


AMPHLET  
O-304

# World Will NOT Be Blown Up!



---

Soviet Youth  
and the Peace Movement



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2019 with funding from  
Kahle/Austin Foundation

Andrei LOSKUTOV

**The World  
Shall NOT Be  
Blown Up!**

---

Soviet Youth  
and the Peace Movement

Thomas J. Bata Library  
TRENT UNIVERSITY  
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO



Novosti Press Agency Publishing House  
Moscow 1983

Joseph (10-504)

Andrei KOSYKOV

Blow em  
ed **TOW** here  
blow up

Translated from the Russian by V. KOCHETKOV  
Translation edited by P. TEMPEST

Great Youth  
and the Peace Movement

Thomas J. Bala Library  
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO  
L7R 4R7

0801010000

© Novosti Press Agency Publishing House 1983  
Editing completed on February 15, 1983



## CONTENTS

<b>Mummy, Sunshine, Peace to the World</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Some History, or the First Steps Towards Unity</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Soviet Students for Unity in the Struggle for Peace</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Strengthen Unity to Strengthen Peace</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Festivals of Unity</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Small Things Lead to Big Things</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>"No," Say Sixteen Million of the Generation Which Does Not Want to Be the Last One</b>	<b>24</b>



"My name is Sergei Ivanov. I'm leaving school this year and going to drive a trolley-bus. I don't want war."

"My name? Konstantin Nagaitsev, a physics student. I do not want war."

"Galina Staroselskaya, a children's doctor. I graduated a year ago. I don't want war."

"I'm a tailor Andrei Tinkov. I'm against war."

"My name is Nina Yartseva. I work at a ball-bearing factory. I'm 26. I do not want war."

Interviews with Soviet young people attending anti-war rallies

## **Mummy, Sunshine, Peace to the World**

There are no peace lessons at Soviet schools. Nor are there any school textbooks on peace. But 24-year-old Andrei Mezinov, well-known among Moscow's medical students as an organizer of anti-war activities, remembers that the primer with

which he learned to read at the age of six began with these very words—"Mummy, sunshine, peace to the world".

I went to a library and took two school primers, an old one and the very latest one. They were very different: teaching methods have made great progress. But these words I have quoted are to be found in both books. The anti-war education of Soviet people begins with them. It takes different forms later on, but these simple words still express its essence.

In December 1982 the 8th Soviet-Finnish seminar on education, held in Helsinki, noted that a main task was to foster in children a love of peace, so they actively strive to safeguard peace.

What Andrei Mezinov says illustrates this. He recalls that when in junior school he and his classmates visited war veterans, helped them with household chores and did shopping for them. Later on he helped collect aid for the children of Vietnam and was an active member of the International Friendship Club at his school.

Today's school pupils are the children of the generation born after the war. Like their parents, they know about the war from books and films. The history of their Soviet homeland, from its very first day when the first document of the Soviet government—the Decree on Peace—was adopted, teaches them to hate war. For almost 40 years the Soviet Union has lived without war. Their grandfathers and great-grandfathers paid a terrible price to bring peace to their country.

Peace is the happiness of children, of all people. There can be no childhood and no future without peace. Wars have robbed millions upon millions of people of their childhood. This must never be forgotten.



Schools and Young Pioneer camps in the Soviet Union often organize meetings with war veterans, people who many times faced death and lost comrades-in-arms who died to bring peace on earth. The exploits of many war heroes are not known to this day and their graves have not been traced. Young Pioneer organizations (they have about 19 million members) actively assist this search, the motto of which is "No one has been forgotten, nothing has been forgotten".

Thousands of Soviet families learned about the fate of their near ones, who had been listed as missing, thanks to the searches of Young Pioneer pathfinders. Here is one example. During the civil war in Spain in the late 1930s a gruesome cargo was dropped over Madrid: the mutilated body of a man with a note saying the same fate awaited all who helped the Republicans fight against the fascists. This outrage had been committed against a Soviet pilot by butchers of the fascist dictator Franco. For many years the name of the hero remained unknown. Young pathfinders from the city of Kursk proved that the flyer was a fellow-townsmen of theirs, a Young Communist, Vladimir Bocharov, who volunteered to go to Spain. He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

It has also become a tradition for Young Pioneers to support those fighting for the freedom and independence of peoples and to keep in touch with children in other countries.

A campaign called "Young Pioneers of the USSR Aid Vietnam" was initiated by the international friendship clubs of Moscow, Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, Ivanovo in Central Russia, Sverdlovsk in the Urals and Artek, the country's largest Young Pioneer camp on the Black Sea coast of

the Crimea where about 25,000 Soviet schoolchildren and children from other countries spend summer holidays. Young Pioneers collected pencils, pens, exercise books, picture books, drawing pads and paints and sent them as gifts to the children of Vietnam.

Then a new campaign began called "Medicinal Herbs for the Hanoi Children's Hospital" and a "Solidarity" campaign in which Soviet schoolchildren sent three million roubles to build a Young Pioneer palace in Hanoi. The children earned this money working on Saturdays and Sundays and by collecting waste paper and scrap metal.

Similar campaigns were conducted in solidarity with the children of Chile, Angola, Portugal, Nicaragua and many other countries. Thousands of roubles are annually remitted to the Soviet Peace Fund by schools, Young Pioneer organizations and international friendship clubs. Meetings and demonstrations in support of fighters against fascist, dictatorial and racist regimes, letters and messages of greetings to political prisoners in capitalist countries, "friendship ships" loaded with gifts, and other solidarity actions are only a few of the ways the rising generation in the Soviet Union manifest their internationalist spirit.

Soviet Young Pioneers have broad links with children's and youth organizations in other countries. For instance, the Central Council of the USSR Young Pioneer Organization is in touch with about 100 similar organizations in 80 countries. To this should be added the numerous direct contacts established by 53,000 international friendship clubs with schools, societies and organizations in other countries. The aim of these contacts is summed up in the same simple phrase "Mummy, sunshine, peace to the world".

"All these activities will not necessarily make everyone in their early twenties an active fighter for peace, as happened with me," says Andrei Mezinov. "But a person brought up on our traditions will never become a militarist."

Incidentally, Mezinov did not straightaway become a leader of the anti-war activities of Moscow students. There was, he recalls, a stimulus.

One summer after his second year at medical college he and some friends went to a collective farm in Byelorussia, a republic in the west of the USSR, where they undertook to build a village school. When they were laying the foundations they came upon the remains of a soldier—Byelorussia had been occupied by the Nazis during the war. They only managed to identify his name, Anatoli, which was scratched on his water flask.

"That was when I began to wonder whether my life was not a bit too free and easy. Each generation of our people has had to face the question: What does struggling for peace mean? In Byelorussia I realized that sometimes one has to answer this question by giving one's life and that it was now the turn of my generation to answer the question."

In the summer of 1982 Andrei Mezinov took part in the Peace March-82 which began in Scandinavian countries and then passed through the Soviet Union and countries in Eastern and Western Europe.

"Marching side by side with Norwegians, Danes and Finns I became acutely aware that concern for the destiny of peace was felt not only by me alone and not only by my colleagues in the students' anti-war movement, but also by young people in other countries. But it is not enough not to



want war. Peace has to be fought for by all of us young people. Our strength lies in unity.”

## **Some History, or the First Steps Towards Unity**

Peace and co-operation were the words with which the youth of the world's first socialist state addressed the young people of other countries.

Why was unity needed? When the forces of imperialism began their intervention against Soviet Russia they worked in close accord. Soon after the October Socialist Revolution of 1917 the Soviet state found itself encircled by the forces of intervention: British and French troops landed in the Ukraine and Transcaucasia, US troops seized Arkhangelsk and Japanese troops the Soviet Far East. In addition, they actively assisted the forces of internal counter-revolution. The invasion was conducted according to previously agreed plans.

Naturally, such concerted hostile action had to be countered with the unity of all the democratic forces who championed peace among nations.

In October 1918 the Young Communist League—now called the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, or the Komsomol—was founded and undertook to carry out this task in the youth movement. It called on the democratic youth of the world to help defend the world's first state of workers and peasants, to unite in the struggle against world capital. “The young workers of the whole world have the same interests. They have one enemy: the exploiters of the whole world. Young proletarians of France, Britain, America and other countries! Protest against your governments' interference in the affairs of Russia!” Such



an appeal was adopted at the 3rd Congress of the Komsomol.

At the same time the Central Committee of the Komsomol adopted a special decision on holding a Red Day of Assistance to the Proletarian Youth of the West. The land of the Soviets had been bled white by the war. People were suffering from hunger and economic dislocation. Despite this money and clothes for young people in Western Europe were collected throughout the country. Soviet young men and women gave three days' earnings to help young workers in the West.

Conscious unity and a knowledge of its traditions were moulded in this way.

Sergei Saltanov, a Komsomol leader from the city of Nizhni Novgorod (now Gorky), was the first representative of the youth of new Russia who was sent to Prague to take part in celebrating International Youth Day<sup>1</sup>. It was a secret journey, because anti-communism and anti-Sovietism prevailed in the West and every "Red" was regarded as an enemy—though not by everybody. Young people in West European countries wanted to get first-hand information about the land of the Soviets, about the revolution and socialism. An invitation was extended to Soviet Russia and Sergei Saltanov was delegated. He first travelled to Hamburg and then to Prague and took part in demonstrations and meetings marking International Youth Day. In his speeches Sergei called for the unity of youth. After one such speech he was arrested and jailed. Then he was released and returned home.

---

<sup>1</sup> The first International Youth Day was held on October 3, 1915, as a day of protest against the imperialist war, as a demonstration of the solidarity of young workers.

But already in 1925-1926, when the international authority of the Soviet Union could no longer be disregarded, it was openly visited by 25 youth delegations—including young men and women from Germany, Belgium, France, Italy and Scandinavian countries. There also were representatives of Czechoslovakia, among them people who had heard the Soviet Young Communist Sergei Saltanov speak.

That was how regular contacts began between young people in the Soviet Union and other countries. The Komsomol took the initiative in building a broad front of democratic youth against the forces of reaction, against the war threat and against fascism, which had begun to rear its head.

In the 1930s Soviet youth delegations took part in such international forums as the International Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Congress (Paris, 1933), the World Students' Congress (Brussels, 1934), the International Youth Anti-War Conference (Paris, 1935) and the 2nd World Youth Congress (New York, 1938). At each of these forums the representatives of Soviet youth took a principled and truly internationalist stand.

A fresh impulse to stepping up the struggle for peace was given by the Soviet Union's victory over fascism. The peoples of the world saw what modern war means and understood the need to prevent a new world tragedy.

Immediately after the war Soviet youth took part in establishing international youth associations. In 1945 the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) was founded and a year later the International Union of Students (IUS). These became the organizing centres of world youth in the struggle against war and for peace for all the peoples of the planet. In a preamble the IUS Rules state that the main task of all the young people

of the world, including students, is to struggle for a world without war, and that this struggle can be waged only by united forces.

How are Soviet youth, who helped to found the WFDY and the IUS, contributing to this struggle?

## **Soviet Students for Unity in the Struggle for Peace**

Strengthening unity to strengthen peace—this is the principal objective of the modern youth movement, in the opinion of Alexander Lunkov, Chairman of the USSR Students' Council.

Unity in 1920 and now—60 years later? Does this mean that throughout all these years we have been marking time?

“By no means. There are several reasons for the ‘vitality’ of this slogan. One of them is the specific nature of the student audience: it is constantly changing and being renewed, and the basic ideas of the anti-war movement and the experience accumulated by previous generations have to be passed to each generation.”

In 1982 the 2nd Youth and Student Day of Action for Disarmament was held in the Soviet Union in response to the appeal the United Nations addressed to the peoples of the world to step up the anti-war movement. To mark the day 53,000 anti-war meetings and demonstrations were held attended by almost 19 million Soviet young people, foreign guests and students from many countries studying in the Soviet Union.

Peace marches were held in some cities. For many students these meetings and demonstrations were a kind of “anti-war school” in which they fol-

lowed their comrades who had been participating in the anti-war movement for many years.

There is another reason why the call for unity remains as timely as ever.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the policy of the imperialist states made a sharp turn to the right, to a new chill in international relations, to new attempts to solve international problems by force, threats and intimidation, to replace negotiations with such weapons as Pershing, cruise and MX missiles and the neutron bomb.

Naturally, the youth were the first to reject such threatening language, such a way of conducting talks, because it is they who will have to bear arms in any war. That is why the international youth anti-war movement became more active in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

This movement is growing fast and news agencies report more anti-war activities on an unprecedented scale in many countries. The movement is also changing qualitatively. Staunch fighters for peace are being joined by people, including young people, who are alarmed by the threat to the independence of their countries, by the threat to their own lives.

"Today Soviet youth are joining in the anti-war movement not only with Communist student organizations, but also Catholic, Social-Democrat, Conservative, Liberal and Christian-Democrat students," says Alexander Lunkov.

Soviet students have made many proposals which have won support among students all over the world. Alexander recalls the following incident. For some time he was the Soviet representative on the editorial board of *World Youth*, the WFDY magazine published in Budapest. One day the board received a letter from the Soviet Union—a drawing



of a neutron bomb with a cross over it and more than 600 signatures of young factory and office workers, collective farmers and students. The magazine published the letter and began to receive more letters from other countries. "As you can see," says Alexander Lunkov, "young people in different countries can understand one another without words." Incidentally, this postal protest by Soviet youth was one of the streams which merged to form the flood of the "No to the Neutron Bomb" campaign by world youth in which tens of millions of young people from many countries took part.

Another example can be given illustrating the great authority Soviet students have in the international students' movement. In the late 1970s Soviet students suggested holding a mass campaign with the motto: "Education—a Right, not a Privilege". This initiative was highly appreciated by the IUS.

"May I add that the Soviet students were posing a question which was solved in our country long ago," says Alexander Lunkov. "Education in the USSR is generally accessible and free at all levels. Yet we are concerned not only with our own problems but also with those that engage many students in the world."

The campaign itself and its main event—the World Student Forum on Education (Weimar, 1980)—struck a clear anti-war note. In their speeches the student delegates of virtually all the countries participating in the forum said peace was what students needed most of all.

Alexander Lunkov thinks students in the capitalist countries today are becoming increasingly interested in politics and trying to find the roots

of the shortcomings of the educational system in their own countries.

This may be seen in the development of the European Student Meetings. At first these dealt with "purely student" problems such as the expansion of student tourism, exchanges between national student unions, and so on. But gradually the situation changed. At the 19th Meeting, held in Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian Republic, in June 1982, students spoke of the most pressing problems of the day, their contribution to curbing the arms race and the stepping up of student anti-war activities, and they showed where the threat to peace comes from. This did not pass unnoticed. For the first time in the history of European Student Meetings the participants in the 19th Meeting received a message from the UN Secretary-General. This testifies to the great authority the students' anti-war movement has come to enjoy.

"No matter how high our authority may be," Alexander Lunkov says, "the student movement for peace should be regarded primarily as part of the worldwide anti-war youth movement."

## **Strengthen Unity to Strengthen Peace**

The younger generation in the Soviet Union is represented in the international youth movement for peace by the Committee of Youth Organizations (CYO) of the USSR. This committee was founded in 1956 by 40 public, cultural, professional and sports youth organizations. The biggest of them, the Young Communist League, has nearly 42 million members aged from 14 to 28.

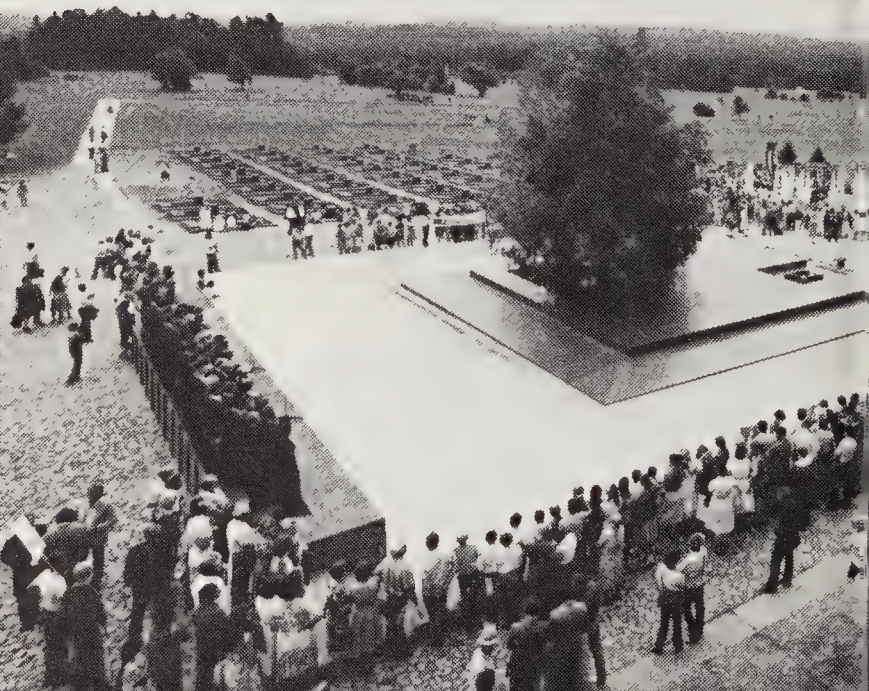
"We are for closer contacts with organizations of every kind except fascist," says Vladimir Aksyo-



The traditional offering of bread and salt is how Soviet young people greet guests coming from all over the world to see for themselves how the youth in the world's first socialist country are living, studying and working. They tell Soviet youth about life in their own countries and discuss ways of upholding peace



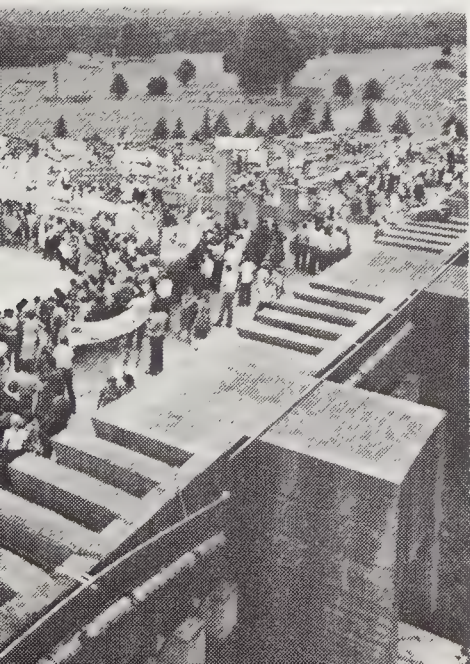
Participants in the Peace March-82 lay flowers at the Monument to the Motherland in Leningrad







"Let there always be sunshine, let there always be Mummy, let there always be me," run the words of Soviet children's favourite song. This boy in Kiev joins the ranks of grown-ups in an anti-war demonstration



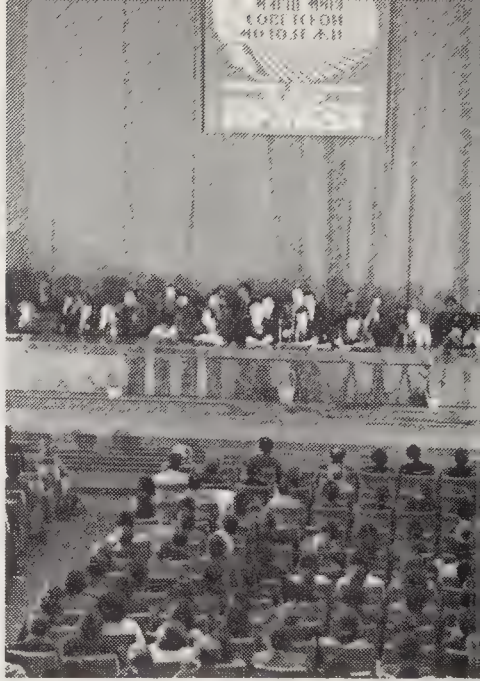
The Byelorussian village of Khatyn was burned down by the Nazis together with all its residents. To the memorial that stands there now thousands of people from all over the Soviet Union and from abroad come to honour the memory of war victims







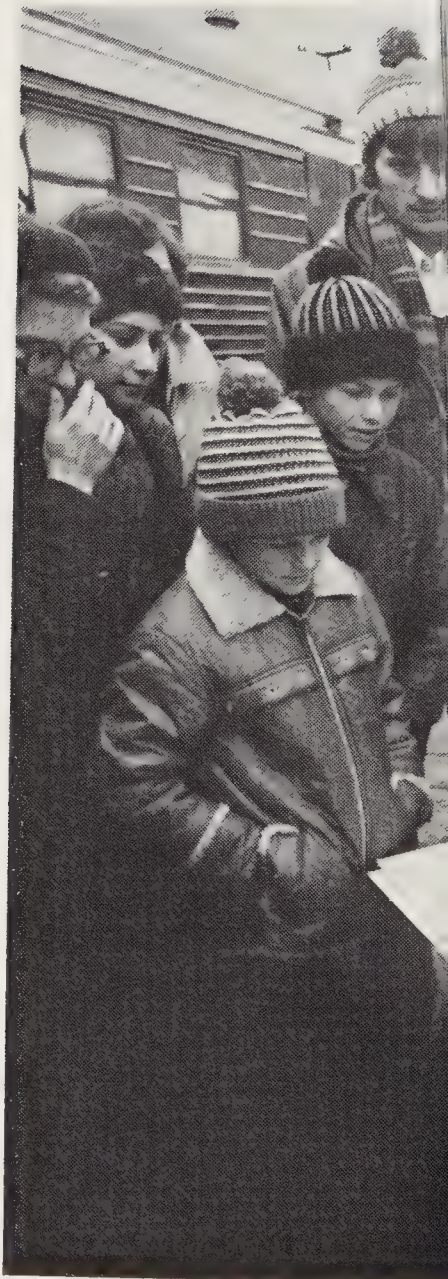
Young people of many nationalities on holiday at a youth camp near Moscow greet participants in the Peace March-82 which passed through the USSR in July 1982





Young men and women from 107 countries took part in the anti-war meetings held at the Patrice Lumumba People's Friendship University in Moscow as part of the Peace March of Soviet youth. The meetings unanimously called for persistent struggle for peace, the prevention of the danger of thermonuclear war and the curbing of the arms race

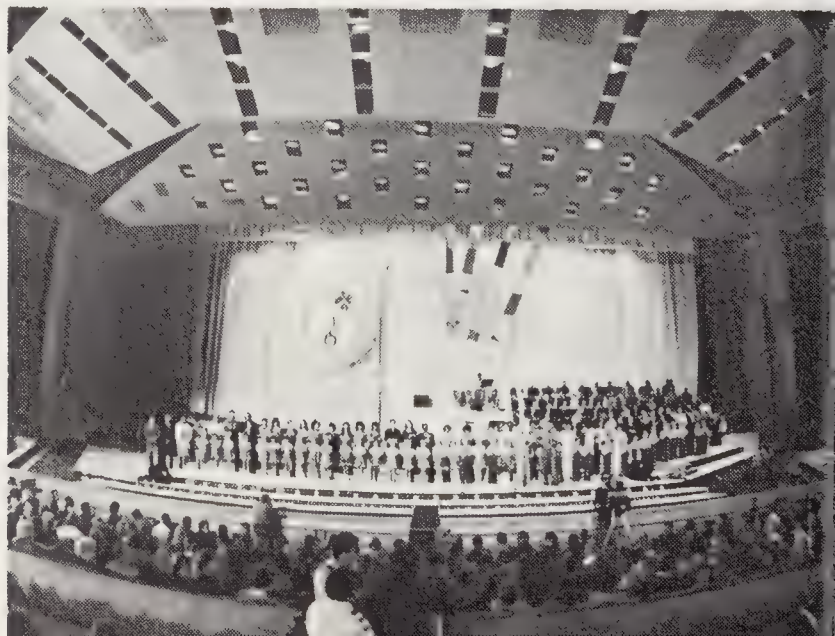




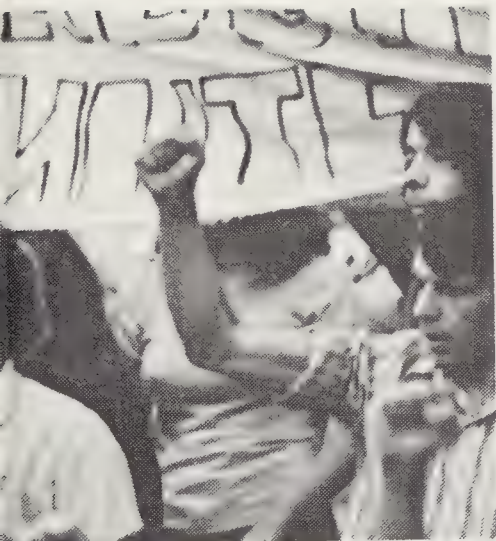
Soviet people sign the appeal  
to the 37th session of the  
United Nations General  
Assembly during one of the  
stops of the Peace Train











Many international centres have been established in the Soviet Union where young people not only spend their holidays but also discuss the rights and pressing problems of youth



- ◀ September 1981: the 7th "Red Carnation" International Political Song Festival was held in Sochi. Dozens of singers from many countries came with their songs protesting at the threat of a new war, voicing sorrow for comrades who fell in the struggle for the freedom and independence of their countries, and expressing confidence in the ultimate triumph of justice and the peaceful future of humankind

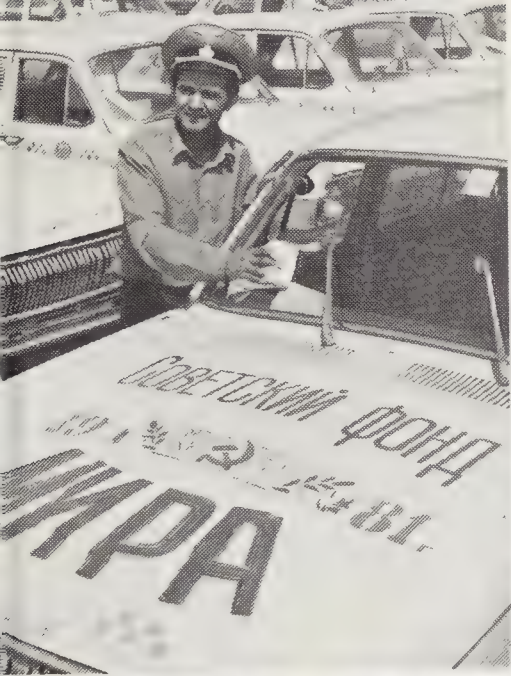


"No to the neutron bomb!" was the call at rallies and political demonstrations held throughout the Soviet Union



Students of a music school in Kursk in Central Russia donated to the Peace Fund the proceeds of a concert they gave





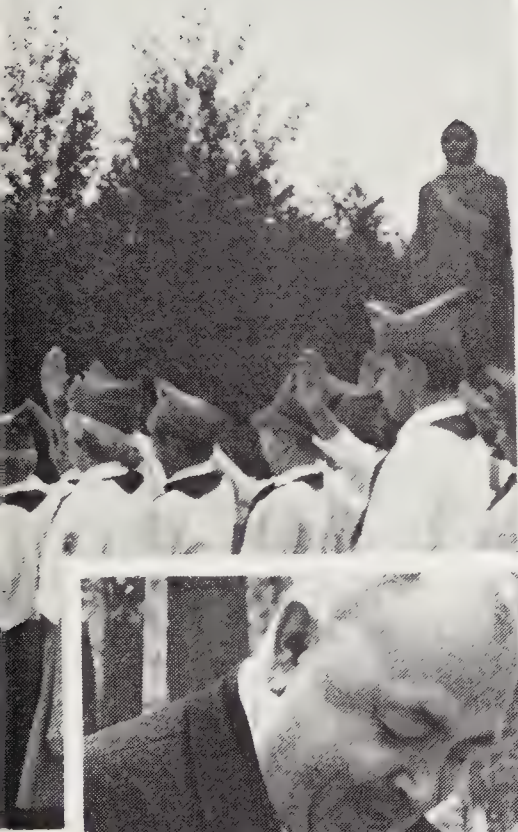
Young people are among the millions in the USSR who contribute to the Soviet Peace Fund: a taxi driver in Tajikistan donates a day's earnings to the Peace Fund







The Second World War ended long ago and whole generations have grown up which have not known the horrors of death and devastation. But let them never forget those who fought for their happiness and may the alliance of people of all generations, all races and all religious convictions grow stronger





Soviet children are against war, they want peace to study, engage in their favourite pastimes, to take up sport, relax and have fun. That is why so many of them took part in the international children's festival "Let there always be sunshine!"

nov, CYO chairman. "In the war which fascism unleashed the Soviet Union lost 20 million lives. We cannot and do not want to forget this. Moreover, the fascists are not campaigning for peace."

The range of CYO contacts is shown by the following figures. The long-term programme for co-operation between Soviet and Finnish youth is signed by the leaders of 39 Finnish youth organizations. Also wide is the political spectrum of the 25 youth organizations in Federal Germany with which the CYO has permanent contacts. At the present time 1,350 national, regional and international youth and student organizations in more than 140 countries are in touch with the USSR Committee of Youth Organizations.

Soviet young people take an active part in various international youth gatherings. For example, the USSR delegations were among the most representative delegations at the European Youth and Student Meeting (Warsaw, 1976), at the European Youth and Student Conference on Disarmament (Budapest, 1978) and at international youth forums on peace, detente and solidarity held in Helsinki, Delhi, Paris and Copenhagen.

At the same time Soviet young people willingly host many international meetings. Such meetings are, as a rule, held on the initiative of Soviet youth.

"In organizing such meetings we endeavour to embrace as many social strata as possible of the young people in other countries who are co-operating with us—people engaged in technology and the arts, in industry, agriculture, and so on," says Vladimir Aksyonov.

Here are a few examples. In August 1981 the city of Nakhodka, which lies on the Pacific coast, was the venue of the 6th International Seminar



of Young Researchers on Problems of Co-operation in the Pacific Ocean Basin. Its participants included representatives of 33 youth, student and other public organizations from 25 countries, as well as of the WFDY, the IUS, the Latin American Continental Students Organization, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the World Peace Council. The seminar was also attended by leading scientists from Australia, Canada, the US, Japan, the Philippines and other countries.

In December 1982 the International Seminar of Editors of Youth Publications was held in Moscow and several other Soviet cities. Editors of youth newspapers and magazines from 11 countries acquainted themselves with the work of the youth press in the USSR. "It is the most powerful youth press in the world," one of the seminar participants said after learning that 247 youth newspapers and magazines are published in the USSR with a total circulation of 80 million copies.

The main theme of the seminar was the contribution the youth press can make to the struggle for peace. Many participants noted that this is a leading theme in the pages of Soviet youth newspapers.

Meetings of children from many countries are also held in the USSR. A visit to just one of them makes it clear that not only children's questions concern the children of today. For instance, the traditional international forum held at the Artek Young Pioneer Camp in the summer of 1982 discussed the participation of children's and youth organizations in defending and strengthening peace.

All these meetings, held on the initiative of Soviet youth, have helped strengthen the unity of the peace movement of world youth.



“This unity was demonstrated at the World Forum of Youth and Students for Peace, Detente and Disarmament, which became one of the major events of the international youth movement in recent years,” says Vladimir Aksyonov.

The gathering was held in Helsinki on January 19-23 and was attended by representatives of virtually all the major world youth organizations. They discussed current questions of international relations, the political and military aspects of detente, the social and economic consequences of the arms race and measures to curb it. Within the framework of the forum a meeting of representatives of children's and youth organizations was held, called “Children's and Youth Organizations in the Struggle for Peace”.

It is gratifying to note that the initiative for holding this international youth forum, one unprecedented in scale, came from Soviet young people, delegates to the 18th Congress of the Young Communist League in 1978.

“We shall all together establish a world of everlasting peace and a better future for humanity.” Representatives of practically all the major world youth and students' associations set their signatures to this declaration in the final document of the forum.

Soviet youth also initiated such an important forum promoting the unity and solidarity of the international youth movement for peace as World Festivals of Youth and Students.

## **Festivals of Unity**

Speaking at the World Youth Conference in London in 1945, Lidia Voinova, representing Soviet

youth, defined the aim of the world youth movement as follows: "Peace is our aim, unity is our way". These words were made the basis of the motto of the whole festival movement: "Through mutual understanding to unity! Through unity to peace, progress and active struggle against the forces of imperialism and reaction!"

From the very first world youth festival (Prague, 1947), these events became celebrations of the unity of our planet's younger generation in the struggle for world peace.

The festivals have contributed a great deal to the development of the youth movement. Together with them such a form of co-operation appeared as the International Preparatory Committee and similar national committees. In several countries these eventually became permanently functioning institutions of the international youth movement.

One more point: thanks to the festivals this movement has gone beyond the bounds of a purely youth concern and become part of the international movement of all the world's peoples for peace. For instance, those participating in the first festivals actively set about collecting signatures to the Stockholm Appeal calling for a ban on atomic weapons. Marina Gorokhova, a young Leningrad worker, collected about 5,000 signatures of young people to the appeal.

The 6th Festival, the biggest in the history of the festival movement, was the Moscow Festival (1957). It was attended by 34,000 young people from many countries.

The last, 11th Festival, was held in Havana, the capital of socialist Cuba, in the summer of 1978. Participating were 18,500 representatives of 2,000 national, regional and international youth

and students' organizations from 145 countries. "A feature of this youth forum was the wide representation of different political forces, among them young Socialists, Social-Democrats, Liberals, Centrists and others, who until recently either kept aside from the festival movement or were against it," the Finnish newspaper *Tiedonantaja* wrote at the time.

Such broad representation is explained by the striving of world youth to help solve the urgent problems of our time and in the first place the problem of preventing a new war. The motto of the Havana Festival was "For anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship!"

Great interest was roused among the festival participants by a new form of activity—the international tribunal "Youth and Students Accuse Imperialism". At its sittings the tribunal heard evidence from witnesses exposing genocide, racism, fascism, militarism, the activities of the CIA and other criminal organizations of the imperialists. In wrathful condemnation of imperialism the young people declared: "We denounce imperialism for the constant danger to which it exposes the peoples, seeking to halt humankind's progress even at the cost of its destruction."

Many participants in the Havana Festival agreed that the Club of the Soviet Delegation became a main centre of festival activities. More than 120 meetings and 400 political discussions were held, most of them dealing with problems of the anti-war movement. The club was visited by 100,000 people altogether. In other words, more than 11,000 visited it every day.

Now that the international situation is worsening again, the question of the next, the 12th World



Festival of Youth and Students, acquires special urgency. When will it be held?

According to Sergei Ulin, CYO vice-chairman, already several large youth associations have offered their services as hosts of the new festival. Among them is one Finnish youth organization. As for when it will be held, 1985, the year which the UN has designated as Youth Year, has been suggested. Two other important dates will be marked in that same year: the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Sergei Ulin said also that in the very near future Soviet youth would start preparations for the new festival, among them Saturday and Sunday "work for the festival": the festival funds are made up of remittances from participating countries. As a result of only one Soviet *subbotnik* (a full day's work on a Saturday—*subbota* in Russian—for public benefit), which Soviet youth organized before the Havana Festival, the fund of that festival received about 50 million roubles.

## Small Things Lead to Big Things

"Big events, such as world forums and festivals, international seminars and meetings, are culminations of the youth movement," says Igor Sagiryan, head of the CYO press department. "They are prepared at small-scale 'bilateral events'. Soviet youth have rich experience in such events too."

In August 1982 Igor Sagiryan directed the 16th Camp of Friendship of Soviet and French youth.

"I had never thought that it would be so difficult to explain simple things," he told us. "We Soviet young people have long been accustomed

to the fact that we have free education, that every college graduate has guaranteed employment, that peace is as dear to us as it is to other people. But to our French guests it was something of a revelation."

Igor Sagiryian found a common language with young Frenchmen and women. At the close of the camp he received nearly 100 invitations to visit France. About 120 French youth stayed at the camp. Some said they had previously thought a subtle sense of humour was an exclusive trait of the French nation. But after meeting Igor Sagiryian they realized they were wrong.

But other more serious conclusions were drawn after a fortnight's stay in the Soviet Union. I shall quote some of them.

*Lorella Macro*, a student: "I do not belong to any party and I cannot say that after this trip I shall become a Communist. But I can say most definitely that I shall never become an enemy of your country. I have seen that the USSR is striving for peace, which means it is acting in the interests of all the peoples of the earth."

*Yves Enaux*, a journalist: "I am a Christian Socialist and on many points I disagree with Communists, including Soviet ones. But after having visited the USSR I have become convinced that your young people, like our French boys, do not want war. In this you go our way."

This was only one bilateral meeting. In the past two years there have been several dozen such events: weeks of friendship with the youth of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Colombia, Madagascar, Mexico, Panama and Syria, Soviet-American and Soviet-West German youth meetings, a friendship festival of Soviet and Finnish youth and many other events.

“Small things lead to big things,” Igor Sagi-ryan says. “These little things are a kind of rough copy. Just as a work of literature cannot be created without a rough copy, so unity of the youth movement for peace is unthinkable without such work as this.”

## **“No,” Say Sixteen Million of the Generation Which Does Not Want to Be the Last One**

So far we have been speaking about the contribution the younger generation in the USSR is making to strengthening the unity of the youth movement for peace at the international level. But Soviet youth arrange their own anti-war activities. Vladimir Kolkov, a CYO staff member, told me about one of them.

Mass youth meetings and demonstrations were held in the USSR on December 12, 1981, the second anniversary of NATO's decision to deploy new American medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. At one of the meetings in Barnaul, a city in Siberia, young workers proposed sending a protest postcard directly to NATO headquarters in Brussels. The central youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which has a 10-million circulation, printed the Russian and English texts of the protest postcard, which was reprinted in many other youth newspapers all over the country. It said:

“We, the young people of the Soviet Union, represent the generation starting its life with a firm desire to preserve and multiply the achievements of humankind. As well as millions of young people all over the world we don't want to be the last generation.



"We call for the beginning of a constructive dialogue which would finally resolve the problems of disarmament and ensure international confidence based on detente."

Anyone subscribing to these demands could cut out the protest postcard from the newspaper, stick an appropriate stamp on it, sign the postcard and mail it to Brussels.

By early January 1982, that is to say, within about twenty days of the publication of the texts of the postcard, more than a million young people had signed cards and mailed them to Brussels.

A spokesman at NATO headquarters told journalists the "postal campaign" by Soviet youth complicated the work of NATO staff, who had to sort a vast amount of mail.

In the Soviet Union this campaign was called a Peace March, because the signing of the postcard was accompanied everywhere by demonstrations and anti-war meetings. Those participating did not confine themselves to signing the postcard. Young workers at Moscow's No. 1 ball-bearing plant, for example, sent to the Soviet Peace Fund about 12,000 roubles they had earned during *subbotniks*. The Peace Fund also received 13,000 roubles from young factory and office workers in the Maritime Territory in the Soviet Far East.

"Although the Peace March started as an exclusively 'home campaign'," says Vladimir Kolkov, "it quickly assumed an international character. The protest was signed by foreigners studying at Soviet higher education institutes. The postcard was reprinted by several youth organizations abroad. It was signed by more than 16 million people in all."

A fresh impulse was given to this campaign after the 19th Congress of the Komsomol (Young

Communist League) in Moscow. It came to be called the Soviet Youth Peace March.

On October 24, 1982, a Peace Train pulled out of the city of Sovetskaya Gavan on the Pacific coast. It crossed the whole of the USSR from East to West, covering about 20,000 kilometres, making stops in 40 large cities and ending its journey in the Hero City of Brest on the western borders of the USSR on December 17, 1982.

Its passengers were active members of the youth anti-war movement—young workers, collective farmers, students, representatives of Soviet and foreign organizations, and journalists.

“I have two sons and I do not want war to invade their lives,” said Vladimir Ryabukin, one of the locomotive drivers of the Peace Train. “I regard my taking part in the Peace Train journey and in the Soviet Youth Peace March as my contribution to the strengthening of peace.”

“The war has become part of our lives,” said poet Pavel Bulushev, a war veteran, a defender of besieged Leningrad, who was invited by the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR to take part in the journey of the Peace Train. “Although almost forty years have passed, the wounds of the war have not healed yet. The war scarred the hearts and souls of millions of Soviet people. There is hardly a family in the Soviet Union which did not lose one or more of its members in the war. I am glad to see so many young people in the ranks of fighters for peace. This strengthens hope that the horrors of war will never be repeated.”

Everywhere the Peace Train stopped there were mass demonstrations, political song festivals and the collection of signatures to the Appeal of Soviet youth to the 37th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

For example, on the day the Peace Train arrived in Ulan-Ude, east of Lake Baikal, the workers at the smelting shop of a local plant there worked a "peace shift" and donated the money they earned to the Soviet Peace Fund. Since this anti-war campaign began the people of Ulan-Ude have given more than a million roubles to the Peace Fund.

At the meeting in Barnaul held to greet the Peace Train Vladimir Bin, a fitter who had in 1981 been one of the authors of the protest postcard, asked to speak. "The Western generals talk a great deal about our superiority in armaments," he said. "Our real superiority is entirely different: we are working persistently for peace and this stand of ours is winning increasing support."

The Soviet Youth Peace March was highly appreciated by young people in other countries. Here are two comments.

*Eutimia Tsanaka*, a leading member of the Communist Youth of Greece:

"We had heard a lot about the Soviet Youth Peace March, but what we saw in Ulyanovsk, where we joined the Peace Train, surpassed all expectations. Now we see that Soviet youth, including the young people of Ulyanovsk, the birthplace of Vladimir Lenin, are very active champions of peace, detente and disarmament."

*Kimmo Lehtonen*, Finnish journalist:

"I came to Ulyanovsk for two reasons. First, I wanted to visit the birthplace of Lenin, the leader of the world's first state which made the struggle for peace the basis of its policy. Second, I wanted to learn as much as possible about the participation of Soviet youth in the peace movement. . . . On joining the demonstrators on their march I saw with my own eyes by what sincere and profound feelings my Soviet contemporaries are moved."



Soviet youth do not merely hate war. They are actively striving to prevent it, relying on the support of the international youth movement. Here are some of the activities undertaken on the initiative of Soviet young people in recent years:

— the worldwide campaigns “Youth and Students Accuse Imperialism” and “For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Progress”;

— the Worldwide Forum of Working Youth and the World Meeting of Young Women, which were held in Moscow, attended by delegates from more than 100 countries;

— broadly representative youth conferences on questions of European security, held in Florence and Helsinki;

— the European Meeting of Youth and Students “For Lasting Peace, Security, Co-operation and Social Progress”, held in Warsaw in 1976; and

— the European Youth and Student Conference on Disarmament, held in Budapest.

Thanks to these initiatives broad masses of young people became actively involved and the ranks of peace fighters grew substantially. In May 1982 the 19th Congress of the Young Communist League (Komsomol) was held in Moscow. Its delegates adopted an address, “The World Shall Not Be Blown Up”, and they proposed conducting an international campaign in 1985 entitled “Memory”, marking the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The contribution Soviet youth are making to the strengthening of peace has been highly appraised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth. At the 19th YCL Congress WFDY General Secretary Miklós Barabás presented to the Komsomol the high-

est award of the federation—the Gold Medal “For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity in the Struggle for Peace, Detente, Disarmament, for Democracy and Social Progress, Against Imperialism, Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism”.

The struggle against the war threat and the arms race is the cause of each and all. Young people must be fully aware of their responsibility for safeguarding and strengthening peace. Today there is every possibility of erecting a mighty barrier to the forces of aggression and war.





**Андрей Лоскутов**  
**НЕ ДАДИМ ВЗОРВАТЬ МИР!**  
на английском языке  
Цена 20 коп.



TRENT UNIVERSITY



0 1164 0487230 5



# The World Shall **NOT** Be Blown Up!

Andrei LOSKUTOV



Novosti Press Agency  
Publishing House