

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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SOVIET ELECTION OFFICIALS TO OBSERVE NOVEMBER STATE, LOCAL ELECTIONS IN U.S.

WASHINGTON -- A delegation from the Central Electoral Commission for Election of People's Deputies of the USSR will arrive in the United States on Thursday, November 2, to start an 11-day series of briefings on Federal and state campaign finance and election administration laws. CEC Chairman Vladimir P. Orlov will lead the eight member group. Hosts for the visit are the Federal Election Commission and the International Foundation For Electoral Systems (IFES).

The Central Electoral Commission conducted the June election of deputies to the People's Congress of Deputies under new laws adopted by the Soviets in 1988. This was the equivalent of elections for national office in the U.S. The Soviets have planned what essentially amounts to state and local elections for either December, 1989, or early 1990. Consequently, the coming visit is geared to observing the administration and conduct of state and local elections next month in this country.

During its first five days in the U.S., the delegation will confer with FEC and private election specialists; meet with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives having election law and foreign relations oversight responsibilities; visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery; tour Mt. Vernon where they will meet with top leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties; meet with the Comptroller of Maryland as well as with the President of the Maryland Senate; and visit the U.S. Naval Academy.

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On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the Soviets will be in Richmond to observe the voting and election administration processes involved in the Virginia general election, meet with top state officials, including the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Virginia Board of Elections. Wednesday, election officials and media representatives will conduct a debriefing session of the election, after which the visitors will go to New York.

Before the delegation returns home on Saturday, Nov. 11, it will hold meetings with the New York State Board of Elections, have roundtable discussions with representatives of the Giuliani and Dinkens mayoral campaigns, meet with members of the New York City Council and with New York City officials.

Plans for a Press Conference with the delegation will be announced.

The Federal Election Commission visited the Soviet Union the past June at the invitation of the Central Electoral Commission. The International Foundation For Electoral Systems secured funding for the project from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The invitation for the Soviets to visit the United States was extended by the FEC at that time .

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