

# Space Diplomacy in the Cold War Context: How It Worked on the Soviet Side

*An InsSciDE Case Study*

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In the time of the Cold War, space diplomacy was an important instrument to cope with international tensions. It was both the means of overcoming conflicts, and the litmus test that demonstrated the current status of the relationship between two or more countries. Even if the Soviet space sector was more related to politics, both domestic and international, and much less to scientific interests and researchers' aspirations, the real space diplomats were scientists. They were able to establish a strong relationship with foreign partners, to maintain it using the bureaucratic apparatus of the Soviet system, and even develop it despite the pressures of the Cold War, as in the case of the Comet Halley international mission. The essential question we ask is: how did space scientists react and, contemporaneously, act as diplomats in this period of great international tension?



**Keywords:**

Soviet space program, aerospace industry, science diplomacy, space exploration, international cooperation, scientific collaboration

*Image credit: [www.roscosmos.ru/31867](http://www.roscosmos.ru/31867)*



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