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## East-West Exchange

The East-West exchange agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, which was signed 27 January, is the product of a protracted series of negotiations. The first steps toward the exchange were taken at the Geneva summit conference in 1955 with the consequence that a few technical teams were exchanged in 1956. Not much exchange could take place, however, so long as the Russians refused to meet the United States requirement that all foreigners entering this country, other than officials, had to be fingerprinted.

The way to a wider exchange was opened when, early last fall, Congress gave the Secretary of State the right to waive the fingerprinting requirements. Negotiations for exchange began last October, and agreement was reached in January.

The State Department negotiated not only with the Soviet Union, but also with private American groups who might or might not want to enter into the exchange program; the Russians had no comparable problem owing to the different relation of their citizens to their Government. It is to this difference that the remarkably specific terms of the agreement may be attributed. Thus, for example, the countries agreed to exchange eight medical delegations of five or six specialists in the fields of antibiotics, microbiology, physiology and pharmacology of the nervous system, and so on, for periods ranging from two to six weeks; to exchange a Soviet pianist and a violinist for two American vocalists; and to exchange 20 students in 1958 and 30 in 1959. The same pattern was followed in other exchanges: so many exhibits, films, and radio and television programs will be traded, and so many people will be exchanged in the fields of agriculture, industry, medicine, the arts, the sciences, education, and athletics (including chess).

Wide as this range of occupations is, it is not complete; for some American groups would not enter into any arrangement because of their reluctance to do anything that would "legitimatize" their Soviet counterparts by making it appear that they accepted them as their equals in democracy and freedom from Governmental control. Among those who took this stand were the American Legion, the Boy Scouts, newspaper reporters, labor unions, and chambers of commerce. This limitation on the exchange is not as great as it seems: anyone can make his own arrangements to visit the Soviet Union, and the State Department stands ready to facilitate exchange for any organized group that wishes it.

There is another respect in which the exchange is not as effective as it might ideally be: certain cities in each country are out-of-bounds for nationals of the other country. This kind of eye-for-an-eye diplomacy arose when the Russians closed certain cities to Americans and the State Department retaliated by closing "equivalent" cities to the Russians.

As long as this kind of restriction remains in force we may expect repetitions of incidents like that of last November when a Russian chess champion was prevented from accepting an invitation to take part in a tournament in Dallas.

If exchange is a good thing—and both countries think it is—then it ought to be carried out in full. Both countries ought to relax their restrictions on travel. But if this cannot be done, why should we not take unilateral action and extend to the Soviets the same travel opportunities that we extend to other foreigners? If we did this the Soviet Union would have the choice of either following suit or having to defend a logically indefensible position.—G. DuS.