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COMPUTER ACCESS FEE

CONTINUED

by Kevin Thomas

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by Scott McCullough

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INFO TABLE	FILM SEMINAR	INTERVIEWS
Tues, Weds, Thurs November 29, 30, Dec 1 8:00 - 5:00 Ground Floor Memorial Center	Tues, Weds 6:30 pm November 29 Rudder Tower, #607 November 30 Rudder Tower, #410	Thursday December 1 Career Planning & Placement Please pick up application prior to interview

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Ambassador: Reagan made strides toward good U.S.-Soviet relations

By Alan Sembera
Senior Staff Writer

President Ronald Reagan has made significant strides in improving U.S.-Soviet relations during the past three years, the first secretary of the Soviet Union's Washington embassy said Friday during a visit to Texas A&M.

The ambassador, Dr. Igor Khripounov, was invited to A&M as a guest of the College of Liberal Arts.

"Over the past three years, our two countries have gained no small amount of positive experience," said Khripounov, who is an expert on Western arms policy and arms control and has served as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal interpreter.

The two countries gained this positive experience with the INF treaty negotiations, Khripounov said, especially the negotiations dealing with verification of the treaty.

"We see how previously unthinkable standards of openness are taking hold," he said. "All requisite conditions are there for consistent continuity in Soviet-American relations."

"This is assured by the growth and clear support for the course we

are pursuing by the Soviet and American people and by the entire international community."

The improved relations between the two superpowers already have resulted in reducing the risk of war, the Soviet ambassador said.

The next steps the two countries should work toward, he said, are reducing by half the number of both countries' strategic offensive bombs, eliminating chemical weapons, limiting nuclear testing, reducing conventional forces and settling regional conflicts.

But even if a more cooperative relationship between the two countries is achieved, Khripounov said, it is still too early to talk about a fundamental change in U.S.-Soviet relations.

"Competition, even rivalry, between our two countries is entirely foreseeable," he said. "Each of them continues to evolve in accordance with its own laws, but their paths of development inevitably intersect."

When conflicts do arise, he said, dialogue and cooperation — not force — are the best ways to resolve the problem.

"Force, as such, clearly ceases to be a basis on which to build a relationship between states in the nuclear age," Khripounov said.

A new way of political thinking is necessary for an improved Soviet-American relationship to last, he said. In the Soviet Union, he said, this new way of looking at things is being brought about through perestroika.

Perestroika, the ambassador said, is the new philosophical and conceptual framework of the Soviet Union's foreign policy.

This new foreign policy includes initiatives to eventually eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, he said, and to prevent the militarization of space and promote peaceful international space cooperation.

Also, he said, the Soviet Union wants the superpowers to take more offensive military postures by making deep cuts in conventional forces and taking measures to prevent the possibility of surprise attack by either side.

These changes in foreign policy are integral parts of the changes taking place within Soviet society under glasnost, Khripounov said.

"Never before has Soviet foreign policy been so closely related to the challenges of renewing our society," he said.

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