

technical manpower shortage it appears to be a severe misallocation of our national resources. Abelson also stated that at stake are trillions of dollars worth of resources under the outer oceans. This is a surprisingly sweeping statement. It may well be true if we accept two modifications: (i) The cost of retrieval of these "reserves" may approach their economic value, a relationship neither stated nor implied in his comment. (ii) The time required for exploitation to reach any meaningful level may be so great that deferral of expenditures at this time will be of no real consequence.

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Scientific Exchange with the U.S.S.R.

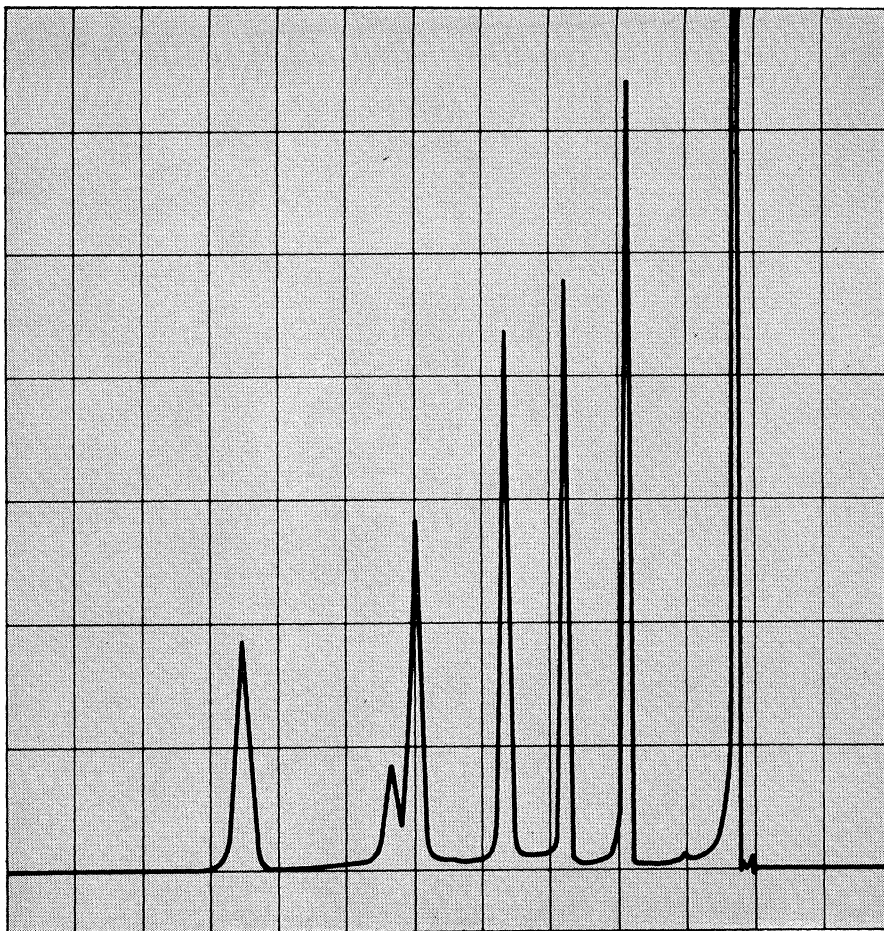
John Walsh states that the "U.S.-Soviet exchange program negotiated this year reflected a reduction of about 25 percent in the overall level of exchange activity in science," (News and Comment, 17 June, p. 1605). He appears to refer to the exchange activities carried on through a formal agreement between the National Academy of Sciences of the USA and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The reduction should read 6 percent or 18 percent, depending on how one calculates: the new interacademy agreement for 1966-67 provides for exchange visits by 45 scientists totaling 170 months, as compared with the level of the previous two-year agreements of 55 scientists for 180 months. Thus, in terms of number of visitors the reduction is 18 percent; in total length of visits, the reduction is 6 percent. The initiative for the reduction was the Soviet Academy's, prompted presumably by political circumstances.

One must recognize that these quotas express intent, and have never been completely filled. As the degree of fulfillment has progressively increased since the beginnings of the interacademy exchange program six years ago, it is likely that the small reduction of quota in the new agreement with the Soviet Academy will result in little or no real reduction in overall exchange activity within the program.

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