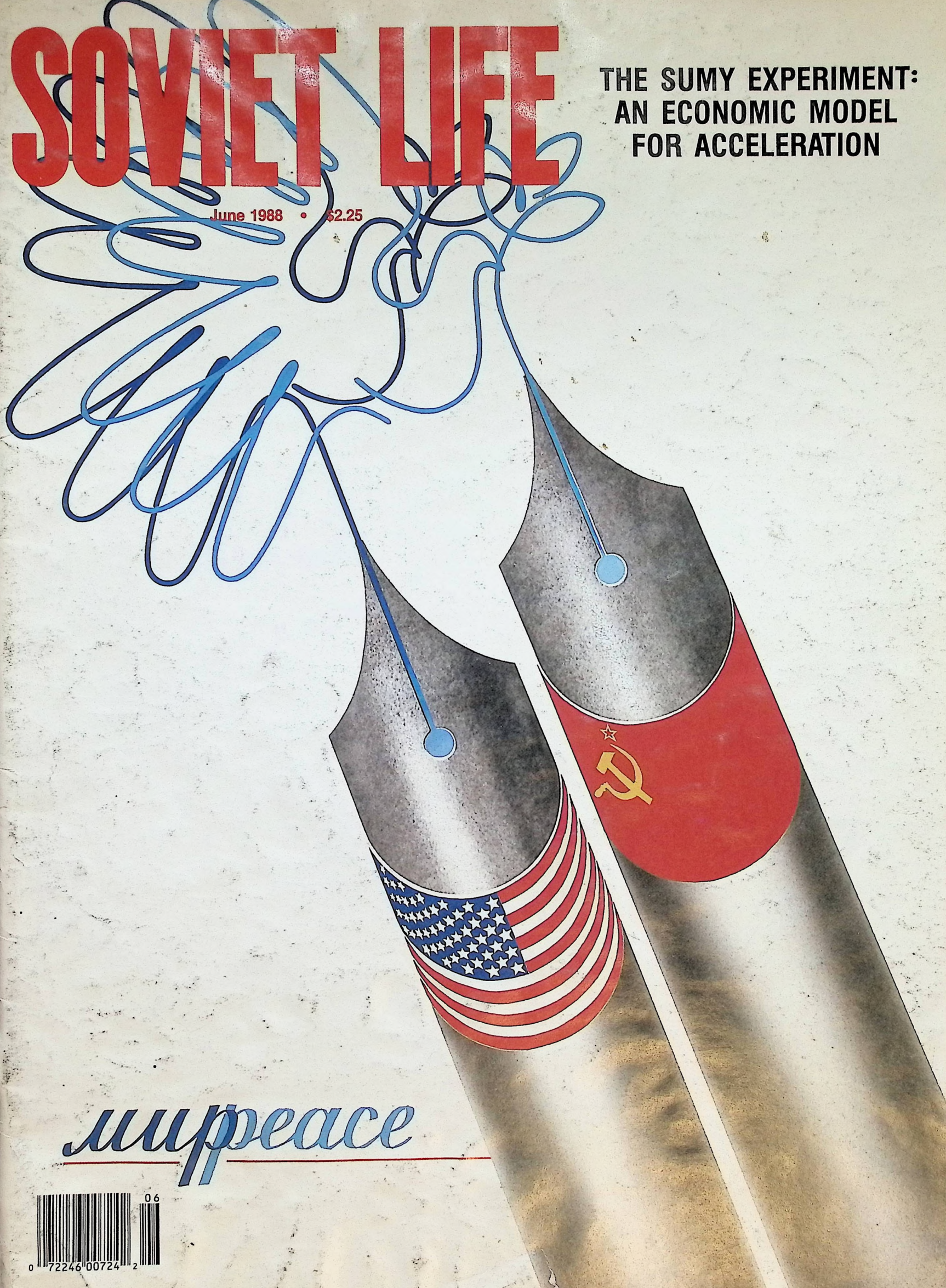


# SOVIET LIFE

THE SUMY EXPERIMENT:  
AN ECONOMIC MODEL  
FOR ACCELERATION

June 1988 • \$2.25



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# SOVIET LIFE

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Front Cover: *Peace*, a poster by Czechoslovakian artists Emilia Chisarikova and Ladislav Chisarik.

Published Monthly by the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Moscow Editorial Board  
APN, Zubovskiy Boulevard 4  
Moscow, USSR

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1706 18th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

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Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster, please send change of address to SOVIET LIFE, Subscription Department, 1706 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Telephone: (202) 328-3237.

Subscription Rates: 1 Year—\$15.00 2 Years—\$24.00  
(ISSN 0038-5549) 3 Years—\$32.00

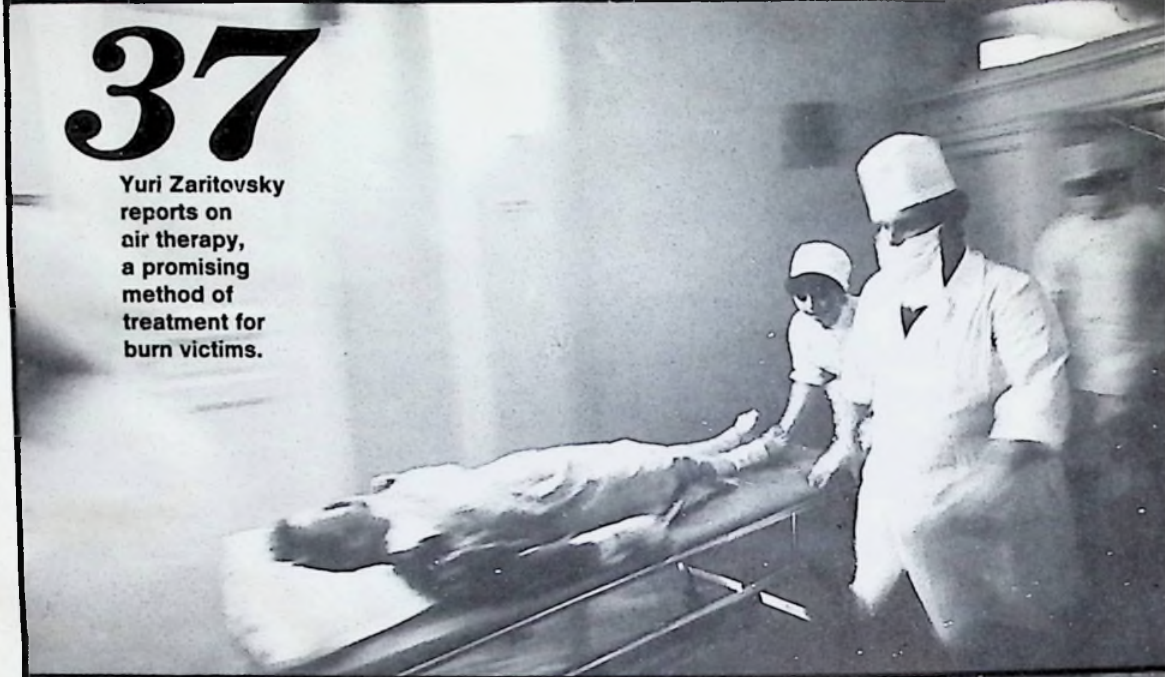
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Material for this issue courtesy of Novosti Press Agency



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I have just received my second issue of SOVIET LIFE, and I wish to compliment you on an absorbing and diversified magazine. It is interesting to note some of the immediately discernible differences between SOVIET LIFE and a comparable U.S. magazine: the idea that Soviets are closing the gap on their goal of perfection in all spheres (a patently impossible human goal), absence of advertisements and of a Letters to the Editor column.

Anita Gielow Brown  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

As the result of a friend's generosity in the form of a gift subscription, I have been reading SOVIET LIFE for almost a year now.

I was very pleased to read in the March 1987 edition that the USSR has completely eradicated all traces of discrimination against women from its laws.

My pleasure was short-lived, however, upon reading the April 1987 edition of SOVIET LIFE. The number of photographs (individual) of males outnumbered females 10 to one. In the "Editor's Notes" you yourself managed one "he/she" and then referred to males only for the remainder of the piece. There was only one in-depth feature on a female, which covered a judo champion. The article concluded with the comment that she was "domestic" at heart, a comment you

would never have made about a male.

There was the "Fathers About Sons" feature, but no corresponding "Mothers About Daughters" feature. Women do almost all the work involved in rearing young people (as well as giving birth to them) and in shaping them, yet not one female word was printed on that subject.

Rita E. Bell  
Chicago, Illinois

SOVIET LIFE is great! I have always enjoyed it. Resuming the "Letters to the Editor" column brings each reader some insight into other readers' thinking. I read each letter with interest. The one suggestion that stands out is the one by Edward Freidlein to include a small map with any article discussing a specific area of your country. It certainly is worth your consideration.

You presented a good mix of letters in the column. I note everything from "pats on the back" to the ever persistent charges of propaganda. Certainly enough food for thought by your editorial staff. As mentioned earlier, you and your staff do a fine job publishing a great magazine. Yes, I'm sure that portions of it do contain what some would call propaganda. But then it is only human nature for every country and every person to put their best images up for inspection by others.

My only suggestion for improvement, for my own enjoyment, would be

to reduce the amount of space taken up by interviews/copies of addresses and such that relate to leaders, bureaucrats and academicians. I'm sure, at times, SOVIET LIFE performs a useful function as one of the few ways to present important political addresses that take place. However, I could care less about the views of some bureaucratic, political member of the USSR Academy of Sciences on anything. If I am making a misjudgment of fine people, I apologize, but to me some of these interviews would be similar to interviewing an American pro football quarterback about his views on Antarctic exploration.

Jerry Jensen  
Bloomington, Minnesota

I have had a subscription to SOVIET LIFE for a number of years. In 1985 I was selected as the first choice to represent the State of New Jersey in the National Teacher in Space Competition.

Since that time I have been supplied with much training and many materials, including the loan of lunar samples, which I have used to good advantage in presentations to over 20,000 people in New Jersey and neighboring states. One of the exhibits I have used in many of my presentations has been the November 1985 and the April 1986 issues of SOVIET LIFE. The excellent articles and pictures, especially of the great Yuri Gagarin, showed dramatically that it is mankind joining in the exploration of space.

Jeannine M. Duane  
Long Valley, New Jersey

Please accept my few lines to you in the same spirit as they are given. To further lasting peace, we must communicate with each other and your magazine has an important role to play in this effort. For about a year I have been reading SOVIET LIFE and I have found it very interesting and informative. However, I take the liberty to suggest some ideas, I believe, for your magazine. You know the old saying: "When in Rome do as the Romans do!" The format of SOVIET LIFE is not American. It is too big and unhandy. *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines are easier to handle and read than SOVIET LIFE! Some of the articles I find unnecessarily too long. The same thing can be said with less words. Americans are an impatient people, and we get easily bored even when we read.

The world admires your General Secretary, Mr. Gorbachev. I truly believe that the Soviet Union will prosper under his leadership. The eyes of all people are upon him.

In line with *glasnost* I suggest that you remove the brown cover of SOVIET LIFE for mailing. The people of the

United States are now ready for an open exchange of ideas with the Soviet Union.

Bob Lekven  
Mill Valley, California

I read with a great deal of interest the article on AIDS in the February issue of your magazine. Thank you for printing it. It is the most that I have ever read about the Soviet Union's knowledge of and reaction to this dreadful disease.

I very much agree that stress is a major factor in lowering a person's ability to withstand illness. In the United States those groups that have been most affected by the spread of AIDS are at or near the bottom of the social ladder and/or under a great deal of stress. I also agree that overpopulation, which increases stress, is a factor. We live in a very stressful environment, and I think it is important that world leaders realize that the stress is taking its toll on all of the citizens of the world, regardless of where they live.

I am very pleased that the Soviet Union is doing all that it can to come up with a cure for this disease and that its reaction so far has been to handle the situation with calm and not hysteria.

Please keep us informed of the progress your scientists are making.

George Whitaker  
Bellevue, Washington

I object to the way the word "gals" is used on page 31 in February 1988, SOVIET LIFE. Perhaps your editors may be excused on the grounds that English is their second language and its nuances escape them.

"Gals" is a derogatory term when used to denote adult females. Even for female children it is a slang term. It should certainly not be used to refer to the women in the article. They deserve highest honors.

Helen K. Savio  
Crestwood, Missouri

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SOVIET POSTERS IN AMERICA

When Liberation Graphics, which distributes posters of the USSR in the United States, started dealing with Plakat Publishers in Moscow in December 1986, Daniel J. Walsh of Liberation Graphics became aware of the interest of Americans in Soviet posters. The first U.S. order included four posters dedicated to the Seventieth Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

With the possible conclusion of the INF Treaty and intensification of the dialogue between Moscow and Washington, the demand for Soviet posters is steadily increasing. Both nations are beginning to understand each other better and to fight prejudice and propaganda stereotypes. The cooperation between Plakat and Liberation Graphics has risen to a new level.

According to a joint memorandum, which the firms signed in November 1987, Plakat will turn out 20 posters this year covering a wide range of topics, including peace, disarmament, international friendship, environmental protection and children. The front cover of this issue carries one such poster. To order posters, write to: Liberation Graphics; Post Office Box 2394; Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Attention: Mr. Daniel J. Walsh.





Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev at the welcoming ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House. Washington, D.C. December 8, 1987.



Photographs by Yuri Abramochkin

# GENEVA REYKJAVIK WASHINGTON

**Paving the Way to a Safe World**



## EDITOR'S NOTES

TALKS on nuclear disarmament are motivated by "a changed social atmosphere concerning nuclear weapons and nuclear danger," said Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Such is the dialectic of our contradictory world. Public opinion is indeed turning its back on the nuclear deterrence strategy.

People around the world rejoice whenever there is a glimmer of hope. One such glimmer, I believe, was U.S. President Ronald Reagan's speech in Chicago on May 4. The President pointed out that we must clearly realize that the nuclear danger does indeed exist and that we must unite to free the world from this danger as soon as possible.

The past gives us grounds for optimism. Summit meetings have been held in Geneva, Reykjavik and Washington. Difficult as the Soviet-American dialogue was, the meetings became a school of new thinking. Furthermore, the summit in Washington produced tangible results. Speaking of tangible results, some Soviet observers believe that we should not attach too much significance to whether one particular agreement is signed or not. Soviet-American summit contacts are important and useful whatever results they produce.

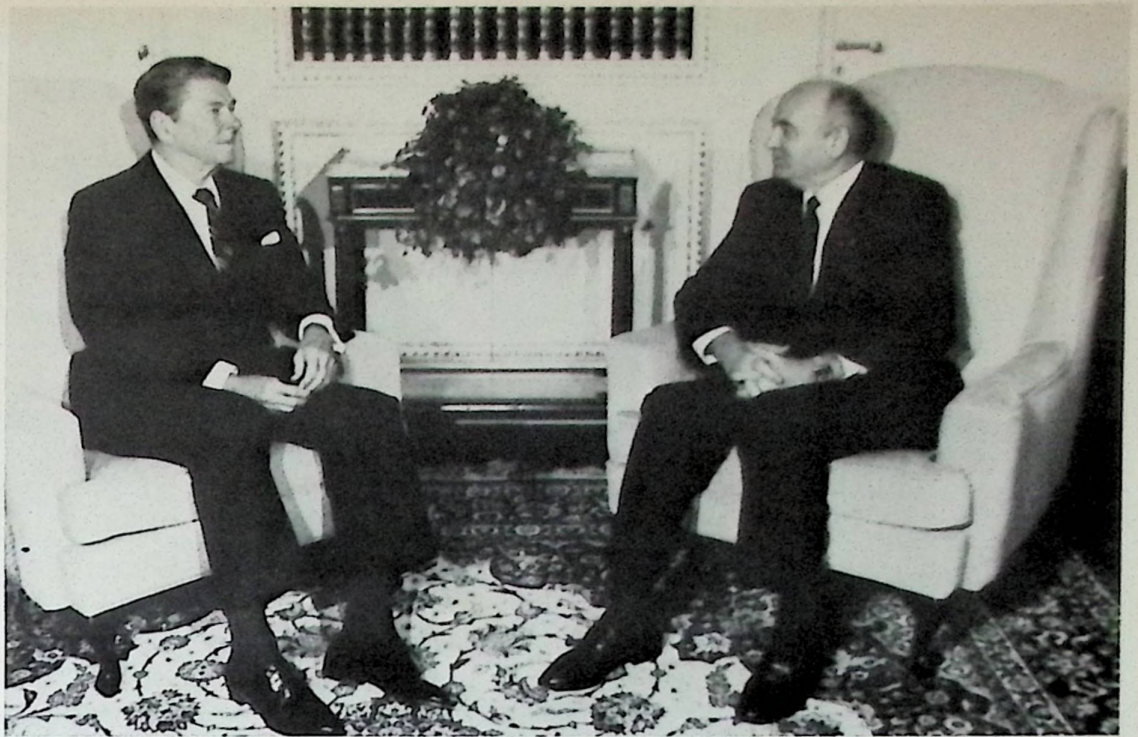
Still, I would like to draw the following parallel. Sixteen years ago, also in May, the SALT I Treaty was signed in Moscow. That treaty exercised considerable influence on the process of détente. We recall this event as an example to emulate. Today the situation is more favorable than it was at that time. "The social atmosphere" mentioned by the General Secretary is exercising stronger and stronger influence on the international climate. More and more dialogue between political leaders is backed by a growing peace movement, by the desire of people to be friends.

The Soviet and the American people are overcoming the "image of the enemy" and are creating an "image of partners." By the logic of history, we are closer now than 16 years ago to the favorable state of our relations that existed at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Alexander Herzen, the outstanding Russian writer and revolutionary, had good reason to write the following about the United States and Russia: "They may be divided by a whole ocean of salty water, but there is no ocean of old prejudice between them."

Prejudice in relations between our two countries appeared later, and it grew as the decades passed. Journalists, including those on the staff of SOVIET LIFE magazine, often point to similarities between our two peoples. But let's be realistic. Differences exist. I don't think that this is bad. Perhaps the interest of our readers has come about, above all, because of these differences. The time is long gone when Americans, on meeting Soviet citizens for the first time, are surprised to note that they are just as human. It's time for getting to know each other. We must master the difficult science of living on earth side by side, of respecting each other's way of life and of learning from each other.

The June issue is largely dedicated to how we can go about doing this.

Robert Tsfasman



The leaders meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 1986. Above: Talking in Geneva, Switzerland, November 1985.



# FROM WASHINGTON TO MOSCOW: SUMMING UP



Sergei Plekhanov

*What factors determine Soviet-American relations? What can we hope for in years to come? Lyudmila Enyutina discussed these issues with Sergei Plekhanov, who is deputy director of the Institute of the USA and Canada of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Plekhanov, 42, has been an Americanist for 20 years, writing major works on U.S. domestic and foreign policy.*

**Q:** Almost six months separate the visits of Mikhail Gorbachev to the United States and of Ronald Reagan to the Soviet Union. Not a big span. Yet much has been done, and the world is expecting the visit to result in major treaties. I have in mind particularly a treaty reducing strategic arms by 50 per cent. What are your predictions?

**A:** Any top-level dialogue between Soviet and American leaders has major political significance. I am sure that the visit by President Reagan to Moscow will provide useful stimulus for the further normalization of Soviet-American relations. And that process of normalization needs constant stimulation if we are to overcome the immense inertia and deep-rooted obstacles along the way to better relations. That is hard work, which we need to keep up.

About the chances of signing a treaty on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic armaments, I would say that there isn't much time to polish a draft, but I still maintain hope.

**Q:** How do you assess Soviet-American relations today?

**A:** As I see it, they are in transition right now. Since World War II several periods can be distinguished in our relations. First there was the cold war. Then a contradictory, unstable period from the mid-fifties until the early seventies, when steps toward détente alternated with chills. Then a number of years of détente gave way in the late seventies to a second cold war. Now we are again moving toward détente.

Many American politicians and academics assume that the détente of the seventies was an unsuccessful "experiment," after which Soviet-American relations returned to what they see as the "more natural" trend of confrontation. I am deeply convinced that, on the contrary, it is détente that represents the natural condition for East-West relations. The need for peaceful coexistence between countries with differing social systems is programmed into contemporary international relations. Actually, the second cold war bore this out.

The threat of nuclear disaster grew, immediately leading to the formation in world politics of a counteracting tendency, to growth in antinuclear sentiments and to the transformation of the antinuclear movement into a significant international political force. The instinct for self-preservation of the human race came into play.

This period also demonstrated that parity is a stable thing and cannot be disrupted.

The changes in Soviet foreign policy have provided a very important stimulus for nascent trends toward détente. As a result of *perestroika* and the new political thinking, the USSR has advanced a number of constructive peace initiatives, and the image of the Soviet Union has changed. These tendencies have had a tangible effect on the political situation in the world. The Soviet Union has initiated restructuring of international relations to the good of the entire world community. This is a basis for building a civilized system of international peace and security.

These are active factors positively influencing world affairs, U.S.-Soviet relations included. If we look at trends that provoke differences between our countries, the inertia of the arms race tops the list. True, in the past two to three years there have been signs of things easing up, but the flywheel has gained such momentum that efforts are required to halt it.

A negative role has been played by a theory rooted in the West since the end of the forties. This theory holds that the world is more comprehensible and more easily ruled when there are two clearly distinguished camps, one headed by the United States and the other by the Soviet Union. Everything is black and white. Everything is absolutely clear and unambiguous. That makes decision making much simpler. I have no doubt that any educated political leader in the West will disavow such a view of the world. Yet that model exists and influences political consciousness at some level. Unfortunately, a section of the Soviet public is also influenced by this theory.

**Q:** But the Soviet Union and the United States belong to different social systems, and this surely must affect relations. You often hear in the West that the foreign policy of the Soviet Government is pure deceit because it is based on the ideology of Marxism, which is alleged to proclaim incessant class struggle until the world victory of communism. How true is that?

**A:** Indeed, our two countries have different property systems, different political structures and different dominant ideologies. But history contains abundant examples of how states with very similar ideological and social systems have entered into fierce conflicts. And, on the contrary, rich historical experience of normal relations has been accumulated between countries that differ markedly from each other. The Soviet Union, from the day of the Revolution, has preferred the option of peaceful coexistence and economic collaboration with the West. Military rivalry and confrontation were always forced upon us. They do not accord with the essence of socialism. Socialism needs a calm, peaceful international medium for healthy development.

Lenin, the founder of our state, said that no class interests should supersede the interests of humanity. And precisely such collective interests should dominate—the things that unite people rather than those that divide them.

"Ideological differences should not be transferred to the sphere of relations between states," wrote Mikhail Gorbachev, "nor should foreign policy be subordinate to them, for ideologies may be poles apart, whereas the interest of survival and prevention of war stand universal and supreme."

This is the concept for the new political outlook that the Soviet Union advocates internationally. We proceed from the idea that security is indivisible. Either all have it equally, East and West, North and South, or none have it at all. And it can only be attained if each nation has a recognized right to choose its path of development freely and without impediment. If we regard the world from such an angle, the question of whether peaceful coexistence is possible appears cut and dried.

Let us turn to history. The two dreadful, destructive world conflagrations of this century began with a conflict between states belonging to the same social system. Naturally, Hitler proclaimed anticommunism as the reason for Nazi Germany's aggression against the Soviet Union in 1941, but the real reasons were to capture territory and to enslave other nations. Overall, World War II was not a case of "capitalism against socialism" but rather of "fascism against socialism and Western democracy." And the war ended not as a war between East and West, but as a war in which the first socialist state and the strongest countries of the West were allies in defeating a fascist coalition.

Thereafter, the world split along lines of "capitalism-socialism," but things have never deteriorated into a major war, a fact that should serve as an important political lesson.

The cold war model, one for East-West confrontation if we regard it soberly in the light of decades of experience, looks like something artificial and violent imposed on history and humanity. I am convinced that the cold war model would have been cast away long ago if the world community had been allowed to develop freely in accordance with its inner needs.

Today, I reckon, humankind has accumulated sufficient experience to say that ideological confrontation, ideological divergences and differences in social systems can in no way be seen as hindrances to normal relations between states, to the exclusion of war from the list of means of settling international controversies or to arms reduction that would free mammoth resources to resolve the real problems before humanity, East and West, North and South.

**Q:** Yet the West is inclined to view the current Soviet foreign policy as a tactical ploy to gain time to solve inner problems, mostly economic. The inference is that the USSR has always been aggressive at heart.



## — SUMMIT MILESTONES —

**A:** Those are false stereotypes that some people continue to believe in and that others find convenient. Note that Margaret Thatcher said at a European summit that it was much easier to deal with the Russian bear when it acted more bearlike.

The main argument against that concept is that fewer and fewer people advocate it. The West is moving in the direction of disarmament, not to please the Soviet Union but because the need to disarm is just as evident to the West as it is to us. The trend toward arms reduction and construction of new relations with the Soviet Union has come out of objective, deep-rooted phenomena affecting the world economy. We, too, have internal factors that prompt us to drive more actively for disarmament and restructured international relations. Today we can state that economic factors are leading both sides onward toward better relations, and if that movement proceeds well, the chances of reversal will decline.

I would like to stress one more circumstance. If the Soviet Union were indeed acting now out of tactical considerations and secretly preparing for future confrontation, it would probably produce less radical peace initiatives and other ideas for restructuring international relations. But we are deliberately seeking—on a mutual basis, of course—reduction in military shields because we do not believe that, today, countries can guarantee their security or strengthen their prestige through force of arms.

An intensive reform program and a new system of management and government are needed to boost our economic potential and to improve Soviet living standards. That implies, and we state this openly, arms reduction, peace and a calmer international climate. But I see no potential threat for the West in this, for we are speaking of civilian construction, of better living conditions for people, of the additional democracy that will make society freer and more prosperous.

Moreover, this presumes further development of economic relations with the West—joint ventures and broader exchange of commerce and technology. We are creating a system for East-West interdependence that could guarantee against someone somewhere sometime returning to a policy of confrontation.

**Q:** What role have the various public movements played in the development of U.S.-Soviet relations?

**A:** The public movements certainly play a tangible part in influencing political decisions in both countries. It seems to me that, in the United States today, a new movement has formed alongside the traditional antinuclear campaign, and it advocates better relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. The point is to establish relations with the Soviet public that are as constructive as possible. There are lots of new ideas, of unorthodox initiatives. This trend is, in my view, very useful.

Relations between our countries have had a definite cyclical nature. We cannot, sadly, exclude the possibility that another chill will emerge at some time. In any case, past experience suggests that that could happen. Thus, today, the more we create structures for cooperation at the interstate, intercommunity, intertrade and interbusiness levels, the less we risk backsliding. Those structures could serve as a safety net to preserve our relations from drastic setbacks.

And such contacts allow both sides to surmount in human minds the legacy of the cold war, a period when we grew accustomed to seeing each other as opponents, to expecting the worst of each other. That tells on relations between states, and it tells on minds.

In the final analysis, we all have only one life. People's aspirations for happiness cannot endure an atmosphere of fear and suspicion. A world without war and arms races, a world of trust and collaboration with neighbors opens much broader opportunities for individual fulfillment. It has been scientifically proved that today people use only an insignificant part of their intellectual, emotional and spiritual potential. The cold war has compressed people and shackled them. Hence, the desire to overcome that legacy is motivated not just by considerations of security but by a will to live in a world more worthy of modern man. I see the turn for the better in Soviet-American relations as reflecting an understanding that the world is one and people remain people whatever social system they live under and whatever views they profess.

**Q:** We derive our ideas about other countries largely from the media. It is no secret that the journalists of the two countries have implanted stereotypes that are not very friendly. Would you agree that there are now changes for the better in this area?

**A:** Certainly. Though I feel that the media are influenced by two factors that sometimes conflict. One is the professional instinct of the journalist, who must report events. If today, for example, there are big changes occurring in the Soviet Union, that is news in itself, and an American journalist is obliged to transmit that news, whatever his personal likes or antipathies, especially since the changes here accord with the sentiments of virtually all people on earth. In the same way, a Soviet reporter must reflect in his or her stories certain achievements of the United States and any changes in America that can be judged as positive.

But there is another factor in journalists' activities. I would identify it as ideological conformism, and I would say that the outlook of most people employed in the media was formed under the influence of the cold war. We have a certain prejudice and a whole set of stereotypes that taint our image of each other.

Yet objectively it must be said that the idea people in the West have of the Soviet Union has changed for the better, and Soviet people are less biased against the West, including America. I see that as a hopeful sign. ■

**November 28-December 1, 1943.** A conference of heads of government of the USSR, the United States and Great Britain takes place in Teheran. During the meeting Soviet leader Joseph Stalin has talks with U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

**February 4-11, 1945.** Soviet-American summit contacts continue at a conference of heads of government of the USSR, the United States and Great Britain in Yalta.

**July 17-August 2, 1945.** A conference of heads of government of the USSR, the United States and Great Britain takes place in Potsdam. Joseph Stalin has meetings with U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

**September 15-28, 1959.** Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikita Khrushchev makes an official visit to the United States. Khrushchev and U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower discuss issues of general and complete disarmament.

**June 3-4, 1961.** A meeting between Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikita Khrushchev and U.S. President John F. Kennedy is held in Vienna. The Soviet side submits documents in which the Soviet position is stated and in which specific proposals for a nuclear test ban treaty, a peaceful settlement of the German question, and general and complete disarmament are formalized.

**June 23-25, 1967.** Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Alexei Kosygin and U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson meet in Glassboro, New Jersey.

**May 22-30, 1972.** General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Nikolai Podgorny and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Alexei Kosygin hold talks with U.S. President Richard M. Nixon in Moscow. A number of treaties and agreements are signed that lay a legal foundation for further development of Soviet-American relations, including the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty), the Interim Agreement on Certain Measures with Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (Salt I) and the Basic Principles of Mutual Relations Between the USSR and the USA.

**June 18-25, 1973.** General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Leonid Brezhnev pays an official visit to the United States. During the visit the parties sign the Basic Principles of Negotiations on the Further Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, the Agreement on the Prevention of Nuclear War and other documents.

**June 27-July 3, 1974.** Soviet leaders meet with U.S. President Richard Nixon, who is on an official visit in the Soviet Union. The Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests and a protocol to the treaty as well as the Protocol to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems and a number of agreements on bilateral cooperation are signed.

**November 23-24, 1974.** A working meeting between General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and President Gerald Ford takes place near Vladivostok, the Soviet Far East. A joint Soviet-American communiqué is signed in which the sides reaffirm their intention to conclude a new agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms (SALT II).

**June 15-18, 1979.** A meeting between General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and President Jimmy Carter is held in Vienna. The sides sign the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT II) and a joint communiqué on principles and major directions of further negotiations on the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

**November 19-21, 1985.** A meeting between General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan takes place in Geneva. The sides sign a joint communiqué in which they agree that there is a need to improve Soviet-American relations and normalize the international situation. They also stress the importance of preventing the arms race from spreading into space and of putting an end to it on earth.

**October 11-12, 1986.** General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan meet in Reykjavik. Understandings are reached that lay the groundwork for subsequent negotiations at different levels and set the stage for a nuclear disarmament process.

**December 7-10, 1987.** The third summit meeting between General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan takes place in Washington. The sides sign the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty).



# TIME TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND BUILD BRIDGES

By Boris Alexeyev  
Photographs by Yuri Abramochkin



Mikhail Gorbachev addresses members of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council at a reception in the Kremlin.

The Eleventh Annual Session of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council was held in Moscow on April 12-14. The meeting, attended by more than 500 American business people, was an important step toward the improvement of business and trade relations between the two countries. On April 13 the delegates were received in the Kremlin by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev's speech at the reception begins on page 29.



It was obvious to observers who followed the Eleventh Annual Session of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC in Russian) held in Moscow last month that it compared favorably with the ninth session, also held in the Soviet capital almost three years ago.

Both lasted for three days, and both convened at the International Trade Center, a sprawling hotel and convention complex on the banks of the Moskva River, which was built with the help of the indefatigable American industrialist Armand Hammer.

The latest session, however,

decline in bilateral trade over the past three years. In 1986 trade between the countries dropped by 36 per cent compared with 1985 and then by another 11 per cent in 1987.

But in spite of the disheartening trade statistics, the American side saw some positive aspects in the Soviet economy in general and foreign trade in particular.

"U.S. firms are now taking a new look at the Soviet economy. They are interested in *perestroika* and *uskoreniye*—restructuring and acceleration. And they are interested in seeing how their products and their skills can be used in



**The Tenth Session of the Joint U.S.-USSR Commercial Commission signs the Protocol that extends the long-term agreement facilitating cooperation and trade between the two countries.**



saw a record number of participants—some 500 American business people and officials representing 315 corporations, banks, chambers of commerce, associations and several US. states; and 350 Soviet business and government officials from 135 ministries, departments, organizations and enterprises. But even more important was the fact that the Eleventh Session proceeded in a busy and businesslike atmosphere. "We hardly had time to rush from one meeting to another," one of the council's codirectors complained to reporters.

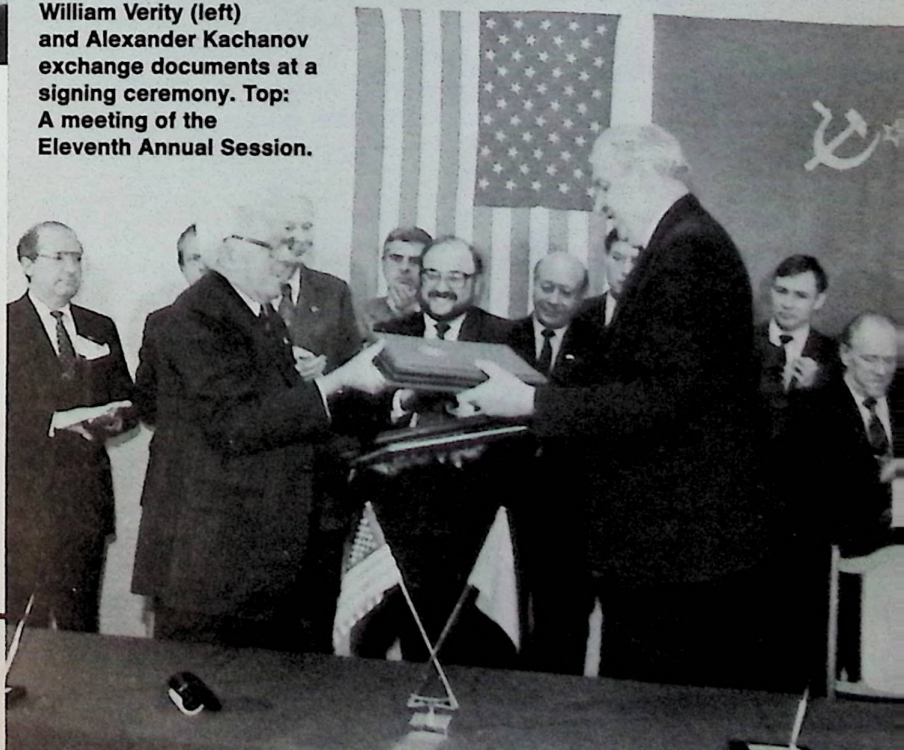
One plausible reason for such a tough schedule was the business people's concern for the steady

commercially viable ways that are also of mutual benefit to both countries," said William Verity, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

What the Secretary presumably meant was a succession of moves to decentralize Soviet foreign trade by allowing some enterprises direct access to foreign markets and the launching of joint ventures with Western partners on Soviet territory.

Bilateral trade received a powerful impetus last December from the summit meeting in Washington between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the President of the United States. "The two sides ▶

**William Verity (left) and Alexander Kachanov exchange documents at a signing ceremony. Top: A meeting of the Eleventh Annual Session.**





stated their strong support for the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic relations," said the joint Soviet-American statement in evaluation of the Washington summit results.

This prompted President Reagan to say in his message to the Eleventh Session of ASTEC: "The United States Government supports the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union."

At a reception in the Kremlin for the participants in the session, Mikhail Gorbachev said: "We are prepared to cooperate actively not only with large firms but also with medium-sized and small firms."

Everything is prone to change except human mentality, contended Albert Einstein. He was wrong that time. Even mentality today is changing, though not as fast as we would like it to. But the question is whether these changes have been backed up by strong economic motives. The issue was debated at a special meeting attended by prominent public figures of both countries.

"The motives are strong indeed," said Georgi Arbatov, director of the Institute of the USA and Canada of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, opening the discussion. "All countries today are preoccupied with their economic problems. Both of our countries spend more than other countries on their military needs. If they go on doing this for another 10 to 20 years, they will have to face grave consequences."

Several other officials volunteered to air their views. These included Pavel Bunich, a prominent Soviet economist; Marshall Shulman of the Harriman Institute, Columbia University; Mikhail Shkabarunya, Minister of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment and Control Systems of the USSR; John Hardt of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and John Starrels of the Joint Economic Commission, U.S. Congress.

At 9 A.M. members of the Tenth Session of the Joint U.S.-USSR Commercial Commission gathered in Room 1608, a big hall on the sixteenth floor of the International Trade Center. The commission convened in Moscow during the days of the Eleventh Session of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council. Journalists accredited at the Eleventh Session had already arrived and were whiling away the time in a quiet discussion about the upcoming meeting. Suddenly, they were all politely requested to leave the room. The quiet discussion instantly grew into wrangling with the chief of the press center. "Where is your *glasnost*?" an American colleague asked indignantly. "Don't ask me," the head of the press center

retorted. "This is a condition set by the U.S. delegation."

For some reason I recalled that at previous meetings proposals to ban the press from the session rooms had usually been advanced by the Soviet side.

An hour and a half after that, in the same room, Alexander Kachanov, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR, signed several documents on behalf of the Soviet Union, including a joint statement on the further development of U.S.-USSR commercial relations and a protocol to the long-term agreement to facilitate economic, industrial and technical cooperation.

"Surprise" was a catchword used frequently by the press to describe the new American Trade Consortium (ATC), which signed a letter of intent to launch joint ventures with a Soviet foreign economic consortium. Seven American corporations, including Ford Motor Company and Johnson and Johnson, signed the document, which reflected the desire of the sides to develop a joint concept of trade and economic relations between the two consortiums.

James Giffen, president of ASTEC and a long-standing specialist on Soviet-American commerce, said at a news conference that the Soviet Government had given its full backing to the idea of the American consortium. For its part, the Soviet side pointed to some economic branches in which U.S. investment would be welcome. These included the food industry, agriculture, power engineering, the production of chemicals and medical equipment, automobiles and consumer goods, and also the services sector. Giffen said every member company of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council would join the organization while pursuing its own business goals and would be individually responsible for its joint venture with Soviet counterparts.

Meanwhile, the USSR Ministry for the Production of Fertilizers and Honeywell Inc. signed a joint-venture agreement to launch Sterch, a company to manufacture automated equipment for the production of chemical fertilizers.

Officials and business people wound up the session with a ceremony planting a maple tree in front of the International Trade Center near the golden figure of Mercury, the god of commerce. It is hoped that the tree, which was brought from Washington by Verity, will become a symbol of trade and economic ties between the Soviet Union and the United States. A small plaque nearby will be a reminder to passers-by that the tree was planted in the spring of 1988 during the Eleventh Annual Session of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council. ■

## The participants say . . . ■



**WILLIAM VERITY: "THIS MEETING WAS A LOT MORE OPEN."**

**M**IKHAIL GORBACHEV was very interested in knowing how the meeting was going and, particularly, how this meeting compared with past ones. I told him I thought this meeting was a lot more open on both sides. There were frank discussions about differences and about *glasnost*. The Soviet side was particularly open and helpful.

Let me stress, we did not come to Moscow to make any trade breakthroughs. That wasn't our purpose. Trade relations are part of our over-all bilateral relationship, and fundamental improvements cannot occur without parallel improvements in other areas, especially in human rights.

In seeking to facilitate the ability of U.S. firms to sell their products in the Soviet Union, our main goal was to improve market access and market information—sort of a "marketing *glasnost*." The U.S. and Soviet sides agreed on a number of steps in this regard. The Soviet side will enable its business and trade officials to have open access to the U.S. commercial office in Moscow. The Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry will assist the U.S. commercial office in distributing a U.S. commercial newsletter to thousands of key business decision makers.

Joint working groups have been established to explore marketing opportunities for equipment in the food-processing, medical, construction, oil and gas, and consumer goods industries. A series of joint seminars on laws affecting business will begin in September, this year.

And, finally, the United States will initiate with Soviet support a program of trade missions.

*William Verity is the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.*





**LEONID KHADZHINOV: "OUR EXPORTS CAN INCREASE."**

**O**UR business contacts with Americans have a long history. Way back in 1973 we built a 500,000-kilowatt transformer for Westinghouse, which is almost equivalent to the capacity of the Dneproges Hydroelectric Power Station. The station was built in our city in the early 1930s—by the way, with American technical assistance.

These contacts could be even broader. Now our exports can increase considerably since we have been granted the right to trade with foreign firms on our own. Under the new economic conditions we work fast and efficiently. Last year, of the 300 million rubles, which is the over-all annual volume of our production, we exported 20 million rubles' worth of hardware. This year our export plan is set at 41 million rubles.

Direct access to the foreign market is certainly a great benefit for us, since the currency earned by the enterprise is used for its further technical modernization.

We have joined ASTEC in order to broaden our links with American business. Our previous experience shows that we have had no problems with the Americans. We have had business relations and exchanges of new scientific and technical ideas. By the way, Americans have shown keen interest in our current projects to build powerful direct current transformers.

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*Leonid Khadzhinov is the general director of the Zaporozhtransformator Production Association, Zaporozhye, the Ukraine.*



**DWAYNE O. ANDREAS: "THERE'S NO PLACE FOR . . . BARRIERS."**

**M**Y first visit to Moscow took place exactly 36 years ago, in April 1952, at the coldest point of the cold war. Since then we've swung between deep freezes and great thaws. In 1952 it took me 29 hours to travel to Moscow. This week, our jet landed nine hours after taking off.

Today's world is more interdependent than ever. Events in the United States or the Soviet Union have enormous consequences in the rest of the world. Technology has changed too. Its destructive powers make war unthinkable. But its peaceful potential is limitless—it can bring an era of unsurpassed productivity to humankind.

In such a world, the superpowers have an inescapable moral and practical mandate: to minimize friction and forge peaceful instruments of trade and economic cooperation. Our council is very conscious of that historic mission. And we are determined to succeed. We want to be part of it.

Certainly there is lots of room for improvement in trade. Just consider—the United States and the Soviet Union have a combined population of over half a billion people. Our combined gross national product is in excess of six trillion dollars. But the total trade between our two countries comes to under 2.5 billion dollars! That doesn't make any sense. Given the enormous size of the markets of our two countries, it's only a fraction of what it should be.

Neither side should be satisfied with slight improvements. We should aim for a vast expansion in trade. We can multiply today's levels many times over.

To do that will require removing barriers and building bridges. Our Soviet partners are moving rapidly to do that. There's been progress on the American side too. Trade restrictions on technology will be relaxed soon. There's more realistic understanding that yesterday's secrets are today's common knowledge—that the free flow of trade and technology is a fact of life.

But barriers remain. The legislation is supposed to limit U.S. imports of Soviet goods. But its real effect is to limit U.S. exports to the Soviet Union. And that, in turn, represents a major hurdle to business. For the Soviet business community—like all others—will buy from those to whom it sells. Other barriers are less formalized but are as strong—barriers of misunderstanding and mistrust that have flourished for too long on both sides. There's no place for such barriers at a time when great transformations are taking place.

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*Dwayne Andreas is the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Archer Daniels-Midland Co. and the U.S. cochairman of ASTEC.*



**ALEXEI KOZLOV: "WE HAVE BECOME MORE ENTERPRISING."**

**T**HIS is the second year since we were granted the right to deal directly with the Western market. In view of the fact that our machines have been working for years in many countries and have won a good reputation there, the association anticipates a dramatic increase in its exports, notably to the United States. We have sent six of our excavators to the United States together with a group of specialists, who will make the necessary adjustments so that the machinery can be used in American firms. The relationship between Krasny Excavator and the American side is a good one.

After being granted the right to deal freely on the world market, we applied to ASTEC for membership. We were accepted, and I was elected to the ASTEC Board of Directors on the Soviet side.

We have already established business contacts with our American counterparts, agreed on exchanges of specialists and scientific and technical information and accepted an invitation to take part in a specialized exhibition that will be held in the United States next winter.

Today we are increasingly inclined to experiment and take risks. We have become more enterprising.

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*Alexei Kozlov is the general director of the Krasny Excavator Production Association, Kiev, the Ukraine.*





**VLADIMIR KAMENTSEV: "WE CAN BECOME REALLY GOOD PARTNERS."**

OVER the past few years trade between our two countries has been steadily declining: from 3.1 billion rubles (5.2 billion dollars) in 1984 to 2.7 billion rubles (4.5 billion dollars) in 1985, 1.5 billion rubles (2.5 billion dollars) in 1986 to a mere 1.2 billion rubles (2 billion dollars) in 1987. Worse still, the structure of trade turnover is obviously lopsided.

Soviet exports to the United States in 1985 amounted to 326 million rubles (543 million dollars) as against imports worth 2.4 billion rubles (4 billion dollars). Exports versus imports stood at 313 million and 1.1 billion rubles (522 million and 1.8 billion dollars) in 1986 and 279 million and 919 million rubles (463 million and 1.5 billion dollars) in 1987.

The share of the United States, the world's largest trade power, in Soviet trade amounts to about one per cent, while Soviet goods make up less than 0.5 per cent of U.S. trade. It is too negligible a share considering the economic might of these countries.

Thus, the mutual economic dependence of the Soviet Union and the United States is so insignificant that both could do well without trading with each other at all. But that would be against the interests of our countries. In today's world we have no right to ignore such factors as trade and economic and scientific ties, which are crucial to the stability of international relations. If we really want a sound and steady relationship ensuring lasting peace, such a relationship must be based on business contacts.

Balanced trade and economic cooperation depend on U.S. readiness to expand mutually advantageous and fair trade ties. This also implies the elimination of all kinds of obstacles and restrictions on American exports.

Today U.S. Customs duties for Soviet goods exceed by 5, 10 and even more times those for goods imported from other countries. Some imports from the Soviet Union are banned, while others are severely restricted. Serious obstacles have been raised in the way of American exports to the Soviet Union. More than 100,000 items are on the list of restricted goods and technologies.

If these obstacles and restrictions are removed, we can become really good partners.

*Vladimir Kamentsev is the Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Foreign Economics Commission under the Council of Ministers of the USSR.*

**William Verity and Alexander Kachanov plant a tree in front of the International Trade Center. The tree symbolizes U.S.-USSR trade.**



**A pizzeria on wheels arrived in Moscow for the ASTEC meeting, giving Muscovites the chance to taste this American favorite.**

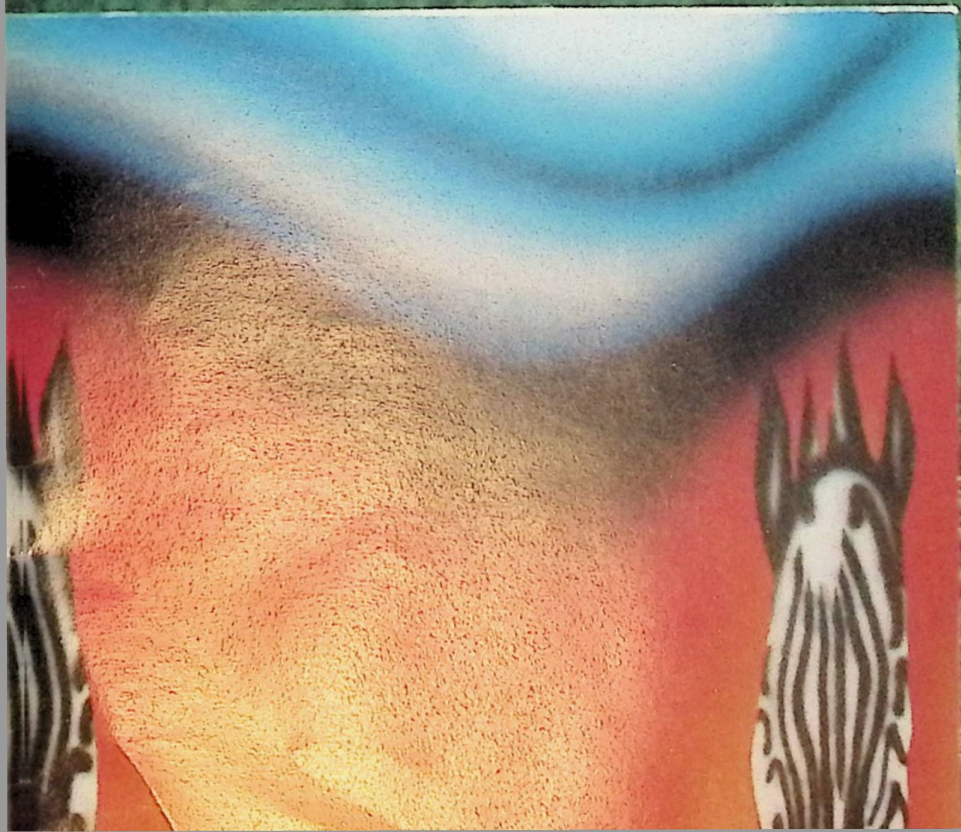


"Portraits done in oils," reads a poster in Moscow's Izmailovo park. Weekends, the park belongs to artists and craftspeople and those who come to admire their work.

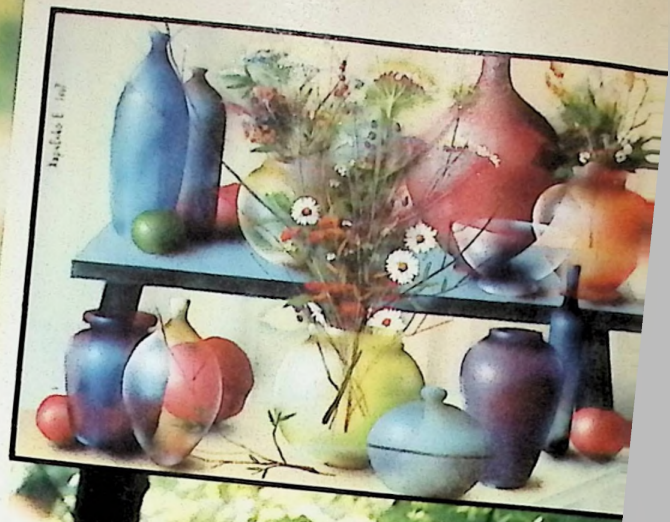
ДЕЛАЮ  
ПОРТРЕТЫ  
МАСЛОМ

# MOSCOW'S MONTMARTRE

By Marina Khachaturova  
Photographs by Yuri Fidler











A

h, what an array of artworks! Look at the landscapes and portraits, my God!" murmured a man in wonder as he strolled through the open-air art show in Izmailovo, an old park in Moscow.

Every weekend hundreds of painters, engravers and craftspeople as well as thousands of onlookers and collectors gather in the park for the show. The exhibition attracts festive crowds not only in fine spring weather but also on bitterly cold winter days, when the park is blanketed in snow and the pond is covered with ice.

Izmailovo is a popular recreational spot and a refuge from the megalopolis with a population of nine million surrounding it and the noisy thoroughfares nearby. Back in the seventeenth century, Izmailovo was the Romanov family estate outside the city. It was Czar Alexei's favorite place, with its beautiful Central Russian landscapes and ornate edifices, which have survived to our day. Peter the Great, Czar Alexei's son, spent his childhood and adolescence there developing ideas for the reforms that were later to change age-old Russian ways.

Today the picturesque historical spot is an excellent site for art shows. Not only Muscovites but also visitors from abroad and tourists from all over the country come here to view the works of artists and craftspeople and to find a bargain to add to their collections.

Items on display, such as handmade lace, works of embroidery, knitted goods, pottery and paintings, appeal to all tastes. The paintings represent every

genre under the sun, from surrealism to conceptual art, and all degrees of sophistication, from first-rate, heady works to sheer kitsch. The motley display reflects public tastes—the eternal tug of war between highbrows and the masses. Even the most refined connoisseurs often find pearls in this sea of art.

The prices on artworks shown in Izmailovo are much lower than in state-owned art shops, where, among real creative gems, you can find inferior works, despite the selection commission's exacting standards. Sometimes you can pick up an excellent painting for a paltry sum in the park, if you're short of cash or your admiration touches the artist's heart.

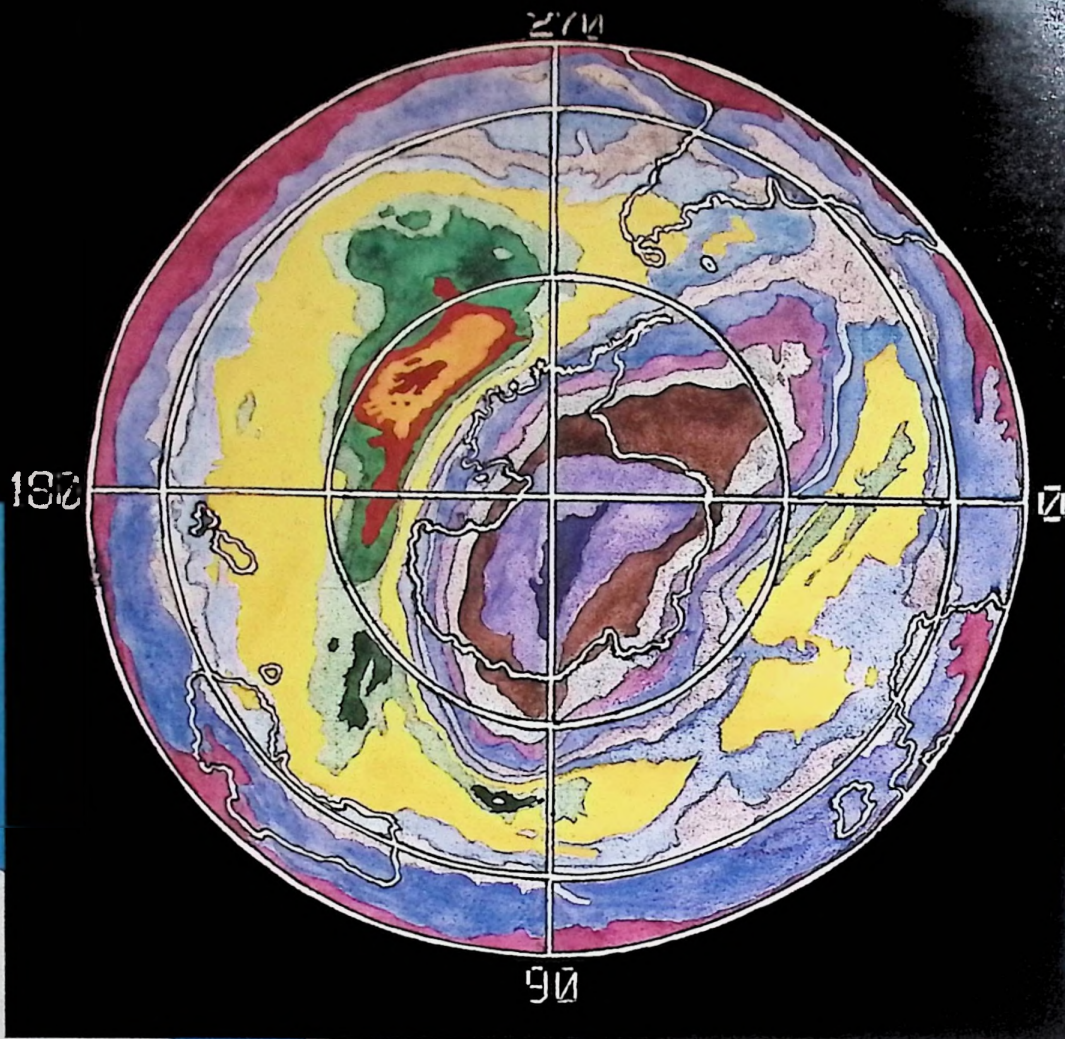
Most of the artists who display their works in Izmailovo are professional painters or art students. However, there are also many amateurs from all walks of life, from scientist to poet, and of all ages, from 17 to 80 years old. If you've got the time, you can sit for a portrait by an enterprising artist who seems never to lack for subjects. Still lifes are among the most popular pictures, especially if they include flowers. Visiting Southerners prefer Moscow cityscapes and Central Russian landscapes, while foreigners lean toward pictures with a distinctive Russian flavor.

Another outdoor art exhibit similar to the one in Izmailovo, but smaller, can be found in Arbat, a quaint old mall in the center of Moscow. You can also have your portrait painted there and have a look at pictures representing all trends in art. Arbat has an especially warm atmosphere with its outdoor public festivals and open-air art shows. ■

**Drawings, paintings, pottery, sculpture and handicrafts of macramé and lace—all of these items and more can be found in the park, and they're inexpensive too.**



This diagram drawn by Soviet meteorologists shows the hole in the Earth's ozone layer (deep purple) above Antarctica.



Below: The giant garland of research balloons marked the start of AEROREX, a Soviet-American study of the atmosphere.



# scouting the ozone eaters

By Nikolai Khlebodarov  
Photographs by Gennadi Kuposov





**T**he condition of the Earth's ozone layer is causing concern not only among meteorologists and ecologists. The thinning of this protective layer of the atmosphere is being blamed for a rise in the incidence of cancer and eye diseases and the instability of the immune system in both humans and animals. That's why the study of problems relating to the preservation of the Earth's protective ozone layer is one of the key areas of Soviet-American cooperation.

Meteorologists began to study atmospheric ozone seriously in the 1920s. Before that, specialists only knew that ozone is a gas, which has a specific pungent odor when inhaled after a rainstorm. In the 1920s scientists established that the ozone layer is from three to four millimeters wide.

Later they discovered that the highest density of the ozone gas is at an altitude of 25 kilometers from the surface of the Earth. And though the ozone layer is thin, it protects all life on the planet from the dangerous ultraviolet radiation from the Sun.

The intensity of ultraviolet radiation in the Tropics is far greater than at the North or South poles, and as a result of evolution, all living organisms have adapted themselves to various levels of ultraviolet radiation. Therefore, any dramatic change in the intensity of solar radiation will seriously affect ecological systems, especially the health of animals and humans. Ultraviolet rays affect, above all, the proteins and the genetic code of living organisms.

The ozone layer acts as a filter, reducing the intensity of lethal ultraviolet radiation that reaches the surface of the planet, and precise data about it is extremely important for weather forecasting, agriculture and medicine. According to the experts, the ozone layer is still effectively protecting us from solar radiation, but they warn that by the year 2000, ozone concentration in the atmosphere may decrease by one per cent and in 50 years by four per cent. That is a very disquieting forecast. What does it portend?

American scientists have calculated that by the year 2070 the number of people with skin cancer around the world may reach 40 million as a result of the thinning of the ozone layer. Also, the depletion of the protective layer may cause serious damage to agricultural crops and animals. Alarmed by such gloomy prospects, scientists in many countries have begun to search for effective means to prevent imminent disaster.

Unfortunately, scientists do not agree on what is causing the de-

pletion of the ozone layer. Yet the majority of experts believe that Freon gases and substances derived from them may damage the ozone layer. These gases are now widely used in aerosol containers, in home refrigerators and air conditioners, and for cleaning computer hardware.

When Freon gas reaches the stratosphere, it becomes a dangerous ozone eater. The United Nations Environmental Commission stated in a number of reports that Freon and halogens, which are increasingly being used in all countries, are responsible for 90 per cent of the destruction of the ozone layer. If production of these items continues at the same rate, in 70 years the ozone layer may become nine per cent thinner.

Soviet scientists emphasize the importance of studying the effects on the ozone layer of all human activities. They maintain that only complete and objective scientific data will help in developing effective protection measures.

In 1986 the Soviet Union began a series of aerosol experiments in the Antarctic, which confirmed the theory that Freon concentrations in the atmosphere were growing. The experiments also showed ozone was being "eaten up" by active aerosol components. Eventually, scientists discovered a hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic. That discovery caused a great sensation among the scientific community.

The discovery of the ozone hole provoked heated debate among scientists, who explain the phenomenon in many different ways. The prevalent view, however, was that aerosols, especially those with Freon, were responsible.

Two scientific explanations deserve special mention. Some scientists claimed that the phenomenon occurs over the Antarctic in the spring and summer, when the ozone layer descends closer to the Earth and the strong Antarctic winds sweep it away.

Others maintained that the Antarctic filters gases out of the atmosphere by "freezing" them. High gas concentrations found in the snow in the region confirmed this theory. When spring arrives, frozen aerosols begin to melt and react with ozone.

The Antarctic phenomenon made scientists resume aerosol studies. The objective of the studies was to fulfill practical needs and to quell serious anxiety. In 1980 ozone concentration over the Antarctic decreased by 20 per cent and in 1987, by almost 50 per cent. If the same thing had occurred in some other region of the globe, for example, at the equator, the consequences for all life on our planet would have been disastrous. It has now been proved beyond doubt that the phenomenon is caused by aerosols.

Thirteen years ago an event took place that left an indelible imprint on science and Soviet-American cooperation, though in the memorable year 1975 another, more important event, the successful completion of the Apollo-Soyuz Joint Space Project, pushed it into the background.

In 1975 American researcher James Rosen started a series of unique experiments with aerosols at a Soviet test site. Rosen is an internationally known scientist who has traveled around the world demonstrating the possibilities for the aerosol meter that he invented.

Rosen's device is lifted to a height of 35 to 40 kilometers by a special balloon, where it measures aerosol concentrations in the atmosphere. However, the device cannot be used universally. In Western Europe, for instance, balloon flying is dangerous because of the great number of aircraft in the air. The Soviet Union, with its vast expanses, is an ideal site. Or at least Rosen thinks so.

The joint experiments reached their height last year, and the Soviet-American program dubbed AEROREX was born.

"I'm very interested in this research program," said Rosen. "I can compare my results with the data obtained by my Soviet colleagues using different methods, especially the results gotten by laser sounding of stratospheric aerosols. That's a very productive method. You can, at best, launch my meter twice into the stratosphere and miss valuable atmospheric layers, while a lidar can scan the entire sky. This method is very important in studying aerosols, and Soviet specialists are quite good at it."

"How do manmade aerosols influence the climate?" I asked the American scientist.

"On the eve of the emergence of giant passenger airliners, such as the Concorde, TU-144 and Boeing," he answered, "it was very important to know how the exhaust of their jet engines would affect the atmosphere, and a comprehensive study was begun at that time. It was discovered that the main exhaust products—nitric oxides—precipitated the destruction of the ozone layer.

"We haven't studied all the effects of aerosols on the protective ozone layer yet," he continued. "In regard to Freon, at low altitudes it's a nuisance, but in the stratosphere it reacts with ultraviolet radiation and 'eats up' ozone. It's a very serious problem, and many countries have imposed restrictions on the production of the gas. Gradually however, these restrictions have been withdrawn.

"When a hole in the ozone layer was discovered over the Antarctic, it became clear that the dangers of Freon had been underestimated. These problems are now the focus

of joint Soviet-American research. The atmospheric sondes and other equipment were manufactured in the United States, while the Soviet Union allowed us to conduct experiments at its Antarctic stations and at sites on Soviet territory. Our contacts are mutually beneficial, and the results of our work will allow us to evaluate the effect of aerosols, including Freon, on climatic changes occurring in the world."

**I**t was still dark when we arrived at the launch site. A garland of nearly a hundred two-meter balloons was stretched over a small river. A breeze began to blow, but the scientists were still busy adjusting equipment. It's not easy to tune so many highly sensitive instruments and to ensure that they will land safely.

"Ready, one, two, three, go!" came the command from a megaphone. The balloons quickly began to rise into the air. As the balloons ascended, they expanded, so they could be seen at a height of almost 30 kilometers, where they burst and the instruments began to descend with parachutes.

Watching the orange parachutes from a helicopter, we listened to the radar reports on the radio. We were right at the landing spot when the instruments touched down.

While the scientists disengaged the instruments, we inspected the lidar-sounding station.

The process of lidar sensing is quite impressive. A green laser beam rips through the night sky. Because of its very high frequency, the beam looks like a continuous line to the eye. However, light particles, known as quanta, meet with aerosol particles and bounce back, supplying scientists with information ranging from the size of the particles to their chemical properties.

By the time the lidar sounding was over, the scientists who had launched the sondes were able to draw a vertical cross section of aerosol concentrations at a height of 35 kilometers.

The data supplied by the lidar coincided with almost every piece of information supplied by the sondes. It turned out that the ozone layer over the test site was "wrapped" in a thick aerosol coat.

So what needs to be done to protect the ozone layer and avert ecological disasters? Future Soviet-American joint experiments will supply an answer to this question. However, some interesting conclusions may be drawn even now: Between the end of the last century and the 1920s, the climate in the Northern Hemisphere changed largely as a result of volcanic activity. Now manmade aerosols are playing a very significant role in climatic changes, and, they must be studied thoroughly. ■



# SUMY

## Why is it a household name?

By Elya Vasilyeva  
Photographs by Vladimir Vyatkin

Products made in the Ukrainian town of Sumy can be found in almost all industries and homes across the USSR. Besides being a center for engineering and industry, Sumy is "a wonderful place to live," as the town's residents maintain.

**T**he first thing that catches the eye of newcomers to the Ukrainian town of Sumy is the abundance of roses there. A luxuriant rose garden is planted in the square in front of the railroad station, while flower beds surround the town's shops, offices and factories and line the streets.

Sumy experienced its first wave of "rose fever" some 10 years ago, when the local Town Soviet (town council) began a beautification campaign with an appeal to all residents to plant at least one rosebush.

When the campaign began, the town had 15 acres of flower beds. When the campaign was over, the town had 500 acres of flower beds, including 500,000 rosebushes, two per capita.

Sumy is a lovely place, with shady boulevards, parks and public gardens; crystal-clear ponds; fountains and artificial waterfalls; and charming, old alleyways. This earthly paradise has attracted and inspired many men of genius. "I love this place in the valley of the Pszol, a delightful little river," composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky wrote from Sumy. "Abkhazia and the Adriatic Sea are wonderful, but Luka, a suburb of Sumy, and the Pszol River are even better," wrote Anton Chekhov, who stayed there many times. Sergei Rachmaninoff composed some of his best work in the town. Alexei Shchusev, the famous architect of the Lenin Mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square, began his professional career in Sumy, while renowned artist Mikhail Nesterov painted many frescoes there. The cathedral in Sumy, which was designed by Shchusev, was Nesterov's last fresco work. It is considered the gem of the town.

The people of Sumy take much pride in their history. Local Tchaikovsky music festivals attract performers from all over the Soviet Union. The Sumy Music School, which was founded over a century ago, is one of the oldest schools of its kind in the Ukraine. The town also has a music college and a music department in its teachers institute.

The Sumy Philharmonic Society is situated in a beautiful old baroque hall, and the local opera recently moved into a superb new building, which had received the Ukrainian State Prize for its architecture.

Czechoslovak specialists installed an organ in Sumy's Holy Trinity Cathedral last autumn. Another church, the Resurrection Cathedral, which was built at the turn of the eighteenth century, dominates the center of the town. Several other Orthodox churches and a Baptist chapel, all in good repair, are functioning in the town.

Residents of Sumy are known for their cultural awareness. The Danieli Firm of Italy, which is constructing a local drilling pipe factory, offered to arrange an Italian Culture Week in the town. The idea received the enthusiastic support of the local community.

As part of the festivities an exhibit of paintings and engravings by first-rate contemporary Italian artists was held in

*Continued on page 19*

Mikhail Lushpa, First Secretary of the Sumy Party Committee, is in the forefront of the town's development.







Sumy is known for its beautiful architecture, statues and landscaped boulevards.





# STILL HONEYMOONERS

Larissa and Andrei Suyarko are a newlywed couple from Sumy. What are their prospects for a long and happy marriage? "Just fine," they say.





"The secret to family stability is communication," says Andrei Suyarko, 22, a student at a polytechnic institute in Sumy. "Couples have to keep the lines of communication open. That involves establishing guidelines for their relationship and then following them."

"True love—which is really, really rare—is the most important ingredient of a happy marriage," says Larissa Suyarko, 20, who teaches music to kindergarteners at a local plant. "I've known Andrei since our school days. We were in the same music group and were often in each other's company. But I never thought of him as a boyfriend. I had a huge crush on another guy. I dated him for about a year and a half, but our relationship seemed to be going nowhere. Eventually, I decided to call it quits, and we broke up. Looking back, I can see that he wasn't really my type at all. But still, the parting was painful for me."

"Anyway, one day I realized that my feelings for Andrei were changing. We were becoming more than just friends. After that, it wasn't too long before we decided to get married."

"When Larissa and I first started going together, we both were dreaming of attending the Sumy Teachers College, but our scores on the entrance exams weren't high enough, and we didn't get in. Our second choice was the local polytechnic institute. Everything has worked out for me, but Larissa quit school after a year because she wanted to pursue a less technical profession. While she was considering her next move, she took a job teaching music in a kindergarten at a local plant. Now she says she's ready to have another go at the exams for the teachers college. Eventually, she'd like to study in the department that trains music teachers for children."

"I'm really indebted to Andrei for helping me with my career plans," says Larissa. "I don't know what I'd do without him. Working in the kindergarten is okay, but we both want to make more money. Andrei has recently taken a job as a laboratory assistant at the polytechnic institute, which means we'll be less dependent on our parents for making ends meet. And that's good."

"Marriage doesn't mean that you give up all of your life," says Andrei. "It's better for couples to have different friends and interests. For example, Larissa has hers, and I have mine. We have different hobbies, too. Larissa sings in the plant club's women's choir—it's even performed abroad—while I belong to a local political song club. I also like to write lyrics. Though we both have a deep love for music, we attend different singing groups in the evenings. I think this gives our life more variety."

"It's important to have a good relationship with your parents," says Larissa. "That's not easy for me because right now Andrei and I are living with his family. All of us do our best to keep peace in the family, but sometimes relations get strained. It would be better if my husband and I were living on our own."

"Larissa has put her finger on our only strain—we need to be independent from our parents. But getting an apartment isn't that simple. We've got a chance, though, since the plant where Larissa is working has promised to give us an apartment as soon as one is available."

**Though one out of every two marriages in the Ukraine ends in divorce, the Suyarkos aren't discouraged. Their broad smiles show that, together, they're ready to face anything that might come their way.**

**Inset: Larissa with her kindergarten music class.**

# SUMY

*Continued from page 16*

Sumy's art museum. (Incidentally, the museum boasts a number of Western European, Soviet and prerevolutionary Russian paintings in its permanent collection.) The latest Italian films were shown in local movie houses, and examples of Italian tapestries and Salviati glassware, samples of which adorn the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and other top museums around the world, were on display. One unique exhibit was dedicated to the Valcamonica Preserve of Prehistoric Rock Paintings, the largest of its kind in Europe. Fashion shows rounded off the Italian Culture Week festivities.

Though modern Sumy may well seem to be an idyllic spot, it has witnessed more than its share of tragedies throughout its history. The town emerged three centuries ago from a remote fortress, which was built to protect Russia's southern frontier from Crimean Tatar raids. Symbolically, the town's coat of arms includes a shield.

In the Northern War, Peter the Great made his headquarters in Sumy on December 13, 1708. Here he worked out his plan for the famous Battle of Poltava, in which the Russian troops routed their formidable enemy, King Karl XII of Sweden. The town proudly preserves the house in which Czar Peter lived.

The Napoleonic wars added another glorious page to local history. Sumy military regiments valiantly fought off the invaders. The names of the units are inscribed in gold lettering on the walls of the St. George Hall in the Kremlin Palace.

October 10, 1941, opened the most tragic page of the town's history. That was the day that the Nazi aggressors occupied Sumy. Their terror took tens of thousands of civilian lives.

When the liberating Red Army entered Sumy on September 2, 1943, the town lay in ruins. During their occupation the Nazis had ransacked and razed factories, schools, hospitals, theaters, museums and electric-generating plants. About 1,500 dwellings were destroyed. All in all, 135,600 residents of Sumy were killed in action at the front or in partisan and Resistance units, or fell victim to the Nazi punitive forces.

On the initiative of World War II veterans, a memorial has been erected at the highest point of the town. Today a semicircular granite slab lists the names of residents who gave their lives defending the motherland.

Sumy's coat of arms was officially approved in 1781. It bears three black gunnysacks with gold clasps on a silver shield. According to legend, three gunnysacks (the word "sumy" in Russian) were once found on the spot where the Sumy fortress was later built. Philologists, however, claim that the town derives its name from the Sumka River, one of the three rivers that have their confluence in Sumy.

Some like to make a pun on the words "sumy" and "sums." And they aren't too far from the truth: The people of Sumy are known as a thrifty lot. Even in its quiet, provincial past, Sumy was a large business center with thriving sugar refineries and a flourishing trade. Turkish merchants brought paper, groceries and silken sashes to trade with Polish partners for batches of English cloth, Venetian velvets and weaponry of all kinds and with Russian traders for cottons and linens. Transactions took place in the Arcade, a fine piece of stonemasonry now being restored.

At the start of the twentieth century, engineering burgeoned in Sumy, with foreign industrialists as willing investors. Engineering is still a leading branch of the town's economy, alongside petrochemistry, instrument making and light industry. Thirty-seven research and production amalgamations and factories are situated in Sumy. The city also has four colleges, nine technical institutes and nine vocational schools.

Events in November 1933 presented Sumy's engineers and shop-floor workers with a particular challenge. When Western foreign-trade partners embargoed compressor exports to the Soviet Union, Sumy promptly began the manufacture of the first Soviet compressor. The situation was repeated 50 years later, when Western firms refused to supply equipment for the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline project. Again, the Sumy engineering industry rose to the challenge and started producing pumps that have proved more efficient and dependable than imported ones.

Articles made in Sumy are used in all Soviet industries. The town has often been the first in the country and even the world to initiate production of many new machines. Its products are known for their quality and high standards. Sumy's Elektron firm, which is the leading Soviet producer of electronic microscopes and mass spectrometers, has also manufactured a unique gas-chamber microscope.

The town recently hosted an international conference on electronic microscopy, which was sponsored by the Elektron firm. A reporter covering the event for the local newspaper interviewed a conference participant who is a staff scientist and management consultant for a company in California. He mentioned the pioneering spirit of local industry and its future-oriented products. He also went on to say that he expected the Elektron firm to earn large profits and to bring much prestige to the charming town.

In a letter to a Sumy resident, Anton Chekhov once wrote the following:

Eventually, nothing will be left of your town the way it is now. It will change, as if by the wave of a magician's wand. It'll have fair gardens with fountains and fine, spacious houses for wonderful people who will live there.

The famous writer was mistaken on one point: Luckily, much of Sumy is the same as it was in the old days. ■



# ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

Since January 1, 1988, most plants and factories in the Soviet Union have been operating under a new system of economic management. The experimental model on which the system is based was first tried out, among other places, in Sumy, where it came to be known as "the Sumy experiment." SOVIET LIFE correspondent Elya Kvochkina talks with Mikhail Lushpa, the head of the Communist Party in Sumy, about the experiment.



*Mikhail Lushpa (born 1920) has spent most of his life in his home town of Sumy. In 1941, when he was a student at a school of architecture, nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Lushpa's life changed overnight, and he gave up the classroom for an artillery unit on the front.*

*After the war Lushpa returned to his studies, graduating from a pedagogical institute and the Higher Party School under the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in Moscow. Sixteen years ago Lushpa was elected First Secretary of the Sumy Party Committee. In addition, he is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine and a member of the Union of Architects of the USSR.*

**Q:** Please explain what is meant by the phrase "the Sumy experiment." Does it mean that your region has chosen to follow a special pattern of social and economic development?

**A:** No. The pattern of development that we are following in Sumy is the same pattern that has been introduced across the country. Acceleration of social and economic development is a common goal for the whole nation.

But the industrial plants and factories in Sumy were among the first to introduce and develop a new economic mechanism based on full cost accounting, self-financing and self-management. Since January 1, 1988, most Soviet enterprises have switched over to this new system of economic management, which was tried out here first and has come to be known as "the Sumy experiment."

**Q:** Without going into detail, what was the main idea behind the Sumy experiment?

**A:** The underlying idea of the experiment was to have management and the workers jointly take the economic initiative in fulfilling their contractual commitments, in raising profits, and so on. The successful performance of a plant or factory means more money at its disposal, which can be used for technical modernization, pay increases and bonuses for its personnel, construction of housing and child-care facilities, and for recreational purposes.

This has proved to be a real incentive for efficiency programs and policies and for the search for new technologies. The results of the experiment speak for themselves. The returns of the first year of the current five-year plan period (1986-1990) show that the growth rates of industrial output and labor productivity in Sumy have surpassed the planned figures by more than 50 per cent. Plants and factories are now more efficient, and the quality of their products is improving all the time.

**Q:** Many experts insist that the restructuring of the economy is facing major difficulties. What can you say in this regard?

**A:** Unfortunately, not everything is proceeding as smoothly as we planned. The initiative of our

economic managers is running into bureaucratic barriers, while the ministries are still continuing the old policy of administrative fiat, imposing unrealistic production targets on enterprises and claiming a sizable share of the profits. In other words, the ministries are restricting the plants and factories. And, just as Sumy did, other localities are experiencing this problem too.

**Q:** Above all, the Sumy experiment provides for extensive economic growth. But aren't you also tackling problems of social development? What would you say is the most critical social problem in your town?

**A:** Without a doubt, it's our housing problem. Though our situation here in Sumy is somewhat better than in other places, that's no reason for us to be complacent. We definitely have a shortage of housing, and people have been waiting years for an apartment of their own.

**Q:** How are you handling the problem? Can you speak of an original Sumy experience dealing with the housing situation?

**A:** We've been more successful in solving this problem in Sumy than in similar cities in the Ukraine: We are building approximately 4,000 apartments a year. But we're lucky in this regard because our funds for construction are not only coming from national budget allocations but also from contributions made by local industrial enterprises. The greater the income of the enterprise, the more it contributes to the common fund. This is how it works, in principle, everywhere, but in Sumy the Town Soviet has proved more efficient and persistent than Soviets in other cities and towns. Last year our industrial plants and factories covered an average of 90 per cent of the cost of housing construction, 87 per cent of the cost of hospital and polyclinic construction; and our child-care facilities and schools are being built almost totally with money from local enterprises. For example, the Frunze Production Association alone is financing the construction of several apartment buildings, two kindergartens, a junior design center, a hospital and a sports complex with a seating capacity of 3,000. There are also plans for building a sports school, a utility center and a home for the aged.

As the town is developing its economic potential, it is improving its social sphere too, and the

new economic mechanism is helping to speed up the process.

**Q:** Some say that what happens in any city or town depends greatly on those who are in charge of governing it, on their views, tastes and even planning concepts. What is your opinion?

**A:** I think that the future of a city or town primarily depends on the ideas built into its master plan and the fulfillment of that plan. In implementing our master plan in Sumy, we have focused on working out a rational zoning plan for our land and on streamlining our transportation system. Ecological issues have also been a priority here.

For example, over the past 15 years we have gotten rid of almost all of our hazardous industrial wastes. The water in our rivers and the air we breathe are both clean.

We are also paying close attention to the architectural design of all new construction. Our town planning concept is striving for an optimal combination of the old and the new.

**Q:** In implementing your town planning, are you using local talent, such as architects, among others, or are you relying on people from outside the Sumy area for this?

**A:** Needless to say, it's not easy to change a town's face, which has been shaped over the centuries, without damaging it. So at first, we entrusted that crucial job to leading specialists from Moscow, Kiev and Kharkov. More and more, however, our young local architects are joining in the work too. We have given them difficult tasks and projects, and they are coping with them quite well. For example, the regional library building was designed by a team headed by Yuri Kobyljakov, a very talented local architect. The building received a prize from the Union of Architects of the Ukraine. At present the same team is working on designs for other facilities.

As it is, in the early 1970s we announced a national contest for the best project to remodel our town center. Five renowned design institutes competed in the contest: two from Moscow, two from Kiev and one from Kharkov. The project was awarded to Moscow's Giprogor Institute. Its design called for leaving the old town center as it was before the Revolution and for just renovating it. As for the buildings, which were in a par-

*Continued on page 31*





Prerevolutionary Sumy workers. This 1909 photo is from the association's museum.

What makes workers feel like co-owners of a plant? "Let them have a say in running the business, a share in the profits and a hand in managing funds," says Vladimir Maznoi, a 32-year-old worker at a plant in Sumy.

# MORE AND OF BETTER QUALITY: A WORKER'S VIEW

Below and right: Vladimir Maznoi in his workshop, which makes power plant pumps.





In 1985 the Frunze Production Association, a major engineering firm in the town of Sumy, learned it was switching over to a self-financing system and would no longer be receiving subsidies from the state. Though the association would still have to contribute a share of its profits to the State Budget, enough funds would remain for expansion, new machinery and social programs, such as housing construction and day-care centers.

That was the beginning of the Sumy experiment, which involved working out new management guidelines. These guidelines now underlie the radical economic reform that is occurring throughout the Soviet Union.

This year plants and factories operating under the new management guidelines will account for 60 per cent of the nation's industrial output. Before assessing the experiment, let's look at how Soviet producers operated before the current reforms were in place.

Previously, almost all of the producer's profits were allocated to the state, which then prescribed how the funds left at the producer's disposal were to be spent. In redistributing the producer's profits, state ministries often disregarded each plant's or factory's contribution to the common cause. As a result, successful plants were left with a minimum of money, while inefficient enterprises fared well at their expense. This bred managerial sponging, undermined shop-floor morale and discouraged efficiency. That was why the Soviet Union decided on a major economic reform that accentuated producer autonomy and self-financing.

"When we learned we were going to switch over to unsubsidized performance, we weren't sure how everything would work out," said Vladimir Maznoi. "Some thought we'd be rolling in clover, while others were sure that the experiment would fail. I was optimistic, yet I didn't expect things to be easy. I was right."

Soon the workers realized that although the self-financing system promised a lot, it did not tolerate blunders. They had to learn accounting and to become accustomed to the idea that they played an important role in the experiment and its goals. At the start, 20 per cent of the work force was indifferent to the experiment, according to a survey.

"Some thought, 'How can I, one guy, have any effect?' Psychologically, we weren't prepared for the experiment. We weren't good at accounting or dealing with figures," Maznoi continued.

"We got down to studying. Our association was the first to combine vocational training with business classes. The thought of increasing our profits and, thereby, our wages spurred us on.

"We milling-machine operators figured that productivity would go up if we learned how to handle other machinery. Our team council agreed, and all of us were taught how to operate two or three types of machines. Now we are a multiskilled team of 27 men, and our earnings have gone up," Maznoi said.

It wasn't long before all workers at the association began to appreciate the new management scheme. Self-financing stepped up the association's performance, which the press dubbed "Sumy acceleration," and the association achieved its 1981-1985 targets six months ahead of schedule. Between 1981 and 1985 wages increased and the plant built 3,500 apartments, a children's clinic and several day-care centers.

"The whole country was watching the Sumy experiment. In 1986 Mikhail Gorbachev dwelled at length on the plant's results, particularly on the enhanced morale of its personnel.

"Workers have become much more efficient, and not just because they are earning more now but also because they have been given a say in how the association distributes profits," said Maznoi. "Working for a common cause has had an impact on how the workers feel," he continued. "You really get a sense of this when we are determining the wages that every member of the team receives. Our monthly pay consists of a basic wage, which all members receive according to their individual contribution to the job that has been done. Added to the basic wage are bonuses for quality and efficiency; subtracted from the base rate are penalties for spoilage, late arrival and inefficiency," he said. Maznoi presently earns from 550 to 600 rubles a month, or three times the national average.

"When determining wages, we take into account all of a worker's strong and weak points," said Maznoi. "We review not only his work record for the previous month but also his attitude. Perhaps a worker wasn't at his best over the past month, but, in general, his performance is good. We try to encourage such people by paying them more than they deserve because they'll certainly reciprocate with greater productivity.

"Some managers are reluctant to hire inexperienced workers. But how are young workers to gain experience if they don't have a chance? You can't be taught in school what you can learn on the job. With the self-financing system, effective training schemes are quickly paying for them-

selves. Team contracts geared to end results and common interests are proving to be a real incentive for good work."

Following the establishment of the Soviet Children's Fund, workers at the association contributed one day's pay to an orphanage outside Sumy. Later, workers visited the orphanage to meet the children living there.

"Teenagers are our special concern," said Maznoi. "The local high school organizes tours of the association for students in the senior grades. We're glad to talk with them and tell them about our jobs."

The Sumy acceleration experiment ended late last year, and on January 1, 1988, producers across the country started switching over to self-financing. By trial and error, the Sumy engineering association and a number of other producers have evolved a management model that is increasingly coming into use.

"The success of *perestroika*," Maznoi said, "depends on all of us. We must shoulder responsibility for the restructuring process without pointing a finger at the association's director. Unfortunately, many are still too quick to blame everything on the bosses."

The quality of the association's work was put to the test during the dramatic days of May 1986. Pumps made at the plant did a good job in helping to combat the Chernobyl accident.

The current focus of the association is automation and modernization. Maznoi is confident that self-financing will play a decisive role in this. His optimism is rooted in the association's current record. Last year it wound up with 108 million rubles in profits. Of this total, 52.9 per cent will remain with the association. One of the things it will be used for is the purchase of new machinery.

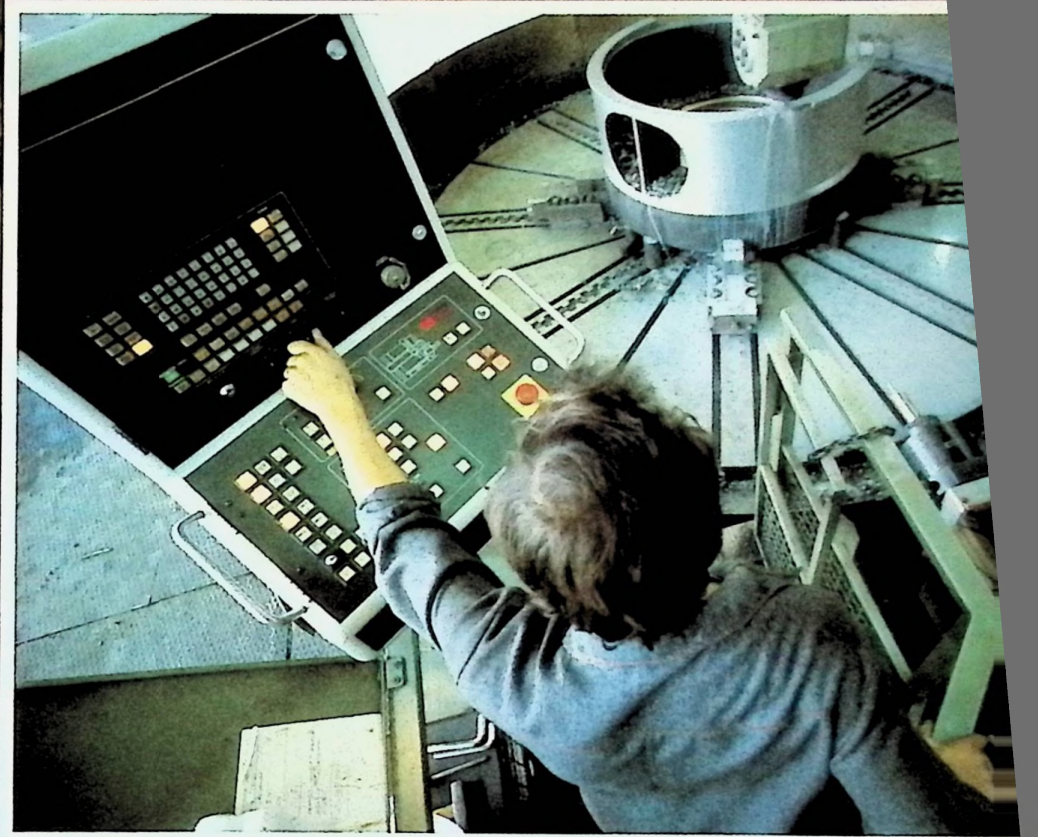
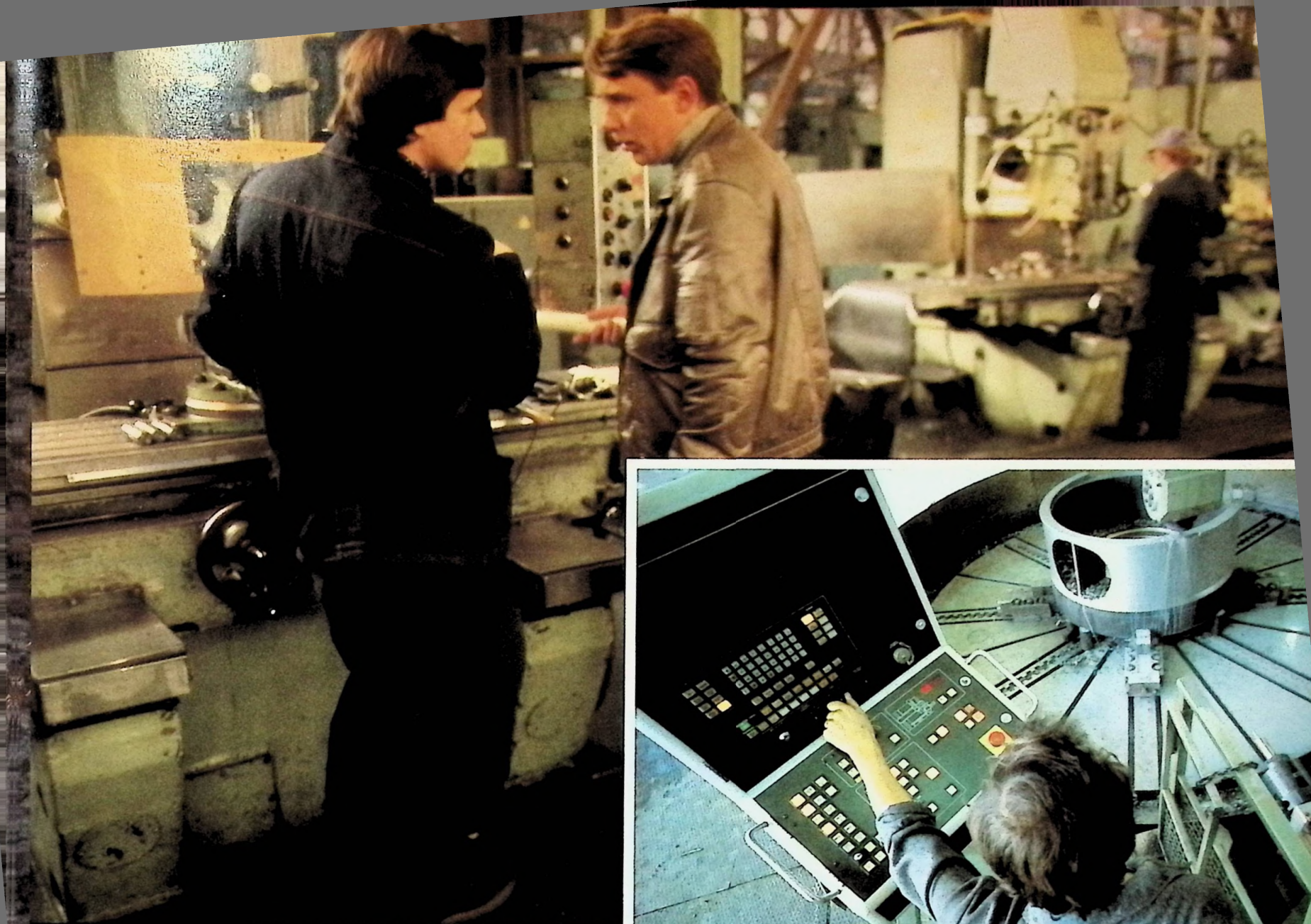
Since last year the engineering association has built up a bustling foreign trade. Among its foreign clients are firms in Cyprus, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, China, Syria, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Mexico and Peru. Capacitors, water pumps and centrifuges are some of the products it is supplying to its foreign partners. Under the 1986-1990 five-year plan period, the association will be introducing a line of 62 new products.

"We are emerging on the world market," said Maznoi. "And people are changing their views of the Soviet Union. Possibly, we'll trade with Americans, too, in the future. Although I've been to 11 countries, I haven't visited the United States yet. Soviet and American workers—I'm sure we could find a common language." ■

A three-course dinner in the factory's canteen costs from 60 to 70 kopecks. Maznoi earns from 550 to 600 rubles a month.







Automation and modernization already in process call for boosting production 60 per cent without increasing the number of workers.





A high-angle, top-down photograph of a large crowd of people gathered at night. The people are wearing winter clothing, including jackets and hats. Many are looking upwards, and numerous white doves are seen in flight, scattered throughout the crowd. The scene is illuminated by streetlights, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant public event or protest.

**A TOWN  
WITHOUT  
SMOG**





If cleanliness is next to godliness, as the old maxim goes, then the town of Sumy, in the Ukraine, must be near heaven. In beauty and lack of environmental pollution, Sumy is a model town for other populated areas to follow. At the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements in Moscow, Sumy represents the ideal in wildlife management and urban beautification.

This is all the more remarkable since Sumy, with a population of 270,000, is a large industrial center. It has an engineering and a chemical plant as well as various enterprises of the construction industry and the light and the food industries.

The town is known for its unlimited supply of pure drinking water and its fresh air, which is filled with the fragrant aroma of flowers. Sumy's streets are clean and lined with greenery and blossoming plants. Residents take special pride in their sandy beaches, which are situated almost in the center of town, and in the purity of the water in their local rivers and lakes.

A description of Sumy could fill a travel brochure or two, and the statistics support the town's claims. Over the past 10 years the amount of greenery per inhabitant has increased from 13 to 33 square meters. Though production has grown by 70 per cent during the same period, the amount of noxious emissions has been reduced by 61 per cent, while the amount of untreated sewage water flow has been cut by 75 per cent. Pollution levels of Sumy's rivers are below established norms. In 1973 Sumy Region became the first region in the Ukraine to ban motor launch traffic on small rivers.

How have the residents of Sumy accomplished what is still beyond the reach of others?

An official of the Executive Committee of the Sumy Town Soviet answered that question: "We began by calculating the economic damage caused by harmful emissions from our plants and factories," he explained. "That gave us a clear picture of the problem, and we began looking for ways to solve it."

A special research facility has been set up in Sumy to coordinate all conservation work in the region. It conducts environmental studies, assesses the economic consequences of pollution, analyzes the economic considerations to substantiate planned conservation measures and sponsors ecology awareness programs.

Sumy's scientists have worked out an integrated program called Project Environment, which takes into consideration not only the town's needs but also the requirements of Sumy Region as a whole. The project calls for improving the ecological state of the town and its neighboring areas by 1990. Under Project Environment the town's plants and factories have already built 114 new dust- and gas-filtration units and modernized 800 of the older ones. Also, many local enterprises have adopted low-waste production technologies, which are enabling them to purify up to 80 per cent of their discharges. The acceleration of scientific and technical progress in Sumy is accompanied by greater allocations for nature protection.

All of these measures, however, would not have been so effective if the residents of the town had been less ecologically aware. One out of every two Sumy residents belongs to the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Nature. And it's not just token membership. All members are active in the society's work.

The town has organized 16 people's universities, which offer courses on nature and the environment. The aim of the universities is to provide a greater awareness of ecology. The most active ecologically minded citizens are the town's youth: More than 2,000 young people are enrolled in young ecologists classes. Often it is precisely the young who initiate all kinds of nature conservation campaigns requiring not simply knowledge but also action. ■

Tamara Levitskaya

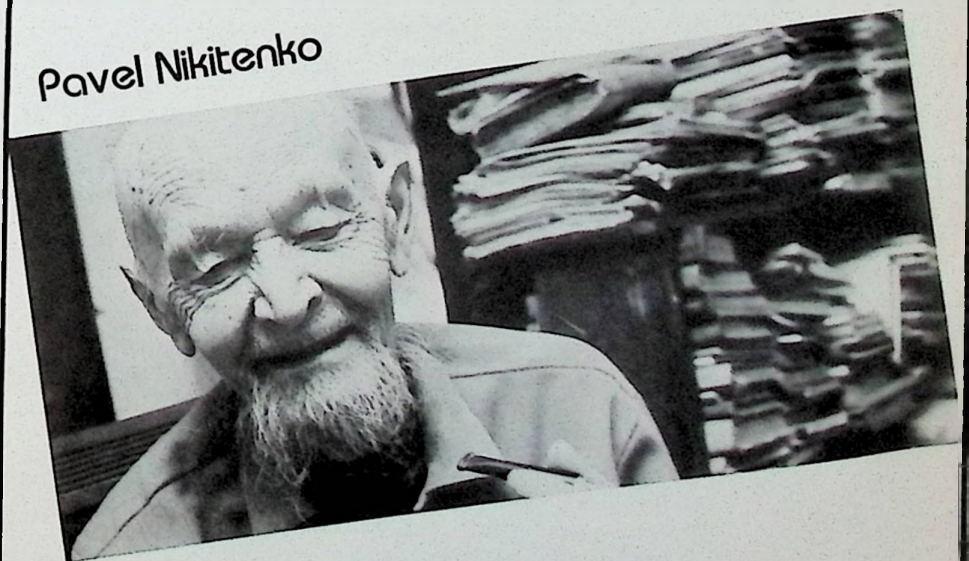


Tamara Levitskaya is well known in Sumy. She creates copies of world masterpieces with a needle and thread. In all, she has produced over 600 pictures, which hang in 40 Soviet and 30 foreign museums.

"One million punctures by the usual needle with usual threads. I work with thread and mix the colors as artists mix paint. I take five or six shades of the same color and stitch over an area," she says. Experts say she has a "marvelous sense of light" and (as the Ukrainian encyclopedia writes) "phenomenal memory." She believes her forte is "will power."

Her copy of Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* is one of her best. "I'll never part with it as long as I live. I sometimes shudder to think how much I'm attached to it," Levitskaya admits.

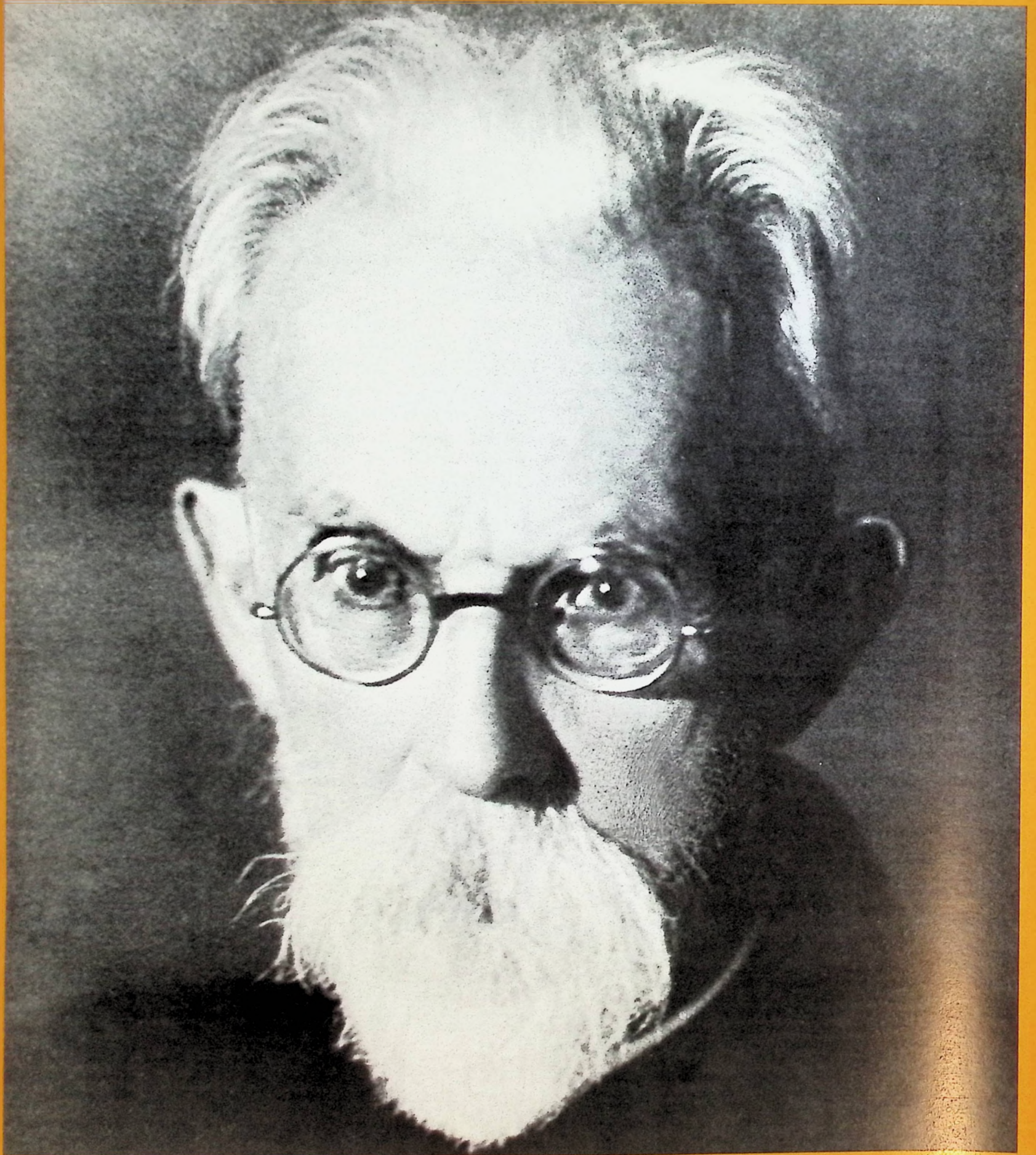
Pavel Nikitenko



A long-time resident of Sumy, Pavel Nikitenko, 98, has been an eyewitness to and a participant in many major events in his city's history. He has written memoirs and made hundreds of drawings, which he is planning to contribute to the local ethnographical museum.



# VERNADSKY:



For the 125th anniversary of the birth of the great natural scientist



# a man ahead of his time

By Rudolph Balandin

**V**ladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky was born on February 28, 1863, in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad). In his 82 years he made major discoveries in mineralogy, geology, crystallography and biology and was the father of radio geology, geochemistry and biogeochemistry. A natural scientist, he was also a great

philosopher and thinker.

Contemporaries of Vernadsky who knew him well said that he didn't like combing his hair and paid little attention to his appearance. Science and philosophy are what kept the great scientist engrossed.

Our impression of Vernadsky is of the eccentric scholar totally removed from the businesslike twentieth century. And, indeed, Vernadsky's lifestyle was more in keeping with the times of Tolstoy, Chekhov and Dostoyevsky. He once discussed the essence of life and the immortality of the soul with Leo Tolstoy, who noted that Vernadsky's ideas verged on mysticism rather than science. Yet the to-all-appearances recluse tackled a dozen intricate scientific problems at the same time, and he has gone down in history as a scientist who was ahead of his time. His scientific theories and philosophical vision remain topical today.

Vernadsky's range of interests was exceptionally broad. He concerned himself with things like cognition of the dynamics of minerals and all-planetary cycles of matter; space, time and symmetry; the terrestrial and cosmic essence of life; man's place on earth; and the role of reason in the universe. He was the first to fathom and explain the unity of organic and inorganic matter, of the terrestrial and the cosmic within the confines of the biosphere.

Also, Vernadsky studied mineralogy, crystallography, soils science, general geology, geochemistry, radio geology and hydrology, the theory of cognition and the history of science. The list is far from complete. To each area, he brought something new, even founding some. A major contributing force to the development of science, Vernadsky established and was the first director of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. He also established at least 20 research commissions and institutes.

Some call Vernadsky the Encyclopedist of the twentieth century. The description is fair, though somewhat impersonal. More than anything else,

he was an experimenter in the natural sciences, a geologist. He was also a historian; he believed that the history of science and society is an integral part of our planet's history. He felt that thoughts are not only the product of the individual and society but are the result of the evolution of terrestrial nature and the biosphere. He studied humanity as a specific geological force transforming life on cosmic scales and attached special significance to the spiritual side of man. "Scientific Thought as a Planetary Phenomenon" is the title of one of his typical papers.

Vernadsky's philosophy of history was so unorthodox and unexpected for his time that to this

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Some call Vernadsky the Encyclopedist of the twentieth century. The description is fair, though somewhat impersonal. More than anything else, he was an experimenter in the natural sciences, a geologist. He was also a historian; he believed that the history of science and society is an integral part of our planet's history. He felt that thoughts are not only the product of the individual and society but are the result of the evolution of terrestrial nature and the biosphere. He studied humanity as a specific geological force transforming life on cosmic scales and attached special significance to the spiritual side of man.

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day his innovative concepts have not been properly assessed. Unfortunately, most of his ideas have suffered a similar fate.

The scientist readily and resolutely removed from theories and postulates all fetters inhibiting a discipline and limiting the growth of science. He had an amazing knack for integrating knowledge, and he aspired to the truth in the same way as a young shoot of a plant pushes up to-

ward the sun. Cognition of nature, not formalized activity, was what excited him.

Central to Vernadsky's creative genius is his concept of the biosphere. Today his thoughts on the subject are nothing out of the ordinary, but prior to 1920s they had never before been expressed. Vernadsky evolved his concept of the biosphere gradually, eventually rounding it off while delivering lectures on geochemistry at the Sorbonne in Paris.

The biosphere is an all-encompassing zone involving the earth's atmosphere, bodies of water, land masses and living organisms, and the energy of the sun. A special role in the biosphere belongs to a combination of organisms, to living matter. Living matter is both a creation and a creator of the earth's natural processes. As a powerful geochemical force, it creates the face of the earth, transforming its atmosphere, waters and crust. Armed with technology, Homo sapiens has pursued this global activity.

From the point of view of astronomy and, more precisely, astrophysics, the earth looks like a minuscule part of the gigantic mechanism of the galaxy, which is, in turn, the most insignificant screw in the universe (the megagalaxy). Within the grand cosmic whirls, the earth is lost like so many particles of dust. What significance has the fleeting lifetime of one person in all of this?

Vernadsky held infinitely dear our tiny inhabited island in the universal sea. He saw matter not as the screw in the megamechanism but as the body of the megamechanism. He compared all aspects of life, that is, the biosphere, with an organism, not a mechanism.

As Vernadsky wrote: "There will always be scientists who clearly feel and embrace our planet's living, real nature, which is full of the perpetual beat of life. For them, understanding the oneness of nature is the guiding thread in all of their scientific research."

We study space indirectly, with instruments (space technology) and can determine only a few of its parameters, such as mass, distance, intensity of radiation, average content of chemical elements, and so on. "In essence," Vernadsky wrote, "space gives us the totally alien impression of not affecting us and, obviously, presents a pattern far removed from reality, even when we transform it into an original chaos of parts moving without any order, or, on the contrary, make it an original machine regulated by universal reason."

That is Vernadsky's concept of the double synthesis of the cosmos—mechanical and organic. He proposed that, on the one hand, it is an extremely ordered, mathematized and simplified world, and, on the other hand, that it is a living ▶



organism, which is infinitely intricate and cannot be reduced to geometrical patterns, physical formulas and mechanical models.

Understanding the physical and mathematical laws governing the cosmos and simplifying nature, Vernadsky, however, was confident that in time the outlook of the naturalists would prevail. Unfortunately, we are still far from his concept of the organic synthesis of the cosmos and continue to proceed along a different path from the one trod by Vernadsky.

It may appear that this world outlook is too abstract and generalized and, therefore, cannot be applied to individual, specific matters of science or practice. But that impression is very deceptive.

Of course, today, ideas of transforming nature are out of vogue. The ecological crisis of a society proceeding along that path in theory is all too evident. But the mechanical synthesis of the cosmos is growing outdated too, though it is still relevant in determining the main features of a scientific outlook and the style of contemporary science. Isn't that why we are powerless to create a system for the rational use of nature that is not harmful to the environment? In other words, we are still incapable of "inscribing" our technological civilization in the biosphere.

Vernadsky's logic is exceptionally simple and clear: Nature must be more deeply transformed if it is to be preserved. But the quality of the changes must be all the more rational.

The scientist believed reason capable of overcoming the tragic collisions of history. However, he did not live to see the present biosphere, so cramped by the demographic explosion and so consumed by pollution. He did not see the blotches of overpopulated cities and the real threat of planetary suicide—nuclear weaponry. Humanity would do well to consult Vernadsky's writings in our efforts to resolve the pressing problems of the biosphere.

Vernadsky's theories suggest a number of conclusions. First, only one biosphere exists for everyone. For instance, you cannot poison Europe and expect North America and Asia to go unscathed. Second, the biosphere is a self-regulating system, with each new aspect being an integral part of the whole and essential for maintaining the normal state of the whole. Hence, the danger of all manner of technological pollution,

that is, overheating of the atmosphere, lessening oxygen content, depleting resources. All international research concerned with environmental protection and the rational use of the earth's resources proceeds from Vernadsky's theory of the biosphere.

The scientific, ethical and philosophical content of Vernadsky's outlook is much more elevated than the consumerist attitudes of a society oriented toward unlimited production of goods. The scientist brought another value system to the forefront, a value system that proceeds from a respect for life and a trust in reason.

An optimist and humanist, Vernadsky asserted that humanity has reached a turning point in its understanding of its role on the planet. This is

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**Vladimir Vernadsky: "There will always be scientists who clearly feel and embrace our planet's living, real nature, which is full of the perpetual beat of life. For them, understanding the oneness of nature is the guiding thread in all of their scientific research."**

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the result of its transition to a new state—the noosphere, that is, the sphere of reason.

Vernadsky completed his final work entitled *A Few Words About the Noosphere* during the tough years of the Second World War. By then, he was old, widowed, ill and living alone. His son, a history professor, and daughter were in the United States. Still, the scientist had great faith in the future.

"At the current time," he wrote, "one hears that barbarity is approaching along with the downfall of civilization, this under the influence of the horrors of life around us and the unprecedented blossoming of scientific thought. I feel such sentiments and judgments are mistaken, a result of an insufficiently deep grasp of the environment. The historical process is changing before our eyes in a most fundamental way. For the first time in history, the interests of the popular

masses are the yardstick for humanity's idea of justice. Humanity is becoming a mighty geological force. And there rises before it, and its thought and labor, the question of restructuring the biosphere in the interests of free, thinking humanity as a single entity. This state of the biosphere that we are approaching is the state of noosphere."

By the end of his life, Vernadsky inevitably switched to problems of a moral, spiritual nature in his quest for the ultimate truth. "We do not value in the world," he wrote, "the things encompassed by reason. The closer we get to the picture of the world, the further we get from the scientific value of an abstract explanation."

This is an honest admission of a wise man. He maintained that a spiritless and formal science has no right to sway the destinies of humanity. This is something that might be borne in mind by those inclined to accuse Vernadsky of being a technocrat.

It is commonly accepted that with his concept of the noosphere, Vernadsky accomplished the synthesis of the natural sciences and the humanities. Actually, there are more merits to his name than that. The scientist went beyond the bounds of science to delve into the essence of the social and cultural life of people, showing common roots for science, culture and morality. The very idea of the noosphere is closely linked with the spiritual thought of Russian society of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The ethical basis of the noosphere is clear: "The task of man is to be of the greatest possible use to those surrounding him," wrote Vernadsky, showing his personal appreciation of Tolstoy.

Vernadsky's life was an amazing, original experiment. He proceeded along an evolutionary spiral from the physical laws of matter, which he sensed were inadequate, through the laws of living matter to the concept of thinking matter. Death came to him as he was making the next step, one leading to the concept of "humane matter."

The scientist and thinker died on January 6, 1945, confident that his descendants would have the courage and reason to accept responsibility for the destiny of the earth. Exactly seven months later, however, the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, showing humanity the results of science straying from ethics.

**Vladimir Vernadsky (left) with Alexander Fersman, a close associate. Both men are credited with discoveries in mineralogy and geochemistry.**





# MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S SPEECH AT A RECEPTION FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE U.S.-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL

The following is the text of the speech made by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on April 13, 1988, at a reception in the Kremlin on the occasion of the eleventh annual meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council in Moscow.

*Present at the reception were Victor Nikonov, Nikolai Ryzhkov, Nikolai Slyunkov, Eduard Shevardnadze, Alexander Yakovlev, Yuri Maslyukov, Anatoli Dobrynin, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Vsevolod Murakhovsky, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Vladimir Gusev, Vladimir Kamentsev, Ivan Silayev, the heads of a number of ministries and agencies, directors of ASTEC from the Soviet side and other officials.*

*Present from the American side were U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Verity, ASTEC Co-chairman Dwayne Andreas, ASTEC President James Giffen, directors R. Mahoney, J. Murphy and A. Ozmetel, U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Jack Matlock and representatives of the American business community.*

**WELCOME** you to Moscow, and it gives me pleasure to do so. Your arrival is a good sign for Soviet-American relations and for the atmosphere around the world in general.

We live in interesting times. I think that you have come to Moscow not merely for considerations of business, although now we are not inclined to underestimate this aspect of your interest either.

Lately I have been following with attention the sentiments of the American business community. I know personally many of its representatives. We have met in Moscow and in Washington.

All of this allows me to think that your interest in us is more profound than mere professional interest.

The dilemma as to where the world will go is now being keenly discussed everywhere. The conscious part of humankind would like to see Soviet-American relations become, at last, a constructive factor in the world.

I'm sure you are interested in knowing what our assessment of the present-day international situation is. Detailed analysis would probably be out of place here. I will limit myself to general evaluations.

We believe that the situation has changed for the better, that a window of hope has opened a little. The opportunities for finding solutions to complicated issues engendered in the years of the cold war have become more apparent.

The bedrock causes of the changes are in line with the mighty and ominous objective processes that are sharply intensifying their pace as we near the turn of the century—in the scientific and

technological direction, in the arms race, in the world economy, in the Third World, in the fields of ecology, power engineering, information, and so on.

This has generated universal anxiety along with greater responsibility—not only for national affairs, but also for the destiny of the entire world.

A delay in the realization of the course of world developments, which ever more persistently demand the adoption of measures capable of averting baneful consequences, has become more obvious.

People have started feeling more acutely the rapidly increasing interrelationship and interdependence of today's world.

Many states, public movements and parties have contributed to understanding the new realities and ensuing political imperatives.

**"I know *perestroika* is generating immense interest in the West. We regard this interest as a desire to understand the possibilities for a positive development of Soviet-American and international relations for the near future and beyond."**

Intellectuals, researchers, outstanding scientists and cultural workers have made an invaluable contribution, and I can say that a considerable contribution has been made by people in business circles. Among those present here are people known not only for what they have accomplished in the field of business, but also for their public and, I would say, political activity.

They have placed their vigor, business capabilities and art of communication at the service of mutual understanding and facilitated the practical solution of a number of international issues.

We state with satisfaction—which I felt especially clearly during my visit to Washington—that the Americans are changing their attitude toward the USSR. There is now more understanding, less suspicion. Thoughtful interest is taking the place of mere curiosity.

But we don't want to be overmodest. Something did depend on us too. I think that *pere-*

*stroika*, or restructuring, and our new thinking have played their part, now generally recognized, in altering the international situation.

You are in Moscow at a time when *perestroika* is already marking its third year. I say "already," but then immediately think—just three years—for it is planned for a long period of time. The tasks at hand are truly historic, truly revolutionary. Nevertheless, we have entered the second stage of *perestroika*, and we are approaching a very important point—the Nineteenth All-Union Party Conference.

The first stage, in general terms, is a stage of contemplation, analysis, strict self-criticism and self-realization of Soviet society—not armchair analysis, not scientific study only, but a review involving the people. This is the fundamental, basic distinguishing feature of the entire process of *perestroika*.

See how the Soviet people have squared their shoulders and revealed their potential. What amount of energy, initiative and readiness to take part in the common cause has been shown! How many original minds and talents have appeared in such a brief period!

Naturally, an acute confrontation—I would say a clash of views—has begun. There is the passionate defense of the socialist values and profound dissatisfaction with the way we have been using them; there is the way we disposed of the gains of our great Revolution. The process is not simple. There is struggle, but it takes place on the socialist platform. I would like to warn against delusions in this regard on the part of those who watch this struggle from the sidelines.

Yes, there is lack of understanding; there is an unwillingness to change something radically, to give up things convenient and customary. But the principal trend of the debate is constructive and dynamic. It is based on the striving to improve our society, to translate into life all its potential—a striving that we realized through much suffering.

This kind of debate is under way in all sectors of our society, in all spheres of life—from economics to literature and the arts. This, we believe, is good and useful for *perestroika*.

We feel the positive results of true socialist pluralism of opinion. It holds a promise for unprecedented growth in society's intellectual potential.

I know *perestroika* is generating immense interest in the West. We regard this interest as a

*Continued on page 35*



# HEALTH CARE

## IN COMMUNION WITH HIPPOCRATES

Over the past two years the state of medical research and public health services in the country has been sharply criticized by experts and the mass media. Perhaps this criticism will prompt changes in these areas. That was the theme of a round table between medical experts and government officials.

**T**aking part in the round-table discussion were Guri Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Yuri Ovchinnikov,\* vice president of the Academy; Yevgeni Chazov, USSR Minister of Health; Yuri Besspalov, USSR Minister of the Chemical Industry; and Valeri Bykov, USSR Minister of the Medical and Microbiological Industry.

**Yuri Ovchinnikov:** We take it for granted that even children are aware of the achievements in our health services, which are a fact. Soviet medical services are the most inexpensive in the world—inexpensive for patients, that is. During the very first years of Soviet government, health services had very good prospects. To begin with, such scientific luminaries as Ilya Mechnikov and Ivan Pavlov, both Nobel Prize winners, were contributing their knowledge.

We began to fall behind gradually. I'm speaking, above all, about medical research because I'm more competent in this area than any other. Today we are lagging behind in the following important areas:

The first is neuropeptides. We've accomplished much in our studies of the brain and the higher nervous system. Remember, Pavlov's teaching was the most advanced in the world. But in giving that our primary attention, we overlooked chemistry, including such organic compounds as neuropeptides. Neuropeptides are produced in the brain in the shape of large proteins, which are later "sliced" into pieces. These "pieces" are responsible for essential elements that govern the behavior and functioning of the human body, for instance, pain, memory, stress, emotions, and so on.

The second is the study of the immune system. Though we've undertaken an important step by setting up the USSR Institute of Immunology, we've again let the biochemical aspects of immunology slip.

Today the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations is an especially acute problem. The specialists know we are lagging behind scientifically, while our backwardness in the manufacture of these items is a sore point with everyone. I recently conducted the following experiment: I



Guri Marchuk



Yevgeni Chazov



Yuri Besspalov



Yuri Ovchinnikov



Valeri Bykov

asked a department of the Ministry of Health to draw up a list of 50 of today's most effective medicines. Later I inquired, unofficially, at several clinics in the outlying districts whether these preparations were in use. I was told that the clinics had never heard of them; hence, they were never prescribed.

We've started working on preparations at the Academy of Sciences, and already there are a number of new medicines. We've obtained alpha interferon in ampules and ointments through genetic engineering. Also gamma interferon. The effects of our preparations are better and their manufacturing costs are lower than similar preparations produced today by large pharmaceutical firms in the West. However, the medicines are not at the disposal of our medical serv-

ices. True, the USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry is planning to issue these preparations for general use in the course of the year. But for the most part, their testing has proceeded very slowly.

**Yevgeni Chazov:** I, too, would like to see *perestroika*, restructuring, in the area of medical science advance more quickly. But wishes are one thing and reality is something else altogether. Medical progress requires a lot of hard work. In this case we need double readjustment—in the system of health services and in the thinking of all those who are involved in the health-care profession.

I'm not going to dwell on the way things were before and the position we find ourselves in today. These issues have been dealt with in detail in the press, which published the discussion on the guidelines for the restructuring of health-care services, on our achievements and shortcomings and, above all, on the fact that the present standards of health care are not answering the needs of socialist society. Let's look at what has already been done and what we are planning to do.

At the very start I want to drive home the idea that all our efforts are aimed at introducing as soon as possible measures that will enhance disease prevention, the paramount trend in our health-care system. Regrettably, this trend has weakened over the past few years, and we are trying to make up for lost time. In this connection, I'd like to draw your attention to the large-scale experiment under way in three areas of the country—in Leningrad, Kubyshev and Kemerovo regions. The aim of the experiment is to develop new forms of managing and financing health-care institutions. Methods of financing are changing radically. We're not going to finance the number of hospital beds or visits to the doctor, but the end result of the doctors' efforts, that is, the health of the people under their care.

We are forming associations of five or six polyclinics, which are to be funded on a per capita basis, that is, they will receive funds according to the number of people in their charge, usually about 120,000 to 150,000 people. When an association puts a patient in a hospital, it will have to



pay the hospital charges out of its own funds. This makes the association self-supporting. On the one hand, the polyclinic will receive all the money allocated by the state for people's health; on the other hand, it will have to spend its funds on protecting the health of its patients.

We've also introduced special indices that should give us a picture of a doctor's qualifications. The number of complaints from patients, the number of people who lose time from work, the number of people who die and the percentage of chronically ill patients under the physician's care will affect his or her salary and promotions. We've worked out 10 such indices, and together they will give an objective picture of the state of health of people in the doctor's care.

**Yuri Ovchinnikov:** That's a good beginning, but to chart a correct program of action—not for every department separately, but a joint, complex program—we must understand why we've fallen behind. For instance, why haven't we made progress in our research on the immune system and the hematopoietic system? Above all, because the research institutes under the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR are powerless to do that type of work. Only very recently has the number of really good biological institutes in the country begun to increase.

Certainly, we've achieved definite success. When genetic engineering was born in 1972, the inventors of the method prophesied that Soviet science would lose out in this area. But that didn't happen, thanks in great measure to the efforts of Academician Alexander Bayev, and we are still holding our own in the field. We've also made advances in a number of other fields, such as bioenergetics, biological membranes and the chemistry of proteins.

But when it comes to studying the human being, academic science falls short, unable to readjust quickly enough. It's our responsibility to correct the situation in the shortest possible time. In the long run, our objective is to remain in the vanguard of medical science. And it's good that the way we treat problems is changing. For the first time, the Ministry of Health is giving the media unembellished facts on infant mortality rates, the inadequate sums allocated for hospitalization of patients, and so on. Perhaps one of the reasons why we fell behind is that we were all assuring each other that our health services were ahead of any other country's and that no one would ever catch up with us. There is nothing more dangerous than self-deception.

There are serious changes going on in the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry. We must advance our medical science as quickly as we can. The situation is very favorable for that.

**Valeri Bykov:** Things are looking up in our area, but there's little we can boast of yet. However, I don't want to dramatize the situation. The nomenclature of Soviet medicines includes 1,500 names, though we are lacking some of the psychotropic preparations and medicines for treating cardiovascular diseases and asthma as well as certain antibiotics. But the output of our medical industry is growing annually by 10 per cent.

I agree that we should speed up the testing of new preparations and stop the production of outdated medicines.

**Yuri Bepalov:** Our production and research potential is adequate to deal with many of the complicated problems we are facing. The way to do it is by setting up complex programs—complex or national, whatever you want to call it.

Our chemical industry stands second in the world in size and potential, and we are seriously interested in undertaking complex programs. One shortcoming is that the centers conducting fundamental research are not keeping the Ministry of the Chemical Industry informed as to what they are working on. All of a sudden we learn

that we are to begin production of one component or another. Actually, our work should parallel the scientist's so that when the research reaches its final stage, we production chemists will be ready to go on from there. We could start issuing the latest preparations in small batches and increase production in keeping with the demands of the health services.

**Yevgeni Chazov:** I'd like to touch on the problems of health-care service that lie outside the boundaries of the polyclinic and the hospital, but that are closely linked with people's health. What I mean is environmental pollution. Many illnesses today can be linked to the environment. The air quality of 104 of our cities is unacceptable. One of our studies looked at the nature and the number of illnesses in the vicinity of a chemical plant in Yerevan, Armenia. We learned that the number of people with lung diseases was considerably higher near the plant than the average in the city and that even pregnancy was more difficult there than in other parts of Yerevan. I could cite many more examples. That's why we are making greater demands on our sanitation services to step up efforts to keep the air clean and the water pure and, in general, the environment wholesome in every respect. Personally, I think that ecology is a top priority but, I'm sorry to say, not everyone agrees. Last year sanitation inspectors closed 136,000 factories and shops.

**Guri Marchuk:** To sum up, I'd say that the emphasis of our health-care services lies in regular physical screening. But in order for that to be effective, we need more of the most up-to-date diagnostic equipment. We can provide the equipment if all areas of science and industry cooperate and make use of the country's entire scientific potential.

Much has already been accomplished, but fundamental research is still going slowly and, to a great extent, is isolated. Therefore, we must set up a large-scale, complex program to study the fundamental and applied elements of the medicine of the future. It seems to me that in the future we will integrate the efforts of the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry and the Ministry of Instrument Making, Means of Automation and Control Systems. They will all be united in one complex, which will not be a substitute for the state program for medicine but which will become a special program for the development of the major fundamental works and advanced technologies.

This will be a complicated task, and it should be handled in a completely new way. It should not be treated as seeking a solution to a set of problems but as outlining a strategy defined by two academic institutions and resolved together with the relevant government ministries. We must single out the most important, specific problems encompassing the entire chain—organizing studies, conducting research and development, setting time schedules, performing medical experimentation and managing implementation. We are faced with many problems in medicine and, apparently, we will not be able to handle all of them as soon as we would like. That's why we should single out the major areas so as to make a leap forward.

**Yevgeni Chazov:** We must also include concrete problems such as seeking a cure for AIDS, for instance. I figure there are about 20 such areas altogether.

**Guri Marchuk:** We should give individual attention to questions of microanalysis. That may appear to be a detail, but a strategy depends upon detail. In short, there's no problem that cannot be solved if we coordinate our efforts. ■

*\*Yuri Ovchinnikov died while this article was being prepared for publication.*

# ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

*Continued from page 20*

ticularly bad state of repair, we're planning to pull them down and build exact replicas on the same sites. Altogether, we plan to preserve more than 50 historical and cultural monuments: the buildings of the old lyceums and hospitals, banks and mansions. They are all good creative pieces done by masters of their time.

According to a recent poll taken in the town, our residents cited more than 50 prerevolutionary structures in the town that they wanted preserved. That's why we are now carefully reviewing our plans, taking into account dozens of other historical structures.

**Q:** You are both a full-time party official and a member of the USSR Union of Architects. Have you designed or built anything in Sumy?

**A:** When I returned to Sumy 16 years ago, it was the same provincial town it had been when I was a boy. Each plant built whatever and wherever it wanted without concern for the over-all image of the town. What particularly struck me was the indifference of the people themselves to how it all looked.

So, as a party worker, I started by trying, together with my colleagues, to change that mentality of indifference and to convince people that we were building the town for ourselves and for our children. We started by pulling down all of the incongruous fences that had been put up and generally by beautifying the town. When the fences were gone, everything was out in the open—the unsightly dumps, the unauthorized storage places and whatnot. That sight was enough to get everybody involved, and residents began planting flower beds and creating parks. The enterprises and institutions have landscaped their grounds too. But the most important thing is that the townsfolk were kind of "seeing" their town for the first time.

Since 1972 we've been holding weekly "clean-up Fridays" in town, and almost everybody is involved. That was the first step. From there we decided to build on an integrated pattern. That approach has proved utterly novel and also very fruitful.

I haven't stayed on the sidelines either. Because of my background in architecture, I've had a hand in designing several buildings in Sumy—notably, the drama and music theater. As for the Union of Architects, I was admitted to it 30 years ago for my designs of monuments to soldiers and partisans of the Great Patriotic War. The monuments are not here in Sumy, but in other places in the Ukraine.

**Q:** What would you say is the most important problem you face as a party leader?

**A:** I believe it's the job of the party worker to set the process of change in motion. That means not just improving people's living standards and material welfare, but, above all, awakening their consciousness and civic awareness. I remember, when I was young, how we worked and the enthusiasm that we had. The situation is different today. It's very hard to get people involved without giving them a reason. The causes that necessitated *perestroika* were not just the decline in economic growth but, first of all, the alienation of the people from social goals and values. Today the social and political concern of the people is on the rise, and that's good. We're making substantial headway here. For example, we've just built an amusement park for children. It has mock fortresses, ponds, playgrounds and cafés. It was built by young people who volunteered their time. I think that this is a telltale sign. Unless people realize their role in bringing about the current changes, we'll never overcome the sluggishness left over from the days of stagnation. ■



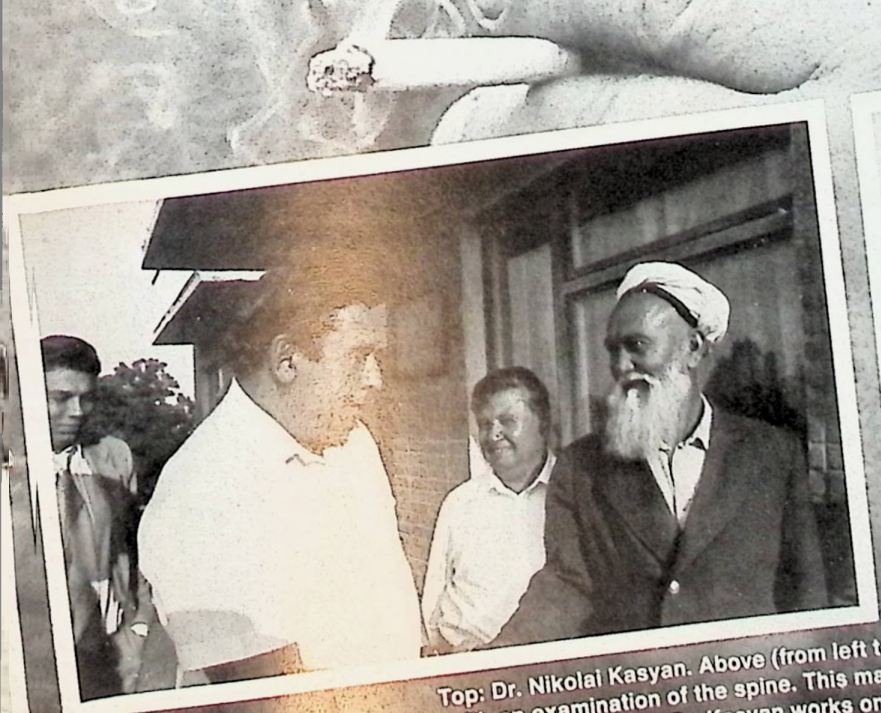




# THE MIRACLE WORKER FROM KOBELYAKI

By Alexander Tropkin  
Photographs by Vladimir Chistyakov

The small Ukrainian town of Kobelyaki, Poltava Region, has become a refuge for sufferers of scoliosis, radiculitis, osteochondrosis and arthritis. Thousands of people from all over the country come here every year to see the doctor with the healing hands.



Top: Dr. Nikolai Kasyan. Above (from left to right): Treatment begins with an examination of the spine. This man from Uzbekistan has been completely cured. Dr. Kasyan works on Kolya Petrov from Dnepropetrovsk. Facing page: A young girl waits her turn.



**T**he rest of Kobelyaki is sleeping, while one resident, Dr. Nikolai Kasyan, is busy treating patients throughout the night. Though the town looks deserted, there's always a crowd on the street where the doctor lives. Some of the people standing in line lean on crutches or walk with canes. Others sit in wheelchairs or lie on stretchers carried by relatives or friends. Among the group are children clinging to their parents.

Around one o'clock in the morning Dr. Kasyan opens his gate, and the people filter in. Children are always the first to be treated.

I spent three nights with Dr. Kasyan while he saw patients. He follows the same routine with almost all of the cases: After asking the patient to lie down, he begins working with the spine and joints, tapping on specific spots here and there. The main part of the treatment comes next. Having the patient stand, the doctor grabs him under the armpits and gives him a skillful jolt. Then he offers some brief recommendations. The procedure takes just 13 seconds. That's the norm. And it works! In addition, it's free. Dr. Kasyan lives on the salary he receives as the chief physician of a local home for the disabled.

I saw many miracles in the three nights I spent with the good doctor. There were the six-year-old boy who raised his hand that had been paralyzed since infancy and the five-month-old baby girl who turned her little head without screaming in pain. Her mother wept with joy.

I saw crippled people in wheelchairs stand up and walk, and I saw the beaming faces of sufferers whose excruciating pain was relieved instantaneously, as if by magic. Dr. Kasyan's treatment does not always produce immediate results, and some patients must return five or even 50 times before they see improvement. Still others are incurable. Hopeless situations make him angry. "Perhaps if treatment had been started sooner, maybe then—," he says in frustration.

After seeing patients for two hours, the doctor takes a short break. Wiping sweat from his brow, he unhurriedly drinks a cup of coffee. Sensing that this might be my only chance to ask questions, I get right to it: "Why do you see patients only at night? Is there any symbolic meaning in that?"

Before answering, the doctor shows me his fingers. They look like ordinary fingers.

"Finger sensitivity is essential to manual therapy, which I have been practicing for 15 years now," Dr. Kasyan says. "I don't need X-rays to discover bone deformities, hernia of the intervertebral discs or joint problems. Just check my record. My diagnoses have been correct in the vast majority of cases. My finger sensitivity is at its best at night."

After working on a patient's spine for a few seconds, Dr. Kasyan knows right away what is wrong, and he immediately proceeds to treatment. The doctor treats scoliosis, osteochondrosis and radiculitis. According to conventional medicine, Bechterev's disease is incurable, but Dr. Kasyan has helped a number of people with the ailment to recover. He repositions dislocated joints and vertebrae and sets bone fractures. He has had great success with athletes injured in sports competitions and with victims of automobile accidents.

Having heard numerous accounts of the doctor's amazing results, I decided to talk with some of the people who have undergone his treatment.

Just two years ago Bairam Khaljanov, a good-natured young man from Turkmenia, Central Asia, was confined to a wheelchair, and doctors had told him he would never walk again. Now, after being treated by Dr. Kasyan, only a slight limp remains of Bairam's debilitating illness.

"Two years ago I was working as a truck driver in Tashauz, North Turkmenia," the young man told me. "I was asked to help unload a cargo of furniture. I'd done that kind of work

before, and I knew how to do it. But as I lifted a table to my shoulder, I felt an excruciating pain shoot up my back. In a week I couldn't move my leg, and every other movement was pure agony for me. After that I spent a lot of time in a variety of hospitals and was examined by the best medical specialists in Ashkhabad and Moscow. I was sent to orthopedic sanatoriums on two occasions. But my condition continued to deteriorate. Finally, the doctors told me I had acute endoarthritis and that I'd have to spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair. Imagine! I was only 28 years old."

"At one of the clinics in Moscow I heard about Dr. Kasyan and his 'miracles.' I decided to get to Kobelyaki at any cost. What it did in fact cost is known only to my older brother who accompanied me to the Ukraine. After 15 visits to Dr. Kasyan, I was able to walk again. Now, after six months in Kobelyaki, I'll soon be off my disability pension and will be returning to work as a driver. I'd never have gotten this far had it not been for the good doctor."

Another patient, Albina Koretskaya from the town of Tuapse on the Black Sea coast, told me Dr. Kasyan saved her life. Albina was diagnosed as having acute vertebral osteochondrosis combined with hypertension, and her prospects for recovery were nil—at least that's what all the doctors had told her three years ago. As a last resort, her mother and her husband took Albina to Kobelyaki on a stretcher.

"When Dr. Kasyan examined me, he told me it was too late and there was nothing he could do to help. I was destroyed. Mother and I began to cry. Dr. Kasyan told us to stop that nonsense immediately and to come back the next night. For the first five months there wasn't any improvement at all, but Mother and I kept going back to Kobelyaki again and again. The strain was too much for my husband and me, and we are now divorced."

"Finally, I started to get better. I believe Dr. Kasyan saved my life. Not too long ago I returned to the hospital in Tuapse where the doctors had told me that I was doomed. I was so proud to be able to just walk right in—I was walking unaided by that time. The doctor who had been treating me almost fainted when he saw me. And as the news spread throughout the hospital, other doctors and nurses came running to gape at me in wonder. But I wasn't the wonder; it's Dr. Kasyan and his power of healing. I think a monument should be erected to him in his lifetime."

Those are just two stories. The doctor treats from 450 to 500 patients each night, and he has helped thousands upon thousands of people over his career.

For a long time conventional physicians and the local authorities did not think much of Dr. Kasyan's activity, labeling him, instead, a charlatan and crank. But the attempts at discrediting him only attracted more people, and his reputation spread rapidly across the nation. Oddly enough, many of the country's most prominent medical specialists suffering from radiculitis, osteochondrosis or scoliosis have sought out Dr. Kasyan's help, to say nothing of cosmonauts, film stars and athletes. Dr. Kasyan sees everyone without discrimination and never lets non-medical considerations interfere with his work. Often physicians who have been treated by Dr. Kasyan have tried to study his methods.

I asked the doctor how he developed his technique and how it works.

"I come from a long line of bone setters," he explained. "Bone setting is the traditional name for manual therapy. The skill was handed down from generation to generation in my family. When I was a child, a lot of people, most of them total strangers, would come to our modest village home and ask my grandfather or father for help. Father taught us boys the art. I remember one of the training exercises he used. He'd break a jug and put it in a sack. He'd tell us to put the pieces back together without looking. That helped us develop sensitivity in our fingers.

"But I learned a great deal more by assisting my father in healing people. He had no formal medical education. Nonetheless, Father knew anatomy, the skeletal structure and the joints perfectly. His lack of a diploma was the main reason why he was persecuted all his life, in spite of his popularity with ordinary people. He worked miracles and never charged a penny, and people came to him from every corner of the Ukraine.

"After graduating from the Kharkov Medical Institute, I decided to carry on my father's cause. I wanted to prove that manual therapy is effective. Skeptics haven't suggested anything that works any better. Maybe that's why they're so aggressive. *Perestroika* and *glasnost* are already bearing their first fruit, and this gives me hope. I'm not looking for personal gain, but things have to be straightened out for the sake of sick people."

The attitude toward Dr. Kasyan and his practice has changed of late. Stories about him have appeared in national and Ukrainian papers and journals as well as on national television. His method has also received the recognition of an assortment of medical authorities. Young physicians, too, are coming from near and far to study his technique. I talked with two of them.

"Kasyan writes in his book on manual therapy that the method requires a doctor having a good knowledge of anatomy and experience working with it," Dr. Leonid Krasynski from Kiev told me. "Now that I've had the chance to see him at work, I'd add that talent is also a must. Dr. Kasyan has an outstanding gift. I'm planning to set up a manual therapy ward at the clinic where I work."

Dr. Nikolai Shtefa from Narofominsk, Moscow Region, said: "I've been using Dr. Kasyan's method in my clinic for two years now. The results are most promising, even economically. After just three or four Kasyan manual therapy treatments, almost every sacrum radiculitis case has shown total recovery. Treating this disease with traditional methods costs the state from 280 to 300 rubles a year per patient—if you count the sick-leave payments and the cost of the treatment itself. And in most instances there are relapses, which means even greater expense, to say nothing of the suffering that the patients have to endure. Soon we are going to offer emergency aid to people with vertebral osteochondrosis pain syndrome. The Kasyan method works wonders in these cases."

Students of Dr. Kasyan's method have set up manual therapy wards in dozens of cities around the country, while the municipal authorities in Kobelyaki have proposed building a manual therapy center, which will be headed by Dr. Kasyan. The doctor himself visualizes the center as follows: a large medical complex covering an area of four hectares. The out-patient clinic could accommodate 400 patients a day, while 100 to 120 of the most serious cases could be treated in the in-patient hospital. There would also be physical therapy and balneotherapeutics facilities with a swimming pool, saunas, massage rooms and a gymnasium. The complex would require a large staff, and it would be run on a self-financing basis, charging very moderate fees. Dr. Kasyan's proposal is currently under review by the appropriate ministries in Kiev and Moscow. And prospects for its approval look good—at least, Dr. Kasyan, his followers and his patients are very hopeful.

Returning to Moscow by train, I shared a compartment with one of Dr. Kasyan's patients, a spirited fellow named Shalva from Rustavi, Georgian SSR.

He was still reeling from his amazing recovery. Shalva had been paralyzed for a year before going to Dr. Kasyan just three days before. Throughout the trip Shalva kept showing me how he could walk again.

"The doctor works miracles, believe me," he said. "I'm going to pray for him every day from now on, and my children and grandchildren will pray for him too!"

I'd never met a happier man.



# GORBACHEV

Continued from page 29

desire to understand the possibilities for a positive development of Soviet-American and international relations for the near future and beyond.

And, as I have already said and written on several occasions, we want to be understood correctly. Quite a lot, by the way, has already been done for that.

True, when the first meeting with ASTEC participants took place two and a half years ago, there was, on the credit side, only Geneva with its historic statement by both sides that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, while now there is Reykjavik and Washington, and one and a half months from now, there will also be Moscow.

So the past two and a half years have seen three summits and preparations for a fourth. The foreign ministers of the USA and the USSR have met 23 times. The first official meeting of our defense ministers has taken place.

This means that the Soviet-American dialogue has been gaining in dynamism. The subject of the dialogue has been the major problems of the times. The dialogue has been marked by new attitudes and a graceful overcoming of stereotypes. Just a few years ago it seemed unrealistic even to predict the possibility for agreements between the USSR and the USA on nuclear weapons. Now the INF Treaty has demonstrated to the whole world that the path to reducing nuclear armories, which leads to their complete elimination, is a real one.

We are not likely to underestimate the difficulties standing in the way of an agreement on 50 per cent cuts in strategic offensive arms. The most sensitive aspects of the security of both our countries are affected. At the same time we are convinced that this goal is attainable in the immediate future if both sides are guided by the fundamental approach agreed upon at the meetings of leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union rather than by momentary considerations and political opportunism.

One of the more urgent tasks is to secure a complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. This, too, is a global task and should be tackled precisely as such rather than from the standpoint of the interests of individual political groups or private companies.

In another highly important issue of world politics—the issue of reducing conventional armaments and armed forces—it is time, as well, to proceed from propaganda stereotypes to practical action. You are aware of our proposals for exchanging relevant data concerning Europe and for talks to eliminate asymmetries by lowering the general level of armed forces. This is yet another demonstration of a businesslike attitude by us.

Tomorrow, April 14, an event is to take place that, by its international implications, is on a par, perhaps, with the signing of the INF Treaty. We hope that the signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan will lend an impulse to the process of settling regional conflicts. By participating—as mediators and official guarantors—in the settlement of the Afghanistan problem, the USSR and the USA create a precedent for constructive cooperation, which is needed so badly to improve international relations in general. And if third countries get a chance to shape their foreign policies with regard not for the all-out rivalry, but for a reasonable, realistic interaction of Washington and Moscow, this will change the entire nature of international contacts. The pluralism of interests in the world around us will then mean diverse possibilities for the peaceful coexistence of states and peoples rather than multiple antagonisms.

Such is the level of responsibility of the USSR and the USA before the rest of the world. And it becomes ever more absurd to preserve a situation whereby two great countries, with a quarter to a third of the world's scientific and technologi-

cal potential concentrated in each of them, are continuing to realize their potential in relations with each other mostly through a race in monstrous weapons.

I think that over the past 40 years we have proved to each other well enough that no one can take the upper hand in this baneful competition. So isn't it time to begin converting both the economy and, I would say, the political mentality? Isn't it time we began demilitarizing it?

New thinking should, at long last, enter the sphere of economic relations. From this point of view, our *perestroika* is an invitation to work out a new system of coordinates in the economic relationship between our socially and ideologically different countries.

There are and there will be serious differences between our countries. The times demand that these differences not be a source of enmity but that they begin to be used, as far as it is possible, as a stimulus to mutually advantageous competition. They can become mutually supplementary components of the world economy in the twenty-first century.

What we have already been able to do in the Soviet economy over the time of *perestroika* convinces us of this.

We have set the task of overhauling the economic structure on the basis of the latest achievements in science and engineering. Along with radical economic reform, the new structural policy will ensure a social and economic speedup.

New priorities have already been picked out for the current five-year plan period. The output of finished products—machines, equipment and consumer goods—is to grow faster than the production of fuel, raw materials and semifinished products.

**“... Let us get down to business. In the beginning was the word. But if the word were not followed by deeds, there would be neither human history nor civilization.”**

Growth rates in the manufacturing industries are to be 2.2 times greater than those of the fuel and raw materials industries.

Another distinct feature of the speedup is the planned pace of development for the high-technology industries, especially mechanical engineering. The output of the latter section is to grow by 41 to 43 per cent, while its basic industries—machine-tool building, instrument making and electrical engineering—are to grow by 55 to 70 per cent.

The transfer of foreign-trade functions to machine builders has also played a positive role. The supply for export of machinery, equipment, instruments and other products of machine building for freely convertible currency increased in one year by 30 per cent. In the current year the deliveries will increase by 150 per cent.

Foreign economic relations have been assigned a reasonable place in the solution of economic tasks of *perestroika*. Good prospects would have opened in this area along the Soviet-American direction, too, were it not for the persistent elements in the USA that wish to take advantage of economic ties as an instrument of interference.

During my visit to the USA I saw there are opportunities to get our trade and economic relations off the ground. But, speaking in the language of our *perestroika*, there is also a need for breaking through the mechanism of retardation in this area. I've already had occasions to mention this.

As regards invigorating trade and economic relations, I mean not only their traditional aspect but also new directions, including combined business ventures, joint participation in major projects for the benefit of all humanity, such as the peaceful uses of outer space and a joint flight to Mars, combating diseases, ecology, thermonu-

clear fusion, and so on.

We are radically restructuring our foreign economic activity, bringing up to date the existing mechanism and at times simply changing its component parts. The number of economic organizations that have been granted the right to do business outside the country is growing quickly.

Thirty-three joint enterprises involving foreign firms have already been set up.

They include the first representatives of U.S. business—Combustion Engineering and Management Partnership International. I would like to hail these pioneers in a new form of cooperation with the Soviet Union. Some 50 new projects are to be started. Protocols of intent for them have been signed.

I would like to note that, as regards the creation of joint ventures with American firms, we have in mind not only the use of well-tried U.S. technologies and equipment but also no-less-broad industrial mastering of Soviet scientific and technological developments.

We regard the formation of the American Trade Consortium and of its partner in the USSR, the Soviet Foreign Economic Consortium, as a major event in our relations. A protocol of intent on the creation of joint ventures was signed today.

On our part, we shall render all-around support to the Soviet participants in the consortium, and we hope for a similar approach from the U.S. Administration.

We are prepared for active cooperation with not only large firms but also medium and small firms. Business with small firms has been showing efficiency and profitability at a rather high scientific, technological and commercial level, of which we are aware.

We are even trying to derive lessons for our industry.

I have been told that at this session you have approved on the whole the Basic Principles and Guidelines of the Development of Commercial and Economic Relations Between the USSR and the USA. This is a very good undertaking. The task now is to prepare all these documents for signing.

Indeed, it is time to have some basis in the context of international law that would ensure the mutual interests of firms and organizations with due account for the new conditions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are formulating our policy, also our foreign economic policy, to last for a long time. We are making it more predictable for the outside world, and we are not doing this in order to please someone. We are doing this because we need this ourselves and because this is beneficial for us. We are striving to take into consideration the international experience of business ties.

*Perestroika* in the Soviet Union and the foreign policy based on a new thinking are not just long-term programs of the development of our society oriented toward the twenty-first century.

They are an objective reality, which starts gaining inertial dynamics of its own, if you please.

And the last thing: With all the importance of business considerations, all of us are citizens of our own countries and representatives of the human race. And we all should be concerned with looking for ways to ensure its survival, for a more tranquil and normal life.

Therefore, we are constantly faced with the question: What can each one of us do to shape stable, mutually advantageous demilitarized relations between the USSR and the USA, not for the sake of others, but for the sake of ourselves, for the sake of our children and grandchildren?

And in answering this question, let us get down to business. In the beginning was the word. But if the word were not followed by deeds, there would be neither human history nor civilization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to wish you success in your personal pursuits and business undertakings. ■

Courtesy of the newspaper *Pravda*.  
Slightly abridged.



# RECOLLECTIONS ON THE EVE OF THE U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT

By Valentin Berezkhov



Valentin Berezkhov is a prominent Soviet expert on the history of USSR-U.S. relations. Here he reflects on past trends in Soviet-American summits. Berezkhov, born in 1916, is the author of nine books and a number of articles in newspapers and periodicals. From 1978 to 1983 he was stationed at the Embassy of the USSR in Washington, D.C., as a representative of the Institute of the USA and Canada of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. At present, Berezkhov is the editor in chief of the journal USA: Economics, Politics, Ideology.

Each of the previous Soviet-American summit meetings has had an importance and significance all of its own. And yet, I believe, the most recent ones will be seen as a turning point in the history of the relations between the two countries—the Soviet Union and the United States. Let us examine where we have been and where we are most likely to be going.

The February 1945 meeting at Yalta in the Crimea took place at the final stage of World War II. Hence, military topics were high on its agenda: the defeat of fascist Germany, the USSR joining the USA in the war against Japan, completion of the war. Though the basic principles for lasting peace in postwar Europe and for international security were mapped out by Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference, they were not developed any further, contrary to the aspirations of the Soviet and American people. This might be partly attributed to President Roosevelt's premature death.

The countries' mutual awareness that an end had to be put to the cold war, which had been raging since 1946, certainly underlay Richard Nixon's visit to Moscow in May 1972. The summit inaugurated détente, a policy by which perilous rivalry gave way to peaceful coexistence.

President Nixon's visits to Moscow in 1972 and 1974 and the November 1974 meeting in Vladivostok between President Gerald Ford and General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev produced agreements which, in Henry Kissinger's words, "put a cap on the arms race."

Those summits proved beneficial both for us and the Americans, showing that agreement was possible on some crucial issues. However, they also bore out the fact that the United States was not yet prepared to carry through the process of relaxation of tensions. The same was true, to a certain extent, of the USSR too.

In any event, the situation had become critical in Soviet-American relations by the mid-eighties. I presume both sides were responsible for the renewed tensions. Détente was made a swearword in the U.S. political vocabulary. The Soviet Union was going through a period later defined as "stagnation." Its foreign policy was marked by a lack of dynamism, scope and preparedness to compromise on the basis of common human priorities. As a result, all Soviet-American talks were either suspended or frustrated. It was clear that a second cold war was looming, accompanied by another giant round in the arms race.

That chilly period seems to be over now. We have had summits in Geneva, Reykjavik and Washington, and soon a fourth summit will be held in Moscow. New concepts are winning recognition in the West and in the East. The ground is being prepared for a new approach to international security. We now admit that the security of the U.S. and our own security are interconnected.

Hence, it can be stated that, despite all the difficulties and setbacks, the previous summits have been a single positive process aimed at greater understanding, cooperation, comprehensive peace and security.

The Moscow meeting could make Ronald Reagan one of the most honored presidents in the history of the United States. He could leave his successors at the White House the worthy heritage of a successful policy toward the Soviet Union. And given Reagan's image and prestige, one may be optimistic about the prospects of Moscow summit agreements, which would be carried out by his successor, whether a Republican or a Democrat. This is exactly why the forthcoming meeting has special significance for the future of Soviet-American relations.

Now back to the second question. Let's recall the autumn of 1933, which was marked by history-making events. On October 14 Germany withdrew from the League of Nations. The time of pacifist conferences was over, and arms producers' stocks went up. Several days later Moscow accepted President Roosevelt's proposal to start talks on establishing diplomatic relations. The stock exchange responded with a collapse in the shares of companies producing military hardware.

The *Nation* forecasted at the time: "The establishment of official diplomatic relations between America and Russia will no doubt in some way or other stop the world's frenzied drive for a new war."

On November 7 Maxim Litvinov, People's Commissar (minister) of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, arrived in Washington for talks. Officials at the U.S. Department of State met him at Union Station with their top hats off—a protocol token accorded an envoy of a state not yet recognized by the United States. Ten days later the same officials saw Litvinov off with their hats on—the Soviet Union had been officially recognized by the United States.

From then on Soviet diplomats worked relentlessly to promote mutual cooperation with the United States in the international arena. Much depended on what scale of global politics the United States, the West's major power, would place its might and prestige. Washington's opinion was heeded by both London and Paris, Moscow's partners in the talks on collective security in Europe; whereas in Berlin, Rome and Tokyo, rapprochement between the USA and the USSR was much feared.

Indeed, the fear was not groundless, since the first U.S.-Soviet contacts were encouraging. At his Washington talks with Maxim Litvinov, President Roosevelt displayed a broad political approach, proceeding from the assumption that the USA and the USSR should coordinate their actions to strengthen peace on the planet. "As if thinking aloud, Roosevelt wondered—why not sign a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union? I gave my immediate consent to the idea," said Litvinov in his report to Moscow.

However, the chance was missed. The Soviet Union was not in a position to ensure collective security without U.S. participation. The United States, in turn, abiding by its neutrality status, presumed that international stability could be secured without its involvement. Most probably, a favorable U.S. stance, had it been assumed at that time, could have been grist for the mill of the champions of European security.

Meanwhile, the international climate was deteriorating considerably. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy in Europe and Japan in the Far East were flagrantly violating the rights of other nations and knocking together an aggressive bloc for military preparations. In 1935 Italy invaded Ethiopia. In 1937 Japan started a new round of military interference in China. The Soviet Union resolutely demanded sanctions against the aggressors. In those circumstances U.S.-Soviet cooperation might have preserved and strengthened peace. But the real opportunities were not used.

"Clearly, the aggressors could be curbed by the joint actions of Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union," said Soviet Ambassador to the United States Alexander Troyanovsky in his dispatch to Moscow. "Yet nothing is coming out of it, and it's hard to tell when such joint actions would be possible."

Joint action became a reality after Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. The moment the radio statement on the Hitlerite invasion was intercepted in Washington, the entire American nation, whose historical record dates back to the War of Independence, was stirred up by the news. With Americans gradually abandoning isolationist illusions, favorable opportunities emerged for a broad anti-Hitler coalition and, after Pearl Harbor, for a military alliance.

The anti-Hitler coalition was a great achievement for our countries. Our enemies were defeated by our joint efforts, and the prerequisites for our postwar collaboration were generated. This was stated more than once by our leaders, and attempts were made both in Teheran and Yalta to find common ground for collaboration and to devise a mechanism for international security in peacetime.

But the Allies in war failed to become allies in peace. In retrospect, I would say we missed opportunities.

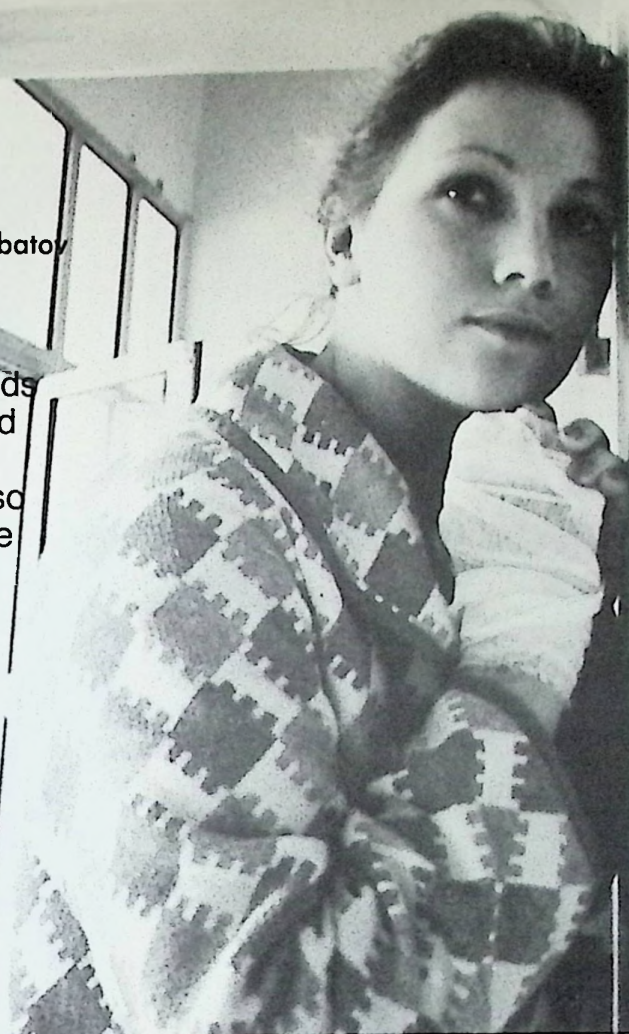
Fortunately, after so many years, we are beginning to make up for the lost chances. And I feel that a glimmer of light has appeared at the end of the tunnel.



# BURNS HEALED BY AIR

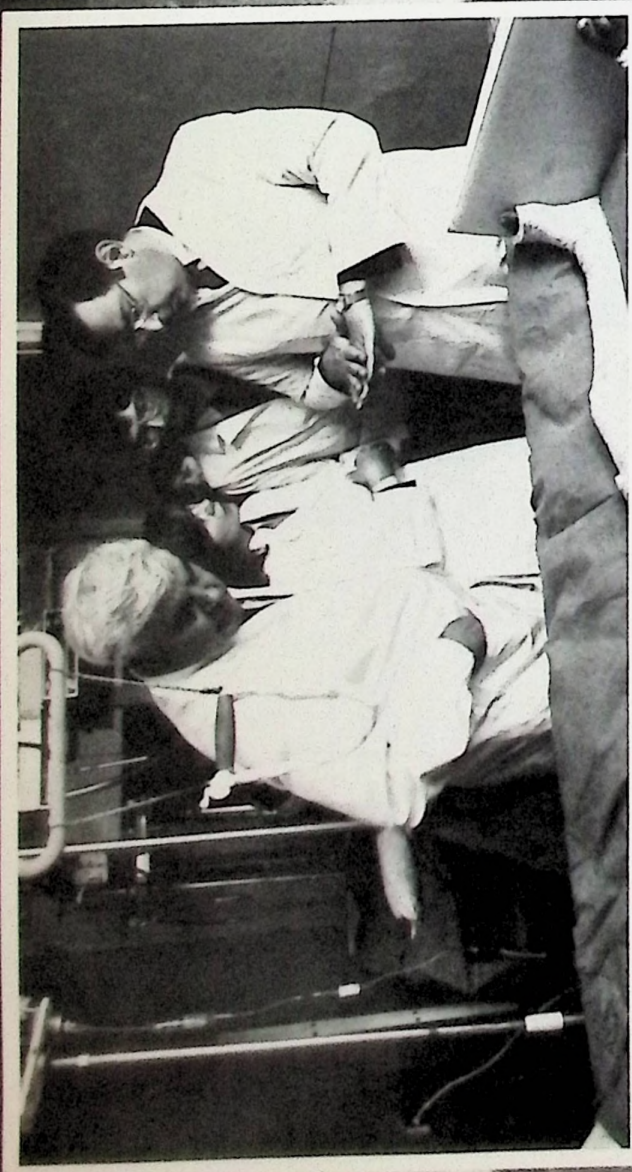
By Yuri Zaritovsky  
Photographs by Alexander Kurbatov

Soviet researchers have developed a method for treating burns and wounds with air. The new method is not only cutting recuperation time but also saving the lives of people with extensive burns.

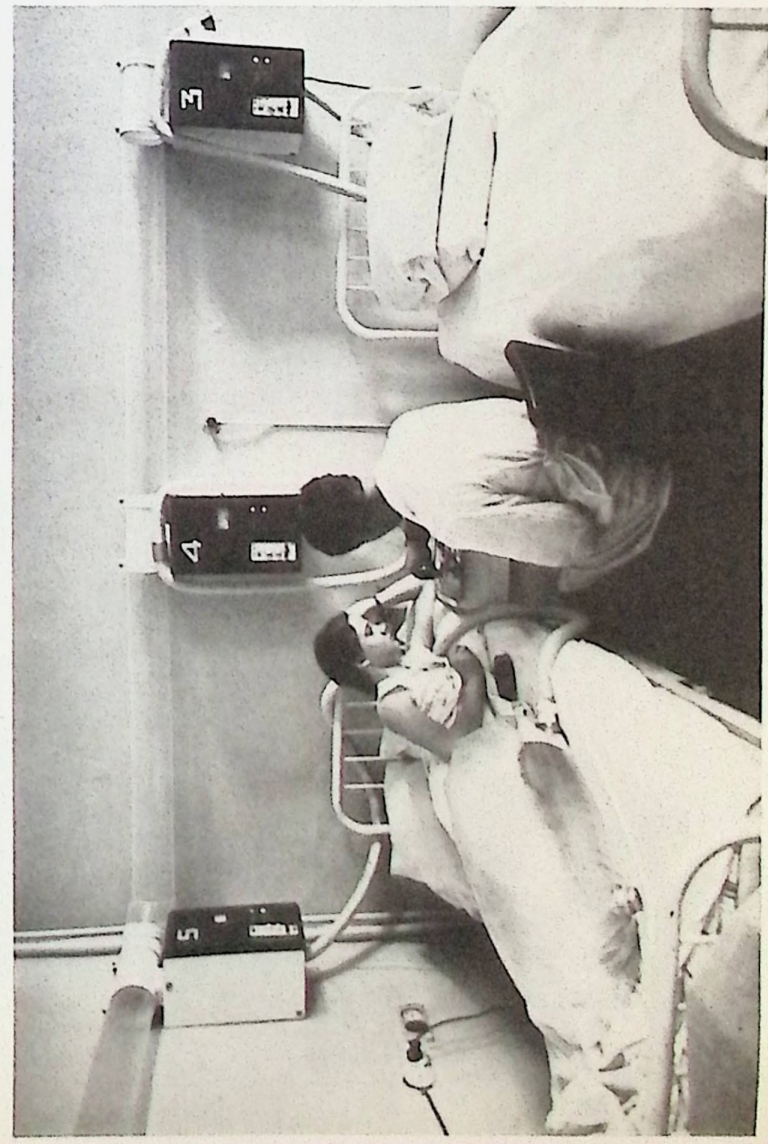


Top: This young woman has completed her course of treatment at the USSR Burn Center and will soon be discharged. Right: A new patient is wheeled in.





Special exercises are a must in treating burns. Above: Dr. Vladimir Sologub (left), head of the burn center in Moscow, explains the air therapy method to visiting doctors. Below: This five-channel device can be used by more than one patient at a time. Facing page: A burn patient rests after a skin graft.



In the later stages of recovery, patients walk the staircase of the grand foyer as a form of exercise.



**I**n summer, the old three-story building of the USSR Burn Center of the Institute of Surgery in Moscow is literally bathed in greenery. Ascending the broad staircase with the fancy banisters in the grand foyer of the building, you feel as if you've just stepped back into the last century, to the days when the gifted Russian physician Dmitri Nikolsky made the first attempts at what has come to be known as the open method for treating burns. The method was effective for the initial few days after injury, but subsequently, the patient succumbed from infection, which the surrounding air was unable to protect against. Skin grafting had yet to be developed. With these discouraging results, Dr. Nikolsky's method was forgotten for many years, and bandages and oil-based ointments continued to be the traditional means of burn treatment. The frequent dressing changes, however, caused much suffering for the patients on their long road to recovery.

Today there's a very unusual sight at the USSR Burn Center. Patients lie with the burned portions of their bodies exposed. Bandages and dressings come later. The patients first undergo treatment with hermetically sealed capsules. The capsules are attached to tubing that delivers a constant flow of warm, sterile air to the burns.

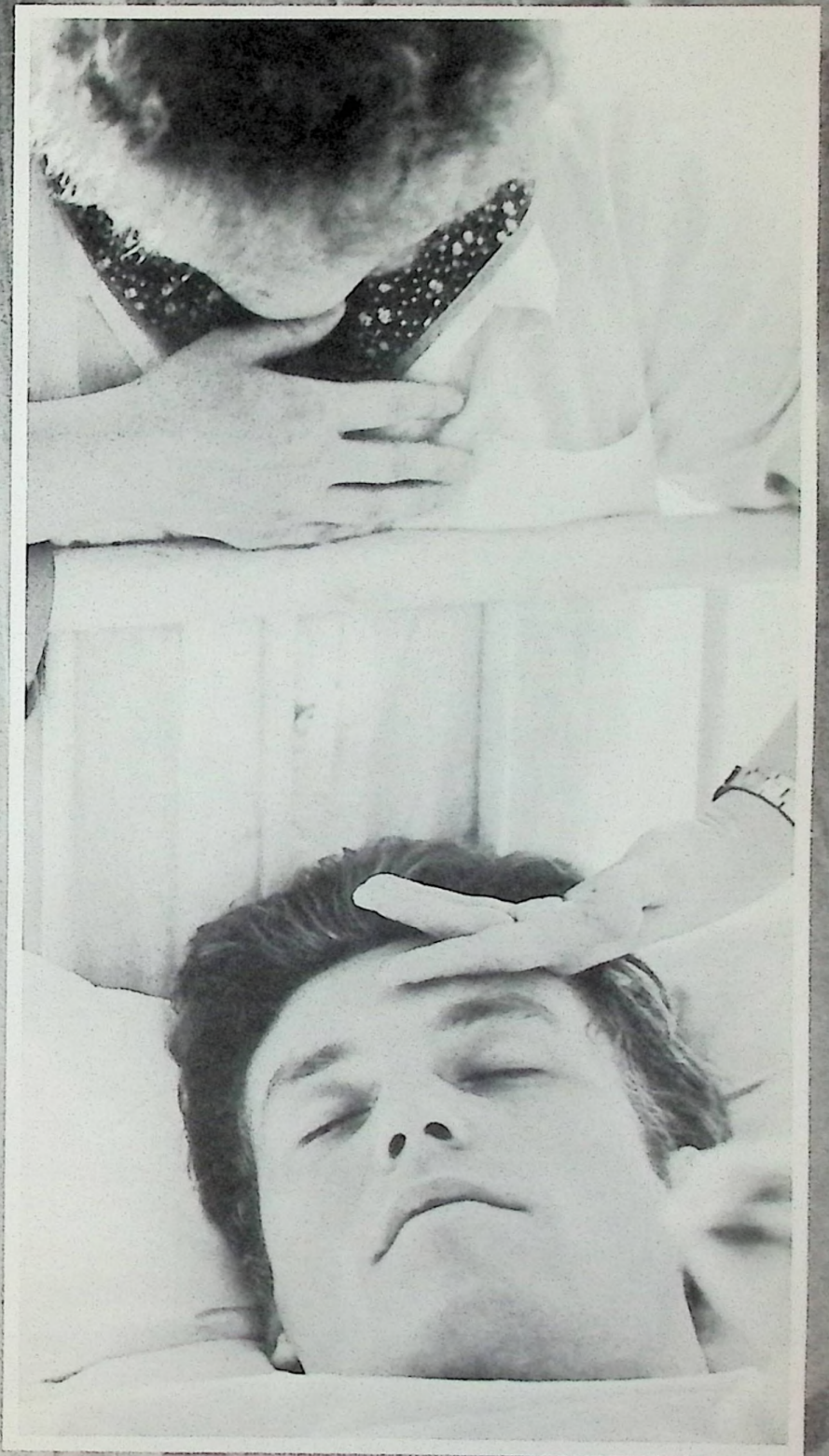
"We have given up the traditional treatment with bandages and ointments," says Dr. Vladimir Sologub, who heads the center. "The thing is that once the skin is lost, the wounds are exposed to infections, while bandages and other medicinal preparations cannot completely replace the natural 'armor.' In addition, there's an increased tendency for moisture to accumulate under the bandages, which act as a kind of incubator, creating an excellent breeding ground for bacteria. This complicates the recovery process. In cases where burns cover a large part of the body, it could even lead to poisoning of the entire system."

The new air therapy method is quite promising. The duration of hospital stays for burn patients who have undergone air therapy treatment is from 33 to 50 per cent shorter than for patients who have not.

"The essence of the new treatment," Dr. Sologub continues, "is that the devices used in the therapy produce a constant flow of sterile air over the wounds. Not only is the purity of the air very high—the concentration of microparticles in it is negligible—but also its temperature, pressure and humidity are regulated at a certain level. All factors differ, depending on the size and degree of the burn. The established parameters are maintained automatically by devices that, among other things, are noiseless, compact and simple to use. Use of the devices reduces the time needed to prepare a wound for skin grafting by 50 to 65 per cent."

Several models of the air therapy device are currently in use in the Soviet Union. There is a model for patients with burns over large portions of their body and one for children. Another model can be used in different wards simultaneously with up to five patients with limited burns. The devices can be used in large medical centers, provincial hospitals and even small clinics at factories and plants. For the time being, the air therapy devices are in use solely in the Soviet Union, but an increasing number of foreign firms have already shown an interest in them.

There's a saying that genius lies in simplicity. That's true when it comes to this device for the treatment of burns. And the burn patients at clinics in 120 Soviet cities and towns in which the device is in use are certainly singing its praises.





# CHILD OF THE SEA: A FOLLOWUP

By Vladimir Bagryansky  
Photographs by Vladimir Bagryansky  
and Alexander Grashchenkov

Last year SOVIET LIFE ran a story about Aya, the first Soviet baby to be delivered in the sea, and the originator of the innovative method of childbirth, Dr. Igor Charkovsky. Since then, many readers have written us asking about little Aya and her family. The following is the story of Baby Aya as told by her father, Vladimir Bagryansky.

# M

My wife, Katya, and I went to see Dr. Igor Charkovsky soon after learning that Katya was pregnant. We were both thrilled with his ideas. Katya was very serious about subaquatic delivery. She adhered strictly to all of Dr. Charkovsky's recommendations: doing the special mental exercises, swimming in cold water and completely relaxing in warm water, listening to music and even attempting to make contact with dolphins.

How did we feel when Aya was born? I think Katya can describe it better than anybody:

"The warm sun and the blue sky above me, huge rocks washed by the endless sea, the calls of sea gulls and the whispering of the waves—all that helped me. I don't remember much pain—only joy and the feeling of how natural was the miracle that was happening to me. The arrival of dolphins added to my excitement. It was an unforgettable moment of my life."

Aya's birth was indeed a celebration for all who participated in the experiment. Since then, we've become close friends with Dr. Charkovsky. I don't think our friendship is coincidental. I have dedicated more than 10 years to studying the potential of the human body. I've studied yoga and other disciplines. Katya is a specialist in pedagogics and child psychology. We became totally immersed in Charkovsky's amazing experiments and poetic philosophy.

We have many friends. Some of them are rearing their children in the traditional way, while others are enthusiastic followers of the Charkovsky method.

Our experience has been as follows. By the age of three months Aya was diving in the bathtub and eating and sleeping in water with her mother. By six months she was like a fish in a pond, swimming together with her mother. She bubbled happily while doing the special set of ▶



*Katya Bagryanskaya will not  
rearing two children. Daughter Aya  
was the first Soviet baby  
to be born in the sea.  
Her older brother was  
delivered in a hospital.  
Katya says there is no  
comparison between the  
two childbirth methods.*



During the Aquaculture '87 expedition, Aya and her mother spent about two hours in the water, about half a kilometer from shore, which by no means is the limit for one-year-olds born in water. Below: Aya and her mother with Olga Yezopova and her newborn, Anastasia—last summer's pleasant surprise.





exercises that Dr. Charkovsky has developed for babies like her. The doctor strongly recommends that the exercises be done several times a day. Since birth Aya has been accustomed to cold water. During the winter she swam in a hole in the ice with her older brother. We've never given her any medicines. Aya was breast-fed.

According to Dr. Charkovsky, all of these techniques and routines help to strengthen the baby's muscles and joints, to remove postnatal stress and the potential for respiratory and digestive disorders, to stimulate the body's natural immunity and to develop the brain.

So far Aya hasn't come down with any of the childhood diseases. We've visited our local pediatricians only on their insistence, so they could see how healthy our little "mermaid" is. As parents, Katya and I weren't looking for any sensational superresults, but Aya is noticeably far ahead of her peers in development. Both the specialists and our acquaintances have said that Aya is a very strong, alert, independent and happy little girl.

After following Charkovsky's recommendations for a year and observing the behavior of his other subaquatic babies, we've become convinced that our daughter's progress is largely a result of the way she was born. But that's not all.

Igor Charkovsky claims that the majority of the babies born underwater fail to utilize the possibilities offered by his childbirth method. The accelerated and harmonious development of these water babies is only ensured by their parents' adherence to the guidelines set down in the Charkovsky method.

Katya and I are lucky. We live in Vladimir, a beautiful Russian town not far from Moscow, so we can visit Charkovsky at least once a month for consultation. But we do all the day-to-day routines ourselves.

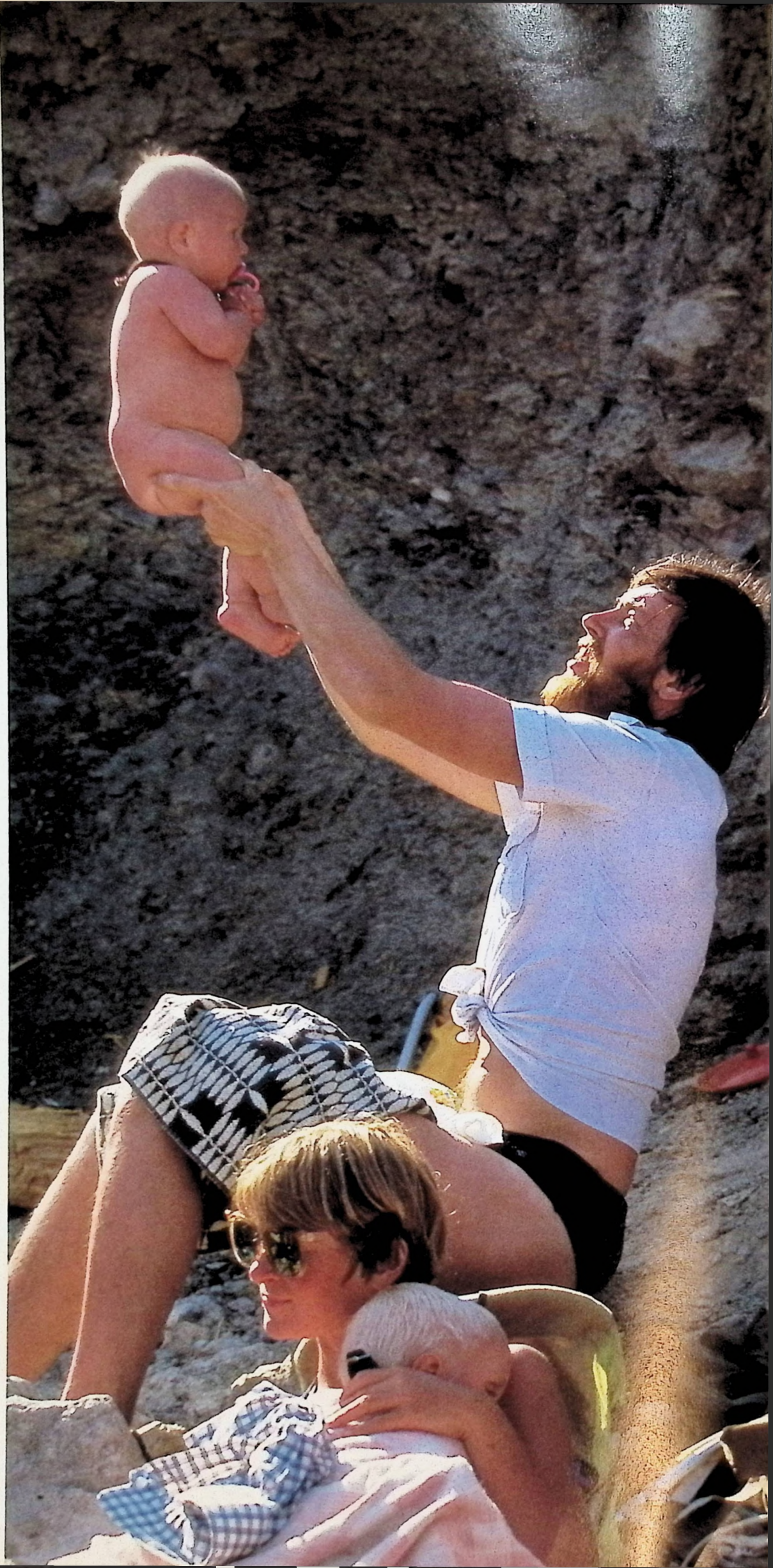
Last year our family joined other parents with their children and expectant mothers in the Aquaculture '87 expedition on the Black Sea. Charkovsky's followers have sponsored events like that for several years now. There were 10 adults and 10 children taking part in Aquaculture '86, when Aya was born. In 1987 the group numbered around 60, about 30 adults from Moscow, Leningrad, Tallinn, Vladimir and other cities and their children aged one month to eight years, half of whom were born in water. Also in the group were Eva-Susanna Kunel, a midwife from Munich, the Federal Republic of Germany; Susanna Napierala, a midwife from California and her three-year-old son; Patrice van Eersel, a journalist and author from France; and Marsden Wagner, a pediatrician from Denmark. Wagner is the secretary of the Maternal and Child Health Department for Europe, which is under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO). These people are all friends of Charkovsky, and they decided to come to Yalta to watch him work.

The work included water training for babies and expectant mothers, climbing exercises for women and children, mountaineering seminars and discussions in which everybody could exchange practical experience.

Katya and I watched Nathaniel, a three-year-old American water boy, playing with Soviet water children. As had happened the year before, some dolphins approached us when we called to them. They were especially interested in the children. The most amazing thing was the dolphins' effect on the pregnant women: Whenever the dolphins approached our campsite at night, the pregnant women woke up and went for a swim.

Near the end of summer we were treated to a special surprise. Susanna Napierala, Eva-Susanna Kunel and Tatyana Sargunas, a midwife from Moscow, helped Olga Yezopova, a young pediatrician from Moscow, give birth to her first baby daughter, Anastasia, in the Black Sea. The delivery took place in almost the same spot where Aya was born the year before.

While we were at the camp, Aya showed a very keen interest in the sea, collecting pebbles and seaweed on the shore and watching the fish and the crabs in the water. She proved to be a







**Facing page: Igor Charkovsky believes that the future physical and mental development of children born in water depends a great deal on their parents' adherence to his guidelines for child rearing. Left: A modern madonna—this woman's twin boys were born in water. Below left: Though this infant is only a few days old, Dr. Charkovsky already has him doing physical exercises and learning to swim.**



first-class diver too. We made many four- to five-meter dives and stayed underwater for a minute or two. Aya had no problem swimming at any depth, even in the stormy sea and despite the temperature of the water, which ranged from nine to 27 degrees centigrade. Every day Katya and Aya followed the dolphins for 300 to 500 meters out to sea, swimming there for a long time.

Charkovsky's method is designed to produce long-term results. He told us about his experience with his son, Kostya, who is eight years old. "Kostya learned to swim at birth. Now, at eight, he jumps into the water like an adult. Once when he and I were swimming, we followed the dolphins for about half a kilometer. Later, back on shore, I was more out of breath than he was. Kostya has a natural curiosity and a vivid imagination. He's very inventive in games, and he communicates easily with other people."

As distinct from other child-rearing philosophies, the Charkovsky method puts no emphasis on developing the intellectual capacity of small children, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, memorization and modeling. The child's capacity for these is truly vast, Charkovsky believes, but they must be developed on a sound psychological foundation. In the early years it's more important to unveil the child's emotional potential and develop his imagination and ability for creative activity. "In early childhood the development of the psyche is inseparable from the state of health and the level of physical fitness," Charkovsky maintains. "Water training is the most effective way to stimulate mental and physical growth in babies." His method is based on using the baby's natural ability to swim. Even if a child cannot learn to swim independently, Charkovsky's system of exercises for newborns, babies and young children has an incredible therapeutic and health-building effect.

"In principle, every six-month-old is capable of swimming independently in the sea for two to three kilometers a day," the doctor claims. "But it's useless to teach babies to swim if their parents, the ones who are responsible for bringing the children up, are too afraid to let them show their potential. A mother teaches her baby to handle difficulties to the degree she thinks it worthwhile. Parents themselves limit the abilities of their children."

At a press conference Marsden Wagner told reporters: "The World Health Organization is interested in underwater delivery and the water training of babies for more than one reason. A growing number of studies indicate that water has a major therapeutic effect. Besides, sub-aquatic delivery is less painful than traditional delivery. Many clinics and practicing obstetricians across Europe and North America are using the Charkovsky method. Each new success adds to its credit.

"WHO is likewise interested in promoting the health of mothers, that is, preventive medicine. The results of certain studies conducted in the Soviet Union prove that the water training of babies helps to build up their health from a very early age. Many people ask me about Igor Charkovsky and his work. Believe me, in Western Europe and North America Charkovsky is considered an authority on childbirth and the indisputable leader of the movement for a healthier life."

Recently Dr. Charkovsky has been concentrating his activity on the Healthy Family Club in Moscow. Similar clubs have sprung up in various cities across the country. The club allows parents who are bringing up their children according to the Charkovsky method to get advice and to share experiences. There has also been a proposal to establish a national organization with the same name.

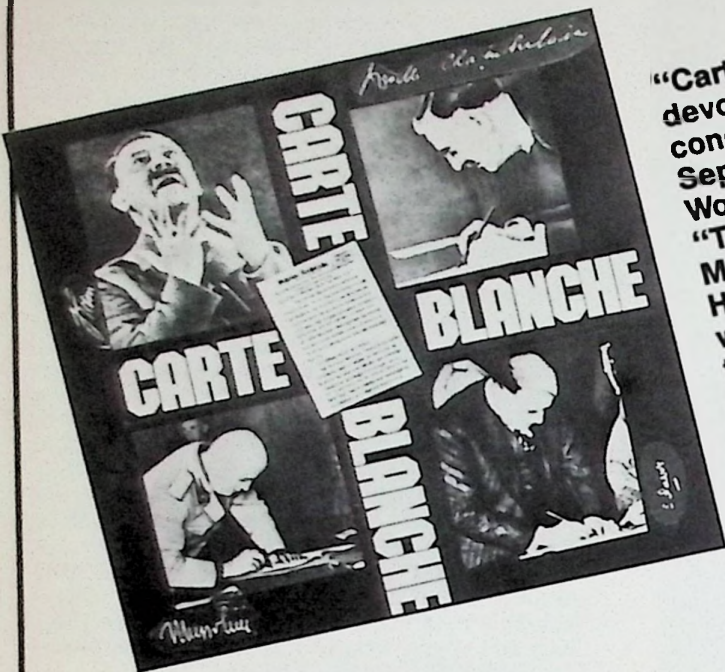
People sometimes ask Katya how she'd deliver her next baby. Without hesitation, she tells them, "Only in the sea and in the presence of dolphins. Perhaps later, a swim with the Kings of the Sea—whales."

Can you imagine that?



# THE AUGURS

By Pyotr Mikhailov



"Carte Blanche" is a historical trilogy devoted to the events leading up to and the conclusion of the Munich agreement in September 1938, the prologue to the Second World War. Part I of the trilogy, entitled "The Python's Feast," appeared in the March issue of SOVIET LIFE. It describes Hitler's preparations for the Anschluss with Austria, and the Soviet reaction toward the first act of nazi aggression. At the end of Part I former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was cited as saying that after Austria, it was clear that Czechoslovakia was next on the list of victims. Part II, "The Augurs," deals with that period of history.

**"We all know that augur cannot look to augur without laughing."**

Buckminster

**O**n May 5, 1938, the new German Ambassador to Great Britain, Herbert von Dirksen, who had just arrived in London, was surprised to find a proof of the London-based *Daily Mail* waiting for him at a local post office. It was difficult to surprise Dirksen, a seasoned diplomat who had worked in different countries, including the USSR and Japan. Yet he was still perplexed to have a proof sent to him right after his arrival in London, where he had no particular connections. There was more to it than press attention to a newcomer. But what was it?

Having quickly read the cover letter from the editor, who wrote that he was sending the proof of an article that would be appearing the next day, Dirksen became even more curious. The article was intriguing, penned by British newspaper baron Viscount Harold Rothermere, the owner of the *Daily Mail*. The Ambassador had known of the Viscount's connections and his access to information, and he saw the reasoning as more than personal opinion. Dirksen was not mistaken. A year later Rothermere headed the Press Department of the British Ministry of Information.

In an article with the pretentious but uninformative title "A Number of Other Postscripts by Viscount Rothermere," the subtitle "We Have Nothing to Do with the Czechs" immediately caught Dirk-

sen's attention. The Viscount cynically wrote:

We have nothing to do with the Czechs. If France wants to burn her fingers there, it's her business; however, this policy is increasingly resisted in France by papers and politicians. Indeed, *Eclairer de Nice*, one of the three most famous French provincial papers, wrote just three days before that "the bones of one French soldier are worth more than all Czechoslovaks put together."

Reminding readers that he had warned about German claims on Czechoslovakia way back in 1930, Rothermere wrote that with the rise to power of the National Socialist Party and under the vigorous leadership of this party, Germany would find a means of immediately redressing the most glaring injustices. As a result, the Viscount concluded that Czechoslovakia might cease to exist overnight. Like an augur, a member of the official soothsayers of ancient Rome who predicted the will of the gods by the flight and cry of birds, Viscount Rothermere foretold the destiny of Czechoslovakia by the flight and cry of the nazi eagle with a swastika. And he did all this under the subtitle "We Have Nothing to Do with the Czechs." On that day Dirksen had enough information for a cable to Berlin.

Ironically, on the very same day, May 5, 1938, Zdeněk Fierlinger, the Czechoslovak envoy to the USSR, cabled the following to Prague from Moscow:

The close contacts I have . . . give me the grounds to believe that the idea of effective aid to Czechoslovakia is becoming very popular with the intelligentsia, the workers and the military. This is not only a consequence of the purposeful effort of the party and government, but also an expression of spontaneous sympathy for Czechoslovak democracy.

#### Different Approaches

So May 1938 was marked by the mounting danger of new aggression in Europe. The approaches of the great powers to the destiny of Czechoslovakia, which became the priority goal of nazi Germany, were poles apart. Meanwhile, too much depended on their ability to unite in the face of nazi aggression. In effect, their unity could have prevented the bloodiest and most destructive war in the history of humankind.

The divergence of the positions of the great powers became obvious immediately after the Anschluss with Austria. Realizing that Czechoslovakia would become the next victim of nazi Germany, American correspondents in Moscow hastened to learn the Soviet position on this score. The day after the Anschluss, they turned to Soviet People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Maxim Litvinov for clarification. The following day a joyful Fierlinger reported to Prague:

When asked what the USSR intended to do in the event of an

attack on Czechoslovakia, Litvinov said yesterday that the USSR would, of course, honor its allied commitments.

In less than 10 days British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declared in the House of Commons that Great Britain did not have, nor could it adopt, an obligation to help Czechoslovakia in the event of an unprovoked aggression. Later British Secretary of State for War Leslie Hore-Belisha told American journalists that nothing could save Czechoslovakia from German domination. Officials in Paris promised to assist Czechoslovakia in the event of German aggression, but they expressed the opinion that such assistance would be useless. Without sharing this fatalism, the Soviet military delegation, which was in Czechoslovakia at the end of March, confirmed that the USSR would help Czechoslovakia if it were attacked.

At that time the *Daily Mail* correspondent, Ward-Price, arrived in Prague. With the smile of a soothsayer who knows something about which everyone else is ignorant, he told one official of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs that if Czechoslovakia didn't accept Hitler's demands, it would be destroyed in a week by massive blows from the north, west and south, and especially from the south, where Hungary would unite with Germany to free Slovakia.

Knowing that a considerable part of the Czechoslovak bour-



geoisie felt oppressed by a "discrediting alliance with Moscow," which President Edvard Benes called a "survival of the past epoch," Ward-Price advised Czechoslovakia to save itself and the rest of Europe from war and the nightmare of bolshevism. His recommendation was quite simple—that President Benes and Prime Minister Milan Hodža take a plane and fly directly to Hitler with suitable proposals.

#### Plan Gruen

However, Hitler was waiting for a quite different guest, who finally visited him at the end of March. His name was Konrad Henlein, the 40-year-old führer of the Nazi Sudeten German Party, which he had founded in Czechoslovakia in 1933. He had a 15,000-strong "free corps" at his disposal. The weapons for it had been supplied by German intelligence. Together with subversive groups smuggled from Germany, Henlein's "free corps" was the fifth column on which Hitler relied in planning to attack Czechoslovakia.

The two führers met on March 28. This was no meeting of equals. The instructions were given by Hitler. The Sudeten Germans were to set demands that would be patently unacceptable for the Czechoslovak Government. Moreover, even if Prague accepted them, Henlein was supposed to set new demands. In

other words, from the very outset Hitler had no intention of settling the Sudeten German issue but was planning a provocation to evoke a crisis in German-Czechoslovak relations.

Having instructed the fifth column and received what the protocol of the meeting called "satisfactory assurances" from Henlein, Hitler began elaborating a plan, code-named *Gruen*, for attacking Czechoslovakia. On April 21 the Führer discussed the plan with General Field Marshal Keitel. He turned down the idea of a surprise attack without a pretext because it could evoke indignation from the world public. Of course the Führer had no regard for public opinion. But it could be ignored openly only when the last enemy was destroyed. For the time being, it was necessary to show caution, he believed. Therefore, an alternative plan was being worked out. It would be either an acute diplomatic conflict, followed by a war, or an incident, say, the assassination of the German Ambassador in Czechoslovakia, followed by a lightning retaliatory strike.

The well-adjusted nazi machine functioned without a hitch. Three days after the discussion of the *Gruen* plan, at the congress of the Sudeten German Party in Karlovy Vary, Henlein demanded a change in Czechoslovakia's foreign policy and its reorientation toward Germany. At the same time he set forth a program containing the de-

mands of his party to the Czechoslovak Government. Priority was given to territorial and administrative autonomy for the Sudeten Germans and freedom for the propaganda of nazism. It was clear that if the Czechoslovak Government accepted these demands, the territorial integrity of the country would be disrupted.

#### Who Is Ready to Help?

Realizing who stood behind Henlein and what his demands implied, the Soviet Union responded forcefully to the developments. On April 23, on the eve of Henlein's speech, envoy Fierlinger reported from Moscow that the conference in the Kremlin had decided that the USSR, if asked, would be ready, together with France and Czechoslovakia, to take all measures to ensure Czechoslovakia's security; and it had all the necessary means to do so.

On the day after Henlein's speech, when it was clear that, this time, the Nazis were going to crush Czechoslovakia, Soviet President Mikhail Kalinin was more specific in his report on the world situation. After recalling the terms of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty—in particular, that the USSR would help Czechoslovakia if France helped it—Kalinin added one very important statement: "Of course the pact does not prohibit either side from helping without waiting for France." This was a

timely statement because the West believed that nobody would help Czechoslovakia and that it was already doomed.

On April 28 the Czechoslovak Ambassador to Great Britain, Jan Masaryk, reported to Prague from London. His report included a statement by British Secretary of State for War Hore-Belisha to the effect that Czechoslovakia was unable to defend itself since its southern frontier was not protected, and that, ostensibly, France and the USSR could not help it. But the real situation was different.

On the eve of the day when Hore-Belisha told American journalists that the situation was desperate and that Czechoslovakia would inevitably fall under German domination, envoy Fierlinger thanked Soviet Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Potemkin in Moscow for his assistance in arranging for the sale of 40 Soviet planes to Czechoslovakia and in deferring the first payment for three to four months. Fierlinger also noted that the Soviet position encouraged the people of Czechoslovakia. Touching on the British-French talks that were to open on the following day, Fierlinger said that if French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier and Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet received assurances that Great Britain would support France when it rendered aid to Czechoslovakia against aggression, Hitler ▶



Soviet President Mikhail Kalinin (second from right): "The treaty doesn't prohibit either side from helping without waiting for France." Right: The augurs of the 1930s used the flight and cry of the nazi eagle with swastika to foretell the destiny of Czechoslovakia.

Nazi Germany flexes its military muscle at a parade in Kiel on August 22, 1938. Hungary's regent, Admiral Horthy, shakes hands with a member of the Krupp family, the "munitions kings" of the Nazis.



# THE AUGURS

would not dare attack Czechoslovakia. This did not happen. Speaking after Daladier at the conference of British and French ministers, which started in London on April 28, British Prime Minister Chamberlain said he doubted that the situation in Europe was as gloomy as Daladier had painted it. Chamberlain added that he also strongly doubted Hitler's desire to destroy Czechoslovakia. In the opinion of the British Prime Minister, Beneš had to have an opportunity to submit proposals that would prevent the destruction of the Czechoslovak state by changing its character. According to the minutes of the conference, if Germany wished this destruction, the Prime Minister did not see, frankly, any way of preventing it, but he did not think that Berlin really wanted that.

## Is It Difficult to Be a Soothsayer?

A week later, on May 6, the Chargé d'Affaires of the USSR in Germany, Georgi Astakhov, cabled Moscow what an American diplomat had told him in confidence. Astakhov wrote:

In Prague the French and British envoys are making a parallel démarche, recommending that Beneš come to terms with the Sudeten Germans and warning that support of Czechoslovakia by France and Great Britain was possible only under certain conditions. This formula was not specified, but, apparently, it implies certain concessions of Prague to Henlein.

The American diplomat had also said that in Berlin the British Ambassador was trying to establish the least of the demands for which the Germans would settle on the Sudeten issue.

The information proved authentic. On the following day, May 7, French and British envoys Victor de Lacroix and Basil Newton met with Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Kamil Krofta and told him what the American diplomat had warned about. On the same day British Ambassador to Berlin Neville Henderson reported about this démarche to the German foreign ministry.

The aim was to persuade the Czechoslovak Government to yield to Henlein, who demanded reorganization of the state. But won't this "reorganization" lead to the partition of Czechoslovakia? William C. Bullitt, the American Ambassador in Paris, put this question to French Prime Minister Daladier on May 9. That is exactly what would happen, agreed the Prime Minister, adding that after the Anschluss with Austria, he considered the position of Czechoslovakia "utterly desperate."

When the situation in the Sudetenland grew worse after another meeting between Henlein and Hitler, the former was invited to London. During a two-day stay

in Great Britain, the Sudeten Führer tried to prove that the partition of Czechoslovakia would be the only correct solution to the questions linked with Czechoslovakia. His efforts were not in vain. On May 14 the *New York Times* published an article which openly said that Chamberlain would have nothing against buying peace from Hitler at the price of colonial concessions and partition of Czechoslovakia. The article was signed "Augur." This was the pen name of prominent British journalist Vladimir Polyakov, the son of a financial tycoon from czarist Russia.

Polyakov was close to the ruling circles of the Conservative Party and to big British financiers so he knew what he was saying. Although, frankly, there was no need to be a prophet at that time to draw this conclusion. Chamberlain's diplomacy was rather transparent, and in this case Augur foretold what others could guess. On May 15 the *New York Herald Tribune* carried a report from London saying that Great Britain was even less inclined to take up arms to defend the Slavic republic than France and the USSR were. This was how Chamberlain brought his intentions to the knowledge of the world with the help of augurs.

## Crisis

Returning from London, Henlein again met Hitler on May 14 and was ordered to speed up developments in Czechoslovakia, where clashes between Henlein's men and the Czechoslovak Army had already broken out. On May 19 Czechoslovak intelligence reported that four motorized Wehrmacht divisions had been fully prepared for the invasion of Czechoslovakia. In the meantime, Henlein's men began distributing leaflets among the Czechoslovak soldiers that said there was no point in resisting the German Army.

Having proclaimed the municipal elections slated for May 22 to be a referendum on the accession of the Sudetenland to Germany, the leaders of the Sudeten German Party walked out of the talks on the status of the German minority on May 20.

On that same evening German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop summoned Czechoslovak envoy Wojtech Mastny and demanded that he inform his government about a number of claims. Ribbentrop stressed that Germany would not tolerate the oppression of Germans abroad. He said that the 75 million Germans living in his country were ready to act at any time. Having declared that the rumors about the concentration of German armed forces on the Czechoslovak border were false, the Minister said in a threatening tone that if Prague supported these rumors, Germany might really concentrate its armed forces against Czechoslovakia.

On the following day, May 21, two Sudeten Germans were killed in an attack on Czech policemen

*Continued on page 59*

# profile

Sixty-two-year-old Metropolitan David of Sukhumi and Abkhazia is an honorary citizen of six American cities—Akron, Youngstown and Oberlin, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Fort Worth, Texas; and Garfield, New Jersey. His passionate sermons for peace and unity of the faithful have attracted huge numbers of people in the United States and many other countries. Once, on a visit to Atlanta, Georgia, he preached to people in the street.

# W

hen he is standing among the gray-bearded Orthodox bishops, he looks as if he were born to wear priestly vestments, wrote the magazine *One World*, which is published by the World Council of Churches. But before entering the priesthood, Metropolitan David of Sukhumi and Abkhazia practiced dentistry for almost 30 years. He was known to his patients by the secular name of Grigori Chkadua.

Metropolitan David received SOVIET LIFE photographer Yuri Abramochkin and me in the Annunciation Cathedral, situated in the center of Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia, an autonomous republic integrated into the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. The cathedral was undergoing restoration work, and we had to interrupt our conversation several times in order for the Metropolitan to talk to the bricklayers, artists, plasterers and roofers. His purple cassock could be seen now on the scaffolding, now in the ditch across the yard, near the frescoes of the dimly lit church or in the stairwell leading to the roof.





# WORKING FOR PEACE

By Vladimir Belyakov  
Photographs by Yuri Abramochkin

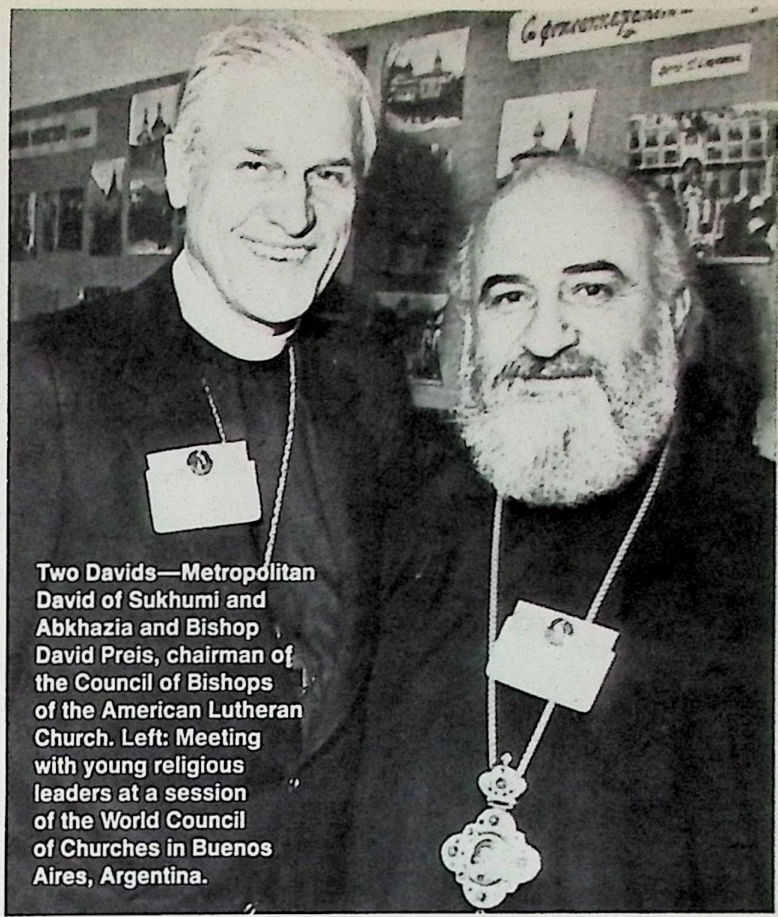




Left: In Atlanta, Metropolitan David reads a message of peace sent by the children of Soviet Georgia to the children of America. Above: On a farm in Cleburne, Texas. Right: Metropolitan David with Coretta Scott King. Below: At the vigil in Washington's National Cathedral.







Two Davids—Metropolitan David of Sukhumi and Abkhazia and Bishop David Preis, chairman of the Council of Bishops of the American Lutheran Church. Left: Meeting with young religious leaders at a session of the World Council of Churches in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"I want to make sure everything is under control," Metropolitan David explained. "Many people come to this cathedral, and I want everyone to be pleased with the results."

Our conversation was rather informal.

"I knew from an early age that the priesthood was my destiny. My grandfather and father as well as some of my other relatives were priests. But fate had a different turn for me at first. When I was seven or eight, my father took seriously ill. Everyone but me gave up all hope. I believed he'd recover because the doctor had told me he'd do everything humanly possible for him. I never forgot the doctor's words. That was when I began thinking of a career that would help people who were sick. I went on to become a dental surgeon."

Metropolitan David has always believed in God, and his faith finally brought him into the Church to carry on his grandfather's and his father's mission. He began studying his father's religious books and later enrolled at a theological seminary.

On becoming a bishop, Metropolitan David was put in charge of a diocese. He went straight to work building a new church and enlarging the size of the monasteries. Today there are 20 functioning churches in his diocese, which are attended by Abkhazians, Georgians, Armenians, Greeks, Russians, Ukrainians and believers of other nationalities. The churches hold daily services in four languages and perform other rites, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. Metropolitan David preaches on Saturdays and Sundays, and on those days the church and the churchyard are filled to capacity.

"I'm happy that peace and goodwill reign supreme in our republic. But there was a time when Georgia didn't have a day of peace. When a Georgian left for work in the morning, he took his family with him so as not to leave them defenseless. While he plowed the land, he had his sword at the ready in order to defend his life and the lives of his family. Today, with the piles of nuclear weapons in the world, it is useless to take your family to work with you. The winds of war can start blowing from any direction, incinerating all continents."

Metropolitan David says peacemaking has always been one of his major goals.

"As a human being, I understand that civiliza-

tion is in jeopardy. As a priest, I must think about people and their aspirations. As a doctor, I know what human suffering is. The Soviet peace movement embraces people of different convictions. How can the Church remain an outside observer at such a responsible moment in the life of humanity?

"A true Christian has no other path but to fight evil. An unfair war and its implications are the embodiment of evil. That's why we, as Christians, must realize and openly say that peacemaking is a sacred duty prompted by our faith. Tolerance of anything that can lead to universal destruction is tantamount to tolerance of evil, and that is a sin.

"Like many others, I cannot stay on the sidelines. I must turn my heart and my mind to the future. I keep telling myself that living for peace is living for my parishioners, for all people. Otherwise, life is meaningless.

"Peaceableness is not idleness. It is, above all, an active love for people and the realization of the need to have a world where war, the creation of the darkest forces, has become a part of the forgotten past.

"We all share a great responsibility for preserving what has been created, asserting a world without weapons and wars, and promoting brotherly love and cooperation among all nations in every area of human activity. We understand that peace can be ensured only by the efforts of everybody. Just as in the past, the common will of the people alone can decide the destiny of the planet in the future. Let's recall that unity became the weapon for the rout of nazism. In spite of differences in ideologies, the Soviet Union and the United States were allies during the Second World War. Our soldiers trusted each other and respected each other for valor and bravery. Today, too, we must solve serious problems together, confronting our common enemy—the nuclear danger—with our joint efforts and common will. Our two nations can do a great deal together. This is the truth.

"Many Americans think the same way. I'm convinced more and more that people in the United States realize the importance of concord between our two countries on major issues of the day. Many politicians, businessmen, ordinary people and, of course, religious leaders have told me this. During the cold war years represent-

atives of the churches of the two countries started a dialogue. That dialogue was probably one of the few points of contact between us during those difficult years. Once a group of American tourists was here on a visit. One of the tourists, Reverend Gordon Dragt, of North Carolina, gave me a card with the following inscription in Russian and in English:

I bring greetings of peace and friendship from the persons whose names are printed on the back of this card. All of these people contributed money to send me on this pilgrimage of peace. Our hope is that friendship, good will and peace may be established between the peoples and the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union.

"I still have this card, and its message is still timely."

On December 6, 1987, on the eve of the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, a vigil began at Washington's National Cathedral. For four days and four nights, representatives of different denominations in the Soviet Union and the United States prayed for an improvement in Soviet-American relations. That was a majestic and unforgettable event. The Church joined its voice with the voices of hundreds of millions of people across the globe who are striving to free themselves, their children and grandchildren and all the coming generations from the fear of universal destruction. Metropolitan David was among those who were praying.

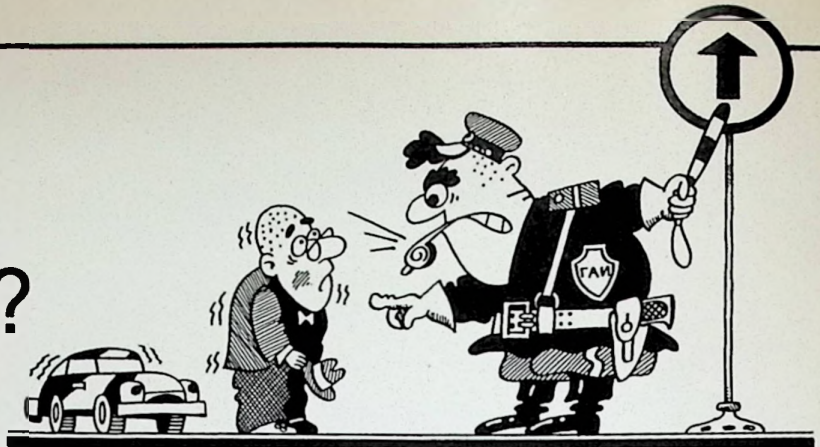
"At last we are witnessing the beginning of a turn for the better in Soviet-American relations," said Metropolitan David. "This will not only help the peoples in both of our countries, but also benefit those living in other nations too. The seeds of good will in one place will surely be carried to other regions. Reason illuminated by a high sense of responsibility and a sacred trust in good cannot but prevail. Through suffering, humanity has gained the right to a peaceful and prosperous life. I hope that another serious step toward strengthening the peace will be taken at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Moscow by the signing of an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic offensive armaments. The forces of darkness will retreat, and humankind will live in a world without war, evil and violence. Working to bring this day closer is everyone's sacred responsibility."





## TIME TO BUY A NEW CAR?

By Darya Nikolayeva  
Drawings by Valeri Bochkov



I HEAR Sergei, my husband, open the front door, but I don't hear his usual, "I'm home." When he appears in the doorway of the kitchen, he is white as a sheet.

"I've had an accident—I hit a pedestrian," he says with a voice coming from his toes.

The figure 220,000—the number of people who have been killed in car accidents in the country over the past five years—flashes through my mind.

"Let me sit down before I faint," I beg. "Now, give me all the details."

"Thank goodness, nobody was seriously hurt," Sergei continues, "but a lamppost was mangled." Only much later do I realize that that was his way of telling me that our car is a wreck.

This is what happened. Sergei was making a right turn on a green light, when a woman standing on the curb saw her bus pulling in at the stop across the street and she rushed out in front of him. She claimed she never saw my husband's car.

Luckily, Sergei was able to swerve and avoid running into her—he only brushed her lightly. But by swerving, he ended up against the nearest lamppost.

From then on, my husband did everything against the rules. Instead of calling an ambulance and waiting for the militia to arrive, he drove the woman to the nearest hospital. Fortunately, he remembered to write down the name and address of the only eyewitness, who just happened to be at the scene. The doctors determined

that the woman was not seriously injured. She was shaken up and had only a couple of bruises.

About an hour later Sergei returned to the accident scene, told his side of the story to a militia lieutenant and gave him his driver's license along with the address of the eyewitness. My husband's next stop was at the insurance company. Car owners in this country do not have to carry auto insurance, but if they do, they are required to notify the insurance company within 24 hours of any accident. I honestly don't understand the rush, but if you live up to your side of the bargain, the insurance company efficiently lives up to its.

In traffic accidents, more often than not, the militia sides with the pedestrian rather than the motorist, and motorists know this. However, the investigation conducted by the road accidents group of the Moscow Traffic Inspection Office determined that Sergei was not at fault and, therefore, there were no grounds for a lawsuit. He was fined 15 rubles anyway, probably as a substitute for the "you-must-be-more-careful-when-you-are-driving" citation, which the traffic militia regularly hand out. Certainly the physical and mental pain suffered by the victim was worth much more than 15 rubles, but, in this case, I don't see why Sergei was fined at all.

Since the woman wasn't seriously injured, she could begin the process of putting the incident behind her, while Sergei still had to cope with the auto repair shop.

My impression of auto repair workers is that they take pride in saying No to practically any request, but for an extra charge they'll do only half of what they promise. The situation is absurd. The mechanics blame us car owners for allegedly resorting to any trick to prolong the life of our cars and point to a shortage of spare parts as the reason for not being able to fulfill our request. That notwithstanding, what fool wouldn't want a car to be as good as new after it had been to a repair shop!

I don't know about the shortage of spare parts and how justified the repair people's complaint about this might be, but I'm sure my husband's calling them swindlers is very close to the truth. No wonder the Soviet press has been running an exposé on how the

auto repair service is run, and it has even been taken to court. Surely everyone was glad to hear that cooperative repair shops are now being opened to augment the government-run auto service shops. But, until now, we haven't had to use their services.

There's a Russian saying that a horse, once sick and cured, is no longer a rival in a race. On the contrary, however, our "steel horse" was racing pretty well after its "sickness." At least that's what I thought. So I was very surprised to hear the following conversation one evening.

"Why don't you like hatchbacks?" Igor, my son, chokes indignantly. "The whole world likes them. You simply don't..."

"Maybe I'm conservative," my husband interrupts without raising an eyebrow. "Frankly, I'm not that happy with cars that have front-wheel drive. I realize that these cars are really big sellers around the world, but I don't think all our cars should be made like that..."

From what follows, I can only conclude that improvements in the Moskvitch car will save Soviet car buyers four out of every 10 rubles they now spend on gas, so that one shouldn't turn his or her nose up altogether at the new model Moskvitch just because it's so different from the older models. Eighteen patents were issued in the manufacture of the new Moskvitch. The latest model comes with halogen lights, a radio and a tape deck, an electronic instrument panel, and so on. I try to keep up with the banter of technical terms between Sergei and Igor, but eventually I feel totally lost.

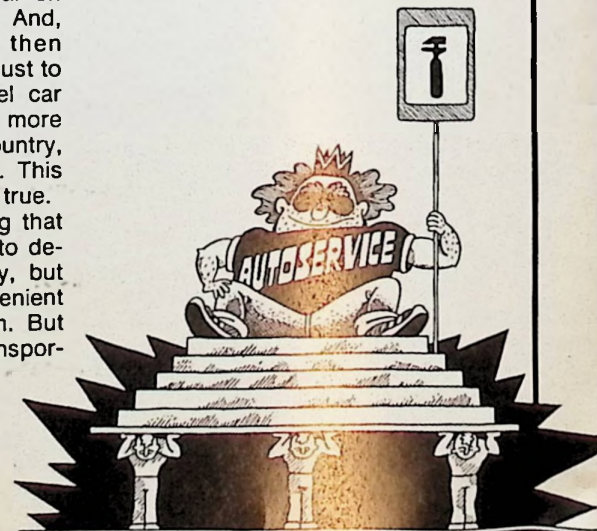
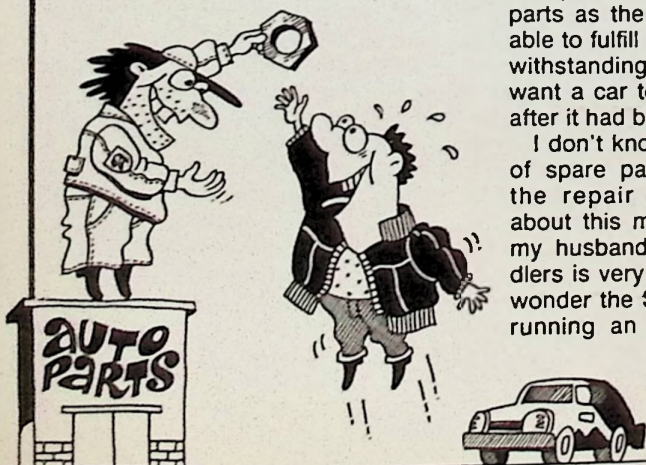
I simply don't understand why they are arguing so hotly—as if they were deciding on which car to buy. In fact, they are discussing future models that will appear on the market only after 1990. And, I'm not quite sure even then whether or not we'll be able just to go and buy whatever model car we want. It seems that the more cars manufactured in this country, the harder it is to buy one. This might sound strange, but it's true.

I was brought up believing that this country was not going to develop a private car industry, but rather a ramified and convenient public transportation system. But as our system of public transpor-

tation was being developed and broadened, it became increasingly clear that private cars did not stand in its way. While the auto plants were increasing their production capacities, the incomes of private citizens kept growing too. Today 1.3 million cars are manufactured in this country annually. Yet the population has about 260 billion rubles in savings accounts. Economists call this money "delayed demand," which is a result of a shortage of commodities. In a way, a university professor and a janitor have an almost equal possibility of buying a car. Today's situation—45 private cars per 100 Soviet families—differs greatly from the one that existed when I was young, when very few people could boast they had a friend with a car, let alone having one themselves.

But the dream of owning a car is not yet an opportunity to buy one. In most instances, people can buy a car through their place of work. Of course, because of their position and the benefits that go along with it, a director of a plant or a university professor doesn't have to wait very long to buy a car. As for ordinary people, they have to put their names on waiting lists. People who work harder and are active in the community have a better chance.

A few days ago I got a call from Irina, a friend of mine who is on our trade union committee. She hinted that my chances of getting a new car this year were good. Boy, was I glad to hear that! But I'm in no rush to make that news public. I think I'll let my husband and my son dream of their incredible computer-studded cars of the future. I'll be perfectly satisfied with the 1988 Lada.





# MOSCOW BALLET taking on the bolshoi

By Nadezhda Alexandrova  
Photographs by Leonid Zinkevich

The Moscow Classical Ballet has performed on nearly 250 stages around the world, accumulating rave reviews from critics at home and abroad. This coming fall American ballet lovers will have the chance to see this dance company when it tours the United States.





Galina Shiyapina  
as Juliet in  
Sergei Prokofiev's  
ballet *Romeo and  
Juliet*. Facing  
page: Stanislav  
Isayev in *Le Corsair*.







As an official in charge of education and culture on the Leningrad City Soviet, Valentina Matviyenko has a very busy life.



# VALENTINA MATVIYENKO

a real dynamo on the team

By Alla Belyakova  
Photographs by Alexei Varfolomeyev



The Leningrad City Sovlet is situated in the Marlinsky Palace, a former residence of Russian royalty. From the large window of her office Valentina Matviyenko can see the square and the huge St. Isaac's Cathedral. The office, with a beautifully tiled ancient fireplace and fresh flowers in a vase, has the pleasant atmosphere of a woman's touch.

Matviyenko, 38, is tall and elegant. And she is immersed in work. As a vice chairwoman of the Executive Committee of the Leningrad City Soviet, she is in charge of the administration of culture and public education, which means she deals with the 200,000 people working in this field. There are 16 theaters in the city, including the Kirov Opera and Ballet and the Bolshoi Drama Theater; 50 museums, including the State Hermitage and the Russian Museum; 42 higher educational establishments; and 600 secondary schools. Leningrad is the second largest city in the USSR, and for Matviyenko this means solving hundreds of problems daily.

Since Matviyenko's father was in the service, the family was always on the move. Her father died when she was seven, leaving her mother to bring up her two sisters and herself.

The three girls grew up to be industrious. Matviyenko graduated from a medical secondary school with excellent marks and left for Leningrad to enter a higher medical school. Competition was hard, with 12 aspirants for every place. Matviyenko had neither acquaintances nor relatives in Leningrad, so she did not have a proper place to prepare for examinations, only the noisy student dormitory. In spite of that, she successfully passed her examinations and was admitted to the medical institute.

At the first-term examinations she was one of the few students who got all excellent marks, and the other students took note. She was elected the course leader and, a year later, the secretary of the institute's committee of the Young Communist League (Komsomol), which had a membership of about 2,000. As a YCL leader, Matviyenko was always with other students. During summer vacations she worked side by side with them from dawn to dusk, under the scorching sun, harvesting near Astrakhan on the lower reaches of the Volga River. During the academic year she played basketball, socialized, and, when necessary, studied well into the night.

At the institute she met Vladimir, her future husband, who was studying to become a doctor. She was going to become a pharmacist and do research in the field. She did very well on her final exams and was offered the opportunity to attend graduate school. However, Matviyenko's reputation as an energetic community activist did her a "bad turn." She was invited to head a student department at the Petrograd YCL District Committee. And she agreed.

Her son, Sergei, was seven months old when Matviyenko was elected First Secretary of the Petrograd YCL District Committee. She asked her mother to come to Leningrad. Without her mother's help at home, the young activist would hardly have been able to cope with all her duties.

Some time later Matviyenko was elected First Secretary of the Leningrad YCL Regional Committee. She was the first woman to be elected to the post.

Subsequently, Matviyenko became a Communist Party official. She was elected First Secretary of the Krasnogvardeisky District Committee, a district on the edge of Leningrad where many factory workers live.

"It was very hard for me to work in that industrial area with many factories and construction sites and with their intricate problems," Matviyenko told me. "Being far from industrial production myself, every day I had to discuss various problems with experts, directors and party organizers of factories, who had many years of valuable professional experience behind



A briefing at the Russian Museum.



At the Leningrad Porcelain Works.

them. My only consolation was that everything could be learned.

"I invited leading experts in the district to help me, and I began reading a lot of economics magazines and articles. I took extramural courses at the Academy of Social Sciences under the Central Committee of the CPSU. After that I was offered another job. Formerly I was engaged in party work. Today I am a government official. Two years ago I was elected to my current post."

On Matviyenko's desk I saw a pile of notes—her urgent tasks. The inscription on one of them read: "Benois, Petrodvorets." It meant that Nikolai Benois, a representative of that famous Russian family, who lives abroad, had decided to present the city of Leningrad with some 800 works of painting and graphic arts, which he had collected throughout his life. The Executive Committee of the Leningrad City Soviet has decided to open a Benois Family Museum in the house that architect Leonti Benois built in Petrodvorets. Easier said than done. It is necessary, first of all, to give every family now living in that house an apartment. Meanwhile, housing is a problem of paramount importance in Leningrad. It is also essential to restore the building; Additional funds and expert restorers are needed to do it.

Another note dealt with a planning meeting in

the Russian Museum. That splendid creation of Carlo Rossi suffered greatly during World War II. It is being restored without being closed down. Matviyenko goes into every detail as usual. Everything is put down in the minutes. Thirty men—builders and restorers—know very well that this pleasant woman can be tough when anyone breaks a promise.

Leningrad is a "museum city," so to speak. It has more than 3,000 architectural and cultural monuments. The local climate is ruinous to them, and the priceless pieces of architecture are in danger of being destroyed. But the climate is not the only danger. Even worse is the careless attitude of some people and their indifference to the legacy of the past. Matviyenko recalled how young people prevented the demolition of the Angleterre Hotel in St. Isaac's Square. People demonstrated and gave stirring speeches in defense of the old hotel in which poet Sergei Yesenin committed suicide. Young people demanded action from the City Soviet and rallied public support.

"The government has earmarked 280 million rubles for the restoration of architectural monuments," said Matviyenko. "However, we are short of workers and experts. We have managed to sign a contract with Polish restorers and Finnish companies. The public is helping us a great



deal. Old and young Leningraders do volunteer work on their days off. Another school for training restorers has been opened in Leningrad. In a nutshell, we have managed to do something."

Other notes on Matviyenko's desk dealt with the problems of school reform, which has been progressing with difficulty; with major repairs in the public library; the visit of U.S. politicians and public figures; and so forth.

Matviyenko has added more concerns to her busy schedule. She has been elected chairwoman of the Leningrad Regional Women's Council. This is her work for the community, without pay, unlike her main job.

When women's councils came into existence, many people wondered whether they were necessary. After all, there are no men's councils. Moreover, wouldn't women's councils end up

duplicating the efforts of the government and trade union bodies, which are supposed to handle the women's problems?

"At the dawn of Soviet government the main task was to draw women into work in production. Clara Zetkin wrote that the task was to deliver women from the captivity of the three 'K's': *'Kinder, Kuche, Kirche'*—children, kitchen and Church. Our main task today is to free working women from exhausting household duties. At some stage the family acts as a brake on the professional progress of working women. In Leningrad women account for a mere seven per cent of top officials. More women play second fiddle, although sociological research has shown that they are ahead of men at the start of their careers."

Matviyenko and I then went to see Zinaida Metelitsa, director of the Leningrad Porcelain Works and a member of the Leningrad Regional Women's Council, to discuss women in the workplace.

Items made by the Porcelain Works are well known throughout the world. In the company's museum we admired a wonderful bunch of porcelain flowers that a serf, Pyotr Ivanov, made by hand in 1851. After World War II, a U.S. collector offered two million dollars for that unique piece.

Women account for 90 per cent of the 2,400 people working at the porcelain factory. Metelitsa knows almost every worker by name. In her 40 years there she has covered the long road from foundry worker to head of the enterprise. Touching on undertakings that benefit women, Metelitsa said:

"Aerobics classes have been arranged in our sports complex. In a medical setting, women can have massage treatment. Our order department and our prepared foods shop ease the household duties of working women. In the morning the women workers hand in their lists of required groceries and get them already packaged when they leave work for home. Also, workers can order a new dress, have things mended and dry cleaned. These are essential timesavers for the women of the house."

"You have some production difficulties, haven't you?" Matviyenko asked.

"Of course," Metelitsa answered. "For instance, almost 150 women are on maternity leave now. They will be off for 18 months or two years. Their jobs are kept for them. Meantime, we need personnel. We can invite some people for a short period of time to do some simple operations. But engineers and artists also have maternity leaves. And there is no one to work in their place."

Matviyenko and I also talked with Valentina Ushakova, chairwoman of the Women's Council of the town of Pushkin, a suburb of Leningrad that is famous for its palace and park. Ushakova said that the main point in the activities of women's councils is to enhance the prestige of the family.

Matviyenko agreed with her.

Besides helping families, the Leningrad Regional Women's Council provides aid to single women, elderly women and orphans. "Our council has a mighty force of 35,000 active workers," said Matviyenko. "So, there's a lot we can do."

What about Matviyenko's home life, her husband and her son? Of course, she is very busy, but she keeps her home as neat as a pin. Matviyenko's husband and 15-year-old son help with the chores.

"I like to cook, and I won't let anyone else do it," said Matviyenko, "I prefer to get up early and do the cooking myself while everybody else is asleep. The only thing beyond me is baking pies."

Sergei adores animals. He dreams of owning a dog. So far, this is a problem in the family because there is no one to walk the dog. The parents are too busy, and they are not quite sure that their son will regularly do that. It seems, though, that Matviyenko will soon give in. After all, if there's a dog in the house, Sergei won't be so lonely when his parents are at work. ■



Two Valentinas—  
Valentina Tereshkova  
(left), the first  
woman in space, and  
Valentina Matviyenko.  
Above: Welcoming a  
delegation from  
Washington, D.C.



At home with her  
husband and son,  
who is fond of  
fish and his  
pet white mouse  
named Shkvarka.





## THE AUGURS

Continued from page 46

in the town of Cheb near the German border. The German press launched an anti-Czech campaign.

When the British Ambassador in Germany, Neville Henderson, asked Ribbentrop what was behind the advance of German troops to the Czechoslovak border, Ribbentrop replied that London had no reason to be alarmed. Later Henderson recalled in his book *Failure of a Mission* how Ribbentrop lashed out at Czechoslovakia after the death of the two Sudeten Germans. The Minister threatened to destroy women and children at one fell swoop. Henderson noted that although the death of the two Germans was a regrettable incident, it still was better than the death of hundreds of thousands of people in a war. In reply, Ribbentrop accused the British Government of inadequate support to Germany on the Czechoslovak issue. He called the British Empire an empty shell and claimed it was disintegrating and would have been dead long ago were it not for German support. "In Germany, every German is ready to die for his country," he added.

But the Czechs were also ready to fight for their country. Partial mobilization was carried out (about 180,000 men joined the army). It averted the danger of a fascist putsch and a sudden invasion of Wehrmacht troops. London and Paris advised Benes to cancel the mobilization and make new concessions to Henlein's men.

### Poisonous Seeds

Preparing an attack on Czechoslovakia, Hitler oriented nazi propaganda to concentrate on undermining the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty. Scaring the West with the threat of "Communist aggression," nazi propaganda claimed that, as a result of its treaty with Moscow, Czechoslovakia had become an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" of the Bolsheviks.

The poisonous seeds sprouted dangerous shoots. On May 21 Polish Ambassador to France Juliusz Lukasiewicz informed Ambassador Bullitt that Poland would immediately declare war on the Soviet Union if it tried to send its troops to help Czechoslovakia via Polish territory. On May 23 French Prime Minister Daladier invited German Ambassador Johannes von Welzeck to his place. They discussed the dangerous consequences of the new war in an unofficial atmosphere. Daladier said he was afraid Cossacks and Mongols would appear in Europe as a result of this war.

As for President Benes, he considered the idea of Soviet troops

entering Czechoslovakia for a common defense stupid. After the war he wrote in his book *Where the Slavs Are Going* that he had understood the intention of certain circles in Europe to channel the developments so as to turn a war, if it broke out, into a war between nazism and bolshevism. Apparently, that had given him some hope, but the idea soon went up in smoke.

Getting ready to start a war against bolshevism, Hitler did not forget the words of Bismarck: "He who owns Czechia, owns Europe." On May 30 the Führer endorsed the plan code-named *Gruen*. He did not succeed in repeating the Austrian variant in Czechoslovakia but managed to draw certain dividends even from this "failure." The May developments showed that Hitler could pursue his policy as regards Czechoslovakia without fear of French or British interference. And he did pursue it without such fear. By September 1938, some 39 Wehrmacht divisions were concentrated near the borders of Czechoslovakia, compared with just five divisions left in the West.

### A Search for Compromise

Completing his analysis of German-British relations in 1938, which he was doing for Germany's Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Dirksen arrived at a telltale conclusion on July 10: Having made a search for a compromise with Germany, one of the most important points of its program, the Chamberlain government had been displaying, as regards Germany, the maximum of understanding that could ever be displayed by any of the possible combinations of British politicians.

Several days later British Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax confirmed, as it were, the correctness of this conclusion. When Hitler's personal aide, Captain Fritz Wideman, reported upon his arrival in London that the Führer would begin talks with London after an early solution of the Sudeten problem, Lord Halifax asked him to tell Hitler that he hoped to live to see the main goal of his efforts achieved—Hitler standing with the King of England on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

In late July the efforts about which Halifax spoke produced a mission by Lord Runciman, who was sent to Prague as an "independent mediator." Soon after his arrival in Czechoslovakia, Runciman intimated to Henlein that he was going to demand the annexation of the Czechoslovak Sudetenland to Germany.

At the beginning of the mission Ambassador Henderson said that if Lord Runciman failed to reach agreement despite his efforts, the Czechs would be to blame. In this case the Germans would have

really had the grounds to assert that success could be achieved only by the use of force since the Czechs were so intractable. To leave no doubts that Germany really had the necessary force, Hitler hastened to demonstrate it, apparently oblivious of Field Marshal Moltke's ideal: Be bigger but seem smaller.

Striving to seem bigger, Hitler decided to demonstrate Germany's military might. On August 22 he went to Kiel with Hungary's regent, Admiral Horthy, where they examined the German Navy. The guests and journalists were shown tanks, armored personnel carriers and motorized infantry. Squadrons of powerful combat planes flew overhead. The demonstration of weapons made in the Niebelungs' forge produced an impression not only on Horthy and journalists, but also on Lord Runciman. Telling the Czechoslovakians that, in the event of war, Hitler's machine would crush them, Runciman demanded concessions from Benes. In an official report, Runciman later suggested that areas with a predominantly German population be transferred to the Nazis even without a referendum and that Czechoslovakia's treaties with the USSR and France be abrogated.

But Hitler summoned Henlein to his alpine village in Berchtesgaden and ordered him to reject all of the compromises proposed by Runciman. The new order of the Führer was uncompromising; he told Henlein to insist on the immediate transfer of the Sudetenland to the Germans. September of 1938 proved ominous for Czechoslovakia and for the rest of Europe and the whole world.

This, however, only became obvious later. At the time, the soothsayers of the twentieth century were looking at each other and laughing. Each of them bore the mark of Friedrich Nietzsche's "philosophy of life" and knew that in foretelling the future, his colleague, just as he himself, proceeded not from reality but from someone's interests. Nietzsche taught that reality is a "lie" created by man and adapted to his needs, since a man needs a "shroud of illusion" and can only find his salvation in illusion.

Laughing at one another, the soothsayers were creating illusions in a Europe that already had misgivings. Needless to say, they adapted these illusions to the needs of the powers that be. Was it surprising that in their interpretation, the flight and cry of the nazi eagle did not foretell anything terrible but the death of Czechoslovakia? A year was still to pass before the beginning of the Second World War, which took a toll of 50 million lives. Less than a month remained before the event that was the prologue to this tragedy. For the time being, the augurs were laughing. ■



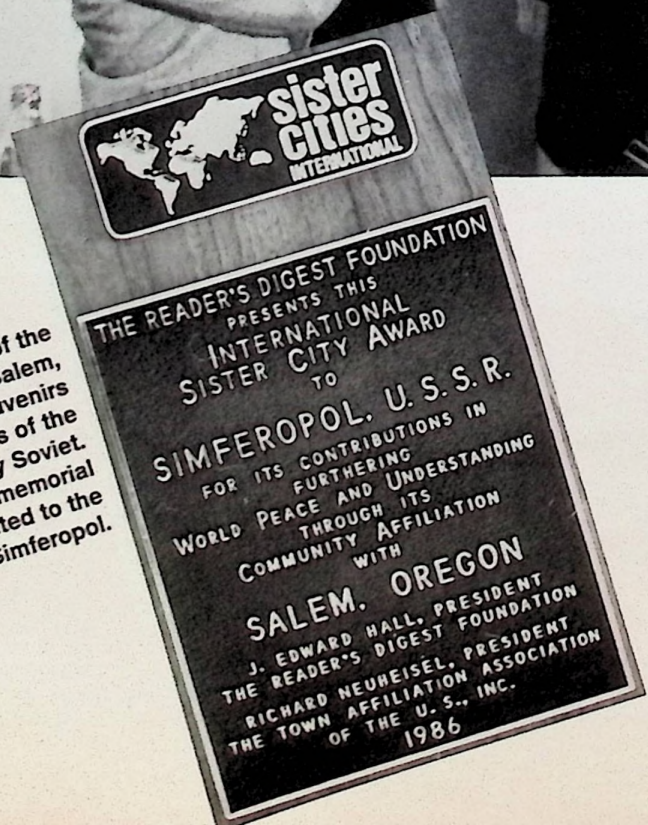
# USSR-USA sister cities program

As people say, a long journey begins with the first step. Seventeen residents of Salem, Oregon, recently made that long journey to their sister city—Simferopol, the Ukraine. The first step was made the year before by Salem's mayor, Susan Harris Miller, when she visited Simferopol on a trip to the USSR.

By Ariadna Nikolenko  
Photographs by Victor Khomenko



Above: Members of the delegation from Salem, Oregon, present souvenirs to officials of the Simferopol City Soviet.  
Right: The memorial plaque presented to the residents of Simferopol.





**W**hen Susan Harris Miller, mayor of Salem, Oregon, first visited Simferopol, the administrative center of the Crimean Region of the Ukraine, she was greatly impressed by the similarity between the Soviet city and her home town. Both cities are situated on the forty-fifth

parallel, and both are known for their hospitality.

It wasn't long before the Simferopol City Soviet (city council) received a letter from Salem proposing to establish sister-city relations. The message was enthusiastically received in Simferopol, and later the mutual enthusiasm was sealed in an official agreement signed in Salem by Vladimir Lavrenenko, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Simferopol City Soviet on the one side, and Mayor Miller on the other. Lavrenenko also invited a delegation from Salem to visit Simferopol. The Americans gladly accepted the invitation, and a 17-member delegation flew to the Crimea.

The members of the American delegation were silent and somewhat timid when they first entered the hall of the Simferopol City Soviet, which was festively adorned with flowers and flags for the occasion. However, six days later, when they again entered the hall, they were on a first-name basis with their new Soviet friends. Everyone was joking, laughing and even crying.

"We are grateful to our guests for coming to see us, and we are hoping that our dialogue will be fruitful and of long standing," said Lavrenenko at the welcoming meeting. The official greeting was followed by a question-and-answer session.

"How fast is your city's population growing?" someone asked.

"The experts predict that Simferopol will have 420,000 inhabitants by the year 2000. Our population now numbers around 340,000."

"Did your city suffer any damage during the Second World War?"

"As for buildings, Simferopol did not sustain as much damage as many other Soviet cities. Our people were the ones who suffered. Of the 350,000 residents of Crimean Region at that time, 175,000 died in the war, while 85,000 were deported to Germany as slave labor."

"What are the major problems facing your city council at this time?"

"Housing is our main problem. The majority of our housing stock is old. Another problem is water. Even though we've built three new reservoirs, there's still not enough water. And transportation needs to be improved to provide for the up to nine million vacationers and tourists who pass through our city annually. We are also facing a unique situation. A large number of senior citizens are moving here because of our exceptionally good climate. That's one of our biggest attractions, our climate. I guess you've noticed this, since you, too, have chosen Simferopol rather than a city in the arctic regions as your sister city."

Laughter filled the hall.

Toward the end of the delegation's visit, I asked several members what had impressed them most. Lucille Wisniewski and her husband, Tom Owen, had a ready answer to that question. The tour of the Vinogradny State Farm was their favorite. As co-owners of a small farm producing grapes among other crops, the American couple had a business interest in the Soviet farm. Most of the Vinogradny State Farm's 5.5 thousand hectares are occupied by grapevines.

The Vinogradny State Farm also has a small wine-making factory. The visiting Americans were treated to some locally produced Madeira in the factory's tasting center. They also had a taste of delicious grape juice, one of the newest products to come out of the factory's laboratory.

On one of the days of the visit, the American delegation broke up into several smaller groups, each one free to choose among several different programs—touring a light industry plant, meeting with students or visiting a local factory. Photographer Victor Khomenko and I decided to visit the local factory. Our companions were Michael Murray, head of the delegation and chairman of the Salem-Simferopol Sister City Committee; Jane Cummins, a city council member; and Peg Higley, a baker.

The object of our interest was the Simferopol Pneumatika Production Association, which puts out pneumatic components for various machines used in the textile and chemical industries and industrial robots. Set up just 11 years ago, the factory has become quite famous, both at home and abroad.

Pneumatika's general director, Alexei Golovizin, explained factory operations:

"Our annual growth rate of production is about 16 per cent, while our growth rate of productivity is 11 to 12 per cent," he said. "Now that we've introduced a cost-accounting system, we're hoping to greatly increase those figures."

Our group also was told about the factory's social programs and benefits. We toured the canteen and the out-patient clinic and met with some rank-and-file workers. Benefits for workers include vouchers to the factory's holiday resort in Yalta, on the coast of the Black Sea; tours abroad, which are very popular among the factory's personnel; and vouchers for a summer camp for children, which is also situated on the Black Sea coast.

Long-time worker Gennadi Khablov, a veteran of the Second World War who was in Berlin on Victory Day, said the following in parting: "I met Americans during the war. We were allies then, and we should remain allies now. Please convey this message to the American people, together with regards from us workers."

Friendship between the Soviet and American people was the main theme of both the prearranged and the spontaneous meetings during the delegation's visit, including an impromptu duet performed by 70-year-old violinist Robert Boardman from Salem and composer Isaak Zhornitski from Simferopol. Both men are World War II veterans—Boardman fought in the Pacific, while Zhornitski was in the Battle of Stalingrad. The duo presented a Mozart serenade and a Vivaldi concerto, winning a standing ovation from the audience.

I asked several members of the delegation to formulate their impressions in writing. This is what Jane C. Cummins wrote: "Friendship and greater understanding between citizens of the two cities emerged from this trip. It helped to lay a strong foundation for a sister-city relationship that we hope will flourish for generations and contribute to peace both in our time and in the future."



American Lucille Wisniewski at the Vinogradny State Farm outside Simferopol. Left: David Hunt and his wife on a shopping trip in the city.



# UNFINISHED portrait

By Alla Alexeyeva  
Photographs by Rudolph Kucherov



A new play about President Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been captivating audiences at the Leningrad Komissarzhevskaya Theater since its opening night. The play, *An Unfinished Portrait*, is the stage adaptation of a novel of the same title by Soviet author Alexander Chakovsky.

A verandah in Warm Springs is lit by the sun. To the sounds of invigorating music, a manservant pushes the President's wheelchair around and around in a circle. It is, in fact, a ritual. Finally, the President is wheeled into the lounge, where he is having his portrait painted by Russian artist Shumatova. There's not the slightest hint that this will be FDR's last portrait, and an unfinished one at that.

We in the audience hang on every word the President speaks, bursting out in laughter at his sarcastic remarks. The power of the intellect is the motivating force of the performance. By and by, the President becomes closer to us. When he dies, we cannot help thinking: "What a loss."

Ruben Agamirzyan, the chief director of the Leningrad Komissarzhevskaya Theater, is the play's producer and the co-author of its script. "Some people ask me why I wanted to stage *An Unfinished Portrait*," says Agamirzyan. "I feel it summarizes my entire postwar experience. For me, Roosevelt was not just a politician. During the war, which I remember very well, he was extremely popular in the Soviet Union, and I'll never forget how upset I was when he died."

In 1974 Agamirzyan was in the United States. Among the

sites he visited were Arlington National Cemetery, where he saw the graves of Presidents Roosevelt and Kennedy, and the Library of Congress, where a portrait of FDR caught his eye. The painting carried the notation that it was an unfinished work.

"There's something very dramatic about the painting," explains the director. "When you see a country with your own eyes, you tend to develop a very special attitude toward it."

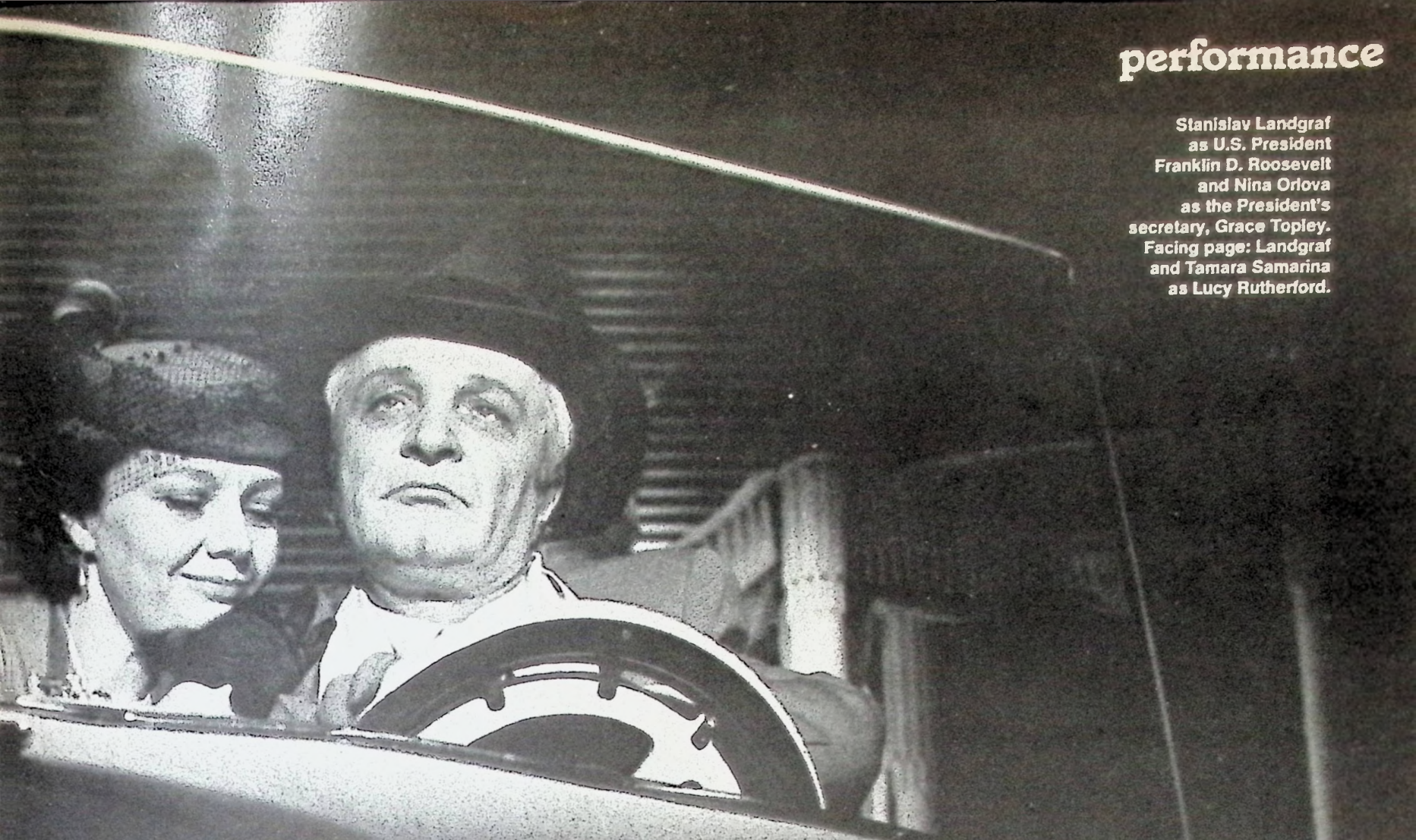
"After I read Alexander Chakovsky's novel, I immediately knew that I wanted to put it on the stage. Of course, there were things we had to overcome. The play is subtitled 'A Political Drama.' Not all of the actors believed that a production of that type would be attractive to the public. It's true, the play consists almost entirely of political discussions and reflections. There's almost no action in it. Would such a play be boring? At first only the actor who played the lead, Stanislav Landgraf, believed in its success."

Some of Agamirzyan's fears were justified, and a few people do leave the theater after the first act.

"That's normal," says the director. "Some people buy tickets without thinking about what they're going to see. Over-all, our production is a big hit. Why? Now the issues of war and peace is so vital that it's every-



Stanislav Landgraf  
as U.S. President  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
and Nina Orlova  
as the President's  
secretary, Grace Topley.  
Facing page: Landgraf  
and Tamara Samarina  
as Lucy Rutherford.



body's concern. People are showing a great interest in politics and in the documentary genre. They are searching for answers to today's questions in the lessons of history."

The Leningrad Komissarzhevskaya Theater has been keen on the documentary genre since the theater was founded in 1942, when the enemy was at the city's gates. Leningrad was under siege. Nazi guns methodically shelled its streets, squares, hospitals and schools. Enemy gunners' maps had the State Hermitage Museum marked as a target. To protect their precious cultural monuments, residents camouflaged the golden spires and domes of their city. The first grass had already sprouted on the graves at the Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery, the final resting place of thousands of Leningraders who died of hunger or were killed by shells in the very first, horrible blockade winter. The new theater was opened in Leningrad during that time. It was called a "blockade" theater, and that's how its first audiences remember it.

Is it really surprising that the theater is still acutely interested in the issues of war and peace?

"Well, it's impossible to play an abstract idea. I had to play the man," says Landgraf about Roosevelt. "When the President died, I was only five years

old, and I've never been to the United States in my life. I could only imagine what he was like from what I learned in books, films and documents. My main and most interesting task was to show that Roosevelt, though confined to a wheelchair, was in perpetual motion.

"We did our best to adhere to historical facts. Many dialogues and remarks are quotations from the President's own speeches and letters. I like my hero very much. His broad-mindedness, tremendous will power, sparkling humor and rare industriousness make him a fascinating individual.

"Roosevelt's behests are invaluable even now. He said that the two great countries, the United States and the Soviet Union, must maintain normal relations. We started rehearsing the play eight months before the Geneva summit. Opening night actually took place before the summit. A group of American journalists in the audience later asked if we had staged the play specially for the summit. 'It's good publicity for Geneva,' they said. That told us we had felt the pulse of the times."

The message of *An Unfinished Portrait* can be illustrated by Roosevelt's thoughts. He wished people could overcome age-old stereotypes and ask themselves why the hero is the man who won the war, not the one who prevented it. ■





# no fashions or frills

By Andrei Batashev  
Photographs by Andrei Golovanov



**L**ast season, 20-year-old Irina Kiselyeva from Moscow won her second world title in modern pentathlon in the individual event and her third world title in the team contest. However, talking to the young athlete, I suddenly realized I wanted to shield her. It was strange. After all, her athletic success gives her an aura of invulnerability, and in her everyday life, too, she doesn't seem to have any problems. Irina is a senior at the Central Institute of Physical Culture and has an almost perfect academic record. Also, she was recently elected to the institute's council, which handles various problems, ranging from building a new swimming pool to settling disputes between students and faculty. Finally, if ever a Miss Institute contest were to be held, Irina would definitely walk away with the crown. Why then, in talking to this "problem-free" young woman, would one feel a kind of anxiety for her?

Perhaps the explanation lies in her way of looking at the world. Irina exudes genuine wholesomeness and views the world with a somewhat childlike trust, which gives her both a special acuity and a degree of vulnerability.

The young athlete has never doubted that sports are more than a chase for medals. She believes that sports must stimulate the mind as well.

"To win," Irina says, "you have to tap all of your inner resources. Sometimes even an insignificant factor can serve as a powerful impetus. Take what happened to me in Bensheim, the Federal Republic of Germany, shortly before the world championships. On the first day of competitions, a local couple invited the team to their home. After lunch our host's children wanted to know if we'd like to take part in launching a hot air balloon.

"When we got outside, we saw a big red-and-white balloon swinging from a strap in the evening air. I was given the job of holding the strap,

Irina with her father and trainer, Vladimir Kiselyev. He is a senior instructor at the Central Institute of Physical Culture in Moscow. Left: The young athlete starts every morning with a brisk jog.



while the kids lit the heater under the balloon. Just before releasing the balloon, our host said:

"We wish you success. May your team perform at its best, and may Irina once again win the world title."

"The children started jumping up and down, cheering and clapping their hands. I was so moved by the sincerity of our host's words that I knew instantly that his wishes would come true."

Horse racing was the first event of the competition. Before the race a drawing is held to determine which competitor rides which horse.

"At moments like that," Irina said, "you feel completely at the mercy of fate. But I was lucky

this time. I drew a horse that carried me to the gold medal."

Irina never gave up her lead, winning the gold with a total of 5,406 points, 89 points ahead of the first runnerup, Barbara Kotowska of Poland.

Sports are important for all members of the Kiselyev family. Irina's trainer is her father, Vladimir Kiselyev, who is a senior instructor in the department of fencing and modern pentathlon at the Central Institute of Physical Culture. Her mother works at that institute, too, as a laboratory assistant. Irina's younger brother, Vladimir, is her sparring partner in fencing.

"Vladimir is a pentathlete too," explained Irina.





Watching the scoreboard, the pentathlete seems not too pleased with her results. Below: Irina is known as an aggressive competitor on horseback.



The modern pentathlon includes five events—running, horseback riding, swimming, fencing and pistol shooting. Here Irina aims for a bull's eye.



"He's a first year student at our institute. When we were younger, we had lots of fights. Then, as we grew up, we started having it out on the fencing strip. Whenever Vladimir lost a hit to me, he used to throw off his mask in anger and hurl it to the floor. But I had to keep my cool. Remember, I'm three years older than he is."

Experts claim that it is precisely this self-control that is largely responsible for Irina's dramatic progress in sports. At age 14 she enrolled in a pentathlon school and just three years later won a spot on the Soviet National Team.

Irina doesn't feel that her athletic exploits are a guarantee of success. A modest young woman, Irina shies away from the limelight, and she has little need for fashions and frills.

"Your public image should reflect your inner essence," says Irina. "Too often people get hung up on how a package is wrapped instead of what's inside."

Does her future include marriage?

"Sure, but not until I'm positive I've met the right man," she replied.

Irina is currently working on a graduation paper about the "upsetting" factors in the technical events of modern pentathlon. This paper may eventually become the basis for her dissertation in graduate school. ■

**NEXT  
ISSUE**



## 1,000 YEARS OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY

### Chronicling the Event

UNESCO has appealed to people around the world to join in the celebrations marking the millennium of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Soviet Union. In keeping with this spirit, the July issue features articles about the Church and its devoted flock.



## A MAN BEHIND PERESTROIKA

### People Making It Work

Walter Udam is one of those party functionaries who is working hard to make *perestroika* possible. As First Secretary of the Pärnu District Party Committee in Pärnu, Estonia, Udam is well known for his foresight and vision. He never shies away from the demands of his job and is always looking for ways to satisfy the needs of the working people. The party leader is profiled in July.

## BANDING FORCES AGAINST POLLUTION

### A Safer Environment

The largest biochemical plant in the USSR is situated in Kirishi, the Russian Federation. When the plant turned out to be the cause of an increase in the number of asthma cases in the area, local residents demanded that it be closed, pending its being outfitted with emission control devices, and the municipal authorities agreed.

**COMING SOON**

Soviet-Canadian Transpolar Expedition—  
100 Days on the Ice





Moscow graphic artist Yuri Polivanov of the Malyshev Children's Literature publishers is an ardent collector of folk toys made of wood and painted clay, traditional materials used in handicrafts. His collection, which is priceless not only for its individual antique items but also for its size, includes folk toys from different handicraft centers in the Soviet Union and from Japan, Latin America, Europe and Africa. Yuri's apartment, a veritable museum, is filled with puppets from around the world. Unlike collectors who jealously guard their treasures from a stranger's eye, he is eager to show his precious items to everyone he meets. The collection is an especially big hit among neighborhood school children. Yuri started his collection with matryoshka dolls and has been adding to it with items he has brought back with him on numerous business trips around the country and abroad. Friends, too, have been generous contributors.

Photographs by Boris Babanov