



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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U.S.S.R./AUSTRALIA SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

The Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister, Mr Whitlam, today announced the first stage in the implementation of the U.S.S.R./Australia Scientific Exchanges Agreement.

This, he said, was the appointment of convenors of five groups of Australian scientists who, with their Soviet counterparts, would study the possibilities for scientific cooperation between Australia and the U.S.S.R., including the establishment of joint research programs.

The Scientific Exchanges Agreement was initialled in Canberra in February this year during the visit to Australia of a Soviet Scientific Delegation.

During the visit the Delegation agreed with Australian Officials on the establishment of five working groups of scientists to investigate areas of possible scientific cooperation.

The five groups will be in the fields of radio astronomy, the earth sciences, entomology, plant industry and textile technology.

The initial meetings of the groups will probably start during September in Moscow.

The Australian convenors for these groups, and their Soviet counterparts are, respectively:

Radio
Astronomy

Dr J.P. Wild, FRS,
Chief, CSIRO Division
of Radiophysics.

Mr V.S. Troitsky,
Deputy Director Scientific
Research Radiophysics
Institute of the Ministry of
Higher and Middle Specialised
Education of the RSFSR.

Earth
Sciences

Mr I.E. Newnham,
Director, CSIRO
Minerals Research
Laboratories.

Mr V.A. Magnitsky,
Chief of Laboratory Research
Institute of Earth Physics,
USSR Academy of Science.
Corresponding member of the
USSR Academy of Science.

Entomology	Dr D.F. Waterhouse, FRS, Chief, CSIRO Division of Entomology.	Mr M.S. Gilyarov, Chief of the Laboratory of Evolved Morphology and Animal Ecology, USSR Academy of Sciences. Corresponding member of USSR Academy of Science.
Plant Industry	Dr L.T. Evans, Chief, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry.	Mr D.D. Brezhnev, Director Plant Research Institute, Vavilov and Mr A.A. Sozinov, Director, All USSR Selection Genetic Institute.
Textile Technology	Dr M. Lipson, Chief, CSIRO Division of Textile Industry.	Mr B.S. Golovastikov, Director, Central Research Institute of Textile Industry, Mosc

Mr Whitlam said that other members of the Australian groups had already been chosen. He added that the Scientific Exchanges Agreement was an important step in furthering bilateral relations between Australia and the U.S.S.R.. It would also benefit the scientific communities of both countries.