

Born to Be an American

(From: V. Alexander Stefan. **MY PASSION.**

© 2008, V. Alexander Stefan. All rights reserved.

(S-U-Press, La Jolla, CA., 2008; ISBN: 1889545-93-7)

Copyright Page

I have become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America on August 23, 1991. That was the great day of my life. I have had a difficult time to explain to the born-Americans what advantages bring the status of being an American.

This will illustrate best my state of mind, and probably the state of mind of most of the people I refer to, as born-to-be Americans, when they are stepping on the American soil. After I had arrived in New York in the evening December 18, 1981, I had to meet the next morning with the officer of the IREX* to obtain further information. In the booklet I had earlier received from them, it was stated that the researchers of the Exchange Program should appear at the office right on time, not earlier. This "not earlier" caught my attention. It was clear to me that people, being excited about their stay in the States, would

* IREX- International Research Exchange Agency in New York, which was supporting in part my research in the States in the first 9 months, starting with December 1981.

come earlier, which annoyed the officers in the Agency. I decided to follow the rules. Next morning when she, the officer, saw me at the door, she acquired the look of disappointment on her face. It was like she was silently using the Julius Caesar's: "Even you, Brutus?" Apparently, my passion to start with my American business had made my previous decision pale and lifeless. I was, like many before me, early for the appointment.*

After my oath of allegiance, after I had sworn loyalty to the United States of America, as a naturalized American citizen I was determined to dedicate my life thereupon to the cause of my choice: to the development of higher education, as I see it; to the promotion of wisdom among the nations; to make my "great day" also a "great day for America." Every single day the small contributions of her people make that very day "a great day for America."

* The IREX officer assigned to me was excellent. As I was "raiding" the American research centers (MIT; UCLA; UCSD; JAYCOR, Inc.; Physical Dynamics, Inc.) she used to give me a call, just to see how I was doing. Thanks to her, I felt even more at home in the States.
