

The Russian Visit

Seven physicists and engineers from the Soviet Union visited the A.E.R.E. on 28th September, and returned on 8th and 9th October when they visited the Rutherford Laboratory also. Their visit was concerned with nuclear and high energy physics, including accelerator technology, and was part of a programme established in 1961 in a formal agreement between the U.K.A.E.A. and the U.S.S.R. State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy. The agreement covers several topics of interest in the field of nuclear energy, and the N.I.R.N.S. became involved because of our special interest in nuclear and high energy physics. There have already been visits on other topics; for example, during the summer Dr. Adams led an Authority team on a visit to centres of plasma research in the U.S.S.R. The general object is to exchange information in unclassified fields, and to have a visit by a small team about once a year for each topic. We expect, therefore, that a British team will visit nuclear and high energy physics laboratories in the U.S.S.R. next year.

Although the formal agreement is between the nuclear energy organisations of the two countries, the Authority and the Institute used their good offices to bring British universities into the tour of the Russian visitors. Between their two visits to Harwell they visited Oxford, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Glasgow Universities. They even found time for a little sight-seeing, and were more fortunate than many Britishers in that they saw Loch Lomond in the sunshine. Having had two dry days out of eighteen on my recent Scottish holiday, I was very happy for them - especially as one of them, on the strength of a visit to Trafford Park in 1936, previously thought of Britain as a country perpetually covered by black fog.

They were very tired when they left us, and a little confused after having seen so much in so many places, but they appeared to have enjoyed themselves. We certainly enjoyed having them with us, and considered our privilege holiday well lost in the interests of international collaboration.

T. G. Pickavance

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Harwell
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