

came out in this order: Charlie's Angels, Happy Days, The Incredible Hulk, Hardy Boys, and Baby I'm Back (a black situation comedy). "It's enough to make you want to cry," moaned an NSF official. Mielke, however, says the preferences show that the kids are really pretty sophisticated—all but the very young prefer shows that were produced for the general viewing audience. The survey also pointed up significant boy-girl differences. The girls like shows portraying "warm human relationships, often in family situations," which also tend to

feature "strong female leads." The boys like strong male leads in "action/adventure formats" where "physical endurance and competition" is emphasized. There were five science-related shows in the list of 20—Wild Kingdom; Animals, Animals, Animals; In Search Of; Jacques Cousteau; and Nova. All fell in the bottom half of the rankings, with Nova at the very bottom. Science fiction such as Star Trek was highly favored, particularly by the boys; the ratio of boys who watched it to girls was 4 to 1.

The first 13 shows are supposed to be

ready to roll by fall of 1979 and the producers plan to fine-tune the program with inputs from continuous evaluations.

Concocting a hit for the 8 to 12 audience, which likes lots of humor and excitement and does not like to be talked down to, will be a tricky job. And no matter how intensive the research, there is plenty of room for unpredictability. One researcher relates, for instance, that children did not like a photograph of a turtle eating a worm, but a picture of a lizard swallowing a snake went down very well.—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Warming Trend in U.S.-Soviet Science Cooperation

Plans are in process to reschedule a trip to Moscow by President's science adviser Frank Press which was canceled in July in response to the trials of dissident Soviet scientists. The move appears to be tied to a Soviet decision to allow "refusenik" physicist and electrochemist Veniamin G. Levich to emigrate to Israel. The actions indicate some easing of the tensions generated earlier this year on human rights issues, which directly affected cooperation in science and technology between the two countries.

Trips by official delegations headed by Press and by Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Barbara Blum were canceled at the instance of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance after the Soviets went ahead with the trial of computer scientist Anatoly Shcharansky (*Science*, 21 July). Shcharansky had been part of a group active in monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki accords. Linking rescheduling of the Press trip with the Levich case appears to indicate that the Administration believes that science and technology programs have useful symbolic value in U.S. responses to human rights issues.

The visit scheduled in July by Press was to discuss the science and technology agreement signed in détente spring of 1972 and is regarded as the keystone agreement for the 11 cooperative programs in science, technology, and health concluded between the two countries. Rescheduling of a visit by Press is considered particularly important because of his direct relationship to the President and because his office deals with the export of sensitive technology.

Cancellation of the Press visit came during a decline in Soviet-U.S. relations over human rights issues. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano canceled a planned trip to the Soviet Union in May and in the same period four U.S. delegations dominated by nongovernment American scientists also canceled scheduled trips to the Soviet Union. The trial of Soviet physicist Yuri Orlov, who had also been involved in human rights causes, was a principal cause of these cancellations.

The Shcharansky trial in July led to the cancellation of scientific trips by three other official delegations and reportedly prompted decisions by a number of individual American scientists not to pursue contacts with their Soviet counterparts. August seems to have provided something of a cooling off period; scientists and bureaucrats take vacations then and there was little scheduled activity.

The first strong sign of a shift in the situation came out of a meeting in Moscow in early September between Senator

Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev. Kennedy had asked for favorable action in 18 cases involving Jewish families who had sought permission to emigrate or make visits to either Israel or the United States. Kennedy was told that the Soviets would reconsider the cases on the basis of his request and was given a clear reading that all the cases on the list would receive favorable action including that of Levich and his wife.

Levich is perhaps the best known of Soviet scientist refuseniks. His scientific work is highly regarded in this country and the handling of his case by Soviet authorities gained him considerable sympathy in the scientific community here. Since 1972, when his first application for an emigration visa to Israel was turned down, he has been consigned to a kind of professional limbo and he and his family subjected to pressure and harassment. Representations in his behalf have been made by a number of U.S. scientific organizations. One expression of support and esteem was establishment of an International Conference of Physicochemical Hydrodynamics called the Levich Conference. The third such conference sponsored by a variety of individuals and organizations was held on 6 to 8 November at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington. The sponsors had hoped that Levich would be able to attend, but he was still waiting word on his visa when the conference convened.

U.S. officials say a number of factors appear to contribute to an improved atmosphere. They note that Soviet emigration to Israel in recent months has risen to a rate comparable to that in 1973, the year of the largest exodus. Progress in Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT) may have encouraged both sides to be more cooperative on other issues. And observers of human rights matters note a relative absence of Soviet actions on human rights issues which would have a depressing effect on relations.

Most recent signs of an improving climate was a visit in late September of I. Novikov, head of the Soviet state committee for construction affairs, who met with his opposite number, Patricia Roberts Harris, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in an atmosphere described as "constructive." And from 23 to 27 October, HEW Assistant Secretary for Health Julius B. Richmond led the U.S. delegation to Moscow to the annual meeting of the Soviet-U.S. joint committee on health cooperation agreement. Participants say that the mood of the meeting was "businesslike" and program activities appear to be on schedule.—J.W.