USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING

Foreign Relations Department

SOVIET TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING

Moscow, 1986

"The press, television and radio networks are to provide people with news coverage and commentary that are politically clear and purposeful, profound, prompt, informative, vivid and comprehensible. The Party will continue to render the press and all other mass media ready assistance and support in their work.

Special attention will be devoted to developing television broadcasting, steadily increasing the radio and TV programmes available to the population and making the broadcasts more rich in content, more interesting and ideologically and artistically superior".

From the Programme of the Communist
Party of the Soviet Union

Television has become an integral part of everyday life and a powerful facility for fostering Soviet people. It is also an important factor in building public opinion and organizing people's leisure.

Television is becoming increasingly better quality-wise, so is its hardware, which includes a number of new complex construction projects, as well as those intended to expand and re-construct some existing stations and TV & Radio facilities, to develop satellite television network and to step up the production of different types of television equipment.

At the moment, television stations across the country make use of 250 OB-vans, [illegible] video recorders, [illegible] 4,000 tape recorders and nearly [illegible] telecinas. The national television network is planned [illegible] primarily, the first national channel programme to every household in this country in the coming years. By 1990, the Soviet TV-audience is, subsequently, expected to grow markedly bigger. A broader geography is also projected for the second national channel. With the satellite television system "Moscow" being currently set up, the first national channel is planned, under the project, to reach households, foremostly, in the remote areas of the European Soviet Union, the Trans-Urals, Central Asia and the Soviet Far East.

Besides, digital television systems, which are at the moment being developed in this country, will give better quality to television images.

SOVIET TELEVISION & RADIO BROADCASTING

- Television and radio broadcasting in the Soviet Union is run by the State. This is reflected in the official title of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, which organization can be equated to a ministry, with its chairman being a member of the government.

- This country's television and radio has a total staff of more than 83,000.

- As of Jan.1, 1986, the Soviet population numbers 278.8 million.

- Over 90 million TV-sets are in use across the nation, including 23 million colour sets. Besides, there are over 180 million radio receivers and wire radios in this country.

- Soviet television and radio incorporates over a hundred groups of musicians including folk instrumental ensembles, choirs (including 7 children's choirs), variety and folk groups, plus symphony orchestras.

- The annual budget of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting is about 1.9 thousand million roubles of which sum more than 1.3 thousand million goes for television and 600 million for radio broadcasting, with 70 per cent of the allocated expenditure covering the technical costs of broadcasting.

- The headquarters of National Television and Radio receive the annual total of about 3 million letters from Soviet and foreign TV-viewers and radio listeners. The country's local TV and radio broadcasting centres' parcel is over 3 million letters.

- The USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting (or USSR Gosteleradio for short) has TV and radio correspondents based in more than 50 countries and over 130 correspondents and cameramen nationwide.

The average black-and-white TV-set costs between 230 and 250 roubles, while a colour set, between 350 and 780 roubles. In the Soviet Union, one does not have to pay a license fee for using a television or radio set.

- National sporting events, concerts and stage productions are broadcast free on television and radio in this country. The same is true of films. Short news documentaries are televised concurrently with their theatric exposure, whereas feature films go on the air from 6 months to 1.5-2 years after their release.

- The USSR Gosteleradio incorporates three computer centres which process the returns of sociological research and polls, public letters, analyse information from broadcasting departments and make economic calculations.

- The USSR Gosteleradio issues a monthly magazine, "Television & Radio Broadcasting", a weekly paper "Radio & TV Guide" (1,250,000 copies), and another monthly magazine, "Outlook" (260,000 copies), which features articles on politics, literature and music with pictures and small gramophone records enclosed with it. Issued monthly in 400,000 copies is a supplement to "Outlook" for children, titled "Kolobok" (Russian for a traditional ball-shaped cake). This magazine has also gramophone records enclosed with it.

NATIONAL TELEVISION

National Television, Moscow, operates daily on 14 channels with an average volume of 148, 2 hours of programming a day, telecast in colour, SECAM, 625 lines.

Research has shown that television in the USSR has become a key facility for meeting the cultural needs of the Soviet people and introducing them to the best pieces of Russian, Soviet and foreign literature, drama, theatre, music, and cinematography.

A polling of television audiences says that Soviet people are a well-informed nation. In particular, more than 85per cent of the polled regard television the main source of information on international affairs. A sizable fraction of the people polled emphasize that the knowledge they gain from television programming comes in handy in class and

at leisure. Television audiences spend more time watching TV than going in for other kinds of entertainment.

Channel One is nationwide. Its daily broadcasts average 13.6 hours, covering 93 per cent of the USSR population, including 84 per cent of the countryfolk. Programming on this channel deals with political, economic and cultural events at home and key issues abroad. Besides, it carries live transmissions of ceremonial and festive events, public demonstrations, rallies, top-level meetings, stories on visits by statesmen and politicians, and orbital reports from outer space.

News materials are found mainly in the programme "Time" and news bulletins. Twice nightly, there is a news release titled "The World Today". The "International Panorama" special is on the air once a week with a re-run. Events in the socialist countries are covered in the TV feature "Community". A feature titled "Modern World and Labour Movement" is on the air once a month.

Daily national telecasting carries the total of over 40 news programmes.

Socio-political programmes. Materials featuring practical steps in implementing the XXVII CPSU Congress decisions form the bulk of these programmes, the most popular ones being "Problems, Search, Decisions", "Acceleration", "Backing Words with Deeds",

"For All and Each One", "Today's Mailbag", "Rural Hour", "I Serve the Soviet Union", "Man and Law", etc.

Stage productions. These programmes mainly present theatre and TV productions and other TV features familiarizing audiences with the best pieces of art, with treasuretroves of world and national culture. Highly popular now with the audiences are such programmes as "Political Theatre", "Theatric Mirror", "Literary Almanac", "Masters of the Arts".

National Television presents annually over 40 televised productions and those staged by the leading theatres. In fact, the TV library deposits a total of more than 700 pieces in this category.

Musical programming brings regularly to the audience the best pieces of Soviet music, most important events in music at home and abroad, bringing into prominence the classical heritage of Russian and world music. Special emphasis is placed on live broadcasts from major concert halls, plus programming that features traditional festivals as "Russian Winter", "Moscow Stars", "White Nights", and "Golden Autumn". The musical library includes about 5,000 operas, ballet films and concert programmes of different genres.

Programmes for children and the youth reflect the young people's participation in accelerating socio-economic development in this country, show the growth of political and labour conciousness in the younger

generation, help foster in the young people devotion to Communist ideals, love of their homeland; teach them to determine their place in life; describe labour accomplishments of the Soviet people; teach the young people skills; encourage love of Nature and develop an interest in literature, arts, and sports. Among the most popular programmes are the news/publicistic special "World, Peace and Youth", the TV debate feature "The 12th Floor", and a feature of a similar nature for children and teenagers titled "For Those Under Sixteen and Older".

Films take up between 20 and 25 per cent of the air time. Besides drama, documentaries, science features and animation, TV audiences have special liking for such commonly enjoyed programmes as "Travellers' Club", "Obvious but Incredible", "Documentary Screen", "Cinepanorama", "Camera Scans the World", "Close-up on Animals", "Close-up on Plants", "Film Billboard", "Masters of the Screen". Over 800 films are shown annually over various channels.

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Seeking to exchange cultural values as stipulated by the Helsinki Accords, Soviet TV regularly offers its viewers the best productions by progressive producers in the West. Foreign programming includes drama, concerts, staged productions, sports stories and reports from our overseas correspondents which take up 15 per cent of the air time.

In recent time, for example, Soviet TV-viewers were exposed to such films as "La Piovra" (Italy), "Our Mutual Friend" (U.K.), "Sounds of the City" (Ireland), "Cher ami" (France), "Life On Earth" (U.K.), etc.

Channel Two is also nationwide, with its daily broadcasts averaging 13.5 hours to reach more than 175 million people, or 63 per cent of the national population.

A broad variety of programming is offered to children and the youth, plus items in the categories of news, science, music, sports, drama and documentary cine- and TV-films, as well as programming for youth and children.

Local television stations are sizably responsible for programming aired on Channel Two to give a comprehensive exposure to economic, social, cultural and vernacular arts events throughout the nation.

Considerable allotment of the air time is made for overseas productions, foremostly those coming from socialist countries.

On weekend mornings and afternoons, the channel airs re-runs of the best and most popular programmes of Channel One.

Sunday programming includes half-hour "Reports from Our Correspondents".

The Moscow Channel averages 4.5 hours of the air time

and is beamed to Muscovites, residents of the Moscow region and part of the country's central areas--a total of 16 million people. Programming carried on this channel is intended to bring efficient timely and comprehensive coverage of political, economic and cultural events in the capital and its region.

Channel Four carries 3.4 hours of educational programming a day and is intended mainly for secondary school students as it follows national education methods to meet requirements of the Ministry of Education curricula. The channel covers most of the secondary school subjects and, among other features, carries lessons of English, French, German and Spanish, plus films in foreign languages. Educational programming is aired at school hours and after classes.

Specific programmes are produced, in particular, news issues and films for TV-viewers with hearing handicaps.

The Leningrad programme for inhabitants of Moscow and Moscow region is on the 33rd frequency channel and operates on weekends and holidays.

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The USSR territory extends over 10 time zones. These are covered by four ORBITA-VOSTOK channels, each reaching their audiences at primetime for their zones, and duplicating, for the most part, programming carried on Channel One of National Television.

This system is based on ground communications facilities and satellite feeds.

"Orbita-1" for Kamchatka, Magadan and Sakhalin regions, 13.5 hours daily.

"Orbita-2" for Yakutia and the Soviet Far East, 13.5 hours daily.

"Orbita-3" for Eastern and Western Siberia, 13.7 hours daily.

"Orbita-4-Vostok" for Western Siberia, the Urals, Central Asia and the Far North, 13.6 hours daily.

"Duplicate-1" of the second nationwide channel for the Kamchatka, Magadan and Sakhalin regions, 13.7 hours a day.

"Duplicate-2" of the second nationwide channel for Yakutia and the Soviet Far East, 13.4 hours daily.

"Duplicate-3" of the second nationwide channel for Eastern and Western Siberia, 13.8 hours daily.

"Duplicate-4" of the second nationwide channel for Central Asia, and the north of the constituent Russian Federation, 13.4 hours daily.

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TECHNICAL FACILITIES

Television programming reaches the viewers via a network of cable and radio relay lines, over 900 powerful TV-transmitters, some 4,000 repeaters, plus the satellites Molnia, Raduga, Gorizont, Statsionar, with an addition of 90 Orbita ground stations. Besides, there are the Ekran and Moscow communications facilities, nearly 3,000 stations, which bring television programming from stationary orbit communications satellites, the receivers being compact, low-cost installations that extend television communication to sparsely populated areas in Siberia, the Far East and the Far North.

For a graphic representation of the National Televison network, see the diagram at the end of this booklet.

The exchange of programming between the nation's major TV centres, Intervision, Eurovision and other foreign networks is carried out daily.

The Intersputnik satellite communications system of 15 ground transceiver stations offers a broad range of television exchange with Havana, Prague, Berlin, Ulan Bator, Budapest, Warsaw, Sofia, Hanoi, Hochiminh, Algiers, Kabul, Vientiane and Bagdad.

There is a growing exchange of information via satellites, including news exchange with VISNEWS, WTN and CBS.

LOCAL TELECASTING

The USSR has a united system of television and radio broadcasting (115 television centres, 175 radio houses, and over 5,000 boards of radio broadcasting), which carries programming, originated in republican, territorial and regional sources.

Regional television programming covers local events and carries distinctive vernacular features.

With over a hundred nations and nationalities residing in this country, quite a sizable amount of television and radio broadcasting is offered in the vernacular -- in 45 languages of the USSR on television and 71 on radio.

Well-devised coordination ensures the maximal coverage of the Soviet territory by National Television and Radio and a reasonable blend with locally originated programming to achieve better efficiency in terms of broadcasting time, scope, structure and format.

Local television and radio committees have an active share in producing programming for National Television and Radio to give a comprehensive description of achievements by the fraternal constituent republics.

Local television and radio stations' staff includes nearly a hundred professional groups of musicians, most of whom appear on National Television and Radio. This policy leads to a mutual enrichment of

vernacular cultures and ensures a comprehensive coverage of achievements in the Soviet multi-national music.

The total amount of TV broadcasting across the nation is more than 3,700 hours daily, plus 1,400 hours for radio.

TV FILM PRODUCTION

Television films are made by the Ekran Productions at the rate of 170 a year, with a total duration of more than 110 hours. This breaks down to 80 documentaries, 15 feature films, some 25 animated cartoons, 10 stage productions, more than 30 filmed concerts and individual numbers of 6 hours in length.

Besides, the USSR Gosteleradio places orders for productions with film studios around the country, whose annual output averages up to 120 motion pictures and 50 documentaries made to order, including those meant for international exchange.

Aired regularly by National Television are TV-films produced by local studios (450 on the annual average, with the overall duration of more than 200 hours).

The USSR Gosteleradio sets up co-productions of major drama pieces, including series.

Here is a list of latest co-productions: "The Road to Sofia" (USSR-Bulgaria); "K.Marx: The Early Years" (USSR-DDR); "The Karastoyanovs" (USSR-Bulgaria); "La Vie de Berlioz" (USSR-France); "The

Unpaid Leave" (USSR-Hungary); "A Journey During a Concert" and "A Magical White Night" (USSR-Italy); "In Search of Captain Grant" (USSR-Bulgaria); "Giuseppe Verdi" (USSR-Italy-France-Great Britain-Sweden-BRD) (9 episodes); a multi-episodal feature, "Capitals of European Culture" (the co-production involves television organisations of 12 countries).

The following films are currently in production: "Don Quixote" (USSR-Spain), "Le Travalleurs de la Mer", "Normandy-Neman", "Germinal" (USSR-Spain), "Mate Zalka" (USSR-Hungary), "A Great Man" (USSR-Czechoslovakia), "A Sicilian Expert", "In One's Own Image" (USSR-Cuba), etc.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

Exports and imports of television programming are handled, among other things, by the USSR Gosteleradio's Foreign Relations. With socialist countries, these are effected on a free basis. In 1985, there were 260 TV films received from socialist countries and 1,700 prints of more than 400 films were dispatched to them.

In capitalist countries, films are mainly purchased. In 1985 , there were 50 films bought and about 300 sold.

Films advocating aggression, arms race, violence, sex, disrespect for other peoples, etc., are unacceptable for Soviet Television.

The USSR Gosteleradio puts annually its television productions on 40 international and national television festivals, TV markets, contests and screening abroad.

In addition, the USSR Gosteleradio sponsors international television events in the Soviet Union, namely, the International TV Forum of Intervision in Moscow (annually), the Raduga International Festival of Folklore Television programming (bi-annually), and the Man & Sea International Festival in Riga (every third year).

Annual screenings in Moscow of the best pieces of programming by Soviet Television, local productions included, is also a feature here.

NATIONAL RADIO

There are thirteen channels that carry nationwide radio broadcasting. Channel One covers practically the entire territory of the Soviet Union. To allow for the time zones, four duplicates of Channel One are put on the air for the Urals, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Western and Eastern Siberia and the Soviet Far East. Broadcasts on Channel Two, known as the "Mayak" (Russian for beacon), reach 85 per cent of the population. Channel Three can be tuned in for by 45 per cent of the national audience, while Channel Four broadcasts for listeners in the Moscow and Leningrad regions.

Stereo broadcasting can be heard on Channel Two, Three and Four for a total of 18 hours a day.

Channel One (20 hours a day) deals with socio-political and artistic subjects, including 10 news bulletins, 2 reviews of the national dailies and the "International Diary" which goes on the air every morning and evening.

Informational programming takes up 17 per cent of the air time, some 7 per cent goes for socio-political subject, about 60 per cent for music, literature and stage productions, some 15 per cent for children's and youth programmes and 3 per cent for sports.

Socio-political broadcasting that deals with Marxist-Leninist education, economics, culture and everyday life events, is taken up mainly by such features as "The Leninist University of Millions" (once a week), "Time, People and Events" (a 40-minute daily feature), "The Land and People" (a daily for workers in agriculture).

In addition, there are specials aired, as "Problems of Acceleration", "Economy, Reserves, Effectivity", "Science and Engineering", "I Serve the Soviet Union", "Goods, Services, Quality", "Mother Nature", "Man and Law", "Veterans' Correspondence", "Radio Mail-Bag", "Health", "Contemporary" (a radio magazine for women), etc.

International affairs are covered in programmes

additional to the news, such as "The International Lay-Out: Questions & Answers", "International Analysts's Round Table", "The Labour Movement: News & Views", "In Socialist Countries", while socialist countries' programming is featured in "The Voices of Friends".

There are more than 30 regular features and series on the air as based on listeners' letters.

Channel Two (or Mayak) broadcasts news and music round the clock, with news spots (5 min.) every half-hour and intervening music and sports stories. Morning hours carry more news reports as they recur every 7 to 10 minutes.

"Mayak" music is on the air 17 hours a day, which total breaks down to 40per cent of the air time for Soviet light music, 30 per cent for music by the old and modern masters in the classical category, 25 per cent for folk music and 5 per cent for international light music.

Setting aside a sizable portion of the air time for a comprehensive presentation of all the vernacular music style in the country, "Mayak" airs regular features complied locally--in Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk and other constituent republican capitals.

"Mayak" musical programming finds a ready response in listeners across the nation whose annual letters total some 60,000.

Channel Three (17 hours a day) features literature, drama and music of different genres. Two hours a day are taken up by literature and music for children. Live broadcasts from concert halls in Moscow and other cities, as well as recorded concert relays, are extensively aired too.

There are three duplicates of Channel Three on the air (17 hours each) for the Eastern Soviet Union to allow for different time zones.

Channel Four (10 hours a day) features different styles of music and live transmissions from concert halls.

Channel Five (24 hours a day) carries news reports and music for fishermen and seamen out at sea, for Soviet specialists on foreign missions and for compatriots residing abroad.

THE USSR TV & RADIO ARCHIVE

The archive contains unique cine-, television and radio materials dealing with the major landmarks in the history of the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet state, and in this country's economic, scientific and cultural development; documentary recordings and films devoted to the life and work of V.I. Lenin, also to the life and activities of other prominent figures of the CPSU and the world communist and workers' movements, famed Soviet military leaders, scientists, cosmonauts, foremost people in industry and agriculture.

The TV & Radio archive deposits about 12,000 documentaries, science TV-features, TV-programmes and newsreels; nearly 3,000 different motion pictures, over 2,000 animated cartoons, about 200,000 musical radio-programmes, about 30,000 literature and drama programmes including radio-plays and some 8,000 documentary audio-materials.

USSR GOSTELERADIO'S INTERNATIONAL TIES

The USSR Gosteleradio co-operates with 169 television and 119 radio organizations in 121 countries - 12 socialist, 82 developing and 27 capitalist. There are current long-term agreements on television and radio programme exchange, plus one- and two-year working protocols on co-operation with television organizations in 87 countries of the world. Those documents envisage, in particular, an exchange of television and radio programming, co-productions, including space TV-bridges, administrative and technical assistance to visiting crews that come to film life in this country, and exchange of staff members, stories done to order from our overseas partners and the coverage of visits by foreign statesmen.

By way of providing favourable working conditions for Moscow-based foreign correspondents, there is a special complex, complete with all requisite facilities, in the premises of the Television Centre at Ostankino. The studios and rooms for video recording

at the Centre are fitted up with the latest equipment which enables video taping in three systems (SECAM, PAL, NTSC), editing and up-legging of video material to any international space communications satellite.

The USSR Gosteleradio is integrate to OIRT and Intervision.

The International relations of local television and radio organisations around the country are handled via the USSR Gosteleradio based in Moscow.

TV TOWER AT OSTANKINO

Part of the USSR Ministry of Communications facilities, the Ostankino TV Tower was commissioned on November 4, 1967, and, under a decision of the USSR Council of Ministers, was named in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Great October socialist revolution.

This unique, slim, sky-scraping structure is a major multi-purpose communications facility which makes use of the latest equipment for putting colour broadcasts on cable and radio relay lines and on satellite for the USSR as well as for sending telecasts to Intervision, Eurovision and other television networks around the world.

Standing 540 m high, the tower, with its 70,000 cubic metres of accomodation space, weighs 55,000 tons. There are seven lifts inside it, of which four can whizz you up to the top observation landing in a mere 58 seconds.

The safety and durability of the structure for no less than 300years is ensured by 150 taut steel cables, running inside the tower shaft.

Neither a force-8 earthquake nor the fiercest hurricanes can topple the tower. It has a 600 per cent vertical stability. The tower's foundation is just as strong.

The tower is described as the heyday accomplishment of its designer, N.V.Nikitin, USSR, which has earned him world fame and brought him the top national prize.

SOME HISTORICAL LANDMARKS OF SOVIET TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING

May 7, 1895 - the great Russian scientist A.S.Popov demonstrates his invention - a radio set.

May 9, 1911 - the first picture on the cathode tube screen is received in the laboratory of the Russian scientist B.L.Rozing. That day is considered to be the starting point in the history of electronic TV.

November 23, 1924 - first news release of the Russian Telegraph Agency which inaugurated regular radio broadcasting in this country.

October 1, 1931 - beaming of the first regular telecast which was received in Moscow, Leningrad, Odessa, etc. with home-made TV-sets.

September, 1932 - regular news bulletins on current affairs go on the air.

1935 - first Soviet TV-sets are put into mass production.

December 31, 1938 - the TV-centre at Shabolovka St., Moscow, is commissioned.

August, 1942 - the renowned Seventh, or Leningrad, Symphony by Dmitry Shostakovich is broadcast worldwide from the besieged city of Leningrad.

June 24, 1945 - all radio stations across the nation broadcast live coverage, from Red Square, of the historic Victory Parade.

December 15, 1945 - the Television Centre, Moscow, resumes its broadcasts interrupted by the Great Patriotic War.

March 22, 1951 - the USSR Council of Ministers adopts a resolution endorsing daily telecasts from Moscow.

January, 1955 - educational television programming first goes on the air.

January, 1960 - an International television organization, INTERVISION, for programme exchange between European socialist countries, is brought into existence, with the USSR Gosteleradio becoming part of it.

May, 1960 - an entertainment feature, "Good Morning!", is first put on the air to become a programme most looked forward to.

August 11, 1962 - the world's first special live report from the Vostok-3 spaceship in orbit comes on over a national television hook-up.

October 15, 1962 - a feature for the country's young

people, "The Youth", is first put on the air.

August, 1, 1964 - Soviet radio's round-the-clock service "Mayak" starts airing its news and music.

October 1, 1967 - Soviet Television starts regular colour broadcasts.

November 2, 1967 - "Molniya" space and "Orbita" ground communications facilities are commissioned to carry television programming.

April, 1970 - the Television Technical Centre named after the 50th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution is completely commissioned on the centenary of Lenin's birth.

July-August, 1980 - National Television transmits in colour the Moscow Olympic events via cable relay lines and satellite through twenty channels to all the countries of the planet for an audience of 1.5 thousand million viewers.

January 1, 1982 - Channel Two is commissioned for nationwide telecasting.

April 19, 1983 - National Television airs first episode of the biographical series "V.I.Lenin. Pages of Life".

December 21, 1984 - the marking of the 60th anniversary of regular radio broadcasts in the USSR.

July-August, 1985 - Soviet TV covers the XII World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow. The opening ceremony addressed by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is viewed by

2,000 million people round the world.

February 25 - March 6, 1986 - Moscow is linked up via space, cable, and relay communication lines with the entire world. Some 2,000 million TV-viewers watch the proceedings of the 27th Congress of the CPSU.