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SUBJECT: Report of Foreign Travel to the Soviet Union, Sept. 15 - Dec. 15, 1986, as part of the US-USSR Academies of Sciences Exchange Program.

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#### ABSTRACT

One-week visits were made to Tallinn, Leningrad, Novosibirsk and Yalta. Two-week visits were made to Tbilisi, Baku, Batumi and Moscow. Population studies on Oxalis acetosella L. were conducted in all the herbaria visited. Some four wild Oxalis populations from Moscow, Estonia (2x) and Novosibirsk were included. In the Black Sea region measurements were collected on some 23 Sequoia sempervirens trees, 17 Sequoiadendron giganteum trees, 10 Metasequoia glyptostroboides trees and 25 trees of other Taxodiaceae.

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VISIT: Foreign Travel to the Soviet  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION.

This is a report on the scientific and administrative aspects of my foreign travel to the Soviet Union as part of the US-USSR Academies of Sciences Exchange Program.

I have divided this report in two main parts dealing with the scientific aspects, and the administrative arrangements and other concerns. I selected the narrative and travel log format as being the most effective and comprehensive format of reporting on my foreign travel through the Soviet Union as this format was used in two other major reports I had the privilege to review. I choose to discuss appropriate topics at certain sections of this report. Not necessarily, this information originated from the specific occasion. Rather it reflects a composite experience or piece of information obtained during my entire visit. For any questions about any part of this report please contact me at the above address.

The objectives of my visit to the Soviet Union were initially to study salt marsh/sand dune vegetation and peat bog vegetation classification in the Estonian SSR and the Far East (Vladivostok) area of the USSR, and to measure the introduced Sequoia and other Taxodiaceae species in the Black Sea area. My proposal was accepted by the US National Academy of Sciences and my nomination was forwarded to the USSR Academy of Sciences on Oct. 23, 1985 for consideration. On Febr. 18, 1986 the USSR Academy of Sciences wired acceptance of my visit but limiting the visit to 2.5 months for Moscow, Baku, Tbilisi, Batumi, Leningrad and Yalta. A counter proposal was submitted. The USSR Academy of Sciences accepted my modified travel proposal for 3 months starting on Sept. 15, 1986 by telex dated Aug. 1, 1986. The final approved itinerary included one-week visits to Tallinn (Estonian

SSR), Leningrad, Novosibirsk, and two-week visits to Tbilisi, Baku, Batumi and Yalta and exiting the USSR from Moscow. The modified research objectives were: 1. to collect population measurements of Oxalis acetosella L. in the field and/or in herbaria, and 2. to measure specimen trees of Taxodiaceae. During visits to botanical institutes and gardens I would explore vegetation classification concepts, especially peat bog classification, and to become acquainted with the Soviet progress in these fields.

## 2. SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF VISIT.

### 2-1. PREVISIT ACTIVITIES.

My first Russian contacts date back to 1950 when as a forestry student, I attended the VII International Botanical Congress at Stockholm, Sweden. Here, I was fortunate to meet briefly with Academician V. N. Sukachev through an interpreter. I renewed my Soviet contacts with the USSR delegation at subsequent International Botanical Congresses at Paris, France (1954), Montreal, Canada (1959), Edinburgh, Scotland (1964) and Seattle, WA (1969). The most fruitful and lasting contacts were with Academician E. M. Lavrenko (Komarov) and Rabinovich (Moscow State University), receiving from them significant publications and several technical Russian-English dictionaries. I commenced to study the Russian language.

In 1965, I contacted Dr. Toomas Frey, Tartu, Estonian SSR because of our common interest in biomass productivity studies within coniferous forests in the framework of the International Biological Program (IBP).

In 1976, I was introduced to Dr. W. Carter Johnson at the Oakridge National Laboratory (ONL), Oak Ridge, TN. I was working under a research contract for Dr. Jerry S. Olson, Ecology Division, ONL, for monumenting and inventorying the biomass productivity sample plots established jointly by Dr. Robert H. Whittaker and me in 1959-1960 in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Dr. W. Carter Johnson strongly encouraged me to apply for the US-USSR Academy of Sciences Exchange Program. Subsequently, I corresponded with Academician Leonid E. Rodin (Komarov) regarding my pending application for a Soviet visit to study vegetation classification developments. Unfortunately, my application was denied by the National Science Foundation in the fall of 1976, before I received the encouraging response and invitation from Academician Rodin.

Upon semi-retirement in July, 1984 and assuming

half-time teaching duties at Humboldt State University the opportunity finally existed to realistically plan for an extended USSR visit. I submitted a proposal to this effect to the NAS and renewed my Soviet correspondence submitting copies of my application. In 1986, my proposal was modified and finally accepted by the US-USSR Academies of Sciences.

From the time of formal application, I regularly kept my potential Soviet hosts informed during the lengthy selection process. I received Soviet input to modify my proposal and obtained additional official invitations for short visits from the Estonian Botanical Institute at Tallinn, the Main Botanical Garden at Moscow, the Komarov Botanical Institute at Leningrad, and the Novosibirsk Botanical Garden at Akademgorodok. I received strong Soviet endorsements for my visits from my major hosts: Dr. Toomas Frey, Tartu State University, Tartu, Estonian SSR and Dr. Alexander N. Sidelnikov, Far East Scientific Center, Vladivostok USSR. I further prepared myself seriously for greater proficiency in the Russian language. This latter aspect proved to be almost mandatory for scientific communication.

## 2-2. ARRIVAL AT MOSCOW & TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. SEPT. 15-21, 1986.

I split my travel from Arcata to Moscow into three segments to avoid tiredness and jetlag problems. The first segment was mandatory with a six hour flight to Washington, D.C. for a one-night stopover to receive the briefing at the Office of Soviet and European Affairs, NAS. The second segment of a 12-hour flight was from Washington, D.C. to New York to Amsterdam, Netherlands where I stayed for about 4 days. The last segment was an 8-hour flight from Amsterdam to Vienna to Moscow. I arrived in the late afternoon at the Sheremetov Airport at Moscow on Sept. 15, 1986. Because of the simultaneous arrival of several international flights large crowds had gathered in the arrival hall. It took us well over 5 hours to collect our luggage and to pass customs. Large tourist groups were pushed ahead of us through the customs checkpoint by the Intourist officials.

We discovered that there was no representative from the USSR Academy of Sciences assigned to us. However, it was helpful to know from previous reports that we would be housed in the Akademia Nauk Hotel. We took a taxi directly from the airport to the hotel. Registering in, we discovered that there was no official authorization at the hotel service desk for our arrival and planned stay. Because of the lateness of the hour











































































































































