

our family system, the treatment of the aged, women's liberation, and that whole pace-setting catalogue of U.S. problems that the mass media carry around the world. It's another human trait that bad news evokes more interest than success and achievement and it certainly sells more papers. Be prepared to be quizzed on the disturbing aspects of life in late 20th century America. Intellectuals abroad may not admit it, but they have a sneaking suspicion that we are acting out their future. They are probably close to the mark when it comes to the industrialized countries.

Here too, TAA may be of help in obtaining for you the kind of replies to hundreds of questions about America given by tour guides in government-sponsored U.S. exhibits abroad. Look them over. You might be called upon to make some impromptu remarks or answer questions at a Sister City gathering. Be prepared. A final bit of advice from Darien: Watch your hosts for cues on customs. Follow their lead; don't show your surprise; relax.



Getting There

The Atlantic and Pacific oceans which have long lost their function as a protective moat around America are now also declining as financial barriers to travel in either direction. Of course, it is still cheaper to travel

within than between continents, and in western Europe for example, thousands of visits by groups and individuals are exchanged among Sister Cities, usually during the summer vacation season.

With the United States becoming less expensive as a travel objective for Europeans and Japanese whose currencies have increased in value relative to the dollar and the recent easing of charter regulations facilitating group travel by Americans, the stage is set for a surge in Sister City visits in the years ahead. Many U.S. committees have already discovered the usefulness of charter flights and package tours arranged with travel agencies as cost-saving devices for the organization of Sister City visits.