



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

FEB 7 1974

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NM74-M80

MEMORANDUM

TO: I/Director, International Program Policy Office

FROM: MM/NASA Director for Life Sciences

SUBJECT: Comments on Suggested Exchange of US/USSR Life Scientists at Ames

I have reviewed the proposal to have a mutual exchange of a Soviet Exobiologist (Dr. Mikhail Kritsky) and a U.S. Neurophysiologist (Dr. David Winter) during 1974-1975. Let me summarize my thoughts on this proposal below:

1. Any efforts to exchange space life scientists for work periods in Soviet and NASA laboratories should be done as a part of the formal exchange program of the Working Group for Space Biology and Medicine.
2. The posture taken by the Soviets on this subject in October 1971 was so rigid, in my view, that the entire issue of exchange of scientists will need to be formally reopened again before any specific exchange proposal is made. Proposing an exchange of specific individuals before the concept is discussed again and a new Soviet position of approval has been made may prove to be difficult and perhaps embarrassing to our Soviet counterparts. Therefore, I have great reservations regarding whether the issue of exchanging specific scientists can be started until after our next meeting. In no case do I believe that the first reopening of this issue should be attempted by mail.
3. Before proposing an exchange to the Soviets that would involve Dr. David Winter, I need to discuss this issue with him, with Dr. Klein and Dr. Mark, the Director of Ames. I intend to do this during our Life Sciences program review at ARC that is scheduled for late February. Dr. Winter is managing a major part of the ARC Life Sciences SR&T program at ARC and I have a great concern regarding his availability to be absent from the Center for a period of up to 6 months.

I would propose that we try to place the overall issue of exchanging scientists on the agenda of our next meeting of the Space Medicine and Biology Working Group. If all goes well, and we mutually agree on the desirability of doing this, then we can move on to specific proposals.

Charles A. Berry M.D.

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