

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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## FEC REPORT ON SOVIET ELECTORAL SYSTEM MADE PUBLIC AT PRESS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON -- This year's elections in the Soviet Union demonstrated a significant move toward democratization, but many problems in the electoral system are still to be resolved, according to a just-released report by the Federal Election Commission.

These are some of the major points in the 72-page report by the FEC of its June visit to the Soviet Union, made on the invitation of the Central Electoral Commission for Election of People's Deputies of the USSR.

The FEC delegation met in Moscow, Lenigrad and Kiev with Soviet election officials, academics, Communist party leaders and candidates who participated in elections to the Congress of the People's Deputies.

Release of the study was made at a joint press conference by FEC Chairman Danny L. McDonald and Richard Soudriette, Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, which was instrumental in the Commission's trip.

In its "Overview and Findings" section, the Report found:

The March elections can be seen as a significant move toward democratization, in that the Soviets permitted multicandidate slates, the secret ballot and grassroots participation in the initial selection of nominees.

Despite the stated goal of democratization, Soviet officials acknowledged many problems in the electoral system--among others, the need to equalize campaign resources, encourage multicandidate contests, facilitate more grassroots participation in the nomination process and strengthen enforcement of the election laws.

Soviet officials stated that, in further reforming their election law, they wanted to draw on the experience and constitutional law of Western nations.

Highlights of the 72-page report include:

Summaries of private meeting with Soviet Vice President Anatoliy Lukyanov and Boris Yeltsin, opposition figure in the recent election;

Observations on the Soviet election law;

Campaign financing in the Soviet Union;

The role of the Communist Party in the March elections;

Pluralism in Soviet politics; and

Future electoral reform in the USSR.

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