

In addition, there are proposals as well as actions at the municipal level.

(a) Non-governmental plans for action by governments.

One plan that keeps on being reinvented is the Hostage Plan. Its latest version, is by Kenneth Smail (1984). "Reciprocal hostage exchange," envisions about a million US citizens going to reside voluntarily, but temporarily, in Soviet cities, and a million Soviet citizens being similarly placed for a time (1 or 2 years) in US cities. (An earlier version of the plan proposed smaller numbers, but specified that the exchanged people should be relatives of political or military leaders.) The hope is that the presence of one's own nationals (or even family members) in target cities would help to restrain any impulse there might be to "press the button." The exchangees could at the same time act as "good-will ambassadors" in the host country, somewhat as in an extended cultural exchange. Provisions should be made that they not act as spies, against host country laws; but the exchange might become the occasion for more openness (glasnost) and less secrecy, in which case the reporting of observations would be quite legal. One might even come to a point where some exchangees could act as official inspectors, verifying compliance with arms control treaties. On the other hand, it might be better to keep these functions separate. Smail proposes that national service as an exchangee should be considered an alternative to service in the military forces. However, this does not mean that all exchangees should be young men; all ages, both sexes, and even whole families would be eligible if they volunteer, are found suitable, and receive appropriate (e.g., language) training.