

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: 9367 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

EXCHANGE OF CONSULATES - KIEV AND NEW YORK

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to open consulates in Kiev and New York, on the basis of full reciprocity in staffing and administrative arrangements. In the Soviet view, this exchange of consulates is contingent on the successful outcome of negotiations on the resumption of civil air service between the two countries. Both sides will conduct further discussions on the specific conditions under which the consulates will be occupied and opened for business.

At the 1974 meeting between President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev, it was agreed to an exchange of consulates in Kiev and New York. Arrangements had proceeded and both countries had advance teams in place looking toward formal opening in 1979 when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. The advance parties were then withdrawn.

In the summer of 1983, we agreed in principle to again move to open in Kiev and New York. Forward progress was stalled by the Soviets, who tied the opening of the consulates with negotiations to resume Aeroflot service. We did not accept their linkage of these issues, and continued to pursue each issue on its own merits.

This agreement on opening consulates is in pursuit of the President's desire to expand contacts and enhance understanding between our two peoples. It is a useful and practical step for both the United States and the Soviet Union. A consulate in Kiev will give us an official American presence in an important Soviet agricultural, cultural and commercial center, which is visited annually by thousands of American tourists.

# # #

Exchange of Consulates - Kiev and New York

Q: When will our Consulates be open?

A: -- We will be discussing specifics with the Soviets in the coming months.

-- We hope to move the issues forward as quickly as possible. Both sides have much to gain in cooperating in the timely and fair resolution of these administrative details.

-- In keeping with our policy of strict reciprocity, our consulates will open for business simultaneously.

Q: Have we settled on a final Consulate office building in Kiev? What will our facilities be like there?

A: -- A US inspection team visited Kiev the week of November 11 to consider potential properties for our consulate.

-- We are continuing to discuss administrative arrangements with the Soviets on this issue.

Q: Why did you choose to open the new consulate in Kiev?

A: -- The US now has posts in Moscow and Leningrad.

-- Kiev is the third most important city in the USSR in terms of cultural and economic accomplishments. It is

a major manufacturing and scientific center.

-- It is visited by thousands of American tourists each year, including many members of the Ukrainian-American community.

Q: What will the consulate in Kiev do?

A: -- Once it has officially opened, the consulate in Kiev will provide the full range of consular services to Americans and Soviets within its consular district.

-- This includes representing the interests of Americans visiting the Ukraine and issuing visas to Soviets traveling to the US from the Ukraine.

-- In addition, the officers of the consulate will maintain contacts with government authorities in the Ukraine (the second most populous Soviet republic, with over fifty million inhabitants), keep the US government informed of developments there, and expand trade and cultural contacts with the region.

Q: Why are we reopening consulates now when we pulled out of Kiev following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan? Does our agreement to exchange consulates with the Soviets mean we no longer object to their presence in Afghanistan?

A: -- Our agreement on consulates does not signal a change in our policy toward the Soviet occupation of

Afghanistan. We have repeatedly made clear to the Soviets our feelings on this subject and we continue to demonstrate our sympathy and support for the Afghan people.

-- Our agreement on consulates is fully in keeping with the President's desire to expand contacts between our two peoples.

-- An official US presence in Kiev is an ideal opportunity to foster understanding between the United States and the citizens of an important cultural, commercial and agricultural area of the Soviet Union.

Q: Why are we letting the Soviets bring more diplomats to the United States? Won't they all be spies?

A: -- Our agreement to open consulates is governed by strict reciprocity.

-- We will insist on strict equality in the size of the US and Soviet consulate staffs.

-- We are fully committed to a policy of substantive equality with the Soviets. We are increasing the number of Americans employed at Embassy Moscow and we expect the overall Soviet presence in the US to decrease. Consulate staffing is only one part of that issue.

Q: What will be the size of the consulate?

A: --I do not have specifics on the staffing at this time.

Q: Do we intend to have Soviets working for us in Kiev?  
Will we have any Soviet staff members?

A: -- I doubt it. However, we do not have specifics for you  
on this at this time.

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

EXCHANGE OF CONSULATES - KIEV AND NEW YORK

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to open consulates in Kiev and New York, on the basis of full reciprocity in staffing and administrative arrangements. In the Soviet view, this exchange of consulates is contingent on the successful outcome of negotiations on the resumption of civil air service between the two countries. Both sides will conduct further discussions on the specific conditions under which the consulates will be occupied and opened for business.

At the 1974 meeting between President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev, it was agreed to an exchange of consulates in Kiev and New York. Arrangements had proceeded and both countries had advance teams in place looking toward formal opening in 1979 when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. The advance parties were then withdrawn.

In the summer of 1983, we agreed in principle to again move to open in Kiev and New York. Forward progress was stalled by the Soviets, who tied the opening of the consulates with negotiations to resume Aeroflot service. We did not accept their linkage of these issues, and continued to pursue each issue on its own merits.

This agreement on opening consulates is in pursuit of the President's desire to expand contacts and enhance understanding between our two peoples. It is a useful and practical step for both the United States and the Soviet Union. A consulate in Kiev will give us an official American presence in an important Soviet agricultural, cultural and commercial center, which is visited annually by thousands of American tourists.

# # #

Exchange of Consulates - Kiev and New York

Q: When will our Consulates be open?

A: -- We will be discussing specifics with the Soviets in the coming months.

-- We hope to move the issues forward as quickly as possible. Both sides have much to gain in cooperating in the timely and fair resolution of these administrative details.

-- In keeping with our policy of strict reciprocity, our consulates will open for business simultaneously.

Q: Have we settled on a final Consulate office building in Kiev? What will our facilities be like there?

A: -- A US inspection team visited Kiev the week of November 11 to consider potential properties for our consulate.

-- We are continuing to discuss administrative arrangements with the Soviets on this issue.

Q: Why did you choose to open the new consulate in Kiev?

A: -- The US now has posts in Moscow and Leningrad.

-- Kiev is the third most important city in the USSR in terms of cultural and economic accomplishments. It is



a major manufacturing and scientific center.

-- It is visited by thousands of American tourists each year, including many members of the Ukrainian-American community.

Q: What will the consulate in Kiev do?

A: -- Once it has officially opened, the consulate in Kiev will provide the full range of consular services to Americans and Soviets within its consular district.

-- This includes representing the interests of Americans visiting the Ukraine and issuing visas to Soviets traveling to the US from the Ukraine.

-- In addition, the officers of the consulate will maintain contacts with government authorities in the Ukraine (the second most populous Soviet republic, with over fifty million inhabitants), keep the US government informed of developments there, and expand trade and cultural contacts with the region.

Q: Why are we reopening consulates now when we pulled out of Kiev following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan? Does our agreement to exchange consulates with the Soviets mean we no longer object to their presence in Afghanistan?

A: -- Our agreement on consulates does not signal a change in our policy toward the Soviet occupation of

Afghanistan. We have repeatedly made clear to the Soviets our feelings on this subject and we continue to demonstrate our sympathy and support for the Afghan people.

-- Our agreement on consulates is fully in keeping with the President's desire to expand contacts between our two peoples.

-- An official US presence in Kiev is an ideal opportunity to foster understanding between the United States and the citizens of an important cultural, commercial and agricultural area of the Soviet Union.

Q: Why are we letting the Soviets bring more diplomats to the United States? Won't they all be spies?

A: -- Our agreement to open consulates is governed by strict reciprocity.

-- We will insist on strict equality in the size of the US and Soviet consulate staffs.

-- We are fully committed to a policy of substantive equality with the Soviets. We are increasing the number of Americans employed at Embassy Moscow and we expect the overall Soviet presence in the US to decrease. Consulate staffing is only one part of that issue.

Q: What will be the size of the consulate?

A: --I do not have specifics on the staffing at this time.

Q: Do we intend to have Soviets working for us in Kiev?  
Will we have any Soviet staff members?

A: -- I doubt it. However, we do not have specifics for you  
on this at this time.