

Office of the Press Secretary
(Moscow, USSR)

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FACT SHEETINITIATIVES ON EXPANDED SPACE COOPERATIONCurrent Activities

- Extensive cooperation is underway under the 1987 U.S./U.S.S.R. Space Cooperation Agreement.
- Sixteen specific joint projects or areas of cooperation were originally listed; others were added at the May 1988 Summit.

Initiatives for the Summit

- The President approved on September 19, 1990, three initiatives for discussion with the Soviets.
- Environmental monitoring initiative. The U.S. would invite the U.S.S.R. to participate in NASA'S Mission to Planet Earth. The two sides would agree to share data and coordinate observations of their respective space and terrestrial environmental monitoring systems, and would meet in a multilateral forum (such as the Committee on Earth Observations (CEOS) to develop worldwide efforts to monitor environmental changes from space.
- Astronaut/cosmonaut exchange initiative. A U.S. astronaut will fly on one long duration Mir mission and a Soviet cosmonaut will fly on a reciprocal Shuttle/Spacelab mission for the purpose of pursuing research in the life sciences. A new working group on manned space flight will be formed under the 1987 Space Agreement -- the amendment will require an exchange of diplomatic notes.
- Annual Space Consultations. The two sides would consult on civil space issues, including issues of broad international concern such as space debris. The forum would be the channel for presenting new cooperative activities falling outside the scope of existing working groups.
- The proposals were discussed during the Houston Ministerial in December 1990 and subsequently accepted by the Soviets. Presidents Bush and Gorbachev will announce the initiatives at the Summit.

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