

**THE WORLD BANK GROUP ARCHIVES**

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZED**

**Folder Title:** President Conable travel files: New York - Soviet Economy - July 21, 1990  
– Correspondence

**Folder ID:** 1782363

**Series:** Travel Briefings

**Dates:** 07/19/1990 - 07/21/1990

**Fonds:** Records of the Office of the President

**ISAD Reference Code:** WB IBRD/IDA EXC-11-52S

**Digitized:** 01/21/2022

To cite materials from this archival folder, please follow the following format:  
[Descriptive name of item], [Folder Title], Folder ID [Folder ID], ISAD(G) Reference Code [Reference Code], [Each Level Label as applicable], World Bank Group Archives, Washington, D.C., United States.

The records in this folder were created or received by The World Bank in the course of its business.

The records that were created by the staff of The World Bank are subject to the Bank's copyright.

Please refer to <http://www.worldbank.org/terms-of-use-earchives> for full copyright terms of use and disclaimers.



THE WORLD BANK

Washington, D.C.

© International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / International Development Association or

The World Bank

1818 H Street NW

Washington DC 20433

Telephone: 202-473-1000

Internet: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZED**

NEW YORK - "SOVIET ECONOMY" 7/21 trip file



The World Bank Group  
**Archives**



**1782363**

R1992-123 Other #. 12 Box #209614B

President Conable travel files: New York (Soviet Economy), July 21, 1990 -  
Correspondence

**DECLASSIFIED**  
WBG Archives

**URGENT**



MANAGING DIRECTOR

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20431

CABLE ADDRESS  
INTERFUND

July 19, 1990

Dear Barber:

I would like to confirm the place and timing of our meeting this coming Saturday to discuss the preparations for the study of the Soviet Economy. I propose that we first meet among ourselves for about one and one-half hours for an initial exchange of views on how to organize this complex project. Afterwards, we would meet with Mr. Lamy for a first consultation with the Commission of the European Communities. In the afternoon, our personal representatives would continue the meeting to agree on the concrete aspects of the organization of the work. There will be numerous matters to discuss and it would be desirable that they be prepared to continue the meeting on Monday, July 23, at Fund headquarters if this should prove necessary.

For purposes of our work, I am in broad agreement with the tentative list of topics sent by Mr. Paye, which could be taken as the starting point of our discussion. In that specific context, however, I will raise a few concerns that we will need to address for purposes of organizing the study and you may wish to do the same.

For our first meeting, I suggest we focus and decide on the following four subjects: (a) distribution of tasks among our institutions; (b) work methods; (c) possible timetable; and (d) draft of joint letter to President Gorbachev.

In order to expedite matters, I am attaching a draft of a letter to President Gorbachev and a proposal for work methods. The tentative timetable proposed by Mr. Paye will need modifications in light of distribution of tasks and of my proposed work methods.

Finally, we will need to discuss modalities for each of us to secure the endorsement of our respective Boards or Governing Bodies to a final report that we shall prepare, and for its transmittal to the G-7 and the Soviet authorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michel", is written above the printed name.

Michel Camdessus

Attachments

Mr. Barber Conable  
President  
International Bank for Reconstruction  
and Development  
Washington, D.C.

DRAFT  
July 21, 1990

Dear Mr. President:

Following the message that you had addressed to the President of the United States, the Houston Economic Declaration of the 1990 Economic Summit has called on our respective organizations to undertake, in close consultation with the Commission of the European Communities, a detailed study of the Soviet economy, to make recommendations for its reform, and to establish the criteria under which Western economic assistance could effectively support this reform.

We, the heads of the concerned organizations, confirm our readiness to undertake this study. We have met today in New York to discuss the modalities for carrying it out and the possible distribution of work on the basis of our respective experience in dealing with macroeconomic, structural, and other economic reforms. Given its complexity and the short period available for its completion, we are ready to begin the study immediately.

In order to fulfill this responsibility, we will need the full cooperation and support of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We therefore ask you, Mr. President, to inform us of the views of your Government.

For our part, we are prepared to devote the best professional resources of our institutions to the task of undertaking an effective economic dialogue with your Government during the coming months in order to reach an understanding of the problems that face the economy. *(To set* the stage for our work, we have asked Michel Camdessus to be prepared to

travel and meet with you and such officials as you designate for discussions on the structure, timetable, and other aspects of the study.)

We look forward to your reply.

Accept, Mr. President, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Michel Camdessus

Barber Conable

Jean-Claude Paye

Jacques Attali

Mikhail S. Gorbachev

---



## Working Methods for Soviet Study

### I. Considerations

1. Clear need for cooperation among all participants (institutions and individuals) in seeking common objectives.
2. Argues for the closest cooperation among the institutions and some central coordination of activities of individual missions and working groups.
3. The political nature of many of the issues, the sensitivities of the authorities, and the public attention that will be focused on this effort all argue for maintenance of the <sup>absolute</sup> ~~highest degree of~~ confidentiality.

### II. Coordination of activities

1. The organizational structure to be put in place to carry out the mandate of the Houston summit has to be decided on the basis of an agreed distribution of tasks. The Heads of the four institutions (the Fund, the World Bank, the OECD, and the EBRD) must retain final responsibility for all aspects of this exercise, including the adoption of joint policy recommendations and strategic conclusions. Coordination could best be carried out through a committee of personal representatives (the Committee)

appointed by the Heads of the four institutions. The Committee would coordinate the activities of the institutions and of the various task forces set up to carry out clearly specified terms of reference for conducting this study as agreed by the Heads of the four institutions.

2. The Committee would advise the Heads of the institutions on the establishment of task forces to implement specific components of the study.

3. Each institution would be entitled to be represented on each task force. Moreover, each institution could be represented in any mission where participation was appropriate and helpful to the institution in carrying out the primary responsibilities it had accepted for the conduct of the study. However, each institution will exercise restraint in its mission participation so as to help limit the size of missions and will conduct its business as expeditiously and efficiently as possible so as to facilitate the conduct of the study, and to assist the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities.

4. Each task force and any mission it organizes will operate under the instructions of a briefing document. This will identify the head of the task force or mission, the other members of the

*with the approval of the committee*

group, the time frame for the group's activities, the subject matters to be covered, the objectives of the group's work, and the approach that will be taken.

5. Briefing documents would be reviewed ~~and approved as~~ appropriate within each institution but then assessed by the Committee to assure that they conform to the agreed distribution of responsibilities, avoid duplication, and leave no important issue untreated.

6. During missions, the mission chief would be responsible for the activities of the mission. Mission members will not be authorized to undertake independent activities without prior approval of the mission chief.

*make a written*  
7. Each task force would <sup>make a written</sup> report to the Committee on a periodic basis, and also after each mission and on the completion of their activities. Reports would cover the progress achieved with respect to the objectives established in briefing documents and would explain departures from the briefing, if any. Each report following a mission should provide a frank appraisal of the mission's views and the risks associated with any recommendations made.

8. All data and other information collected by mission members should be made available to the relevant task force on a timely



basis. Mission members are also responsible upon request to explain their analytical work to the task force.

9. The leaders of the task forces will be responsible for putting together the draft report and ensuring the consistency of the specific proposals and conclusions *with the draft report*

10. The Heads of the four institutions will ~~meet~~ *meet* for final adoption of the report.

*Moscow in October*

### III. Confidentiality

1. All data and other information collected in connection with this study should be considered as <sup>*study*</sup> confidential and would be made public only upon completion of the final report and its submission to the Group of Seven and the authorities of the USSR and with their consent.

2. All local contacts by mission members in the field would be subject to clearance by the mission chief, in consultation with the relevant authorities in the USSR.

3. Missions should <sup>*not have*</sup> ~~avoid~~ contact with the press <sup>*when*</sup> ~~when~~ faced with such situations in the country, questions should be directed to the relevant USSR government authorities.

4. The Heads of Institutions will decide on the form of contact with and material for presentation to the press *at the end of the study*