

# CITIZEN DIPLOMACY: Let peace begin with each of us

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International Dialogue

The Mideast war is a daily reminder for all that peace does begin within each one of us and that there are no boundaries or borders between the souls of people. It is a reminder that there is no separation between nations, states, and people and that when one child suffers, children everywhere suffer. It is a reminder that the hunger in the world is not just physical but spiritual hunger, and that the sanctity and security of the world as we once knew it is painfully dissolving into the light of the new being born.

In the past years, the psychological interplay between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. has led to growing tension in the world and the emergence of a new kind of citizen, a citizen who at a time when the leaders were not speaking, decided that the people must speak; a citizen who had the courage to cross the borders of their personal, political, and ideological beliefs to embrace the oneness of humanity. This citizen is known as a citizen diplomat. Citizen diplomats over the years have become a bridge between the "grassroots" and the bureaucracy. They span the gaps of separation between people and nations.

Since 1984, the Center for Soviet-American International Dialogue has been establishing bi-lateral relations between citizens of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. that have led to policy changes between our governments. We have conducted over forty conferences and specialized exchanges bringing more than four-thousand Americans to the U.S.S.R. and hundreds of Soviets, in turn, to the U.S. Both Soviets and Americans found their lives transformed in the process.

Our purpose has been to create an atmosphere of love and acceptance in which people of multiple backgrounds and cultures can come together to explore their commonalities and differences with one another. Through this dialogue process, participants are encouraged to reassess previously held concepts and beliefs and within an atmosphere of mutual understanding, are encouraged to seek positive joint solutions that can be implemented at the citizen level.

CSAID developed and sponsored the first Soviet-American Citizens Summit, Washington, D.C. 1988: "A New Way of Thinking" and Soviet-American-International Citizens Summit II, Moscow 1990: "Restoring the Global Environment: Sustainable Development for the New

*"If we are devoted to the cause of humanity we will soon be crushed and brokenhearted. But if our motive is to love God, no ingratitude can hinder us from serving our fellow human beings." -- Eleanor Roosevelt*

Millennium". During these Summits, more than 1,200 Soviet and American citizens met in task forces for the development of ongoing joint projects in fields such as: ecology, energy and economics, business and trade; human rights; education for a positive future; wholistic health and healing; global security; conflict resolution; international terrorism (finding solutions together); media and the arts; and religion, spirituality and New Thought principles.

These projects and human interactions have ignited a ripple effect leading to more than one million people now interacting with the Soviet people as a result.

Our jointly staffed office in Moscow serves as a communication link between Soviets and Americans. These offices enable CSAID to play a pivotal role in assisting the development of joint projects. Our office also serves as a "Citizens Embassy" in helping Soviet citizens and visiting foreigners with travel and visa support, homestays, seminars, lectures, and specialized meetings both in the U.S. and U.S.S.R..

We have just opened an office in the Kiev in the Ukrainian Republic of the U.S.S.R.. Its primary purpose is to work in areas of medical and wholistic health as a liaison for citizens of the U.S. and other countries wishing to work with victims and refugees of Chernobyl. We are responding to rapid changes now taking place in the U.S.S.R. and the emerging independence in it's Republics.

CSAID fosters productive radio programs and panel exchanges. These provocative dialogues are broadcast by local and national radio stations throughout the Republics of the U.S.S.R.. They are humanistic in their content, and support the desire for autonomy and newly emerging rights of self-determination within its Republic.

We have been told our work over these last several years has made a significant contribution to the Soviet people and the ending of the cold war. For many of us it has been about trying to create peace, it has been the expression of our own inner evolutionary journey of learning to follow inner guidance, and letting

life's outer actions come from that peaceful center within.

## The Mideast Initiative

Now as we enter the decade approaching the new millennium, the advent of change is accelerating not only in our own country but throughout the world. One result is that CSAID is now being invited to expand the success and spirit of its work into areas of crisis within the Middle East.

For the past two years we have been invited to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel to create Soviet-American-Arab-Israeli Dialogue as a reasonable way to promote solutions of political, economic, humanitarian and ecological concerns which are presently overshadowed by present war crises.

In May of 1990, we travelled to the Middle East on a fact finding mission to establish a third Citizens Summit that was to be a Soviet-American Citizen's Alliance for Peace in the Middle East. We gained support from

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## Embrace The Wind

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Option Magazine, Nov./Dec. '89

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John von Rhein, Chicago Tribune





Max Lafser and Rama Vernon of the Center for Soviet-American Dialogue

Egyptian, Israeli and Palestinian citizens and officials. Our vision is to build upon our foundations of Soviets and Americans working together and establish this as a model of the new relationship that can be adapted to dialogue with citizens and leaders throughout the Middle East.

The current situation in the Middle East does not entirely alter the regional conflicts that are presently overshadowed by the war. Even though at this time, we are not sure of the outcome . . . we do know that now more than ever, dialogue is critical.

We have just held our first meeting of Arab-American Dialogue in our Seattle, Washington office with Arab-American representatives from Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Soviet Union and the United States. We feel that the first step of bringing the Arab-American community with Soviets and Americans working together for a common purpose can serve as an example of what is possible within the Middle East and within our own U.S. communities.

CSAID is also preparing teams of specialists in non-official dialogue to

work in obvious areas of hostilities in the Middle East.

Citizens everywhere need to know that with every thought, word and action, they can and do make a difference. You can practice citizen diplomacy in your own life by:

- ① Applying principles of non-violence in thoughts and words and reducing critical evaluation of others.
- ② Crossing borders within your own consciousness and your own life to model the change you would like to see within the world.
- ③ Becoming a beacon of patience, understanding and love to all those attempting to do the same and to those who are resistant.
- ④ Honoring and celebrating one another's differences as well as the similarities.
- ⑤ Harmoniously aligning those differences in order to create and build together with others.
- ⑥ Continually refining elements of non-judgement in order to hold "two points of view simultaneously."
- ⑦ Developing an intuitive sense of timing, that is, "knowing when to yield and when to be firm; when to speak out and when to be silent".
- ⑧ Realizing that you are the architect of your own destiny.

⑨ Embracing the planet as the parent would embrace his or her own child.

⑩ Helping the field of unconditional love for all people everywhere so together we can recognize our common humanity.

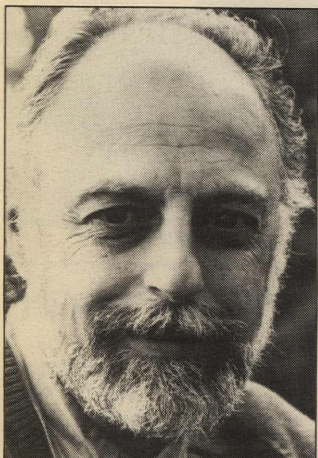
As we apply the elements of citizen diplomacy in our own lives, we begin to reflect and model the change we would like to see within the world. In turn, what we experience through our international interactions can be equally applied to the people and and leaders within our own nation, our own community and equally important, to those within our own home.

*Reverend Max Lafser, Chairman of the Board, Center for Soviet American International Dialogue, co-coordinator of the Soviet-American Citizen's Summit in Moscow 1990, is a Unity minister of twenty years and is currently developing conflict resolution training and citizen diplomacy seminars through CSAID in the U.S.S.R. and internationally.*

*Rama Vernon, Founder/President, Center for Soviet American International Dialogue has a background in East-West Psychology, Asian Philosophy, and Comparative Religion. She has co-developed Conflict Resolution Dialogues and led the development of more than 700 Soviet-American projects.*

*For more information on the Center for Soviet-American International Dialogue, call 206/623-2423.*

## Quantum Physics: Changing one's thinking could change oneself and society



Dr. Fred Alan Wolf, PH.D.

Wolf thinks the Unity message and his discoveries about the nature of the universe are closely aligned. Dr. Fred Alan Wolf is a frequent speaker at Unity centers.

"A lot of things I am saying about

the way the mind works are very similar to what the Fillmores were teaching when they founded the Unity movement one-hundred years ago," observes Wolf.

"My feelings are that I strike a cord with Unity students. I feel a genuine affection and joining of minds and souls when I am with Unity people.

"The Fillmores' teachings bring down to earth a spiritual discipline -- rather than blindly following some religious doctrine, no matter what the outcome.

"Charles and Myrtle Fillmore wanted practical results. If you do certain things, you are going to receive certain benefits. Their work stresses there are benefits from a spiritual discipline.

"I bring ideas of the quantum world to people because I feel they are relevant to our lives. These ideas can help us understand many of the motivations, psychology and behavioral aspects of human life.

"In the quantum age, the observer,

in observing atomic or quantum systems affect these systems merely by observing. Thus bringing the rule of observation, perception or consciousness into the arena of physical matter," says the physicist.

"The question becomes, if the observer can affect matter by observing it, what about the observer observing one's self? If I observe my body, can I affect my body? If I observe another human being, can I affect my relationship with that human being? It turns out that we can.

"By changing one's thinking, one can change oneself, society and the environment," states Wolf.

Dr. Fred Alan Wolf continues to share and demonstrate his concepts of quantum physics and how they apply to human consciousness and relationships. His next project is writing a book or two about dreams and the mind at death. He is working with people who have either gone through near-death experiences or have researched them.

### MIDDLE EAST PRAYER

For the leaders of the nations, we pray for wisdom.

For those who have been called to do their duty in service to their country, we pray for protection, peace of mind, and good judgment.

For those who have been reported captured or missing in action, we prayerfully hold this thought: You are safe in God's love, for wherever you are, God is there to strengthen and sustain you.

For those who need comfort during this difficult time, we affirm: You are not alone, for the Holy Spirit of peace and love abides with you to comfort and sustain you.

Especially for the children who observe from all sides of the conflict, we affirm: You are safe and secure, dear child of God, for you are God's beloved.

We pray for true freedom for the civilian population in the affected region.

For we who have been called to stand steadfast in faith, we pray:  
**Almighty God, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin within my heart today.**