

April 16, 1990

**Letter, Director of Public Affairs of the International
Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War to Test
Ban Congress Participant**

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Summary:

A letter from the Director of Public Affairs of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War providing travel information to participants of the International Citizens Congress for a Nuclear Test Ban. Processing of visas, customs procedures, and an onward flight from Moscow to Alma-Ata are discussed.

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International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc.

Telex: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]

April 16, 1990

Dear Test Ban Congress Participant:

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Moscow and Kazakhstan in May. As you know, the Congress will occur on the eve of the Bush-Gorbachev summit providing the Congress with an excellent opportunity to send a message that will be heard from Kazakhstan to Washington.

The timing of the summit, which begins May 30, precludes the possibility of a meeting for Congress representatives with Mikhail Gorbachev or Eduard Shevardnadze after the Congress. Therefore, the leadership of IPPNW and the Nevada Movement are seeking a meeting with top Soviet officials immediately prior to the Congress. If such a meeting occurs, we will report the results to you during the Congress.

There is some information we would like to pass on to you before your departure to the Soviet Union. We hope it will make your trip a bit easier.

Visas

We are aware that some of you have experienced difficulty in securing your visas for the Soviet Union. We are working with the Foreign Ministry in Moscow to alleviate these problems. However, if you are encountering difficulty, please let us know.

Increased tourism to the Soviet Union has created a backlog of visa applications at many Soviet embassies around the world. You are urged to complete your application without delay. If you live in the United States, or another country with overnight parcel delivery services, you would be well advised to utilize them for sending in your application. You can also avoid delay by following carefully the directions we provided to you.

Those who are seeking to extend their stay beyond the dates of the Congress (that is, beyond the night of May 28) may encounter added difficulty if unable to produce proof of accommodations or an official invitation from an organization in the USSR that will be responsible for your accommodations.

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Tenth World Congress

27 June - 1 July 1991

Stockholm



It is not uncommon for travelers to the USSR to receive their visa a day or two before departure. However, do let us know if you have not received your visa at least a week prior to departure.

Customs

Customs procedures have improved in Moscow in recent years. To a large extent the image of stern customs inspectors going over every inch of your bags and confiscating books and magazines is a thing of the past. However, customs can be slow and the lines long. Be prepared.

Your airline to Moscow should provide you with a customs and currency declaration to complete on board. This document will be returned to you and you must keep it with you for the duration of your visit. All currency exchanges will be recorded on it.

Your first stop in customs will be passport control. You must present your passport and visa.

After passing through passport control you will enter the baggage claim area. After picking up your bags, proceed to customs. Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport has newly installed signs in English that direct you to the appropriate line depending on whether you have any goods to declare. Although this follows the system found in many European airports, my experience indicates that all arriving passengers are required to proceed through the "goods to declare" line unless you are carrying only a toothbrush. If you are bringing only personal belongings try the "nothing to declare" route as it will be much faster. But don't be surprised if you are asked to move to the other line.

Once You Pass Through Customs

On May 21 and 22 a special desk in the airport terminal will operate for Test Ban Congress participants. Our plan is to have signs and staff to direct you to this desk. From there shuttle service will be available to take you to the Rossia Hotel, adjacent to Red Square.

If You Don't Locate the Test Ban Congress Desk

Even the most carefully laid plans sometime go awry. If for some reason you do not locate the Test Ban Congress desk, you should proceed to the Rossia Hotel. We have included with this letter a piece of paper which says in Russian, "please take me to the Rossia Hotel."

Although taxis are abundant at the airport, actually getting one can be an adventure. Most cab rides begin with a negotiation, with many cab drivers seeking convertible currency for the fare. If you are tired and simply want to get to the hotel, a relatively small sum in hard currency (\$10 or so) will get you to the hotel which is about a 45 minute ride from the airport.

The Rossia Hotel

The Rossia (6 Razin Street, tel. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]) is an enormous hotel just 3 minutes walk to Red Square and about 3 kilometers from the train station. Our intention is to conduct congress registration at the hotel so that we know who has arrived and to provide you with your Congress identification badge and registration materials.

The current schedule calls for the flight to Alma-Ata to leave Moscow at 10:00 am on May 23. This means all participants must be ready to leave the hotel at 8:30 am sharp. Your cooperation in being punctual is essential and is a courtesy to your hosts and fellow participants. (If this schedule changes we will notify you upon arrival.)

The Flight to Alma-Ata

The flight to Alma-Ata is a special charter arranged through Aeroflot Soviet Airlines. The flight takes 4 hours. Alma-Ata is three hours time difference from Moscow so scheduled arrival in Alma-Ata is at 5:00 pm local time.

Final Thoughts

Given the complexity of the logistics for this Congress, some problems are inevitable. We have done our best to ensure that you have a positive experience. We ask for your patience when problems do arise and we'll do our best to remedy them.

An article from the April 1 edition of the *Los Angeles Times* is enclosed. We thought you would find it of interest.

Have a pleasant journey to Moscow.

Sincerely,



Peter Zheutlin
Director, Public Affairs
Congress Coordinator