

PR DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 28, 1974

No. 269



US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION

Today's Agreement on Cooperation in Housing and Other Construction expands contacts and cooperation in the construction field which have been carried out through exchange visits since 1960 primarily under the US-USSR Exchange Agreements.

The possibility of an agreement became apparent during preparations for the present summit visit of President Nixon to the Soviet Union. Negotiations were held May 6-8 in Moscow between a US delegation headed by Housing and Urban Development Under Secretary James L. Mitchell and a Soviet delegation led by the Vice Chairman of USSR State Committee for Construction, Ivan Ganichev.

OUTLINE OF THE AGREEMENT

Proceeding on the assumption that a more efficient application of modern technology in the field of construction can contribute to a more rational use of resources available to both countries, the Agreement provides for mutual exchanges of information and experts, and for future joint projects of mutual interest between the two countries.

As a major topic of US-Soviet cooperation, the Agreement calls for the development of performance criteria for residential building in seismic areas, emphasizing the relationship of geologic conditions. In particular, it is hoped that a joint research project in performance criteria related to the construction in earthquake prone areas may be implemented in the near future, enhancing capabilities for life safety in both nations. The project will include examination of residential structures built on similar soils, and we would benefit from Soviet experience in the development and application of design criteria for specific, small areas based upon analysis of earthquake frequency and intensity.

Another subject of interest will be the improvement of construction in extreme climatic areas, including cold and arid regions, with special consideration given to difficult and unusual soil conditions.

The Agreement also provides for the examination of:

Innovations in construction technology, with an evaluation of new methods and materials,

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Criteria for services to housing and public buildings, such as water, waste disposal and heating, and

The planning, design and construction of new towns.

A US-USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in Housing and Other Construction will be established under the Agreement to effect its implementation. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, headed by Secretary James T. Lynn, has been designated on the US side as Executive Agency for implementing this Agreement, and the Soviet State Committee on Construction will be the Executive Agency on the Soviet side.

The Agreement enters into force upon signature and remains in force for five years. It will be automatically extended for successive five year periods unless either party notifies the other of its intent to terminate this Agreement not later than six months prior to its expiration. The Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual agreement.

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION**

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America;

Desiring to develop cooperation in the field of housing and other construction;

Realizing that a more effective application of new and traditional building materials and techniques can contribute to more rational utilization of the resources available to both countries;

Desiring to exchange information and techniques in the field of housing and other construction;

Believing that cooperation in the field of housing and other construction offers benefits for both the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America;

Convinced that such cooperation will serve to contribute to the improvement of relations between the two countries;

Noting cooperation already being implemented in these areas under existing agreements, and in accordance with the General Agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on Contacts, Exchanges, and Cooperation, signed June 19, 1973;

Have agreed as follows:

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ARTICLE I

The Parties will develop and carry out cooperation in the field of housing and other construction on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.

ARTICLE II

This cooperation will be directed to the investigation and solution of specific problems of mutual interest in the field of housing and other construction.

Initially, cooperation will be implemented in the following areas:

- a. Innovative techniques for the improvement of life safety, reliability, quality, and economy of buildings and building materials including: organization and management of construction, new methods and materials, and the improved use of traditional methods and materials;
- b. Performance criteria for housing and other construction in seismic areas with special consideration of the impact of geophysical conditions;
- c. Improvement of construction methods in areas of extreme climatic conditions, such as cold and arid regions, including techniques for erection and finishing of buildings under sustained freezing, and foundation construction under unusual soil conditions;
- d. Services to housing and other buildings, including water supply, waste disposal, heating, lighting, and ventilation, with special reference to combined utility functions; and
- e. Planning, design, and construction of new towns.

Other areas of cooperation may be added by mutual agreement.

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ARTICLE III

Cooperation pursuant to this Agreement may be implemented by the following means:

- a. Exchange of experts, advanced students and delegations;
- b. Exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation;
- c. Conducting joint conferences, meetings and seminars;
- d. Joint development and implementation of research programs and projects; and
- e. Other forms of cooperation which may be mutually agreed upon.

Such cooperation shall be conducted in accordance with the constitution and applicable laws and regulations of the respective countries.

ARTICLE IV

In furtherance of the aims of this Agreement, the Parties will, as appropriate, encourage, facilitate and monitor the development of cooperation and direct contacts between agencies, organizations and firms of the two countries, including the conclusion, as appropriate, of implementing agreements for carrying out specific projects and programs under this Agreement.

ARTICLE V

1. For the implementation of this Agreement, there shall be established a US-USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in Housing and Other Construction. This Committee shall meet, as a rule, once a year alternately in the United States and the Soviet Union, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

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2. The Joint Committee shall take such action as is necessary for the effective implementation of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, approval of specific projects and programs of cooperation, designation of appropriate agencies, organizations, and joint working groups to be responsible for carrying out cooperative activities; and making recommendations, as appropriate, to the Parties.

3. Each Party shall designate its Executive Agent which will be responsible for coordinating and carrying out this Agreement, and, as appropriate, in their respective countries, shall assure the cooperation of other participating institutions and organizations. During the period between meetings of the Joint Committee, the Executive Agents will maintain contact with each other and will coordinate and supervise the development and implementation of cooperative activities conducted under this Agreement.

4. Unless an implementing agreement contains other provisions, each Party or participating institution, organization or firm shall bear the costs of its participation and that of its personnel in cooperative activities engaged in under this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to prejudice other agreements between the Parties or their respective rights and obligations under such other agreements.

ARTICLE VII

1. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and remains in force for five years. It will be automatically extended for successive five year periods unless either party notifies the other of its intent to terminate this Agreement not later than six months prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

2. This Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties.

3. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of implementing agreements concluded under this Agreement between interested agencies, organizations and firms of the two countries.

DONE at Moscow on 1974, in duplicate in the Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:

FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



June 28, 1974

No. 270

US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN HOUSING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION: EARTHQUAKE CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH PROJECT

Today's announcement, in connection with the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Housing and Other Construction, that the two countries have agreed to undertake on a priority basis a joint research project on construction in earthquake prone regions is a new addition to joint work now underway to increase the safety of their citizens living in these areas.

This research project will aim at increasing the safety of buildings and other structures and, in particular, at studying the behavior of pre-fabricated residential structures during earthquakes. The project, as envisaged by US experts, will seek to enhance our understanding of the response to earthquakes of panel type, frame and other residential structures built by non-conventional techniques and thus lead to improvements in construction. The researchers will examine the response of residential type building systems to ground motion, in particular, the behavior of building elements at their joints and connections. This will be accomplished through field measurement of existing buildings. These measurements will be used to develop and calibrate design models for increasing the safety of buildings in seismically hazardous areas.

This project complements joint field work now underway in earthquake prediction under the 1972 US-USSR Agreement on Cooperation in Environmental Protection.

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