

Chapter V



CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Visits are the best way to sustain continuing personal contact between two cities, but they have to be carefully prepared to get the most out of them. The concept of preparations should not be limited to travel arrangements. While

charters and package tours worked out with your travel agent can cut costs considerably and make Sister City vacation trips attainable for a growing number of your members, common courtesy and good sense require that you know a bit about your Sister City and its culture before you set out on the trip. The learning experience involved can be fun, instructive and mind-stretching all by itself besides providing program pegs for committee activities.

What Kind?

The types of activities organized by committees to lay the groundwork for individual or group visits to the Sister City are varied and often bring many new resource people into the program.

They include:

- -- Language classes, normally conducted by professional instructors assisted in some cases by committee members fluent in the Sister City language. Recent arrivals from the country or language area involved might be called upon to cooperate; maybe there are even exchange students or teachers from "your" city around who can lend a hand in this worthwhile activity.
- -- Lectures, travelogues, slide shows and films on aspects of the Sister City culture area, its history, language, arts and literature. Faculties of local or nearby universities