

January 23, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford met today with eleven Soviet journalists who are visiting the United States under an exchange program conducted by the American Council of Young Political Leaders and the Soviet Committee for Youth Organizations. A group of American journalists toured the Soviet Union under the same program in September, 1974.

The President met with the group for some twenty minutes.

He welcomed them to Washington and particularly to the White House.

A spokesman for the group, Vladimir Gubarev, deputy chief editor of Komsomolskaya Pravda, thanked the whole American nation for their reception, which he said was a very warm one.

He noted that this was their first visit to the United States, that they had seen a great deal, and said "it is better to see something for oneself once, rather than hear about it a hundred times."

The President said that he had had the privilege in November of visiting the Soviet Union and that while in Vladivostok he had a very successful meeting with General Secretary Brezhnev.

The President said he considered it to have been a very productive visit and one which whetted his appetite to re-visit the Soviet Union.

President Ford said that he was looking forward to General Secretary Brezhnev's coming to the United States some time this summer. He noted the agreement reached in Vladivostok and stated his belief that the achievement of limitation in strategic arms is not only a step forward in the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union but indeed for the whole world.

The President said that he was encouraged with the contacts that he has had with Soviet government representatives, both in Vladivostok and in Washington, and that the two nations have a great opportunity to contribute towards peace in the world.

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