

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7302

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INFORMATION

and his Soviet counterparts -- projects for the installation of jointly operated earthquake detection devices in the US and USSR. **October 9, 1972** **THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Russell Train's Report on his Environmental Talks with the Soviets
encourage these efforts to note that earthquake prediction was specifically called for in Article 2 of the Summit Environmental Agreement, and to note that new seismic devices
Russell Train has returned from the Soviet Union where he chaired the US side during the first meeting of the US-USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. He has forwarded a report on the results of his mission (Tab A). You will be meeting with him on Monday, October 9, 1972, to receive his oral report.

Train's visit went quite well. In summary:

- on September 18, Train was an official guest at the opening session of the Supreme Soviet during which Kirillin delivered an address on the USSR's environmental problems;
- the September 18-21 meeting of the Joint Committee produced agreement on some 30 bilateral environmental projects to be implemented under the agreement;
- from September 22-October 3, Train toured environmental sites of interest in the USSR;
- On October 4, Train met for 90 minutes in Moscow with Podgorny.

Train reports that Podgorny extended personal regards to you on behalf of himself, Brezhnev and Kosygin; said that he wishes you success in the election; and added that there are many more issues between our two nations and that he looks forward to signing many more documents with you.

With regard to Train's report, I would add only that we have encountered one potential problem, that relating to earthquake prediction. The press has picked up the idea that the earthquake prediction projects agreed to by Train

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and his Soviet counterparts -- projects which provide for the installation of jointly operated earthquake detection devices in the US and USSR -- may inadvertently have provided an arms control breakthrough, i. e., the means effectively to detect underground explosions, permitting us to proceed with an underground test ban.

We have advised the Council on Environmental Quality and ACDA not to encourage these attempts at linkage between environment and arms control, to note that earthquake prediction was specifically called for in Article 2 of the Summit Environmental Agreement, and to note that monitoring devices are routinely employed in most environmental research projects.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

October 6, 1972

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Meeting with Chairman Podgorny and Implementation
of U.S. -Soviet Environmental Agreement

On October 4, 1972, I met for 90 minutes in Moscow with N. V. Podgorny, Chairman of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet.

The meeting was in connection with the first session of the Joint U.S. -Soviet Committee on Environmental Protection established in May by the Agreement signed by Podgorny and yourself. The Committee met in Moscow starting September 18, and concluded an implementation agreement which was signed September 21. The implementation agreement initiated over 30 specific projects for environmental cooperation between the U. S. and USSR embracing all of the eleven subject areas covered by the May agreement.

Following the conclusion of the implementation agreement, I had a ten day, nine thousand mile trip that took me to Leningrad, Irkutsk-Lake Baikal, and to Yakutsk on the Lena River in eastern Siberia. (I attach a copy of a report on the trip which I gave the American press in Moscow on my return.) The arrangements and hospitality provided by the Soviets were outstanding. Portions of my trip represented "firsts" for any Americans. The only negative factor was the adamant refusal by the Soviets to permit any U. S. press accompaniment on the trip. It would seem that the better relations established by your May visit do not extend to our press. This is something I believe we should work on.

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The Soviet Government makes few bones today about its environmental problems, although continuing to give lip service to the Marxist line that capitalism/private property is inherently polluting while socialism is not. I was an official guest on September 18 at the opening session of the Supreme Soviet and heard V. Kirillin, Chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology, give the main address which outlined the USSR's environmental problems and objectives.

Soviet efforts to curb both air and water pollution are well behind ours, although the problems are serious. Auto emissions are not yet a major problem. Pollution abatement technology and monitoring instrumentation are behind ours. The general level of sophistication in environmental research is lower. The Soviets tend to be strong on data gathering in some areas, weak on relating the data to decision-making, and weaker yet in dealing with the different pieces of data as part of complex systems. Government responsibility for environment seems badly fragmented. They have a built-in problem in the fact that the polluter and the regulator are one and the same (the Soviet Government). And, finally, they lack generally the kind of public accountability and citizen involvement (other than by the scientific community) that is such a significant element in our society. With all that, it seems evident that the Soviet Government is attaching an increasing priority to environmental protection, welcomes our bilateral relationship, and is probably developing major new government decisions in the area.

Podgorny was accompanied by Kirillin at his meeting with me. He seemed tanned, vigorous, and in good health (although I had been told he was ill). I extended your personal regards and he reciprocated very warmly on behalf of himself, Brezhnev, and Kosygin. He said he wished you success in the election; said that the "entire world, other than China, thinks the May meetings in Moscow very productive;" said he looked forward to signing many more "documents" with you -- that there remain "many more issues" for our two nations; expressed his satisfaction that the various agreements signed in May, including the environmental agreement, are being implemented so vigorously, referring particularly to SALT. I emphasized the interrelationship of the environment agreement with the health, space and science and technology agreements and said that in the trade area the U. S. hoped it would be able to sell pollution abatement equipment to the USSR.

Podgorny expressed his strong support for the environmental agreement and said "our agreement for the protection of the human environment is not only significant for our bilateral relations but for international

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cooperation; it creates a positive political climate. We are striving for this and will continue to strive for it in the future."

Podgorny said that, while the USSR had been working for protection of the environment since the revolution 54 years ago, they recognized that other governments were likewise working on the problem. In this connection, he said, we know of the several statements and messages of Mr. Nixon on the subject, and we have read these with interest.

(Incidentally, Podgorny talked at length about the Olympics, praising the performance of both USSR and U. S. athletes, and likewise the "brilliant" showing of the GDR. He inquired about your interest in sports as both participant and spectator and said "the next time he comes to Moscow we will see a game together.")

He closed by again asking me to convey the best wishes of himself and his associates to you and took me out into the corridor to show me the chess set which you had presented to him and which is on display. He said he did not think that Fischer had played on it.

Our program for environmental cooperation which you initiated in May is off to an excellent start. Soviet interest seems strong. In terms of strengthening and broadening institutional and individual contacts and relationships between our two countries, there are immense potential gains for both sides.


Russell E. Train
Chairman

cc: Mr. John D. Ehrlichman
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger