SPOTLIGHT

The Citizens Democracy Corps (CDC) is a private, nonprofit organization that channels voluntary assistance from the United States to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Soviet Union (USSR).

On May 12, 1990, President Bush announced the establishment of the Citizens Democracy Corps to "support democratic change and market-oriented economic reform in Eastern Europe by mobilizing and coordinating American private sector initiatives." CDC promotes U.S. volunteer initiatives and matches them with requests for assistance from Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Located in Washington, D.C., the CDC primarily functions as an information clearinghouse; it collects and disseminates information about U.S. businesses, nonprofit organizations and government programs that assist countries of Central and Eastern Europe in their transition to pluralistic societies and market-oriented economies.

The CDC matches skilled volunteers and voluntary organizations in the U.S. with selected requests for assistance from organizations in CEE.

The Citizens Democracy Corps is located at:
1815 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006. Telephone: 800-321-1945 or 202-872-0933.

PRAGUE TO HOST CONFERENCE

Seven hundred municipal leaders, a roughly equivalent number from Eastern and Western Europe, will meet in Prague September 19-21 to explore opportunities for cooperation in areas of municipal and economic development, citizen participation and the environment.

Conference organizers, the mayors' offices of Rotterdam and Prague, have asked Sister Cities International to participate. American municipal management is well respected in Eastern Europe and the SCI sponsored Poland Municipal Education and Training Program has aroused the interest of Western European cities that are considering various models of cooperation.

Representatives from 18 European cities and municipal organizations, SCI and the National League of Cities (USA) met in Prague Feb. 11-12 to plan the September Conference which will include plenary sessions and small working groups and will feature a cultural program for participants.

U.S. cities enjoy nearly three dozen sister city links with Eastern and Central European cities, and many of these partnerships are supporting municipal cooperation programs. Participation from these cities will add to the success of the September conference.

The Prague conference will continue a process begun with the meeting of representatives of more than 220 European cities in Rotterdam in May, 1990 to initiate municipal contacts.

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Personnel Department Paul Brayer, organized a full week of visits that included the Departments of Economic Development, Community Development, Budget, Employment and Training and Police.

Prof. Pankowicz also discussed future cooperation prospects with Monroe County officials, the Center for Governmental Research, the State University of New York at Brockport, the Monroe County Library, as well as with the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee chairs, Wojciech and Maria Przezdziecki.

Prof. Pankowicz reported that he saw many possibilities for training of Krakow's newly elected officials in Rochester as well as cooperation around urban and social problems common to both cities.

SENATOR REGULSKI ADDRESSES SCI BOARD, COORDINATORS

The SCI staff welcomed a group of one-hundred to Washington, March 13-16, for the mid-winter board and state coordinator meetings.

One of the highlights of the meeting was an address to the delegates by Senator Jerzy Regulski, head of the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy in Poland. In the luncheon speech, Regulski thanked the U.S. for its support of the development of local government systems in Poland and underscored the successes of the the training centers in Poland.

He further indicated that several of the Polish training centers were prepared to aid in local government training for city officials from other Central European countries and the Soviet Union.

"CELEBRATE 35": SCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 35th Annual Sister Cities International Conference will be held in Chicago, IL, July 17-20, at the Palmer House Hotel. For those delegates who are particularly interested in Central and Eastern Europe, two workshops will be of special interest. The first is a workshop on affiliations in Central/Eastern Europe and the USSR. Representatives from those countries will discuss the challenges of managing sister city programs in their countries.

The second will be a workshop called "Emerging Democracies Around the World." Panelists from Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa will discuss the prospect of the development of local government in their own countries.

Senator Regulski, right, consults with SCI Poland Project Director, Andy Golebiowski.