

## **CSAD Expansion**

The Center for Soviet-American Dialogue has been conducting trips, exchanges and conferences to the Soviet Union since 1984. We have been very successful in providing a forum whereby individuals are able to discuss similar ideas, goals and ideals in many areas of critical social, economic, political, and environmental interest free of institutional bias of the organizer; the outgrowth of these interactions has been the birth of some 300 joint projects and joint ventures!

While we are pleased with our success as the unbiased organizer, the multitude and frequency of contacts with individuals and organizations from other countries in other parts of the world has highlighted the very problem which we and others are attempting to overcome between the superpowers: the problem of lateral communication within and between peoples, races and countries. Because of the depth and breadth of CSAD's work, we have developed and are yet developing networks in many countries of the world with sensitive and often hostile domestic and international situations. We believe and have found to be true the following: all conflicts have as a root cause a lack of adequate lateral communication at the elemental level of the citizenry. Furthermore, the solutions to such conflict at the diplomatic and state level receive their impetus from communication and effort between and among interested parties at this most basic and fundamental level.

We feel that our organizational abilities allow us to play a unique and important role at this level in those areas where conflicts and hostilities are present. Moreover, because our network of support is truly multinational, we believe our role as organizer and developer of such communication should be global. With our record of success in the Soviet Union and the United States and our ability to relate our methodology to those peoples involved in conflicts in all regions well established, the Center for Soviet-American Dialogue presents this expansion plan.

The Center for Soviet-American Dialogue will change its name to reflect its international status; the organization will become the Association for Global Dialogue, and hereafter referred to as AGD. The present Board of Trustees and Advisory Boards will be expanded to include prominent private and public individuals with a desire to assist the organization and a keen interest to ease tensions in current "hot spots". An Executive Director with the ability to work in many areas of the world, with a strong working knowledge of current social, economic and political trends in these areas, and with some proficiency in Russian and perhaps Arabic will be sought and hired by the expanded Board. An Operations Director should be hired with expertise in office administration and computer database management. A highly-skilled international law office should be placed on retainer for all operations. Staff persons will be hired for various skills and job descriptions as outlined by the following operational plan and budgetary figures:



### *Seattle*

This will remain our main office or headquarters. We feel it should remain as headquarters because of the many non-profit groups located here and the recently announced plans to begin transpacific flights to and from the Soviet Union. It is essential to retain a West Coast office and we feel it best it remain the base of operations and central databank. The present Seattle office includes a nationally-registered historic wing which contains a conference room, Victorian study and open and efficient space for 3 people. The size of the office will be expanded to hold 6 people. The rent is currently subsidized because our computer, fax and copier are shared by other tenants. With the expanded operations of AGD, the subsidization of rent will be cut as a result of computer use becoming exclusively for AGD. The rent will also rise with the expansion in staff.

### *Washington, DC*

Due to the international scope of AGD's work, it is essential to establish an office in Washington or its environs. And because of the presence and increased level of support from Washington-based organizations and Washington's position as center of government, Rama Vernon and Max Lafser will consider establishing their personal residence in this city. This will also allow them to be near a convenient exit point for travel to the USSR, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Central America.

With communication links almost completely digital in the U.S., inter-office communication between this office and the headquarters in Seattle will be virtually transparent and allow for the offices to function in tandem. Information will be accessed by modem from the databanks located in Seattle.

### *New York*

Because of our concentrated network of affiliations in New York city, it is imperative we have at least a "one desk" office with computer link, fax and telecommunications. Many business and trade requests come from New York and since JFK, International is the departure point for USSR and Middle East travel, there will be frequent travel to and from New York. It is also the main point of entry for Soviet business and still the largest hub for international commerce. Moreover, because of the international work, this multi-national city is essential to our work and requires a permanent, full-time office.



## *Moscow*

Our Moscow office, housed in the Soviet Peace Committee, is currently serving in a limited capacity as a communication hub for Soviets and Americans. It should be expanded to become the primary resource for Americans visiting Moscow; serving as a network and communications center for the growing American business community and foreigners working on joint projects. For the Soviets, it is and shall continue to be a place for Soviet citizens to informally meet and network with each other (a rarity in the Soviet Union). Through our "communication project" (see Addendum A), this aspect of our Moscow office will guarantee AGD a pivotal role in Soviet-foreign joint project development.

Through our office coordinator, Joan Reed, we have established regular bi-monthly Citizen Dialogue Roundtables, which are highly regarded and quite successful. They are broadcast in the USSR on Radio Moscow and will soon be broadcast in the US. These Roundtables are the initial step in developing a sense of comradeship and trust between hostile factions within the Soviet Union and its Republics. Future success of these Roundtables will bring awareness within these factions that overt hostility is tantamount to ensuring continued social and economic stagnation. It is with this type of first step that hostilities recede, replaced with a shared sense of the cooperation necessary to enable these cultures to enter and compete within contemporary Western society. As a result of our recent trip to Kiev, Tbilisi, Yerevan and Baku, our office will begin this very work in the Republics at their invitation.

We have established the Citizens Dialogue Roundtables in these republics and by Fall will be broadcasting them on radio and television. In the Ukraine dialogue will begin on the aftermath of Chernobyl and its complications; in Georgia, business and trade and ecology dialogue will be the first topics; in Armenia, the earthquake aftermath and the emotional realities of genocide; and in Baku, the recent hostility caused by the government's troops occupying their territory. Other dialogues will develop from these initial programs.

We have been offered satellite offices in all four of these republics ; we are considering these proposals with our expansion plans. It should be noted that each of these republics, like others, are considering seceding from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to establish autonomy. We feel it is important to take these offers seriously as they could become pivotal points for business and trade and communication links with the US.

The workload in the Moscow office is increasing daily and now necessitates the increase of staff to at least three Americans, two of which should be computer literate, plus Soviets with a good command of English and a willingness to be trained in computers. In order to firmly establish these Roundtables in the Republics this size staff is necessitated and justified. The expansion of our work in the Soviet Union will also require a great deal of travel for our Moscow Coordinator and American staff. It should be noted we have begun discussing this expansion with possible Soviet staff members in Moscow and the republics to expedite this expansion. This office will also act as a coordinating hub for the mediation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which CSAD has been asked to



liaison. We plan the first Mediation Roundtable for Yerevan and Baku for October of this year.

Although our present office in Moscow is housed in the Soviet Peace Committee building, many changes are now occurring in this organization. We need to prepare for a possible move to other quarters.

### *Jerusalem*

We believe the establishment of an AGD office in Jerusalem is the next step in becoming a global organization responding to the needs of the world community for dialogue and understanding.

We have been asked to establish a base in Jerusalem to work with both Israeli and Palestinian citizens in establishing Citizen Dialogue Roundtables in sectors of the West Bank. Moreover, Soviet Jews and recent Emigres have asked us to assist them in the difficult process of assimilation into this new society. This office will serve as a hub for our ongoing planning for Citizens' Summit III, scheduled for 1991, focusing on ecological problems facing the Mediterranean basin (other topics to be included are noted in Addendum B). In our recent meetings with representatives of Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece and the USSR as well as the PLO, this idea of an AGD office was met with great favor and enthusiasm. In September, we anticipate meetings with the President of Lebanon and representatives of Syria and Jordan. This idea has also received interest in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Relations and we expect to soon meet with their Mid-East representatives.



## STAGE TWO

### *Shannon, Ireland*

On our recent trip to Southern Ireland we were asked to establish a base in Shannon with the intent and purpose of assisting ongoing work between North and South Ireland. While in Belfast, Northern Ireland we met with many of the major peace and dialogue groups and the Nobel Peace Prize Winner [who]. They discussed the importance of our returning to Belfast and the co-establishing our own dialogue groups between the North and South.

Ireland also has the advantage of being located approximately halfway between New York and Moscow. It serves as a wonderful place for orientation of Americans and other groups going to Moscow. Moreover, as a politically neutral country it offers a non-biased setting for conflict resolution talks and business and trade negotiations. And with such groups as Shannon Development, Aer Rianta, and the Trade Management Institute in Ireland, we will develop relationships with organizations who have a wealth of experience in the Baltic Republics and other areas where our presence is not as solid.

## STAGE THREE

### *Geneva, Switzerland*

Our vision as a truly global organization will eventually require AGD to establish an office in this historically neutral city. With Geneva's reputation as the city for non-biased mediation and conflict resolution and the vast number of European groups with offices here, our work will begin to overlap with other global organizations. At this time we will evaluate the full extent of operations for this office.