

April 24, 1963

Mr. Frank G. Siscoe, Director
Soviet and Eastern European Exchanges Staff
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Siscoe:

I wish to thank you for sending me the latest in the series of Status Reports which describe in detail the exchanges and other visits between this country and the countries of the Soviet bloc in Europe. I found it intensely interesting.

I wish to report that negotiations have been completed and itineraries and dates set for the International Grandmaster PIATIGORSKY CUP Championship. Participating Grandmasters are Samuel Reshevsky and Pal Benko of the USA, Tigran Petrosian, Paul Keres and Victor Korchnoi of the USSR, Miguel Najdorf and Oscar Panno of Argentina, Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia and Fridrik Olafsson of Iceland.

The Russian Chess Federation has named their 1963 USSR Champion, Victor Korchnoi, as reserve in the event that Petrosian or Keres cannot come at the last minute. We have forwarded Korchnoi air fare tickets as well as the others. I am enclosing a copy of the Travel Service Flight Information Schedule of each player including Korchnoi. You will note that return information has been left open. The reason for this is that all of the players have expressed an interest in either participating in or viewing the U. S. OPEN Chess Tournament in Chicago and the dates are August 11 to August 24, and in playing in some exhibition events in San Francisco, Chicago, Boston and New York during the month of August.

Visa processing for the USSR players and the Yugoslav player, I realize, requires a minimum of 20 days, so this report allows plenty of time. Is there any additional information that you require, or is there any other action that I need to take with respect to the visa processing? For your information I am also enclosing the schedule of play by rounds and dates in the PIATIGORSKY CUP. The locale, of course, is Los Angeles.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jerry G. Spann, Vice Pres.
World Chess Federation
Zone 5