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## The Value of the American-Russian Exchange Visits

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*The Soviet Delegation*

(National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C., June 18, 1959)

Permit me in the name of the Soviet Delegation of Scientists and Construction Specialists, to express our cordial gratitude for your amiable invitation to visit your country and to familiarize ourselves with your achievements in the field of theory and practice of soil mechanics and foundation engineering.

We express our gratitude to the National Academy of Sciences, to the American Society of Civil Engineers and to all those gentlemen who with sincere good feeling helped us to utilize our stay in the USA as rationally and usefully as possible with the aim of organizing scientific and business contacts between specialists of our countries.

We particularly thank the deeply esteemed chairman, Dr. Connolly, Mr. Burggraf and Profs. Kersten, Tschebotarioff, Winterkorn, Schmid, Jumikis, Lambe, Peck, Leonards and Seed—who did extensive practical work for the organization of the exchange of our delegations and for the creation of particularly favorable conditions in the USA for our delegation.

Our brief visit to the United States of America is coming to an end. However, although we stayed here a short while, we nevertheless saw and learned much which is interesting and useful. We received much satisfaction from our study of the interesting construction and especially road building sites and test roads in a number of American cities. We were particularly interested by the remarkable organization of test road research. We received much that was interesting and valuable as a result of our participation in seminars concerned

with various problems in the field of soil mechanics and foundation engineering.

At these seminars, as well as in laboratories, on construction sites and in other places, we had the agreeable opportunity, not only to present reports concerning a number of our Soviet scientific studies, but also to make personal contacts with many outstanding scientists and specialists of America.

The Soviet scientists and specialists follow with great attention the interesting, and in a number of cases, outstanding achievements of American scientists. In spite of complications in the matter of direct exchanges between the specialists of our two great countries, we in the USSR study with great respect and interest the work of the specialists and scientists who are known the world over in that field: Terzaghi, Casagrande, Tschebotarioff, Peck, Burggraf, Lambe, Osterberg, Kersten, Hanson, Thornburn and many others. In the USSR books of American specialists have been published in large printings.

The considerable achievements of American specialists in the field of road construction are generally acknowledged. In this respect, the American roads designed and built in complicated geological conditions are presentations in nature equivalent to beautiful books and scientific studies.

Much that is useful is being done by Soviet scientists, too. We also have a number of achievements which help the technical advance of construction work, and because of geographical and climatic conditions of our country, we have to develop

solutions to numerous engineering-technical problems which do not occur in other countries.

The hydro-technical construction widely developed in the USSR demanded the solution of many complicated problems. These included the solution of the problem of construction on soft soils and on sands of large structures required to resist considerable heads of water pressures.

In June 1956, in Moscow, the Academy of Construction and Architecture of the USSR was created, and in November 1956, in Kiev, the Ukrainian Academy of Construction and Architecture was established. In the systems of the various scientific-research organizations of these two academies more than 12,000 scientific and engineering-technical workers are occupied with the complex multi-phased study and development of the most important problems in the field of construction and architecture, which include the fields of soil mechanics and foundation engineering.

It seems to me that many results of Soviet scientific studies would be of interest for American scientists and engineers as well and we are glad to find that scientific and cultural connections between our countries are becoming more and more organized. We are deeply convinced that mutual exchanges of specialists will favor further cultural and

scientific progress, and, above all, will help create friendly connections between peoples and will affirm peace.

Often we have been asked what we liked best in America and without hesitation we answered: "The Americans who, just as do we, want a peaceful life and friendly exchanges in business and scientific fields." We are certain that the results of our trip will be useful to our scientific and practical activity; we would like to hope, too, that this visit will in some way prove not without use for you.

Travel from one country to the other took a long time in the past. There are no such difficulties today. Having had lunch in Moscow, the same evening we had supper in New York, so that the technical possibilities for the expansion of association between our countries have now become limitless.

For that reason, we hope, that our mutual visits will promote the development of friendly business and scientific relations between our scientists and specialists. And this will promote not only the development of science and of practice in the field of soil mechanics and foundation engineering, but also the improvement of mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of our great countries and will contribute to a quiet, peaceful life on our, as yet, insufficiently firm earth globe.