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News in Brief

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USAID Partnerships and Training Project for Russia and Ukraine to be Managed by IREX

IREX has entered into a three-year cooperative agreement with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to manage the USAID Institutional Partnerships and Training Project. This is the first major cooperative effort between USAID and IREX.

The program's aim is to strengthen the capacity of Russian and Ukrainian educational and professional institutions to provide better training and membership services.

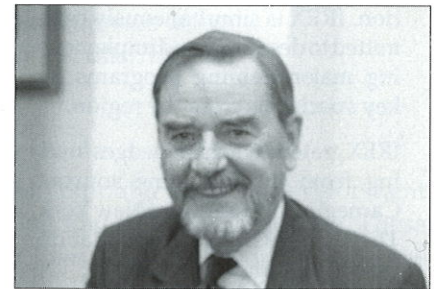
Through partnerships with American educational institutions, professional associations, and trade organizations, the project is designed to strengthen the institutional bases of a growing civil society in Russia and Ukraine and the development of democratic norms and a free market economy.

Under the project, IREX will assist USAID in the selection, monitoring, and provision of technical assistance and public information support to some 30 partnerships between US universities and professional associations and their counterparts in Russia and Ukraine over the next two years. Joint projects will focus on the critical areas of democratization and public administration, economic restructuring, health, energy, environment, social sector restructuring, humanitarian and PVO assistance, agribusiness, and housing and urban finance.

Submission of applications for initial grants is already complete and the competitive process for the awarding of the grants has begun at IREX. It should be completed by January 1995 and announcements about applications for future grants will be made later next year.

McKinney H. Russell, former Counselor of the United States Information Agency, will serve as Project Director (see article, right).

Since the 1960s IREX has maintained a constant commitment to developing high-quality working partnerships between American specialists and their Russian, Ukrainian, and other colleagues in the region at all levels: individual, institutional, and intergovernmental. By supporting cooperative professional development programs maintaining critical access to the region during the most difficult periods of the Cold War, IREX kept the channels of communication open and laid



McKinney Russell to Serve as Project Director

McKinney H. Russell has joined IREX to serve as Project Director of the USAID-funded Partnership and Training Program. Mr. Russell retired from the United States Information Agency (USIA) this year after more than 30 years of distinguished service.

As Counselor of USIA from 1991 to 1993, he supervised the regional area directors in charge of all overseas operations at over 200 USIS posts. A Career Minister in the Foreign Service, he earlier served as Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs and USIA Director in the Soviet Union, Germany, Brazil, Spain, and China.

Mr. Russell played a key role in launching USIA's cultural and information centers in the former USSR and in establishing the Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship program, which enables young NIS specialists to pursue US graduate study in a number of public policy professions. In the academic year 1993-1994, he was Diplomat-in-Residence and a visiting professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. ■

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