

From 13-20 March 2004 with an OIP grant I visited Moscow to discuss the June SDSU Russian Criminal Justice Program. I met with Mikhail Karpovich Basharatyan, the director of the foreign student program and dean of International Relations Faculty. We discussed the cost for the Moscow portion of the program (\$350 per student), and he indicated that his cost increased, but he would be bound by the price we had used last year. The cost for next year will be higher, and it might be wise to get a commitment for a price for the next three years. We expected 17-20 students this year. An American law professor would give a lecture on International Human Rights during our discussion of the Russian Constitution. We again planned to use a Russian jurist to comment on their system. Discussions were had about subject matter of the course and possible additional speakers. Vladimir Stepanov-Eguiants, a former SDSU short-term scholar, would again help us with arrangements both in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

During the week I met with Presiding Judge David Georgovich Agamov, who agreed to a visit of his district court by the SDSU students. This is one of the three professional excursions. The district court formerly visited is no longer available. I spoke with Vladimir Khvesenya, a Russian attorney working at the American law firm of Case & White, LLP, who agreed to an SDSU student visit to his office.

On 18 March 2004 I met with Professor Vladimir Kommissarov, senior criminal law professor of the MGU law faculty. He would look into the possibility of student meeting with judges of the Russian Supreme Court handling criminal cases. He would also inquire about a prison tour for the SDSU students.

In addition to making arrangements for the SDSU students, preparations were made concerning the experimental program to bring Russian students to SDSU during July 2004. On 18 March 2004 I met with the co-rector and director of international programs of the Russian Academy of Justice (RAJ). After a detailed discussion concerning the terms of the subagreement for the participation of five of their law students, the agreement was signed by RAJ. Thereafter, I met with the five RAJ student candidates, who were excellent students. Three had recently participated in an international debate competition on international law, and all five spoke English very well. We discussed the nature of the program, and they were very excited about this unique opportunity to study at SDSU on this experimental program.

On 19 March 2004 I met with 12 MGU Russian students, both law students and international students. The interest in the SDSU July program was greater than I anticipated. I reviewed the nature and terms of the program and advised all the Embassy had the last word on whether the students would be granted a visa. This would bring to a total 17 students

(12 MGU and 5 RAJ). I met for the first time the MGU law professor who will be accompanying the students, Professor of Legal History Gaine Davidian. The English of the students and professor was more than satisfactory, and they would be able to function on their own in San Diego. After some discussion with the students and the teacher, it was deemed advisable to shorten the amount of time for formal English study so as to permit the students to get practice in the community. After the meeting with the students, I met privately with Prof. Davidian, who graciously agreed to share some of the teaching load for the July program. We discussed content of the program, the schedule, and goals to be achieved. It was felt necessary to provide some type of diploma.

Copies of the passports of the Russian students were obtained, except for a few that would be emailed to me so that we could send requests for a grant of a visa. This is now an arduous and drawn-out process that must be commenced very early. I advised them that Vladimir Stepanov-Eguiants, would give an orientation session on how to apply for a visa.

A travel expenses statement (\$1,152.86) is being submitted through my department.

If you have any questions about the trip, please contact me. Your support of SDSU's effort to improve this student relationship with Moscow is most appreciated.