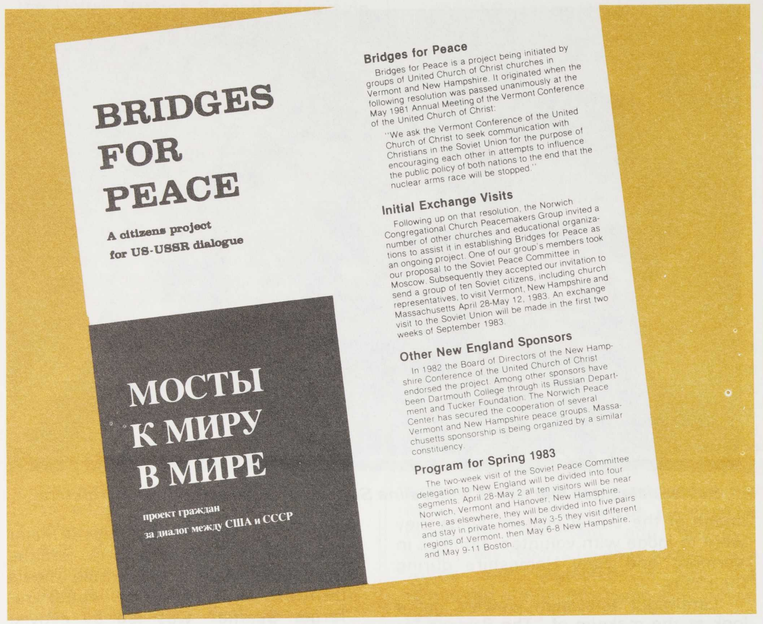


BRIDGES FOR PEACE

A citizens project for US-USSR dialogue

МОСТЫ К МИРУ В МИРЕ

проект граждан за диалог между США и СССР

Bridges for Peace

Bridges for Peace is a project being initiated by groups of United Church of Christ churches in Vermont and New Hampshire. It originated when the following resolution was passed unanimously at the May 1981 Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ:

"We ask the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ to seek communication with Christians in the Soviet Union for the purpose of encouraging each other in attempts to influence the public policy of both nations to the end that the nuclear arms race will be stopped."

Initial Exchange Visits

Following up on that resolution, the Norwich Congregational Church Peacemakers Group invited a number of other churches and educational organizations to assist it in establishing Bridges for Peace as an ongoing project. One of our group's members took our proposal to the Soviet Peace Committee in Moscow. Subsequently they accepted our invitation to send a group of ten Soviet citizens, including church representatives, to visit Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts April 28-May 12, 1983. An exchange visit to the Soviet Union will be made in the first two weeks of September 1983.

Other New England Sponsors

In 1982 the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ endorsed the project. Among other sponsors have been Dartmouth College through its Russian Department and Tucker Foundation. The Norwich Peace Center has secured the cooperation of several Vermont and New Hampshire peace groups. Massachusetts sponsorship is being organized by a similar constituency.

Program for Spring 1983

The two-week visit of the Soviet Peace Committee delegation to New England will be divided into four segments. April 28-May 2 all ten visitors will be near Norwich, Vermont and Hanover, New Hampshire. Here, as elsewhere, they will be divided into five pairs and stay in private homes. May 3-5 they visit different regions of Vermont, then May 6-8 New Hampshire, and May 9-11 Boston.

United Church of Christ literature describes invited Soviet delegation.

(Thirteenth) Dartmouth Conference was held in the Soviet Union. The Kettering Foundation is principal funder of these Conferences. A Kettering spokesperson made it plain to the writer that this Denver meeting was not a public affair.

Arbatov Flaunts U.S. Rules

A minor flurry of press activity arose when Arbatov appeared during the same American trip at a conference at Grinnell College in Iowa. It was reported that the Soviet spokesman had visa authorization only to attend meetings, but not to speak to the media. According to ABC News, this was "the first time ever" that "a Soviet official was told that contact with the press would constitute a visa violation." However, Arbatov not only spoke at this event, but also gave an interview to the *Des Moines Register*. His message, of course, was that U.S. arms policy is dangerous.

On the night of April 20-21, NBC television showed Arbatov, speaking (illegally) during his Iowa trip. He spoke sternly of the grave consequences of the present American arms policies. It appears that Mr. Arbatov is now spending more time in our country than in his own, propagandizing all over the U.S.A.

To place Arbatov's "Institute" in a realistic context, we note that on April 21, 1983, within hours of Arbatov's speech in Iowa, one of his IUSA&C employees accredited to this country, Aleksandr Nikolayevich Mikheyev, was expelled from the United States for attempting to secure classified political information from an aide to Congresswoman Olympia Snow of Maine. We can only speculate how many of Mikheyev's colleagues are also KGB agents in IUSA&C disguise.

The ABC television news program "20/20" highlighted the media ban on Arbatov's April-May trip, giving him an opportunity to mock the State Department's impossible-to-enforce gag rule. But much more significant was ABC's revelation that while on this visit Arbatov had a number of other, unadvertised appointments, closed to both the public and press. One of these was the arms control task force planning meeting for the next Dartmouth Conference on the twentieth floor of a Denver hotel.

Newswoman Sylvia Chase noted that among the participants, rather astonishingly, were retired Air Force Lt.Gen. Brent Scowcroft and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. David Jones. Chase reported that she was told that "Arbatov is a veteran of these sessions, and there's concern about restrictions on this U.S. trip."

It appears that ABC did little homework on the Dartmouth Conferences, making no mention of the fact that in recent years the Soviet participants have included Arbatov (as co-chairman); other IUSA&C officials such as Valentin Berezhkov (named above) and Radomir Bogdanov (identified by the CIA as a long time KGB operative); and Georgiy Zhukov, deputy to the Supreme Soviet, USSR, and chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee. Another regular at these conferences is Vladimir Gantman. Gantman was one of the leaders of the October 1982 tour sponsored by the United Church of Christ.

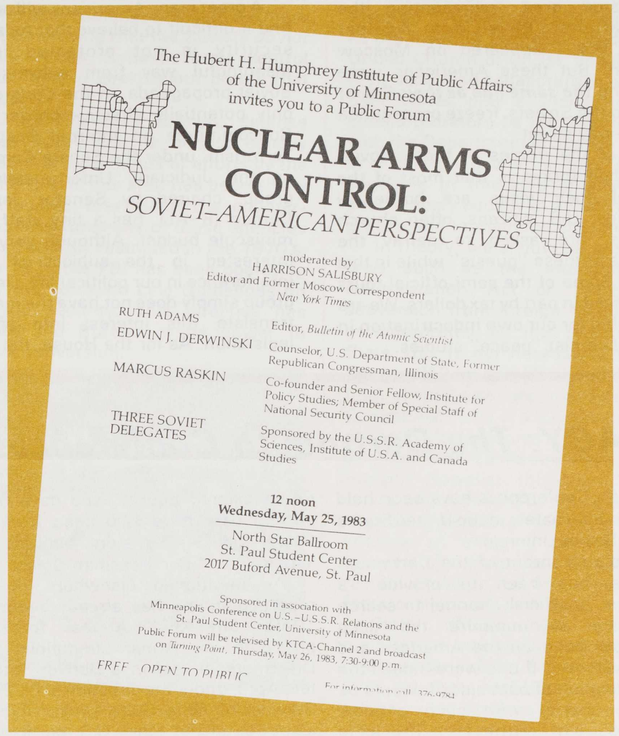
ITEM: In the same NBC news segment, viewers saw Vitaliy Zhurkin, identified as "from the Soviet embassy in Washington." Zhurkin spoke to students at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, again stressing the wrongness of American nuclear policies and the correctness of the Soviet positions. Zhurkin is Arbatov's deputy in IUSA&C.

IUSA&C In America's Heartland

ITEM: Probably the most ambitious, and certainly the most audacious, freeze initiative directly involving Soviets in this country was the "citizens conference" on nuclear arms limitation convened May 24-28 in Minneapolis. This affair was sponsored jointly by the Soviet IUSA&C and the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), America's premier left think-tank. Twenty-eight Soviet delegates requested visas to attend. The U.S. delegation of fifty persons included freeze leaders and many of the bright lights of the American left.

In order to insure maximum media coverage, IPS engaged the services of an Alexandria, Virginia, public relations firm. Its advance press notice stated that this event was a direct outgrowth of the visit by a ten-man delegation to Moscow in April of last year, under the auspices of the IPS. (See the June 1982 *Washington Report*). One of the persons with whom IPS heads Borosage and Raskin conferred at that time was Vadim Zagladin, deputy chief of the International Department, Central Committee, CPSU. It is therefore realistic to assume that the Soviets directly stage-managed the Minneapolis spectacle. (See the March 24 FBI report cited above).

The official host for the Minneapolis conference was the city's mayor, Donald Fraser, who was also a participant in the IPS trip to Moscow in 1982. He has a considerable history of involvement in left/liberal activities. Fraser's wife Arvonne is associated with the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at



The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs of the University of Minnesota invites you to a Public Forum

NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL: SOVIET–AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

moderated by HARRISON SALISBURY
Editor and Former Moscow Correspondent
New York Times

RUTH ADAMS — Editor, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist*

EDWIN J. DERWINSKI — Counselor, U.S. Department of State, Former Republican Congressman, Illinois

MARCUS RASKIN — Co-founder and Senior Fellow, Institute for Policy Studies; Member of Special Staff of National Security Council

THREE SOVIET DELEGATES — Sponsored by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Institute of U.S.A. and Canada Studies

12 noon
Wednesday, May 25, 1983

North Star Ballroom
St. Paul Student Center
2017 Buford Avenue, St. Paul

Sponsored in association with
Minneapolis Conference on U.S.–U.S.S.R. Relations and the
St. Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota
Public Forum will be televised by KTCA-Channel 2 and broadcast on *Turning Point*, Thursday, May 26, 1983, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

FREE OPEN TO PUBLIC

For information call 376-9784

Public portion of IPS-IUSA&C conference in Minneapolis / St. Paul.

the University of Minnesota, which conducted a public forum called "Nuclear Arms Control: Soviet-American Perspectives" on May 25 as part of the IPS-IUSA&C conference.

Due in part to State Department delay in approving the Soviet visa requests, the IPS managed to launch little in the way of favorable publicity for the conference in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. On the other hand, a number of groups opposing the nuclear freeze and Soviet policies in general staged demonstrations and to some extent disrupted sessions of the meeting to which the public had access. Some Soviet delegates reacted angrily to direct accusations by Jewish and other emigre groups, regarding Soviet human rights violations. One Soviet spokesman said he was sure there were Nazis among the unfriendly audience in St. Paul, a poorly chosen statement seized upon by the assembled media.

A State Department spokesperson informed this writer that visa requests for two of the 28 Soviets were denied. These were Nikolay V. Mostovets and Aleksandr R. Astaf'yev. Mostovets is one of the highest ranking Soviets to participate in such trips. He is chief of the U.S. Section of the Communist Party Central Committee. Mostovets has visited here often before, as a delegate to Dartmouth Conferences, and as a member of a delegation to U.S. cities in December 1981, sponsored by US-USSR Citizens' Dialogue. We wonder why Mikhail Mil'steyn, ex-GRU general, was not also included.

It is unclear whether these visa denials were based on derogatory information on the two Soviets from U.S. Intelligence agencies, or due to last-minute pressure on State from Jeremiah Denton and other members of the Senate, and a large group of House members, to exclude the entire delegation. In any case, the fact that State felt compelled to exclude these individuals says a great deal about the nature of this visit and the motives of the Soviet government in co-sponsoring it. In light of the evidence presented by the CIA and FBI, no one can seriously maintain that the Soviet Peace Committee representatives are not acting as agents of their government when they participate in such political action shows. Indeed, it appears that they themselves could not always maintain the fiction of being simply interested individuals. The campus newspaper *Dartmouth Review* noted the following about IUSA&C deputy Yuriy Zamoshkin, who headed "The Bridges for Peace" delegation:

> Zamoshkin, while at Dartmouth, admitted fairly readily that the group he was sponsored by was a wing of the Soviet government. He countered though that he agreed with the government's position on his own free will: "Americans seem to think that you have to be a dissident in the Soviet Union to be a person."

The Soviet propaganda presentations listed above are only those which have been brought to our attention in recent weeks. There have undoubtedly been others, and we can expect that 1983 will see many more of these as the crucial battle for American public opinion on the freeze issue goes on.

Security Non-existent Against Soviet Propagandizing

We can only deplore again the fact that there are no legal barriers or guidelines to block such flagrant assaults upon the security of the United States. There can be no doubt that some of the success of the domestic freeze program is due to the ease with which the Soviets gain access to and manipulate American public opinion. This two-way mobility of the freeze advocates, domestic and foreign, helped by the almost total lack of any applicable sedition or subversion laws, greatly increases the effectiveness of the experts at the Institute of the USA & Canada. Propaganda tactics and techniques can be coordinated, tested and refined on the spot, *in this country, all quite legally.*

The standard argument for encouraging visits of Soviet nationals to this country to participate in "peace" and disarmament discussions is to build confidence and trust between the two peoples. But this justification does not hold up in practice, since there is no reciprocity in these initiatives. It is inconceivable that any U.S. delegation with arms control views different from the Soviet line would ever be allowed to speak to a Soviet audience. This was emphasized on the ABC "20/20" show mentioned above in connection with Georgiy Arbatov's trip to Iowa. On that program we heard the following:

> **Sylvia Chase:** To economist Marshall Goldman, access also means freedom of movement, something denied to him on a recent trip to the USSR.
>
> **Goldman:** I'm happy to have Arbatov harassed; I mean that he deserves it.
>
> **Chase:** Goldman says Arbatov