

News Release

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INFORMATION TALKS CONCLUDED; SOVIETS PLAN TO CEASE BROADCASTS VIA CUBA; "OPEN LANDS" CONCEPT REITERATED

Washington, Feb. 28 -- At the third round of U.S.-Soviet Information Talks, the Soviets reported their plan to cease broadcasts via Cuba which have interfered with legitimate American radio stations operating on 1040 kHz.

This was part of a wide ranging series of proposals and agreements reached during two and one-half days of discussions between U.S. and Soviet officials.

For this round of talks, the American delegation included 44 distinguished representatives from the broadcasting, publishing, and newspaper private sector and senior U.S. Government officials. The Soviet delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, was made up of 30 leading Soviet government and media officials.

"The fact that such a high-level and distinguished delegation has been assembled," said Bruce S. Gelb, director of the U.S. Information Agency, "clearly demonstrates the seriousness and importance of these talks." He said a fourth round of talks will take place in Moscow in November of this year.

Mr. Gelb announced that progress has been made on the concept of "Open Lands," initially raised in Wyoming by Secretary of State Baker with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. Mr. Petrovskiy suggested a phased implementation, beginning with journalists, which ultimately will mean abolishing "off limits" areas in the United States for Soviet journalists and for American journalists in the Soviet Union, except for reasons of security.

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The Print Panel, jointly headed by William Pattis, President of NTC Publishing Group, and Boris Pyadyshev, Member of the Collegium of the USSR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented two joint resolutions calling for improved working conditions for U.S. and Soviet journalists stationed in their respective countries, including direct access to information sources; elimination of restraints on movement; and expanded exchanges between news media in the U.S. and USSR. They also agreed to expand university and academic publishing exchanges to include joint and reciprocal translation and publishing ventures.

Mr. Gelb announced:

- *** The Voice of America will send a second correspondent to Moscow, in return for a second Soviet radio correspondent in the U.S.;
- *** The exchange of "1,000/1,000" college students, as proposed by President Bush at the Malta Summit;
- *** An interim increase in the circulation of "America Illustrated" in the Soviet Union and "Soviet Life" in the United States up to 250,000 copies each. The total removal of circulation ceilings will be discussed in the forthcoming Exchange Agreement negotiations.
- *** A reciprocal cost agreement, based on a "receiving side pays" formula, which will enable a fourth showing of the Soviet exhibition "Perestroika" in the U.S. in return for Soviet funding for a showing of the U.S. exhibition "Design USA" in the Soviet Union.
