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# Soviet defector new social lion

If you want a Washington lion to star at a party, latch on to Arkady Shevchenko. He's the only person in this town — except for President Reagan (who can be wit all evening) — who can hold a living room full of people enthralled for hours. That's because Americans wonder how the men in the Kremlin think, and Mr. Shevchenko, who sat in on top-level Soviet meetings before he defected in '78, knows.

In fact, most of the 30 people in the Ernest Hueters' penthouse apartment the other evening didn't even know that the author of "Breaking With Moscow" and his lovely looking wife Elaine are living right in the District of Columbia at an undisclosed address. They also met in this city, said Elaine who comes from Asheville, N.C. Was it love at first sight? Not exactly, but she found him extremely interesting right off.

Most surprising of all, CIA Director Bill Casey, who was there with his wife Sophie, had never met Mr. Shevchenko before. By the time Mr. Casey took over the agency it had, no doubt, already recorded everything the Russian knew. That was during the Carter administration, but one wondered if Mr. Carter ever read the defector's revelations after hearing the latter's comment about Mr. Carter.

One of the questions asked after dinner during this gathering arranged by Ernest Lefever's Ethics and Public Policy Center was about SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative, also known as "star wars").

"I was absolutely amazed when former President Carter said it is a waste of money," said Mr. Shevchenko. Before the Soviets heard about SDI they felt "very comfortable about the military balance and their predominant force of SS-20s in Europe. SDI brought them back to the table to talk about arms control. The U.S. should never agree to rule out research [in any arms agreement]. Even if it abandoned the SDI, the Soviet Union would never open its territory or research laboratories to inspection."

He also said:



CIA Director William Casey (left) with Soviet defector Arkady Shevchenko (right) at a dinner that also drew Elaine Shevchenko (center).  
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That he had no idea of what freedom was like until he came to this country. No Russians have. Not even Mikhail Gorbachev.

That there's no hope that the communist leaders will ever be overthrown. There's no political party to rally around, no assembly of people allowed, no protection from informers.

That detente was beneficial to the U.S.S.R. because we cut back our military and the Soviets took over several more countries (about seven).

Listening intently was White Houser Brett Sciaroni, chairman of the President's Intelligence Oversight Board, and Justice Sandra O'Connor and husband John, who earlier told about their Vermont hike the last week of September.

The O'Connors, investment counselor Leslie Douglas and his wife Jean — daughter of Henry A. Wallace; JFK's naval aide Adm. Taz Shepard and wife Jan — John Sparkman's daughter; and Washington multimillionaire Frank Saul and wife Trish backpacked their lunches and rain gear and hiked the

10 miles between four charming inns in the Vermont mountains — the athletic O'Connors leading the way. Their clothes went from place

to place by car. All said it was divine.

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