



U. S. Friends of the Soviet People

BULLETIN

WINTER 2010

P. O. Box 140434, Staten Island NY, 10314-0434

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USFSP WINTER MEETING

Faraz Bahman will discuss his book
Heroic Struggle, Bitter Defeat, on the
temporary downfall of the USSR.

Sunday, Feb. 14 2010, 2 - 4 p.m.

LGBT Community Center

208 W. 13th St., Rm. 203

between 7 and 8 Av., Manhattan

Take 1, 2, 3, A, C, or E Train to 14 St.

Santiago, Chile Set as Meeting Site for Third Congress

Six delegates from the USFSP met in Toronto, Canada last month with delegates from several other countries, to discuss ways to help each other achieve our common goals. The International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with the Soviet People has decided to hold its Third International Congress in Santiago, Chile.

The Council has asked the USFSP specifically to help build circulation of the *Northstar Compass*, including in Spanish, and to redouble our efforts to build chapters all over the country. USFSP delegates also discussed with other comrades ways to better support and utilize our efforts on the Internet.



USFSP Celebrates 92nd Anniversary of the Soviet Union

On 15 November 2009, the USFSP publicly celebrated the 92nd anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution and the foundation of the USSR. The meeting and celebration was held at the LGBT Community Center in lower Manhattan. Festivities commenced under a banner, produced by Michael Lucas of the *Northstar Compass*, reading "Unity in Defense of the Soviet Union and Socialism - Keep the flame of international friendship and peace burning!"

Dr. Angelo D'Angelo chaired the meeting. He opened it by reading the USFSP's solidarity statement describing the current situation in the former USSR and affirming our belief in the ongoing need for socialism to defeat the present capitalist system of 'globalization.' The statement emphasizes the need for solidarity in defense of the



Comrade Krasheninikow's musical skills were enjoyed by the crowd. Photo by DFE.

refoundation of the USSR as a socialist state. George Gruenthal added that the October Revolution shows that the working class can seize and hold state power, and build socialism. The USSR put an end to unemployment just as the capitalist world was getting into the Great Depression, and this in particular has relevance in the crisis today.

Participants watched film excerpts, as well as brief segments from Dr. D'Angelo's public access television show, "Soviet Classics Revisited." Stephen Paulmier introduced his cultural magazine *The Hammer* to much interest.

Participants enjoyed cake while Russian-American comrade Alex Krasheninikow played traditional Russian songs on his accordion. The proceedings closed with a video clip set to Paul Robeson's famous rendition of the Soviet National Anthem in English, while participants sang along.

Credo of U. S. Friends of the Soviet People

U. S. Friends of the Soviet People is dedicated to supporting struggles to restore socialism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. USFSP is the US affiliate of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with the Soviet People. The International Council carries on the traditions of the "Hands Off Russia Committees" that were established internationally in 1918 to help protect the young Soviet Republic from foreign intervention. The aim of all Friends of the Soviet People is international cooperation in building socialism and solidarity with the anti-imperialist forces of the world who are struggling against US imperialism—the main enemy of humanity.

USFSP acts as a unifying force to help consolidate and coordinate the anti-imperialist forces of the world with the ongoing movement to restore the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as socialist states. We act as a united front, but are not a forum for ideological debates. The peoples of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe themselves will choose their paths toward socialism.

USFSP Commits to Soviet Film Project, Fundraising

Last December, comrades in the San Francisco Bay Area regained possession of what had been the film library of the Berkeley branch of the Soviet-American Friendship Society (SAFS), consisting of some 300 16-millimeter films. About a third have been exposed to open air for a long time, and are seriously degraded as a result. The rest are in good condition. A SAFS catalog from 1986 indicates a representative sample of all film categories exists in the Berkeley cache.

The goal of this project is to save these Soviet-era films from disintegration, and to produce DVDs and online content from them, assuring them life well into the 21st Century. New York-area FSP members have committed to take on this work, and comrades in Toronto have pledged an initial \$4000 towards transportation, digitization, and related costs to see this project through to completion. This is about half of projected total costs, the rest of which has yet to be raised. Comrades in San Francisco will be raising funds as well.

In order to successfully complete this project, USFSP is also seeking an inexpensive or donated space in which to conduct the work, as well as volunteers willing to help run the machines. Please contact us if you can assist us in any of these ways.

The USFSP has committed to a sustained fundraising drive in its newsletter in support of this project. Your donation now will be critical to the success of our collective efforts to preserve these memories in film of the USSR! Please see the last page of this newsletter for information on sending funds to the USFSP, and please be sure to mark your donation as intended for the Soviet Film Project.

Stalin Honored at Moscow Metro

Moscow's Kurskaya metro station reopened recently. Architects restored an original inscription praising Soviet leader



Joseph Stalin taken from the words of the Soviet national anthem.

The redesigned hall of the Kurskaya-Koltsevaya Station opened after reconstruction on 25th August. Dmitri Galev, the Director of the Moscow Metro, previously stated that the Kurskaya Station was a monument of architecture that would be restored to its original appearance. But they did not reconstruct Stalin's statue which used to stand in the station as well.

Official spokespeople for the administration of the Moscow Metro said during the opening ceremony that the redesigned hall of the Jurskaya station now looked nearly the same as it did during the opening ceremony 59 years ago. The elements of Soviet decor were left intact, the officials said.

Excerpted from a Pravda article that was reprinted in "New Worker," 4 Sep. 09.

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