

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



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January 22, 1973

Vladimir Kalyushny
Andrei Shirinsky
External Relations Branch
Ministry of Education
Shabolovka Street 49
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. Kalyushny and Mr. Shirinsky:

I take this direct and personal way of sending our thanks to you for the fine experience of the American teachers in the Soviet Union and our appreciation of the contribution made by the four teachers who will be returning to your country on January 29th.

We have hoped for some time that our teachers would be assigned to places other than Moscow and Leningrad, although that hope carried no criticism of the welcome the teachers have received or the usefulness of the assignments. Our interest in widening the geographic spread has been in order to recognize the rich diversity within your nation and to express the goodwill of Americans to Soviets less accustomed to meeting foreign visitors. Elizabeth Condon and James Powers would not trade their experience in Cherkassy and Vinnitsa for any other place; they felt welcome and useful and they hold their hosts in high esteem, both the schools and the people. We hope the host schools and you in the Ministry feel that these placements have met with your expectations. At the same time we want to express our thanks to the schools in Moscow and Leningrad which were hosts to Dorothea Galer and Elizabeth Liapunov.

And now the Soviet teachers who have been our guests. You are to be congratulated on these fine men and women; they bring honor and respect to your nation and to the teaching profession. Each leaves behind a host of friends, a deepened appreciation of the Russian language, and a truer concept of life in the Soviet Union. We trust they take with them the counterpart of these contributions. We feel that the selection of men and of teachers from widely separated places strengthens the program. Again, this is not a criticism of your choices in earlier exchanges.

Several weeks ago I spoke with Valerian Nesterov in Washington about the teacher exchange. He expects to return to Moscow shortly, and I have asked him to emphasize the importance we all attach to this program. The American Friends Service Committee relinquishes the sponsorship with the sense

of an opportunity just opening, just beginning to demonstrate its potential. We have worked in close association with the American Field Service International Scholarships this year, and we assure you that their interest and their purposes in sponsoring the teacher exchange meet our own standards and our own hopes for the future.

We are grateful for the association we have had over the years with the Ministry of Education, and we extend our best wishes to you personally and to you as an agency of goodwill between our two nations.

Sincerely,

Myrtle G. McCallin

MGM:snp