

Soviet Bars Three From Book Fair

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Publishers, and urged all publishers to participate. The Russians promised that trade was the foremost aim of the fair and that there would be no visa or other problems encountered this year.

While Mr. Levinson was denied a visa, other representatives of Jewish publishing houses in the United States are participating in the fair. "I'm the head of the Jewish publishers' delegation and I'm still hoping they will change their minds," he said. "I have cabled Igor Kazansky, the director of Soviet international book exhibitions and fairs, to reconsider. I hope it is purely administrative. I cannot understand it but I'm glad that a visa was granted to our translator, Allison Yenkin, who studied Russian and just got out of Yale."

Mr. Bernstein and Peter Osnos, Random House associate publisher, both applied for visas. Mr. Osnos, a former correspondent for The Washington Post in Moscow, was granted a visa but decided not to go. His wife, Susan Osnos, will attend as a member of an Association of American Publishers' exhibition. There will be no Random House representative at the fair.

"Random House will show its books in three other ways," Mr. Bernstein said. "We will be in the Baker & Taylor exhibit, in the 'America Through American Eyes' exhibit put on by the Association of American Publishers, and in the exhibit of the Association of Jewish Publishers." Baker & Taylor is a major American book wholesaler.

Mr. Bernstein continued, "My feel-

ing is that one should make the effort to attend and, at the same time, to do so with eyes open. Random House will not keep its mouth shut. The Soviet dissidents and writers in exile believe that the right attitude is to go — but to talk freely. This book fair would have been a good way for the Gorbachev Government to express itself as being different. But it can't do so by denying the right of publishers to do business and exercise their right of free expression. That's what books are about."

While Miss Laber is not attending, Sophie Silberberg, director of the Fund for Free Expression, who is also one of the writers of the "America Through American Eyes" catalogue, has been granted a visa and will attend the fair.

Many Others to Show Books

Despite the visa denials for Miss Laber, Mr. Levinson and Mr. Bernstein, nearly 200 American publishers will have their books on display through a joint exhibition by Baker & Taylor. This will be where rights, imports and exports, royalties and possible co-productions will come under discussion.

In addition, among the book companies scheduled to have individual exhibits or participation on the scene by their international sales representatives are Harper & Row; Prentice-Hall; Houghton Mifflin; John Wiley; Plenum Publishers; McGraw-Hill; Times Mirror, and other specialized houses.

Both the Association of American Publishers and the Association of Jewish Book Publishers have mounted major exhibitions of books,

complete with catalogues that will be given away without cost to fair visitors.

"America Through American Eyes" — the Association of American Publishers' exhibit — will display 300 books "that reflect life in the United States." This is the list that came under fire last May from the National Endowment for Democracy, a bipartisan organization financed by Congress, which contended that the books reflected "the views of only one segment of the American political spectrum."

The author Kurt Vonnegut, who headed the selection committee, called it a "tempest in a teapot." His name no longer appears on the catalogue's selection committee, which includes, among others, Dennis Flanagan, Toni Morrison and Rose Styron. The Association of American Publishers then turned back the financial aid of the National Endowment for Democracy, raised its own funds for the exhibition and catalogue, and has not changed the original selections of books published during the last five years.

The wide-ranging "America Through American Eyes" exhibit includes such titles as these:

"Baseball," by Roger Angell; "Growing Up," by Russell Baker; "Herblock's Through the Looking-Glass: The Reagan Years," by Herbert Block; "American Art," by Milton Brown; "The Years of Lyndon Johnson," by Robert Caro; "Son of the Morning Star," by Evan S. Connell; "Slouching Towards Kalamazoo," by Peter De Vries; "Lives of the Poets," by E. L. Doctorow; "The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House," by Seymour M. Hersh; "Ironweed," by William Kennedy; "The Stories of Bernard Malamud," by Bernard Malamud; "Space," by James Michener; "Later the Same Day," by Grace Paley, and "Willie and Dwiki: An American Profile," by William Zinsser.

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At the Israeli stand, Judith Gurevitz, the exhibit's director, estimated that as many as 7,000 people a day were coming through.

'Heartbreaking,' Exhibitor Says

"It's remarkable," she said. "They stand two, three hours in line. People just don't want to leave — they've traveled thousands of miles to come here, and it's heartbreaking to ask them to make room for somebody else."

The exhibits by Israel and the Association of Jewish Book Publishers, an American outfit, were demanded by American publishers as a condition for their participation at the first Moscow Book Fair in 1977. They have been a major attraction for Soviet Jews at all subsequent fairs, even in years when the American participation was scant and American publishers declined to mount a joint exhibition.

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Sept. 14 — The old man sat hunched over a large volume in Hebrew, painstakingly copying the text into a notebook.

"He's come every day since the fair opened," said Bernard Levinson, the head of the Association of Jewish Book Publishers stand at the Moscow Book Fair.

"He only began studying Hebrew two years ago, and the book he's working on is an elementary Hebrew dictionary. He brings his lunch and spends the entire day here studying."

Elsewhere at the crowded stand about 40 people pored hungrily over Jewish photo albums, prayer books, cookbooks and children's books, and many more stood patiently outside waiting their turn.

It was a scene repeated at the Israeli display, at the stands of the Association of American Publishers, Penguin Books and at the several other displays of Western art, literature, pop culture and science. There were still two hours to go until 1 P.M., when the general public would be let in, but already hundreds of Muscovites had managed to gain entry to the pavilion by hook or by crook.

The lines, the crowds and the enthralled Russians leafing through everything from collections of poetry to books on fashion, sports, science and art reflected the extraordinary attraction of the exhibition of foreign books, which takes place every two years in a land where information and literature from abroad are among the most forbidden fruits.

Jane Fonda and Kurt Vonnegut

A sampling of the sort of books that were being filched most frequently gave one indication of the tastes of the crowd. "Jane Fonda's Workout Book" seemed a particular favorite. Others to vanish from the shelves included Kurt Vonnegut's "Deadeye Dick," the Sears, Roebuck catalogue, the "Rolling Stone Book of Rock and Roll" and various art books.

Outside the pavilion, as 1 P.M. approached, the line stretched far around the side of the building. People at the end said they expected to wait more than two hours.

At the American Publishers stand, Susan Osnos, one of the staffers, said the real crush would come as the 7 P.M. closing time approached. "It becomes a life-threatening situation at that time," she said.

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The bilingual catalogue of the publishers' stand, "America Through American Eyes," with its thumbnail sketches of the 312 books on display, has become one of the most sought-after tomes in Moscow. Mrs. Osnos said up to 5,000 catalogues were being handed out daily, but the demand was enormous.

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