

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989

New York Today, partly sunny, cool.  
High 32-36. Tonight, not as cold. Low  
20-25. Tomorrow, sunny skies, milder.  
growing cloudy. High 38-43. Yesterday  
High 32, low 20. Details are on page 4.

\$1.25

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## New Satellite Channel Opens Computer Link to the Soviets

By JOHN MARKOFF

A new satellite computer link that connects the United States and the Soviet Union is opening a new phase in communications between the two countries. Scientists, academicians, business executives and even computer hobbyists have begun to exchange messages and data over the channel.

They have been computer links in the past, but they generally permitted data to move only from the West to the Soviet Union. They functioned sporadically, were costly to use and were discouraged by both Governments.

But last month a group of entrepreneurs in San Francisco, in a joint venture with the Soviets, established the two-way satellite connection, and traffic flowing in both directions has been growing.

### Users Are Elated

Although there are still reservations about the computer network connection in this country, both Governments are now permitting the data exchange.

Many users are elated with the new access.

"It's just wonderful," said David Leith, a high-energy physicist at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Stanford, Calif., who last year began communicating with Soviet researchers by the earlier, more cumbersome route. He exchanges messages and data

with physicists in Novosibirsk who are conducting joint scientific experiments with United States scientists.

"Letters and telephones are difficult," he said. "Telexes frequently don't work. This is an excellent way for scientists in the two countries to communicate."

A variety of other United States organizations are now using or plan to use the new service. They include microbiology researchers at Columbia University who want to stay in contact with their Soviet counterparts.

### Space Missions Discussed

Researchers at the Space Studies Institute at Princeton are using the computer link to discuss joint Soviet-United States space missions with researchers at the Moscow Aviation Institute. There is also a computer link between the United States Academy of Sciences and its Soviet counterpart.

In addition to its use for scientific exchanges, the computer link has been adopted by a number of United States corporations to keep in closer contact with their Soviet branch offices. For example, last year Combustion Engineering Inc., a chemical corporation based in Stamford, Conn., began using the computer link.

But computers are not widespread.

Continued on Page 38, Column 1

## Miami's New Ethnic Conflict: Haitians vs. American Blacks

By JEFFREY SCHMALZ  
Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Feb. 18 — At Miami Edison Senior High School, many black students who are Haitian-American are being harassed by white students who are American-born. There is a new ethnic conflict in Miami, one that is being fueled by the arrival of thousands of Haitian refugees who have fled their country since 1981.

## GUERRILLAS CHOOSE AN INTERIM FOR AFGHAN

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Continued on Page 38, Column 1

Former Mexican Soldier Describes  
of Political Prisoners

RUSHDIE EXPRESSES  
REGRET TO MUSLIMS  
FOR BOOK'S EFFECT

# U.S.-Soviet Data Flowing Through New Satellite Link

Continued From Page 1

spread in Soviet society, so in some cases the link has served as little more than a telex and using it has been frustrating for Americans.

## Ben & Jerry's Experience

Ben Cohen, the chairman of Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., a Waterbury, Vt., ice cream maker, said that last year his company established an electronic mail account to promote a joint venture for making the company's product in the Soviet Union.

Attempts to make contact with potential partners proved frustrating. Mr. Cohen's company was never able to get a response, and he said he had heard conflicting tales about what had happened to his messages. One account said they were received but then had to be hand-delivered to the intended recipients.

While international data networks linking computers have been widely available in the United States for many years, access in the Soviet Union has until now been highly restricted.

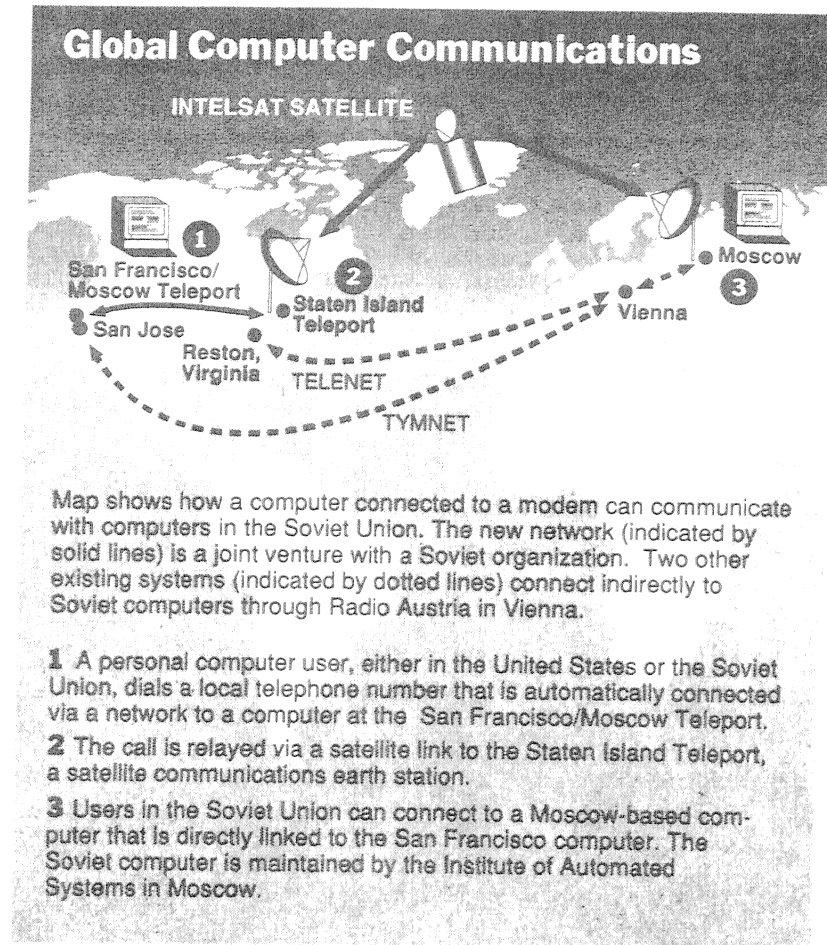
Those restrictions appear to be loosening. United States experts on the Soviet computer industry suggested that the proliferation of network links may prove a thorny problem to Soviet authorities by opening new grass-roots contacts between Soviet citizens and the West.

## 'Fantastic Boon to the U.S.'

"What's happening right now in the Soviet Union is a fantastic boon to United States," said Robert Park, director of the American Physical Society's Washington office. "We've always grumbled that they have an intelligence advantage because our system is open and theirs is closed. Anything that opens it up has got to work to our benefit."

The emerging computer ties are viewed as vital by many American scientists and business executives, who believe that direct communication will serve to lessen tensions and increase economic and scientific cooperation.

The new network links make it possible to send electronic mail instantly or transfer software or technical information between the two countries. It will also make it possible for people in each



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country to operate computers in the other country directly.

## U.S. Concerns About Openness

But the openness has not been welcomed in all quarters in this country.

In the Reagan Administration, Government officials raised concerns about Soviet access to United States computer networks because of technology transfer and computer security concerns. The new ties have been cleared, however, by a variety of Government agencies, including the Department of Defense, according to executives involved.

In 1982, the White House withdrew this country from a 17-nation computer consortium, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, contend-

ing that it had become a gateway for the Soviets to tap into American data.

## 'Technology Transfer' Is Worry

Last year, financing for the institute was partly restored. But the issue has continued to divide the Government. The decision to continue financing was made at a meeting of the National Security Council only after a number of other United States agencies opposed the renewal.

"There has been a general concern about technology transfer for all the traditional reasons," said Joel Schatz, president of San Francisco/Moscow Teleport, the San Francisco company that established the link last month.

The company is now negotiating to begin the sale in this country of Soviet

technical and scientific computer data, which might be available by midyear. "We have been in very thorough contact with the United States departments of Defense and Commerce," he said.

#### Monitoring of Data on Link

He said it would be unlikely any illegal activities would take place over the new direct link because the exchanges are easily monitored by authorities in both countries. Such monitoring by United States officials without a search warrant, however, is illegal under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

Other computer experts said national security concerns about the new direct links to the Soviet Union are unfounded because access had already been available to experts and intelligence agents from virtually any spot in the world by simply placing a long-distance telephone call to an appropriate computer in the United States.

"The information is unclassified and in the public domain," said Ken Allen, senior vice president of the Information Industry Association. "How difficult is it for anyone, including Soviet citizens, to obtain the information legally?"

#### Commercial Network Providers

Before establishment of the new satellite link, both American commercial computer network companies — Telenet, a subsidiary of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, and Tymnet, a subsidiary of the U S Sprint Communications Company — offered access to Soviet computers through Radio Austria in Vienna. All three networks are connected to computers at the Institute for Automated Systems in Moscow. But that link was sporadic and expensive.

Despite the apparent new openness that the link with the Soviets represents, most of the computer network communications are still funneled through the Institute for Automated Systems, a Soviet Government organization that has played an aggressive role in promoting international computer communications.

"We do not foresee any political or social obstacles to the smooth increase of two-way electronic communications between our two countries," Oleg L. Smirnov, director of the institute, said in response to a question submitted to him last week by the computer network. "Moreover, we are witnessing a great demand for such a service in our country and abroad."

#### Attention From Hobbyists

The new openness has not escaped the attention of both Soviet and American computer enthusiasts who devote much of their time to writing computer



The New York Times/Terrence McCarthy

Joel Schatz, president of San Francisco/Moscow Teleport, and his wife, Diane, talking to Moscow on their video telephone, which allows simultaneous voice, picture or data communications via satellite.

## The system is 'a fantastic boon to the United States.'

programs and working with the equipment. Last December, computer enthusiasts in the Soviet Union founded the International Computer Club at a Moscow meeting.

Simon Furman, a San Francisco business executive who attended the meeting and is serving as a United States representative of the organization, said the club has plans to create an exchange program that would include students from this country traveling to the Soviet Union with a personal computer that they would leave for their Soviet counterparts.

Hobbyists in both countries are now communicating over the network. But these exchanges have become the subject of a debate among some American experts about whether sensitive computer programs and other information will flow unrestricted to the Soviets.

#### Discussion Group Controversy

The debate started after John Draper, a well-known computer programmer and hobbyist in Alameda, Calif., visited the Soviet Union last year. Upon his return Mr. Draper proposed connecting the Soviet Union to an international computer network called Usenet, which links thousands of computers that run the Unix operating system, a widely used software package for controlling computers.

The idea has caused a heated controversy on computerized discussions that take place on the network. Mr. Draper said he has been carrying on an active correspondence with Soviet computer enthusiasts, but has exercised particular care not to discuss advanced technologies with them.

Some participants in the Unix network have said, however, that they believe there are risks in increased contact between Soviet and United States citizens.

"My concern is that these folks are exceeding their authority as private citizens," said Will Bralick, a computer scientist at the Air Force Institute of Technology who has been active in the debate. "Given the open communication channel between hackers, who knows what these people are getting?"