COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Live television programs from countries including the Soviet Union and Canada will be free for the viewing on Wednesday (5/6) when Ohio State University celebrates International Day.

The one-day campus event will honor Ohio State's international dimension by providing the Columbus area with an opportunity to watch television programs from around the world.

Live television programs also will be available from Central American and Caribbean nations. (Live programming from the Soviet Union will begin at 4 p.m. Taped broadcasts including the May Day celebrations in Moscow will be available before that.)

Taped programs will be available from Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Libya, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, and portions of the Middle East.

Ten monitors will be set up in the west ballroom of the Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St., from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Hosts will be available to translate and answer questions about the various cultures and languages. Technical specialists will discuss the transmission process.

The event is free and open to the public. Paid parking is available in the adjacent Ohio Union parking ramp.

John Greisberger, director of International Student and
Scholar Services, said International Day will focus attention on Ohio State's commitment to international education.

"It is a way of letting people know we're an international university," he said.

David Selby, director of instructional materials production and technical services at the university Center for Teaching Excellence, said Ohio State will be receiving three or four live satellite feeds in various languages during the event. The transmissions will be received at the Electroscience Laboratory, 1320 Kinnear Road, also known as the west campus "antenna farm."

"The task is not as easy as it sounds," Selby said. "Some people think the satellites are above the United States. They're not. Most are located around the equator and stay in sync with the earth's orbit. We can only receive transmissions from horizon to horizon. After that, we must rely on relay links and work through exchange agencies."

Atmospheric conditions can impact transmissions at any time, but receiving Soviet television is even more unpredictable, Selby noted.

To begin, Soviet transmitters have to be tracked because they don't stay in sync with the earth's orbit.

"Because of the size and location of Russia, the Russians have four satellites in rotation over the North Pole. The satellites switch transmissions among the four as they rotate over the North Pole. So the satellites have to be tracked as the orbit changes."

Selby said the Soviets won't begin live programming until 4 p.m. Columbus time, which is morning over there. By the end of
May, the Soviets will begin 24-hour broadcasting, he added.

Russian television also will be the topic of a round-table discussion from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Ohio Union Conference Theatre during International Day.

Three Soviet specialists will discuss the medium in an event sponsored by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies. The event is free and open to the public.

The speakers will be Vladimir Frumkin of Oberlin College, Leo Gruliiow of Columbus and a former Moscow correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, and Jiri Hochman of Ohio State's School of Journalism, formerly an international correspondent for Rude Pravo.

Francille M. Firebaugh, vice provost for international affairs, said International Day "recognizes the growing importance of international affairs at Ohio State and those who have given outstanding service to international affairs."

Other events during International Day include a private awards luncheon, where leadership and service awards will be presented, and the founding meeting of Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for International Scholars. The honorary recognizes and encourages professional, intellectual and personal achievements in the field of international education.

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