

On the Center for Soviet-American Dialogue and the Center of International Projects

The contacts between the CSAD and the SPC have existed for more than 6 years. They have been formed into a stable and organised structure of interactions. The most significant events in the relations between the CSAD and the SPC were Summits 1 and 2 (Washington, February, 1987 and Moscow, January, 1990).

The basic 'philosophy' of this kind of meetings is in creating the most favourable conditions and stimulating the development of spontaneous, 'non-formal', coming from the bottom public initiatives, versatile proposals and projects on joint activity in all fields of social life, science, culture, education, etc. Actually, these meetings represent the unique market of ideas and initiatives. This is practical and concrete realisation of "citizen diplomacy" conception not only in words, but in actions.

Of course, not all the projects seem to be realistic. Among them there are many obviously utopian projects and not very well thought through fantasies. But in general it is an extremely rich reservoir of public initiatives, which need public, political, moral and organisational support.

During Summit 1 a hundred Soviets and five hundred and fifty American participants worked out more than 100 projects on mutual cooperation in different fields of culture, education, health care, business, but only 30 of them were fulfilled to some extent and some are on-going but have not been followed through so far. The most significant results of the realisation of these projects are the creation of the Soviet-American cartoon "Stereotypes", opening a wholistic medicine school, the creation of the Soviet-American joint venture "Sovaminco", working on the performance "Lisistrata", etc. However, many suggested projects which could have been realised came to a standstill, above all, due to bad coordination, weak organising and other reasons.

Summit 2 was attended by nearly 200 American and 500 Soviet participants, who worked out more than 150 different projects, which can be united in the following main groups:

- global ecology problems,
- global energy problems,

- global economy problems,
- conflict resolution,
- global security,
- global perestroika,
- "peace rooms",
- business and trade,
- wholistic health,
- youth and education problems,
- religion and spirituality,
- human rights,
- electronic media exchanges,
- mass media,
- culture and arts,
- "women for change",
- citizen diplomacy, etc.

The full list of projects, their brief descriptions, coordinates of participants, etc. are kept in the computer database, which was especially created for following up.

For fulfilling these and other projects and a further development of contacts according to the agreement between the CSAD and the SPC, a CSAD office in Moscow has been opened under the umbrella of the SPC as well as one of the SPC in Seattle under the umbrella of the CSAD.

The SPC representative in Seattle A.Yegorov maintains connections with American participants, helps to coordinate the projects, while the CSAD representatives in Moscow work on the database on joint projects, coordinate their fulfillment, establish and hold on contacts with the public and public organisations, etc.

From the most interesting joint projects which are under work now we would like to single out the following:

1. Preparation of Summit 3 (the end of 1991, Cyprus). Different "citizen diplomats" from many countries are supposed to attend the conference, they will discuss projects that have been fulfilled in different fields, will work out new proposals. This conference will be principally focused on problems of national reconciliation and regional conflict resolutions. CSAD will finance the event.
2. Working out the computer database on joint projects, search for potential partners, giving them consultations and support.

3. Opening a computer system of International communications "Teleport" (on the basis of the CSAD and the SPC). This system can provide stable contacts between Soviet and American participants of projects, partner organisations, etc. This service is supposed to require payment.
4. Opening of a wholistic health center in Moscow.
5. Organising of "round tables of reconciliation" between Armenian and Azerbaijani participants inviting professional American mediators (the first one was set in October 1990 in Kiev, the second one will be held in February 1991 in Tbilisi)
6. Creation of the Soviet Association of mediators in Moscow.
7. Creation of the Soviet-American Center on Conflict Resolution and training moderators and instructors for conflict resolution of national problems etc.
8. Opening (together with Chamber for Commerce and Industry) of summer school of management.
9. Preparation of Soviet-American collective monography 'Global Ethical Norms of the 21 century'
10. Creation of Rotary Clubs in the USSR.
11. Creation of specialized travel service (together with Sputnik) for mutual exchange of participants of Soviet-American projects. During 1990 five American groups visited the USSR with the help of CSAD, 5 groups or more are expected to come in 1991.
12. Working on the project of building medical facility with western equipment and western medicine (project of American company 3T).
13. Creation of Foundation of Small nations Rebirth.
14. Creation of joint Soviet-American magazine "On the Cutting Edge..." ("Peace without wars" and "XX century and World")
15. Work on joint questioning of public opinion (Columbia University, Iowa University, Ohio University).
16. International seminar "Women in Trade and Business" (April 1991)
17. Programme of food deliveries to the USSR on barter basis (American company Vin -Tex)
18. Musical performance for children "Chocolate Bomb"
19. Opening of the CSAD representation in Kiev under the umbrella of the Ukrainian Peace Committee.

The list can be continued. But it is clear now, that the relations between the SPC and CSAD have been lacking strategic core and succession and the efforts have often been dispersed. As a result, some most interesting projects "floated away", their participants "broke up" with the SPC and the CSAD and the founding organisationa were forgotten.

Along with that, it is clear now, that ths SPC department, which is in charge of the CSAD activities, is overloaded with routine work and is incapable of

fulfilling the necessary coordinating and planning functions. That's why in June 1990 the SPC took a decision to create the CIP, a public organisation under the umbrella of the SPC. The main task is to establish an active network (on a self-supporting basis) for practical coordination of joint projects. At present after the SIP was registered the CIP has been a circle of public figures has started forming around it (including employees of ISKAH, IGPAN and others). The coordination of the CIP activities is being carried out by Andrei Melville.

The CIP took part in organising and holding an international conference "The USSR on the way to the market" (September, 1990), preparation and publication of the report on materials of this conference, organising and holding of the first Armenia-Azerbaijani "roundtable of conciliation" in Kiev (October, 1990).

As a public organisation under the umbrella of the SPC, the CIP intends to concentrate its efforts on carrying out the most prospective work on projects, providing their coordination, organising, giving consultations and support, advertising, looking for new partners and participants as well as new projects. We suppose, that it could help to increase the efficiency of the activities of the CSAD offices in the USSR.