force in cultural, educational, and scientific and technological fields.

The Exchanges Agreement, while between governments, paves the way for the U.S. private sector to be deeply involved in exchanges. Universities, dance companies, theater groups, athletic organizations, churches, and professional organizations of doctors, lawyers, can all invite their Soviet counterparts to visit the United States for conferences, concerts, tours, professional symposia. In return Americans will pay return visits to all corners of the Soviet Union.

President Reagan has repeatedly called for increased access to television and other media in both countries by agreed representatives. In his speech of last week, the President asked, "If Soviet spokesmen are free to appear on American television, to be published and read in the American press, shouldn't the Soviet people have the same right to see, hear, and read what we Americans have to say?" The agreement now includes the principle of television appearances by representatives of each country.

# # #