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Preface

This volume is devoted to the papers submitted to the Second Japan–U.S. Seminar on the Soviet Union, "The Soviet Union Faces Asia : Perceptions and Policies," held at the Slavic Research Center, July 15–16, 1986. The seminar consisted of six sessions ; at each session one paper was presented, and followed by comments by two commentators and discussions. The articles we publish here are those papers read at the conference except for Gordon Smith's article, which was presented independently at the regular seminar at the Slavic Research Center in October, 1985. In addition to the articles published here, Theodore Shabad also spoke at the conference. Despite the fact that we contacted him only a few months before the conference, he was gracious enough to join us at the conference, but with the understanding that he would not be able to send us an article for publication. We only regret that those who were unable to attend the seminar could not share his stimulating thoughts.

Each paper presented at the conference was of high quality, and comments and discussions that followed were equally excellent and stimulating. There were genuine scholarly exchanges between the Japanese scholars and the American participants. We wished to include at least a summary of discussions, but even that proved to be beyond our means. We would like to add also that in addition to the American and Japanese scholars a Chinese scholar and a South Korean scholar attended the conference. Therefore, it was strictly speaking not the Japan–U.S. Seminar, but the International Seminar on the Soviet Union. The authors benefited from comments on their papers by the other participants, who are listed at the end of the volume.

We are grateful to the generous support extended to this conference by the United States Information Agency (USIA) and by the staff of the Sapporo American Center headed by its director, Brooks Spector. I also would like to express my gratitude to Tetsuo Mochizuki and Jun Matsuda for their valuable assistance.

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa
Editor