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Washington Editorial Board 1706 18th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009 Editor-Sergei S. Ivanko Managing Editor-Victor L. Karasin

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Front Cover: The new Mriya jet transport is a record-breaking plane. It can carry 250 tons of cargo 4,000 kilometers at 800 kilometers per hour. The story begins on page 4. Photograph by Igor Kostin.



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Locations featured in this issue:

- Estonia
- Ural Mountains



An Estonian Government minister returns to his roots.



The poems of Akhmatova witness to her time.



Veterans of a World War II airlift will reunite in Alaska.



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SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS



By Yuri Dubinin

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the United States

or four years now the Soviet people have been living an extremely intense social and political life. The policy of perestroika means glasnost, discussions, and a radical economic reform. Perestroika means a genuine restructuring and renovation of socialist society.

The new atmosphere unfolds capabilities and talents of the people; it promotes active involvement of everyone in social and state affairs. Having begun our *perestroika* back home four years ago, we saw the need to reassess the over-all world situation, the complexity of world interrelationships and problems.

Thus we opted for a new political thinking, foregoing outdated perceptions and schemes and the habit of seeing the world as all black or all white. Our *perestroika* and the new political thinking have a great potential for peace and international cooperation. And we wanted to translate this potential into practical activities.

Analysis of the history of past decades leads to the conclusion that today it is no longer possible to guarantee the security of one's own country without giving consideration to the security interests of others. In the nuclear age one cannot build reliable security through military means, no matter how technologically sophisticated. Nuclear weapons, having served as a symbol of absolute mili-

tary power, have also revealed the absolute limits of this power.

We have entered an era in which progress has to be shaped by universal interest. Awareness of this fact makes it imperative that world policy also be determined by the supremacy of values common to all humankind.

The foreign policy of the USSR outlined by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in his address to the UN General Assembly is based on the principles of freedom of choice, deideologizing intergovernmental relations, and a balance of interests.

This reflects our understanding of realities and respect for the right of all members of the international community to participate in the advancement toward universal peace.

The new positive atmosphere in international affairs has in large part developed from the improvement in Soviet-American relations. This, in turn, has been a direct result of the Geneva, Reykjavik, Washington, and Moscow summits. The meeting of Soviet and American leaders last December in New York had great importance for future Soviet-American relations.

This course, to quote President Gorbachev, has allowed us to remove such a threat hanging over the world as the Soviet-American confrontation.

Over the past 40 years of the arms race we have proved to one another that neither can get the upper hand in this race. It is high time to proceed

with a conversion of military, industrial, and political thinking.

The elimination of modern Soviet and American missiles under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty is a model for creating a new system of security based not on the accumulation of weapons but rather on their reduction and elimination.

The Soviet Union is demonstrating by deeds its commitment to building a nonnuclear and nonviolent world. This is displayed in Soviet decisions to cut its armed forces, to reduce its military budget and production of military equipment. The Soviet defensive doctrine is a reality. Under this doctrine thousands of tanks are being reduced, and significant contingents of Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Eastern Europe and Mongolia.

All these positive developments will set a tone not only for 1989 but for the 1990s. We will have to achieve 50 per cent reductions in strategic offensive weapons, solve the problem of sea-launched and air-launched cruise missiles, eliminate chemical weapons, reduce substantially conventional arms, and settle still-burning regional conflicts.

Perceptions of regional conflicts have recently undergone a drastic change. There is a realization that military methods of dealing with them are not acceptable.

The Soviet Union has withdrawn all its troops from Afghanistan. This has been a practical demonstration of ▶

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the new political thinking. The USSR will firmly pursue the path of political settlement in Afghanistan and would like other states, above all, the signatories to the Geneva Accords, to do likewise.

The Kabul Government is calling for a dialogue that would lead to national concord and the establishment of a broad-based coalition government. Thus, the Kabul Government is in favor of reviving Afghanistan as a nonaligned and neutral state. We support this initiative, for a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is in our interests, in the interests of peace and security in Asia.

The over-all process of improvement in international relations is creating favorable conditions for a political settlement in other dangerous regional hotbeds. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the Middle East and Southwest Asia has borne out the Soviet desire to contribute in every possible way to a peaceful political process and to seek a breakthrough in the Middle East settlement. There is broad understanding that this could be achieved by joint efforts at the international conference on the Middle East.

The Soviet Union has given a positive assessment to the results of the meeting in El Salvador among the leaders of the five Central American countries, which has shown that these countries are seeking to provide an impetus to the negotiating process in order to achieve a political settlement of the situation in Central America.

Internationalization of many problems of the contemporary world, coupled with an improvement in the international climate, calls for an increased role of the United Nations with new possibilities available to it in various areas—military, political, economic, scientific, technological, environmental, and humanitarian.

But again, survival is not everything. Real peace in a reign of enlightened reason opens breathtaking opportunities for mutual development in every area of human endeavor.

We are witnessing an explosion of people-to-people contacts, cultural exchanges, and humanitarian projects.

To make this an ongoing process, we certainly need to overcome the divisions of the world economy; we need the kind of cooperation that can more accurately be called cocreation and codevelopment.

The Soviet Union is indeed moving toward greater integration into the world economy. This process includes a decisive modernization of the Soviet economy; a radical turn of our economy toward global merchandise, services, technology, and credit markets; and a gradual increase of Soviet participation in the most influential international economic, scientific, and financial organizations.

Modernization of the economy, its elevation to the current level of world scientific and technological progress, is now considered the only correct way within the framework of perestroika to ensure the healthy, longterm development of our country.

A radical turn of the Soviet economy toward the outside world is determined, above all, by the fact that the strategy of perestroika includes a reform of our mechanism of foreign economic relations in the direction of broad diversification of foreign economic relations and attraction of foreign capital. These reforms are necessary to resolve the most immediate tasks of retooling our industry; to develop production of modern machinery and equipment; and to increase production of consumer goods and services.

An increase of Soviet participation in international organizations is a decisive external impulse to the economic restructuring in the USSR, and it cannot be provided by traditional forms of relations. New forms of interaction are required. They are, above all, creation of a new political environment for trade; establishment of joint ventures, consortia, and special economic zones; and improvement in cooperation in such areas as production and joint research and development. The USSR is open to such interaction.

A new political environment is now emerging in the economic relations between the Soviet Union and the Continued on page 39 **EDITOR'S** NOTES

s I am writing these notes, A the First Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR is in progress in Moscow. We will be able to describe its proceedings in detail in the August issue, but I believe some comments are in order here

First, the congress seems to have dispelled the idea that democracy is impossible in a single-party system. The activities of the party and its leaders have been publicly debated and sharply criticized at the congress. The American media have noted this.

Second, the congress has clearly demonstrated the political involvement of the people. Blue-collar workers' speeches at the congress were no less ardent and convincing than those of the leading journalists, scholars, and public officials. Some deputies are passive, but they will hardly put the brake on the reforms.

Third, and I must add, regrettably, words, so far, outpace deeds. There are a lot of general words, biting and graphic as they are, and few specific initiatives. One exception was Mikhail Gorbachev's reserved and balanced report on the guidelines for Soviet domestic and foreign policies. It urges everyone to take a critical look at themselves and their own work.

Americans hail the drive for more democracy in our society. Naturally, Soviet people hail it even more. But, as a Moscow worker said, "We'd be better off if we learned to work like Americans, if we learned their efficiency and sense of responsibility." There's certainly nothing to be ashamed of in learning the good things.

Robert Tsfasman



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE VIENNA SPIRIT

By Oleg Shibko

n the eve of Mikhail Gorbachev's first visit to the United States 18 months ago, NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw interviewed the Soviet leader. Gorbachev said then that in their discussions of the human rights issue, the Soviet Union and the United States should give up mutually accusatory polemics in favor of a matter-of-fact dialogue. If such a change occurs, he said, progress will ensue.

Luckily, the two sides have shown enough common sense. Important changes have taken place as we in the USSR have continued reviewing our main approaches to human rights. Whereas in the previous decades the main accent in the civil and political spheres was on citizens' duties to the state, now the emphasis is on the duties of the state to ensure the rights of the individual. We have realized that the central aspect of the individual's relationship with society is personal sovereignty. Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations last December demonstrated to the international community the new Soviet ideas about the world and its future. It also charted our new approaches to hu-

Early this year the members of the Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe signed the Final Document. By so doing, the Soviet Union backed up the general evolution of its thinking with specific state-level commitments. The implementation of these commitments will dispel the West's last doubts about us. The Final Document gives the parties concerned 12 months to carry through on their pledges. Therefore, this year is vitally important because we must prove that under *perestroika* deeds are not at variance with words. During this year the Soviet Union

must bring its human rights legislation into complete accord with international norms.

Are we prepared to do so? The political reform continues in high gear, and so does the legal reform (the legislative and executive power must be supported with strong and independent courts) and the reform of criminal law. New laws on youth, on public organizations, on openness, on freedom of conscience, and on the press are being developed.

Judging from nationwide public debates, the new Soviet laws will encompass all Soviet international commitments.

In the wake of the Vienna meeting, to an audience of more than 100 million, Channel 1 of National TV broadcast a conference of the leading Soviet experts on human rights, among them the leader of the Soviet delegation, Yuri Kashlev. The experts stated that new legislation would guarantee Soviet citizens the right to leave their country and return home with the exception stipulated of the declassification periods for those with access to state secrets. The experts also said that the Soviet Union would be fully involved in the international information exchange, that the last limits on religion would be lifted (including the ban on religious education), and that the legislation would rule out persecution for criticism and political convictions, as well as the use of psychiatric clinics as prisons for dissidents. Much emphasis was placed on openness, especially in the military sphere. The experts confirmed, for instance, that the country's military budget is to be made public and that the Supreme Soviet will openly discuss the most important questions of ensuring defense capability. The publication of Soviet statistics on armed forces and armaments in Europe is just the beginning of this process, and more steps will inevitably be taken.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's statement should be regarded as the first such move. He said that the USSR had recognized the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice on a number of vitally important UN pacts regulating human rights.

The new Supreme Soviet, which will work on a permanent basis rather than just meeting for short-term sessions, is expected to establish various commissions, including a commission on human rights. Such commissions will apparently be set up by the Supreme Soviets of all the constituent republics. The role they are going to play is enormous, not only because human rights will always be in the focus of attention of the supreme legislative bodies and the media but also because the Supreme Soviets will create a vast field of activity for the champions and defenders of human rights and will draw support from these people. Only then can we speak of a mass movement for guaranteeing human rights.

This is not to say that everything goes smoothly in this area. There is sharp conflict between the reformers and the conservatives. On several occasions the press has expressed discontent over the fact that the development of the new laws is not open enough, that scientists and experts are not duly involved, and that state officials are trying to nullify the proposed reforms. Such statements are not unfounded. Perhaps at the preliminary stage, work should be more open. Anyway, all draft laws will be published for nationwide discussion long before they will be considered by the USSR Supreme Soviet. I am convinced that our nation is mature enough politically to legally confirm our new approach to human rights.



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RECORD-BREAKING PLANE

By Stanislav Kalinichev
Photographs by Igor Kostin and Alexander Mokletsov

The new Mriya jet transport is a record-breaking plane from most points of view. It has a wing span of more than 87 meters and, with its 6 turbofan motors, can carry 250 tons of cargo for a distance of 4,000 kilometers at a speed of 800 kilometers per hour.



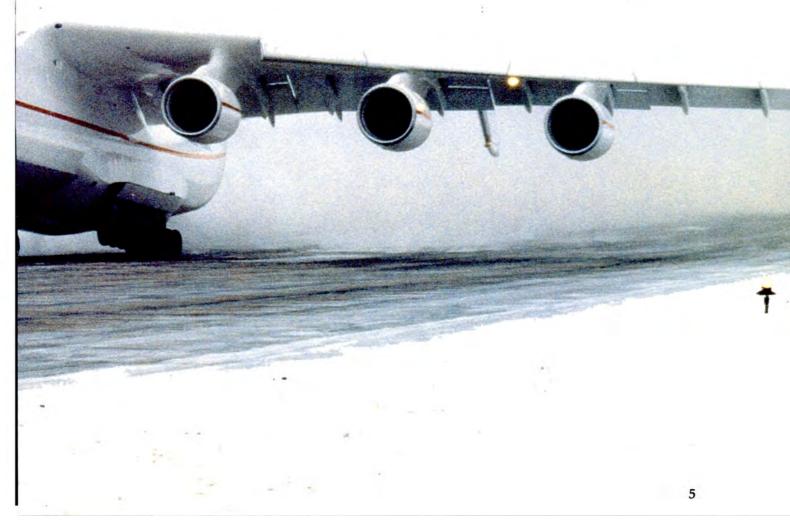
everal years ago the Soviet cargo jet Ruslan set world records that were unbroken until recently. The new Mriya (which means "dream" in Ukrainian) transport aircraft was developed by the Kiev-based Oleg Anto-

nov Design Bureau. It surpasses the Ruslan in its main technical specifica-

tions by 50 per cent.

At the aircraft plant that is producing the Mriya jets, the brand-new transport was standing on the runway, ready to take off on its maiden flight. It is the largest aircraft in the world, having a full takeoff weight of 600 tons.

The plane's body almost touched the tarmac. The huge nose shroud, looking like a circus big top, pointed skyward, exposing the gaping cargo



hold. Trucks drove along the runway and into the aircraft's compartment. Some time later the forward chassis struts were retracted, and the plane began to rise. The long ramp into the cargo hold, as wide as a two-lane highway, folded up to seal the hold completely.

Pyotr Balabuyev, the chief designer, was the hero of the day. Balabuyev was showered with questions from journalists as soon as he appeared.

"Concerning the main technical data," Balabuyev said, "the new plane surpasses the Ruslan by 50 per cent. It can lift 250 tons of cargo, piggyback and inside the compartment. Special devices have been installed on top of the fuselage, making it possible to deliver the Buran reusable space shuttle to the launch site. Mriya jets can airlift different large cargoes, such as heavy-duty construction equipment. The horrible earthquake in Armenia demonstrated that cargo jets are indispensable for this kind of job."

The plane's engines roared deafeningly, whipping up a huge cloud of snow. The powerful engines made the body shudder. After a very short takeoff run, the jet took to the skies. Like a giant paper kite, the aircraft climbed steeply and majestically. Somebody shouted Hurray! People hugged each other. The Dream was airborne at last.

Courtesy of the magazine Ogonyok





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THE SOVIET **PRESS** AT WORK

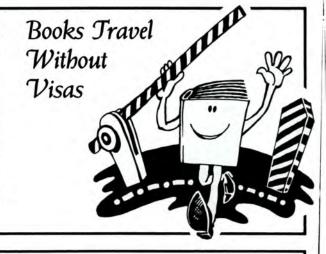
The Port Is Closed



verything seems to indicate that the Soviet people have learned well the sad lessons of Chernobyl. The welcome the first Soviet nuclear-powered lighter, Sevmorput, received in the port of Vladivostok was less than enthusiastic. The Executive Committee of the City Soviet had decided that the ship could not enter the port until a commission of experts checked out the dependability of the nuclear reactor protective systems. When the commission was satisfied, the city officials permitted the lighter to drop anchor on the inner roads and to begin unloading operations.

The lighter had previously passed the strict tests of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which confirmed the ship's large safety margin. Even if a most serious accident occurred, the reactor is so well protected, it would remain undamaged. But people knew nothing about that. The Ministry of the Merchant Marine did not take the trouble to release the relevant information on the 260-meter giant of a ship worth 156 million rubles. And this gave rise to all kinds of rumors. Glasnost should be timely and not a result of public pressure.

 \mathcal{M} any restrictions on the export of publications have been lifted under the terms of a new directive issued by the Ministry of Culture of the USSR. The old rules prohibited the export of not only really valuable publications but also books published in large editions. Besides, there were so many vague provisions in the old instructions that any point could be interpreted in different ways. This was the reason for the arbitrariness of postal and customs services. The new rules follow the principle: Whatever is not prohibited is permitted. The export of rarities is prohibited. Soviet books published before 1926 are not subject to export, as are foreign books published before 1801 and periodicals published before 1946. Soviet printed matter published from 1926 to 1945 can be mailed or exported only by permission of the Ministry of Culture. The export of whatever has been published since 1946 is sanctioned without hindrance.





In Search of Prodigies

here is no concealing the fact," says the newspaper Izvestia, "that we are lagging in scientific and technological progress, that the prestige of brain work is declining, and that the intelligentsia in this country has faded."

One of the reasons for this is shortcomings in our educational system, which does not provide for selecting and fostering talent. The recent establishment of the foundation Intellekt is therefore welcome. The foundation's purpose is to seek gifted children and to help them develop their abilities. It intends to set up throughout the country a network of specialized schools, where gifted children will be enrolled. These schools will use the most up-to-date methods of instruction and study aids and will encourage international exchanges of both pupils and teachers.

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A Deputy from the Unofficial Associations

hen a vacancy occurred in the Irkutsk (Eastern Siberia) Regional Soviet of People's Deputies, a new election was scheduled. In the past a candidate recommended from above would have been elected unanimously. But times have changed. Irkutsk residents nominated two candidates for the single vacancy: Alexander Bukharov, a prominent scientist, and Vladimir Naumov, an ordinary scientific worker. Naumov won the election, with a great margin. His program, focusing on the revival of genuine power for the Soviets, proved more attractive.

Naumov is known to his constituents as a member of an unofficial ecological movement. With other like-minded people, he has collected more than 100,000 signatures on a petition demanding suspension of the construction of a pipeline that would discharge industrial waste from the Baikal Cellulose Plant into the Irkut River.

Now that Naumov is a deputy of the Regional Soviet, he remains in touch with unofficial movements. He is one of the organizers of the City Club of Civic Initiatives, the purpose of which is to establish in Irkutsk a popular front in support of perestroika. This young man is not only a leader of the unofficial associations but also a deputy vested with legislative power.

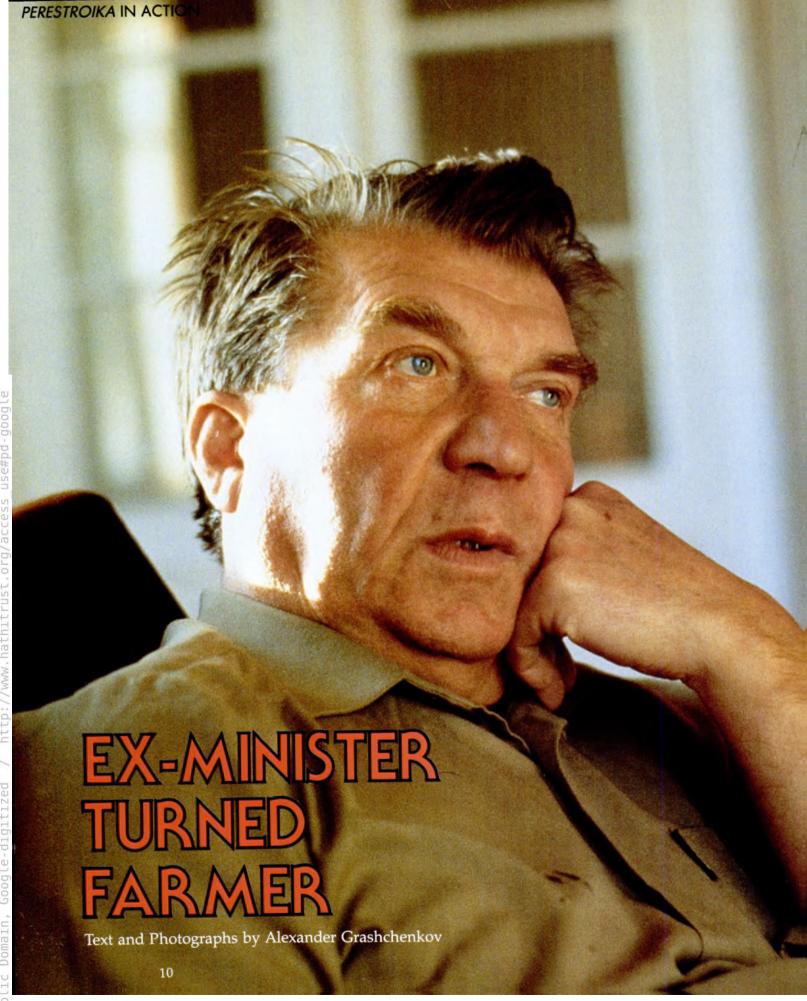


Demonstrators protest pollution of the Irkut River. Naumov is at the left.













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his is the story of Harald Mannik, who held various important jobs, including a seat in the Estonian Government, for two decades. But he was the son of a peasant, and he never forgot how to handle a spade, milk a cow, or plow the land.

I wonder what the huge army of bureaucrats will do when the administrative apparatus is reduced appreciably. What will happen to the people who are used to endless paperwork and whose only talent is writing all sorts of instructions and resolutions when they eventually have to leave their comfortable offices? They

are probably in for very hard times. Can you imagine waking up one morning only to find out that after long years of loyally serving a certain department, growing white-haired in the battles to protect its interests, you are no longer needed?

Elmaar Lepp, a driver for the agroindustrial association in Pärnu (agroindustrial associations have now been dissolved), told me the following anecdote. On a terrible day in late autumn, a black Volga carrying Estonia's Minister of Agriculture, Harald Mannik, pulled up near a potato field. The harvest was over, and the Minister, accompanied by the local officials, was inspecting farms.

Mannik opened the trunk of his

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car, took out green all-weather boots ("Made in Japan"), put them on, and set off confidently through the mud. The others accompanying him had no special protection for their feet, but they followed the boss anyway, in their dress shoes and tailored suits.

I remembered this episode when I visited Mannik on his family farm not long ago. By that time he was happily retired. A heavyset, gray-haired man, he was dressed in green overalls, the same green weather-killer boots, and a traditional Estonian cap. When I arrived, he was trying to calm a flock of noisy snow-white geese who were determined to prevent me, an intruder, from trespassing.

"My bodyguards," said Mannik, grinning as he pointed to the geese. "I live here all alone. My wife, Esther, comes to the farm only on weekends. She is a veterinarian in Tallinn. Sometimes my son Jaak and his daughter Marlise come to visit."

"It's difficult to say when I was luckier—when I was appointed Minister or five years later, when I was punished for an automobile accident I caused by driving while intoxicated. I was transferred to the position of head of a state farm," Mannik remembers. "I liked my new job, and I especially liked the hard-working people. They helped me to make the state farm profitable in just two years.

"Suddenly there was a new turn in my road. One evening a neighbor dropped in with a bottle of brandy. 'Congratulations,' he told me sadly, 'you've been reappointed Minister of Agriculture.' I rushed to Tallinn, to the Central Committee. 'Please, let me go on as the farm chairman. I don't want to lose touch with peasant work. Besides, I'm earning much more than I did as Minister.'

"Probably because I was never afraid of losing my job, I did manage to accomplish something during my tenure as Minister of Agriculture. Our republic is one of the country's most advanced farming regions. My conscience is clear: I never made farmers blindly follow all my instructions. True, I had to deal with my superiors. But I have always found the way—sometimes it was with firmness, at other times with subtlety."

Mannik was born and spent his

childhood on a farmstead called Veski. His father, a well-to-do farmer, did everything with his own two hands. His mother made clothes for the family out of homespun fabric. The Manniks worked from early morning until late at night. The village of Tituvere had 13 farmsteads like this

"When I was living in a big city, I spent many sleepless nights. Retiring on pension was a hard decision. But as soon as I moved onto my father's farmstead, which I never forgot during the 40 years that had passed, all my troubles were gone. I worked like a horse and slept like a log. I swam in the river in the morning and at night. I found happiness and peace of mind. No, I thought, life isn't over yet."

Mannik signed a lease on 42 hectares of land with the local collective farm. He sows 30 hectares to crops and keeps 3 oxen (each gains 700 kilograms over 18 months), pigs, 4 cows (each of which gives as much as 5,000 liters of milk a year), 2 dozen geese, and 2 hives of bees. The farm keeps him busy all day long.

"If each pensioner could sell the state 5 tons of meat, 20 tons of milk, and 40 tons of grain a year, we wouldn't have to talk so much about the Food Program," Mannik grins.

"Don't you think it would be worthwhile spreading the word about your experience?"

"It's too soon. A farmer will invest his own money only in his own land. We need firm guarantees and the right to continue family use of land codified by the law. We need a law that would allow family farmsteads to be inherited.

"It is also necessary to sell or at least to rent modern farm machinery to farmers. We should also be allowed to place orders for land-improvement work at our convenience and at the same prices state farms pay. Social insurance is also an important question for farmers. In a word, we have a lot of problems to solve.

"I'm glad the system of farmsteads is being restored in Estonia. Whole villages can change over to self-financing. The land, cattle, and real estate will be owned cooperatively, and the farmers will share in the results of their work. This arrangement is par-

ticularly effective where there is no sense in creating large farms."

All the chores on the farm do not overshadow Mannik's chief preoccupation, his supertask, so to speak: He is working out techniques for getting the best Estonia's poor soil can produce. On his farm he tests all he learned first from his father, then at Tartu State University, and subsequently over the decades of his own work.

"You might say I was lucky. The last two years we've had weather extremes—one year was all rain, and the other a severe drought," Mannik says. "This allowed me to try out all my methods and inventions. My plow for shale has worked out quite well; I'm going to patent it."

This true master of his farm sees to it that absolutely everything is productive. His late father drilled an artesian well. Mannik built a big refrigerator for storing milk, sauerkraut, and pickles. He dreams of restoring the populations of the local specimens of fish and crawfish, which are in the Red Book of Endangered Species, and starting a fishing business in cooperation with his neighbors. He has huge plans and hopes he'll live to carry them through. Nevertheless, Mannik says that individual farms hardly have a future. Why?

"Because farming is a backbreaking job. Farmers work 16 hours a day, 7 days a week," he explains.

Mannik himself works hard, though no one pushes him. This is what keeps him going and makes him healthy and happy.

"Could you be a minister and continue to live and work on your farm?"

"Why not? Theodore Pool, the Estonian Minister of Agriculture before World War II, lived and worked on his farm and only came to the capital on business."

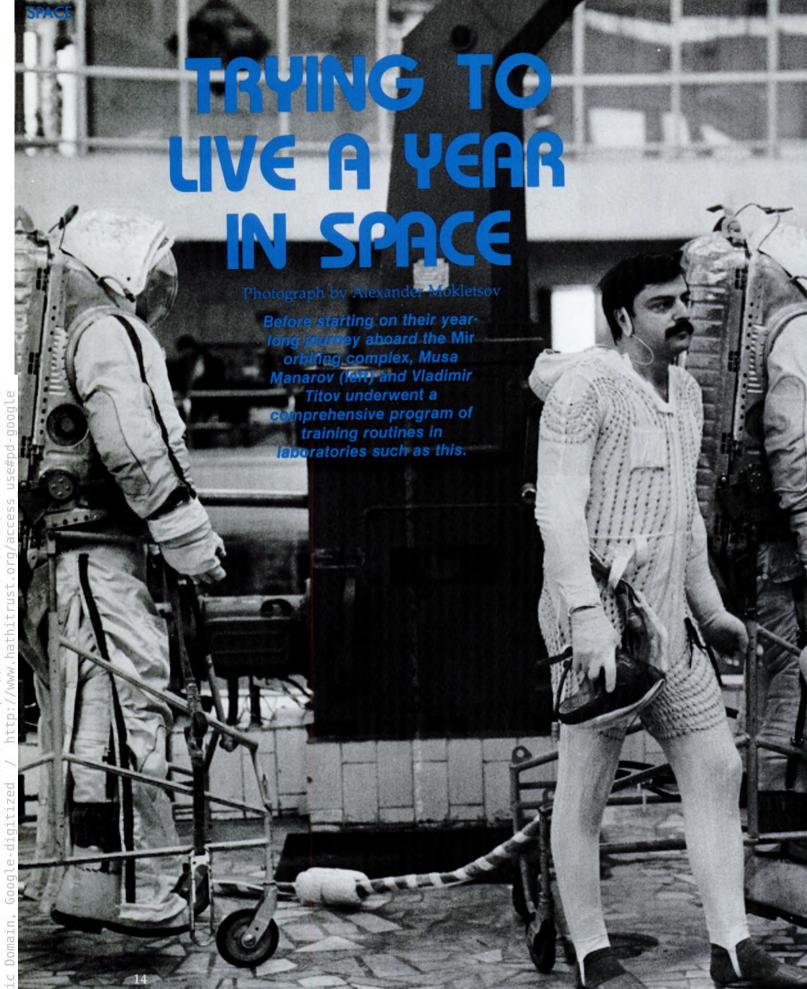
Traveling in Estonia about 10 years ago, I saw ruins of former manors in the woods and on the banks of rivers and lakes. But since that time the first enthusiasts had begun to restore their fathers' farms. Today there are practically no forsaken manors left. Will the individual farm movement develop? Opinions differ. Life itself will no doubt answer the question.

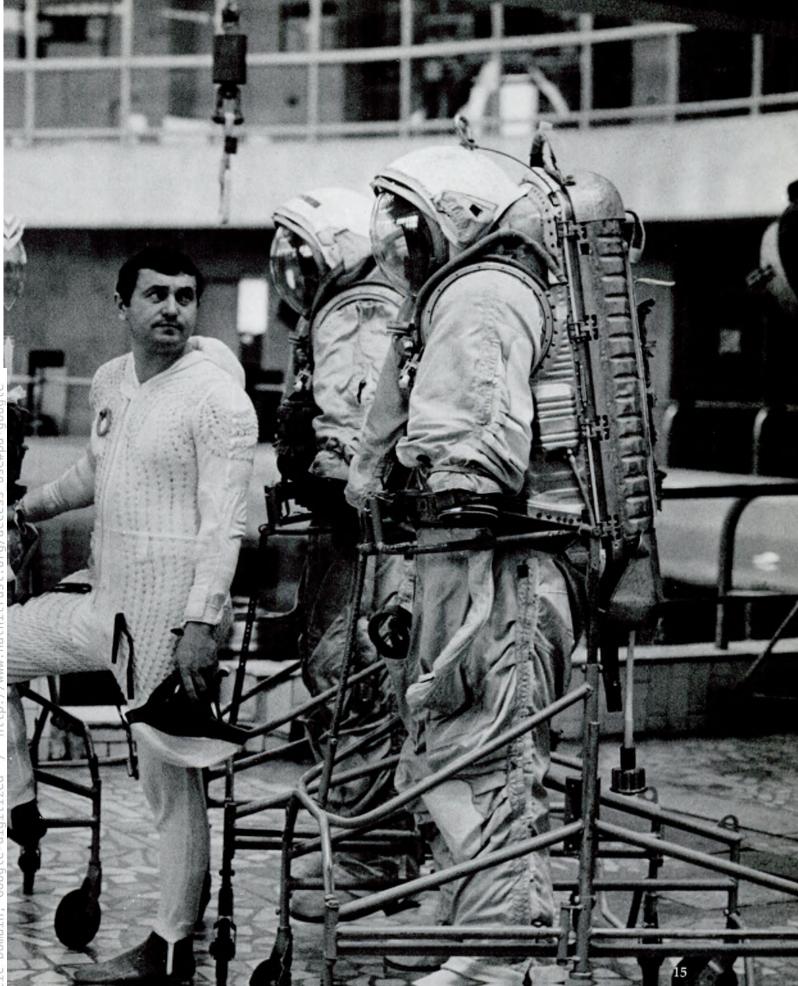




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spending 366 days in space (see SOVIET LIFE, March 1989). They were able to do it thanks to their physical training and the psychological support they received from the Mission Control Center. In this issue Literaturnaya gazeta correspondents Leonid Zagalsky and Oleg Moroz interview Victor Blagov, deputy director of the mission; Robert Bogdashevsky, department head of the Cosmonauts Training Center; Oleg Kozerenko, psychological support team leader; Sergei Bronnikov, head of the cosmonauts training department at the Energia Research and Production Amalgamation; and Vladimir Alexeyev, research associate of that department.

osmonauts Musa Ma-

narov and Vladimir

Titov set a record by

Q: What psychological support do the cosmonauts receive?

Kozerenko: The main thing for the ground control personnel is to make crew members feel at home rather than cut off from the Earth. Whereas before we used to conceal some of their family problems from them, today we realize that they should know everything. The same goes for the news. They receive information via radio and television. We organize meetings for them to make up for the deficit of social contacts. They can talk to their family members, colleagues, friends, cultural figures, political analysts, and sportswriters. Last year the cosmonauts saw both the winter and summer Olympics. They could see many sports broadcasts, and they talked to members of Dmitri Shparo's arctic expedition and to participants in the Moscow-Lisbon auto rally.

Q: Is the orbital station *Mir* required to make daily broadcasts?

Blagov: Yes. It transmits excerpts from TV news programs and newspaper reviews. But even with this support from the ground, the closed space and weightlessness act as both physical and psychological suppressors. People get irritable.

Q: So Tsiolkovsky's idea about weightlessness being a blessing has not been borne out?

Blagov: Not yet. I think that weightlessness is an enemy cosmonauts have to fight every day.

Q: Does weightlessness affect everybody adversely?

Blagov: It depends. Some people adapt easily; others feel uncomfortable throughout the mission. Cosmonauts say they all have a headache during the entire flight. The only thing that changes is its intensity. At the beginning they all have a bad headache, but it lessens in intensity as the body adapts.

Q: What causes the headache? **Blagov:** Dilation of blood vessels in the brain. The brain issues commands to other organs regulating blood pressure and tension. It influences the nervous system by pain. The cosmonauts get used to such pain, but they can't get rid of it altogether.

Q: Is anything in the experience of us "earthlings" like this?

Blagov: Sure. Here is one example: I spent four months onboard a research vessel and suffered for two months from the same kind of headache. The trip was in the autumn, and the sea was stormy. The rocking of the boat causes a similar reaction. You become indifferent to everything. I felt as if I was disappearing somewhere, and the only thing that was left of me was a physical entity that was permanently sick. But if you manage to force yourself to do some physical exercises, you feel much better.

Q: What do cosmonauts hate to do most of all in space?

Blagov: They hate doing physical exercises and routine work. Just like the rest of us.

Q: And what do they like?

Blagov: I would say visual observations. And they like freedom of action most of all. They want to have some time to do something they want to do.

In a sense, those who work at the Mission Control Center are consumers of the Cosmonauts Training Center's "products." We have to work with different crews. Some are psychologically stable; others are not. They are all physically fit, but they are absolutely different psychologically. Their compatibility cannot be described as always harmonious. That has to be taken into account. We try to work out an individual approach to each crew. I believe this is the essence of psychological support. How can the crew members endure a year's flight in a closed space when they have contact only with people they are probably sick and tired of? The motivation to fulfill the mission is essential. Of course breakdowns are not ruled out. That's why psychological support is necessary. But a strong inner motivation is the main thing. No psychological measures will help without it.

Q: You mentioned that each crew has its own psychological pattern. What would you say about Titov and Manarov?

Blagov: The interaction between crew members and the Mission Control Center gets more complicated in the second half of the flight. With Titov and Manarov, that moment came later than with other crews. That means they were better adapted.

Bronnikov: They came up with some 1,200 proposals to improve the station's design. Some of the ideas duplicated each other, but even if 300 of them are left after processing, it will prove both cosmonauts have an innovative bent.

Blagov: Titov's goal was to make it to the station. That was his fourth attempt. It was a matter of self-assertion. I don't know what would have happened to him if he had failed a fourth time.

Q: What failures are you talking about?

Blagov: The first time he failed to dock with the station. The second time there was a malfunction before the takeoff. The third time he didn't pass a medical checkup, and a standby crew was sent. On the mis-



sion when he finally made it, he was very strongly motivated.

Q: Who is directly involved in the work with the cosmonauts during the flight?

Blagov: Basically five people—an instructor, a doctor, and three communications operators—are directly involved, though many other experts also work with them. Vladimir Alexeyev, for one, has been working with cosmonauts for 15 years now.

Alexeyev: Operators are also a part of psychological support because they speak to the cosmonauts every day. We work 24 hours a day. At night we sleep at the control desk. We've had some funny episodes. Once, at 2 A.M., I received a radio call from cosmonauts Alexei Gubarev and Georgi Grechko. We were almost thrown into a panic. But it turned out Alexei and Georgi had just fixed a nice cup of hot tea, thanks to the newly installed boiler, and they were so happy, they wanted to share their pleasure with us.

Kozerenko: I got a phone call from the Mission Control Center at 4 in the morning on the eve of April Fools' Day. They told me the crew wanted to be entertained. I had to read amusing stories to them!

Q: Do you follow any guidelines in your work with the cosmonauts? Alexeyev: We have been living and working together for many years. We spend holidays and go on business trips together. When we talk shop, nobody on the outside understands a word we say.

Q: What do you do when you feel tension in the relations between Mission Control and the cosmonauts?

Alexeyev: That happens rather often.

We had some problems with Yuri Romanenko, for example. He started his working day by criticizing ground services. So we had to treat the situation with humor. And Yuri's attitude changed too.

Blagov: Being a good operator is a gift. The attitude toward cosmonauts

in orbit should be well balanced: They should be neither excessively praised nor underestimated. They ask us to tell them everything that is written or reported about them.

Q: It's difficult to share one room for 12 months even with your wife. How do cosmonauts spend a whole year together? Are there any conflicts?

Blagov: Sometimes. We used a psychological support team for the first time during the 1977 flight of Yuri Romanenko and Georgi Grechko onboard the orbital station Salyut-6. We had a very difficult problem that time: Georgi's father died. The two of them had been very close. What were we supposed to do? Tell the cosmonaut the bad news and give him the right to interrupt the mission? Or conceal the truth? We chose the latter. A group of technical experts, doctors, psychologists, and Georgi's relatives invented all kinds of stories to justify his father's absence on the line, though Georgi always wanted to talk to him. We managed to survive for the whole 96 days of the flight. When Vladimir Shatalov, who was responsible for the mission, told Georgi about the tragic event after the landing, the cosmonaut said we had been right. That was the baptism, so to speak, of our psychological support team, though psychologists have been involved in the preparation of flights since the first one by Yuri Gagarin.

Q: Were there any problems during the last 12-month flight?

Bogdashevsky: Titov and Manarov had just one misunderstanding. It lasted for three days, but then the cosmonauts managed to cope with the situation.

Blagov: We noticed that the cosmonauts had changed somewhat, and we sensed that something was wrong. One of the things Mission Control does is organize "meetings" between the crew and their family members. We actually have two teams—the ship commander and the flight engineer onboard the station and their wives here on Earth. During this misunderstanding between Titov and Manarov, we resorted to some tricks.

We asked their wives to tell them things that would force them to contact each other. The conversation was geared toward breaking the ice.

Kozerenko: Cosmonauts' wives also learn the art of understanding their husbands at a distance. There is no need to tell them what they need to say to bring their husbands back to normal.

Blagov: Cosmonauts' wives are unofficial members of the psychological support team.

Bogdashevsky: It is very difficult to pull cosmonauts out of it when they are troubled. Of course the crew commander gets some training about what to do if a conflict arises. But sometimes he cannot use the recommendations, and he himself becomes the source of the conflict. Mission Control is unable to influence the situation—sometimes our interference even makes things worse.

Kozerenko: There is one more important thing. Psychological support service is like a safety valve for letting off steam. For example, we felt some tension during the flight of Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Vladimir Kovalyonok. And we intentionally allowed them to vent their criticism on us—all the more so since they could not direct their anger elsewhere.

Q: Do cosmonauts remain good friends after the flight?

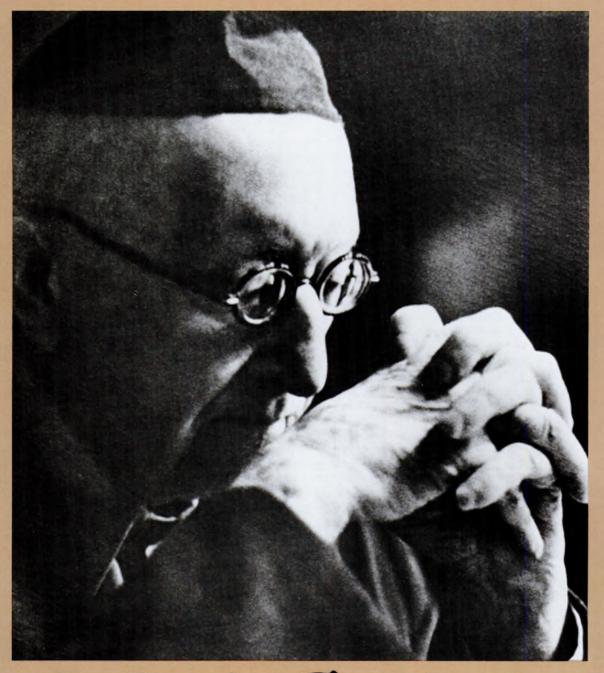
Blagov: That depends. Some of them even refuse to spend the postflight rehabilitation period together and ask to be sent to different health resorts. Others become bosom buddies. But in general, there are fewer people who are real friends than there are those who just get along.

Q: Have any of the cosmonauts ever said after the flight, "That's it; I'll never set foot in there again"?

Bogdashevsky: No. But there have been some cosmonauts whom we told they would never set foot in there again.

Courtesy of the newspaper Literaturnaya gazeta





With Spirit Unbroken

By Aza Takho-Godi

Aza Takho-Godi, the widow of Alexei Losev, is head of Moscow University's Department of Classical Philology.

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man who is a symbol," "a man who is a myth," "a server of the truth," "a selfsacrificing keeper of the spiritual tradition,'

one of the most remarkable twentieth century Russian philosophers and philologists, whose ideas are doubt-

less those of a genius."

Alexei Fyodorovich Losev (1893-1988), the subject of these descriptions, is a veritable enigma, and it is sure to take us, his contemporaries, a long time to know all about him. Losev died four months short of his ninety-fifth birthday. He had just completed his eight-volume History of Ancient Esthetics and the voluminous work Vladimir Solovyov and His Time, and he left behind a list of more than 460 publications in addition to a great number of still-unpublished works on mythology, logic, mathematics, and medieval dialectic and even novels

The descriptions above might indicate that Losev had a happy life. So wasn't it all smooth sailing for him? In 1911 he graduated with distinction from a secondary school, and in 1915 he graduated summa cum laude from Moscow University, where he had majored in philosophy and classical philology. He published his first works in 1916. After a period of study in Berlin, Losev was selected from among many applicants for a position as Professor of Classical Philology in 1919, and he received tenure in 1923.

Throughout the 1920s Losev taught at the Moscow Conservatory (he had received a good grounding in music at a private school) and was a full member of the State Academy of the Arts in charge of the Esthetics Department. He published his eight famous books on philosophy from 1927 to 1930.

But at this point the young scholar's brilliant career was cut short. For having written these famous works (in particular The Dialectic of the Myth), he was arrested in 1930, jailed for a year and a half, and sentenced to 10 years in the camps in 1931. He was sent to work on the construction of the Byelomorkanal (the Baltic-

White Sea Canal). In 1933 his sentence was commuted and his conviction expunged after he had nearly gone blind in the camp.

A new disaster struck in 1941, when the apartment house Losev lived in was destroyed by aerial bombing that killed some of his relatives and ruined his manuscripts and books. But even knowing that he should not do hard work because of his eyes, Losev took part in removing the debris and recovering his books. These exertions had a tragic consequence: From that time on he could not read or write. He was read to, and he dictated all of his works.

Losev was prohibited from working in philosophy. His writings were not published for 23 years. But he continued to work nevertheless. Philosophy as such was out of bounds for him, but not esthetics. Losev began studying issues of esthetics, and as soon as he could publish (after Stalin died in 1953), he explored these questions in books and articles. Of his eight-volume work, History of Ancient Esthetics, the first six volumes earned him the 1986 USSR State Prize. Volume 7 came out a month after Losev died. He had completed work on volume 8 (2,000 typewritten pages), though he realized as he was working on it that he was leaving "for the abyss of history."

When I began to work with the Losevs in the autumn of 1944, I was a graduate student in classical philosophy. Losev worked without respite. The Losevs' life was chaotic and disorganized, and he and his wife, Valentina, had to cope with it as best they could until I lent a helping hand. I saw the inspiring enthusiasm of these two people. Losev would not sleep at night; he spent the time thinking over the text he would dictate-without corrections-to his wife

or me the following day.

After Valentina died in 1954, I was sorting out her papers, and I came upon a stack of letters that had survived the fire and the bombing. They gave me a glimpse of the tragedy of a philosopher who had been forced to stop writing. These are very unusual letters: the correspondence between two convicts in two separate camps-Valentina, an astronomer, had also

been arrested and was in a camp in the Altai. Both had been arrested in 1930. He was sentenced to 10 years, she to five years.

Losev is usually described as an encyclopedic scholar, an unusual figure in twentieth century science, whose salient feature has been the specialization of its various fields. Losev's breadth of interest stems both from his tremendous erudition and from the concept of universal unity, which Vladimir Solovyov (1853-1900), a major Russian religious philosopher and poet, proposed and

Losev investigated.

Losev's favorite method of work was based on a subtle dialectic that he applied to cultural phenomena of great stature, with a reliance on exact sciences that explore the field thoroughly yet without excessive academicism and even with elements of artistic illumination. The large scale of the issues under investigation never inhibited Losev from subtle research into the meaning of terms, from using texts of immense complexity and, in the final analysis, from reducing the most involved of ideas to formulas and theses the most unsophisticated person can understand.

Losev's life was tragic yet beautiful. He drank this bitter and exhilarating cup of serving the truth. He did in ancient esthetics what he had been prohibited from doing in philosophy. He saw in ancient civilization the finest model of the world on the basis of which universal unity could be

achieved.

Several constants characterized Losev's whole life. He began studying Solovyov during his last year in secondary school; his last work was the voluminous Vladimir Solovyov and His Time, which he completed and took to Progress Publishers two weeks before his death.

Until his graduation from secondary school Losev observed, on May 24, the day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the patron saints of philosophy and philology, who introduced Christianity to Prince Vladimir of Kiev. Losev died on May 24, 1988, the day on which Rus marked the first millennium of its conversion, by Prince Vladimir, to Christianity.

etters from the labor camp to Valentina Loseva. January 22, 1932. From Svirlag (White Sea-Baltic Sea camp) to Borovlyanka (Siberian camp).

... This book on the dialectics of analytical functions, which I've so far written only in my head, is dedicated to you, of course. And from now on, could there really be a book of mine that will not be dedicated to you?! For everything is sanctified by my memory of you, and everything is done for our future meeting and our life together. Supposing that the circumstances of your life had not so far led you to make your mark in mathematics and philosophy. But don't my creations belong to you as much as to myself? I owe to you a thousand individual thoughts and feelings, well thought out and sensible. Besides, we love mathematics too much to make it a craft. My joy-Name, Number, Myth-is the whirlpool of your and my life, where individual thoughts and inner impulses are already sinking and the serene and thoughtless silence of universal tenderness and love is taking the upper hand.

January 27, 1932

When I walk and guard my sheds, I think about the philosophy of the number. Above me is the star-speckled sky, which I am free to see for several hours. Your face is everywhere, and I can no longer look at the stars without remembering you and our science, which the Greeks saw as the combination of philosophy and astronomy. I would like to write with you a book entitled The Starry Sky and Its Wonders and to make it engrossing, beautiful, profound, to make it engrossing mathematically and musically. Goodness me, how I want to live! Sometimes I feel a boundless thirst for life. I want music-Beethoven's, Wagner's; I want Hoffmann's fantasy and romance; I want something wonderful, unheard-of, a strong and clear emotion, and-to live, if only I could live!

February 19, 1932

In the prime of life, on the verge of

new and still unheard-of work, we have been brutally beaten and driven underground-and by whom? I don't, won't, or can't conceal from you that my heart is full of passionate protest and irritation against the supreme forces, though I certainly realize that all clamor and revolt against God are pointless and absurd. Who am I? A professor? A Soviet professor rejected by the Soviets themselves! A scientist? One whom no one recognizes and who is persecuted with punks and bandits! A convict? But what rascal has the right to consider me a convict-me, a Russian philosopher? Who am I, and what am I? And another question that is more horrible yet: What will I be like in "10 years," or not even 10, but five, or three, or even one year? Bitterness and the spiritual apathy that grow with each passing day may lead to an irreparable catastrophe of spirit that will mark a point of no return. I'm in shackles, while untapped and inexhaustible forces and creative impulses are bubbling up in my soul, when new, ever and ever new thoughts are pushing ahead in my mind; they demand good physical conditions to be grasped and set forth; when my heart, in spite of the cold and melancholy twilight of the life I'm leading now, is beating tirelessly in unison with some global, universal pulses that are luring me into the enigmatic vista of unheard-of emotions, raptures, contemplation, beauty, and lofty spiritual heights, affections, and exploits. I'm not tired at all. I don't feel tired at all. Just the opposite; I feel a surge of spiritual forces and an urge to work, to create, but the impossibility of fulfilling myself and, after the loss of my library, the impossibility of possessing my scientific apparatus deject me, embitter and rob my soul, and violate my freely developing spirit.

March 11, 1932

Having been subjected to severe censorship, I have not for years set forth on paper anything that pertains to human life, and certainly nothing about man's inner life. The situation was increasingly unbearable for a philosopher who builds a philosophy of the life-based phenomena of being,

not abstract forms. Unable to express myself, to speak my thoughts, I suffocated. This explains the illegal passages I introduced into my writings after they had been through the censors, including (and in particular) The Dialectic of the Myth. I was aware of the danger of doing this, but a desire to express oneself, one's developing individuality, is stronger for a philosopher and writer than any thought of danger. Those were the years of my spontaneous development as a philosopher, and it was difficult to hold myself in the iron shackles of the Soviet censorship. (And was there any need to?) This also explains the numerous attacks against my enemies that I made in my books. Under normal social conditions, in which a man of letters can express the ideas that have crystallized in his mind, there cannot be such a disputatious tone as I allowed myself.

June 30, 1932

Despite what took place in the years 1930-1932, I still think that our road was the right one and that we, people of the twentieth century, found our bearings correctly among the global problems of religion, science, art, and public thought. We have produced our own, extremely individual lifestyle, which cannot be destroyed, not only because we are already past our prime but also because it is essentially the picture of the truth of twentieth century people who wanted to absorb global human culture and to retain what was good in past times and what is good in modern times. For the truth is always the same, though its character changes in the course of history, though it is difficult to perceive it in the mists and bustle of a specific moment in history. I believe that we had the correct vision of our truth, mine and yours, and provided our own lifestyle, which probably no one understands today in the West or in Russia. And if we are suffering, I'd like to believe that the reason is not that the road we took is bad, but that we traveled this beautiful and well-chosen road badly.

Courtesy of the newspaper Literaturnaya gazeta

OBSERVATIONS ON PERESTROIKA

n the summer of 1988, 36-year-old John Kohan became chief of *Time* magazine's Moscow bureau. Novosti Press Agency correspondent Nikolai Matyash talks with Kohan about his impressions of the Soviet Union.

Q: What places have you had a chance to visit since you arrived in this country?

A: This isn't my first visit to the Soviet Union. I studied at Leningrad University, and since 1974 I've regularly visited the USSR with delegations of various sorts. During my years with *Time*, I have often been in the Moscow office. In June 1988 I arrived in Moscow as bureau chief. Since then I've been to the Far East, to Kapustin Yar, where nuclear missiles were eliminated, and to Minsk. Recently I visited Latvia, where I met some of the Popular Front leaders, and also Estonia.

Q: Have you noticed any changes in Soviet life, in people's behavior?

A: People are wearing better and more attractive clothes, and the way young people live and dress here is much the same as in the West. But that's not the most important thing. The first thing I've noticed here is the change in the Soviet people's way of thinking. In the streets, at home, and on TV they openly talk about their problems. That's good because a few years ago they would hardly venture an opinion that differed from the official line.

The situation has really changed, and this can be judged from the fact that people who were once persecuted are now invited to various forums and press conferences. Among them are Academician Andrei Sakharov and historian Roy Medvedev.

The restructuring of political thinking has not proceeded quickly enough everywhere. Change is less visible in the provinces, where the press merely reprints what the central newspapers say, without giving its own interpretation of things.

Q: What do you think about Soviet TV programs?

A: In my opinion, Soviet television is overloaded with political and educational programs, whereas American TV is mostly commercial and entertainment oriented. This, I think, is the main difference between the two.

Perestroika has introduced live coverage, which, as I've noticed, is particularly popular with the TV viewers. I prefer the nightly program for young people, "Look," the "Midnight Show," and documentaries like "The Risk."

Q: What effect do you think the current comprehensive changes have had on the Soviet press?

A: Three years ago I wouldn't have expected the Soviet press to make such an impressive leap forward. In the stagnation period Soviet periodicals expressed only the official opinion, and they were very dull. The state controlled all the information and treated people like children, telling them what to do.

Now newspapers and magazines are filled with daring articles, often amazing in their sincere desire to understand problems. The press has become lively and interesting, and the number of topics under discussion has greatly increased.

Q: Do you go to the movies? What's your impression of the Soviet cinema? A: Perestroika has had the effect in cinematography of generating quite a few original works. They are often controversial and never leave you indifferent. Among the most interesting films, in my opinion, are Little Vera, Assa, and The Cold Summer of 1953. All of them convey an original approach to contemporary or historical problems.

The film Repentance deserves special mention. It was shown all over the country and stirred heated discussions. It denounced dictatorship of all kinds, including Stalinism, and was welcomed as a sign of a new epoch.

Q: About two years ago cooperatives appeared on the Soviet scene. What do you think about their advent?

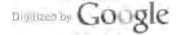
A: They're a very positive development. Everyone acknowledges that the service sector in the Soviet Union needs to be developed. The cooperative movement can make life better, revive personal initiative, and strengthen the state economy. But it isn't easy to begin a new activity, and cooperatives have had certain difficulties along the way. On the one hand, some cooperative owners aren't sure of their future stability because they are afraid that the movement is just the latest fad, which could end soon. And so they want to make big profits quickly. On the other hand, consumers aren't pleased with the high prices the cooperatives charge and the large earnings of their entrepreneurs.

One solution would be for the state to further encourage the cooperatives. Only under this condition can prices stabilize.

Q: My last question: What do you think of Soviet young people?

A: This is one of the crucial questions at the moment. Young people aged 25 to 30, the generation that grew up in the stagnation period, are mere onlookers, in my opinion. I think this is because their outlook is still encumbered with stereotypes. *Perestroika* has been promoted by the Gorbachev generation, by the people who welcomed the Twentieth CPSU Congress, which denounced Stalin's personality cult.

At the same time, you have a marvelous younger generation, those aged 14 to 18, who will live and think in a new way.



Bright ries By Alexander Donoshvin By Alexander Donoshvin

Photography celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre's invention, announced on January 9, 1839, has had a tremendous influence on the world; it has become a powerful means of cognition. Photography has burst into physics and astronomy, biology, medicine, geography, and criminology, penetrating areas otherwise invisible to the naked eye.

In Russia photography appeared at about the same time as in the West. The first Russian photojournalists, Maxim Dmitriyev and Andrei Karelin, from Nizhni Novgorod (now Gorky), were famous in Russia in the late 1800s.

Dmitriyev is considered one of the first photo chroniclers. He photographed noisy fairs in Nizhni Novgorod, the retreats of Old-Believers, shelters for the homeless, and villages and villagers on the banks of the Volga. He left us 1,200 negatives of Volga towns from Rybinsk to Astrakhan and portraits of famous people who lived there.

Karelin can be called Russia's first master of genre and portrait photography. He created a whole gallery of portraits of outstanding Russian cultural figures—writers Maxim Gorky and Vladimir Korolenko, artist Ilya Repin, stage director Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko, and many others. Each photograph is perfect in composition and lighting.

On the 150th anniversary of photography, we pay tribute to these two outstanding Russian masters who preserved the images of Russia's past.

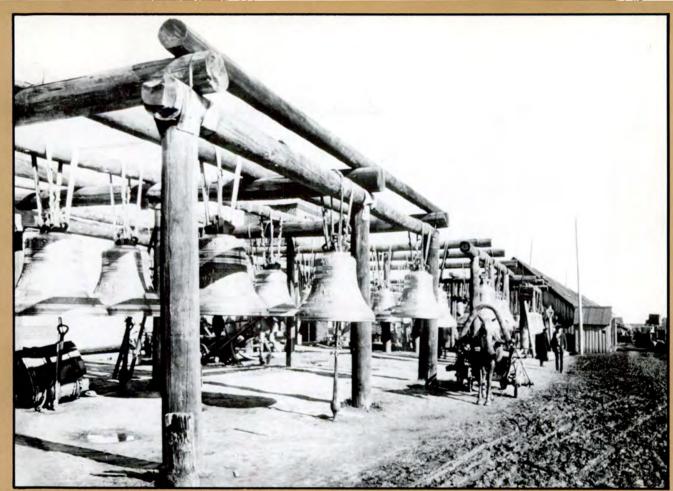


Andrei Karelin's work (above) followed the traditions of Russian painting.

Andrei Karelin. My Sister and My Wife.



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Maxim Dmitriyev. Bells for sale at Nizhni Novgorod fairgrounds (above).

Maxim Dmitriyev. The First Russian Car Designed by Yakolev and Freze, 1896.

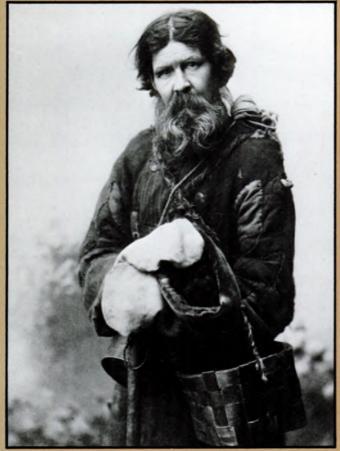




Maxim Dmitriyev. Pilgrim.

Maxim Dmitriyev. Spoonmakers.

Maxim Dmitriyev. Portrait of Ivan Bunin.





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Andrei Karelin. Village Life.

Maxim Dmitriyev. Maxim Gorky (standing, above) with Nizhni Novgorod intelligentsia.

Maxim Dmitriyev. Fyodor Chaliapin with His Wife, Iola Tornagi, 1903.





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CALIFORNIANS LEND A HAND

By Stanislav Pestov Photographs by Alexei Boitsov and Rudolf Kucherov

When the Moscow weekly Argumenty i fakty published a letter from two California businessmen on November 18 of last year, it received nearly 4,000 comments from its readers.

e want to help perestroika," wrote Harold Willens and Wesley Bilson. They offered to lend a hand in building consumer goods factories in the Soviet Union.

Replies came from all over the Soviet Union—Moscow, Siberia, Central Asia, and the Baltic republics.

"We had to hire people to translate all the offers we received from the Soviet Union," Bilson said.

And though the Americans said that they were not motivated by profit and were not going to launch joint ventures, many Soviets wrote offering them joint projects.

When the editor of Argumenty i fakty wrote Bilson and Willens about the letters they had received, Bilson decided to go to Moscow.

"Perestroika and Gorbachev are very popular in the United States," Bilson said to the members of the newspaper staff who met him at the airport. "But we also know that there are people against reforms who are using empty store shelves to discredit perestroika. So Willens and I decided to offer to do what we could to organize the production of consumer goods in your country. We want people to believe in perestroika.

"I started business from scratch in

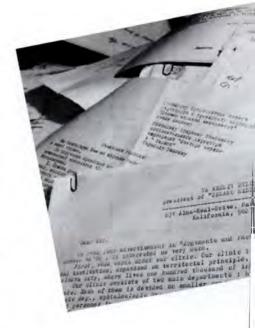
Hollywood. I was in capital construction and textiles, and now I'm president of Delano Medical Management. The company makes a profit of about 34 million dollars. Willens and I spend a lot of time and money campaigning for disarmament in the United States. But the success of disarmament also depends on you. That's why I'm here."

Bilson has chosen three projects for the first stage of his experiment: a brassiere factory in Moscow, a clothing plant in Moldavia, and a cooperative factory in Leningrad.

From the train station in Leningrad Bilson and a group of journalists and representatives of the Garant Cooperative went straight to the site of the future factory. It will be located in a Leningrad suburb in the buildings of a disbanded army unit. The factory will specialize in the production of work clothes and children's wear.

"I am pleased to see that you are converting military facilities into civilian plants," Bilson said. "While the world is still discussing Mr. Gorbachev's decision to reorganize a number of military facilities for civilian use within the next two or three years, we see here with our own eyes a practical example of conversion."

Bilson will assist the Leningrad cooperative by involving American building companies in the reconstruction of the military facility.



The Garant Cooperative and other factories will produce the clothing designed by the center. They plan to manufacture one million girls' dresses a year and more than 500,000 parkas, work clothes, and casual wear.

The Californians will provide the factory with computers and sewing machines and will hire American designers to cooperate with their Soviet colleagues in designing children's clothes. Soviet winners of the design competition will be awarded a scholarship for a training course in the United States. Willens and Bilson are also planning to organize business trips to the United States for the Garant staff.

The Leningrad Regional Office of the State Bank of the USSR will finance the Soviet part of the project.





Wesley Bilson examines fabric samples. Inset, far left: Some of the thousands of letters California businessmen have received from Soviet people.

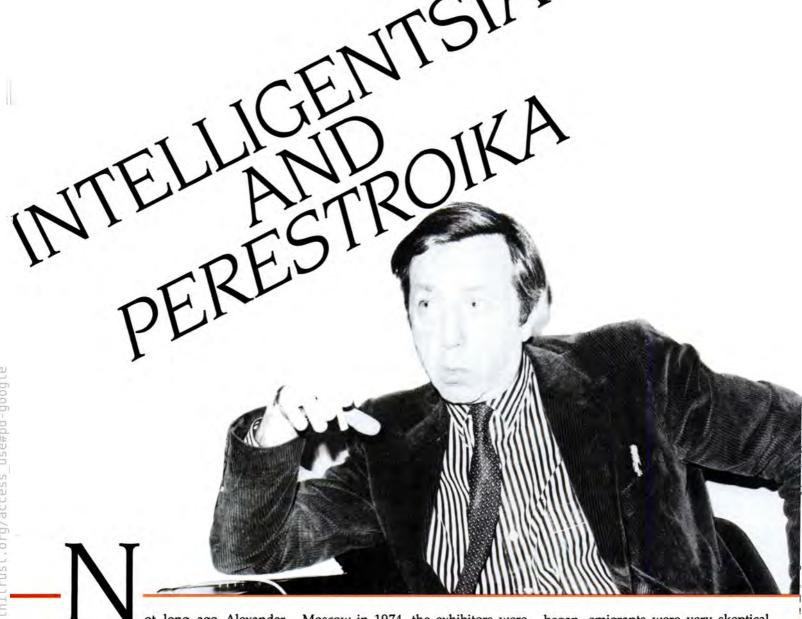




Above: Harry Froelich, an **American** consultant, discusses details of a business arrangement with the management of a Moscow lingerie factory. Left: Clothing designs on display in a Leningrad studio will be produced by the Garant Cooperative.

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ot long ago Alexander Glezer visited Moscow for the first time in the 14 years since he emigrated from the USSR. He is director of Tretya Volna Russian-language publishers (Paris-New York), editor in chief of the literary magazine Strelets, and director of two museums of modern Russian art. Not long ago he proposed setting up an international association of intellectuals in support of perestroika and glasnost.

In the sixties and seventies Glezer still lived in Moscow and worked as a poet and translator. He was best known then as a collector of Soviet avant-garde painting. He arranged a number of exhibitions, including the famous event that is now called the "Bulldozer Exhibition" (at that openair exhibition, which was held in

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Moscow in 1974, the exhibitors were dispersed with bulldozers).

Glezer was punished for his activities by being forced to emigrate in 1976. Taking with him practically his entire collection, he used the works of art to establish two museums of modern Russian art, in Paris and in Jersey City. Glezer's visit to Moscow was the result of his effort to set up the new association. While in Moscow, he held two Strelets readings and was interviewed by SOVIET LIFE correspondent Vyacheslav Samoshkin.

Q: What is the purpose of the association? And how did you conceive the idea of establishing it?

A: The idea for such an association came to me most unexpectedly. When the era of perestroika and glasnost first

began, emigrants were very skeptical about it. I was also. But last year the developments in the USSR gave me hope that there might be change. I came to think that I must do all I can to promote that process. In October I interviewed Soviet writer Tatyana Tolstaya for Strelets. We discussed the processes of perestroika in the areas of literature, art, and public life. When we began to reflect on the popular fronts that had emerged in the USSR, it suddenly occurred to me that if there were popular fronts, why should there not be an intellectuals front in support of perestroika? But since the word "front" sounds too warlike to me, I decided to call it "association" instead.

At first the idea seemed unrealistic even to me. But after I had discussed it with some of my émigré friends, including writers and artists, I realized that it could become a reality. If we established a mass organization that included prominent representatives of the Soviet intelligentsia, Russian intellectuals living outside the USSR, and also American, French, and other intellectuals, we could take some action capable of fostering the democratization process in the USSR, making it irreversible. The very existence of such an organization could help the reformers since, both among the emigrants and within the USSR, perestroika has its opponents, and quite strong opponents at that.

In my view the association should promote rapprochement of the literature published in the USSR and that published by emigrants, and also of the other arts. I have always believed that there are not two different literatures, or two different cultures, but there is a single Russian literature and one Russian culture. It may be divided into two branches for the time being, but those branches are bound to converge. And now we are witnessing such a convergence. Not only are works by writers belonging to the "first wave" of emigration being published in the Soviet Union today, but also those by Vladimir Voinovich, Iosif Brodsky, Victor Nekrasov, and Naum Korzhavin. I myself have been commissioned to write about 20 articles for Soviet journals.

Speaking of literature, the association will arrange readings at which authors living in the USSR and émigré authors will appear together. Those readings will be held at the Strelets Russian literary centers I have set up in Paris and New York, and also in Moscow and Leningrad. We could also organize round-table discussions that would be attended by writers and artists who would discuss the progress of perestroika in literature and the arts. Such discussions could be held in Moscow, Paris, and New York. The association should have an organ of its own, and Strelets could play that role. Remember that in past years it has published works by authors living in Moscow and Leningrad, both "unofficial" works, as they were called until recently, and those of officially recognized authors, such as Bella Akhmadulina, Andrei Bitov, and Bulat Okudzhava.

Q: Has anyone joined the association yet?

A: The president of the International Pen Club liked the idea, and I have reached an understanding with him, more or less. I am also going to meet with French and American intellectuals. And I think some Slavic professors in Switzerland will join the association too.

In the USSR more than 70 people want to join the association, including authors Bella Akhmadulina, Andrei Voznesensky, and Andrei Bitov; artists Boris Messerer, Vladimir Nemukhin, and Vyacheslav Kalinin; and Leningrad writers Victor Krivulin, Yuri Mamleyev, and Vadim Kreid. The journals *Iskusstvo* and *Chelovek i priroda* have joined as associate members. The idea has been supported by the Soviet Culture Foundation.

We will officially begin our work after a constituent conference. You might say, however, that we have already begun. The two *Strelets* readings in which Moscow and Leningrad authors took part may be viewed as the association's first actions.

Q: Was any progress made in other spheres during your visit to Moscow? A: We managed to reach an agreement with the Soviet Culture Foundation on holding in Moscow an exhibition of works of art from the Paris Museum of Modern Russian Art. I also negotiated arrangement of another display, "Modern Russian Artists in Western Collections," which will be held first at the Paris museum and then in Moscow.

I believe that one of the new association's most important tasks is to open a museum of modern Russian art in Moscow. If such a museum is set up, I will give it 200 works of art donated by émigré artists and 50 from my own collection. Perhaps it would be more correct to call it the Russian Avant-Garde Art Museum.

Q: Our readers would probably be interested to know the story of your emigration.

A: I first organized an exhibition of works by artists referred to as "unof-

ficial" in 1967. Held at a community center in Moscow, it was attended by as many as 2,000 people in the two hours before the authorities closed it down. Then I decided that since they closed down exhibitions, I should just start a collection of my own and open a museum at my place. I did so, and everyone was welcome to see my collection. Finally the authorities arrested me on charges of "circulating anti-Soviet literature." But that was a mere pretext. They wanted to force me to emigrate. My artist friends persuaded me to do so to save the collection and to give them moral support by exhibiting their works abroad. I agreed. The authorities let me take the pictures with me. I arranged the first exhibition just a couple of days after I emigrated.

Q: How did the "American period" in your life begin?

A: On September 15, 1980, the Modern Russian Art Museum in Jersey City opened. Tretya Volna Publishers is also based there. Today our editorial board includes Leningrad poet Victor Krivulin and Moscow writers Genrikh Sapgir and Vladimir Aleinikov.

Q: This is your first visit to Moscow after a long time away. What changes have you found here? What obstacles, in your opinion, do *perestroika* and democratization face, and what can the intelligentsia do?

A: While the current democratization is somewhat like the "thaw" under Khrushchev, the situation is more promising today. Works that could not see the light in the past are being published, including those by émigré authors. Such things did not happen during the "thaw." Today the democratization process is more far-reaching. Here in Moscow I have met intellectuals belonging to the new generation, and I have gotten the impression that most of them stand for perestroika and glasnost. The one thing that has disappointed me was meeting the same kind of bureaucrats as I met before. The bureaucracy is still strong, and a long and arduous battle is still to be fought against it. But what I have heard intellectuals say here does inspire hope.







Ivan Samoilov has been responsible for the restoration of a village in the Ural Mountains.

> By Genrietta Repinskaya Photographs by Sergei Samokhin



Before and after views of the Spaso-Preobrazhenskaya A COLLECTOR OF BUILDINGS

30





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on 2025-04-12 02:44 GMT

van Samoilov, from the Ural Mountains town of Alapayevsk, presented to the Soviet Culture Foundation his collection of folk artworks—more than 800 items. Experts hesitate to evaluate the gift in monetary terms—and not only because many of the items are unparalleled in the collection of any museum anywhere in the world.

Samoilov's face shows his age, but his eyes shine like those of an innocent child. He has a temper, however, that is not gentle. We must have misunderstood each other on the phone, and I arrived in Alapayevsk a day before he expected me—so I'm now experiencing the results of this unfortunate misunderstanding.

"I thought I'd have at least a day's rest," the host mutters under his breath as he goes off somewhere. Through an open door I see a room crammed full of all sorts of junk—old platbands, wooden utensils that have lost not only their color but even their shape.

"He brought all that yesterday," his wife, Anna, explains to me. As a true Russian woman, she grieves at not being able to show off her house to a guest in all its orderly splendor. "He's always that way—won't let me touch anything. So I'm obliged to wind my way around the place like a rabbit, up and down twisting trails."

In the meantime the host appears from a back room and sits himself down on a stool to change his cozy, well-worn felt boots for a pair of shoes.

"And where are we off to?" I ask, hardly daring to believe that I won't be refused hospitality after all.

"To the museum, of course. Where else?" he exclaims in surprise. And immediately throws cold water on me: "But once you're there, you have to put your whole soul into the story. Whether the soul will wake up or not, I can't say."

You have to be really dead for your soul not to wake up when you catch sight of the beautiful village called Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha, to which we went from Alapayevsk. Floating high



over the houses, over the fields and roads, like a huge and slender ship, is the Spaso-Preobrazhenskaya Church. How on earth could this piece of intricate baroque have appeared in the severe Urals? Who thought up the final touch for these numerous graceful little cupolas and coupled them so wonderfully well with the surface of the walls? How did this beauty manage to last, in generally good structural condition, until our time?

I knew that Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha dated back to the time of Peter the Great. It sprang up in the early eighteenth century, as did most of the settlements in the Urals, near a small ironworks. The church came into being at the same time. It is said that an Italian architect built it and ended his days there when he fell off the church's scaffolding.

Some hundred years later the ironworks ceased functioning, but the settlement lived on. Contrary to the usual tendencies of progress, the inhabitants turned from working in industry back to tilling the land. In Soviet times they formed a collective farm. At a general meeting the villagers decided to close down the church and, as is frequently the case, began to demonstrate their adherence to the new views with excessive fervor, setting up a warehouse in the church building, then a grain dryer. Later on they even made up their minds to tear down a wall—so that trucks could drive right in.

At that sad moment the history of the dilapidated church intersected the life of Ivan Samoilov.

Samoilov was born and grew up in the village of Isakovka in the Urals. The war against nazi Germany forced him to postpone his choice of profession. He fought right to the end of the war, and only then did he finish school (in land tenure engineering) and return to the area where he was born.

The roaming life connected with land engineering made him a participant in many joyful changes. People moved into new houses and apartments in the settlements he had laid out. Yet at the same time he experienced the tragic sense of irreparable

loss. As people bought new furniture, new dishes, and so forth, they discarded their old belongings without a trace of regret, flinging out as junk ornamented wooden cupboards, cradles, spinning wheels, birch-bark baskets. Grandmothers' dresses were thrown out of trunks. Old log houses were torn down or simply burned.

The artistic value and special expediency of all the objects that for centuries had been part and parcel of the people's daily life had as yet been realized by only a very few. Ivan Samoilov was one of these few. He began to pick up, to purchase, to solicit those things.

Today the museum in which he keeps his treasures is set up according to all the modern rules. Brown silk covers shield the exhibits from the direct rays of the sun. Samoilov removes one—under the glass lies a coverlet for an icon of the Mother of God, embroidered all over with the semiprecious stones the Urals are famous for. There's nothing like it in the world—that's a fact!

"I saw it in an old woman's >



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house-and knew no peace after that," Samoilov told me. "I begged her to sell it, but she flatly refused.

She didn't sell the coverlet, but she did leave it to him in her will. For his kindness. He helped her for many years-every autumn he brought her a truckload of firewood, sawed, chopped, and neatly stacked. Some people would shrug their shoulders: "What won't a man do to satisfy his collector's passion!" But the point is that the old woman had never promised him anything, yet he had helped her for more than 10 years.

Samoilov deserves gratitude and recognition for everything he's collected and preserved, yet his chief merit is much greater than that. He rediscovered and saved from extinction a whole branch of art: the folk paintings specific to the Urals, where not just boxes, spinning wheels, or cupboards were painted, but whole houses-inside and out.

The craft existed within very definite time limits. The first such painting in Samoilov's collection dates back to 1869, the last, to 1913. Were it not for him, nothing would have remained. And yet the artists were real masters, with a rare sense of composition and coloring, with their own specific methods of painting. They worked with a brush thickly covered with paint, the tip dipped in

white. They painted a flower with very clever circular movements, so that the white color shone from under the other paints, lending the bloom a special transparency and lightness. Their favorite motifs were flowers and birds, though sometimes they depicted episodes from everyday life as well. Samoilov's most cherished possession was a peasant house painted in 1910 by the Maltsev brothers. It became the museum's chief exhibit.

But now there's this museum. Just imagine what it must have been like when Samoilov had crammed his small quarters in a large apartment building full of his treasures and then began collecting houses as well.

"Many were the times," remembers his wife, laughing and wiping her eyes, "when a bus would come in from out of town, and ordinary people would get off, just as ordinary people always do. But then last would be my husband, pulling and tugging at a painted door or something that barely fit through the exit. And don't forget that he'd lugged it on his own back for at least six kilometers to that bus in the first place!"

That was the genesis of Samoilov's wildest idea—to restore the church in Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha and make it a museum. The fact that the village was 12 kilometers from town did not seem to be a serious obstacle. He had days off, vacations; after all, he could always spend a couple of hours there after work. He solved organizational problems more or less speedily. He did the restoration work himself, and experts found no flaws in it. That essentially meant that he had acquired a new profession.

Much more difficult was dealing with the rural authorities. The Village Soviet had no problems whatsoever with the grain dryer, which was always in good working order. But this silly land surveyor who wanted to restore the church and set up a museum in it was a pretty suspicious character. Just in case, the authorities gave him a flat NO.

Samoilov buttonholed each member of the Village Soviet privately and talked him or her into supporting his plans. Then, taking advantage of the time his main opponent, the chairman, was away on vacation, he made a fiery speech to the members of the Village Soviet, appealing to the memory of their ancestors, to their love for the land, to the fact that the growing generation must have its own, native beauty—and he won.

He won the right to set to work with his own hands and almost at his own expense. The resources of the local cultural institutions were inadequate to carry out Samoilov's plans.

"I've got no respect for money; for me, it's no more than pieces of paper," says Samoilov firmly. "I don't need it for myself, only for the work."

There was a case in which he failed to pay a team of builders he'd hired. Late one evening, when Samoilov was away, someone knocked on his door at home.

"Hey, Lady, tell Ivan he's got to come up with the money at once."

As soon as Samoilov returned, Anna told him: "You've got the money you're saving up for a motorcycle; pay those ruffians. They'll kill us if you don't!"

He wasn't afraid of the ruffians, but he did take the money his wife was talking about from his savings account. He had to honor the contract he'd signed—whatever difficulties he was having getting money for his project were no one else's problem. That was just one case. How much of his own money he came up with in all those long years, no one knows.

He had sincere assistants as well, and they worked indefatigably, neither demanding nor expecting remuneration. These assistants were six master craftsmen from Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha—the youngest just under 50, the oldest over 70. They were carpenters, not restorers, but one thought urged them all on: If men could build all these beautiful things long ago, why can't we do it now? So they set up scaffolding 60 meters high, and they learned to do stonework, paying no attention whatsoever to the jeering and teasing of their fellow villagers. Only later, when the beautiful cupolas began to peep out from the scaffolding, did people understand what was going on-and ask to be given a chance to help. The main cross Samoilov painted with his own hands; no one else dared to do the job.

The work went on for nine years. For nine years Samoilov had not a moment of rest, not a day off for himself or his wife. Anna spent hour upon hour carefully washing sooty paintings with a sponge dipped in soapy water; rubbing copper dishes with sand and acid, her hands smarting and burning; rinsing and bleaching towels, tablecloths, and peasants' shirts—the exhibits of the future museum; and cleaning the metal slabs of the floor, the famous Kasli casting. When the church had been shut down, the flooring was carted off piece by piece to neighboring villages because it didn't belong to anyone. Now people brought the pieces back.

In 1978 the museum was opened. The next year Samoilov applied to his boss to release him from the post of chief engineer of land surveying and to the town party leadership to find any sort of work for him at the museum—not that he wanted just to sit back and enjoy the fruit of his labors. In his diary he described his mental condition: "My mind has matured." This mature mind spelled out a program of work that simply could no longer be accomplished in his spare time.

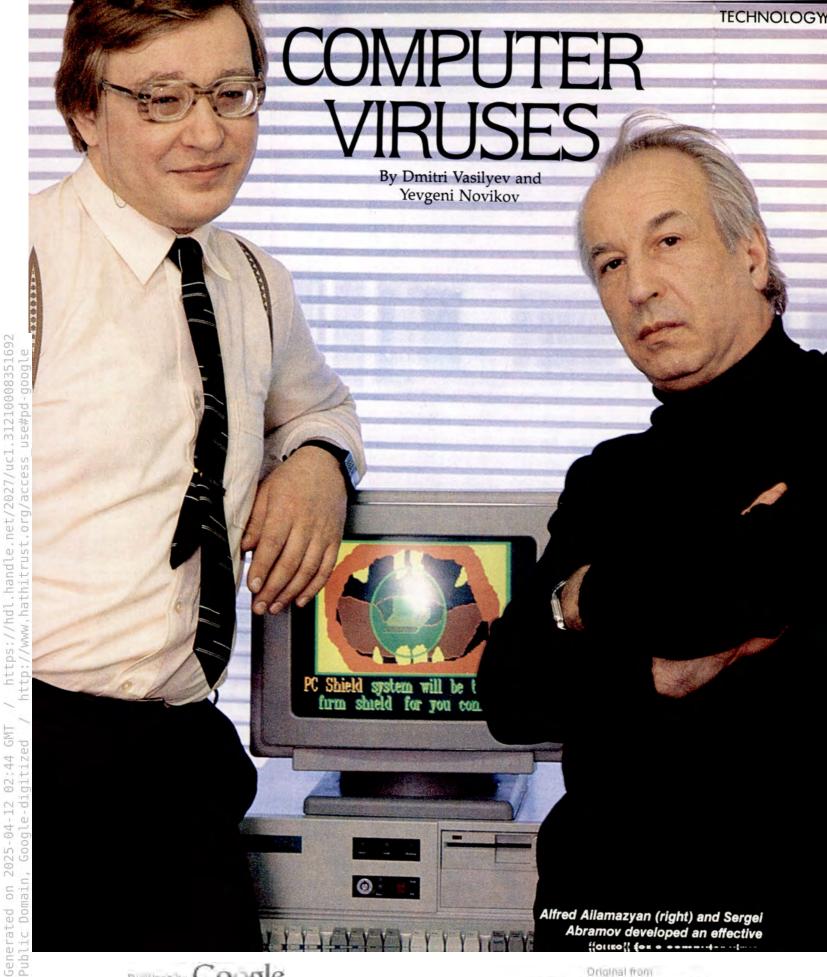
What Samoilov planned to do was to set up in Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha a whole museum complex of folk architecture of the Urals. When Samoilov's wife first learned of these plans, she cried, but soon she dried her tears and, as always, began to help. Samoilov received a new post, chairman of the town Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments, which greatly facilitated his work. One after another, old peasant houses began appearing in the village, then a watchtower, a bell tower, a blacksmith's shop, and frameworks for wells. Samoilov saved them from oblivion and destruction as he discovered them in the most remote places.

Word of Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha and its museum complex began spreading around the country. The village was included on tourist routes through the Urals. Folklore festivals are held there twice a year. Naturally, Samoilov's happy. If only he could restore the pond, build a dam, put up a mill...

Officially, the museum in Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha is open on Sundays. But every single day—who knows how—some tourist or other finds Samoilov's apartment. With his usual grumbling, Samoilov sets out with the visitor to Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha. There hasn't been a single time when his soul has not awakened. The most wonderful thing is that, even if it's just for a moment, it never fails to awaken in every one of those who listens to him, too.

Editor's note: After this story had been written, Ivan Samoilov was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies in March 1989.





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Original from UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA s computers become more widespread in the Soviet Union, so do the many headaches that have plagued computer experts and users around the world.

Several personal computer (PC) systems in the USSR have reportedly been attacked by viruses, and computer groups are calling for effective remedies.

The first category of programs that ruins computer disks is the Trojan horse, a program that purports to do one thing but actually does something else. For instance, a Trojan horse might seem to do something harmless—such as display a calculator on your screen—when it is, in fact, destroying your hard disk. These invaders are hard to track down and purge because they reside in useful programs that look innocent, just as the original Trojan horse did.

The more famous kind of software killer is the virus. A computer virus is defined as a sort of rogue program, or a string of coded commands hidden in useful software programs. Like a biological virus, it uses its host to reproduce, replicating itself into other programs used on the same computer or into other computers to which it is connected. Viruses are usually communicated by data transmission over phone lines or by inserting a contaminated floppy disk into a computer.

About 20 years ago programmers at a Moscow research institute were annoyed by the erratic behavior of their computer. Finally a young programmer admitted he had written a program that fooled the operating system yet remained invisible, so even the system programmers could not understand what had happened. This was presumably the first attempt at computer terrorism in the USSR.

Ten years later a programmer at the Lada Auto Plant discovered that even a minor change in the software that controlled the main production line could cause havoc. When he tried it, the spare parts supply was disrupted, and the main line stopped. Attempts to correct the program were unavailing. Pressed by investigators, the pro-

grammer finally admitted he was the villain of the piece. He explained that he was embittered over management's failure to appreciate his intellectual effort.

Last summer the Institute of Software Systems hosted a regular meeting of school-aged computer fans from the Soviet Union, the United States, West Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia. Apparently one of the guests innocently brought along a contaminated floppy disk and loaded it into a computer. Fortunately, the virus was tracked down easily and the data recovered.

Programmers at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR succeeded in identifying a virus and removing it from their computer system. They even managed to rehabilitate nearly all the altered and destroyed programs. Sergei Abramov and Alfred Ailamazyan (see interview) devised an antiviral "vaccine" based on the idea that a computer viral infection program should be treated like a simple biological protein-based virus.

The vaccines contain a code that recognizes an unauthorized change in a computer's software or in a data file. None of these vaccines is universal because a program to combat a virus must be as specific as the virus itself. Several programs, claim to detect viruses; they do so by comparing files against the original version and reporting whether the file has been changed. Though it would seem more reasonable to kill a "live" virus when it is loaded into the computer memory, this proves nearly impossible because some "perverted" virus programs disguise themselves, becoming virtually invisible during loading.

Another possible cure is a resident program able to detect any abnormal computer behavior, which may be an indication that a virus is present and trying to infect other programs. Computer users are likely to be annoyed by it because it interprets the functions of normal programs and asks for the operator's authorization to proceed. Anyone who has worked with such a program soon itches to delete it from the computer's memory.

The third virus killer may seem the most attractive. The program is not installed in the computer's memory

but may be loaded independently (from a disk). When it is loaded, it gives the operator a list of files it thinks might have been modified by a resident virus. An obvious advantage of such a program is that it can track down viruses attempting to reproduce themselves in other programs.

Computer ethics are still lagging far behind computer literacy, a gap that is common throughout the world. Viruses are threatening to paralyze the leading Western economies.

In the Soviet Union some say the viral epidemic is spreading as a result of the woefully inadequate software distribution system, or rather the lack of any such system. With no official software market, copying programs from other computer contacts often seems like the only way to obtain the programs that are in great demand.

The unauthorized use of software, in an unexpected twist, has come into the limelight following repeated virus attacks in Moscow computers. Cooperatives and joint ventures specializing in software writing and hardware manufacture now number in the dozens, and some have produced packages that effectively compete with Western programs.

Some programmers, unwilling to wait for a government decree on copyright laws, have started using viruses to protect their software against repeated copying. It takes a mid-level programmer only a few weeks to "unprotect" even the most sophisticated protection program. It's not so easy with viruses.

A "protection virus" is written into one of the program's executable files and programmed to destroy the parent program and then reproduce itself into other programs if the file is copied repeatedly.

Moscow now has many infected computers, though users are not always aware of this since many viruses have long incubation periods. The most lethal types, which are communicated via networks, pose no real danger to Soviet computers because there are almost no computer networks in the USSR. But the "Trojan War" will hardly be won unless top-flight professionals start working diligently on cures in a coordinated international effort.



CAN WE STOP A PC-EATER?

Q: Your computer system has reportedly been vandalized by viruses. How did you discover this?

Abramov: We noticed that some of our programs, which seemed to be working as well as ever, caused disastrous changes in other programs. But even when we discovered some similar byte sequences in the suspect software, I still couldn't believe it was the kind of computer virus we had recently read about in the press. We hadn't been afraid of viruses, thinking, incorrectly, that viral attacks would fall on infertile soil in the Soviet Union because our computer systems are only beginning to develop.

Q: What did you do?

Abramov: We set up a data recovery center, which we called an "antiviral laboratory." We cleared an experimental PC's hard disk of all its programs and loaded the suspect program and another that we picked at random. When we activated the suspect, it attacked the companion program and introduced some unauthorized changes into it. That was how we tracked down the virus. Then we used a debugging program to decode the attacker and monitored the sequence of commands in the virus.

When we examined the virus structure, we started working on a "vaccine," which took 18 hours to run. By early the next morning we had learned that the computer virus attached itself to useful programs, which continued to operate normally, and it lived in the program like a parasite. A command to start the virus-carrying program first executed the virus and then the program itself. Once the virus was activated, its search function picked up a victim program.

We have tracked down many viruses at this point; some destroy useful programs instantly, while the more widespread type damages computer data by making repeated copies of itself.

Q: Is there a universal cure? Ailamazyan: There are several remedies, but none of them is really universal. When the computers at a summer camp sustained a viral attack, Abramov and a colleague quickly tracked down the virus and recovered the lost data, saving thousands of useful programs on some 80 PCs. But the program was designed for only one specific type of virus. No one seems to know yet how to write a universal remedy.

Abramov: We have developed something like an "immune system" to keep IBM compatibles safe against viral attacks, but it can easily be adapted for other types of PCs. It is a program consisting of two parts. The first part looks for viruses whenever a computer is rebooted and makes the computer beep if it finds one.

The second part of the routine is a virus killer. But it destroys only the limited number of viruses it is familiar with.

Q: What motivates programmers to write viruses?

Abramov: I have no idea what the motives and mentality of such people might be because I've never met any of them, and I hope I never do. But what I do know is that their perverted minds are directed against a whole group of users who are helpless in the face of a viral attack.

Ailamazyan: I would very much like to avoid a "sword and shield" race in the computer world. I also shudder at the thought of computer weapons or computer terrorism, though I know that it's much easier to destroy than to create. Soviet scientists believe that if computer communities want to be safe against future attacks, they should cooperate on an international scale. In addition to the technical aspects, computer scientists should develop a code of ethics for programmers. I am prepared to go a long way to convince my colleagues around the world to pay more attention to the problem and to try to solve it through a concerted effort.

SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS

Continued from page 2

United States. It is of major significance that in the joint statements of the Moscow and Washington summits our two leaders expressed their support for expanding bilateral trade and economic relations.

We certainly hope that this trend will continue and that constructive continuity, stability, and predictability will be the guiding principles of Soviet-American relations for years to come.

There is a great and growing interest on the part of the American business community in establishing or expanding operations with Soviet counterparts. Some interesting projects are under way to develop our already fruitful cooperation and to extend it into new areas.

I cannot, however, say that trade between our countries is flourishing. We are not satisfied with either its volume or its composition. Part of the blame is ours. But at the same time, numerous unjustified restrictions and bans, introduced either by the U.S. Congress or by the Administration, are still obstacles to the development of large-scale Soviet-American business cooperation. Of course our goal should be gradually to abolish discrimination in all these areas—be it unfair import tariffs, bans on credits, or a prohibitive export control system.

Normalization of international relations in general, and of Soviet-American relations in particular, cannot be complete if trade, one of the most essential components, is missing. To solidify the positive trends of recent years, we must engage in mutually beneficial economic interaction.

Interdependence means not only that every country in the world is somehow affected by others; it also means that there is a trade-off between the arms race and global cooperation and development. I have no doubt that the disarmament process will release a huge potential for international trade and other exchanges.

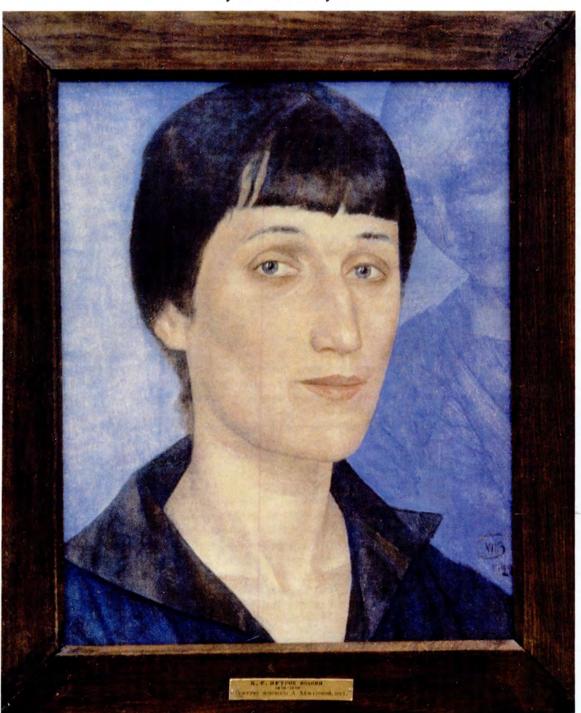
The recent trends in international politics and, above all, in Soviet-American relations, give all of us hope for a better life and a safe world.



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"I stand as witness...

By Larissa Vasilyeva



Anna Akhmatova, by Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin (1922).

e who can control woman can control a state," commented French writer Honoré de Balzac.

"A man who is going to do a good deed will always do it well if the woman he loves kisses him," said Russian historian Vasili Klyuchevsky.

In every age and in every country men have thought and said a lot about women, studying us (scientists), trying to fathom us (psychologists), and admiring us (poets). We have been exalted, and our capacities have been exaggerated. We have been declared to be important in ways we never suspected we could be.

Poets take us for heroines, pity us, rationalize our failings, extol both our dubious and our unquestionable virtues, and try to heal or to rub salt in our wounds.

Women themselves have occasionally been able to seize the initiative, telling through their literary creations what we women are like ourselves, our feminine hearts and minds.

There was the great Sappho. Only fragments of her poems have come down to us, like fragments of a magnificent vase that was smashed long ago. But her image is exquisite—slim, dark-haired, in a white chiton against the background of eternity.

There were the romantic women poets of the East, who were touchingly loyal to their heroes.

There was the hapless and hottempered French poet Marceline Desbordes-Valmore.

There were the shy but courageous English women from the quiet wooded estates in central England: Charlotte and Emily Brontë, Elizabeth Gaskell, Mary Shelley. Their long novels read like poems.

There was the refined American Emily Dickinson.

There were women of letters in Russia, too, but they certainly kept a far lower profile than authors anywhere else. Karolina Pavlova, Anna Bunina, Yevdokia Rostopchina, and Mirra Lokhvitskaya are a few of the nineteenth century examples. Their names are obscured by those of, for instance, Alexander Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov, Fyodor Tyutchev, and Nikolai Nekrasov.

But, as if to compensate for the long silence and obscurity, two brightly shining female stars appeared in the constellation of male poets dominating the Russian poetry of the early twentieth century—Anna Akhmatova and Marina Tsvetayeva.

Now that we are marking Akhmatova's centenary, we recognize that she is a star of the first magnitude. Her style is characterized by a simplicity that conceals great complexity.

Akhmatova lived her entire 76 years in her native country, and she followed the same path as her compatriots, never sidestepping a single blow fate had in store for her.

Akhmatova was born into the family of a naval officer in Odessa on June 11 (23), 1889. She studied at the Women's College in Kiev and in the law school at the University of Kiev, but she knew she had a flair for poetry when she was still a child. Her first books—Evening (1912), Rosary (1914), The White Flock (1917)—captured the imagination of the public.

Her earliest recollections are of Tsarskoye Selo, near St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). She spent most of the rest of her life in Leningrad, marrying Nikolai Gumilyov, a famous poet in his own right, who devoted exquisite poems to her. Alexander Blok, Mikhail Kuzmin, and Osip Mandelstam dedicated inspired lines to her. She was idolized, she was worshiped, she was imitated.

But what was it in her poems that moved her contemporaries so profoundly? It must have been her sincere and forceful lyricism, based on real life. For example:

I've been dropped! This is an invented word—
Am I a flower or a letter?
And my eyes are already looking grimly
Into the tarnished mirror.

Strangely, this early poem already foreshadows the woman who would have to bear a crushing burden in the period of the Soviet Union's trials and tribulations.

It is anyone's guess how Akhmatova's talent would have developed if her life had continued to be a bed of roses. Probably, however, she would

have found some thorns—this was one aspect of her poetic gift.

But she had a difficult life. Execution of her husband, Gumilyov. Two stormy revolutions. The Civil War. The arrest (twice) of her son. The Second World War. Denunciations. She could have emigrated, but she flatly refused to. Years later she wrote:

I was then with my people Where my hapless people were.

She was poor. Her poems seemed to be out of tune with the new times. Gumilyov was accused of a counter-revolutionary plot and executed. Alexander Blok died. Akhmatova began studying Pushkin, opening new, amazingly interesting chapters in this field.

In the 1930s Akhmatova's poems did not find a widespread response because they did not conform to the jackboot rhythms of the first five-year plan periods. Akhmatova's only son, Lev Gumilyov, was falsely accused and banished to Siberia.

World War II found Akhmatova in blockaded Leningrad. She became the voice of the Leningraders' courage.

Finally she was evacuated. When the war was over, new grief struck: Her son was arrested for the second time. The Central Committee of the Communist Party passed a resolution denouncing several authors, first among them Akhmatova. The doors of publishing houses and literary journals, never previously wide open for her, now slammed in her face. Only a handful of people stood by her: They either realized the force and scope of her talent or simply loved her. A handful of friends is enough to survive in Russia. Akhmatova also survived because she had her poetry, her most reliable support.

In 1953 Stalin died. A thaw set in. Akhmatova's son returned from jail. Publishing houses reopened their doors to her—a little. Her first books of poems were released after years of silence. Far from all were published though, and many of the bans were not lifted, including the prohibition on her "Requiem," a poem describing the grief of a mother whose son has been jailed and the grief of the entire nation.



To Alexander Blok



I came to the house of the poet. Sunday. Precisely at noon. The room is big and quiet. Outside, in the frosty view,

hangs a raspberry-colored sun over ropes of blue-gray smoke. The gaze of my watchful host silently envelops me.

His eyes are so serene one could be lost in them forever. I know I must take care not to return his look.

But the talk is what I remember from that smoky Sunday noon, in the poet's high gray house by the sea-gates of the Neva.

—January 1914

"I Wrung My Hands . . . "

I wrung my hands under my dark veil . . . "Why are you pale, what makes you reckless?" —Because I have made my loved one drunk with an astringent sadness.

I'll never forget. He went out, reeling; his mouth was twisted, desolate . . . I ran downstairs, not touching the banisters, and followed him as far as the gate.

And shouted, choking: "I meant it all in fun. Don't leave me, or I'll die of pain." He smiled at me—oh so calmly, terribly and said: "Why don't you get out of the rain?"

-Kiev, 1911

Александру Блоку

Я пришла к поэту в гости. Ровно полдень. Воскресенье. Тихо в комнате просторной, А за окнами мороз

И малиновое солние Над лохматым сизым дымом... Как хозяин молчаливый Ясно смотрит на меня!

У него глаза такие, Что запомнить каждый должен; Мне же лучше, осторожной, В них и вовсе не глядеть.

Но запомнится бесела. Дымный полдень, воскресенье В доме сером и высоком У морских ворот Невы.

Январь, 1914

Сжала руки под темной вуалью... «Отчего ты сегодня бледна?» Оттого, что я терпкой печалью Напоила его допьяна.

Как забуду? Он вышел, шатаясь, Искривился мучительно рот... Я сбежала, перил не касаясь, Я бежала за ним до ворот.

Задыхаясь, я крикнула: «Шутка Все, что было. Уйдешь, я умру». Улыбнулся спокойно и жутко И сказал мне: «Не стой на ветру».

Киев, 1911

The Last Toast

I drink to our ruined house, to the dolor of my life, to our loneliness together; and to you I raise my glass,

to lying lips that have betrayed us, to dead-cold, pitiless eyes, and to the hard realities: that the world is brutal and coarse, that God in fact has not saved us.

-1934

Последний тост

Я пью за разоренный дом, За злую жизнь мою, За одиночество вдвоем И за тебя я пью, -

За ложь меня предавших губ, За мертвый холод глаз, За то, что мир жесток и груб, За то, что Бог не спас.

-1934



"I Am Not One of Those Who Left the Land . . . "



I am not one of those who left the land to the mercy of its enemies. Their flattery leaves me cold, my songs are not for them to praise.

But I pity the exile's lot. Like a felon, like a man half-dead, dark is your path, wanderer; wormwood infects your foreign bread.

But here, in the murk of conflagration, where scarcely a friend is left to know, we, the survivors, do not flinch from anything, not from a single blow.

Surely the reckoning will be made after the passing of this cloud.

We are the people without tears, straighter than you...more proud...

-1922

Не с теми я, кто бросил землю На растерзание врагам. Их грубой лести я не внемлю, Им песен я своих не дам.

Но вечно жалок мне изгнанник, Как заключенный, как больной. Темна твоя дорога, странник, Полынью пахнет хлеб чужой.

А здесь, в глухом чаду пожара Остаток юности губя, Мы ни единого удара Не отклонили от себя.

И знаем, что в оценке поздней Оправдан будет каждый час... Но в мире нет людей бесслезней, Надменнее и проще нас.

-1922

Courage

We know what trembles on the scales, and what we must steel ourselves to face. The bravest hour strikes on our clocks: may courage not abandon us!

Let bullets kill us—we are not afraid, nor are we bitter, though our housetops fall. We will preserve you, Russian speech, from servitude in foreign chains, keep you alive, great Russian word, fit for the songs of our children's children, pure on their tongues, and free.

—23 February 1942

Мужество

Мы знаем, что ныне лежит на весах И что совершается ныне. Час мужества пробил на наших часах. И мужество нас не покинет. Не страшно под пулями мертвыми лечь, Не горько остаться без крова, — И мы сохраним тебя, русская речь, Великое русское слово. Свободным и чистым тебя пронесем, И внукам дадим, и от плена спасем Навеки!

— 23 февраля 1942



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Requiem 1935-1940

No foreign sky protected me, no stranger's wing shielded my face. I stand as witness to the common lot, survivor of that time, that place.

---1961

Реквием 1935-1940

Нет, и не под чуждым небосводом. И не под защитой чуждых крыл, Я была тогда с моим народом, Там, где мой народ, к несчастью, был. -1961

INSTEAD OF A PREFACE

In the terrible years of the Yezhov terror I spent seventeen months waiting in line outside the prison in Leningrad. One day somebody in the crowd identified me. Standing behind me was a woman, with lips blue from the cold, who had, of course, never heard me called by name before. Now she started out of the torpor common to us all and asked me in a whisper (everyone whispered there):

"Can you describe this?" And I said: "I can."

Then something like a smile passed fleetingly over what had once been her face.

-Leningrad, 1 April 1957

ВМЕСТО ПРЕДИСЛОВИЯ

В страшные годы ежовщины я провела семнадцать месяцев в тюремных очередях в Ленинграде. Как-то раз кто-то «опознал» меня. Тогда стоящая за мной женщина с голубыми губами, которая, конечно, никогда не слыхала моего имени, очнулась от свойственного нам всем оцепенения и спросила меня на ухо (там все говорили шепотом):

— А это вы можете описать?

И я сказала:

— Mory.

Тогда что-то вроде улыбки скользнуло по тому, что некогда было ее лицом.

— Ленинград, 1 апреля 1957 года



PROLOGUE

That was a time when only the dead could smile, delivered from their wars. and the sign, the soul, of Leningrad dangled outside its prison-house; and the regiments of the condemned, herded in the railroad-yards, shrank from the engine's whistle-song whose burden went, "Away, pariahs!" The stars of death stood over us. And Russia, guiltless, beloved, writhed under the crunch of bloodstained boots. under the wheels of Black Marias.

ВСТУПЛЕНИЕ

Это было, когда улыбался Только мертвый, спокойствию рад. И ненужным привеском болтался Возле тюрем своих Ленинград. И когда, обезумев от муки, Шли уже осужденных полки, И короткую песню разлуки Паровозные пели гудки. Звезды смерти стояли над нами, И безвинная корчилась Русь Под кровавыми сапогами И под шинами черных марусь.



EPILOGUE

I have learned how faces fall to bone, how under the eyelids terror lurks, how suffering inscribes on cheeks the hard lines of its cuneiform texts, how glossy black or ash-fair locks turn overnight to tarnished silver, how smiles fade on submissive lips, and fear quavers in a dry titter. And I pray not for myself alone . . . for all who stood outside the jail, in bitter cold or summer's blaze, with me under that blind red wall.

ЭПИЛОГ

Узнала я, как опадают лица, Как из-под век выглядывает страх, Как клинописи жесткие страницы Страдание выводит на щеках, Как локоны из пепельных и черных Серебряными делаются вдруг, Улыбка вянет на губах покорных, И в сухоньком смешке дрожит испуг. И я молюсь не о себе одной, А обо всех, кто там стоял со мною, И в лютый холод, и в июльский зной, Под красною ослепшею стеною.

From POEMS OF AKHMATOVA, Selected, Translated, and Introduced by Stanley Kunitz with Max Hayward. © 1972, 1973 by Stanley Kunitz and Max Hayward.

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She was recognized by the West, receiving the Italian Taormina Prize. She had a grand reception at Oxford. The younger generation took a closer interest in her poems.

Akhmatova died on March 5, 1966, exactly 13 years after Stalin's death.

"The czar and the poet" is a theme that runs through much of Russian poetry. But this theme certainly took an unexpected turn in the twentieth century, when the contemporary czar was opposed by a woman. She prevailed despite the long odds, triumphing over the petty czar who wanted to defeat the woman. Such attempts would have looked like a losing battle

in most cases, but Akhmatova was more than a match for anyone. Dead but eternally living through her work, she takes a fearful vengeance on the authorities who persecuted her. Today Stalin's aide Andrei Zhdanov is under Cities, attack: streets, and universities that were named after him now reject this distinction. He will be forever known in history as "the man who harassed Akhmatova."

Such was the path this attractive girl from a well-educated family traveled to the summit of Russian poetry.

What is her verse like? It is a reflection of herself, of her great maternal qualities, and of our times in general.

Strange as it may seem, women

Anna Akhmatova with her husband, poet Nikolai Gumilyov, and their son, Lev, who became a historian. writers did not express these maternal qualities very often, and this theme always took second place to love. But aren't these qualities the pinnacle of a woman's spiritual force? Akhmatova's "Requiem" is the consummate expression of a mother's grief, her lamentation over her son. It is both high poetry and documentation of an era.

Akhmatova is strong and assured in her verse, ironical to the point of being sarcastic and taunting. Grief does not make her lose her calm, but beneath this calm is an abyss of suffering. She never shouts, never cries, never frets; she always knows how to convey her emotion or thought. Her

verse is subtle.

For me, the majestic and beautiful Akhmatova—the years may have changed her, but they took nothing away from her grandeur—is one of the greatest literary talents of the twentieth century, this relentless, cruel, and insane age, which subjected her to the severest of tests.



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WE'LL MEET IN ALASKA SOON

By Alexander Tropkin Photographs from the ALSIB Archives OVIET LIFE published a letter in April 1988 from Soviet World War II veterans who ferried American combat planes from Alaska through Siberia to the Soviet-German front. They addressed the letter to their American comrades in arms and to all those who delivered combat planes to the USSR and who, at the airfields of Nome and Fairbanks, prepared them for their daring arctic



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guests at schools, cultural centers, and the editorial boards of Moscow newspapers and magazines. They brushed the dust away from their old documents and photographs and put on their combat awards.

The long-cherished dream of the people living in the little village of Egvekinot in distant Chukotka has come true: They invited a group of veteran pilots to visit them and spent several thousand rubles to cover the expenses of their trip. During the war Air Cobra and Boston fighters landed not far from Egvekinot, a village in the Chukot Autonomous Area, and in another Eskimo village, Uelkal, after risky flights over the Arctic from Alaska.

Pilots had to land their planes not on concrete runways but on packed snow on a small site in the tundra. Because of heavy frosts and strong winds, some of the planes crashlanded, and the crews lost their lives. On a high hill near the village of Egvekinot the local people erected a monument to the dead heroes.

The people of Egvekinot have preserved the building that once housed the headquarters of the ferry division under the command of the legendary pilot, Hero of the Soviet Union, General Ilya Mazuruk. Mazuruk was one of those people who had suggested establishing strong links with American war veterans. His plan has been carried out by his comrade in arms and friend, navigator David Sherl.

Until recently, ALSIB had no official status. Some time ago, however, the participants in the ferry flights from Alaska across Siberia to the front were invited to the Soviet War Veterans Committee, where they received congratulations on their "birthday." Now the ALSIB section enjoys the same status as other veterans organizations.

A week later ALSIB's leaders gathered in the Moscow apartment of Air Force Lieutenant General Mikhail Machin, who supervised the acceptance of American planes in Nome. There the leaders elected ALSIB's chairman, retired Colonel Yevgeni Radominov, and vice chairman, David Sherl.

The war veterans sat there recalling their war years and exchanging photographs from family albums, documents, and clippings from wartime newspapers. Looking through an issue of the *North Star* military magazine, published in Alaska in the 1940s, I came across an interesting article about the people who now sat near me. Many of the observations have not lost their poignancy:

. . . Take the Russians, for example. Those of us who had a preconceived picture of a little man with a beard and a bomb discovered we'd been wrong, dead wrong. The Russians we find at Great Falls, Fairbanks, Galena, and Nome look a lot like most of us. Put them in o.d.'s instead of their own colorful uniform, and they might well be from Minnesota or Alabama or New Jersey. There is no such thing as a "typical" Russian any more than there's a "typical" American. The Soviet Union, like the United States, is an amalgam of many peoples. The Red Airman working in the division is courteous, friendly, and not lacking in humor. He's quick to see a joke and equally quick to laugh. But when he is at work, he is perhaps a little more serious than the average GI. That's because he's seen the enemy firsthand, he's heard the deathly cadence of the goose step up the very gates of Moscow.

Even after the war many of the Russian guys, who had made such a powerful impression on the Americans, proved that they were born heroes. Flying ace Dmitri Ostrovenko, who ferried planes from Alaska to Siberia, was among the pilots who laid the air route from Moscow to the Arctic and back to Moscow. Former Squadron Commander Victor Perov worked in polar aviation for many years. In 1952 the Belgian Government presented him with the Order of Leopold II, that country's highest distinction, for saving a Belgian expedition in the Arctic. The polar fliers have accomplished many other heroic deeds. The postwar service of the ALSIB leaders, among them the famous Soviet pilots Ilya Mazuruk, Mark Sheveley, and Mikhail Machin, has been highlighted in SOVIET LIFE.

Back to the letter published in April 1988. The veterans were looking forward to a reply from Alaska. And it arrived—dozens of letters.

Vernon Jones, president of the Alaska War Veterans Council, wrote to Moscow on behalf of the 5,000 members of his organization saying that they fully support the idea of organizing a Soviet-American meeting in Nome and have always aspired to war veterans' unity for the benefit of peace.

Other American public organizations and individual citizens also showed interest in the ALSIB meeting. They named cities where the meeting might take place and proposed possible dates. The date will be fixed soon, and SOVIET LIFE is planning to publish a story highlighting the event.

ALSIB veterans have already had a meeting, though. In the summer of 1987 a small jet with the words "ALSIB-1942-1987" on the nose and the sides landed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. Many of those who had gathered at the airport recognized the plane's owner, a tall gray-haired man. It was Thomas Watson, who piloted a B-24 heavy bomber, which Americans called Moskvitch. Back in 1942 Watson made his first flight from America to Moscow on a Moskvitch, bringing in American experts for talks on ferry operations. Subsequently, he delivered many planes to Nome and Fairbanks and flew all along the ALSIB

Some people recognized this elegant 73-year-old as the former U.S. Ambassador to the USSR (1979-1981). Watson told journalists that he envied the current U.S. Ambassador to the USSR. Now, he said, there are ample opportunities for improving Soviet-American relations and for broadening exchanges in trade and many other fields.

Watson's comrade in arms and friend, General Ilya Mazuruk once spoke to me, and I preserved his voice on tape. "A war veteran, Thomas well remembers the time when Soviet and American pilots worked together for the front," Mazuruk said. "ALSIB has taught us a great deal. If its lessons have brought the world at least one step closer to peace, then Thomas Watson, myself, and thousands of our fellow fighters in the Soviet Union and the United States did not fight and live our lives in vain."





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HAVE AN IDEA? TELL US ABOUT IT!

By Yuri Lepski Komsomolskaya pravda Photographs by Sergei Ptitsyn

he USSR Foundation for Social Innovation, now a big name in this country, had a rocky beginning during what is now referred to as the era of stagnation. Under Brezhnev unofficial associations and citizen groups, like original ideas, were discouraged. The foundation was born in Novo-

sibirsk, Western Siberia, as the Youth Initiative Foundation. It was the brain child of Gennadi Alferenko, a geophysicist at the University of Novosibirsk. Alferenko grew up in a children's home in Siberia. He graduated from the University of Novosbirsk, did postgraduate work at the university in mathematics, and then took a job at the university first as an engineer and then as a senior researcher. But it didn't take him long to realize that he wasn't cut out for a career as scientist.

"We had very good teachers at the children's home, and they developed in us a keen sense of social justice," Alferenko remembers. This idea was so deeply ingrained in him that he has tried to translate it into doing good deeds for others.

From his own experience Alferenko knew how difficult it is to get a good idea implemented. In the early 1980s he assembled a group of young people like himself, who later openly opposed bureaucratic leaders of the local Komsomol, the official youth organization. The Komsomol chiefs saw red and immediately ruled that the foundation be dissolved and its ideologist punished. But fortunately that never happened—the media and the municipal authorities came to Alferenko's rescue. At about the same time the waves of perestroika began breaking in Siberia.

That was how Alferenko's idea survived and began to mature. Another year passed, and the idea acquired a new dimension when the national newspaper for young people, Komsomolskaya pravda, became the foundation's sponsor. In the summer of 1987 the Foundation for Social Innovation was set up, again led by the restless Alferenko, by then 40 and a resident of Moscow.

Komsomolskaya pravda had decided to sponsor the idea because it was receiving sacks of letters from readers suggesting all kinds of social innovations. The newspaper published the more interesting suggestions and asked those who liked a certain project to give it financial support. It opened a special bank account, #708.

ix young

people dedicated to the lofty ideals

of the USSR

Foundation for Social Innovation. Facing page, seated left to right:

Anton Anipko,

and Marina

Gennadi Alferenko,

Patkhina. Standing.

left to right: Valeri

Nikolayev, Natalya

Burzhni, and Dmitri

Petrov. Below: The

foundation's logo.

Bottom: Some of

the foundation's

describing its

international

programs.

mail and brochures

The newspaper has so far received more than 20,000 suggestions from its readers. It has printed only a few, but then each of those published has received financial support from the public. Private citizens, organizations, associations, plants, and factories are the chief contributors to Account #708. Valentin Slobodenyuk, art director of the Moscow State Philharmonic Society, is a prominent contributor to the account. He told me that prominent musicians and performers had created their own association called Music, Peace, Charity. The association is headed by Svyatoslav Richter; other members include Dmitri Kitayenko, Yuri Bashmet, Eliso Virsaladze, Oleg Kagan, Alfred Schnitke, Victor Tretyakov, and other famous composers and performers. They decided to donate 10 per cent of their receipts from concerts to Account #708. The members of the association want to see the results of their contributions, and Account #708 gives them such an opportunity-contributors



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ashington the was first city outside the USSR to hear the Requiem by Soviet composer Vyacheslav Artyomov. The piece was performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts by the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mstislav Rostropovich. The famous conductor, now living

The famous conductor, now living in the United States, and the 49-year-old avant-garde composer met last year at Rostropovich's Washington apartment. It was a meeting of kindred spirits. They had never met before, even though they had gone to the same music school in the center of Moscow, where Rostropovich's mother and father had once taught.

"The Requiem is not easy to per-

form, even for a master of Rostropovich's talent," said Artyomov. "But as usual, Rostropovich is incited by passion, and he did it for truth and for Soviet-American relations."

The Requiem, commemorating the victims of Stalinism, had been performed only once before its Washington debut-in Moscow last November. The concert hall, which seats 2,000 people, could not accommodate all those who wished to attend, many of them victims of Stalin's repressions and their relatives. People sat on the floor in the aisles and on the steps or stood leaning against the walls. The composer himself, who had distributed 200 tickets free and let in 150 more people through the employees' entrance, had no seat either. Later someone gave up a place in the balcony for him.

"I was surprised to see so many young people, who had come out of curiosity," Artyomov said.

"From the first bars of 'Requiem aeternam' to the final 'Lux aeterna,' there was reverential silence, broken only by stifled sobs, in the auditorium. Many of the listeners were visibly shaken.

"When the huge orchestra, two choirs, and six soloists—a total of 250 people—fell silent, the audience was absolutely still so as not to disturb the memory of the dead. The listeners were moved to tears and had a feeling of kinship inspired by a common fate."

When Artyomov donated the score of the *Requiem* to the Soviet Culture Foundation, he said: "I wanted to compose music that would be as lofty as the spirit of the nation and as tragic as its fate."

The only son of professional musicians, Artyomov dreamed of becoming a musician from his childhood. He was poor and had to compose pieces he would gladly disavow to-

day. But as time passed, his innovative works gained international fame. In Paris, London, Cologne, New York, and Venice his music always drew large audiences, but his native country refused to buy his works.

Artyomov at first had no idea of composing a requiem. But once he'd thought of it, he was unable to think of anything else, so he put aside an almost finished ballet, *Sola Fide*, and dedicated himself for four years to living like a hermit in the Armenian mountains. He was not at all sure that the *Requiem* would be accepted because of its dedication, to the victims of Stalinism.

The Requiem was accepted, however, and it became a real revelation. The historical and educational society Memorial performed it as a spiritual hymn at its constituent assembly. The Vatican asked for a tape recording of it especially for Pope John Paul II. The Soviet Culture Foundation organized the world première of the piece. Artyomov was invited to the United States to perform with the National Symphony and also with chamber orchestras.

In the United States Artyomov's works have been performed for five years already. Two compact discs with selections of his music have come out on the Mobil Fidelity label. The University of Nevada offered him the position of composer in residence, and the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra commissioned a new symphony. Rostropovich has commissioned another piece for the National Symphony's new season.

Artyomov still prefers working in Armenia ("It's closer to the skies"), and he was there on the day of the earthquake of December 7, 1988.

"I'll never forget that day," he recalled. "What happened sounds like a fatal and mystical succession of events. First a painting fell off the wall for no apparent reason. An hour later my wife had a bad fall. Then the mail carrier brought the news of my father's death. And then there was the earthquake."

Artyomov works constantly. Rest is a luxury he cannot afford. He composes music even in his sleep. He was composing music while we were talking.

HAVE AN IDEA?

Continued from page 50

and which children's home will receive the money they donated for this purpose.

For instance, last year Komsomolskaya pravda printed a proposal by Alexander Starikov, a fitter from Riga, Latvia, for a center for the physical and social rehabilitation of Afghan veterans. The project, called Dolg (Duty), also envisioned help for the families of those killed in Afghanistan. More than five million rubles have been donated to this program. Money has come from schoolchildren, workers, college and university students, retired people, members of the armed forces, plants and factories, and companies.

The government has decided to build these rehabilitation centers in various parts of the Soviet Union. The program has begun receiving donations in hard currency. The foundation has invited U.S. experts in prosthetics and in the psychology of social rehabilitation to participate. Soviet-American joint ventures are being set up now (the Soviet side represented by cooperatives) to make all types of artificial limbs, wheelchairs, and other appliances for the handicapped.

The foundation participates in several Soviet-American joint ventures, including an agreement signed with the Center for U.S.-USSR Initiative. Under this agreement the American partners each month host a 20-member Soviet delegation composed of the authors of the most interesting social innovations. A condition of participation is that in each group at least 90 per cent of the Soviets will be making their first visit to the United States. The aim of the program is to give Soviet and American participants an opportunity to exchange ideas about new joint ventures in the social sphere.

Komsomolskaya pravda readers have also supported a project proposed by Kirk Bergstrom of the United States for an international student team to spend a semester sailing around the world.

Dennon Parry from Seattle proposed a project, called Tom and

Huck, in which 15 young Americans would team up with some young Soviets to raft down the Ob River in Siberia and then the Mississippi. With the Ob leg already behind them (much of the credit goes to the newspaper's readers for their support), the young travelers will be rafting down the Mississippi this summer.

By its modus operandi the foundation has exemplified the democratic principle new to Soviets, that any citizen has the right to publish a project for improvement in the life of society. If the project is good, it is bound to get financial support and to win national recognition for the author. This principle could not possibly coexist with the principle of bureaucratic anonymity, a system that doomed inventors to oblivion.

"The activists of the glasnost era," Alferenko says, "apart from exercising freedom of speech, have made use of the freedom to act. This is also the creed of the Foundation for Social Innovation. Where there is a system of support, the dormant public, composed of potential innovators, suddenly awakens, and millions of people, rather than just a few enthusiastic eccentrics, start aspiring to really great results."

He couldn't be more right. Thousands upon thousands of people bring their projects to the foundation. The telephones never stop ringing.

A few of the most recent ideas are: Yevgeni Korolyov, a builder from Sverdlovsk in the Urals: "I suggest a national system for preventing and cleaning up after catastrophes. It could be called Hope. The experience of rescue operations in Chernobyl and in Armenia prompts us to create a fast action system that will possess a vast research and technical potential."

Oleg Yefremov, an actor and stage director from Moscow: "I suggest a Moscow-based International Theater Center. We can find the money, and we want to involve foreign companies and Soviet cooperatives in the project, and we would welcome donations too. The center would have a stage for professional and amateur performances and stage auctions, sales rooms, and exhibitions."



THE POET OF RUSSIA'S LANDSCAPES

By Nina Kryukova





Yuri Kaver's photographs capture the spirit of Russian nature.

hotojournalism has been a lifelong dream for Yuri Kaver, but it was not until quite recently that his dream came true. An engineer, then a darkroom director, he took pictures on and off when he was not busy. Even as an amateur, he attracted the attention of renowned professionals.

Kaver joined the staff of Novosti Press Agency not too long ago. He loves to photograph landscapes, and this activity requires that he live out of a suitcase as he travels constantly to the places he prefers to photograph: Central Russia, the Russian North, Siberia, and the Far East.

His series of photographs entitled On Kulikovo Field (the site of a major battle between Russians and Tatars in 1380) won him second prize at a Soviet photography show, and Among the Dunes made him a World Press Photo winner.

Kaver's landscapes show that he has remained faithful to a lyrical style. He has not lost the subtle feeling for

beauty he had when he was much younger. He knows how to capture boundless vistas, to reproduce the expanses of forests and the turns of rivers as accurately as a landscape architect. The longer one looks at his photographs, the more one is amazed at his mastery in capturing things the eye cannot perceive: air streams or the sounds of music coming from afar. It is as if he were able to communicate his thoughts, feelings, and emotions like a psychic. Kaver's landscapes really come to life.



Facing page: At Peace.

Above: Northern Song. A village in Arkhangelsk Region.



Above: The Strait of St. Catherine.

Below: Recollections of My Childhood.



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EXTRA! EXTRA! Read All About It!

Literary Gazette International

oon SOVIET LIFE readers will be able to subscribe to Literary Gazette International—an English variant of the popular Literaturnaya gazeta. SOVIET LIFE correspondent Irina Bogat interviews Yuri Izyumov, first deputy editor in chief of Literaturnaya gazeta.

Q: In October 1986 we profiled Literaturnaya gazeta. Bring us up to date. What's new? Soviet and foreign newspapers and magazines report that Literaturka—our popular name for the gazeta—will be published in English in America and called Literary Gazette International. How did Literary Gazette International, or LGI, get started, and where is it going?

A: Much has changed since that article. We've grown, and the demand for our brand of journalism has expanded. We continue to challenge our readers with our commentaries on national and world events. *LGI* will offer English-speaking readers something they can't find in the Western press.

In the past two years we've become famous for our investigative reporting and critical assessments of what's going on in the nation. Our Russianlanguage version is regularly quoted abroad. So we thought an Englishlanguage version would be interesting and helpful to readers throughout the world who might not speak Russian. We're starting this project in the United States.

Our pilot English-language issue, which came out during the 1987 Gorbachev-Reagan summit, aroused a lot of interest in the United States. We already have 100,000 foreign subscribers, many in the United States, to our Russian version, which now reaches 6.5 million Soviet readers.

Yes, we've gotten even better since SOVIET LIFE's October 1986 portrait.

Q: In the competitive Western press what can *Literary Gazette International* offer that's so unusual?

A: LGI will be unique. We're gearing it to thoughtful readers who want to find a way to understand Soviet and world events. Americans will have an opportunity to read about what's really happening in the USSR firsthand. Right now we're one of the few Soviet journals that has the access to offer LGI readers an inside look at the USSR, its people, government, and leaders. You know, it's one thing to read about the Soviet press. It's quite another to actually read the Soviet press, written by Soviets for Soviets, in English. Clearly there is a void in the Western market for this type of information.

LGI's major task is to offer a thoughtful perspective on issues of our time at home and abroad. To do this, LGI will include not only news items from the USSR but also issues of importance in the United States and other countries written by LGI journalists there. To do this, we created a joint venture partnership between Literaturnaya gazeta and the American business community—including Western journalists.

Q: In the USSR you've been considered the herald of *perestroika*. How did this happen? Don't you think that your voice has become more moderate lately?

A: Since 1929 we've been giving readers provocative and even humorous insights into domestic and world events. Our philosophy of intellectual honesty has come of age in the era of

perestroika. LGI will help us to draw that world community closer together. Sometimes this calls for moderation. At other times incisive criticism is appropriate. Our recent article on the KGB was hardly "moderate." LGI English readers won't have to wait until the Western press gets around to translating and analyzing our article on the KGB. Subscribers will have it firsthand in LGI. Linking Western readers in all English-speaking countries through LGI will bring even greater significance to our news analysis and commentary. We have always challenged our society to achieve new levels of intellectual curiosity by attacking a lack of ideals, indifference, crime, corruption, red tape, and bureaucracy. Americans and Soviets share these concerns-Americans have their own brand of red tape. So we thought America would be a good place to start.

Together, Soviet and American people will champion ideals of honor, human dignity, and democratic ideals in LGI to make our nations stronger. This is a big job. We can only achieve it through a thoughtful exchange of ideas—our major objective for Literary Gazette International. The United States is the first stage of our plan to publish throughout the Englishspeaking world. We hope that Americans will support this effort through their subscriptions-special rates are now in effect-and by a commitment to this powerful objective to create a forum for change through intellectual exchange in Literary Gazette International. For further information contact: Literary Gazette International, 1520 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, or telephone (202) 483-0400.

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JOINT VENTURES: TWO YEARS LATER

By Genrikh Bazhenov Consultant to Gosplan (USSR State Planning Committee)

conomic restructuring is a sensitive and contradictory process because it involves more intricate planning than building from scratch. Besides, not only are upper structures of the economy being modified, but also some new elements are being introduced in the foundation, and we are not entirely sure yet how they will work under stress. Joint ventures with the West on Soviet territory are one such element. Now, two years after the legislation enabling these enterprises, it is possible to make some

About 200 joint ventures are registered in the USSR, but many of them still do not have even startup working capital. With more than 500 projects lined up waiting for consideration by different Soviet ministries and departments, only a few small joint ventures have actually started functioning. Their combined statutory fund constitutes less than one billion rubles.

Such a disheartening beginning can be explained by the tradition of confrontation or by caution. Nevertheless, alongside optimistic American business people, who believe that investing in Soviet-based joint ventures would open up enormous opportunities for the American dollar, there are quite a few people who think the Soviet market is inflexible.

Let me note that the Soviet Union is equally to blame for the unimpressive results of joint venturing with the West. A summary of our main faults includes the ossified political and economic thinking of many Soviet economic executives, ineffective legislation, red tape, and an unfavorable Soviet climate for Western invest-

ment. In a number of cases hasty decisions by Soviet managers prompted by the desire to act on the basis of up-to-date economic trends arouse serious doubts among Western partners about their Soviet colleagues' managerial skill. For instance, from the very beginning of contacts with a Western firm, Soviet partners strive to discuss the question of establishing a joint venture. Meanwhile, taking due account of one's potentialities, it would be better to establish more orthodox forms of cooperation first, to be followed by a negotiable joint venture only after a thorough analysis.

A comprehensive approach to joint venturing and the correlation between centralized planning and market economy elements are issues that are beyond the competence of an individual Soviet ministry or enterprise enjoying the right to make foreign trade transactions independently. These are the prerogatives of Gosplan, which, unfortunately, shows little interest in these new phenomena.

At the stage of the decision making that concerns Soviet-based joint ventures, a number of Soviet experts warned against strict regimentation of partners' shares in the statutory capital of a joint venture. There are other ways to exert leverage on the management of an enterprise's affairs with a much smaller share in the statutory capital, such as the right of veto.

Many Western companies concerned have expressed their satisfaction with the measures taken in the Soviet Union to protect the foreign investors' interest. The main obstacle—the Soviet ruble's nonconvertibility—has not been removed yet and is still slowing our partners' initiative. There are quite justified reproaches: What's

the use of a joint venture deriving high profits if a Western company is to get its share in rubles that can purchase little now?

A disadvantage of the unrealistic exchange rate of the ruble is that one cannot judge the profitability of certain investment deals on its basis. Until there is some correlation between domestic and world prices, we are bound to remain unaware of which items we should produce in our joint stock enterprises and which in ordinary enterprises to make these goods competitive.

As the Western business community believes, creating zones of free enterprise in the Soviet Union would solve many outstanding problems. The idea has been undergoing feasibility studies; apparently it will start being implemented soon, despite the fact that it remains a terra incognita for a number of economic executives.

Let's consider again the American assessment of the Soviet market. Because of export restrictions—a hold-over from the cold war—American customs duties on Soviet goods amount to 45 to 55 per cent of their cost, a condition that virtually excludes these items from the U.S. market. The produce of Soviet-based joint ventures is subject to similar duties.

Soviet specialists are well aware of the fact that the issue of training managerial personnel has ceased to be a merely domestic problem. We cannot do any more without learning various techniques of Western management because quite a few Soviet economic executives still do not realize that the previous model of socialism has become virtually obsolete, that market forces are economic instruments inherent to all peoples and nations.



Cities of the north have Novosibirsk, Siberia, and the twin cities Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, concluded a sister cities agreement early in 1989.

joined forces. Representatives of SO FAR TO

By Victor Yukechev Photographs by Victor Yukechev and Yevgeni Shlei

n official delegation from Novosibirsk, Siberia, arrived in Minnesota on specific business—to sign a sister city agreement between Novosibirsk, on the one hand, and twin cities St. Paul and Minneapolis, on the other hand. The group included Ivan Indinok, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Novosibirsk City Soviet (a position equivalent to that of mayor); Gherman Tyulenin, the city's chief architect; Gennadi Radayev, Indinok's deputy; and me, a Novosti Press Agency correspondent. Indinok had been elected to his post only three months before the trip.

None of us doubted that the three "mayors" (Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Novosibirsk) would sign the sister city agreement at a ceremony on February 9. But what will the agreement give the three cities in practical terms? Will it help their residents reach a new level of mutual understanding and cooperation?

I remember the cautious attitude of the Soviet side toward the American idea of direct partnership relations between cities in the two countries. Soviet ideologists saw it as an attempt to "undermine" socialism and to introduce into Soviet society "ideals and values that are alien to it." I also remember a meeting with colleagues from the Seattle Times in the fall of 1986. I asked them how often they write about Seattle's sister city, Tashkent. My American counterparts could not give a single example, explaining that the people of Seattle did not really take the sister city relationship seriously.

Much has changed since then. The citizens of the Soviet Union and the United States want to see each other as human beings equally responsible for the future of the world rather than as ideological adversaries or potential enemies. Our common responsibility urges us to search for the multiplicity of ties that can ensure stability for each country and for the world.

Paula de Crosse and Susan Hartman, the executive directors of Connect/US-USSR, an organization that has made a great contribution to the establishment of partnership relations between our cities, prepared a busy program for us. By February 9 we had had talks with representatives of various groups-artists at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, members of the Dakota Indian community, professors and students at Macalester College in St. Paul, the Governor and State Senators of Minnesota, medical researchers, and members of the clergy. At official receptions and informal dinners with the families of Americans, people told us about their plans for mutually advantageous cooperationfrom purchasing folk crafts in Novosibirsk to selling vegetable processing, storing, and packing machines. We honestly did not expect to find so many proposals.

In short, by the time Indinok signed the agreement, he had a clear idea of Minnesota and the scientific, technical, cultural, and trade potential of the twin cities.

"I quite agree with Governor Rudy Perpich that Novosibirsk is lucky to have such partners," Indinok said.

Americans, for their part, learned a great deal about Novosibirsk, the city on the Ob River, and its people. At an international convention of mayors held at Macalester College, Indinok spoke about perestroika and the wakening political and business activity of Soviet citizens. According to the Americans, the Presbyterian Church in which Indinok spoke has never attracted so many people. We discovered that Siberia is terra incognita for many Americans.

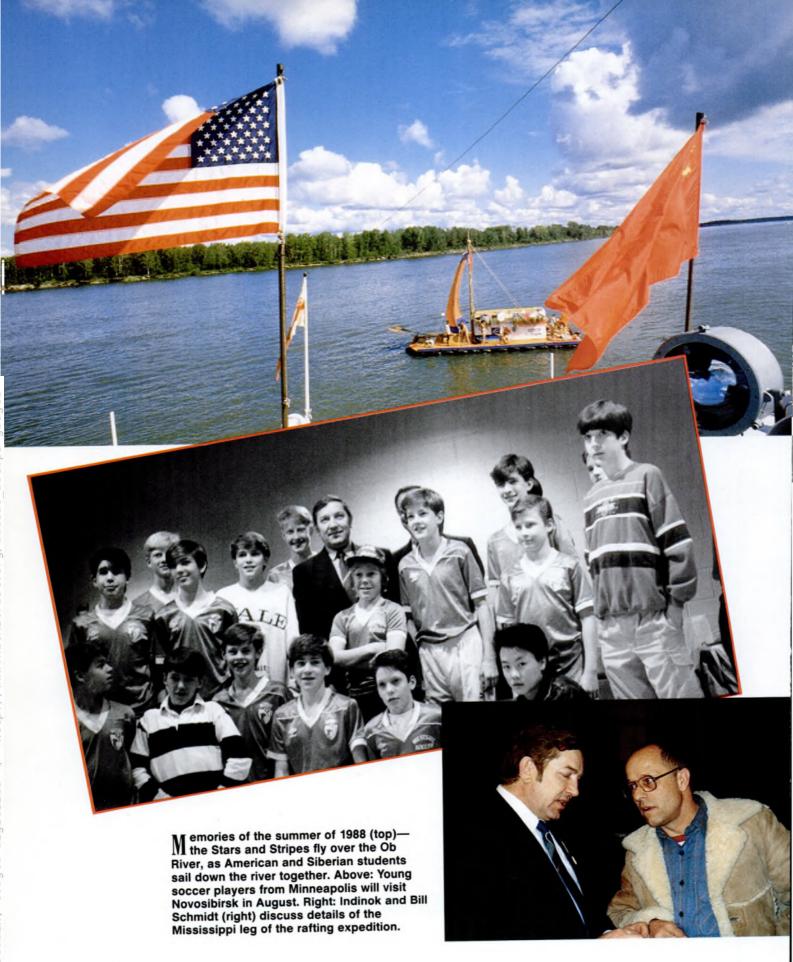
Historically the Soviet Union's basic industry and labor resources have been concentrated in its European part, while the largest deposits of minerals and other natural resources have been in Siberia. Over the past few decades Siberia's share in the country's economy has steadily grown. But only now, in the era of glasnost, have we realized that while Siberia has been exceeding by two or three times its production quotas, it has been falling behind at the same rate in the social sphere-in providing people with housing, medical facilities, day care, and other services.

Speaking before the mayors, Indinok did not try to cover up the existing problems. On the contrary, he invited the mayors to help with these problems through joint efforts.

The fact that the local Soviets of People's Deputies (local governments) are not the true masters on their respective territories and that their rights are tangibly curtailed is one of the principal brakes on perestroika. The USSR is working out a more radical law on local self-government that will ensure the political, legal, and, even more important, economic conditions for direct involvement of the population in handling all local affairs, thereby making the local Soviets genuine masters on their territory.







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"However, no law can say how specifically this should be done," Indinok said. "Two years ago, to exchange experience in self-government, we created an association of Siberian cities which has almost 50 members."

Indinok has been elected president of the association (the first of its kind in this country) for 1989. Later this fall the Siberian mayors will have a convention in Novosibirsk. The first fair of Siberian commodities, a new stage in the creation of a regional market, will be held simultaneously.

"I invite the American mayors who are present here and representatives of the business community to take part in our fair. We are certain that the project Sibirskaya yarmarka (Siberian fair), which is based on the principles of self-financing, will become a center of international trade and cooperation."

Indinok also spoke about Novosibirsk, which is the largest industrial, scientific, and cultural center of eastern Russia. It is the youngest and fastest growing of the world's leading cities. It took Kiev 900 years, Moscow more than 700 years, New York City 250 years, and Chicago 85 years to reach the one million mark. It took Novosibirsk 70 years to do the same, and only four more years to increase its population to 1.5 million.

"Today, Friday, February 10, 1989, Ivan Indinok, the Mayor of Novosibirsk, agreed to a joint venture with Paneltech, Inc., from Burnsville, Minnesota," read a press release signed by Indinok.

Indinok did not hide his interest in this arrangement: American homes made of pressed wood chips can help solve the difficult housing problem Novosibirsk faces.

Robert H. Leslie, Paneltech's president, did not conceal his interest either. He said his company wasn't discouraged that Novosibirsk would, for the time being, pay in rubles; Paneltech will find ways to spend them in Siberia. The great advantage is that the company will be the first to get to the vast Siberian market.

Novosibirsk's sister cities program of cooperation for 1989 includes 24 measures for contacts in culture, education, medicine, and trade. One possibility is that Zakhar Bron, a famous music teacher from Novosibirsk, will give exhibition violin lessons in America. No doubt the Siberian school of violin playing, already famous throughout Europe, will also be recognized in the United States.

"For much too long Soviet people thought of Americans as pragmatists and of themselves as fighters for an idea. Coming to know each other better-the specifics of each other's behavior and views, ideals and stereotypes-we are growing convinced that pragmatism and idealism complement each other if society considers the well-being of its citizens its main objective," I wrote in the Star Tribune. The article was published on February 16 within the framework of an agreement on regular exchanges of information between the Tribune and the newspaper Vecherni Novosibirsk.

What was our arrangement with Roger Parkinson, publisher and president, and his staff? The most surprising thing is that when negotiating the agreement, the two sides did not have to persuade each other: The readers of both countries, who are so different in their reactions, notions, and values, they said, have the right to firsthand information about each other's country so they can not only form their own judgments about events but also get an idea about each other's thoughts and aspirations.

I asked Jim Boyd, Star Tribune editor and writer, about the possible obstacles to such exchanges. He noted that all Soviet journalists work for the government, and American readers are well aware of this. I responded that Vecherni Novosibirsk would publish his articles the way he usually writes them for American readers, without editing anything. And he commented that if we are so different, we have to get used to each other.

"Maybe," I said, "we should later collect all the articles in one book and call it Along the Ob and Mississippi Rivers to the Land Called Empathy [see the report about rafting down the Ob and Mississippi rivers on page 50]."

"Why Empathy?" Boyd asked me.

"The term was suggested by Robert White, an American psychologist, to define the realistic view about the other side."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for printing a great magazine. I enjoy reading it; don't change anything. . . . You don't need American journalists to help you "in popular and intelligible English."

I would like to see more on past monarchs, especially Prince Vladimir of Kiev, his father, etc.

> **Dolly Drown** Peru, New York

Your magazine, always a joy, is doubly so with Katya Chilichkina gracing the cover of your current issue.

This cover, whether you realize it or not, is a milestone for your magazine. It will produce more good will between our countries than a thousand pictures showing factories with smoking chimney stacks.

> Fredric Ballash Carlsbad, California

According to "Editor's Notes," February 1989, Robert Tsfasman, editor in chief, visited our United States for the first time in his life. He speaks of showing a young man from Maine the way to the Guggenheim Museum. What a twist of fate that a first timer from Russia could give directions in New York to an apparent first timer from Maine. Helping hands are found the world over, when the need is there.

I, too, am from Maine and now reside in California. For the past several years I have been an avid reader of SOVIET LIFE, and I believe, as a result, I could show some Russians a few things in their wonderful country.

Edward B. Bodge National City, California







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A scene from the play From the Liverpool Harbor staged by the Leningrad Puppet Theater.

oscow hosted the finals of the All-Russia Children's Theaters Festival commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the organization of the first children's theaters in the USSR. The festival was attended by 9 drama theaters for teenagers and young people and 12 puppet theaters. The performances were given on different stages, and the audiences could choose between the "regular" theater and the wonderful world of puppets.

The festival organizers—the Russian Union of Theater Workers and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation-had just one goal: The shows that made it to the finals had to reflect the latest in puppetry.

The results were beyond all expectations. The first thing that struck the eye was that the proserious literature not intended for small children. The festival program included, for example, A Midsummer's Night Dream, by William Shakespeare; Feast in Time of Plague, by Alexander Pushkin; and The Twelve, by Alexander Blok.

Actually there were just as many plays for children, but only two are really worth mentioning—From the Liverpool Harbor, based on the works of Rudyard Kipling and staged by the Leningrad Puppet Theater, and Nanny Arina's Home Theater, a solo performance based on Russian fairy tales and pro-duced by the Vyborg Puppet Theater, from Leningrad Region. The critics and jury particularly praised Lyudmila Savchuk's work in the latter.

Russian puppet theaters apparently tend to orient themselves to an older audience. This trend was heatedly debated. As

pointed out: "Throughout its history the puppet show has been designed for all—both children and adults-and this quality seems to be eternal.'

One sunny day in October a man walked down Moscow's old Arbat Street on stilts, accompanied by men and women on shorter stilts. The strange company performed a fiery dance, on stilts, to the accompaniment of a small orchestra. It was Peter Schumann and his famous Bread and Puppet Theater. These Americans had timed their tour to coincide with the Russian puppet festival. Using amazingly simple expressive means, they won the hearts of all and made the arguments between the advocates of children's and adult puppet shows seem insignificant. The Bread and Puppet performances are intended for all ages, which is in tune with the traditions of this

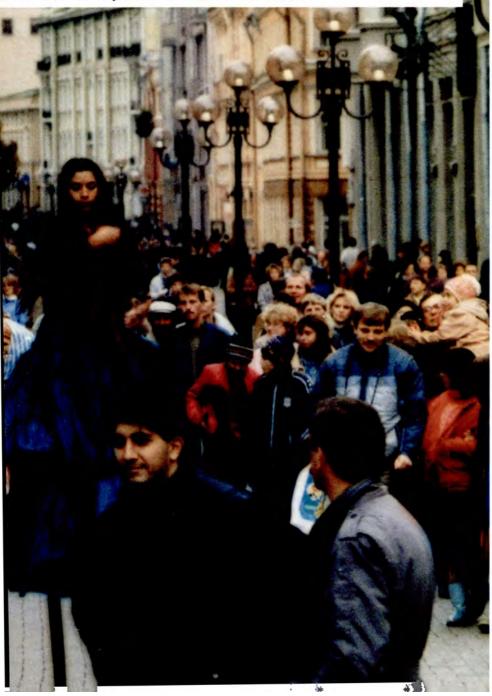
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A one-man show by the Italian actor Leone Bruno.





DIPLOMACY IN THE CLASSROOM

March was an interesting month in the life of Moscow School No. 15—and in the lives of the 15 American high school students who studied there for three weeks. The ninth and tenth grade students were in Moscow returning the visit of Soviet students who had studied at the Americans' school in Baltimore. School exchanges such as this have burgeoned lately.



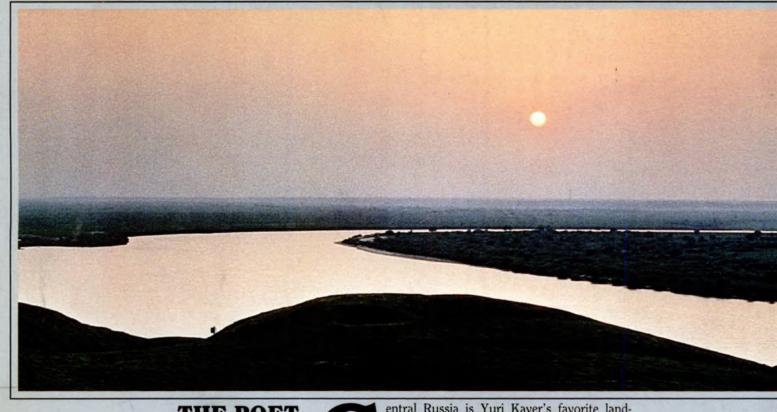
THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

For a brief but terrible time in 1962, the world teetered on the brink of nuclear war. Never since have the U.S. and the USSR come so close to a nuclear war—perhaps because both sides learned from the confrontation. Can we learn other lessons from the 1962 crisis? Read an analysis of the incident in the August issue.

COMING SOON

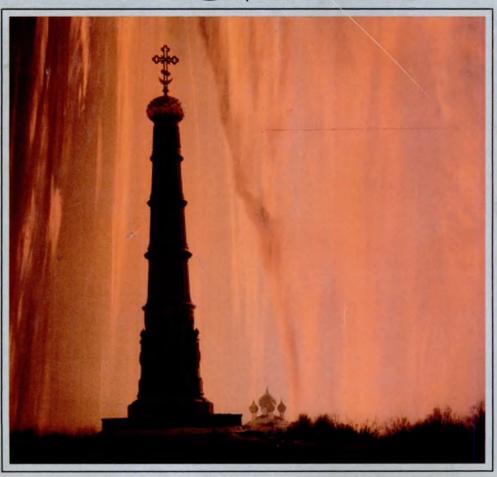
Half a Century Since the Start of World War II.

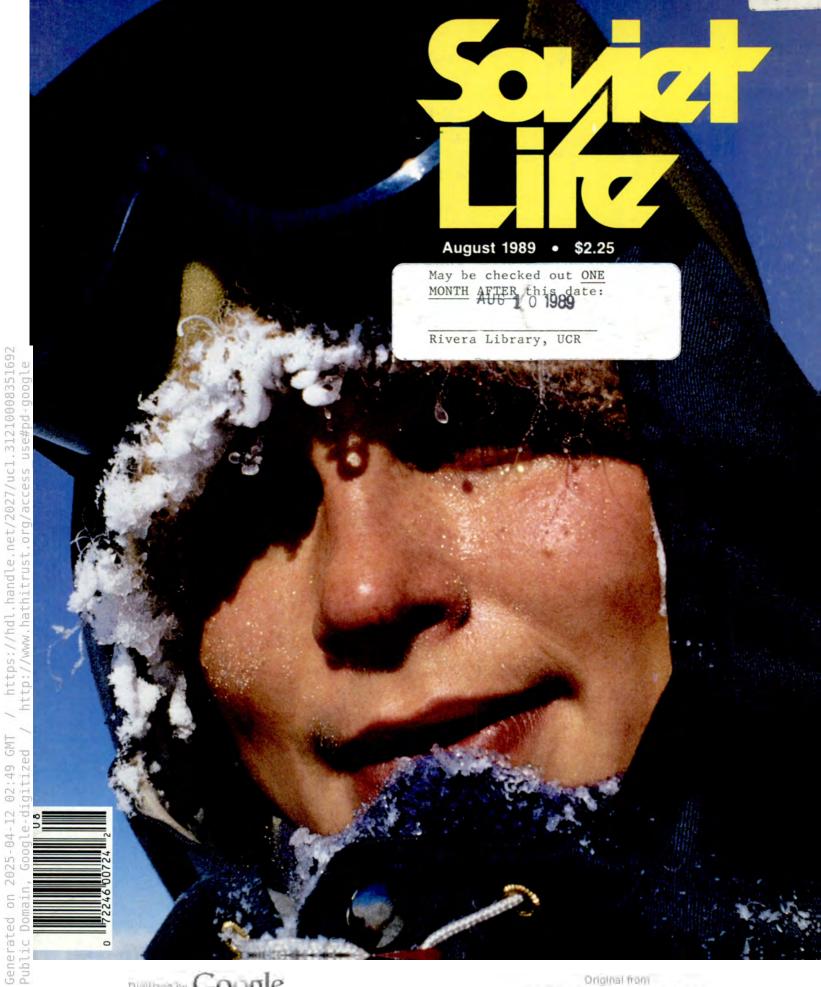




THE POET OF RUSSIA'S LANDSCAPES

entral Russia is Yuri Kaver's favorite landscape (above). Kaver's photograph *The Battle of Kulikovo* (below) celebrates a famous battle with the Mongol-Tatars that took place in 1380.





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EDITOR'S NOTES

you'd think it was the U.S. Congress," a friend of mine said as we sat glued to the television set, watching the session of the newly elected USSR Supreme Soviet. The deputies had just committed another unexpected act of disobedience: They had voted down Vladimir Kamentsev, who had been recommended by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers as his Deputy Chairman and as Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The Supreme Soviet's decision may cause some surprise in American business circles, where Kamentsev was fairly well known. At any rate, Kamentsev's rejection greatly displeased Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, who had

proposed the nomination.

I can't judge whether the Supreme Soviet was right or wrong to vote as it did—but it is a pleasure to report that the Soviet Union's parliamentary representatives are casting off their habit of unquestioning agreement with whatever the big bosses say and do. When the First Congress of People's Deputies ended, some people were apprehensive that the new Supreme Soviet it had elected would be a docile appendage to the state and party apparatus, which would be in control as before. There were good reasons for this pessimism: The congress had turned down many candidates for the Supreme Soviet who were known for wise and independent judgment.

But things turned out better than expected. The congress had trained its deputies well, and many of them have given an active and principled performance in the Supreme Sovieta welcome contrast to their initial in-

ert attitudes.

In this and coming issues of SO-VIET LIFE, we will keep you informed on the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet and of other democratic bodies. You will become acquainted with the most notable of the deputies. We think that this will be of interest to you, judging by the many letters in which our readers inquire about the sweeping changes in our country.

Robert Tsfasman





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Front Cover: Iring Kuznetsova is one of 10 Soviet women researchers and athletes who journeyed last winter to the Antarctic. The team skied 1,420 miles inland to the Vostok Station. Photo by Valentina Kuznetsova.



Material for this issue courtesy of **Novosti Press Agency**

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A Jewish cultural center opens in Moscow.



A team of women skiers takes on Antarctica.



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THE NEW **SUPREME** SOVIET GETS TO WORK

By Vladimir Kharlamenko **Photographs** by Novosti Press Agency



In focus: The President-elect. Even during the breaks Mikhail Gorbachev had no time to rest.





he First Congress of People's Deputies—the Soviet Union's new supreme body of power, which was born out of the political reform—took place at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses from May 25 to June 9, 1989. The 2,249 people's deputies had been elected after a four-month campaign that was held according to the new election law of 1987. The congress's main tasks were to democratically elect the Supreme Soviet of the USSR-the permanent supreme body of authority—and its President; to confirm the appointment of high-ranking state and government officials; and to discuss a program for the government's activities.

Mikhail Gorbachev, elected by secret ballot, became the first head of the Soviet parliament. The President received 2,123 votes—more than 95 per cent of the total votes cast. Eighty-seven deputies voted against Gorbachev. There were heated debates over two other candidates for the presidency. The majority decided not to include on the ballot Alexander Obolensky, an engineer from Apatity who proposed his own candidacy. Boris Yeltsin, a former alternate member of the Politburo and then a minister, was nominated for the position but declined to run against Gorbachev.

At Gorbachev's proposal the congress discussed and confirmed the appointment of Anatoli Lukyanov, 59, to the post of First Vice President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Lukyanov is an alternate member of the Politburo and former Vice President of the disbanded Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. After preliminary discussion the deputies elected the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (542 deputies) by secret ballot. The Supreme Soviet consists of two chambers of equal size and with equal rights—the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

From the first day of its work the congress persistently demanded that certain issues of acute interest to the public at large be dealt with immediately. To resolve these issues in a democratic and reasonable way, taking into account the deputies' demands, the following provisional commissions were set up: a commission of 24 deputies to investigate the Tbilisi events of April 9, 1989, when troops broke up a large demonstration and when 19 people were killed; a commission for the political and



Above: Gorbachev and Ryzhkov, allies for *perestroika*. Below: While the congress was meeting, Muscovites gathered at rallies to express their various political opinions.





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President Gorbachev's job was not easy when passions flared up.

juridical assessment of the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact of 1939, composed of 24 deputies and chaired by People's Deputy Alexander Yakovlev, a member of the Politburo and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and a 16-deputy commission to check the materials connected with the activities of the Procurator General's investigative group headed by Telman Gdlyan, which has been looking into the corruption of high-ranking officials for several years. These commissions are to present the results of their work to the Second Congress of People's Deputies this fall.

On May 30 President Gorbachev delivered a report on the guidelines for Soviet domestic and foreign policy. This was followed by several days of heated debate.

The first session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR opened on June 3. Separate meetings of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities were held. A joint meeting also took place, in which the two chambers discussed the government's activities and reappointed Nikolai Ryzhkov, 59, as Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The congress confirmed the appointment of Academician Yevgeni Primakov, 60, director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences, to the post of Chairman of the Soviet of the Union. Bayan Iskakova, a physician from Kazakhstan, and Alexander Mokanu, an engineer from Moldavia, were confirmed as Primakov's deputies. Rafik Nishanov, 63, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, became

Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities. Ilmar Bisher, a professor from Latvia, and Boris Oleinik, a writer from the Ukraine, became Nishanov's deputies.

Standing commissions were formed within the Soviet of the Union for the following areas: planning, budget, and finance; industrial development, power engineering, machinery, and technology; transportation, communications, and information science; and labor, prices, and social policy.

The Soviet of Nationalities has also established its own standing commissions for the following areas: nationalities policy and interethnic relations; social and economic development in union and autonomous republics and autonomous regions and areas; consumer goods, trade, communal, daily, and other services; and the development of culture, language, national and international traditions, and the preservation of the historical heritage.

Deputies to the Supreme Soviet considered proposals for the composition of the standing commissions of both chambers. Ryzhkov proposed the structure and composition of the USSR Council of Ministers and submitted his proposals to the standing commissions and the chambers and committees of the Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet also decided to set up the following 14 parliamentary committees:

- International affairs;
- Science, public education, culture, and the upbringing of children;
 - · Construction and architecture;

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- · Public health:
- Women's affairs, maternity, child, and family welfare;
 - Affairs of veterans and the disabled;
 - Young people's affairs;
- Ecology and the rational utilization of natural resources;
 - · Glasnost and citizens' rights and appeals;
 - Defense and state security;
 - · Legislation, legality, and law and order;
- Activities of the Soviets of People's Deputies and the development of government and self-government;
 - Economic reform; and
 - · Agrarian questions and food.

The Supreme Soviet decided that until a legal act on the committees is adopted, they will be guided by the principles, rules, rights, and obligations formulated in the provision on the standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet.

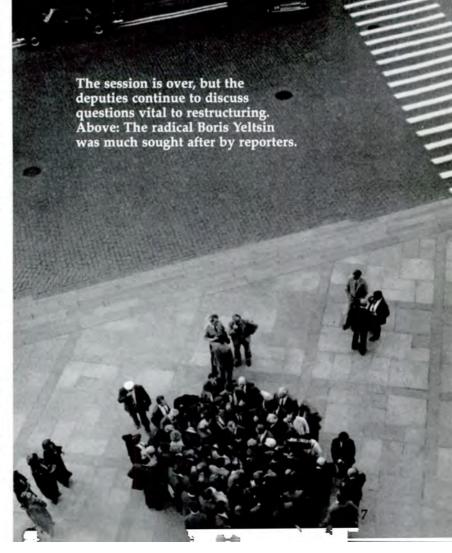
The Congress of People's Deputies approved, by a majority vote, Gennadi Kolbin (now First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan) as Chairman of the People's Control Committee; Yevgeni Smolentsev (now Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation) as Chairman of the Supreme Court of the USSR; Alexander Sukharev as Procurator General of the USSR (reelected); and Yuri Matveyev (now chief state arbiter of the USSR.

On June 7 Ryzhkov delivered a report to the congress on the program for the activities of the USSR Council of Ministers. The deputies took an active part in discussing this program. Since many proposals and amendments were made, an editorial commission was formed to draft a resolution on this issue. The resolution will be submitted to the Second Congress of People's Deputies this autumn.

At the insistence of the Baltic deputies, the question of establishing a committee for constitutional compliance was postponed until autumn. At the deputies' proposal the congress set up a commission of 23 deputies to consider the status of this important committee, on which many key decisions concerning future laws will depend, and to draft a law on constitutional compliance. The congress also established a constitutional commission of 105 deputies chaired by President Gorbachev. Lukyanov was approved as deputy chairman.

At the closing session of the congress on June 9, Ryzhkov and Gorbachev made their closing remarks, and the deputies adopted an appeal to the nations of the world.







Beyond All Expectations

The First Session of the Congress of People's Deputies

of the USSR

ifferent deputies to the Congress of People's Deputies expressed opposite points of view at the first session of the new legislative body: satisfaction that there was so much democracy at the congress and dissatisfaction that there was less democracy than expected. A few of the delegates state their opinions below:

Roy Medvedev, historian, Moscow:

y expectations of the congress were exceeded by the reality. It appears to me that no one expected it to be the scene of such turbulent discussions or that such serious and important issues would be raised. No one expected to see so much vigor in the deputies, in the television viewers, and among the people in general.

The apprehensions that Moscow had an intellectual monopoly on *perestroika* have proved groundless. People from the provinces made a great number of excellent presentations.

This was the first such congress, and people wanted to speak their mind and talk about their concerns. This congress will probably go down as the most interesting and most important in the series of congresses that lie ahead for us.

Nikolai Shmelyov, economist, Moscow:

The main asset of the congress is that it has begun redressing the alienation of power from the people. This is an irreversible process, a process that will continue until the balance is corrected.

Where the other results of the congress are concerned, the session's presentations, particularly in the debates, exposed the problems facing our society with a sufficient degree of frankness. How we can extricate ourselves from the dead ends will depend to a great extent on how our life proceeds after the congress. It is no accident that the delegates decided that the government's program was insufficient to cope with the challenges of the current stage of development.

Alexander Obolensky, engineer, Apatity:

Events proceeded as they should have. The congress was largely orchestrated by the apparatus. The game plan worked perfectly, with the exception of a few misfires.

Anyway, what happened in the Kremlin has had a great effect on society, and I believe the response will be positive. Live broadcasting is a powerful politicizing factor. What is important is that people can see that unanimity is now a thing of the past, and rivalry in the form of competition of ideas exists.

I predict that a very different kind of person will win seats in the next local elections.

Alexei, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod:

R unning this congress was a painstaking effort, but it wasn't fruitless because responsible bodies of state authority were elected, and prospects for the nation's progress were outlined.

At the same time the congress demonstrated that we don't have sufficient parliamentary experience and background and that we don't know how to listen to one another.

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NO TURNING BACK FROM DEMOCRACY

By Vyacheslav Kostikov Novosti Press Agency Commentator

he heated debate at the First Congress of People's Deputies (the new Soviet parliament) revealed for the first time the immensity of the problems that face the perestroika movement. Until the congress, neither the deputies nor the leaders of the country had understood the full extent of the political and economic problems in which the Soviet Union had become embroiled in the preceding years, when economic stagnation and corruption prevailed.

It is not surprising that Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, told the deputies that extraordinary measures had to be taken to get the country out of the crisis. However, the Soviet public has historically tended to associate any mention of "extraordinary measures" with the suppression of democracy, the use of a special form of administration (as was the case with Nagorny Karabakh), or the suspension of civil law. So the growing public awareness of the extraordinary nature of the situation in the Soviet Union has been accompanied by a fear, especially among intellectuals, that our country's problems could endanger or limit the process of democratization.

This apprehension has not been completely assuaged by the oft-repeated assurances of Soviet leaders that perestroika is irreversible. Memories are still fresh of the "thaw" that began with Nikita Khrushchev in the early sixties and ended with the semirehabilitation of Stalinism, the persecution of liberal intellectuals,

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Soviet newspapers receive many letters from people demanding that the nation be ruled with a "strong hand."

and a severe crackdown on dissent. The evidence presented by the deputies at the congress that the Soviet Union is facing a crisis situation provoked different reactions within Soviet society. Primitive though it may seem, many people in the Soviet Union share the view that reform is dangerous. These people point out that, in spite of the undemocratic practices that existed under Stalin, during his years in power there was plenty of food in the stores, no ethnic unrest, and more order and much less crime than is the case now.

Soviet newspapers receive many letters from people demanding that the nation be ruled with a "strong hand." Such sentiments reflect a fear of the powerful, cleansing wave of democratization.

"Demonstrations, hunger strikes, protest rallies-it's all enough to make one's head spin," a man from the provincial town of Kaluga wrote to the government daily newspaper Izvestia. "I wish we could ban all this, all these independent groups and grumbling dissidents." Some of the deputies at the congress spoke very much in the same vein as the author of this letter, although not in such crude form.

So the fears for the future of the democratization drive in the Soviet Union are not unfounded. What can guarantee against a conservative backlash? Frankly, I would not use the word "guarantee" in the present situation. Guarantees can exist only in a democratic state ruled by law, in a society that has had long experience with democracy. We have just begun to build a state based on the rule of law and to learn the first lessons in democracy. But if we do not have guarantees, we do have opportunities to change the situation. And these are

Some people tend to denigrate the Communist Party, blaming it for all of the country's present difficulties. It is not my purpose here to analyze the causes of the crisis. But I would like to point out that it is the Communist Party that began to look for a way out by initiating perestroika in the first place. And it is from the party that all the present political leaders of perestroika have come. It was the party that convened the Nineteenth Party Conference and organized the First Congress of People's Deputies. The party consistently encourages glasnost and debate.

By encouraging glasnost and democracy, the party has awakened the masses to political activity. And I think this is what will determine that there will be no turning back in the process of democratization in the Soviet Union.

A FAREWELL TO THE COLD WAR

"Most people view the cold war mentality as something outdated, which clouded their judgment and prevented our nations from concentrating on serious problems that we share."

Sergei Plekhanov, 43, is deputy director of the Institute of the USA and Canada, a research institution of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Dr. Plekhanov has been studying the United States for more than 20 years. He is the author of a number of works on U.S. domestic and foreign policy. Dr. Plekhanov recently gave an interview to SOVIET LIFE's Lyudmila Yenyutina. Their topic: Soviet-American relations over the past 15 months, since the Moscow summit in May 1988.

You remember the warm welcome that was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Reagan in Moscow more than a year ago. After the summit it seemed that relations between the Soviet Union and the United States would be developing faster than ever before, that our positions would be coming closer and closer together, and that cooperation would be promoted in every field, especially in the field of disarmament. To what extent, in your opinion, have these hopes come true?

A: Since the Moscow summit and Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the U.S. in December 1988, the Soviet Union and the United States have achieved a qualitatively new stage in normalizing and improving relations between them. We have witnessed the disappearance of the last ideological props of the cold war era. Politicians and columnists have been arguing over whether or not the cold war has in fact ended. For instance, the New York Times published a series of articles on that subject several months ago. The summary article in early April concluded that the cold war had indeed come to an end.

What is even more significant is the fact that similar pronouncements are coming from people who were present at the cold war's very inception, for example, George Kennan.

Q: Was anything of this kind possible a year ago?

A: Definitely not. A qualitative change has occurred in public sentiment both in the United States and in the Soviet Union. I would like to tell you about comparative opinion polls that were conducted last December in Moscow and in four American cities: New York, Boston, Detroit, and San Francisco. The polls used the same methodology. They have revealed that most people in both countries have discarded many of the stereotypes that had dominated their perceptions of the other country during the decades after World War II. Certain ideological precepts have disappeared because they no longer correspond to present-day realities. Most people view the cold war mentality as something outdated, which clouded their judgment and prevented our nations from concentrating on serious problems that we share—environmental protection, for example.

Lately we have observed many more common trends in the dynamics of public opinion in both countries. I believe that this is largely the result of Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations last December, which helped people get rid of fears that had influenced politics for a long time.

In that UN speech Gorbachev captured the imagination of the whole world, putting forth ideas and specific proposals on demilitarizing world politics, reducing the influence of ide-

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ology on international relations, and redirecting humankind's energy toward the most acute problems that face all of us—the pollution of the natural environment, drug abuse, international terrorism, and Third World debt, for example. We in the USSR believe that a new system of international security should help to solve these problems.

Finally, our perestroika policy is an important factor in improving the international situation. In this respect I was much impressed by the April 10 issue of Time magazine, which was devoted to the new image of the USSR. Its verdict was that the current changes in the Soviet Union are fundamental indeed. The old system is yielding its place to a new one. Experts express differing views on whether the reforms will succeed. But in the final analysis Time came to the conclusion that fundamental changes in the USSR will have important long-term consequences for the entire system of international relations.

Q: For a long time the human rights issue seriously hampered mutual understanding between our two countries. Is this still the case?

A: I think that the problem has been virtually removed from the agenda. The Vienna meeting was certainly a milestone in this respect. Earlier, the human rights situation poisoned East-West relations and aggravated ideological confrontation. The problem was exploited as a means of psychological warfare, of that very cold war we mentioned earlier. Today human rights are no longer a point of dispute. A constructive dialogue has begun, and our countries are cooperating in good faith. The current efforts to make life in the Soviet Union more democratic have created a different situation. The documents signed in Vienna confirm that the cold war has ended.

Q: These are positive developments, no doubt. But what, in your opinion, is the factor that most complicates Soviet-American relations?

A: It is—and I hope your readers will

understand that this is my personal viewpoint—inertia and a slow reaction on the part of the U.S. The Soviet Union has gone very far in reforming its foreign policy. Of course being in the lead for some time is good for one's ego. But what we need now is a partner in dismantling cold war structures. Unfortunately, our opposite numbers have trouble parting with certain stereotypes, such as the "deterrence" strategy. And yet this kind of stereotype is also beginning to erode. The sentiments of Western Europe and the stand of the United States' allies are also very important in this respect.

Q: When we discussed Soviet-American relations last year, you referred to them as cyclic and said that one could not rule out the possibility that they could cool off again. Are we witnessing such a cooling?

A: No—I am confident that it is not a cooling. To use another metaphor, Soviet-American relations are not sliding downhill but coasting along a plateau. There may be pitfalls and setbacks, but the course is still along a level plane. This is primarily because factors that promote the improvement of relations are still at work.

There is no alternative to the new political philosophy. But the problem is that the process of acceptance of the new thinking is too slow, and it is not free from zigzags that could complicate the situation. And the biggest problem of all is that we're losing time when there's no time to be lost.

Q: One often hears the suggestion that the USSR is trying to drive a wedge between the U.S. and its allies in Western Europe. Would you like to comment on this?

A: We want to cooperate with the United States, Western Europe, and Japan. We're not trying to pit anyone against anyone else.

Q: The Western press seems to be fascinated with the current campaign in the USSR to denounce Stalinism. What do you think about this?

A: Stalinism caused a great deal of

harm to our country, sending it in a direction that has very little to do with socialism. As a result, anticommunist forces were able to consolidate their position in the West-a factor that created additional difficulties for socialism on the international scene. It was in the interests of those who pictured us as a dangerous enemy to equate the Soviet Union with the bureaucratic administrative system, purges, and labor camps. That is why opponents of rapprochement began sounding the alarm as soon as it became clear that profound changes were taking place in the Soviet Union and that a new model of socialism was in the making. This explains their reluctance to notice the current changes. In this respect the interests of our own conservatives and those of rightist forces abroad are coming closer together. Both groups are afraid that perestroika will pull the rug out from under them.

In the epoch of Stalinism we in the Soviet Union lived in an extremely harsh social environment. And relations between the USSR and the U.S. were also extremely harsh. But people's views have changed. These days our harsh realities are different—the hole in the ozone layer; the threat of nuclear war—and it still exists; the arms race, which consumes huge amounts of resources; drug abuse; and AIDS. In the Third World there are poverty and hunger as well.

Q: What, in your view, is the toppriority problem on which our two countries should concentrate their attention now?

A: Disarmament remains the single top priority. But while progress is already being made in that sphere, the same cannot be said about the area of environmental protection. The ecological situation is getting worse before our very eyes.

It seems to me that the East and the West are like two keenly competitive card players who are so intent on beating each other that they don't notice that the house is on fire. We simply cannot afford to play that game much longer.



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ANATOMY OF A DYING SEA By Andrei Ananyev Photographs by Yuri Kuida

Photographs by Yuri Kuidin

1: Sea area lost from 1961 to 1988. that could disappear by the year 2000.



A sea of sand where once there was water—such is the price we must pay for our improvidence. Left: Only these shells bear witness to the departed sea.





he Aral Sea is the scene of an ecological disaster. One of the largest landlocked bodies of water in the world is literally shrinking before everyone's eyes. This is having a disastrous effect on the surrounding land. The debate about the Aral crisis is gaining momentum, and the distress signals sent out by the media are becoming more audible all the time. Meanwhile, the situation is getting worse and worse. It is possible that our generation will witness one of the greatest ecological catastrophes ever caused by humankind's activity—the disappearance of an entire

Many experts believe that it is hardly feasible to restore the Aral to

its original state. But can it be saved from utter ruin?

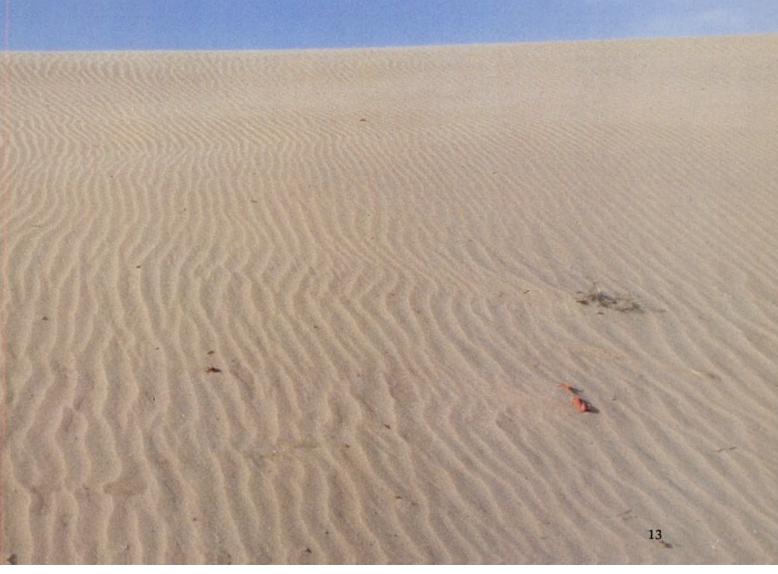
Anyone who had an opportunity to visit the Aral Sea in the old days would remember it as a vast expanse of the bluest blue. You could always count on seeing fishing boats there, loaded with catches of fat bream and enormous barbels. On the shore there would be farmers competing to sell you a watermelon: The traditional industries of the Aral region were stockbreeding and the raising of vegetables and melons.

But all that was to change with the spread of cotton growing in the region. Some people said then that if an international resort were opened on the Aral, it would bring in a big enough profit to buy all the raw cotton in the world. The resort was

never opened, but the cotton fields in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian republics expanded and expanded.

The Aral Sea was fed mainly by the Amu Darya and Syr Darya. Today the waters of those two great Central Asian rivers empty into the Aral only on the map: In recent years they have brought practically no water to the sea. This is because almost all of their flow is diverted along the way, mainly for land-reclamation projects.

In the early sixties the Aral's surface exceeded 66,000 square kilometers. Today it has shrunk by more than a third. In the intervening years, the water level has gone down by 13 meters and is falling at the disastrous rate of 90 centimeters a year. The sea's coastline has receded by 70 to 80 kilometers. The volume of water in





the Aral basin has been reduced by 60 per cent. Because of this, the salinity of the water has increased from under 9 grams per liter to 2.5 times that concentration. The exposed sea bed has become a desert. Tons of salt dust have risen into the atmosphere from what once was the Aral Sea bottom. The salt can be seen from space in the form of a dust cloud, which at times reaches an area 400 kilometers long and 40 kilometers wide. Scientists warn that if this trend is allowed to continue, all that will remain of the sea by the year 2000 will be a small body of water full of brine.

In order to put the Aral situation into perspective, let's compare it with another recent ecological disaster—the Chernobyl nuclear accident. It will take a long time for us to understand the scale and repercussions of the catastrophe in Chernobyl. But the losses caused by the salination of the Aral

and the bogging up of the surrounding lands exceed, possibly several times over, the losses from the Chernobyl disaster.

The Aral crisis threatens the health and lives of the almost three million people who live near the sea. Part of the problem has been caused by chemical dumping into the Aral's feeder rivers. The Amu Darya's waters, starting from halfway downstream, are now unfit for drinking.

Over recent years the area's infant mortality rate has increased considerably, especially in the Kara-Kalpak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, to the south of the sea: Of every 1,000 babies born, 92 will die in infancy. Cancer of the esophagus has become widespread. The incidence of hepatitis and stomach disorders is much too high. Physicians have found a high concentration of salt in mothers' milk.

The loss of the sea is a tragedy for everyone. Everything is interconnected: lost jobs for fishers and sailors, a critical transportation situation, the growing severity of the climate. The fate of the entire region and the destiny of a whole people—the Karakalpaks—are at stake. The Kara-Kalpak people are faced with a tragic dilemma: They can either try to adjust to living under conditions of "chemical warfare" or leave their homeland.

n the face of these facts, officials from the USSR Ministry of Land Improvement and Water Management are quick to point out the gains for which the environment has been sacrificed. In 1950, these people say, only 2.9 million hectares of land were irrigated here; now the figure is 7.2 million. These lands yield more than 15 billion rubles' worth of agricultural pro-





supply its own demand for cotton.

It is true that the Soviet Union gets 95 per cent of its cotton from these areas, and about 40 per cent of its rice. But, paradoxically, 25 years ago one kilogram of choice rice cost 70 kopecks at local marketplaces; now it costs two rubles. And many critics of the cotton-intensive farming system point out that the quality of the cotton produced in the area is low.

Why is the Aral drying up? The answer is obvious-because of the enormous diversion of water from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for irrigation systems in Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and Kazakhstan. On this point there is no argument. But opinions are divided as to what ought to be done about it.

Some people think that sacrificing the sea to the cotton industry was jus-

the inevitable cost of satisfying the country's economic need for cotton fiber, a strategic material.

Others, while acknowledging the role of the so-called cotton independence policy, have harsh words to say about the way the water has been used. Most of the water diverted for irrigation does not reach its destination. It is estimated that over the past 10 years, 84 billion cubic meters of water have been used for irrigation in the Aral Sea basin. During the same period a total of 100 billion cubic meters has seeped through the canals' walls into the sand, remained in bogged-up places, been discharged into closed lakes, or evaporated.

The more lands incorporated into the irrigation effort of the 1970s, the greater were the unjustified losses. Many people are responsible for this.

Ships of the desert have replaced sea-going vessels across much of the Aral's basin. Inset: The Aral Sea meteorological station confirms that the climate here is changing.

For instance, there were the representatives of the hydraulic engineering industry who declared that because of the flat terrain and the turbidity of the rivers of Central Asia, there was no need to line the canal beds with concrete or to install flumes for small streams. Useless loss of water resulted from those claims.

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But the squandering of water does not end there. For example, in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya, up to 5.5 cubic meters of water a year are used to irrigate one square meter of rice fields. Just imagine a column of water 5.5 meters high over each square meter of soil!

roblems brought on by mismanagement have been compounded by

roblems brought on by mismanagement have been compounded by other factors. The effectiveness of irrigation drops sharply with the salination and pollution of the water. The lower reaches of both the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya are polluted by soil salts, defoliants, insecticides, chemical fertilizers, industrial waste, and sewage discharges. The greater the con-

centration of salts, the more water has to be used in order to get the same crop yield.

Leading Soviet experts believe that what has happened to the Aral Sea is the result of departmental monopolism, of which no other country in the world can boast.

In order to maintain its present volume of water, the Aral must start receiving 30 to 35 cubic kilometers of water per year immediately—or in two or three years' time, at the very latest—to make up for evaporation loss. What has to be done to achieve this? Many experts believe that the cotton fields must be drastically reduced in area, by up to 40 per cent. Other experts say that the first prior-

ities are to enforce strict limits on irrigation and to set a price on water. If consumption is limited to 10,000 cubic meters per hectare, the remaining huge volume of water will provide the Aral with 30 to 40 cubic kilometers per year.

There are also technical means that could augment the flow of the Central Asian rivers. For example, the interception of atmospheric moisture in the mountains could provide an additional 20 per cent in flow volume. It is very important that all of the territories adjacent to the Aral begin to institute such water-saving technologies if the sea is to be saved.



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As important as the economic and technical aspects of the problem may be, its humanitarian aspect is even more crucial. To put off solving the acute social and ecological problems until the Aral is restored would mean deceiving the people and aggravating an already critical situation. The people are top priority, which means that much-needed health services and facilities for water supply and purification must be built in two or three years at the very most.

Bringing the Aral back from the

will be enough to rescue the sea. But it is imperative to return the region's traditional economic structure-stockbreeding and vegetable and melon growing-and to do away with departmental monopolism, which ignores the life interests of millions and millions of people.

The lesson of the Aral is just one more opportunity to reflect on how recklessly we walk along the edge of the abyss, peering into it with thoughtless impertinence.

The danger is very real: If the Aral Sea goes, the people will leave the land. The earth will be a bleaker and sadder place, with all of us the poorer and the more miserable for it.



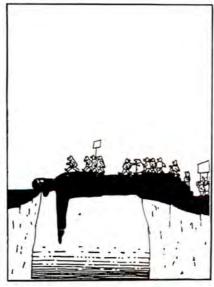
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EAST-WEST maybe the twain can meet

It is time to reexamine the bitter ideological dispute that underlies the rift between the East and the West. Our differences may not be as great as we thought.

> By Georgi Shakhnazarov Drawing by Victor Kudin





s confrontation a necessary component of social development? For a long time it was taken for granted that the answer to that question was Yes. But recently we have become less sure that this is true.

In reconsidering the question, we need to analyze the origins of the confrontation concept itself. The confrontation concept is based on the idea that this epoch of ours is a revolutionary epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism, and that that transition will be effected only after a bitter struggle between the world proletariat and the world bourgeoisie. Following the October 1917 Revolution in Russia, this concept seemed to be corroborated by practical experi-

ence-except that instead of a struggle between the world proletariat and the world bourgeoisie, there was a struggle between revolutionary Russia and counterrevolutionary imperialist states. So the conflict that had been expected to develop between classes broke out between nations from the very outset. Since then, and until recently, the opposition between socialism and capitalism has been symbolized by confrontation between the Soviet state (and later the socialist community as a whole) and states belonging to the capitalist world.

But this simplified "model" led to a distortion of our perception of social reality. As on the domestic scene dogmatists saw only two classes—the proletariat and the bourgeoisiestruggling against each other, so in the international arena these dogmatists saw only the two systems opposed to each other. Such people ignored the fact that the West was not so homogeneous. They failed to consider that the bourgeoisie was not the only element there and that there were also the working class, the farmers, the intelligentsia, and other social strata that made socialist reforms possible. And it must be noted that certain strata do exist in the socialist states whose position, views, and aspirations have nothing to do with socialism, especially in the transition period.

For all their importance, contradictions between systems have rarely moved to the foreground in history and have never been an insurmountable obstacle to cooperation between states. For instance, the bourgeois revolution in England and the execution of King Charles I did not prevent Oliver Cromwell from establishing cordial relations with most European states. And we should also remember that Russia and France, both of which were ruled by absolute monarchs at that time, helped the American colonies in their struggle to gain their independence.

One might argue that those examples only concern societies ruled by exploiter classes. But what about the Second World War? The leaders of the United States, Great Britain, and France did not renounce their anticommunist views in striking an alli-

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ance with the Soviet Union in the war against nazi Germany.

That lesson was not learned well, however. It was the confrontation concept that underlay Stalin's approach to international relations, and anything that did not fit fully into that scheme was presented as mere coincidence. The tough approach taken during the period when the Soviet Union was the single socialist island in an ocean of capitalist nations gave way to a more moderate one when our relationship with Western countries became less hostile. The words "struggle" and "confrontation" were replaced by "competition" and even "emulation."

Predictions about the results of the struggle between the two systems were various: At first the collapse of capitalism was considered to be a matter of a decade or two, but later this dire prognosis was replaced by a more realistic approach.

But it is only in the latest documents that attempts to guess the exact date of establishing socialism worldwide are not to be found. *Perestroika* has given impetus to a revision of our former approach to the relationship between the states belonging to the two sociopolitical systems. Emphasis on universal human values and the integrity of civilization has logically led us to the firm conclusion that peaceful coexistence of states belonging to different social systems should not be viewed as "a form of class struggle."

Is it accurate to describe the two systems as "opposite" if one of them is the product of the development of the other? Revolution may facilitate the birth of a new society but cannot bring it to maturity if the material and spiritual prerequisites are lacking. On the other hand, if revolution is delayed for one reason or another when the preconditions for the new order are present, the birth of the new society is certain.

What we are talking about is not any single act, of course, but a long historical process of maturation of social relations.

This is a cornerstone of Marxism, which Stalin tried to topple, dogmatically interpreting the thesis of the socialist revolution as being funda-

mentally different from any other kind of revolution. He alleged, for instance, that a bourgeois revolution found the elements of the capitalist structure in place and had only to reconcile the government with the economic basis, while a proletarian revolution had to create a socialist economy starting from scratch.

First of all, it is wrong to say that a bourgeois revolution has only to "complete the process" by changing the political sphere alone. In fact, the bourgeois revolution must fulfill the herculean task of destroying the vestiges of the previous social system, that is, feudalism. True, the tasks of a socialist revolution are much more difficult and take more time to implement. But this does not mean that the

At first the collapse of capitalism was considered to be a matter of a decade or two, but later this dire prognosis was replaced by a more realistic approach.

Marxist concept of society's preparedness for the introduction of socialist principles (a concept that Lenin himself emphasized on many an occasion) may be ignored or viewed as invalid.

When he spoke about the greatest possible preparedness for socialism, Lenin meant a high level of socialization of productive forces, the social character of work at major industrial enterprises, the consciousness of the working class, and strong democratic traditions.

In this context, I think that Marx's idea that socialism is born with the "birthmarks" of the old society was grossly underestimated. It seems to me that Marx meant that a free market would coexist with planning; that there would still be distribution according to work, and hence inequality, though without exploitation of labor; that there would still be the state

and the concomitant political domination, though it would be political domination of the majority over the minority, not vice versa as before. That is what socialism was to inherit from the previous order.

In the view of the founders of Marxism, that heritage would be the main difference between the first phase of communism and its second phase, which would be devoid of those "birthmarks." The original Marxists' keen understanding of historical realities helped them foresee that the transition from capitalism to communism could not be carried out without that intermediate stage in social development. True, they thought the process would be much shorter than it actually has been. This is quite understandable, though. Marx and Engels thought that socialism would first emerge in the more developed capitalist countries and that it would have at its disposal all the material and intellectual resources accumulated by humanity.

Lenin's concept of the building of socialism on the basis of the New Economic Policy and peaceful coexistence proceeded from that Marxist approach. Experience has corroborated the viability of that approach, demonstrating the utter unsoundness of Stalin's model.

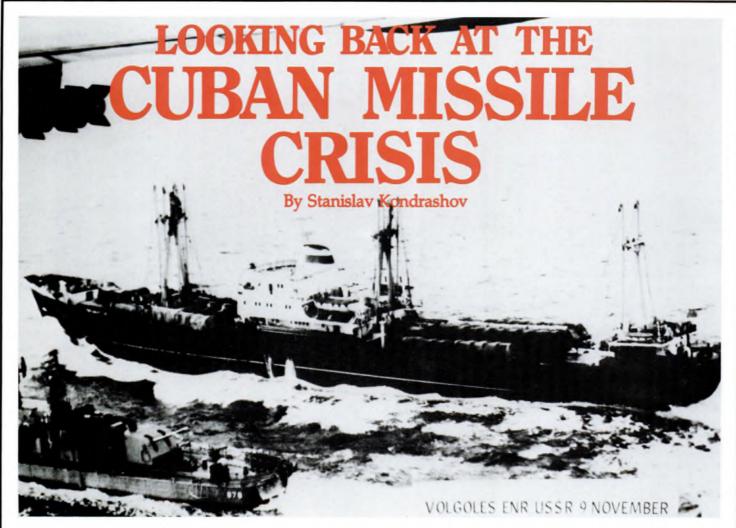
In my view, the concept of the fatal opposition of socialism and capitalism, which causes their irreconcilability, has also been disproved by the change in the capitalist system itself.

How has the West managed to adjust itself to today's realities? Mostly through the introduction of planning, without which there would be no progress in science and technology; through the broadening of the domestic market, emphasizing the manufacture of consumer goods; and through the extension of considerable efforts in the social sphere, thus easing class tensions. In a nutshell, certain elements of socialism have been introduced in the West.

It is worth mentioning here the question whether the two systems might someday converge. The theory put forward by John Kenneth Galbraith, which was once so popular, was forgotten as the rivalry between

Continued on page 30





ate last January a Soviet-American-Cuban symposium was held in Moscow to discuss the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962. During that crisis humankind came closer to the edge of the nuclear abyss than ever before or since.

The two protagonists of the Caribbean drama, Nikita S. Khrushchev and John F. Kennedy, died long ago. But many others in the cast of characters are alive and well. During the two days of the symposium, I saw and heard people who have earned a place in the history books in large part through their involvement in the Caribbean crisis: Andrei Gromyko, then USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs; Anatoli Dobrynin, then Soviet Ambassador to the United States; Alexander Alexeyev, then Soviet Ambassador to Cuba; Robert McNamara, then U.S. Secretary of Defense; McGeorge Bundy, then National Se-





op: A Soviet cargo ship carries Soviet missiles away from Cuba, November 9, 1962. Above, left and right: Nikita Khrushchev and John F. Kennedy in 1962.

curity Adviser to the President; Theodore Sorensen, then Special Counsel to the President; and others. The Cuban delegation was headed by Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Rafael Hernandez, who was chief of the

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General Staff of the Cuban Armed Forces in 1962, was also present. The symposium was attended by many Soviet and American political scientists and historians.

I won't describe here how the participants reconstructed each stage of the confrontation. I'd like, instead, to analyze the events of the time in the light of glasnost, paying special attention to the lessons that all of us must learn. That doesn't come easy. But first let's turn to the basic facts.

The Caribbean crisis was triggered by the arrival of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The idea of bringing the weapons to Cuba originated with the USSR, and with Nikita Khrushchev personally. The missiles could be launched only by a direct order from Moscow.

What motivated the Soviet Union to act as it did? The protection of Cuba and a buildup of its defense capability. The Soviet leaders believed that Cuba was threatened with a new inva-

sion after the Bay of Pigs fiasco in April 1961.

What about Cuba's motives? In giving their consent to the deployment of Soviet missiles on their territory, the Cuban leaders hoped to strengthen the defenses not only of their own country but of the whole socialist community as well. They were guided by the duty of solidarity.

As for the United States, its first priority was to get rid of the Soviet nuclear missiles, which were capable of reaching most of its territory.

Moscow considered the Cubanbased missiles to be defensive weapons and hoped they would help the island at least to reduce the huge strategic imbalance in favor of the United States. Washington viewed the weapons as offensive (although the United States had missiles in Turkey at that time, which were tolerated by the Soviet Union). Washington maintained that it had no intention of invading Cuba before the Caribbean crisis.



photograph, taken by a U.S. reconnaissance plane, that proved the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba.

In short, the sides neither understood nor believed each other. These differences in the interpretation of the motives and intentions of each side have not been overcome even now.

But the sides agreed on one key point: The Soviet missiles were brought to Cuba in secret. It was the secrecy of the move that sent the Kennedy Administration into a fury. One American participant pointed out at the symposium that the United States reacted as emphatically as it did because it was faced with deliberate deception. Another American recalled that the United States deployed its missiles in Turkey in the open, with the knowledge of the American people and of the rest of the world.

As for Moscow, it was acting according to its usual style—secretly adopting military decisions and carrying them out just as secretly. In other words, the Soviet Government was acting in the spirit of the traditional

old thinking. There was hardly reason to hope that the delivery of the missiles would not be discovered by U.S. intelligence, which kept a watchful eye on Cuba at all times.

What would the U.S. reaction have been if Moscow had acted openly? Would the Soviet Union have been able to take the missiles to Cuba in the first place, and could the missiles then have been used later as a political bargaining chip? After all, having passed through the deadly reefs of the missile crisis, Moscow achieved the desired agreement with the United States, exchanging the missile withdrawal for an American pledge not to attack Cuba. This agreement is still being honored. But let's return to the Soviet obsession with secrecy. Fortunately, we can now speak and write about this topic in the open.

On October 18, 1962, President Kennedy met with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in the Oval Office of

the White House. In his desk drawer the President had some photographs, which had been taken by reconnaissance planes, of Soviet missiles being deployed in combat positions. The conversation between Kennedy and Gromyko, quite an animated one, centered on European problems, and also on Cuba. Kennedy told Gromyko that the United States had no intention of attacking Cuba. The Minister upheld Cuba's right to strengthen its defenses.

But the President did not take the incriminating photographs out of his drawer, and the Minister did not tell him about the Soviet nuclear missiles being brought to Cuba and installed there in violation of previous assurances. Later on Gromyko's silence was to be presented as evidence of Moscow's malicious intent. Gromyko explained in his memoirs and at the symposium that Kennedy had not asked him about the missiles directly, and for that reason he, Gromyko, did >



not feel compelled to bring up the subject.

Gromyko knew about the missiles. But Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin did not. He affirmed this at the symposium. Soviet diplomats and journalists, working at the time in Washington and New York, were not told

about what was happening either. However, they could guess what had been going on from U.S. reports—where there's smoke, there's fire.

Even when photographs of Soviet missiles in Cuba began to appear in American newspapers, the Soviet Government admitted nothing. Soviet diplomats were called upon to deny the presence of the missiles in Cuba and to dismiss all charges as falsehoods or provocations. The diplomats had to say that these were not missiles at all, or that they were missiles, but not in Cuba.

The Soviet Union's policy of secrecy had grave consequences. The Soviet representatives were no longer trusted by the Americans. This loss of confidence had serious repercussions for our country.

At that time I was an Izvestia correspondent in New York but was unlucky enough to be in the hospital with acute appendicitis. I

was hospitalized on October 21, the eve of Kennedy's televised address in which he reported the presence of the missiles in Cuba and announced the imposition of a "quarantine." Recuperating from my operation, I lay in bed with a portable radio in my hand, listening to live broadcasts from the UN Security Council Chamber. Associates of the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, had brought into the hall boards with the incriminating photographs on them. Stevenson asked Soviet Ambassador to the UN Valerian Zorin whether there were Soviet missiles in Cuba. Zorin replied: "I am not in an American court, Mr. Stevenson."

Later on I read a TASS summary of Zorin's speech, which was published in Soviet newspapers: "Zorin exposed the assertions about the so-called deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba as false..."

Our diplomats had a difficult time. It was only on October 25, the fourth





eft: Anatoli
Dobrynin, then the
Soviet Ambassador
to the U.S. Above: During
the October 18 meeting
between Kennedy and
Gromyko, the subject of
the Soviet missiles in
Cuba was never
broached.

day of the main phase of the crisis, that Khrushchev made life easier for us, calling a spade a spade in a conversation with an American businessman. But even then the word "missiles" remained taboo, since a summary of this conversation appeared only in the American press, not in its Soviet counterpart.

But the predicament of the Soviet diplomats and correspondents pales in significance when compared with one crucial fact: The entire Soviet population was brought to the brink of nuclear disaster without even knowing about it, without having had an opportunity to understand what exactly had produced the disastrous

situation. This fact may be described as the deception of the people or, at the very least, an utter disregard for their right to know about matters of life and death. But nobody really worried about this right. Glasnost in such matters was unheard-of. It was only after October 28, when the terms of a

compromise were finally agreed upon in a hot-line exchange of messages between Khrushchev and Kennedy, that the key word—missiles—began to seep into the Soviet press. This happened very gradually. And only after the most immediate danger had already passed did the people begin to realize where they had stood.

During the last phase of the crisis Khrushchev sent a message to Kennedy that read, in part: "To reassure the American people,... the Soviet Government, in addition to earlier instructions on the discontinuation of further work on weapons construction sites, has given a new order to dismantle the arms that you described as offensive, and to crate and return them to the Soviet Union."

Note that even here the missiles were referred to as "the arms that you described as offensive."

I don't want to imply that Khrushchev and other

members of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were unconcerned about the destiny of the nation. The speed with which Moscow came to terms with Washington proves otherwise. In fact, Moscow did not even have time to advise Havana of the agreement to pull out the missiles in exchange for a U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba.

What I want to stress is the way in which the nation's destiny was decided at that time. The case was quite typical. The Khrushchev decade and the subsequent Brezhnev period retained the features of the Stalinist system of rule. In 1962 Khrushchev sim-





meeting of the United Nations Security Council on October 25, 1962. At the right is Adlai Stevenson. Second from the left is Valerian Zorin.

ply did not have to consider the question of whether he and other leaders had the right to put the lives of their compatriots at risk in the name of helping the Cubans. This and other authoritarian rights in foreign policy were simply taken for granted. The Soviet leaders of the time were puzzled by Western governments, which did not enjoy such rights because their actions were restricted by legislative bodies.

This difference in itself aggravated mistrust and complicated cooperation between the two systems. The formation of a law-based state in the USSR will remove many of these difficulties.

Democracy is a complex concept and is interpreted differently in different countries, not to mention different systems. But any democracy, if it is genuine, implies policies, both domestic and foreign, that meet the will of the people.

Did we learn the right lessons from the crisis? In the narrow sense of the question, the answer is Yes, since the Soviet Union has never taken its nuclear missiles across the ocean since then. But in broader terms, many things are still shrouded in secrecy.

Mindful of the lessons of the Carib-

bean crisis, the Soviet Union managed to overtake the United States in strategic nuclear warheads in the 15 to 20 years that followed. The 1972 Soviet-American SALT I interim agreement registered rough parity and froze the potential of ground- and sea-based strategic missiles for the next five years. But the data on the missiles remained classified in the Soviet Union for quite a long time. The scale and rate of Soviet military development were top-secret as well. In the mid-1970s the foes of détente reached the conclusion that the USSR was trying to achieve superiority, not to maintain parity. The Soviet Union denied this, but its arguments could not be convincing without facts and figures to back them up. As a result, a huge program of arms buildup-by no means secret-was passed by the U.S. Congress. This was the American response not only to our military development but also to our commitment to secrecy.

The nine-year war in Afghanistan represents another example of democracy being suppressed by bureaucracy. The questions of how we got there and why we stayed so long are now being discussed openly. But that is a recent development. Soviet soldiers were fighting and dying in a foreign country during peacetime; but the nation was denied even the right to ask in public how many men were fighting there, or how many had been killed or wounded in action. Of course people raised these questions in their letters to the authorities and to the press, but "officially" the nation was silent. Not a single inquiry about Afghanistan was made by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR during these years; nor could it make any.

What was behind this silence? The same problem that we discussed earlier—the fact that the authorities are not bound by law to report to the citizens, even when it comes to human life. From the perspective of a citizen of the United States, France, or Japan, this seems incredible, but before perestroika we could not imagine government any other way.

Courtesy of the newspaper Izvestia



Boris Godunov.

The fourth act begins with a crowd scene in front of St. Basil's Cathedral. The hungry people are begging the Czar for bread.

opera is about the death battle between old patriarchal Rus and the new Russia, on the threshold of the reforms of the young Peter I.

Untimely death prevented Mussorgsky from creating one more planned opera, or "people's musical drama"-Pugachevshchina, about the most famous peasant rebellion in Russian history (1773-1775).

Mussorgsky always emphasized the theme of the oppressed people. Boris Godunov was the first Russian opera that showed a popular uprising (it takes place in the final scene). Moreover, Mussorgsky's crowd is by no means featureless. "The masses," he wrote, "just like every individual, always have the subtlest traits escaping your grasp and untouched by anyone." Mussorgsky displayed his talent as an innovator in crowd chorus scenes. He attained his greatest artistic achievement in the recitatives of individual voices from a chorus and small groups in a chorus. These voices accentuate the typicality and the individualization of crowd scenes

The world of Mussorgsky's songs is most di-

verse. The Nursery cycle shows the pure and naive inner world of a child. The Sunless and the Songs and Dances of Death cycles are full of Shakespearean tragedy and philosophy. In "The Peepshow" satire the composer presents a series of witty musical parodies of his ideological opponents. The symphony piece A Night on Bald Mountain, based on old folk legends and popular beliefs, sparkles with inexhaustible inventiveness. Mussorgsky's talent for brilliantly portraying nature and genre scenes in music most fully manifests itself in Pictures at an Exhibition for piano, inspired by the works of Victor Gartman, an architect, artist, and Mussorgsky's close friend.

In the 1860s a number of new artistic associations appeared in Russia. Among them was the literary club of the magazine Sovremennik, The Artel of Artists, and the Russian school of realist painters known as Peredvizhniki. Their cause was the struggle against stagnation and academic dogma, the striving for true-to-life artistic representation, and the search for sources of new artistic expression in the reality that surrounds us all.





Soviet-American school exchanges—teaching good will.

NOTES FROM AN AMERICAN SCHOO

By Artyom Aslanyan

Photographs by Anna Yakhnis

ast February the Seattle Times called me "a walking advertisement for détente. At that time I was visiting the United States on a month-long educational exchange, along with 14 of my classmates and two teachers. The Seattle Times journalist probably singled me out from our group because I had so many badges on my T-shirtsome in support of Soviet-American friendship and others commemorating the Apollo-Soyuz space flight, the forthcoming Goodwill Games in Seattle, and other events. Not that I wanted to look like an experienced tourist-I had brought my badges to give away to Americans I met.



Students from **Moscow School** No. 20 spent almost a month studying at Lakeside School in Seattle. Here the visitors pose in front of Lakeside's McKay Chapel.

Domain,

In Seattle we stayed with local families and went to the Lakeside School, which has maintained friendly relations with my school for 10 years now. Over the past few years we in Moscow have hosted several groups of American students. Now it was our turn to visit them.

Classes were hard at first, although the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. On our first day at Lakeside we were shocked to see a boy in ragged jeans eating a sandwich and drinking juice right in the middle of a lesson, while listening to the teacher and taking notes in his notebook. The classroom, too, was very different from what we were used to. All the tables were arranged in a circle. It was sometimes hard to say who was a teacher and who was a student. (In Moscow's schools male teachers, especially young ones, are very rare.)

After hearing all sorts of rumors about morals in the United States, we were pleasantly surprised to see how polite all of the students, including the youngest, were. In a school on Shaw Island, near Seattle, we watched three juniors playing a computer game. I volunteered to play with them. One of the boys politely told me that he would be willing to let me take his place.

Lakeside School is distinguished not only for its special teacher-student relationship but also for its high technical standards. There is nothing in our school that comes anywhere close to what we saw in some of the American classrooms. For instance, students were given a video camera and instructed to shoot a movie before the class met again.

The range of courses that American students have to choose from is just stupendous. Aside from the mandatory courses, students at Lakeside can pick out a number of elective classes that interest them and can challenge themselves in these fields. I think this makes it possible for students to learn what their talents and inclinations are and to make the right choice for the future. But even with all these extra options, American students have more free time than we do.

A lot of what we've seen in the American school could be used by the Soviet school system in its efforts to democratize the teaching process, create a freer atmosphere, establish better student-teacher relationships, and, most important of all, improve the quality of education. True, in the United States some parents pay more than 400 dollars a month for the education of their son or daughter in a

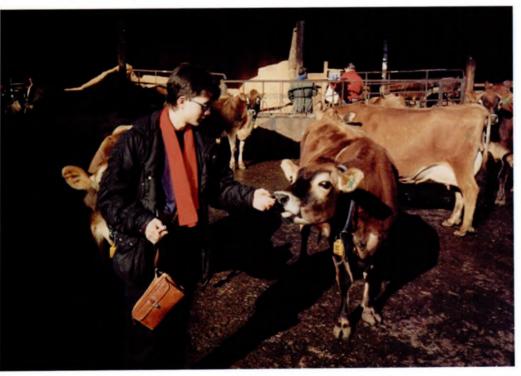
private school, while tuition is free for all students in the Soviet Union. But many people in the USSR now say that free tuition and free health care aren't adequate to cover society's present needs. I would say that our Soviet schools teach many subjects in greater depth than the American schools do. But American schools teach some subjects-ethics, for instance-that aren't taught at all at our school.

The most vivid recollections I have of my trip are those of the American families I stayed with. Their daily routines often surprised me. For instance, Americans have dinner in the evening, while we have our biggest meal in the afternoon. And I could have died of envy watching Americans my age driving around in cars.

Living with the Hortons and the Nolans in Seattle showed me how seriously Americans take their jobs, how meticulously they plan their holidays, and how careful they are



Left: Artyom Aslanyan, the author of this story, visits Cliffhaven Jersey farm. Above: With schoolmate Andrei Reznikov at a Washington, D.C., museum. Facing page: Artyom (center) enjoys the hospitality of the Horton family.







with money. Many of the teenagers earn their own pocket money. It seems to me that this accustoms them to work and teaches them to be thrifty.

Life in the United States has its own peculiarities, which we Soviet citizens sometimes find hard to understand. At first it was incomprehensible to me how one and the same thing can cost twice as much in one store as in another. And I don't understand how a person can have just a cup of coffee-sometimes while driving in a car-for breakfast. My mother would never let me leave for school before I've had a hot meal.

Seattle has magnificent roads. You can get to any part of the city in no time. And the services, the abundance of goods, and the absence of long lines in the American stores make me wish that ours were the same. I think we could learn a great deal from American experience.

My classmates and I were lucky to stay with such nice American families. The Hortons were the first Americans I came to know rather well. I am grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Horton and their sons, Ian and Nick,

Living with the Hortons and the Nolans in Seattle showed me how seriously Americans take their jobs, how meticulously they plan their holidays, and how careful they are with money.

for making me feel so comfortable. I also spent more than two weeks with the Nolans. Raymond, the elder son, often took me to basketball games. I liked Mrs. Nolan's cooking very much.

The American families asked me lots of questions, and I came to realize how little we know about each other. I was asked about politics, about the age that Soviet boys and girls begin dating, and how many children the Gorbachevs have.

I am happy to have made friends

with the Hortons, the Nolans, the Hamacheks, and other Americans. My parents worried about me a lot at first. They kept calling Seattle. But after a couple of conversations with Mr. Horton and Dr. Nolan, my parents knew I was in good hands.

During our stay in Seattle we made friends with our American classmates and their parents. When we were leaving, their parents wrote letters to our parents. I want to cite an excerpt from a letter by Larry and Gail Ransom to the parents of Anna Yakhnis:

"Both of us grew up in a time when relations between our countries were difficult. When we were students, we were taught that the Soviet Union was our greatest enemy. It is therefore extremely encouraging to realize that we are now living in a time when our children visit Moscow and when a young student from the Soviet Union lives in our home in the U.S. It makes us very happy to think that friendships can develop between people we were always taught to believe were enemies."

Artyom Aslanyan and Anna Yakhnis are ninth graders at Moscow School No. 20.



"We Hope They'll Come Back Soon!"

By Yelena Titova Photographs by Oleg Lastochkin and Vladimir Rodionov

heryle Oshman will never forget March 17, 1989—the day she turned 17. It was the first birthday that she had ever celebrated away from home, and Cheryle was not even in her own country, but with new friends in the faraway Soviet Union.

Soviet capital together with these Moscow teenagers. The young Muscovites had just completed a monthlong stay in Baltimore, where they had lived with American families and attended a local school.

During their return visit the young Baltimoreans learned about the Soviet educational system, home and cultural life, and what Russians do for teenth trip to the Soviet Union," she told me. "Before, the groups of American kids I led followed Intourist itineraries. But as tourists we got only a bird's-eye view of your country, and most students rarely came in contact with the Russian people.

"Now it's different. My students have established close links with Soviet people and are learning about their life. But maybe the students should tell you about their impres-

sions themselves."

Seth Wright was working hard kneading dough in the kitchen when I arrived. He was helping Alla Dmitrieva make delicious buns for supper. Seth, who had developed an immense fondness for them, wanted to get the recipe so that his single-



Left: American student Ben Smith (left) with his Soviet friend Sergei Zakharov at Moscow School No. 15. Right: Lev Zaikov, First Secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee, met with American students at the Moscow City Soviet.



At 6 P.M. the bell rang at the Petrovs' Moscow apartment, and 30 Soviet and American high school students, carrying huge bouquets of roses and carnations, burst in to wish Cheryle a happy birthday.

But this was toward the end of Cheryle's stay in the USSR. Let's go

back to the beginning.

On February 27 classes began in a rather unusual way at Moscow School No. 15. Fifteen American high school students from Baltimore, Maryland, took their seats at desks alongside Soviet ninth and tenth graders. Cheryle Oshman sat down with Anna Petrova; Seth Wright, with Lena Dmitrieva; Ben Smith, with Sergei Zakharov; James Schultz, with Igor Krol; and so on. The Americans had flown to the

fun. The Americans admired the famous Troitse-Sergiyevsky Monastery in Zagorsk and took a trip to the ancient Russian town of Suzdal.

They were impressed by their meeting with Lev Zaikov, a high-ranking Communist Party official, who talked to them about *perestroika*.

"You are going to live in the twenty-first century; it will be up to you to build the edifice of trust and mutual understanding between the Soviet and American peoples whose foundation is being laid today," Zaikov said. He conveyed best regards from Mikhail Gorbachev.

Zita D. Dabars, director of the Baltimore school's Russian language and cultural center, was the leader of the American group. "This is my sixparent father, a biology teacher at the Baltimore school, could enjoy the delicacy too.

"I didn't know much about the Soviet Union before I came here, and I'm really glad I have the chance to see everything with my own eyes," said Seth. "Lena's mother is a sweet, cheerful hostess. Her borsch is a miracle! Delicious! I'll definitely ask her for the recipe and try to make it at home. The Dmitrievs gave me one of their three rooms. I study, relax, and listen to music there. I really feel at home here and don't want to leave.

"Recently our group met with Gennadi Yagodin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Education. He told us that this year the Soviet Union is ready to host 400 kids from





left the biggest impression on me.

"We spent half a day at a college, sitting in on classes and answering questions in the assembly hall afterward. The Americans wondered about the difference between Soviet and American schools, what subjects we have to take, why we wear uniforms, whether drug addiction is a problem in the USSR, what our parents do, how much money they make.

"We were just flooded with questions. We got the impression that American students knew very little about Soviet life. This is why we need exchanges so much."

James Schultz was just about to leave for Cheryle's birthday party, so our conversation was rather brief. Asked if his family's lifestyle differed from that of the Krols, with whom James had spent about a month, he said: "I don't see any essential difference. Every morning my father, a lawyer at a big company, CSX Transportation, and Igor Krol's father, an engineer at a Moscow automotive factory, both rush to work. Our mothers are homemakers. Household chores are the same in both places. But the educational systems are different. I prefer the American one because I can take the subjects I like best-economics, for instance."

Cheryle Oshman was busy with her guests. So while the young people were having fun, I talked to Anna Petrova's parents, Cheryle's hosts. They told me that the girl had wanted to come to the USSR very much. But she lived with her divorced mother, and they didn't have the money for the trip. To earn the 1,500 dollars she needed, Cheryle had worked as a salesclerk during the summer.

"Cheryle is a very sweet, hard-working girl," said the hostess, Inna Petrova. "We are very fond of her and will miss her when she leaves. Today being her birthday and the Americans' last day in Moscow, we wanted them to have a farewell party that they would remember for a long time. This morning Cheryle told us that our family has become her second home and that she is sad to leave.

"We feel sad too. But we hope that she'll come back soon."

EAST-WEST

Continued from page 19

the West and the East intensified. But it seems that the theory has gained a new lease on life lately.

I cannot agree that the two systems will ever converge. Capitalism and socialism are two wholly separate structures. It would be as impossible for them to converge as it would be for the Earth's two poles to come together. But the convergence of *nations* is an entirely different matter.

Western and Eastern nations are bound to come together, borrowing the best from each other. And the best way to promote that convergence is to concentrate our efforts on practical tasks—ensuring the survival of civilization, upgrading the people's standard of living, ensuring human rights, enhancing social justice, protecting the environment, and organizing effective use of advances in science and technology.

The best way to treat an enemy is to turn him or her into a friend, or at least a good neighbor. In this interdependent world of ours, which is threatened by nuclear, ecological, and other menaces, such an approach is indispensable for the survival and development of everyone.

And what about the merits of each system? I believe that we should abandon the approach that explains everything by system alone.

Experience has shown more than once that attempts to explain every success and setback solely by sociopolitical order are fallacious. After the first sputnik was launched, the press in our country wrote that socialism was the launching ground for space exploration. But it was clear even at that time that any state with developed science and industry was capable of taking part in space exploration if it had managed to amass the necessary resources and viewed such programs as important to its interests.

Overcoming intersystem confrontation would also facilitate the fulfillment of another historic task. It would put an end to confrontation between the two main branches of the working-class movement, creating favorable conditions for their broad cooperation and eventually for the reunification of left-wing forces.

The differences between the two main socialist trends chiefly concern the approach to the methods of the development of socialism. Modern social democracy has chosen as its theoretical creed and practical policy the reliance on spontaneous socialization. Social democracy sees as its mission the mere guidance of that process (whenever such guidance is possible).

The communist doctrine and policy are characterized by a conceptual approach, the dominance of the conscious over the spontaneous. It was a departure from those principles that resulted in the failure of the reforms attempted in the USSR following the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

But while being aware of the advantages of the communist doctrine, we must also see the merits of the social democratic doctrine. It is more pragmatic and is aimed at immediate results from social measures and political actions. If we recognize tleose merits, and also the very phenomenon of evolutionary socialization, we will do away with a major difference between Communists and Social Democrats.

We should remember that the concept of the integral and interdependdent world demands the broadest possible public consent, at least on the key issues of social development. Some preconditions for this have already appeared. People are becoming aware of the need for cooperation, for universal human solidarity based on such values as human rights and freedoms, concern for peace and human-kind's natural and cultural environment, help for the destitute, and the promotion of development.

It is obvious that if universal human interests are to be protected and exercised, they must be seen as such. And this cannot be attained without working together, without overcoming our ideological differences.

Georgi Shakhnazarov is a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and president of the Soviet Association of Political Science. This article is reprinted, slightly abridged, from the journal Kommunist.





The great
Russian
composer
Modest
Mussorgsky
was born 150
years ago
this year.

"No one has ever appealed to the best in us with greater tenderness and profundity."

Claude Debussy

Mussorgsky's ''Irregular'' Genius

By Alexander Sokolov Music Critic

n early March of 1881 the famous Russian painter Ilya Repin hurried daily along snow-covered St. Petersburg streets to the military hospital. He took off his coat in the cavernous, noisy vestibule, climbed the wide marble staircase to one of the rooms, knocked on the door, and went in. As he began an affable conversation with the denizen of that joyless place, Repin would put up his easel and set to work on a portrait. The painting (shown above) subsequently became known as a masterpiece of the psychological genre. With a heavy heart Repin

was painting the portrait of his dying friend, composer Modest Mussorgsky. It was wise of Repin to hurry: On March 16 Mussorgsky was gone.

Looking carefully at this requiem portrait, the viewer can't help seeing something more impressive than the superb handling of a brush. The force of the portrait is in the authenticity of the final, silent farewell of two spiritually kindred people.

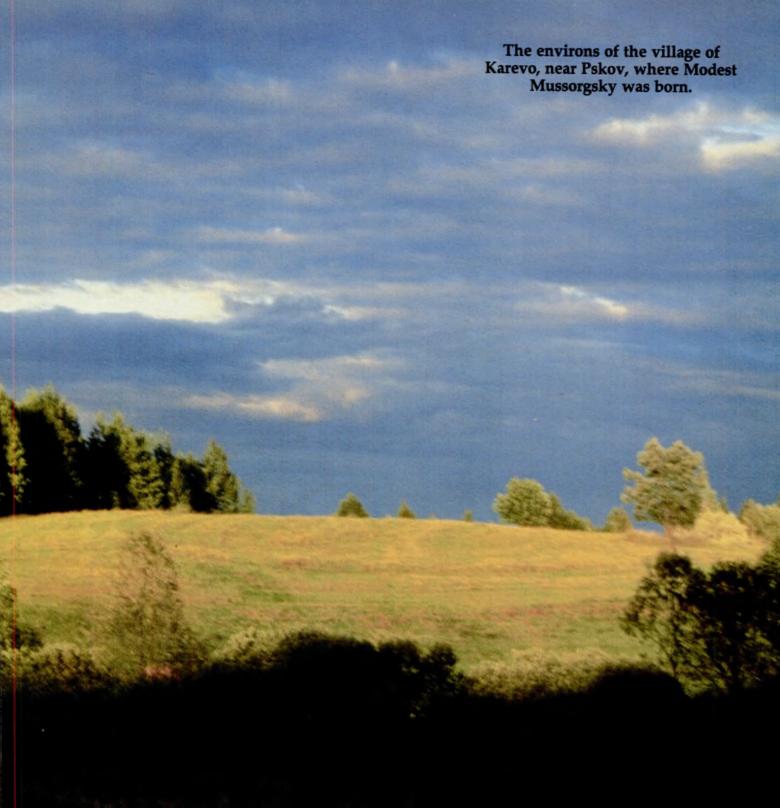
Another famous portrait by Repin comes to mind: Leo Tolstoy, in a peasant shirt, plowing a furrow. Although the great author's peasant look ▶



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is well known and therefore not surprising, it somehow seems that Count Tolstoy was posing for the artist.

Mussorgsky's portrait suggests nothing of the kind. The composer's shaggy head is bent over his heavy, limp body, which is wrapped in a dressing gown. He looks worn out, deep in the thoughts that come to people only on the verge of death. Mussorgsky's short, hard, and passionate life—a life of genius—is coming to an end. But he is destined for immortality, to be known and loved by many future generations.

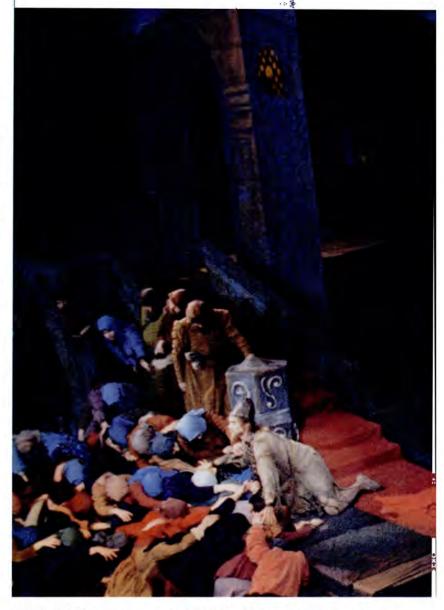
any prominent cultural leaders of nineteenth century Russia spent their childhood on their parents' estate, surrounded by idyllic countryside and on intimate terms with the peasant traditions of the serfs. Mussorgsky, who grew up in Pskov Gubernia (Province) in northwest Russia, was no exception. His character, tastes, and convictions developed in that atmosphere. The first glimmerings of his musical talent, carefully cultivated by his mother, appeared in the form of free improvisation on the themes of the fairy tales told to him by his nurse, a serf woman.

Mussorgsky's adolescence was not much different from that of other people of his class and time. In 1849 he went to St. Petersburg to study, first at the Petropavlovskaya School and then at the School for Cadets of the Guard. It was at that time that Mussorgsky's first composition, the piano piece Porte-Enseigne Polka, was published. In 1856 Mussorgsky finished school and was promoted to the rank of officer. However, he did not want to be a military man. Two years later he retired and devoted himself wholly to music.

Mussorgsky belonged to the "generation of the sixties," that is, a generation of patriotically minded intellectuals who rallied in the struggle for a better future for their country and for the peasants. These intellectuals created their own philosophy, their own moral code. The movement was quite remarkable in Russian history. The very word "intelligentsia" (subsequently adopted by various languages) was brought into common usage by Russian writer Pyotr Boborykin in the 1860s. Boborykin advocated enlightenment, closeness to the common people, and democracy of thought and action.

The developments in Mussorgsky's life in the late 1850s and early 1860s determined his destiny to a large extent. During this period he went to Moscow and made new acquaintances. He became friends with the composers Alexander Dargomyzhsky, Alexander Borodin, Mily Balakirev, and César Cui, and with Vladimir Stasov, critic and "patriarch" of the Russian intelligentsia. From 1863 to 1865, under the influence

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of Nikolai Chernyshevsky's revolutionary novel What Is to Be Done?, Mussorgsky and a group of other young people of like views lived in a commune, devoting their deeds, thoughts, and aspirations to the common people. Mussorgsky expressed his opinions openly, sometimes daringly. For instance, in a letter to Balakirev, he wrote: "The peasants are much more capable of self-government than the landowners."

Biting social satire and the grotesque are typical of Mussorgsky's music. His song "The Seminarist" was banned by a censor. The first version of the opera *Boris Godunov*, with its powerful crowd scenes, shared the same fate. Mussorgsky called his last opera, *Khovanshchina*, a "people's musical drama."

In these operas Mussorgsky depicts two of the most dramatic periods in Russian history. In *Boris Godunov*, based on Pushkin's tragedy, it is the early seventeenth century, which was marked by the boyars' fierce struggle for power. Mussorgsky wrote the libretto for *Khovanshchina* himself. The

Mussorgsky's aim was "to create a living person in real music."





Boris Godunov.

The fourth act begins with a crowd scene in front of St. Basil's Cathedral. The hungry people are begging the Czar for bread.

opera is about the death battle between old patriarchal Rus and the new Russia, on the threshold of the reforms of the young Peter I.

Untimely death prevented Mussorgsky from creating one more planned opera, or "people's musical drama"-Pugachevshchina, about the most famous peasant rebellion in Russian history (1773-1775).

Mussorgsky always emphasized the theme of the oppressed people. Boris Godunov was the first Russian opera that showed a popular uprising (it takes place in the final scene). Moreover, Mussorgsky's crowd is by no means featureless. "The masses," he wrote, "just like every individual, always have the subtlest traits escaping your grasp and untouched by anyone." Mussorgsky displayed his talent as an innovator in crowd chorus scenes. He attained his greatest artistic achievement in the recitatives of individual voices from a chorus and small groups in a chorus. These voices accentuate the typicality and the individualization of crowd scenes

The world of Mussorgsky's songs is most di-

verse. The Nursery cycle shows the pure and naive inner world of a child. The Sunless and the Songs and Dances of Death cycles are full of Shakespearean tragedy and philosophy. In "The Peepshow" satire the composer presents a series of witty musical parodies of his ideological opponents. The symphony piece A Night on Bald Mountain, based on old folk legends and popular beliefs, sparkles with inexhaustible inventiveness. Mussorgsky's talent for brilliantly portraying nature and genre scenes in music most fully manifests itself in Pictures at an Exhibition for piano, inspired by the works of Victor Gartman, an architect, artist, and Mussorgsky's close friend.

In the 1860s a number of new artistic associations appeared in Russia. Among them was the literary club of the magazine Sovremennik, The Artel of Artists, and the Russian school of realist painters known as Peredvizhniki. Their cause was the struggle against stagnation and academic dogma, the striving for true-to-life artistic representation, and the search for sources of new artistic expression in the reality that surrounds us all. The same atmosphere also produced an association of composers that later became famous: Mily Balakirev, Alexander Borodin, César Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. This association is known in the history of music under a variety of names: The New Russian Music School, The Balakirev Club, The Five, and "Moguchaya Kuchka" (The Mighty Handful).

The Five's common esthetic program did not restrict the individuality of any of its members. Different trends and aspirations existed within the group. For instance, Rimsky-Korsakov gravitated toward a synthesis of the elements of Russian national culture and the elements of Western European culture, which he had studied thoroughly. Mussorgsky zealously and staunchly supported the development of Russian music independent of the West. He considered Alexander Dargomyzhsky his preceptor and had great respect for him.

Mussorgsky formulated his own artistic principles to guide him in his creative work: to create a living person in real music and to create a phenomenon or a type of life in its characteristic form

and not used by any artist before.

These principles meant a resolute surge beyond the limits of classical esthetics and an anticipation of many of the innovations that would appear in the twentieth century.

erhaps the inimitable originality of Mussorgsky's music has its origins in human speech. The composer rendered its intonations superbly. Mussorgsky tirelessly and consistently worked to fill his music as much as possible with the expressiveness of speech. In 1868 he wrote to his friend, Rimsky-Korsakov:

I want to say that if the sound expression of human thoughts as well as feelings by the simple means of speech is correctly rendered in my music, and if this rendering is musically artistic, then it's a sure thing. I have done it quickly—but my quick work has served me well. No matter what speech I hear now, no matter who is speaking (or, more important, what the subject is), a musical rendering of that speech is already developing in my brain.

One of Mussorgsky's operas, The Marriage, based on Gogol's comedy of the same name, is hardly ever performed. This early opera is considered an unsuccessful one. However, Mussorgsky treated it as a deliberate experiment, a kind of exercise in operatic art. In the composer's words,

It is an exercise within the power of a musician—or a nonmusician, to be more exact—who wants to study and comprehend all the nuances of human speech, spontaneous and truthful as Gogol, the man of genius, rendered it.

Mussorgsky shunned the beaten track. Consequently, his contemporaries and even his close friends often did not understand his music. This explains the not quite ordinary fate of his works. With the best of intentions and on more than one occasion, Mussorgsky's true admirers tried to "adapt" his works, acting as they thought best, correcting "the clumsiness" and "irregularities" of orchestration and changing the form.

For many years theaters produced Mussorgsky's operas not as he had written them but in the versions of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Paul Lamm, or Dmitri Shostakovich. Musicians always felt a bit embarrassed in this situation, before the unfathomable phenomenon of Mussorgsky's music. As composer Anatoli Lyadov once said: "All his compositions call for a major and technically thorough correction. The point, however, is that as soon as you start correcting, you immediately see that this 'rightness' does not suit Mussorgsky at all, that the shape is lost; more than that, it is

crippled."

Time is the best of judges. Today Mussorgsky's music comes to audiences in the original. No one thinks that it needs correction or adaptation any more. The audiences of our day are impressed by its unaffectedness. Its "irregularities" look like revelations and wonderful discoveries in harmony, timbre, and form and are understood as the source of a new tradition taken up by the compos-

ers of subsequent generations.



Left: Fyodor Chaliapin as Boris Godunov in 1905. Above: Chaliapin's self-portrait as Boris, 1911.

, rendered ii.







t the invitation of the Soviet Foundation for Social Inventions, a delegation of certified prosthetists and orthotists from the United States paid a 10-day visit to Moscow this spring. The delegation came here to attend a Soviet-American symposium that was held at the Moscow Orthopedic Prosthetics Industrial Association. The 14 American and more than 100 Soviet orthotists and prosthetists shared their knowledge and experience in the humane field of helping the disabled.

When prosthetists gather together, they tend to find a common language quickly, and those at the Moscow symposium were no exception. After all, people suffer from pain and disability irrespective of nationality, social status, or political affiliation. It is good to join hands in an attempt to relieve suffering wherever it is

"Our patients come to us from the city of Moscow and from Moscow Region," said Vyacheslav Lunarsky, chief engineer of the association. "We currently have about 55,000 patients in our files. Most of them are war veterans, victims of industrial accidents, and people who have been disabled since childhood.

One of the Soviet delegates to the conference was Alexander Sitenko of Kharkov. Sitenko is a leading researcher at the Ukrainian Institute of Prosthetics and Prosthetic Appliances. He spoke about the meeting with animation and enthusiasm:

"During the symposium, a warm friendship developed between us and our American colleagues. The Americans did their best to pass on their experience to us, and we greatly appreciate it.

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"Before this symposium I used to learn about the achievements of our American counterparts mainly by reading the scientific journals. Now my colleagues from many Soviet cities and I have had an opportunity to see what's being done in the United States with our own eyes."

Leonti Polyansky, the director of an enterprise that manufactures prostheses in the city of Vladimir, 170 kilometers from Moscow, also had warm words to say of the conference:

"The American delegates are highly skilled professionals and tactful and friendly people," he said. "Their technology has been worked out to the minutest detail. Although I've been working in this field for 30 years now, quite a few things that I saw and heard at the symposium were new to me. I am wholeheartedly in favor of such meetings. They are extremely beneficial."

At the symposium Soviet and American delegates made detailed comparisons of their methods of helping the disabled adapt to everyday life. The Soviet prosthetists watched a video of disabled Americans playing sports. Members of the U.S. delegation got a close look at the Moscow Orthopedic Prosthetics Industrial Association, where the symposium took place. The Americans also got a chance to work in the association's laboratories and workshops alongside their Soviet colleagues.

The American delegates also demonstrated their work for their Soviet colleagues. The Americans made prostheses for several disabled Soviet people, including Alexei Akimov, a fitter at the association, and Alexander Domrin, head of the association's supplies department.

"The purpose of our visit," said Drew Hittenberger, head of the U.S. delegation, "is to bring our technology to you. We in the United States do things differently than you do. We would also like to learn about your techniques in design and manufacturing, and about the materials you use.

And we're interested in buying things for U.S. prosthetists, both components and raw materials."

Hittenberger added that he was thinking about beginning a Soviet-American joint venture. He also expressed gratitude to the Foundation for Social Inventions for inviting the U.S. delegation to Moscow and for covering its expenses in the USSR.

Other members of the delegation also spoke highly of the Soviet-American symposium. Timothy D. Bulgarelli, owner of Ortho-Care of Arcadia, California, said:

"This visit has been very useful for





Facing page: Reliable and convenient prosthetic aids can help the disabled a great deal. Inset: American specialists made limbs for Alexander Domrin, a department head at the Moscow association. Above: Americans demonstrate their equipment to their Soviet colleagues. Left: American prosthetists with a young patient.

us. I am satisfied with what has come out of it."

Bulgarelli noted that professional interests were not the only reason for his visit to the USSR. Like many other members of the U.S. delegation, he was attracted by the opportunity to meet with Soviet people.

Bulgarelli said that in spite of the symposium's busy schedule, the Americans had an opportunity to see a great deal of Moscow. They visited the polls during the elections to the Congress of People's Deputies.

"People are very enthusiastic," said Bulgarelli. "We are seeing a real revolution without violence."

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USSR

fter years of misunderstanding and indifference, it can finally be said that psychoneuroendocrinology has withstood all the trials it faced and is now entering its Golden Age," said Aron Belkin, head of the USSR Psychoneuroendocrinology Center of the Moscow Psychiatric Research Institute.

Dr. Belkin was addressing the Soviet-American symposium "Hidden Reserves of the Human Psyche," which he had helped organize. The conference, which was held in Moscow, was one of many Soviet-American scientific contacts that have been facilitated by the Soviet psychoneuro-endocrinology center.

Psychoneuroendocrinology is a relatively new science, which seeks to discover the intricate mechanisms by which consciousness influences the body.

In combination with psychology and psychiatry, endocrinology is penetrating many branches of medicine, bringing fresh insights to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, tuberculosis, drug addiction, alcoholism, and other diseases. Now researchers from different countries and schools are actively striving to work out new approaches that were previously viewed with skepticism in academic circles.

"I am sure that psychoneuroendocrinology can reach its full potential only within the framework of international cooperation," continued Dr. Belkin. "That's why regular meetings with our colleagues both in the USSR and in the United States are so important. These meetings are possible thanks to the efforts of the Moscow Psychiatric Research Institute in the Soviet Union and the Esalen Institute Soviet-American Exchange Program Health Project in the United States. Both of these institutes have worked hard to pool the intellectual resources of Soviet and American scientists in order to study global health problems. We would like to express special thanks to Dulce W. Murphy, director



Dulce W. Murphy, of the Esalen Institute, with two colleagues.

FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR NATIONS

By Elya Vasilyeva Photographs by Victor Chernov



Dr. Aron Belkin was one of the organizers of the Moscow symposium.

of the Esalen Soviet-American health project."

Dr. Belkin has visited the United States several times at the invitation of the Esalen Institute, with which the USSR Ministry of Health has signed an agreement on cooperation. He is familiar with the fundamental biological research that has been done in the field of psychoneuroendocrinology at American centers as well as with the practical clinical work of American psychiatrists and psychologists.

"Our American colleagues have been very generous in sharing their experience with us," Dr. Belkin said. "They also presented us with a computer, and we have set up a computer link at the psychoneuroendocrinology center, connecting Soviet and American partners through the telephone line. Now that we're in direct communication with San Francisco and other American cities, we have prompt access to scientific information that interests us. Computer communication also allows us to organize consultative aid to patients."

Addressing the Moscow meeting of American and Soviet psychoneuro-endocrinologists, Dr. Kenneth R. Pelletier, of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, said: "The question now is how to use the money at our disposal most

effectively to provide high-quality medical care to people who need it. One thing we can do is to implement a preventive health-care program and to educate the public about self-regulation as a means toward a healthy lifestyle. Modern psychiatric endocrinology is the theoretical basis of our research. That's why we've come to this symposium. We are familiar with the work of our Soviet counterparts. Many concepts that are being worked

improvement of our programs."

Dr. Belkin added, "Although technically we lag behind our American colleagues, our methodologies and theoretical concepts are of great interest to them. Our clinical and theoretical studies in psychoneuroendocrinology are rigorous enough to meet foreign standards."

out in Moscow are important for the

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USA

he USSR Psychoneuroendocrinology Center of the Moscow Psychiatric Research Institute was set up under the direction of Dr. Aron Belkin just over a year ago. The center offers patients a new type of medical assistance. Its basic principle is the stimulation of the reserves of the human psyche and the development of the wonderful gift that only human beings possess—the ability to carry out purposeful self-regulation. Besides traditional methods of medical treatment, the center makes extensive use of nontraditional ones. These include yoga, the clinic's own relaxation technique, and wu shu, or Chinese martial arts.

Forty students from a nearby school have become the center's first patients. The students range in age from 12 to 14 years. They have come to the center to be cured of a wide variety of ailments. Many of these young people complained of frequent colds or were doing badly in school because their memory and concentration were poor; others suffered from enuresis or facial tics.

Galina Ivanova is the center's research associate. Ivanova explained to me the methods that she has used in the treatment of the group of adolescents that she works with: "Besides using medication to treat various diseases, we have set ourselves another goal-to teach the kids the basics of self-relaxation. We play exercise games and analyze conflict situations that arise within the family and among peers. The kids themselves work on their own psyche. They work very hard, and, I must say, they have done a good job. Regrettably, Moscow children and teenagers are often afflicted with neuroses. Many of them come from homes where affection is lacking or where normal family relations have broken down, and that gives rise to internal conflicts.

"But these problems are not incurable—our experience with the kids at the center has demonstrated that very clearly. We have achieved remarkable results in just a few months."



Natasha Klestova, 14: "I became physically stronger and healthier during therapy. My memory improved, and I started doing much better in school."

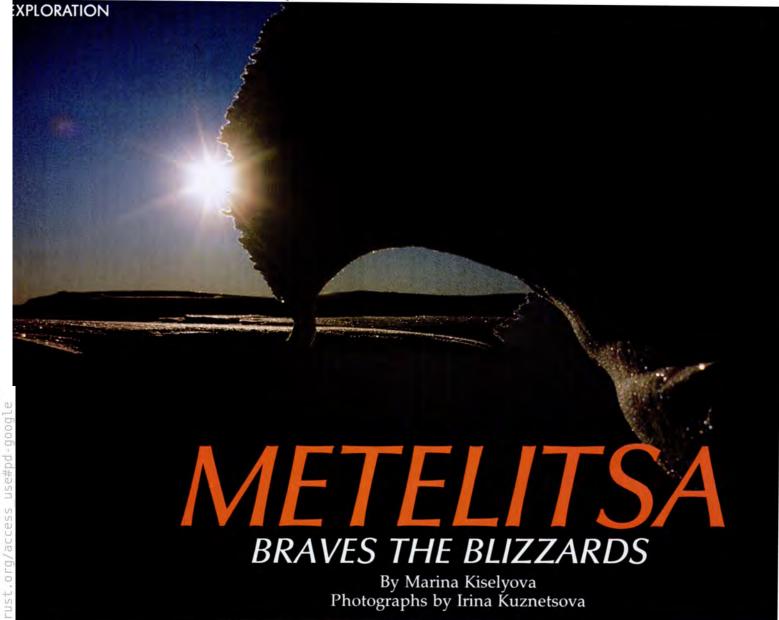


Olya Zubova, 13: "I saw the world differently when I began to pay attention to things I never noticed before. I became more aware of other people."



Kesearch associate Galina Ivanova leads a relaxation hour at Moscow School No. 1235. Ivanova uses a mix of traditional methods and the center's original techniques in her treatment.





n early 1989, 10 Soviet women successfully completed a ski trek of nearly 1,500 kilometers, from the Mirny Station on the Antarctic coast to the inland Vostok Station. The journey was the first stage of a much longer assault on the ice-covered continent that the Metelitsa (Blizzard) team of women athletes and researchers had been planning for many years. At the end of this year another Metelitsa expedition is to march from the Vostok Station to the American Amundsen-Scott Station near the South Pole.

"Once we start, we won't stop until we cross the finish line," declared Valentina Kuznetsova, the leader of this winter's expedition. When Kuznetsova made this remark, shortly before the group was to fly to the Antarctic, she wasn't bragging. The very beginning of such an adventure is a difficult and uncertain undertaking in itself. Not until the 3.5 tons of crates, boxes, backpacks, and skis had been loaded; not until

after many last-minute emergencies had been taken care of; not until all the farewells had been said and the heavy IL-76TD was airborne, leaving behind a raging Moscow snowstorm; not until then did the adventurers and those who came to see them off really believe that the expedition had truly begun.

The Antarctic journey had remained a dream for 10 years. Even after concrete plans had already been made for the expedition, the team wasn't ready to set off until after 10 months of preparation. The women of Metelitsa had to design, produce, and test reliable gear; to modify the radio transmitters and other instruments that they would use in frigid temperatures high in the mountains; to map out several routes; to draw up a detailed set of safety measures; and to develop programs of medical research.

In much of their preparation the members of Metelitsa did not have the advantage of drawing upon the experience of groups that had gone

An allwoman Antarctic expedition breaks new ground.

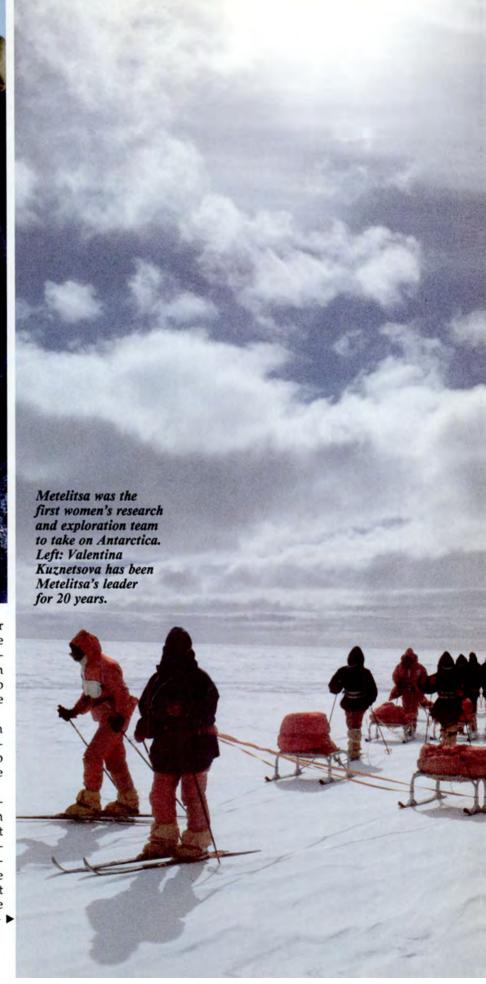
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before them. So far, neither the Soviet Union nor any other nation has had much experience in the organization of such missions. Metelitsa's undertaking was unique. The regions that the team was to traverse and the tasks the skiers were to accomplish had never been taken on by anyone

Last spring and summer seven new women joined the team, replacing several group veterans. This presented an additional challenge to the seasoned skiers, who had to keep a close eye on the newcomers.

In the months before the journey began, nobody but the women themselves could say when they would be ready to set out. Before they left Moscow, each of them wrote and signed the following pledge: "Leaving for the Antarctic expedition, I fully realize my responsibility for the business I have undertaken. I also realize that every possible measure has been taken to ensure my safety. Nothing prevents me from participat. >





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ing in this expedition." These words weren't intended to relieve anyone of responsibility for the outcome of the Antarctic experiment. I believe their only purpose was to give every participant a chance to ask herself one last time: yes or no?

How It All Began

Metelitsa was born in the spirit of competition. Twenty years ago several male students at a Moscow institute skied from Moscow to Leningrad in 6.5 days. After the students returned, some of the women in their class decided to try to beat the time the men had made.

The women trained for several months. No crowds gathered to see them off or to applaud them along the way. The team covered the 725-kilometer distance between Moscow and Leningrad in 7.5 days, losing to the men by 24 hours.

The group trained for two years for their next supermarathon, which covered 2,600 kilometers from Moscow to Tampere, Finland, to Tornio, Finland. Unexpectedly, the women found that they had broken the world's record for the longest ski trek ever accomplished.

By 1974 Metelitsa had become more than an athletic team. It was a group of researchers as well. Each of the team's 10 members conducted experiments under the auspices of the Institute of Medical and Biological Problems. In 1974 Metelitsa took on an extremely challenging route across the taiga to the Arctic Ocean. Tatyana Kuznetsova and Angelina Markova, both Candidates of Science (Medicine), carried out medical observations in the tundra. Kuznetsova and Markova were two of the former students who had thrown down the gauntlet to the men at the institute.

Below is an excerpt from Tatyana Kuznetsova's diary:

"The seventh day of our journey. A terrible snowstorm came up in the morning. The wind was so fierce that nothing kept the tent in position but our own weight and the weight of our packs. We used the spell of bad weather to do all kinds of things: We mended our footgear and dried our socks and ski boots in our sleeping bags with our body warmth. When we struck out, the storm abated, but visibility was nil. We traveled by the compass but could not tell land from sky. Today the sled broke down three times. It is very dangerous to stop in the wind because if we do, the frost paralyzes our hands immediately...."

In Franz Josef Land

The group's next mission was a trek in 1979 across the fjords between the individual islands of Franz Josef Land, an archipelago in the Arctic

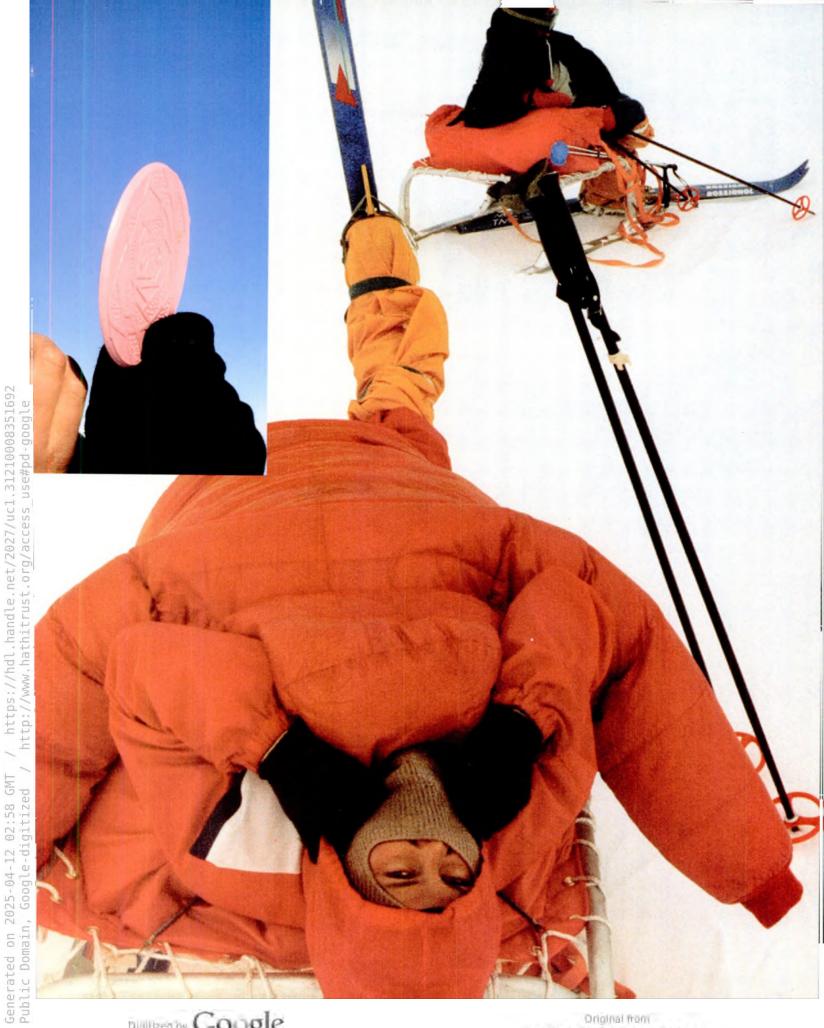




Throughout the jour 30 minutes of skiing alternated with three minutes of rest.
Above: Old habits an hard to break. Left: The thermos is a welcome companion.

Ocean. The expedition was the most difficult undertaking that Metelitsa had attempted so far.

The team made the trip at the time of year when the sun never sets in Franz Josef Land. The explorers could tell daytime from nighttime hours only by the temperature and the position of the sun. One day when the weather was bad, the expedition had to sit out the whole day, waiting for the sky to clear for a moment so the skiers could fix their position. They used the unexpected respite to conduct medical, biological,



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Left: A snow bath at 45 degrees below zero centigrade. Below: Antarctic seals are quite friendly.



and psychological tests. After the researchers were through with their work, they wrote in their diaries.

During that mission cardiologist Irina Solovyova was responsible for the scientific research. Solovyova's main hobby is parachute jumping—at this writing she has more than 1,700 jumps to her credit.

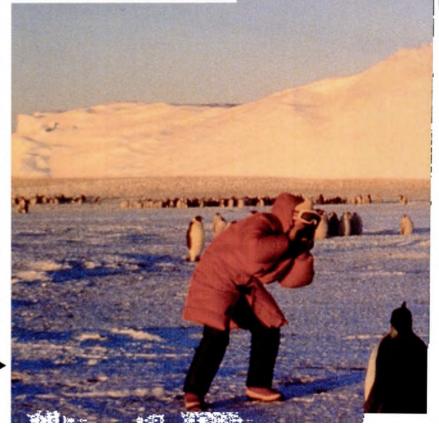
Members of the team went on the air briefly every other day. They had put the antenna in position under the supervision of radio operator Tatyana Reutova. Reutova is well known to radio operators on the polar islands of Rudolf, Sredniy, and Heiss.

The women could hope for no immediate outside help in case of emergency. "We were all terribly afraid of bears," recalls Valentina Kuznetsova. "We knew we had carbines and enough cartridges to tackle the whole population of polar bears—and yet, whenever we saw those skillet-sized footprints, we would stand there petrified for some minutes. When we encamped, we even had a lookout for bears at night. But in fact, even though bears are a real danger, we didn't have any problem with them. There are far more formidable dangers than bears-leads [cracks in the sea ice], for instance. After all, it's four kilometers to the bottom of the ocean where we trekked across the ice. When we came to a very wide lead, we often had to get across it in a boat. I remember one lead we had to cross that was some 40 meters wide.'

One day, after a polar station had picked up Metelitsa's transmission that the ice fields along the team's route were beginning to move, the station personnel suggested that they send a hel-



Emperor penguin fledglings are hatched near Mirny Station. Left: Cape pigeons nest on Haswell Island.





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icopter for the expedition. The women declined the offer, although the last 18 kilometers separating them from Heiss Island were the hardest. A thaw had set in, the skis had become swollen and incredibly heavy, and there were cracks and grooves everywhere.

When the skiers came through at last, the island population turned out in strength to meet them, firing rockets to congratulate the expedition. A fresh cucumber salad was waiting for them in the canteen—the residents of this tiny island in the Arctic Ocean had brought in their first greenhouse-grown harvest especially for the occasion. A large poster, signed by 75 people, proclaimed: "Dear Metelitsa, we love you!"

Metelitsa's Second Generation

Valentina Kuznetsova's daughter Irina made her first trips in a pack on her mother's back. Today she is 26 years old. She has traversed Franz Josef Land twice.

The impressions that the Arctic has left on her are vivid: "There is a sensation of endless vistas and absolute whiteness, the absence of smell and color. By way of compensation, there is a lot of light. The ice shows a wide range of extraordinary hues, from grays, pearly grays, and blues to an incredible shade of copper vitriol. The whole spectrum is there. And polar bears appear yellow, certainly not white. So whiteness is relative there, and it shows a great variety of tints."

There are three grandmothers on the Metelitsa team. They say that they will soon have to make room for their grandchildren, but the grandmothers are still active and energetic.

The Metelitsa members make their trips only when they are on vacation. The change of location gives all of them great pleasure. During these grueling marches, as one member put it, "We charge our batteries for the whole year. By testing ourselves and coming through, we gain a firmer faith in our own strength." Everyone agreed with this assessment.

As the years go by, the composition of the team changes, since few people can afford to remain fanatically devoted to exploration. But all of Metelitsa's former members are grateful for the chance to have been part of the team. "Metelitsa is a badge of honor you wear all your life," says Valentina Kuznetsova, who has led all of the group's expeditions to date.

The women of Metelitsa are now concentrating on their upcoming trek to the Amundsen-Scott Station. The group will send its strongest members on this expedition; many will be second-generation team members. The women of the team intend to dedicate the march to the thirtieth anniversary of the international Antarctic Treaty.

Short Pre-Start Questionnaire

1. Why did you join the team? Valentina Sharova, a journalist:

I wanted to test myself, to strengthen my character and will power. I also want to write a book.

2. What human qualities are most valuable during an expedition?

Irina Romenchenko, a surgeon:

Tact toward other members.

3. What do you think will ensure the success of your expedition?

Irina Kuznetsova, an economist:

First of all, good organization and logistical support. Second, the members' experience. Third, our physical condition. And finally, our willingness to push ourselves hard and our determination to succeed.



Crossing the finish line! Metelitsa reaches Vostok Station. Right: Irina Kuznetsova, who took the photographs for this article. Facing page: Members of the expedition.





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The Moscow Jewish Musical Theater performs at a concert in tribute to Solomon Mikhoels.

Mikhoels' daughter Natalya and granddaughter Victoria with critic Alexander Svobodin.

AT THE **JEWISH** CULTURAL CENTER

By Alla Nepomniashchaya Photographs by Alexander Makarov and Alexei Boitsov





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hen it was inaugurated in February 1989, the Solomon Mikhoels Cultural Center stirred broad public interest both within and beyond the borders of this country. The opening of the Moscow Jewish cultural center has been widely seen as a direct result of the new thinking and of the policy changes that are now in progress in the USSR.

The inauguration ceremony of the Mikhoels center was attended by leaders of the world's largest Jewish communities and organizations, such as Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Gerald Margolis, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Representatives from Israel journeyed to Moscow for the event, and the political leaders of many different countries sent messages of greeting and support.

Many speeches were made at the center's opening ceremony. Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, spoke of the changes that have been taking place in the USSR. He expressed the hope that Soviet Jews would play an increasingly important and constructive role in the modernization of the Soviet Union and that they would use their talents to support perestroika.

"I promise," he said, "that we, the Jews of the West, will also promote these efforts. We support the policy of President Gorbachev to democratize the Soviet Union because such change has vast importance not only for Jews but for all humanity."

The new public organization was established by the Moscow Jewish Musical Theater in cooperation with the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the World Jewish Congress. It is the first





The exhibit "The Courage to Remember" honors the millions of Jews killed by the Fascists. Top: Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress (left), at the opening of the center.

experience the Soviet Union has ever had in cooperating directly with Jewish communities. The organizers of the project are positive that the center is going to be a success. They hope that, rather than being a showcase or a tourist attraction, the center will be a major cultural nexus, bringing together the best in Jewish culture and making it available to the rest of the world.

One of the people behind the project is Mikhail Gluz, director of the Moscow Jewish Musical Theater. Gluz is confident that "no single culture can grow or exist in isolation, especially in such a multinational country as the Soviet Union. The process of mutual enrichment is inevitable and natural. Of course ethnic traditions should be preserved, but any alienation or estrangement should be avoided.'

Soviet Jewry has enriched world culture through the works of famous authors, musicians, and painters. One outstanding Soviet Jewish artist was Solomon Mikhoels, a great actor, stage director, theoretician of theater, and public figure. He looked like a Biblical prophet, and this effect was heightened by his great wisdom and the penetrating predictions he made of events that would come to pass in our country.

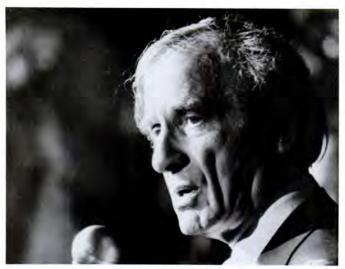
Mikhoels once described himself as having been born to be a teacher. And indeed he was as much a teacher as it is possible to be. In the most grueling of times he taught people the meaning of dignity, nobility, bravery, and kindness. His art rallied the Soviet people, and his speeches gave them courage. He used to be called "the king of the stage and the knight of Jewish culture."

Mikhoels died in what seems to have been a murder > instigated by the Ministry of State Security in 1948. Soon after that Stalin launched a "campaign against cosmopolitanism," which was aimed at Jews in particular. People were arrested in great numbers. Jewish culture in the Soviet Union was, in effect, decapitated, having lost some of its best representatives.

But now our country's Jewish culture has begun to revive at last. The Solomon Mikhoels Cultural Center is called upon to contribute to this process. The center will continue the cause of Mikhoels' life and carry through his ideas and plans.

The cultural center is housed in the Moscow Jewish Musical Theater, which recently marked its tenth anniversary. The lobby of the theater serves as a stage for short musical concerts and poetry recitals. Posters, photographs, and works by Soviet painters are on display in this area. When the stage and the hall are not being used for shows, they can accommodate scientific workshops, meetings with foreign guests, or lectures on the history of Jewish culture. Hebrew and Yiddish courses will begin soon. There is a public library at the Mikhoels center, where material on the history of the Jewish nation is available in Russian, English, and Hebrew. Planned additions include a photography studio and an audiovisual center.

A great deal of help in equipping the cultural center has come from foreign organizations, which have contributed books, records, films, and photographs. The Simon Wiesenthal Center has presented the Mikhoels center with the film *Genocide* and photographs that will perpetuate the memory of the millions of Jews slain by the Nazis. The Simon Wiesenthal Center also organized the ex-







Nobel Prize-winning writer Elie Wiesel (top) spoke at the opening ceremony of the Mikhoels center. Stage director Yuri Lyubimov (center) also attended the ceremony. Bottom: Intermission conversation.

position "The Courage to Remember," which is now showing at the Moscow Jewish Musical Theater. The exhibit also honors the Jews who were killed by the Fascists. Proceeds from the exhibition are donated to the Mikhoels center.

To commemorate the opening of the Mikhoels center, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the World Jewish Congress have published a brochure on the history of the project.

Negotiations are under way on an exchange of productions with foreign theaters and on joint social research with major research centers in the United States and Europe.

The center's international cultural programs will be assisted by members of an honorary board, which will include cultural figures from various countries. Invitations to the board have been accepted by stage director Yuri Lyubimov, singer Alla Pugacheva, film director and actor Rolan Bykov, and composer Ian Frenkel. Logistical problems and other issues will be dealt with by a working council made up of actors, authors, sociologists, and experts on Jewish history.

The Mikhoels center is a public organization, and it will eventually work on a self-financing basis. At this point, however, it is still being funded by the Moscow Jewish Musical Theater. Long-term plans include the establishment of a number of cooperatives in such areas as publishing, research, concert management, and education. Projected profits may help fund a number of artistic and educational programs. But then, such cooperatives will need modern equipment, and the organizers do not expect to be independent soon of the donations and assistance of the center's supporters.



What happens when the workers of a failing enterprise decide to go cooperative?

BANKRUPT YESTERDAY, BOOMING TODAY

By Nina Vaneyeva Photographs by Boris Babanov very tenth enterprise in the Soviet Union is operating at a loss. Needless to say, this situation is intolerable. The Law on State Enterprise, enacted early last year, addressed the issue in unequivocal terms: Bankrupt businesses are to be closed down.

But some bankrupt enterprises have been given a new lease on life. One of these is a building materials plant in the town of Zagorsk, 70 kilometers northeast of Moscow. The plant was liquidated in February 1988. I recently went to Zagorsk to see how things had changed since then.

After it was declared bankrupt, the plant was to have been closed down, but the workers offered to set up a cooperative instead. They leased the facilities and promised to pay the debts that the operation had amassed over the past few years.

Within a year the Beryozka cooperative, which produces parquet paneling and other building materials, was making 500,000 rubles in profits. Output soared 40 per cent and wages more than doubled.

The business employs most of the same people and uses the same facilities as it did under state ownership. It is even headed by the same person—Vyacheslav Moghiltsev, once the plant's manager and now the cooperative's chairman.

I showered Moghiltsev with questions. How do you explain the cooperative's success? Have its products gone up in price? What accounts for the higher productivity?

"Inflating the price of scarce goods is the easiest way to increase profits," said Moghiltsev."In fact, many co-ops have been doing just that. We haven't. We're a state cooperative."

What that means is that, in addition to the production facilities, Beryozka took over the state contract and is committed to fulfill it. Whatever falls under the state contract is sold at the old wholesale price. Anything that is produced beyond that can be sold at negotiable prices. For instance, parquet panels sell for 30 per cent more after the contract is fulfilled.

"The main thing is that now we can act independently. We've become the actual owners of the plant,"

Moghiltsev explained. "We used to be tangled up in all kinds of ridiculous rules and restrictions, some of them passed half a century ago. There was no way we could put many good ideas into practice—we just had to dump them! Now our hands are free, and we can do a lot more."

he cooperative's first step was to cut the work force by one-third (mostly people not directly engaged in production) to 200. Many workers chose to leave when they learned that they would have to work much harder now: The daily quota was increased, and irregular shifts lasting 8 to 12 hours were instituted, as well as a six-day workweek instead of the usual five. The reduced payroll alone saved 200,000 rubles last year.

Beryozka does what it can to produce as much as possible beyond the plan targets. In the past the Zagorsk plant, like most state enterprises, had no interest whatsoever in increasing its output. Whenever a business exceeded a plan quota, the target would be increased for the next year. Meanwhile, there was no guarantee that the new quota would be met and the workers would get their bonuses. The system operated on the principle of "punishable initiative."

People now compete for jobs at Beryozka because the earnings are high. A worker can make 20 rubles a day, provided he or she meets the quota. But only half of that amount is paid on a monthly basis; the other half comes at the end of the year from the cooperative's profits. The workers' average monthly wages skyrocketed from between 200 and 230 rubles in 1987 to between 550 and 600 in 1988. The new wage plan has raised productivity 70 per cent.

Production engineer Antonina Lezheinikova, 30, has been with the plant for six years. Lezheinikova speaks wryly about how things used to work in the old days: "We would take our 'scrap material'—which was a treasure, in fact—to the dump and leave it there. Today we make excellent five-layer parquetry and finishing tiles out of the same material. We could have done that before, but we

had a rigidly set wage scale, and there was no way we could pay the workers for all the intricate and painstaking steps involved.

"What do we do now? you may ask. Now our cooperative sets its own rates guided by profits and common sense. That's how the scrap has turned into income, and a good one at that.

"It isn't just the big money that we make at Beryozka that's so important. It's an interesting place to work now. We've had our taste of independence. And we've learned what responsibilmands that the government has no right to? It seems to me the trade union would have something to say about this," I said to Moghiltsev.

But the cooperative's chief denied running a sweatshop: "There's a lot of talk now about how farmers should be taught to be farmers again and should be encouraged to go back to the land. I believe that workers have to be retaught how to work."

Moghiltsev explains the plant's startling increase in daily output by one factor alone—tightened discipline. But nobody tells anybody how



Production engineer Antonina Lezheinikova: "It isn't just the big money we make that's so important."

ity is like. We make our own decisions, and we always make them quickly. My relations with the workers have changed too. Now they're interested in listening to advice or offering solutions of their own."

There's no doubt that Beryozka is a major success. But at what cost?

"You work six days a week and twelve hours a day instead of the usual eight hours a day for five days. Are cooperatives entitled to make deto work. The crews are interested in working quickly and efficiently. For the first few months the workers did spend about 12 hours a day in the shops, until they adapted to the new conditions. Now most of them are able to fulfill their daily quota in eight hours. Only beginners need to work longer than that.

Lyubov Kuriga, 32, who assembles parquet paneling, got her job at Beryozka only recently. She doesn't plan to stay there forever but is satisfied for the time being. "Finally my mother, my 14-year-old son, and I can live well," she said. "The alimony I've been getting from my ex-husband

Divilization Google

is not much at all, and I have my son to raise. There's good money to be made here, but the work's very tiring. I don't think I'll be able to stand it for too much longer unless something changes."

"Of course things will change," Moghiltsev assured me. "We're busy modernizing the business now to free up Saturdays and switch over to an eight-hour workday. We're winding up negotiations on a complete modernization plan with the Austrian-West German company Hellmark. State-of-the-art equipment will be in-

the cost of lunch at the dining hall is paid by the cooperative. All this is a large step up from the old days, when a worker had barely enough time to run to a nearby café for a quick bite to eat at lunchtime.

Moghiltsev's latest innovation raised a storm of controversy. Late last year the first job evaluation program was put into practice. A five-point scale was implemented to assess the workers' performance. Eighty-five members out of the 200 got A's. The lowest passing grade is D, which serves as a warning that the worker

dom of commerce, an efficient market mechanism, and strong incentives for the workers—these factors are extremely important for our economy. In the past most of the workers didn't care whether or not the plant generated any profits. Either way, subsidies from the government were guaranteed, just like the wages. Now it's in everyone's best interest for the cooperative's income to grow. The government cannot pay forever. People are finally beginning to understand that."

"Listening to you, I feel like joining your cooperative myself. But don't you have any problems?"

"Of course we have—a lot of them. The biggest of all is supplies: raw materials and technology. And prices too. There is a paradox in that we purchase raw materials at state-set prices to fulfill the state contract, but we have to pay twice as much for anything extra we produce. Raw materials are a seller's market. We have to raise our prices in order not to go out of business. And people say we're gouging them.

"At this point we're doing everything we can to have this issue dealt with at the state level."



Nikolai Ryabov heads Beryozka subsidiary Opyt, a consulting firm. Below right: Worker Anatoli Kuznetsov is chairman of the plant's trade union committee.

stalled, and we'll see a dramatic change immediately: Productivity will rise and workloads will drop. Give us two years at the most."

Antonina Lezheinikova, her husband, Anatoli, an engineer at Beryozka, and their daughter, Irina, live in a small apartment. But soon they will buy a two-story house, one of many that Beryozka is constructing for its personnel on the outskirts of Zagorsk. Houses cost 30,000 rubles each, but the members pay only 15,000 on the condition that they will stay with the cooperative until retirement. If they leave the plant, they are obligated to pay for the house in full.

Beryozka has addressed other social issues as well. For instance, it has built a grocery store so its members don't have to waste their time lining up for food at different stores. The cooperative has employed a physician, a dentist, and a dental technician. Beryozka runs a dining hall of its own with a highly paid chef (who is also a member). More than half of

will be handed his or her walking papers unless he or she improves by the next assessment date.

At the end of the year workers with evaluations of A receive shares worth 10 per cent of their yearly earnings, thus becoming in effect co-owners of the business.

There are a few "buts," though. Only Beryozka workers can be shareholders, and shares are not available for sale. They are given as rewards for good work. Shares can be converted into money only after retirement. If a worker quits, the shares are canceled. But dividends are paid every year, as long as the holder continues to work at the plant.

"Your cooperative will probably look like a model state capitalist enterprise to our readers," I remarked to Moghiltsev.

"Probably so," he replied. "But then it's state capitalism in a socialist state. That's what Lenin called it in 1921 when he campaigned for his NEP [New Economic Policy]. Free-





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THE BUCHAREST SUMMIT: FAR FROM ROUTINE

The Warsaw Treaty Organization's Political Consultative Committee met for two days in early July in Bucharest, Rumania. Valentin Falin, head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, talks with Novosti Press Agency correspondent Stanislav Polzikov about the meeting.

The Warsaw Treaty
Organization's Political
Consultative Committee
has now concluded its
meeting in Bucharest. What were the
highlights of the committee's deliberations? Was the meeting as routine
as the previous ones were?

A: To begin with, not all of the previous conferences of the Political Consultative Committee have been routine. It is enough to recall the Berlin conference, which adopted the Warsaw Treaty's military doctrine. This was a crucial event of long-term importance, which will go down in history as a contribution to the formation of a new situation in Europe.

What distinguished this last meeting was the ability of the member states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization to react to a new and rapidly changing situation. It was not only a discussion of contemporary issues but an attempt to find a response to the challenge of our times: What should Europe be like by the end of the twentieth century? What should the world be like? The Warsaw Treaty Organization's answer to these questions is clear and unequivocal. The world should be free from nuclear weapons and violence. It should be a world in which each and every people can make its own choice, both political and social; a world where each and every nation can realize its potential in accordance with its traditions.

In addition to considering the questions that are traditionally discussed at such meetings, the Political Consultative Committee devoted a

considerable amount of time to the question of how to renew socialism. In each country this process is different, with variations in pace and substance. But it is a universal process. The comparisons of opinions and experience, of sometimes opposing viewpoints, and of various difficulties represent a new and important phenomenon. The discussion of these aspects of the international situation—and countries' domestic situations have an impact on the international—was businesslike and practical.

The shift of emphasis within the Warsaw Treaty Organization from the military aspect to the political is an important step toward a violence-free Europe. It also sets an example to our partners in the West, since, as was quite rightly pointed out in Bucharest, a contradictory process is going on in the NATO countries.

Q: Was a consensus reached at the meeting?

A: There were varying opinions on the international situation and the domestic situation in certain countries. But as I see it, this is a good thing.

Q: Looking back over the first half of 1989, how would you sum it up, with reference to international events?

A: The year 1989 is connected with changes taking place in a number of countries. The United States has a new president and new administration, with four years ahead of them. It's quite likely that Bush will seek reelection. So, as far as the American factor is concerned—and this is important in international affairs—work is already under way, and there's enough time to get down to serious, solid work. Important things have been happening in Europe as well, primarily in relation to the implementation of the INF Treaty and the relevant missiles deployed in Europe.

Major events have occurred on the regional level. I mean the actual set-

tlement of some problems and specific steps toward the settlement of others. Soviet troops have left Afghanistan. Fighting has stopped between Iran and Iraq, and even though political settlement is making slow progress, a lean peace is better than a fat victory. There have been shifts in the Kampuchean knot of problems as well. Vietnam is opening up opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. However, as often happens, when one side makes concessions, the other side starts increasing its pressure and demands. Such a stance goes against the new approaches and is a manifestation of inertia. In Africa, especially in Angola and Namibia, the situation is not simple either. There have been contradictions and setbacks, but there has also been advancement toward settlement. In short, a beginning has been made.

I hope such important regions as Central and Latin America and the Middle East will not be excluded from this process.

We also see the danger of new types of weapons, including nuclear, spreading throughout the world. If we don't act now, the problem of the proliferation of nuclear weapons will be even more difficult to solve, and the task of the construction of a nuclear-free world still more complicated. A nuclear-free world is not an unrealistic goal. But it is unrealistic to think that it is possible to survive in a nuclear world.

If events develop according to the program formulated by the socialist countries, qualitative changes could be possible by late 1989 or early 1990. There is a solid basis for change, for instance, the Vienna talks. These have proceeded at a rapid rate and have so far been specific and substantive, unlike many other talks. So in the first half of 1989 a great deal of work has been done, although, in my opinion, quite a lot of time has been lost.







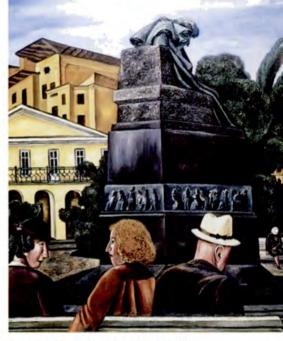
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS OF NATALYA NESTEROVA

By Sofia Susanina Reproductions by Victor Khomenko



he visual arts in the Soviet Union are experiencing a renaissance. The drive against the photographic realism and pomposity of the past 30 years has inspired artists in fields ranging from icon painting to abstractionism.

Not only previously "unofficial" artists have flourished in this atmosphere. In recent years established artists have also found that new creative horizons are opening up for them. Prominent Soviet painter Natalya Nesterova is a case in point. Nesterova cannot be categorized easily. Although she draws her inspiration from many sources, the real wellspring of her talent is primitive art. Specialists have noted in her work the influence of self-made artists Niko Pirosmanashvili of Georgia and Henri Rousseau of France, and her talent for



Above: Gogol's Mansion. 1979. Oil on canvas. Top: Building a House of Cards. 1988. Oil on canvas.

"not knowing how" combined with an inclination toward complex and original compositions.

In the 20-odd years that have passed since she graduated from the Surikov Institute of the USSR Academy of Arts, Nesterova has participated in at least 100 exhibitions, often coming up with an entirely different > manner of painting. Her works combine the simplicity of folk art, the lively lyricism of impressionism, and the expressiveness of the grotesque. They are enigmatic metaphors with two keys—one kept in the author's memory and the other in the viewer's imagination. The artist's sincerity, deep emotions, strong intellect, and, of course, sense of beauty are present in each of her paintings.

Landscapes feature prominently in

players are intense: Although it's only a game, they seem to feel under great pressure to win. They sit at a distance from one another, isolated not only physically but also emotionally, by their clashing interests.

A few years later Nesterova returned to the card motif in her picture Building a House of Cards. The work is a complex metaphor expressed through ostensibly primitive means. The picture is ironic, even caustic.

desire to see, to study, to understand, and to respond to what she has seen. She does not shrink into herself. She is interested in the emotions that other people experience. Her only self-portrait hangs in her Moscow apartment, which is crammed with books and works of art. She painted the portrait at the age of four and framed it as a momento, to remind her of the beginning of her career.

Nesterova does a great deal of trav-



Nesterova's early work. The Merry-Go-Round is as naive and cheerful as folk art. The merry-go-round and the people sitting quietly on its benches have a festive look. The clear sky, the cozy houses sitting on a gentle slope, and the tall cypresses that seem to be covered with satin all contribute to the holiday atmosphere. The characters are in perfect harmony with one another and with nature.

This serenity is something you can no longer see in *Fine*, painted 10 years later. In this picture people play cards at a table covered with a green cloth. Through the terrace window the viewer sees a garden and a rosy sky over the tops of still trees. The

Three young men with the faces of dummies build a fragile structure that looks likely to collapse at any minute, while toy soldiers run around at its base. Their toy collisions seem closer to the real essence of life than the construction that the three young men are so intent on.

Nesterova proceeds from simple to more complicated images, unveiling, along with the beauty of the natural world, the flaws in human nature and the absurdity, uninspiredness, and selfishness of many of our doings. Her pictures portray us as funny and imperfect creatures, who keep hoping and waiting for something better.

The artist is endowed with a keen

eling. Last year she visited Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United States (twice), where 25 of her paintings were exhibited in a New York art gallery.

After her American tour Nesterova painted a picture that might be considered emblematic of her work, or of any other true artist's, for that matter. Three figures lean against the railing of an observation deck. Before them, a panorama of skycrapers spreads out into the mist. From head to toe, the three are covered with wide-open eyes. But the beings are not aliens from another planet, as you might think—they are just *People Looking at the City*.

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Clockwise from bottom left: Birds on the Plums. 1988. The Gifts of the Magi. 1987. Birds. 1988. People Looking at the City. 1988. All of these paintings were done in oil on canvas.





Edgar Allan poe as we have seen him

By Igor Zakharov Engravings by Yuri Skovorodnikov





ussian readers got their first exposure to Edgar Allan Poe in the late 1840s. At that time Russians knew little of

Москва

Радуга

American literature: James Fenimore Cooper was known among the major writers and so was Washington Irving, although to a far lesser degree. While Russia had close literary ties with France (and most of the Russian reading public knew French), Russians' familiarity with the young literature of America was extremely limited. It is not surprising, therefore, that the first Russian translations of Poe (and some of the later ones as

well) were done from the French, not the English.

The first of Poe's writings to be published in Russia was the short story "The Gold Bug," which appeared in 1847 in the journal Novaya biblioteka dlya vospitaniya (New Library for Education). This made Russia the second country (after France) to have taken an interest in the American writer's work.

In 1852 the journal Moskvityanin (The Muscovite) published
an essay by the leading literary critic of the time, Apollon
Grigoriyev, who declared Poe
to be a "mystical writer" who
was too difficult for most
readers. After the publication in Russia of some of
Poe's later stories, the author was labeled "a man
with a morbid imagination" and "a bizarre writer

whose novellas feature more chemical shells than men and women."

It seems likely that for the Russians, Poe would never have been more than the author of a dozen intricately plotted stories, had the readers' attention not been drawn to his work by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. Publishing several stories by the American writer in his journal *Vremya (Time)* in 1861, Dostoyevsky wrote a short piece on Poe's novellas, which pointed out the inimitable imagination of the American writer's fantasy.

From the 1850s to the 1870s, Russian translators of Poe concentrated on his stories. Poe's poems were not translated into Russian at all until the late 1870s. His first poem to attract translators' attention was the famous

"The Raven" (first translated in 1878).

All of the earliest Russian translations of this classic poem attempted to squeeze it into the customary Russian poetic forms. But this changed dramatically in the late 1880s, with the development of a new literary movement—Russian symbolism. The symbolists saw Poe as their direct predecessor. It was during the period from the late 1880s to the 1910s, when Russian symbolism was at its peak, that Russian readers really came to know Poe's writing well.

The great symbolist poet Alexander Blok thought very highly of Poe's work. Blok saw in Poe "the mysterious renaissance of the New World." The Russian poet even went so far as to rank the American with Pushkin.

At the turn of the century Russia was inundated with a spate of new translations of Poe's work. The translations appeared in journals and separate editions, including a five-volume collection of poetry by Konstantin Balmont. This prompted the proliferation of a legion of articles on the life and work of the American writer, articles with titles like "The Poet of Mad-ness and Horror," "A Dark Genius," and "The American Hoffmann," to mention only a few. None of the critics writing at that time ventured a suggestion of doubt as to Poe's being a poet of genius. They all saw him as an outstanding lyrical poet of rare talent, and their opinions differed only in that some of them analyzed his work against the background of nineteenth century poetry alone, while others measured it against the whole of world poetry. The essays written about Poe during that period unanimously and passionately defended

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the man himself, insisting that a poet had a right to live a life of his own choosing and did not have to behave as Philistines thought he should.

Many of these critical pieces were marked by a charming ignorance of American life. According to one critic, for instance, Poe "found himself in the street with 12 sous in his pocket"; believe another, "The Raven" earned Poe 10 shillings; and still another said that the writer "had been admitted to 'a second-rate military school" (the famous West Point!).

Another major Russian poet besides Balmont who translated Poe was Valeri Bryusov. In the 1920s he was searching for new forms to express 'the new poetic content." Poe's po-

etry fascinated Bryusov.

In the 1930s and 1940s far fewer new translations of Poe appeared. During that period the American author was often seen as a rather interesting but antiquated poet who "forcefully expressed the mentality of decline and demoralization." Soviet criticism of his work was characterized chiefly by vulgar sociology during these years.

A detailed study of Poe's oeuvre began in the late 1950s and early 1960s, in the context of the development of American romanticism. This began a new and very fruitful period, when Poe's legacy attracted much critical attention. During the past 30 years many of Poe's stories have been published. A number of poetic anthologies, which do justice to his work, have also appeared.

None of these editions, however, is as complete as the 400-page bilingual collection of Poe's poetry that was recently released by Raduga Publishers. An extensive appendix contains the essay "Poe in Russia," which provided the information for this article. The compilers of the collection included as many translations of Poe's poems as they possibly could. As a result, there are six translations of "Ulalume," five of "Eldorado," and nine of "The Raven."

The book was released in an edition of 74,000 copies. Some of Yuri Skovorodnikov's engravings for the book appear on these pages.

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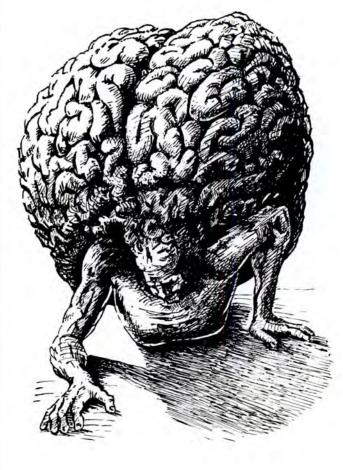




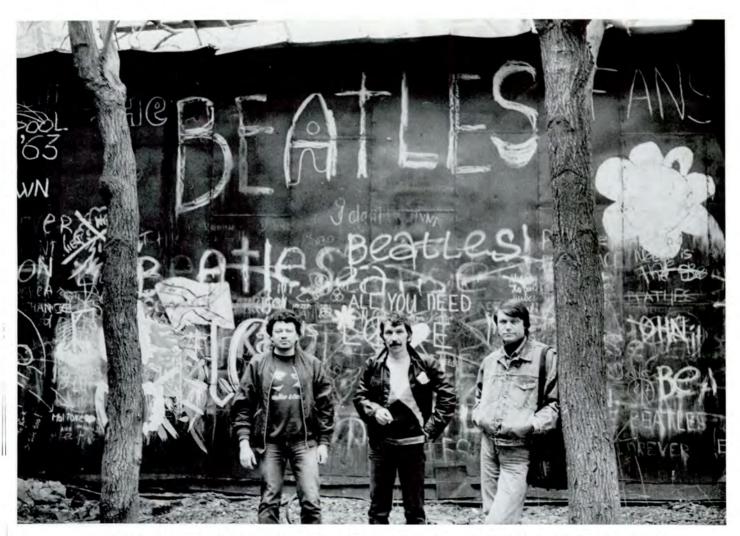
Mikhail Zlatkovsky

Moscow cartoonist Mikhail Zlatkovsky (that's his self-portrait above) says that his job is less to make people laugh out loud than it is to make them think. One can't call Zlatkovsky's cartoons funny, exactly-they are more satirical. And satire, as Zlatkovsky puts it, is "the only remedy to cure the diseases of society."









New Wave poets Alexei Parshchikov, Alexander Yeremenko, and Ivan Zhdanov (from left to right).

"THE LENGTH OF AN EMPTY LOOK"

By Igor Drobyshev

This past May three Soviet New Wave poets—Alexei Parshchikov, Alexander Yeremenko, and Ivan Zhdanov—visited the United States. Harbingers of a new philosophy and vision of the world, these men represent not only the new generation of Soviet poets but also the new times in the USSR. hen Alexei Parshchikov first met Alexander Yeremenko, Yeremenko was in his kitchen cooking chicken.

"What are you doing?"
Parshchikov asked him.

"I'm frying a fryer," was the reply. "Ever tried roasting a roaster?"

"Sure," Yeremenko said in a booming voice. "I also write the written from time to time."

This playful type of doubling game was quite popular among certain groups of artists in the days of inflated figures and indexes, the times now referred to as the "period of stagnation." No wonder the two

young men understood each other in a flash.

When Parshchikov spied the paper scroll depicting Yeremenko's conception of how the peoples of the world evolved, Parshchikov knew he'd met his soul mate.

Both Parshchikov and Yeremenko had studied at the M. Gorky Institute of Literature; only Parshchikov graduated in the normal five years—while Yeremenko required 15! Apparently the doubling (in this case tripling) game had become a way of life for him.

Since their first meeting the two poets have been almost inseparable—▶

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both in private and in public life. Critics even review their work as a unit. Critical stings never miss Parshchikov if Yeremenko is mentioned, and vice

As for me, I like their stuff. That's why I'm sitting in Yeremenko's kitchenette together with my reticent host—his face bearing its usual expression of slight ennui; cool and reasonable Parshchikov; and their friend Ivan Zhdanov. Zhdanov is also a poet, but somehow not of the same mold—probably because his poetic seeds were sown in a different soil. He studied at Moscow State University, and although he says he was expelled after a few years (how like a poet), he still clings to his academic background. Unlike the other two poets, who live in Moscow, Zhdanov hails from the town of Barnaul and only occasionally ventures into the capital to drop off his verses at an editorial board or to spend a couple of days with his friends.

Still, whatever their destinies, these three men represent the ultra avantgarde in Soviet poetry. They have been dubbed meta-metaphorists (doubling again?), polyphonists, meta-realists, and whatnot. But no matter what the label, they remain what they -"poets with an unconventional bent," to use Zhdanov's words.

Their verses are distinguished for their abundance of quaint and whimsical metaphors. In one poem Yeremenko puzzles the question of the "length of an empty look," which then bends itself in two and "bites its own tail"; Parshchikov paints an image with "a face of bamboo conventionality"; Zhdanov recommends that we "read the mountains from left to right"; and so on.

You might struggle in vain to plow through the piles of similes and metaphors, wiping your brow as if you were exerting physical as well as intellectual energy, yet there's something about the verses that won't let you go once you've read them. And you'll come back to them again and again, each time getting closer to the poet's message, encoded in intricate imagery.

"Too highbrow!" exasperated dilettantes may well exclaim. "These metaphors are really enough to make the poems absolutely incomprehensible!"

Advocates of avant-garde poetry reasonably object that all poetry—especially experimental poetry—must be decipherable. Kirill Kovaldzhi, a renowned poet, is a patron of the meta-metaphorists. He writes in the youth magazine Yunost (Youth), "The quest for new means of expression is like inventing a new instrument that hasn't yet been mastered."

I think he's right. A similar thing happens to painters as they try to transcend the boundaries of convention in the search for new techniques.

But poets cannot give up their traditional instrument—the word. Their only way lies in discovering new poetic forms. This is exactly what the meta-metaphorists are looking for.

In one poem Yeremenko puzzles the question of the "length of an empty look," which then bends itself in two and "bites its own tail"; Parshchikov paints an image with "a face of bamboo conventionality"; Zhdanov recommends that we "read the mountains from left to right."

Regrettably, critics tend to overlook (or are simply unwilling to discern) the most important element of the new poetry—that is, the desire to comprehend the ego, that tangled knot of human feelings and emotions. Metaphor serves as the poet's means of attaining this.

"When I was abroad," recollects Parshchikov, "I saw a poster of a man wearing an odd-looking hat that resembled the Russian letter signifying the English 'I,' or ego. If you looked at the poster from a certain angle, you got the impression that the hat was at a distance from the man and he was approaching it. Just like us poets. We're trying to reach this inner self."

The evolution of the new verse started in the late 1970s, when Kovaldzhi set up a studio for beginning poets. That studio became the spawning ground for new talent. That was also where the new thinking was

"Kirill did a lot of spadework trying to teach us poetry," Parshchikov says. "We had seminars where we analyzed each other's verses. The atmosphere was hot and the criticism ruthless. We were somewhat isolated from the mainstream and received no recognition from any of the "accepted poets." I remember when Yevgeni Yevtushenko slammed the door on our poetry with the words 'cheap crap.' Since then he has had a change of heart, though. Now he's suggesting we three publish a poetry album."

"That's not surprising! It's what you call a generation gap," Zhdanov adds. "It's the same in prose. Obviously, we owe a lot to the older generation of poets. But along with an attraction there is a repulsion. The poetry of the 1960s awakened a social awareness in thousands of people; the poetry of the 1980s is dominated by personal emotions. But despite the differences between the two generations, such highly regarded poets as Yevtushenko and Bela Akhmadulina support us. They seem to understand that we have our own value system."

Needless to say, recognition was not instantaneous. The literary underground was the first to accept the new verse writers as full-fledged poets: In 1985 Parshchikov was awarded the Andrei Bely Prize, which had been started by several unofficial literary magazines in Leningrad. Earlier this year Zhdanov received the prize as well. Yet the general public knew nothing about these poets. The appearance of meta-metaphorical poetry in Yunost in 1986 was a major breakthrough. Since then other literary journals have published the verses from time to time. Zhdanov and Parshchikov have had their books published in the Soviet Union and abroad, while a collection of Yeremenko's poems is to be published in Finland.

Yeremenko's verses have also appeared in the *Five Fingers Review* (San Francisco, California) and Parshchikov's in *Ironwood* (Tucson, Arizona) and the *Poetics Journal* (Berkeley, California).



ALEXANDER YEREMENKO

nave noticed whenever I drink, y booze-up always ends in safe landing. nave noticed the two of us standing, will stand a bit more on the brink.

ou can stretch up your soul like a rod the requiem of the wolf's howling. y mistake I've just hailed him: "Hey, how is it?" d he was in Heaven, thank God.

1, to cover Baikal with a pall, ifle poetry, stamp out its itchings!

He who died breathing gas in his kitchen over you hasn't read it at all.

You can fit a short string with a knot but it'll never be fitted, this stunning void, as long as a person cannot leave this country for 'day or two running.

You can tie a nice bow—on the star, you can publish all poems you've written. The wood mirrors the sky, shining far, and like water with blue the trees glitter.

IVAN ZHDANOV

In the Mare of Rain the Moon's crescent shines red, where it sank and its tips are still brushing the dead who've got neither a name nor homecoming. But the dead do not know they're forgotten by all, tiny fires through faraway villages stroll and at night in phone cables keep humming.

Doors are open, yet they should be bolted and locked, they don't know there are none to take care of the stock of the universe they have forsaken.

And the road by which they were taken away 'bove the earth has been hanging since then in light sway only moon-dust grew knee-deep and flaky.

It's not jealousy parting us, it is a moat, not impetuous feebleness in its dim coat but the somnolent speed of oblivion.

But the soul speaks again from obscurity's haze and the halo's becoming a crescent to blaze and revival's blind weeping is heaving.

ALEXEI PARSHCHIKOV

Singer sewn in the cube of a communal flat, like a dotted-line purse the Canary sat, a vest for a tea-loving soul!

Sharpening pyramid trills on its keel, cutting free, its beak's holding upright the paper bag of fire—hey, jump to me!

The lover of heaven and bridegroom,
the Canary and the man—
their stares meet as if passing through a front sight.

Hurling a sonic spear

they wait for it to return, charged with the charm to burn: whose realm there will be and when it comes here?

And if the man takes the guitar and just tries to sing, the birdy in laughter and anguish tears at the cage with white claws, making it ring.

what could a singing human be for it but a Cro-Magnon, though corn bringing . . . Tr.

Translations by Andrei Patrikeyev



FINAL RESPECTS FOR THE FALLEN

In 1942 bitter fighting took place in the village of Myasnoi Bor, and for years its wooded marshland was the resting place for thousands of soldiers who fell in battle. What started as one man's cause—an effort to bury the dead and notify the next of kin—has been taken up by groups of volunteers who spend their vacations in Myasnoi Bor. The story of their work appears in the September issue, which will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.



NO JOB FOR A WOMAN?

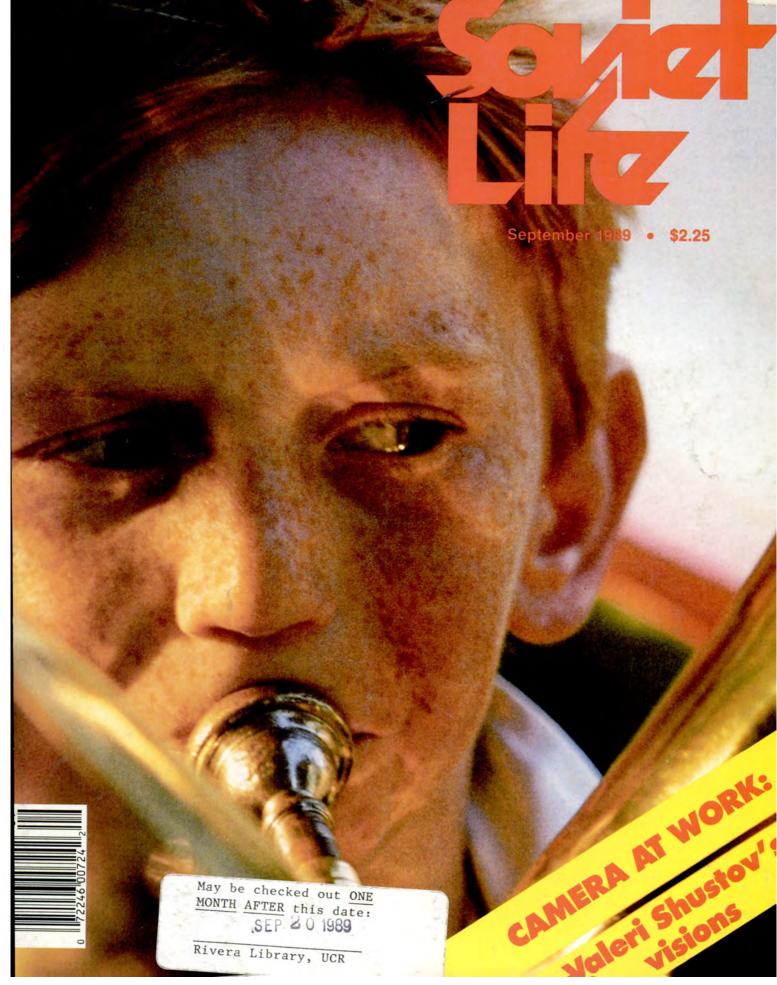
That's not what Senior Lieutenant Olga Dvoretskaya thinks about her job with the militia. But she doesn't rely on her sambo wrestling and sharpshooting skills in her assignment—working with problem teenagers. That takes a lot of patience.



Chukotka and Alaska— Good Neighbors



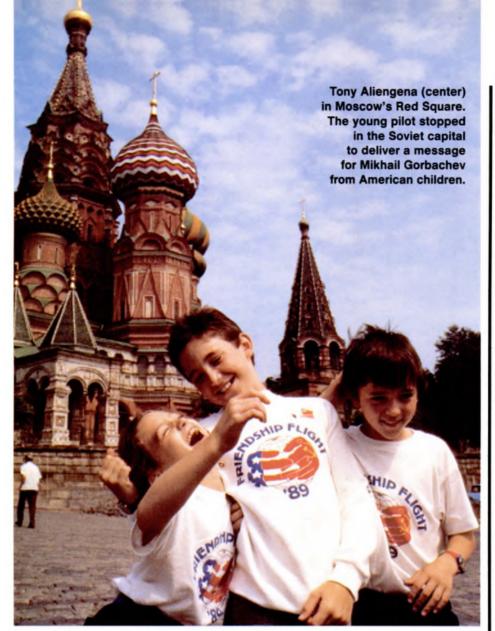
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SIBERIAN HUGS AND KISSES FOR TONY!

hero's welcome awaited young A Tony Aliengena when he landed his single-engine Cessna in Kemerovo, Siberia. The 11-year-old is the youngest pilot in the history of aviation. The Kemerovo stop was only one of several in the USSR on his around-the-world flight.

"It was sunny but windy at the airport," a reporter in Kemerovo wrote. "Tony's Cessna touched down on the runway, and the intense wait finally was over. Suddenly there he was, climbing out of the plane and raising his arms in a greeting to the Siberians who turned out to welcome him. Photographers, reporters, and other people rushed forward to meet the American kid and his crew. There were flowers, presents, and requests for autographs."

The welcoming party at the airport

was large and diverse. But the most excited person in the crowd was undoubtedly Nina Cheremnykh, whose 11-yearold grandson, Roman Cheremnykh, was a member of the flight crew. How did a Soviet boy end up on this American's mission? The proud grandmother explained: "It all began when Tony's father came to Moscow and announced the project. He met my son, an official at the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the USSR. Both dads got on very well, and Roman, who is a serious aviator himself, was included in the crew.'

Some people view Tony's flight as a symbol of what kids can do if given the opportunity. "It's time we parents realize that our children are capable of doing a lot more than we think they can, one reporter noted.

EDITOR'S NOTES

eafing through old issues of SO-■ VIET LIFE, I read, not without interest, an interview with a former trade union leader in which he explains why there were no strikes in the Soviet Union. "There is no use going on strike," he says. "If a conflict does arise between the workers and management, it is settled peacefully. The trade union guards the workers' interests and brings their demands to the attention of management, which accepts them without a murmur."

I don't blame that trade union leader. He said what he was supposed to say. At that time there were practically no strikes in the Soviet Union, and even if one had occurred, the press would have ignored it.

Naturally, the wave of miners' strikes that rolled across the USSR this past summer raised many eyebrows here and abroad. The Washington Post wrote that only a couple of years ago the Kremlin would have taken the workers' massive manifestations as an inadmissible affront to its authority. Well, there is much truth in that. Democratization continues in high gear, and ordinary citizens are becoming more and more political, which can be judged from the miners' strikes. What the miners were campaigning for was not soap powder and food but economic freedom.

One ABC reporter asked a group of striking miners if, in their opinion, the strike was a threat to perestroika. "Not at all," said one miner. "On the contrary, we are giving grassroots support to perestroika, while Gorbachev is directing it from above."

Of course strikes are not the best way to promote perestroika, since they inflict serious damage on our malfunctioning economy. However, sometimes nothing short of a strike can break through the bureaucratic wall, the chief obstacle on the road to change.

Future issues will focus on these events.

Robert Tsfasman



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Front Cover: Valeri Shustov's Strike Up the Band! More of the award-winning photographer's work appears on pp. 30-34.

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38 Karp Korzubov is the leader of an Old Believers community.



The Taganka Theater's 44 Yuri Lyubimov (left) and Nikolai Gubenko.



Specialists tackle the job of Specialists tackle the lost of re-creating the lost Amber Room.



Material for this issue courtesy of meet Decem foreste



POLITICAL REFORM

Anatoli Lukyanov, 59, was born in the city of Smolensk, the Russian Federation. He graduated from Moscow State University in 1953 and is a Doctor of Science (Law). He has been a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1955 and is a member of the Central Committee. Lukyanov is a People's Deputy of the USSR and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

On May 29, 1989, Lukyanov was elected First Vice President of the USSR Supreme Soviet at the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR.

In a recent interview with the Soviet news agency TASS, Lukyanov discussed the results of the first session of the newly formed Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The following are excerpts from that interview.

he work of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR cannot be assessed separately from the entire process of political reform under way in the country. The first session of the supreme legislative, directive, and control body is a component in the process, and a very important component at that. For some time the Supreme Soviet was the center of all social and political life in the country. Considering that, I think we have every reason to say that, on the whole, all expectations associated with the formation of a new Soviet parliament have been met.

True, not everything at the session went smoothly. Not all of the issues discussed there were of equal importance. Some of the initial plans have not been carried out. But at this point we shouldn't be too severe in evaluating the results of the session. The most important thing is that the new Supreme Soviet of the USSR is now a fact of life.

During the first session committees of the Supreme Soviet and standing commissions of its chambers were formed. The deputies reviewed the plan for the implementation of the assignments of the First Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR also formed such key state bodies as the Supreme Court and the Collegiums of the Procurator's Office and of the State Arbitration of the USSR.

A considerable part of the first session was devoted to the formation of the Council of Ministers. The deputies spent many hours interviewing candidates for particular ministerial posts. Candidates were required to outline their programs, and the Supreme Soviet selected the most-qualified executives to head industries and sectors.

The decisions passed by the session fall into several large categories: the economy and intensification of the economic reform; the implementation of social policy; acts aimed at reinforcing power at the local level, including the decisions on the convocation of pre-term sessions of local Soviets with reports by their executives; issues dealing with the consolidation of legality and, notably, with stepping up the fight against crime; the adoption of a series of acts in the sphere of international relations.

But the Supreme Soviet did not limit itself to these issues. One resolution that was adopted allows for a considerable increase in the purchase abroad of consumer goods and medicines. Another permits students to be relieved of their military obligation ahead of schedule. Other laws that were passed regulate various aspects of life in Soviet society. There are really too many to enumerate. I'd only like to emphasize that a procedure has been developed for the preliminary discussion, in principle, of practically every question on the agenda of the Supreme Soviet in the appropriate committee or commission.

Therefore, it seems to me that the Supreme Soviet committees and the standing commissions of its chambers are increasingly becoming laboratories of a sort, test sites of our parliament.

The most diverse groups and associations of deputies emerged during the first session of the Congress of People's Deputies, in its wake, and at the session of the Supreme Soviet. And this is certainly useful, enabling the deputies to arrive at the truth through debate.

The Interregional Group, which was first referred to as the Moscow Group in the initial days of the session of the congress, also emerged. This group declared that its mission was to elaborate alternative resolutions, documents, and bills. And, of course, who can argue with that? At the congress and during the parliamentary session the deputies advanced scores of alternative proposals on a broad range of issues.

If the Interregional Group works for the common good, and if it promotes the idea of consolidating society rather than splitting it up, its efforts will be welcome.

I consider different views, opinions, and positions normal and natural. The way toward consolidation is to promote dialogue rather than to suppress it—but it should be a dialogue without tensions, suspicion, and splitting into factions.

The parliamentary recess will soon be over, and on September 18 all deputies will be back in Moscow. The second session will be considering a draft plan and budget for 1990, as part of the effort to halt the negative tendencies in economic development and to promote financial recovery. It's a formidable task, but it's not the only issue. When the first session recessed, the deputies took with them a bulky package of documents, including draft legislation on property, land, land tenure, lease holding, socialist enterprise, product quality, inventions, and so on.

On the whole, I am strongly convinced that the new stage in parliamentary activity will be more fruitful than the last because we won't have to start from scratch. The foundation has been laid. Now it's time to build on it.



ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Leonid Abalkin, 58, graduated from the Institute of the Economy of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1952. In 1987, he became an academician.

Academician Abalkin, now the director of the Institute of the Economy, is one of the architects of Soviet economic restructuring. In June the Supreme Soviet appointed him deputy to Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. In this capacity Dr. Abalkin will head the government commission on economic reform. He is the first Soviet scientist ever to have been appointed to this post.

The question of economic reform in the Soviet Union is an urgent one. Academician Abalkin talks about this and other issues in an interview with correspondents Gennadi Khodakov and Pyotr Mikhailov.

Where is Soviet society heading? Is it departing from socialism or coming closer to it?

A: These questions have frequently come up recently not only abroad but also in the Soviet Union. I think that we in this country are resolving our problems in such a way as to make for more socialism. But this raises another question: What kind of socialism? Many negative phenomena typical of the past—disproportions in the economy, underdeveloped services, an administrative structure suffering from inertia, red tape, and corruption—have not been overcome. However, none of these things are intrinsic features of socialism.

But there are people in the Soviet Union who believe that *perestroika* is canceling the gains that we have made since the October 1917 Revolution and in our 70 years of building socialism. I don't agree. By its ultimate goal, by an effort to encourage initiative on the part of the masses and its reliance on their active part in

reforms, perestroika is the continuation of the October Revolution.

A common misconception is that we are going to renounce planning, the main principle of socialist economic development. This is by no means true. Today we continue to speak about planning and consolidating its role, but we no longer identify it with tough bureaucratic rule.

Q: Who is against perestroika?

A: I don't believe there are any overt opponents of *perestroika* in this country. Everyone wants more socialism. But different people have different ideas about the essence of socialism. Some see socialism in the command system of economic administration, in egalitarian distribution, and in tough control over the media.

The established administrative bureaucracy is one of the most serious forces resisting reform. This can be explained not so much by personal features as by sluggish structures and the preservation of traditional functions. The structure of the bureaucracy is capable of doing away with any attitudes if its functions remain unchanged.

Resistance to perestroika "from below" is also very serious. Why? People have become accustomed to working at a pace that isn't too demanding. But they aren't too demanding either. They simply want to have enough of the basic necessities.

Resistance is also coming from some ideological workers, including teachers of the social sciences.

We are in for a difficult struggle, but I'm not pessimistic.

Q: What do we want to accomplish through *perestroika*?

A: The Soviet Union is working on a combined model of a mixed socialist economy, in which a variety of approaches are to be used.

But the new model cannot be created overnight. It calls for a period of transition while the new elements are combined with old structures and some elements of the old system of administration. This transitional period will probably last until the mid-1990s. But first we must drastically reorganize the economic mechanism, including the organization of planning, economic management, financial levers, the banking system, and the price-formation mechanism.

Q: Can we use the established economic mechanism?

A: No. Just as a suit made for a child will be too small for an adult, the contemporary Soviet economy will feel uncomfortable squeezed into the framework of the economic mechanism that took shape in the thirties.

The beginning of the management reform is linked with a change in the working conditions at the grassroots level—the enterprises. This is a point of departure for *perestroika*. But the management bodies aren't ready to give up traditional administrative methods of running enterprises. Not all enterprises are ready to work in a new way: a result of decades of apathy and a lack of initiative.

Q: You stress the importance of independence for enterprises. But aren't independence and centralism mutually exclusive?

A: Only within the context of a tough administrative system. In the new system the center is supposed to carry out only the strategic functions of economic management. These include defining social priorities and ensuring a balanced economy through prices, interest rates, tariffs, and other economic levers. The center will deal with economic development as a whole. The scope of its activity will inevitably be reduced, while administrative methods will be replaced by flexible economic regulation.

For enterprises, the reform means a transition to complete cost accounting, self-financing, and self-investment. I hope that in two or three years we will achieve complete cost accounting without reservations or limitations.

When this happens, the principle of

Continued on page 37



FINAL TRIBUTE To The Soldiers

Text and Photographs by Alexei Varfolomeyev

Begun many years ago as the project to bury the soldiers who fell on the has grown into an numbers of volunteers.

one man's dedicated work, battlefield at Myasnoi Bor expedition involving large

Army, under the command of General A. A. Vlasov of unhappy memory, had fought the advancing nazi troops and had allegedly surrendered to the enemy. No, that's not correct. We are going to pay our final respects to the soldiers who, unlike their commander, did not surrender voluntarily when they found themselves encircled. Most of the soldiers lie where they had fallen in that decisive battle-and they still lie there to this day. Once in a while they are mentioned, but despicably as the "Vlasov men." Yet, according to Suvorov, the men are still fighting.

Our first stop will be Spasskaya Polist Station, where we are to meet a train bringing about 300 young people from Yaroslavl, Kazan, Naberezhniye Chelny, and cities in Bashkiria and Kazakhstan via Moscow. Alexander isn't sure exactly how many volunteers will be coming because membership in the officially unregistered groups is growing all the time. Only the living can defend the dead.

Our cycle speeds solitarily along the highway. It doesn't seem to scare the elks that stand like statues here and there in the rising mist. As the first rays of sun filter across the earth, outlines of the usually undetectable protuberances that had once been trenches, machine-gun emplacements, and dugouts come into view. The morning mist still hangs over the lowland, but there, too, shell holes glisten with melting snow. Somewhere to the right of us lies the Volkhov River, which gave its name to one of the fronts fought in the northwestern part of Russia. To the left are the railroad tracks and, beyond them, a low forest overgrown with moss and small streams hidden in thick grass. And all around are swamps.

We reach Myasnoi Bor, a small village several centuries old. Without looking at the odometer, Alexander says we're 30 kilometers from Novgorod. Alexander is the youngest of five brothers. He was born here in Myasnoi Bor after the war.

His eldest brother, Yevgeni, fought in the war and was killed in 1943 at the age of 18. Another brother, Nikolai, was a trackman on the railroad. Almost every day he'd go into the forest beyond the tracks. In the lean postwar years, the forest with its berries and mushrooms was a source of sustenance for the local population. Moreover, the former battle sites contained a variety of useful thingsaxes, saws, shovels, and spare parts for all kinds of machinery. The people could even have salvaged Studebakers, if only they could be repaired. Katyushas, the multirail rocket projectors, had been mounted on those American vehicles. To keep them from falling into enemy hands, the katyushas had been blown up during the breakthrough. The metal carcasses still remain, some with trees growing right through them.

Every time Nikolai returned from the forest, he brought with him a handful of soldiers' identity tags,

ntil those who have fallen on the field of battle have been paid their final respects, until their lifeless bodies have been retrieved from the battlefield and given proper burial, we cannot consider the battle over. These words were once said by Generalissimo Alexander Suvorov, the Russian military leader of the eighteenth century.

With respect to the number of victims, the wars of Suvorov's day cannot be compared to the two world wars of the present century. Let's say that World War I (1914-1918) is over for humanity, as its echo grows fainter and fainter with time. But the same cannot be said about World War II (1939-1945), which gleaned almost half of its macabre harvest in the Soviet Union. The victims of that war, the widows, children, and families, are still alive and mourn their losses. They still bear the disturbing memory of their dear loved ones who left home one day and never returned.

I'm already 10 years older than my father was when he was killed in action at age 40. But to this day I don't know where he died or where he is buried, and I probably never will.

raveling by train from Leningrad, I arrive in Novgorod around midnight. By dawn I'm already on my way again, heading practically in the opposite direction, this time on a motorcycle. Alexander Orlov, a Novgorod journalist, makes room for me behind him on the cycle. The sidecar is filled to overflowing with a tent, a week's supply of foodstuffs, hiking boots, topographical maps, various tools, and a megaphone.

Another expedition to one of the "blank spots" of the past war is on. As we speed along the highway, we seem to be racing into the year 1942, to the area where the 2nd Shock



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Dedicated students and workers from across the country spend their vacation working in Myasnoi Bor. Left: Yevgeni Burnashev is one of a group of volunteers who came from the Kama Truck Plant.

metal or plastic capsules that bore the name and place of birth of the soldier who had worn them. Later Nikolai would sit down at the kitchen table, carefully remove the strips of paper from the capsules, and write letters to the addresses.

As time passed, the other three Orlov boys-Valeri, Yuri, and Alexander-followed their brother into the forest. Then misfortune struck: Valeri was killed when he stepped on an antitank mine, and Yuri died some time later of injuries sustained from an exploding grenade. Only Nikolai and Alexander were left to continue their forays. The age gap between the brothers was 20 years.

"The ground was white with bones," says Alexander, recalling his first trek into the forest. "That time we found the remains of a German soldier among the hundreds of our dead. It must have been impossible for the Germans to retrieve him,' my brother told me. 'They never left their dead behind.' I didn't believe him then, but I came to realize that what he said was true. For all the years I've been going to Myasnoi Bor, I've only come across the remains of a few dozen Germans, but our men . . . "

Nikolai Orlov is also gone now. Though he had stepped on a mine twice, he died in 1980 of asthma, which he had contracted by his frequent trips to the battle site.

Sergei Smirnov, a well-known Soviet writer, shared Nikolai's view about giving a decent burial to those who sacrificed their lives for their country on the fields of Myasnoi Bor, and he tried to arouse public support / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31210008351692 http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-google Generated on 2025-04-12 03:03 GMT Public Domain, Google-digitized /

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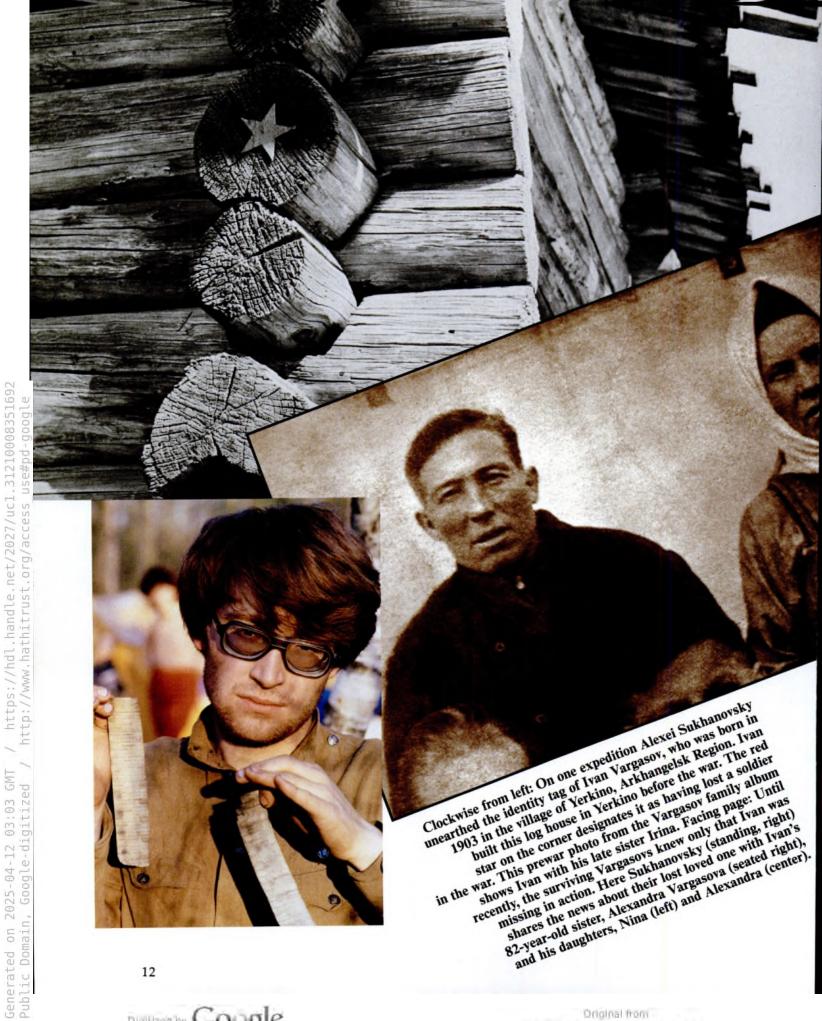
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This 1960 photograph from the Orlov family archives shows Nikolai Orlov (right) with a member of the Sokol Club examining an identity tag. Nikolai was the first to start looking for the remains of the soldiers who perished in Myasnoi Bor. When Nikolai died in 1980, the club, which he had set up, continued his work. Above left: Alexander Orlov is now the chief coordinator of the Myasnoi Bor expeditions. Left: An identity tag. Inside the metal capsule is a strip of paper with the soldier's name and place of birth. With this data volunteers try to locate surviving relatives. Facing page: Yevgeni Zykov, 18, a student at Kazan State University, has spent the past four summers in Myasnoi Bor.

11



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for the cause. In 1969, Leningrad film makers produced a documentary based on a screenplay by Smirnov. Entitled Commandant of the Valley of Death—Smirnov's name for Nikolai Orlov—the film told the bitter truth about the soldiers who had been forsaken on the battlefield. However, the film never made it to the screen.

Nikolai continued to pick up hundreds of identity tags on his own and to inform relatives about their war dead. On his initiative, the remains of thousands of Red Army soldiers were buried.

Alexander and I pass three common graves ("brotherhood graves" as they are called in the USSR) along the highway as we near our destination. One grave was dug during the war, before the encirclement, and the fallen soldiers were buried by their comrades in arms. The second grave is the final resting place for 6,000 soldiers who were buried by an army unit in the fifties. The third grave was Nikolai's project. His cause has been taken up by students from the Sokol Club, which Nikolai set up in Novgorod, and by other concerned people from all parts of the country. Since 1981 groups of students from Kazan State University on the Volga River have been coming to the Valley of Death during school breaks. Also, workers from the Kama Truck Plant in Naberezhniye Chelny, Volga Region, form a large contingent of volunteers who spend their summer vacation working with the Myasnoi Bor expedition.

Since his brother's death, Alexander has been leading the expedition. No one knows the area better than he does. But even he says he doesn't know when the work will be done: It's an enormous undertaking requiring a large number of volunteers.

hat actually happened on the approaches to Myasnoi Bor in June 1942? The military offensive that was to break the blockade of Leningrad has gone down in history as the Lyuban Operation. Launched in January 1942, the offensive was expected to yield positive results before the spring thaw.

The breach between Myasnoi Bor

and Spasskaya Polist—the left and right flanks of the advancing armymeasured 11 kilometers. The units of the 2nd Shock Army and other formations advanced through the breach made by the troops of the Volkhov

But, deep snow, the absence of roads, and the inordinately stretched communications cut off the supply of ammunition lines, food, and fodder (the cavalry also took part in the offensive). Without artillery and air support, without second echelons and reserves, the advance of the troops, which were wedged in so deeply, was bound to founder. And that's exactly what happened. Meanwhile, the enemy continued to deal the Soviet troops heavy blows along the Myasnoi-Spasskaya Polist line in its drive to surround the advancing troops and cut them off. Bloody battles were waged in this sector of the front. The embattled units were exhausted and losing men fast, and they were forced to re-form. More than 20 years later, Marshal Kirill Meretskov (1897-1968), commander of the Volkhov Front of which the 2nd Shock Army under Vlasov was a part, wrote the following in his memoirs: "Recording of the wounded and dead was carried out in slipshod fashion. The army wasn't even aware of approximate losses." But Stalin demanded that the operation should succeed.

In June the Soviet troops had to break out of the encirclement. By then the breach had been drastically reduced to a narrow corridor measuring a mere 300 to 400 meters wide that was completely exposed to crossfire.

On the morning of June 24 the 2nd Shock Army command gave the order to break out of the encirclement in small groups. On June 25 at 9:30 A.M. the breach was closed for good.

Meretskov later described the last day at Myasnoi Bor in the following way:

... The attack was to begin at 23:00 hours on June 23. The commanders of the formations of the 2nd Shock Army had been informed in advance that the offensive should succeed at any cost. All gunners, vehicle drivers, and other specialists joined the ranks of the artillery formations.... The troops of the 2nd Shock Army went into motion at 23:30 hours...

The artillery of the 59th and 52nd armies brought down their fire on the enemy who answered with a barrage of fire.... Enemy night bombers appeared in the sky.

Communication with the 2nd Shock Army broke off and was never restored. The subunits of the divisions and brigades moved toward the exit disjointedly, leaving the flanks without cover. Some of the soldiers were very weak as a result of the uninterrupted fighting and lack of food. Some men lay semiconscious on the ground....

On the morning of June 25 the officers who had broken through the encirclement reported that they had seen General Vlasov near the exit to the trap. As prisoner of war Vlasov later organized-mainly from among fellow POWs-the so-called Russian Liberation Army, which fought on the side of the Nazis, the shadow of his betrayal for many decades fell undeservedly on those who gave their lives for their country.

talk with several veterans who have firsthand knowledge of the events at Myasnoi Bor. They give their accounts of what took place.

Khusain Khasanov, born in 1923 in Naberezhniye Chelny, a private in the 2nd Shock Army: "When I broke through the encirclement, all I saw were tree trunks and bushes without bark—it had all been eaten. I was of slight build and didn't need much nourishment; even so, I, too, ate grass. Some of the men even dug for worms. I'm surprised I lived through it all, considering that I was wounded in May."

Ivan Belikov, born in 1913 in Novoalexandrovsk, Stavropol Territory, a platoon commander in the 59th Army: "We were protecting the flank of the attacking 2nd Shock Army, at the exit near Spasskaya Polist. On May 1 we began a thrust to break through the blockade around our troops. By May 10,58 men were all that remained of our regiment."

Gennadi Gerodnik, born in 1913 in Valga, Estonia, a master sergeant in the 172nd Detached Ski Battalion: ▶





Gennadi Gerodnik is a veteran of Myasnoi Bor. He is now a writer and has written a book about the events that took place there. He often comes back to the battlefield where he was wounded and where he lost so many of his friends. Left: This past May 9, Victory Day, the remains of 3,720 **Red Army soldiers** found in Myasnoi Bor were solemnly buried.

"Vlasov didn't surrender an army. That's been my view for many years."

In the spring of 1942 Gerodnik was wounded and evacuated from the front lines. He worked as an interpreter with the 2nd Shock Army. Today he is a writer. His book My Wartime Ski Trek describes the events on the Volkhov Front.

Nikolai Putin, born in 1918 in Onokhoi village, Buryatiya, a private in the 13th Cavalry Corps: "In January 1942 our corps entered the breach at Myasnoi Bor. I didn't return because I was taken prisoner. First I was put in a camp for Soviet prisoners of war on our territory; later we were taken to Germany and France. I worked in a mine. When the second front was opened in Europe, I managed to escape and reach the Americans. I continued to fight within their ranks. Here's the document I was given testifying to that fact."

Putin shows me a small piece of paper yellowed with time. The text is typed in English. Addressed to American and Allied soldiers and MPs, the note certifies that "Nikolai Putin, a Russian refugee, is a friend and temporary member" of Company D. It is dated April 11, 1945, and it is signed by a M.O. Sorensen, Captain, U.S. Army.

The name of military leader Kirill Meretskov does not figure in the chronicles of the opening days of the war. Why?

On June 24, 1941, Meretskov was arrested and charged with participating in a "military plot." Besides Meretskov, other "plotters" included the People's Commissar of Armaments, the aide of the Chief of the General Staff, Chief of the Air Defense Department, and other army leaders. False testimony was obtained by force. Twenty-five men were shot. "Meretskov was beaten until he bled." (This information was obtained after Stalin's death at the executioner's trial.)

All that was happening while starvation was raging in blockaded Leningrad and the enemy was already on the approaches to Moscow.

Having miraculously survived, Meretskov found himself transported from Stalin's dungeons straight to

Stalin's office in the Kremlin. Meretskov writes in his memoirs:

Stalin took a few steps toward me and said: "How do you do, Comrade Meretskov. How are you feeling now?"

"How do you do, Comrade Stalin. I'm feeling quite well. Please explain my combat mission."

Stalin lit his pipe leisurely....

Meretskov got his assignment—to the northwest. The contents of Stalin's note to Meretskov, dated December 29, 1941, sheds an ominous light on what was to come. The note reads:

I would not like the offensive on the Volkhov Front to turn into separate skirmishes; it should be a concerted and powerful blow against the enemy. I have no doubt that you will try to turn the offensive into precisely such a concerted and powerful blow....

How could Meretskov disobey? It could well be that that note precipitated the poorly prepared offensive on the Volkhov Front.

ollowing the expedition to Myasnoi Bor with Alexander Orlov, I leave for Arkhangelsk Region with Alexei Sukhanovsky, age 22. We are carrying with us the identity tags of three soldiers who had died in Myasnoi Bor. The three men had come from Arkhangelsk Region: Roman Porokhin, born in 1904 in the village of Sultsa; Ivan Vargasov, born in 1903 in the village of Yerkino; and Mikhail Stukov, born in 1916 in the village of Svistunovka.

The villages of Yerkino and Sultsa stand on the bank of the Pinega River, wide and clean in this area and abounding in fish.

Talent is said to possess the gift of prophecy. Writer Fyodor Abramov, who was born in these parts, wrote about Myasnoi Bor a long time ago:

... These soldiers did not betray their country. Bleeding to death, the disunited detachments of the army fought to their last breath and their last cartridge. They were not just one or a hundred; they comprised thousands of the country's sons. The 2nd Shock Army did its duty honorably, and the death of its men brought nearer the victory in the battle for Leningrad.

We find Roman Porokhin's daughter still living in Sultsa. We tell her about Myasnoi Bor and where her father is buried. Yerkino is about twice the size of Sultsa and has a population of 700. Only 12 soldiers returned to their homes after the war; 85 of the local sons fell on the battlefield. The Vargasovs had been a hard-working family who had enjoyed the respect of their fellow villagers. However, no one in the village bears that surname any more. Ivan Vargasov had no brothers or sons, and only women were left to carry on the family tradition. Ivan's younger sister, Alexandra, is now 82 years old, and his two daughters still live in the village. The elder daughter, Nina, is a baker. She is married to an accountant, and they have eight children and 14 grandchildren. The younger daughter, Alexandra, is a salesclerk, and her husband is a driver. They have five children and four grandchildren. Ivan Vargasov's house still stands facing out on the Pinega. It is now occupied by one of his grandsons.

Locating the relatives of Mikhail Stukov turns out to be more difficult. Mikhail was born in the village of Svistunovka, but he moved to Arkhangelsk before the war broke out. His identity tag has both addresses. We find none of Mikhail's relatives in the village and, in Arkhangelsk, the house where he had lived before going to war no longer stands. Alexei Sukhanovsky's public announcement about our search produces Mikhail's son—engineer Gherman Stukov, age 50. Gherman tells us that he has located his father's younger sister living in Leningrad, my home town.

Back in Leningrad, it takes us 20 minutes to get to Lydia Stukova-Belorukova's house. She is married to a native Leningrader. Lydia tells us that her elder brother fought outside Moscow and returned from the front without a leg. Her other brother, Izosim, died in Berlin on May 5, 1945. As for her third brother, Mikhail, she knows nothing about his fate.



Leafing through the prewar family album, Alexei and I find Mikhail's picture with the inscription, "From Mikhail and his young bride, Nyura." The date on the photo is 1939.

receive a letter from war veteran Ivan Belikov, who writes that he was so shaken by what he saw on the Valley '88 expedition to Myasnoi Bor that he wrote a letter to Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Belikov received a reply stating that his letter had been passed on to the USSR Minister of Defense, who would be taking all the necessary measures.

Volunteers on the Valley '88 expedition worked for two weeks in May and August of last year. They collected and buried the remains of 3,720 men and officers. They also found many combat orders and medals. The recipients can be traced through the serial numbers. Scores of notebooks, diaries, and other papers as well as hundreds of identity tags found in Myasnoi Bor have been turned over to experts for deciphering. Time is of the essence since much of the paper is crumbling.

The 10 days that Alexander Orlov spent researching at the Central Archives of the USSR Ministry of Defense in preparation for the Valley '89 expedition brought new information:

The losses of the 2nd Shock Army amounted to 49,437 men in June 1942 alone. By the end of that month approximately 60,000 letters lay unclaimed in the post office.

"We've got a lot of work ahead of us," Alexander Orlov tells me.

From the Editor: As this article was going to press, we learned that 2,000 volunteers from all over the country had already arrived in Myasnoi Bor for the Valley '89 expedition that began last May. This year the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, the USSR Ministry of Defense, the USSR Council of War and Labor Veterans, and the Leningrad Military District are taking part in the work. Everything that the previous expeditions had lacked-money, equipment, field kitchens, and radio and television communications—is now at their disposal.

COULD THE WAR **HAVE BEEN AVERTED?**

By Dmitri Gudkov

While Soviet historians are unanimous in their assessment of the Munich deal, the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 have recently given rise to heated debates among scholars, diplomats, and journalists.

bout 8 P.M. on August 31, 1939, two trucks of SS men in Polish military uniforms arrived in the German town of Gleiwitz, near the then German-Polish border. The men were waiting for a signal to begin a topsecret operation. When the signal was given, they quickly jumped from the trucks, stormed a radio station, took control of the equipment, and read aloud a statement in Polish in a strongly anti-German tone. After firing several shots, the men disappeared, leaving behind a corpse in a Polish uniform.

In the wee hours of September 1, as if in retaliation for the attack on the radio station, nazi planes dropped bombs on Polish airfields, communications structures, and centers of industry and administration. Nazi divisions crossed the border and launched an offensive.

Thus began World War II, the most destructive and bloody war in human history, which eventually snared dozens of nations in its deadly web. Within two years Hitler would order his troops to attack the Soviet Union.

Hitler's Helpers

Everything that took place in Europe and the world in the latter half of the thirties provided a harsh lesson for history. The flames of conflicts flared in different places, but those who could have extinguished them seemed to shut their eyes to the growing inferno in the hope that it would leave them unscathed. In the early 1930s Japan seized northeastern China and, later, overran central China. Italy attacked Abyssinia. Germany and Italy launched an offensive against Republican Spain.

The annexation of the Rhine area, demilitarized under the Versailles Treaty, was the Nazis' first trial of strength in Europe. France and Great Britain, whom the treaty concerned most of all, kept silent. The Anschluss of Austria followed. Still no action

was taken.

An opposite trend—the attempt to set up a foundation of collective security initiated by the Soviet Unionalso existed. Maxim Litvinov, USSR People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, and a number of influential French figures adopted a similar approach to a number of major international issues. The Soviet Union signed mutual assistance treaties with France and Czechoslovakia, established diplomatic relations with the United >



States, and joined the League of Nations. If the world community had pooled its efforts for a rebuff to the aggressors, the vast potential of the Soviet Union could have played a decisive role. But the West did not accept the USSR's idea of collective security, having opposed it with a policy of "appeasing" the aggressor.

After nazi troops marched into Vienna in March 1938, Hitler demanded another victim. This time it was

Czechoslovakia that fell.

The policy of appeasement was embodied by the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. Aristocratic and conservative, he considered the Soviet Union an unknown entity. He took for granted the Führer's assertions that the future of Germany would be decided on its eastern frontiers. Consequently, Chamberlain concluded that it was necessary to make concessions to Germany, not to interfere with its actions, and to meet all its

By the autumn of 1938 Chamberlain deemed it necessary to meet with Hitler in person. In the early morning of September 15, the 69-year-old Prime Minister flew to Munich. That was his first flight in an airplane. It wasn't until evening that, tired and hardly able to walk, he reached the Führer's home in the Alps. The meeting produced the September 19 British-French ultimatum to Czechoslovakia. The ultimatum offered Czechoslovakia a chance to renounce, of its own free will, the regions with a predominantly German population. The Czechoslovakian Government rejected this proposal.

Nevertheless, on September 29 four powerful leaders met in Munich: Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain, and French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier. On the same day they signed a pact under which Czechoslovakia was to surrender to Germany without delay the Sudetenland and adjacent areas. Czechoslovakia was to lose onefifth of its territory, a quarter of its population, half of its heavy industry, and powerful defensive structures.

"The Only One That Remained with Us...

These words addressed to the So-

viet Union belong to Eduard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia from 1935 to 1938. He described the tragic events of September 1938 in his memoirs:

...Personally, I never had even the slightest doubt about the Soviet position. I was convinced that it would honor its obligations. . . . We immediately informed the Soviet Ambassador about the interference of Great Britain and France, and the plan they offered on September 19, 1938. . . .

Always aware of the risk of war, I asked him to relay to his government in Moscow the following two questions:

- 1. I still hope that France will come to its senses and realize what Hitler is after. In that case, a war will break out. Considering our joint treaty, what will the Soviet Union do?
- 2. Suppose France finally refuses to fulfill its commitments, while Czechoslovakia continues its resistance, which leads to an armed conflict with Germany. What will the Soviet Union do in this case?

The Soviet Government gave clearcut answers to Benes' questions: The USSR would help Czechoslovakia militarily even if France refused to honor its commitments to Prague. This help would be rendered on the condition that Czechoslovakia defended itself and asked for Soviet aid.

"I was very grateful to the Soviet Union for this answer," wrote Benes. "In this hour of trial it was the only one that remained with us and offered us more than it was obliged to." However, as the former Czechoslovakian President explained, the Munich conference "ruled out subsequent assistance to us and the very participation of the Soviet Union in the September crisis."

In September 1938 the military potential of nazi Germany was largely inferior to that of France and the Soviet Union. Czechoslovakia was not helpless either. It had a fortified line of defense along its border with Germany, an efficient army, and a developed military industry. The Czechoslovakian Chargé d'Affaires in Berlin assured a Soviet diplomat that "the Czechs, even if left to themselves, would be able to hold out for at least

four months.

In those alarming days the Soviet Union did not limit itself to verbal statements. It moved 30 rifle divisions to its western border and put its air defenses and tank divisions on red alert. More than 300,000 men were mobilized from the reserves. The Soviet Union kept the French Government informed about these moves. The Western powers knew that the USSR would fulfill its Allied duty, but this ran counter to their plans.

After Munich

In Munich Hitler agreed to sign a bilateral Anglo-German declaration, which was actually a nonaggression pact. The two countries expressed their desire never to wage war against each other, as well as to remove any pretext for differences. After his meeting with Hitler, Chamberlain decided that peace had been henceforth guaranteed for a whole generation.

In December of the same year a similar Franco-German declaration was made public in Paris. The governments of France and Germany declared that they had no territorial disputes and would maintain contacts with each other and hold consultations in case the international situation threatened to be aggravated. In effect, this was also a nonaggression pact.

Many people in the West believed that Munich had appeased Hitler. This view was shared by the U.S. Government. On the eve of the meeting of the four powers, the U.S. President sent a cable to his Czechoslovakian counterpart. Beneš wrote in his memoirs:

Roosevelt's cable was understandable diplomatically and correct in protocol and form: The neutral United States wished to appear equally objective to both conflicting sides and urged them to reach agreement by peaceful means; and to conduct a search for a peaceful, honest, and constructive solution of these questions. But the United States did not analyze the reasons behind the conflict and ignored the fact that, under the circumstances, agreement on the proposed terms could only mean preparations for the complete destruction of Czechoslovakia, which Hitler would carry out

Continued on page 35



THE FRIENDSHIP SAGA

By Leonid Mitrokhin

The fiftieth anniversary of the start of World War II prompts a look into the wartime archives. What they reveal reads somewhat like a documentary saga of Soviet-American sharing.

s I review the many documents of the Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, housed in the Central State Archives of the October Revolution in Moscow, a feeling of great warmth and respect for the American people wells up inside me.

Immediately after pazi Germany at-

Immediately after nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, a deluge of letters and telegrams from the United States flooded the USSR. They were messages from American government officials, scientists, artists, priests, workers, and farmers expressing their heartfelt sympathy, admiration, and solidarity with the Soviet people in their struggle against the nazi invaders and wishing the Soviet Union an early victory.

A large number of the letters and telegrams came from the nationwide American organization Russian War Relief, which was established in mid-1941. At one time the organization's membership ran into the tens of thousands, and the functions it sponsored attracted hundreds of thousands of people.

The 70 chapters of Russian War Relief were active in virtually every state in the Union. I like to think of these

Leonid Mitrokhin, Candidate of Science (History), is a Jawaharlal Nehru international prize winner.

smaller groups as spontaneously emerging bodies of citizen diplomacy. Between June and December 1941 Russian War Relief activists raised over nine million dollars for its war relief fund, and it did much to educate the American public about the Soviet Union and, most important, its valiant fight to protect universal human values.

Many of America's most prominent citizens expressed their solidarity with the Soviet Union in that cause. One letter received by the Union of Soviet Societies is dated August 28, 1941. It was written by the famous American anthropologist Aleš Hrdlička of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Accompanying his letter was a pair of German-made binoculars that Hrdlicka was donating to the Soviet Army, with the request that the gift be passed on to some Soviet commander. The binoculars were presented to Hero of the Soviet Union Pavel Kutepov, who later sent the American anthropologist his thanks and an autographed photograph of

In June 1942, to mark the first anniversary of the Soviet Union's entrance into the war, hundreds of American scientists, scholars, and artists sent messages and telegrams to the USSR in care of Professor Harold Chapman Brown, president of the American Russian Institute in San Francisco, California. Many of the letter writers stated that when the war was over, liberated humanity would never forget the Soviet Union's gallant

struggle against the Axis aggressors.

The most touching letters were from ordinary Americans, especially American women. Early in 1942 the United States held a week of solidarity with Soviet women. The honorary chairperson was Eleanor Roosevelt. The American women responded with gifts and letters for Soviet soldiers. One letter, dated November 15, 1941, was sent by Clara Scala of Stanford, Connecticut:

Dear Red Army Soldier,

It is nearly impossible for me to express my feelings toward you and the glorious Red Army. We are so proud and grateful but sad that you should have to sacrifice so much.

We in America will do everything in our power to help in this bitter fight to crush Hitlerism. The making of this sweater is only "a drop in the sea," but I have loved doing it.

The acts of friendship did not go unnoticed. A letter dated November 7, 1942, from Red Army Sergeant Fyodor Grigorievich Sviridov, who was stationed at the front, expressed the sentiments of his fellow soldiers:

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gifts. Across thousands of kilometers we can feel your fraternal helping hand. We can feel that the American people are with us. Long live an alliance of the people of freedom-loving countries, the USSR and the USA! Death to the German occupiers!

U.S. citizens donated dollars--▶



which they undoubtedly needed themselves—to the Soviet Union for food, medicine, and weapons. Why did they do it? Because they feared Hitler so much? Hardly.

Small as the world appears to be in the twentieth century, the United States was far enough from the battlefields at that time to feel more or less secure. Even after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States, with oceans on both sides, still remained safe from invasion. And yet, Soviet soldiers received letters like this:

May these gloves warm your hands as comfortingly as your heroic service warms the hearts of all Americans. Signed: Mrs. George Etonewith Campbell, Ohio

Many of those who held out a helping hand to the USSR were prominent American cultural figures. On December 27, 1943, Dudley Fosdik, an activist in the American Russian Cultural Association, Inc., wrote the Soviet Embassy about a benefit reception and concert held in Carnegie Hall in New York, the proceeds of which went to the Russian War Relief fund. The benefit performance featured the cantata We Will Retaliate, Stalingrad, by Charles Kingsford.

TIME

Shostakovich's

of *Time* magazine (1943): "Fireman

Shostakovich.

Leningrad, he

heard the chords

Amid bombs

bursting in

of victory."

portrait on

the cover

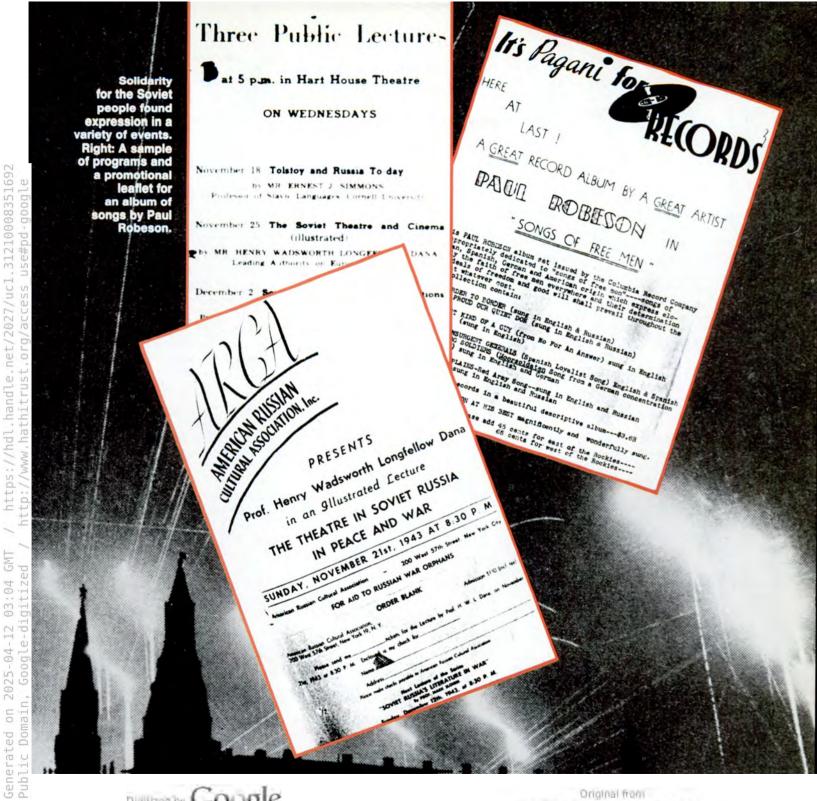
THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



A drawing from the New York Times (1942): "We shall defeat nazism together!"

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Generated on 2025-04-12 03:04 GMT / https Public Domain, Google-digitized / http:// Prominent Russian painter Nikolai Roerich was made the honorary president of the American Russian Cultural Association.

The Americans held a special regard for the wartime work of Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich, whose Seventh Symphony was performed in the United States and Mexico 47 times between July 14 and December 31, 1942.

In October 1942 many outstanding musicians and artists in the United States sent greetings to Shostakovich on his birthday. Below are excerpts* from a few of the telegrams that the composer received:

I was astounded by the grandeur of your new symphony, and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you again when the war is over. In my mind I am always with you.

Signed: Leopold Stokowski

On behalf of artists and all the American people, I send you greetings and profound gratitude for your contribution to world culture and for your expressing the valor and heroism of the great Russian nation.

On behalf of myself, I send my warm greetings to you and through you to the Russian people.

Signed: Paul Robeson

It is a great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the greatest musical genius now living in Russia and to send warm greetings to him and his courageous comrades, who are waging a hard struggle for themselves and for the great Allied cause. I am convinced that the ultimate victory will be with

Signed: Charlie Chaplin

In wartime an important role was played by American correspondents reporting from the USSR. Reporters included well-known author Erskine Caldwell and his photographer-journalist wife, Margaret Bourke-White. When nazi Germany declared war on the Soviet Union, Caldwell and Bourke-White happened to be in the Soviet Union, and they decided to stay on and cover the war. They broadcast regularly to the United States from the Radio Committee in

There had been three consecutive nights with no Luftwaffe. Twelve minutes before I was due on the air, the antiaircraft guns began booming so loudly that we had to close all corridor doors, and still we could not keep the sound out of the studio. As the cultural program started, a 500-pound bomb fell outside in the court-yard. It threw me against the wall.... The boudoir clock lay at my feet, and it was plain that it had ticked its last transoceanic tock.

One American citizen, S. Blumenthal, was inspired to write a poem entitled "They Shall Not Pass." It reads, in part:

But Russia, with unconquered soul, united will endure And though the way be long and hard,

her victory is sure; Jer industries shall he resto

Her industries shall be restored, her granaries shall be filled

And from the ashes, Phoenix-like, her cities shall be rebuilt.

And the Soviet people responded. Prominent Soviet author Konstantin Simonov addressed the following to the United States in 1943:

The feeling of friendship between soldiers is born when two soldiers fight a common enemy. Our people and our army are particularly aware of their friends' feats of arms; they have eagerly read about such feats and are proud of their friends.

Last spring I returned from Murmansk and wrote an article entitled "The Americans." It is about the American seamen who transported cargoes for us. In this story I attempt to explain what it is like to ship cargoes to the Soviet Union via the Northern Sea Route, and how much heroism is needed every time to do it successfully, amid the greatest of dangers. I remember the interest with which the Soviet servicemen read this story. It probably wasn't because the story was very good but because the story responds to the aspirations of our servicemen. They had longed for the feeling of soldiers' solidarity. When they read about the feats of the American seamen, a real sense of this feeling became reality for them.

Ernest Bloch, an American, wrote in June 1942 in his message* to the Soviet Union:

Let us passionately hope that after Victory is achieved, none of us in the United States will ever forget your immense contribution to this victory or the feeling of gratitude that we have for you. Let us hope that in the days of reconstruction we will be able to come together and cooperate with confidence in fraternity for the benefit of humanity.

In November of the same year, *The United Nations*, a cantata set to the music of Shostakovich, was performed in the United States. The words by Harold J. Rome included these lines:

As sure as the sun meets the morning And rivers go down to the sea A new day for mankind is dawning Our children shall live proud and free.

Today it is the duty of Soviet and American artists, scholars, scientists, and public figures to restore the spirit of cooperation, to restore it many times over, in order to exclude the very word "war" from both vocabularies and from life itself. Anything less than this would be a betrayal of the ideals of the generation that came before us, a desecration of the legacy of those who defended peace and civilization in World War II.

Recently an idea for a Soviet-American museum was proposed in the USSR. To me, a museum or a center like that would fill in one of the so-called blank spots in history. Even more important, the museum could serve as a reminder of the devastation of war and help us to prevent another one in the future.

What is crystal-clear today is that the wartime solidarity between the American and the Soviet people is a subject that has not yet been covered in full. There are enough priceless wartime documents in the Soviet and the American archives to fill volumes.

We Soviet historians want to use this opportunity through SOVIET LIFE magazine to propose to American scholars, scientists, public figures, groups, and participants in those glorious deeds and developments that we pool our efforts to write a commemorative book on the friendship between American and Soviet citizens during the war.

^{*}Retranslated from the Russian.



Moscow's Pushkin Square. Here is one example:

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THE INNER SANCTUM OF SIMON AND SCHUSTER PUBLISHERS 1130 SIXTH AVENUE BOCKEPELLIR CENTER NEW YORK CITY

January 19, 1943

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BOSTON STUPHONY ONCHESTRA STAPHONY ORCHES

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монд Подалуйста, дорогой владимир Иванович, держите моними контакте с музыкальной диалимир Иванович, держите на энер корда вы моними владимир и ванович, держите вы держите моними моними в подами истратиться в про моними в подами истратиться.

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JEDENIE

To as assachusetts

My dear Mr. Tolstoy:

We are most deeply gratified to have your gracious is thrilling beyond words to have your letter directly from the Tolstoy headquarters in Moscow. I am sending a cony of our letter to Clifton Fadiman, as I know he will be deeply interested in your comment on his Introduction.

I am delighted to have the photographs to add to my colstoy archives and look forward to receiving the copy of Jasna ta Poliana".

By separate post, I am sending you two more copies of the Inner anctum edition of WAR AND PEACE - for the Tolstoy useum and for Jasnaja Poljana. We had the privilege of meeting ome members of the Tolstoy family who told us that our edition f this masterpiece would have delighted Les Tolstoy.

With renewed thanks and best wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Unio of the

Washington.

Schuster: HLJ

. Tolstoy, Esq. he State Museum Eppotkinstra ul.11 33C3W .3.S.R.

> Below, left to right: Officials of the Russian War Relief Jewish Council with Albert Einstein (right). The council approved a list of 75,000 dollars' worth of supplies for a Saratov hospital. Students at the Salt Lake School for the Deaf and Blind made hand-knit woolen goods for Soviet soldiers.

Letters came from all quarters of American society, including one (left) from the conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, expressing his gratitude for the full score of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony.

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23



PANORAMA



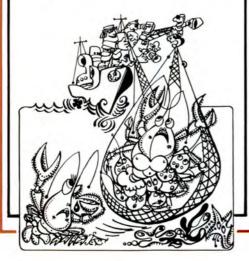
New Biomonitoring

F or many years environmental protection has been limited to maintaining a "safe" level of physical and chemical pollution, to making sure that certain indicators do not rise above permissible standards. However, the combination of individual concentrations, each within the norm, may frequently lead to disastrous consequences.

The Institute of Biophysics of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow has developed a method of monitoring the environment that will detect atmospheric pollution when there are still no visible signs of it. The new method makes it possible to pinpoint changes at a stage when remedial measures can still be taken. The method involves instruments called microspectrofluorimeters, which have been developed especially for this purpose. Mobile laboratories have also been designed to map polluted areas.

Arrivals from the Pacific

From time to time Latvian fishermen catch animals that resemble crayfish, only they are larger and have hairy claws. Experts say that these are visitors from the Pacific—Chinese crabs. How did they find their way into the Baltic Sea? Scientists believe that they were carried in with ballast waters. The first such rarity was caught in Germany in 1912. The 10-legged travelers seem to have adapted to the slightly saline waters of the Baltic. But how they propagate here is not yet clear. We have never caught young animals or a female with eggs.





Memory Day

On April 24 Armenians, in whatever country they may be, pay tribute to the memory of the victims of a bloody massacre. In 1915 in Turkey, local nationalists perpetrated unprecedentedly brutal carnage on almost half of the Armenians living there at the time—nearly 1.5 million people. Another 600,000 were driven into the deserts of Mesopotamia, where most of them died. Hundreds

of thousands of other Armenians fled to other countries.

This past April, early in the morning, residents of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, and of neighboring villages, some of them eyewitnesses to the events of 1915, set out toward a hill called Tsitsernakaberd, the site of a memorial to the genocide victims. They went there to honor the memory of the dead. Vazghen I, Catholicos of Armenia, delivered a sermon.



Schoolgirl's Mystery

F or a long time Inga's parents have been used to the wonders that their daughter performs daily with domestic utensils. They just call them "tricks." Twelve-year-old Inga extends her right hand, puts the bottom of a large pan against her palm, and somehow, as if magnetized, the pan is suspended in air. Inga's father adds two-kilogram weights to the pan, which adhere to the bottom with a dull thud.

This amazing ability of Inga Gaiduchenko from Grodno could be suspected of being a fraud or a joke. The sixth grader repeats the trick with a variety of objects: a dictionary, ballpoint pens, pencils, knives, and forks. The only things that are unaffected are glass objects.

Doctors have found that Inga's magnetic field has a curative effect on diseases such as osteochondrosis and radiculitis.

"We are dealing with a rare phenomenon," says Professor Vladimir Volchenko. "We have to investigate it."

Now Appearing ...

Detective is the name of a new experimental theater in Moscow that marked its arrival with a production of the play *Executor*. The theater's aim, says its founder, is to present serious moral, political, and social problems in an entertaining way. The first production describes events of 1953 connected with the death of Stalin and with attempts by one of his close blood-stained lieutenants, Lavrenti Beria, to seize power after Stalin's death.





Wind Surfing Across the Gulf of Finland

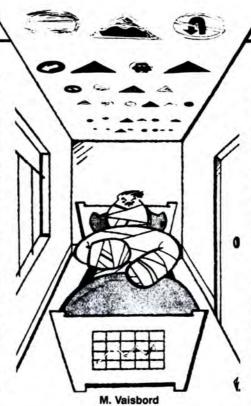
Wind surfer Paap Kylar set off from Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, for the coast of Finland. Eleven hours later he reached his goal. The athlete had

trained for a whole year, even in winter when temperatures drop to minus four degrees Celsius and the wind is fierce. But the crossing of the gulf took longer and was much more difficult than expected because of the head winds Kylar encountered. Nevertheless, the Estonian beat the record of Finland's Tomu Karlemo.

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isualize a cartoon of a traffic accident victim, bandaged from head to foot, studying traffic signs painted on the ceiling of his hospital room. Or, in a courtroom, a father leans toward the defendant on trial and whispers: "Son, I've been meaning to have a serious talk with you for a long time. . . . " Or, explaining a wondrously complicated machine, an inventor says, "We set out to invent the bicycle, but we made some changes and additions during the development phase." American humor? No! These are among the works of 80 Soviet cartoonists contained in an excitingly funny new book, Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil.

Krokodil (Crocodile), with a circulation of 5.3 million copies every 10 days, is the Soviet Union's 67-year-



In the foreword to the book, Charles Solomon writes: "Although laughter is often cited as one of the few truly universal human experiences, the humor in many cartoons is predicated on the shared experiences of a specific social, cultural, or ethnic group. These drawings from Krokodil reveal that many situations we regard as uniquely American are actually the product of the daily life in any industrialized urban society."

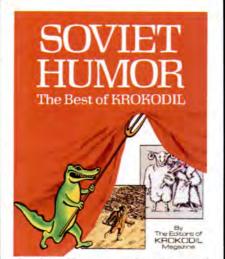
An excellent example of shared concern is a cartoon showing a fisherman, against a background of oildrilling platforms at sea, rescuing a beautiful oil-covered mermaid. Another shared experience is a cartoon of an angry child practicing the violin, declaring to his father: "When I grow up, I'm going to make you play the violin and make Mom drink cod-liver

LAUGHTER HAS NO ACCINT

By James H. Boren and Alice Peter Boren

old national humor magazine. Its long life and great popularity are due to the high quality of its wide-ranging cartoons, jokes, interviews, and satirical articles, which touch upon everyday life in the Soviet Union and in the world.

The book is of great significance. It is the first collection of Krokodil cartoons ever to be translated into English and published by an American company. The brain child of Herman Weinstein of Educational Services Corporation and Oleg Benyukh, then Counselor of Information of the Embassy of the USSR, the book became a reality when Donna Martin of Andrews & McMeel and Alexei Pyanov, editor in chief of Krokodil, selected and organized the works included in the book. Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil, by the editors of Krokodil magazine, is published by Andrews & McMeel. The cartoons are presented in five parts: Relationships, Lifestyle, Social Vices, Politics and Bureaucracy, and Environment.



Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil, 192 pages, is available from: Educational Services Corporation, 1725 K Street, N.W., Suite #408, Washington, D.C. Price: \$12.95 (plus postage: \$2.25 book rate or \$3.40 firstclass shipping).

Consider the worldwide struggle with the absurdities of bureaucratic life. They are well shown in the cartoon of a sidewalk being constructed by the rotational laying of a few cement blocks by three workers. The first worker is carefully laying one block, while the second is carrying another block to him. A few feet away, the third worker is digging up the freshly laid blocks for the second worker to carry to the front of the project.

Another artist portrays a mother and child walking hand in hand down the street with the child's other hand being held by the shadow of his absent alcoholic father.

Our common concern for the future of the planet is depicted by a pair of talking heads revealing their thoughts: one, a jumble of bombs; the other, a peace dove.

We, the Borens, have a special relationship with Krokodil because the magazine is the Soviet coordinator for the Soviet-American Exchange of Hu-

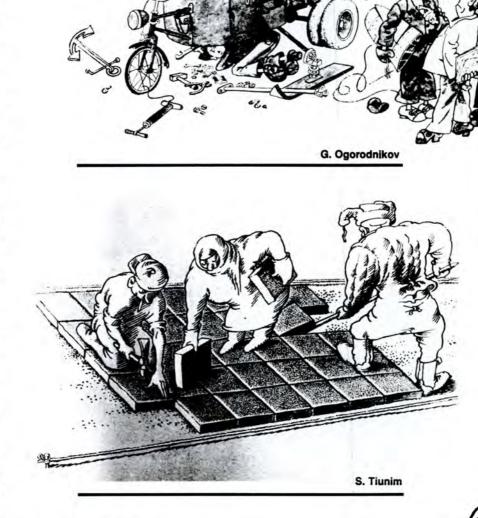
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"We set out to invent the bicycle, but we made some changes and additions during the development phase."

morists. In 1987, under the auspices of the Workshop Library on World Humor, five Soviet humorists (three from Krokodil) came to the United States to participate in humor symposiums with their American counterparts in Tempe, Arizona; Los Angeles, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Nashville, Tennessee; and Washington, D.C. In 1988 five American humorists traveled to the Soviet Union and participated in sessions with writers, cartoonists, and performers in Moscow, Leningrad, Tallinn, and Kiev. The theme for the exchange was: "It is better to exchange humorists than bombs because you can't fight when you're laughing." The second exchange, under our sponsorship through our International Association of Professional Bureaucrats, is slated to begin in late September 1989. At that time we will welcome five Soviet humorists to our headquarters in Washington, D.C., and then travel to Saratoga Springs, New York; Los Angeles, California; and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Exchanges of humorists can lead to great things. As Alexei Pyanov writes in his introduction to Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil: "Our trip was not only enjoyable but also instructive. It convinced us that we can indeed laugh together: at ourselves, at each other, and at our recent fears." The contacts made during the first exchange led to the publication of this book. Krokodil is planning to publish a book of satire by Americans.

Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil will enrich the library of anyone who enjoys the humor and art of outstanding cartoonists. The fact that it is the first great collection from the Soviet Union makes it an even more valuable volume to own and to share! As full-time professionals in the humor field for almost 20 years, we are making it our favorite gift for our friends, our associates, and our local libraries. Read and enjoy!





drink cod-liver oil."



27



V. Spelnikov

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THE SOVIET **PRESS** AT WORK

o promote perestroika in all spheres of public life, Moscow's intellectuals have set up a new forum for discussion and debate. Called the Moscow Rostrum, the club has a shining list of sponsors, including such prominent names as academicians Roald Sagdeyev and Andrei Sakharov, philosophers and journalists Len Karpinsky and Yuri Karyakin, and writer Ales Adamovich. Club membership now numbers 200, but it is likely to grow.

The Moscow Rostrum meets not only to discuss burning issues but also to offer ways of dealing with them. Importantly, proposals based on expert opinion are drafted and then sent on to the appropriate agencies and



Soviet Union are also invited to participate. Some recent topics addressed by the club have been the food shortage, Soviet foreign policy, and the international aspects of human rights.

In the photo above: Yuri Karyakin at the podium. Karyakin is a deputy to the new USSR Congress of People's Deputies.

Courtesy of Novosti Press Agency

Who goes to jail and for what?

he main Department of Corrections under the USSR Ministry of the Interior has released statistics on the populations at penal institutions around the Soviet Union.

The largest number of convicts, representing 67.2 per cent, falls between the ages of 25 and 55. The smallest number (one per cent) is over the age of 60. People between the ages of 55 and 60 account for 4.4 per cent of all convicts,

while those under the age of 25 account for 27.4 per cent.

What lands people in jail? Topping the list is hooliganism, which represents 11.8 per cent of those in prison. Premeditated murder accounts for 11.5 per cent; rape, 8.6 per cent; and robbery, 6.5 per cent. Percentages drop as the list of crimes continues.

Over the past three years the number of people behind bars has declined by 40 per cent (the number of women convicts and juvenile offenders has decreased by over 50 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively). The smaller figures, however, have nothing to do with improved morality. They are the result of an amnesty.

An alarming trend: Last year 33,000 (a 200 per cent increase over 1987) exconvicts had difficulty finding a job or housing for longer than three months after being released from prison. Has society grown callous? No. It's simply that as many enterprises switch over to selffinancing, they become more selective in their hiring of personnel. That may be so, but steps must be taken to prevent an increase in recidivism.

Courtesy of the newspaper Izvestia

Between 1985 and 1988 there was a 56.5 per cent drop in national alcohol consumption (in terms of straight alcohol), reports the USSR State Committee for Statistics.

Sounds good. The press is skeptical though. The committee deals with state-manufactured liquor, while the market is saturated with home-distilled spirits.

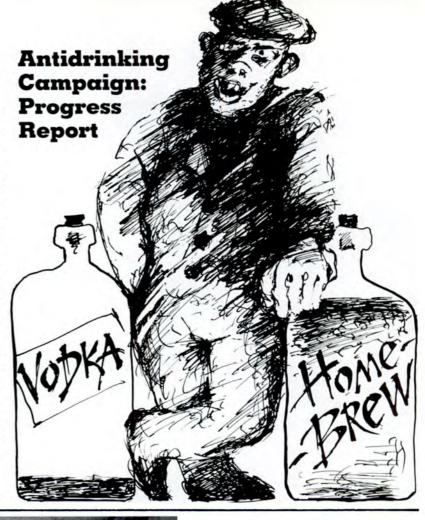
A rough estimate puts last year's output of moonshine at 120 million decaliters. As many as 325,000 devices for making home brew and about four million liters of illicit spirits were confiscated, an increase of 300 and 120 per cent, respectively, over 1986.

Last year, under the influence of alcohol, 379,000 citizens committed crimes. The figure for 1987 was 371,000. Another sad development: A lack of spirits in stores plus price hikes have sent drug and substance abuse skyward.

The bottom line is that the 1985 official clampdown on heavy drinking and alcoholism is bearing no real fruit, except that it is costing the country billions of rubles.

Most people feel that the antidrinking campaign should be continued, but with a greater emphasis on education and treatment. Anonymous treatment is important, and facilities should be expanded.

Courtesy of the newspaper Izvestia





NORILSK MINERS GO ON STRIKE

At the Mayak Mine three days underground.

rist one miners team working the Oktyabrsky Mine refused to leave the mine when its shift was through. Then another five teams followed suit.

Soon all the mining teams in Norilsk, a city within the Arctic Circle, joined in.

The conflict had been brewing for several months after miners' ratings as well as wages were lowered as a cost-saving measure. There were other grievances too. The striking miners demanded, among other things, that additional pay for working in rigorous conditions be reinstituted (the benefit had been canceled some time before) and that the Norilsk Ore Mining and Processing Complex be switched to a self-financing basis, along the lines of plans adopted by other enterprises in the country.

At first the mine management refused to respond to the miners' statements, and a spokesman for the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy (recently this ministry was disbanded and merged with the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy) assumed a very tough position. The result was the strike that went on for four days until party officials from Krasnoyarsk, the capital of the region, and the minister from Moscow arrived in Norilsk. A frank and businesslike dialogue immediately resolved many of the problems, while others are still being dealt with.

Courtesy of Novosti Press Agency

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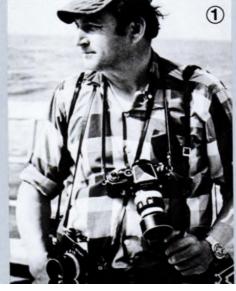






Moment In Time

By Nina Kryukova Photographs by Valeri Shustov



hotojournalist Valeri Shustov, 60, was the first Soviet photographer to receive the grand prize at the Photo-mundi International Show in the Netherlands (in 1969, for his photo Lake Baikal Is Calm) and also, in 1979, the first among his compatriots to win the coveted Worldpressphoto's Gold Eye award, for his series Swim Before You Walk, Baby.

This year Valeri Shustov celebrates his thirtieth year in photojournalism. Today most people know him as the highly respected master that he is.

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There are only a few people who remember that he was once an obscure novice in the Photo Information Department of Sovinformburo, now Novosti Press Agency.

"A cheap camera in my hands and burning ambition in my heart," says Shustov, "I just knew then that someday I would be somebody."

At age 30, Shustov moved to Moscow from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, to follow his dream. There he met people who helped him get his start in photojournalism.

"I remember those days well," says

Shustov. "We, Novosti's top photojournalists now, were timid pupils then, and our teachers were people who had started their careers in photography in the forties as front-line war correspondents."

Shustov was a good and grateful student, and he traveled far and wide, capturing all of the Soviet Union and many cities abroad in his photos. His pictures appeared in all Novosti periodicals. He also toured the United States at the invitation of Life magazine and later worked in the USSR for Life, Paris-Match, and Epoca.

Every photographer has his own style and vision of the world. Some seek self-expression, others money. Some prefer photographing athletes, others landscapes.

"I shoot everything that catches my eye," says Shustov. "I'm not after the sensational shot. Everyday life attracts me the most, and the vastness and variety in this country provide me with a wealth of material to choose from. I can shoot the four seasons of the year within a week if I cross the country from end to end. The myriad ethnic patterns here constitute a



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2025-04-12 03:05 GMT n, Google-digitized Generated on 26 Public Domain, lovely picturesque and colorful quilt."

Photographs capture a moment in time, and the photographer knows when to seize it. I asked Shustov to give us some background for the photos that accompany this article.

(1) "This is the snapshot I always send whenever I'm asked to include a picture of myself along with my exhibit photos. The portrait was shot by Nedelya (Week) newspaper photogra-

pher Victor Akhlomov.'

(2) "A group of photographers was crowding around this Dutch fisherman, who didn't seem in the least bothered by all the attention he was getting. The old salt just sat there cool and collected. Suddenly, I noticed that he smoked his cigar exactly like Winston Churchill.'

(3) "I call this photograph Future Lords. I was in London for that whole day, but I didn't take any pictures until I got to Eton, a quiet suburb of London, where there is a school for children of the elite. From a distance I saw two boys clad in traditional school uniforms approaching me. Hardly had I snapped the shutter when the youngsters noticed me and

changed their pose."

(4) "These two Marshals of the Soviet Union-Ivan Bagramyan and Georgi Zhukov (left)-were good friends. I saw Zhukov for the first and last time at the Kremlin meeting in 1965 marking the twentieth anniversary of our victory over the Nazis. Now that many years have passed since then and I have read his memoirs, I think that I captured the inner feelings of this military leader, who had just been honored after having spent years in oblivion."

(5) "As photographic techniques have improved, I've grown more and more intrigued with taking color

shots."

(6) "Paris is a miracle to me. Every time I visit the city, I feel joy mixed with fear-fear that I'll miss something worth seeing. The famous Eiffel Tower was my first stop after landing at the airport. While I was photographing, I ran out of film, but I continued to shoot again and again. This shot is the result."

(7) "I came across this scene in the back halls of the Novgorod Museum

of Local Lore."

AVERTED

Continued from page 18

to achieve his goals as soon as he got the chance. The fact that Roosevelt sent similar cables not only to me and Hitler, but also to Chamberlain and Daladier, gave them an opportunity-to qualify his message as support for their policy throughout the

Benes concluded bitterly: "In that time this was decisive support for Chamberlain's policy and tactics."

Before very long, however, the hopes and illusions created by Munich went up in smoke. At daybreak on March 15, 1939, German troops invaded Czechoslovakia. Czechia was turned into a nazi "protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia," and Slovakia into a puppet republic. Hitler made it abundantly clear that he did not give a damn about either Great Britain or France, or his own commitments under the Munich agreement.

The capture of Czechoslovakia came as a shock to the British and French public, but it did not have much of an effect on the policies of London and Paris. The German Ambassador reported from London at that time: "It would be an illusion to think that the British attitude toward Germany has fundamentally changed." His counterpart in Paris sent in similar reports: "In actual fact, France won't do anything in a situation created by the German moves in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia."

The Soviet Government resolutely disassociated itself from the Munich policy of the West. "We consider what has happened a disaster for the entire world," said People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Litvinov about the Munich agreement. The Soviet Ambassador in London, Ivan Maisky, reported to Moscow: "The League of Nations and collective security are dead. An era of no-holds-barred crude force and mailed-fist policy is coming in international relations." Confidence in the reliability of the guarantees and assurances of the Western governments, which had not been very high before, was completely undermined. Munich gave Hitler an opportunity to split the West and the Soviet Union by removing the Czechoslovakian link between

A search for alternative solutions was started in Moscow. This turn was manifest in Stalin's irritation at Litvinov, an active advocate of a rapprochement with the Western democracies on the question of collective security. In May 1939 Vyacheslav Molotov, a man with a quite different mentality, one that was closest to Stalin, was appointed to head the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Unholy Alliance

In the evening of August 23, 1939, telegraph agencies all over the world carried sensational news: Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop arrived in Moscow. The visit was a quick one. On that night Von Ribbentrop and Molotov concluded a nonaggression pact. It consisted of seven articles, was concluded for 10 years, and was to go into force immediately after signing. The pact compelled both sides to refrain from acts of aggression against each other. In the event of disputes, the sides were to settle them peacefully. If a third power attacked either of the sides, the other pledged not to support the attacker. The sides also signed secret protocols, but originals of these documents have never been found.

The signing of a nonaggression pact as such was not something extraordinary. But a pact between Communists and Nazis was by no means a typical agreement. The world public and some people in the USSR were shocked not so much by the contents of the pact as by the moral aspects of the move.

In late September, Berlin and Moscow concluded yet another agreement on a new border. It was called the Boundary and Friendship Treaty.

Was There an Alternative?

While Soviet historians are unanimous in their assessment of the Munich deal, the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 have recently given rise to heated debates among scholars, diplomats, and journalists. The gist of



these debates boils down to the following two questions: Was the pact of August 23, 1939, really a must for the USSR? Did the Soviet Union have any alternative?

I think that one of the most radical positions on this issue is held by Professor Mikhail Semiryaga. In his article entitled "August 23, 1939," which was published in the Soviet weekly Literaturnaya gazeta, he comes to the following conclusion:

For extending peace only for itself, the Soviet Union paid an exorbitant price, but the pact did not ensure its national interests nonetheless.... The signing of the pact was a political miscalculation on the part of the Soviet leaders.

A contrary view is held by Yevgeni Rybkin, Doctor of Science (Philosophy). He maintains that "the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 practically predetermined the victory in 1945."

Semiryaga believes that Germany stood to gain more from the nonaggression pact than the Soviet Union. By June 1941, that is, on the eve of the attack on the USSR, the Nazis had occupied practically the whole of Western Europe. A total of 290 million people (counting the satellite countries) lived on nazi-occupied territory. The gap in such a crucial strategic factor as the strength of the population changed in Germany's favor. The plunder of the occupied countries enabled Hitler to drastically increase his reserves of strategic and other raw materials and place a powerful industry at the service of his war machine. As a result, nazi Germany managed to considerably increase its armed forces: The number of divisions grew from 103 to 214, tanks from 3,200 to 5,600, and aircraft from 4,400 to 10,000. These moves allowed Hitler to develop military superiority over the Soviet Union.

What did the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 give the USSR? The Soviet Union gained precious time, which enabled it to form 125 new divisions, to partially reorganize its army and military industry, and to move the borders by 250 to 300 kilometers away from its vital centers.

In Semiryaga's opinion, these agreements were by no means in the USSR's favor. That's why he consid-

ers it a "miscalculation on the part of the Soviet leaders." What does he think would have been an alternative to the conclusion of these agreements? "The Soviet Union could have dismissed Germany's proposal as unacceptable or prolonged talks with it," he writes. "At the same time, the Soviet Union could have been patiently but persistently working for the conclusion of a military agreement with Great Britain and France. Even if an agreement had not been signed at once, the threat of one being signed would have hung over the head of the aggressor like the Sword of Damocles, deterring it from immediate ventures."

The nazi aggression could only have been prevented by the success of the British-Franco-Soviet talks. But neither Great Britain nor France wanted to strike a military-political alliance with the USSR.

"But this tactic had already been used and had not justified itself by that time," object Alexander Orlov and Stepan Tyushkevin, two prominent Soviet historians, in their article entitled "The Pact of 1939: There Was No Alternative."

Three days after the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Government proposed that six powers—Great Britain, France, the USSR, Poland, Rumania, and Turkey—convene a conference to discuss measures to curb nazi aggression. Paris and London turned down the proposal.

In April of 1939 the USSR proposed to Great Britain and France a tripartite agreement on mutual assistance and a military convention on actions in the event of aggression against one of the contracting parties. The response to this was also negative. In the beginning of June the Soviet Government sent Great Britain and France its draft of a treaty on mu-

tual assistance and an invitation to their foreign ministers to come to Moscow for negotiations. British Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax refused to go himself and sent minor officials to conduct the proposed talks.

The talks in Moscow started in the middle of June. By the beginning of August the sides merely agreed that British and French military missions would come to Moscow to conduct negotiations. When these talks started, the Soviet delegation presented its official powers for their conduct and the signing of a military convention. The French delegation had powers just to hold the talks. The British had no powers whatsoever.

In the event of a German aggression in the West or against Poland, the Soviet Union was ready to give military assistance to Great Britain and France. Yet the Western partners in the talks dodged reciprocal commitments. One more question remained outstanding: How could the Soviet troops be used in practical terms if the Germans attacked? The Soviet Union did not have a common border with Germany. To fight against the aggressor, Soviet troops needed to secure permission to pass over Polish territory. Meanwhile, the Polish Government stubbornly jected all proposals on that score.

While the Western partners were creating a semblance of talks with Moscow, London and Berlin maintained intensive, tacit contacts, though they were no secret to the Soviet leaders. Chamberlain was expected to meet Göring in London on August 23. Somewhat earlier Chamberlain had sent a message to Hitler, suggesting a new version of the Munich deal, this time at the expense of Poland.

At that time the nazi aggression could only have been prevented by the success of the British-Franco-Soviet talks. But neither Great Britain nor France wanted to strike a military-political alliance with the USSR. Of course the fact should not be ignored that the repressive Stalin regime did not create for the USSR an image of "partner" in Western eyes. Be that as it may, the negotiations in Moscow were shipwrecked, and the last chance for halting the war in Europe by concerted effort was missed.



ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Continued from page 3

the "survival of the fittest" will promote both economic progress and effectiveness. After all, under the new conditions, the liquidation of an unprofitable enterprise will not be just a threat but a reality.

Q: One of our biggest problems is the shortage of goods and services. Please comment on this.

A: This is a paradoxical problem. In absolute numbers we produce more than enough. The shortage is in goods that are fashionable and of

high quality.

Let me give you an example. According to this year's census, our population now numbers 286 million people. Soviet factories produce more than 800 million pairs of shoes and boots a year. This is more than is produced in the United States, both in absolute terms and per capita. So the quantity of these goods is sufficient; it's in variety and quality that we fall short.

But there's another reason for commodities being in short supply. It's a fact that incomes have recently been growing faster than the production of goods and services. In 1986-1987 the planned assignments for the manufacture of consumer goods and the development of paid services were underfulfilled, whereas those on the growth rates of wages were overfulfilled. Apparently, the problem should be tackled from both sides. A realistic policy on income that rules out the flow of surplus money into circulation should be accompanied by an improvement in the quality of goods and services.

I'm convinced that it's time to discard the criterion of quantitative growth. Efforts to do this are already being made.

Q: But when we plant roses, we shouldn't forget about the thorns. Many people are worried about the possibility of unemployment, which was eliminated in the USSR in 1930. Will perestroika adversely affect full employment?

A: I don't want to look too far ahead

on this issue. The principle of full employment remains immutable for us. It is a very important social priority and a major gain of socialism. We do not intend to relinquish it. I don't think that the threat of unemployment is at all troubling for the time being. On the contrary, most enterprises are experiencing a real shortage of workers.

Yet experts estimate that with the restructuring of the economy, we will have between 15 and 16 million surplus workers by the year 2000. So we



Academician Leonid Abalkin

will have to think about creating new jobs for them. Fortunately, our service economy is growing very rapidly. In the near future it will be able to accommodate not only the natural increase in the population but also all of the surplus workers. Of course this will only happen if enough is invested in the service sector and if its personnel is retrained. With this aim in mind, people in service jobs will receive the same wages for some time, although probably some adjustments will have to be made. So it's not unrealistic to speak of unemployment in the near future.

Q: What about inflation? The average Soviet citizen is already beginning to feel the impact of this problem.

A: Yes, inflation is here, but it is relatively moderate—two to four per cent a year. But we can't just hope that public ownership and planned economic management will prevent inflation automatically. Soviet scientists are elaborating a system of measures designed to prevent inflation from getting out of hand.

Q: What has to be done to make the Soviet Union competitive on the international market?

A: The main things we have to do are to overcome our bureaucratic approach to the regulation of foreign economic ventures and to develop the initiative of the masses.

To achieve these goals, major Soviet enterprises have been granted free access to the world market. They are allowed to use the currency revenues that remain after the payment of taxes. Joint ventures are being set up. A decree on their establishment was adopted in January 1987. Since then, more than 400 joint ventures have been registered.

Q: When can we expect to see the real results of perestroika?

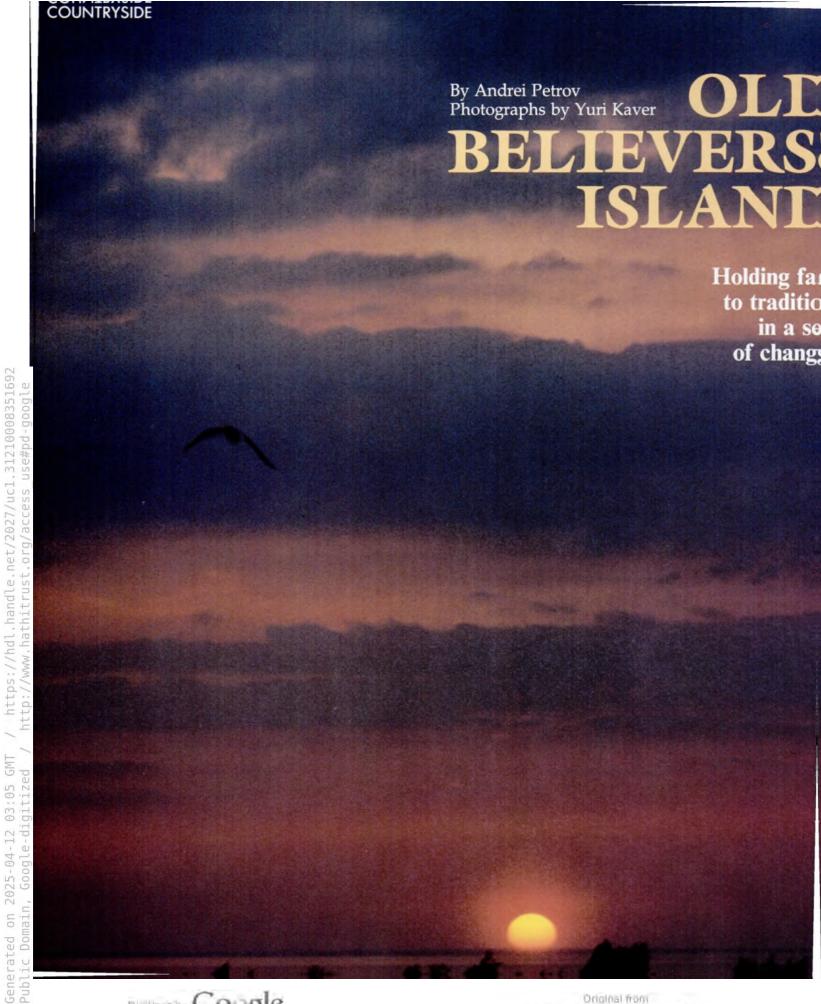
A: They are being accumulated gradually. Some trends are just paving the way for themselves. Of course serious changes have not yet taken place in either the economic or the social sphere. The situation on the consumer market has become even worse. For this reason we can speak only about the first results of perestroika. New people are now in office. Many who failed to work in a new way have been replaced. The changes envisaged by the economic reform are under way.

Q: What about future prospects?

A: Over the next 15 years the USSR should be able to solve its housing and food problems, complete the education reform, and supply its economy with new equipment on a substantial scale. The industrial base is likely to be fully renovated over the next 15 years, and even more than once for some types of equipment.

But if we continue to work as we used to until recently, there's no way we'll be able to build a new society.





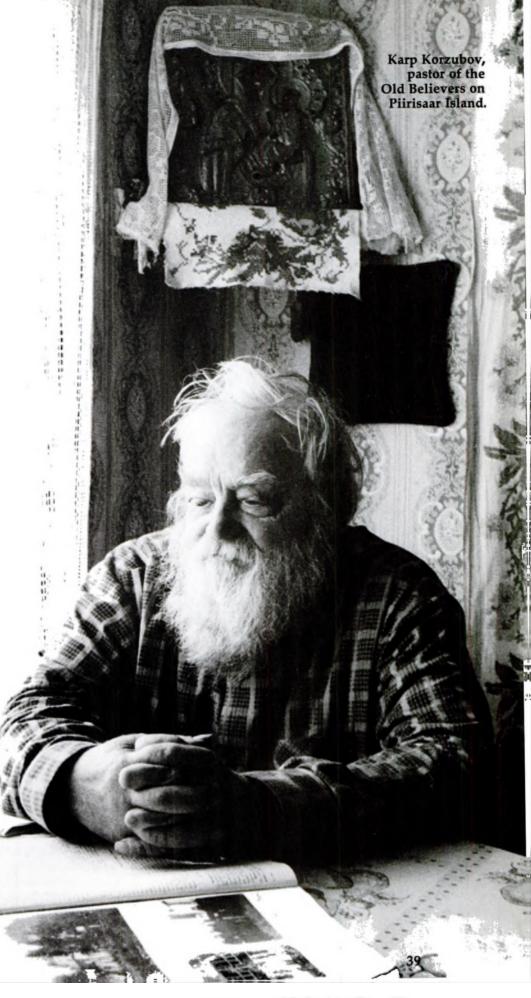
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efore our visit to the Old Believer community on Piirisaar Island, Estonia, we were warned that the Old Believers didn't like strangers and would definitely refuse to be photographed. At first these warnings seemed well founded. For our first two days on the island we were kept in virtual quarantine, the local people avoiding contact with us and scrutinizing us guardedly from a distance. On the third day we apparently passed muster. The islanders welcomed us into their homes and allowed us to take pictures. The many conversations we had with different people enabled us to piece together a mosaic of the life of one of the 450 Old Believer communities that have survived in the Soviet Union.

The Old Believers' rupture with the rest of the Russian Orthodox Church was one of the most dramatic events in the Church's 1,000-year history. The schism took place in the second half of the seventeenth century, when Patriarch Nikon (1605-1681) introduced a reform in spiritual life. Nikon tried to channel Russia's development along what he saw as more progressive lines. His changes affected the liturgical books, the sacraments, and even rituals like bell ringing and the manner of crossing oneself. Half a century later Peter the Great carried out a similar reform on a nationwide scale.

For the "true Orthodox" this spelled nothing short of the end of the world, and many clergy, peasants,







and artisans rebelled against the new teachings.

Archpriest Avvakum (1620?–1682), the most prominent figure among the partisans of the old faith, was burned at the stake for "abuse of the czar's name." Some Old Believers chose the path of self-immolation. In this manner, they believed they could purge themselves of the evils of the world.

Other Old Believers fled to remote parts of Russia or left the country. They sowed new lands and, through unity and mutual assistance, set up prosperous farms and traded with their neighbors.

Catherine II, realizing the economic gain to be derived from religious tolerance, took a sober view of the situation and granted the Old Believers permission to return to Russia. In the late eighteenth century an Old Believers' center came into existence in Moscow. It was mainly from there that further religious guidance came and the communities' trade relationships were managed.

There are indications that by 1917 about 40 per cent of Russia's trade and industrial capital was in the





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ficial Church and the Old Believers petered out toward the mid-1800s. But today, just as 300 years ago, Old Believers claim they are the custodians of the true Orthodox faith.

Piirisaar, an island 15 square kilometers in area, is located in Lake Peipus, in Estonia. The tiny island is not to be found on any tourist map. Even though the island is 12 kilometers from the mainland shore today, local legend has it that 250 years ago the island women carried on trade with the outside world by selling their homemade brooms, which they threw to people on the mainland. A likely explanation for the legend is that in those days a spit projected far into the lake from the mainland, but that over the years it has been washed away.

The lake has been gradually encroaching on the island as well. The water is creeping up to the home of the local Church elder, Kirill Yershov. Every spring Yershov must raise his cobblestone dam higher and higher. At the other end of the settlement the spring floods are so heavy that the fishermen can sail right up to their porches.

Piirisaar Island belonged to the Tartu Old Believers Church (Estonia), which used to send its priests out to the island. The community provided the priest with a house and a salary for conducting services several times a week and for educating the children, in both religious and secular subjects. After World War II the community selected pastors from their midst and built a two-story general school to take the place of the parish school. The pastor worked at the kolkhoz with the rest of the community and received an additional payment from the community for conducting Sunday services.

"We thought that all male Old Believers wore beards, but you yourself are one of the few bearded men we've seen on the island," I said to Pastor Karp Korzubov, aged 88.

"Our religion forbids shaving, but now most men shave anyway," the pastor answered. "The laws were strict in the old days. For instance, if a man went out among the unfaithful, he had to go to the priest for confession and penance. Only after that was the man allowed to drink from his own mug at home. We called the Orthodox 'antichrists' because they had anathematized us. But today you may come across visiting Orthodox, local Catholics, and others in our prayer house, and we go to theirs.

"We still have some 'special' Old Believers, who live on the western shore of the lake. They call themselves 'Slaves of God' and regard even us as 'impure.'

"I'm not actually a priest, only something like a deputy. I'll retire the minute a younger man appears. Our former pastor had an embroidered chasuble, while I wear a plain, dark blue one. In the old days the men came to service dressed in embroidered shirts; now they simply put on a good suit."

"Has the service changed?"

"We stopped delivering sermons a long time ago. Now people come for confession only once a year. We used to name babies according to the Church calendar; now parents choose any name they like."

Besides Karp Korzubov, the island has an "official" leader—Andrei Leshkin, 72, chairman of the local Executive Committee and secretary of the party organization, which has a membership of seven.

"As you can see, the population of Piirisaar is predominantly of pension age," he said. "Of the 130 people living on the island, 87 are senior citizens. About 20 years ago the island had a population of 1,500. The men caught fish for an Estonian collective farm nearby. Today only three of us fish for a living; the rest are amateur anglers. Most of the people have turned to farming because the land is very fertile.

"Our way of life takes some getting used to. Many people from the mainland come here to buy a summer cottage. But who wants to live here in the winter? It was so cold last winter that the wolves came out of the forest and into our settlement. Snow came up to our windowsills, and food had to be dropped in by plane."

In the summer the island's population nearly doubles when children and grandchildren come to visit. Still, there is little sign of the relaxed "summer resort" life. From morning until night the elderly islanders and their children toil in the onion fields. Children visit their parents in order to work, not play.

Even though outward signs of religiosity are few in the community, practically everyone in Old Believer families has a Church wedding. Children are baptized, and divorce is not practiced.

There have been quite a number of Old Believer-Estonian marriages on Piirisaar. And although Russia and Estonia argued for centuries about who really owned the island, there have never been conflicts at the personal level. On the contrary, Piirisaar natives speak both Russian and Estonian, and the two groups have grown closer over the years.

Many Old Believers—clean-shaven and wearing caps with broad visors cannot be differentiated from Estonians. The same goes for the appearance of their homes.

In the middle of the island stands an abandoned Russian Orthodox church and near it, an old cemetery overgrown with burdock.

"The church was closed in the twenties," said Fyodor Kondratiyev, who, as both a member of the village Executive Committee and a member of the Church council, represents simultaneously the secular authority and the spiritual authority. "We're going to start restoring it next year. The collective farm has promised to help."

"Do you think that the island will revive?"

"It will if the fishermen stay. Fish is netting a good price these days. If you work hard, you can make good money during the fishing season.

"In the old days the fishermen were like one close-knit family. People on the island never locked their doors. After the catch, tables laden with food were brought out into the street to treat the returning fishermen. On St. Peter's Day and Christmas people gathered from all around. The young men put on their embroidered shirts, and the women got all dressed up. The ring dances would have a hundred dancers. The singing could be heard way out on the eastern shore of the lake, where the Russians lived. Those were the good old days. Who knows what the future has in store?"



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CULTURE These Wonderful Changing Times

By Marina Khachaturova

eople are quick to grow accustomed to good things, and it would seem that's always been the case. But even four years ago it would have been difficult for anyone to imagine the scope of the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union and throughout the world. Naturally, the thaw in Soviet-American relations has given a boost to cultural exchanges between the two countries. These relations had been dormant for several years. During that period the magazines SOVIET LIFE and AMERICA were the sole cultural link between the countries. But today no one is surprised by televised spacebridges between the two countries that attract diverse audiences, from schoolchildren to government officials. A couple of months ago millions of television viewers watched the first international auction televised by Soviet TV. Among the auction's sponsors was the joint Soviet-American Intermedbio Company. Viewers played an active part in the auction, the proceeds of which went to help earthquake victims.

The Soviet Union is becoming an open society, and this, among other things, enriches our culture. More and more we are feeling that we are a part of the global cultural treasure-trove and that not only "we" but also "they" stand to lose from the lack of contact with other cultures. Within a short period of time, several public organizations have been set up that are pooling the efforts of our two countries in the field of culture. The joint Soviet-American film company that was recently established is already shooting films. The newly created American-Soviet theater is busy

organizing tours of theatrical companies and promoting joint productions. This fall Muscovites were to have seen productions of the Arena Stage, a theater in Washington, D.C., and, in return, the Taganka Theater in Moscow was to have performed in several U.S. cities. Unfortunately, financial reasons caused this exchange to be canceled. Theatergoers in both countries may have been disappointed this time, but the future holds much promise.

Earlier this year, in February, Moscow's Yermolova Theater premièred the Clifford Odets' play Awake and Sing under the title Bronx, New York. American Michael Miner from the Actors Theater in Saint Paul, Minnesota, directed the Moscow staging. An article about the production appeared in the April issue of SOVIET LIFE.

Two exceedingly interesting American exhibits also were held in Moscow in January and February: a photography exhibit commemorating the centennial of the United States' National Geographic Society featuring some 300 photographs from the pages of National Geographic magazine and an extensive, several-room show of Robert Rauschenberg's works. The exhibit of the "father of Pop Art," who was in Moscow for the opening, is yet another proof of the positive changes under way in the Soviet Union. For three whole decades Rauschenberg's work was seen in this country as nothing but an illustration of the "crisis of bourgeois culture." Significantly, in Moscow Rauschenberg's works shared space with creations of Kazimir Malevich, whose works had long been scorned.

Today pluralism is a subject of great interest all over the Soviet

Union. Art is a nursery of pluralism. A show of modern Soviet avant-garde art in Moscow made names for many previously unknown artists and presented a wide variety of genres. A similar show held in Western Europe was a huge success. Our avant-garde poetry is also making breakthroughs.

The current changes in the intellectual sphere have given birth to a legion of theater studios, which are struggling to outgrow their amateurism and become big time. Today nothing stands in the way of their development. Success depends on their own potential, the recognition of viewers, and attendance at performances. These studios are very active: They perform a great deal, tour various cities, hold festivals, and have the support of theatrical journals. They are popular with young (and not so young) people and provide an alternative to established theaters.

Could we imagine composer Alfred Schnitke's music festival four years ago? Well-known conductor Gennadi Rozhdestvensky played only one piece by Schnitke then. Our official music circles were indignant, while those who managed our culture were implacably opposed to further performances. But when a festival of modern music was held recently, music lovers and professional musicians heard a whole week of Schnitke.

The current changes in Soviet society provide for the diversification of international cultural exchanges. Even the traditional international festivals that were held in this country are changing their format as they expand their representation. Many international events that are sure to be of interest for the cultural world are scheduled for this year.







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he Taganka
Drama and Comedy
Theater made a big
splash as soon as it
opened 25 years
ago, and it has been
making waves ever
since. To begin with,
there is its name. At

a time when all Soviet theaters had official-sounding names, like Lenin Komsomol or Mossoviet, Yuri Lyubimov christened his theater with the name of the old square on which the former movie house stood. The simple name suited the austere style of the new company perfectly.

The Taganka Theater began as a class project of the Shchukin Drama Institute, attached to the Vakhtangov Theater. Brimming with talent and team spirit, the students made Moscow playgoers gasp with their final exam production—Bertolt Brecht's The Good Woman of Setzuan. The production was memorably directed by Lyubimov, who was the Vakhtangov's leading man at the time. Stunned by its success, the stage directors allowed the students to form a professional company. The directors lived to regret this, leading man Veniamin Smekhov ironically recollected at the company's twenty-fifth

anniversary celebration. But how were the directors to know that the small and inexperienced group would become the first political theater of the present Soviet generation, a daring revivalist harking back to the early Soviet years, a brave denouncer of stagnation? Lyubimov, a brilliant actor, who owed his early fame mainly to his performance in the title role in Edmond Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac, went on to win world acclaim as the company's director.

Another production made no less a sensation, this time on Taganka's own stage. It was Ten Days That Shook the World, based on American journalist John Reed's reports from revolutionary Russia in 1917. The play had all the features that later became Taganka trademarks: metaphorical pageantry, dynamism, polished dialogue, first-rate acting, and the civic ardor with which the performers spoke about the most painful social problems. It was truly topical history. The stormy atmosphere of 1917 enveloped you the moment you crossed the threshold of the theater. Actors dressed as soldiers and sailors collected tickets at the entrance, pinning the stubs on their bayonets. Young Communist League activists in red kerchiefs, rebellious sailors armed to

the teeth, and a priest uttering loud invectives against the Revolution—members of the cast mingled with theatergoers in the lobby before the show.

The backdrop and the outer wall were removed, and a panorama of the square opened from the stage. Participants in the crowd scenes entered the stage from the street. The historical play had the uncanny look of the real thing.

Over the years the Taganka stuck to controversial themes, and every opening night threw the company, fearing the worst, into an uneasy state: The ever-vigilant eye of the "keepers of ideology" could ban any play from going on. Of the 31 Lyubimov productions staged throughout his 19 years at the Taganka, only two went off without a hitch. Some plays were cut, four were banned after previews, and several were closed soon after opening.

But the Taganka hung on. One of its biggest hits was its stage adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel *The Master and Margarita*. The production was an effort of rare daring: Bulgakov's novel, which was finished in 1937 but not published until 30 years later, is a piece of biting satire and tragically profound philosophy. It was



The Taganka's production of The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov. Facing page: A scene from The Master and Margarita, based on Mikhail Bulgakov's novel. Veniamin Smekhov plays Woland.



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etinue right): ...uida Slavina as Azazello, Ivan Dykhovichny as Korovyev, Tatyana Sidorenko as Gella, Veniamin Smekhov as Woland, and Vladimir Smirnov as Behemoth. Facing page: Scenes from The Master and Margarita. Alexander Trofimov in the role of Joshua Ha-Nozri. Right inset: Dmitri Shcherbakov as the Master. Bottom inset: Valeri Shapovalov as Pontius Pilate.

a challenge for the theater, with the action shifting from Jerusalem in the year A.D. 33 to Moscow in the 1930s, and back. Now we see a persecuted Russian writer, Bulgakov's contemporary, now Pontius Pilate-both in a tormenting search for the truth. Amusing deviltry staged by Satan, alias Professor Woland, follows the Crucifixion. Scriptural events start a mystical interplay with the routine of down-to-earth Muscovites. It took a director of Lyubimov's unbridled imagination to re-create this stormy, bizarre world. Amazingly, the production survived untouched—perhaps Woland, eager to sparkle on the stage, pushed the punishing hand of the powers-that-be away from the Taganka.

Pushkin's Boris Godunov, a historical play of Shakespearean impact, was another hit. It's hard to imagine why it is staged so rarely. In those days it was banned after a dozen performances, which played to packed houses and entranced audiences. The pretext was that the scenery and costumes weren't a true representation of the seventeenth century. The real reason lay deeper, of course. Socially minded as usual, the company emphasized Pushkin's contraposition of the ruler and the masses and delved into the roots of the patient submissiveness of the Russian people. It was an impressive piece of topical history.

After Vladimir Vysotsky, one of Taganka's best actors and a universally loved poet and singer, died in his prime at barely 40 years old, his company put on a production to commemorate his civic effort. This turned out to be another point of confrontation with the authorities.

Year after year the Taganka made stop-the-presses news. Regrettably, reporters could not resist the temptation to use a sensational approach when they referred to the theater, especially after Lyubimov was deprived of Soviet citizenship.

Left without its founding father, the company was for some time headed by Anatoli Efros, a prominent director and Lyubimov's friend. After Efros died, the actors elected a chief director from their midst, Nikolai Gubenko. A Taganka actor, Gubenko had already made a name for himself as a film director. Like the rest of the company, he openly declared his loyalty to Lyubimov's principles even when such a stance was unpopular.

Today the Taganka repertoire includes Russian and world classics, old and modern. In the old days some plays were performed 600, even 900, times, others two or three before they were forced to close. Some were not produced at all and were revived only with glasnost.

Yuri Lyubimov, his Soviet citizenship restored by the Presidium of the▶







The Face of Dallas. Oil on canvas. I painted this picture in the allegorical style of the sixteenth century artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. It is a collage of my first, most vivid impressions of the city.

Mikhail Shemyakin in His Studio in New York. Water color, pen and ink on paper. I met émigré artist Mikhail Shemyakin at his oneman show in Moscow [a talk with Shemyakin starts on page 52-Ed.] the day before I left for the United States. This water color is part of my large series Man in the Workplace.



of Cinematographers. By the end of March we were already in New York City. In the three weeks we spent there, I did several water colors.

Then we left for Dallas, where we've been living for three months now. Finally, I have some peaceful time to get to know this city.

I must say that now my impressions are quite different from those I formed when I was in the United States as a tourist. They are also different from the perceptions of America that are prevalent in Moscow.

Everything I see here seems to reflect the reality of American literature—a mixture of Faulkner, Capote, Caldwell, and Twain. The people who invited me into their homes and with whom I have become good friends remind me of characters from American books. Here I can get a firsthand look at Aunt Polly and Tom Sawyer, Caldwell's old people, and characters from Faulkner's trilogy.

Before I came to Dallas, I knew nothing about the city other than that it was here that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. When I saw the city, everything delighted me: the magnificent architecture of the downtown business district, which empties of people when the workday ends; the residential areas that encircle the downtown area with their geometrically trimmed trees; and the apartment buildings with a separate staircase leading to each apartment.

Even though Dallas' downtown district was designed by world-famous architects, the buildings don't have plaques telling who designed them. But Dallasites don't seem to be too interested anyway. They take their city's architecture for granted, like something completely ordinary the buildings are here, fine; they're a nice place to work. But I'd call the downtown area a museum of modern architecture, and in my water colors I've tried to convey my feelings about

My exhibition, "Three Months in Dallas," which is now being held at the University of Texas at Dallas, seemed to come together by itself. When the show ends here, I'd like to take it to Moscow and to Novosibirsk, where several of my exhibitions are scheduled.

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The artist's view . . .

hen the media's freedom under Khrushchev gave way to Brezhnevian stagnation and all newspapers and magazines became so alike, I stopped subscribing to periodicals, listening to the radio, and watching television. If someone had told me then that in several years I would be painting political works, I wouldn't have believed them.

My interests have changed dramatically. I now like documentary films and have developed a taste for political posters. And now I subscribe to such a mountain of magazines that I can't find the time to read them all.

Once at the country house of some friends I found a pile of old magazines from the 1930s: "USSR-At the Construction Site." Leafing through the pages, I saw familiar figures from my childhood—laughing collective farmers, marching gymnasts, Lysenko, Stalin. Suddenly I got the desire to re-create an image of those times. My first endeavor was the painting Personality Cult, but only later, while I was working on that piece, did the idea for a whole series of paintings come to me. I threw myself into the task and finished five paintings—the pentaptych The Revolution Continues-a rendering of our history from the October 1917 Revolution to perestroika.

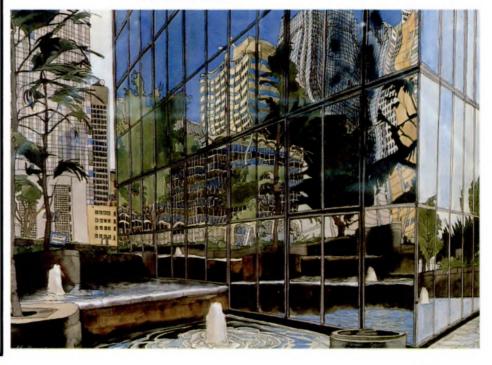
The pentaptych was done in the style of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, a sixteenth century Italian artist who worked in Prague. At that time Prague was the world center of the Mannerism movement, which exalted the extraordinary. Arcimboldo created a series of allegorical works, which consisted of the heads of figures, made up of symbolic objects. He borrowed his ideas from ancient Indian tantric drawings, which portrayed the gods in similar fashion. This was the first occurrence of Eastern cultural influence on the West. I used this ancient art technique to create a modern, even everyday, political grotesque. The revolution moves on, while art returns eternally to itself. Even in the most ancient thing, I look for the contemporary.

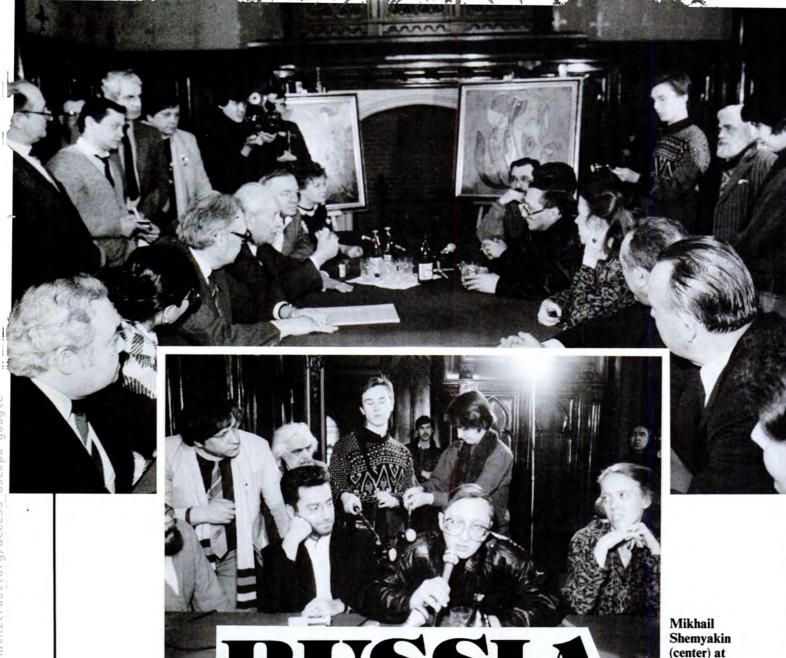
Courtesy of Gorizont (Horizon)

Downtown. Water color, pen and ink on paper. I painted this from a 58story office on a weekend, when the office was empty. There was only one policeman on duty on the floor. He treated me to potato chips and a Coca-Cola.



Reflection. Water color, pen and ink on paper. Downtown Dallas is distorted by mirrored walls. This is a wall of one of the most amazing buildings in the city, designed by the architect I.M. Pei, in the shape of a drill. Pei also designed the pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.





RUSSIA a press conference in Moscow. is my homeland

By Alexander Tropkin Photographs by Igor Boiko

Artist Mikhail Shemyakin's recent return to Moscow and Leningrad after an 18-year absence was a real event among Soviet art and intellectual circles.



itting in front of me was a man of rare inner dignity. He did not complain or seem overly excited, nor did he exude an air of

the celebrity tired of all the fanfare.

That's how I remember the artist, Mikhail Shemyakin. I still recall his dull, tired voice (he was giving countless interviews every day), calloused hands kneading one cigarette after another (he is a chain smoker), and piercing eyes. I have a strong temptation to call him a Soviet painter, but, alas, he is an American, though we both speak Russian.

For years Shemyakin had worn the label of a dissident, renegade, and donothing, and his artworks were declared vulgar or insane. Those were

bleak times.

He left Russia, clad in a sheepskin army jacket and holding a half-empty mesh bag in one hand and his dog on a leash in the other. That was all that he owned. He was embittered and frustrated, and his uncertain future seemed just as scary as his hopeless present. And yet the 27-year-old artist was unbent. He knew he had talent, and that strong faith in himself helped him survive.

During his absence from his homeland, Shemyakin has accomplished a great deal. His one-man show, which opened in Moscow's largest exhibition center on Krymskaya Embankment on the eve of his visit, surprised many people by its size alone. Thousands of admirers from Moscow and other cities stood in line for hours to see the show, but what they saw was a mere

fraction of his total work.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. My first question to Shemyakin was how it felt to be coming home.

"It's a strange feeling," he replied.
"I haven't forgotten what was said about me in the past, but I'm eager to see for myself whether things are really different here.

"I keep up with what's going on through the Soviet newspapers and magazines I subscribe to. And a lot of what I read would have been absolutely unheard of before." "How do you explain the tremendous success of your recent one-man show?"

"The success of the show not only reflects on me and what I have done but also recognizes all the nonconformist artists and what they have managed to accomplish."

"I hear you had quite a surprise in store for you in Leningrad, the city

where you were born."

"My friends who met me at the airport told me about another exhibit of mine in Leningrad. So I decided to head there straight-away.

"What I saw was truly moving. In my wildest dreams I could never have imagined that a collection of my works—even a small one—would ever be hanging in the museum home of my favorite Russian writer, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and that I'd be welcomed at the door by his grandson.

"In front of me were pictures, studies, and drawings that I had made a long time ago and that I had given up for lost. It was unbelievable! I felt as if I were back in my youth."

"Did you notice any changes in the artistic life in the two cities?"

"Time was much too short for me to make any sound judgment. But I did get a sense that things are really changing for the better.

"Nowadays you find art shows almost everywhere, in exhibition halls and even in the streets. On Leningrad's Nevsky Prospekt, the street where I used to live, artistic life is in full swing, though I wouldn't say everything I saw was in good taste. Never mind. Time will put everything in its proper place."

"While you've been away, you've gotten involved in several uncharacteristic things for an artist. How'd you get

started in publishing?"

"My first project in the business was the Apollo 77 directory, in which I tried to collect under one cover the most original names in the Soviet nonconformist arts and literature. In the mid-seventies people in the West became skeptical about Soviet artists, poets, and writers—whether they could create anything worthwhile in an atmosphere of pomp and official-dom. Meanwhile, artists and writers continued to create highly original works in the USSR. Apollo 77 was designed to support them."

"Is there still a need for support like that now?"

"Sure, but of a different sort. Sotheby's first auction of modern Soviet artists of different schools and ages was a sensational success, though, to me, the best artists weren't represented. That's why I've decided to publish a new illustrated magazine called Russian Art and the West, through which I'm going to introduce first-rate Soviet and émigré artists and sculptors to art lovers in the United States and Europe."

"Russia and the Russian culture continue to have a great influence on you.

Why?"

"You know, people often ask me a different question: 'Do you want to return?' Mother Russia is my homeland, and I am connected with her not only by birth but also by cultural and spiritual affinity. Where one chooses to live or work is a different thing altogether.

"The indomitable Russian spirit that lives within me makes me support every talented and innovative artist in my homeland. Life has taught me to be caring. It's very encouraging that compassion and charity are be-

ginning to revive in Russia."

"Was that what motivated you to set up a committee to assist in the return of Soviet soldiers who were taken prisoner

in Afghanistan?"

"Several years ago I saw a television program about Soviet POWs being shipped from Pakistan to the United States and Canada. The haggard look on their boyish faces and their sullen eyes produced a terrible impression. But I was particularly moved by the songs they sang—about blood and death and the senselessness of war.

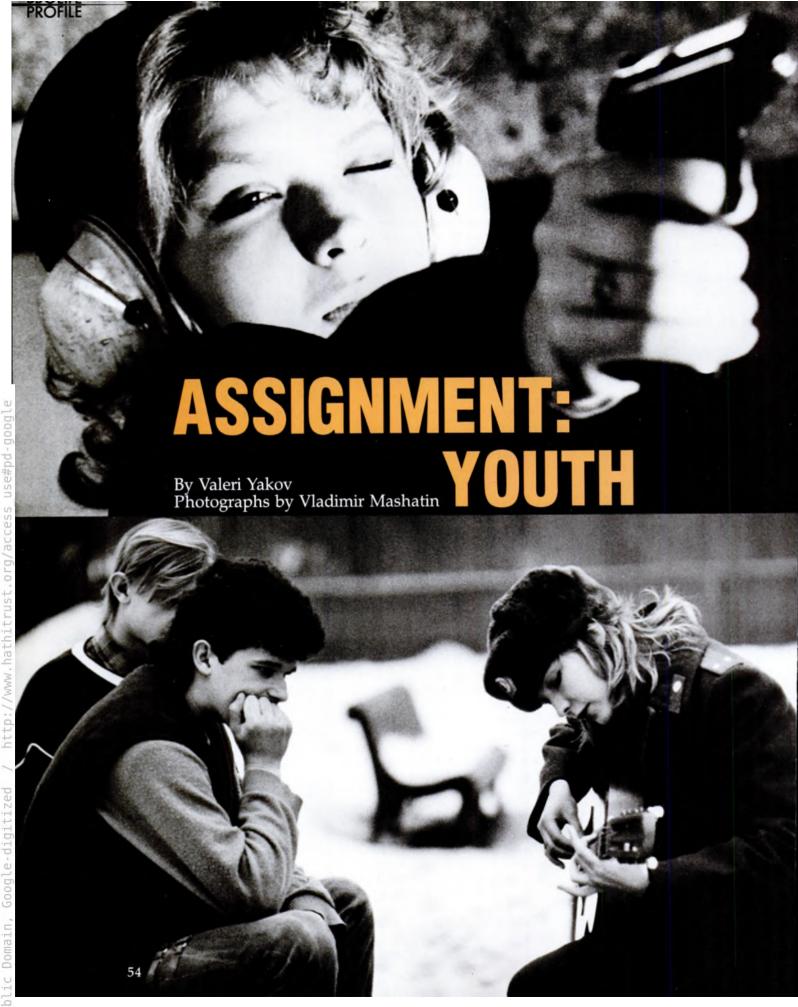
"I knew then that I had to do something. So I decided to set up the committee."

"Does your involvement in the committee distract you from your art?"

"I'm not one of those artists who lives in an ivory tower. I think we artists should be open to what's happening in the world. Our attitude toward life always shows in our work, whether we want it to or not. Our work is of value only if it conveys a message and makes other people feel what we feel."







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Dvoretskaya,

in the Moscow

militia, is a

crack shot at

target practice

on the shooting

range. But her

assignment as

an inspector of

youth offenders

calls for other

understanding,

and the ability

to communicate.

Here she makes

two local youths.

contact with

skills-patience,

a senior

lieutenant



o matter what anyone says, I think a pistol in a woman's hands looks strange. But when 25year-old Olga Dvoretskaya is the one holding it, it's a different story. Watching her lower the barrel of the gun to eye level and pull the trigger, you can't help admiring her as you hear again, "Bull's eye!" It's hard to believe that Dvoretskaya wields a gun only here on the shooting range, and even then not that often. The young militia lieutenant likes driving a car, shooting at targets, and honing her martial arts techniques. But her job requires more than driving skills, marksmanship, and physical fitness. As the officer in charge of youth offenders, Dvoretskaya says her duties call for patience, understanding, and the ability to communicate.

When still in high school, Olga was the only girl in her class who showed an interest in joining the militia when she graduated. Her girl friends thought the choice odd, even though they knew her father was a career militiaman and her older brother worked for Moscow's Criminal Investigation Department. The idea didn't thrill Olga's parents either. Who could blame them? Her father knew firsthand the demands of the job, while her mother could only think of the hours—sometimes even days—she had spent waiting and worrying about when and if her husband and son would return from an assignment. And now her daughter too!

"Wouldn't you prefer drama school?" she asked Olga with secret hope, knowing how much her daughter had enjoyed acting in school plays literally from the first grade upward.

"Don't worry, Mom," smiled Olga. "I'll be just like Dad, who has time for everything."

Olga Dvoretskaya entered the special militia institute of the USSR Ministry of the Interior in Moscow right after finishing high school, becoming one of the few women among the hundreds of men in the course. She was 17, and the only female in her group. The others were young men in their early twenties, who had already served in the army. All of them were eager to help, to give advice, and to take over, if the need arose; and had she been willing to let them take her under their wing, she could easily have breezed through the training period. But that wasn't Dvoretskaya's way. She was determined to make the grade on her own.

That was easy when it came to theory: Dvoretskaya was a good student and liked the subject matter. Things became a bit more complicated when it came to practical training. The young militia trainee practiced on the shooting range until she had blisters on her hands, all the while struggling to keep from involuntarily closing her eyes when she pulled the trigger. The fitness program was also a challenge. Dvoretskaya says she remembers all the eve-

nings spent at home doing pushups, while the rest of the family watched television.

During one fitness test the men in the group good-naturedly suggested that Dvoretskaya go first. Without saying a word, she flashed a smile, dropped to the floor, and began her exercise. To the encouraging shouts of her classmates, she did 23 pushups. "Pretty good," said the instructor, "but you're two pushups short of getting an A." Dvoretskaya immediately rushed forward and repeated the exercise. This time her classmates looked on in silence. She said later that at that moment she felt like the eyes of everyone, not only in the gym but also in the whole institute, were on her. And when the instructor counted, "Twenty-five," a loud Hurrah filled the

Dvoretskaya conducted her first interrogation at age 18, while she was still in training. Every sound, word, and emotion that she heard, spoke, or felt on that day are forged in her memory: the bone-chilling clank of the prison gate closing behind her; the long, forbidding corridors between barred doors; the constant checking of documents; and the stark interrogation room with its table and chairs bolted to the floor . . . Dvoretskaya's heart skipped a beat when she imagined the gloomy face of the criminal she was to interrogate. Suddenly the door opened and in walked an extremely striking woman with seemingly flawless manners. The woman sat down, gave the militia officer an indifferent look, and asked for a cigarette. When Dvoretskaya said she was sorry but she didn't smoke, the woman got up and immediately began collecting the cigarette butts from the ashtray on the table. How deceptive looks can be, thought Dvoretskaya. Here was a woman about her own age, from the same town, with, most likely, something in common, yet their lives were worlds apart. Dvoretskaya felt sorry for the

That first experience got the young militiawoman thinking about what makes some people—ordinary people living in the same town and in the same country—suddenly go wrong, commit a crime, and wind up behind bars. Dvoretskaya realized that her profession meant not only enforcing the law but also doing what she could to help those in trouble find their way back into the mainstream of life.

Her assignment as an inspector in charge of youth offenders came as a surprise to Dvoretskaya. At the institute she had learned to drive a car, to handle all kinds of firearms, and to decipher all kinds of codes. She had also studied sambo wrestling, the art of good investigative work, the fundamentals of logic, and psychology. But working with teenagers!?

The attractive blue-eyed blonde, who is socia->



ble and has a good sense of humor, braced herself for the challenge. News of the pretty young officer spread quickly among the problem youth in the district. Some were so curious that they decided to stop by her office to see if what they had heard was true. But finding Lieutenant Dvoretskava there was not easy. She spends most of her time at the children's home, the school, or in the local basements and attics, the frequent haunts of problem youth.

"These boys and girls don't fit the stereotype of 'street-smart punks,' 'school dropouts,' or 'victims of broken homes,'" says Dvoretskaya. "Ev-

eryone of the kids is different."

Dvoretskaya remembers one particularly heart-rending case. Responding to a call to investigate suspicious goings-on in a neighborhood apartment, she found two young girls, aged nine and six, living alone without supervision. It turned out that the father had left sometime before, while the mother, an alcoholic, hadn't been seen for more than two days.

When Dvoretskaya went into the kitchen, she found nothing for the children to eat, not even a slice of bread. Back in the living room, the girls stood hand in hand, listening to the concerned uncles and aunts, who had so unexpectedly appeared at the door and were now trying to convince their nieces to go along with "the nice militia lieutenant who would take them to the children's home." But the girls refused, arguing, "Mommy loves us. She'll be back soon. We're not afraid to stay by ourselves. Who'll take care of our turtles and our kitten, Ryzhik?"

Fishing the two turtles from under the couch and coaxing the kitten from out of the cupboards took some time. By then the girls had started to cry. Dvoretskaya comforted them and got them

ready to go to the children's home.

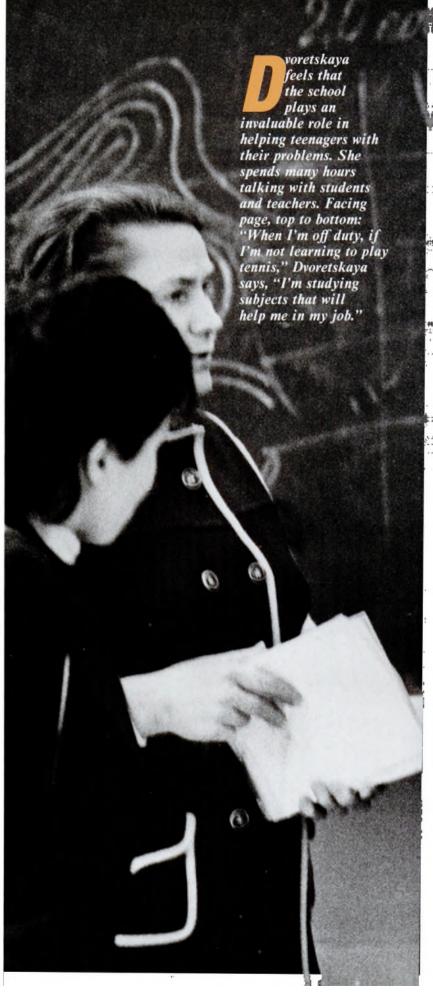
For the next several days Lieutenant Dvoretskaya dropped by the children's home every day before and after work to see how the two children were doing. The girls looked forward to seeing their new friend. When the mother arrived at the juvenile inspection section, she was teary-eyed and full of remorse. With a stern warning from the militia lieutenant, the mother had her children returned to her. But from then on Dvoretskaya would be keeping a watchful eye on the situation.

At home the young militiawoman never talks much about her work, just like her father and brother. She doesn't want to worry her mother too much. But her mother worries anyway.

"Will you be late tonight?" Dvoretskaya's mother usually asks when Olga is getting ready for work in the morning. "I don't know," says Olga, "I'll call you."

Not long ago militiawoman Dvoretskaya was promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant.

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FATHER HERMAN'S ALASKAN MISSION

By Isai Belenkin Candidate of Science (History)

On August 9, 1970, Father Herman, an eighteenth century Russian monk, was canonized on Kodiak Island, off the southwestern coast of Alaska. With the help of missionaries, Father Herman, a spiritual leader and an enlightener, laid the foundation for the Orthodox Church in America.

n the eighteenth century Russia joined the ranks of the strongest European powers. Its might burgeoned with new possessions in the South and in the Far East, even spilling across the North Pacific Ocean to the Western Hemisphere.

Hosts of colonists, trappers, and fishermen settled in the newly acquired lands. These settlers were a motley crew. Some of them, the offspring of sturdy seafarers and craftsmen, were driven by simple wanderlust. Others, tramps and adventurers of the most disreputable sort, ventured to the New World in search of booty.

When the wild-and-wooly pioneers arrived on the mainland of North America and the surrounding islands and came upon the indigenous Americans—Aleuts, Eskimos, and Indians—with their pristine social structures, the culture shock was jarring for all involved.

The law of the jungle held sway on the islands. The Russian hunters seized seal rookeries and robbed the Aleuts of their catches. Clashes followed, with casualties on both sides.

But the newcomers also brought some good things with them: iron tools, fishing implements, and sophisticated weapons. As patriarchal patterns gave way, Alaska and the Aleutian and Kurile islands were gradually drawn into the civilized world.

Pragmatic merchants, who arrived after the pioneers, sought to establish friendly relations with the natives. The merchants told them about the Russian Empire, whose subjects they had recently and unexpectedly become, and tried to introduce the benefits of Russian culture into the daily lives of the natives.

The traders wisely saw the good that Russian orthodoxy could serve once it became established in the newly colonized lands. But there were no priests among the pioneers. Many merchants took it upon themselves to embark on missionary work, but their pious efforts were haphazard and sometimes did more harm than good.

In 1793 Gabriel, Metropolitan of Novgorod, St. Petersburg, and Olonets, received an unusual visitor at his residence in St. Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire. The visitor, Grigori Shelekhov, enjoyed national renown as the "Russian Columbus." In 1775 he had founded a major trading company with interests in Russia's new possessions, the Aleutian and Kurile archipelagoes and the Alaskan coast. In the two decades that had elapsed since then, he had become a tycoon of vast wealth and influence. The Imperial Court held him in high favor, and the Holy Synod was receptive to his requests and advice.

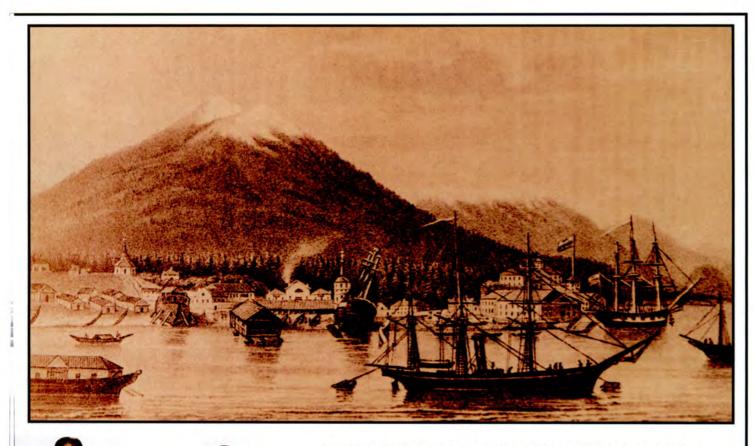
By the 1780s Shelekhov and his assistants firmly held all the trading companies in Russian America in their enterprising hands. Shelekhov and others streamlined the colonial government and made lasting and friendly contacts with the natives. Intermarriages became very common.

The children of these marriages, of mixed Russian and Eskimo or Indian blood, were called Creoles, after the fashion of the French and Spanish Americas. These children accounted for the majority of the pupils in the schools established on Shelekhov's initiative.

The Russian Columbus attended to his spiritual duties almost as zealously as he did to his business. He preached as best he could and was godfather to many Creole children. But he knew full well that the sphere of his activity would always be severely restricted unless a regular mission were established. Alexander Baranov, Shelekhov's manager who was later appointed Governor of the Russian colonies in the New World, shared this view.

On May 4, 1793, the Holy Synod made public Catherine the Great's edict granting Shelekhov's request to establish a Russian Orthodox mission in the colonies. Metropolitan Gabriel was entrusted with the task. The prelate turned to the Balaam Monastery, a secluded place on one of the many islands in Lake Ladoga, in the northern part of European Russia, for help. As Father Nazarius, the head of the monastery, selected the monks for Alaskan missionary work, he was concerned not so much with choosing men of great evangelic fervor as with ridding his brotherhood of its black sheep. Only one monk enjoyed his well-deserved benevolence. That was Father Herman, who was then 37 years old. He was eager to preach the

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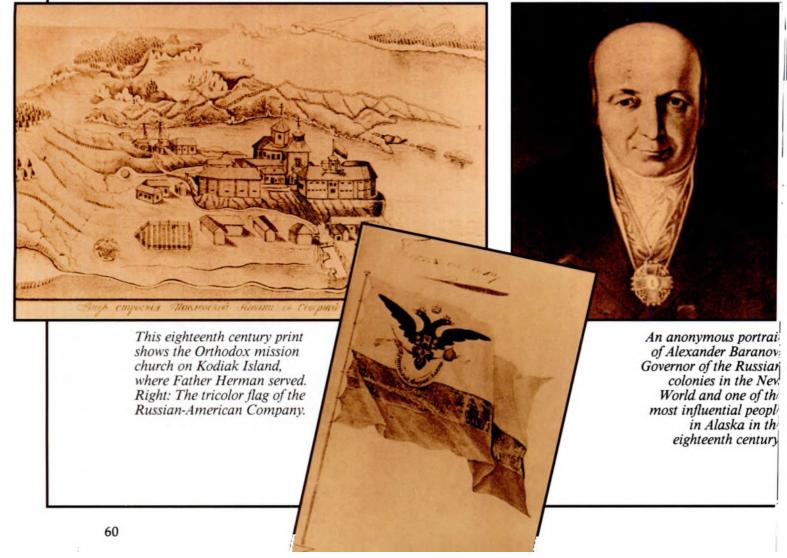








Natives of Sitka Island, a lithograph by F. Kitlits, made in 1827. Above: The legendary Grigori Shelekhov, the founder of a large trading company in Alaska, was called the "Russian Columbus."



gospel to the unenlightened.

A son of well-to-do peasants from the fertile Voronezh Region in southern Russia, Herman took to piety and book learning from the time he was a child. His fiery imagination was captivated by the solitary mystical experiences of the hermits of old.

Missionary work in Alaska offered Father Herman a chance both to perform feats of devotion and to live among new people who intrigued him. Firmly set on leaving, he received Nazarius' blessing and a scholarly assignment: Father Herman was to collect information on the Russian settlements in Alaska and to write a detailed report.

At long last the mission of five monks, with Archimandrite Joasaph at its head, set out on its arduous journey. Two monks and two novices joined the mission in Irkutsk.

The route that the missionaries traveled was well trod by that time. From Yakutsk, they embarked on the Okhotsky Highway, which eventually brought them to the ocean. They encountered only one surprise—and an extremely flattering one at that—along the way: None other than Grigori Shelekhov himself accompanied them to Okhotsk. The Russian Columbus felt it his duty to take a closer look at the missionaries and to instruct them on the unusual flock to which they would minister.

In August 1794 one of Shelekhov's ships set sail for Kodiak Island, carrying, besides the missionaries, a mixed group of traders and hunters and a cargo of necessities for the settlers. Called back to Irkutsk by urgent business, Shelekhov made do by giving the missionaries a set of instructions for Governor Baranov, including an order that a monastery be built on Kodiak.

Perspicacious and practical, Baranov grasped the situation at once: a waste of the trading company's money, and what money at that?!

The newly arrived clergy were more optimistic. "With zeal and diligence, we started building a church, mproving our quarters, and preaching Christianity with the help of interreters and colonists. Father Herman responsible for the bakery. Many atives have already embraced the

true faith," Archimandrite Joasaph reported back to Father Nazarius.

Archimandrite Joasaph, seduced by visions of a brilliant career, embellished the truth and shamelessly exaggerated the number of baptisms that were performed. Taking his human weaknesses into account, it's easy to understand his position. For the most part, the monks in his charge were lazy and ignorant and could hardly cope with the huge task of gaining the natives' confidence and taming the Russian colonists.

The reckless outlaws caused a great deal of trouble for the company's manager, Baranov, and he, a rigid and exacting man with an unbending sense of justice, showed them no mercy. The trading company was essential for the Russian economy and, consequently, its dealings were closely watched from St. Petersburg: Too many ventures would fail if order were not imposed.

The missionaries' attitude toward the indigenous population was another object of concern. The Holy Synod's instruction to Archimandrite Joasaph read, in part:

The utmost tact is needed as you bring the converts to prayer and fasting. Set a time for edifying talks with the people and repeat the Gospel's truths again and again in the simplest words you can find. Do not close your eyes to their circumstances. Help them as best you can.

This document describes Russian policy in the New World in the abstract. But these good intentions were very rarely carried out in practice. The monks, with the exception of Father Herman, waved the instructions aside.

Shelekhov's sudden death in Irkutsk in July 1795 made the indomitable Alexander Baranov sole head of the trading company, and he worked hard to make it prosper, even with a stone wall of monastic resistance. The missionaries sabotaged his initiatives and turned his men against him. The high wooden fence of the Kodiak mission hid ugly doings from the laity's eyes. Driven crazy by idleness, the monks spent their time in drunken brawls. Father Herman was the sole

abstainer. He toiled in the vegetable garden and in the bakery, and in his spare time he painstakingly collected information on the medieval settlements of the Novgorod refugees who had fled to Kodiak to escape the wrath of Ivan the Terrible.

In 1798 the ecclesiastical authorities summoned Archimandrite Joasaph to Irkutsk to report about his missionary work. His scholarly description of Kodiak was published posthumously in 1805. The Archimandrite died in 1799 in a wreck of the frigate *Phoenix*. The Archimandrite's demise spelled the virtual end of the Alaskan mission. At the turn of the nineteenth century, only one monk remained on Kodiak—Father Herman.

Explorer Ferdinand Wrangel described Father Herman as follows:

That monk was the best. Excelling in piety and intelligence, he was the true head of the mission.... We can only regret that he could not keep the brethren on the path of God. Hottempered, he could never put up with insults and abuse. He rose passionately in defense of the natives against the traders, hunters, and their elders, all famous for cruelty and debauchery. That caused him much suffering. He was the only one to hold on. Now he shines as a paragon of industry, piety, and unblemished morals. This holy man belongs to the number of truly outstanding people.

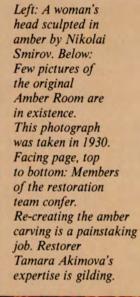
Father Herman's one cherished dream was to start a hermitage. Eventually he moved to tiny Fir Island and lived quietly, tilling his vegetable plot. New Balaam, a small convent, soon sprang up nearby. Mother Superior Sophia was an Aleut who converted to the Orthodox Church and became a nun after her husband, a Russian merchant, died.

Mother Sophia died in 1836, and Father Herman not long after. The convent was dissolved, and the novices were married. But they never forgot their pious and hard-working youth, and they brought up their children and grandchildren in faith and industry.

When Father Herman was canonized, a solemn procession brought his remains from Fir Island to Kodiak Island for eternal rest near the local Orthodox church.



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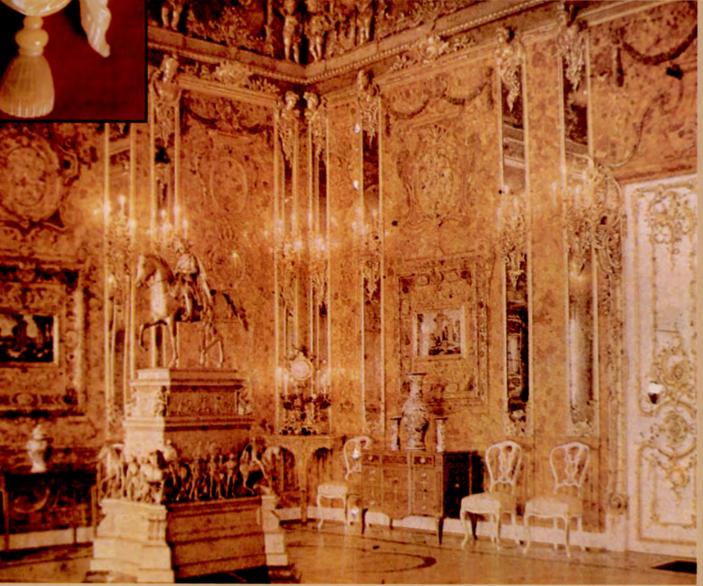


or nearly half a century people have been wondering about the fate of the famous Amber Room of the Catherine Palace in Pushkin (formerly Tsarskoye Selo), outside Leningrad. The room was presented to Peter the Great by King Frederik William of Prussia in 1717 and was probably installed in one of the rooms of the Winter Palace.

Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, ordered architect Varfolomei Rastrelli to decorate a room in her palace with gem panels taken from her father's study. Rastrelli's genius produced the Amber Room, which re-

mained the pearl of the palace for 200 years.

The Germans presented the Amber Room and the Germans stole it. Before escaping from Pushkin, the Nazis ransacked the palace and carried away many valuables, including the Amber Room. The booty was last seen in 1945 in Königsberg (now Kaliningrad), where several amber panels were on display in the King's Palace. Since



Domain,

then, the supposed whereabouts of the room has created false hopes in this country and abroad. Regrettably, we are no nearer to the truth than we were 50 years ago.

In 1979 work to re-create the room was started under an order from the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation. Architect Alexander Kedrinsky, a Lenin Prize recipient and the author of the program for the restoration of the Catherine Palace, was put in charge of the project.

"The trouble was that we had very few photographs of the Amber Room," says Kedrinsky. "But we have water colors of the interior of the Catherine Palace and similar articles of the eighteenth century. The State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, the Armory in Moscow, and the museums of amber in Poland and Germany contain some amber items too. We have even located authentic articles made by the artists of the Amber Room. But 70 pieces left from the genuine amber panels are our main treasures.

"Shortly before the war we were planning to restore the Amber Room. The oak boards, on which the amber panels were mounted, had shrunk and warped. The amber pieces that fell off were kept in a cupboard. These 70 pieces were miraculously preserved during a fire. Their color range and the technique employed for polishing the amber became the basis for the work of the restorers.

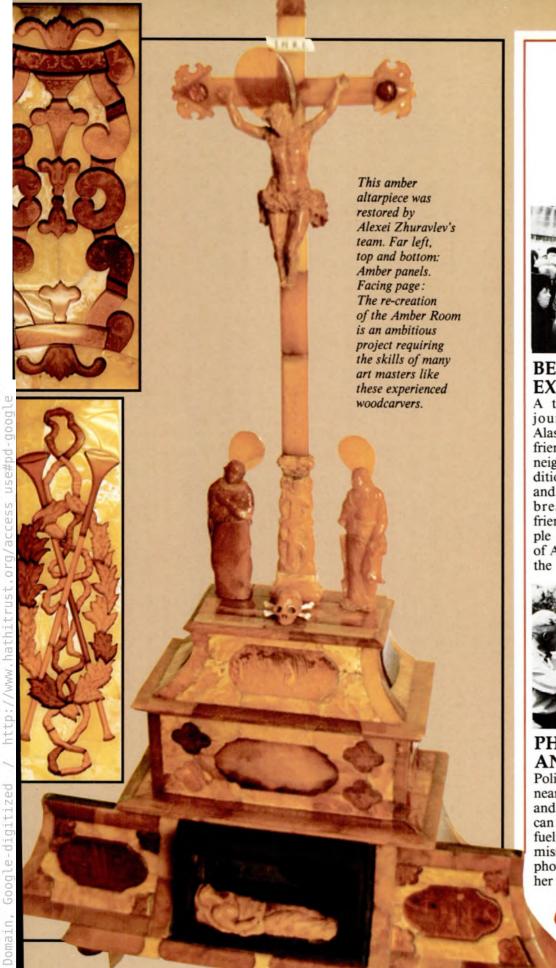
"The re-created room will not be a fake. Scientific restoration means the creation of a piece of art having maximum likeness to the original. Since the original is lost, we are looking for similar works from past centuries.

"The most difficult problem proved to be the color of amber. Should we paint it? Must we boil it? We searched and searched for the answer in time-yellowed manuscripts. Amber had indeed been boiled and painted in the past to produce a rich range of color. But amber specialists are opposed to painting or boiling the precious resin. So, what was to be done? We went to the ancient city of Gdansk in Poland, which had had amber specialists way back in 1476. Our Polish colleagues gave us advice and practical assistance. The re-creation of the Amber Room is a collective project.

"The first panels of multicolored mosaics, which are breathtakingly beautiful, have been completed, but the whole project won't be finished until the mid-1990s.

"The lost Amber Room was priceless. The tentative cost of its re-creation will top five million rubles."







BERING BRIDGE EXPEDITION

A three-month Soviet-American journey across Chukotka and Alaska established a "bridge" of friendship and trust between two neighboring continents. The expedition, headed by Dmitri Shparo and Paul Shurke, wasn't out to break records but to restore friendly relations between the people of Chukotka and the residents of Alaska. The next issue tells how the travelers achieved their goal.



PHOTOS FROM AN ALBUM

Polina Boiko worked at an airfield near Poltava during World War II, and she took pictures of the American pilots who landed there for refueling and repairs after bombing missions. Boiko hopes that the photos in the October issue will help her to locate her wartime friends.

COMING SOON

Citizen Diplomacy

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Mikhail
Shemyakin's
Portrait of
Vaslav Nijinsky.
Pastel and color:
pencil on paper..
1984-1988.
Shemyakin
emigrated from
the Soviet Union
18 years ago.
Coverage of his
recent visit
to his homelandle

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Front Cover: Miners on strike. A story on the strikes begins on page 30. Photographs by Alexander Kurbatov.

> Material for this issue courtesy of Revisit From Engine

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- Chukotka
- Khersones



A Chukchi village across the Bering Strait from Alaska.



34 Sergei Belyaev works on the ruins of ancient Khersones.



Deaf actors communicate in pantomime.



Printed by Holladay-Tyler Printing Corp., Glenn Rale, Md.

EDITOR'S NOTES

n a warm October morning 33 years ago I was walking to my classes at Moscow State University. Right across the square from the Kremlin I saw a very long line in front of a newsstand where people were waiting to buy the first issue of the Russian-language

magazine Amerika.

I recall this episode because today no one in the Soviet Union is surprised that the magazine is readily available. Even more: Turner Broadcasting will air in the United States the programs from a Soviet TV channel, and these plans seem eminently natural. No one is surprised at the visit of the U.S. 6th Fleet to Sevastopol, a Soviet naval base on the Black Sea; or the plans for the "Design in the USA" exhibition that is to travel extensively in this country; or the showings of American films; or the availability of American newspapers and magazines at Soviet newsstands.

With a surge in Soviet-American contacts in a wide range of governmental and nongovernmental channels, we do not think it's unusual when members of the House Armed Services Committee visit our military installations. Such exchanges (as well as cultural and information exchanges) play an important role in bringing people closer and promoting mutual trust. I am proud to say that SOVIET LIFE has always been at the center of such contacts. We realize that this is the way toward trust that is so necessary for the development of cooperation and mutual understanding between our countries.

We are beginning to get to know each other better. Regrettably, we are again standing in line to do that. This time Soviet people are standing in line at Aeroflot ticket offices to fly to New York or Washington on business trips, to see their friends or relatives, or to seek a better life. This is also good as we are forced to look together for a solution to the problem of another boom for which our airlines were unprepared. No doubt, we will find a solution, and the Soviets will have no difficulty in buying tickets for U.S.-bound flights.

This issue features a series of articles about Chukotka, which has a common boundary with the United States, and about ties between the American Alaska and the Soviet Chukotka, and their populations. The ethnic groups on both sides of the border can now visit each other without visas under a Soviet-U.S. agreement. These small ethnic groups are setting a good example for our larger ones.

Robert Tsfasman



Photograph by Armen Ter-Mesropyan

ore than 12 years after leaving the USSR, world-renowned sculptor Ernst Neizvestny (above left) visited Moscow. Now a permanent resident of the United States, he visited the Soviet capital to participate in a meeting of scientists and political figures and to give a lecture entitled "Freedom and Culture."

Neizvestny was born in Sverdlovsk, in the Urals, in 1925. He studied at the Academy of Art in Riga and at the Surikov Art Institute in Moscow. His work is influenced by the sculpture of Michelangelo, Henry Moore, and Jacques Lipchitz. Neizvestny believes that art makes people fully aware of themselves in time and history.

Before leaving the USSR, he had completed commissions for a large sculpture at a children's summer camp in the Crimea and for a monument at the grave of Nikita Khrushchev.

Ronald Reagan in Russian

n September 14 a sensational contract was signed at the Moscow International Book Fair: Novosti Publishers will bring out 250,000 copies of the fortieth U.S. President's public addresses and reminiscences in Russian in 1991. Simon and Schuster arranged for the rights for the Russian edition to go to Novosti through the brokerage firm Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. The contract was signed by Alexander Eidinov, editor in chief of Novosti Publishers, and Ms. Franklin.

The symbolism of this deal in the business world repeats the spectacular symbolism of Mr. Reagan's presidency: He started out with references to the Soviet Union as the evil empire and concluded his term just after signing the world's first treaty eliminating a missile class, which he signed with Mikhail Gorbachev.

Eidinov says of the book: "It will appear in the Political Leaders: Profiles and Memoirs series. We want the Soviet reading public to have firsthand knowledge of Reagan's ideas. I'm sure it will be a great success, as the author stood at the cradle of the effort to normalize Soviet-U.S. relations."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

After reading about the Cuban Missile Crisis, I found it reassuring to know that a Russian can admit to being wrong for once also. And while I don't think that the wives involved made the final decision either to act hostilely or just withdraw the missiles from Cuba, the fact that Mrs. Kennedy spent some time in France, I believe, and Mrs. Khrushchev taught English may have helped in this perilous situation. It's no longer just a good idea to get to know each other; it's a necessity because the next crisis like the Cuban Missile Crisis might be our last.

> James G. Manning Hayward, California

I enjoy your magazine very much and find it both informative and interesting. My name is Jyl Sutherland. I am a 15-year-old attending Wellington High School in West Palm Beach, Florida. I derive much pleasure from writing and have recently published a book of poetry entitled Crossroads. I was intrigued when I read in the August issue of SOVIET LIFE the article "The Length of an Empty Look" about three Soviet poets.

The article gave me a small insight into their way of life and writings. Being interested in writing myself, I was overjoyed to read the article and some of their own poetry. I feel it is extremely important to open the lines of communication between the East and the West. In my heart I believe the Russians to be my comrades. Even though they may live under a different political system, we are all people and we all live under the same sun. It would be an honor to communicate through letters with them.

Jyl Sutherland West Palm Beach, Florida

Difficult Transitions

orrespondent Natalya Zhelnorova interviews Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Q: There is a fairly strong conviction that ministries and government departments are responsible for all our troubles. And facts often support this view: Ministries hobble initiative and reduce to naught many sensible ideas suggested at the grassroots level.

A: Recently we've closed nearly 25 ministries and government committees. I think we now have just enough, though in the future we will have to close more ministries. Everything will depend on how fast the new methods of economic management develop.

Q: But if you do not close superfluous ministries by the force of your authority, they will never allow the new economic methods to develop because they know that these methods endanger their existence.

A: We have a government to see to it, haven't we?

Q: Do you want the government to interfere in deciding every question? A: No, I don't want that. Some ministries already feel that they must look for new forms of management. Others are also looking for new ways, though they are doing it more slowly. On the whole, we are moving in the right direction.

But the task for us now is to maintain a kind of balance. It is a very difficult period of transition. In fact, we are witnessing the emergence of the first elements of the socialist market. Many people find this hard to swallow, and it causes negative trends. I think things will work out little by little.

Q: Or get worse?

A: This is possible. So the main thing now is to maintain a balance. Some people suggest abolishing all distribution at once and letting the enterprises sink or swim on their own. I think, however, that if we end all regulation of resources, economic chaos will result.

Q: But it won't last forever. Everything will return to normal in the end. A: And what will people do when plants become idle? How will they manage if they don't get their wages? The country will be paralyzed. We are moving toward a socialist market the hard way. Conditions are extremely unfavorable—there is more money in production and in circulation among the population than there are material resources and goods; and to restore a balance in the economy, we must first sharply reduce the budget deficit.

Q: Why are we constantly zigzagging? Why do we first make a good decision but then back down on it? A: Our policy is inconsistent because we have very few sound theories on





which to build. One should bear in mind, however, that a great deal has been done over the past years. For all its flaws, the Law on State Enterprise is a major break from old practices. The Law on Cooperatives is another example. It is far more progressive than the Law on State Enterprise. Yet I can see flaws in it too. No wonder that 18 months after its adoption we had to pass, with so much furor, a new law granting the republics the right to pursue their own taxation policies. We should have done this in the beginning. We didn't, and we soon realized that the situation was not as simple as we had thought. The tax scale we adopted created a great injustice in incomes. In short, we made a mistake.

Q: Have you made any serious mistakes as Chairman of the Council of Ministers that you now regret?

A: My main mistake was that I was satisfied with the first two years of the five-year plan. The results were good. We were conducting economic experiments in five or six industries. In the course of experimentation, however, when industrial enterprises receive privileges, everything goes well. What was good for the experiment was not so good for the economy as a whole when we transferred all the factories and plants to cost accounting, making them pay their own way.

One more thing. For more than a year we have been grappling with

one and the same problem. I am not speaking about the budget deficitwe inherited it from our predecessors. I mean the scarcity of goods. This is our own problem. Production is growing, but people's incomes are growing faster-during the first six months of this year they went up by 12 per cent. In the past, incomes grew that fast over a five-year period. At the same time, labor productivity has increased by 3.0 per cent and commodity output by 2.7 per cent. Trade turnover increased by an all-time record of 9.5 per cent. It is clear that there is surplus money, which creates pressure on the market.

Q: Could you stop the issue of money by the force of your authority? **A:** If we did this by force, we would have to give up some elements of the reform.

Q: Is there a solution?

A: We used to have a fixed productivity-to-wage ratio. In 1988 it was abolished, and the flow of surplus money instantly increased. To stabilize the money flow, a productivity-to-wage ratio was reintroduced, and that measure met with fierce resistance. Now we intend to introduce progressive taxation on profits that go to wages.

Q: Some believe the present government will be "temporary."

A: I think it has been appointed for five years. To appoint a new government, one must have a new program. A mere replacement of government members won't change anything. To replace one government with another, one must have a more effective program that would lead the country along a more successful path. If a program ensuring a faster and more effective way of satisfying people's needs appears, I would welcome such a new government. But I have not seen such a program yet.

Q: The current period is, by all appearances, a period of anarchy. The administrative methods do not work any more—you do not want to use them—and the economic methods are not working yet.

A: I would not call that anarchy. It is a very difficult transitional period when both administrative and economic methods are at work.

Q: Major amendments have been made in the Law on State Enterprise, and a series of other important laws are being drafted. Will they change anything in our life?

A: We have drafted five extremely complex laws for consideration by the autumn session of the Supreme Soviet—on property, on lease and contract arrangements, on a single system of taxation, on land, and on enterprise. The law on property will be the main document, which will lay the groundwork for other laws. It is a major breakthrough because the question of property was not even mentioned a

short while ago. But now we are convinced that we must begin with this law because all the others will be derived from it.

Q: Has the government improved in quality?

A: On the whole the new government is the most intellectual in decades. It is the first ever to include 7 full and corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences; 13 hold medical degrees; and 6 hold doctoral degrees. The government has a total of 71 members.

Q: Why are most ministers engineers by training?

A: This is not an accident. It is the result of the personnel policy pursued in this country for decades. Soviet institutions of higher learning graduated 10 times more engineers than economists and lawyers. No wonder the Council of Ministers comprises so

many engineers.

I have also been asked why we have many leaders from the militaryindustrial complex. For decades this country has employed its best and most experienced specialists in the defense sector. Now that we have actively begun conversion, I see no reason why we can't use our best specialists in the interests of the national economy. You'll remember that 75 per cent of all budget allocations to research and development went to military-related research programs. The rest got only 25 per cent. The defense industry has advanced plants and elite personnel. We need conversion not only in production but also in the use of intellect.

Q: Will the new Council of Ministers be able to get the country past the crisis?

A: I think so. This Council of Ministers is capable of carrying out the reform in the interests of the nation.

Q: For a long time people considered you too much under the influence of Gorbachev. The tragedy in Armenia revealed your true personality, showing you to be energetic and sincere, capable of sympathizing with other people's suffering and pain.

A: The mass media usually create an image for a person, and then some-

thing extraordinary must happen to shake that impression.

Q: Who is more resolute, you or Gorbachev?

A: I think we are both resolute. We have common ideals.

Q: Don't you ever argue?

A: It would be naive to think we have no differences on certain issues, but we have no differences about strategy. We may differ and argue about tactical nuances.

Q: What is the main obstacle to perestroika?

A: The upper echelons of administration. Sometimes I see that people either do not know what they should do or do not know how to go about it. We've gotten rid of most such people. It is sometimes very difficult to make a progressive decision. People begin to make all sorts of insinuations about it, and letters start coming in. You said we should have closed more ministries, but if you only knew how hard I had to fight to get them closed! People put pressure on me from all sides. I'm not sure that all people on top have realized the need for radical change. And the most dangerous thing below is inertia.

Q: What do ordinary people feel about perestroika? Are they prepared

A: People have become more actively involved in politics. They have gained more experience and begun to understand better how society develops. But in the economic field many old notions survive: Egalitarian practices die hard. We need to jolt people out of the conventional ruts of thinking and encourage them to learn how to earn more money. In short, we must give them motivation. This is very difficult to do.

Q: Is a turn from democratization to dictatorship possible? A: I think not.

Q: Are you positive?

A: I am. People won't let that happen. I am convinced they won't.

Courtesy of the weekly Argumenti i fakti. Abridged

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When the subject of the Arctic comes up, people immediately think of Dmitri Shparo, a well-known arctic traveler. "When is he going to settle down?" It hadn't been even a year since Shparo led the extremely taxing Soviet-Canadian ski trek from the USSR to Canada via the North Pole, and the Soviet and the American press was running a spate of items on

upon himself to organize the American leg of the journey, promising to find good participants and reliable sponsors.

The expedition members were not selected in the usual way. Understandably, in the selection of the team. for a difficult arctic crossing, preference is given to strong, well-trained people. However, because of the objectives of the Bering Bridge Expedition, aboriginal ethnic groups of the Chukchi Peninsula and Alaska-the Eskimos and the Chukchi-also had to be represented on the team. So the American team included Ginna Brelsford; Lonnie Dupré; Eskimos Darlene Apangolook, an undergraduate from St. Lawrence Island, and Robert Soolook, a musher from Little Diomede Island; and Ernie Norton, an anthropologist from Kotzebue. On the Soviet team were Eskimo Zoya Ivanova, a pediatrician from the village of Lavrentiya on the Chukchi Peninsula; two Chukchi, Nikolai Ettyne and Vadim Krivolap, from the village of Neshkan; and Alexander Belyaev and Alexander Tenyakshev, both experienced polar travelers from Moscow. The combined team, including Shurke and Shparo, numbered 12-six from each country.

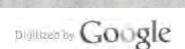
A bird's-eye
view of the
Soviet-American
Bering Bridge
Expedition, which
covered more than
1,200 kilometers
across the barren
expanse of Chukotka.

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a new international trek. It certainly was an appealing idea—to hike along the entire Chukotka coast, to cross the Bering Strait from Asia to America, and to continue the journey in Alaska. The team members covered more than 1,200 miles using dog sleds, the traditional means of transportation in the North, to carry equipment. They visited 16 Soviet villages and 14 American towns and villages.

Later we learned that the idea of the Bering Bridge Expedition originated with the professional American traveler Paul Shurke, not Shparo. In 1986 Shurke had taken part in a selfsufficient American-Canadian expedition to the North Pole. For the Bering Bridge Expedition, Shurke took it





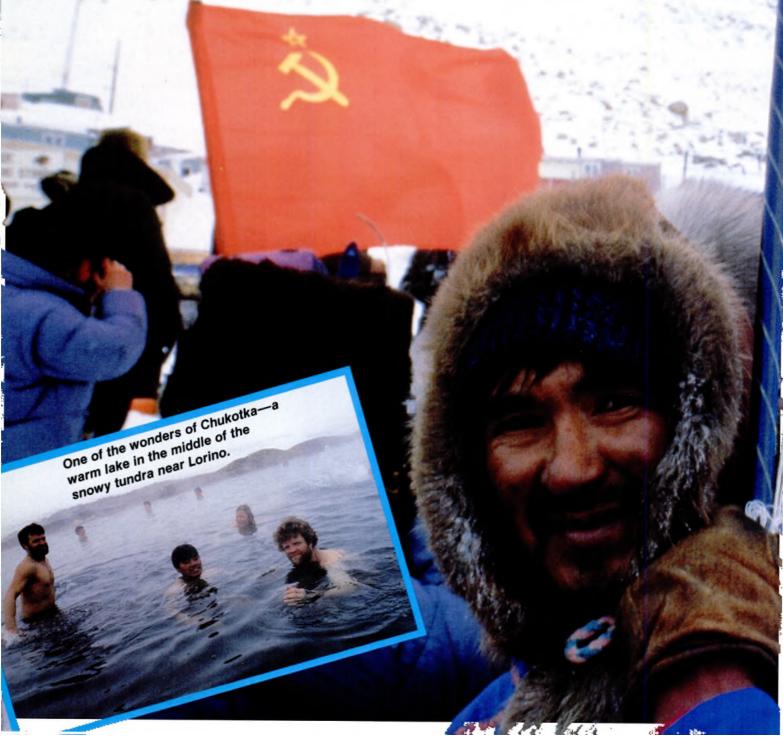
Robert Soolook, an American member of the expedition, could have continued driving his dog sled "to the ends of the earth with company such as this!"

The expedition members did not aim to set any records, but their noble mission can certainly be regarded as unparalleled. Two neighbors, the Chukchi Peninsula and Alaska, had had virtually no relations for 40 years. This was particularly sad because the kinship between the Eskimo communities on the two peninsulas had been severed abruptly. Common festivals had come to an end, and so forth. To make a long story short, the many

years of isolation were unnatural and against the interests of the northern aboriginal nations and of Soviet-American relations.

Speaking on the ice in the Bering Strait near the U.S.-Soviet border, Shparo said:

"We believe that all Alaskan residents and we Soviets share many similar concerns, for instance, the preservation of the local cultures and the conservation of the delicate north-







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ern environment. We want to establish good, friendly relations with our neighbors, trade with them, and form enduring business contacts...."

The expedition got an enthusiastic sendoff in Anadyr, the capital of Chukotka, with fireworks and bands playing bravura marches. Hundreds of boys ran after the dog sleds, and the crowds tossed flowers. It was not particularly cold that day, but there was a sharp, penetrating wind: Chukotka was showing its mettle.

During the very first days of the trek from the village of Uelkal on Chukotka, the weather produced so many surprises that nothing could possibly faze the expedition members later on.

"One night I woke up," said Muscovite Alexander Belyaev, "to hear the patter of rain against the tent. The rain soaked all our equipment. That was when we lost precious time. Another problem arose when the dogs refused to pull the loaded sleds into the wind."

Then a heavy, wet snow started, turning the travelers into abominable snowmen in a matter of minutes. The team's progress was slowed perceptibly by a white shroud, which reduced visibility to zero—and all this at the very beginning of the trip! At that moment they must have realized how much they-Americans, Russians, Eskimos, and Chukchi-would have to pull together and help each other to prevail against the elements. This broke down the psychological barrier, and the linguistic obstacle was really a pushover. The Eskimos communicated very well in Yupik, and Shparo and Belyaev had yet another chance to improve their English, the language they had spoken during the previous Soviet-Canadian expedition. Was the expedition completely free from arguments or conflicts?

The trekkers did have some problems. Here's an example: When they had to decide on a route to the Chukotka village of Enmelen, the levelheaded Shparo suggested (following the recommendation of sea hunters) a safe but long and circuitous route along the coast. The impulsive and emotional Shurke favored a short cut across Anadyr Bay to save precious time. Shurke won. So the team set off over the ice. The wind was fair, the dogs ran briskly, and spirits were high. Three hours later the trekkers spotted a dark band on the horizon. They stopped, terrified at the sight of endless open sea. The situation was extremely dangerous because the rising wind could easily tear off part of the ice field and carry the travelers out to sea. Happily, they managed to get back to safety and proceeded along the coast, but they lost another day.

There were no further differences of opinion between the leaders concerning the choice of route.

The climax of the trek came in late April when the expedition reached the Bering Strait. A majestic expanse of cold sea crammed with ice floes opened to view beyond the craggy rocks of Cape Dezhnyov. The seasoned travelers saw right away that skiing across the ice floes would be extremely dangerous, even with an inflatable rubber boat for safety. Most of the Americans, and even the proud Shurke, consented to taking a helicopter across the strait. After all, did the method of crossing the 60-kilometer strait make any real difference? Hadn't they just completed the main 1,120-kilometer leg of the journey?

But the Soviet members insisted it was important to maintain the "purity of the experiment." The use of modern means of transportation would be a blow to the team's prestige since, according to the original agreement, nothing but the arctic aborigines' means of transportation could be used.

Hunters at the nearby Eskimo settlement of Uelen suggested using two large seagoing whaleboats that they used to hunt walrus and seal. But a snowstorm came up, the ice floes were thick in the bay, and the whaleboats could not be used. What was to be done? Should they have agreed to the helicopter?

Then the travelers remembered about the ancient kayak, a reliable lightweight Eskimo boat made of walrus skins. The kayak's fine design and flexible skin allow it to sail in any waters, whatever the ice conditions. A couple of days later a military helicopter of the Soviet border troops airlifted a kayak from the village of

Public

Sireniki, and team members paddled with consummate skill among the ice floes across the strait.

Incidentally, the border guards of both countries gave the expedition all the help they could, thus playing quite an unusual role. This is another sign of the times. As recently as three to four years ago, Chukotka was off limits even to Soviet citizens. At that time any prediction that foreigners, particularly Americans, could go there would have been dismissed as some kind of a joke. Extraterrestrials would have been less out of place on the peninsula.

Today Brelsford and Shurke enthusiastically describe the warm reception they received from the Soviet border guards on Ratmanova Island in the Bering Strait. The guards offered the Americans food and lodging, showed them everything they

wanted to see, and gave them souvenirs. In fact, the expedition received a warm welcome at every border guard post the party stopped at and in every village on Chukotka.

The hospitality of the people on Chukotka probably made the greatest impression on Shurke and his team. Hundreds of people met the Bering Bridge Expedition, giving the traditional bread and salt and flowers to the travelers and playing music for them.

In Uelkal the visitors were treated to smelt and in Konergino to pelmeni (meat dumplings). It even got so that many locals tried to force the travelers to take packages of various foodstuffs to be eaten en route.

There was considerable competition among those who wanted to invite the travelers to their homes, and the gifts they received were innumerable

—boxes, drawings, photos, albums. Incidentally, the givers intended some of the souvenirs for their relatives in Alaska.

About the relatives: Quite unexpectedly, American Eskimo Darlene Apangolook found her distant relatives in the villages of Uelkal and Sireniki, and Robert Soolook found his in the villages of Lorino, Lavrentiya, and Uelen. Soviet Zoya Ivanova met her relatives in the United States on Little Diomede Island.

Another point: The noble ideas of the Bering Bridge Expedition, shared by thousands and thousands of ordinary people on Chukotka and in Alaska, could hardly have been implemented had they not received the green light from the Soviet and American leaders and the authorities in the neighboring arctic regions. For nearly two years Alaska's Gov-



ernor Steve Cowper and Vyacheslav Kobets, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Magadan Regional Soviet of People's Deputies, had corresponded to organize the trek.

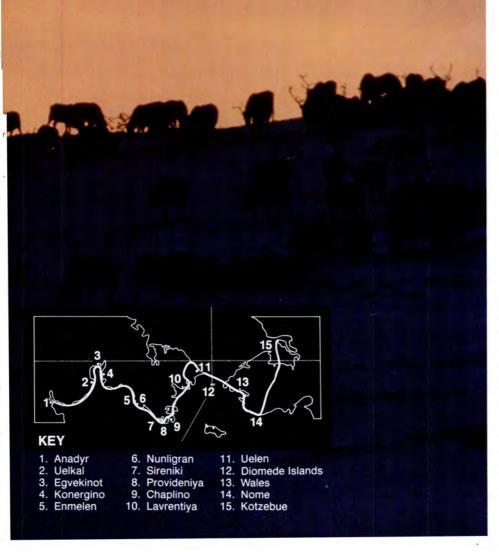
When the expedition was en route, it received a radio message from

Mikhail Gorbachev:

"I extend my heartfelt greetings to you, members of the Soviet-American expedition. I believe that its name, the Bering Bridge Expedition, is more than just a symbol. You are taking practical steps to lay a bridge of friendship and cooperation between Chukotka and Alaska and our two countries. We share common problems, trying to preserve the culture of northern peoples and the arctic environment and, first and foremost, to preserve peace on earth.

"I wish you success in completing your program."

The Chukchi tundra is home to the world's largest herd of domesticated reindeer-about 650,000 head.



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Chukotka

By Alexander Tropkin Photographs by Alexander Lyskin, Victor Zagumennov, and Vladimir Neustroyev

Anadyr

ne hundred years ago the men of the clipper ship Pirate, commanded by Leonid Grinevetsky, built two or three wooden structures on the rocky coast of the bay. The men christened their settlement Novo-Mariinsk. The place was renamed Anadyr in 1920, and it now has a population of 16,000.



Anadyr, the administrative center of the Chukchi Autonomous Area, has just celebrated its centennial.

Some contemporary residents think of the founding of Anadyr, the "invasion" of Chukotka by Russian Cossacks in the seventeenth century, and the nationalities policy of the past five decades as a series of blunders. The development of the region, they contend, has jeopardized the centuriesold traditional indigenous lifestyle, undermined the national culture, and aggravated the problems that lead to extinction of local peoples. Liquor and commodities of questionable quality are about the only "benefits" of civilization the native people have received in exchange.

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I can't refute these arguments, which reflect the grave concern over the situation not only on Chukotka but all across the Northeast of the USSR. But the concerns do not reflect the real picture. Hoping to learn the whole story, I talked to a local celebrity, Alexander Volfson, a doctor from one of the most remote regions of

Chukotka. He has become famous because of his frequent appearances on local television as a representative of a group of local radicals.

"What role does the Soviet Government actually play here on Chukotka?" he began. "I want to be as objective as possible. I've heard all the currently fashionable ideas about 'Soviet colonization of the North' and its alleged aftermath—the high rate of child mortality, drunkenness, destruction of family values, and so on.

"Let's first talk about child mortality. I've studied the demographic data, and the numbers are encouraging: Child mortality and the death rate in general are decreasing.



"Tuberculosis is still a serious problem. This disease has been the scourge of Chukotka for centuries. In the mid-1950s, when I worked in Chaunsky Region, all the reindeer breeders there had TB, and 25 per cent of all deaths were caused by this disease. Twenty years later the death rate had decreased by 35 to 40 per cent because of medical efforts.

"The critics evidently never heard about seasonal hunger, which killed many people in the northeast until the 1940s. Changes in the migratory habits of sea animals and wild reindeer wiped out whole Chukchi villages. Did the striving of the Soviet Government to guarantee food and earnings for these people offend their dignity or undermine their traditions?

"Earnings of Chukchi and Eskimo have risen by five or six times in the past 15 years. This, however, has contributed to the increase in alcoholism, which remains one of our greatest problems. We hope we can learn from the experience of Alaska.

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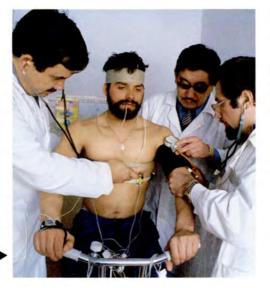
"Some people say that boarding schools are the reason for the disappearance of the native language and culture. But these same schools have helped to protect a generation, perhaps even two, from TB and excessive drinking. The best local teachers work in the boarding schools; about a third of them are representatives of the indigenous population."

Uelkal

The tiny settlement at Uelkal (population 450) is about a three-day trip by dog sled from Anadyr. This is the way distance was measured 50 years ago. Today the distance can be covered by helicopter in 45 minutes.

Uelkal was officially settled in the 1920s, when 30 to 40 homes were built all at once in a place where a few old yarangas (skin tents) belonging to walrus hunters used to stand. Eskimo were resettled here from their traditional homes in Naukan, Old Chaplino, and Nunyamo, which the ▶

gvekinot nestles against the snow-covered hills surrounding Krestovaya Bay.



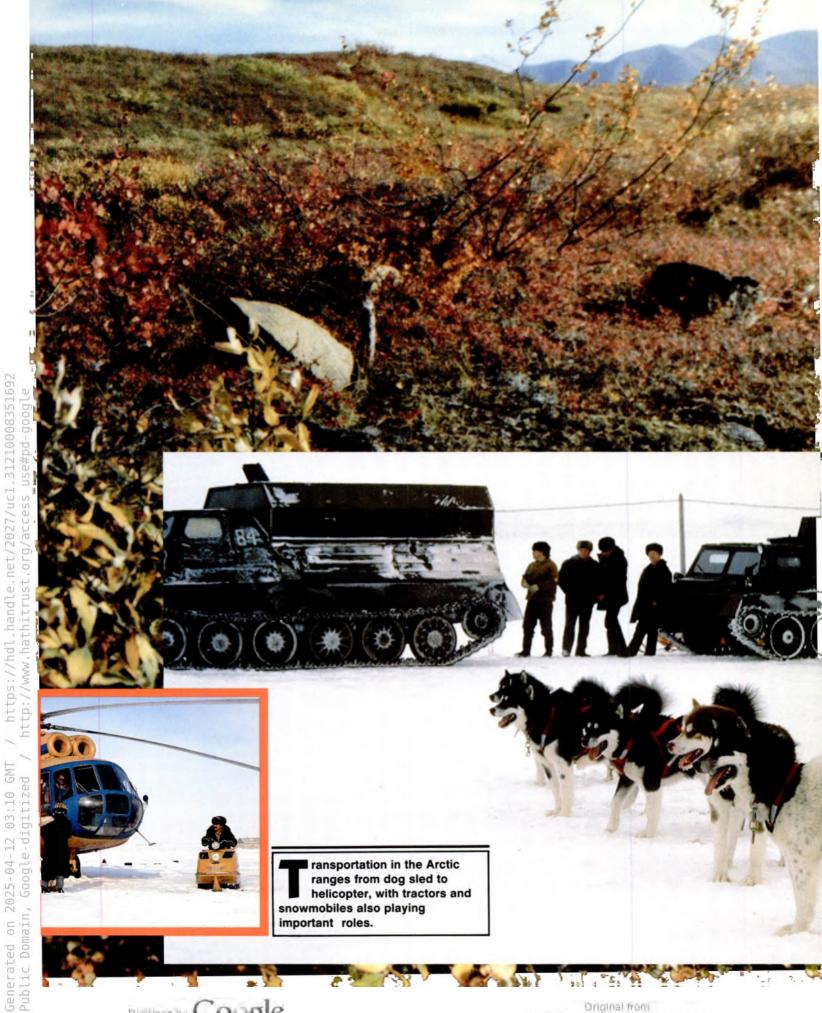
medical team at work: Ted Mall (left), Asylbek Aidaraliev (second from right), and Arkadi Maksimov (right) examine American Lonnie Dupré after a ski expedition. Mall is director of the Institute of Polar Medicine, and Aidaraliev is director of the Institute of the Biology of the North of the USSR Academy of Sciences.



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Alexander Bunge

Traveler and photographer Alexander Bunge (1851–1930) made the first photographic account of Chukotka a hundred years ago. Inset: One of Bunge's photographs, taken in 1889, shows the salute fired by the Russian clipper ship Pirate in honor of the founding of Novo-Mariinsk, which was later renamed Anadyr.



Egvekinot

The village of Egvekinot stands on Krestovaya Bay. Egvekinot now has a population of 1,300 and a Museum of Chukchi Native Peoples. The talk of the town nowadays is the fate of the Amguema River, which runs through a deep basalt canyon nearby. The



uri Tototto (left), chairman of the Executive Committee of the Chukotka District Soviet, and Chuck Greene, mayor of the Northwest Arctic District of Alaska, sign an agreement on friendship and cooperation.

authorities had declared unpromising. Now we realize that that decision was

During World War II an airfield was built nearby, and planes stopped there on the way from Alaska to the front. The building that used to house the military headquarters of ALSIB (Alaska-Siberia-Front; see SOVIET LIFE, July 1989, page 46) is now used as a school.

river is a sacred place for the natives, and the adjacent tundra provides pasture for about 40,000 head of reindeer. A few years ago the regional government in Magadan proposed building a dam and a large power station on the Amguema. Soon the Leningrad Hydroproject Research Institute began working on the project. But because of perestroika, public opinion is now a consideration in projects such as the dam. Work on the project will proceed only if the majority of people in the area approve it.

Provideniya Bay has been known to Russian and American seafarers since the eighteenth century, but the village of Provideniya was not founded until 1946. The settlement grew quickly and today has a population of more than 5,000. In addition to the port, its industries include a tannery and a milk- and meat-processing factory. Oleg Kulinkin, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Village Soviet, is writing a book on recent developments in Soviet-American relations.

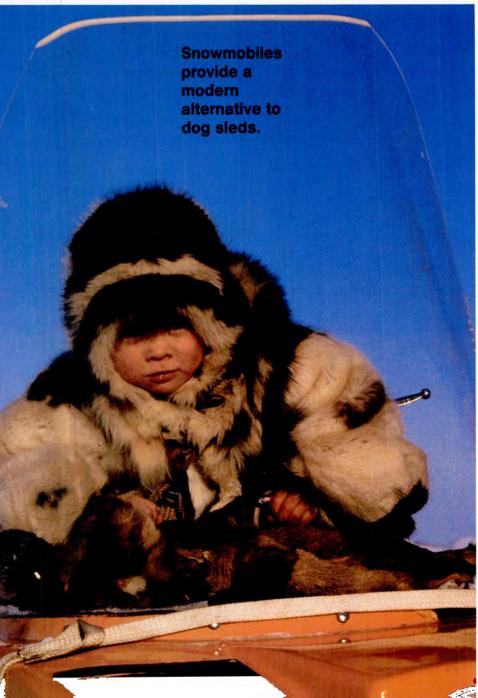
"I am now ashamed to admit," Kulinkin said, "that the Chukchi were told for a long time that there was a nation of aggressors and enemies across the Bering Strait, whose only dream was to attach and seize Chukotka. 'Iron curtains' were the most reliable way to shut ourselves off from information about our neighbors-at least that's the idea that was behind the foreign policy of the Stalin and Brezhnev eras. But do you think the Chukchi believed that nonsense? Of course not. How could they believe that relatives from Nome, Alaska, or from Saint Lawrence Island off Alaska, who had lived with their grandparents in Chukchi villages, had turned into enemies? The Eskimo people value blood relationships above all, and their hospitality is the most characteristic national feature. The Bering Strait, sunset and sunrise, arctic nature, language, and culture are common to us both.

"The new trend began in September 1987, when the American research vessel Surveyor entered Provideniya Bay. The ship stirred up a flurry of activity, especially when the local people learned that it had brought gifts and letters from residents of Nome. The following year visits were exchanged, and an annual celebration of friendship between Alaska and Chukotka was proclaimed. Aeroflot and Alaska Airlines have made plans for cooperation, and Exploration Cruise Lines plans to exchange tourist groups. Alaskan business interests are exploring joint ventures with Chukchi businesses.

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uring the five-month polar winter, Chukotka residents endure nearly complete darkness, extreme cold, and severe storms. But life goes on as usual for the hardy people of the Northeast. A satellite dish facilitates media communications between Alaska and Chukotka.

Provideniya town officials have written a letter to President George Bush asking for resolution of some of the problems impeding relations between Alaska and Chukotka, such as import bans on ivory, walrus, and seal items and limitations on Soviet cruise ships calling at U.S. ports.

Uelen

Located at the extreme northeast of the Chukchi Autonomous Area, Uelen is the oldest Eskimo hunters settlement where hunting is still carried on. It is also a center of Chukchi folk arts. The Vukvola ivory workshop is world renowned. Yashi Tagiek, the adviser and choreographer of an Eskimo folk singing and dancing ensemble called Uelen, is admired throughout the Arctic. Tagiek also plans to open a school to teach children music and folklore. Family legends and tales help to keep the ancient Chukchi traditions alive.

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PANORAMA



Oleg Kulinkin

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Provideniya Village Soviet, Oleg Kulinkin, has made a name for himself in Nome, Alaska, which he has visited twice. He's worked hard to help establish close business and cultural links between Provideniya and Nome and between Soviet and American people.



Jim Stimpfle

An American businessman from Nome, Jim Stimpfle (center) has visited Magadan and Anadyr and sees great opportunities for cooperation between Alaska and Chukotka. He is actively promoting tourism, joint ventures in the food industry, and regular exchanges of exhibitions and of students.







Victor Oleinikov

A stoker from the village of Lavrentiya, Victor Oleinikov has passed on his love of animals to his 11-year-old daughter, Tonya. In a small shed near their home the Oleinikovs have set up a menagerie with arctic fox and rabbits, chickens, geese, ducks, and a wolverine.

Zoya Ivanova

A doctor from Lavrentiya and a member of the Soviet-American Bering Bridge Expedition, Zoya Ivanova (center) found relatives on the American island of Little Diomede.



Sergei Tkachenko

A performer and bard from the Chukchi village of Lavrentiya, Sergei Tkachenko (facing page) has gained fame with his songs and guitar accompaniment and as a supporter of perestroika.



Margarita Glukhikh

Bely Parus (White Sail) is the name of an Eskimo national folk song and dance troupe headed by Margarita Glukhikh. The troupe and its artistic director are known in all the towns on Chukotka, and their fame is spreading throughout Alaska, northern Canada, and Greenland.

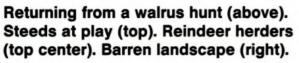
Chukotka

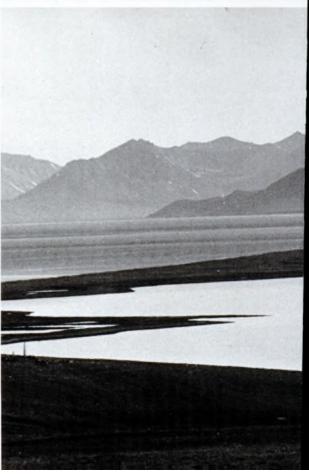
PANORAMA











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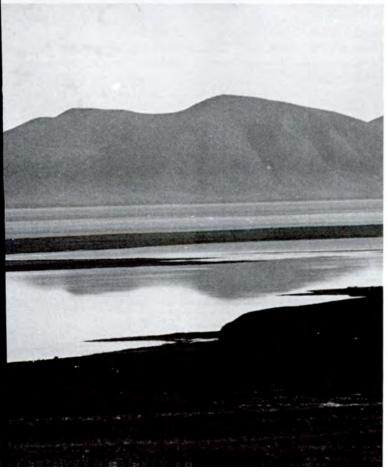
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A trapper, Gavrila Nikiforov.







Victor Zagumennov

The North is an inexhaustible source of inspiration for Victor Zagumennov. He has photographed reindeer herds, people living in the tundra, festivals of the North, walrus hunting-every conceivable subject of life in these arctic regions. His photographs provide a record of a way of life that is endangered by the twentieth century.

NORTHEAST

PERESTROIKA'S FIRST



STEPS

SOVIET LIFE correspondent Alexander Tropkin interviews Vyacheslav Kobets, chairman of the Executive Committee, Magadan Regional Soviet of People's Deputies.

agadan Region has an area of 1.2 million square kilometers (slightly more than 463,000 square miles), with a population of 500,000. Of that number, 14,000 belong to the indigenous ethnic groups: 11,000 Chukchi, about 1,500 Eskimo, and still smaller communities of Evenks, Koryaks, Yukaghirs, and Itelmens. The languages, cultures, and crafts of Soviet Eskimo have much in common with the people who live in the arctic expanses of Alaska, northern Canada, and Greenland.

Q: Magadan Region is often compared with the Klondike gold fields at the peak of their prosperity. Do you see any similarity?

A: I wish I did—but I have to say that this flattering comparison is all wrong. Gold, silver, tin, tungsten, and other rare metals are mined along the Kolyma and on the Chukchi Peninsula on a large scale. Primitive manual labor prevailed there till the mid-1950s, so only the richest layers were exploited. The fields fell into dire neglect as soon as the deposits diminished. In other matters, too, only immediate tasks were tackled, and the entire Northeastern strategy was extremely shortsighted.

Q: What has changed since then?

A: The placers were soon exhausted, just as expected, but the rich beds lay untouched. They could be worked only with thorough prospecting and sophisticated mining equipment and technologies. So a large industrial effort is under way here.

Q: There were labor camps in Magadan Region in Stalin's time. What happened to these camps later?

A: They were all closed in the 1950s. You can still see their sinister remnants here and there-rusty barbed wire or dilapidated watchtowers.

Q: The Soviet Northeast is hardly fit for farming. How are foodstuffs procured here?

A: We really have a climate even worse than that of Alaska. Potatoes, cabbages, and carrots are grown here and there, but very rarely. The region is also short of natural fodder, so livestock breeding is no less of a problem. There is every chance to improve matters now that all restrictions on private greenhouses are abolished, enterprises also build greenhouses on a large scale, and there are prospects for Soviet-American and Soviet-Japanese joint ventures in the food industry. Yet for the time being, the region must import more than 60 per cent of its meat, milk, and vegetables from far away.

Q: What are the most acute ethnic issues in the Northeast?

A: We have to streamline relations between the central offices and the local authorities. The latter must be the sole masters of the Chukchi natural riches. We must make geological prospecting, mining, and industrial construction impossible without sanctions by the local government.

The language issue is no less acute in the Chukchi area. Native languages are almost an endangered species now. In some families of the indigenous population, children grow up speaking only Russian. They don't understand their parents, who speak their mother tongues. This paradoxical situation arose because reindeer breeders and hunters send their kids to boarding schools when they are still quite young. The boarding school arrangement has many advantages: full state supplies, health care, and secondary education. But the kids see their parents only on rare occasions. The succession of moral and cultural values is broken, and native languages fall into oblivion.

Q: Now the regional authorities have a chance to correct the blunders of the past as far as ethnic relations go. How did you start on this vital effort?

A: The Executive Committee of the Magadan Regional Soviet supported the initiative of Eskimo intellectuals to start Soviet Chukchi Land, a Yupik-language newspaper. The first issue came out early this year. Last year Sireniki township revived the Whale Feast, a pristine Eskimo festival, after an interval of many years. Guests flooded the area. The festival will be held every year now.

We are implementing a program to protect indigenous languages. Several Chukchi schools have obligatory language classes in the three primary grades. Itinerant schools have been started in the tundra on an experimental basis for children who migrate with their parents on reindeer-breed-

Very soon new and essential laws are expected to extend the rights of autonomous districts. The indigenous people of the Chukchi Peninsula and other Northeastern localities look forward to the improvements.

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ACROSS THREE CONTINENTS



By Yuri Salnikov

Soviet plane, the ANT-4, bearing the name Strana Sovetov (Land of the Soviets) appeared in American skies and, in the full view of several thousand Americans, landed safely on Lake Washington, in Seattle. The date was October 13, 1929, and the event made history because it was the first time a Soviet plane had flown to the United States. Many American planes were circling over the lake awaiting the Strana Sovetov, and one of them trailed a long streamer with an inscription in Russian, greeting the Soviet fliers. The crowd on the ground enthusiastically tossed hats and umbrellas and waved little triangular red flags.

The airfield mechanics, wearing rubber suits, went into the water and pushed the plane by its pontoons to shore. Since no gangway was available, the mechanics carried the aviators to shore, where the crew members were immediately embraced by the friendly Americans.

Seattle was chosen as the first place to land in the United States because it

is the headquarters of Boeing Aircraft. Military pilots and Boeing engineers made a detailed examination of the ANT-4, and the crew demonstrated the plane in flight. Everyone was amazed at the rapid takeoff and the design-a monoplane with two engines mounted directly on the winga brand-new concept. Captain Price, the commander of the hydroplane squadron in whose area the Soviet crew landed, said after examining the Soviet aircraft: "That's a good design for a bomber. We don't have anything like it." And the ANT-4 was, in fact, the civilian version of the TB-1 bomber.

From the standpoint of the Americans, who knew nearly nothing about the Soviet Union, the plane was incredible: The Soviet Union had surpassed the United States in originality of aviation ideas and achievements.

Of course the Soviet pilots wanted to see the new American planes, so the Boeing designers displayed two novelties-a one-seater fighter, very maneuverable, and a three-engine biplane capable of carrying 32 passengers. The Soviet aviators visited an

engine-building plant, where they were greatly impressed by the high level of production and the advanced technology.

In Detroit, Michigan, the aviators met Henry Ford, Sr. Ford immediately asked aircraft designer Vladimir Petlyakov:

"Why does your plane have only one wing? That's unusual. Is it true that the aircraft fuselage is all metal?"

Petlyakov explained briefly the advantages of a monoplane design (durability, extended range of flights, cargo-lifting capabilities, speed, and so on) and described the prospects for manufacturing all-metal planes, to which the future belonged.

Aviation historians have noted that the United States began to build metal planes according to the basic design of the ANT-4 within a year after the Soviet fliers' visit-that is, in 1930.

The crew also visited Chicago, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and New York. And everywhere Americans showed great interest in the Soviet people. Americans met young and charming Soviet pilots, and this en-



abled them to become vividly convinced of the existence of the Land of the Soviets on the other side of the ocean—and so that name, Land of the Soviets (Strana Sovetov), was inscribed on the fuselage of the ANT-4.

In Seattle, in the airplane museum set up by Boeing, a model of the ANT-4 is prominently displayed. This exhibit from the Tupolev Design Office was given to the Americans in 1987 during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Trans-Polar flights. [See SOVIET LIFE, July 1987.]

A veteran Boeing employee, aircraft mechanic Mike Pavone, often visits the museum. Decades ago he and a group of American mechanics met the Strana Sovetov and took off its floats to substitute wheels. In the process he became great friends with the Soviet crew's youngest member, flight mechanic Dmitri Fufayev. Though they didn't know each other's language, the two young men understood one another quite well. Pavone kept a gift from Fufayev-a spark plug. And he recalls with great pleasure the time the two spent together.



A Soviet ANT-4 called Strana Sovetov (Land of the Soviets) was the first Soviet plane to land in the United States. The crew members received a warm welcome when the plane landed on October 13, 1929.



Workers organizations and members of the Society of Friends of the Soviet Union initiated many gettogethers. On November 9, 1929, they organized a rally at the Polo Grounds. The stadium, which seated 45,000, was jam-packed. At the end of the meeting the organizers announced that the funds acquired would be used to buy 25 tractors and to ship them to the Soviet Union.

In Chicago the fliers were taken to visit the McCormick farm equipment plant, where they watched the production processes and saw crates destined for Novorossiysk. Half of the plant's tractor production for that day-85 out of 170-was purchased with the money donated by Americans, and those machines were sent to the USSR.

Aviation magazine pointed out that the men of the Strana Sovetov were brave and strong people. And the publication advised studying the plane as an original product of the Soviet aircraft industry.

Of course the features of the ANT-4 can hardly be compared with those of present-day heavy aircraft. But the first Tupolev-designed all-metal planes, the ANT-4 and ANT-6, opened a new age in world aviation.

The Tupolev Design Office is interested in the idea of repeating the flight along the 1929 route and using for the purpose the new TU-204, which took to the skies for the first time this year.

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CONSORTIUM

By Yelena Druzhinina

Photographs by Anatoli Khrupov

he first Soviet consortiums, Tekhnokhim and Energomash, have been formed in Leningrad.

It's no exaggeration to say that all Soviet managers and economists are closely watching the activities of these consortiums, which have incorporated dozens of producers. The consortiums have broken away from the system of outdated economic relations by emerging from under the control of their ministries and becoming entities in their own right. The idea of a chemical con-

sortium was proposed by Boris Gidaspov, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, chairman of the Tekhnokhim executive directorate, and director general of the State Institute of Applied Chemistry, which unites researchers

and developers.

"Tekhnokhim comprises 16 timberbased chemical producers in Leningrad and their branches in the provinces," Gidaspov said. "Each enterprise decided for itself whether to join the consortium, which was established by a constituent meeting of the enterprises' directors and grassroots representatives.

"Tekhnokhim embraces research and development organizations, construction and repair contractors, and, of course, producers, which compose

its core.

"We were attracted to the concept of a consortium because with the old management principles we couldn't catch up with the world leaders in



The executive directorate of the Tekhnokhim consortium. Boris Gidaspov, center, was chairman of the consortium's directorate at the time the picture was taken.

research and technology and make our products competitive internationally. Departmentalism is a burden, considering that innovative ideas should be put into practice without delay. In the present administrative structure, however, months can go by before an initiative receives the goahead at every level of the ministerial pyramid. As a result, ideas are obsolete before they can be turned into products.

"Tekhnokhim is free from bureaucratic administrative routines. All decisions are made by the board, which includes people from all sectors. This shortens the decision-making process.

"Breaking away from the ministry hasn't made things easier for us. However, we formed a consortium not to make life easier but to work as we see best, more productively and efficiently."

So 65,000 people have said good-by to ministerial control and are working on their own. To make a go of it and to fit in with the existing system of economic links, the newly born consortium needs help from ministries and from federal planning and logistics authorities. Ministries do not look with favor on the breakaway because it narrows their field of control. According to Gidaspov, some minis-

terial officials are giving the consortium a cold shoulder. Nevertheless, ministries do not sever their contacts with consortiums. Acting via ministries, the national planning authority has given Tekhnokhim a government order covering 30 to 35 per cent of its likely output, backing it with resources. The rest of the Tekhnokhim

production goes to clients.

"Tekhnokhim is a dependable partner, which does not tolerate delays in deliveries or payments. Moreover, the consortium has a joint-stock bank, which looks after its financial wellbeing. The receipts of the consortium, money that used to be pocketed by the ministries, now flow to the consortium participants, who decide on investment in research, modernization, incentives, housing, and so forth.

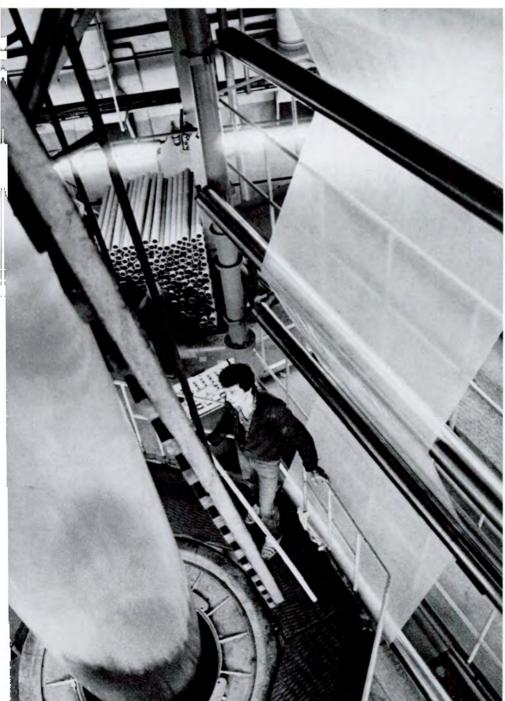
"Despite federal support, the consortium does not easily dovetail with traditional economic structures. Logistics is a big headache.

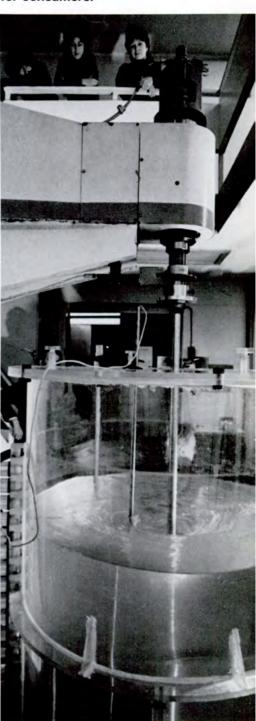
"Since Tekhnokhim operates with->





Tekhnokhim incorporates 16 large timber-processing and chemical enterprises in Leningrad Region. The consortium's priority products include textile dyes, pharmaceuticals, and plastics for consumers.









out government subsidies, its supply section also has to pay its own wayit has to be an efficient intermediary between the parent enterprise and the subcontractors. This is unusual for our supply personnel. Fed from the budget for decades, they all of a sudden have to make their living themselves."

Tekhnokhim is a future-oriented business. Its specialists have produced a long-term program, focusing on 20 research priorities including, among other things, new textile dyes, pharmaceuticals, and plastics. They will be making new varieties of freon that are not harmful to the ozone layer.

Tekhnokhim needs an efficient processing plant, which is hard to obtain because Soviet chemical engineering leaves much to be desired. Some machinery comes from abroad.



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Most of
Tekhnokhim's young
workers, engineers,
and specialists are
well motivated by
Tekhnokhim's new
self-financing
system. The
consortium also
provides training
programs for midlevel specialists.



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Financing the development of Tekhnokhim's various units is the responsibility of the consortium's joint-stock bank. Above: Tekhnokhim's information control center.

Mostly, however, the suppliers are Soviet manufacturers who should be encouraged to raise their standards. That is why Tekhnokhim has incorporated a chemical-engineering plant.

It is hard to say how long it will take for both blue- and white-collar workers—who for decades humbly followed bureaucratic orders—to wake up and show some initiative. Tekhnokhim's directors realize that the old, indifferent ways would be suicidal.

People who have a creative attitude will be hand-picked for management. The most promising managers will go to a business school in West Germany. The consortium knows this is a good investment.

After this story was prepared, Boris Gidaspov was elected First Secretary of the Leningrad Regional Party Committee. Tekhnokhim must elect a new chairman.



28

The New Face of Foreign Policy

By Sergei Volovyets

ne result of the first session of the new Soviet parliament is clear: The Supreme Soviet will no longer curry favor with the leadership to display the "unanimous support and approval" for which it was sadly famous in the recent and not so recent past. Yet in one field the Soviet political leaders got sincere support from all: foreign policy.

Mikhail Gorbachev addressed the session to describe his visits to Great Britain, West Germany, and France, and to sum up the conference of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee. Though the speech focused on the European aspect of Soviet foreign policy, it will be interesting to American readers too.

Gorbachev's visits scored considerable results, especially in economic contacts: Twelve agreements were signed in Bonn, and 22 in Paris—impressive figures. All the meetings had an ambitious common goal—agreement on the design of Europe as home for all its nations. A corollary

was a start on practical action to build

this home.

Yet the construction site has to be cleaned of dangerous debris to make the work possible. The meetings in the three European capitals once again demonstrated different standpoints on the Soviet idea of complete nuclear disarmament, but the practical goal at hand—reducing by half the strategic offensive arsenals—received support everywhere.

In Bucharest the Warsaw Treaty countries responded positively, on the whole, to the NATO proposal to cut conventional arms and armed forces in Europe. Now the most optimistic of the Moscow experts see no more barriers to a successful completion of the Vienna talks within the year 1990, provided the current political atmosphere persists.

As Gorbachev talked about the Bucharest Conference of the Political Consultative Committee, he mentioned the necessity to shift the emphasis in the Warsaw Treaty from military-political to political-military. It is already clear that the two military blocs can coexist in Europe on a nonconfrontational basis, though it is too early to make definite forecasts for their future.

The Soviet leader told the deputies about the profound interest in the present and expected future of Soviet-American relations that his partners in the talks displayed during his visits. "The United States of America is a factor in the European process, and it would be primitive or, frankly speaking, even absurd to underestimate this reality, and all the more so to build plans along that line," he said.

To put it differently, the preparations to build the European home showed that, in a sense, the United States is part of Europe and will remain part of it in the foreseeable future. So all Western talk about the Soviet Union attempting to drive a wedge between Europe and America is so blatantly wrong that it does not deserve even the name of a propaganda cliché.

ganda cliché. Of interest in this respect is the So-

viet response to President Bush's visits to Poland and Hungary. Calm, dignified, and constructive evaluations come from all levels—a welcome contrast to those of just a few

years ago and an impressive demonstration of the changed relations.

The shift is no less graphic in the events outside Europe. Take the hostage situation in Lebanon. Soviet and American positions have come closer together here-not only in renouncing terrorism. Soviet diplomats are using many channels to help solve a problem that may seem to be a purely American concern. The improved Soviet-American relations were spectacularly obvious in the Supreme Soviet, especially whenever the debates concerned defense and national security. The rapprochement was also a persistent background to the questions deputies asked Gorbachev after his speech.

But back to the European aspect of his address. As the Soviet President pointed out, a sober, deideologized approach is becoming the reality of international affairs, and European relations are acquiring a human face.

Summit contacts are receiving a message to develop simple, deideologized relations among people.

Gorbachev's speaking of the content and results of his visits before the Supreme Soviet may seem a domestic parliamentary matter-yet its import is much greater. The address showed that the Supreme Soviet legislature was emerging on the foreign political scene. The head of state was for the first time reporting to the deputies about his activities on the international scene. Legislators' participation will surely soon give Soviet foreign policy a new quality. In particular, it will affect Soviet-American relations: Their goals and directions will receive a fresh impetus from the new Soviet parliament.

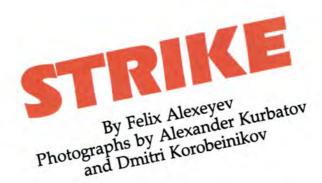


IN FOCUS



A strike committee gets to work.

Last January, almost as if it had a presentiment of the events that would take place six months later, the Soviet journal Sotsiologicheskiye issledovaniya (Sociological Studies) printed a debate on the possibility of strikes in the USSR and the justification for them. "In our attempts to correctly understand and assess the nature of strikes," one participant in the debate said, "we have been hindered by the deep-rooted and stereotyped attitude that strikes are peculiar to capitalist countries. It's time now to include the concept of strikes in our economic lexicon, analyze them objectively, and find effective ways of preventing them from happening."



t nine o'clock in the morning on July 10, in the town of Mezhdurechensk in the Kuznetsk Coal Basin, Western Siberia, approximately 80 miners refused to hand in their lamps at the end of the night shift. Over 200 men on the morning shift decided to join in, and a strike committee was set up. The strikers demanded an immediate meeting with Mikhail I. Shchadov, USSR Minister of the Coal Industry. Shchadov arrived in the area the next day, but he failed to find common ground with the strikers. When Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikolai Ryzhkov issued an appeal to return to work, most of the miners thought the request came too late.

Within a few days the entire coal field was affected by the strike. By the following week about 180,000 miners were on strike, and a 26-member regional strike committee was elected, with People's Deputy Teimuraz Avaliani as its leader. The squares in the region's cities—Kemerovo, Mezhdurechensk, Novokuznetsk, and Prokopyevsk—became the sites of nonstop rallies.

Though workers in other industries wanted to join the strike, the miners allowed only expressions of support. Banners in the streets proclaimed: "The Gornyachka Clothing Factory supports the miners strike"; "In support of the miners, we are donating 50,000 rubles to the strike fund." Virtually everything in the coal fields was at a standstill.

A government commission headed by Nikolai Sliunkov arrived in Kemerovo, the regional capital, on July 17. "Getting talks going wasn't easy," Sliunkov said. "The regional strike committee proposed a list of 35 points. We spent four hours thrashing out the first point before passions began to cool and we were more able to get down to business. The second point took two hours to sort out; the third, one. In this way we reached agreement on the first eight of the miners' demands. By the time the first night of talks was drawing to a close, a way to a settlement had been opened, and life in the region had begun to return to normal."

A plenum of the Kemerovo Party Committee resolved "to support the miners' economic demands, which are aimed at achieving a radical solution to their social problems, while, at the same time, to condemn the use of the strike weapon, which is bound to destabilize the economy." However, the participation of party members in the strike was accepted as justifiable.

The government commission and the regional strike committee signed a 35-point protocol, which includes the following provisions:

- Full economic and legal independence for industrial enterprises, mines, and open-cast mines in the Kuznetsk Coal Basin;
- Entitlement for the basin's industrial enterprises, as of August 1, 1989, to sell surplus products according to agreedupon plans at contract prices on the domestic and foreign markets; and
- Authority for the mining enterprises, as of August 1, 1989, to set production targets, wages, and service levels.

The protocol also provides for transfer of the coal field to regional cost accounting as of January 1, 1990; increased pay for night and evening work; benefits for the families of miners killed in mine accidents or disabled by diseases; and much more.

Strike committees have been charged with the task of monitoring compliance with the protocol. Winding up a speech to the last of the strikers, Vladimir Makhanov, chairman of the Prokopyevsk strike committee, said, "Men, do you trust your trade union committee? Won't the trade unions crush us? You know what a powerful bureaucratic machine they have, with their own printing presses and apparatus, their power, and money. Yet they're ineffective—and our strike committee is a worthy alternative to them."

Few kind words were said of the trade unions, the general sentiment being that they had been caught off guard by events, to put it mildly. Their structure is obsolete and well overdue for change. The alternative arose on its own. The strike brought many bright and forward-thinking people to the fore, and it's now up to them to provide leadership.

The Kuznetsk Coal Basin strike ended on July 20, but work stoppages continued to ripple across the mining regions of Lvov, Donetsk, and Pechora. In response, the government decided that the Kuznetsk protocol would apply to all other mines in the country as well.

What aroused such a powerful strike movement? To put it bluntly, people were just plain fed up—fed up with official indifference, with working in extremely arduous conditions for meager wages, with the chronic shortage of decent housing, and with Continued on page 54

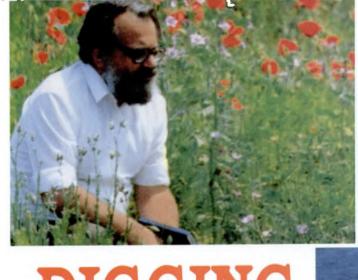
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DIGGING UP THE PAST

By Valeri Dyomin Photographs by Oleg Makarov

he history of a nation and the story of a human life are different yet isometric mysteries. The feeling that this paradoxical equation was real was my principal discovery in my encounter with historian Sergei Belyaev.

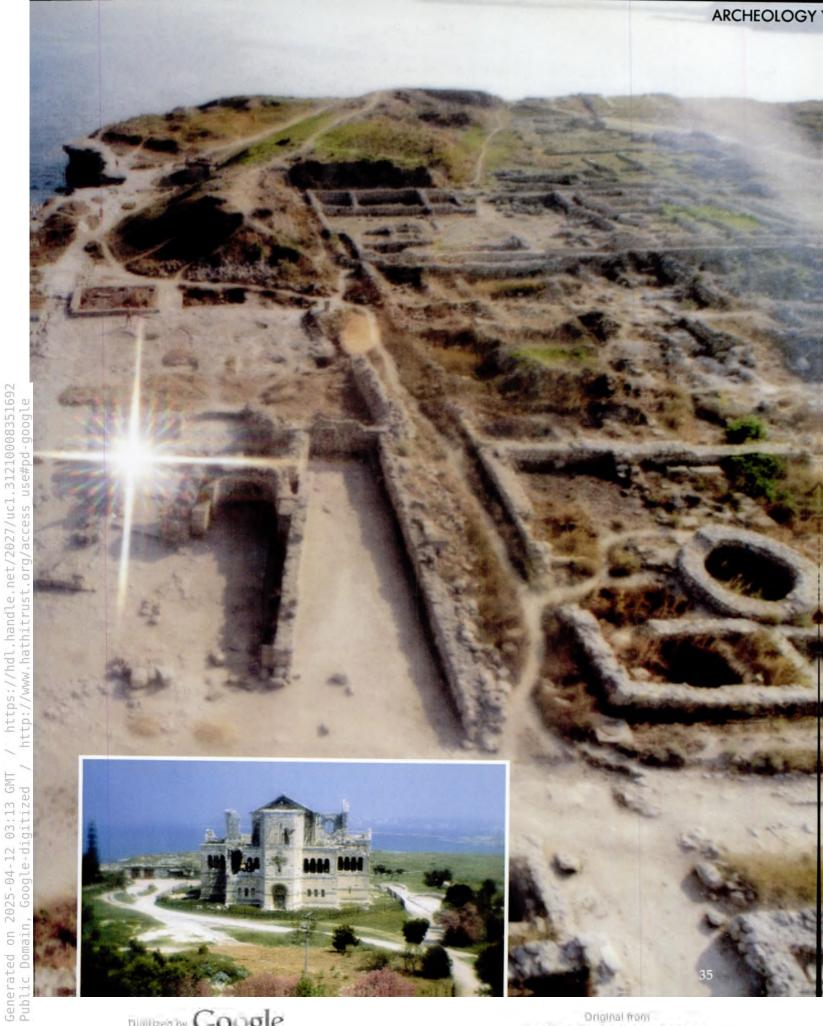
When Belyaev, still a student at Moscow State University, found himself at archeological digs in Khersones on the Crimean Peninsula, he could not foresee that in the future the fate of that ancient town and his own life would merge into one story. One can neither speak of Belyaev and omit Khersones, nor vice versa.

For Pushkin, an amateur archeologist, these ruins from antiquity were his "hearth and home," even though they were the remains of a Greek provincial center founded 2,500 years ago.

It was there that the monks Cyril and Methodius, early enlighteners of Russia, lived and preached, worked on the Slavic alphabet, and translated the Holy Scripture. Prince Vladimir of ▶



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Generated on 2025-04-12 03;15 GMT / https:/ Public Domain, Google-digitized / http://w Kiev and his followers were baptized there in 988; shortly thereafter, Vladimir married and built a temple in the area.

"The appreciation of the importance of this town for our homeland will keep growing," predicts Belyaev confidently. "Only one-fourth of the town's territory has been excavated, but we have already uncovered more than a hundred Christian churches, and this area that we have dug has provided enough material for us to ponder for years.

"No other nation has a history of such a conscious quest for and choice of theology. Usually religious beliefs would be borrowed—
or rejected—either from the conquerors or from those who were conquered. The Russian people had an alternative, and they finally decided in favor of Byzantine orthodoxy.

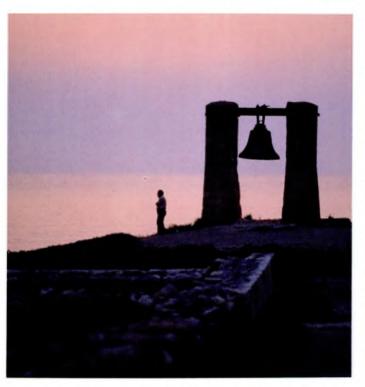
"Multitudes of articles and research papers have been written on the baptism of Rus. Most authors interpret Vladimir's baptism as a sign of his political choice. As if that were all! What is often forgotten is that Vladimir, a fairly savage pagan prince, who murdered his own brother to seize power and claimed women by force, made not only a political but also a moral choice.

"Seen from this perspective, such acts of the baptized Prince as the abolition of human sacrifice and of the death penalty, the liberation of hundreds of concubines from his 'harems,' the regular distribution of free meals for the destitute, and attempts at peacemaking as a deliberate foreign policy take on a special historical significance, illustrating how this nation's moral ideal took shape.

"The place where Prince Vladimir was baptized should be made a national shrine."

Sergei Belyaev, 52, was born into a dynasty of artillery officers. His grandfather, a lieutenant general in the artillery of the Russian Army, after the October 1917 Revolution, rejected the idea of emigrating. "Russia is here, and it will remain here forever," he said. His brother, also an officer, chose to leave Russia and later became a national hero in Paraguay.

Sergei's father made another choice, one that had tragic consequences. He served on the staff at the Artillery Committee of the Red Army, but he also chose to sing in a choir at a Moscow church. He ended up in a Stalin-era concentration camp. Fortunately, he survived to make yet another choice, becoming a preacher.



The bell (behind Belyaev) was made for the Great Bell Tower in Khersones during the Crimean War (1855).

Sergei was raised a believer, which certainly didn't make life easy at the start, but it later enabled him to find his subject of research and gave direction to his life.

For a century and a half before Belyaev's research, the prevailing viewpoint was that Prince Vladimir had been baptized at a site where a church was built in the nineteenth century and named after Vladimir. The mistake occurred naturally because only three Christian churches had been excavated at that time, and only one of them conformed to the description provided by the annals. The view was corroborated by experts and enhanced by the physical appearance of the church. Although the church has suffered a lot of damage in the past 150 years, the view prevailed, fresh proof that stereotypes are difficult to dispel.

Belyaev questioned the prevailing opinion. He was able to determine the exact site of the baptism because he knew the specifics of ecclesiastical structures and of the religious services

of that time. His logic was simple: Baptism could only have been performed by a bishop and in a cathedral. Belyaev knew from more recent excavations that the town's cathedral had been located at a different site, a short distance from where the Vladimir church was later constructed.

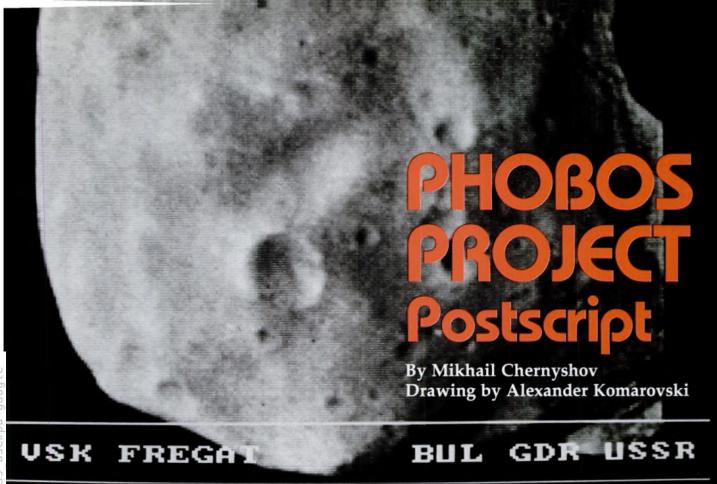
"And yet it is a great pity that on July 28, 1988, the day of Remembrance of Prince Vladimir, there was no public prayer at the site of the baptism," Belyaev said. "Maybe they'll have one next year."

The context for the beginning of the second millennium of Christianity in Russia is very different from that which the Russian Orthodox Church has experienced over the past seven decades. Public attitudes to-

ward the very "institution of belief" are changing, as ideological confrontation and exposure to antireligious sentiments have given way to a polite and equitable dialogue on religion.

Major publications have started printing interviews with the clergy. Subjects may include any of the challenges before humanity—education methods, for instance. In the past only topics approved by the authorities, such as peace, could be discussed with Church officials. Members of the clergy participated in the latest elections, a fact that was unprecedented in this country. Several clergy members were even elected to the Congress of People's Deputies.





rankly, the whole story remains a mystery. Two automatic stations tested a countless number of times on Earth set out for Mars. At first, everything went smoothly. Then, because of a computer operator's error, the first probe vanished without a trace. Later, during the last stage of the journey, the second interplanetary explorer disappeared, too. Why?

Way back in the days of Nikita Khrushchev, the bureaucratic machine created a legend about the exclusiveness of Soviet space technology and equipment. According to the official statements, all Soviet space products were distinguished by superior quality and failsafe operation. Although in reality very serious setbacks

dents found their way into the press in very few cases. The absence of openness became one of the reasons for a sharp decline in the prestige of Soviet cosmonautics.

Today the situation is changing. Some of the barriers surrounding the classified subject have been removed, and some items in the space budget have even been made public. Still, it is too early to speak of an onset of complete openness in cosmonautics. At best we are halfway, and the two Phobos probes show this only too clearly.

The work on the Martian project started against the background of the brilliant success crowning the voyage of the Vega probes, which studied Venus and Halley's Comet. The Phobos probes seemed assured of the same success. Anyway, the de-

A picture of the Martian moon Phobos taken by the Soviet spacecraft *Phobos 2*.

of them as new-generation stations capable of operating autonomously in difficult situations. In practice, however, this was not the case.

The Phobos probes lacked even basic defenses against unforeseen situations. When we learned last September that *Phobos 1* had failed because of an error made by a computer operator, the public was shocked.

When Phobos 2 broke down at the beginning of April of this year, a fullscale conflict developed between scientists, mostly from the Institute of Space Research, and technical specialists who had designed the probes. Each group accused the other of respon-



The list of mutual complaints and accusations went on and on, but the important thing now is not to look for a scapegoat but to develop a new style of relations that would allow both mutual criticism and the choice of the optimal project from several variants on a competitive basis. This practice has been effectively used for years by NASA, which holds a contest among companies for the development of new space projects. In the USSR it is more difficult to organize the procedure this way, but it is probably the only way of resisting the manufacturer's control and increasing its responsibility for the end result.

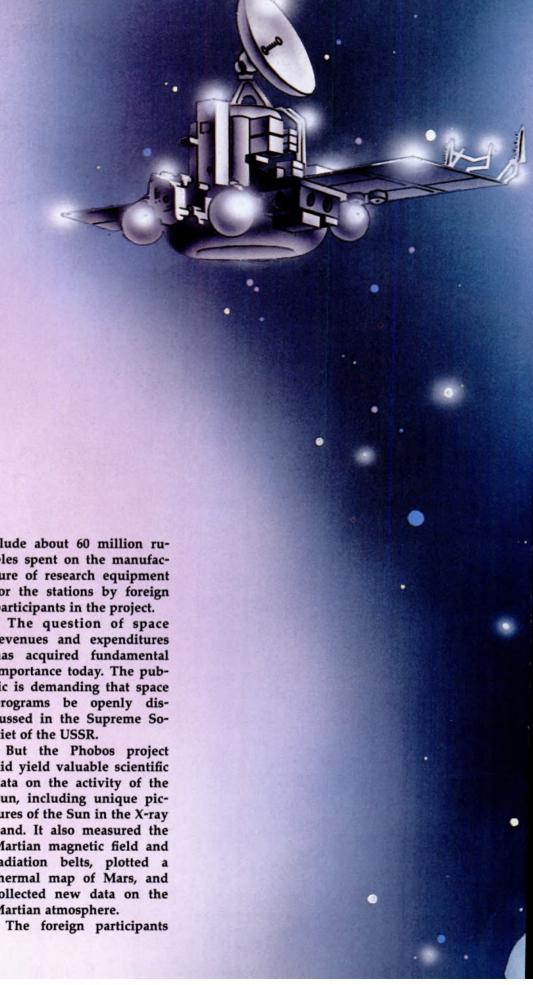
Foreign specialists had evaluated the cost of the Phobos project at half a billion dollars or even more. Only after trouble had developed with the second station, when it had become clear that the project had failed to achieve all its goals, did our space authorities disclose the total cost of the project: 272 million rubles. This includes not just the cost of the stations but also the cost of such ground support systems as, for instance, the improvement of the USSR's two largest radio telescopes at Yevpatoria and Ussuriysk.

These figures would have earned more trust had they been published before the start of the project. Not surprisingly, the public asks whether the announced figures can be regarded as authentic. Academician Roald Sagdeyev replied that in principle they are authentic but that they did not in-

clude about 60 million rubles spent on the manufacture of research equipment for the stations by foreign participants in the project.

revenues and expenditures has acquired fundamental importance today. The public is demanding that space programs be openly discussed in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

did yield valuable scientific data on the activity of the Sun, including unique pictures of the Sun in the X-ray band. It also measured the Martian magnetic field and radiation belts, plotted a thermal map of Mars, and collected new data on the Martian atmosphere.



ain,

in the project were generally satisfied with the results because most of the foreign instruments mounted on the stations had enough time to transmit information to Earth. TV pictures of Phobos not only provided new information on the surface of the Martian satellite but also helped verify the distinctive features of its orbit. In other words, the road to the Red Planet is now well known.

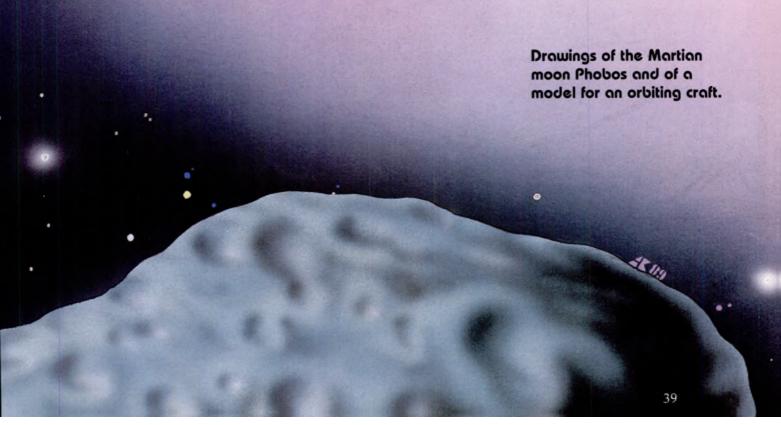
Another question arising in this connection, however, is: When will new stations set out for Mars? The Soviet Union had planned a new cycle of Martian studies for 1994, which was to have been the largest-ever Martian expedition. Of course the failure with the Phobos project has affected longterm plans. At the very least, the question of the Mars-94 project is not settled yet. It might still be approved, it might be postponed until 1996 (when there will be another convenient window for a start to Mars), or it might be canceled altogether.

Scientists and specialists are already expressing concern over the indecision. If the authorities delay again, rush work at the very last moment will be a strong possibility.

It is already too late for a contest among proposals for Mars-94 stations, so it is imperative to analyze very carefully what happened to the earlier stations. A reliable design must allow for all contingencies.

For the first time, including foreign specialists on the commission has been suggested; this will help to ensure a more objective analysis of the incident. In the future international supervision will start at the very beginning of each international project. This is a major step in the expansion of glasnost. The control of the manufacturer will be restricted, and the international public, acting in the role of a consumer, will participate from the very start in plans for future interplanetary stations.

The public is concerned. There have been calls for abandoning or for postponing all projects for seven to eight years. These ideas are hardly practicable. How, for example, can one stop or suspend the operation of communications satellites? But the fact that there are many problems in Soviet cosmonautics and that the current plans need to be critically reassessed is beyond any doubt. The more glasnost and democracy exist in this process, the more cosmonautics itself and the people working in the field will benefit.





've kept these photographs for 40 years now," says Polina Boiko, as she spreads out amateur snapshots of World War II vintage. This elderly woman came to the Novosti office in Minsk and suggested that her photographs be published in SOVIET LIFE magazine. "This is the doctor, Captain Wiseheart, who was my superior at the Poltava air base hospital. And this photo [above] shows our entire medical staff: Lieutenant Krugherow, Major Stoodt, Captain Newelf, and the nurses. I can't remember every

Another shot shows Boiko herself among a group of people. She also has photos she received in 1944 from her American colleagues: Captain Wiseheart's aide, M. Sternberg, Cornell Hairmont, and N. Bertogli. Boiko is eager to know their whereabouts today. How did their lives turn out? Would any of them care to get in touch?

is waiting to hear

readers about the

pictures she took

during World War II.

from American

"I hail from Siberia," says Boiko. "Like many Russian women, I received notification that my husband had died in the first year of the war. I became a widow at age 19. I asked to be sent to the front, but the draft officials told me, 'Your duty is to bring up your son.'"

Nevertheless, Boiko finally found a job with the military. When Soviet troops liberated the Ukraine in 1944, after the three-year nazi occupation of the republic, she was given the opportunity to go to Poltava, the site of one of the three Allied bomber bases on Soviet territory. Flying fortresses took off from there, bombed military installations in nazi Germany, and flew on to Great Britain or Italy. There they refueled and took onboard a stock of bombs before flying back to Poltava.

When the American pilots and technicians were off duty, they attended amateur concerts put on by the personnel of the 62nd battalion. Boiko smiles when she recalls the misunderstanding that occurred at the first concert, when the Soviet amateur artists were greeted with whistles and shouts. The Russians were bewildered, even annoyed. Fortunately, someone immediately explained what it all meant-the Americans were just

name. I may even be mispronouncing the names I do remember because the events were all so long ago."

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whistling to express their delight and

approval.

'We were friends," says Boiko, who was on an airfield ground crew at first. "We rejoiced at successes on the battlefield and grieved together over the losses. And the losses were great. The Nazis were still strong at the time, and some of the flying fortresses failed to return home.

"Nor were the ground crews out of danger. One day the Nazis made a surprise attack. The American planes didn't have time to take off, and all hell broke loose in the air and on the ground. Soviet fighters joined in the battle. Everything was in flames. It seemed as if nothing and no one would survive."

Boiko says: "We technicians carried the wounded American pilots and Soviet technicians to a tent hospital where the American doctors did their level best to put them back on their feet."

She remained to work at the hospital. Boiko speaks affectionately of the American doctors and nurses she was good friends with.

"I often recall my heart-to-heart talks with the Americans and also our oath to strengthen the friendship that was born during the struggle against the Nazis," says Boiko. "After World War II this friendship was sorely tried by the cold war. Thank heavens, there's been a thaw in relations between our countries in recent times. There's a growing understanding that promoting normal relations between peoples is everyone's business."

On the back of this photograph is the inscription: "I am Cornell Hairmont. Minnesota. Sept. 19, 1944."







bove, left to right: M. Sternberg, who called himself Misha in the Russian way; N. Bertogli; and Capt. Robert Wiseheart. Below: An American who worked with Boiko at the air base.







Artist Tatyana Nazarenko attends the opening of her one-woman show at the Central House of Artists in Moscow.

TATYANA NAZARENKO'S ART

By Anatoli Filatov Photograph and Reproductions by Igor Boiko

hen I first saw The Execution of the Populists, a by painting Tatyana Nazarenko, it became imprinted on my memory. That was 20 years ago. The large (three meters square), skillfully crafted work kept drawing me like a magnet, and I had to return to get a closer look. There was something disturbing about this painting, something incongruous. On the one hand, it portrayed a terrible moment, depicting people on the scaffold: The famous revolutionary terrorists of Narodnaya Volya (People's Will) were to be executed for the assassination of Czar Alexander II. On the other hand, the historic morning of their death-April 3, 1881-was painted in light and festive tones, with a classical impersonality typical of biblical frescoes.

That was not only my impression. The critics readily responded to the birth of another, obviously talented "troublemaking" artist. They praised the graduate of the Surikov Art Institute in Moscow but chided her for imitating the manner of the giants of the

Italian Renaissance.

As the years went by, Nazarenko gained experience without losing her serious approach to the choice of subjects and her incessant quest for expressive means. Paying tribute to old Italian and Dutch masters, she remains a truly Russian and contemporary artist in spirit and in outlook. She esteems the eighteenth century serf painter Grigori Ostrovsky, who was rediscovered by restorers some 10 years ago, as much as the acknowledged authorities of European art. The artist also learned a lot from the early twentieth century Russian masters such as Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin and our contemporaries—her teachers and colleagues Gely Korzhev, Alexei Gritsai, Dmitri Zhilinsky, and Victor Popkov.

The years of devoted study of the achievements of world art have not been wasted on her. They helped her create a style all her own. Today Nazarenko is in her prime. She is equally good at portraiture, landscape, and still life. She is capable of expressing a complex spectrum of emotions-love, the shortness of a carnival with friends, the bitterness of an irreparable loss, and the acrimony of a sneer.

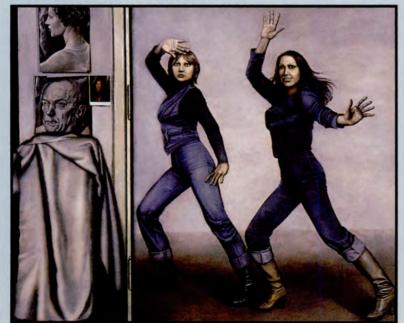
As before, the artist's major emphasis is on historical subjects.

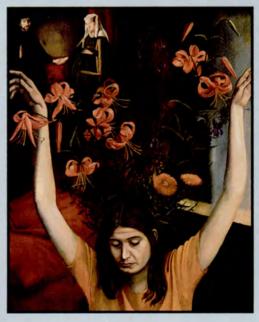
"Why?" she repeats my question, looking at me seriously. "Somebody said: 'History is my attitude toward modernity.' That's very true."

This attitude is expressed by her paintings about the civil war-Lenin

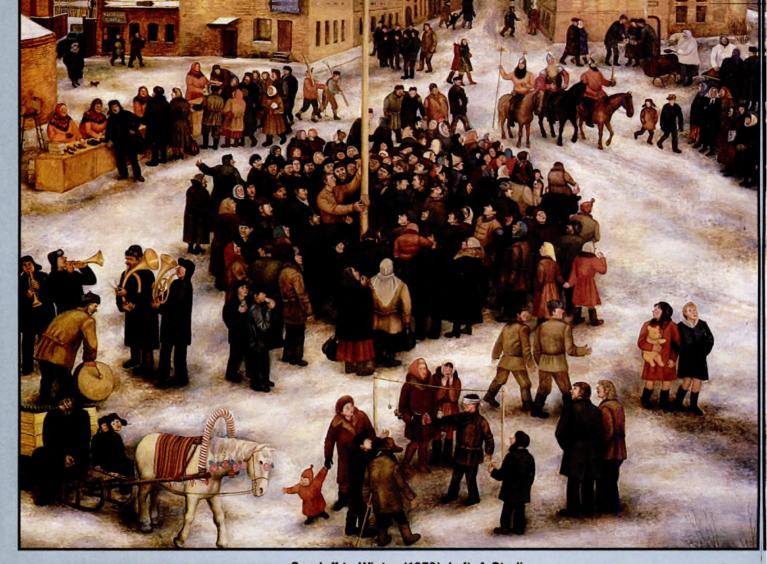


Moscow Evening (1978). Below: The Dance (1980). Right: Flowers. Self-Portrait (1983). All oil on canvas.









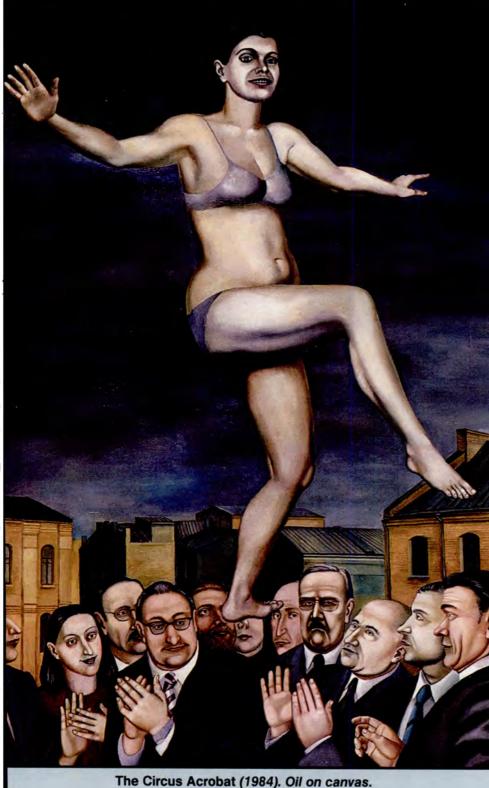


Sendoff to Winter (1973). Left: A Studio (part of a triptych; 1983). Below: The Partisans Are Here (1983). All oil on canvas.









Attends a Subbotnik, Lenin and Thälmann-and about World War II—The Partisans Are Here. Beginning with her first painting, The Execution of the Populists, the artist has always been inspired by dramatic moments in Russian history.

Her most mature and best-known historical paintings are The Decembrists. The Chernigov Regiment's Insurrection, and especially Pugachev. Yemelyan Pugachev led an eighteenth century peasant revolt that shook the foundations of the Russian nobility and even the Russian throne during the reign of Catherine the

More than 20 years have passed since Nazarenko made her debut while she was still a student. Between the two landmarks—The Execution of the Populists and Pugachev-the artist names more than 50 of the paintings she has done, deliberately limiting her choice to large ones. All of them-My Contemporaries, After the Exams, Young Artists, Seeing the New Year In, A Tea-Party in Polenovo, and others-reflect today's reality.

I especially like her works of the past two years, which were recently displayed at the Central House of Artists in Moscow. They reveal a new side to Nazarenko's nature-joyful and romantic, without the bitterness of the grotesque that is typical of many of her earlier works. Sunday in Spring (1988) portrays leisurely townspeople painted against the background of a delicate Moscow Region landscape awakened from winter stupefaction. Museum (1988) depicts viewers admiring Golgotha—a Renaissance painting in golden tones. The strikingly beautiful Easter Night (1989) features crusaders with lighted candles, the unbelievably red walls of the Church of the Resurrection (which can be seen from the window of the artist's apartment), and the archaistic images of the saints, which seem to fly out of the darkness of space and materialize over the church.

Traveling around the Soviet Union from the Baltic to the Pacific coast, and from the North to Central Asia, not to mention numerous foreign trips, Tatyana Nazarenko never gives up her artistic quest.



Bravo, Alexei Sultanov:

By Elya Vasilyeva Photographs by Vladimir Fedorenko

"He's a great musician, a great artist, a real talent—unique. I listened to three bars and I was sure he must be the gold medalist."

Maxim Shostakovich, juror

eople who had the good fortune to be in the audience were immediately on their feet applauding with abandon as Alexei Sultanov played the last resounding notes of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. Sultanov was performing at one of the concerts he will give as the result of his landslide victory at the Eighth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 11, 1989. The contest rules provide for the gold medalist to give close to 250 concerts.

Sultanov, the youngest of the 38 pianists representing 19 countries in the competition, is studying at the Moscow State Conservatory with the renowned piano teacher Lev Naumov. Alexei made his formal debut in Novosibirsk in 1979 and since then has performed throughout the Soviet Union in recital and with orchestras, including the Moscow Philharmonic. He has also toured in Europe, performing in such cities as Munich, Sophia, and Frankfurt.

The young pianist is looking forward to his appearances in the world's best auditoriums, including Carnegie Hall in New York. At a press conference after the competition, Sultanov said, "For me, this competition is almost everything. I want to play for the audience; I want to play for the people." He will perform the music from his competition program—Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev, and Rachmaninoff-and additional pieces that he will prepare during the tour. The Van Cliburn prize also includes a \$15,000 cash award and a compact disc recording on the Teldec label.

Sultanov participated in the Eighth Tchaikovsky Competition in 1986 and brilliantly passed through the two first rounds even though he had just broken a finger opening a piano lid. The judges, however, ordered him to pull out of the finals to prevent further injury.

But Sultanov got his chance to go to Fort Worth. "The Van Cliburn competition is even more ambitious than the Tchaikovsky," he maintains. The rules, the big prizes, and the

opportunity-with all the concert engagements-for every winner to make a name in the world account for its prestige even with performers who have already tasted contest victories.

The most difficult test was at home, before the competition, Sultanov says. He had to play before a Moscow jury that selected five from among the 28 applicants. After the American jury reviewed videotapes of their performances, it selected four Soviet contestants. All four did well, and Sultanov made a sensation—a rare instance when the opinions of jury, press, and public coincided.

Now, however, Sultanov swears he will never participate in another music competition, even in the next Tchaikovsky in 1990. "I hate contests. You won't catch me in one

again," is his verdict.

Naumov, Sultanov's teacher, was one of the many students of Geinrikh Neigauz, the founding father of contemporary Soviet pianism. For more than 30 years at Moscow Conservatory, Naumov has trained world-class performers. They have won laurels at many international contests. "The



Van Cliburn is lucky for me," Naumov says: Another of his students, Vladimir Viardot, won the gold medal in 1973.

Naumov regularly appears as a visiting professor at prestigious postgraduate piano courses and master classes in France and Germany. "The world now speaks of the Neigauz School. I think we also have every reason to refer to the Naumov School," says Sultanov.

"What makes Naumov so successful in teaching?" I asked Sultanov. "He's just bursting with energy, and he makes all his students amazingly prolific—but it's exhausting to be in his class," he answered.

And what does the teacher think of his student? "Alexei is explosive. He can cope with music of any style—a truly universal virtuoso. His natural charisma has a hypnotic quality. No one can remain indifferent to his volcanic temperament. What he lacks is that meek charm that is so welcome in music. I feel a frightening satanic quality in him. His music comes in a torrent of lava. You can burn to ashes with a student like this."

There is plenty of room for progress in Sultanov's music: Here the teacher and student are in agreement. Says Naumov with a sigh, "There are too many things to attend to. He has not yet tried his hand at some of the impressionistic composers, and we have to polish his classics."

Meanwhile, he had fallen behind in his classes and has no time to catch up because of the tour.

"True," says Naumov, "Alexei will see the world—but he has no time to enlarge his repertoire."

Anyway, the competition was a happy time.

"I saw with my own eyes the qualities for which Americans are famous—their spontaneity, affability, and delightful frankness. I found a second family in Texas, the Wilcoxes. I spent the entire month of the competition at their place, and they came to be something like parents by adoption. I was really lucky to stay with them—they took such good care of me."

Another American meeting will be forever etched on Sultanov's heart. "One day the great Vladimir Horo-



Above: Alexei Sultanov and his teacher, Lev Naumov, who teaches at the Moscow State Conservatory.
Alexei has been taking a look at the May 1989 issue of SOVIET LIFE. Below: Alexei with his proud parents, Natalya and Faizu, and his 12-year-old brother, Sergei.

witz asked me to his place. My heart sank when I got the invitation—I was to see the legendary maestro! But he turned out to be so simple and cheerful. You should see his hands."

Horowitz greeted his young colleague with a wave of his hand, three fingers and the thumb straightened out, the little finger pressed close to his palm, and asked: "Can you do this trick, Boy?" "No, I can't," retorted Sultanov, his usual mischief sparkling despite his timidity. "Shall I leave?"

"We spent the whole evening at the piano," he recalls. "Mr. Horowitz showed me some wonderful technical tricks. I hope to visit him again soon—he asked me to his birthday, on October 1."

Sultanov's Uzbek father and Russian mother are both professional musicians (his father, a cellist, and his mother, a violinist), and his little brother, Sergei, goes to music school and wants to follow in Alexei's footsteps, though his teachers say that when the older boy was his age, 12, he displayed a far greater gift.

Sultanov is an avid fan of classical jazz and jazz rock, and he has a black belt in tae kwon do.

At the start of an artistic career that has every chance to be breathtaking, Sultanov can repeat Schubert's words: "I thank thee, my beloved art."

Good luck, Alexei!



Alexei Sultanov's American Derformances

Cliburn Concerts,	
Fort Worth, TX	Oct. 3, 1989
College of St. Catherine,	
St. Paul, MN	Oct. 6, 1989
Portland State University,	
Portland, OR	Oct. 9, 1989
Springfield Symphony,	
Springfield, MA	Oct. 14, 1989
Detroit Symphony Orchest	ra,
Detroit, MI	Oct. 19-22, 1989
San Diego Arts Festival,	
San Diego, CA	Oct. 24, 1989
San Antonio Symphony,	
San Antonio, TX N	ov. 30-Dec. 2, 1989
Carmel Keyboard Artist Se	
Carmel, CA	Jan. 28, 1990
University of Washington,	
Seattle, WA	Jan. 30, 1990
Tour of Hawaiian Islands	Feb. 2-8, 1990
New Orleans Symphony,	
	eb. 14, 15, 17, 1990
University of Illinois,	
Urbana, IL	Feb. 25, 1990
Rochester Philharmonic,	A
Rochester, NY	Apr. 19, 21, 1990
State University of New Yo	
Geneseo, NY	Apr. 20, 1990
QRS Foundation,	
Buffalo, NY	Apr. 22, 1990
University of Massachuset	
Amherst, MA	Apr. 30, 1990
Carnegie Hall,	
New York, NY	May 3, 1990
Kennedy Center,	
Washington, D.C.	May 5, 1990
Fort Worth Symphony,	
Fort Worth, TX	May 12-13, 1990



October 21



November 11

dance photography folk art food circus prodigies visual arts Fabergé film marionettes drama music

Some events are once in a lifetime. The San Diego Arts Festival: Treasures of the Soviet Union is such an event. The most extensive collection of Soviet arts and culture ever seen in the United States, the festival will include an unprecedented array of visual and performing arts. Fabergé imperial eggs from the collections of the Kremlin Armory Museum, Forbes magazine, and Elizabeth II will be on display as will icons from the Soviet republic of Georgia. The Maly Drama Theater from Leningrad will present the U.S. première of Brothers and Sisters, and the Tbilisi State Marionette Theater will make its debut in the United States. Other highlights include:

- A recital by Alexei Sultanov, Gold Medal winner at the 1989 Van Cliburn competition.
- The San Diego Opera performance of Boris Godunov starring Alexander Morozov from Leningrad's Kirov Opera and conducted by Jansoug Kakhidze of the Tbilisi State Theater.
- Georgian State Singing and Dancing Ensemble.
- Folk art from Leningrad's Museum of Ethnography.
- A special mural created for the festival by Nikolai Ignatov.
- A special feature on children's art and performances by child prodigies from the USSR.

- A special presentation of the classic film Alexander Nevsky with Sergei Prokofiev's score performed by the San Diego Symphony and Master Chorale conducted by Yevgeni Kolobov of the USSR.
- Contemporary photography from the USSR.
- Miniature lacquer works.
- Soviet-American space art.
- Culinary demonstrations by Georgian master chefs.
- Performances by members of the Moscow Circus.
- Poster art.
- Georgian Film Festival.
- Fabergé gem and mineral carvings.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit the City of San Diego Children'. Programs. For further information call 1-800-245-FEST. Tickets are on sale a all TicketMaster locations or at the Festival Box Office, P.O. Box 129014 San Diego, CA 92112-9014.

SILENT ACTORS An Experiment



By Felix Plateh

Photographs by Yuri Prostyakov

tudents of a drama institute are rehearsing in a small hall. The show comprises acts in various genres—dance, pantomime, clownery, and parody—and exercises for developing the imagination. In the hall are visitors from the United States who exclaim "Bravo! Superb!" after each act.

What was it that so impressed the foreign guests and stirred Dr. Donald Moores, director of the Center for Studies in Education and Human Development at Gallaudet College, Washington,

D.C.? Dr. Moores had, of course, seen fine actors, dancers, and mimes before. But the actors in that hall were special—they couldn't hear. A group of deaf actors at the Shchukin Drama Institute in Moscow were beginning studies.

While enjoying the patronage of the highly esteemed Vakhtangov Drama Theater, the Shchukin Drama Institute has earned a reputation of its own in the theater world. The group of 11 actors (four women and seven men) was organized as an experiment in 1984 by teacher Andrei Mekke, who was then 34. After master-

Actors at the Shchukin Drama Institute perform in pantomime—they are hearing impaired.







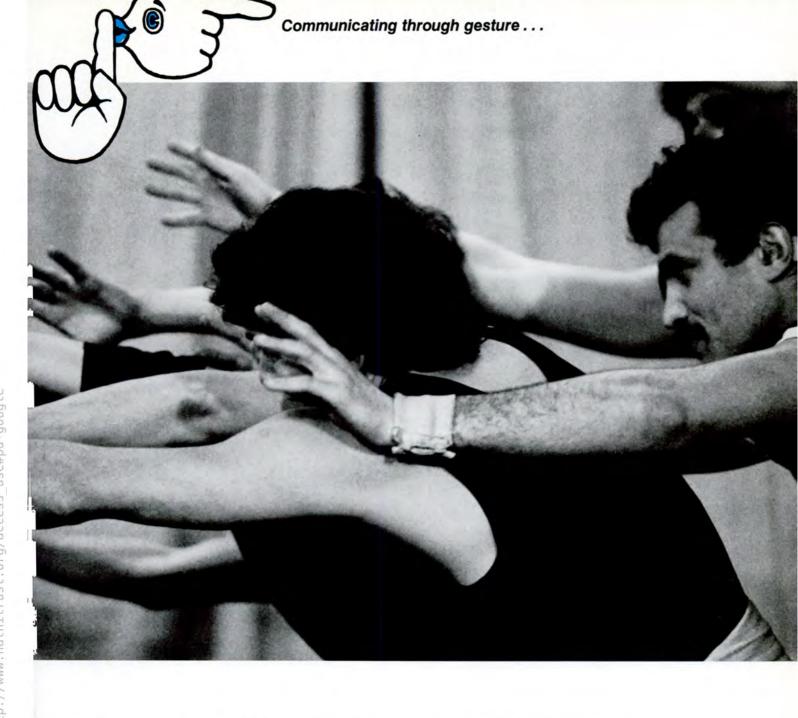
Above: A scene from George Dandin. Left: Guests at the graduation performance: Tim MacCarthy (center), who works at a school for the deaf; and Haui Sigo (left), representing the International Festival of Very Special Arts. Right: A pantomime lesson.



ing the full five-year course in the humanities, passing graduation exams, and skillfully performing the graduation production of Molière's *George Dandin*, the whole group received diplomas certifying the completion of their higher theatrical education.

There are many deaf actors and theaters for the hearing impaired in many countries. The Moscow Theater of Mime and Gesture has established very good contacts with the deaf actors theater in Japan. Other well-known theater companies for the hearing impaired in the USSR are found in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine; in Kishinev, the capital of Moldavia; and in Klaipeda, a large seaside resort town in Lithuania.

There is nothing unusual about deaf actors. However, even in professional companies for the hearing impaired where performers take courses in acting, no one had a complete theatrical education until Mekke taught a group of deaf students in Moscow. In May 1989, five years later, the actors, whose ages ranged from 27 to 32, were performing Molière after successfully passing their graduation exams. Dr. Moores, who never tires of speaking of the achievements of the group, invited them to come with their teachers to the United States in the summer of 1989 to take part in both the International Festi-



val of Very Special Arts and the International Conference and Festival on the Language, History, and Culture of Deaf People.

Dr. Moores said that the achievements of the Shchukin Drama Institute group were unique; he had never seen anything like it. Perhaps the best instance of the group's professionalism was to be seen at a benefit performance that drew an audience of 2,000 at the Bolshoi Theater on May 17. People said that the storm of applause following the performance of the Spanish dance was equal only to that given the most popular stars.

"We have five years of painstaking work behind us," said Mekke."The difficulties that all

these young people had to overcome at every step required a giant effort on their part. We should not forget that they studied the full program of one of the best drama institutes in the country. Adjusting the program to accommodate the special nature of these students made instruction even more difficult. Besides, the need to translate instructions into sign language increased the duration of the classes. Nevertheless, the principle that the 'Vakhtangov school of acting should be fully mastered' was never forgotten, and our students received no preferential treatment in the exams.

"If you were to ask why we did it, I would >





answer that nothing-no lecture, no talk-can have as strong an impact on the hearing impaired as theater. There are good and bad theaters, but there are also theaters that we cannot do without, and the theater for the deaf is among them. It is precisely the theater, an art that is living, visual, and collective, that is capable of returning so much that the hearing impaired are deprived of, of breaking down the barriers of reserve and isolation. Yet the theater for the deaf should be interesting even to the spectator who can hear. It should not be 'amusing' or 'exotic,' but really interesting, though naturally it should be accessible, comprehensible, and necessary, above all, to the hearing impaired. That is precisely the reason we set up the special group."

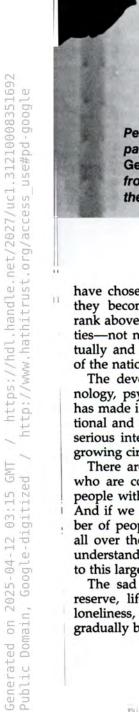
"What are your graduates' future prospects?" "An experimental laboratory for the theatrical education and creativity of the deaf has been set up at our institute," said Mekke. "Most of the graduates plan to work there. Some wish to become teachers of a new generation of students,

not necessarily hearing impaired, whereas others



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have chosen acting careers. But no matter what they become, these well-rounded personalities rank above their coevals of the sixties and seventies—not necessarily hearing impaired—intellectually and culturally and will become the pride of the nation."

The development of modern medicine, technology, psychology, and education for the deaf has made it possible to raise their general educational and cultural level to such an extent that a serious interest in theater is now possible for a growing circle of hearing-impaired people.

There are about 300,000 people in the USSR who are completely deaf, while the number of people with poor hearing is considerably higher. And if we take into consideration that the number of people of all ages with defective hearing all over the world exceeds 220 million, we will understand the attention that society should pay to this large group of citizens.

The sad lot of the hearing impaired—forced reserve, life in eternal silence, the battle with loneliness, and the lack of human contact-may gradually become a thing of the past.



Strike

Continued from page 31

chronic shortages in general. During the Kuznetsk strike, the following statistics appeared in the press: Approximately 15,000 Soviet soldiers died during the nine years of war in Afghanistan. During the same nine years 10,000 Soviet workers died in the mines—one death per every million tons of coal produced. The Kuznetsk mines lost 152 men last year alone.

The strike not only demonstrated the inability of many of those in charge, including state, party, and union leaders, to respond to a critical situation, but also showed up the inexperience of the strikers themselves.

Summing up the results of the work stoppages, Avaliani said, "The events made us see just how inexperienced we are. It was only after we had made our move that we started thinking about what we wanted. The strike began on the eleventh, but a strike committee was elected only on the sixteenth. We tried to sum up our

towns' demands, but every town put forward dozens of points, from the most parochial to the most general. We need legislation governing strikes, and we need to learn more about them."

Experts estimate the over-all economic losses due to the strike at 66 million rubles. Still, in seeking a solution to their difficulties, the miners gained invaluable experience, self-esteem, and solidarity. In a televised speech on July 23, Mikhail Gorbachev said, "The workers have been encouraged by events to take matters into their own hands. And despite the dramatic nature of the events, the fact that the miners have done this has heartened me greatly."

Wives and children came out to show their support. Left: Strikers post a sign— "Stand firm until the end!" Below left: A feeling of camaraderie united the miners.





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SEMYA

A Weekly for the Family

By Sergei Abramov Editor in Chief, Semya

o advertising blitz heralded the appearance of the new Soviet weekly Semya (Family). Nevertheless, prospective readers started sending in letters and calling the office, asking for help and offering useful tips, long before the first issue came off the press. The first issue was published on January 6, 1988, just a few months after the establishment of its publisher, the Soviet Children's Foundation.

We first planned to print about half a million copies a week. But almost 300,000 people subscribed to our weekly during a 10-day advertising and promotion campaign held in the fall of 1987. So we began our first issue with a letter to our readers, which said:

"Dear Colleagues: We hope this new publication, for which our society has waited so long, will reach every Soviet family."

For a long time we tried to suppress the very notion of family. Quick marriages and quick divorces were followed by a division of property: Everything was split-apartments, vacation houses, furniture, television sets, and, what is really terrible, the children. Babies were abandoned by their mothers right in the maternity home; children grew up without parental love and guidance; the children of so-called happy families had fathers and mothers who were too busy and sophisticated to spare their offspring more than the time left between dinner and late-night television

And what about the older generation, the founders of the family and the bearers of family traditions? Do we really care about them? We often



Sergei Abramov is editor in chief of the weekly newspaper Semya (Family).

remember them only when they remind us they are still alive.

We can no longer tolerate the cynical indifference that has been eating away at our hearts. We cannot allow the family, which is the main link in the dialectical chain "family-nation-humankind," to become extinct. As long as there is love in the family, the family unit will be strong.

We publish our newspaper for the grandmothers and grandfathers, the mothers and fathers, the daughters and sons. *Semya* is a publication for every family.

Our first letter to the readers has become, in a way, our program, and we have not deviated an inch from it. Each passing day confirms that we are on the right track. Yes, we may stumble and make mistakes, but who doesn't? Dull articles come along, and we sometimes do not take up the right subject at the right time. But a paper is a living organism, which keeps changing and developing. In our case it changes every week, and our latest issue is very different from

the first issue. The suggestions we get from readers help a lot.

From the very beginning we decided that we were not going to preach or lecture to anyone, as if we alone knew the ultimate truth. For much too long our society was governed by people who believed they knew everything. And we do not have to repeat what all this has led to.

Nevertheless, the family has survived, and it alone knows how it should live and what it requires to live well. Many of the sage scholars were too busy teaching others how to have families of their own. Our paper initiated a dialogue with various families—families with many children and with no children; with young families and with families that have been together a long time already, whether happy or unhappy. People help us in choosing topics for discussion. They take counsel with us, and we with them. It is a two-way street.

That is why I said from the very beginning that we are on the right track. We are traveling together with our readers. The number of subscribers has reached almost two million in the past 12 months, and it keeps increasing, to the dismay of those who decide whether to supply newsprint to newspapers and magazines or to allocate it for other purposes.

I am not going to bore the readers with long lists of the subjects we have covered already or plan to discuss. Trying to describe a weekly publication in a couple of words is tantamount to describing a wonderful painting by saying that it depicts a forest, or an ocean, or mountains. I'd rather use the gracious offer of SO-VIET LIFE magazine to present some samples of our articles.

Life in an Average Family By Svetlana Antonova Semya Special Correspondent The grandfather was a trumpeter in with the disregard for public

his five-member family lives in Kiev. Alexander Nikityuk, 81, retired on a pension a month ago; his wife, Antonina, 75, also a pensioner, has become involved in Kiev's ecology movement. Their daughter, Tatyana, 38, is a freelance journalist. Her husband, Victor, 41, works as an engineer at a research center. And Tatyana and Victor's eight-year-old daughter, Katya, is in second grade.

Home for the Nikityuks is three rooms, crammed with bookcases and furniture, that were once part of an eight-room apartment in a building that dates to the turn of the century. The grandfather sleeps in the smaller room; Granny and Katya share the other one.

Each meter of that tiny apartment has to be put to the most efficient use. A TV set, in front of which the family assembles, is in the small room that serves as a living room. No one worries about a coat rack holding coats, footwear, and other household odds and ends that end up here. In this neutral room no one worries about being in the way of others. This is especially important for Tatyana and Victor, who have no room of their own at all.

All this considered, I decided to interview each member of the family separately. I wanted to ask them if the difficult living conditions had swamped their dreams.

Alexander started off with a brief journey down memory lane. Sitting in an armchair under the "icon-stand" of lovingly framed portraits, he told me about each ancestor.

"Grandfather Nikolai was an honorary nobleman. The title was not hereditary and gave no special rights because it had been conferred upon him as a reward for courage."

His grandfather's courage had its expression in a tragicomic incident in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.

The grandfather was a trumpeter in the army. When he came to after a shell explosion, he was so frightened that he sounded the offensive. The Russians were retreating but, thinking that reinforcements had arrived, they turned back to attack the numerically stronger enemy again. The Turks were caught off guard, and they ran away shamefully. The Russians had a good laugh when they learned about their unintentional bravery.

Alexander could talk about his relatives incessantly, far beyond the dry data "born, married, died." Frankly I envied his memory, not the sort that keeps dates, events, and details, but his spiritual heritage. He inherited the best characteristics of his forefathers and has managed to retain them despite the insistent pressures of our era

What does Alexander dream of?

"When I'm alone or with my family and friends, I have no doubts that I am a personality. But outside our private quarters it's different. Our bureaucratic machine kills a personality by its indifference, conservatism, and inefficiency."

Chief engineer Nikityuk made 200 proposals over the years for improving production at his plant. All of them were introduced into production, but only 25 were checked out to see if they actually saved money. And they did—one million rubles. All Alexander knows for certain about his other innovations is that they haven't been put to use outside his plant.

Still, his most bitter disappointment is as a citizen. There were, of course, thaws—flashes of hope—but each one ended, bringing back the quagmire of absurdity.

Perestroika was therefore his most cherished dream—he didn't even hope to live to see it. He thinks the most important thing now is not to assess the new policy only on the basis of one's own interests. People are skeptical now because they are fed up with the disregard for public opinion. We should all be sure that we have the right to disagree and to express our opinions, in accordance with a genuinely democratic society.

"I dream about social protection!" Antonina said forcefully, as if someone else would hear us.

First of all her pension. How could she survive on 80 rubles a month if, God forbid, something happened to her husband? The children are no help since they themselves can hardly make ends meet. Financial problems are not the only concern. For instance, so far only they, the grandparents, have been able to take little Katya out of Kiev in the summer. It is next to impossible to get a voucher to the children's spa in Yevpatoriya. But Katya needs to go there, and her grandmother must beg Yevpatoriya authorities, her former colleagues in party work, to give the girl a place at the sanatorium. And what if Antonina had no such contacts? Why should we have to get basic things only through connections, with bows and humiliation, without real rights and guarantees?

And who should she beseech to give her a better apartment? Her children have no opportunity to be anything but hangers-on. They've been on the waiting list for a cooperative apartment for nine years.

Antonina has seen enough hardships in her life. Of all the earthly benefits, she wanted only one—a shelter of her own. No one's dreams came true, but Antonina's despair was obliterated by the enthusiasm of her generation: "We will build; we will overtake the West; everything is in the offing!" In the offing was the Second World War, which left millions of people bereft of the little they had had

What does Antonina dream of? She wants those who are dear to her to be real masters—not only in their own home, but in their country, too.



Generated on 2025-04-12 03:19 GMT / https://hdl./ Public Domain, Google-digitized / http://www.hat After graduating from the journalism department of Kiev University, Tatyana couldn't get a job in a newspaper office. Since she is industrious and willing to work, she thinks it is because she is a woman: "They want 'draft horses' and not young mothers whose children may need more attention than their job."

Unfortunately, journalism is not the only profession where discrimination on the grounds of sex is so tangible.

What are the feelings of a person who has neither adequate living quarters nor a job? Tatyana is not happy that she is forcibly free; she does not share the opinion that all women are eager to devote themselves totally to their families. "But it's funny; women's wishes somehow have nothing to do with all this!" Tatyana's family is also not very happy about her emancipation from a reliable salary.

Nevertheless, Tatyana is preoccupied with the basis of our social problems. In her opinion, behind all the problems is the loss of spirituality, culture, and real values. She feels strongly that the absence of mercy, humanity, and personal roots is more terrible than a lack of sausages, shoes, or apartments.

She is also confident that one can restore the lost values only with the help of one's family, keeping the spiritual links of generations. The desire to be such a family is not enough, she

believes. When young people get their own apartments, are they able to live close to their parents, in the same building? Tatyana blames the state for this condition and insists that the authorities should create conditions for a free choice: to live all together, or separately, but close to one another.

Victor is a section chief in a research center. When he started out, he was earning 100 rubles a month, and it took him 14 years to see his salary increased from 170 to 220 rubles. Now he earns 260. Since the advent of perestroika, a scientific cooperative has been set up at the institute where he works, and Victor receives extra money from the cooperative. Previously, however, he spent his holidays in the countryside earning money at jobs that had nothing to do with his training.

"I want to become, in my not so young years, a master. No, not in my own home—leadership in the family is not a prerogative of sex. It depends on one's human qualities, and the ability to make decisions, which is obviously Tatyana's strong point. The fact that I am the breadwinner for my family is not that important."

Victor thinks it's good to live close to parents, but not all in one apartment. For him, as for his wife, the spiritual atmosphere means everything. Besides, the experience of old people is beneficial for youngsters. Victor disagreed with his wife on one point only. He agrees that culture and spirituality are important for our society's progress, but he feels priority should be given to fundamental economic renewal.

On the last day of my visit, the whole Nikityuk family gathered at a farewell tea. We spoke about the housing problem—where and when there will be houses in which parents and grandparents will live together, that it is high time to review our standard projects, which have no more than four rooms. Why not build sixor eight-room apartments, like the one in which the former owners of the Nikityuks' apartment lived?

It is time to respect ourselves so that posterity will also respect us.

n these pages you've met a family like thousands or perhaps millions of others. Our heroes are cultured and intelligent people, who have not focused on household inconveniences—theirs is a large-scale and complicated world, far broader than their apartment. Though the walls leave little room for both the older and the younger generation, the members of the family dream, above all, of inner freedom, freedom as personalities, as civic persons.

This freedom seems to be becoming a reality, at last.





ast year Semya sent out a call to find a good Russian equivalent for the term "child prodigy." Readers sent in several hundred letters, offering a hundred different suggestions. The winners' prize was a year's subscription to Semya; the newspaper's prize was a new, catchy heading—Chudo-Chado (Miracle Kid)—an extraordinary hit.

Even more important than the name is the content of this section. The world has long been accumulating experience in educating gifted children. For instance, the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, has been around for 15 years, and its membership comprises 46 countries. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union has only attained observer sta-

tus so far, but late last year the USSR did join the newly formed European Association for Gifted and Talented Children.

I wanted to find out how we identify and raise gifted children. In the context of *perestroika*, our society is in dire need of gifted and unorthodox thinkers. One would assume that at least something like a special file on these children would exist. I was more than surprised to learn that no such thing was available.

I should have expected this. Everyone knows from their own school experience that education is geared to some abstract average student. Gennadi Yagodin, chairman of the State Committee for People's Education, admitted, "There's no telling how much talent has been strangled by the schools in their hunt for statistics." Recently, for the first time since the 1920s, when Anatoli Lunacharsky was People's Commissar of Education and showed an interest in identifying and teaching talented children, the board of the State Committee for People's Education raised the issue of setting up a USSR Research-Practical Center for Creative Gifts.

Semya, by asking its readers to send in the addresses of talented kids, had highlighted a sensitive problem and anticipated this useful initiative for the public education system by six months.

The letters to the editor I mentioned before contain addresses from all parts of the country. These addresses have formed the basis of an index of talent.

There were wonderful letters. See for yourself:

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Generated on 20 Public Domain, We have two children. The younger one is just an ordinary child; the older one, Kostya, is like some kind of sponge that sucks up any kind of information. At four he read books for children. At seven he found an old textbook of physics for secondary technical schools, read it, and proposed an idea for an all-terrain vehicle on a jet cushion. He is 11 now and deeply interested in history. His teacher has given him history books for sixth and seventh graders (13-14 years old). We don't know how to help our son in his insatiable lust for knowledge.

Another one:

Our son, Artyom Stolpovsky, began to read and write early. At age five he was busy writing his own History of the USSR. He planned to write 70 chapters but had finished only 18 when he became insatiably interested in geography. At this time he has studied the secondary school course in geography on his own. Artyom has his own archives and has a personal library in his favorite sciences. He also has a book of notes on history, geography, geology, paleontology, and mineralogy. He thoroughly knows the history of Russia from ancient times onward, and he is happy when we, his parents, agree to listen to his lectures (they may last a week). Teachers are delighted by his talents, but they haven't done anything to maintain or to use them.

These two letters give an idea of what immense national treasures we have yet don't know how to use. How is talent to be identified and developed? How is a gifted child to be saved from becoming bored at school?

Semya is the first Soviet publication to take up this subject. What is the newspaper going to do? First, it inends to continue its search for gifted children and to keep working on a file of talent. It plans to involve the Cenral Television Network. Second, it lans immediately to begin printing naterials that will inform parents of ays to help their gifted children. hird, it plans to pool efforts with the oviet Children's Foundation and the istitute of Psychology to establish a ublic organization to deal with oung talent. Semya sees this as a real ontribution to perestroika.

Can We Do Without Day Care?

By Galina Polozhevets Staff Writer, Semya

Drawing by Boris Dolya

Some people will find that question rather strange. Most people wonder whether the modern woman, with her double load—home and job—can do without day-care facilities.

Today more than 65 million women are working in the Soviet economy, and the question is whether they really want to return to the hearth. Household chores have a way of seeming dull and never-ending.

Yet when Yuri Yefremov, the director of the *Izvestia* publishing house and printing shop, presented in *Semya* a proposal to prolong women's paid leaves until their children reach age three, he got the readers' full support.

What is the situation today? A young mother can stay home with her baby until it is 18 months old without losing her job. The first year she gets a state allowance of 35 to 50 rubles a month, while the remaining six months she is given leave without pay. About 16 million families have children under age three. Practically all young mothers either work or study, but most take leave to raise their babies. When the leave comes to an end, some of the babies are put in day-care centers, while the rest stay on at home, and not always because

the parents want them to. There are not enough day-care centers and nursery schools for everyone who would like to place their children there—1.7 million families are waiting for a vacancy. Children go into nursery schools when they are three years old.

The troubles that beset our childcare centers are well known to every mother. The worst problems are the high sickness rate and overcrowding. Many nurseries do not have proper rooms for games and exercises.

Why then do people put themselves on waiting lists to get in? There are several reasons. The first is the young woman's problem of losing her professional qualifications. Women specialists who have the same opportunities as men at the start lag behind them considerably by the middle or toward the end of their careers. Only 11 per cent of the managerial jobs of different ranks at industrial enterprises and establishments are held by women. Their double duty prevents them from getting ahead in their jobs.

Another weighty argument against long maternity leaves is the reduction in income. It is impossible to imagine a single mother staying home with her baby for three years, living on the meager monthly allowance for children. But it is not easy for large fam-

ilies, either. No wonder many women try to make more money for the family by taking the less desirable jobs.

What if the privileges of mothers were considerably enhanced? According to our readers, many mothers prefer to bring up their children themselves. The way most of them reason is: What's the good of a woman devoting her entire day to a job when her home is in disorder and her children neglected?

Counting today's profits gained from women's labor, we forget to calculate the economic payoff to be derived from a healthy future generation. That generation will be healthy only if the mother can devote to her child as much time as is necessary for its normal development and health.

What are managers, faced with the realities of the day, to do? Yuri Medvedev, director of a cotton print factory, says:

Practically all the factory workers are women, many of them under 30. If we let them take three years' leave to bring up their babies, the factory would lose half its workers. How could we manage without day-care facilities and let mothers go on such long leaves? The factory has to meet its plan targets.

Yuri Yefremov has other ideas:

At our enterprise women also compose the majority of the workers-65 per cent. We have 90 babies in our four-group day-care center on whom we spend an average of 100,000 rubles a year-about 83 rubles a month on each child. And now let me ask you: To whom is it better to pay the money, to Mom, who will bring the youngster up quietly at home, or to some stranger who will bring it up in an overcrowded day care center? I think that our workers will be all for paying Mom and including the years she stays home with her baby in her service record.

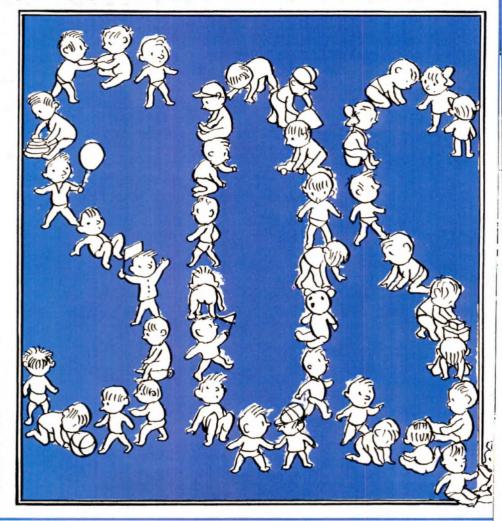
Others have come to look at the problem in the same way. Already now, without waiting for state subsidies, many enterprises are helping their women workers by granting mothers three years' child-care leave and paying them out of their profits.

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A good manager understands that his enterprise as well as his workers' families will gain if he takes steps to safeguard the health of the workers' children. In the first place, loss of working time would diminish because women would not take leave to nurse sick children, which they must do quite often if their child goes to the nursery. In the second place, there would be less labor turnover because a woman would not want to leave an enterprise where they understood her needs so well. Some legal difficulties hamper the reformers, however: The country does not yet have a legislative norm that allows the three years that a woman spends rearing her child to be included in her service record.

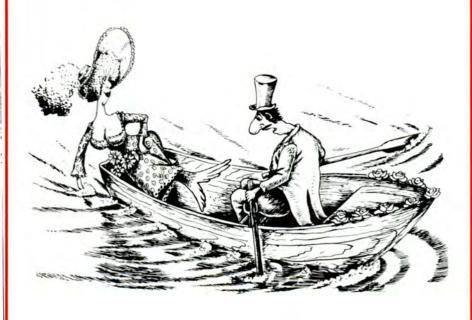
The All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the State Committee of Labor and Social Issues plan to put in a proposal for the government to institutionalize the privilege. The two bodies are currently working to create a single system of state assistance to families with children. By the end of the current five-year plan period mothers are expected to have paid leaves up to 18 months (and not just a year) to care for their babies and the right to take an additional unpaid leave until the baby is two years old. These measures are to be carried out stage by stage in different regions.

The majority of women readers of Semya feel that the choice of family or job is inevitable for women. So let them have the opportunity either to rear their children at home or to continue working while they put their babies in the competent hands of caregivers at the child-care center. Let there be fewer nurseries, but on one condition—that the atmosphere in them be more homelike. Both the family and the state will gain.



HUM





Drawings by Vladimir Kazanevsky





ALMOST A CONTENDER

Alexander Obolensky created a sensation at the First Congress of People's Deputies when he nominated himself to run against Mikhail Gorbachev for President of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Obolensky's action was motivated by the conviction that the election be contested. The delegates voted down the nomination, but Obolensky's gesture won wide respect.



BACK TO THEIR ILLUSTRIOUS ROOTS

Genealogy, until recently considered an unacceptably elitist field in the USSR, is now becoming very popular. The young man above is Ivan Pushchin, namesake of Pushkin's best friend. Descendants of this famous family gathered from all parts of the world to celebrate the clan's 500th anniversary.

COMING SOON

The Volga River in Danger





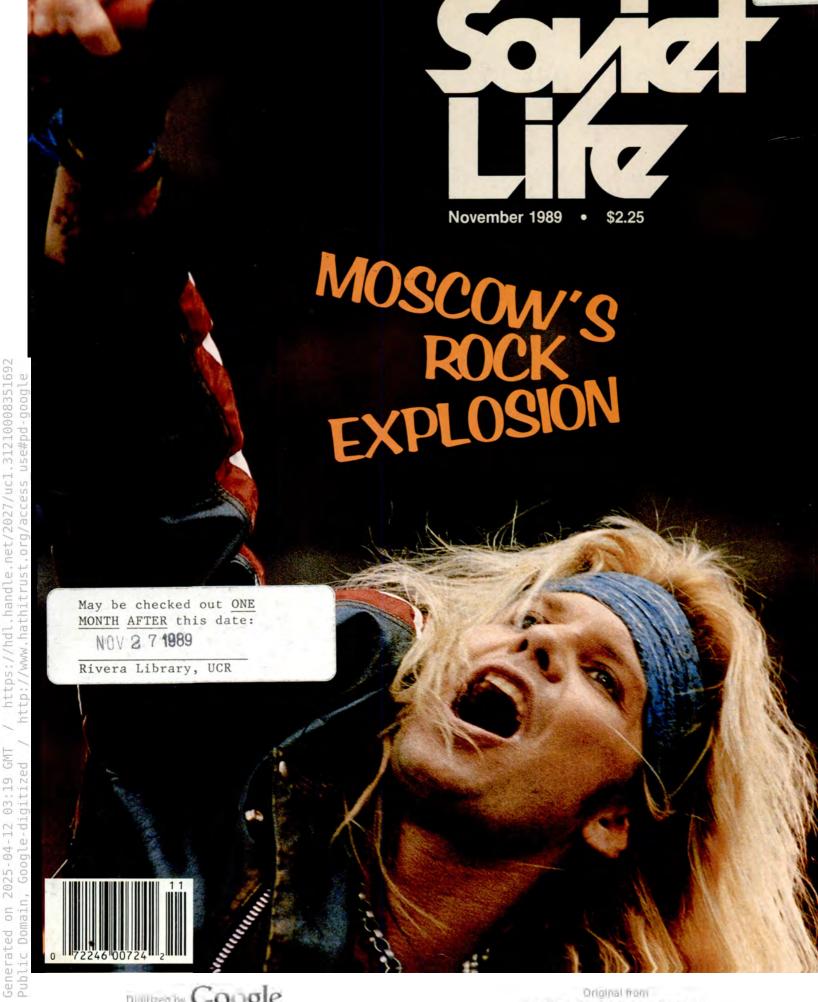
Chukchi and Eskimo art

Sculpture made from walrus tusks. Top: Traditional bone sculpture. Inset: Contemporary Chukchi artist Edward Tachenko.









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LEV YASHIN'S STAR

By Alexander Zhelnov

To honor the sixtieth birthday of living soccer legend Lev Yashin, Moscow's Dynamo Stadium hosted a series of international charity matches. The Dynamo Select team challenged the World All-Stars. The first match was played by members of the old guard; the second featured the current generation of world soccer players.

Born October 22, 1929, Yashin worked as an assembler at a Moscow mechanical-engineering plant. In 1949 he joined the Moscow Dynamo soccer club. His outstanding skills laid the groundwork for a whole new school of Soviet goalkeepers. He pioneered a new playing style, which enabled Soviet goalies to attain top positions on the world scene. The famous Pelé said that he didn't know a better goal-

keeper than Yashin. Captain of the Dynamo squad and of Soviet, European, and world select teams, Yashin played more than 800 matches and four world championship games. He was named the best soccer player in Europe in 1963 and awarded the Gold Ball, becoming the world's only goalie to win this trophy.

When Yashin quit in 1970, he was 40. He had his ups and downs in sports, and his life has not been a bed of roses since he retired. For several years he was seriously ill, and eventually he lost a leg. Now he is 60. Many soccer stars and old friends of Yashin's came to Moscow in August to celebrate his birthday. Addressing those present at the stadium, Yashin said: "Thank you for coming. Soccer doesn't mean a thing without the fans."

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Soviet press has been publishing a great many interviews and stories by journalists, writers, politicians, and specialists about their visits to the United States. All the authors seem to agree that Americans today are well aware of developments in the USSR.

I'm afraid that such a conclusion is too optimistic. The United States is a very large country, and one cannot judge it or its people by the impressions left by a brief visit.

Not long ago I received a letter that read in part: "I had always pictured Russia in my mind as a flat, icy, windswept arctic landscape. Russia was as far away as the moon to me. However, while I was in my university's library, I happened to come across a copy of SOVIET LIFE. I couldn't believe what I saw. The people in your country smile. You have mountains and beautiful women."

The letter was from David Zoch, 21, who lives in Beaumont, Texas. I assume from his letter that Zoch is a student. What he had to say surprised me. To be honest, I cannot imagine a Soviet student from any provincial town who would think of the United States either as a prairie country inhabited only by cowboys and Indians or as an agglomeration of skyscrapers.

I have no intention of offending David Zoch. I was even glad to receive his letter. He writes that when he realized how little he really knew about the Soviet Union, he carefully looked through the past 24 issues of our magazine. Now he dreams of visiting my country when he has the time and the money.

Not long ago our Moscow office received a group of SOVIET LIFE subscribers who were traveling in the USSR on one of the special tours offered to our subscribers. Our guests showed that they understood what was happening in the Soviet Union fairly well. They even requested that we print more serious articles and handle topics on Soviet realities in a more comprehensive manner.

We will certainly take their advice.

Robert Tsfasman



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Front Cover: Last summer's Moscow Music Peace Festival turned the city into the rock capital of the world for a weekend. This photo was taken by Igor Mikhalyov.



Material for this issue courtesy of **Novosti Press Agency**

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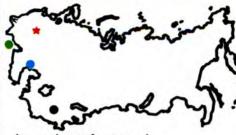
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- Tashkent
- Sevastopol
- Kalmykia



This man nominated himself to run against Gorbachev.



36 Sevastopol welcomes an American missile cruiser.



54 Extended family members from different countries meet.



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estivities, like fireworks, explode and then fade away, leaving brilliant memories behind. The festivities in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, where I had been for a meeting of representatives of Soviet and American sister cities, were over. After three sweltering Tashkent days and nights, I finally found myself in the coolness of the airplane that was taking me back to Moscow. In my mind's eye I saw the faces and relived the events of that festival of friendship.

About 350 representatives from 45 pairs of sister cities had attended the U.S.-Soviet Sister Cities Conference, which was cosponsored by Sister Cities International (USA) and the Soviet Association for Relations Between Foreign Cities (USSR), on May 29-31, 1989. It was the first time in the 16year-old history of the sister-city movement that so many people from the two countries had been able to get together under its aegis in one place. After the meeting the Americans toured their respective Soviet sister cities. Did the meeting live up to expectations? Were the participants able to discuss everything they had wanted to discuss and to reach agreement on the important matters? Did the festival build up the faith and perseverance that are so necessary for citizen diplomacy?

Anticipating these questions, I had interviewed some of the people who keep this movement going. We had all met on May 28. There were about 200 people onboard the IL-86 that took us from Moscow to Tashkent. I saw a bearded man sitting near a window. James E. Dixon is the mayor of Dixon, Illinois. The town was founded by the present mayor's greatgrandfather. At the end of 1986 the people of Dixon had accepted an offer to establish partnership relations with the Soviet city of Dikson (population: 4,000) on the Soviet arctic coast. The formation of this partnership was a real accomplishment—the Soviet city had been closed to foreigners for decades. It took quite an effort on both sides to melt the ice of Stalin's era and start exchanges between these "two small communities that represent the ordinary people of the world," as Dixon put it.

Shelley Zeiger, a businessman-diplomat based in Trenton, New Jersey, was also on the plane. Zeiger had originated the idea of pairing his city with the Leninsky District of Moscow. He also opened the first American restaurant in the Soviet Union, TrenMos, in Moscow. Zeiger has pio-

neered the involvement of American small and mid-sized businesses in joint ventures with the USSR. He believes that this kind of cooperation may open up vast opportunities for the commercial development of both the Soviet Union and the United States. He expects this cooperation to "create a better world to live in."

Sitting next to me on the plane was Bob Broedel from Florida, the guiding spirit of the Tallahassee-Krasnodar sister-city program and many other national initiatives. Mr. Broedel was attending the meeting as a guest of Novosti Press Agency.

Tashkent met us with steamy heat, the sounds of national musical instruments, and wonderful hospitality. Dancers and singers in national costume formed a semicircle. Inside the semicircle the American guests met with their Soviet counterparts, who had arrived earlier.

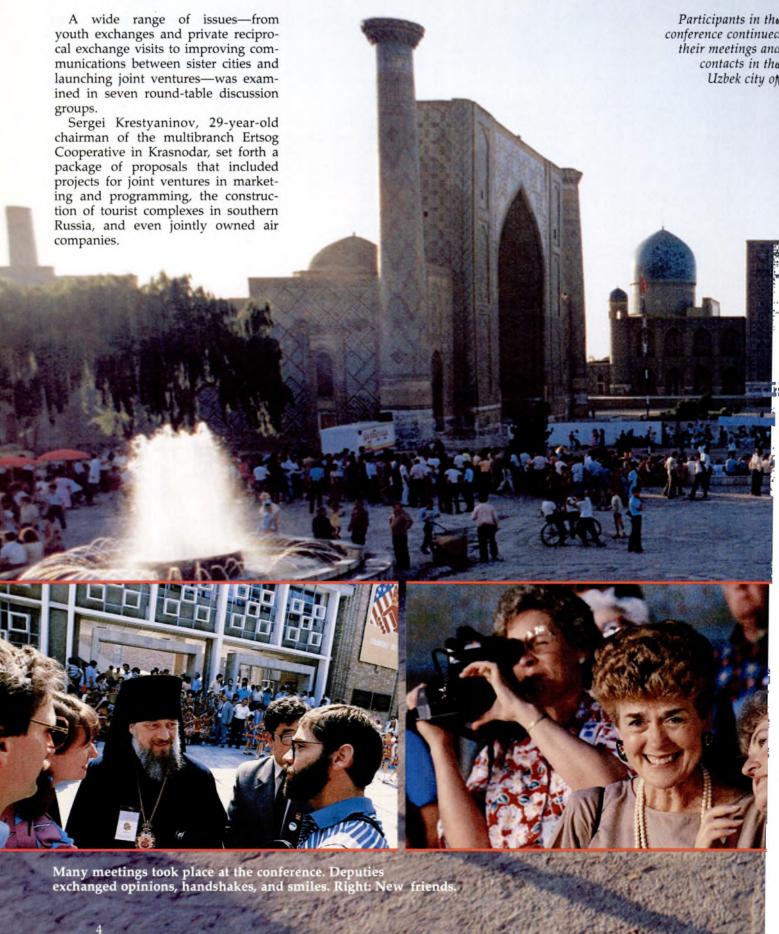
The official opening ceremony was held the next morning at the local information center. The sponsors of the meeting—representatives of Sister Cities International and the Soviet Association for Relations Between Foreign Cities, led by their chairmen, Richard G. Neuheisel and Ivan Cherepanov—sat on the podium. There were torrents of words about peace and friendship.



conference's official opening.

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GREAT By Sergei Volovyets **EXPECTATIONS**

nticipation is the best description of the present state of Soviet-American relations. This is especially true after Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze's meeting with President George Bush and his talks with Secretary of State James Baker in Wyoming in September.

Anticipation of what? you might ask. We know that the meetings of top Soviet and American leaders are never unproductive-even if they do not result in the signing of any spectacular agreements or do not live up to all expectations. Even the Soviet-American meetings at Reykjavik, which at first seemed disappointing because of the absence of any striking results, were considered in retrospect to have been fruitful.

In Wyoming the two sides agreed on a time for a meeting between President Mikhail Gorbachev and President Bush and on the next tangible steps that could be made in Soviet-American relations.

Progress at arms control talks has thus far determined the future of these relations. This is natural because the arms race-above all, the nuclear weapons race—was the main feature of Soviet-American relations during the decades of confrontation. The events of the past few months have created the impression that something stood in the way of the Geneva talks on a 50 per cent reduction by both sides of their strategic offensive armaments, although the fundamental principles of such an agreement had been negotiated by the spring of 1988. The impediment was probably the general strategy of the West, which wanted an agreement first at the conventional force reduction talks in Vienna.

In the past, most of my Soviet col-

leagues would have concluded that the West's position created an insurmountable obstacle to agreement. Thank goodness, we have taken a more pragmatic view of things. So I would say that the delay is the result of marking time, which is both unnecessary and harmful, rather than a tragedy. The advocates of the deterrence doctrine would lose nothing from an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive armaments; such an agreement would leave intact more warheads than are

The arms race—above all, the nuclear weapons race—was the main feature of Soviet-American relations during the decades of confrontation.

needed for the mutually assured destruction of both countries.

Furthermore, many questions have already been resolved in Vienna. And if the political consent to eliminate imbalances in European-based conventional armaments stands, the finalized Vienna agreement will not be long in coming—the beginning of 1990 is probably a realistic date.

The solution of two other arms control problems that previously aggravated Soviet-American relations also seems probable in the near future. First, the agreement on chemical weapons is almost ready; the last details on control and verification have been under consideration during the past few months. Second, there is a

chance for a breakthrough in setting a new ceiling on nuclear tests, restricting their number and, more important, their yield.

Doing Business Together

An opinion poll conducted by Fortune magazine among the leaders of more than 180 major American companies shows that ideological differences are no obstacle to business. U.S. business people are more concerned about the convertibility of the ruble and the ability of Soviet businesses to be truly independent in their decision making

Historically, however, trade and all the other forms of economic cooperation between East and West, between the USSR and the United States in particular, were often held hostage by political hostility. Some American newspapers have reported, for instance, that the United States is waiting for the Supreme Soviet to reconsider its emigration law. The introduction of a new law, according to the American press, will make it possible to withdraw the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which links trade with the USSR to Soviet emigration policies.

Numerous Soviet-American joint businesses are being created at present. I am particularly interested in an enterprise launched by the Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies in the USSR and a large American consulting firm. The union is an independent association comprising, in addition to the societies mentioned in its name, hundreds of Soviet businesses. Last year it fulfilled orders for different types of work to the tune of 120 million rubles. This year the sum is expected to be between 500 and 600 million rubles. Starting next year,

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the joint venture will send dozens of young Soviet engineers to work in the United States. The results of their work will be used back home. If the project is a success, it will be the most important thing that has happened in the annals of Soviet-American economic cooperation thus far, though there is no way of expressing its value in terms of money.

"Bye-bye, America"

This is the title of a song by a popular Soviet rock group, Nautilus Pompilius. The song is about a man who has to change his previous primitive view of the United States, which he envisions as a country of blue jeans, chewing gum, and Coca-Cola. In the same way we all are overcoming the enemy image of the United States.

Exchanges of visits between Soviet and American military personnel at different levels contribute a great deal to this process. Admiral James Crowe, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed this quite accurately when he was on board the Soviet cruiser *Kirov* during his visit to the Soviet Union: "Hearing our national anthem played on the quarter-deck of a Soviet man-of-war brought home, as no other gesture could, the changing times."

Shevardnadze said at his press conference in Wyoming: "For the first time in the framework of considering global or international issues, agreements were reached on the joint elaboration of specific proposals to extend cooperation in the field of ecology, including preparations for the UN conference on the environment and development in 1992.

"While advancing a number of our proposals, we support some interest-

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"We talked about using the market, introducing economic methods of regulating the national economy, and problems of regulating the circulation of money.

"The Secretary of State provided interesting information on the American economy."

Baker stressed for his part that Soviet-American relations, having passed from confrontation to dialogue, were entering a new stage—

The work of the new legislature, the Supreme Soviet, is another positive factor in the development of Soviet-American relations.

toward cooperation. His conclusion is obvious in the six agreements that were signed in Wyoming.

There has also been another development which, although different in nature, is no less striking. Soviet and American natural and social scientists and cultural personalities met last summer to discuss the "values of Western civilization."

The meeting showed that the Western values that the Americans spoke about coincided—in terms of priorities and the way of expressing them, though not in appraisal—with the values Soviet people are tirelessly discussing today. Gorbachev expressed the core of the matter in his address to the UN General Assembly last year, when he proposed that the values that are cardinal to the whole of humankind should be put above national interests in international politics. This position was unanimously supported by the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR and reflected in its resolution on guidelines for the USSR's domestic and foreign policy.

The work of the new legislature, the Supreme Soviet, is another positive factor in the development of Soviet-American relations. When discussing foreign policy issues, deputies take into consideration the arguments of the other side. This imparts greater authority to our decisions on questions of the defense budget, the conclusion of international treaties, and the government's foreign economic policy.

Academician Vitali Goldansky, a member of the Supreme Soviet's Foreign Relations Committee, said that various international agreements were acquiring great importance for us because many of their provisions were applicable to our internal affairs. Goldansky emphasized the Vienna Final Document. When the committee has to decide whether or not some Soviet legislation is compatible with international law, priority will be given to international legal norms, he said.

The present state of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is such that a logical and natural course of developments justifies the boldest expectations. The next Soviet-American summit meeting will be held in 1990 at the end of spring or the beginning of summer. We have ample reason to expect that the results of this new meeting will elevate our relations to an even higher level.





Spacebridge for Doctors

Satellite communications are enabling Armenian earthquake victims to receive medical care and to benefit from the experience of American specialists in recovering from natural disasters. Earlier this year, the U.S. Government and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) proposed setting up a satellite system for this purpose. Several major American medical centers also volunteered their professional advice. Soviet organizations involved in the project, called Space for Health, were eager to assist in the preparations for the spacebridge.

The system was tested using mobile television stations based on Soviet and on U.S. territory. American specialists can give practical assistance to Armenia and transmit the latest medical publications by digital facsimile machine (fax).

Mine Your Health

Some Ukrainian allergy patients are sent underground for a 30-day course of treatment. The clinic that treats them this way is in the former Solotvinskaya Salt Mine in the Transcarpathian section of the Ukraine. The curative effects of karst mines on asthmatics were noticed in the last century, when speleotherapy enjoyed a vogue. This efficient method of treating asthma has proven effective. The galleries of the Solotvinskaya mine, whose monolithic crystalline walls do not require supports, are 600 meters long, 12 meters wide and 6 meters high. Inside are doctors offices, laboratories, bedrooms, recreation rooms, and a conference room.



Save the Whale



The world followed with anxiety when three California gray whales became trapped in arctic ice near Alaska in October 1988. In response to a call for help after one of the whales died, the iceboat Admiral Makarov and the dieselelectric icebreaker Vladimir Arsenyev broke a channel in the ice so that the whales could escape.

American businessman Timothy Daggen proposed that a sculpture be made to commemorate this humanitarian act. American sculptor Jerry Faber liked the idea, and he worked for two and a half months carving a whale of a sculpture from a 300-year-old elm. The sculpture was then shipped free of charge from Minnesota to Vancouver, where longshoremen loaded it, also at no charge, onboard the Soviet motorship Bratsk. The sculpture now stands in the Soviet Far Eastern port of Vladivostok.

the joint venture will send dozens of young Soviet engineers to work in the United States. The results of their work will be used back home. If the project is a success, it will be the most important thing that has happened in the annals of Soviet-American economic cooperation thus far, though there is no way of expressing its value in terms of money.

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being transported by an AN-225 A STEF Mriya cargo plane. The reusable Buran spacecraft http://www.hathitrust.org/access use#pd-google NERGIA BURAN Generated on 2025-04-12 03:21 GMT Public Domain, Google-digitized ,

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By Boris Gubanov Chief Designer of the Energia-Buran Complex Photographs by Alexander Mokletsov

ay 15, 1987, saw a major event for the future of astronautics: the first launching of the powerful Energia booster rocket. This breakthrough demonstrated to the world the new Soviet all-purpose booster-spacecraft system. Eighteen months later, on November 15, 1988, an Energia booster was launched again—this time not with a mock payload, but with the Buran reusable shuttle. Unmanned, it orbited the globe twice and landed safely on a specially built runway at the Baikonur Cosmodrome. For our astronautics, this heralded the switchover from expensive single-shot spacecraft to reusable spacecraft; Buran, for instance, is designed for 100 space

Even a cursory comparison of the Energia booster with other booster rockets shows that Energia represents a major step forward. The Soviet booster can put a spacecraft weighing 100 tons into near-Earth orbit, one weighing 32 tons to the Moon, or one of about 28 tons to Mars or Venus. This is five to eight times more than the previous generation of booster rockets could

carry.

One of the main factors that contributed to the Energia's astonishing success was its new rocket systemfirst and foremost, those rockets that use hydrogen, not conventional kerosene, for fuel. The advantage is that when a ton of hydrogen is burned, three times more energy is released than is released from a ton of kerosene. But of course, in order to take advantage of this merit, it was necessary to come up with new technical solutions calling for new designs and materials.

The Energia booster is a two-

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stage rocket. Each of the four units (modules) of its first stage has a four-chambered liquid-fuel rocket engine that uses liquid oxygen and hydrocarbon fuel (kerosene). The thrust of each engine is 740 tons near the Earth's surface and 806 tons in a vacuum. The second stage uses oxygen-hydrogen fuel and has four single-chambered liquid-fuel engines, each engine's thrust being 148 tons near the Earth's surface and 200 tons in a vacuum. All in all, the total thrust at blastoff is about 3,600 tons, which is 50 per cent more than the weight of the entire Energia-Buran system at liftoff.

The diameter of each rocket unit of the first stage is about four meters; each rocket of the second stage has a diameter twice as large. In length the Energia booster measures about 60 meters. The shuttle Buran is actually the third stage of the booster. With its own control system and booster rockets, Buran independently directs the final emer-

gence into orbit.

Hundreds of design offices, research centers, plants, and other enterprises pooled their efforts to create the Energia booster. Dozens of ministries and departments, the USSR Academy of Sciences, and the Academies of Sciences of union republics have also contributed to this project.

The development of powerful cruise engines for the rocket's first and second stages was one of the most complicated problems. Yet as a result of the research that was done, the engines installed on Energia hold several records in their class. Fitted with superpowerful (over 250,000 horsepower) turbo-driven units, they stand unmatched as the most powerful jet engines in the world.

Energia-Buran's self-contained onboard control system, and its software in particular, was of paramount importance. After analyzing more than 500 potential emergency situations, the engineers designed a protection system that reliably checks the cruise engines of both stages and, if necessary, switches off the faulty unit. In general, much at-



tention was given to the reliability and durability of the Energia booster.

The creation of the shuttle Buran

The creation of the shuttle Buran was inseparably linked with the design of the Energia booster. In its design Buran essentially differs from all spacecraft created earlier in this country.

With an initial mass of about 105 tons, Buran can deliver 30 tons of payload into orbit and return up to 20 tons to Earth. The large cargo compartment aboard the ship measures 4.7 meters in diameter and 18.3 meters in length, and has an overall volume of about 350 cubic meters. Such a compartment can house, for instance, a base unit of the Mir orbital station or the Kvant research module. It is possible not only to store cargo and apparatus in the compartment but also to service them before unloading and to monitor their operation up to the moment of separation from Buran.

Buran's over-all length is 36.3 meters. Its height while parked is 16.5 meters, its fuselage 5.6 meters in diameter, and its wing span 24 meters. The planned number of crew members is two to four, but the ship can take aboard six to eight additional specialists for conducting various research projects. The flight duration will depend on each specific mission. At first this will be not more than seven days, but later it will reach 30 days.

The ship's electronic brain consists of four computers that control the vehicle's motion in all phases of the flight. This brain ensures navigational accuracy and the smooth operation of all onboard systems.

Two types of heat barrier, in the form of plates made of superthin clean quartz fiber, were specially de-

signed for the spacecraft. In the most heat-intensive sections, such as fin leading edges, graphite-based heat shield materials are used. The application of plates strictly retains the craft's aerodynamic design. Special consideration is given to the position of each of the approximately 38,000 plates on the spacecraft's surface. Altogether, the plates weigh about nine tons.

During the entire period that the Energia-Buran system was being developed, special ground-based facilities were being designed for it. The highly automated launching pad was engineered to provide for over 500 emergency situations.

Preparations for the blastoff of the booster and the craft at the cosmodrome take place separately. After initial assembly and comprehensive tests of the booster and the ship have been completed, they are transported on special docking carts to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). A special erector then transports the two to the launching complex and raises them to a vertical position.

Despite the obvious similarity of many basic characteristics of

Comparative characteristics of the Energia-Buran and American space shuttle systems.

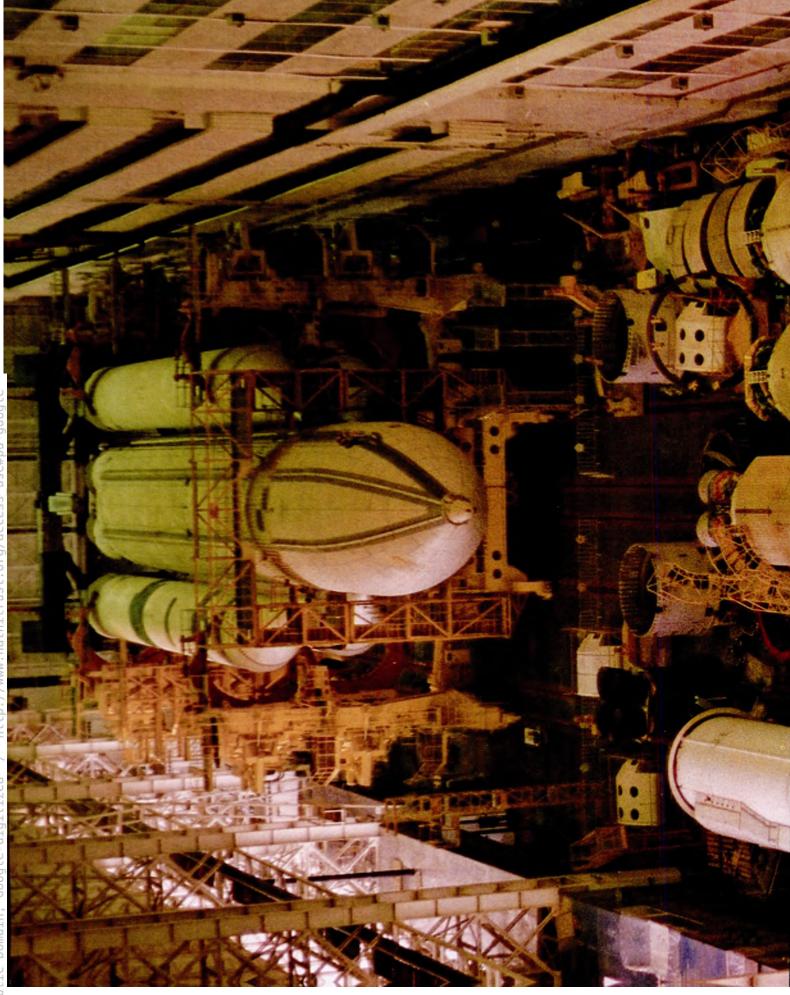
Energia-Buran and the American space shuttle, we have two completely different space systems. This is natural-Energia appeared several years later than the American system, and technology, as is well known, is developing at a faster and faster rate. Of no less importance is the fact that the creators of the two systems have chosen different technical concepts relying on different production bases. Not infrequently the designers set themselves different tasks. But the main distinction between the two lies in the universality of Energia: Unlike the space shuttle, this is precisely a booster rocket, not an orbital plane provided with boosters.

This leads to a lot of other differences. For instance, the American complex has a single control system, while our system has two independent systems—that of the booster and that of the craft, Energia's oxygen-hydrogen engines are installed on the booster unit, while the space shuttle itself is provided with them. Incidentally, in an emergency the Energia booster can continue its mission even with one of the engines shut off, while the solid-propellant engines of the space shuttle's first stage rule out this possibility.

In the near future this new space transport system will enable us successfully to implement projects that can yield a high economic return.

> The Soviet Union will be able to solve economic problems requiring the creation of à transport bridge between Earth and outer space. It will also open the door to sending a manned mission to Mars, although experts say that this will be a very expensive project and can hardly be tackled by a single country working on its own.

CHARACTERISTIC	ENERGIA- <i>BURAN</i> SYSTEM	AMERICAN SPACE SHUTTLE
Payload (into an orbit 200 kilometers high)	30 tons (with an orbital inclination of 50.7 degrees)	29.5 tons (with an orbital inclination of 28 degrees)
2. Orbit-to-Earth payload	15-20 tons	14.5 tons
3. Liftoff mass	2,400 tons	2,040 tons
4. Number of crew members	2 to 10 people	3 to 10 people
5. Time able to function in orbit	7 to 30 days	7 to 30 days
6. Number of times reused	100 times	100 times
7. Method of salvaging the units of the first stage	Touchdown on dry land	Splashdown



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I enjoyed your June 1989 issue. I was especially interested in the article "Heading for the Hills," written by Maria Borodina, about the community in the village of Verkh-Kukuya. I am a member of a rural cooperative community in northern Florida, near Tallahassee. It sounds as if our community and the one described in the article have a lot in common. I'd like to write to the people there and perhaps open a mail dialogue between our two communities.

Can you help me to get in contact with these people? Thank you for your assistance. I believe that person-to-person communication between Soviet and American citizens can only help the universal goal of world peace.

David Brightbill Tallahassee, Florida

I read with great interest "Could the War Have Been Averted?" by Dmitri Gudkov in the September issue of SOVIET LIFE. The article brought back memories, not only of the beginning of this horrendous war 50 years ago, but especially of the period that led to it.

The article implies that if the Western powers had not attempted to appease Hitler's demands, the war might have been averted. I don't think that the article goes far enough, especially in exposing the underlying reason for this appeasement. Appeasement of Hitler (and fascism everywhere) began long before and was a calculated, deliberate maneuver to "roll back communism." Hitler was permitted—and thereby encouraged—to pursue his goals because of his avowed aim of marching East, against the Soviet Union, the "cradle of communism."

The war and the holocaust became, perhaps, inevitable. They could have been averted only if the West had recognized that Hitler's war aims were directed not only toward the East. The West, however, was so blinded by its paranoia about "the threat of communism" that when ultimately it saw the common danger, it was too late. We must also recognize that the cold war did not begin at the end of World War II, but at the end of World War I. The legacy of this policy is still impoverishing and endangering the world.

The new rapprochement between East and West is a helpful and hopeful indication that perhaps at long last, after almost 70 years, the cold war may finally be winding down. Glasnost—the new openness and candor on the Soviet side—is most welcome. But there must be a new willingness (on both sides) to explore fully even the most touchy subjects—if a new and truly meaningful understanding is to emerge.

Si Lewen New Paltz, New York

In your September issue the article by Dmitri Gudkov, "Could the War Have Been Averted?" is indeed a sad commentary on the former leaders of France, Great Britain, and the United States. Evidently they all were willing to deal with and trust the Nazis and the Japanese instead of accepting the proffered cooperation of the Russians, which might have stopped Hitler and averted the war.

To this day our country is more willing to work with our former enemies than with our former ally.

We think that if the USSR and our country would meet each other halfway in settling our differences peacefully, we would set an example to the rest of the world to do the same.

Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Shaffer Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



SISTER CITIES

Continued from page 5

changes. By no means every citizen of Odessa knows that his or her city has a "sister" in the United States—Baltimore. And not every citizen of Chicago is aware of Chicago's Soviet "sister"—Kiev. For several reasons, the most important being monetary, most people in Soviet and American sister cities cannot visit one another. In 1986 a group of Soviet journalists, of which I was one, came up with the idea of a "press bridge"—exchanges of information between the newspapers of matched cities. Twenty pairs of papers have joined the venture.

But a great deal of work, involving both talent and money, lies ahead. Money is quite a problem for the movement in general. During the meeting in Tashkent another, no less serious problem made itself evidentthe danger of bureaucratization. There was an unjustifiably large number of officials and administrators at the forum. Official ceremonies and receptions took too much time, which could have been spent more productively at the round-table discussions. Important decisions were made and final documents were drafted by a small group of people, with practically no consultation with the bulk of the participants.

History has had sad experience with bureaucratically controlled movements. Will the wonderful undertaking of Soviet and American citizen diplomats be able to keep its free

spirit?

Some people are sure it will. "I can see the day when major portions of the population—millions of people—will be involved in this relationship, will benefit from sharing with one another the potentials of both nations, and will enrich one another in all aspects of life," says Bob Broedel. "It's just amazing—if the citizens of the two most powerful nations are friends, life for the whole world will change."

Representatives of the Soviet and American sister cities are to meet in one of the American cities in 1991. In the final analysis it will depend on each of us what the new meeting will be like.

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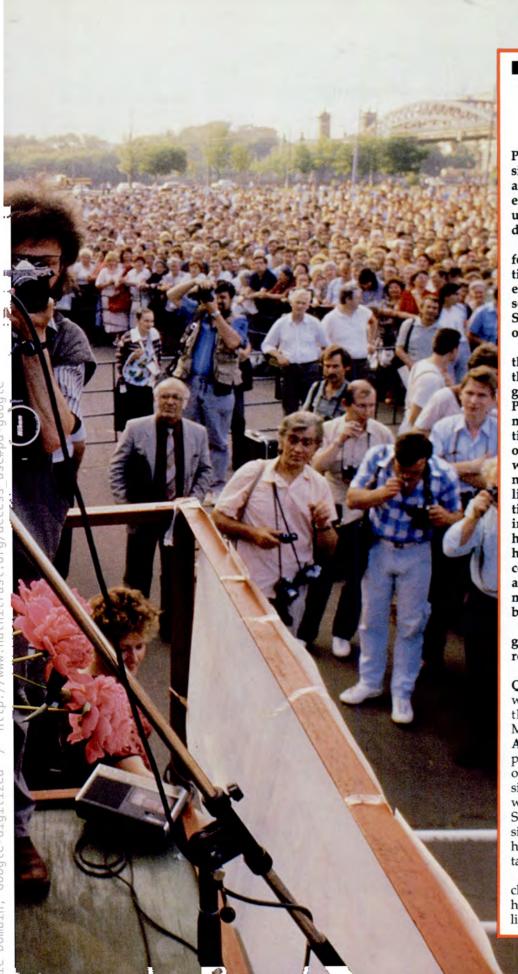
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he question of contested elections for all executives and the principle of alternate choice in general sparked a great deal of debate at the Congress of People's Deputies and at the sessions of the USSR Supreme Soviet and infused them with a special energy. Still, these issues remained uncomfortable ones for many of the delegates.

This must have been the reason for the other delegates' mixed reactions when People's Deputy Alexander Obolensky nominated himself as President of the USSR Supreme Soviet and submitted his

own program.

Obolensky, a design engineer at the Polar Geophysical Institute in the town of Apatity, Murmansk Region, knew he would not be elected President. And as it turned out, more than two-thirds of the deputies voted against putting his name on the secret ballot. Of course it would have been more comfortable not to have put himself in the limelight, not to have heard the deputies' puzzled and sometimes even insulting remarks. But Obolensky had promised his electorate to uphold the principle of choice at the congress, and he kept his word. His action did much to unshackle the minds of the deputies and raise the bar of democracy higher.

After the congress Obolensky gave an interview to APN correspondent Alla Nepomnyashchaya.

Q: Was your reason for putting forward your own package of proposals that you were dissatisfied with Mikhail Gorbachev's program?

A: When I offered my candidacy and presented my program, I had no way of judging Gorbachev's platform, since he made his report only after he was elected President of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The congress's decision to elect the President first and to hear his report afterward was mistaken, I think. I voted against it.

As it happens, I agree with Gorbachev's report entirely. I only wanted him to be more specific. I do not believe in half-measures—if we do not act decisively, everything will stay the way it is now, or even get worse.

Q: What kind of response did you expect when you announced your candidacy?

A: As a matter of fact, I expected a more negative reaction from the delegates than I actually got. I'm glad I was wrong. I think that even the people who complained will realize sooner or later that it was something that had to be done and that contested elections must be the norm.

Q: Some 700 delegates voted for your name to be put on the secret ballot. What was that—a kind of opposition to Gorbachev?

A: No. The elections by secret ballot demonstrated that an overwhelming majority voted for Gorbachev, with only 87 ballots cast against him. That is the real situation. Those who backed my inclusion were in fact voting for contested elections.

Q: Do you know how your constituency feels about all this?

A: During the congress I received more than 1,000 telegrams and letters. Most of them congratulated me and expressed a conviction that such a step was necessary: After all, we must learn democracy in deeds, not in words.

Q: Are there any political leaders in our country who could be of the same stature as Mikhail Gorbachev?

A: For the moment, there are practically none. But there are very talented people in our country with a very high intellectual and civic potential. Informal leaders must be allowed to show themselves.

Q: You are a design engineer. Your profession is not directly linked with politics. But you have proposed a well-prepared program of social and economic change, and your self-nomination had a clear-cut civic motive behind it. What made you decide to take up politics?

A: Changes in the country's political climate.

Q: How did your career in politics begin?

A: It all began with a campaign for the right to elect a director of our institute. The campaign lasted two years, and now we have a director, chosen from among eight contenders.

Q: What do you think are the first-priority changes that have to be made in our society?

A: I spoke about that at the congress. We need a law-based state above all other things. Democracy is based on compliance with the law.

Q: What problem do you think is the most difficult to solve in our state?

A: Monopoly in public, political, and economic life. Unless we get rid of that, we won't get anywhere. We will have shortages until we eliminate monopoly in management—we need to abolish industrial ministries. But this is only one aspect of the matter, because the abolition of a central management does not eliminate the producer's monopoly. For many years we have followed a policy of setting up giant, oversized enterprises. Sometimes the result has been that a given item is produced by only one or two manufacturers throughout the entire country.

Production decentralization is a very complex question. We may need a special mechanism here—for example, an antimonopoly law. Self-regulation is possible only in a competitive economy. This is the only way to deal with shortages.

Q: The most sensitive issue at the congress seems to have been the nationalities question. Do you see any ways of resolving this problem?

A: I purposely avoided including this issue in my program because I think that I have the right to raise only those matters to which I can offer some solution. Still, I believe that autonomy should be granted not only to the union republics. We must have total decentralization and complete municipal self-government. In the republics themselves—the Baltic republics, for example—they call this regional economic autonomy. Within the larger republics, like the Russian Federation or Kazakhstan, economic autonomy for districts could be introduced as well.

Q: How do you assess the deputy composition of the congress?

A: The speeches I heard and the way the voting went have confirmed my fears and apprehensions. In fact, some of the other deputies said the same thing—that some deputies from public organizations were placemen of the administrative apparatus. If you read their speeches carefully, you will see that most of them—at least three-quarters—are quite conservative. If it weren't for this group, the radical-conservative ratio would have been more balanced. But now the conservatives have the edge, which will allow the apparatus to remain firmly in power.

The psychological atmosphere that prevailed at the congress also worried me. Maybe we have to begin not with global issues but with elementary lectures on standards of behavior, on parliamentary traditions. The level of legal and political standards—not to mention personal standards—was extremely low.

Q: Do you think the USSR Supreme Soviet, which was elected at the congress, will be able to do its job well?

A: I am very much dissatisfied with the procedure of elections to the Supreme Soviet and with its composition. It's all so typical of the old days. Most of the deputies don't even know many of the people who were elected, and I think we will regret our haste more than once.

I am not happy that the elections to the Supreme Soviet were held almost without alternative, without contest. As the tone was set in electing the head of state, so things continued. These were actually not elections, but the approval of appointments. I think the people—judging from the meetings I attended in Moscow—do not approve of that.

We have elected a Supreme Soviet oriented toward slow reforms. No radical changes are to be expected from a body with such a composition—almost half the deputies are party apparatchiks, so that a stable conservative majority of those voting will always be ensured. There was a moment when the situation could have changed radically, that is, when the question was raised of a mandatory





Left: While the congress was in session, Obolensky and his representative, Vladimir Karasik (left), looked through their daily mail every evening in Obolensky's hotel room. Below: Obolensky with his wife, Yelena, and (bottom) at home with his two children.





release of Supreme Soviet deputies from their former jobs. But that proposal was not accepted.

Q: Even so, are you satisfied, in the main, with the work of the congress? A: To my mind, the congress was not constructive. Its presidium failed to deliver the goods. It should have been an organizing medium, but actually it took all the decision making upon it-

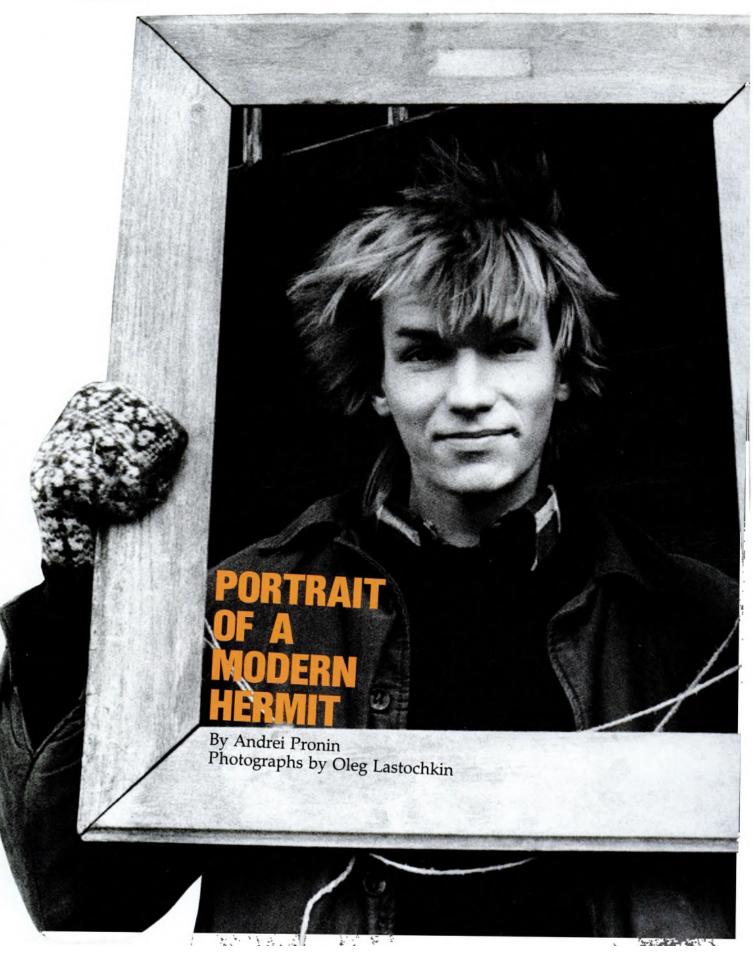
self. Every deputy has the right to initiate legislation. The presidium must give this initiative a legal form and submit it to a vote. It is for the congress to decide whether to accept it or not. If a proposal is accepted, it becomes the basis which a fulltime sitting Supreme Soviet makes into law. This was not the case in practice.

We have many major problems, and the congress did not solve them. These concern forms of ownership, elections to local Soviets, the land, and the press. The solution of these problems must bear upon the situation in the country as a whole.

Q: These are negative results; but what about positive ones?

A: The congress marked a major step forward, above all because it was broadcast over television and radio throughout the country-indeed throughout the entire world. I'm convinced that this did much to promote public awareness. It was, I am sure, the congress's main contribution.

There were lively and heated debates at the congress, with very radical views sometimes expressed in the corridors and from the rostrum. This openness made deputies change many of their attitudes. For example, at the beginning of the congress the very words "Moscow group" were bitterly resented, but at one of the last sittings almost all the deputieswhether in the left or right wingcontributed to the stormy applause that Moscow economist Gavriil Popov received at the end of his address. Generally speaking, the atmosphere toward the end was more businesslike and congenial.



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Left: Walking on his leased 10-hectare farm. Below: Taking a short break to talk to his wife, Inga. Ivar was only 14 when he first began to suspect that adults were lying to him. By the time he was 18, he had left home and was living a drifter's life. In an attempt to escape from the world around him, he even turned to drugs. But he overcame his drug dependency when he was 22 and moved away to begin a new life as a farmer in the bleak forests of Estonia.

var's story was told recently in Literaturnaya gazeta (Literary Gazette). The author of the article, Vasili Golovanov, was impressed by the fact that Ivar had found not only the strength to escape from drug addiction but also the will power to give up the comforts of the big city for a life of hard work in the field. The subtitle of the article, however, "Portrait of a Modern Man," might lead to a few raised eyebrows—is this



your view of modern man? We'll come back to this question later.

Like most 14-year-olds in the

elow: When Ivar has free time, he reads books or plays the guitar. Inset: Ivar is planning to enlarge his shed to install an automatic feeding line for rabbits. Right: Building the shed extension.



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n their secluded Estonian farm Ivar and Inga rely a great deal on their pets for companionship. Farmwork prevents the young couple from going into the city often, and their nearest neighbors live quite a distance away.

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almykia, in the southeast of the European USSR, is a region with unique natural conditions. It is home to a number of rare species of flora and fauna. Of all of these, the saiga, or steppeland antelope, is the most precious to zoologists. Kalmykia is the only place in Europe where the saiga survives to this day.

There was a time when great saiga herds wandered all over Eurasia. Fossilized bones have

THE ANTELOPE OF THE KALMYK STEPPE

By Lyudmila Mareyeva Photographs by Vyacheslav Bobkov

been excavated in Central and Eastern Europe. Soviet paleontologists have found saiga bones in the Ukraine, Central Russia, and around Omsk and Krasnoyarsk in Siberia that demonstrate the amazing adaptability of these antelope to all kinds of natural conditions.

Even in the seventeenth century saigas were no rarity in the Carpathian foothills, throughout the Caspian Depression, and on the Kazakh steppe. The tenacious animals have roamed Europe since the Pleistocene epoch. Their Pleistocene contemporaries, the mammoth, the sabertoothed tiger, the woolly rhinoceros, and other beasts, died out with the drastic changes in natural conditions that took place during that epoch.

Saiga bones are found in great numbers on our prehistoric ancestors' camping sites. Some large bones bear traces of fire; others had been broken with stone axes to get at the marrow. Humans have hunted the saiga ever since that time with no lesser persistence, but the antelope has survived to this day.

The worst time for the saiga came in the midnineteenth century, when it was the vogue to decorate homes with horns and antlers. Russia exported close to four million pairs of deer antlers and lyrate saiga horns to China alone within a period of 30 years. The massacre of male antelope brought a dire imbalance to the saiga population and caused a slump in reproduction.

Worst of all, a cold spell set in, which would last several decades. Winters became longer and more snowy. The deep snow partially thawed in the daytime, and the freezing nights covered it with a crust of ice. The animals could not get through it to the frozen grass, and they had to survive on the tops of the tallest weeds sticking out—a starvation ration. The animals could not migrate to areas with a milder climate. Their hooves slipped so badly on the ice that even to take a step or two was a problem. Winter after winter the white steppe expanses were strewn with emaciated, long-legged corpses.

As the twentieth century set in, all that remained of the vast saiga population were tiny herds scattered in isolated areas of the European part of the Caspian Depression, in the semidesert of Kazakhstan, the Great Lakes Depression in Mongolia, and the Tien Shan Mountains.

The Kalmyk steppes gave refuge to the last European saigas. Zoologists thought that the antelope was doomed. "The species is sure to become extinct quite soon," Dmitri Kashkarov, an expert on desert and steppeland fauna, wrote in 1932.

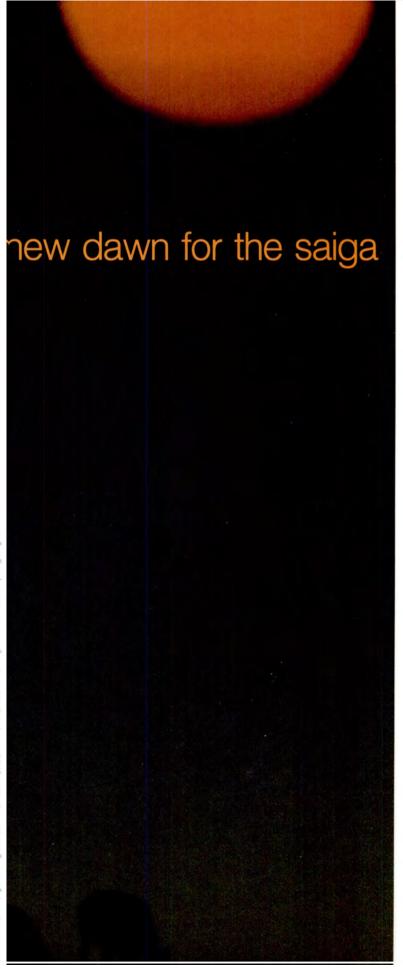
These last decades have restored the saiga. Herds are spreading across their old habitat. There are several reasons for this speedy revival. One is the decrease in numbers of the saiga's natural enemy, the wolf. Another is that saigas breed rapidly. Still more important was the national protection program that prohibited hunting saigas for almost 30 years.

Some herds have reached several thousand head. But the growth slowed down with the years, and the saiga population is keeping steady at the 160,000 mark.

For this, we humans are to blame, however much we have done for the hooknose antelope. Farmers have come to the steppeland, which is now crisscrossed with irrigation canals. This steppe is one of the many wild spots humankind has changed beyond recognition. Birds and beasts can find no peace anywhere. Saigas have nowhere to graze; their age-old migration routes are gone. Still, there are green fields. The rustling young wheat would make any antelope's mouth water. No wonder the herds raid the crops. Driven off by the exasperated farmers, the saigas rush forward in terror. But there is no escape when a canal crosses their path. The adult animals plunge into the water, and the young dash to and fro along the shore, bleating pitifully. On the average, the canals take 25,000 antelope lives every year.

Clearly, something had to be done. Academician Vladimir Sokolov, a Muscovite, gathered a group of experts from the Institute of Experimental Biology of Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, and Moscow's A. N. Severtsov Institute of Evolutionary Morphology and Animal Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The experts were to find the most practicable ways to preserve the saiga population at a level allowing hunting. Not that species preservation was quite a new issue in biology—it has been under study for over 50





Once found in great numbers throughout Eurasia, the saiga is now confined to a fairly small area in the Kalmyk **Autonomous** Soviet Socialist Republic. But the government has been making a determined effort to save this beautiful animal.

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Clockwise from top left: The photos of this female and of the male at bottom right were taken with a telephoto lens—it's not possible to get near a saiga at any time of day Kalmyk desert sands. Unlike adults, saiga calves have no fear of people. In the spring, wild tulips cover the Kalmyk steppes. State hunting inspectors monitor the movements of saiga herds.

years. But the question has never been so acute as now, with the steppeland being opened up at such a sweeping pace.

Behavioral studies have shown the saiga to be one of those wild animals that don't mind living side by side with people. The antelope easily gets accustomed to changed natural conditions and is not choosy about its diet. Unlike domestic animals, the saiga eats any grass and weed it sees. So saigas will be no rivals to sheep if they have to share pastures. On the contrary, saigas will be welcome to graze on weeds after the domestic animals pick out the sweetest and juiciest grasses.

Moreover, while domestic animals need to stay in warm sheds in the wintertime, saigas can survive in the open through the coldest winters. The young are born early in the spring, and fall finds them well fattened. Their meat is delicious, is cheaper than mutton, and has excellent dietetic properties. Saiga leather is of very high quality, and the horns are used pharmacologically. So saigas are valuable animals.

The first experiment to domesticate the antelope was not a success. Caged in, saigas were shy and kept away from people. So zoologists resorted to a subterfuge based on a particular feature of young animals.

Newborn mammals easily get attached to any creature that takes care of them in the first hours of their life. Some even treat a warm and cozy blanket like a mother. The attachment grows with every feeding. So a flock of little saigas was selected that had no fear of humans.

There were problems with their diet. The motherless antelope could not be fed on cow's milk, as intended, since it was much fattier and disagreed with their stomachs. So special milk mixtures were made for them. The antelope calves grew on this baby food with amazing rapidity and soon acquired the ways of domestic animals.

When the experimenters saw what an adjustable psyche the antelope had, they brought a sheep into the cage. At first the saigas were shy, but in a short while they made friends with the strange animal.

But zoologists want the saigas to live not on farms but free on the steppes and meadows. Scientists would like to resettle the saigas in their old habitats on the Volga steppes and in the Carpathian foothills.





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hey took our capital by storm, these shaggy, bristling heavy metal musicians. For one weekend last August Moscow became the rock capital of the world.

August 12 was a sunny day in Moscow. Crowds and crowds flowed into Lenin Stadium. Excitement was in the air. The Olympic flame was lighted, and the Moscow Music Peace Festi-

val began.

For those two days Lenin Stadium was like a whole island of rock, with a population of nearly 100,000. People of different generations, of different nationalities, and from different countries had come. There were heavy metal fans in their black leather and hippies in frayed jeans, holdovers from a bygone

There had never been anything like it in Moscow. Nine bands-some well known, some new—gave two 10-hour concerts in the Soviet Union's biggest sta-▶

Jon Bon Jovi, leader of the U.S. band. Klaus Meine, of W. Germany's Scorpions.





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dium. The closest thing to this kind of event that Muscovites had ever seen was the concert in Izmailovo Stadium in July 1987, after the Soviet-American Peace Walk was over. But that concert wasn't nearly as big, didn't feature as many big names, and wasn't broadcast to as many other countries.

We are grateful to the Stas Namin Music Center (USSR) and the Make a Difference Foundation (USA). We are even more grateful to Doc McGhee, the manager of Bon Jovi, who negotiated with the foreign musicians and made sure they all got to the Soviet Union.

The concert took place on August 12-13, 1989, the twentieth anniversary of the famous Woodstock festival. On the opening day of the Moscow concert Namin said: "Many people have called our festival 'a Soviet Woodstock.' That's right, as far as the musical traditions are concerned. But Woodstock also had an unexpected impact. Woodstock was where people started extolling 'sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll,' where rock became closely associated in people's minds with alcohol and drugs. Our festival is spearheaded against that stereotype. The money the concert brings in will be used for treating alcoholics and drug addicts."

The stadium was a real anthill. The field was a better place to be than the stands: It's no joke to sit in one place for 10 hours! The field had a special covering so that the people there could sit, lie down, or dance. There was also enough room to walk around. In the back were counters where sandwiches and soft drinks were sold. Passes to get back into the stadium were available to everybody, so people were free to leave and come back as often as they wanted. That made sense, since everyone

knew the concert schedule, and anybody who didn't want to hear all the groups could come for their favorites. Two electronic scoreboards, at opposite ends of the stadium, showed the names of the groups to appear: Skid Row and Ozzy Osbourne (Great Britain); Nuance, Brigada S., and Gorky Park (USSR); Cinderella, Mötley Crüe, and Bon Jovi (USA); and Scorpions (West Germany).

Each of the bands has its own sound. Gorky Park sounds almost soft when we think of Cinderella, with its harsh chords. Ozzy Osbourne was peaceful in contrast with the aggressive Mötley Crüe. Brigada S. has a style totally different from the rest, and this added even more flavor to the festival. But Scorpions and Bon Jovi were the most impressive of all. Their stage presence and beautiful, rhythmic songs made them the most popular bands at the festival.

The stage was beautifully designed by Peter Max and Yuri Balashov.

The festival was a very democratic one—anyone could get a ticket. No wonder—the stadium is one of the largest in the world.

People sitting far away from the stage didn't feel uncomfortable, since they could follow the show on a huge screen. Besides, they could see what was going on in the stadium. And the audience reacted energetically to what it saw.

It's impossible to hold an audience spellbound for 10 hours running. And it wasn't the bands' fault that the enthusiasm came in waves—it was only natural that people got tired. The militia, which had been rude to fans at many earlier concerts, were extremely polite on this occasion. They even showed compassion for the people right in front of the stage, where the crowding was the worst. Militiamen handed out bottles of cold water to

the sweating fans. The audience responded in kind, and on the whole the atmosphere was very friendly.

At one point a group of British fans started a "wave" in the stands. The Soviet members of the audience, who were normally less relaxed than their Western counterparts, took to the idea right away, and the wave passed over the stadium about a dozen times.

Nature itself seemed festive: After a week of heavy rain, the sun came out on the first day of the festival, lighting up the stadium. Colored balloons, some like globes, others with funny faces painted on them, went flying high into the blue, cloudless sky.

After sunset, colored lights and lasers—the usual trappings of rock concerts—were switched on. Jon Bon Jovi, whose group was the last to perform, said, "Let's be friends; together we can do a lot. I hope the politicians will join us."

For the finale, all the performers sang the Beatles' "Back in the USSR" together, with magnificent fireworks lighting the stage.

After the Moscow Music Peace Festival, even the most diehard skeptics should be able to see for themselves that rock music in itself doesn't bring happiness or end in tragedy. Rock can be both a creative and a destructive force. The most remarkable thing about the festival was the atmosphere of participation, unity, and mutual understanding that prevailed there.

Early in the festival Namin said, "We have three kinds of guards here—the Soviet militia, bodyguards, and the Western police—but everything depends on the musicians. They'll have to do their best to avoid excesses."

After the concert I counted 132 trucks taking militiamen away from the concert. I don't think they'd had much work to do.

Stas Namin (center), Soviet initiator of the festival, says good-by to the audience.



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Continued from page 25

In other words, the Komsomol taught obedience. All of the kids went around en masse on vacation; they all sang the same songs, all said the same things, all took the same cues.

When he finished school, Ivar had a fight with his parents, and he left his small home town for Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. He had absolutely no belief in anything, not even in justice or the possibility of changing his life for the better. The only way out, he thought, was to escape from reality -through rock music, drink, and finally drugs. This route can lead to a loss of identity and even, on occasion, to crime. But fortunately Ivar did not fall victim to this. He realized in time that salvation would not come from drugs.

Nowadays Ivar doesn't look any different from a city dweller, although his manner is somewhat taciturn. But in his eyes you can see the conviction of a man who has made his choice in life. He moved to the farm two years ago. His new home was a dilapidated old building in an overgrown garden, completely isolated and without any

neighbors.

Two years later Ivar and his wife, Inga, lease and farm 10 hectares of land. They are starting to build a rabbit-breeding extension to their shed. When a reporter asks Ivar, "How are you doing financially?" the curt reply is, "The only thing I need is my freedom." For Ivar, money is simply a means to feed and clothe oneself; the farm is his means of self-expression,

independence, and freedom from bureaucracy, red tape, and hypocrisy.

So why did the Literaturnaya gazeta article present itself as a portrait of a modern man? Because Ivar was a drug addict? But this is in no way typical of young people today; according to figures published in Pravda, only about 130,000 people in the Soviet Union abuse drugs, out of a population of nearly 300 million. Perhaps the "modern man" refers to the fact that Ivar left the city for the country? This phenomenon does exist among young people in the USSR, but it's by no means widespread. The reason obviously lies elsewhere.

Much has been written in the world press about how, in several developed countries, young people are disillusioned with the existing state of affairs and with the attitudes of the adults around them. These feelings have given rise to various forms of protest, to the hippie movement of the 1960s, for instance. But one hasn't heard so much about the existence of similar feelings in the young people in the Soviet Union in the 1970s. Years of boasting and hypocritical reportage of more and more victories

All over the world the figure of the hermit who seeks peace in the desert from the pressures of life has always captured people's imagination.

and accomplishments in all walks of life had led our country's young people to feel cynical and indifferent, and to just want to get away from all the hype.

All over the world the figure of the hermit who seeks peace in the desert from the pressures of life has always captured people's imagination. But in the mid-1970s, completely unexpectedly, this figure acquired a sudden fascination for many young people in the USSR. Not all of them, of course, followed the hermit's example literally. Passive protests against the state's hyperbole and boasting were expressed not only by seeking seclusion away from the center of things. Many others "opted out" by becoming street sweepers, janitors, security guards, or boilermakers. The young people who did this were both snubbing society by taking up a profession that was considered unprestigious and declaring their independence, because in these jobs you don't have to depend on or please higher-ups in the way that's required in more ambitious careers.

Today Ivar's chosen path no longer seems unusual. But at the same time most young people prefer to be in the midst of life. Perestroika has allowed the young to speak out openly on issues that concern them. The same young people who not so long ago were bored, indifferent, cynical, sometimes even hostile, are now able to take a different view of the world around them. They have become active and demand to have their say on issues and problems that previously were decided only by the few.



Even when the weather is harsh outside, Ivar and Inga's house is warm and cozy.

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"DROP ANCHOR! WE'RE IN SEVASTOPOL!"

This was the order given by Vice Admiral Raymond P. Ilg, Deputy Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe,



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as the guided missile cruiser *Thomas S. Gates* and the frigate *Kauffman* docked at Sevastopol's Graf Pier. In July a squadron of Soviet warships under Vice Admiral Igor Kasatonov had paid a friendly visit to the United States and now, in early August, the Americans were returning the courtesy at the main base of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

Nine and a half thousand tons edge slowly toward the pier. The Thomas S. Gates completes its mooring maneuver, its officers and men on parade on its decks. A torrent of flowers, badges, coins, and flags rains down, thrown from the shore. The Gates responds in kind with its own souvenirs. Meanwhile, the Black Sea Fleet admirals look on and quietly discuss among themselves the procedure for the forthcoming top-level meetings. But the inadvertent eavesdropper can't blame the admirals for not knowing exactly how these events should be conducted-throughout the entire postwar period not one American flag has flown this way at Sevastopol. True, not so long ago the Americans did turn up on the Black Sea, but that was an unauthorized visit.

On board the *Kauffman* I asked U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock, who had come here with his wife to meet the ships, how he felt on this occasion.

"In a word," he said, "I feel great!"

ieutenant Mark Laksen is showing a group of Soviet journalists around his ship. An air of openness and trust prevails. We're not bothered about secrets—something which the lieutenant, most likely, is pleased to note. Then we go up to the bridge. The vessel is brand-new, having been commissioned only two years ago. Everything is clean, neat, and tidy. The crew stands out especially. It is smart in appearance and disciplined in manner; it is also multiracial in composition, with no small number of Black and mixed-race members, and the occasional face from Southeast Asia as well.

All of the members of the crew whom I had an opportunity to speak to answered all my questions willingly and were relaxed and at ease.

Lieutenant Laksen is from Chicago. He's 24 years old and is married, with



Soviet T-shirts like this are very popular in many countries.

no children yet. Here is part of our conversation:

"How long does a tour of duty at sea last?"

"Six months."

"And how many hours at a time are you on watch?"

"We work six hours on watch, six hours off."

"What about your time off? Do you get to do any reading or go to the movies?"

"Sometimes, but we don't get much chance to do those things. There's not enough time."

These sailors spend no more than three weeks at sea before a brief shore leave. There's virtually no comparison between their workload and that of Soviet sailors.

hile I'm taking a look around the ship, a group of American officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted men are getting ready for a visit to the Soviet missile cruiser Slava, moored alongside.

The temptation to compare the two vessels is too much. I can already sense the accusations of bias, but I'll say it anyway: To my civilian eyes the Soviet ship is better-looking, with a more purposeful and naval air to it.

The local people—students, workers, and sailors—are going around the American ships.

Today is Lena and Igor Konaryov's wedding day. She's a student, he—a sailor. After the ceremony they came aboard the *Thomas S. Gates* and were warmly and sincerely congratulated by the Americans.

On the streets and squares of Sevastopol, in its parks, and by its numerous memorials to Soviet seafarers, the U.S. guests and the local people were able to have open, friendly con-

versations. For five days English resounded around the town's factories and farms.

'm sure the Americans will be remembered in Sevastopol, and I hope that the Americans will always remember the experience as well. I put two questions to Vice Admiral Ilg.

"With the benefit of hindsight, what would you have added to the talk you must have given your subordinates on the eve of this visit?"

"I would have added some words about Soviet hospitality. The warmth of the welcome given to us by the people of Sevastopol exceeded our wildest expectations."

"During the course of your visit you've had many meetings with the local people, civilian authorities, and the Black Sea Fleet Command. In your opinion, what kind of role do such meetings play in the strengthening of trust between our countries, peoples, and fleets?"

"All of the official meetings, both with civilian and military representatives, came off extremely well. We've now formed an idea of each other. This is backed up by the way in which relations between our two countries are shaping up."

It is my firm belief that our relations should continue to be built on the basis of mutual respect and growing trust. This can be achieved only by means of a sincere and constructive dialogue. And that also applies to our sailors. Meeting Soviet people, the Americans were able to understand more clearly the Soviets' hopes and aspirations. The American sailors found out for themselves that the Russians are a hospitable and friendly nation. It was an extremely beneficial visit.



RESCUE OF A SOVIET NAVIGATOR

A true story about how some of the Soviet and American members of the armed services who fought together against the Nazis worked together to save the life of one man.

> By Oleg Chechin Photographs by Dmitri Debabov

OVIET LIFE magazine has carried several articles about the Alaska-Siberia air bridge, along which American warplanes were ferried to the Soviet-German front during the Second World War. The Ladd Field Air Force Base, near Fairbanks, Alaska, was the main staging post from which U.S. airplanes were ferried to the USSR. There American pilots turned over brandnew aircraft to their Soviet counterparts, who had been retrained by Ladd Field instructors.

On a warm summer morning in 1943, 10 A-20 Boston bombers lined up on the runway, ready to take off for Nome, Alaska, a routine 800-kilometer flight. From there they were to proceed to Uelkal, Chukotka, via the Bering Strait. After completing their mission, Soviet pilots would fly back aboard a C-47 transport to receive another batch of aircraft at Ladd Field and then take to the skies again. The flight schedule was so tight that the pilots sometimes couldn't even take a break for lunch. Lucky for them, interpreters Yelena Makarova and Natalya Fenelonova were always around to offer them hot coffee and sandwiches.

But that day the sky over the mountains surrounding Ladd Field had been filled with clouds, and the planes stayed on the ground. A twinengined B-25 bomber was sent on a weather reconnaissance mission; its crew was to give the okay for flying operations to commence.

Finally the B-25 returned to Ladd Field. Its crew had found a break in the clouds, which meant there was a chance to reach Nome that day. The pilots received clearance for takeoff and rushed to their planes.

Each A-20 Boston bomber was crewed by a pilot and a navigator. Both of them were seated inside the front cockpit, with the navigator occupying the plane's nose section. On that fateful day the 10 Bostons to be ferried were equipped with four 20-millimeter cannon in their nose, as they were to be employed as night fighters flying with long-range bomber squadrons. This meant the navigator had to move from the nose section into the rear cockpit. It was an arrangement that nearly cost one navigator his life.

And so the Bostons took off, with the B-25 leading the way. Some 90 minutes later they approached the mountain ridge, which was enveloped in clouds. The B-25 found a "tunnel" between them, and the planes streaked toward Nome via Norton Sound. However, the Nome airfield was suddenly closed down, and the pilots had to return to Ladd Field.

By that time the "tunnel" in the clouds had also disappeared, and the Bostons lost sight of one another. The crews had to fly back on their own, with the mountain ridge looming om-

inously close below. Fortunately, all the aircraft made it to Galena, an airfield en route. Yet, strange as it may seem, it turned out that Senior Lieutenant Demyanenko, a navigator flying aboard one of the Bostons, was missing.

Colonel Mikhail Machin, who headed the Soviet military mission in Alaska, rushed to Galena. While he was checking out the plane, Machin saw a dent in the Boston's tail unit with a piece of yellow leather sticking to it. Someone remembered that Demyanenko had been wearing yellow shoes. He had probably fallen out of the cockpit and hit the tail with his foot.

The weather got worse. It rained hard for several days on end. When the rain finally subsided, the crews launched an all-out search for the missing navigator.

Colonel Machin reported the incident to Brigadier General Dale V. Gaffney, who commanded the Fairbanks Air Force Base at the time. Gaffney ordered his pilots to patrol the area where Demyanenko had presumably landed.

Machin flew several missions himself, but to no avail. He could see only endless stretches of pine forest on the mountains below; there was not a single village in sight. Not even the intrepid trailblazers who served as prototypes for Jack London's stories had ever reached these godforsaken places.



Colonel Machin knew Demyanenko well. The man was an experienced navigator who had quickly mastered the American equipment. Machin used to take Demyanenko along in his B-25 bomber when visibility was close to zero, and the lieutenant had never let him down. He also liked the very much personally. Demyanenko was always a quick study and was popular for his sharp wit and guitar playing. His disappearance upset the Soviets and the Americans alike.

Two weeks later the search was called off. Machin sent a message to Moscow, reporting Demyanenko's disappearance. The colonel had lost many friends at the front, but he just couldn't believe that this one was dead.

Another week passed. It seemed that there was no hope that Demyanenko would turn up. One fine day Machin was asked to report to General Gaffney.

"Michael, I've got some good news for you," said the general. "My pilots were returning from Nome and they spotted some white fabric on a tree high up in the mountains. Maybe it's your lost navigator sending a distress signal."

Gaffney took Machin over to the map and showed him the exact location. Machin flew to the spot right away. The weather was fine, and he arrived there in no time at all. Swooping low, he saw a piece of a parachute hanging from a dead tree on the ridge's crest. But there was no sign of Demyanenko.

Other crews took up the search in the days that followed, but to no avail. Any hope of finding the navigator began to wane.

About a month had passed since Demyanenko had disappeared, and the midnight sun shone more dimly with each passing day. Machin decided to make one more flight over the search area. He flew his B-25 low over the ridge, eventually descending to treetop level and flying along the riverbanks to the north, trying to see what was going on in the valley below him.

Suddenly he thought he saw a black smoking strip straight ahead. Machin could hardly believe his eyes-there was grass burning on the riverbank.

"It's Demyanenko, all right!" Machin shouted to other crew members. Almost at the same time, he spotted the lieutenant. Demyanenko rose heavily from the burned-out patch of grass, took off his jacket, and waved it as hard as he could. He was a pathetic figure, indeed, in his tattered blue shirt.

The plane's crew dropped a sleeping bag stuffed with bread, cookies, and chocolate bars. The bag also contained a pistol and a box of cartridges.

Demyanenko walked slowly over to the bag and sat down on it, his eyes still on the plane. "The man looks really exhausted," said Machin to himself.

The crew threw down a glove, which landed at Demyanenko's feet. A note inside read: "Stay where you are. Don't eat too much. Help is on the way." Demyanenko recognized Machin's handwriting. As the bomber made another pass, Demyanenko looked up and nodded.

When Machin was sure that the lieutenant understood him correctly, he switched his attention to the surrounding terrain. There was a small lake overgrown with reeds and bushes some two miles away. A small flying boat might make it. Machin remembered seeing a light, single-engined flying boat make a landing on the Yukon River in Galena. But this lake was a far cry from the Yukon, and the plane might crash on takeoff, hitting the bushes with its pontoons.

Making one more pass over the riverbank, the B-25 headed for Ladd Field with just enough fuel left for the return flight.

When the B-25 taxied to a stop, Machin rushed to General Gaffney's

"Have you really found the navigator, Michael?" asked Gaffney, his face beaming with joy. "Congratulations!"

"It's a bit too early for that, Sir," replied Machin, shaking the general's hand. "We still have to rescue him."

"Can you pinpoint the exact location?" asked Gaffney. Machin found the place on the wall map. "There are lots of hills down there," he said. "But there is a small lake nearby. I can't find it on the map, though."

Gaffney produced a scaled-up map from his desk. Together with Machin, he looked at it for some time and was overjoyed to find the lake tucked in the mountains.

"Can a single-engined flying boat land there?" asked Machin.

"There's a flying boat stationed at the Anchorage Air Force Base," replied Gaffney. "I'll tell the crew to fly over to Galena."

When Machin touched his B-25 bomber down at Galena, the flying boat was already there, bobbing gently on the Yukon's waters. A handsome young lieutenant commanded the crew. After studying the map, he found the lake and agreed to cooperate with the Soviet colonel on all counts.

After the three-man flying boat landed, the B-25 continued flying in circles, showing the way to Demyanenko; the area was overgrown with grass and the Americans could have easily lost their way. Two American crew members waded through the grass and brought Demyanenko back to the plane. Upon seeing the flying boat, the exhausted navigator fainted. The pilots took him carefully inside the cockpit.

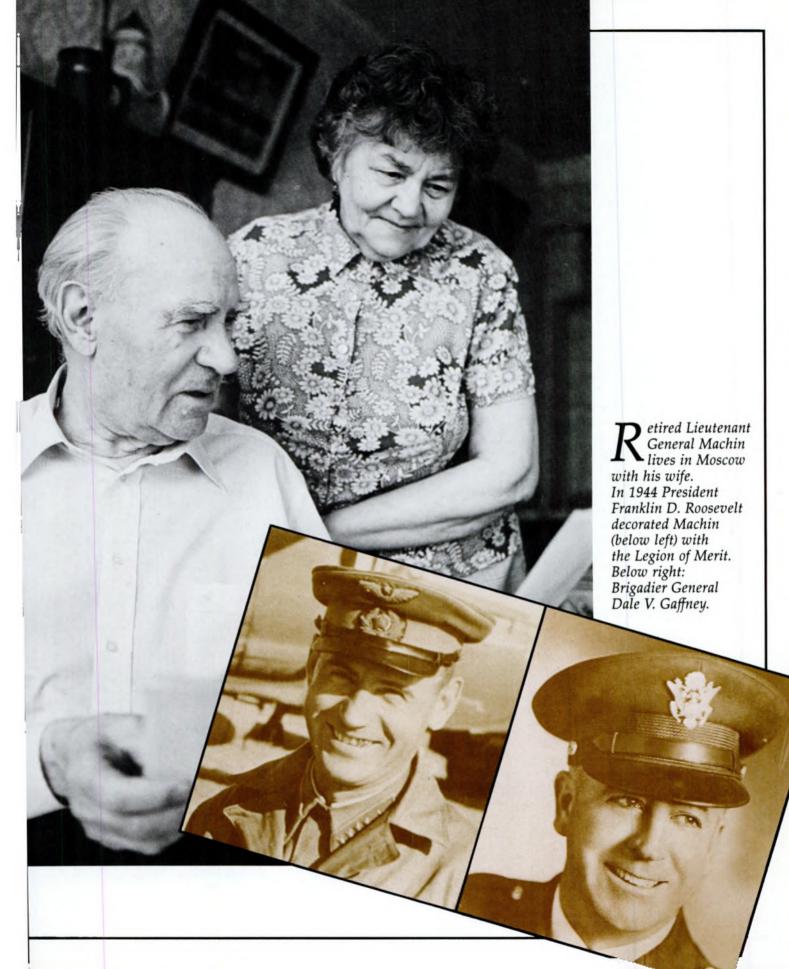
Machin reached Galena some time before the Americans did, and he notified the locals that a plane was bringing in a Soviet pilot soon. The story of the Soviet serviceman who had spent a month out in the wilderness spread like wildfire, and all offduty personnel, as well as Eskimo from a nearby village, came rushing to see the flying boat land.

They gently carried Demyanenko out of the plane. He was unconscious, his face swollen almost beyond recognition from mosquito bites.

An ambulance rushed Demyanenko to the hospital, where he was immediately treated. But he still did not regain consciousness. Hospital personnel found the pockets of his jacket stuffed with blackberries.

Three days later Demyanenko regained consciousness. At Machin's request, a flying ambulance took the lieutenant to the general hospital in Fairbanks, where the doctors brought him back to stable condition. But Demyanenko was so weak that Machin was allowed to see him for only ▶





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a couple of minutes. The navigator recognized his commander, and, slowly taking the colonel's hand, clasped it with both hands to his chest.

A week passed, and Demyanenko grew stronger with each day. Machin came to visit him again. The lieutenant's face was still so swollen from mosquito bites that he couldn't shave. Still, he tried to force a smile.

Some time later Machin heard the lieutenant's fantastic story.

The Boston was hurtling through the fog, which was as thick as pea soup. Visibility was down to zero. Suddenly Demyanenko saw a break in the clouds where the ground was clearly visible. He opened the rear cabin's canopy and peered out to see where they were heading. Meanwhile, the unsuspecting pilot also saw the ground below and threw the bomber into a dive.

The navigator was thrown out of the cabin, his foot hitting the tail unit. The lieutenant's parachute opened and brought him down gently on the crest of a ridge.

It was raining hard, and Demyanenko could not light a fire with his damp matches. In order to shelter himself from the rain, he cut the straps off his parachute and crawled under it. Still, when morning came, Demyanenko was soaked to the bone.

The navigator stayed under the parachute for several days. When the rain subsided, he tore a white strip from the parachute and tied it to the only dead pine tree standing nearby. Before long Demyanenko had to move on because the area was overrun with bears.

Rolling up the parachute into a knapsack, the navigator went down into the valley. On the bank of a rapid mountain river, he found a pile of dry logs and, by tying several of them together with parachute straps, he made a raft and sailed downstream. Some time later he was forced to abandon the raft, as the river had become clogged with trees.

Demyanenko walked along the riverbank in the hope that sooner or later he would come to a village. In reality, though, he was moving farther and farther away from civilization. Several times the lieutenant saw

planes droning overhead. Only once did a B-25 fly by, but the navigator had no signal flare to shoot. As it turned out, Demyanenko had strayed some 70 kilometers away from the Fairbanks-Galena-Nome ferry route.

In the first few days Demyanenko sustained himself on chocolate. When he got really hungry, he had to eat blackberries and raspberries. He also managed to shoot a couple of thrush-like birds, but their meat proved to be inedible.

One day the navigator was attacked by a bear and her cub, and he had to defend himself with his gun. Fortunately, he escaped unhurt, but only one cartridge remained in the clip of his gun.

At last Demyanenko came to a valley overgrown with tall grass. He tried to make a fire with the dry stalks, but his damp matches wouldn't light. Suddenly it occurred to him that he could dry out the matches by tucking them in his armpits. The matches were his last chance, and with this thought the haggard man fell asleep.

He was wakened by mosquito bites. When Demyanenko struck a match, it suddenly flared up. Hands trembling, he set fire to a blade of grass.

Sleeping near the fire, Demyanenko managed to stay warm throughout the long nights that were to follow. When Colonel Machin saw the smoke and came flying to the rescue, he found the huge burned-out clearing and the lieutenant.

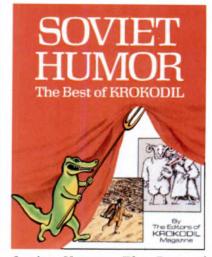
Colonel Machin reported the navigator's rescue to Moscow, requesting that the commander of the American flying boat be decorated for bravery. Moscow replied in the affirmative a month later, and one fine evening Colonel Machin presented the Order of the Red Star to the American lieutenant at the officers club.

After staying at the American hospital for quite a while, Demyanenko returned to Moscow, where he was promoted to captain. Subsequently, the doctors pronounced Demyanenko fit for combat duty, and he was sent to the front.

Contacting Soviet Citizens

If you've ever wondered how you can contact a Soviet citizen, if you've ever wanted to correspond with someone in the USSR, if you've ever wanted to know how to arrange business exchanges with the USSR, help is now within reach. The Clearinghouse for Citizen Diplomacy has published a book entitled Citizen Diplomacy-Progress Report 1989: The USSR. Compiled and edited by Sandy McCune Jeffrey, the book describes the more than 350 projects identified or developed through the last Soviet-American Citizens Summit. A system of cross-references and key-word designations makes it easy to find the appropriate organization and

The book is available from: Clearinghouse for Citizen Diplomacy, P.O. Box 3594, Boulder, CO 80307. Price: \$14.95 (plus postage: \$2.50 per copy). Call (303) 494-0327 for information.

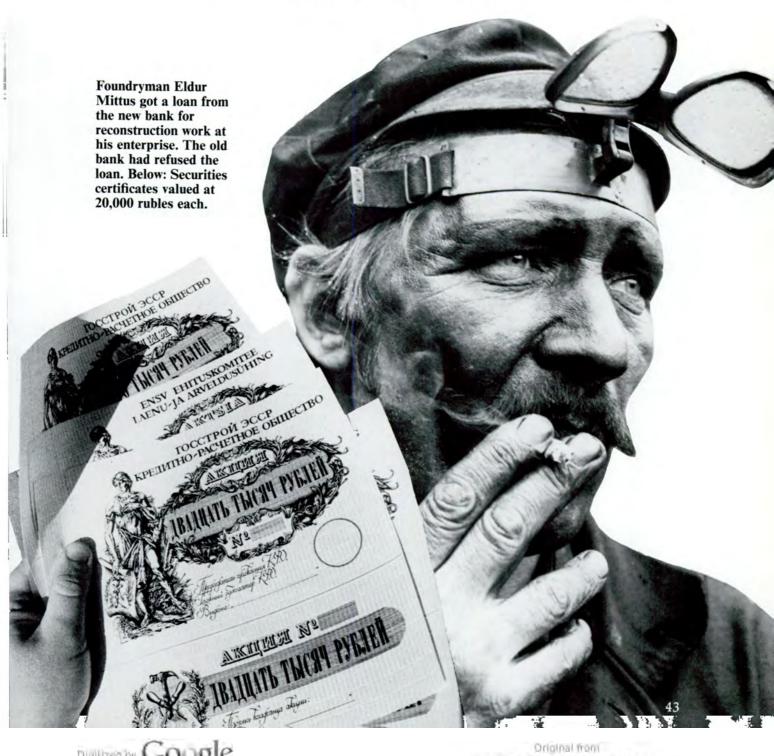


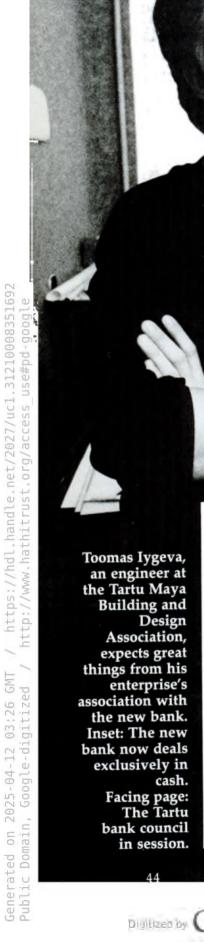
Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil, 192 pages, is available from: Educational Services Corporation, 1725 K Street, N.W., Suite #408, Washington, D.C. Price: \$12.95 (plus postage: \$2.25 book rate or \$3.40 first-class shipping).

A BANK TO CALL THEIR OWN

Tartu, Estonia, now has a commercial bank—the first of its kind in the country.

> By Dmitri Klyonsky Photographs by Sergei Petrukhin







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Original from UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA onopoly stifles development. For a long time banking in the Soviet Union has suppressed producer initiative, banning everything that doesn't comply with tough bureaucratic regulations.

Over the years loans lost their function of stimulating the development of production. The popular image of the banker became a stereotype—someone who followed instructions punctiliously, punishing any new business activity. In short, the bank as an economic institution ceased to exist.

I remember hearing with amazement in the 1970s about how a large Estonian state farm could not get access to its funds. The director of the state farm, Walter Lekhtla, threw his hands up in despair: "We have five million rubles in the bank, but there's no way we can use it. The ministers refuse us access to our money: 'You're not the only ones who have to develop!' Even worse than that, our hard-earned rubles are being doled out to failing farms: 'You're not the only ones who have to exist!' What kind of economy is that?"

Gorbachev's perestroika policy aims for less centralized finances and more creative banking. But the banking reform has not brought about the desired effect. The old structures are being pulled down, but the new ones haven't become effective enough yet.

That is why many people in charge of various enterprises dream about having a bank that would be on their side, a bank that would serve as adviser and helper. It would take upon itself—for a fee, of course—the handling of an enterprise's commercial accounts with clients and other banks. And it would lend money to enterprises that needed it without refusing them on the basis of arbitrary ministerial instructions.

In Tartu, Estonia, there is now such a commercial bank, the first of its kind in operation in the Soviet Union. Ironically, the bank was created partly in response to the failure of the banking reform. There were other factors too, of course. Although Tartu is the second largest city in Estonia, its infrastructure was in very poor condi-

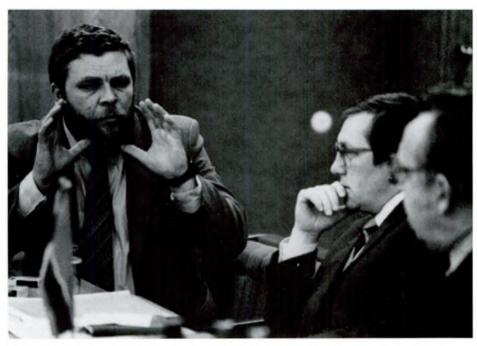
tion. Tartu lagged behind all other Estonian cities in housing standards, hotel availability, road quality, and even greenery. In order to change the situation, large capital investments were necessary. In fact, the resources were there from the beginning—it was just a matter of putting the capital into circulation.

So Tartu Commercial Bank was born. The new bank was founded by members of about 50 organizations, including the university, the City Soviet, state and collective farms, manufacturers, and cooperative establishments. The bank has 126 shareholders. Their funds allow the bank to invest heavily in economic and so-

the board of Tartu Commercial Bank. Before he held this position, he headed the Tartu office of the USSR State Bank. Veetousme told me about the new bank's prospects—interbank cooperation possibilities; contacts with banks in Latvia, Kazakhstan, West Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Sweden; and a project to organize a stock exchange bulletin.

The bank will invest in the public and cooperative sectors and engage in stockbroking. Although the bank now deals in cash, there are plans to expand operations to include transactions in promissory notes, checks, and securities.

"As a commercial bank," Veetous-



cial programs, especially in health care, education, and recreation.

Any organization may be a share-holder of the new bank. A share, which gives its owner one vote, is worth 50,000 rubles. To prevent anyone from gaining a controlling interest in the bank, no shareholder may have more than five votes. For instance, although the Oitseng Collective Farm has contributed two million rubles to the bank's capital, the farm has only five votes, just like a member with 250,000 rubles in its account. All of the bank's decisions are made by majority vote by the board of directors and by the bank's council.

Ants Veetousme is the chairman of

me said, "we have tremendous opportunities. We are the first bank in the USSR to start insuring special risks, for farmers, for example. We can also represent our clients in financial and economic organizations and in external business operations, act as an intermediary, serve in a consulting capacity, handle credits and accounts, organize leasing schemes involving equipment and transport, and analyze financial performance."

The bank is a beehive of activity. It employs the best local experts and pays them attractive salaries. The bank also has two other offices.

Business is looking up after long years of stagnation.





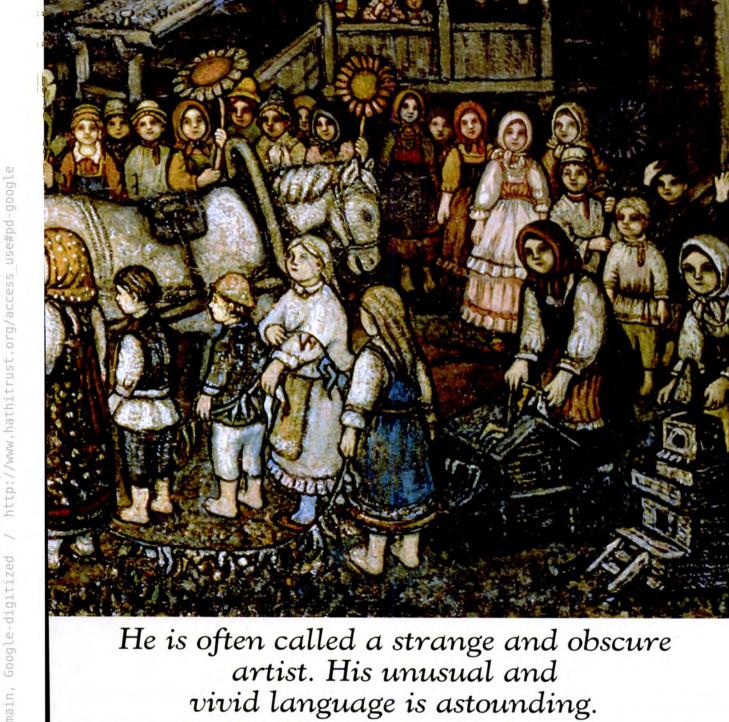
YEFIM CHESTNYAKOV'S

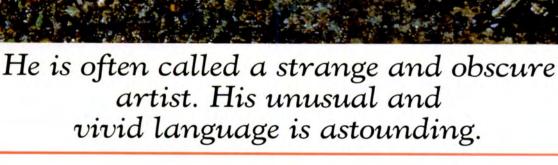
Folk Mythology

By Alexander Nosal Art Critic

46









ntil recently the name of Yefim Chestnyakov (1874-1961) was almost completely unknown among the general public. In the late 1960s Moscow restorers and museum associates of the artist's native region became interested in his work. Since then more than 100 paintings and about 1,000 drawings, painted clay figurines, literary works, and diaries of the painter, thinker, writer, and educator have been found.

Chestnyakov's biography is not terribly complicated. He was born into the family of a poor peasant in the village of Shablovo, in Kostroma Region, some 500 kilometers northeast of Moscow. He attended a provincial school, graduated from a seminary, and worked as a teacher for a time. Then he went to St. Petersburg to study at the art academy. The great Ilya Repin noticed him. After the academy Chestnyakov returned to his native village, where he was to remain for the rest of his days. He led the life of a peasant, but he also painted, wrote fairy tales, and taught children to see beauty. He dreamed of bringing culture to the countryside. But he could do little for the impoverished, unenlightened village.

Chestnyakov's situation became worse when his father, the only breadwinner, died, leaving Yefim to take care of his mother and two

younger sisters. He wrote in one of his letters: "I spend the better part of the day doing the backbreaking peasant work that feeds me.... My art cannot, not in the village." But he was young and full of vitality, and he believed in his calling; so despite all his material difficulties and fatigue, he continued to paint, write verse and fairy tales, mold earthen toys, and stage puppet performances for the village children.

Today many things in Chestnyakov's works escape our understanding. He is called a strange and obscure artist. His unusual and vivid language is astounding. But as soon as one begins to understand this art, one realizes that Chestnyakov was a great artist.







Paintings by Yefim Chestnyakov, clockwise from facing page: Black Grouse Prince. Water for the Baths. A Farmer's Wedding. Bountiful Apple. On pages 46-47: Village Wedding.

Chestnyakov's paintings are filled with folklore characters—the witch Baba Yaga, goblins, and birds and animals that live in harmony with the Shablovo villagers. But his paintings, which may seem quite simple at first sight, have a deeper meaning. Art critics who have studied his paintings, diaries, and tales have discovered that Chestnyakov had a thorough knowledge of the Russian and foreign literatures of his time. His library contained books on the Eastern philosophies, including the Indian. He knew Indian myths and had read the Mahābhārata and the Rāmāyana. He was a connoisseur of the old Russian Kitezh literature. (The term "Kitezh" comes from the name of a legendary sunken city.) These ancient folk tales are different visions of a peasants paradise on earth. One such place was the mysterious Land of the Sirens, populated by bird-women of the same name. It was not surprising that Chestnyakov entitled the most important writing of his life The City of Universal Welfare.

A very special social mythology underlies Chestnyakov's fantasies. The artist used this mythology to codify his thoughts.

Let's take an example. January 9, 1905, is now known as Bloody Sunday, the day the czar's army opened fire on a peaceful procession to the czar's palace in St. Petersburg. Chestnyakov lived through the massacre by sheer luck. Shortly afterward, he painted The City. It shows no Winter Palace and no troops shooting at people. It shows a fairy city populated by "little people" and an approaching giant comet—a folk symbol of misfortune. Curiously, the czar's throne is empty. "We have no czar," workers said after Bloody Sunday, when they erected the barricades of the 1905 revolution.

Chestnyakov's Village Wedding is a genre scene showing a wedding cart with a bride and groom surrounded by a crowd of people. But if you take a closer look at the painting, you will have to ask yourself why there are no adults in the crowd. And why the axis of the cart wheel gradually transforms into the beam of a burial vault, from which a bearded old man (one of the living dead?) looks out. Thus, joy al-

most sacrilegiously borders on sorrow. And the newlyweds occupy a small space surrounded by little flags. Is this a hint that the average peasant has only enough land to be buried in?

In his remote village the lone thinker dreamed about no more nor less than happiness for all of humankind. He wrote in his diary in 1914 when the First World War broke out:

Suffering brothers, children of the earth! I urge you, whoever you may be, to stop the war and make peace. Nations, choose your own representatives so that they might gather together to discuss international problems. Stop the hostilities and, while peace negotiations are under way, get down to cultural work, discussions of the talks by the international assembly, and the elaboration of projects aimed at the peaceful normalization of international relations....

These words were written long before the establishment of the League

A very special social mythology underlies Chestnyakov's fantasies. The artist used this mythology to codify his thoughts.

of Nations, the United Nations, or the World Peace Council.

Chestnyakov enthusiastically welcomed the October 1917 Revolution with a poem and the painting Peace, which became his direct response to Lenin's Decree on Peace. Since that time, a new, romantic note appeared in Chestnyakov's art. Everything in Peace is highly romantic: mounted musicians led by a lady in white (symbolizing Freedom and the Revolution) and a boy with a banner inscribed with the word Peace; the children's festivities and the round dances in which animals and even fairies, brownies, and mermaids take

part; the children receiving the simple fruit of the forest—nuts and berries.

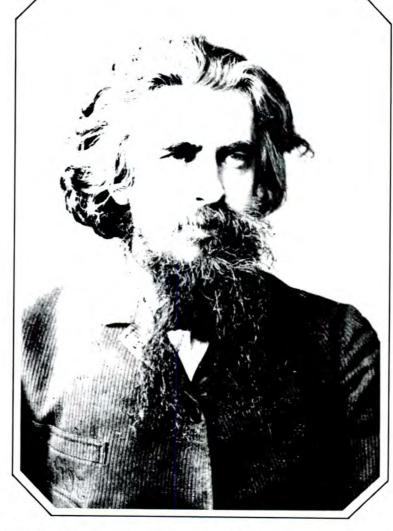
Chestnyakov was actively involved in the construction of a new life. He was elected to the Kologriv Citý Soviet and was offered a job as an art teacher. He set up the House of Art in Kologriv, where he headed a theater group and an art studio. He organized exhibitions of his works and a traveling theater. In Shablovo he established a children's art studio.

"We studied everything there," recalls Larisa Golushkina, a former student of Chestnyakov's. "We learned to draw, listen to music, and play musical instruments. We developed a taste for literature and theater. He taught us to see the beauty of nature and to respect parents and older people in general. He said that people should not hurt one another, boast, curse, or deceive or envy anyone. All the good that is in me is rooted in that children's studio."

In the 1920s Chestnyakov finally finished his most important work-Paradise City, which he began at the turn of the century. He painted more than 120 characters on a huge canvas, which symbolizes his dreams of a happy future. He showed rivers flowing with milk and festively dressed people carrying cakes and flowers. Someone is playing a reed pipe, another lavishes gifts upon his fellow citizens, and still another is clearing the ground for a feast. Clearly, these are all symbols of much more serious things than just rivers of milk. The artist worked on this painting at the same time he was writing his novel Marco Beschastny, a social utopia. His autobiographical hero dreams about the village of the future, in which brick houses will replace squalid dwellings. There will be statues in the streets, a lake with ships, and electricity setting machines into motion that will make peasants' work easier.

Chestnyakov's restored works were shown in his native Kostroma and in Kologriv, Moscow, and Leningrad. They were also exhibited in Italy and France. A French art connoisseur left the following entry in the Visitors Book: "Chestnyakov's works should be known to everyone. He is a classic. He showed us the soul of a kind and beautiful Russia."





Vladimir Solovyov (1853–1900) was one of Russia's greatest philosophers. His ideas began the Russian philosophical renaissance of the early twentieth century.

VLADIMIR SOLOVYOV: PROPHET OF UNITY

By Arseni Gulyga

eople ask me why it took a special resolution of the Central Committee Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for Russian philosophical treasures to reappear in print for the first time in decades, and why the Soviet press now carries works written 50 years ago or more as sensational novelties.

If we are to see how timely this revivalist boom is, we have to understand the abyss into which philosophy in our country has fallen.

Unfortunately, we don't know what we don't know. Too many of us are convinced that Russian culture at the end of the nineteenth century and in the first decade and a half of this one was ridden with ethical and intellectual decadence. It is true that decadent trends were present. But in general, Russian culture of that time produced a glorious renaissance of religion and philosophy, which made an impact on all of Europe.

It was in Russia that the first shoots of phenomenology, existentialism, and personalism emerged. Our country gave the most serious response to Immanuel Kant's query, "What is man?" The Russian quest was carried westward, to come back to us decades later as revelation.

Many great Russian scholars were exiled abroad in 1922, long before Stalinism took the upper hand. These philosophers of world renown-Nikolai Berdyayev, Sergei Bulgakov, Semyon Frank, Nikolai Lossky, Lev Karsavin, and Pitirim Sorokin, among others—were luckier than many. They worked on in their countries of adoption, and their acclaim and influence grew steadily. The philosophers

Vladimir Solovyov, who had died in the very beginning of the century, were consigned to oblivion, from which they emerged only on rare occasions—for some officious ideologue

or other to throw dirt at them.

who stayed at home, whom their exiled compatriots envied at first, met a harder fate. Pavel Florensky and Gustav Schpet died in prison camps. Alexei Losev survived to be released, but he never published a line for more than 20 years. The works of

So it really took high-level resolutions to rediscover the terra incognita of Russian philosophy. Vladimir Solovyov was one of the most brilliant revelations that met us as the curtain rose before Soviet eyes.

Son of the renowned historian Sergei Solovyov, who wrote the classic History of Russia Since Ancient Times, Vladimir came by right of birth into the most refined intellectual milieu of his time.

In his youth, there was no outward sign of the spirituality Solovyov was to attain with the years. On his father's advice, Vladimir entered the department of history and philology at Moscow State University, but he soon left that department to study physics and mathematics. Paradoxically, Solovyov turned to theology only after he had taken up science. "Science has no ultimate goal of life to offer you," he wrote to a cousin at

Solovyov argued that his day demanded a supreme synthesis. He called this synthesis "positive unitotality."

that time. "The true final goal is in ethics (or religion); science enters as one of the means to achieve it."

Now Solovyov saw his mission in the reform of Christianity. He felt he was destined to give Christianity a modern form and bring out its humane core, in order to attract all hearts to it. So he left the department of physics and mathematics, took a degree in history and philology, and started on a lecture course at the Moscow Theological Academy.

Spinoza's was the philosophy that first fascinated the young Solovyov. Somewhat later, Schopenhauer made an even deeper impression. But Schelling had the greatest, lifelong influence on the Russian philosopher. Solovyov's philosophical system proceeded from Schelling and used the

Schellingian vocabulary.

Profound erudition shone even in Solovyov's candidate's thesis, The Crisis of Western Philosophy: Against the Positivists, which he defended at the age of 21. Here Solovyov put forward for the first time his central idea of "total-unity," or "unitotality." By this he meant a global cultural synthesis.

Soon after he got his degree, the young man took a position at Moscow State University as a lecturer in contemporary philosophy. A few halcyon years followed, which revealed his poetic gift. Sent to Great Britain on a research assignment, he worked at the British Museum library and followed his occult inclinations, as was the vogue in those days.

A mystical experience gave Solovyov's life an abrupt turn. In a radiant apparition Sophia, the Divine Wisdom, sent him to Egypt. There, in the desert, the vision was repeated.

A quiet winter in Cairo followed. Solovyov began writing his dialogue Sophia, his first attempt to make a system of his views.

Back in Russia, he continued to put his revelations into the form of a philosophical doctrine. These were busy years: Solovyov now had a Moscow State University professorship in logic and in the history of philosophy. He was also working on his doctoral dissertation, Critique of Abstract Principles, which he defended brilliantly at the age of 27. By "abstract principles" Solovyov meant empiricism and rationalistic idealism-philosophies he implacably opposed and described as "primitively bookish"—as well as the "ultramundane clericalism" of Roman Catholicism. Though acknowledging that all these intellectual trends had borne fruit in their time, Solovyov argued that his day demanded a supreme synthesis. He called this synthesis "positive unitotality."

Early in 1878 Solovyov delivered a series of public lectures on the philosophy of religion. Huge, spellbound audiences of Moscow intellectuals and society people came to hear him speak. Among Solovyov's distinguished listeners were Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Leo Tolstoy.

Later appearing in print as Lectures on Godmanhood, the lectures gave a critical analysis of Western and Eastern Christianity, recognizing the merits of both trends. The West had given the world the idea of individualism, personified in the god-man, while the



universalistic idea of the man-god had dawned in the East. Now the task was to achieve a blending of both principles of Christianity. The idea of synthesis that underlay all philosophy, as Solovyov saw it, now embraced religion. From then on his searching thought never left theological matters.

His quest now entered a new, even more ambitious stage. His ethics and epistemology, which had been put forward in *Critique of Abstract Principles*, were now to be supplemented by an esthetic system all his own. Arguing with the Schillerian and Dostoyevskian formula that beauty was destined to save the world, Solovyov wrote:

It is a fearful risk to burden beauty with the mission of universal salvation, when we have first to save beauty from artistic and journalistic experiments that seek to replace the fair ideal with the down-to-earth, in all its ugliness.

The last decade of Solovyov's life proved the most prolific. His genius reached its peak, to leave us two inspired essays: The Meaning of Love, a glorification of sublime feelings based on analyses of the poetry of Pushkin and Tyutchev; and Three Conversations, whose air of ironical travesty set off its apocalyptic spirit. Step by step Solovyov progressed to his cardinal work, The Justification of the Good.

To the end of his life, the philosopher would wander about the Russian countryside. On one of these journeys he fell gravely ill and went to stay with his friends the Princes Trubetskoi in Uzkoye, their family seat near Moscow. It was there that Solovyov died.

Yevgeni Trubetskoi (1863–1920), a philosopher himself, left reminiscences of tremendous interest. Here is a small but informative excerpt.

If you had ever seen Vladimir Solovyov, you retained him in your memory forever as a man totally unlike other mortals. His appearance and especially his large and beautiful eyes were striking in their inimitable combination of infirmity and vitality—a mighty spirit in a helpless body.

Solovyov was extremely shortsighted, and things that others saw perfectly well were hidden from his eyes. Squinting from under his bushy brows, he could hardly discern the outlines of what lay under his very nose. But when he gazed into the distance, his feeble sight penetrated through the surface of things into depths forbidden to our mortal senses -he saw something not of this world, something hidden from us all. His eyes radiated a spiritual light. Whenever he looked at you, he looked into your very soul. His was the gaze of a man aloof from the outward aspect of our earthly reality.

All that was ordinary was alien to his richly endowed nature. No wonder he was such an innocent in everyday affairs, and anyone could swindle him. He was always being robbed and mercilessly taken advantage of. Despite his vast literary earnings, he walked around penniless, often in rags and tatters. Solovyov was

If you want to put the essence of Solovyov's doctrine into two words, those words would be love and unity.

a disinterested person if ever there was one. He gave away money without counting it—not only because of his rare, childlike kindness but also because he was totally unrealistic in all practical matters.

Solovyov led a beggarly life and had to cut his demands to those of an ascetic. He once said to a friend, "One meal every two days is quite enough, and a dinner a day is nothing more than a bad habit."

A rolling stone, Solovyov never had a hearth and home. He died a wanderer, sheltered by friends. He taxed his health severely; often he started working after a party, spent the rest of the night writing, and went to bed toward noon. He was a vegetarian who lived on subsistence rations whenever his friends weren't there to take care of him. But whenever a friend dropped in, Solovyov would bring out a bottle of wine and sit drinking and talking into the small hours.

Solovyov's overflowing spirituality defied everyday arrangements. He rebelled against everything drab and well ordered. His genius gained in power in a sickly body. The doctors who treated him before his death were astonished to see that he had lasted even for 47 years and that this suffering flesh could be the home of such a powerful and daring mind.

The traits that determined his philosophy ruled Solovyov's life. His doctrine was completely alien to anything one-sided.

He spared nothing for his friends and was prepared for any sacrifice if they needed it. But the idea of Solovyov as a paterfamilias was preposterous. Family life was not for him. His feelings were too stormy; the demands he put on those he loved were too high. His poems and prose describe love as the incarnation of all things sublime. Love was everything to him, he said. Deprived of it, "this life would lose all its color." The truth lay in love alone. Whatever was outside love was paltry and transient. But dominated by his genius, Solovyov could not bind himself with any tie, be it the duties of family or any other duty.

In one of his essays Solovyov asserted with humility that he had produced no doctrine of his own and that all he had written was only a commentary on the holy truth that Russia had known ever since it had embraced Christianity. This is accurate to some extent: Solovyov's teaching was wholly in keeping with the traditions of Russian spirituality. Yet his synthesis is so profound and so brilliant in its harmony that we ought to recognize it as an original philosophy.

Absorbed and developed by Solovyov, Russian philosophy carries an all-penetrating moral message. Now that our country is going through a social revival and discarding its dead mental dogma, this message has a special impact on us. Many social and economic patterns have brought our society to a moral decline, which prevailing ethical concepts make all the worse. Political pragmatism has replaced ethics.

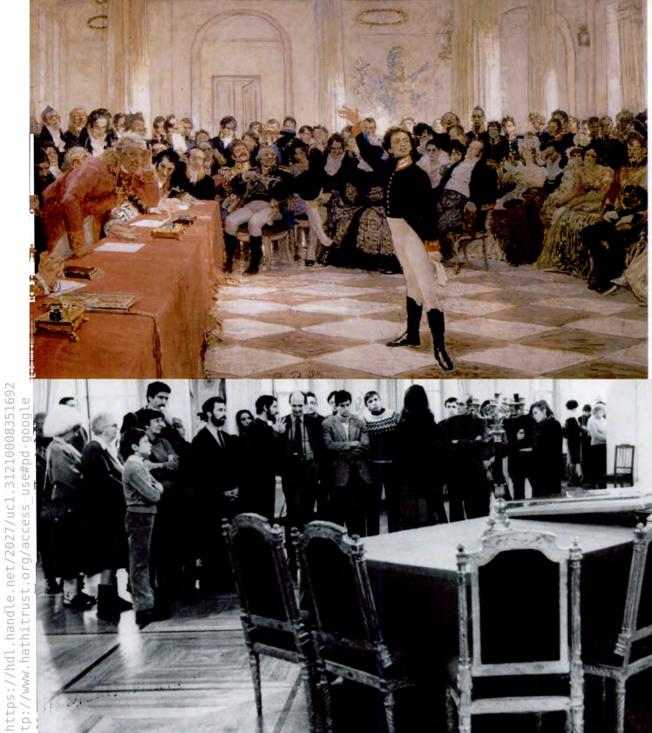
True, politics offers ways to practical goals, but it takes a crude, simplis-Continued on page 62





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ushkin at the Lyceum on January 8, 1815, by Ilya Repin. 1911. Oil on canvas. Below: The lyceum commission that examined Pushkin and Pushchin sat at this table.



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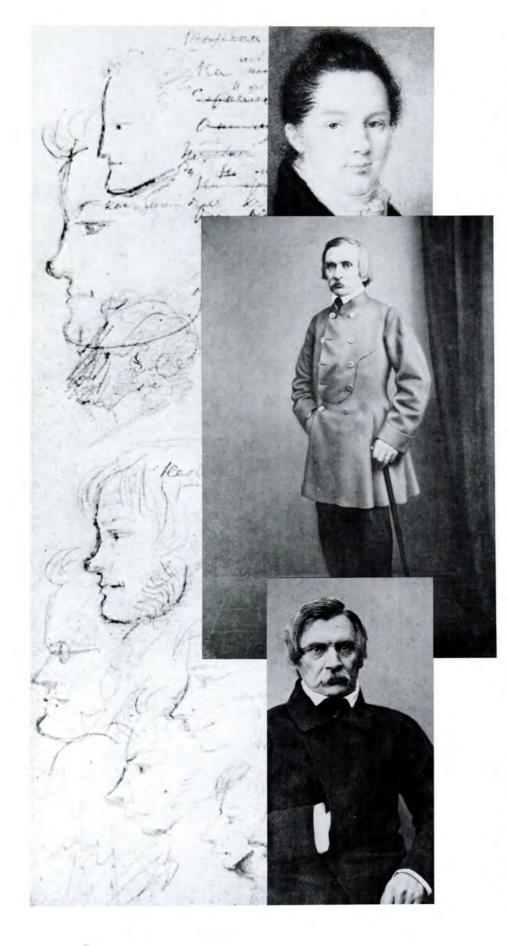
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ushchin at Pushkin's House in Mikhailovskoye, by Nikolai Ge. 1875. Oil on canvas.

enealogy is making a comeback in the Soviet Union. After a long period in disfavor, the discipline has now been officially recognized.

For many years genealogy was presented as an ideologically harmful field, alien to the working people. Alas, the history of Soviet science has seen dramatic periods where not only individual

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scholars but whole branches of knowledge-such as genetics, cybernetics, eugenics, and genealogywere "outlawed." It was asserted that genealogists studied only the history of aristocratic families, in order to satisfy their aristocratic ambitions. Some genealogists were sent to the labor camps; others emigrated. And our rich genealogical tradition was ruined.

"The notion that genealogy deals with the history of a limited group of families is fallacious," says Igor Sakharov, the first man in the Soviet Union ever to be officially employed as a genealogist. "We have been told since childhood that it is the masses, not outstanding personalities, that are the motivating force of history. But while proclaiming that slogan, Soviet historical studies, ironically, failed to give enough attention to the masses. For instance, we know the great Russian military leaders Alexander Suvorov and Mikhail Kutuzov, but we know little or nothing of the captains, ensigns, or men who fought under their command."

Not only has genealogy been rehabilitated and recognized; it is now enjoying a real boom. This is due in large part to the keen public interest in history in the Soviet Union these days. In fact, this fascination with the past has assumed the nature of a popular movement. People are looking at the history of their country, demanding that all the "blank spots" be filled. Many people are also taking an interest in the history of their own family. Who am I? Where did I come from? many people wonder.

"It is painful to see how the bonds of kinship have been severed in the twentieth century," says Sakharov.

eft: A rough draft of Eugene Onegin with the poet's portraits of some of his friends. Insets, top to bottom: Portrait of Ivan Pushchin, by Horace Vernet. 1817. Pastel. Two photographs of Pushchin, taken in the last years of his life.



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Original from UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA "Children grow up with no awareness of extended family. Family albums have been viewed as outdated or even 'philistine."

"But now interest in the larger family is reviving. Under perestroika the archives are no longer 'classified,' and contacts with relatives living abroad have been expanded. Many of those who concealed their genealogy for years out of fear—for instance, those who had members of the clergy or officers of the czarist army among their ancestors—are now establishing contacts with their relatives and finding out about their ancestry.

"One of the things I do is trace the genealogy of certain prominent families. Sometimes such effort is inspired by anniversaries of families that have played a prominent role in the history

of this country."

"My First Friend, My Beloved Friend"

According to one chronicle, a man named Vasili Lopovskoi moved from Ryazan to Novgorod in 1388. His family eventually divided into two branches: one named Pushchin, after his elder son, Pushcha (which means "virgin forest"), and the other Muravyov, after his younger son, Muravei (which means "ant").

Descendants of the Muravyov and Pushchin families, both those living in the USSR and those abroad, gathered in Leningrad to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the families.

Every family's history has its pinnacle, a person or group of people in whom their descendants take particular pride. Such a peak was represented in the Pushchin-Muravyov family by the Decembrists.

Most of the Decembrists were aristocratic officers who had fought in Russia's victorious 1812 battles against Napoleon. The officers then staged a revolt in Senate Square in St. Petersburg on December 14, 1825, to put an end to Russia's autocratic rule. The uprising was suppressed. As many as 579 cases were investigated, leading to the execution of five Decembrists in the Peter and Paul Fortress. One of them was Sergei Muravyov-Apostol, who was only

one of 10 members of the Muravyov family who took part in the revolt.

Decembrist Ivan Pushchin (1798-1859) inspired some of the great poet Alexander Pushkin's glorious verse. In his message to Siberia, where Ivan Pushchin was serving a life sentence, Pushkin addressed him as "my first friend, my beloved friend." That letter was brought to Siberia by Alexandra Muravyova, the wife of a Decembrist who decided to share her husband's fate.

At the Tsarskoye Selo Lyceum Pushkin and Pushchin occupied neighboring rooms, No. 13 and No. 14. Big Jeanneau, as they called Pushchin for his herculean stature, was Pushkin's closest friend from that time forward. Pushchin did not show any of the brilliant faculties some of

People are looking at the history of their country, demanding that all the "blank spots" be filled. Many people are also taking an interest in the history of their own family.

his classmates boasted, and he was very modest. But he was known for his sense of justice, so his fellow students at the lyceum invariably chose him as the arbiter whenever there was a dispute.

After finishing the lyceum, Pushchin joined the army and a secret society of revolutionary officers. He dreamed that Pushkin would join their cause. As it turned out, Pushchin was not the only one who had this dream—Pushkin's freedom-loving verses were to be found as evidence in practically every Decembrist's case. But Pushkin himself was in exile during the revolt, having been banished to the village of Mikhailovskoye, Pskov Gubernia, in the summer of 1824.

In January 1825 Pushchin went to Mikhailovskoye to see his exiled friend, who missed the capital and the company of his friends terribly. The two friends drank champagne and talked until morning. As it turned out, that was to be the last time Pushkin and Pushchin were ever to see each other.

On December 14, 1825, Pushchin took part in the revolt. His cloak was torn by many bullets when the shooting began. The day after the revolt was suppressed, an old school friend, Prince Gorchakov, brought Pushchin a passport and offered to help him escape aboard a foreign ship. Pushchin refused—he felt he should share his comrades' suffering.

Pushchin spent 30 years in Siberia for his participation in the uprising. Only after Nicholas I had died and amnesty was granted to all of the Decembrists did he return. He died two years later. Such a man was the great Pushkin's friend.

Almost a century and a half later, Pushchin's and Pushkin's descendants happened to come to Leningrad at about the same time.

Visiting Their Ancestors' Land

The celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Pushchin family were attended by members from many countries, including the United States.

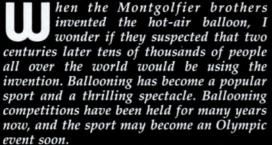
Many of the people at the event, descendants of female members of the family, have different names now. But one of the visitors, a young businessman from the United States, is his famous ancestor's namesake: His name, too, is Ivan Ivanovich Pushchin. Pushchin addressed the assembly in fluent Russian.

"We live far away from Russia, but we keep our family honor, the language, and the Orthodox faith," he said.

In the lyceum Visitors Book, entries made by Pushchin's descendants are next to those written by descendants of Alexander Pushkin's younger daughter, Natalia. The latter came from Great Britain. They were accompanied by Prince Georgi Golitsyn, who visits the Soviet Union quite of-

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Late in May a ballooning festival was held in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The festival's goal was not to set new records but to demonstrate the art and beauty of the sport. Leading foreign balloonists came to Vilnius to take part in the event. It was the first such festival ever to take place in the USSR. The festival was sponsored by Donald Cameron, owner of a world-renowned

balloon-manufacturing firm, and was backed by the Lithuanian Aeronautics Society, the only society of its kind in the country.

Not everything ran smoothly on the first day of the festival. But all the organizational problems faded into the background as soon as the first flights began. Balloonists woke up very early in the morning and walked to Vingis Park. The contests started at 6:00 A.M., when weather conditions are most favorable.

At first, spectators were frightened by the terrible noise of the gas burners. But the onlookers quickly calmed down and started walking around the field, watching the coordinated actions of crews from 13 countries.

To get a balloon ready to lift off, the pilot first uses a large fan to blow air into the balloon. He or she then operates a burner to heat the air, from time to time letting three-foot-long tongues of flame into the swelling balloon.

The balloon slowly ascends and suddenly stops. The basket is still touching the ground, but it is enough to give the firing button a gentle push for the balloon to soar upward.

One of ballooning's most attractive features is that the balloon cannot be steered, and the flight depends completely on the direction of the wind. In the computer age it is wonderful to be able to give oneself up to the forces of nature.





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SOLOVYOV

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tic mind to assume that whatever is instrumental is good. Politics may be good or bad—but there is no such thing as a bad morality. Morality is either good or nonexistent. Now that the threat of global suicide looms over the human race, we cannot save our planet unless we come back to the traditional concept of the Good as Absolute. Russian philosophy offers us a road, and Vladimir Solovyov's teaching is the bright lodestar above this road.

Solovyov defined the law, as did Fichte, as the lowest limit of morals, a moral minimum. The Fichtean concept had great respect for the law but valued ethics far more highly. The law may permit or prohibit, but morals are imperative. Thus duty and love were ethical, not legal, categories. A worthy successor to German classical philosophy, Solovyov reached the end of the road it charted to form his ethically centered system. Proceeding from the Kantian premise of moral autonomy, he ended with the emergence of his ethical synthesis.

Schopenhauer pointed out pity and compassion as the primary moral feelings. But, Solovyov argued, compassion alone is not enough to base morals on. A person can pity those around him or her but still behave badly. That is where another moral lever comes in—shame, the primal matter of all morals and humanism. "I am ashamed, therefore I am," Solovyov said, after Descartes. To do away with shame means to abolish humanism. Shame is the only support of decency and prudence.

Another of the basic components of Solovyov's ethical synthesis is worship. It is impossible to be moral and do good unless one is convinced that the good is imperative—unless one worships the good. "An empty conscience is a tool of the Devil." Once a person is self-satisfied, he or she is dead to morals. To be moral, one needs to pronounce unending judgment on oneself from the standpoint of the Supreme Being.

If you want to put the essence of Solovyov's doctrine into two words,

those words would be love and unity. In his time, Immanuel Kant sang praise to duty. But as he advanced in years, he grew to realize that the categorical imperative could not reach its full power unless there were good feeling to warm it. Solovyov went further: His was an all-embracing philosophy of love as the most sublime of human spiritual powers. We have reduced the word love to a banality. Yet the humane in us cannot find better expression than in love. Love makes the Ten Commandments unnecessary. Not that it negates themon the contrary, it makes them selfevident. Love conquers egotism, says Solovyov. To re-create an individual, to give him or her a new birth, a transfiguration—this is the meaning

Now, unity is the key category in Solovyov's and the entire Russian philosophy. But today it is pluralism that focuses the attention of the Soviet public. And we really need pluralism-not as a never-ending, fruitless debate but as a multitude of efforts and opinions set on a common goal. It has long been the Russian ideal, this reasonable pluralism, full of mutual consideration and dedication to the common good. In olden times Russians called this kind of unity sobornost. The literal meaning of the word is "togetherness," but it seems to be derived from the word sobor, or cathedral.

The ideal of sobornost combines the universal and the personal: People gather like the congregation in a cathedral, each bringing his or her prayer to the throne of God, all worshiping Him on their own, yet all united by the prayers of each. Sobornost is the universal that incorporates the entire wealth of the individual. When Hegel postulated this unity in his Science of Logic, many failed to understand him, as his idea never crossed the boundary of abstract reasoning. Following the old Russian tradition, Solovyov translated this idea onto the ethical plane to describe sobornost as something intuitively evident and living at the grassroots level for many centuries.

NOBLE BLOOD

Continued from page 59

ten, establishing contacts among compatriots.

The guests from Great Britain met their Soviet relatives in the famous Laval Mansion, on the bank of the Neva. At one time the Laval salon was attended by outstanding personalities, both Russian and foreign. Pushkin often recited his verse there. Yekaterina, the Lavals' elder daughter, was married to Prince Sergei Trubetskoi, the leader of the Decembrist revolt. And though Prince Trubetskoi did not go to Senate Square on December 14, he was convicted for life. Yekaterina Trubetskaya left her parents' magnificent home to follow her husband to Siberia, like many other wives of Decembrists.

More than a century and a half later, Pushkin's descendants from Great Britain met with their Soviet kin in the Blue Parlor of the Laval Mansion.

Two sisters, Georgina Phillips and Maira Butter, came to Leningrad with their children.

"I am greatly impressed by all I have seen," Phillips said. "These four days in Leningrad have been like a whole lifetime. It's just wonderful that the traditions, culture, and history are cherished and historical monuments restored. We are proud of our Russian ancestry. The main thing is that we should know each other better and love each other more."

Natalia, the Duchess of Westminster, recited her great ancestor's verse in English translation.

Pushkin's descendants live in the Soviet Union and on practically every continent of the world, some of them with English, French, Chinese, and German blood.

In the coming years other meetings among relatives living abroad will be held in the Soviet Union. The door of mutual trust is open. And that will be another move toward rapprochement.

Pushkin wrote prophetically: "When all nations forsake their strife and are united..." And that prophecy is bound to come true.





AN ANIMATOR'S **FANTASY IN MOTION**

By Algirdas Gaijutis

Zenonas Steinys is a new name in Soviet animation.

good animated cartoon is a A rare treat, as any moviegoer will tell you. Many of our cartoons, for example, are drab, with plots as dry as dust. The dialogue is often hackneyed and ▶





the pictures unattractive. But critics and audiences never give up hope that the next new cartoonist will be different.

This hope has been justified in Zenonas Steinys. Now 43, this Lithuanian editorial cartoonist, famous for his wit and taste, took up film art and direction rather late in life.

Gone As If It Had Never Been, his graduation project at Moscow's higher film direction courses, is a children's cartoon that sparkles with humor. His next endeavor, Generosity, was recently released at the Vilnius Film Studio. This film is for adults, although children can enjoy it thoroughly as well. This wise, simple parable tells about a life, from early childhood to a frustrated old age. The hero, near the end of his days, sees that his life has been wasted in a rat race and that generosity and goodness are the only things that really matter.



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All of the pictures on these pages are from the animated film Generosity.











The film is a sequence of metaphors, whose roots lie in Lithuanian folklore. There is not a single word in *Generosity*—only pictures and music. Steinys' exquisite art makes all of the figures three-dimensional.

It takes an alert mind, a thorough philosophical background, and a profound knowledge of Lithuanian culture to be able to appreciate Steinys' cartoons completely. But they are a pleasure to the average viewer, too.





AMERICANS IN VOTKINSK

The provincial town of Votkinsk in the eastern foothills of the Ural Mountains is now home to a special group of Americans. They are the on-site inspectors monitoring compliance under the INF Treaty. Like their Soviet counterparts living in Magna, Utah, the American inspectors are helping to foster trust between the two countries.



BULWARK AGAINST "WHITE DEATH"

Thousands of passengers and tons of cargo pass through Soviet customs daily without a hitch. But the job of customs officials is as demanding as ever, as they contend with the increasing international drug trade. In cooperation with other countries, the USSR is doing its part to build a bulwark against the deadly tide of illegal drug use.



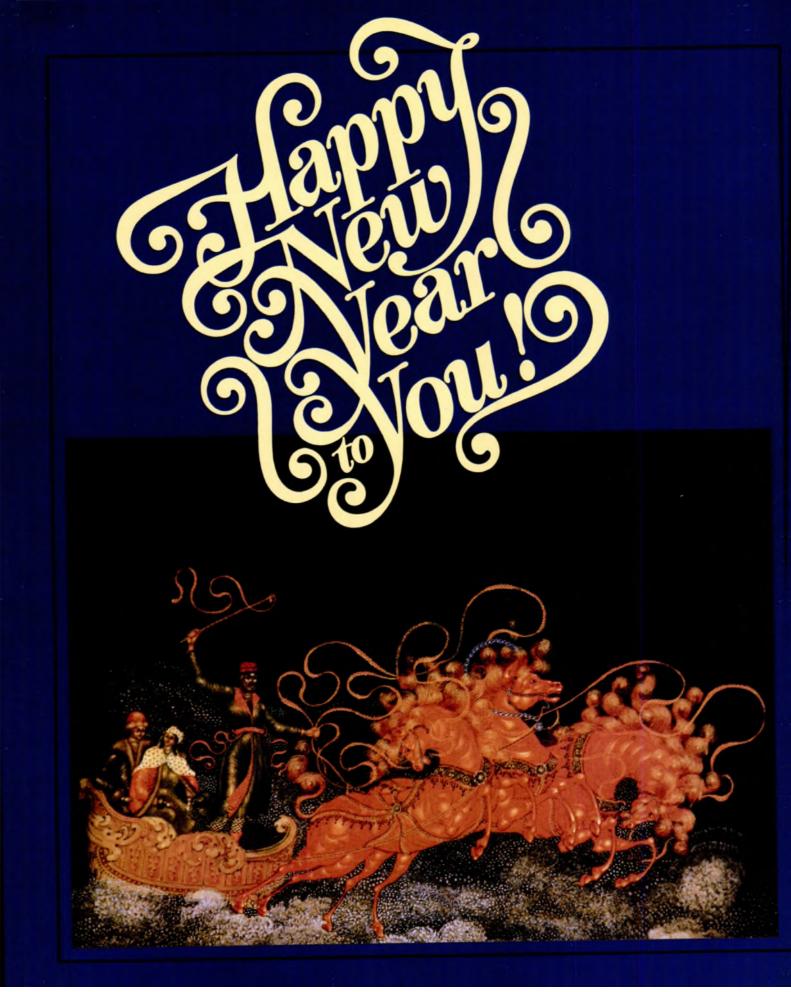
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I appreciate the interview with Nikolai Ryzhkov, who answered directly and knowingly. May I suggest that you give the pronunciation of new cities and areas introduced in an article? Repetition is helpful. In our TV and radio broadcasts, one has difficulty with the pronunciation of cities and areas and in identifying them.

Good luck in your efforts.

Mary Langford San Gabriel, California

The unfolding events occurring on the world scene, through the efforts of Mikhail Gorbachev, delight me and many millions throughout the world.

It is also not surprising that this has put a number of governments, including my own, in a quandary bordering on chaos.

The problem: How to justify the increasing defense budgets and change a whole economy to more consumer orientation? The USSR is having some internal problems related to this. Will the same occur in NATO countries?

My admiration for this man [Gorbachev] and his vision is beyond all my expectations. I cannot recall in my lifetime any leader or party who put substance to their beliefs-that all people should live in a world not in fear of annihilation, which nuclear war would be, but in a world of hope for the future. Like this magazine, it changes not only in size but in format, and for the better.

Patrick Cullen Northampton, Pennsylvania

A copy of SOVIET LIFE, July 1989, was left lying around where I work. I read the whole magazine and was amazed at the upgrading of quality in comparison to the dark, heavily propagandistic Soviet magazines in previous years and decades. In that sea-of-blue issue were an open report on an airplane, reports on unofficial

associations and on Estonia, an excellent description of problems of weightlessness in space, a display of labor camp problems, old pictures, an old village, computer viruses, Akhmatova's poetry showing sorrows stemming not from herself, that gorgeous beauty on page 51, and pretty pictures.

At last the world gets what it really wants from the USSR. Great going!

Carl Masthay St. Louis, Missouri

As a subscriber to SOVIET LIFE, I am delighted to see on the inside back cover of your September issue that there will soon be an article about citizen diplomacy. I very much look forward to the issue in which that article will appear.

In April and May of 1988, my wife and I were privileged to participate in a citizen diplomacy effort, sponsored and organized by Crosscurrents International Institute of Dayton, Ohio. It was a marvelous experience, which we shall long remember.

Among the many impressive places we visited, the one that moved me most deeply, I think, was our visit to Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery in Leningrad. This evening, on the CBS television program "60 Minutes," Admiral Crowe, the then Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, was shown visiting that same place during his recent tour of the Soviet Union. As relations between our two countries improve, many such events that will receive television news coverage will be immensely more meaningful to some of us just because we have been to the places shown. That is one very good reason among many for continuing and expanding citizen exchanges.

William Catton, Jr. Washington State University Graham, Washington



EDITOR'S NOTES

his past year has been full of events I that were rather unusual for our country: democratic elections, heated discussions in the Congress of People's Deputies, and no less emotional parliamentary debates in the Supreme Soviet, on the one hand; and strikes that paralyzed an economy already plagued by shortages, ethnic conflicts that took a toll in human lives, and an unprecedentedly high crime rate, on the other.

Some radical economists and political scientists are sounding the alarm. If perestroika fails to bring about any tangible changes for the better within the next 12 months, its future will be in

jeopardy.

Justified as this alarm may be, most experts still think it is premature. We have more than once, I believe, tried to accelerate developments in an artificial way, pointing to threatening circumstances and ignoring the objective laws of social development.

The present leadership of the country is urging a sober analysis of the situation; prudent and, if necessary, compromise decision making; and, what is more important, the effective fulfillment of de-

cisions that are adopted.

As for Soviet-American relations, favorable results are already tangible. In 1989 the two heavyweight superpowers started moving toward each other faster than even the most ardent optimist could have predicted. More and more often we are hearing that the cold war is ending, the shadow of a nuclear catastrophe is gradually disappearing, and truly-could it be?-peaceful times are around the corner.

But enough about the world. Let's look at what has happened here at the magazine. Subscribers have increased from 50,000 to 58,000, and as far as we can judge, each issue is being read, on average, by four people-family members, neighbors, and friends. That means that we now have about 30,000 more readers than before. Over the coming year we hope that our readership will continue to grow. To our new friends, we say Hello, and to all of you, dear readers, we, the entire staff of SOVIET LIFE, send our warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Robert Tsfasman

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ON FOREIGN POLICY AND WASTE

In late October USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze reviewed Soviet foreign policy before the USSR Supreme Soviet, the national legislature.

Stanislav Kondrashov, a prominent writer on international affairs and a columnist for the Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia, analyzes the Foreign Minister's speech.

fghanistan is a crying example of outdated policy, and the scars from the war still have not healed. While the blood of Soviet soldiers is no longer being shed on the battlefields of Afghanistan, the memory of our fallen boys categorically demands that we learn the necessary lessons from their deaths. The whole truth has yet to be revealed and analyzed. The country is still waiting-the USSR Supreme Soviet and its International Affairs Committee, which has been instructed to inquire into the matter, must still have their say.

Another example of outdated policy, less important but still quite striking, is the story of how the Krasnoyarsk radar station was built in violation of the 1972 Soviet-American Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, officially admitted this fact for the first time in his October address to the Supreme Soviet. The unfinished radar station, the size of an Egyptian pyramid, will be dismantled and demolished. However, it would be useful if we could learn a lesson from this monumental example of the politically and morally damaging power of our military-industrial complex to dictate policy. In addition to everything else, the project was another case of mismanagement and wastefulness.

The official admission that the Krasnoyarsk radar station constituted a violation of the ABM Treaty has inspired many comments from both officials and the media in the West. Shevardnadze's statement was praised as an unprecedented move, another dramatic step along the road of perestroika. At the same time some Western commentators, naturally enough, declared that the firm line taken by U.S. President George Bush and former President Ronald Reagan-whose administrations have always regarded the radar station the way Moscow regards it now-was justified. One could also hear a note of malice and persistent mistrust injected by conservative politicians. The Wall Street Journal, for instance, demanded that the Soviet Union admit that an anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk in 1979 was caused not by contaminated meat but by an incident that occurred during the production of biological weapons, in violation of a 1972 convention banning such weapons. (American scientists who met with their Soviet colleagues last year were satisfied with the Soviet explanation.)

Be that as it may, the frankness of our Foreign Minister has been commented on in the West. However, not one commentary about that truly sensational admission has appeared in the Soviet press. This is also an example of the momentous inertia of the past among our writers on international affairs. Yes, we are still under the spell of old taboos, even when taboos are being lifted "from above" and sensitive subjects are being broached publicly in the Supreme Soviet. But then, in my opinion, they are still only being broached, only being touched upon. They are still not being investigated in full. There is still a lot of digging to be done if we are to reach the wellspring of truth.

Let's recall what the Foreign Minister said:

"We have been trying to sort out the Krasnoyarsk radar issue for four long years.... The country's leaders did not grasp the whole idea at once. We realized in the long run that the station had not been built where it could have been.'

Indeed, the story was a long one. We approached the admission gradually. Beginning in 1984, I myself was present at more than one debate between Soviet and American experts where the Krasnoyarsk radar was discussed. The Americans argued that the radar could be used as an early-warning facility in case of a



missile attack and could be regarded as part of the antiballistic missile defense system outlawed by the treaty. Our experts responded that the only purpose of the station was to track satellites and other space objects. Among themselves, our specialists expressed doubts whether the explanation that they had set forth was convincing enough. But outdated thinking prevailed: If one were acting in the interests of his or her own country, it was acceptable to conceal an obvious fact (the size of an Egyptian pyramid) that could be seen by U.S. intelligence satellites anyway. And this despite the fact that such behavior objectively played into the hands of American supporters of the arms race.

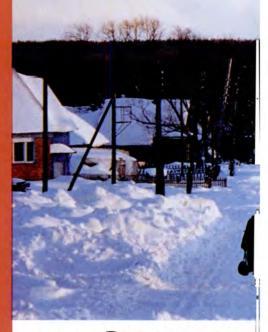
The construction of the Krasnoyarsk radar station had always been a trump card in the hand of President Reagan. He used it to justify his exorbitantly expensive Strategic Defense Initiative plans. It would have been not only reasonable to tell the truth but also profitable and expedient to do so.

Moscow was gradually moving toward the admission that U.S. concerns were well grounded. In September 1987, three U.S. Congressmen were allowed to visit the unfinished project near Krasnoyarsk. Then came the official decision to freeze construction. Then came the idea to transfer control over the radar station from the USSR Ministry of Defense to the USSR Academy of Sciences and to make it the basis of an international space research center.

During the September meeting in Wyoming between Shevardnadze and James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, the Soviet Union announced its intention to dismantle the disputed facility. It is likely that that move, combined with a different wording of our position on the ABM Treaty, improved prospects for an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive arms. And then, finally, came Eduard Shevardnadze's statement at the Supreme Soviet session.

Let us turn once more to the question of whether we could afford the hundreds of millions of rubles that were squandered on the giant radar station. Incidentally, it will be much more difficult and expensive to dismantle the station than to blow up intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. But we will have to afford it, unless we want to justify that sad story to its very origins. One could hardly expect to hear more in a broad foreign policy review than what the Foreign Minister said. But his statement did not tell us everything. I am not sure whether a new panel should be set up, but we should know the details—how much has already been spent on the radar, who was responsible, and, finally, how could such a thing have happened in the first place.

Solving the agrarian problem is a top priority in the Soviet Union today. But where do we start? The farmers themselves think they have the answer.



hen Mikhail Vagin talks about agriculture, people listen. Vagin is a seasoned farmer who has headed the Lenin Collective Farm in Gorky Region, on the middle reaches of the Volga, for many years. He is now a People's Deputy of the USSR. Vagin recently spoke with Pravda reporter Alexei Platoshkin.

Q: Many people blame farmers for the situation in the countryside. How do you answer these people?

A: After the Revolution, as everything was being changed in our country-our economy, our culturefarmers became something of an endangered species. We were building a new world. Fine. But you can't build a house without a foundation, and that's what Russia lost.

Look at other countries. No matter what social upheavals they were go-



AS THE FARM GOES, SO GOES THE NATION

Photographs by Alexander Kurbatov



ing through, agriculture was always protected. But ours was ruined. Now it's going to take a tremendous amount of work to bring it back. All the new patterns of farming need to be nurtured until the basic structures are resuscitated.

Q: What do you mean by "basic structures"?

A: Collective and state farms. It's wrong to say that they don't work any more. They just had no breathing space before. Contracts, lease farms, and cooperatives all need room to grow. But I doubt that land leases will attract many competent farmers.

We collective farmers aren't afraid of competition from independent farmers, although many people are prejudiced against them and call them capitalists.

But there are other problems. City folk are flooding into the countryside, dreaming of farmsteads of their own, even though the closest they've been to a cow was seeing one on television. So they come, full of radiant hopes, demanding credit at the bank. What kind of financier would lend money to such people? A real farmer first needs to think the situation through carefully, make sure the land will bring a profit, before obtaining credit.

Another thing—these new "farmers" have to think about the villages they choose for their ventures. There's not much hope of doing anything worthwhile in an isolated place without a good highway nearby or

Collective Farm, where Mikhail Vagin is chairman. Left: Vagin (left) advises Nikolai Terentyev, chairman of the neighboring Frunze Collective Farm.

any farm machinery to speak of. But a lot of these people think that all it takes are their two hands and a hoe to till the land.

Q: What about hired help?

A: I think anyone who leases land ought to have the right to hire extra hands. You can call it exploitation if you want—but then, any collective farm chairman like me, or any factory manager for that matter, uses his or her work force. What matters here is social protection.

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Clockwise
from left: The
collective farm
specializes in
livestock
breeding. Vagin
has managed to
stem the exodus
of young people
from the farm to
the city. Geese in
the snow. Well
water.

Q: It sounds as if you have reservations about leaseholding.

A: Not really. I know a thing or two about the countryside. It's obvious why land leases haven't worked out. The pattern was suppressed for decades. When it finally was allowed, there was no guarantee that it would catch on. The agricultural bosses fought it for all they were worth. They thought that if the arrangement worked out, they'd lose their cushy jobs. Many collective farmers fought it too, simply because they were jealous of the money the leaseholders made.

Now all the obstacles have supposedly been removed, but the main problem is still there: Farmers have gotten out of the habit of farming. They don't feel like the masters of the land they work, and they hate the responsibility.

So what matters most now is encouraging farmers to stay on the farm. They need a decent living and good working conditions. Only then will farming prosper. Prosperous farms mean the whole nation prospers.

On our collective farm we realize this very well. Last year alone we built 35 semidetached houses, big enough for two or three generations of a family to live in.

Each house has two stories and is self-contained, complete with bath-house, garage, greenhouse, and household plot. The collective farm assumes 60 per cent of the payments, with the rest to be made in 25 yearly installments.

We country folk are ambitious. We want our houses to be better than the ones in the city. Have you seen how beautiful our streets are? Our homes are well built, and they are not all



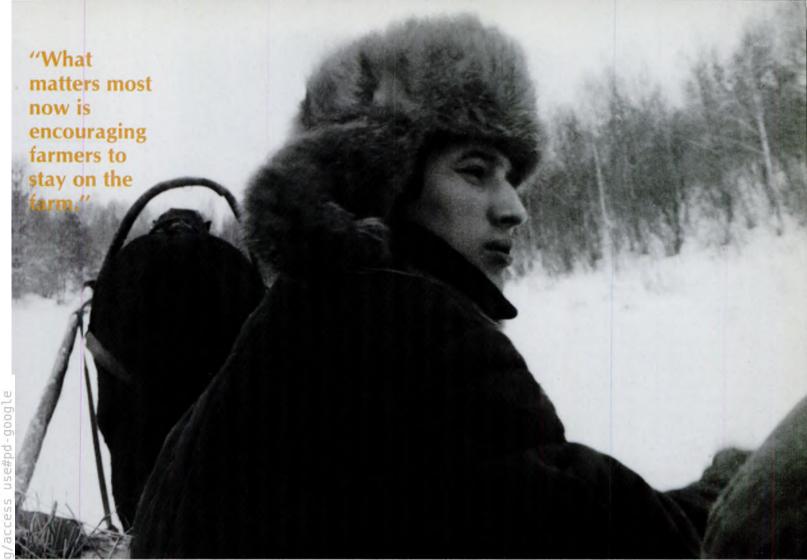
alike. Our school was designed by the best architects. It was built to accommodate a growing population of schoolchildren. We have a brand-new highway too. You'd hardly want to leave a village like ours.

Don't think our life is easy, though—there is still a lot of work to be done. The farmwork is as hard as ever, and the few benefits we've got haven't been handed to us on a silver platter. I have to fight for everything.

I never curried favor with the bosses. I knew intuitively that the most important thing was economic independence. The bosses were hard on me until they realized I'd get my own way anyhow. So they left me alone—and why shouldn't they? The farm was prospering and fulfilling the state orders.

Economic freedom and equal partnership are novelties for us, though they shouldn't be. Once my farm's bank withdrew money from our ac-







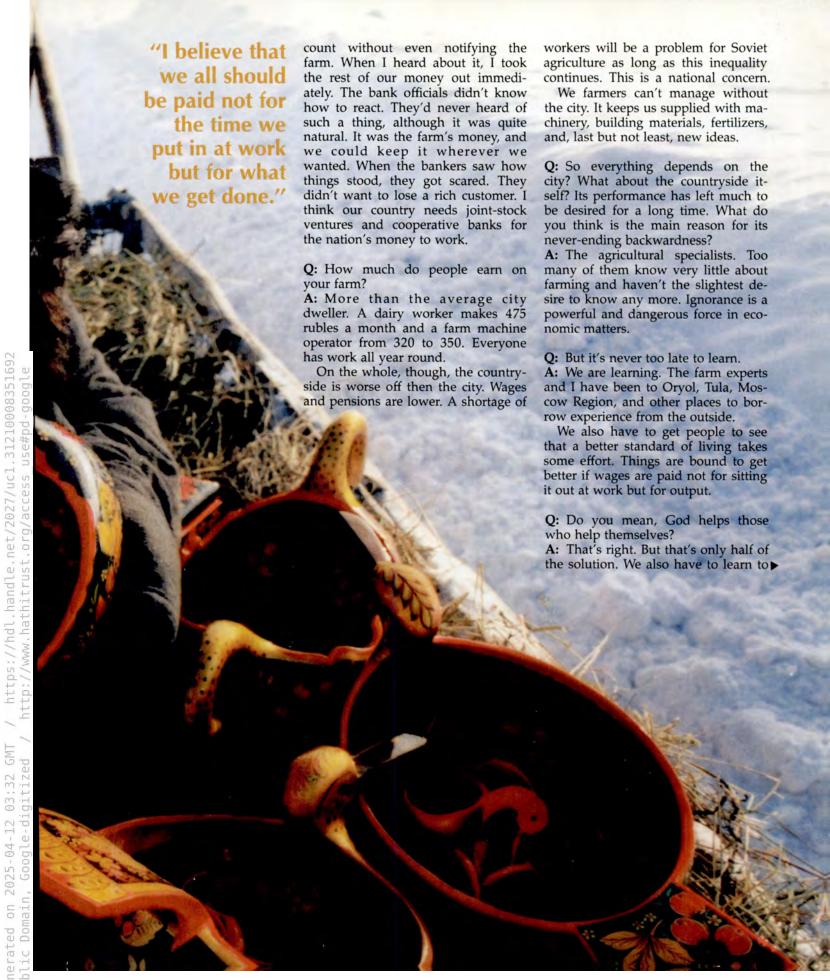
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On Vagin's collective farm child care and education are priority issues. Below: A red-breasted bullfinch in a rowan tree—a typical winter sight.

pay a good wage for a job well done. Let's stop envying other people's incomes. And don't think it's unsocialist to be well off. Only stolen money is bad money.

I believe that we all should be paid not for the time we put in at work but for what we get done. That's how to encourage people to work hard. Our nation needs knowledgeable men and women with courage and stamina. There's no shortage of work for them.

For instance, there are too many collective and state farms that are falling apart. Some people say they

should be dismantled, and that's all there is to it. That would be the easiest thing to do, but what about their land, livestock, and farming implements? And what about farmers who will have nowhere to go? They have a constitutional right to a job, after all. If I were 10 years younger, I'd volunteer to help get such a farm out of the mess it is in.

Q: What exactly would you start with if you were to become a farm manager today?

A: The first thing I'd do would be to find some good workers. And then I'd get down to wages and living conditions. I'd also give free rein to lease-holders and cooperatives of all kinds.

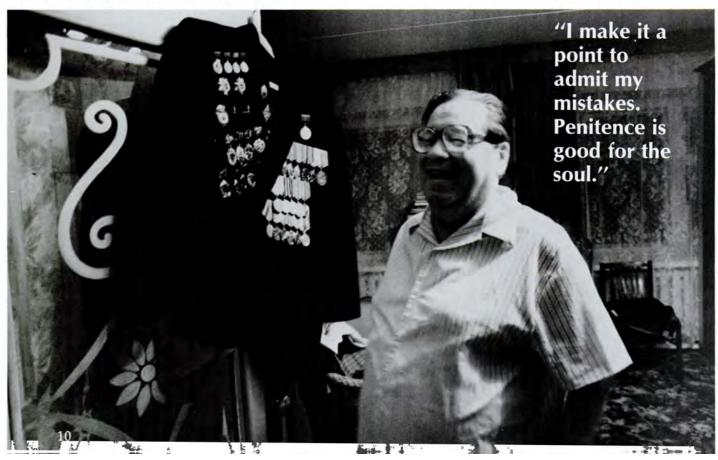
Q: What is your average workday like?

A: It all depends. In the summer I spend most of the day out in the fields. In the winter I usually sit in my office doing calculations, or I go on business trips.

Q: Do you keep any regular office hours?

A: I'll talk business anytime and anywhere you find me. If someone comes to the office when I'm not there, I ask him or her in right away once I'm back. If it's an elderly or disabled person, I send my car to pick him or her up.

Q: How do you react to criticism?
A: I don't like it, but I think I can handle it relatively graciously. And I really appreciate constructive sugges-



tions. I make it a point to admit my mistakes. Penitence is good for the soul. It's no shame and no sin. It's much worse to think you're always right—you're not fooling anyone but yourself.

Q: What's your platform as a people's deputy?

A: Nothing more than what I've been saying and doing all my life. To put it in general terms, I want the Food Program to succeed. We must make the people feel that their work is important, so they'll take pride in their collective farm, their factory, or their institute. Let them earn a decent living for their families. The people and the party have been struggling to bring this about for a long time, so we know it won't be easy.

It's a tremendous responsibility to be in parliament, and it's downright immoral to run for a seat in it unless you have some idea of your own about what to do about our social and

economic problems.

Q: You must have insomnia with all these problems.

A: That's right. I often spend my nights pacing my room, thinking about the farmer's problems. An enormous job lies ahead for all of us. We have to understand the problems that each group faces—both those who are anxious to see enough food on their tables and those whose responsibility it is to make sure the food is there.

Q: My last question will be the traditional one, about your collective farm's harvests and its prospects in general.

A: We'll have to rely on our own resources. It's time we farmers stopped blaming the weather for our failures. The weather has to be reckoned with, certainly—but to put the blame for all our mistakes and lapses of judgment on the rain and the snow? People do slapdash work, the farm and the whole nation suffer—and the culprits go unpunished. This psychology is left over from the time of stagnation. We'll only be able to progress when we put an end to it.

Courtesy of the newspaper Pravda

Fresh from the Sea...



V/O SOVRYBFLOT exports:

- Deep-freeze mackerel, cod, haddock, sardines, squid, tuna, shrimp
- Canned crabs CHATKA and AKO, canned salmon SOCRA, canned sardines, brisling, mackerel
- · Salmon caviar, sturgeon caviar, pollock, and herring eggs

V/O SOVRYBFLOT imports:

- Deep-freeze and salted fish, raw fish meat, fish fillet, canned fish, and fish preserves
- Olive oil, spices and seasonings, dried vegetables, canning tins, etc., for the fish-canning industry
- Fish-processing plant, fishing gear, accessories, seines, trawls, and miscellaneous fishing equipment

V/O SOVRYBFLOT takes care of:

- All the work of ships belonging to the USSR Ministry of Fisheries in foreign waters, on commercial terms
- · Maintenance of Soviet ships in foreign ports between fishing trips
- All the work on setting up joint ventures in fishing and fish marketing

ADDRESS: V/O SOVRYBFLOT, 9, Rozhdestvensky bulvar, 103051 Moscow, USSR Tel. 208-40-57; Telex 411208



ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

The debate about what direction the Soviet economic reform should take continues. Two well-known economists-Larissa Pivasheva, Candidate of Science (Economics), and Nikolai Petrakov, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences-present two different views on domestic economic change.

Larissa Piyasheva

Time to Raise the Alarm

Il Soviet economic entities have introduced, or are working toward, self-supporting plans. Soon we shall have new wholesale prices to regulate market operations. Some ministries have been closed, administrative staffs reduced, and people allowed to organize family or cooperate ventures.

However, the shelves in our stores are still half-empty. Is this because we are inefficient or because "the conservatives" are holding us back? The reform simply has not happened yet because we have failed to shape its ultimate aim, strategy, and instruments. The concept of the reform's being vague has led to ineffective, halfhearted legislation, and our reluctance to make a cardinal change is responsible for all our decisions having the character of compromise.

The basic gauge of the reform, which beats everything we saw under Brezhnev and is more democratic than anything effected in Stalin's time, has proved inadequate because our starting point is negative value, not even zero.

The reform of the 1960s was doomed to failure because it didn't go deep enough. The striving for "developed socialism" made us oblivious to commodity-money relations and performancebased management. We did not fully realize that commodity-money relations require a convertible ruble, free pricing, the discontinuation of bureaucratic apportionment practices, and a free market of labor and capital. Individual, family, and cooperative operations mean legalizing the ownership of property by an individual, a cooperative, or a joint-stock company.

Democracy and pluralism in economics presuppose not just the right to speak out but also the right to lease property; to become a member of a joint-stock company; to buy or sell land; and to launch an industrial venture, a trade association, or an investment project with your own or borrowed money. Economic liberty presupposes the right to take risks, win or lose, and to pursue

your own free strategy.

Breaking even on the balance sheet is choosing between commercial success and bankruptcy. The first step toward breaking even should be a law on bankruptcy, and bankruptcy itself should be made possible by canceling all government subsidies and privileges, normative standards, targets, and regulations (except safety and ecological regulations), treating all producers as economic equals, and not interfering in their commercial operations.

Financially and organizationally, cooperatives have not been made the equal of public-sector producers, which is important for fostering fair competition between them. We have not yet passed legislation on property rights, bankruptcy, and joint-stock companies. The ruble is still unbacked paper money. There is no antiinflation legislation to curb the issuing of paper money. The pricing reform has been reduced to setting up a commission to compute new 'grounded" prices and normative standards.

Instead of figuring out new economic methods, the economists are engaged in an academic

discussion on what the socialist attitude should be toward cost accounting, economic autonomy, and breaking even.

The reform is giving up the ghost before our very eyes. Isn't it time to sound the alarm?

Undoubtedly, with centralization and state monopoly, it is easier to organize "great five-year projects." However, as we know from experience, this policy has not made us better off.

I for one think that no government, however wise and energetic, will be able to blend "socialist gains" (centralized planning, state ownership, departmentalism, etc.) with a marketoriented system (free pricing, a free market of labor, capital, and securities).

Marx, Lenin, Bukharin, and Trotsky were not able to foresee how we would live today. They could not foretell the high technology which is currently nullifying the achievements of the Soviet industrialization period, or economic miracles periodically performed by the market-oriented model, or space flights

and associated development prospects. Maybe it's time we stopped drowning correct economic principles in verbiage for the sake of preserving the ideological dogmas.

A tactic of "little steps," in both directions at once, has been devised, and again we hear calls to work better, to display enthusiasm and dedi-



"Marx, Lenin, Bukharin, and Trotsky were not able to foresee how we would live today."



cation. What is meant by urging "more socialism"? More centralism or more private property? More planning or free pricing? Or maybe it is time to begin a new economic reform.

Nikolai Petrakov

The "Better" Model

arissa Piyasheva's opinion evokes mixed feelings. She is right that the restructuring of Soviet management is extremely slow and inconsistent. The overt and covert opponents of economic change sabotage or misinterpret decisions to promote economic democracy. That is why many economists, lawyers, social scientists, journalists, plant managers, and grassroots activists are sounding the alarm.

What is important about Piyasheva's stand is not her criticism of our defects and setbacks, but the way she plots to combat them. Her recipe stems from her conclusion that socialism is bankrupt as an economic system. "Maybe it's time we stopped drowning correct economic principles in verbiage for the sake of preserving the ideologi-

cal dogmas," she says.

It is easy to pass for a radical these days. Piyasheva's train of thought is simple enough. She sticks to contrasts: black and white, odd and even, socialism and capitalism. This oversimplified approach was preached by the textbooks and teachers of political economy and scientific communism for half a century. Inflated eulogies of "real" socialism were combined with furious attacks on all things Western, including ideology, science, and economic practices.

The young economist's protest boils down to the change of signs. Piyasheva puts a minus where we used to see a plus. Her protest remains within the limits of the old mentality, disregarding the great diversity of the world around us, economic multiplicity, in particular. We know from bitter experience that extremist ideas breed extremist actions. Many's the time we threw the baby out with the bath water. However, this has not taught us anything.

The communist ideal dates back more than a thousand years. It has assumed various forms, some irrational, some fantastic, some pragmatic-early Christianity, "the medieval cities of the sun," utopian socialism, scientific communism, Trotskyism, and Stalinism, which all of us know from experience.

Before opting for the "better" model, socialism or capitalism, let us establish how we perceive socialism and contemporary capitalism and the kind of society that we have built.

To me, the basic idea reflecting the humanism of socialist philosophy and underlying its vitality is that it sees the individual as a value in itself and advocates the right of the individual to a dignified life and the development of all his abilities, irrespective of the role this person plays in a nation's economic activities or his capacity to earn money. Hence, socialism wants every person to enjoy social guarantees, such as free access to spiritual and cultural values, guaranteed subsistence (housing, food, clothes, and health care), and the right to work.

The philosophy of free enterprise rejects all this. Vincent van Gogh would have starved to death without painting even a few of the pictures he actually did had it not been for the support from his brother Theo. The public was indifferent to Van Gogh's pictures when he was alive, and the market thus denied him the right to life. Soviet history knows of many painters, poets, and prose writers who were murdered or forced to emigrate simply because they did not please the regime. The conclusion? Stalinism had little to do

with socialism. Economically and socially, Stalinism was a variety of neofeudalism with its curbed personal liberty, hierarchical pyramid of power, and punitive apparatus. Socialist ideas reached us in a distorted form, if at all. Socialism was being discredited at home and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, socialist ideas were penetrating social structures in the West. The competing interests of different social groups stimulated effective resistance to the omnipotence of the market forces and their outward expansionism. While not changing the essence of capitalism, this has made it more socially acceptable to many public groups and, hence, more stabilized. Capitalism owes this stability to the socialist principles it has flexibly built into its own social system.

We have always been short of such flexibility. Maybe it's because dialectical attitudes were discouraged as revisionism and a market-oriented socialism. But can socialism ignore the market?

Marx pointed out that socialism would preserve value as an economic category and "bourgeois law" to counter egalitarian distribution. Under socialism, economic equality is performance-based equality. Performance is evaluated by consumers rather than by the State Planning Committee. The market concept actually means consumers' freedom of choice limited only by the size of their earnings. We should couple the market mechanism with humanistic social guarantees. We want to have precisely this model of socialism.

Courtesy of the magazine Rodina



"The communist ideal dates back more than a thousand years."



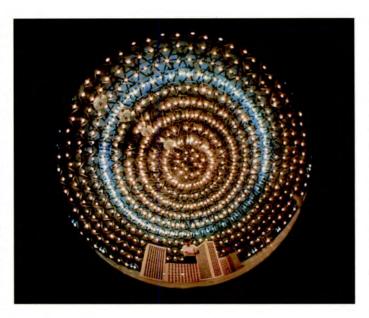
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t can safely be said that only in the Soviet Union do architects and construction engineers have to deal with every possible set of climatic conditions. In our country there are cities and fairly large enterprises in desert areas, in the permafrost zone, in subtropical regions, in places like the Baltic republics (where the cloudy weather is similar to Great Britain's), in very mountainous areas, and in extremely continental climates like that of Siberia.

Construction of residential, public, and industrial buildings is proceeding on a

massive scale. As is the case in most countries, all construction in the Soviet Union is governed by numerous building regulations and standards. Among the categories regulated are heating, lighting, and acoustics. These three main areas are subject to intense



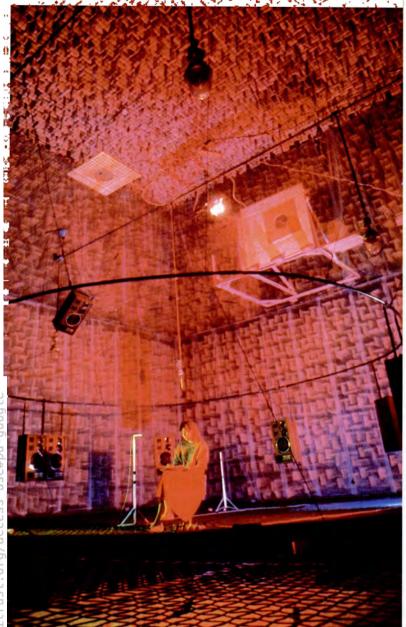
he Research Institute of ■ Construction Physics' "artificial sky." Below: A model of Moscow's House of Music. Facing page: Acoustical elements that will be used in concert and conference halls.

study at the Research Institute of Construction Physics in Moscow.

The institute was founded in 1956. Today its modern experimental facilities attract highly qualified specialists. Some of these researchers study problems of heat insulation; natural and artificial lighting in shops, in industrial plants, and in administrative and residential blocks; and protection against noise pollution. Other lines of research are acoustics in civic and cultural centers, the climatic zoning of the country, the use of unconventional and renewable sources of en-

ergy, and the conservation of resources. The institute is the leading authority on these problems nationwide, and as such it shapes technical policy in our construction industry. The institute must also deal with many environmental problems.





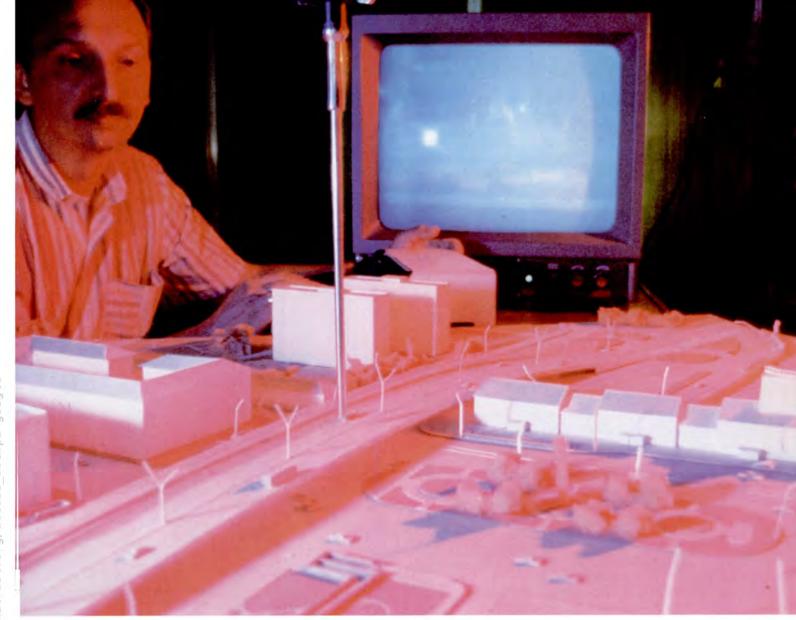
The institute was founded in 1956.
Today its modern experimental facilities attract highly qualified specialists.



In the area of resource conservation, the institute is also conducting advanced research into unconventional methods of heating and cooling, exploring the use of thermal pumps and solar power. Scientists have developed entirely new thermal pump units for heating rural dwellings situated in all climatic zones of the country.

Sound is another major element of the habitat. Most often this habitat is limited by walls. Rooms should ensure a high quality of sound production and perception (music in concert halls), but at the same time they should reduce as much as possible noise that does not carry useful information (music in a neighbor's apartment).

R esearchers institute conduct thermal experiments using lasers (right) and experiments in acoustics using this soundproofing chamber (above). Above right: This device produces a television image of a housing development.



It is better, of course, to remove irritants altogether. But in acoustics that's usually impossible. In many cases techniques must be developed to screen out or absorb sound and vibration. Development of such methods is a top priority for the acoustics laboratories at the institute.

The institute's lighting laboratories are concerned with artificial and natural lighting and designing nontraditional systems for a comfortable lighting environment.

In recent years the institute has developed a theory of combined illumination whose application has resulted in a major savings of electricity. Another major accomplishment is the "artificial sky" experimental installation, which can tailor the lighting environment of any place on the

Attempts have been made in recent years to make direct use of sunlight for interior lighting. According to estimates by the Research Institute of Construction Physics, the transition to rational solar illumination in this country will gain close to 20 billion kilowatt-hours a year without any substantial capital outlays. This is equivalent to the annual output of several large power stations.

International cooperation is very important in developing and testing experimental systems of solar lighting. Steps to develop various research projects have already been taken.

The Research Institute of Construction Physics is taking part in the work of three international organizations: the International Council for Construction Research, Studies, and Documentation; the International Commission on Illumination; and the International Organization for Standardization. In addition, close and productive ties have been established between the Soviet institute and similar institutions in Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States (for example, the National Academy of Sciences). A further expansion of ties will unquestionably promote the cause of creating comfort for us allthe mission of construction physics.

Alexander Spiridonov and Vladimir Mogutov are engineers at the Research Institute of Construction Physics.

The Red Church had housed Ivanovo's archives since the 1930s. Now the faithful wanted it back.

onflicts between believers struggling to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of worship and the local authorities-who do not always comply with the law on such issues-have taken various forms in this country over the past few years. However, last March a conflict between believers and bureaucrats that had long been smoldering in Ivanovo, Central Russia, became instant news nationwide. Five Orthodox believers went on a hunger strike.

The Church of the Presentation, built in 1907, is popularly known as the Red Church because it is made of red brick. Since the 1930s, when it was closed as a functioning church, the building has been used to house the local archives. However, new premises have recently been built for the archives, and Orthodox believers in Ivanovo wanted the church to return to its former use.

After many months of unsuccessfully trying to break down the local bureaucrats' resistance to the believers' cause, a group of five women decided to resort to the ultimate "argument"—the risk of their own lives. At 8 A.M. on March 21 the women stationed themselves in front of the Sovremennik movie theater with a poster that read: "We are going on a hunger strike beginning today. We will not eat or drink until the Red Church is open for services. We are prepared to die at the birthplace of the first Soviets." (Every Soviet child learns in school that the first Soviets were established in Ivanovo.)

At the turn of the century, when its population was only 40,000, Ivanovo had 11 churches. Now it has a population of 481,000, but only one Orthodox church open for services. The overcrowding that has resulted from this scarcity is quite serious. Some people are not able to get into church on holy days at all, while those who are able to get in put themselves at risk of being injured in the crush.

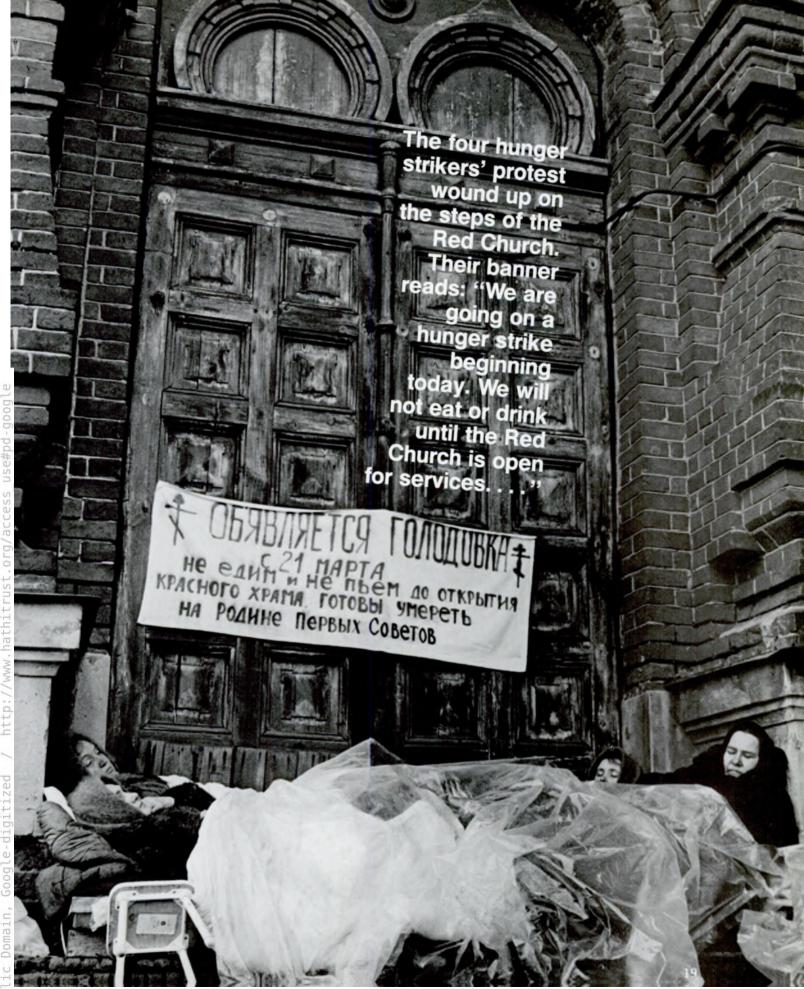
Given such a situation, the right to conduct religious worship, guaranteed by the USSR Constitution, is a mockery. Why should the Ivanovo authorities so persistently have denied the Orthodox community the opportunity to worship freely? These officials are all university-educated people. Could they possibly have failed to understand that their actions were illegal?

Early on the morning of April 1, on the ▶

BELIEVERS VS. BUREAUCRATS

RECLAIMING THE ED CHURCH





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rchimandrite **Ambrosius** with hunger striker Margarita Pilenkova. Every day he gave the believers communion at the movie theater, at the church, and in the hospital. Below: Collecting signatures in support of the strikers.



twelfth day of the hunger strike, the four remaining hunger strikers were taken to the local hospital. One of the original five had dropped out soon after the strike began. The women were first treated in the emergency room and later admitted to the hospital. Their condition was

poor indeed.

Before I went to see the women at the hospital, I was as worried about their mental state as I was about their physical condition. I was afraid that I would find four bitter religious fanatics, martyrs, demanding to have their own way no matter what the cost. But I found nothing of the kind. They were simply devout believers who felt they had been deeply wronged and were looking for justice. Kholina told me, between frequent pauses for breath and sips of water (the women had agreed to drink water only after the first few days): "We were willing to wait. We just wanted guarantees that the church would resume its original function. But then we realized that we were getting the run-around. On March 20 we sent the Regional Executive Committee a letter saying that we were prepared to go on a hunger strike. Later that same day we got a call from an Executive Committee secretary, asking us to postpone our strike for one day so that the committee could reconsider. But there was no point—we'd already decided that these people weren't going to take us seriously.

"We didn't sleep at all the first night," Kholina went on. "It was a cold and windy night. We were all scared. At 11:30 the next morning, two buses pulled up and about 15 members of the militia got out. They made their way through the crowd and told us that the City Executive Committee had passed a resolution prohibiting us from staying on the site. We didn't say anything. While one of them tore down our posters, others dragged us to the buses. People were yelling,

'You're a disgrace to your uniform!'

"The militia drove us to the Church of the Presentation and dragged us out of the buses. When we got to our feet, they told us: 'Here's your church. Do anything you want here—fast for a whole year if you want to.' One of the men was considerate enough to call his chief, who came out and told us that nobody would disturb us again. And in fact, there were no more actions against us. We stayed on the steps of the church until March 31. We slept on boards. People brought us blankets, and we put a sheet of plastic over them to protect us from the rain. The first few days without water were the worst."

One day Lieutenant Colonel Victor Podziruk, a military pilot who had just been elected a People's Deputy of the USSR, came to see the fasting women. Later Podziruk told me: "I went to the church on the evening of March 27. The

Continued on page 37





irov's new Russian Orthodox community takes stock of all its material possessions of value, including icons donated by parishioners. Top: Father Alexander Mogilyov (left); Deacon Ivan Martynov (center), of the Trinity Church in Kirov; and architect and restorer Yevgeni Skopin.



PARISH'S LABOR OF LOVE

By Elya Vasilyeva Photographs by Vladimir Fedorenko

eyond a sharp turn in the road, in the middle of a vast valley outside of Kirov (about 975 kilometers northeast of Moscow) stands the snow-white Trinity Church. Built in 1770, the church still impresses the viewer with its graceful lines, its perfect proportions, and the splendor of its interior.

A year ago, by decision of the Kirov Regional Executive Committee, Trinity Church was returned to the faithful. But for more than 25 years before that, the local religious community and the local authorities had battled over the church—a battle that was quite easy for the authorities and absolutely exhausting for the believers. During that time the church had housed a cultural center with a dance floor covering the area where the altar once stood and a portrait of Vladimir Lenin in the place where an ancient icon of Jesus Christ had hung

"Its just amazing that we've managed to restore our beautiful church in such a short time," said Ivan Martynov, deacon of the Church Council. Martynov struggled courageously from 1962 to 1988 to have the community registered as a parish.

"When the church was returned to us, we were overjoyed, but the job that faced us was so enormous that we wondered whether we'd be able to cope," Martynov went on. "From February to October 1988 about 100 parishioners showed up every day to help restore the building. It was very difficult, but we worked hard for the glory of the Lord.

"We still have a lot of work to do. Soon we'll start work on a convent. The city officials have allotted us a plot of land, and the project is already under way.'

The church and the beautiful fence around it were restored by the believers themselves, who had donated more than 300,000 rubles to the project. "But no amount of money can measure the effort we've made," said Martynov.

Now the life of the community is running smoothly. The 20 Church Council members, who are all of different ages and professions, are in charge of the believers' everyday problems. The council buys equipment for the church, maintains the building and its grounds, and pays the salaries of the priests and the deacons from the Church income. The council has also bought four houses for the clergy and their families.

"I'm getting up in years," said Martynov, a war veteran who worked until his retirement as a boatman on the Vyatka River, which flows past this ancient Russian city. "I've done my civic duty. I did▶ an honest day's work all my life, and I brought up two daughters, both of whom have their own families now. I'm on pension and can devote the rest of my life to my Church and to my community."

"A good community is a community where there is harmony among the priests, mutual respect between the pastors and the parish, and understanding within the congregation," said Father Makari, one of the three priests at Trinity Church. "Our Church is experiencing its own kind of *perestroika*. The spiritual revival of the people is in our hands. The Church's ultimate goal, of course, is to prepare its flock for the heavenly kingdom, for eternal life. But we never neglect the earthly needs of the people. That's why it is our duty to serve not only believers but all the citizens of our homeland.

"I was quite shocked recently when I read in the newspapers that 50,000 people commit suicide every year. What can we do to save people from despair? The Church is ready to help them, but it will be a long and difficult process. It's easy to destroy, but it's very hard to rebuild what's already been demolished. We've come to a spiritual crisis, but with God's help we will revive our homeland."

Archbishop Khrisanf has headed the Kirov eparchy for more than 10 years. He says that he inherited the most neglected of the eparchies and that he has worked hard to revive it.

"I've come to love this northern land and its marvelous people," he said. "I've gone through so many trials that everything is dear to me here. It seems that people in general quickly forget what comes easily and remember most vividly what they've managed to achieve in the face of many difficulties.

"The Church has come back to life, but there are still many problems. The most obvious is the unpreparedness of the believers themselves. They come to services, but they've never read the Bible. They feel drawn to the Church, but they know nothing about it and cannot even make the sign of the cross correctly."

Archbishop Khrisanf believes, however, that the Church's opportunities to communicate with the people are still somewhat limited without its own newspapers, radio and television programs, and Sunday schools. "We're very lucky that on the Kirov Regional Executive Committee we have an ally, Galina Smerdova, who understands all our problems and is doing everything she can to help us."

"We must strictly protect the rights of believers," said Smerdova, the young Executive Committee secretary who acts as a liaison between the eparchy and the local government. Smerdova is the type of Soviet executive who can accept new ideas and translate them into reality.

"Life is changing our attitudes and, certainly, those of the party and government bodies toward religion," said Smerdova. "And this change of attitude has had some very tangible effects. During the first five months of 1989, 1,402 churches have been opened around the country. In 1988 the figure was 1,070. The situation in Kirov Region reflects the nationwide trend. Until 1987 not a single new church was registered in the whole region. In 1987 two new parishes were registered. In 1988 the number increased by seven; and in 1989, eleven. Eight churches have been returned to their former congregations, and the construction of new churches has started. This doesn't mean there aren't any problems. Old laws have been scrapped, and new ones are still being worked out.

"I wholeheartedly support the idea of restoring our churches and our land. When you pass church ruins, you get used to the sight and lose touch with your homeland. I want our land to be a real home for all of us. Of course, it's not enough simply to state that. There's a great deal of work that still needs to be done. *Perestroika* is demanding, and there is no end to the work."

SOVIET EXHIBITION TO TOUR THE STATES

By Oleg Shibko

ow is *perestroika* developing in the USSR? Is it capable of bringing about radical changes for the better in Soviet society?

What are its chances for success?

The traveling exhibition "Perestroika in the USSR," which will tour the United States for three months, will try to answer these and many other questions.

The exhibition opens in Orlando, Florida, in mid-December. The display will occupy 1,200 square meters over-all. Americans will learn about the social and economic changes taking place in the Soviet Union, the new political thinking in the country, and the present state of Soviet-American relations.

A considerable amount of space is set aside to show how Soviet factories are being converted from armaments production to civilian production. Ecology, the environment, is the theme of another exhibit.

Unique equipment, mockups of the new generation of Soviet spaceships, books and paintings by avant-garde writers and artists, religious artifacts, rare Russian gold and silver coins, and many other items of interest will be on display.

USSR People's Deputies—members of the new Soviet legislature—eminent scientists, experts, and cosmonauts will take part in discussions at the exhibition's club. There will also be performances by folk song and dance companies and fashion shows.

The exhibition will also feature various quizzes, for which the prizes will include a free trip to the USSR and original souvenirs.

From Orlando the exhibition will travel to Dallas, Texas, and then on to San Diego, California.

The American exhibition "Design in the USA" began its tour of several Soviet cities in Moscow last September. The two exhibitions are a result of a Soviet-American agreement signed in Geneva in 1985.



UNEMPLOYMENT

AVOIDING THE PITFALLS

Weeded out from our lexicon for decades, the word "unemployment" is now creeping back into our newspaper and magazine articles, television interviews, economists' reports, and government officials' speeches. Is unemployment possible in a country that has no officially registered jobless but has millions of people, who are capable of working, not working? The following is a summary of an article by Victor Shirokov that was published in *Pravda*.

o euphemism for the word "unemployed" can hide the fact that explosive population growth in Central Asia, southern Kazakhstan, and the Caucasus has created surplus labor in these regions. In 1986 unemployment reached 27.6 per cent in Azerbaijan, 25.7 per cent in Tajikistan, 22.8 per cent in Uzbekistan, 18.8 per cent in Turkmenia, 18 per cent in Armenia, and 16.3 per cent in Kirghizia. The situation has changed little since then.

"Workers at self-financing factories and plants are now counting every kopeck," said Yuri Tigalev, who heads the Labor Rationalization Department at the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. "As a result, an excess of workers has appeared. This group is mostly composed of young, inexperienced workers, mothers with young children, and people who are approaching or who are past the normal retirement age. These workers are the most vulnerable to unemployment."

Now that self-financing of all factories and plants and whole regions is envisaged by Soviet economists as the only way out of the economic crisis, dismissal of superfluous workers seems to be an inevitable aftermath.

More than three million people have lost their job in the Soviet Union since 1986, and experts predict that by the year 2005 the number will reach 15 to 16 million. Not counted in this figure are those workers who will lose their job as a

result of the conversion of defense factories to civilian production and the reduction of military troops.

Each year new categories of able-bodied workers enter the "labor market" (we'll have to accept this term). This particularly applies to the bureaucracy, which is so overstaffed that cuts in the white-collar work force are inevitable. No wonder the number of engineers and technicians in the economy is being reduced three times as fast as the number of industrial workers or blue-collar workers.

Most vulnerable to work force cuts are mothers with young children, school dropouts, handicapped workers, and ex-convicts. In short, if we honestly accept the facts, we see that the number of people constantly or temporarily unemployed has reached a critical level.

A factory director I know used to say, "I wish I had a few jobless people outside my gates." He meant, of course, that at his enterprise, productivity would jump, the quality of products would increase, and discipline would strengthen if the workers felt someone else might take their jobs. But it is a dubious conclusion since unemployment would affect not only those who are outside the gates but also those who would have to work harder to support them.

Which way will the Soviet Union go if we accept the existence of unemployment? Replying to this question, Pyotr Rudev, deputy head of the Labor Management and Employment Department at the State Committee for Labor and Social Issues, expressed a view that at first seemed paradoxical to me:

"From the point of view of the state, unemployment does not threaten us," Rudev said. "There are plenty of jobs to go around. In any case, there are 1.5 million job vacancies listed in the numerous employment bureaus." But what kind of jobs are these? Jobs that either carry no prestige and are low paying or are located far from populated areas?

Rudev, who has long been studying employment trends, believes that the Soviet Union needs a flexible system under which workers who change jobs or place of residence do not lose their social benefits. Unfortunately, we have no such system yet.

Take, for example, the following: What's the best way to inform people about career opportunities and job vacancies? The labor shortage in



Siberia, for instance, has no effect on unemployment in the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. The want ad that appeals to a computer specialist obviously won't appeal to a weaver. And a want ad offering a job at a cannery means nothing to a journalist.

Meanwhile, in the early eighties the United States created nearly 300 employment data banks, which are a kind of "dating" service between job seekers and employers. We don't have anything of the kind. We don't even have a single state-run employment information service capable of providing objective data about the labor situation nationwide and in individual regions.

Some time ago I came across the following report by the TASS news agency: "Who would think that an 'association of the unemployed,' which claims to represent the interests of 23 million people, would crop up in this country?"

It's a frightening number of people, but is it accurate? Can our state-run employment agencies provide their own information? In any case, it appears that the independent organization is more thorough than its "official" counterpart.

A law guaranteeing employment is being drafted, but I have doubts about its effectiveness unless a special employment fund is created and principles for creating it are formulated. Sweden, for example, allocates nearly two per cent of its gross national product to the financing of employment programs. We cannot afford this, but, according to Rudev, if we allocated at least 0.3 per cent of our gross social product to these purposes, or about two billion rubles, it would be a social revolution in the area of implementing our citizens' right to work.

It is possible that to create an employment fund, we may need to take deductions from the profits of factories and plants and the earnings of their workers.

When I was in Great Britain, I got into a conversation with a young man named Michael, the driver of the bus in which our delegation was touring the country.

"I have no full-time job," Michael told me. He did not sound very upset. "This is a part-time summer job for me." And he started explaining to me the intricacies of the complex unemployment benefit system.

What are we to do? In the present situation we can hardly pay high unemployment benefits for a long period of time. So it is more important for us to concentrate on measures to prevent unemployment, that is, to regulate in advance the process of work force reduction, retraining, and reemployment. In building new enterprises, we must take into account the demographics in dif-

ferent regions and stimulate the development of enterprises and cooperatives for young people, mothers, pensioners, and the handicapped. We should also encourage factories and industrial plants to increase the number of shifts in order to increase the number of jobs, without building new enterprises.

I remember a speaker at the summer session of the new Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, saying that we used to consider a high level of social security one of the chief advantages of socialism. At the same time, he said, this high level of social security has had a depressing effect on productivity.

This feeling of job security has created widespread apathy and indifference. People no longer take pride in what they are doing. While declaring the right to work, which is guaranteed by the USSR Constitution, we ignore quality and the need to pay workers in accordance with their actual input.

Productivity and job efficiency are the only means of restructuring the Soviet economy. To continue cultivating the myth about full employment in order to simply find a place for everyone is both expensive and immoral. People may lose their jobs due to modernization and greater job efficiency, so we must not shut our eyes to that and continue to proclaim abstract slogans. We can't ignore the laws of economics.

The sooner we abandon the dogma about full employment, the sooner we resolve our chronic economic and social problems, realize that life is a constant struggle, and begin to value enterprise and initiative.

Not everyone may like it. For too long we looked at reality through rose-colored glasses. Many readers' letters to *Pravda* bear this out. "I don't want and, I think, all Soviet people do not want a labor exchange and unemployment to appear in this country," wrote Mikhail Golubev of Saratov.

"It makes me angry whenever I think of all those lazy bums who'll be receiving unemployment benefits," wrote another reader, Gennadi Pirozhkov, from the Perm region.

Many people here still think that unemployment is something that depends on someone's will rather than on the economic state of society. They fail to realize that it is social insecurity and poverty that create social outcasts.

So, is the threat of unemployment hovering over us? It is a meaningless question because unemployment is now a fact of life in many regions of the country. The question we must answer now is: What should be done to ease the situation, to avoid its pitfalls, and to guarantee and safeguard our citizens' right to work?



Aided by modern

gaining renewed

Kotlyarsky tells me.

popularity.

electronics, the ancient art of iridodiagnosis is

f you notice that a button on

your coat is hanging by a

thread, you sew it on tightly, so

you won't lose it. The same goes for your health. Early di-

agnosis can prevent many diseases from developing into some-

thing more serious," Dr. Anatoli

"But how can you tell if you've got something?" I ask.

The tiny iris, which is intimately

connected to the internal organs,

can tell us where a disease might

lbe lurking. Advances in technology

lhave given new life to the method

of using the eyeball to detect many

diseases. Moscow Polyclinic No.

171 has opened an iridodiagnostic

"It's all in the eyes," he says.

After reviewing the short personal data questionnaire filled out by patients and checking their iridograms, the doctor refers patients to the proper specialist.

Recently, the screening of a group of 150 workers at Khimvolokno's sister plant in Daugavpils, Latvia, confirmed all of their iridodiagnoses. Sometimes this method is more accurate than conventional ones.

"Our equipment was very primitive at first," Kotlyarsky continues. "Later we used black-and-white and then color television cameras. But the blazing light tired the eye. When the Moscow Research Institute of Television came up with a highly sensitive camera—the Spektr 10 VSK—we finally had what we needed to set up a mobile laboratory."

This compact camera does not require additional lighting and ensures live color transmission from the iris, enlarging it 40 times. The computer processes the video signal according to the doctor-as-



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The eye magnified manyfold appears on a TV screen. From this image, the experienced doctor can distinguish specific changes in the iris, which can mean one of several diseases.

creasing contrast and enlarging a particular sector. The image is videotaped for thorough study.

When the mobile laboratory, called the Spektr-iris, was exhibited in Geneva, it aroused great interest. Since the whole examination doesn't take more than two minutes, it's ideal for the most



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Under the INF Treaty, a U.S. inspection team is to live in Votkinsk until the year 2000.



estled in the western foothills of the Ural Mountains is the provincial town Votkinsk. The town is typical of many others in Udmurtia, an autonomous republic of the Russian Federation. Lining the main street in Votkinsk are one- and twostory frame dwellings decorated with ornate carved wood platbands, just like in the past. Many of the homes here are privately owned. Their interiors are filled with incongruous things: bundles of firewood, quaint hand-embroidered doilies, heavy upholstered furniture, fancy carpets, and color television sets-tangible proof that you are in the twentieth century.

Votkinsk has several interesting landmarks, including one house where Nadezhda Krupskaya, Vladimir Lenin's wife, stopped on her way into exile. Another, now a museum, is where composer Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky was born and grew up, imbibing the atmosphere that he later imparted to his music.

Only on the outskirts of town,

USA

along the banks of the nearby river, do you find any evidence that it is actually a medium-sized industrial hub and the site of a defense industry factory. For years Votkinsk was closed to tourists, and there was nothing to disrupt the sleepy life of the provincial town. That is, until recently...

The on-site inspection team from the United States arrived in Votkinsk on July 1, 1988. Hardly had the townsfolk digested this news when a U.S. Air Force transport plane landed at the local airport with equipment and gear necessary not only for inspection work but for the day-to-day life of the American settlement going up outside the walls of the defense factory. In accordance with the INF Treaty, the Americans are to remain in Votkinsk until the year 2000.

The American side has a permanent staff of 30. Colonels Douglas Anglund and George Connel take turns running the show. Besides the military personnel, the group consists





An atmosphere of friendship reigns throughout the inspection complex in Votkinsk. The American team puts on a humorous skit at one joint social event. Left: Members of the American team say they are adjusting to the Russian winter. Facing page, left to right: Colonel Anglund is head of the American team. A red light does not spell alarm for the inspectors. It means that work is done, and it's time to relax.

of civilian inspectors, interpreters, and consultants, who have been sent by various companies to install and service equipment.

During a visit to Votkinsk last February, I spoke with several of the newcomers. Kevin Moon is a civilian inspector. It is his first time in the Soviet Union.

"What do you think of your new place of work?" I asked him. "How's the 'terrible Russian winter' treating you?"

"Everything is still strange," Moon answered, "but I like it here. As for the winter, snow and frost are nothing new. I was born in the American North, where the winters are pretty severe too."

That's not the case with Richard McGibbon, who hails from sunny New Mexico. He's in Votkinsk representing the Sandia Scientific Laboratory. He said the trip was well worth it if only to see "a sea of snow."

Ann Mortensen, who speaks fluent Russian, is working as an interpreter. She had studied in Leningrad and lived in a student dorm, so she is familiar with aspects of Soviet life.

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I asked her what she liked best about Votkinsk.

"The local market," she replied. "It's so unusual, not at all like our markets back home."

Before signing on as the American inspection team's chef, Charles Biasotty had spent years plying the ocean as a ship's cook.

"Home-cooked food is really very good here," Biasotty said, "especially the borsch and *pelmeni*—small meat dumplings. The local canteen also

serves pretty fair meals."

The members of the American team have plenty of work to do, but those who are off duty don't seem to complain that life is boring in Votkinsk. They can ski the nearby slopes, work out in gyms, and swim in the local pool. They can also travel to Izhevsk, the capital of Udmurtia, for concerts and plays or simply a stroll through the town, dropping by the church, the market, and the shops.

I had an opportunity to talk with Colonel Anglund, the head of the American inspection team.

"You're probably aware that Votkinsk was a place of exile in the past. Do you or your colleagues ever get the feeling that you're in exile?"

"Not in the least," he answered.
"The countryside here is beautiful, and there are many opportunities for taking up sports."

"You were a military attaché in the USSR during the stagnation period. Now you are here during *perestroika*. Do you see any differences?"

"I'm happy to say that the people here are well informed about what's going on inside and outside the country. The nature of the news has changed too. Also, Soviet people talk more freely with us. It's much more pleasant to be here now."

The on-site inspection teams are housed in small modular units connected by a long corridor, the U.S. inspectors on the right side and the Soviet inspectors on the left. An atmosphere of friendship permeates the entire site.

Colonel Anglund believes that the U.S. on-site inspection team and their Soviet counterparts living in the United States, in Magna, Utah, are doing a necessary job. One of the most important things to come out of this work is a greater level of confidence between the two countries.



eneral Dmitri Yazov, USSR Minister of Defense and a member of the Politburo of the USSR Supreme Soviet, talks about his recent visit to the United States with Izvestia correspondent Ruslan Ignatyev.

Q: You are the first Soviet defense minister in the history of Soviet-American relations to pay an official visit to the United States, which was emphasized by the foreign media. What do you think about it?

A: Obviously, the official visit by a Soviet military delegation to the United States is the result of the improved international climate, including Soviet-American relations, which has been brought about by new political thinking. Shaped by the realities of the nuclear and space age, this thinking is now gaining ground in the traditionally difficult and controversial military sphere.

Viewing the visit in this context, both sides agree that it contributed to the further development of the Soviet-American political dialogue, especially its military aspects. Military affairs play a very important role in wide-ranging Soviet-American relations. They determine the approach in solving what is perhaps the most urgent and difficult problems of our time.

Q: What were the most important events scheduled during your visit? A: The Americans prepared a full and interesting program for us.

First, there was the meeting with President George Bush at the White House. The President asked about perestroika and about progress in implementing social, political, and economic reforms. We also discussed questions concerning disarmament, including the issues on which no agreement has yet been reached in Geneva and Vienna.

Second, there were the talks with Secretary of State James Baker, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, members of Congress, and American military leaders. We discussed a wide range of issues concerning the development of Soviet-American relations, especially in the military sphere, and

EAST/WEST

FROM CONFRONTATION TO POLITICAL DIALOGUE



Dmitri Yazov

the negotiations on the limitation and reduction of troops and armaments. We also discussed the main elements of Soviet and American military doctrines; the mechanism of decision making in the area of defense and national security; the development and modernization of the armed forces; the drafting and adoption of defense budgets; and other issues. I would like to emphasize that all the discussions were frank and were designed to promote mutual understanding.

And third—the visits to a U.S. naval, air, and missile base and the marine and landing troops training centers. We were able to become acquainted with various categories of members of the U.S. armed services. Here, too, the Americans demonstrated a great deal of openness. We value this reciprocal step by the American side. Prior to this visit, American military delegations had come to the USSR, and we showed them many Soviet military sites and

modern armaments and military hardware. So we have achieved reciprocity in this area.

Q: Won't such openness harm our defense capability?

A: No. Excessive secretiveness and the desire to create a shroud of secrecy where there is no need for it are things of the past, when stereotypes of suspicion and hostility prevailed over common sense. New political thinking implies the development of relations on fundamentally different principles. It implies trust, without which no mutual understanding can be achieved.

Q: What would you say about the state and prospects of Soviet-American contacts in the military sphere, and what is the significance of these contacts for relations between the United States and the Soviet Union? A: Until 1988 Soviet-American military contacts were rather sporadic. Beginning with November 1988, there have been regular exchanges of delegations of representatives of military academies, and others.

This year a congressional delegation-members of the House Committee on Armed Services led by Les Aspin-visited the USSR. Members of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Committee for Defense and State Security will pay a return visit to the United States. We attribute the change in the quality of Soviet-American military contacts to the signing of the agreement on the prevention of dangerous military activities as well as the agreement on notification about major ex-

ercises of strategic forces.

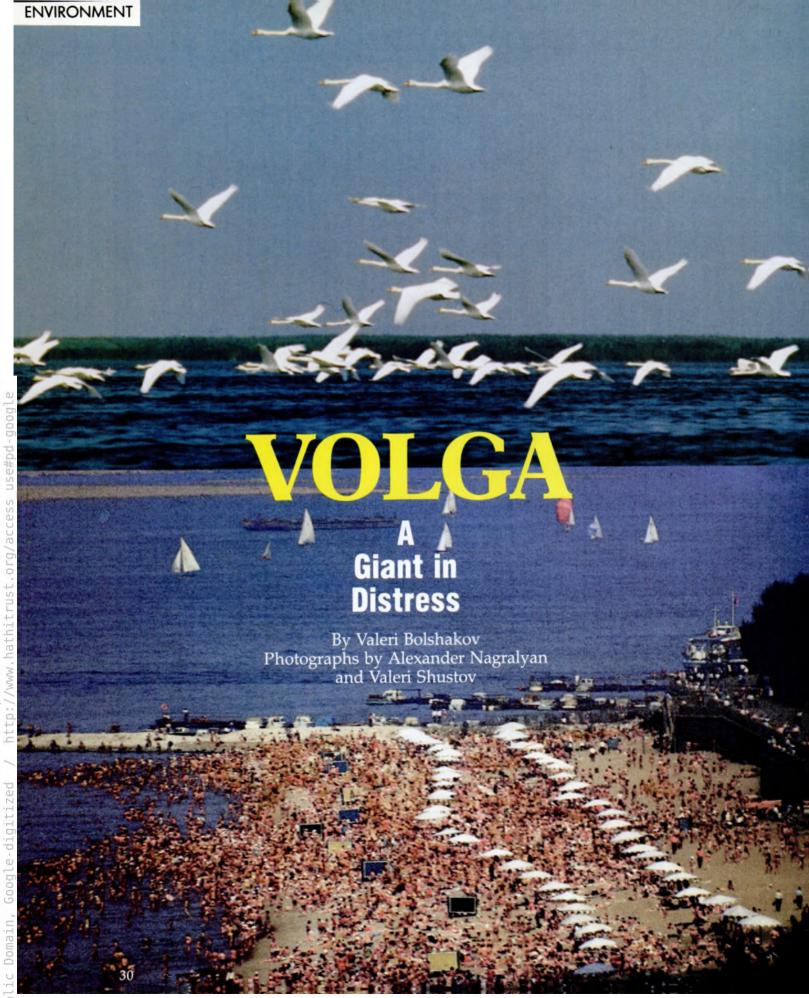
Our military contacts rest on a sufficiently firm foundation, which undoubtedly will be further consolidated by the agreement in principle on the joint elaboration of a new plan for military contacts in the years to come. This agreement is to be signed in 1990.

I would like to stress that during our visit to the United States both sides confirmed their desire to continue developing contacts and ties in the military sphere.

> Courtesy of the newspaper Izvestia. Abridged.







ost Americans would be hard put to imagine the United States without the Mississippi River. Likewise, to the multiethnic population of the European part of the Soviet Union, Russia would not be Russia without the Volga. Originating near Lake Seliger, to the northwest of Moscow, this mighty river stretches for 3,690 kilometers, winding first eastward and then southward; it branches into numerous channels and flows into the Caspian Sea.

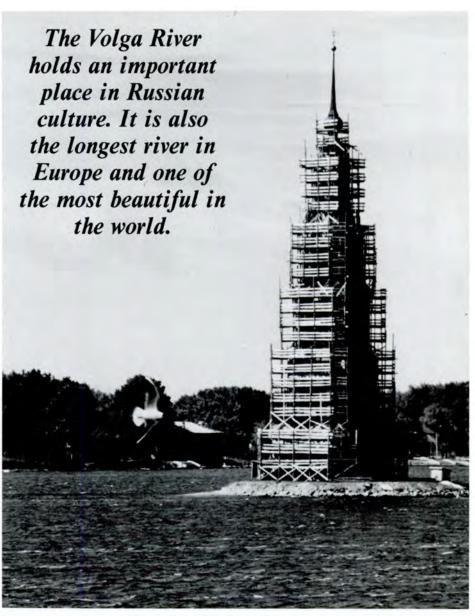
More than 60 million of the USSR's 290 million people live along the banks of the Volga River. This region accounts for 30 per cent of the industrial output and agricultural yield of the Russian Federation.

The river has witnessed many historical events. Although the groans of the Volga boatmen can no longer be heard there, the river itself is groaning today, choked by its dams and strangling in stagnant artificial "lakes" and "seas."

Large hydroelectric power plants and dams have changed the rhythm of the river and flooded vast areas that were once covered by meadows, fields, and forests. Thousands of people have had to leave their homes. Hundreds of towns and villages, and many historical monuments, have disappeared forever from Volga Region.

Uncontrolled squandering of water resources for irrigation has lowered the Volga's water level dramatically. Almost seven billion cubic meters of waste water (more than a billion of that without having undergone even elementary treatment), 12,500 tons of

Above right: Today many villages along the lower reaches of the river are underwater. This church has found itself standing on an island. Right: The Volzhsky Auto Works is a factory that turns out Lada cars. Facing page, top to bottom: The Volga Delta is a bird sanctuary, where wild swans, ducks, pelicans, and cormorants abound. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people from all over the country spend their summer vacations on the Volga's beaches.







The Volga is a river of majestic expanses and of exquisite beauty in miniature. Some reaches of the river are set aside as nature preserves; others are now fashionable playgrounds.

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petroleum products, and many other toxic substances are dumped into the river annually. The Volga's smaller tributaries feed it generously with pesticides and fertilizers from state and collective farms. Many livestockbreeding farms have been built directly on the riverbanks, turning them into sewers. The plowed floodlands nearly touch the water. As a result, many of the small rivers that once fed the Volga are disappearing.

ocal horror stories abound along the length of the river. Near the state-protected Volga-Akhtuba floodlands, for example, the first phase of the Astrakhan Condensed-Gas Plant was built and put into operation two years ago, even though the project was rejected by the state commission responsible for its construction. As a result, last December the content of hydrogen sulfide in the air in the city of Narimanov, located nearby, exceeded the permissible maximum by 55

times. Needless to say, this is extremely hazardous to the health of the city's inhabitants. Nevertheless, construction of the second phase of the plant is already under way.

In Kostroma, a city on the upper reaches of the Volga, there is a ravine running through the center of town. Once it was the bed of the small Chornaya River, but now the sewage that accumulates there flows directly into the Volga. Not long ago, an underground waste-treatment system was completed in this part of the city, which gave rise to hopes that the ecological situation would improve. But time has been lost. The system is now in operation, but it can only remove a certain percentage of the waste from the water. A poisonous creek, generously fed by industrial enterprises, still empties into the Volga.

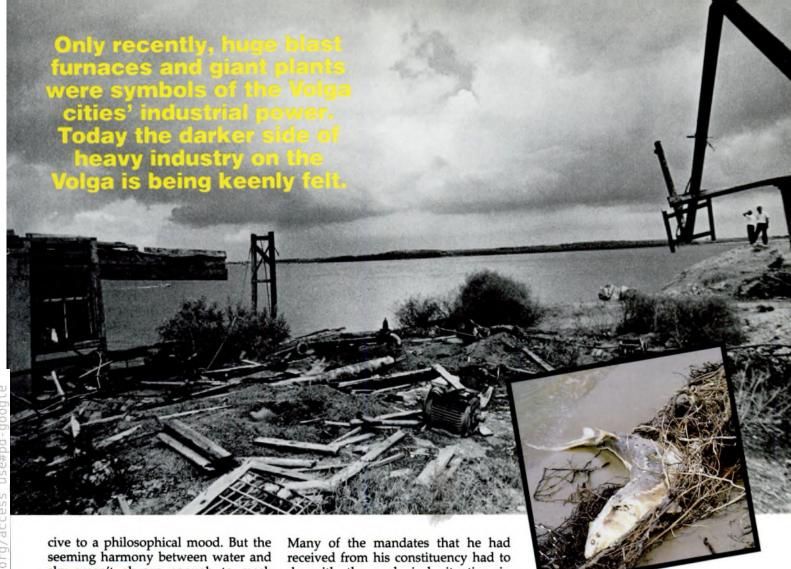
According to some experts, the river is on the verge of catastrophe, and in some places the situation is next to hopeless. Meanwhile, bureaucrats continue their assault on the Volga, insisting on the construction

and modernization of new hydroelectric and nuclear power plants, dams and channels linking the Volga with other rivers, and huge industrial complexes. All this is in addition to the hundreds of chemical, timber, pulpand-paper mills, and agro-industrial enterprises that already burden the river.

had an opportunity to witness the Volga's plight firsthand recently when I sailed up the river onboard the Nikolai Gogol cruise ship. This trip was arranged not for tourists but for the participants in the ecological forum "Earth Is Our Home." Even the global character of the problems that we discussed could not overshadow the distress of the Volga itself. The Volga became the leitmotif of heated multilingual discussions.

We traveled upriver from Volgograd to Moscow, which is linked with the Volga by a canal. The unhurried progress of the ship and the beautiful shoreline in the distance were condu-





sky wasn't always enough to mask the fact that the river is seriously ailing. The symptoms of the diseasedead fish, an oily film, and heaps of concrete blocks and rusty iron on the beaches-intruded too often to mar the beauty of the scene.

Having reached the middle of the Kuibyshev Reservoir, the Nikolai Gogol moved on till it reached Kazan, the capital of the Tatar Autonomous Republic. Here, in a local cultural center, we took part in a meeting that People's Deputy of the USSR Yuri Kotov had convened with his constituents. Unfortunately, the city's party officials failed to use this opportunity to discuss their city's ecological problems-the officials never showed up at the meeting.

Kotov is the chairman of the Department of Ecology at Kazan State University, the first department like it in the country. He was just back from Moscow, where he had participated in the Congress of People's Deputies. do with the ecological situation in Tataria and the Volga Basin.

"Our experts have drafted a comprehensive environmental protection program, to be implemented up to the year 2005. We're going to publish it for nationwide discussion," said Kotov. "I'm a member of the Committee to Save the Volga, a public organization that was founded early this year by the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya, the journal Volga, the Writers Union of the Russian Federation, and local newspapers. The committee is chaired by well-known writer Vasili Belov. The program drafted by the committee envisages a reliable service for monitoring the condition of the river, including regular patrols from the air and from space. This, we hope, will provide us with information about a vast territory and about who is polluting the Volga, and with what. But that is just the beginning."

While we were in Kazan, the university was preparing for entrance exams. We learned that the number of applicants to the Department of Ecology was much greater than those to other departments. For a number of years Kazan State University has been involved in international cooperation. For example, it has signed contracts for conducting research and academic programs with American universities. The top Soviet ecology students do their practical training at these universities. Kotov told us that there are currently 15 Soviet students in the United States, five of them from Kazan University. There are also exchanges of postgraduates and lecturers. Kotov has been to the United States twice, and he attaches enormous importance to such cooperation. Soviet and American ecologists and other researchers meet more and more often at international forums.

All this international activity is ▶

bound to have a positive effect on the ecological health of the Volga. But there are other kinds of international cooperation that may help in more indirect ways. On our way to Gorky, the Nikolai Gogol passed two smaller vessels flying Soviet and American flags. Onboard the Hawk and the Coral was a Soviet-American group composed of 14 painters and graphic artists from Boston and their Soviet colleagues. They had traveled by kayak to Lake Seliger and then continued along the Volga aboard the Hawk and the Coral. They spent their nights camping out in tents on the banks of the river, cooking their dinner over an open fire, and working on their sketches. This unusual artistic competition will culminate in an exhibit to be held in Boston.

he travelers had influential sponsors—Massachusetts Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry. In his letter supporting the Volga cruise, Senator Kerry wrote, "It will be a historic expedition because it will be the first of its kind in the Soviet Union."

Senator Kennedy, too, emphasized the importance of the meeting:

"I write to send my support for the organization of the Volga River expedition and to offer my congratulations. The first expedition of its kind down the legendary Volga River is a tribute both to the arts and to the cause of peace. Even in this era of warming relations between the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, it is important that the people of our states are on record as voicing their determination to promote the understanding and cooperation that underlie peace."

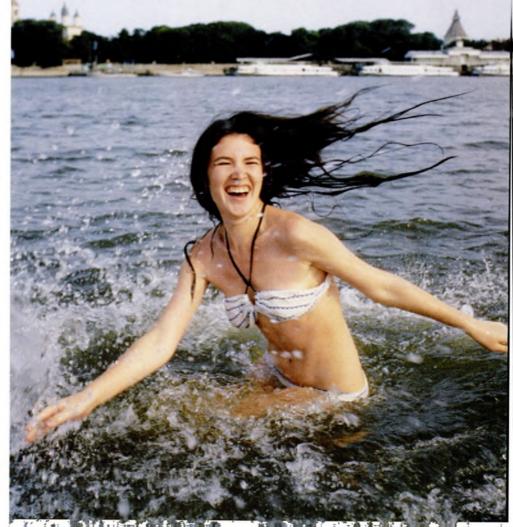
It is also to be hoped that the expedition will bring some extra attention to the Volga River itself.

Mass rallies have been held all over the country in defense of the mighty Russian river. The voice of the people living on the Volga's banks, of course, has been the loudest of all. These people are no longer willing to put up with bureaucratic disregard for the river and for the interests of those who live along its banks. That was the subject of our conversation with

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Dozens of water-treatment plants like this one now protect the Volga. With care, the river's scenic beaches will keep their beauty for generations.



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Boris Shiryayev, an editor of the local in the city newspaper, Kosmodemyansk. Kosmodemyansk is located not far from Cheboksary, the capital of the Chuvash Autonomous Republic, and in one of the most polluted areas of the Volga Basin. The local population has launched a vigorous campaign against plans to increase the capacity of the Cheboksary

Hydroelectric Power Plant. "Such plans are fraught with unpredictable consequences," Shiryayev told us. "The forests would be utterly destroyed. The river would flood vast areas and reach Yoshkar-Ola, the capital of the Mari Autonomous Republic, which is 100 kilometers away. In some places the Volga is already 18 kilometers wide. The demonstrators in the cities on the Volga demand that the level of the river not be artificially raised. Some activists even insist that the Volga dams be removed altogether, letting the river flow the way it did before. At our insistence, the USSR Council of Ministers has decided to keep the level of the Volga unchanged. This isn't enough, though, and we consider this decision only a beginning. Previously, the Volga was a full-flowing river. Now it is gradually turning into a stagnant

bog. 'Of course we understand that we can't do without electricity. But there are other options. For instance, we have plenty of peat here. According to preliminary estimates, just one more thermal power plant unit would easily substitute for the entire Cheboksary Hydroelectric Power Plant.

"Besides that, in order to improve the condition of the Volga, we have organized a march for ecologically clean agriculture. This year the area treated with herbicides will be reduced by 25 per cent. Gradually, herbicides will be removed from agriculture altogether. Mineral fertilizers, too, are being used in smaller amounts now. The local farms give preference to organic fertilizers, which are easy to obtain and aren't harmful to the environment. So you see, people are beginning to care."

Valeri Bolshakov is currently a member of the board of the USSR Ecological Foundation.

CHURCH

Continued from page 20

women said that they weren't insisting that the archives be moved out of the church immediately, but they wanted to know the exact date when it would be done. I found their demands legitimate and quite reasonable. The next day I went to see Anatoli Golovkin, chairman of the City Executive Committee. He told me straight out that he had no intention of handing the church over to the believers. I told him: 'Every day that passes is your loss. Even nonbelievers are siding with the believers now. Support for their cause is growing every day and shows no sign of abating. You know perfectly well that the parish is registered and has to be provided with a church. Besides, you don't have the money to restore the church. You say you are going to set up a museum there. But even if you do, will the museum be able to pay for itself? The money the parish would be contributing to the city's budget could be quite useful. I'm on the believers' side."

Lev Dubov was appointed secretary of the Ivanovo Regional Executive Committee late in 1988, and he immediately found himself embroiled in the conflict between the believers and the local authorities. At first, Dubov sided with the authorities. But after examining the situation, he became convinced that returning the Red Church to the believers was the only solution.

Dubov visited the hospital where the fasting believers were. He spent four hours persuading them to end their hunger strike. Finally, Kholina handed him a sheet of paper with an appeal to the Regional Executive Committee.

The document read: "We four believers on a hunger strike in protest against the local authorities' illegal policy had no intention of taking our lives by this action. We have been fasting for nearly 16 days now. We are utterly exhausted, and the doctors say that irreversible processes may start any time now. It appears that the local authorities would just as soon let us die since no compromise solution has been offered in the past 16 days. Therefore, we have decided to end our hunger strike and restore our health in order to be able to continue our struggle for the Church of the Presentation."

Courtesy of the magazine Ogonyok (Light)

Update: The Red Church was handed over to an Orthodox parish in accordance with a resolution passed by the Ivanovo City Executive Committee on July 15, 1989.

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DRUGS AND CRIME

Drugs and drug-related crimes are a universal problem requiring the concerted effort of all law enforcement agencies and customs services in all countries. The Soviet Union is constantly acquiring new experience in this area. To beef up its first line of defense in the fight against drugs, the USSR in 1987 joined the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control and established ties with a number of other countries. SOVIET LIFE correspondent Vera Kondratenko and photographer Oleg Lastochkin report on the problem of drugs and the efforts being made to combat it.

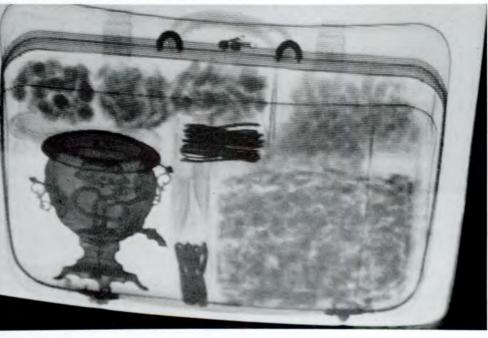


First Line Of Defense...

he mounted display of a stuffed mongoose engaged in a fierce battle with a snake was so well done and natural looking, it attracted everybody's attention. Something altogether different, however, attracted the interest of Soviet customs officials, and for good reason too. The mongoose was stuffed all right—with three pounds of heroin.



ABOUT SIX
MILLION PEOPLE
PASS THROUGH
MOSCOW'S AIRPORT
A YEAR. AND THE
VOLUME OF TRAFFIC
IS EXPECTED ONLY
TO GROW AS MORE
AND MORE SOVIET
CITIZENS TRAVEL
ABROAD AND
FOREIGN TOURISTS
COME HERE.



L eft: A suitcase as seen by the customs' X-ray machine. Top and above: Dogs are proving to be a great help.

A one-gram packet of heroin sells for 300 dollars on the black market, so you can well imagine the scale of the deal that the trafficker was planning to pull off. In the end, though, he found himself behind bars, while the heroin-filled mongoose, sans stuffing of course, became just one more exhibit in the museum of the customs office at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

The airport museum boasts all sorts of exhibits—both exotic and ordinary. Among the exotic are wooden musical instruments from Africa, ritual candlesticks, statuettes, Buddhas, coconuts, jewelry boxes, stuffed animals, and a beautifully carved table from India. All of these items were used to conceal illicit drugs.

The prosaic items are mostly readymade, false-bottomed suitcases and bags. In March of last year a Nigerian and a Ghanaian national attempted to transport over 30 pounds of heroin in an innocent-looking piece of luggage. Major finds are rare, but small quantities are becoming an almost everyday affair.

Not eager to add new exhibits to the airport museum, people smuggling drugs into the Soviet Union try to hide their goods in obscure places.

Several recent examples: a camera case containing 13 pounds of hashish, two large, harmless-looking tin cans filled with over 10 pounds of marijuana, and a TV set with 12 pounds of heroin in the picture tube.

"Live containers," or people who swallow packets of drugs in order to better pass through customs, are the latest trend used primarily by the international drug cartels. Soviet customs officials encountered their first "live container" in 1988-an attractive Swedish woman of 35 who was flying from Bangkok to Stockholm via Moscow. During the stopover at Sheremetyevo Airport, the woman became seriously ill and fainted. Near death, she was rushed to the emer-





gency room at Sklifasovsky Hospital. Receiving permission from the Swedish Embassy to operate, Soviet surgeons discovered 94 two-gram capsules of heroin in the woman's stomach. One of the capsules had burst and was poisoning her.

When the woman recovered, she was arrested and charged with drug smuggling. Tried by the Moscow City Court, the woman was found guilty and sentenced to a term of three years in prison. At her trial the woman said she would be eternally grateful to the Soviet doctors who had saved her life.

Customs officials at Sheremetyevo seized about a hundred pounds of

bove: This stuffed mongoose in the museum of the customs office at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport was filled with three pounds of heroin. Top: A cache of drugs was recently discovered in a shipment of walnuts at a Moscow railroad station.

drugs in 1988, and over 40 pounds in the first six months of 1989. On the whole, Soviet customs reported 701 cases of drug smuggling in 1988. The catch was well over 120 pounds. The corresponding figure for the first six months of 1989 was 90 pounds.

"The Sheremetyevo customs office

is one of the largest in the world," says Gennadi Shchadrin, the man who heads the customs department. "Over the past few years drug trafficking has gone up, and as a result, we've arrested many more smugglers, mostly foreigners.

"About six million people pass through our airport a year. That was the figure we'd projected for the year 2000, but we got it this year. Also, we're expecting the volume to grow by 20 per cent a year as many more Soviet organizations, enterprises, and cooperatives expand their ties with foreign partners and economic and cultural relations develop. Moreover, procedures for entering and leaving the USSR have been made easier. Under the circumstances, the amount of work has mushroomed.

"We've hired more customs officials, made changes in the department, and improved our methods for detection. For instance, in 1989 we started using trained dogs to inspect cargoes.

"We've installed the latest X-ray scanners, which, by the way, are biologically harmless, and we have the most efficient drug analysis kits. Also, we've come up with an ingenious way of detecting 'live containers,' " said Shchadrin in conclusion.

Equipment is important in the fight against drugs, of course, but a skilled staff is still the most instrumental. Baggage must be inspected quickly and efficiently so as not to inconvenience the ordinary traveler-the majority of passengers have nothing to hide—but the smuggler must also be caught. Knowing who is who and what is what can make the difference, and that takes knowledge, intuition, experience, and tact. Soviet customs officials are up to the mark.

The task of the customs service is not made easier by the fact that it is now having to deal with the well-organized international drug cartels, which are stepping up their activities. In 1975 only two tons of heroin were seized around the world. By 1984 the quantity had jumped to 12 tons and in 1985, to 14 tons. The amount of confiscated marijuana has increased more than eight times in the past 10 years.

Continued on page 44







a drug arrest: The male suspect (above) cowers in the corner from shame, while a militia officer (insets, left) questions the girl friend and checks her arm for needle marks. Right: Lieutenant Colonel Valentin Roshchin heads the antidrug force of the Moscow

militia.

he scene of



and robbery, is 5,000. People under the age of 30 account for 75 per cent

Why do young adults turn to drugs? Most take drugs out of sheer curiosity; others succumb to peer pressure-sometimes after persistent prodding. Still others are dragged into

The antidrug effort in the Soviet Union is broad and involves healthcare services, educational institutions, law enforcement bodies, and volunteer organizations. This multipronged approach may seem comprehensive, but some law enforcement officers have reservations.

"Sometimes everybody's business is nobody's business," says Lieutenant Colonel Valentin Roshchin, head of Moscow's antidrug force. "In the final analysis nobody knows whose responsibility it is. What this country needs is a unified and efficient organization that can coordinate the fight against drugs."

In any event, Soviet law enforcement bodies are credited with identifying 82 per cent of all addicts officially registered nationwide (the figure is the same in Moscow). Health-care services are responsible for 17 per cent, including patients who seek treatment on their own.

Schools, colleges, and places of work account for the remaining one per cent.

The law enforcement effort is equally distributed between prevention and detection of drug-related crime, in particular, drug trafficking.

Roshchin's squad is currently averaging two or three arrests a week, sometimes more. It is also responsible for monitoring all possible drug-trafficking routes. Since 57 per cent of drug-trafficking cases involve nonresidents of Moscow, the militia regularly patrols trains and other means of transportation with the aid of trained dogs.

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"Last year," says the head of Moscow's antidrug force, "we made 185 drug-related arrests. This year we've made 260 in the first five months alone. In approximately 25 per cent of the cases, we're able to trace the drug chain back to the traffickers. We're lucky; the world average is eight to 10 per cent.

"As part of our antidrug program, we've created a position in the city procurator's office to handle the increase in drug cases. Also, the response to our appeal to the city's young people, which was published in the Moskovsky komsomolets youth daily, is encouraging. Many students and industrial workers have volunteered to help in the fight against drugs. They accompany us on arrests and pitch in wherever we need them.

"We've also set up a state-of-the-art laboratory to test street drugs. This helps us keep abreast of the latest drug trends. Nonmedicinal poppy and cannabis preparations now account for almost 87.5 per cent of confiscated substances. The remainder is made up of morphine derivatives, codeine, and homemade mood-altering drugs.

"In 1987 and 1988 close to six tons of illegal drugs and 50 tons of unprocessed material were confiscated nationwide, and an area of over The evidence found at the scene. Below: A technician studies an unprocessed plant in the laboratory. Bottom: A young addict awaiting trial.



54,000 square miles of wild hemp thickets was destroyed. As a result of our campaign to increase public awareness of the dangers of drug addiction, many citizens are now helping us out."

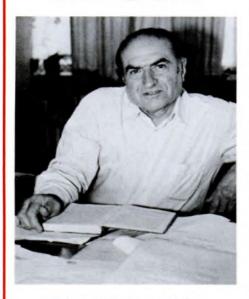
Prevention is the key to the antidrug campaign. Take what's happening in Kirghizia, a republic in Soviet Central Asia. A teen center staffed with teachers, psychologists, physicians, and lawyers has been in operation for more than a year. The purpose of the center is to offer teenagers an alternative—a place to gather and to get help if they need it. Some teenagers need extensive counseling; others, no more than a friendly word of advice and something interesting to do. The teen center offers an array of activities—amateur drama groups, dance clubs, sports, and the like.

Experts agree that teen centers like the one in Kirghizia play an invaluable role in the fight against drugs.



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STOPPING DRUG **ABUSE**



Eduard Babayan, for over 25 years the Soviet representative to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and chairman of the Standing Committee on Drugs under the USSR Ministry of Public Health, talks about the Soviet efforts in the war against drugs.

ombating drug abuse both nationally and internationally has always been a priority of the USSR. Soviet experts were involved in drafting the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the latest UN Convention Against Traffic in Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances (December 20, 1988), which provides for international measures to monitor drugs and their raw ingredients.

The improved international climate

and the new mode of thinking in world affairs to a large degree facilitated the most recent convention, which took two years to be negotiated. It came about as a result of the concerted efforts of the Soviet Union, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, India, and several socialist countries. Also, continuous consultations between the United States and the Soviet Union promoted

USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze signed the December 1988 convention without reservations in January 1989, illustrating the USSR's desire to put an early end to drug abuse on a global scale.

Clearly, international measures rely on efficient antidrug efforts at home. Our antidrug laws are in full conformity with our country's international commitments and, in many respects, are even more strict than many multilateral conventions.

The Standing Committee on Drugs under the USSR Ministry of Public Health has launched a large-scale campaign to identify and register drug addicts, both old-timers and newcomers. Our effort is aimed at drawing up antidrug measures countrywide and providing the United Nations with statistics.

The drug situation in the Soviet Union cannot but cause anxiety. Before 1985 the number of first-time drug users was more or less stable. However, in 1985 the number grew to 9,000, in 1986 to over 14,000, and in 1987 to 20,000. Although in 1988 we registered only 14,300 new drug addicts, the situation still remains alarming.

From 1985 to 1988 the over-all number of drug addicts in the Soviet Union soared from 39,000 to 61,000, in addition to almost 60,000 people registered as "recreational drug users," a category of drug abusers who could easily cross the line to serious drug dependency.

The Soviet antidrug service has established a ramified network of inpatient and outpatient drug treatment centers. Employing the whole spectrum of modern treatment methods, our experts are working hard to bring drug addicts and abusers back into the mainstream of society.

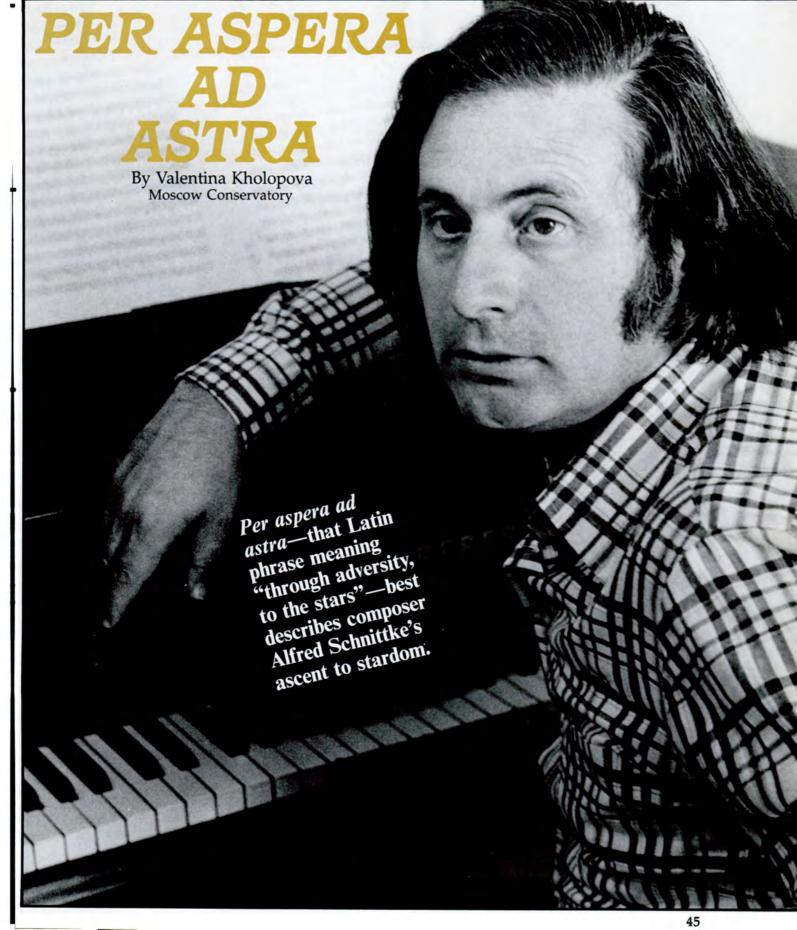
First Line

Continued from page 40

The USSR's geographic location and the heavy transit and cargo flows tempt smugglers to ship drugs from producer countries to consumer states via the Soviet Union. In November 1986, for example, Soviet customs officials inspected a container of raisins on its way to the Federal Republic of Germany. The cargo, which had been shipped from Afghanistan, was found to contain more than a ton of Pakistani-grown hashish. This was the first time Soviet customs encountered such a large cache of drugs. Unfortunately, since the investigation was limited to Soviet territory, it was impossible to trace the cargo back to the specific smugglers.

In early 1987 Soviet customs officials inspected a similar cargo shipped from Afghanistan on its way to the Netherlands. This time over a ton of hashish was found. The Soviet customs service contacted its Dutch counterparts. Working together, the two services staged a sting operation, but nobody every came to claim the cargo. A few months later Soviet customs discovered another five tons of Pakistani hashish in a cargo of camel's wool in transit from Afghanistan to Canada. Soviet and Canadian law enforcement experts successfully worked out a joint operation to apprehend the traffickers when the hashish was delivered in Montreal.

These are just some of the cases involving the Soviet customs service. The service is now facing the task of creating a single system to monitor all channels of drug smuggling, including sea-, auto- and railroad-carried transit cargoes, and international mail. International cooperation is a must. To this end, the USSR is developing its ties with the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC). Detailed information, including photographs, on drugs found at Sheremetyevo Airport is regularly sent to the CCC headquarters in Brussels and published by the council in a restricted-access bulletin, thereby helping to enrich the experience of the customs services around the world.



odern Soviet composer Alfred Schnittke's works belong to the most serious of "serious" modern music. He carries on the European musical tradition of philosophical symphonic composition characteristic of Ludwig van Beethoven, Gustav Mahler, Peter Tchaikovsky, and Dmitri Shostakovich. Lengthy—40-minute to 50minute-musical compositions are so natural for Schnittke that he finds it difficult to compose shorter pieces.

Schnittke draws his inspiration not only from musical sources but also from the moral teachings of the Gospel, the polyphonic dialogues of characters from Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novels, the grotesque world of Nikolai Gogol, the stories in the Old German book about Dr. Faust, the ideas in Thomas Mann's novel Doktor Faustus, and characters in the movies.

Since genuine, meaningful art is born of native soil, let's look at Schnittke's roots, as a man and as an artist. Alfred Schnittke was born on November 24, 1934, in the town of Engels in the Autonomous Soviet Republic of the Germans in Volga Region. (This autonomous republic was later abolished.) His father, Harry Schnittke, was a German-born Jew, who worked for 11 years (right up to World War II) for a German newspaper. For several years after the war, he worked for a Soviet German-language paper in Vienna. Alfred's mother, Maria Fogel, of German stock, was also born near the Volga. She worked for a German newspaper in Moscow. Young Schnittke grew up amid different influences. The German language, German books, and German culture were familiar to him from early childhood, while at the same time he had close ties to traditional Russian culture. An interest in Old Russian songs, which he quotes in a number of his works, also distinguishes one period in his career. His wife, Irina, nee Katayeva, is a Russian too.

The complexity of his background and the paths of his career made Schnittke look to his national identity

for definition and integrity. Interestingly enough, the composer converted to Catholicism in 1983, with the thought that finally, this would take the place of nationality.

Such a serious step found expression in his music. In his Second Symphony, entitled St. Florian, he introduces excerpts of the monophonic Gregorian Mass, and in his Fourth Symphony he entwines motifs symbolizing various kinds of liturgical singing into a harmonious wreath.

Schnittke entered adulthood in the mid-1950s, after the A-bomb and the start of the cold war. Like many of his contemporaries, he labored under an apocalyptic mood, beset by thoughts of the coming of the end of the world. For his graduation requirements at the Moscow Conservatory in 1958,

For Schnittke, the 1980s have been a period of creative upsurge, and he has received wide recognition both at home and abroad.

Schnittke composed an oratorio in which an atomic blast was part of the score. He also wanted to express in music the Apocalypse, which Thomas Mann described as being the work of Adrian Leverkuehn, the hero of his novel Doktor Faustus. However, the idea was so somber, the young composer gave it up.

Launching his career, Schnittke came face to face with a moral dilemma-the eternal contradiction between artistic integrity and official acceptance. The pursuit of truth and a willingness to sacrifice everything to attain it plagued his thoughts. So it is probably no accident that the first composition in which Schnittke attained full maturity as a composer was his Second Concerto for Violin (1966), the inspiration for which is a

story from the Gospel. To appreciate the significance of his decision, one must note that, until recently, religious themes were taboo in the USSR, but Schnittke was a person who thought in terms of the millenniums of spiritual culture.

At the same time he was stirred by current events, the postwar situation in European culture (especially German culture), the conquest of space (in connection with Yuri Gagarin's first flight), the left-wing student movement, and the diminishing regard for classical culture. Schnittke felt these global trends called for large, polystylistic musical forms, combining serious modern music with classical, jazz, or any type of dance music, such as songs, marches, polkas, waltzes, and so on.

Schnittke's polystylistic First Symphony (1972), which he singles out from his other work, sums up his reflections on life and art in the modern world. By some strange logic, this opus, which shocked official tastes, was soon conducted with great success by Gennadi Rozhdestvensky in the Russian city of Gorky. Unexpectedly, the work received broad coverage in the press and mixed reviewssomething quite unusual in those times. Yet the door to international philharmonic performances remained just as closed to him as before.

Schnittke spent more than 10 years teaching at the Moscow Conservatory and became quite popular with the students. He did not, however, enjoy the favor of those in authority. When Schnittke requested a sabbatical to explore some creative work, the head of the conservatory responded by dismissing him.

That, however, did not keep him from his life's work—composing. Feeling he had to a certain extent exhausted the major theme of his multifaceted First Symphony, Schnittke sought tranquillity, lyricism, and meditation. In the 1970s the composer lost both of his parents, and his grief found expression in two remarkable works: Requiem, an instrumental opus, and In Memoriam, a solemn piano quintet transcribed for orchestra.





Modern Soviet composer Alfred Schnittke and his wife, Irina.

Permeated with elevated melodies absent from avant-garde music for a long time, *Requiem* had a very strong impact on audiences and quickly gained popularity. Little by little, Schnittke's instrumental opera found their way to the public, thanks to the efforts of such celebrities as Gidon Kremer, Oleg Kagan, and Natalya Gutman.

For Schnittke, the 1980s have been a period of creative upsurge, and he has received wide recognition both at home and abroad. His works are performed often in the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Austria, England, Finland, Sweden, the United States, and other countries. He has attained new heights with his cantata about Faust, his Choral Concerto, and his Viola Concerto.

Turning to the ethical problem of retribution for sin, Schnittke carries out a very bold experiment in his cantata *The Story of Doctor Johann Faustus*: At the climax of his serious modern music he introduces, as the embodiment of the devil's vulgarity and baseness, a tango for voice sung through a microphone. The mixture of passion and eeriness with electronic amplification is mesmerizing.

In June 1985 Schnittke went to a composers retreat near Moscow, where he could work without inter-

ruption, to meet deadlines for completing some pieces. He returned with two genuine masterpieces—the Choral Concerto in four parts and the Viola Concerto.

After this titanic effort Schnittke went on vacation to the Black Sea with his family. While he was there, he suffered a serious stroke. For nearly three weeks the composer's life hung in limbo, but eventually he did recover.

Schnittke's return to normal life and creativity found powerful expression in the very first opus that he wrote after this harrowing experience. It was the Concerto for Cello, in which the sound of a cello, amplified electronically, dominates the entire concert hall.

Since then the composer's fame has grown steadily. His Choral Concerto, written to the words of Gregori Nerekatsi, an Armenian religious poet of the tenth century, resounds in its luminous notes like an inspired liturgy. The triumphant première of the tragically noble Viola Concerto, performed by Yuri Bashmet under the direction of Rozhdestvensky, was one of the high points of the composer's career.

Over the past 10 years many titles and awards have come Schnittke's way. He is an Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, a member of the Academy of Arts of West Berlin, a corresponding member of the Academy of Fine Arts of Bavaria, a corresponding member of the Royal Music Society of Sweden, and an honorary member of the Academy of Arts of Hamburg.

Perestroika, which got under way in 1985, removed all artificial barriers from Schnittke's stairway to the stars. Considered one of the outstanding Soviet composers of modern times to have been "suppressed" for so long, Schnittke is now a symbol of perestroika, and he is a much sought-after guest on national radio and television programs. This past March a festival of his music, which was held in Gorky, was a prominent event in the musical life of the country.

The most ambitious of the composer's recent works is the ballet *Peer Gynt*, based on the drama by Henrik Ibsen, which had also inspired Edvard Grieg to write his famous music. But it was clear on opening night in Hamburg earlier this year that Schnittke's *Peer Gynt* is different from that of Grieg's. Western critics described the Hamburg première of *Peer Gynt*:

The audience applauded for half an hour—a rare thing for Germans—demonstrating their admiration for choreographer John Neumeier and his splendid ballet troupe and the Russian composer Alfred Schnittke, who wrote a new score for the ballet master's scenario.

For an outstanding musician or composer, music is something more than just music. Working on an opera about Dr. Faust, which will include part of his cantata on the same theme, Schnittke reflects on the salvation of not only the souls of his characters but also those of all people. He poses the question: Will humanity be capable of saving itself?

During a meeting with students and teachers at the Moscow Conservatory last spring, Schnittke said that throughout history humanity has always been able to take a step in the right direction when it found itself on the brink of disaster. Surely, that is encouraging!

Until recently, astrology was considered a pseudoscience, and people who consulted their horoscopes were regarded as foolish. It just seemed that this ancient art was obsolete and certainly had nothing to do with modern science. Nevertheless, a Russian school of astrology, rich in notable names, does exist, and a whole number of talented astrologers are coming to the fore. SOVIET LIFE correspondent Galina Ryzhova talks with Pavel Globa, a historian who has been studying astrology for the past 20 years.

The stars, the planets, their relative positions—what's it all about?

R: Every New Year's Eve many people eagerly await the arrival of yet another animal—be it the snake or the dragon, the dog or the rabbit—and proudly proclaim, "This is my year." Meanwhile, the Oriental horoscope is a highly subtle branch of the old, mighty tree of astrology.

We don't know too much about astrology. And whenever people speak about it, they inevitably do so with irony. Yet until the end of the seventeenth century, astrology was a powerful science, inseparable from astronomy. Astrology isn't voodoo, but rather a system of world outlooks, which enables people to know themselves and their place in life, and provides them with a key to spiritual development.

I inherited an interest in astrology from my parents and grandparents, who were fascinated with the occult. They left me a good library of rare books, which I willingly studied, in particular, the works on palmistry, one of the five sciences of the ancient teachings of the Signatures.

Q: The majority of us come up against astrology in newspapers and magazines when we consult our daily or monthly horoscope, and then mostly for amusement. I find it hard to believe that anyone takes what they read seriously.

A: Why? To compile an accurate horoscope, the astrologer has to know the place, year, day, and exact time of birth, for at every moment the planets are in a very definite position in the sky, and this has a great influence on a person's life.

I think astrology ought to be studied the same as any other science. The astrologer has to know astronomy, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, and the ancient sciences of palmistry and physiognomy. It takes at least a year just learning how to compile horoscopes and another two or three years of practice learning how to interpret them.

Incidentally, Avicenna and Hippocrates used to employ astrology for medical purposes. Today its sphere is in social psychology. Astrologers can help resolve problems of human relationships and make recommendations for finding a compatible mate. Astrologers can help parents understand



IT'S ALL IN THE STARS

Photograph by Boris Yelshin

their children by defining their personality traits.

Q: Wouldn't you agree that parents influence a child's character more than all the planets lumped together?

R: No I wouldn't. It takes facts to refute or substantiate something. When children in the same

family have absolutely different personalities, the usual explanation is that the circumstances differ. Western statistics, however, show something altogether different: People born into different families and living in different circumstances nonetheless encounter the same problems if they are born at the same time. Astrology provides an explanation. It also explains the individual personality traits of twins. A lot can change in the heavens between their births.

... The stars incline; they do not oblige. Our horoscope is not cast in stone.

Q: Are you saying that solar and lunar eclipses, comets, and the alignment of the planets influence our life?

A: Certainly. Take the crime statistics in Moscow and Leningrad over the past five years. Crimes without motives hit a peak on days just preceding or following a solar or lunar eclipse. Those crimes were committed mostly by accident. A person needs to be predisposed, be inclined by one's fate, to commit a serious premeditated offense.

Q: Don't you think it's all rather sad: If something isn't in the cards, then what's the use?

I didn't say things were that bad, and neither did the astrologers of antiquity. The Greek astronomer Ptolemy, who lived in the second century, said that the stars incline but do not oblige. Besides fate and karma, there's also free will, so people always have a choice. As to the interrelationship between a person's horoscope and his personality traits, it is an empirical, I repeat, empirical fact, just like the link between an apple and gravity. The question of the nature of gravity would perplex any physicist, just like the nature of the moon's influence on one's creative potential would puzzle any astrologer. Many talented people—Goethe, Peter the Great, Gogol—were born during a full moon.

Eclipses, on the other hand, promise nothing good. A lunar eclipse occurred on April 24, 1986. Halley's Comet passed by the earth that same month. Every time the comet did this, something happened—the invasion of the Huns, the fall of Rome, World War I, and so on. On April 26, 1986,

a reactor blew up at Chernobyl.

Pavel Globa and his wife, Tamara, who, like her husband, is

an astrologer.

Q: What would you say of horoscopes and the animals we look to with so much hope every year?

A: Many people joke about the Oriental way of

attributing animals to years within a 12-year cycle. You often hear people claiming their beast is the luckiest or the most promising. But astrology is not an invention of superstitious people. It is the sum total of knowledge about the interrelationship of man and space.

Q: Are astrological recommendations applicable to medicine?

A: The application of astrology to medicine, called iatromathematics, is one of the most valuable components of ancient knowledge. It is a science of harmony, rather than of healing. If one is to believe the Indo-Persian Ayurveda, the internal potential of man can last 500 to 600 years. The recently established federation of wu shu, whose cosmobiology commission I head, believes it is much less. Still, we think a life span of 120 years is very realistic.

Q: According to the stars, how are we doing? Any predictions?

A: Sure, but first a few words about the astrological period our planet is now going through.

On November 13, 1962, all of the planets in our solar system were aligned. That spells the beginning of a change of ruling forces. Pisces yielded, in this instance, to Aquarius. This had a bearing on occurrences in several countries.

The lineup of the planets proceeds through three signs of the Zodiac—Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn. The current period will end in 1994-1995 with the unification of two distant planets—Uranus and Neptune—in the sign of Capricorn. This is a very significant symbol.

During this astrological period many old traditions in social formations will die out, while spirituality will intensify. People will pay more attention to the problems of personality and reassess their status in life. That is to say, we're now entering the age of spirituality, the age of Aquarius.

Let me stress that the stars incline; they do not oblige. Our horoscope is not cast in stone.

Q: The ancient soothsayer Nostradamus foretold of a world war in 1999. Is that true?

A: I'm convinced there'll be no world war, but local armed conflicts and other serious problems will continue to plague humankind. But that's clear even without astrology.

Peace will reign, which is the main thing. But there is a danger of catastrophes, natural disasters, and social conflicts. The influence of Halley's Comet will be felt until 1992.

The experience of thousands of years teaches us that astrologers have never managed to change the course of history, for that still depends on common sense and good will. Astrology can only remove the blindfold from our eyes, but we will have to do the walking ourselves.



Grannies for Peace

F or years the international organization Grandmothers for Peace envisaged a peace walk across Moscow. Their dream finally came true last spring when women of all ages, joined by like-minded men and children, gathered in Moscow's streets to show their concern for maintaining peace.

"As is common knowledge, grandmothers love their grandchildren most of all. Loving them means doing all you can, and even more, for your loved ones, so that the little ones the pride and joy and the continuation of your life—feel safe and happy," said Barbara Wiedner, founder/director of the organization.



The USSR's First Baseball Diamond

The Moscow State University (MSU) campus, proud parent of the first Soviet baseball field, hosted an international tournament attracting teams from Tokai University (Japan), the University of Miami (United States), the Tianjin Institute of Physical Culture and Sports (China) and, naturally, the MSU home team.

The participants were in for a real treat, with excursions around the city and the opportunity of making many new friends.

The performance of the home team left much to be desired—Soviet baseball is still in its infancy—but the friendly atmosphere that prevailed at the competition was what mattered most. When, for instance, the game between the American and Japanese teams was tied five to five in the ninth inning, no extra innings were played to determine the winner.

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Do-It-Yourself Auction

A uctions are becoming routine events in Moscow. One such affair was held recently on the initiative of national television's youth-programming department. Up for bid were homemade cars, bikes, hiking gear, gardening tools, etc., etc.—products of unbridled inventiveness and industry of doit-yourselfers. Many of the auction participants have become household names across the Soviet Union, thanks to the popular television program "Do-It-Yourself Club."

One item on the auction block was the Saigak, a fiber-glass customized model of a Lada subcompact. The fiber-glass wonder went for an impressive 21,100 rubles. Even summer cottages were to be had for a modest 5,000 or 6,000 rubles apiece. The price included the cost of all materials and construction fees.



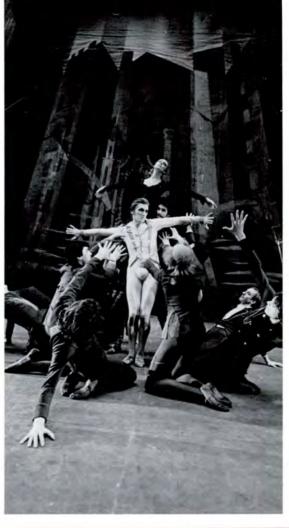
Glasnost Reaches the Sky

F ew people knew until quite recently that the Soviet military aircraft, known in the West as the *Black Jack*, had an official name—the TU 160. Top military officials from the United States got a close look at the supersonic long-range bomber, however, when then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral William J. Crowe and then U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci were on board. Another craft in the Soviet arsenal is the medium-range missile carrier, the *Backfire*, which is still under wraps.

Leningrad's Avant-garde Ballet

B oris Eifman has led the modern ballet theater in Leningrad for over 10 years now—a fruitful decade of daring quest and unabating public enthusiasm. The company is a constellation of the city's best dancers. Versions of literary classics are its trademark, including, among others, the sensational *The Idiot* based on Dostoyevsky's novel and *Twelfth Night* based on Shakespeare's play.

"The viewer has to be shaken up. That's what avant-garde dancing is all about. There's no point in doing a ballet that doesn't arouse your emotions and get your brain working," says Eifman.





n 1927, in New York
City, an exhibition
opened that would
introduce Americans
to a new group of
young and ambitious Moscow painters. The group
was known by the fanciful
and exotic name the
"Amaravella Society," and
it declared its creed to be
"cosmic fantasy."

The most prominent personality of the Amaravella Society was Boris Smirnov-Rusetsky. Smirnov-Rusetsky is now considered the patriarch of Moscow artists.

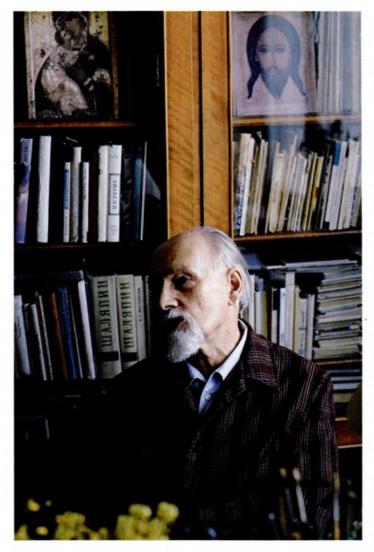
Born in 1905 into the family of a military officer in St. Petersburg, Boris grew up in a refined literary and artistic milieu. Shortly before the October 1917 Revolution, the Smirnov-Rusetskys moved to Moscow, where Boris took up regular artistic studies in 1920.

Even in Smirnov-Rusetsky's very early efforts, discipline and inspiration can be seen. In 1922, at the age of 17, he exhibited the first works in his Transparency cycle. The features of his later art are already evident in this early cycle, especially his insight into what he called "the life of Mother Earth." He later called his first canvases "soulscapes." They exquisitely combine the lyrical and philosophical tradition of Russian landscape painting with the musical interpretation of nature dictated by symbolist esthetics and the avant-garde theories of Vasili Kandinsky and, to a

lesser extent, of Kazimir Malevich.

Smirnov-Rusetsky experimented in oil painting, but he favored gouache, distemper, and water colors, until pastel became his favorite.

In 1926 Smirnov-Rusetsky and four other young Moscow artists formed



A WIZARD OF HARMONY

By Valeri Klyonov Reproductions by Victor Chernov

Moscow artist Boris Smirnov-Rusetsky transforms everyday scenes, revealing an underlying unity in the cosmos.

> the Amaravella Society, which would be prominent in the Moscow artistic world until 1930. Smirnov-Rusetsky stood out among his fellow members of the group. His *Cosmic Geometry*, painted in 1927, has been described as the best artistic embodiment of the

new cosmic mentality of the twentieth century.

The Amaravella Society was greatly influenced by renowned artist Nikolai Roerich, who was then living in India. When Roerich made his short visit to Moscow in 1926, he met with the young experimenters several times. His influence was to be stronger on Smirnov-Rusetsky than on any of the others.

The young painter soon embarked on his Cosmos cycle, which he later described as an attempt "to see the earth as a celestial body-to feel the breath of the cosmos in this world." The 1927 painting Cosmic Geometry anticipated the current space effort, although Smirnov-Rusetsky, preoccupied with what he called "the cosmic mentality," was never much attracted by space technology per se.

Toward the end of the 1920s, he began traveling around Russia, "to see the world through Roerich's eyes." Smirnov-Rusetsky traveled his mentor's Russian routes to discover the beauty of the ancient motherland. The devoted student was preparing to develop into a maestro.

In 1930, just before he was to receive his degree, Smirnov-Rusetsky abruptly dropped his artistic studies to take up metallurgy. With no undergraduate degree in science, he entered a postgraduate course of study and soon held both a candidate's degree and a position as senior lecturer. He became a prominent

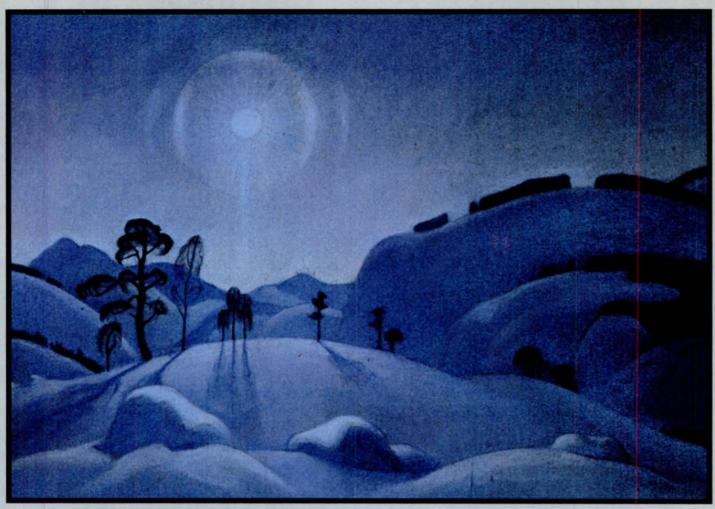
scientist and a well-known author.

But after he retired in the mid-1960s, he returned to art. Despite Smirnov-Rusetsky's long break from the artistic world, there was nothing amateurish about his new work.

Several dozen canvases appeared ▶







Above: Winter Sun. 1983. Cardboard, pastel. Below: The Milky Way. 1980. Cardboard, pastel.

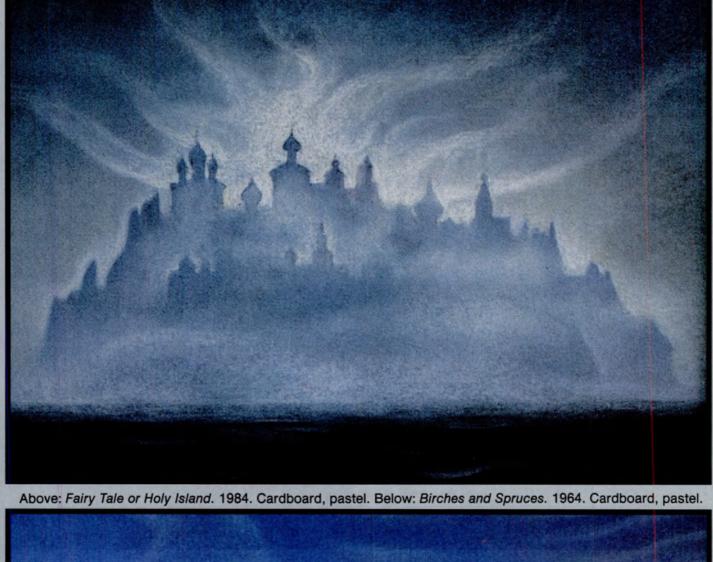


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Dandelions and Starlight. 1980. Cardboard, pastel.





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Dry Grass Stalks on Windowsill. 1982. Cardboard, pastel.

every year. Art lovers flocked to see the paintings of this prolific artist. He never seemed to stop. He traveled around the country, appeared on television, and created painting after painting.

Some of Smirnov-Rusetsky's landscapes have a universal quality. They defy time and space. He made a major breakthrough in the 1960s with the discovery of the infinity perspective, which allowed him to produce "spacescapes." Starting with a view of the earth from space, he proceeded to "galaxyscapes" and "universescapes," like the famous Yellow Stars, The Orion Nebula, and The Lyra Nebula.

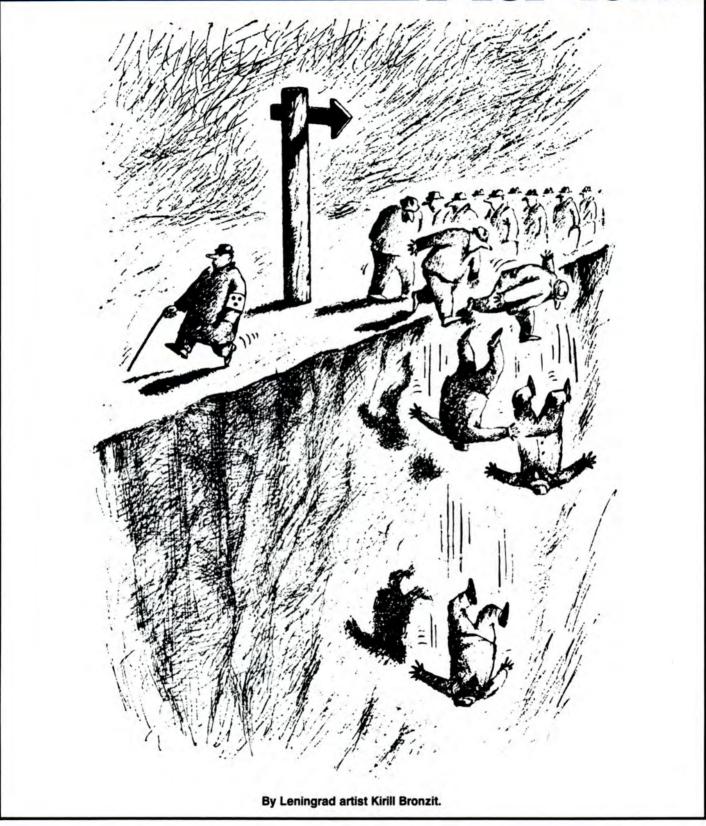
Earthly things fascinated Smirnov-Rusetsky too. Northern Russia, which the artist visited several times, made him gasp with wonder. The harmony that existed between nature and architecture in the North brought a new depth and wisdom to his landscape philosophy. Now he sought to portray the quiet, reticent beauty that escaped the superficial observer's eye but through which "the heart of the Russian land" spoke. This message is expressed most clearly in his Milky Way and Light in the Dark.

But Transparency remains his favorite of all his works. "This cycle is the instance of the tenderest and most intimate communication with nature and with my inner self that I ever had," he writes in his Concise Autobiography of an Artist. Matter seems to dissolve in the paintings of this early cycle and to show the breathtaking variety of its movement, hidden from the average human eye. The artist brings out the primal elements of the archetypal landscape-hills, rivers, seas, forests, plains, and sky-combining them fancifully to repeat the fantastic yet harmonious combination of things as they are.

Even as a young man, Smirnov-Rusetsky saw as his mission in life "the making of a spiritual model of the earth." This remained his lodestar until his death. In his cycles North, Cosmos, Isles in Space, and Transparency, he sought to embody his insights in what he called "finite" images—the unity of man and the universe; beauty, which brings us all together; and our beautiful planet seen from space.

56





57 59 worse, Ivan sees nothing in the future. 61

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HOW'S **BUSINESS?**

Novosti political commentator Alexander Ignatov views the growing interest in cooperatives and joint ventures.

owadays just about everyone in the Soviet Union wants to go into business, including some of my best friends.

After working nearly 20 years with the USSR State Planning Committee, Ivan Danko, upon retirement, found a job as an economics expert at Moscow State University. A few days ago he contacted the USSR-France Society, of which he is a long-standing member, for the purpose of setting up a manufacturing cooperative, with the society sharing in the profits.

Natalya Tokareva, 40, already runs a cooperative that sets up beauty parlors in places that have large numbers of women workers. Many top beauticians are leaving their present jobs to join the new venture, which enables them to set their

hours and control their earnings.

Dmitri Zelenov, 30, after three years with the Ministry of Foreign Trade, has decided to try his hand at self-employment. He is just back from his frst trip to Western Europe. After 18 months of hard work, he launched an organization called Soviet-French Initiative, INISOFR for short. First working alone and now with two assistants, he has been acting as an agent in the Soviet Union's trade with France, Switzerland, and the United

Muscovite David K., 25, has left his job as a building-team leader in favor of management. He is helping cooperatives that have leased inefficient factories to get off the ground. Another acquaintance of mine, Boris M., a dentist, has started his own practice in downtown Moscow. In short,

there is no dearth of examples.

More than 100,000 cooperatives, serviced by 2.7 million people, have sprung up over the past two and a half years. Cooperatives, teams, farms, leaseholds, opportunities for self-employment, and joint ventures with foreign partners are all luring more and more people to put their talents to the test in real business. Evidence of this widespread urge is the free crafts market, which is open on Saturdays and Sundays in Moscow's Izmailovo Park. You can buy just about everything there, including paintings, sculptures, new furniture, antiques, handmade souvenirs, collector's badges and buttons, and various musical

Both psychologists and sociologists are perplexed by this phenomenon. Is this a new craze or an old passion rekindled? Would you attribute this to "alien enzymes" that have survived in a society where private enterprise and even initiative were lambasted for decades—very much like the survival of living cells in permafrost?

But it's not all smooth sailing for the latter-day entrepreneurs. Some feel euphoric; others, estranged. Witness the current debates in the USSR Supreme Soviet on possible changes in the Law

on Cooperatives.

Personally, I'd describe it as being like a childhood disease or like teething difficulties, a natural part of any nascent societal phenomenon. Then again, there are inconsistencies in administrative decisions. Something allowed today may be banned tomorrow and, possibly, allowed again the day after tomorrow under pressure from economic factors and the logic of life. Sadly, we seem particularly set on carrying any official initiative to an absurdity, thus making it counterproductive.

Here is an example: When a number of cooperatives began buying up and reselling certain goods that were in short supply, the public grew angry. Some local authorities were quick to close all cooperative ventures without exception, including those whose operation clearly benefited the public. That happened in Krasnodar Territory, Leningrad, and many other places. The result: persisting shortages and services that are as poor as ever.

At the other end of the spectrum are criminal groups of racketeers who have seized the opportunity for quick and effective gain. Extortion of money from cooperatives and self-employed people is practiced in a big way. Business people thus

have come under a two-pronged attack.

For all that, I am optimistic about the future, especially since another acquaintance of mine, Albert V., who used to work for the KGB, is hoping to launch a joint venture (the number of joint ventures is 800 and growing by the day), despite the obstacles created by his bosses.



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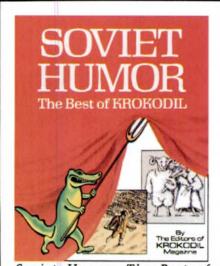
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From Chicago, With Gold By Dmitri Marchenkov

he Soviet film Little Vera (screenplay by Maria Khmelik; directed by Vasili Pichul), won top honors at the Chicago Film Festival this year. Sharing the spotlight was the film's lead, Natalya Negoda, who walked away with the Best Actress award.

Fame—or, as some might say, infamy—came to Negoda quite suddenly. Receiving kudos abroad (besides receiving the acting award, she also graced the cover of Playboy last May), she got a much less approving response from audiences back home.

Negoda's movie debut in Little Vera left no one complacent: Some viewers were profoundly shocked; others, highly enthusiastic. The storm of emotion surrounding the film swept aside the few serious reviews.

Little Vera, set in a desolate town, pictures life drab and dismal. Love seems like a breath of fresh air-no, like salvation-for the young central couple. The boy and girl cling to each other despite her parents' desperate resistance. Passion is alien to this obtuse, unfeeling world. It arouses a shocked hostility, which crushes the hero and heroine.

Blunt and bitter, Little Vera shook the Soviet film world. Thunderstruck, audiences sent letters, some full of admiration, others full of contempt. Why such a fuss? The film's one bedroom scene—actually quite tame for the Western world, but outrageous to the rigorous Soviet public. The young film star found herself in the eye of the critics' hurricane.

Negoda's life was fairly calm until the Little Vera odyssey. Fresh out of high school, she applied for admission to the drama school of the famous Arts Theater but failed her exams. Biding her time until she could reapply to the school the following year (she was successful), she took a job with the theater's museum.

After graduating from the drama school, Negoda joined the company of the Children's Theater in Moscow to play baby tigers and other cuddly creatures. Making rapid progress, she soon landed a major role. Then . . .

"I got a phone call from the Maxim Gorky Studio offering me a script. When I looked through it, I gasped. The story was complete with sex, attempted suicide, and murder. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. When I saw the scriptwriter and director, I told them exactly how I felt: The plot broke all the laws of good drama, and the dénouement was downright stupid. I thought that would be the end of it, but six weeks later I got another call saying that I'd gotten the lead."

That's what the actress told me as we sat in her cozy apartment in central Moscow.

"Are you happy?"

"No! I have my headaches like everyone else. You can have all the friends in the world and still be lonely. You can have the most wonderful boyfriend and still feel abandoned and unloved. There are lots of ways to be unhappy, while true happiness is rare and fleeting. Not that I have anything against suffering. It's an actor's lot."



perestroika hits the silver screen

Perestroika has brought about radical changes in Soviet cinema, and a new cinematographic model is emerging. At their truly revolutionary fifth congress, Soviet film makers elected a new secretariat for their professional association—the USSR Union of Cinematographers and ensured creative freedom for film makers of diverse genres and styles. The results did not take long to appear. Film critics Boris Berman and Sergei Muratov look at current trends in Soviet film making, especially those in movies for young people and in documentaries.

Cheap Thrills and Genuine Depth

By Boris Berman

ne couldn't even imagine seeing topics like juvenile delinquency, teenage prostitution, and drug addiction in Soviet films some three or four years ago. The prevailing view then was that if, in fact, such negative things did exist, they were not at all typical and, hence, had no right to be reflected in art. In general, films of the day hardly portrayed real life. Instead, they transformed it, in line with the general thinking that young people should focus on "getting good grades in school" and "finding their proper place in society."

But problems did exist. And closing one's eyes to them only served to turn them inward, and like an unchecked cancer, they threatened to affect the whole body, all of society.



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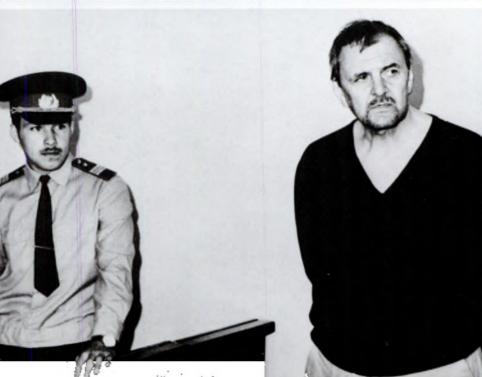


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espite its attempt to break old taboos by including a brutal rape scene, I'm Called Arleckino by Valeri Rybarev wasn't a big hit. The film is full of stereotypes and has little or no artistic value. Center: Karen Shakhnazarov's The Messenger was the first Soviet film to depict a young cynic on the screen. Bottom: Soviet film veteran Yuri Yakovlev portrays a gangster in Valeri Priemykhov's The Trousers, a film about organized crime and prison life. Facing page: Natalya Negoda, the star of the highly acclaimed but controversial film Little Vera, won a prize at the Chicago Film Festival. See p. 59 for a profile of the actress.



With *perestroika*, all sorts of things are coming out into the open, and our society is now taking a long, hard look at itself and is starting to analyze what it is seeing.

We're seeing that young people are losing faith in the future, challenging their parents' values, and developing a cynical attitude. That's sad.

The Messenger, directed by Karen Shakhnazarov, was released two years ago. It was the first Soviet attempt to depict a young cynic on the screen. Ivan, 17, the hero of the movie, possesses much charm, yet at times he is so unpleasant that, despite his charm, you can't help siding with the adults who scold him. Though he wants to share the life of adults, he simply cannot overcome his contempt for their lies and illusions. Even worse, Ivan sees nothing in his future.

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The closing scene of the film deserves special mention. After another of his merry escapades, carefree Ivan (and the audience too) is almost convinced that his prospects aren't so bad. His bubble bursts when he sees the disfigured face of a soldier just home from the Afghanistan war, and Ivan realizes that soon he too will be called up to serve.

Another film, Assa by Sergei Solovyev, is an absorbing thriller. Krymov, a fast operator, a true Goliath of the eighties who turns out to be stronger, or perhaps more cunning, than the law, is confronted by an unsophisticated musician, nicknamed Bananan, who works at a restaurant. Krymov has money, while Bananan has a soul. And though Bananan is murdered by Krymov's hired assassins, he is, nonetheless, the David who vanquishes the Goliath against whom everyone is helpless. Innocent blood demands vengeance, and Krymov is eventually gunned down by his angry

Assa brings into sharp focus people who regard money as the be-all and end-all of life and who live by a double standard.

Moscow philosopher Victor Mezhuyev has very correctly pinpointed the weak feature of many honest and indubitably interesting films about the younger generation: They continue to approach new subject matter with old yardsticks. However, attempts are being made to break free of the old stereotypes. Two examples are Vyacheslav Sorokin's Temptation-about a school clique that spurns a girl from a poor family-and Rashid Nugmanov's The Needle-about a young hero (played by popular rock singer Victor Tsoi) who tries to save his girl friend from drug addiction.

Another film, Tragedy, Rock Style by the old master Savva Kulish, is a veritable encyclopedia of vice. You name it; the film has it-drugs, sex, violence. Why has all that found its way to the silver screen? The answer, plain and simple, seems to be the desire to attract moviegoers by showing "forbidden fruit.'

Unfortunately, sometimes film makers use eroticism simply as a device, however ineffective, to titillate audiences, without regard for preserv-



ing the integrity of the plot. And yet there are films that contain erotic scenes in which good taste does prevail. These movies exude sincere sensuality and depth, and they are in no way vulgar. Still, what is acceptable to me may arouse protest in another and what protest at that!

Little Vera, the first film directed by Vasili Pichul, 26, came in for especially severe criticism. Actually, Little Vera is a serious film that analyzes the lack of understanding between parents accustomed to living in a totally intellectual void and their children who reject that life. The film does contain one erotic scene; however, it is an integral part of the plot, not just stuck in for kicks.

Little Vera and several other films became the focus of heated debate that gained fresh impetus from an open letter by Alexander Kamshalov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Cinematography. While calling on film makers to "take due account of generally accepted and traditional criteria for good taste," Kamshalov stated he was not going to "set limits on creativity" or "return to bureaucratic administration in the area of art." So there's no threat of Little Vera or the other films being shelved, and that is a breath of fresh air.

ome of the most recent documentaries to be produced by Soviet film makers seemed very unusual at first. But as these films were followed by similar movies, it became clear that the essence of the genre as we knew it was undergoing a radical change. The critics dubbed these new movies "unknown films" since few but the most avid movie fan knew much about them and sought them out. The unknown films, depicting life as it is with all its wrinkles, explore formerly unapproachable subjects, reassess old situations, and employ metaphors prompted by the times. The most agonizing topic to be broached by the

film makers in recent years is our

"We landed on a deserted riverbank," says a character in the film The Past like a Dream, directed by Sergei Miroshnichenko of Sverdlovsk. "I remember it was raining, and Mother covered us with an oilcloth. We were lucky. Some poor families with us didn't even have that to cover themselves with.

"They were the so-called kulaks, people who were driven off their land and escorted to this quay in Siberia. Today tourists sail down the Yenisei River to view the de-

serted banks and to recall the past.

"I'll never forget my meeting with Dad at a camp hospital. It was a miracle that I learned where he was and received permission to see him! I had remembered him as a tall, sturdy man, but what I saw was a living skeleton, yes, all skin and bones. When he saw the sour cream and curds I had bought him at the market... A doctor rushed in shouting: 'Don't give him anything to eat; he'll die right before your eyes.' The hospital was so crowded that the sick could only turn over all together on command."

The bitter memory of the nation . . . Peasants in villages in Arkhangelsk-characters in the film Onega Story, directed by Tatyana Skabbard-recall the period of collectivization, how their property was confiscated, how they were separated from their families and sent miles away from home. Those who could not pay their debts or taxes were stripped of whatever they had. Reduced to dire poverty, the peasants in the region had to sell their cherished heirlooms-kokoshniks (hand-embroidered headdresses) from their grandmother's chest-in order to pay what they owed. If the peasants had no money, they were to pay with eggs, wool, or meat. And what if they had none? Their friends came to their aid, and somehow everyone got by.

The shortest way to socialism came at a high price. The alternative trails had been mercilessly destroyed along with those who blazed them.

The ones who could escape from the collective farms migrated to the cities. A Patch, directed by Alexei Khaniutin, focuses on these migrants, who undertook arduous and low-paying jobs in order to qualify for a temporary residence permit. Peasants from Tambov, Ryazan, and Kaluga regions who settled in Moscow still get together in a quiet corner of Izmailovo Park every Sunday to remember the old days, to dance their traditional dances, and to sing their traditional songs. Today, here in the very heart of the nation's capital, you can see customs that have long since disappeared from the Russian villages.

Another film, Solovetsky Power, directed by Ma-

rina Goldovskaya, captures the agony and tears of whole generations who lived during the bleak Stalin era and became victims of his crimes.

For centuries a monastery was located on the Solovetsky Islands in the White Sea. Ironically, in the 1920s this former home for people who dedicated their life to doing good was turned into a living hell for innocent souls-actors, writers, artists, and musicians-caught in the clutches of the state's punitive machinery. For many,

the Solovetsky camp was their final resting place. Some other documentaries feature new types of social heroes. Three old women in the film One Sunday Morning, directed by Murat Mamedov, are

one example:

... Early one morning a group of old women enter the forest. They chop down several large

"Unknown Films": Exploring New Areas

By Sergei Muratov

Solovetsky Power,

The film

directed by

Marina Goldovskaya, opened yet another grim chapter in the history of Stalinism.



pines, saw them into logs, and load them onto carts. Then the women build a fire, sit down to enjoy a bite to eat, and start to talk. Though the plot seems simple, viewers get caught up in the women's words and admire their quiet heroism.

"We didn't have the chance to know what love was. All we saw was war and grief," says one old woman.

"I worked hard and built a home, never noticing how old I was getting," another woman complains. "Love passed me by. I'm married, but my husband is good for nothing."

"Whatever he is," a third woman quips, "he's better than no man at all."

"Whenever I turn on the television in the evening," one woman continues, "I hear talk about perestroika. A new house has been built for pensioners, we are told. Sounds strange. No one gives us firewood, let alone a house."

The tone of the conversation is only a cover for their actual situation: "Death will make all of us equal. Six feet under, everyone will have equal rights."

Another film, The Goblin, directed by Boris Kustov, tells the story of Alexander Nikolayev, a former party official who for the past 15 years has lived in a hut he built himself in the forest. As an official on the City Executive Committee, Nikolayev does his job, never questioning any order from above. Then one day he refuses to deprive the farmers of the crops they have harvested, and he is expelled from the party.

The decision, however, is soon reversed, and Nikolayev is reinstated, only to be expelled again after he writes a letter to the CPSU Central Committee describing the problems facing young workers. He is accused of slander and fired. Nikolayev decides to move to the forest to be close to nature, and he's been there ever since.

Still other documentaries portray the forerunners of perestroika—principled builders, farmers, doctors, journalists, and scientists who resisted the bureaucratic system, which, in turn, would not leave them in peace.

The film Counterclaim profiles one such champion, Ales Adamovich, a Byelorussian writer. A retrospective directed by Arkadi Ruderman and Yuri Khaschevatsky, the story is seen through the eyes of the professional detectives shadowing Adamovich. The "Adamovich case" unravels slowly, a classic case of hero and antihero. While the former acts openly, the latter is anonymous, careful, unscrupulous, and powerful. Counterclaim won a grand prize at the Leningrad International Documentary Film Festival earlier this year.

A variety of subjects is tackled by the unknown films. Two movies deserve special mention: In Your Yard, directed by Valentina Kuzmina, looks at youth gangs in Kazan and why youngsters join them; while The Touch, the graduation work of





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acing page: Stills from Solovetsky Power. Top to bottom: The Solovetsky concentration camp, was housed in this ancient monastery. An inscription on the wall of a cell. One of the damned holds a poster of the inmate theater. New arrivals enter the camp. Crosses mark the anonymous graves. Below: Scenes from A Patch, a film about village people clinging to tradition while living in the city.

director Algis Arlauskas, features life in a home for blind, deaf-mute children in Zagorsk near Moscow. *The Touch* is a truly unique film in that the scriptwriter is himself blind and deaf.

Another original film, *New Times*, directed by Georgi Nenashev of Sverdlovsk, is hard to categorize. Its main character, an undercover interviewer, is a lively, clever, charming, cheerful, and mischievous adventurer, whose cynicism is softened by his artistry and sense of humor. He has much in common with the hero of the picaresque novel.

Concealing a microphone in his briefcase, the undercover interviewer—an ordinary worker plays the part—sets out for the city's markets, auctions, and squares. He encounters, among others, a group of rabid Stalinists, the son of "an enemy of the people," and a blue-eyed innocent who is repairing a church.

Though documentaries are still relatively unknown to the general public, they are gaining ground. One movie house in Moscow is now regularly showing the films. Also, in the past six months two documentary film festivals have been held in the country.





WHITE WATER!

Last summer RAFT (Russians and Americans for Teamwork), a private American organization, and the Soviet Peace Fund collaborated on an international water sports competition. Races on the Chuya, a mountain river in the Altai Mountains of southern Siberia, presented many opportunities to prove that "a friend in need is a friend indeed." Cooperation was fostered by overcoming dangers on the river and by together living in camp.

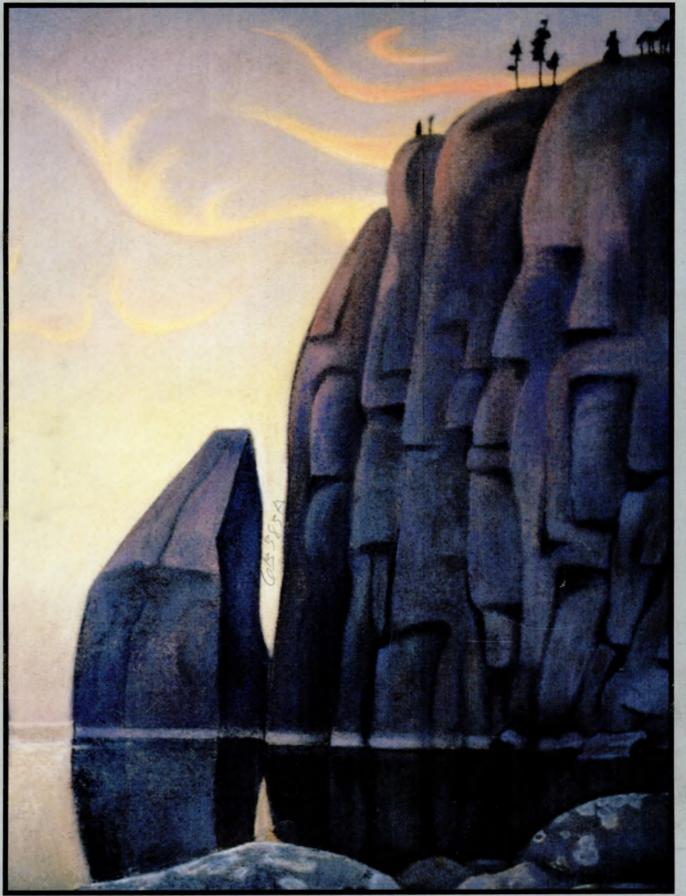


NO SECRETS HERE

Another article about Soviet-American contacts concerns a trip around the USSR by a delegation of American congressmen, business people, and members of the U.S. Administration last August. The group visited seven Soviet military installations, including some that were formerly closed not only to foreigners but also to Soviet journalists.

COMING SOON

Alcoholism— Treatment Alternatives



BORIS SMIRNOV-RUSETSKY. ON LAKE LADOGA. 1983. CARDBOARD, PASTEL. SEE STORY ON PP 52-56.

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