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Dear John,

Here is my report on the visit to Australia between August 7 and 16 of Professor Sergei Karpov of Moscow University, a visit which was sponsored by the Academy.

Professor Karpov began his visit in Perth, where I gave him an easy time so that he could recover from his flight from Moscow. He met some of my colleagues, although unfortunately the European historian with which he would have had most things in common was not available. But the Consul of Greece, who is himself a historian (unusual for consuls) was very pleased to have an opportunity to meet him, as was Prof. Philippa Maddern, our Associate Dean for Research, who is herself a late mediaevalist.

I then posted him over to Canberra, where he met Kevin Windle, the Russian expert at ANU, and Ann Moffatt, one of Australia's leading Byzantinists. On the following day he met the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Andrey Kovtun, and then lunched extensively with the group that Jesse Boyd and Ann Moffatt put together, then he went to Sydney.

At Sydney University he was lunched by the Dean of Arts, Professor Stephen Garton, who put together a group of suitable persons. He was then taxied over to UNSW, where Dr Larissa Koroleva had arranged for him to meet several persons who had an interest in the teaching of Russian language and history there.

I had made an arrangement for him to visit Macquarie University on the following day, but I think that he was feeling rather exhausted by the meetings of the previous two days, so he had a quiet time, then travelled to Melbourne. There he attended the biennial conference of the Australian Association for Byzantine Studies for three days before returning to Moscow.

Before the conference began, I arranged for him to meet Professor Stephen Wheatcroft, a noted scholar of modern Russian history, and they found a great deal of common ground. At the conference he delivered a paper on the second day. This was, as might be expected, well received, and he had plenty of opportunity for networking (and met the Byzantinists from Macquarie whom he had not met previously).

After his return to Moscow he sent me some comments on his activities, from which I have extracted the following for this report:

I discussed with the colleagues whom you know the following problems:

Pontic Hellenism and the impact of Italian colonization on the development of Byzantium and the Black Sea region, 13th to 15th centuries;

Byzantine studies in Russia and the former Soviet Union: the present situation.

Archival studies and their significance for the Byzantine historiography (Venice, Genoa, Vatican, St Petersburg)

Reforms of education in Russia and Australia. Their influence on the development of historical studies.

State and way of teaching Russian culture, history and language in Australia.

The use of new technologies in historical teaching and research.

I discussed as well with the colleagues from the University of Sydney a possibility of a bilateral agreement with the Faculty of History, MSU providing exchanges of scholars and students.

The breakdown of expenses for his travel and accommodation is as follows:

Air fare 2609 (international) plus 742 (Australia)

Accommodation Singapore (2 nights ) UWA (2 nights) Melbourne (3 nights) Canberra (1 night) Sydney (2 nights): 1387

Other meals and transport: 195

Refund of out-of-pocket expenses: 250

Total: 1832 plus air fares – 5183

This is considerably below the \$7000 which was budgeted for this visit. The reason for the lower cost is that he found that he could spend only a limited time away from Moscow, so it was necessary to accommodate him for a smaller number of days than envisaged. In addition, the accommodation that I was able to arrange for him was not as expensive as I had estimated that it would be, and he normally breakfasts only on a cup of coffee. I think therefore that the Academy might like to have a little back from its grant of \$3500.

