



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, INC.

OUR BELIEFS

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship was founded in 1943 to bring about better relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. We hold that understanding and cooperation between these two great countries constitute today the foundation-stone of enduring world peace and the chief safeguard against atomic destruction.

The National Council is a non-partisan organization, with no governmental or political affiliations. Its members differ in their political views and in their appraisal of specific points in the policies of both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. But we believe that the cause of international amity must rise above any shortcomings of either country, and that the common interests of the United States and the Soviet Union transcend their disagreements, and that a way can be found for the two systems to live together in peace. We are convinced that such a course will serve the highest interests of our country.

The National Council rejects the thesis that war is inevitable and dedicates itself to the reasonable hope that the United States and the Soviet Union will assume joint leadership in the achievement of a warless world.

We invite patriotic and peace-loving Americans to share in our program for amity, security and peace among the nations.

(Statement of Beliefs as adopted in 1948)



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

Since its founding in 1943, the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been engaged in the task of promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union as a solid foundation for cooperation between these two nations that can help immeasurably in attaining the goal of a secure and peaceful world.

Adopted more than 25 years ago, the National Council's *Statement of Beliefs* is still relevant. Recognized in it are the basic differences in values, objectives and ideology of the two countries — differences that make our work more challenging and that are not to be ignored. There is place for the exchange of constructive criticism in the development of friendly relations but no place for efforts to coerce uniformity.

Peaceful co-existence is possible and desirable but, as a passive attitude, is not enough. Stressing the universal human values that the peoples of both nations share, the National Council seeks, through its diversified program, to bring the peoples — particularly the young people — closer together by providing them with resources for a deeper understanding of each other. With modest means, the Council reaches out and communicates with the widest possible reading, viewing and listening audience throughout the United States.

The National Council's program is divided into the following areas, which at some points overlap: Education, People-to-People Exchange, Outreach, Disarmament and Peace.



EDUCATION

The foundation of our program is education, embodied in a wide-ranging Division of Educational Services. Resources for units of study on the Soviet Union are supplied to high schools, universities and colleges throughout the United States. The organization is presently in contact with 650 high schools and 1,600 college and university educators. These resources include books and pamphlets by United States and Soviet Union authors, maps and charts, photograph and slide sets, periodical and newspaper excerpts and articles from scholarly journals. An average of 30 films a week go into the classroom from our library of 300 documentary films. These films are increasingly booked for use by public libraries and general adult audiences. The educational materials are used not alone in the classroom but by students preparing term papers and theses. Increasingly teachers and students go to the Soviet Union to complete their studies by first-hand observation. The Council arranges their contacts to meet students and teachers in Soviet educational institutions.

The Council has published a series of pamphlets on major phases of Soviet life — workers and their trade unions, farmers and agriculture, education, and the practice of democracy. In a continuing cooperation with the magazine *New World Review*, we reprint articles on the Soviet Union and add our own articles to produce a bi-monthly Bulletin for national circulation to a reading public totaling 15,000.



PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE

People-to-people exchange is the desirable counterpart of the educational program described above. The Council promotes and organizes trips to the Soviet Union and receives Soviet citizens when they come to the United States. People meet people, get to know them, and learn more about them from first-hand association, thus helping them to see each other without false prejudices or illusions.

Adult tours have been a continuous part of the Council's program for eight years. Four or five tours go out annually. Here our organization makes a special contribution because of its long-standing relations with the Friendship Societies in cities of the Soviet Union. Extra excursions are added to regular sightseeing. Those with special interests meet persons having similar interests. There are informal get-togethers where individual meets individual and conversation flourishes.

In turn, several times each year groups from Soviet Friendship Societies visit the United States, sometimes adult, sometimes youth, giving the participants a chance for "on-the-spot" learning about our life style; the opportunity for meeting occupational and professional counterparts, to lecture in our universities, to go on television and radio, and to visit in our homes. Of course, these first-time visitors to our country enjoy the normal sightseeing.

The Council moves in a new direction in tours, sending out specialists for a seminar in depth with their counterparts in the Soviet Union,

school or college teachers, economists, doctors and medical personnel, artists, writers, social workers, architects, specialists in children's theatre, city planners, et al.

The major concentration in the area of exchange is on young people. A delegation of 10 to 15 boys and girls 13 to 15 years of age go each summer to the Young Pioneers' Camp Artek on the Black Sea coast. In 1975 we expect the Young Pioneers to send a delegation to meet USA young people in our youth camps. We organize tours for high school students and for older young people 19 to 30 years of age. Relationships cultivated over several years with Soviet youth leaders result in a large measure of companionship with Soviet youth in every city visited. Last summer our young people visited Togliatti, a growing, new town in which young people are taking an important part in building: the new FIAT automobile plant, a chemical complex, and other industrial plants. A happy meeting of Togliatti young people and ours is the reason for arranging a stop there again in the summer of 1974 with a new tour group — three days of sightseeing, factory tours, sports, visits in Soviet homes. There have been three Holiday Gala trips in successive winters to Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev; each time 30 young people were making their first visit to the Soviet Union.

An important first was reached three years ago when the Youth Division of the National Council co-sponsored with the Committee of Youth Organizations of the Soviet Union an American-Soviet Youth Conference in Minsk. Attending were 100 young people of the USA and an equal number of young Soviets. In 1973 the Soviet young people came here for a second conference under auspices of the American-Soviet Youth Forum in consultation with the National Council, held at two centers in Chicago and Marymount College, Tarrytown, New York, with visits also to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Sixty young Americans returned to the Soviet Union in August, 1974, for the third conference. The site of the fourth conference in 1975 will again be in the USA, probably on the West Coast. Response to these conferences has been most affirmative.



OUTREACH

In addition to the Educational Services and the Youth Division, a Minorities Division is at work in the Council concerned with the problems of communicating with minority peoples and enlisting their cooperation in our activities. More than ever we are reaching Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos and, now, native Americans. We should be extending our efforts to Latin-Americans and Asian-Americans.

Regional societies affiliated with the National Council have bases in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago. These societies conduct vigorous, varied programs similar to those of the National Council, remarkably done with volunteer labor. There are prospects for the organization of permanent committees in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and the Rocky Mountain area.

In the Soviet Union much is being done to tell the truth about the best in the life of the USA and to welcome the exchange of people and ideas. Cooperation in our educational and exchange program is extended by the Institute of Soviet-American Relations with national headquarters in Moscow.







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DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

Of major importance to the Council in this nuclear age is the global problem of arms control. The Council has throughout its history given attention to this problem urging agreement on steps toward, not alone control, but disarmament — beginning with nuclear weapons. With small staff and limited means, our activities are necessarily limited. But the Council accepts responsibility for publishing information on this subject and encouraging continuous negotiation between the two nations to resolve the present controversial issues and bring about agreements for limitation, control and reduction in the production of the weapons of war.

The record is clear: the Soviet Union has made proposals before the United Nations for general and complete disarmament, and particularly for the elimination of nuclear weapons, from 1955 to the latest meeting of the General Assembly when, as a beginning step, the Soviet Union proposed a 10% reduction across the board in armament expenditures, proceeds to be employed in part in funding the needs of developing nations. It is our belief that the Soviet Union will consider seriously and favorably any definite proposals for disarmament that the United States may present. It is certainly to be trusted in the fulfillment of its agreements.

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We in the National Council look hopefully to the future. Bridges are building rapidly these days in the expansion of cultural, scientific and trade relations, in the development of cooperation for health and environmental protection. We shall continue our ever-challenging work of increasing understanding and promoting friendship between the peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union.



