

# Delegation to visit Soviet Union

By Greg Hough  
Emerald Reporter

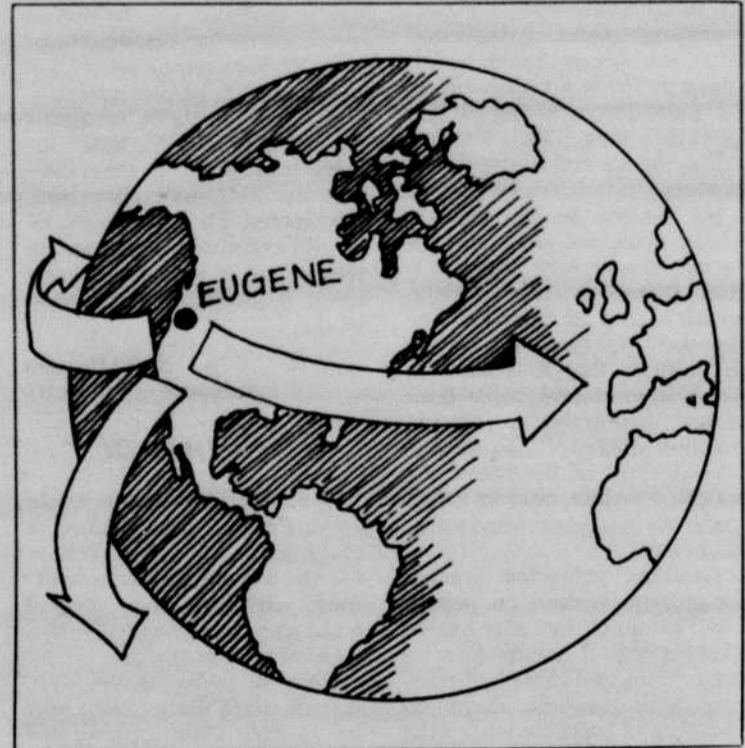
Eugene City Council President Ruth Bascom will lead a five-member delegation of city leaders to the Soviet Union this week to participate in the first U.S.-U.S.S.R. International Sister Cities Conference.

The conference, to be held May 28-31 in the southern Soviet city of Tashkent, will encourage individual and business exchanges between 40 U.S. cities and their Soviet sister city counterparts, Bascom said.

Bascom, who will act as a representative for Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller, said the delegation would also travel to Eugene's sister city of Irkutsk, U.S.S.R. from June 1-6.

This will be the first sister city delegation to visit Irkutsk since formal documents joining Eugene and Irkutsk were signed by former Eugene Mayor Brian Obie and Irkutsk Mayor Yuri Shukuropat last October.

Other members of the delegation are Kate Rogers Gessert, founding president of the Eugene-Irkutsk Sister City Committee, Gail Arcady Groza, a Russian language and culture



Graphic by Jarrett Jester

teacher at South Eugene High School and Roosevelt Middle School, Dean Owens, President of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, and Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust.

"We'll be taking a large banner (to Irkutsk) saying 'Greet-

ings From Eugene' in Russian," Bascom said. "We've also had two clocks mounted on a large piece of Doug Fir — one has Eugene time, one has the time of Irkutsk. We'll give that to city officials there, and hopefully it'll result in us always calling each other at reasonable hours."

Gessert said the delegation will be taking 44 exchange proposals to Irkutsk. The group has been meeting for two months, and each member has been assigned different elements of the community from which to seek exchange ideas.

Bascom said she will carry eight letters from Eugene physicians offering exchanges with physicians in Irkutsk. Each of the physicians is offering to pay for a Soviet physician to come to Eugene in 1990.

"I don't have any set person there I'm supposed to give these letters to," Bascom said. "It's my job to find someone there and put it in their hands."

Bascom added she'd also be delivering an offer by the Oregon Bach Festival to sponsor a Soviet conductor's visit to Eugene in 1990.

Gessert said she's been organizing exchanges in the visual and literary arts.

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