

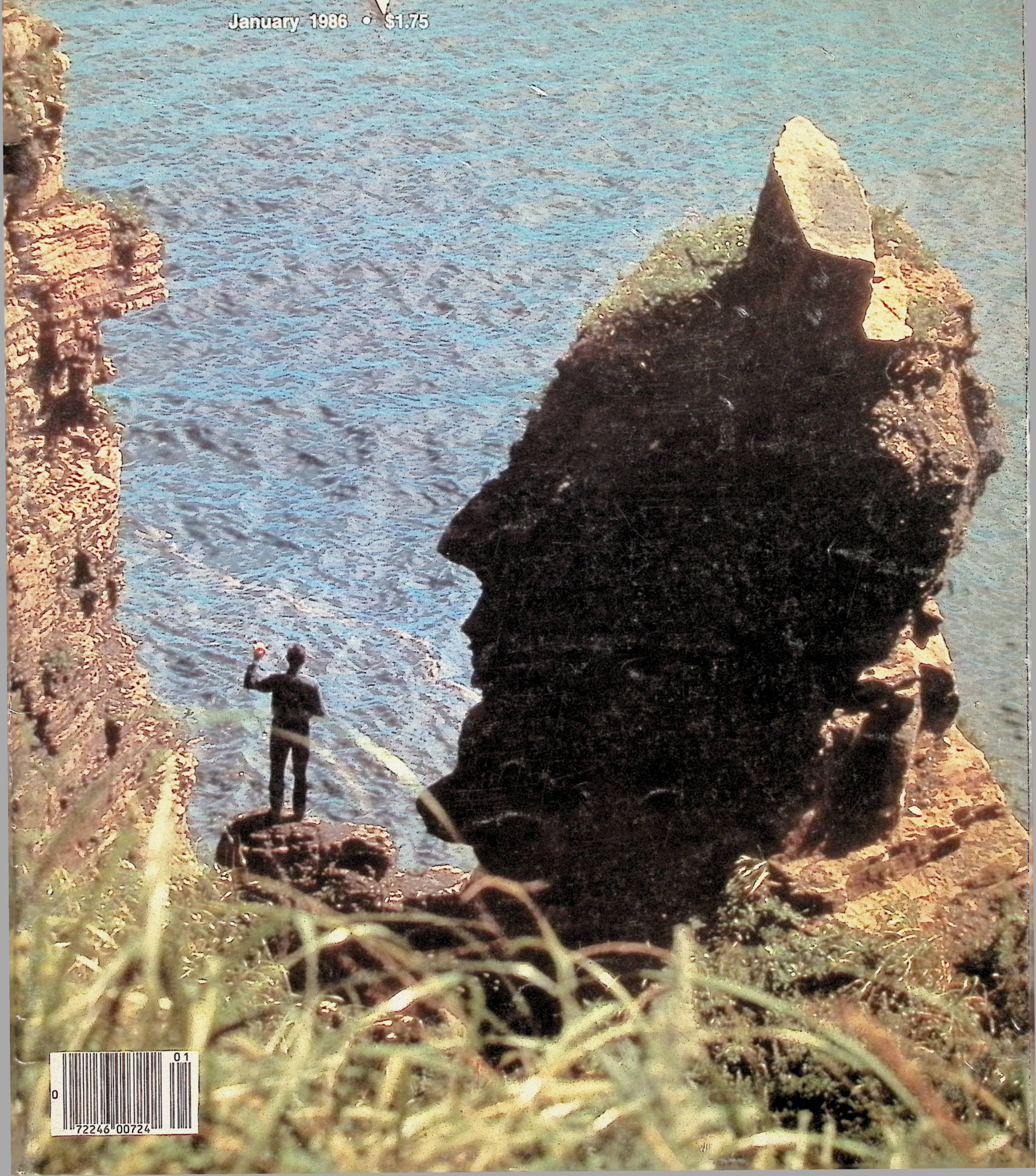
# SOVIET LIFE

CPSU CONGRESSES:  
THEIR ROLE IN SOVIET SOCIETY

THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES

VLADIVOSTOK  
A CITY BY THE OCEAN

January 1986 • \$1.75



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

IN THE SOVIET UNION New Year's Eve is first celebrated in the Far East and then, following the Sun, the festivities move westward across the country. The New Year will have to cross 11 time zones before it reaches the western border of the USSR.

The territory of the Soviet Union is immense. It's hard to believe that Americans living in New England live a bit closer to Moscow than the inhabitants of some remote parts of the Soviet Far East.

Vladivostok, on the Pacific coast, has long been considered the unofficial capital of the Soviet Far East. Before the 1917 Revolution it was a typical port city, a home away from home for ships with fancy-sounding names from Hong Kong, Shanghai, Nagasaki and San Francisco. There were exotic faces, dialects and clothing, as well as pubs, gambling casinos and opium dens. Stone houses of the wealthy stood side by side with makeshift dwellings belonging to the poor workers. Local old-timers still tell the story about the day early this century when an Ussurian tiger walked out into the main and, at that time, the only street, seized a man and dragged him away into the taiga.

Today Vladivostok is a bustling, modern city, though tigers still live on the outskirts. Actually, the Far East has an amazing collection of various soils and unique plants and animals, both on land and in the ocean. That magnificent environment has long been the object of study of our scientists. Articles in this issue tell about the Far Eastern Scientific Center, in particular, about some of its 20 academic research institutes.

The draft of the new edition of

the Program of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which has been drafted for approval by the Twenty-seventh Congress of the CPSU, states that science is playing an ever greater role in developing natural resources in the depths of the earth and the ocean, in exploring outer space and in protecting and improving the environment. This certainly encompasses the research going on in the Soviet Far East as well.

The draft Program, now being discussed throughout the nation, once again places a great emphasis on increasing prosperity and boosting the living and working conditions of the Soviet people. Among other things, minimum wages and salaries will be raised, the sizes of pensions will be periodically increased, taxes will continue to go down and housing will continue to improve.

There are also plans for the rapid development of the service sector of the economy, and several articles in this issue deal with some aspects of this sector. Primarily, in the USSR the service sector isn't limited to such things as putting gas into a car, renovating an apartment, building a house or finding a hotel room in a resort area to spend the night in. Our view is much broader. Our service sector merges with our cultural life, helping to mold harmoniously developed and socially active individuals.

As the New Year dawns, it is time to look back on the previous year and review what has happened. We've had many good experiences, and we're looking forward to 1986 with confidence.

Yuri B. Savenkov



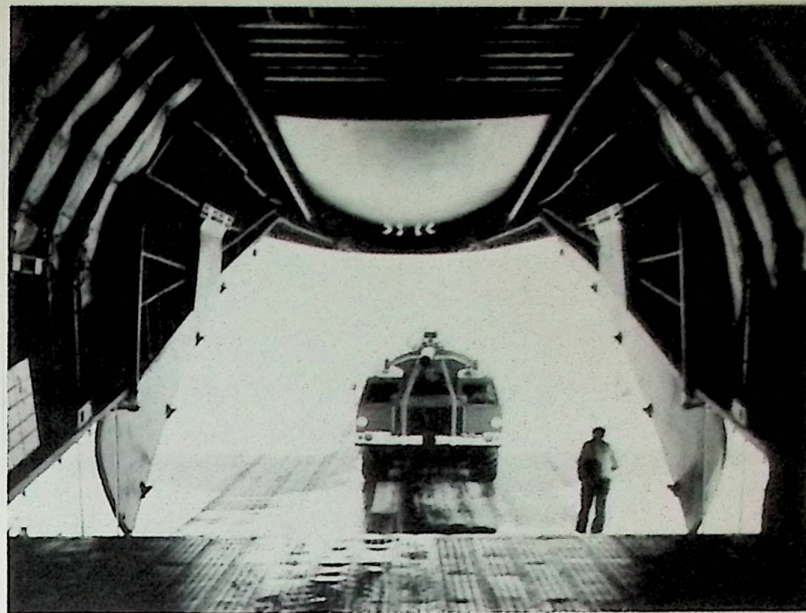
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A series of articles explain how the service sector of the Soviet economy is expanding and improving.

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Highlights of the Moscow International Film Festival and the names of the winners are given in a special report by Marina Khachaturova.

**Want to Meet Nurse Rimma?**

**T**HE FOLLOWING incident occurred several years ago while American tourist Joseph Lynn was in the ancient Russian city of Pskov, which is located 689 kilometers northwest of Moscow.

Mr. Lynn suffered a heart attack in a hotel room in the city. He was immediately rushed by ambulance to the local hospital. The doctors did what they could for the man, but were guarded in their prognosis because of the severity of the attack and the patient's age—he was 70 years old then.

However in two months Joseph Lynn regained his health and was ready to be discharged from the hospital. As he was saying his good-bys to the hospital staff, he expressed his gratitude for what they had done. He told 29-year-old nurse Rimma Fyodorova that if it hadn't been for her care, he didn't think he would have survived. "What am I going to do now without you?" he kept saying.

The idea occurred to us that perhaps readers would like to meet this remarkable woman, who still works at Pskov Hospital, and ask her questions themselves. We discussed the idea for a



reader's interview with Nurse Rimma, and she gladly agreed.

Now it's your turn to get into the act. Please address your questions for Rimma Fyodorova to SOVIET LIFE magazine, 1706 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. (Rimma does not speak English.)

Answers to your questions will appear in the June issue.

The Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will open on February 25, 1986.

# CPSU CONGRESSES: THEIR ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE PARTY AND THE COUNTRY

By Igor Shvets  
SOVIET LIFE Commentator

THE CONGRESS is the supreme body of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It reflects the party as a whole, expressing its collective will and determining its aims and goals as well as the ways and methods of handling them.

Under the Rules of the CPSU, the Central Committee convenes a congress once every five years. This interval was established by the Twenty-fourth Congress of the CPSU in 1971. It allows the party to review its performance and to map out the next five-year cycle in accordance with current economic practices.

The Rules of the CPSU state that the date and the agenda of a party congress must be announced at least six weeks before its convocation. In reality, however, it is always done much earlier. This allows the party to carefully prepare for its congress and helps ensure its success.

The Rules of the CPSU define the powers of the party congress. The congress hears reports by the Central Committee, the Central Auditing Commission and the other central bodies of the party; it revises and endorses the Program and the Rules of the Party, determines the party's domestic and foreign policy, decides key questions relating to building communism, and elects the Central Committee and the Auditing Commission.

The decisions of the party congress are binding on every party organization and every Communist. They can be repealed or altered only by the next congress.

## Congress Delegates

All party organizations elect delegates to the party congress by secret ballot. Electing the delegates is a multistage process that begins with primary organizations, the bottom echelon of the party. Membership meetings elect delegates to district and city party conferences. These choose their representatives to regional and territorial conferences and the congresses of the Communist Party of each union republic. The latter elects delegates to the CPSU congress. In this way, acting directly or through their representatives, all party members participate in electing delegates and determining the composition of the congress.

The delegates are elected under a standard of representation that is fixed by the Central Committee and depends on the numerical strength of the party. In April 1985 the Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee decided that there should be one delegate to the Twenty-seventh Congress for every 3,670 party members. All in all, 5,000 delegates will be elected to represent all party organizations and to reflect its social and ethnic profile.

The delegates are the most respected and active members of the CPSU, those who effectively represent their organization; competently handle major political, social, economic, organizational and ideological matters; and accurately express the opinion and will of the membership. The composition of the congress represents the membership.

This was vividly illustrated by the Twenty-sixth Congress in 1981. A total of 5,002 delegates were elected, including 1,370 industrial workers; 887 farmers; 689 economic managers; 269 scientists, writers, painters, physicians, teachers and artists; 1,077 party officials; and 691 government, trade union and Young Communist League (Komsomol) officials—people of 66 nationalities and ethnic minorities. Among them were 1,329 women. The congress represented party members of all age groups.

## Milestones in the Country's Life

Each of the previous 26 congresses was an important milestone in the life of our country and people. The resolutions they passed facilitated our social and economic advances.

In 1905 the Third Congress formulated the party's strategy and tactics for the bourgeois democratic revolution and its development into the socialist revolution.

Late in July and early in August 1917 the Sixth Congress outlined the course toward an armed uprising. Thanks to this, the party was able to rally the million-strong masses for the October Revolution in 1917.

In 1925 the Fourteenth Congress voted for industrialization, and in 1927 the Fifteenth Congress adopted a resolution to launch the collectivization of agriculture. Industrialization and mechanized large-scale farming provided a solid foundation for socialism.

In 1927 the Fifteenth Congress initiated the discussion and endorsement of five-year economic plans, and the Twenty-fifth Congress (1976) switched to economic and social guidelines for five years and longer periods.

Before policy documents are adopted by congresses, they are discussed by all citizens. For example, before the Twenty-sixth Congress (1981), the draft Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-1985 and for the Period Ending in 1990 had been extensively discussed by the whole country. More than 121 million people took part. They made many suggestions and amendments.

Each congress proposes major political initiatives to consolidate peace and prevent war. Formulated

by the Twenty-fourth Congress and developed by the two subsequent party forums, the Peace Program helped to preserve peace and prevent international developments from following a dangerous course in the 1970s and 1980s.

## The Twenty-seventh Congress: New Conclusions and Ideas

The forthcoming congress will be a key event for the party and the nation.

In preparation for it, a careful analysis and an evaluation of the record for the previous five years were made. On the basis of this, the nation's economic prospects and its domestic and foreign policy were mapped out. The April 1985 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee was of major importance. It appraised the domestic situation and dealt with pressing social and economic issues to be examined by the congress in detail. In line with this, a broad-based meeting on accelerating progress in science and technology was held by the CPSU Central Committee in June 1985.

The Twenty-seventh Congress will update the Party Program, the definitive document reflecting the party's experience. It will contain a Marxist-Leninist analysis of new internal and international processes and will examine the main features of Soviet society's current development and the party's aims and tasks in improving all areas of life.

The congress will also provide the Rules of the CPSU with ideas for enhancing the creative attitude and sense of responsibility of Communists and the effectiveness of party organizations.

The Twenty-seventh Congress will endorse guidelines for the USSR's economic and social development for the years 1986-1990 and for the remainder of the century. These guidelines will indicate the main economic targets in planning the country's twelfth five-year cycle and determining its economic and social direction for the longer term. The document will provide for faster rates of economic growth, the intensification of production efforts and the acceleration of scientific and technological development. A vast, integrated social program is also included.

The updated CPSU Program, the changes in the Party Rules and the draft social and economic guidelines have been presented to the Soviet people prior to the congress for extensive discussion in keeping with the party's democratic tradition.

By thoroughly analyzing world developments and the activities of the international communist, labor and liberation movements, the documents of the party congress enrich Marxism-Leninism with new conclusions and ideas. ■

Three documents were discussed at the Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union held in Moscow on October 15, 1985. They were the draft of a new edition of the CPSU Program, draft guidelines for the economic and social development of the USSR for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan (1986-1990) and for the period up to the year 2000, and also changes in the Rules of the CPSU.

Central to all these documents, as General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev stated in his report at the meeting, is acceleration. The concept of acceleration, he said, is now put before the people by the party, and with it the party will go to its next congress, the twenty-seventh.

Participation of millions of Soviet people—Communists and nonparty people—in a nationwide discussion of the drafts, which have been published in the Soviet press, will make it possible to better chart the CPSU's course for the future and to take into fuller account the desires, interests and needs of all sectors of society, of all people.

## ON THE ROAD TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

By Genrikh Volkov  
Doctor of Science (Philosophy)

**C**OMMENTING on the draft of the Gotha Program, Engels wrote that a party program "is, after all, a banner publicly raised, and the outside world judges the party by it." Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and also Vladimir Lenin in their wake, always advocated uncompromising ideological purity of the principles that must guide the entire activity of the party and underlie its program.

A party program defines the level attained in the economic development of the country and the whole world and records the social and political situation, the alignment of class forces and the proletarian movement's level of maturity. This analysis has provided precise guidelines for the party's strategy and tactics and for its formulation of the immediate as well as the long-term, ultimate goals and tasks of the party.

A model for this was the immortal *Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Marx and Engels.

The First and Second Party Programs of Russian Communists were adopted with Lenin's immediate and active participation. The First Program, passed in 1903, rallied the country's working people for a struggle to overthrow czarism, and then capitalism. This program was implemented in a historically short period of time. A worker-peasant state came into existence, and the building of a new world began.

Having adopted its Second Program in 1919, the party set itself the task of building socialism. This unprecedented objective was likewise fulfilled in the shortest possible time, thanks to the hard work of the Soviet people. The great economic, social and political changes were put into operation. Socialism, which the finest minds in history had dreamed of, became a reality.

The Third Party Program, adopted at the Twenty-second Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1961, made these transformations a matter of record and mapped out specific paths of communist construction.

A quarter of a century has passed since then. Tremendous work has been carried out for the comprehensive improvement of our society. The Soviet people have scored great success in the development of the productive forces, economic and social relations and socialist democracy.

### Socialism for the People

The country, as the draft of the new edition of the Party Program points out, has entered the stage of developed socialism. This means that our social system is already developing on its own foundation, socialist social relations that have taken hold fully and for good throughout the country. But this does not mean that all advantages of socialism have already been realized in full and have been exhausted. On the contrary, durable and persevering work lies ahead to improve and maintain them.

In the draft of the new edition, these decisive advantages of socialism are formulated as follows:

Socialism is a society on whose banner are inscribed the words, "Everything for the sake of man, everything for the benefit of man." It is a society in which:

- The means of production are in the hands of the people; an end has been put forever to the exploitation of man by man, social oppression, the power of a privileged minority and to the poverty and illiteracy of millions of people;

- The broadest vistas have been opened for the dynamic development of the productive forces according to plan, while scientific and technological progress brings not mass unemployment but steady growth and prosperity for the entire people;

- An equal right to work with fair remuneration in line with the principle "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work" is ensured, the population enjoying such social benefits as free medical services and education, and housing for a minimum of rent;

- The inviolable alliance of the workers, collective farmers and intellectuals has been asserted; women are granted really equal rights with men; the younger generation is offered a secure future; and social security for retired workers is guaranteed;

- The inequality of nationalities is abolished, and the factual and juridical equality, friendship and brotherhood of all nationalities and ethnic groups is asserted;

- Genuine democracy—power exercised for the people and by the people—has been established and is developing, and more and more extensive and equal participation of citizens in the management of production, social and state affairs is ensured;

- The ideas of freedom, human rights and dignity of the individual contain real substance, and the unity of rights and duties is ensured by uniform laws and norms of morality, and a single discipline for everyone;

- The humanistic Marxist-Leninist ideology is dominant, the popular masses are given access to all sources of knowledge, an advanced culture has been created and incorporates the best in world culture;

- A socialist way of life has been formed on a foundation of social justice, collectivism and comradesly mutual assistance, giving working people confidence in the future, spiritually and morally elevating them as the creators of new social relations and their own destiny.

Socialism is a society that directs its thoughts and actions in the international arena at supporting the striving of people for independence and social progress. It is subordinated to the main task of preserving and consolidating peace.

The agenda today contains the task of the utmost and all-around improvement of socialist society, of fuller and more effective utilization of its possibilities and advantages.

Clearly, this extremely complicated task requires ►

the enormous and dedicated effort of all working people for the mobilization of domestic reserves. Intended for a historically long span of time, it calls for new approaches and solutions in the scientific, technological, economic, social and political fields.

All this makes it necessary to formulate and formalize new propositions in the Program and to substantiate old ones.

The international situation also calls for more precise guidelines in the Party Program. There is a need to mold a new understanding of the changes in the alignment of forces that have taken place both on the class and social plane and around the struggle for the affirmation of the principles of peace as the universal norm of relations between states and all international relations.

### Continuity and Innovation

In drafting the new edition of its Program, the party was guided by two dialectically combined principles that have always distinguished Marxist-Leninist thought. On the one hand, there is the principle of continuity of the party's basic theoretical and political directives. We can easily assure ourselves now that practice has confirmed their inviolability.

Touching on this problem, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev said in his report at a recent plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee that "the question of continuity in developing theory and the party's program directives is a question of its theoretical adherence to principle and consistency. . . . The CPSU would not enjoy such high prestige in the world communist movement and such trust from the Soviet people if it treated its own theoretical conclusions and political evaluations without a proper sense of responsibility."

On the other hand, Marxism-Leninism is a constantly developing doctrine that specifies and renews its conclusions and principles according to new realities. Consistency and continuity do not reject but rather presuppose the creative development of theory and its enrichment with new propositions.

In the quarter of a century that has elapsed since the adoption of the party's Third Program, it has become clear which propositions have not stood the test of time and which conclusions and formulations need clarification.

Among the things that were not practicable, for example, was the desire to outstrip the natural course of events, to achieve a communist society in one dash and to minimize the significance and scale of the complicated problems that have to be solved along the way. Some specific calculations of the growth rates of the national income, labor productivity and living standards were also not on the mark. The tendency for these rates to be lower was revealed of late, as has been openly emphasized in party documents. This tendency must be resolutely changed. That is the direction outlined by the new edition of the Party Program.

In this connection it is appropriate to recall Lenin's words: "Criticism of individual points and formulations [in a program] is quite legitimate and necessary in any live party."

"In the whole of this work," stressed Mikhail Gorbachev, "we proceeded from the Leninist principles of building the Party Program. It should be an exact formulation of the real process, explicitly spell out the main views and political objectives, be free both from excessive details, groundless fantasy and bookish subtleties, from a game of definitions. The Program is an explicit and precise statement of what the party wants to achieve and what it is working for."

### Acceleration Concept

The draft of the new edition of the Program was based on this directive, and it has been incorporated in it. It gives a strictly realistic and scientifically balanced analysis of both our indisputably outstanding achievements and the difficulties that are yet to be overcome on the way to a qualitatively new state of our society. The chief means, the main direction

of this movement, has likewise been defined as accelerating our society's socioeconomic development. The latest documents of the party put forward and substantiated a developed concept of this acceleration. This concept is integrally recorded in the new edition of the Program.

First and foremost, it clearly delineates the perspective toward which our society is advancing: A detailed definition of communism is given. This definition is not at variance with that given in the Third Party Program. However, the draft emphasizes that there is no sharp dividing line between socialism and communism: The development of socialism, an ever fuller revelation of its possibilities and advantages and a consolidation of the general communist principles characteristic of it, is what is meant by the actual advance of society to communism. The draft also reflects the important conclusion drawn by the party in recent years that the rise of a classless structure of society will take place within the framework of socialism.

The CPSU does not set itself the aim of foreseeing in detail the features of full communism. As we advance toward it, our notions of the highest phase of a new society will naturally become more concrete. However, the new edition provides an enriched description of the historic achievements and advantages of socialism in every sphere.

The draft points out that any attempt to go ahead at too fast a pace, without due consideration of the objective laws of society's development, is doomed to failure. At the same time, the CPSU proceeds from the assumption that no delay in effecting timely transformations must be permitted. The party takes into account the fact that in the seventies and the early eighties, there were certain unfavorable trends and difficulties alongside indisputable success in the country's development. They were due, in considerable measure, to a failure to assess, in time and in the right way, changes in the economic situation and the need for profound change in all spheres of life, and a failure to display the necessary persistence in making such change.

Accelerating socioeconomic development is an urgent objective necessity and, at the same time, the strategic path of the party. The draft describes in detail what should be done for qualitatively transforming all aspects of life in Soviet society.

### A Turn in the Economy

The draft Party Program naturally proceeds from the crucial role of the economy in society's life. A sharp turn is to be made toward the intensification of production, and every enterprise and every branch of the economy are to be reoriented to fuller and top-priority use of qualitative factors for economic growth. The country's production potential should double and be radically and qualitatively renewed by the end of the year 2000. Labor productivity is to be increased by 130 to 150 per cent over the next 15 years as an important stage in approaching the frontiers necessary for a communist society.

The growth of the productive forces and their qualitative transformation must be accompanied by corresponding changes in production relations that are indispensable for resolving the nonantagonistic contradictions arising between them in due time. As before, the party will keep the focus of its attention on the tasks of consolidating and enhancing public ownership of the means of production, raising the level of socialization of production and its organization according to plan, and improving the forms and methods of realizing the advantages and potentials offered by social ownership.

The new edition of the Party Program focuses considerably more attention on social policy. The party regards it as a powerful means for accelerating the country's development, enhancing labor and sociopolitical activity by the masses, molding the new person and asserting the socialist way of life. It proceeds from the premise that the impact of social policy on economic growth and efficiency, on all spheres of public life will be intensifying.

### Toward Full Prosperity And Free Development for All

The development of new machinery and technologies and the raising of economic efficiency are for us Communists not ends in themselves. Everything that is being done and created by the working people is done for the sake of the working people, for their benefit. People are the key factor advancing social and economic progress. The draft cites Lenin's famous words that communist construction means movement toward achieving "full well-being and free, all-round development for all the members of society."

The CPSU sets itself the task of ensuring a level and structure of consumption of material, social and cultural benefits that will meet to the fullest degree possible the aim of molding a harmoniously developed, spiritually rich individual and creating the necessary preconditions for the fullest realization of the abilities, gifts and talents of Soviet people in the interests of society.

Over the next 15 years we plan to double the volume of resources channeled into meeting the requirements of the population.

The principle "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work" will at the same time be perfected to stimulate the creative activity of all working people to the maximum, while opening up for them the possibilities for even fuller satisfaction of their requirements and for the development of their capabilities. As social wealth grows, the amount of minimum wages will increase and the policy of reducing taxes will be continued. Public consumption funds will continue to grow, and their distribution will be improved with a view to removing distinctions that are objectively inevitable under socialism in the material standing of individual citizens, families and social groups, to evening out conditions for bringing up children and putting an end to low incomes for individual groups of the population.

Among the other tasks, the party considers it a matter of special social significance to accelerate the solution of the housing problem so that by the year 2000 practically every Soviet family will have access to an apartment or an individual house.

The party's strategic line in the development of the political system consists of advancing Soviet democracy and increasingly promoting the people's socialist self-government. This means that the administration of society and the state should not only be exercised in the interests of the working people but should also become the concern of the working people themselves, who, to use Lenin's words, know no authority except the authority of their own unity.

These transformations in all areas will bring about a qualitatively new stage in developing our society, which could be defined as "integral socialism," to use Lenin's phrase, a society fully revealing the advantages of the new system in all spheres of life.

### Peace Potential

Over the past 25 years considerable changes have taken place in the world situation as a result of the confrontation between different forces. The draft of the new edition of the Party Program gives a clear-cut analysis of the alignment of these forces as well as of the trends that are more and more cogently coming to the fore.

As its Program directs, the CPSU asserts an unflinching desire for peace, for an end to the arms race and the eventual elimination of arms altogether, and for the peaceful coexistence of all nations. This approach alone will enable the "planet of people" to survive, to avoid a nuclear holocaust. It will give impetus to a new development of civilization.

The new edition of the Program orients the party toward continuing the struggle for peace and peaceful coexistence and promoting the cohesion and solidarity of the working people in all countries.

That is why it has rightfully been called a program of communist creativity and peace. ■

# NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES— ZONES OF THE FUTURE

By Alexander Bovin  
*Izvestia* Political Analyst

**In 1956 the Soviet Union proposed the idea of creating nuclear-free zones. Since then Central and Northern Europe, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Africa and the Indian Ocean have been among the zones suggested.**

**T**he sixteenth South Pacific Forum held last summer in Avarua, the administrative center of the Cook Islands, decided to proclaim the region a nuclear-free zone. Thirteen states banned forever the deployment, production and testing of nuclear weapons on their respective territories, as well as the dumping of radioactive waste into the Pacific Ocean. The treaty was supplemented with a special protocol to be signed by the nuclear powers demanding that they respect the nuclear-free status of the zone.

This didn't happen of its own accord but was the result of a long and persistent struggle to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and create zones where such weapons will neither be stockpiled nor used. The fact is interesting and significant. It shows that antinuclear sentiments are growing stronger and spreading, not only among people but also among governments. They are opting for a future free of nuclear weapons because it is the only way to guarantee the preservation of humankind.

## History

The history of nuclear-free zones dates back to March 27, 1956. On that day the Soviet Union suggested in a subcommittee of the UN Disarmament Commission that a special zone for arms limitation and verification be set up in Europe. The idea boiled down to banning the deployment of nuclear-armed military units or any types of nuclear and hydrogen weapons in the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and in neighboring countries. Since that time, proposals to create nuclear-free zones have been advanced and debated by many countries. Central and Northern Europe, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Africa and the Indian Ocean were among the zones suggested.

All of the proposals stemmed from a desire to reduce the probability of a nuclear catastrophe, limit the areas in which nuclear weapons can be deployed and safeguard the states in the nuclear-free zone against the chance of being involved in a nuclear war. Although numerous wordy documents were agreed on and appropriate decisions taken, so far progress on the issue, if any, has been very slow.

Antarctica has become the first, although informal, nuclear-free zone on this planet. On December 1, 1959, a conference in Washington endorsed a treaty which banned any military activity on this continent.

A thrust toward a world without nuclear weapons was made on February 12, 1967, when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, known as the Tlatelolco Treaty, was concluded in Mexico. According to Protocol II, the supplement attached to the treaty and signed and ratified by all the nuclear powers, the latter pledged to observe the status of Latin America as a nuclear-free zone and not to encourage violation of the treaty in any way.

There is no model for all possible nuclear-free zones. But the Tlatelolco Treaty, the Avarua Treaty and other documents pertaining to nuclear-free zones provide a sufficiently clear outline of the legal conditions that must apply to such zones. The states belonging to them commit themselves not to produce, stockpile, introduce with their own aims or allow the deployment of nuclear weapons of all types on their territory; not to install or allow the installation on their territory of equipment and devices servicing nuclear weapons.

The states possessing nuclear weapons commit themselves not to arm their troops with nuclear weapons if they are, in accordance with international treaties, deployed on the territory of the zone, not to turn over the nuclear weapons to the governments on that territory and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the participants in the zone.

Thus, the nuclear-free status is a totality of commitments of nonnuclear and (necessarily) of nuclear states. By the way, it will be interesting to see how some nuclear powers treat the



nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. There is no question that the Soviet Union will ever violate it.

However, it was declared in no uncertain terms that nuclear explosions on Mururoa Atoll, which is part of the zone, would continue.

This is a sore point for the residents of nearby Pacific islands. Staff members of Fiji University have found out that the radioactive contamination of the environment caused by over 210 nuclear explosions has boosted the cancer rate and caused numerous birth defects and genetic anomalies. The ones who conduct the tests usually claim that all the explosions are "pure" now and harmless. Their opponents argue that if that's so, why do the nuclear testing grounds have to be thousands of kilometers away from the people in charge of them? In my opinion, this is a logical argument.

## Minizones

Some countries have been developing so-called minizones that have no nuclear weapons. Many cities, towns and other populated localities in Western countries have proclaimed themselves zones in which the local authorities ban the manufacture, deployment and transportation of nuclear arms. Such moves indicate the growing political consciousness of the population and its striving to avoid the arms race.

All countries and their citizens can and must do their best first to reduce the war danger and then to completely wipe it out. So nuclear-free zones indicate the tremendous desire of nonnuclear countries to solve the problem, to strengthen international security. Nuclear-free zones are also a serious barrier to the proliferation of nuclear arms. It was for a good reason that Article VII of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons states that nothing in the treaty affects the right of any group of states to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons on their respective territories.

Some skeptics may argue: "What's the point of deliberating about nuclear-free zones if they are not real places to shape the course of world developments? Once an all-out war is launched, no one will survive, regardless of what zone they live in." This view, if not very consoling, may at least seem quite realistic at first glance.

However, there is realism and realism. To reconcile yourself to existing circumstances is realism. But to overcome these circumstances is also realism. What has been created by humankind can be changed by humankind. War is not inevitable, and there's a good deal of sense in all kinds of actions, large and small, against war. At least then we will live to see the future that we are shaping today.



# REASON IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

By Chinghiz Aitmatov  
Kirghiz Writer

EVERY time the celestial machinery brings about a change of season, people ask themselves what lies ahead. This ritualistic soul-searching results not only from the traditional desire of all people for happiness for themselves and for their families. As a matter of fact, one's notion of happiness largely depends on his or her values and on the values of his or her society. Soul-searching on the eve of a seasonal change implies a great deal more. It includes, as it were, the sum total of reality in its most diverse manifestations and dimensions, from the cardinal problems of existence and the grandeur of one's plans and ambitions to the prosaic concern about the daily bread.

Someone might say that I'm writing this a little too late. Time flies by faster than we expect. But I think what I write is more important than the calendar.

I was thinking that with the coming of the year 1986, the year 2000 would be just 14 years away. Fourteen years! Just think of it! I don't mean to say that there is some magic in the number, but I was thinking that in the year 2000 today's 16-year-olds will be 30, a most beautiful and rewarding age, and that they will be standing on the threshold of the third millennium. I am happy for those who will be 30 then, and I envy them. It is a unique and a truly magical coincidence. We don't have to wait long, if we're still around to see that historic time and don't perish in some total catastrophe.

## Should We Think of This at All?

Will humankind be able to enter the third millennium with the omnipotence of its reason and achievements? Should we think of this at all? Why not? If we consider how long man has existed on Earth, present history can be measured in hours and minutes, so to speak. The whistle of the train of the 2000s can already be heard quite distinctly, the outlines of the train are already visible and the signals indicate that the tracks are clear. At this distance it's hard to resist the temptation of asking ourselves what life will be like in the twenty-first century.

I don't mean, of course, the chronological counting of years. That is independent of our will. We want to know what the new age has in store for us and what we ourselves have programmed for it. People are already thinking about that. They were thinking about that also in Stockholm, Sweden, at a recent gathering of the European Academy of Arts, Sciences and Humanities, to which I belong. This nongovernmental organization unites scientists and cultural workers from around the world. Addressing the gathering, scientists and thinkers attempted to make scientific forecasts and predictions about the future, about what life will be like for the world's population in the coming century. The answer is open. What does the future have in store for us?

There is a generally acknowledged and time-honored law that growth and propagation are the inexorable trends of life. In this movement life and existence always defeat everything that portends death. This is the highest logic of the nature of things: Protoplasm has the indestructible ability to survive. With the same axiomatic inevitability the law of existence is manifested in social life. This is the organized will of the masses that campaign for peace and a better life, and it is humanity's strongest desire to live and continue to exist in the continuity of generations.

Without going into the causes and details of the

world nuclear crisis, I would like to draw the attention of the present generation, on whom the solution to the question "to be, or not to be" depends, to the thing which, in my opinion, is a matter of vital importance for everyone everywhere. It is the unconditional recognition, at all levels of existing social structures, of the absolute problem facing our age: preventing a thermonuclear war.

## A Time for Searching

A nuclear war would destroy everything humankind has achieved. It would be the last act of the species *Homo sapiens*, an act of suicide. The time has come, therefore, for the universal agreement of all peoples and countries based on the categorical renunciation of the production and use of nuclear weapons. Such a worldwide agreement at the juncture of the second and third millenniums would be our greatest accomplishment and our greatest legacy to young people and to future generations.

**We, the men and women of the twentieth century, are sailing in an ocean of anxiety, hope and doubt in search of a new land. We have already discovered that land, and it is a densely populated place. It is the land where a new human spirit, a new historical morality and a new planetary humanism are being born.**

Am I a pacifist and an idealist for thinking this way? It isn't all that easy to make nuclear weapons taboo in our fiercely conflicting world. It takes years of hard negotiations, mutual accusations and painstaking effort to achieve strategic agreement between the East and the West. Is the problem really so insoluble and the tragedy of the human spirit so predetermined that the discovery of the structure of the atom, the elementary particle of matter, will be the last step in the unraveling of the mysteries of the world only because the sides fail to find a political status of a mutually acceptable world order? Is madness superior to reason? Has the human intellect exhausted all of its resources?

## Humankind's Potent Weapon

They say that shortly before World War II, 12 European physicists could have hidden, and they even tried to hide, from the world the results of their nuclear research. That was in the very beginning of the research, when it was still at the laboratory stage. But, as the story goes, those scientists failed to come to terms for a number of reasons. Little wonder they failed, for the complexity of the atomic nucleus cannot be compared with that of human nature. Whatever the case, it is a regrettable fact and, by biblical standards, comparable only to the Crucifixion of Christ.

Some intellectuals quite sincerely continue to lament this fact. They are still blaming those physicists for not halting their research and not burying the results for good. But to believe that one can keep history in a hermetically sealed jar, so to speak, is hopeless, senseless and even extremely dangerous.

The intellect is humankind's most potent weapon, whatever the situation. It is omnipotent and inexhaustible in its constant effort to understand the world and to reform and adapt existence to its boundless needs. I think the creative potential of the intellect can only be compared to the energy resources of the Sun. There is a wonderful old adage that love will conquer all. It should be added that it is the intellect that will have the final say, however. This is borne out by the fact that now that the whole world has raised its voice for peace, against nuclear war, against the arms race, the collective intellect of our epoch is assuming in the "reactor" of that struggle and in the "accelerators" of the mass media new, unheard-of dimensions of modern public awareness. The very process of the years-long struggle for peace, for the prevention of nuclear catastrophe on Earth, erodes the traditional roots of the militaristic mentality and fosters in people a philosophy of universal survival. This is a new factor of historic importance that can no longer be ignored or brushed aside by any sane politician.

## New Mentality in the Nuclear Age

Moreover, there has come a time when people must realize this great reality that today constitutes a global evolution of the thinking of modern society.

We, the men and women of the twentieth century, are sailing in an ocean of anxiety, hope and doubt in search of a new land. We have already discovered that land, and it is a densely populated place. It is the land where a new human spirit, a new historical morality and a new planetary humanism are being born. This new humanism incorporates not only "Thou shalt not kill," but also "Thou shalt not think in categories of murder in order to ensure universal security and survival of the generations." No political or any other reason can justify the use of nuclear weapons. This is common sense.

Reason is our hope. To put the achievements of the intellect into practice, the people and countries of the world should look for common objectives of development, for common moral laws and for common criteria to understand humankind's place in the "nuclear" world and to realize its new role and importance in the coming era.

I think the idea of convening a world forum in the year 2000 might serve as a mutually acceptable basis for all peace-loving forces, all countries and all movements, whatever their affiliation, including religious movements, in working out large-scale global measures for peace that would have serious humanitarian and cultural implications for the present and future generations. The concept of the year 2000 as the year when humanitarian ideals triumph and the landmark year for human culture, the time for a review of the achievements of our civilization on the threshold of the third millennium, might prompt the answer to the common questions we ask ourselves: What will be humankind's social, cultural, scientific and technological achievements by the beginning of the third millennium, and of them which are worth taking into the next century to ensure progress and happiness in the future?

The will of people united might show us the way out of the impasse into which nuclear weapons have led us.

Looking to the future with a new mentality born of the nuclear age, we must all say now and forever:

- No missiles and space weapons by the year 2000!
- Prosperity for all by the year 2000!



## in focus: the service sector

Windows need washing, rugs need cleaning or furniture needs repair? Perhaps it's a baby sitter, a private tutor or even a Grandfather Frost for a holiday party that's required. Where would someone in the Soviet Union turn for such services? The Zarya City Service Center in Moscow, or one of the many centers just like it around the country, fills thousands of requests for all kinds of everyday services.



"IT'S GRANDFATHER FROST!"

By Elyo Vasilyeva

Photographs by Vladimir Fedorov



College students, young professionals and even married couples sign up at the service center to be Snow Maidens and Grandfather Frosts. Above: Teams of the famous twosome begin their workday. Left: Children at a local community center eagerly await the arrival of the magical pair.

**K**ind and jolly, Grandfather Frost with white beard and rosy cheeks (our counterpart to Santa Claus) comes on New Year's Eve. Accompanying him is his granddaughter Snow Maiden, a lovely young lady who wears a fur-trimmed coat and cap. No adult or child in the USSR could imagine the winter holidays without these legendary characters, but only the youngest children still believe in their magical powers. The holidays are filled with merry-making and joy, and all cultural centers, clubs, day-care centers, schools, theaters and sports centers in the country, without exception, give parties.

Every family, especially if there are small children, celebrates New Year's Day. Some fathers or grandfathers traditionally play the role of Grandfather Frost. Others ask a friend to stand in. While still others request someone to be sent from their local service center.



Some fathers and grandfathers traditionally play the role of Grandfather Frost. Others ask a friend to stand in. While still others request someone to be sent from their usual service center.

### Providing over a Hundred Services

Visits from Grandfather Frost and Snow Maiden bringing holiday greetings and cheer on New Year's Eve represent only one of over a hundred services available to Muscovites at the Zarya City Service Center. Requests for all kinds of everyday services are received by the numerous service bureaus and centers located throughout the city.

You can turn to the Zarya Center if you want your apartment renovated, windows washed, floors cleaned or furniture repaired; if you want to rent a summer cottage or need a baby sitter, private tutor, and the like. However, perhaps you're the one who wants to do the baby-sitting, tutoring, etc., or you have a specialty, such as sewing or cooking, to teach. Then all you'd have to do is go to the nearest center and have your name placed on a list with the service you provide.

Service centers are located in every Soviet city and town, and other centers like them are now beginning to appear in the countryside, too. All of them have a long list of ordinary services available, but the Riga Express Center in Latvia's capital offers something extra: same-day service. For the standard fee plus a 50 per cent surcharge, any request will be filled immediately, even on weekends.

Another service center, the Umnyie Ruki (Clever Hands) Center, specializes in carpentry. It runs workshops where people pay an hourly fee for instruction in making an item for the home. The workshops are supervised by experienced workers in the trade.

A seaside town in a resort area of the country provides another kind of service: Parents can bring their children to the beach and leave them there for a few hours, knowing that they will be supervised by a trained and efficient staff.

The Nevskie Zori (Neva Dawns) Center in Leningrad is famous for the catering service it provides. The center has recently added new types of services and expanded the range of its activities. Take a wedding, for instance. The center will not only see to all of the usual details of the occasion, such as renting the tableware and doing all of the shopping, it will provide everything that goes into making a good old traditional-style wedding reception.

The Zarya Service Center, just as others like it, charges a fee for its services. The amount of the fee depends upon the service rendered. Fees for a one-time service are decided upon by the center and the client. For example, it costs 10 kopecks\* per square meter to have a window, its sill and its frame washed. The purchase and delivery of a gift to an address cost one ruble 50 kopecks. The charge for baby-sitting is 60 kopecks an hour and for caring for a disabled, sick or elderly person, 70 kopecks an hour.

If you want Grandfather Frost to visit and bring presents for your child, it costs five rubles. And at the appointed hour you'll hear the doorbell ring and your child cry out in glee, "It's Grandfather Frost!" ■

\*One kopeck is equivalent to approximately 1.2 cents (U.S.) at the official rate of exchange. There are 100 kopecks to one ruble.

## GREATER QUANTITY, BETTER

By Alexander Guber

**O**n many occasions I had the opportunity to discuss the service industries with Western colleagues. They invariably noted differences between the services that are available in the USSR and what they are accustomed to at home. They told me that, compared to Western standards, this sector is poorly developed in the USSR, but they didn't hesitate to add how fabulously inexpensive most of our services are. For instance, the cost of laundering a man's shirt is about 15 kopecks (20 cents). However, this second point is not widely known.

The main reason for our problems in this area lies in that we didn't begin to expand our service industries until much later than other economically advanced countries. Simply, there wasn't enough money. Also workers in this sector received lower wages than production workers and the facilities for training skilled personnel was lacking. Therefore, there was no incentive for workers in this sector to give their all on the job. However, over the past 15 years per capita real income in the country has doubled, which has resulted in an explosion in the service industries.

People are now buying more. A separate apartment for every family, a rarity in the mid-fifties, has now become the rule. Today eight out of every 10 urban families live in their own apartments. And many more refrigerators, TV sets, vacuum cleaners, automobiles, clothing and shoes are being produced in the country. The demand for laundries, dry cleaners, repair shops and car-care centers has risen accordingly.

Today the number of services that are available is greater and the quality is better. From 1960 to 1980 volume in this sector increased by 10 times, with the range of services provided growing 50 per cent in the past five years. Highly efficient modern appliances, schools for training personnel and up-to-date and convenient services are the name of the game today. Against this new background, the service industries are booming. They are developing especially fast in rural localities and the eastern sections of the country.



Alexander Guber



Valentin Moskalenko

# EXPANDING AND IMPROVING SERVICES

Valentin Moskalenko and Alexander Guber look at what's happening in the service industries in the Soviet Union.

There is a revolution under way in the trading sector, too. While maintaining the present level of goods turnover, it will cut by approximately 50 per cent the time people spend on shopping. This has been brought about by increasing the number of self-service enterprises and prepackaged goods, by installing modern check-out counters and comprehensive directories for customers' use in stores, and by expanding advanced sales.

Services, however, are defined differently in different countries. Most often a service is thought to be something for which a person must pay. However, in the USSR this is less so than in other countries. That doesn't mean that correspondingly our services are poorly developed, but rather that free public services ensure the equal access of all citizens to major benefits of social importance. For instance, Soviet citizens pay nothing for home medical care or other medical services, for education at all levels, for a new apartment from the state, and so on. And the list is continually growing.

The Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union set the task to increase working people's free time by expanding public services and easing the work of keeping up a home. And that is exactly what is happening.

## AN ALL-ROUND PROGRAM

By Valentin Moskalenko  
Doctor of Science (Economics)

**N**o one would dispute the importance of everyday services. That's not the problem. The problem lies in the disproportion between the demand for services and the facilities to provide them.

To speed up progress in all areas of the service industries and to more efficiently employ the advantages of a planned economy, the USSR State Planning Committee (Gosplan) has developed a comprehensive program for the expansion of consumer goods production and the sphere of everyday services for the period from 1986 to the year 2000.

Increasing the production of consumer goods and expanding the availability of services have always been envisaged by our five-year plans, and they will be included in them in future, and now the central economic planning agency is tackling the problem.

The objective of the comprehensive program is to promote this

branch of the national economy, to enhance its level and to ensure its accelerated growth as compared to the population's income and the production of consumer goods. Perfecting the service industries is ranked among the most important social tasks facing the USSR today.

Incidentally, the program deals only with the paid services that are available to the population. All basic services connected with public health care, education and professional training will remain state-subsidized. This principle is as firm as ever. As always, people will continue to pay for only a portion of everyday services like rent and utilities. These expenses amount to less than three per cent of the family budget. The part of the public consumption funds allocated to promote this sphere will continue to grow.

We began to develop an all-round program with what I would call a precise definition of its objective, that is, to compile a list of services that it would encompass. That became necessary for a number of reasons, including the diverse nature of everyday services, a lack of coordination in their implementation and other factors.

The program comprises an entire system of paid services, including all the basics: everyday transport and communication; accommodation and housing repairs;

facilities for children; sports, cultural and medical facilities; legal counseling and lawyers advice; state insurance and savings programs; and public catering facilities. The whole system of services, both on a national and regional scale, is receiving a face lift.

The comprehensive program envisages stepping up the paid services where the gap between demand and supply is the greatest. Among these services are appliance repair and maintenance shops, electronic equipment repair centers and home-decorating shops. Over the next few years we hope to fully satisfy the demand for car-care centers and maintenance garages, especially since of late the range of services in this area has lagged behind the number of privately owned cars in the country.

From 1986 to 1990 the number of telephones will increase by from 1.6 to 1.7 times as compared to the current five-year period, and five times by the year 2000. By then it is projected that all residents of small towns will have their own telephones installed in their homes. The rate of installation in rural areas will also increase rapidly.

Both urban and rural dwellers will have much better access to gas, electricity and sewerage. Incidentally, the planned improvements in these services will actually not be felt by the family budget at all, since on the average a monthly gas bill per capita is only 48 kopecks (58 cents), and the cost of one kilowatt-hour of electricity varies from two to four kopecks (2.4 to five cents).

Over the next five-year period, one to 1.2 million people will be receiving their own garden plots every year. Actually, every family wanting to have one will receive it free of charge. Naturally, this will entail drastically extending services by construction organizations, and the new program makes appropriate provisions.

The planned comprehensive measures to promote the development of the service industries are based on the assumption that both specialized and everyday service enterprises, which used to sell wholesale to organizations, will start rendering services to the population in addition to their main line of business.

The accelerated development of the industries and the enhancement of the quality of service will necessitate additional resources, and quite significant ones at that. Naturally, the program has outlined some of them. However, it places the main emphasis on an effort to find more efficient and economical ways for developing every particular type of service in the country.

# CHILDREN'S CLUB

By Lyudmila Kozlova  
Photographs by Vladimir Mayevsky



Nature studies, ballet and chess are only three of the 20 interest groups and hobby circles available at the Vinogradar Club.



**K**iev, capital of the Ukraine, is well known for the excellent services available in the city. As soon as a new residential district is completed, a number of public facilities, including a child-care center, a school, shops and a service center with a shoemaker, watch repair shop, a dry cleaner and a laundry, open up next to it.

Every residential district has its own children's club, too. One club in the city, the Vinogradar (Grape Growers) Club, is especially well known. You can see the children going there after school on weekdays and on Sunday mornings, toting paint boxes, musical instruments, ballet slippers, gym bags, cameras, carpentry tools and even fish bowls.

The hobby groups and other circles at the Vinogradar Club (there are 20 of them in all) are attended by 1,500 youngsters of all age groups. Some of the groups, such as the ballet studio and the chess and foreign language circles, charge fees ranging from three to five rubles a month; however, the majority of groups, such as the puppet, art, decorative painting, naturalists, travelers and international friendship clubs, are free.

On the staff of the club are 30 full-time instructors and a number of neighborhood assistants—retired

people and parents—who volunteer their help and receive no pay.

## Of Service to Others

Prior to World War II a renowned author of children's books, Arkadi Gaidar, wrote a short story titled "Timur and His Team." The hero of the story, Timur, is a boy of knightly character and a noble-minded and courageous captain. He and his team help people: They defend the weak, help the elderly and always rush to the aid of those in need of support and compassion. For almost 50 years teams of Timur's followers carrying his name have been continuing the noble cause.

There are around 300 Timurovets, as members of the team are called, at the Vinogradar Club, and these boys and girls are serving their community. Residents of the area, World War II veterans and elderly persons can turn to them for help, for real help, not just kind words. They can ask them to pick up a prescription at the local drugstore, borrow books from the library, go shopping, run errands, help plant flowers on their balcony or just keep them company for a while.

Anna Pesotskaya, head instructor at the club, says that youngsters who had been considered

"problem teenagers" frequently join the Timur Team and change their ways.

"Some of the boys and girls come from troubled families where their parents are having marital problems. These kids are hurt and angry. They are longing for something worthwhile to do but lack confidence in their own abilities. They are disappointed with adults and in need of a stable adult friend. Who can help them? Their schools, of course, and clubs like ours, provided the staff manages to find the right approach. The trust and confidence we place in the kids help them change for the better. We give them some of the most responsible jobs. As a re-

**"Some of the boys and girls come from troubled families where their parents are having marital problems. These kids are hurt and angry. They are longing for something worthwhile to do but lack confidence in their own abilities," Anna Pesotskaya, head instructor at the club, says. "The trust and confidence we place in the kids help them change for the better."**

sult, 18 youngsters, who had been registered as juvenile delinquents with the local militia, have become active members of our Timur Team."

The leader of the team, 14-year-old Igor Koritsky, enjoys everyone's respect. "Igor's strong and kind, and very honest," members of the team say. "He's the first one to offer any kind of assistance."

## Molding Character

"A child should be encouraged to be independent and industrious very early in life," Pesotskaya maintains. "The club is dead set against kids who are lazy and don't want to work, but we never close our door to them. Once they're here, among other club members whose guiding principle is being of service to others, their attitudes change."

One example is Ivan Davidenko, 12, who was always causing problems for his parents. He was constantly complaining about being bored and unable to find anything enjoyable to do. He had exactly the same attitude when he first joined the Chess Circle at Vinogradar. When he showed up at the club, a conflict arose almost immediately. One rule at the club states that all members take turns in being responsible for keeping things neat and clean. But when Ivan's turn came around, he refused pointblank, saying that he didn't mind others cleaning up the mess but he preferred doing something more enjoyable.

The club members voted that he had to either follow the rules or forfeit his membership immediately. It really didn't surprise anyone that Ivan decided to stay. Now he is competing, and sometimes winning, chess tournaments, even all-city ones.

"We consider it our responsibility to foster good qualities in our members. We believe it's essential for youngsters to understand, through their own experience, that it takes work to achieve anything good in life," says Pesotskaya.

Members of the Vinogradar Club have toured the country and have hosted visitors from abroad. They also correspond with their pen pals in other countries and share with them what they are learning at the club. ■

Moscow fashion  
designer and  
artist Aelita  
Lentovskaya.

## AN AELITA ORIGINAL

By Elya Vasilyeva  
Photograph by Anatoli Zybin

**T**here are many, too many, people on Earth who spend their whole lives working at jobs that bring them no satisfaction. They just labor on like drones. The thing that has always scared me the most is that I would be one of them," says Moscow fashion designer and artist Aelita Lentovskaya. However, she is so dedicated to her work that that shouldn't threaten her at all.

Aelita sees the strong point of contemporary art not in portraying objects but in depicting space and emotion through color, and that is exactly what she does with inspiration for 12 to 14 hours a day.

The artist's painted dresses are her most intriguing creations. Aelita came up with the idea about 20 years ago, and since then she has had nine exhibits in Moscow. The question put to her most often is, "How did you come up with the idea?"

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**"I've always despised ready-made clothes and detested printed fabrics, so it's only natural that I arrived at painting dresses," says fashion designer Aelita Lentovskaya. "My creations are rather novel, just like everything thoroughly personal in art, but the idea of painting with oils on clothing is nothing new. I borrowed it from Russian history. The first workshops of this kind were set up in Russia in the seventeenth century...."**

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"When it first occurred to me to paint on fabric just like on canvas—with oils and the utmost abandon of style and subject—I was just as shocked by the idea as anybody else," says Aelita. "I've always despised ready-made clothes and detested printed fabrics, so it's only natural that I arrived at painting dresses. My creations are rather novel, just like everything thoroughly personal in art, but the idea of painting with oils on clothing is nothing new. I borrowed it from Russian history. The first workshops of this kind were set up in Russia in the seventeenth century during the reign of Alexei Mikhailovich, the father of Peter the Great."

Aelita prefers working with silk, wool, cotton and linen—no synthetics for her. After she cuts out a dress, she spreads it on the floor or tacks it on a wall and starts to paint. Again breaking with convention, she doesn't use any primer or brushes. "My fingers are just as good," she says. Her fashions border on the primitive in simplicity—not to distract from the pattern. The only fashion requirement is convenience. The dress should be so comfortable that the person wearing it doesn't feel self-

conscious about being a masterfully done piece of sculpture.

Some clients prefer smooth textures that don't have the appearance of oil paintings; others favor bold strokes, obviously showing that the dresses have been painted.

The dresses are perfectly washable. When the oils have dried, they become permanent and can't be removed from the fabric.

### In the Family

It was no accident that Aelita took up art: She grew up in a house saturated with the most refined artistic culture. Her grandfather Mikhail Lentovsky, a well-known actor, later won renown for his unbridled fancy as an impresario and a director of gala shows. Active during several decades toward the end of the last century and at the beginning of this century, he was well known as Lentovsky the Magician throughout Russia and won the friendship of Anton Chekhov, who repeatedly wrote about him.

Aelita's father, Mikhail Kozhin, a prominent Bolshevik and a comrade in arms of Lenin, was a first-class architect and landscape artist. He was also responsible for many productions at the Bolshoi. Therefore, the home Aelita grew up in was always full of famous actors, stage directors and artists. And this had a life-long influence on her.

### "Cinderella" at the Palace Ball

Most of Aelita's clients are performing artists. A newspaper in Moscow wrote the following: "Aelita's creations mark the birth of a new genre in applied art: Concert gowns are more than beautiful dresses. They assume the quality of stage props, in fact. The painting focuses the audience's attention on the performer; the color scheme emphasizes the emotional content of the music."

When Bolshoi opera star Elena Obraztsova donned an Aelita original at a music festival in Versailles, France, she said, "I felt like Cinderella in the fairy godmother's ball gown."

After her U.S. tour, the well-known cello player Natalia Gutman said that wherever she appeared, in San Francisco, Boston, Kansas City or elsewhere, she felt that the impact of her music was enhanced by Aelita's art."

"Nothing is impossible in my dresses," the artist says.

She is bombarded with orders from theaters, orchestras and folk troupes. Are her designs intended solely for the performing arts?

"No way," Aelita says. "My creations are for the stage and for everyday wear. I design for famous prima donnas, career women, ordinary schoolgirls and little children. I have even done some folksy shirts for men. Whenever someone wears one of my creations, I consider it a minixhibition, a tiny triumph of my art."

## short story

### THIRST

By Vladimir Belyakov

**T**ortured by thirst, I ignored the crowded café and hurried to a row of soda machines, industrial masterpieces, which I approached with trepidation. I had the desire to salute them, as if I were a private approaching a general.

I received change for my 10-kopeck piece from the cashier and washed down a glass of water. Then I put a three-kopeck coin into the appropriate slot. The machine burst into song like a siren. I thought it would sing some sweet country tune, and the craved soft drink would pour bubbling into the proffered glass. But the melody stopped, and no soda came. The silence was oppressive. I pressed my ear to the machine's brightly painted metal side, like a doctor to a patient's chest, and knocked a gentle finger against it to remind the mechanical wizard of its duty. The blasted gadget replied with a cynical gurgle.

Touched to the quick, I was anxious to win the duel. After feeding the machine a handful of coins, I trotted off to change another 10-kopeck piece. I repeated the operation again with no results. Still another time, with the same outcome. The fever of the hunter seized me. The gadget devoured my hard-earned money like a child swallowing candy. Its appetite knew no limits.

I had the feeling I was being observed. As I turned around, I saw a boy—a problem teenager no doubt, I thought—who was waiting nearby for the outcome of the duel. His grin was getting on my nerves.

After another attack was repulsed by the machine, the boy sauntered up to me with a knowing air and said confidently: "You just don't know how to treat 'em, sir."

"So that's it, you think?" I mumbled, blushing.

"Sure. Give me a coin. I'll show you how to handle 'em. What machines respect is brute force. Can't be too easy with 'em. They're not like circus lions, you know," my benefactor rattled on as he squeezed a brand-new coin into the slot. A crushing blow of a fist against the polished side of the machine followed.

I gazed at him anxiously, lest he should spoil the beautiful gift of civilization. But my tormentor broke into a sweet melody and spit out a bubbling spray of soda and a handful of small change. The boy snatched it up as a reward.

I drank the soda in one gulp, the bubbles spotting my Sunday-best pants, and ran for dear life toward a water fountain nearby. My thirst was oppressive. ■



# MISS CONGENIALITY

By Oleg Karmaza  
Photograph by Vladimir Fedorenko

It all started when I was a little girl," says 25-year-old barber and hair stylist Yekaterina Bababekova—her friends call her Katya—about her present occupation. "But I took a circuitous route to get there." Katya grew up in a house filled with canvases and palettes: Her parents are artists. Everybody was sure she would follow in their footsteps and take up painting, too. But after graduating from a high school that offered an enriched course in English, she decided to enroll in the Philology Department of Moscow State University. Having developed an interest in English-language literature, she read Charles Dickens, William Faulkner and J.D. Salinger in the original, and she seemed destined to pursue a career in this field. But at the last minute she had second thoughts and

applied to the Institute of Graphic Arts, eager to design and illustrate children's books. After her first year she dropped her studies, however, and entered a barber school. Her father was aghast, but her mother offered silent support.

"Intuitively, I knew I'd make a good barber," she said. "When I was little, cutting dogs' hair was the most fun for me. Our poor dog was my most unfortunate victim: I gave him haircuts several times a week, until finally I turned my attention to the other dogs in the neighborhood. What has always amazed me is that the owners never objected. On the contrary, they asked my mother to let me trim their pets. I really enjoyed it. It was only child's play then, but it turned out to be my profession."

Katya was one of the top pupils in barber school, and after receiving her certificate, she continued her training at the Charodeika (Sorceress) Salon, the largest of Moscow's 148 salons, with a staff of around 100.

Not too long after Katya started working, someone suggested that she take part in a citywide young barbers contest. She timidly consented and, surprisingly, won.

"I'm always creating new haircuts and styles and trying them out on my regular customers. They seldom refuse, and it's no surprise: There's no difference in price between them and conventional cuts, from four to five rubles."

These are the prices charged in only the most expensive salons, where the top barbers and hair stylists work. Most of them do only high-fashion cuts. They earn 200 rubles a month and serve eight customers during a seven-hour shift. Services are also available in less chic shops, where a haircut or a shave and a facial massage cost 30 kopecks.

Two years after her winning the young barbers contest, Katya had the opportunity to demonstrate her skills at a top-class barbers competition.

"I just knew I was going to win. I had two years of training behind me, and I felt instinctively that I was in my best form—like an athlete does. That's not an idle comparison: The atmosphere at our contests resembles that of athletic competitions. Our coaches are by our side, a jury of experts judges us, and our results are computed like at athletic events."

Katya's intuition proved right. As city champion she would most likely go on to the 1984 International Competition in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. However, at first, the National Organizing Committee wouldn't list her among the six members of the national team. It said she didn't have enough work experience.

The committee's decision left Katya devastated and somewhat bitter. "I was ready to quit my job," she says. "But the very next day I went to the salon to cut my model's hair. I thought it would be my last day there and had my resignation and a farewell speech all prepared. As I showed my supervisor my prospective cut for 1986, I looked at it and thought: It's perfect for the international competition. I was just about to begin washing my model's hair, removing all traces of my efforts, when I heard someone behind me say: 'Is that your work?' 'It sure is,' I replied, turning around. There before me was the chairman of the selection committee for the national team. 'Good for you,' he said smiling. 'It's great,' and with that he left. After that I no longer felt wronged, just glad I had done a good job. I asked a photographer friend of mine to come and take some photos, which I now keep at home."

The chairman didn't forget the beautiful cut, and two days before the group was to leave for the international competition, Katya received a call informing her she had made the team. And she won the bronze. As she stood on the victory stand receiving her award, she grinned from ear to ear. Photographers took many pictures of the charming young barber and dubbed her with the unofficial title "Miss Congeniality."

\*One ruble is equivalent to approximately 1.20 dollars (U.S.) at the official rate of exchange. There are 100 kopecks to one ruble.

# THE RUSSIAN STEAM BATH

**F**or centuries the Russian steam bath has been a way of life and a place to meet. People have gone there for relaxation as well as for physical fitness. While a large number of people were dying from cholera and the plague in Europe, Russians were staying healthy and protecting themselves from disease with their traditional weekly visit to the steam bath. Many infectious diseases that inundated Europe did not cross Russia's border. Many believed it was the Russian steam bath that stemmed the tide.

Foreign travelers have always had a curiosity about the old Russian custom. Artists' drawings depict scenes of carefree and healthy men and women frolicking naked in the snow while their companions stayed bundled up in furs in their carriages. Foreign doctors have also admired the custom.

History and literature as well as people's memory show that the tradition hasn't changed since the age of Nester, the chronicler who lived 900 years ago, and the technique itself has undergone few



An artist's rendition of the Russian steam bath, which for centuries has been a place where people have gone to relax among friends and build up their body's resistance to disease.

alterations—steam is produced by throwing water over heated stones, while bathers pat themselves and each other with bundles of birch twigs. The twigs with the longest stems are considered the best for stimulating circulation. The benches in the steam room are made of wood from linden trees, which is soft and does not splinter—a very important consideration.

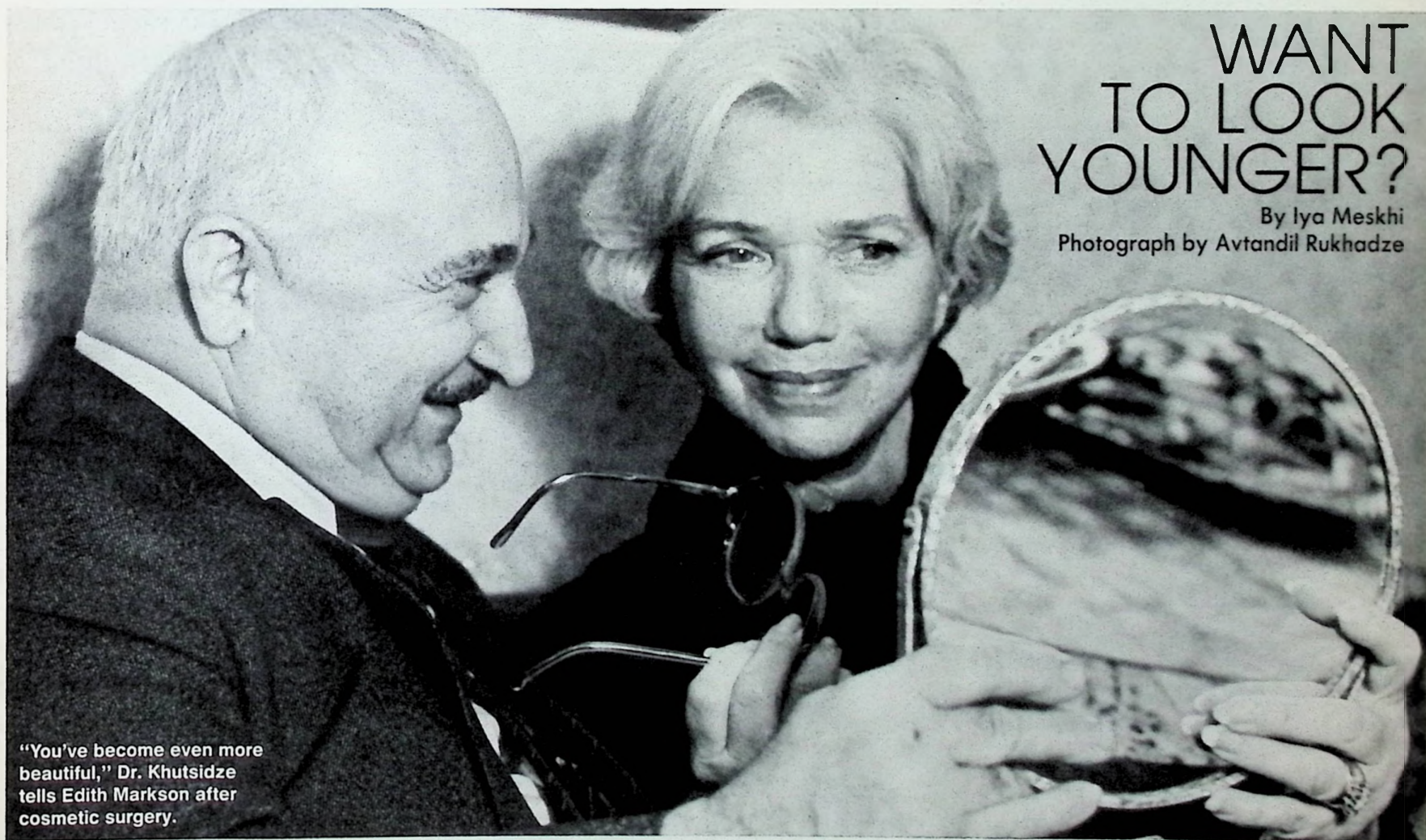
Over the last few decades the Russian bath has not faded into oblivion, though housing in the country has all amenities and modern plumbing. Even so, many bathhouses have given way to urbanization,

and now parks and apartment houses stand where they stood. There were 120 bathhouses in Moscow 30 years ago; now there are about 50.

In the past several years the steam bath has acquired renewed popularity, particularly the Finnish sauna, which is a simplified version of the Russian steam bath and cheaper to build.

Recent studies on the medicinal merits of the steam bath show that it stabilizes blood pressure, influences respiratory functions and helps patients recover from a heart attack.

Courtesy of the magazine *Ogonyok*



## WANT TO LOOK YOUNGER?

By Iya Meskhi

Photograph by Avtandil Rukhadze

"You've become even more beautiful," Dr. Khutsidze tells Edith Markson after cosmetic surgery.

**G**eorgian plastic surgeon Dr. Vakhtang Khutsidze helps people look younger. Just look at Edith Markson. Would you believe she is 72? Of course not. She is an attractive woman who looks many years younger than her actual age. That's what happens after treatment with Dr. Khutsidze, many of his satisfied patients maintain.

Edith Markson, who has spent several years in the Soviet Union, heard about Dr. Khutsidze's skillful

hands when she was in Tbilisi visiting a few of her theater friends. It was then she decided to have cosmetic surgery. Particularly since, as she told local reporters, a face lift would cost several thousand dollars back home in the States. In the USSR the operation costs from 30 to 100 rubles.\*

"I'm an ordinary American," Edith Markson said, "and I'm not responsible for official policymaking.

\*One ruble is equivalent to approximately 1.20 dollars (U.S.) at the official rate of exchange.

Making friends with people from many countries is the best human politics. And now I've added Vakhtang Khutsidze, the Georgian doctor, to my list of friends."

Twenty-five years ago Dr. Khutsidze was one of the first plastic surgeons in the Soviet Union to use the so-called sparing method in nose operations. Ever since then he has performed approximately thousands of these operations. His work, which requires expert surgical skill, has a lot in common with sculpture, the surgeon maintains.

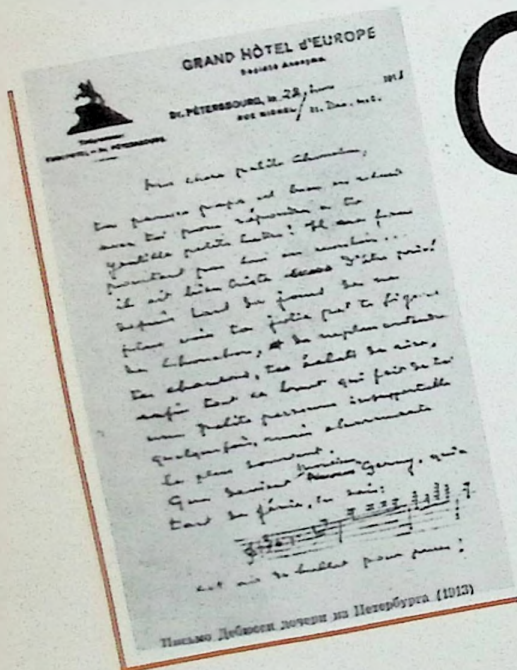
On any given day around 10,000 foreign tourists are registered at the 26 hotels in Leningrad, one of the most beautiful cities in the USSR and the world. One popular place to stay is the Hotel Yevropeiskaya. It is small by modern standards, but it is well known for its warmth and charm.

# THE HOTEL YEVROPEISKAYA

By Alla Belyakova  
Photographs by Mikhail Dmitriyev



The Hotel Yevropeiskaya is located in the heart of Leningrad.



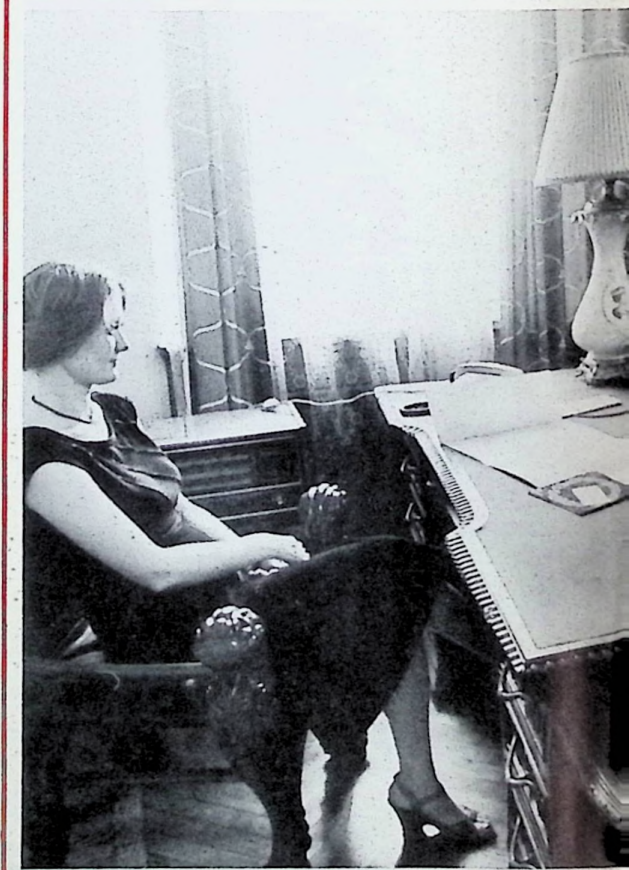
Claude Debussy's 1913 letter to his daughter on stationery bearing the monument to Peter I, the emblem of the Hotel Yevropeiskaya. Right: Among the hotel's prominent guests have been British actor Peter Ustinov and his wife Yelena.

On November 27, 1872, the following appeared in a newspaper in St. Petersburg (as Leningrad was called then):

The respectable Clay Hotel is undergoing a metamorphosis. With the formation of the Hotel Yevropeiskaya [Grand Hôtel d'Europe] a colossal building now stretches from Nevsky Prospekt to Mikhailovsky Square.

It comprises the former Clay Hotel, Mikhailovsky Tavern and Mr. Rogov's house. The new hotel has 260 rooms and a main entrance with a wide staircase made of white marble. A new device, a hoisting machine [elevator], has been installed on the premises.

The hotel has a restaurant, a Russian steam bath,



lavatories, a library, a bakery, . . . a bank and a telegraph office. . . .

One of the hotel's attractions is a summer restaurant in the shape of a ship. It has portholes and ladders that look like gangways with copper handrails. Actually, a tragedy at sea prompted the idea for the restaurant. The hotel owner's wife and three daughters were returning to Russia from Marseilles, France, by boat when they were involved in an accident and were lost at sea. To honor the memory of his family, the owner opened the restaurant and commissioned a marble sculptural ensemble of his three daughters, which also stands in the hotel.





**comfort  
and elegance**

A stay at the Hotel Yevropeiskaya is an enjoyable experience. All rooms and suites are different. Clockwise from top left: The Oriental Suite has an exotic flavor. The lounges are large and spacious, yet cozy and warm. One suite is furnished in the grand old style. The registration desk is located in the center of the lobby. More than 500 valuable art objects are placed throughout the elegant hotel.



#### Hilton's Motto

It was, I think, Conrad Hilton, the American hotel magnate, who said that for a hotel to be successful three conditions are needed: location, location and location.

Situated in the very heart of the city, the Hotel Yevropeiskaya meets this requirement without a doubt.

As you walk out of the hotel through the old heavy glass doors with the gilded monogram, you face the Philharmonic Society, which is located directly across the street. Coatless hotel guests in evening wear scurrying across the street to a sym-

phony concert are a common sight, even in winter. It's no wonder that many musicians of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries preferred staying at the Yevropeiskaya over any other hotel in the city.

In November 1913 French composer Claude Debussy was in St. Petersburg for a series of guest performances. A letter written to his daughter on stationery bearing the monument to Peter I, the emblem of the Hotel Yevropeiskaya, has been preserved to this day.

Igor Stravinsky made his last appearance in Leningrad in 1962. He stayed at the Yevropeiskaya. His concert in the hall of the Philharmonic Society caused a sensation: The audience begged for en-

core after encore for a very long time. Eventually the composer raised his hand, asking for silence. A stillness filled the hall when he began to speak. "I came to this hall for the first time with my mother two weeks after Pyotr Tchaikovsky's death," he said. "I sat in the last row then. Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony was being performed. Eduard Napravnik was the conductor. Now that I'm a very old man, I've returned to this hall. . . ."

Van Cliburn stayed at the Yevropeiskaya, in Room 104, after winning the International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1958. And in the summer of 1985, John Denver became the latest American musician to stay at the hotel.



However, it has been not only to musicians that the Yevropeiskaya has extended its hospitality.

#### Inseparable from the City's History

In the first years after the October 1917 Revolution, as a result of the war and economic decay, thousands of hungry young orphans in rags roamed

The Roof, one of three restaurants located in the hotel. All of them list Russian cuisine as "the specialty of the house."

the city's streets, hiding in unoccupied basements, abandoned railroad cars and even in graveyards. Soviet power did its best to save these children. Special orphanages for the homeless, starving kids were set up in the city. One of them was established at the Hotel Yevropeiskaya. You can just imagine how stunned the youngsters were when they found themselves living in de luxe hotel suites surrounded by carpets, bronze floor lamps and paintings in gilded frames. The top floor of the hotel was turned into a school staffed by the best teachers in the city. One of the pupils there was Boris Piotrovsky, the renowned scholar and archeologist and the present director of the Hermitage State Museum. Piotrovsky is also known for discovering the ancient state of Urartu, which archeologists call "the second Troy."

During World War II the hotel became an army hospital, which functioned from February 1942 until 1944. Over that period 1,500 members of the armed forces received treatment there. Today, not far from the hotel, a wartime sign still hangs on a building in Nevsky Prospekt. It reads: "Citizens! This side of the street is particularly dangerous during shellings!"

#### Valuable Antiques and Modern Services

The Hotel Yevropeiskaya has 225 rooms and suites, and it accommodates 30,000 guests annually.

Someone once called it a museum, and that's not far from the truth. Manager of the hotel Kapiton Gorokhov is quite proud of the valuable items, protected by the state, that are placed throughout the building. There are over 500 objects of art—marble and bronze statues, paintings and unique chandeliers, which, incidentally, are different in all of the rooms.

The hotel has carpenters, upholsterers and polishing experts, as well as other professionals on its staff. That is only natural since antiques demand constant care.

The nineteenth century walnut furniture in the Hunter's Suite is decorated with carved figures of deer, rabbits and other animals. The interior of the White Nights Suite is done in silvery-blue hues: light-colored furniture, elegant blue drapery and blue and white china.

It is said that all hotel rooms look alike. As for the Yevropeiskaya, all of its rooms and suites are different.

Of course, the fact that the hotel has a long and eventful history makes it especially attractive, but its strongest point is hospitality. As Gorokhov says, "A home away from home must still be cozy and warm."

The first people whom guests meet are the men and women working at the reception desk. "Politeness" and "professionalism" are their guiding words. All hotel personnel are required to speak three languages, and the waiters in its three restaurants must not only be knowledgeable about Russian cuisine, "the specialty of the house," but also be up on what's playing in the theaters and happening in the museums.

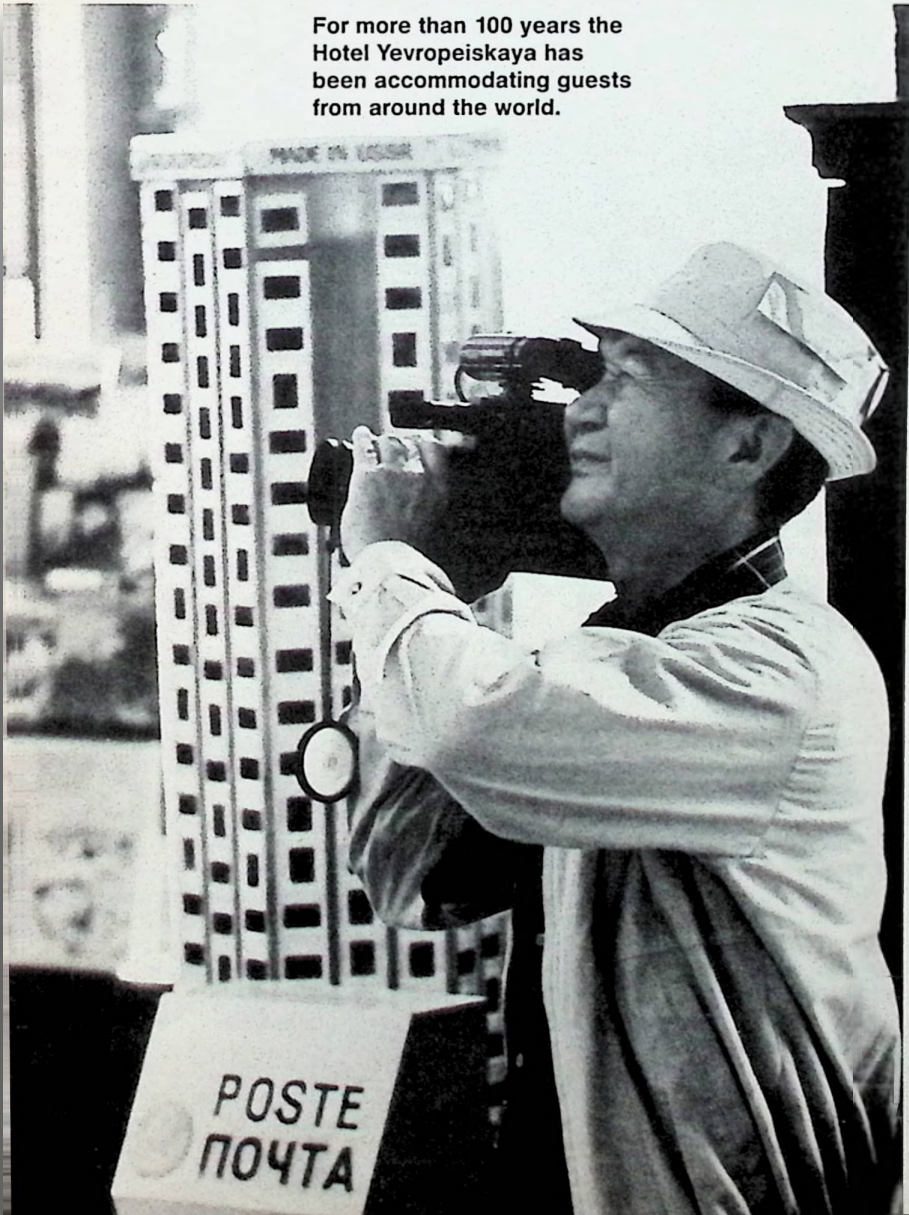
Located in the hotel's lobby is the Yevropeiskaya's service center, where guests can make reservations for a boat trip on Leningrad's canals and rivers, buy tickets to the famous Kirov Ballet Theater or make arrangements for any number of things.

The hotel is the busiest during the Russian Winter Festival, the annual Leningrad Spring Music Festival and the White Nights celebration in June, the peak of the tourist season. Getting a room then often requires advance reservations. "We must be doing something right," says hotel manager Gorokhov. "Our guests keep coming back." ■

entertainment,  
fine dining  
and just plain fun



For more than 100 years the  
Hotel Yevropeiskaya has  
been accommodating guests  
from around the world.



In the souvenir shop in the  
lobby. Above: The floor  
show at the Sadko Restaurant,  
a popular night spot.



## history

One result of the Napoleonic Wars was the revolutionary fever that swept Europe. In 1820 revolution broke out in Spain, followed by Greece, France and Belgium. In 1825 Russia, too, began to feel the effects of the times when its valiant sons gathered in Senate Square in the Russian capital to overthrow the foundations of the Empire. Presented here is a synopsis of a book about these heroes by Academician Militsa Netchkina.



The five leaders of the December uprising—(from left to right) Pavel Pestel, Kondrati Ryleev, Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin, Sergei Muravyov-Apostol and Pyotr Kakhovsky—were sentenced to death by hanging. They were executed at the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg at dawn on July 13, 1826.

# THE DECEMBRISTS

**T**he people who paved the way for the Russian Revolution, who rose up in arms against the autocracy and serfdom, became known as the Decembrists because of the date of their uprising: December 14, 1825—160 years ago.

The main social task at that time was to abolish feudal oppression and absolute monarchies—those mutually supporting social institutions that hampered progress.

The Napoleonic Wars ushered in a revolutionary situation in Europe. In 1820 revolution broke out in Spain, followed by an uprising in Naples and public unrest in Piedmont and then the Greek revolution in 1821. France and Belgium were swept by revolution in 1830. Germany and Italy were in ferment. Saxony, Bavaria, Parma, Modena and Romagna became scenes of armed rebellions. Russia joined the general European unrest when in the winter of 1825 its valiant sons gathered in Senate Square in St. Petersburg, the Russian capital, to overthrow the foundations of the Empire.

Vladimir Lenin was later to call the Decembrists the "best people from

among the nobility." Thanks to them, he said, "Russia witnessed the first revolutionary movement against czarism in 1825."

### Russia in the Decembrist Era

The Decembrist movement arose from contemporary Russian reality. It was nurtured not only by progressive Western philosophy, Western revolutionary example and acquaintance with Western life during Russian military campaigns during the Napoleonic Wars, but also it was the fruit of Russian social development. Step by step, the Decembrists realized ever more clearly that opposition to the autocracy and to serfdom was the main purpose of their activity. Their views developed as they analyzed their life on landed estates of the nobility that they had grown accustomed to since boyhood and as they pondered the events of the Patriotic War of 1812, in which they had shed blood repelling Napoleon's attack against Russia. Russian military campaigns contributed a great deal to the Decembrist social philosophy. As the Russian

army liberated Europe from Bonapartist rule, it witnessed the "war of nations and kings," that is, the popular struggle against feudal oppression.

The monarchy and serfdom acted as brakes on the nation's productive forces. The peasants were the property of the landlords; the peasants had no right to leave the estates. Popular unrest began after the 1812 veterans came back from the front. "We came out of that hell alive only to have to toil for the landlords once again. We saved the motherland from the foreign tyrant only to be bullied by the tyrants at home!" was heard everywhere. The soldiers who took part in the 1813-1815 campaigns saw countries without serfdom, and when they got back to their native villages, they told everyone about what they had seen.

Muravyov, was already a captain of the Army General Staff at the age of 24.

At first the society aimed to abolish serfdom alone. Soon, however, another goal was added: to oppose the autocracy. This goal was initially expressed as a demand for constitutional monarchy.

Fearing the horrors of peasant rebellion, the revolutionary nobility intended to work for the people without their help. In the interregnum they planned to put forward their demand for a constitution and a representational form of government.

Societies appeared and disappeared, and their members still had only vague ideas about their goals and how to attain them. Nonetheless, membership grew steadily and exceeded 200 in 1818. A general assembly in 1820



*The December Uprising of 1825 at Senate Square in St. Petersburg. Water color by Kolman (1930s). State Historical Museum, Moscow.*

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**Step by step, the Decembrists realized ever more clearly that opposition to the autocracy and to serfdom was the main purpose of their activity. Their views developed as they analyzed their life on landed estates of the nobility . . . .**

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The peasant and military settlers' unrest was gaining momentum. Decembrist Alexander Bestuzhev was later to say this about the situation in his affidavit: "Discontent showed on every face. Passers-by shrugged their shoulders in the street. Whispers were heard everywhere: 'What will come of it all?' Every social stratum was in ferment—the government alone sweetly slumbered on the fire-breathing volcano."

#### Secret Societies Arise

The atmosphere of the times was conducive to close intellectual contacts among people of like minds. Everything they saw around them called for united action. One by one, close friendly circles, the forerunners of secret societies, arose.

The first secret society, organized in St. Petersburg in 1816, had only 30 members, for the most part young officers whose friendship went back to the grim days of 1812 and to Western military campaigns. Their leader, Alexander

was the scene of heated debate on the form of the future government; many speakers came out in favor of a republic instead of a constitutional monarchy.

In 1821 the basic secret societies, the Southern Society in the Ukraine and the Northern Society in St. Petersburg, were formed. Their leaders, Pavel Pestel and Nikita Muravyov, drew up the documents for the program of the Decembrist movement, the *Russian Law* and the *Constitution*, respectively.

#### The Phalanx of Heroes

Alexander Herzen (1812-1870), a prominent Russian writer and revolutionary journalist who organized Russian revolutionary propaganda abroad, called the Decembrists "a phalanx of heroes." "Each one of them," he wrote "was every inch a knight, made of pure steel." The Decembrist movement did indeed bring together the best in Russia.

Pavel Pestel (1793-1826) was perhaps the most outstanding figure in the ►

movement. The son of the Governor General of Siberia, he was educated abroad and later in Russia, at the St. Petersburg College of Pages, where his knowledge and intellect impressed his professors. Emperor Alexander I admired his brilliant performance at the final examination, which he honored with his presence. While Pestel was still in his late teens, he took part in the military operations of 1812 and was severely wounded in the famous Battle of Borodino. For his valor, Field Marshal Kutuzov presented him with a gold sword, the highest award. The young officer took part in the ensuing western campaign; it was then that he first gave thought to the idea of revolutionary change. He joined the first secret society and formulated its rules with his comrades. Pestel combined outstanding intellect with rare organizational abilities and a will of iron. His friends were later to recall his gift for oration. It seemed as if there was no force that could dispute his reasoning. The Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, a personal acquaintance of Pestel, wrote: "He was a clever man in every sense, one of the most original minds I ever knew."

In 1821, the same year that Pestel founded the Southern Society and became one of its leaders, he was promoted to the rank of colonel and entrusted with the command of a regiment. A military force was exactly what he had been dreaming of in order to start an armed uprising. He devoted more than 10 years to writing the *Russian Law* and a draft constitution of the Russian republic. Undoubtedly the most gifted and the most influential of the Decembrists, Pestel would have been appointed head of state by his comrades had they won.

The other leader of the Southern Society, Sergei Muravyov-Apostol (1796-1826), was the son of the Russian Ambassador to Spain. He was educated in Paris. His first encounter with Russia was when he went home as an adolescent. This proved a severe shock for him because his mother had concealed the existence of serfdom from him. Like Pestel, he took part in the War of 1812 and later operations abroad. Lieutenant Muravyov-Apostol, a company commander adored by his subordinates, took part in the 1820 rebellion in the Semyonov Guards Regiment, for which he was transferred from St. Petersburg to the Ukraine, where he later headed the Chernigov Regiment uprising.

Kondrati Ryleyev (1795-1826), an outstanding poet, was the central figure in the Northern Society. He retired from the army as a lieutenant to switch to public and business activities. A juror of the Central Criminal Court in St. Petersburg and manager of the Russian-American Trading Company, he co-edited with Alexander Bestuzhev the revolutionary annual *Polyarnaya zvezda* (*Polar Star*). His apartment served as the meeting place for the secret society, to which he drew many members. A man of unusual energy and loyalty, he displayed utmost efficiency and courage during the events in Senate Square even though he realized that the uprising was doomed. Ryleyev was true to his civic duty to the very end.

Alexander Bestuzhev (1797-1837), one of the key Northern Society activists, was equally popular with the military and literati of St. Petersburg. He was a captain of the Life Guards and a coeditor of *Polar Star*, as well as the author of many poems, tales and criticisms. With his brother Mikhail, he led the rebellious Moscow Regiment—Russia's first revolutionary troops—to Senate Square. Demoted to the ranks after the uprising was suppressed, he was sent to the Caucasus, where the Russian Empire was waging war against the mountaineers. Using Marlinsky as a nom de plume, he gained literary fame as the author of numerous popular romances. His remarkable courage forced the Emperor to give him a commission. In the summer of 1837 he clashed with mountaineers at Adler Point. They literally hacked him to pieces with their sabers. His body was never recovered.

Mikhail Lunin (1787-1845) was loyal to his cause and passionately believed in it to his dying day. A participant in the Patriotic War of 1812 and Western campaigns, he was one of the founding fathers of the first secret societies and an activist in the Southern and Northern ones. Lunin was convicted for his activities and sentenced to 20 years of hard labor in Siberia. Even there, he remained a sworn enemy of czarism. His letters to his sister, which were circulated throughout the country in handwritten copies, were examples of daring antigovernment propaganda. In 1841 when the authorities got a copy of Lunin's book *A Review of the Russian Secret Society: 1816-1826*, they imprisoned him in Akatui, a horrible place near the Nerchinsk mines in Siberia, for his scathing criticism of the official report on the Decembrist movement. Resolute to the end, he died shortly after he arrived at Akatui.

### Interregnum

In November 1825 Emperor Alexander I died unexpectedly in Taganrog, in southern Russia. His brother Nicholas, a cruel, bullying despot who was hated by the military, was next to ascend the throne. The oath was to be taken on December 14. The news that the uprising could not be postponed any longer came like a thunderbolt. The government had the depositions of two traitors, and mass arrests could start any minute. The Northern Society had to strike first.

In the wee hours of December 14, the conspirators gathered at Ryleyev's place to work out a plan for the uprising. Insurgent troops were to gather in the morning in Senate Square under the command of society members. Prince

Sergei Trubetskoi, a colonel in the Guards, was elected the leader. By force of arms, the insurgents were to prevent the senators from taking the oath and to make them declare that the czarist government was deposed and issue a revolutionary Manifesto to the people of Russia announcing that the old system was being replaced by a provisional revolutionary government, serfdom was being abolished and all citizens were equal before the law. The Manifesto proclaimed freedom of the press, freedom of religion and freedom of work; it introduced public trial by jury and universal military service instead of the recruiting system. It envisaged the formation of a people's militia and canceled poll taxes and arrears on them. All government posts were to be elective.

The moment the revolutionary troops encircled the Senate building, a delegation from the secret society was to enter and force the senators to submit. At the same time several detachments were to march to the Winter Palace and to sequester the Imperial family. Then the Constituent Assembly was to be convened to make final decisions on the abolition of serfdom, on the land question and the form of government. If the majority voted for the republic, that would seal the fate of the Imperial family. There the Decembrists' opinions differed. Some supported the idea of regicide, others thought the family should be exiled abroad. If the Constituent Assembly declared Russia a constitutional monarchy, a new emperor was to be elected from the Imperial family. The conspirators also meant to take possession of the Peter and Paul Fortress, the stronghold of the autocracy in St. Petersburg and the symbol of its military might.

The plan fell through even before daybreak. Pyotr Kakhovsky, who was entrusted with killing Nicholas, reneged, afraid to appear a lone terrorist. Yakubovich, appointed commander of the troops to storm the Winter Palace, refused to carry out his mission, fearing that the soldiers and sailors might kill Nicholas and his relatives. An ardent opponent of regicide, the officer could not take the responsibility upon himself. The situation was critical, and there was not a minute to waste. Day was breaking.

### The Uprising

Before daybreak, officers from the secret society gathered at the barracks to arouse the soldiers. The Moscow Regiment, with its banners streaming, was the first to appear in Senate Square. The guns were loaded; the ammunition belts were filled with live cartridges. The first revolutionary detachment in Russian history was led by Alexander Bestuzhev. In front of the monument to Peter the Great, the regiment formed a square—a well-tested battle formation, convenient for attack and defense alike.

At 11 A.M., Count Miloradovich, Governor General of St. Petersburg, approached the insurgents on horseback to persuade them to return to their barracks. A hero of the War of 1812 and immensely popular with the soldiers, Miloradovich was a good speaker. It was quite possible that he would make the regiment hesitate. The uprising was imperiled before it began. The Count ignored the repeated demands of revolutionary officers to withdraw and continued to speak until Yevgeni Obolensky, chief of staff in the insurrection, wounded him with a bayonet. At the same time Kakhovsky shot Miloradovich. The Governor General fell, fatally wounded.

Several minutes passed in suspense before it became known that the Senate had already taken its oath to Nicholas I and that the members had already gone home. The insurgents were standing in front of an empty house! The initial goal of the uprising was not achieved. Everyone was anxiously waiting for Prince Trubetskoi, their leader, who, tormented by indecision, was marking time at the General Staff office. He cautiously walked out and looked around the corner to see if many troops had gathered in the square, and then he went back again. Ryleyev looked for him everywhere but could not find him. The insurgents were sure that he had some good reason, crucial to their cause, for his absence—but it was a downright betrayal of his comrades because of indecision.

Meanwhile, the troops that were loyal to the new Emperor were surrounding the rebels in the square. The Emperor's troops made several attacks, which were repelled, one by one, with volley fire. The vanguard file, assisted by volunteers from the crowd of onlookers, disarmed the police. The men who were building St. Isaac's Cathedral threw sticks and stones at Nicholas and his retinue. Many times thereafter Nicholas was to repeat to his brother Michael, "The most surprising thing about that episode was that we got away with our lives."

Nicholas sent two bishops to persuade the insurgents to lay down their arms, but the soldiers merely shooed them away after much jeering. The bishops hesitated—and suddenly took off at a run when they saw colossal reinforcements approaching the rebels. From the right, moving along the frozen Neva River, a Grenadier detachment of the Life Guards was breaking through the troops loyal to the Emperor. The Naval Guards were entering Senate Square from the opposite side. In a matter of a few minutes the revolutionary forces had multiplied by four! All in all, there were about 3,000 insurgent privates in the square, plus 30 officers, all armed to the teeth and well supplied with cartridges. Prince Yevgeni Obolensky was promptly elected leader of the uprising in place of Trubetskoi. Three times he tried to convene a council of war, but it was too late. Meanwhile, Nicholas had gathered four

Continued on page 48

On July 26, 1985, the giant AN-124 cargo transport plane flew at an altitude of 10,750 meters with a cargo weighing a total of 171,219 kilograms. This surpassed by more than 60 tons the previous world record.

# RUSLAN

By Nikolai Dombkovsky  
Photographs by Anatoli Khrupov

ON THE  
GROUND  
AND IN  
THE AIR



The cockpit crew of the Ruslan—the commander, copilot, navigator, radio operator and two flight engineers. On long hauls a relief crew is also on board. Below: The giant transport plane can fly for 16,500 kilometers without having to land. It is also capable of landing at modern urban airports as well as remote airfields.



**Altitude: up to  
12,000 meters  
Flying range:  
16,500 kilometers  
without landing**

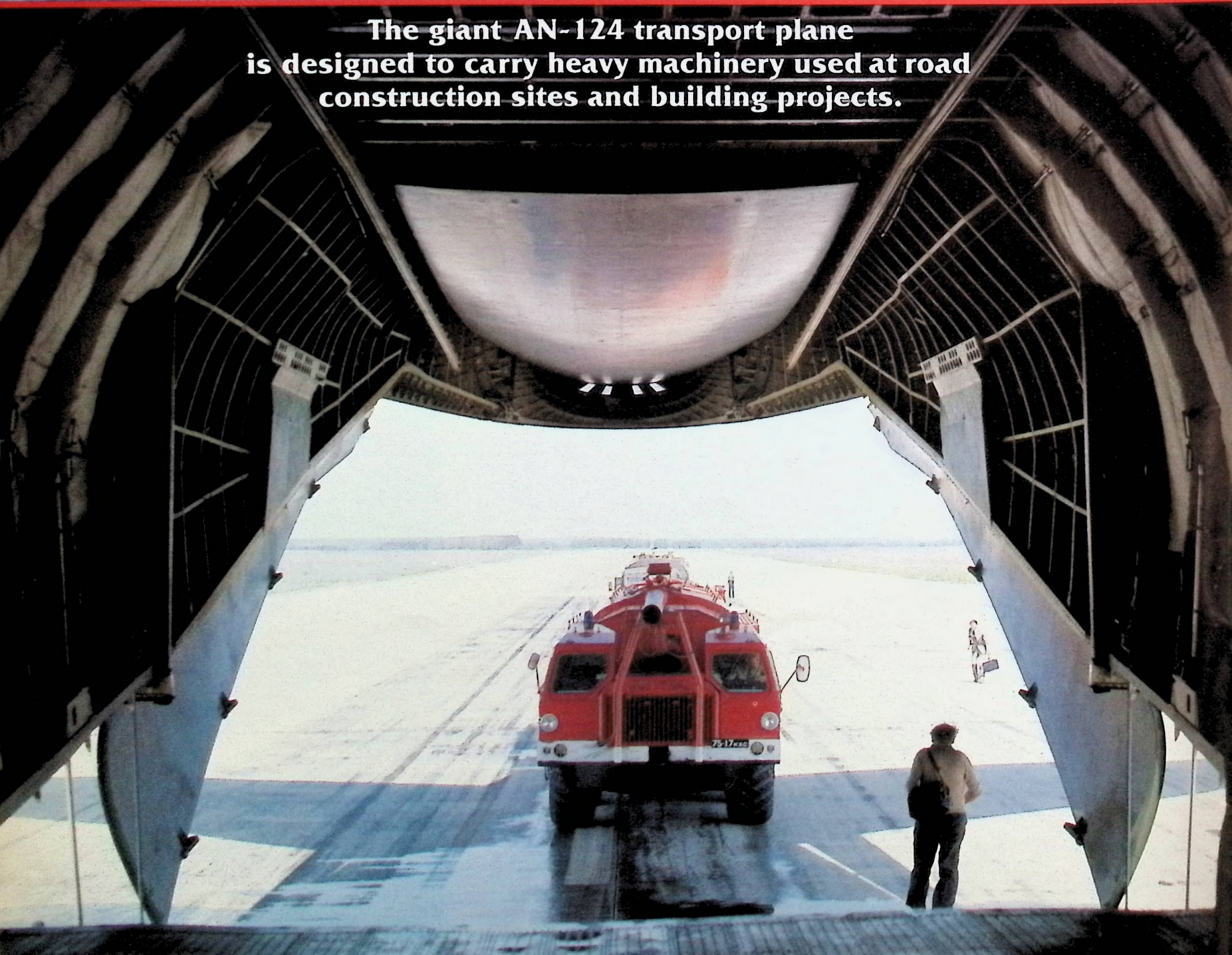
**Maximum speed:  
850 kilometers  
per hour  
Lifting capacity:  
170 metric tons**

**Cargo compartment:  
30 meters long by 6.5 meters  
wide by 4.5 meters high  
Number of  
passengers: 88**



## **RUSLAN**

**The giant AN-124 transport plane  
is designed to carry heavy machinery used at road  
construction sites and building projects.**





**A** short signal sounds and the Ruslan, the giant AN-124 cargo transport, begins to pull in its undercarriage. In just a minute it lies nearly flat on its belly on the concrete runway. The nose section of the fuselage opens and moves upward from the pilot's cabin. When the back section is swung open and the loading ramps are lowered, the Ruslan is ready to accept cargo.

Imagine a huge tunnel to which wings and a tail unit have been attached. This is how the transport plane looks. The cargo compartment is over 30 meters long, 6.5 meters wide and 4.5 meters high.

The Ruslan was designed to carry heavy, sophisticated machinery and units that are completely assembled and ready for use at road construction sites and building projects. The Ruslan's lifting capacity is 170 metric tons, which is much greater than other planes.

These are not the only statistics that are impressive. The plane can attain a speed of up to 850 kilometers per hour and fly at altitudes up to 12,000 meters. Its flying range is 16,500 kilometers, and it can take off and land on grass airfields as well as on conventional runways.

In addition to its immense cargo compartment, the plane can accommodate 88 people in its passenger compartment, which has everything usually found on comfortable airliners.

On the same level as the passenger compartment but nearer the cockpit is the relief crew's "apartment." It is equipped with a kitchen, toilet facilities and two bedrooms, which can each sleep three people. On long hauls two crews fly on board the plane; while one is working, the other is resting.

The pilot's cabin is quite different from ordinary cockpits and resembles the captain's bridge on a ship. The cabin is spacious, well lit and designed for six members of the crew—the commander, copilot, navigator, radio operator and two flight engineers. Since on-board computers help process flight data, fewer instruments are needed in the cockpit.

Is there a need for giant planes? Absolutely. During its first years of operation, the Antei (Antaeus), the predecessor of the Ruslan, already has shown the extreme usefulness of aircraft giants for the national economy. It wouldn't have been possible to develop Siberia and the North and tap their resources at the current level without the Antei. However, planes with still greater lifting capacities were required. But are they feasible?

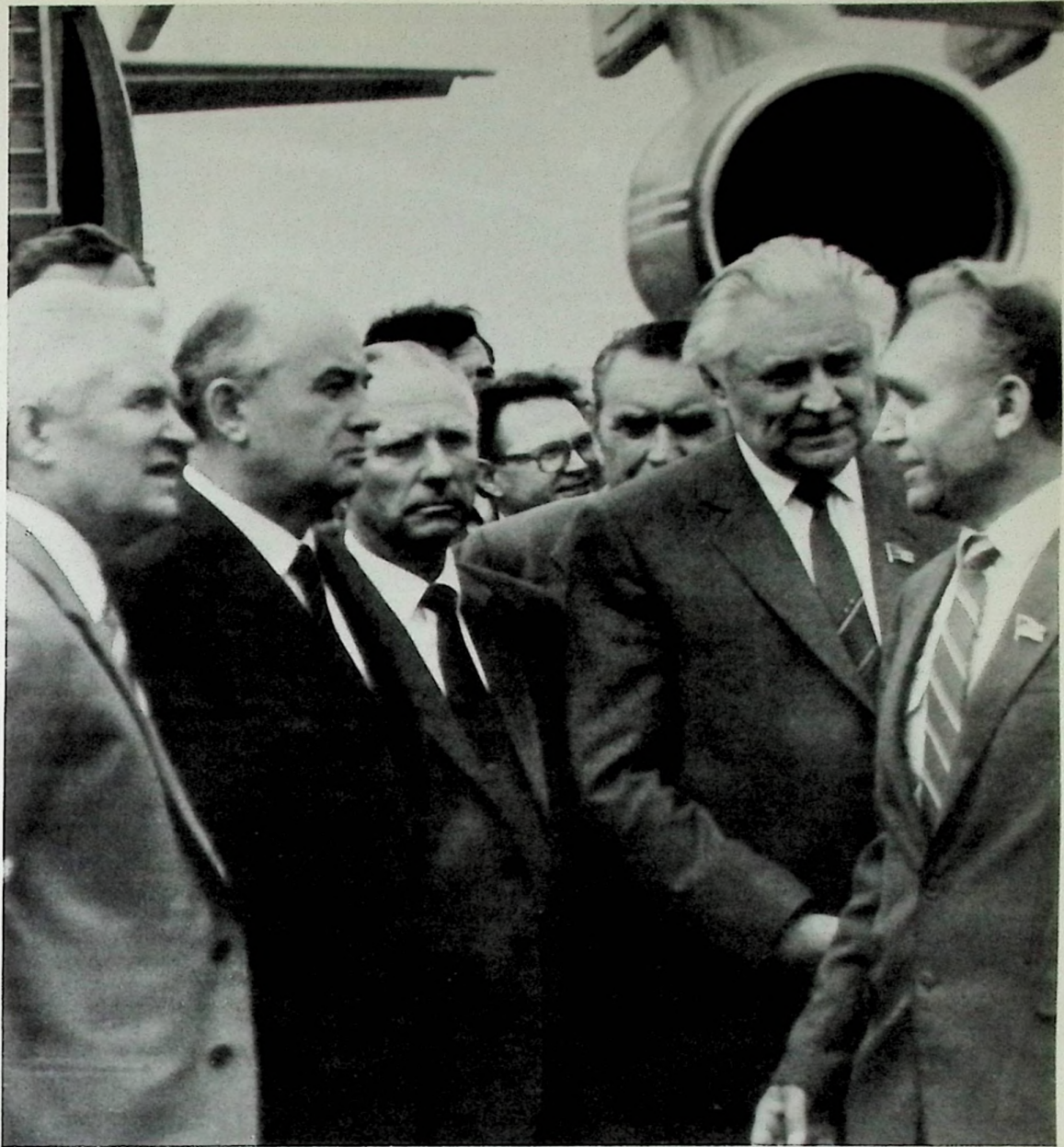
Aircraft designers around the world know that as the size of a plane increases, its total weight grows at a much faster rate than its load-lifting capacity. At a certain point, however, the size of the plane reaches a limit: If it were any larger, it wouldn't be able to take off at all, even without cargo. For many years aircraft designers maintained that a plane's cargo-carrying capacity couldn't surpass 100 to 110 metric tons. Improved technology, however, allowed Soviet aircraft designers to solve the problem.

"But the task we faced not only called for new technology," said Pyotr Balabuyev, chief designer of the Ruslan. "We had to solve a range of problems unprecedented in world practice, above all, organizational problems. Thousands of design offices, ministries and enterprises took part in developing the Ruslan. Cooperation played a very important role.

"Aerodynamics, materials, computers and many, many other things posed very acute problems that couldn't be solved by conventional means. A fundamentally new approach was needed."

This approach was also being studied at a Kiev design office, which is world famous for its innovations.

The AN-24 (1959) was the world's first plane assembled with glue and welding. The Antei, demon-



On a visit to Kiev last summer, Mikhail Gorbachev (second from left), General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, met with Kiev aircraft builders. Pyotr Balabuyev (right), chief designer of the Ruslan, reported the sensational results of the new plane. Standing beside Balabuyev is Vladimir Shcherbitsky, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

strated at the 1965 Air Show at Le Bourget, France, was the world's first large-bodied plane using superlarge, monolithic parts. Its cargo compartment is 33 meters long, 4.4 meters wide and 4.4 meters high, and it has a cargo capacity of over 80 metric tons. The Ruslan is the design office's latest creation, which has already set 21 world records.

Of great importance in aviation is the ratio of the payload to the weight of the plane. In this respect the Ruslan is unique. To achieve this ratio, millions of computations had to be carried out by the Kiev design office, and some say computers rightly deserve some of the credit for creating the Ruslan.

It's true computers made a large contribution, but a lot more went into designing the plane. Designers at the Kiev office like to relate one particular story connected with the Ruslan. The plane's outboard wings—each more than 30 meters long—were produced in another city. This prompted the question of how to transport them to Kiev. They couldn't come by rail—the wings are too bulky. And they couldn't arrive by water either since that would require rebuilding hundreds of bridges, crossings and overpasses.

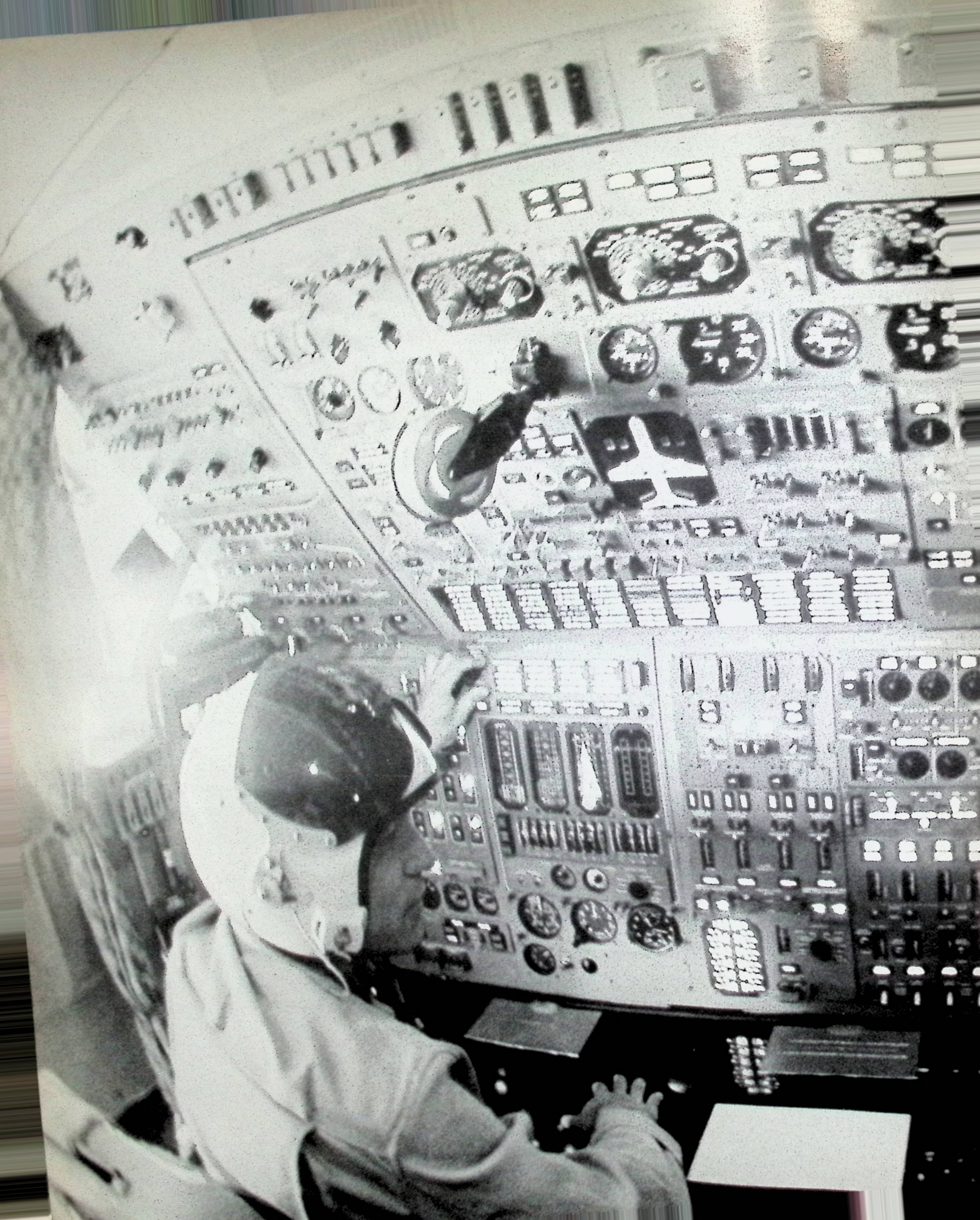
The way out of the dilemma was discovered by Balabuyev. He suggested that the outboard wings be transported on the Antei's fuselage. Precise calculations and wind tunnel experiments showed that that would be possible. The operation was a complete success, and a new method for carrying outsize cargoes was devised.

"Prepare for takeoff," comes the command.

Vladimir Tersky, the plane's commander, presses a button on the instrument panel and the indicators light up. The computers now begin working, checking all of the Ruslan's systems, units and devices. If something isn't right, warning signals sound, and the exact spot of the malfunction is flashed on a display screen.

After several minutes an inscription appears on the screen: "Ready for takeoff."

Receiving clearance for takeoff from the control tower, Tersky eases the control lever, or the stick, forward. The noise level in the plane slightly increases and the powerful forward thrust presses the passengers gently into their seats. The four superpowerful and supereconomical engines gracefully lift the 405-metric-ton giant off the runway. ■



## RUSLAN

The pilot's cabin is quite different from ordinary cockpits and resembles the captain's bridge on a ship. The cabin is spacious, well lit and designed for six.



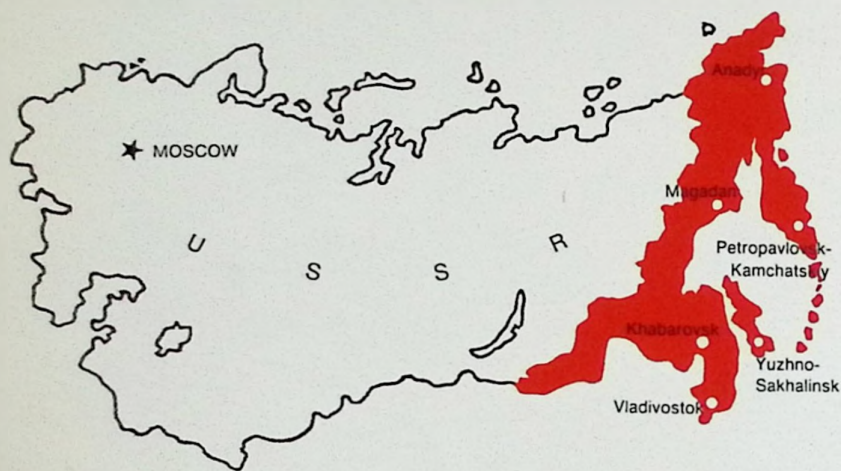
## in focus: the soviet far east

In most cities you walk along streets without realizing that a forest, a steppe or an ocean is nearby. This is not the case, however, in Vladivostok. Here the ocean can be seen from every terrace and cliff, between the houses and through the trees. The names of bus stops sound like sailing directions: Diomid Bay. . .

# VLADIVOSTOK

## A CITY BY THE OCEAN

By Yuri Savenkov  
Photographs by Yuri Muravin



**V**ladivostok's emblems are an anchor and a Ussuri tiger, the anchor for the Earth's largest ocean, the Pacific, and the tiger for its largest land mass, Eurasia. Here, by the ocean, ends the world's longest railroad, the Trans-Siberian Railroad. It stretches for 9,289 kilometers—nearly the distance from the North Pole to the Equator. The railroad ends where the ocean begins.

### The Beginning

On a fine July morning in 1860, a sailing ship, *The Manchur*, arrived in the taiga-overgrown bay to land the first settlers in these vast and poorly developed parts. They founded Vladivostok, which became the largest port in the area. Soon the settlers celebrated the birth of the first resident of Vladivostok. Yevdokia Gorelko gave birth to a daughter, who was christened Nadezhda, which means "hope". Last year during Vladivostok's 125th anniversary celebration the city's 600,000th resident, Dima Rybakov, was born. His last name, Rybakov (*ryba* is Russian for "fish"), is fitting for a young man who comes from a seaport that produces nearly half of the country's seafood. In the best Vladivostok traditions, Dima's father is studying to become a ship captain.

Vladivostok is situated on the long and narrow Muravyëv-Amurskiy Peninsula, which separates the Amur and Ussuri bays. The coast is indented with lots of small inlets, capes, bays and cliffs. In the south, the peninsula is slashed by the Golden Horn Bay. Deep and curving, the bay is a majestic sight. One woman who came 20 years ago for a visit and stayed says, "I can't go to sleep until I have marveled at its beauty." And this is what the famous Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen said when he visited Vladivostok in the early part of this century: "The city is very beautiful from the sea. Laid out on terraces, it very much reminds you of Naples, only there is no Vesuvius in the background. But the harbor is wonderful and the islands very picturesque."

### A Mild Climate, a Warm Sea

The Sun, rising over the ocean, is shining on the bay and the ships in it, ships with newly painted sides reflecting light spots as well as veteran ships that have traveled far and wide. "Ships that have plied half the world's oceans moor at our streets," they say in Vladivostok. The streets do indeed begin at the pier. From here they climb up the hills. In our age of urbanization, cities usually "live" outside the environment. In most cities you walk along streets without realizing that a forest, a steppe or an ocean is nearby. This is not the case, however, in Vladivostok. Here the ocean can be seen from every terrace and cliff, between the houses and through the trees. The names of bus stops sound like sailing directions: Diomid Bay, Cape Churkin. . .

Architects have tried to have the houses blend in with the relief. The houses climb the hills, now following their curves, now spreading to reveal the sea. Recently, houses began to be built of blocks suited to different forms. The

most popular are terraced houses, where the roof of a lower building forms the yard or the solarium of a higher-standing house. Housing construction is making big strides in Vladivostok. Twenty times more housing has been built here in the past 25 years than in the preceding century.

The expanding residential areas run right up to a preserve of century-old taiga forest. What next? Start cutting it down? The city council decided to bypass it, so the old and the new parts of the city will be separated by taiga. Besides, to save space, houses have been growing taller. Soon 24-story buildings will go up in Vladivostok. Several years ago the city council passed a decision to prohibit the construction of industrial plants in the city in an attempt to protect the environment. The council recently decided to relocate a dozen enterprises outside city limits.

It's only 15 minutes by commuter train to the parks and the beaches, where the temperature is always a couple of degrees warmer. A mild climate, a warm sea. Just think, in the northern part of the Far East the earth is always frozen, while in the Maritime Territory it's overgrown with subtropical plants. The glacial period that started a million years ago spared this region and some of its plants, like the Amur velvet, the Manchurian nut, eleutherococcus and ginseng. Still, it did grow colder, and northern tree species like the fir, the larch and the birch appeared in the Ussuri taiga. Junglelike lianas twine around the fir trees here, and you may even see an Amur python up in a branch looking down on a chipmunk.

### The Call of the Sea

As many as 100,000 of the 600,000 residents of Vladivostok are sailors. Then there are the dockers, the shipyard workers and the workers at the fish-processing plants.

I remember a Saturday morning in the apartment of a captain of a tramp steamer. He was just back from a voyage. The apartment was filled with the aroma of hot coffee and strawberries. His wife was making breakfast. The captain's four-year-old grandson, making up for Grandpa's long absence, showered him with questions. How was the trip back from America? Did he outwit the typhoon by outrunning it? When would Grandpa take him to steer his ship? But you promised, remember?

The captain sighed. His sons were away. The eldest is an acoustics engineer on a research ship, tracking schools of fish and recording fish "voices." Another is a pathologist. The third son is on a training vessel en route to Thailand. For many years the captain's wife worked at the port, but now she is retired on pension. The captain likes his work. "Long-distance voyages," he says, "don't let you get rusty."

A telephone call interrupted our talk. "Dear, where are your geraniums? I'm off for Cuba on Monday." Geraniums are a tradition. He takes one whenever he sets off for some faraway country.

Vladivostok residents are taciturn and seem to be in slow motion. But you should hear them argue! A Vladivostok angler can easily convince you of the merits of the local prawn. A Black Sea prawn is no bigger than a match, while here, why, they're at least 20 centimeters long! (And you find yourself believing him.)

The people who live in the Maritime Territory are also generous, hardy and industrious. They're not afraid of change. In this, they have taken after their forefathers, who set out for this remote land over a century ago. They conquered these barren lands where cliffs, the sea and sea gulls once reigned. They redid this hostile land to suit their traditions and to remind them of the Volga expanses and Ukrainian cherry orchards (which is where most of them came from). The names of seas, bays, straits, towns and villages in the Maritime Territory are a living tribute to those fearless explorers who were drawn to the Pacific by the desire for discovery. In fragile boats, they plied the stormy seas to plant the Russian flag on uninhabited islands.

Researchers have always been attracted to the area, but today they actually swarm to the Far East, drawn by the opportunities it offers. The Far Eastern Research Center, with its administrative offices overlooking the Golden Horn Bay, has become a fixture in Vladivostok.

It's early morning in this city by the bay. People drop in at milk bars, pick up a newspaper, walk down to the pier to catch a launch to go across the bay. As they talk, you pick up the now familiar names of ships as well as scientific terms that are also familiar, terms like littoral, sublittoral, shelf. . .



Vladivostok (above) is often called a floating city. Sailing is a popular sport among city residents.

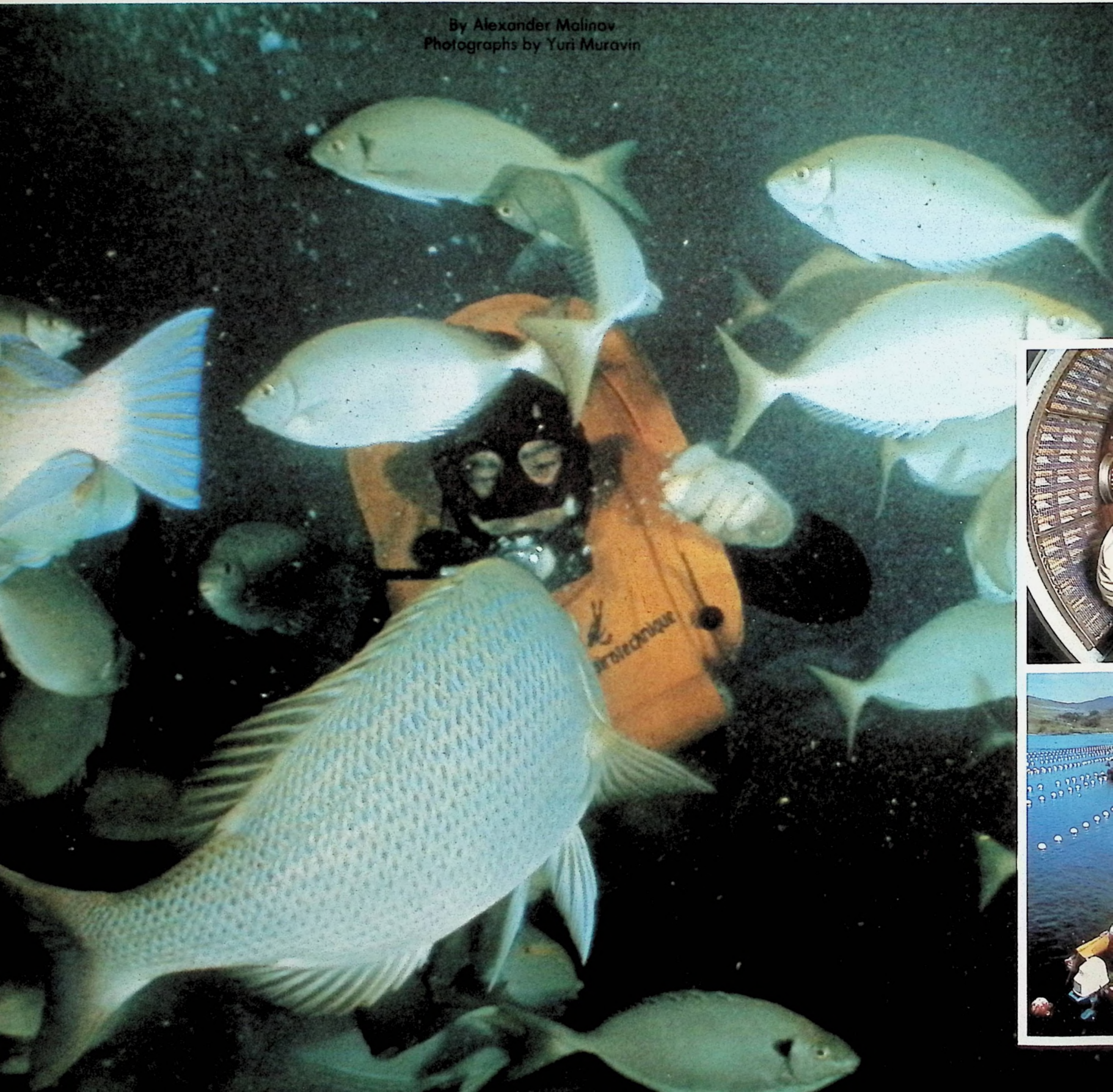


The Far Eastern Scientific Center is truly a galaxy of academic research institutes. The institutes, which number more than 20, are scattered widely throughout the Maritime Territory, the Far North, the Pacific coast and Kamchatka. The problems studied range from astrophysics and geography to oceanography and geophysics.

# THE SOVIET FAR EAST

## A VAST SCIENTIFIC CENTER

By Alexander Molinov  
Photographs by Yuri Muravin



**A** Pisces submersible is operating at the bottom of the Sea of Japan, 200 miles from Vladivostok. Although the members of the expedition on board come from Moscow's Institute of Oceanography, they are gathering data for the Far Eastern Scientific Center.

The Pisces is slowly crawling along the continental shelf, the submerged portion of the continents that is spoken of so much, whose mysteries will have a strong influence on the future of our planet once they are solved. The Pacific shelf is carefully studied by the center's scientists—oceanographers, seismologists, biologists and geologists.

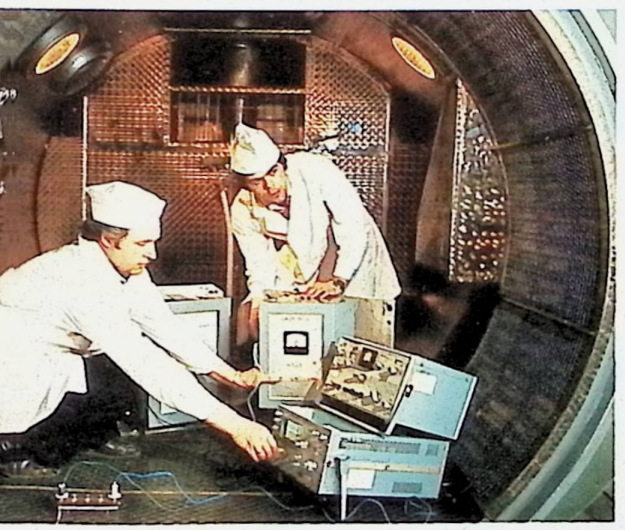
The ocean is not only a treasure-trove of minerals, but also a future source of food. Why future? Fifteen per cent of the world's protein already comes from the ocean, and the shelf zone is particularly generous in this respect. (Incidentally, the northern Pacific shelf is responsible for one-third of the world's fish catch.) However, in order to harvest all of the fish in the sea, more must be known and understood about the enigmatic shelf.

In one way or another, continental shelf development studies concern nearly half of the Far Eastern Scientific Center's institutions, which were set up in 1970 by a decision of the Presidium of the USSR

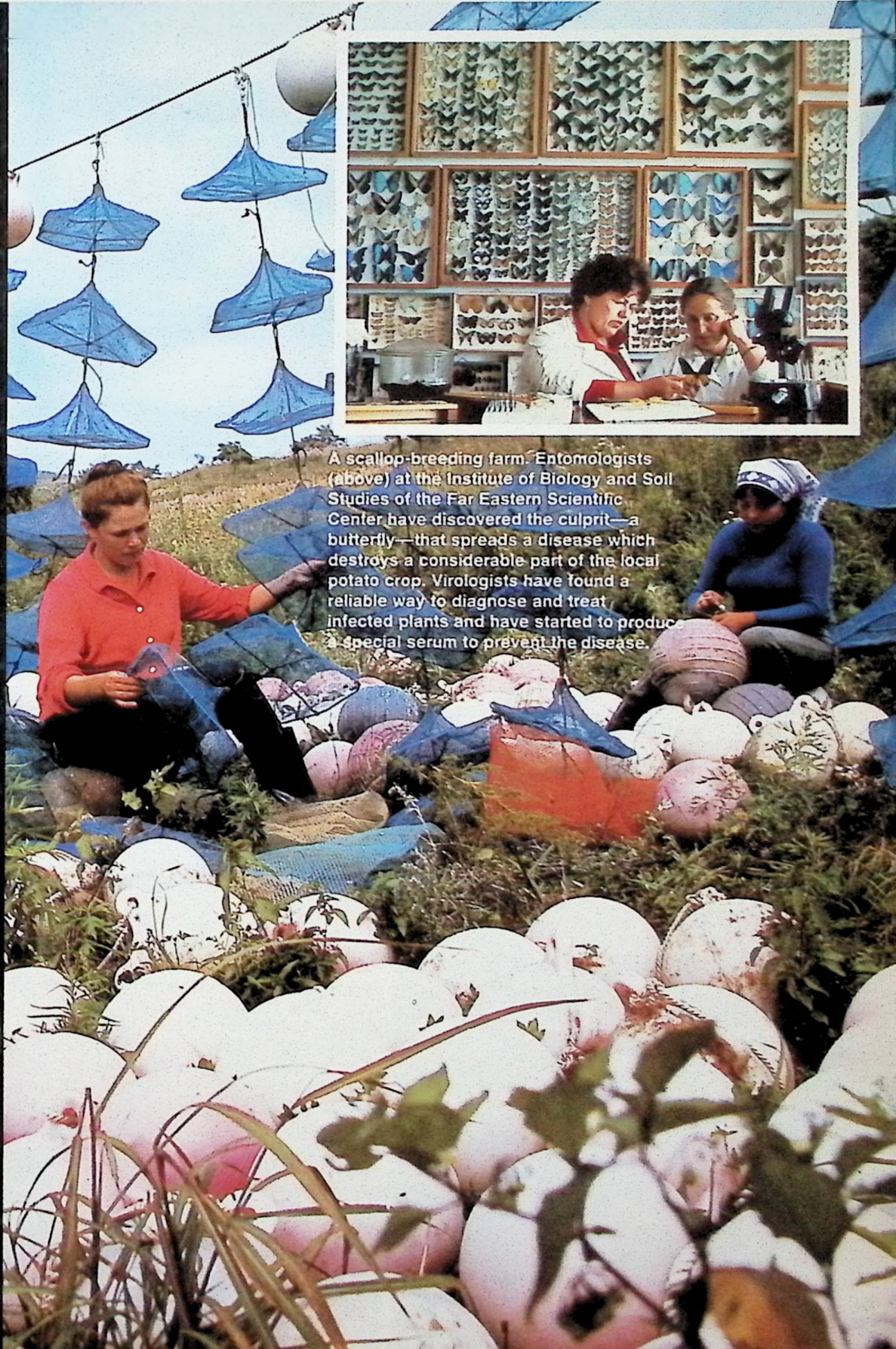
Academy of Sciences. The center's perspectives are, of course, broader.

Generally speaking, the choice of the Far East is well justified. This is the region where the world's largest ocean rubs shoulders with the world's largest continent, and their contact raises so many scientific problems of such complexity that more than one generation of scientists will have to deal with them. The field of study includes the world's deepest trench, the largest chain of volcanoes and the famous Pacific ore belt. The ocean has boundless resources, while the Ussuri taiga boasts inimitable wealth. The social and economic prospects for the

Vladivostok is the home of the Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography. Its scientists study global problems concerning the ocean and make practical recommendations for factory ships that fish in the ocean expanses.



Inset above: Engineers and technicians from the institute develop and test the latest equipment for the Far Eastern fishing fleet. The ocean is a medium in which man can grow the food he needs. In lagoons like the one at left, fish and mollusks are bred, seaweed is grown and, in fact, whole underwater plantations are created.



A scallop-breeding farm. Entomologists (above) at the Institute of Biology and Soil Studies of the Far Eastern Scientific Center have discovered the culprit—a butterfly—that spreads a disease which destroys a considerable part of the local potato crop. Virologists have found a reliable way to diagnose and treat infected plants and have started to produce a special serum to prevent the disease.

ent are also hard to overestimate  
ne-third of the Soviet Union's wa-  
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#### cal Recommendations

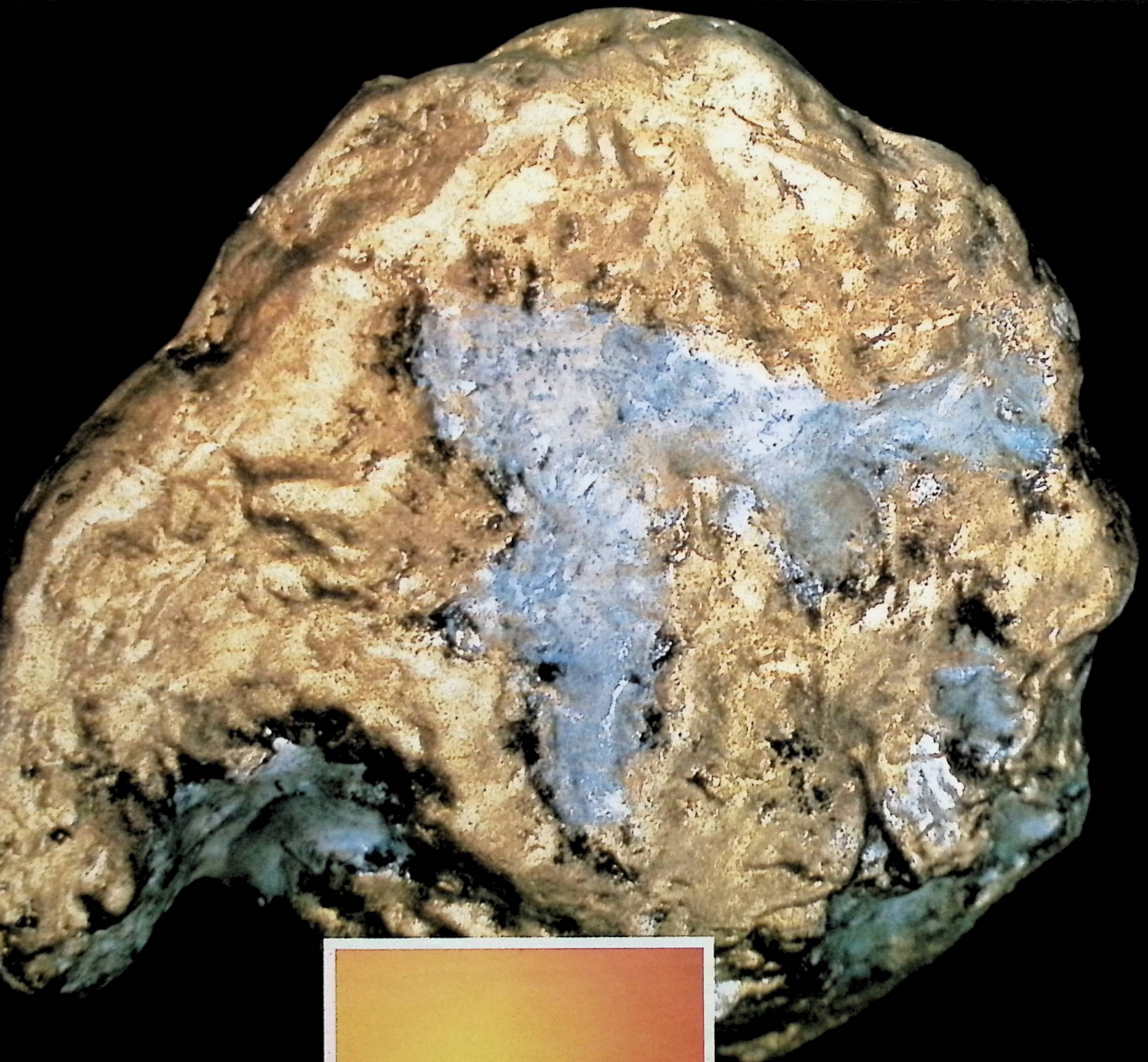
ocean" and "continent" are tied  
shared processes. A better and

more productive model than the "ocean-continent"  
can hardly be conceived, or so say the center's  
scientists working in Blagoveshchensk, Khaba-  
rovsk, Magadan, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy,  
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and, of course, in Vladivostok  
itself.

The Institute of Biology and Soil Studies is one of  
the center's oldest members. Its main concern is  
the development of an automatic system that would  
regulate properties in soil, that is, the physical and  
chemical phenomena that promote the growth and  
enhancement of farm crops and their consumption  
of nutrients.

Putting the amount of fertilizer required into the  
soil doesn't necessarily mean making the most of it.  
Iron and manganese nodules are forming in the soil  
of the Far East all of the time. They now make up  
10 to 25 per cent of the soil. These nodules absorb  
between 25 to 50 per cent of the phosphorus con-  
tained in fertilizers and never give it up, and with the  
fertilizer goes a certain part of the potential harvest.  
Thus, it's critical to solve the riddle of nodule forma-  
tion and its effect on the soil and then to develop  
measures to stop the process.

The emphasis on practical recommendations  
flows naturally from the scientific subject chosen by



## m the Far East



It's no accident that the USSR Research  
Institute of Gold and Rare Metals is  
located in Magadan. The region is the  
Soviet Union's largest supplier of  
precious and rare metals. The gold  
nugget above was found in the middle  
reaches of the Kolyma River. Inset:  
Kamchatka is famous for its volcanoes.  
Researchers at the Kamchatka Institute  
of Volcanology of the Far Eastern  
Scientific Center constantly monitor  
volcanic activity on the peninsula.





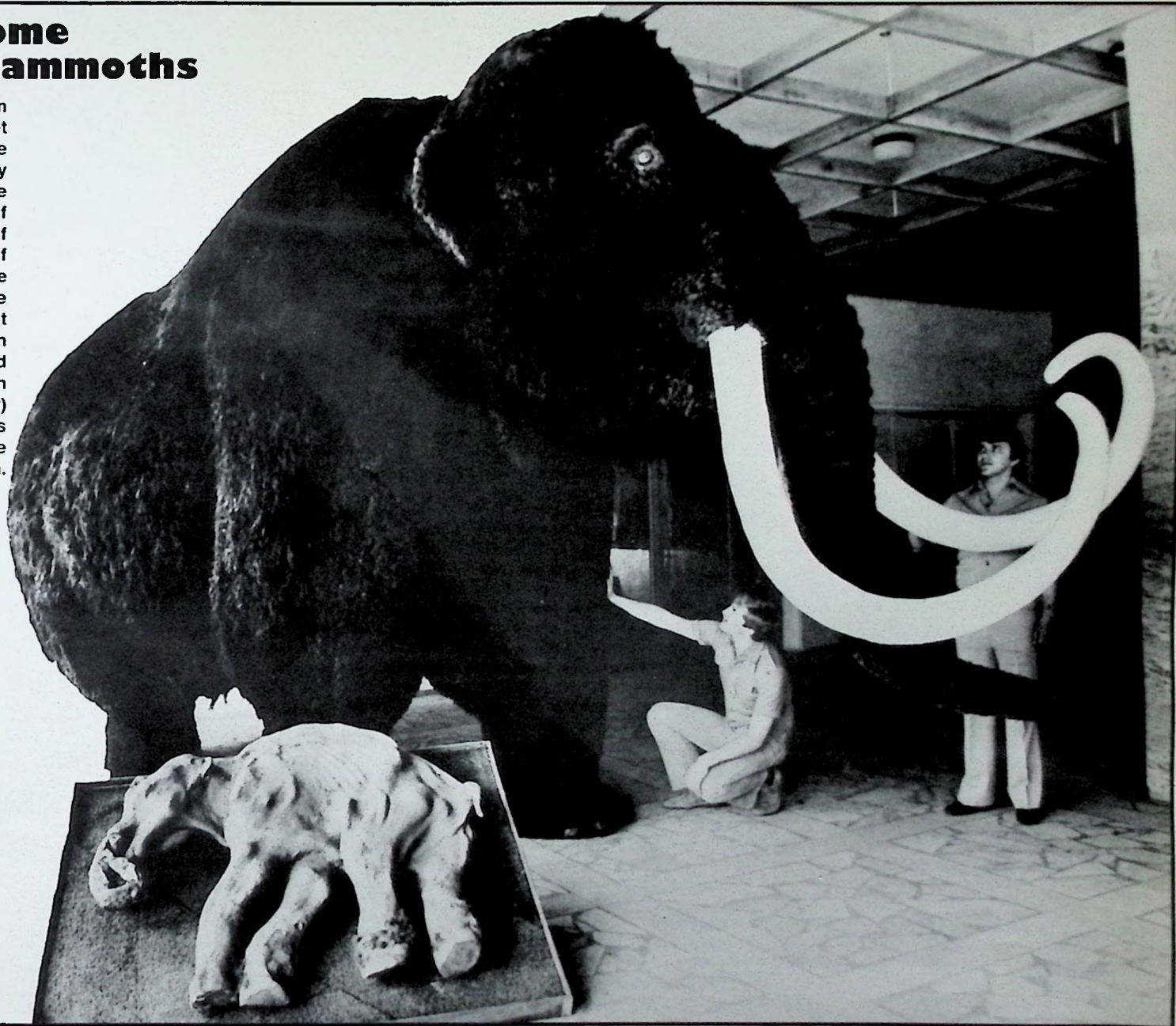
The research institutes of the Far Eastern Scientific Center have their own fleet of ships that sail along different parts of the Pacific coastline studying underwater mountain ranges and fractures, ocean currents and the rich flora and fauna.

peak. From the helicopter we admired emerald glades, cedar groves and the intricate pattern of creeks and streams wending their way down from the brilliant white arms of a glacier. Another five minutes of flight took us over a desolate and gloomy landscape. It was as if we were on a different planet, not our beautiful Earth.

Below us were chaotic congealed lava flows and kilometers of dirty brown slag, and the blood-red and brilliant yellow craters of another volcano—Tolbachik. That was the aftermath of the eruption from Klyuchevskaya's neighbor in the summer of 1975. A layer of slag and ash nearly 10 meters deep

## Home Of the Mammoths

The vast northeastern part of the Soviet Union was once inhabited by mammoths. From time to time researchers of the Institute of Biological Problems of the North dig up the remains of these ancient beasts. Not too long ago an excellently preserved baby mammoth (bottom left corner) dubbed Dima was discovered near the town of Susuman.



the center—the ocean-continent "junction." The people who live here benefit from the fruit of both the land and the sea, and they all need to protect themselves from its "practical jokes"—earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tidal waves.

Studying the elements requires an interdisciplinary approach, which is suggested by the logic of science at the present stage. That is why the word "comprehensive" is present in the names of many of the research institutions in Magadan, Khabarovsk and elsewhere.

To look at a natural phenomenon in all of its aspects, a phenomenon weighed down with many associated peripheral things (the climate, for example, which is not only extremely complex in itself but is also modified by human activities), is the aim of all scientists. A data bank is, therefore, a scientific must here.

There is no dearth of subjects to research in the Far East. Take ocean farming, for example. Before a decision is made, it is necessary to know everything possible about the site chosen and everything about how the water, its bottom and inhabitants interrelate. There are thousands of specific questions about the ocean that used to require tremendous effort for the material to be collected and analyzed. Now this job is being done by computers. The center's Institute of Automation and Control Processes has set up a regional bank for oceanographic data.

A few years ago I had the opportunity to join scientists from the center's Institute of Volcanology on an aerial expedition to Mount Klyuchevskaya, the tallest volcano on the Eurasian continent—4,750 meters. The flames above it indicated an earlier eruption.

The short, hot Kamchatka summer was at its

buried the natural colors and landmarks for years. If Mount Klyuchevskaya had spewed through its main craters at the top, it might well have repeated Tolbachik's performance.

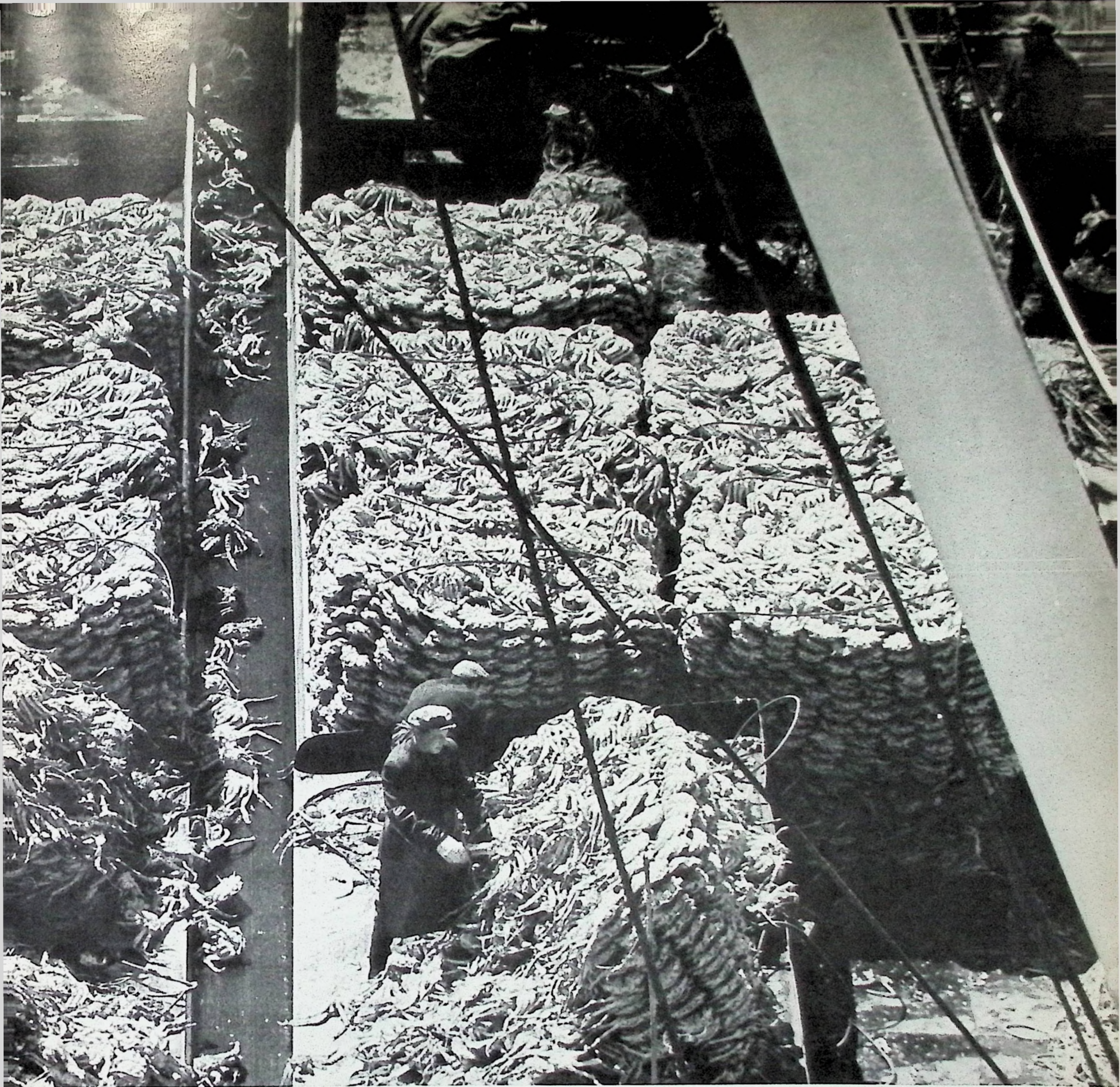
Klyuchevskaya is active most of the time. In fact, everyone would be surprised if it stopped smoking. Its calm and regular eruptions, every five years on the average, have become somewhat of an institution that is not feared by the local people. However, it was believed that the situation would change. All signs pointed to a so-called paroxysmal eruption, which occurs about once every 25 years. The last such eruption was in 1944-1945.

I was not destined to witness the cataclysmic events, however. Instruments for recording and sending seismic activity to the Institute of Volcanology have been installed on the side of Klyuchevskaya. Now if it becomes necessary to know what's



Peter the Great Bay is not only one of the most picturesque spots along the Far Eastern coast, it also has a rich marine world. The skin divers who go to the bottom of the bay to do research are to be envied. Top right: These giant creatures are the famous Kamchatka crabs. Their meat is tender and delicious—and nutritious. Right: The Far East is the world's main supplier of red caviar. Researchers at the Pacific Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography are studying the wide range of problems connected with the migration routes of salmon shoals, their protection and reproduction. The experts say the amount of red caviar produced in the Far East has grown of late.





happening at the volcano, and in the future at others on Kamchatka as well, scientists won't have to set up camp on the ash heaps. The data will be fed directly to the scientists' laboratory.

#### Too Young?

It would be wrong to think that Far Eastern scientists ignore less spectacular but equally relevant problems. Current research has pride of place in the Far East. It has certainly benefited people living in hard-to-endure conditions. Frosts in Magadan and Khabarovsk are as severe as they are in Yakutia, where the mercury dips down to minus 50 degrees centigrade, while the winds and precipitation in the Maritime Territory, Kamchatka, Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands have no match anywhere else in the country. Nature is truly generous here, even overly

generous on occasion. In the southern Kuril Islands there are ferns as tall as trees. Sometimes, however, nature fails to provide the little things, like potatoes.

The Maritime Territory, for example, grows citrus and exotic fruit, but there was a time when potatoes had to be transported in from all the way across the country. The area has no potatoes of its own, and the few that were to be had, except in Chuguyevsky District, were diseased. Entomologists found that the carrier of the virus infecting the plants was a butterfly.

When the infected area was mapped out, it turned out that for a variety of reasons the butterfly could not live in Chuguyevsky District and the local potatoes could be raised for propagation. This year specialists, using virus-free planting material, developed an intensive technology for growing seed po-

tatoes. The results have been a bumper crop—no less than 20 metric tons per hectare. Anyway, potatoes no longer need to be transported to the region.

The contribution made by the young scientific center is growing in size and importance every year. Fifteen years ago the center consisted of a few institutes. Today the number is over 20. Papers by local scientists are translated in the West, and their original decisions, ideas and hypotheses arouse general interest at international congresses and symposiums. That is understandable. They were lucky to be entrusted with such a unique and mysterious place to study as the Far East. Alexander Herzen, a Russian democratic writer, must have meant precisely this when he wrote in his memoirs in the middle of the last century: "I have long maintained that the Pacific Ocean is the Mediterranean of the future." ■

By the end of World War II the scale of the atrocities carried out by the Nazis became known to the world. As a result, the International Military Tribunal was set up to indict, try and sentence those individuals who bore the greatest responsibility for the commission of the heinous acts. Soviet writer Leonid Leonov wrote this essay in Nuremberg on December 2, 1945, shortly after the trials of the Nazi war criminals began.

# THE SERPENT OF NUREMBERG

**F**ollow me, my reader. I will take you to the Nuremberg law court. We will have to walk for a long time, until a sentry stops us in front of a gray edifice with doors like tombstones.

The American sentry will look askance at your striped pass and drop a careless, "Okay." And we will get lost in a labyrinth of stairways and corridors, in a multilingual crowd, who has brought here piles of charge sheets and material evidence from the whole wide world. By 10 A.M., all will take their assigned seats, and the intricate mechanism of the International Military Tribunal will be put into action.

Look at this spacious hall, my reader, before the accused are brought in. Even after dark, it is lit up like at midday, so that nothing can escape the vigilant judges' attention. Look, there are the emblems of justice above the entrance, surviving since days of old: Themis' scales and the mosaic tablets bearing the code of social conduct. Today they should read differently from the way they did in the Scriptural prophet's time: "Do not kill; do not exploit thy brother's labor; do not steal thy neighbor's possessions—neither his bread nor his oil, nor his Lebensraum. Then the bombs of vengeance will not fall onto thy head; thine offspring will not shed the tears of orphanhood, and the hearts of thy people will not be rent by bitter disillusionment of defeat!" A bit closer to us, but just as high, are two naked bronze Nazi heroes, sword and fasces in hand, standing guard on both sides of a great bas-relief resembling a coat of arms. It represents the Fall: the Serpent winding around the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Eve holding the apple of unattainable sin—a symbolic image in the contemporary European's eye, if he sees his continent as Eve.

It was here, on the stony soil of Nuremberg, that the first tongues of the inferno flared up, a flame that was soon to devour half of Europe. Another town, Munich, is 140 kilometers to the south, on the same longitude. Berlin is 350 kilometers to the northeast. These are the three apexes of a triangle inside which are inscribed the criminal biographies of the Führer and his ignoble crew, who will be brought in presently under the guard of 13 strapping American soldiers.

... The streets were deserted on the bleak morning when we first came to the law court. There was something oppressive and ominous about the emptiness, as if the souls of all Nazi victims had gathered there to hear the voice of vengeance, of truth and justice, arise from the ashes.

God speed you, judges of Nuremberg! The courtroom rises as you mount the high rostrum on the right. Side by side with those gathered in the hall are the shadows of martyrs from Maidanek and Dachau, envoys from the realm of the dead, who need no passes to enter. The 16 black-gowned counsels for the defense look at the judges from somewhat below. Tense as boxers before a fight, their eyes squinting, they keep silent now, ready for a long battle of eloquence.

The Serpent is still bold enough to smile, with Jodl's mouth, Keitel's eyes, and Göring's careless gestures. But the noose of accusation will grow tighter and tighter around its neck, and it will try to squeeze out of it with ever more fury and perfidy, casting off one camouflaging skin after another. The Serpent will try to pass for a philosopher with a civilizing mission, for a defender of many nations and the deliverer of Europe. It will argue that governments are not liable to be tried, that the defeat itself is sufficient revenge. It will appeal to chivalry in the victors' treatment of the vanquished. It will utter torrents of cunning sophistry, laden with political dynamite. That will last until its death sentence is announced.

The deafening silence is broken by the rustling of paper in the colossal files of affidavits. It is only paper, not hair cut off the heads of women brought to the gas chambers, not leather articles made from human skin, not fertilizer made of children's bones on which cabbages luxuriated in Nazi kitchen gardens. The jury examines the martyrdom of countries bordering on Germany, countries which Hitler picked like so many mushrooms and placed into the Third Reich's basket. Clause after clause of dispassionate formulas, through which not a single tear will ooze, prove point by point the aggressiveness of Nazi policies.

Such is the way of justice: As the judges enter the hall, they are supposed

to know nothing of the crime, and to not believe anything until sufficient proof built according to the intricate laws of judicial mathematics is offered.

The trials will be long.

The international jury is reported to possess nine tons of bills of indictment—the sacred books of all world religions, put together, weigh far less. But we will hear all this out. We have to do that: The more stones of evidence that hang on the neck of the Monster, the deeper it will sink.

Influenced by the judicial machinery, I do my best to forget my preconceived notions of those people. I have never read the press for the past quarter century! I have not stood, tears in my eyes, among the ruins of Chernigov and Pskov! I have never trodden the human ashes covering the ground in Babi-Yar, the site of mass executions in Kiev! I have never clasped in my fingers that charred baby's bootie in Belsen, the place which leaves one reeling, drunk with the shame of being a human. Again and again I tell myself: I've never heard a word about Hitler. I don't know, for the time being, about Dachau!

I have to learn anew the history of that horrible plot and pronounce my judgment on the crimes, irrespective of my personal likes and dislikes. There is something more to it. As I started for Nuremberg, I took a pledge not to brand war criminals with strong words. However apt, truth does not need them, and contempt takes the edge off hatred. Every Soviet citizen out of the 200 million shares my feelings—and my talent will not suffice to make them 200 million times stronger.

So I try to be precise and impassive. They are taking their seats 15 feet from me: gray-haired, yellow-faced, washed-out. They looked quite different, athletic and cheerful, when they worked on instructions for the Germanization of Europe and elaborated the Barbarossa Plan. They began to lose color much, much later, when the premonition of the end came. These are not rank-and-file executioners from Belsen and Auschwitz: These are the elite, the top-ranking theory-mongers.

"Who on Earth could have invented all those atrocities against the Jews?" Baldur von Schirach asks Göring, naively. The latter replies, shrugging sadly, that it was that Himmler man who had fouled up the whole business, leaving them to face the music. They are only 20 here, the poor innocents.

A cruel light floods the hall. Many Nazi demigods are sporting dark spectacles, though they will hardly need good eyesight for their future activities. Some can still be recognized from the photos that amply decorated newspaper and magazine pages when they were at the height of their glory. Look at them for the last time, my reader, before we leave the room to come back tomorrow. Here is Hermann Göring, a ring on his finger. His uniform is too big for him now that the belly is gone. He scribbles away nonstop, perhaps writing a manual on world brigandage.

Next to him is Hess, with a death mask for a face, looking like a consumptive. Next, Ribbentrop, who has lost some of his manly charm. His eyes are baggy, with brows raised up like Pierrot's. He talks to Von Papen, who leans forward from his second row to hear him better—the old fox who had fouled many countries with his spies' dens.

And here's Frick for you, always munching on something, and whispering oaths during the breaks in the proceedings. Schacht rises from his seat, after him Streicher, who had been tried 12 times for every kind of profligacy under the Sun. The rest have been escorted out meanwhile. We shall have a look at them tomorrow.

I have no idea what awaits them. The whole lot might be hanged in front of the Reichstag, or the lenient court might sentence them to be shot. What I do know is that they are already dead in the eyes of mankind.

Long ago the good Francis Bacon told us to speak the truth of the deceased—or say nothing at all. I have spoken the truth. This is not yet an obituary. But soon I will write a real obituary to Nazism.

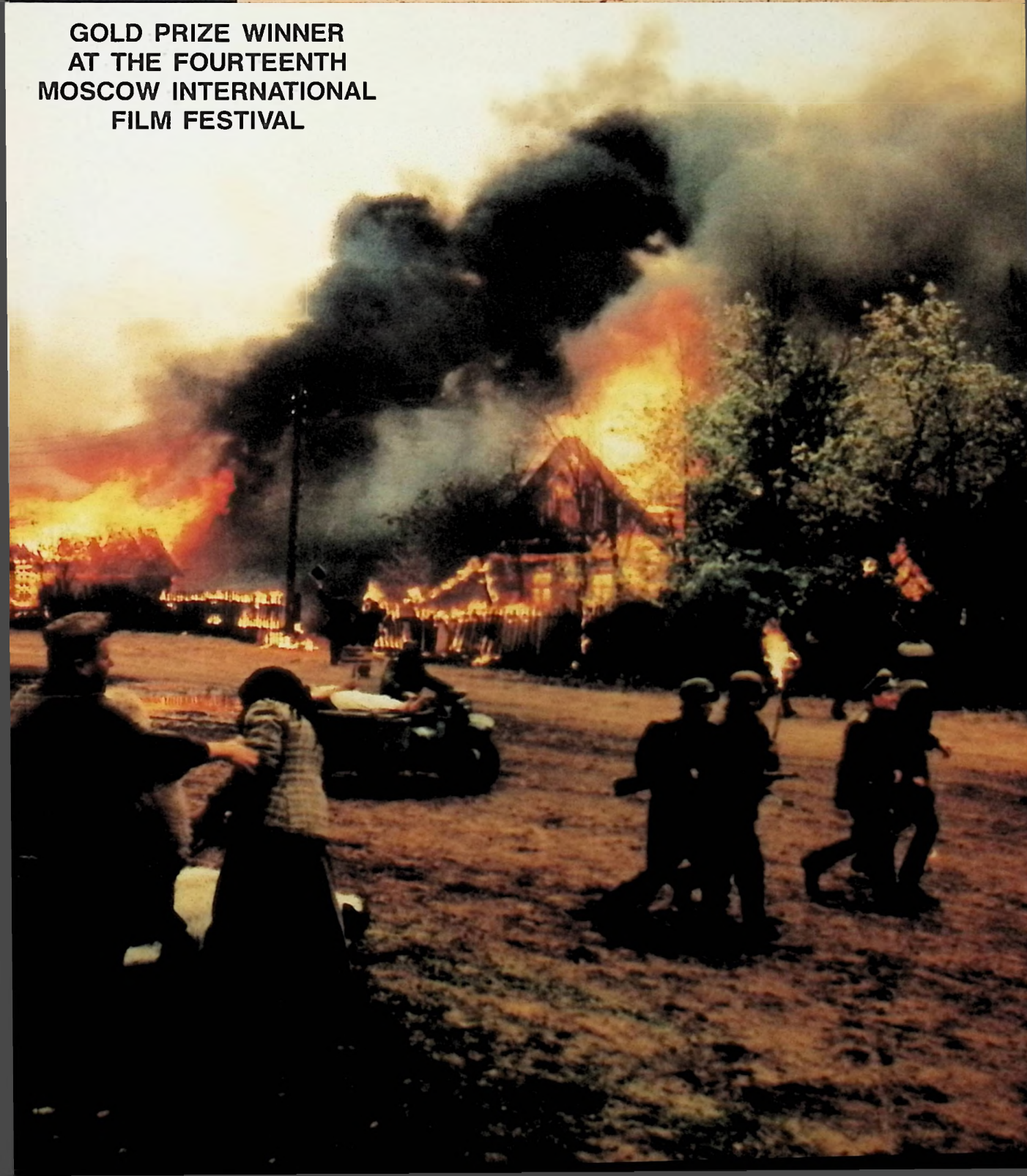
Nuremberg, December 2, 1945

Translated by Tatyana Butkova  
Slightly abridged.

*Come and See* is as true to life as it can be. The sequences depicting the especially brutal acts are based on newsreels taken by Nazi cameramen. The human suffering is shattering. Some scenes are destined to remain fixed in our memory: the haunting face of



**GOLD PRIZE WINNER  
AT THE FOURTEENTH  
MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL**

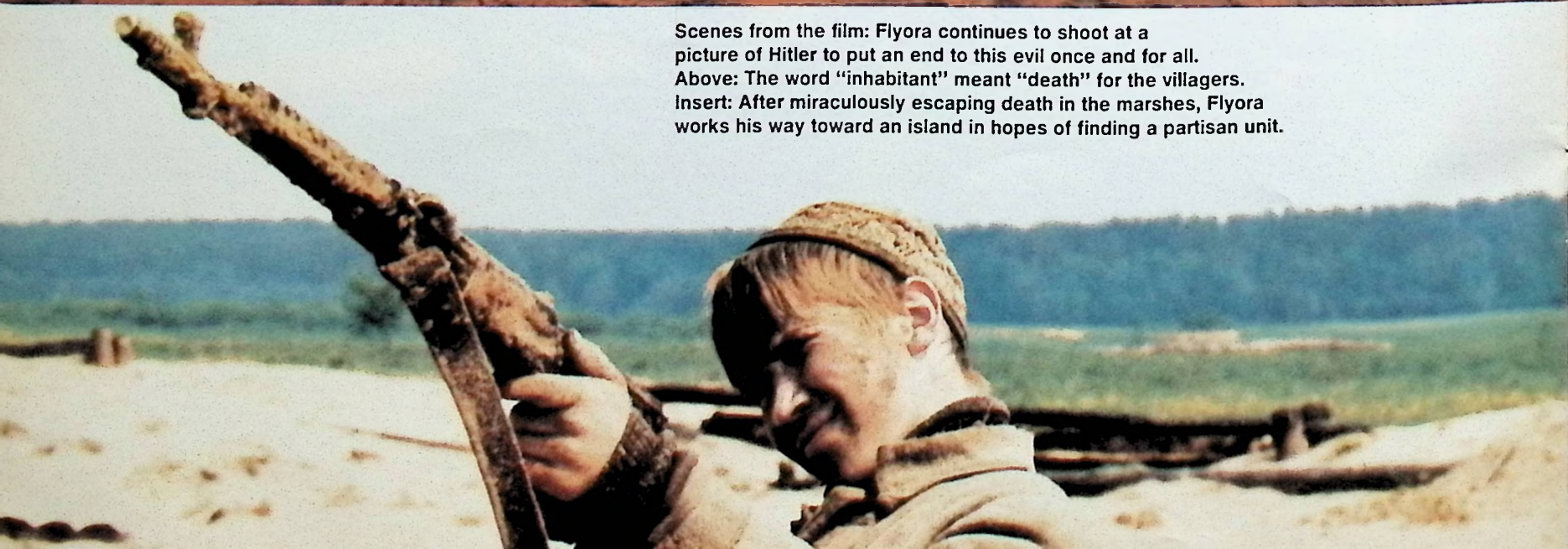


# COME AND SEE



The inhuman face of fascism and the horrible grin of war are seen through the eyes of a Byelorussian boy. . . . He experiences the tortures of Hell, and a brief period of time—only a few months, to be exact—becomes an entire lifetime for him. . . . In his presence the Nazis torture, burn and shoot babies and women, the young and the old, deriving great pleasure out of their gruesome deeds. "Every Soviet director must have his own say on the past war because that theme is in our blood," says Elem Klimov. "It's a memory that cannot be erased. . . World War II was a great tragedy of history for my people and, I believe, for the rest of the world, too."

Scenes from the film: Flyora continues to shoot at a picture of Hitler to put an end to this evil once and for all. Above: The word "inhabitant" meant "death" for the villagers. Insert: After miraculously escaping death in the marshes, Flyora works his way toward an island in hopes of finding a partisan unit.



The recent Moscow International Film Festival was especially remarkable since it was held during the year of the fortieth celebration of the victory over nazism and the end of World War II. This made the forum particularly symbolic and emotionally meaningful . . . and its theme even more topical and urgent.

# THE WORLD ON FILM

## FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

By Marina Khachaturova



American producer-director Norman F. Jewison, winner of a gold prize for *A Soldier's Story*, with Soviet producers Stanislav Rostotsky from Moscow (center) and Ali Chamrayev from Tashkent (right).

The Moscow International Film Festival goes back a quarter of a century. It has always been a representative forum. The latest festival, the fourteenth, was held last summer. It was attended by 105 countries, West Berlin and seven international organizations. Among the members of the delegations were renowned directors, actors, producers and film critics. Heading the jury of the festival was distinguished Soviet director Sergei Gerasimov. The most recent feather in his cap is the Crystal Globe award, which he won for his film *Leo Tolstoy* at an international film festival in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia.

Other members of the jury were Soviet film critic Rostislav Yurenev, a highly reputed expert on the international movie scene; outstanding Italian director Giuseppe de Santis, whose name is linked with the upsurge of neorealism; American director Robert Young, whose film *Alambrist* is well known in the USSR; Japanese director Kohei Oguri, who won world fame with his very first production, *Muddy River*; and Polish director Jerzy Hoffman, whose pictures *Wolodyjowski* and *The Deluge* were very popular in their day.

The recent Moscow International Film Festival was especially remarkable since it was held during the year of the fortieth celebration of the victory over nazism and the end of World War II. This made the forum particularly symbolic and emotionally meaningful and its theme "For Humanism in Cinema Art, for Peace and Friendship Among Nations!" even more topical and urgent.

The showing of films by outstanding directors is a long-standing festival tradition. The highlights of this festival included an impressive retrospective of antinazi and antiwar productions as well as a review of films by Soviet director Grigori Kozintsev and French director François Truffaut. At previous events retrospectives of films directed by Federico Fellini, Stanley Kramer, Rene Clement and other film makers were shown.

Besides the feature film awards, prizes for Film Shorts and Films for Children were on the festival program. As a rule, about 250 entries are viewed at the festival. The organizers always try to present the widest possible panorama of international movies, including productions from countries where the film industry is just getting off the ground. This is something that distinguishes the Moscow festival from other similar events.

A regular feature of the festival is the Film Fair, where business executives and film distributors have an opportunity not only to see Soviet productions released over the past two years as well as films presented by other countries, but also to conduct business talks with their counterparts from around the world. The Soviet foreign trade organization Sovexportfilm maintains contacts with 350 movie and TV companies in 114 countries around the world, and it is very active on the international film market.

Entries in last summer's festival varied widely in plot, style and genre. The features they shared were empathy, concern for the present situation and hope for a better future. Films along the festival's

theme were permeated with concern for the destiny of humankind.

In his message of greeting to the festival General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev said: "Genuine artists cannot be indifferent to the burning issues of their times. Their art always serves good and light. Honest, courageous cinematography that is sensitive to the issues and concerns of the times can do a great deal to promote social progress, national independence and international cooperation."

### Memory That's Always with Us

Two weeks after the festival opened, the jury announced the winners. Three full-length feature films were awarded the gold prizes: *Come and See* (USSR), *A Soldier's Story* (USA) and *The Descent of the Nine* (Greece). All three films deal with the 1940s. The events of those years were so significant that they will never be forgotten. They have become an inalienable part of every nation's past and cast light on the present. While depicting the ▶



Journalist Lester Coul (center) with Debra Young from *Variety* magazine (right) and Soviet hostess Natalya Tsipursky (left).



Anatoli Alexin (center) presents a silver prize to Soviet directors Aman Alpiyev and Sergei Bodrov for their film *The Sweet Juice Inside the Grass*.

cruelty and inhumane nature of war, the films exude compassion for people and make us despise the evil that pits one man against another. Thinking of the future, we must not forget the bitter, horrible lessons of the past. And so the films remind us of our responsibility for never allowing the tragic acts of history to repeat themselves.

The film *Come and See*, directed by Elem Klimov, is a screen version of *The Story of Khatyn* by Byelorussian author Ales Adamovich. It's no exaggeration to say that it may be one of the most significant wartime movies ever made. In order to give an accurate account of events and to depict his people's suffering, Klimov bent over backward to report what happened during Nazi occupation.

The inhuman face of fascism and the horrible grin of war are seen through the eyes of a Byelorussian boy named Flyora. He experiences the tortures of Hell, and a brief period of time—only a few months, to be exact—becomes an entire lifetime for him. Almost overnight the boy becomes an old man inside; he is forced to endure torments that not even the strongest and most determined adult would be able to survive. In his presence the Nazis torture, burn and shoot babies and their mothers, the young and the old, deriving great pleasure out of their gruesome task.

*Come and See* is as true to life as it can be. The sequences depicting the especially brutal acts are based on newsreels taken by Nazi cameramen. The human suffering is shattering. Some scenes are destined to remain fixed in our memory: the haunting face of Flyora, the 14-year-old hero of the film forced to his knees with a gun to his head while Nazi officers pose for pictures to send home as a souvenir, or the burning houses and the faces of the women and children locked in barns as the Nazis prepare to set them on fire.

The film is remarkable for its apt direction, smooth transitions from epic scenes to newsreel footage and magnificent acting. But the main thing about the film is that it not only reports the events as they happened, but that it makes an important cinematographic statement. The final sequences expressing the director's profound philosophy are extremely poignant.

Flyora (played by Moscow schoolboy Alexei Kravchenko) retreats into the woods with a partisan unit that has just taken revenge on a Nazi death squad. He sees a portrait of Hitler lying in a puddle of

muddy water and shoots at it pointblank. The boy keeps shooting his gun in order to put an end to Hitler for good, to kill the man who is responsible for thrusting millions of people into the inferno of war. All of a sudden Hitler comes alive. The film switches to a newsreel taken during Hitler's lifetime. Nazi troops are marching. Officers are greeting their Führer. The crowd is rejoicing. Hitler is promising to conquer the whole world. The familiar sequences are shown in reverse chronology—as if to reverse history. All the while Flyora continues to shoot at Hitler, who comes alive in every successive sequence, perpetually growing younger. At last he is seen as a youngster. The boy continues to shoot. Suddenly we find ourselves looking at a photograph of a small baby wearing a white dress (like little boys and girls wore early in this century). He is sitting on his mother's lap. Flyora lowers his gun and stands totally still as if he has been turned into stone, tears running down his cheeks. A brief sequence of documentary Nazi newsreel footage appears on the screen. Then comes a long sequence: The boy is looking at the photograph, staring at the baby's mother while she stares back at him. Although Flyora has witnessed his people's suffering and death, he cannot bring himself to kill a baby. That baby had not yet become the evil Hitler. Flyora, the defender of his people, can kill the hated Führer but not an innocent baby. (Incidentally, the first title chosen for the film was *To Kill Hitler*.) Through suffering and torment, the young hero becomes aware of the following truth: A nation's greatness and strength are the measure of its compassion and kindness.

Another winner of a gold prize was the film *A Soldier's Story* by American director Norman F. Jewison. The screenplay was done by Charles Fuller. The action is set in Louisiana in 1944. The investigation of the murder of Sergeant Waters by Captain Davenport provides a plot for an in-depth look at human psychology and shows the psychological impact of racial prejudice on people. In an interview Jewison said that the movie centers around the "Great American Dream" and a human soul struggling to find its dignity. According to the director, what interests him most is man's inner nature. In *A Soldier's Story* he probes deeply into that world, revealing the subtlest nuances of human relationships. Though the film deals primarily with the relationship between whites and Blacks living in

the deep South of the 1940s, it is a universal story warning against prejudice and intolerance.

The third film to win a gold prize was done by young Greek director Christos Shiopachas, a newcomer on the international movie scene. *The Descent of the Nine*, his first feature-length film, is a screen version of a story of the same title by popular Greek writer Thanassis Valtinos. The movie, which takes place in 1949, during the civil war in Greece, is an account of a desperate attempt by a few resistance fighters, antifascists, to survive. Hiding behind every rock, every tree, death nips at their heels. The action centers around one group of people pursuing another in order to kill them, which is the way it is in war. But the director goes further than that: He introduces into the plot the idea of man's fight against Fate, rather than his enemies (they never appear on the screen). The heroes' struggle to overcome their own human weakness—fatigue, doubt, despair—becomes the main focus of the film. The complex idea expressed in a simple way is reminiscent of the ancient Greek tragedies. This makes it a real asset of Greek culture. *The Descent of the Nine* is distinguished for its synthesis of realistic details, presentation of facts and elements of ancient mythology. One film critic called it both an elegy and an epic, a dirge for the dead and an anthem in their honor. Shiopachas agreed, saying that that was exactly the effect he wanted to achieve.

#### We Want to Hope and Love

The Film Shorts category had a number of varied entries. Gold prizes went to two documentaries: *A Report from Terezin* directed by Drahoslav Holub (Czechoslovakia) and *The Pyramid* by Alexander Ivankin (USSR).

The matter-of-factness of the title *A Report from Terezin* is contrasted by the content of the film, which depicts Nazis turning an old fortress into a death camp, a monstrous factory for the destruction of people. The film runs for only 27 minutes, but its impact is powerful.

Alexander Ivankin's film *The Pyramid* deals with contemporary life or, to be more precise, with contemporary man. Many critics agree that the choice of the hero had a lot to do with guaranteeing the film's success. The documentary depicts the life of power juggler Valentin Dikul, an extraordinary indi-





American film director Robert Young (left) with other guests of the film festival.

#### Kindness and Understanding

The traditional Films for Children category stands out for its enormous variety of genres, styles and plots. The movies are intended to entertain little viewers and make them laugh, but the best of them are also educational and encourage children to think, analyze and feel that they are part of humanity, of everything going on in the world. Films for adults often deal with the issue of parents versus children, and that theme cropped up in the entries in the Films for Children contest, where it assumed the likeness of an appeal for mutual understanding between the two generations, for mutual trust. It's no accident that issues that, until recently, were never dealt with in children's films were tackled at a wider angle and at a more profound depth. According to sociologists, it's quite normal for children to be interested in adult films. The situations that a child encounters in real life are multiple and complex, and the festival's program on children's films didn't fail to reflect this.

The jury for the Films for Children category awarded a gold prize to the Canadian production *The Dog Who Stopped the War*, directed by Andre Melançon. (Actually, war scenes are not shown in the film at all.) The film depicts a group of children, ages five to 13, who are playing at war: Some of them are defending a snow fortress, which the others are trying to take by assault. Every day the game grows more cruel as more and more children join in. The small snowballs turn into large lumps of snow, and the blows get harder and harder. Eventually, what seemed to be an innocent children's game leads to tragedy: The dog everyone loves dies when a wall made of snow collapses on top of it. This tragedy forces the children to realize that war, even in game form, is no joking matter.

The same concern for our future is obvious in the American movie *If the World Goes Away, Where Will the Children Play?* directed by Jackie Rivet-River. This nonconventional movie is a warning against a danger threatening the world. The adult hero, played by Steve Smith, tries to prove to the children that it is impossible to win arguments by violent means.

One of the prizes awarded by the jury of Films for Children (there were no adults among them) went to the cartoon *The Adventures of Mark Twain* by American director Will Vinton. The film depicts a journey of the well-known American author and his characters. The writer as presented in the film is impressive and memorable. Critics agreed that the subject of the cartoon posed special problems because of its genre and the audience it addresses.

The first film show for children was held in the English town of Micklesworth in 1900. Its sponsors believed that movies for children must be pure and utterly devoid of vulgarity. I share their opinion. ■



Television celebrity Carol Gomes Robelo is interviewed on a cruise down the Neva River.

Elaine Bass, took a silver prize. The screen version of Ray Bradbury's story of the same title is a highly professional, striking and elaborate piece of work. The film and its cast leave a stunning impression on even the most experienced moviegoers.

Honorary certificates of merit from the Moscow festival went to American cameramen Mike Hoover, Beverley Johnson and Rand de Luca for their skill in shooting the film *Up!*

The USSR Composers Union awarded a certificate of merit to the American documentary *Ornette: Made in America*, directed by Shirley Clark. The film is the life story of the famous American jazz saxophone player and composer Ornette Coleman. Since jazz is very popular in the USSR, the film was warmly received by Soviet audiences. (Incidentally, Shirley Clark was present at the showing).

Another documentary short titled *April 25* made by Soviet director Iffrasil Safarov also merits mention. It centers around American World War II veteran Joseph Polowsky, an active fighter for peace and an ardent advocate of good-neighborliness between the Soviet and American peoples. Until his death in 1983, every year on April 25 (the day of the historical Soviet-American linkup on the Elbe) Polowsky would take to the streets with a banner of peace. According to Safarov, the veteran's family, especially his son Theodore whom Safarov met in Moscow, was of great help in making the film. Theodore visited the USSR on the invitation of the Soviet War Veterans Committee. Like his father, he is also involved in promoting mutual understanding between our two countries.

vidual. Dikul, an aerial artist, was performing with a circus when he had a bad fall and broke his back. The severity of the injury appeared to have handicapped him for life since the doctors were helpless in a case like his. But even after spending months bedridden, Dikul's spirit was not broken. While he recovered, he read everything he could get his hands on about his injury and developed a set of therapeutic exercises and special apparatus for doing them. The struggle to overcome his disability only seemed to bolster his self-confidence. Determination and love for his profession worked a miracle: Five years after the accident Dikul returned to the circus as a power juggler. Anyone who sees the man with a sparse beard performing a wrestler's walkover or supporting a bar on which several acrobats stand, finds it unbelievable that not too long ago he was doomed to disability! The next scene shows him lifting a car in the circus ring! Valentin Dikul is certainly an admirable person, but his real greatness is shown in his compassion for people and in his eagerness to help others who have suffered similar injuries. People from all parts of the country write him letters asking for help. He teaches them how to use his techniques and encourages them by his own example. "In ancient Greek the word 'pyramid' meant 'the fire burning inside.'" Those are the final words and the message of the 30-minute film, the story of a real man who is unforgettable.

The American short film *Fight*, directed by Sol and



A round table of personalities of the international film industry was aired on Soviet television during the festival.

When her glider broke apart at a height of three kilometers, a 20-year-old woman, still attached to her glider seat, found herself falling out of the sky. Incredibly enough, she survived the ordeal and lived to tell her story.

# MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

Text and Photograph by Igor Shirobokov

**A**t a height of over three kilometers, the fuselage of Larissa Savitskaya's glider broke into pieces, and the 20-year-old college student fell into a bottomless abyss.

What do you feel as you fall through space? Harrowing fear. Your heart seems to stop; you're no longer able to breathe. Imagine now that this lasts not for seconds but for three or four minutes, all the while the wind is whistling savagely in your ears. That was the hell Larissa experienced as she dropped with her seat, which was attached to a piece of the glider's covering.

She felt the last seconds of her life slipping away. The earth—and her death—were drawing closer with every beat of her heart. She wasn't afraid, however, and her life didn't pass before her eyes. It would seem that she would have no time to think, but her mind still functioned, and she remembered a film where the heroine had fallen, just like she was falling, into the jungle in the seat from her damaged plane. Her subconscious told her to tuck in. She could do that. She was one now with the seat, legs taut, elbows out. Larissa was waiting for the blow when she hit the ground. The last thing she was aware of was the green of the taiga forest.

## Born Again

When Larissa came to, the first thing she did was look at her watch. Astonishing as that mechanical action was, it was even more astonishing that it was running. The last time she had looked, it was 3 P.M. Now it was 8 P.M. She had been unconscious for five hours. The silence was oppressive. It was broken only by the rustle of birch leaves above.

What did she feel in those first moments? Joy? Horror? Nothing whatsoever. Her fall had cost her too much, and she was only semiconscious. The state of shock was a normal defense reaction for someone who had just gone through such a terrible ordeal.

She became aware of things some minutes later. She was barefoot. The seat was broken. Her limbs moved. She was in one piece! She was terribly thirsty. Larissa picked herself up out of the seat and stood on terra firma once again. Nearby, a lake glistened in the setting Sun. She made her way to it with difficulty and drank from her hands. The pain was excruciating when she bent down, but she didn't risk lying on her stomach to drink. She was afraid she wouldn't be able to get up again. As she walked back to her seat in the descending dusk, she noted the direction of the lake.

The whir of a helicopter broke the silence. She felt no emotion whatsoever though she realized it was a search party looking for her. She knew they couldn't spot her in the dark. However, she wondered why the buzzing was still there after the helicopter was no longer close and realized it was a swarm of mosquitoes. Her face was swollen with bites. A light drizzle began to fall. The night was bitter cold. Her jacket offered little protection though she wrapped it around herself as tight as she could. (Late August is always cold in the Far Eastern taiga near the town of Blagoveshchensk.)

In the morning she made herself a lean-to out of a piece of covering from the glider. The cold was cruel. She shivered from head to toe. Her hands felt numb. It didn't get warmer until midday, when the sound of a helicopter could be heard again, but far away this time. Then night came, bitterly cold—and the buzzing of mosquitoes.

The next morning she made up her mind to leave. Every step took enormous effort. Dark woods were all around, and the ground was soft. She had covered only several hundred meters when she realized that she could become hopelessly lost. It was even harder to find her way back. Exhausted, Larissa returned to her lean-to. She got out her wet matches and laid them in the Sun to dry so she could build a fire that night. She realized it was better to wait for the search party. She knew she would survive near the fire though she hadn't had a bite to eat for two days.

The rescuers arrived after midday. When Larissa saw them, she wanted to go to meet the party, but she wasn't able.

## Prognosis: Guarded

The diagnosis looked horrifying: "Compression fractures of the thoracic and basilar vertebrae, rib fractures, fracture of the right metacarpus, concussion, pneumonia." In a condition like that, the young woman had spent more than two days without help, she had even tried to find her way through the taiga, but she never panicked, she never despaired. This is an official account of what happened:

"Larissa did everything necessary to survive; she didn't make even the slightest mistake. Of course, luck was always with her. She didn't fall out of her seat, which softened the impact of the blow, and she came down on dry moss. Everything else, however, depended entirely on her. Her tucking in was the right thing to do. Since she was a trained basketball player and loved dancing, her legs were strong, and they took the force of the blow. Larissa held out for almost three days in the taiga, with very serious injuries. Many strong men, professional pilots, have not survived after they were safely catapulted and had all of the equipment they needed—and walkie-talkies to call for a rescue party. Fear got the better of them. Nonetheless, Larissa, a young woman with little chance of surviving, overcame all odds. In the end, her case proves that there is no limit to what a person can do. Never say die, no matter how desperate your plight. Fight until your last breath—and help will come."

For a long time Larissa lived in a semiconscious state. She just lay in her hospital bed until she realized that she would be crippled for life. The pain of it! Why all the effort? Was it all worth it?

Her injuries now weren't so life-threatening as her state of mind. Her inner self lay in ruins. Her life became a never-ending fall.

## Parachutes for Her Now!

Through it all, Larissa's mother, college classmates and doctors never deserted her. They served as a rescue party. Larissa knew she was needed, and this made her want to recover. It was hard to pull her shattered self together. Larissa asked her friends to bring her books, as many as possible. She preferred historical novels. Glorious feats of the past were like a breath of fresh air.

The moment came when she realized how beautiful the grass was on the lawn outside her hospital window. How happy the people who walked across it must be—just to walk on that green grass. They weren't conscious of how fortunate they were. They walked like they breathed—unaware of it. She wanted to join them, and she cried bitterly. That was when she made the vow to regain her strength and to walk again, despite the pain and fatigue. Not one to give up, she emerged victorious once again.

Experienced physical therapists did the rest, and Larissa did walk. Because it was painful for her to sit for long stretches of time, she stood during lectures at the teachers college she attended. Her friends accompanied her to and from classes.

Larissa is in her senior year now. She is one of the most popular members of the Blagoveshchensky Singing Club and an avid downhill skier.

"You're crazy to have taken up skiing," friends tell her time and again.

"Not in the least," she says. "It's true that I can't skate yet. Ice is hard, but when you fall on snow, that's quite safe. After all, I've had practice in falling on soft surfaces."

She now plans to take up parachute jumping as well. "Anyone who has jumped without a parachute, like me," she says, "isn't afraid of jumping with one."

Larissa is married now and is expecting a baby. Life goes on, as wonderful as it used to be.

Courtesy of the newspaper  
Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya

One of Larissa Savitskaya's favorite songs is titled "I Will Survive." This photograph was taken at her home in Blagoveshchensk on New Year's Eve, 1984.



heads or tails

# MAGIC AFTER HOURS

By Mikhail Liampe

You can read 18-11-81 from right to left, from left to right, turn it upside down or look at it in a mirror vertically or horizontally and the magic number will never change. This configuration stands for the date that the Moscow Conjurers Club was founded—November 18, 1981. The president of the club, Vladimir Rudnev, is a professional magician and renowned variety show actor, but the club's vice president, Anatoli Kartashkin, prefers to remain an amateur. He's not the only amateur, however, at this unusual club that has about 300 members.

If there were alchemists today, their laboratories would look like those of the members of the Moscow Conjurers Club.



**A**natoli Kartashkin, 42, who holds a Candidate of Science degree in technology, never practices the art of magic at the Moscow Aviation Institute where he teaches. Kartashkin is only too willing to show off his legerdemain when invited to a party by one of his colleagues, but at work he stresses that his main occupation is science, not magic.

However, there was one occasion when Kartashkin departed from his rule. While he was giving an exam, he noticed two students using crib sheets. Kartashkin went over to the students as if he were going to say something, but, being an expert at sleight of hand, he replaced the crib sheets on which answers were written with blank sheets of paper. You can imagine their surprise when they realized what had happened.

At the Conjurers Club, Kartashkin directs the illusion section where new feats of magic are invented. There are already about 30,000 card tricks alone in the world, so it's not that easy to come up with something new.

Kartashkin's hobby is developing a theory of magic arts. Of course, he is well aware of the fact that many volumes of conjuring tricks have already been written, but as he sees it, all of those detailed descriptions lack a strictly scientific approach—a system.

Kartashkin doesn't intend to become a professional magician—he likes his own work too much for that. Besides, long tours would take him away from his family for months on end.

#### Trick Designer

Unlike Kartashkin, Vadim Kalmykov sometimes thinks of becoming a professional. Why does he hesitate? Kalmykov, who's a member of Kartashkin's illusion section in the evenings and a transport controller during the day, believes that a professional conjurer doesn't have the time to invent new tricks.

He and Kartashkin design feats together. Kalmykov knows how to create the spectacular part of the feat, that is, the part that the viewers can see (where an object appears and then disappears). Kartashkin thinks up the secret that would make the "miracle" possible.

How does Kalmykov come up with his tricks? Different ways... Suppose he's at home watching television. He sees a crocodile crawling out of a lake, thus lowering the water level. The crocodile is followed by a hippopotamus, and the water level drops even lower. When a turtle crawls out of the lake, all that's left is a little puddle. From that Kalmykov de-

With a few passes of his hand, Nikolai Belousov will "breathe life" into the doll. Center: This trick has been translated into the language of formulas by Anatoli Kartashkin, who hopes to create a scientific system for illusions.

Bottom: The Conjurers Club has about 300 members, only a few of whom are gathered around this table in the club's Fireplace Hall.



vised a new act: The conjurer removes a little ball from a tumbler full of opaque liquid. The level of the liquid drops. When he takes a handkerchief out of the tumbler, the liquid completely disappears.

#### A Dozen Hobbies

Moscow militia officer Nikolai Belousov has many hobbies. He is a coin collector and a musician. (He plays both classical and electric guitar.) He writes poetry and loves to work in wood with a chisel. Besides, Belousov is an amateur photographer, so he collects old cameras (and phonographs as well). He is a ham radio operator, and many of his fellow radio buffs in Western Europe, the United States, Canada, Latin America, New Zealand and Africa recognize his call sign.

His pockets are always full of cards, coins and chains. When he's not particularly busy, he will produce an object and do a trick with it. He likes his feats to appear simple but to be stunning. For example, he will put a leather cardholder on the table and invite the spectators to think of a particular card and turn it over in their minds. Then Belousov asks someone to take the cards out of the holder. As for him, he never goes near that pack. Eventually, his viewers find all of the cards lying faceup, and only the one they have chosen is face down.

#### Wonder Child

Katya Medvedeva, a fourth grade student at Moscow School No. 27, is the youngest member of the Conjurers Club. The other members refer to her as "the genius." This 11-year-old child performs at the Central Artists Club, the Actors Club and in foreign embassies.

When Katya was seven, a friend of her father's showed her a few tricks and explained them to her. Katya memorized the tricks and figured out how to perform them on her own. She made her first public appearance at her first grade graduation.

Katya says it was her first performance that made her really want to delve into the magic arts.

Katya was 10 when her father took her to the Conjurers Club. At first club president Vladimir Rudnev eyed her with some professional skepticism. Indeed, what could a child do—produce a toy rabbit from a box? However, after Katya showed him a few tricks with balls, Rudnev was delighted, and he began rehearsing with the wonder child right then and there.

Now he pays special attention to Katya since he believes that very soon the world will become aware of a new star—Yekaterina Medvedeva. ■

Victor Vesoly does magic tricks with watches. He is a prosecutor by profession. Magic tricks are his hobby. Below: Designer Sergei Volkov believes that his work benefits from his pastime. When a sketch won't work out, he does tricks for a while to relax. "Invariably, the right idea then comes to mind," he says.



# IMPORTANT DATES IN HISTORY

**January 12, 1872.** Russian ships weighed anchor in New York Harbor and set sail for other American ports. The representatives of the Russian navy had come to the United States on a friendly visit. Everywhere the Russian sailors went, they were warmly welcomed by crowds of people. A military parade was staged in their honor in New York State. New Englanders greeted them with no less enthusiasm than the New Yorkers and Philadelphians.

In his message home, Vice Admiral Konstantin Posyet reported that wherever the Russian sailors went, they were met with a storm of applause. Summing up the results of the visit, the vice admiral stated that Russia and the U.S. had much more in common than had been customarily believed.

**January 13, 1918.** Workers in Boston, Massachusetts, welcomed the October 1917 Revolution in Russia as a major achievement of the century. The American workers voiced their solidarity with and friendly feelings for the revolutionary government of Russia. They stressed that the Russian Revolution marked a new era for workers throughout the world.

**January 9, 1928.** The U.S. Department of Commerce reported that Soviet purchases from American firms had grown and that the Amtorg Trading Corporation had placed twice as many orders for the fiscal year 1926-1927 than it had in the previous year. (Amtorg had been granted authority to conduct trade on Soviet territory in 1924.)

**January 7, 1937.** The Soviet Union and the United States exchanged diplomatic notes. The Soviet Government consented to allow American Eskimos to enter the country across the Bering Strait to visit relatives living on the Chukchi Peninsula.

**January 6, 1945.** On behalf of all Western Allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, Winston Churchill asked the Soviet Union for assistance. The Anglo-American troops suffered great losses in forces and materiel. Their front was divided in two. The Germans were preparing for a new attack, and the Allies were in a very dangerous situation.

Stalin assured the Allies that the Soviet side would do its utmost to assist the Allied troops. The Red Army launched an offensive eight days ahead of schedule, despite the fact that it wasn't yet fully prepared. After breaking through the Wehrmacht's defenses, it inflicted a crushing defeat on the Nazis.

**January 27, 1958.** The first Soviet-American agreement was signed in the fields of culture, technology and education paving the way for Americans becoming acquainted with Soviet culture and art. The exchanges, which helped foster mutual trust and understanding, were especially vigorous during the years of détente.

**January 1984.** Edwin Dodd, chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors of Owens Illinois, Inc., and co-chairman of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, came to the Soviet Union on business. He was received by USSR Minister of Foreign Trade Nikolai Patolichev.

## DECEMBRISTS *Continued from page 24*

times as many troops in the square, among them cavalry and artillery units, of which the Decembrists had none.

### The Defeat

The short winter day was drawing to a close. "The wind went right through the officers and men, chilling them to the bone as they stood in the open for so long," one of the Decembrists later recalled. A number of Imperial soldiers went over to the insurgents. Several loyal regiments sent messengers to them to say that everything would come off well if they managed to hold out until dusk. Nicholas later wrote in his diary that he was afraid the unrest would spread to the masses.

The Emperor ordered that grapeshot be used against the insurgents. At first they returned the fire, but their guns were no equal to the attackers' arms. The casualties were appalling. A hasty retreat began. "In the lull between the shots you could hear the blood flowing on the pavement, melting the snow, which froze again, red," Nikolai Bestuzhev remembered later. Onlookers ran for their lives, and Nicholas' artillery fired after them, one volley after another. The insurgent troops rushed to the frozen Neva River to reach Vasilevsky Island. Mikhail Bestuzhev ordered them into battle formation to resume the offensive. Even that act of desperate courage, however, was doomed. Cannonballs broke the ice, and many soldiers were drowned.

It was all over by nightfall. Korsakov, statistician to the Ministry of Justice, counted the dead: "one general, one senior officer, 17 junior officers from all regiments, 93 privates of the Moscow Regiment of the Life Guards, 69 privates of the Grenadiers, 103 from the Naval Guards, 17 cavalymen, 39 officials and other gentlemen, 9 women, 19 children, 903 commoners; total, 1,271."

The surviving Decembrists went back to Ryleyev's place for their last gathering. Beside themselves with despair, they discussed how they would act during interrogations.

The first prisoners found themselves in the Winter Palace in the early hours of December 15.

### The Defeat in the South

An uprising in the South under the leadership of Sergei Muravyov-Apostol, Lieutenant Colonel of the Chernigov Regiment, was to follow the one in the capital. Pavel Pestel was to head for St. Petersburg as soon as the news of the uprising there reached the Chernigov Regiment. However, Pestel was arrested on December 13, betrayed by a traitor.

Once they learned of the events in Senate Square, most of the members of the Southern Society gave up the idea of an uprising, but Muravyov-Apostol, his friend Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin and several others did not hesitate.

On the morning of December 29, the Chernigov Regiment took over the town of Vasilkov. The insurgents gathered in the town square. "The companies formed a compact column, which Muravyov approached," one Decembrist later recalled. "He greeted the soldiers and tersely described the goals of the uprising, saying how noble and august it was to sacrifice one's life for the cause of liberty. An outburst of enthusiasm was the reply. Officers and men were willing to follow their loved and respected commander wherever he led them."

Muravyov, however, would not order the men to take the field. He was waiting for more regiments to join his even though the most daring officers argued that it was essential to attack Kiev. For different reasons, no other regiment joined the Chernigov.

The government sent a punitive detachment to capture the rebels. The Chernigov soldiers moved out to meet it, sure that the whole force would come over to their side.

Volleys of grapeshot shattered their illusion. The uprising was drowned in blood. Muravyov-Apostol and Bestuzhev-Ryumin were taken on the battlefield, arms in hand.

### The Trial

Nicholas I appointed himself chief investigator. He concentrated the attention of his team not on the Decembrist ideology and political demands but on the idea of regicide. The five leaders of the uprising—Pavel Pestel, Kondrati Ryleyev, Sergei Muravyov-Apostol, Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin and Pyotr Kakhovsky—were sentenced to death by hanging. They were executed in the Peter and Paul Fortress at dawn on July 13, 1826. All of the officers were demoted to the ranks and deprived of nobility by the sinister ritual of civil execution: Swords were broken above their heads, and their tunics and epaulets were torn off them and thrown into a bonfire. More than 120 Decembrists were sent to Siberia for long-term hard labor and exile. Many who were reduced to the ranks were sent to the Caucasus, where the Imperial government was waging war against the local people. Many privates were flogged to death; others, including the whole Chernigov Regiment (more than 800 men), were deprived of their decorations and were sent to the Caucasian theater of war.

It wasn't until 30 years later, in 1856, when Nicholas was succeeded on the throne by Alexander II, that amnesty was declared and the 40 survivors returned from Siberia.

### A Historian's Judgment

We can hardly overestimate the Decembrists' influence on the Russian revolutionary movement and on Russian history in general. Leo Tolstoy wrote these simple and meaningful words about them: "Decembrists are always interesting and evoke the most serious thoughts and feelings." His *War and Peace*, first conceived as a novel about the first Russian revolutionaries, is a broad reflection of their time. Pushkin, their contemporary and friend, called them "the most intelligent people in Russia." He began the "Tale of a Lieutenant of the Chernigov Regiment," which he never finished. The movement found its way into *Eugene Onegin*, one of his main works. Pushkin intended to make the title hero of his novel in verse a Decembrist and a participant in the Senate Square events. The existing fragments of "Canto Ten," the manuscript of which the author burned, clearly testify to that.

Alexander Herzen, the renowned revolutionary author, saw himself as successor to the Decembrists. A cover of *Polar Star*, the revolutionary periodical that he edited abroad, bore the profiles of the five executed heroes. Even the name was borrowed from the Decembrist annual, to show, as Herzen put it, "the continuity of tradition, succession of efforts, a blood relationship and deep-lying connections" between his generation and the earlier generation of revolutionaries of noble birth. Herzen said he was conducting his broad revolutionary propaganda under the Decembrist banner. "The Russia of martyrs, the Russia of Siberian mines and dungeons, the Russia of Pestel and Muravyov, of Ryleyev and Bestuzhev speaks through our lips," he wrote. Herzen and his Free Press did a great deal to carry the Decembrist literary heritage to Russian readers.

Although defeated, the forerunners of the Russian Revolution didn't lose; the future was with their cause.

Lenin began his periods of the Russian revolutionary movement with the Decembrists. In his *In Memory of Herzen* he wrote:

We clearly see the three generations, the three classes, that were active in the Russian revolution. At first it was nobles and landlords, the Decembrists and Herzen. These revolutionaries formed but a narrow group. They were very far removed from the people. But their effort was not in vain. ■

Soviet and American military experts agreed 15 years ago that an attack on Moscow, New York, London or Paris by 20 modern VX-laden bombers would claim over 80 per cent of the inhabitants of the cities. Other estimates show that chemical weapons would inflict losses among civilians exceeding by 20 to 30 times the losses sustained by military troops. Expert on military affairs Lev Semeiko discusses the alternative.

## THE SILENT, BUT DEADLY, BINARY WEAPONS

**Not to seek the prohibition of chemical weapons means to court a "silent death" invasion at the cost of millions of lives.**

THE STATISTICS cry out for a total ban on chemical weapons because they are offensive arms unmistakably designed for mass annihilation. There should be an immediate ban to stop their further proliferation. In 1973 five countries possessed them; today the number is 15.

Moreover, the spread of these weapons may accelerate with the full-scale manufacture of the newest, the binary, arms. Without effective regulations, the number of states possessing chemical weapons may double over the next decade.

### The Danger

The advocates of new weapons always refer to the shortcomings of old systems and types of weaponry, concealing the shortcomings of the new ones. (Incidentally, the word "shortcomings" is hardly applicable here since in my view everything about weapons is negative.) And so it goes now with binaries. However, the advocates also point to the dangers of the long storage of unitaries, for instance, the increasing risk of leaks. A global ban on chemical weapons and the liquidation of their stockpiles would seem to be the best answer, in both peacetime and wartime. But those who advocate stockpiling gigantic amounts of chemical weapons propose a different way out, maintaining that instead of, or rather in addition to, unitary weapons, binary weapons should be created. These, they claim, are comprised of two nontoxic, or minimally toxic, ingredients, and if a leak should occur, it wouldn't be catastrophic since the substances become lethal only when the two ingredients are mixed. The mixing occurs only after a shell is launched. Therefore, they claim the new chemical weapons can be safely stored almost forever.

However, what about the problem of control?

Imagine trying to control the production of nontoxic substances at hundreds of chemical plants around the world: That would be impossible. Manufacturers everywhere would claim: "We're involved in civilian production and commercial output, not in poisonous substances." Given the political situation, thousands upon thousands of pieces of binary ammunition could be created out of the two nontoxic substances. Therefore, it would become even harder than it is now to implement a complete and general ban of the weapons.

Not to seek the prohibition of chemical weapons means to court a "silent death" invasion at the cost of millions of lives. The UN Secretary General's report prepared in 1969 by a group of experts from 14 countries said that if germ and chemical weapons were ever used on a large scale in a war, no one could estimate how long the residual effect would last and what effect it would have on the structure of society and on the environment. This pervasive danger applies equally to the attacking country as well as the one being attacked.

Particularly relevant in this respect is the proposal put forth by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to France in October 1985: "If it is possible to reach agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms, why not apply the same method to chemical weapons? This would be in the general direction of efforts to achieve their total prohibition. The Soviet Union would be prepared to take part in the drafting of an international accord on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons."

### What Must Be Done?

The Soviet Union has never resorted to chemical weapons and has consistently come out for their prohibition. In 1928 the USSR was one of the first to agree to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which bans the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or

other such gases and bacteriological weapons. The importance of the Geneva Protocol is obvious. But the Protocol does not prohibit the manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons nor on-going research in this field. Therefore, for the purposes of a complete prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, the USSR together with the other socialist countries proposed in September 1969 that this issue be included on the agenda of the UN General Assembly, and it submitted a draft of an appropriate international convention.

In order to expedite a solution to the problem, the socialist countries took several more initiatives. In the summer of 1982, at the UN General Assembly's second special session on disarmament, the USSR put forward a new proposal: a draft of the basic provisions for the above-mentioned convention, which took into account the results of the Soviet-American talks from 1976 to 1980 and the desires and proposals of the states that participated in negotiations at the conference on disarmament, including the United States.

In 1983 the USSR came forward with the idea for a chemical weapons freeze. But this could not be realized either.

The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty countries decided then to try a regional approach, in addition. On January 10, 1984, they proposed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) joint discussions on how to rid Europe of chemical weapons. They also suggested that the talks be held that same year. The idea was that a Europe free from chemical weapons would be a decisive step forward toward the eventual global ban on these weapons.

The USSR later repeated this proposal at the Stockholm conference.

An important new initiative was advanced by the socialist countries on September 13, 1985. The German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Czechoslovakia proposed to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) that they start negotiations on creating a zone free from chemical weapons in Europe... removing them from the territories of the countries located directly on the demarcation line between the military-political blocs. Apart from liquidating the stockpiles of chemical weapons there, preclusion of the deployment of the new, especially binary, types in Europe was called for.

The independent Commission on Disarmament, which unites eminent political and public figures of different countries (the Palme Commission), spoke out for the creation of such a zone back in 1982. This idea has much in common with the initiative put forward by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the ruling party in the GDR, and the Social Democratic Party, the largest opposition party in the FRG. The USSR also supports the idea. In reference to this Mikhail Gorbachev has said: "Should a chemical-weapons-free zone be established in Central Europe, the USSR, following its basic foreign policy principles, would be ready to guarantee and respect the status of this zone. Such a guarantee would enter into force if the USA, for its part, acted accordingly."

"Europe," he said, "should be viewed not as a potential theater of war, but as an arena of mutually beneficial peaceful cooperation between states and peoples."

Of course, partial steps of a regional nature to limit, cut and eliminate chemical weapons would affect fewer states. But no doubt that agreeing upon and implementing them would be simpler if there were the appropriate states' political will for this.

Besides, it is easier to proceed from the partial to the whole: Urgently ban all types of chemical weapons and their components, liquidate their stockpiles and agree not to develop new weapons.

This is what the Soviet Union advocates. Such is the demand of reason.

## STARTING ANEW

By Darya Nikolayeva  
Drawings by Mikhail Shestopal

I HAVE a girl friend who doesn't seem to realize that telephone communication is a two-way street. As soon as she hears me say Hello, she begins a stream of consciousness. While she is talking, I can look through a newspaper or knit (I keep my knitting needles in the drawer of the phone table specifically for this purpose). I even can sneak out to the kitchen for a snack without missing much of her monologue. All she needs in the way of encouragement is a grunt now and then.

When members of my family see me in the hallway with the phone receiver glued to my ear, they nod their head in sympathy and disappear.

It suddenly dawned on me that I'm not much better than my girl friend! I've been pouring my heart out to readers for a year now, not for a quarter of an hour or even 30 minutes! Frankly, I'd be happy to get a response from you even if only a formal one. Having realized that, I come to the conclusion that I must be more indulgent of my friend and less so of myself.

But how could I contain my feelings when I read the letter Mary Clark of Laurel, Maryland, wrote to SOVIET LIFE? "You're smiling from ear to ear," my son Igor says, somewhat amused. I ignore his comment because the letter gives me much pleasure. It is nothing like the grunts I usually make over the phone: Warm feelings for my family and me exude from it. It says that my column is witty and informal. I don't know if I could find more complimentary words for another person's writing.

An equally warm feeling for the writer rises in me in response to the praise, and I imagine Mary Clark, who until only a minute ago was a total stranger, to be not only a good friend of mine but a person very much like myself. I have a vivid picture of us "sitting down and having tea together," as she writes.



Eager to begin another story, I say to her in my mind: "You know, Mary..." I feel at my best because she asks me questions and is obviously interested in what I have to say.

But why only Mary Clark? I hope other people are reading "The Way We Live," too, and I invite everyone to join Mary and me. I welcome your advice, responses, remarks and questions in the new year! As time goes on, we adults tend to lose our childish belief that life will change after January 1. But as Ernest Hemingway put it in one of his stories, if I can't have long hair or fun, can I at least have a cat? Do I have the right to believe that at least our communication through the magazine, if not our entire lives, will be a little different in the new year? Your comments—and I'm looking forward to receiving them—will make the difference.

This time I don't have to wrack my brain for a topic for my column because I've already picked one out. The New Year's celebrations have ended, but the three-meter-high fir tree behind me is still filling the apartment with the fragrance of the forest. Five years ago Sergei, my husband, and I attempted to do our part for the environment by buying an artificial New Year's tree and a can of fragrance,

also artificial. But Tatyana and Igor, our children, objected so strongly, we had to beat a hasty retreat. To make us feel better, they showed us a newspaper clipping that said that the fir trees sold at New Year's bazaars are the result of forest thinnings or come from farms set up specially for the purpose of preserving wildlife.

Isn't it amazing that our children, who we think are in such a hurry to grow up and be independent, turn out to be consistently and ardently traditional as far as New Year's customs are concerned!

Early in our marriage Sergei and I arrived at the unanimous conclusion that the winter holidays should be really breathtaking. We never permitted the children to take part in the preparations, and we avoided any discussion about our plans around the kids. When everything was ready, we would fling open the door to the living room, and there in front of them would be the New Year's tree all decked out with glittering multicolored balls and colorful lights. We would also decorate the room with paper garlands and tinsel and be careful to arrange the gifts under the tree so that the kids couldn't guess immediately what was in them. At first we used to make a huge gift container out of candy for each child, as tall as the child for whom it was made, but that nearly ruined our family's budget because we would fill the monstrosities to capacity. The following year we had to use our ingenuity to make the packaging less expensive: The hull of the ship we formed out of cardboard and multicolored construction paper wasn't as spacious as the notorious candy containers. Still later we made lanterns, pirate treasure chests and gnomes to conceal gifts. All of the items had to be made at night and in perfect silence. Besides, we had to "think like thieves" in order to hide the gifts we bought because even the best detective is a bungler as compared to two kids eager to find the surprises ahead of time.

One year we decided to change our custom. "That's it! The children are too grownup now. We'll all decorate the tree and set the table together and exchange presents at the dinner table," Sergei and I agreed. Everything turned out quite nicely, I thought, but I nearly burst into tears when I overheard the children talking after everything was over. "Do you remember how great it used to be?" I heard Tatyana say.

Everyone was just thrilled to resume our old custom and, I think, last year we surpassed ourselves. The medieval castle with turrets and battlements we made was really impressive, though it did make a big dent in our budget. This only confirms that children grow faster than incomes. But in the morning, when we heard Tatyana and Igor in the living room ecstatically cry out, "Oh, wow!" that was followed by the rustling of paper and incomprehensible whispers, we were extremely pleased.

To be fair to Tatyana and Igor, I must say that they've changed quite a bit over the years: They've stopped searching through the apartment as ardently as before, and they don't try to stay awake all night to catch us in the act of putting up the tree and decorating it. No longer do we feel the panic and freeze in our steps if a ball falls and breaks into pieces, producing a gentle sound. "They've learned the rules of the game," my husband maintains.

I've had to learn them, too. One year my son, who used to stay in bed as long as possible and to gulp down his breakfast in the elevator on his way out, began to change his habits shortly before the New Year's holiday. He started getting up at six in the morning and disappearing from sight with an "I've got to go now," as he shut the door behind him. My husband kept telling me not to butt in or attempt to find out what it was all about. One morning, on my way back from buying milk, I spotted Igor entering a doorway, not ours, with a bundle of newspapers in his hands. Then everything clicked: He hadn't been asking me for pocket money for a



while, so he must be trying to earn some money to buy us presents, I thought.

You have to know something about life in the USSR to understand how grand was his gesture. Soviet labor legislation prohibits persons under 16 from working. Sometimes 15-year-olds are permitted to hold jobs but only in exceptional cases. However, some modern parents, like me, think that the laws are somewhat out of date. We believe it wouldn't do our fast-growing teenagers any harm if they were to learn it isn't easy to hold a job. They would also discover the rewards of their work and experience the good feeling of having some pocket money of their own, without having to ask their parents for it. Still, laws cannot be changed overnight. Besides, not everybody agrees on this, and they have their own reasons for thinking the way they do, just as I have mine. Anyway, Igor obviously had to overcome several obstacles to get his job. I have a good idea of how he went about it. The grandmother of one of his friends is a postal worker, and helpers are always needed in that profession. So thanks to her grandson and Igor's help, a larger district could be serviced.

Our New Year's game rules cautioned me against revealing my discovery, but knowing how much the children had sacrificed—while Igor was working, Tatyana was saving her allowance—made their presents especially dear. Tatyana bought a fluffy striped bathrobe for her father, which made him look like a caterpillar, and a makeup kit for me, chosen, I must add, with exquisite taste and expert knowledge of the subject.

Igor gave his father a new gadget for his car and gave me an electric-blue plastic sea gull perched on a high wave.

"It's kitsch, really kitsch!" Tatyana exclaimed in awe when she saw Igor's present.

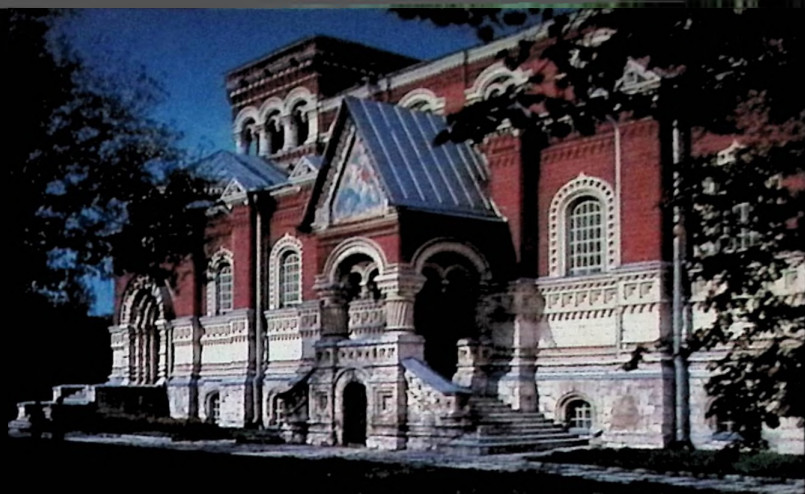
"No, it isn't," he objected. "It's called," he said, consulting the price tag he had wisely removed beforehand, "The Joy of Free Flight."





# LESSER-KNOWN MUSEUMS OF VLADIMIR REGION

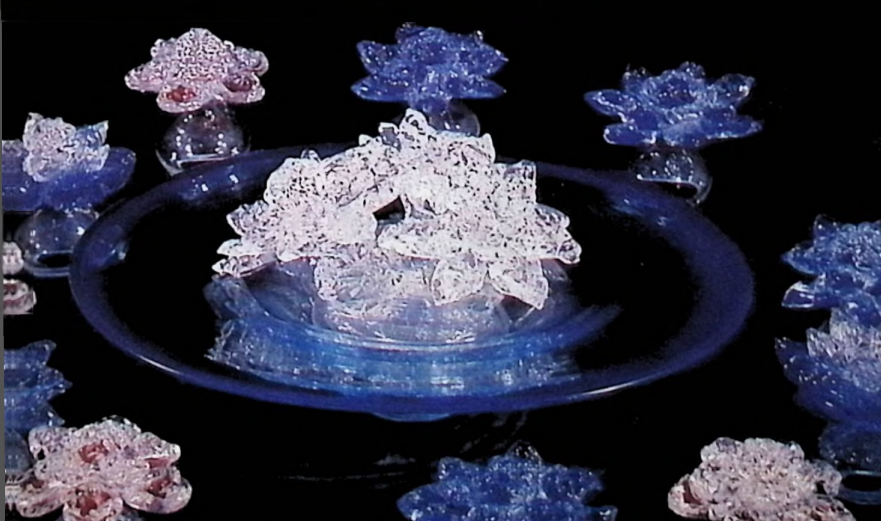
By Andrei Zayev  
Photographs by Alexei Sverdlov



The Gus-Khrustalnyy Glass Museum is housed in the Cathedral of St. George—above, a monument of nineteenth century architecture and painting. Left: **The Firebird**, blown glass with appliques by Vladimir Muratov. Bottom left: **The Blue Altai**, a decorative composition of blown colored glass also by Vladimir Muratov.



glass from the gus-khrustalnyy plant in vladimir region



**T**he area around the towns of Vladimir and Suzdal, northeast of Moscow, is an old center of Russian culture and statehood. Here in the heart of Russia we find twelfth and thirteenth century relics of architecture, painting and applied art. The museums in Vladimir and Suzdal have long been meccas for tourists, yet few people stop off to see the museums of the lesser-known towns nearby, though they have many interesting

items for the lover of Russian art and history. Take, for instance, the museum in Gus-Khrustalnyy.

### Gus-Khrustalnyy Crystal

By order of the Russian Senate, Akim Maltsev, a merchant from Orlov, built a glass factory along the Gus (Goose) River in the year 1756. The spot was not a random choice. The abundance of light sand, the staple raw material for the production of glass, the nearby forest, which provided fuel, and a major trade route not far ▶

**the sparkling  
world of crystal**



One of the corners of the glass museum (above), called "Glass in Everyday Modern Life." Left: Inspiration, an engraved dish of colored glass by Adolf Kurilov. Facing page, right: A decorative platter in colored crystal by Olga Kozlova. Below, from left to right: Colored crystal. The second quarter of the nineteenth century. Pieces in the modern style were made by craftsmen of Gus-Khrustalnyi at the turn of the century. This is iridescent glass. The surface of the vessels was covered with a compound containing metal oxides that produce colors ranging from purple to light mother-of-pearl. Foma and Yeryoma, decorative vessels of blown glass by Vladimir Korneev. The famous Glass Bouquet made by Razumel Vasilev 150 years ago.

**the fanciful play  
of light, color  
and shape  
is perceived as  
a symphony of crystal**





away made it a most suitable place.

Word of the skill of the Gus glass blowers gradually spread throughout the length and breadth of the land, and a museum was soon opened on the factory premises. Today it boasts the fin-

est pieces created over these past two centuries.

The collection is now housed in the Cathedral of St. George, a monument of nineteenth century architecture and painting designed by Russian architect Leonti Benua (1856-1928). Benua was responsi-

ble for many buildings in Moscow and Leningrad. Victor Vasnetsov (1848-1926), a recognized master of decorative and monumental painting, helped decorate the interior of the cathedral. Near the altar is a mosaic of Mary done from his sketches and on the west wall

a canvas depicting the Last Judgment.

**History, Legend, Tradition**

Eighteenth century decanters of different sizes and goblets for special occasions are the most ▶





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Besides cut glass, the museum has a large collection of Russian glass decorated with painted patterns and gold and silver.

Visitors to the Gus-Khrustalnyy Museum always linger in front of an extraordinary piece—a bouquet of flowers of the finest workmanship. Legend has it that 150 years ago a craftsman by the name of Razumei Vasiliev made the bouquet for his daughter, who was very ill. In her delirium, the little girl constantly spoke of flowers, and so her father made the unusual bouquet one winter night from leftover scraps of glass. It is said that the child recovered after seeing the lovely flowers.

Making the flowers took special talent and skill because the craftsman only had the simplest tools, like scissors, clamps and pincers, to handle the hot glass.

#### A Grand Prix for the Zubanovs

Gus-Khrustalnyy crystal has always been famous for its purity and resounding ring. Generations of talented craftspeople working at the factory passed on their skill and experience to the younger generation. The glassware produced by several generations of the Travkin family, who were engravers, and the works of the Chikhachovs, masters of the diamond cut, are widely known.

The members of the Zubanov family, however, deserve special mention for their mastery of line and light. They have succeeded in capturing the rays of the Sun and making them play in the deep grooves of the crystal. There is a story that the elders of the clan, a father and son, were fascinated one day by the intricate pattern that the frost had made on the windowpane, and so they decided to copy it in glass. Intricately stylized flowers and leaves formed the basis of the pattern, which went down in the history of Russian cut glass as "bright plant." The crystal piece that they created won a *grand prix* at the Paris Exhibition of 1900. The descendants of that father and son team still work at the factory. Valdimir Zubanov, a USSR State Prize winner, is the glassworks' chief technician. His wife and daughter also work here. The Zubanovs' combined length of service at Gus-Khrustalnyy totals more than 200 years.

#### "Muratov Glass"

Cut glass by contemporary craftspeople is widely represented in the museum. It includes the decorative composition *A Paeon to Glass*, by Merited Artist of the Russian Federation Vladimir Muratov and Victor Kasatkin, an old master at the factory. The piece is a combination of metal and glass and shows the wide range of possibilities that modern glassmaking offers; it stresses the beauty of glass and the many ways it can be made.

Muratov began to work in glass during the late sixties, and by the seventies people were already talking about "Muratov glass." Today he makes a wide range of fig-

urines, decorative items and large murals. The museum has on display many of the artist's best works, including the decorative compositions *The Blue Altar*, *Sogdiana* and *Arctica*, which won a gold medal at Expo '70 in Montreal, and the dinner set *Gvardelsky*.

#### Olga Kozlova

Olga Kozlova, the only woman artist at the factory, likes to work with plain glass. She loves its transparency and emphasizes its flowing lines. Her items are fragile, elegant and graceful. She dedicated her decorative vase *Olympia*, made of gold crystal and decorated with a broad oval engraving, to the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. The shape of the vase brings to mind the Olympic Torch. The decorative platter *Baltica* was made after she made a trip to the Baltic republics. The high diamond relief and soft cobalt blue color are reminiscent of the cold waves of the Baltic Sea. One of the artist's latest works, a bowl she titled *Rossiya*, looks somewhat like an old Russian loving cup.

#### Tradition and Innovation

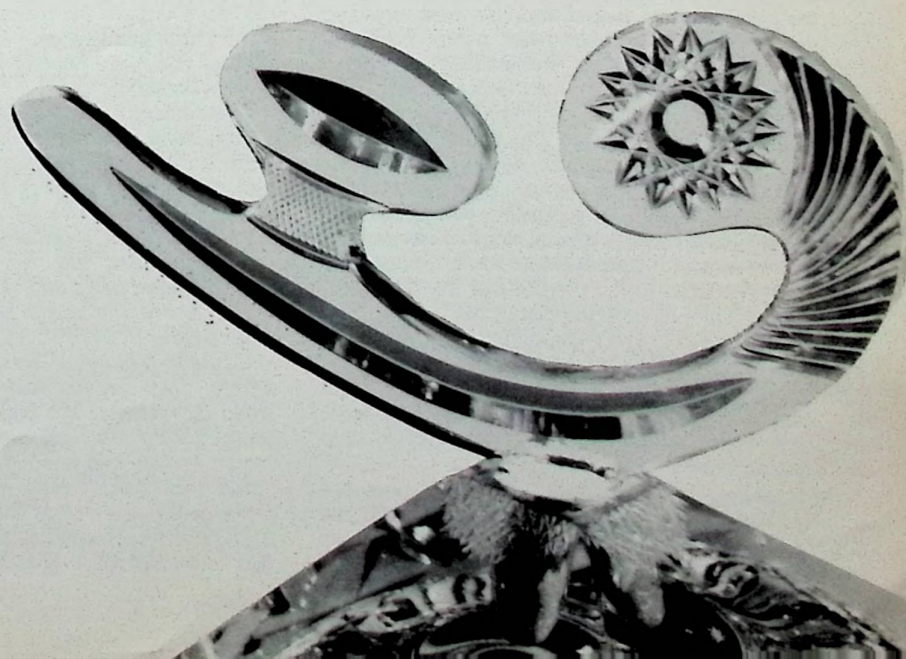
Roman Aksyonov is a virtuoso at handling glass. Knowing the technology to perfection, he tries to diversify glassware as much as possible. The dinner set *Shrovetide* is diamond cut, the decorative composition *Space* is blown glass, while the vase *Hollyhock* makes use of colored glass appliques. An elegant dinner set called *Goluboi* (light blue) is a typical example of Aksyonov's treatment of smooth colored glass. Aksyonov designed *The Crystal Skate*, the award presented to the winners of the international figure-skating competition sponsored by the paper *Moscow News*.

Vladimir Korneyev, the factory's chief artist, is drawn to the traditions of old Russian glassmaking, folk art and rich colors. His blown glass figurines are simple and graceful in form. His decorative vessels *Foma* and *Yeryoma* (names of characters from Russian folklore) are brightly colored and have contrasting proportions. In some respects, they resemble the wine bottles of Old Russia. The wineglasses *Lion* and *Mermaid* were prompted by the carving on the cathedrals in Vladimir; the mugs *Vladimir* and *Suzdal* were made in the old traditions and decorated with mat engraved emblems of the towns. The decanter titled *Governor* is handsome and full of subtle humor. Korneyev makes broad use of the diamond cut when he creates large tableware sets. Some of them—*Spring*, *Silvery* and *Luzhniki*—are on display in the museum.

It has been said since olden times that crystal is "born of fire." The cut glass of Gus-Khrustalnyy that has gained world renown at international exhibitions in Brussels, Montreal and Osaka has captured the rays of the Sun, the transparency of spring water and the pure tinkle of icicles. ■



Vladimir Zubanov, chief technician of the Gus-Khrustalnyy glassworks, comes from the famous Zubanov family of craftspeople whose length of service at the factory totals more than 200 years. Below: *The Crystal Skate*, made by Roman Aksyonov in the traditional diamond-cut style, is presented to the winners of the international figure-skating competition sponsored by *Moscow News*.



Young American pilot Heidi Ann Porch was flying her Cessna-182 across the Pacific when suddenly her plane developed engine trouble and went down in the ocean. Heidi survived the crash, but between sharks and freezing temperatures, the end seemed near. Gennadi Bocharov describes how tragedy was avoided.

## IN THE NICK OF TIME

Drawing by Alexei Ostromentsky

**T**he one-engine Cessna-182 piloted by young American flier Heidi Ann Porch was bound for Auckland, New Zealand. It was her tenth trans-Pacific flight from California, and, like the others, it was being carried out at the request of aircraft buyers in Australia and New Zealand.

*Thousands of miles away, Captain Ivan Mochalov, 57, climbed onto the bridge of the Soviet refrigerator transport the Ussuri taiga. Its destination Vladivostok, the vessel approached the Tsugaru Strait, the best route from the Pacific to the Sea of Japan. The captain apprehensively listened to the weather forecast—a typhoon was expected in Japan.*

Heidi cast a glance at the oil gauge. The pressure seemed to be falling. She increased speed, but the pressure continued to fall. It wasn't too long before the indicator approached the zero mark, and the now-overheated engine began making pulsating sounds. Heidi tried to angle the Cessna into a glide, but the plane was losing altitude at a disastrous rate. Finally the engine died altogether, and Heidi realized her flight was over. Open sea stretched below her. The Cessna began to fall quickly. It took all of the young pilot's strength to prevent it from going into a spin. All the while she kept sending SOS signals over the radio. She hoped they would be picked up at least in Hawaii. Her last words were: "I'm alone, falling into the ocean. . . ."

*Captain Mochalov entered the lounge. Two sailors were there relaxing after their watch and Dr. Natalia Popova, the ship's doctor, was leafing through some magazines. Everybody was in high spirits, as the home port was near. The captain sat down at the piano and started up a tune.*

The Cessna hit the water nose first and overturned. The cockpit was submerged. The impact stunned Heidi, but in a few seconds she regained her mental clarity. Controlling her panic, she realized that she had to get out immediately, otherwise she would surely go down with the plane. Her back was aching but not enough to hamper her movements. Heidi quickly located the inflatable life raft and unhooked her safety belt. As she opened the door to the cockpit, water began rushing in. Mustering all of her strength, she pushed away from the plane and finally rose to the surface. The glare of the bright sunlight against the water made her dizzy, but she was able to make out the undercarriage of the plane directly in front of her.

Water, iridescent with gasoline, gently lapped over the plane. Grabbing an aileron for support, Heidi managed to scramble into the raft. The shallow vessel wouldn't offer much protection from waves, even medium-sized ones, but it would help her keep on the surface.

Heidi prayed that the plane wouldn't sink too quickly. The longer it stayed afloat, the greater the chance of its being spotted by an airplane or an approaching ship. Also, the waves, which were get-

ting bigger, would carry her raft far from the site, and the coordinates she had broadcast would be all wrong. Rocked by waves, she kept one hand on the craft's stabilizer. It was the last service the plane could provide.

Heidi told herself it wouldn't be long before a ship appeared on the horizon or a plane flew overhead. Maybe a yacht? Or a submarine?

As the minutes grew into hours, time began to drag on and her hopes started to fade. She was alone with only the sea and the sky.

*When Heidi's SOS signals were picked up in Hawaii, a U.S. Coast Guard search plane was immediately dispatched to the scene. However, the accident had occurred in one of the most deserted parts of the Pacific, and the crew of the search plane knew it was in for a long haul. It also knew that even if it was able to locate the downed craft, it wasn't equipped to pluck the pilot from the water. A ship was needed for that. Therefore, before zeroing in on the site, the crew decided to search for a ship in the vicinity. For hours on end they flew back and forth over the ocean.*

The waves kept growing. Becoming weary, Heidi found the pitch and roll of the ocean monotonous and the emptiness surrounding her oppressive. As dusk approached, she began to realize she'd be in for a night on the ocean, all alone. The sea started to roar.

The thought that the plane would sink at any minute and that she would be washed away by the rough seas kept recurring. Heidi tightened her grip on the stabilizer. I mustn't give up hope, she kept telling herself. Help is coming. . . .

*The Ussuri taiga's navigator on duty reported to Captain Mochalov that a four-engine U.S. Coast Guard plane was approaching. The captain looked up and saw the craft on the port side. With a deafening roar the plane hedgehopped over the ship, made a sharp turn and flew off.*

"Can you make contact with it on the radio?" the captain asked.

"No contact," was the reply.

*The plane returned, this time on the starboard side. It made another hop over and another sharp turn. Captain Mochalov raised his voice, "What's going on? It could have hit our masts!" The international emergency channel was silent, and the auxiliary frequencies, too. No information. The Ussuri taiga changed gears and came to a grinding halt.*

*High above, the search plane rolled its wings from side to side.*

*Captain Mochalov was now standing on the bridge. Thus far, his seafaring days were unblemished by incident. The only trouble he had encountered during his long career was an occasional storm. And he had needed to employ the command "Man overboard!" only during training sessions. Fires, collisions—neither had ever happened to him.*

*The plane seemed to be signaling for help. Twice it had flown over the ship and disappeared in the same*

*direction, only to return. The ship's radio, however, was silent: Perhaps something was interfering with the signal. If the Ussuri taiga were to follow, it might land directly in the typhoon's grasp.*

*Realizing that the ship understood its message, the Coast Guard plane flew away to find Heidi.*

*Changing its course, the Ussuri taiga resolutely went to greet the typhoon.*

Everything seemed to be working against the young downed pilot: Waves, wind, thirst, hunger and thoughts of death began to take their toll. The dropping temperature only added to the list of tortures. It was winter in the Southern Hemisphere and the ocean water was ice cold. All that Heidi had on was a lightweight flight suit and not even a cap. Flying across the Pacific was routine for her. But now, having already spent more than 12 hours in the water, she was beginning to give in to the elements. The bone-chilling waves kept gnawing at the raft.

Suddenly she spied triangular fins. Sharks! That's the end, Heidi thought. As waves lashed at her unmercifully, she tried to regain her calm and to continue clutching the rubber edge of the raft. One particularly powerful wave all but washed her overboard.

The next minute something altogether different came into view: an airplane. The Coast Guard! The aircraft hedgehopped, turned sharply and returned. Between the sight of the sharks and the rescue plane, Heidi felt she would surely go out of her mind. One moment she was preparing to die, and the next she was hoping beyond all hope to survive.

A huge wave lifted the raft and, with a loud roar, crushed against the downed craft. Almost instantly the Cessna began to sink. She gazed at the spot for a long time watching the plane disappear beneath the sea.

*All that Captain Mochalov could make out with his binoculars was an expansive emptiness. "Can you pick up anything on the radar screen?" he asked his first mate.*

"A plane," the first mate replied. "It's circling a spot in the ocean."

"I see it," the captain said. "Full speed ahead!" The Ussuri taiga sped forward at 18 knots.

"Something must have happened there," the captain repeated softly to himself. Why else would the plane be circling that spot for so long?

*Darkness was falling as the ship continued on its way.*

Heidi saw one ball of fire detach from the search plane above and fall into the ocean, then another flame and still another. As the flames touched the surface of the ocean, they grew brighter. Heidi thought triumphantly: The pilots know what they are doing. No shark is bold enough to cross that burning wall.

*Focusing his binoculars, Captain Mochalov made out a flare 40 to 50 degrees starboard. When the*

crew members of the plane saw the ship, they fired a volley of orange rockets—man overboard.

"Man overboard!" the captain bellowed. "Switch on the searchlights!"

Immediately, three large beams began scanning the sea. The crew that was to man the rescue boat began putting on life jackets. Without hesitation, Dr. Popova went on the alert.

The Ussuri taiga slowed its speed in only a matter of minutes in order not to run over those to be saved with the huge mass of the ship.

Meanwhile, Heidi's raft continued to rock and roll with the waves. Mustering what was left of her fast-ebbing strength, she held on for dear life. Down deep she knew she would survive after all! The ship and the plane were now so near.

The first mate contacted the captain.

"We have a young woman on board, Sir, and we're towing her raft."

"Is she alive and conscious?"

"She sure is, Sir, and talking a blue streak."

"Ask her if there were any others with her."

"She says she's alone . . . piloting a plane by herself."

"Is she delirious?" the captain persisted.

"Not in the least."

"Get back," the captain ordered.

The sea had become so rough that it took the rescue boat half an hour to return to the ship. The sailors looked at the young pilot with compassion: She was shivering all over.

Heidi was on board at last. Fate had lost the game.

raging, but the entire crew of the Soviet ship gathered on deck in the pale light of dawn to see Heidi off. She waved good-bye to the sailors, embraced Dr. Popova and shook hands with Captain Mochalov and his mates. With a rope tied around her waist, Heidi stepped onto the ladder of the American vessel and made the steep 12-meter descent unaided. Her countrymen greeted her with a loud cheer. As the ships proceeded on their courses, Heidi could be seen on deck waving.

The happy ending to this story is nothing out of the ordinary. Everybody did just what they could and should do under the circumstances. However, the incident once again confirms the old truth, "Humanity is the measure of all things human." But, however routine, the incident reflects the face of time like a mirror.



The Coast Guard plane aimed its powerful searchlight directly on Heidi's raft. The rescue boat followed. . . .

The Ussuri taiga maneuvered and heaved to. Staring at the black expanse of ocean, the crew crowded onto the deck of the ship. Ideas of what had happened filtered through the crowd. Some sailors had taken the spots of fire for a burning ship. Those with lively imaginations even discerned lifeboats.

The Ussuri taiga's rescue boat shoved off with 12 men on board. Maneuvering the 400 meters of rough sea separating the ship from Heidi's craft wouldn't be easy.

The Coast Guard plane aimed its powerful searchlight directly on Heidi's raft. The rescue boat followed the beam. Now the sailors could make out the burning flares dancing on the waves and the tiny reflector light on a raft. The situation became clear.

The rescue boat was finally close enough for the men to see the object of their search. A rising wave took them near the raft, and they grabbed at the tiny vessel, but the rubber was so wet they couldn't get a hold of it. Just then Heidi, with superhuman effort, thrust herself forward into the arms of her rescuers. In only a second the exhausted, drenched and chilled-to-the-bone young pilot was in the rescue boat. After making sure that she was okay, they grabbed the raft and put it in tow. Relieved, Heidi laughed and cried at the same time.

The Coast Guard plane hedgehopped the area one more time, lighting it up with a powerful white beam. Assured that everything was okay, it flew off into the night.

Heidi was immediately taken to the ship's hospital. She was badly bruised and obviously exhausted from stress and exposure, but the joy of being alive worked wonders, and she miraculously regained her composure. She insisted on doing everything herself, unaided, smiling bravely all the while as an expression of her gratitude. After a long hot bath, she was ready to meet Captain Mochalov.

"How are you, young lady?" he asked in English.

"Just fine, thanks!" she answered. "Just think, it's all over now! Thank you so much!"

"We've contacted Honolulu, and an American ship will be arriving to take you on board. It will be here in four or five hours. Meanwhile, try to get some rest."

Heidi nodded and said: "Captain, I don't know what would have happened to me if you had arrived just half an hour later, or if you hadn't come at all. I really don't know."

In the nick of time, the captain thought and patted the young pilot on the shoulder.

Five hours later the Ussuri taiga prepared to rendezvous with the American ship. The storm was still

Some weeks later Captain Mochalov received the following letter from the United States:

Dear Captain,

I am awfully sorry not to have written sooner, but it took some time to get back to normal after my experience. I really owe so much to you and your crew. I confess, however, that I felt a little nervous when I realized I was on board a Soviet ship.

The way I was treated drove all fears away in no time. Everybody displayed lots of kindness and attention. I was really sorry when I learned I was to leave your ship so soon: I was eager to know all of you better. I requested Mr. Anatoli Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador, to pass this letter and my photo on to you, though I'd love to hand it to you personally. I found myself the center of attention when I got home, not only because I had fallen into the Pacific but because it was Soviet sailors who had saved me. Everybody was eager to know what they looked like and how they behaved. As I see it, you displayed real nobility. That is what I have told my fellow countrymen. Thank you for everything.

Yours truly,  
Heidi Ann Porch

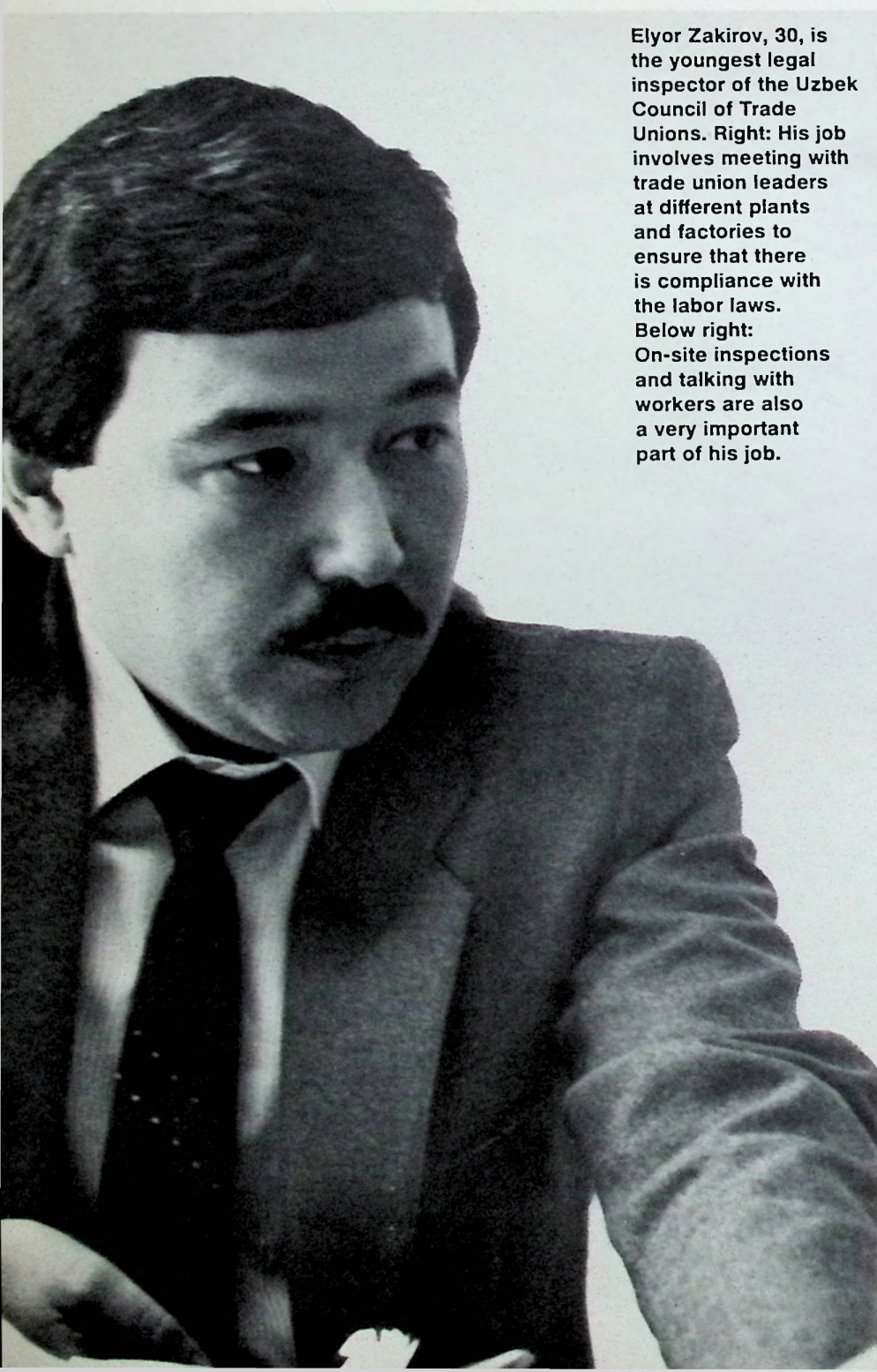
Courtesy of the weekly  
Literaturnaya gazeta

profile

# INSPECTOR FOR THE LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

By Vladimir Mizhiritsky  
Photographs by Vladimir Kovrein

Elyor Zakirov is one of six legal inspectors on the Labor Relations Board of the Uzbek Council of Trade Unions. Agencies like it are set up within all trade union bodies in all republics and regions of the USSR. The job of the legal inspector is to make sure that working conditions at plants and factories conform with Soviet labor laws.



Elyor Zakirov, 30, is the youngest legal inspector of the Uzbek Council of Trade Unions. Right: His job involves meeting with trade union leaders at different plants and factories to ensure that there is compliance with the labor laws. Below right: On-site inspections and talking with workers are also a very important part of his job.





**T**he Zakirov family is well known in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, Central Asia. True, it is not through Elyor Zakirov that the family has received its fame. Elyor's mother, Mamlakat Vasikova, Doctor of Science (Law), was the Minister of Justice of Uzbekistan for many years. She now heads the Department of Soviet State Law at the Tashkent Institute of Economics. Elyor's father, also a prominent legal specialist, is a professor at Tashkent State University. All five Zakirov children have followed in their parents' footsteps.

Thirty-year-old Elyor, the youngest, is no exception. Seven years ago, after graduating from the university's law school, he joined the staff of a prestigious law office. His future looked quite promising: He could have quickly defended his dissertation and made a name for himself. But Elyor wanted to work with people instead.

"Get a job with the trade unions," his mother advised. "Labor legislation is a very interesting field. Right now the Council of Trade Unions has need for a young legal expert whom it could send on fact-finding trips around the republic. You'd even get to visit the most remote places. That could prove a bonanza for a specialist like you. Ensuring that the labor laws are being observed to the letter—everywhere and at all times—is a big job."

Elyor took his mother's advice, and he has never regretted his decision.

#### Authority

"My job involves visiting enterprises in response to letters and complaints from workers and the staff," says Elyor. "Let's say we receive several complaints from the same plant. Then it's clear to us that there is a problem."

An inspector can also drop by an enterprise at any time and ask the management to show the required documents, information or explanations. Based on the findings, the inspectors are within their rights to request that the officials rectify the situation by correcting the violations. The inspectors can also fine the manager, demand restitution and even have him or her dismissed. The Labor Relations Board enforces the plant's compliance with labor legislation as far as it concerns hiring new workers, transferring skilled workers to other jobs, dismissals, working hours, wages, benefits and guarantees provided for under the law. It also oversees whether or not the collective agreement conforms to the provisions of existing laws. Not too long ago legal inspectors were authorized to monitor the distribution of housing among the workers at plants.

Last year Elyor Zakirov investigated 27 cases and spent a month and a half on business trips. He logged several thousand kilometers on Uzbekistan's roads.

Chief legal inspector Shaaskar Shaazizov, Elyor's supervisor, is quite proud of his staff.

"When Elyor was just a beginner," says Shaazizov, "the managers of large enterprises where there was a conflict tried to sway him with their prestigious positions. But that didn't faze Elyor, and he never argued with them. He simply pointed to the relevant clauses in the statutes. The debate petered out on its own: The law is the law, even for people who think they are above it."

#### Firsthand Experience

Elyor Zakirov has already gathered much experience in the field. The following episodes especially stand out:

Valentina Astanko, a senior engineer at a large furniture-making complex in Tashkent, complained to the Labor Relations Board that the management had wrongly fired her without gaining the consent of the trade union, as is stipulated by law. Elyor looked into the matter and established that the facts in Astanko's complaint were true as stated. On his instruction she was reinstated and received her back salary for the period when she was idle.

Also, once while Elyor was looking through the documents of another association, he noticed that

several workers had been dismissed allegedly on the grounds that the association had to make a reduction in personnel. However, the actual number of workers had not decreased. In other words, new workers were being hired in place of the ones that had been dismissed. This is a gross violation of the labor laws. Although the workers that had been let go hadn't complained and had found jobs elsewhere, Elyor fined the manager of the association and warned him against doing the same thing again.

"In most instances, managers run afoul of the labor laws not out of a desire to do wrong—though there are some—but because they occasionally lack a solid legal background or don't properly interpret the individual laws," says Elyor.

For example, he traveled to a distant geological project where the manager had fired a welder for insubordination. It seems the welder had failed to comply with the manager's request to switch jobs temporarily. Practical necessity prompted the manager's action, but he didn't consider that the law forbids transferring a skilled worker to an unskilled job without the latter's consent, even for a brief time. Elyor insisted that the welder be reinstated. The error was also mentioned to the trade union organizer at the project who had given his consent for the unwarranted decision.

Elyor says that usually an inspector's decisions

are complied with right there and then. Cases where one manager or another disagrees with the inspector's ruling are rare, but they do occur.

One such case took place at a gold-cloth factory in Bukhara. The manager of the factory, Nazima Rakhmatova, had committed a series of major breaches of the law concerning working hours. For instance, the women workers had been working overtime in the shops. The law allows this, but only in special cases and when the workers themselves and the trade union agree to it. Also, double wages must be paid for overtime. However, none of these conditions had been observed, and the inspector's directives had been ignored by Rakhmatova. She had been fined several times, but nothing changed. Finally, on the recommendation of Elyor Zakirov, the Uzbek Council of Trade Unions brought before the republic's Ministry of Light Industry the question of having the manager removed from her position. By order of the minister, Rakhmatova was fired.

"It's not often that the council has to resort to such measures," says Elyor. "There usually isn't a special need for them. Interpreting the law, answering legal questions of managers and disciplining those who persist in violating the law are adequate to cool most hotheads. However, if all else fails, the Council of Trade Unions is firm in demanding that extreme measures be taken." ■

Elyor is married and has children. At family gatherings it's his job to keep an eye on the *shashlik*, an Uzbek dish, and see how it is coming along.



Stopping the ticking of the clock of our fast-paced machine age, Yuri Sapozhkov shares his thoughts on the impact of kindness in our lives and concludes: The chain of good is unbroken.

# KINDNESS

MY MEMORY is like an oak branch, with every episode a leaf. The leaves cling firmly: Neither frost nor wind can make them fall off. What I remember best are kind deeds," Alexandra Demidchik told me when I visited her in her small home town of Narovlya in Byelorussia.

I recall her words every time I hear someone speak about kindness, one of the basic human qualities. The old adage, "One good turn deserves another," suggests that the chain of good is endless. And, I believe, there is no grief or hatred strong enough to destroy people's responsiveness, compassion and readiness to lend a helping hand, which is at first offered instinctively and then with conviction.

In his reminiscences *The Stars Are Quite Near*, Soviet cosmonaut Pyotr Klimuk, who hails from Byelorussia, describes the following episode from his childhood:



I remember a column of German POWs marching through our village. I, the son of a soldier killed fighting the Nazis, looked at them with hatred, but my mother—she of all people—offered them a jug of milk. I think that was the first time I shouted at her. Mother was like a lost soul for a long time after that.

However, his mother's lesson was to stay with him throughout his life.

We who live in the USSR believe it is better to overcome hatred with magnanimity. And in dealing with others, we should stress that which brings us closer together, not that which separates us. Back in 1943, when Soviet people were perishing in Nazi death camps every day, wounded POWs from Field Marshal Von Paulus' army that had surrendered in Stalingrad were being treated in Soviet hospitals and given meat, milk and cereal to eat. Those are the universal laws of humanism. Kindness dwells in the nature of man.

## The Source

The following letter was sent by Natasha Valkovich, a Byelorussian schoolgirl, to Dr. Arthur Kotlyarov, a well-known pediatric surgeon in Minsk who is responsible for saving many thousands of children's lives. He received the letter while he was recovering from a heart attack.

Dear Doctor,

You saved my life. When I was dying, I received transfusions of your blood. I will never forget that. Granny told me you are gravely ill, and I worry about you constantly. I am 13 now, and I don't know if you remember me. But if you need my blood, have your doctor call me. Here is my telephone number. . . . Or have someone write me: Here is my address. . . . Get well real soon.

Dr. Kotlyarov recovered without any need for

Natasha's blood, and, to tell you the truth, he doesn't remember her, but the surgeon's strong fingers tremble when he rereads her letter.

"Kindness is essential for professions like doctor and teacher," the surgeon said. "I realized that back in 1945 when I was in school. Minsk had been destroyed in the war, and no more than a dozen buildings were left intact. Almost all of them housed schools after the war. Several grades had to share each room, and some children were much older than their classmates. They were the ones who should have begun high school in 1941, the year the war broke out in our country. There were war orphans among us, and even teenagers who had fought in the war.

"Our teacher's name was Irina Vadeiko. She had to make some order out of that motley crew of us children of different ages and unruly with lack of care. It was she, and she alone, who taught us the sublime art of goodness. We, her pupils, helped clear away the wartime debris from the streets and build makeshift houses. We brought water and firewood to the frail old women whose families had died in the war. The memory of this stayed with us throughout life: "It was no accident that most of us young people entered the medical, teaching and building professions after the war—we were eager to help the sick and the homeless and to teach the children."

There is another man, Sergei Shkliarevsky, who is a doctor's assistant residing in a rural area. The Nazis robbed him of his childhood. His father was shot for being in contact with the partisans, and his mother didn't survive the Gestapo.

The Nazis burned 70 houses in his native village in the vicinity of Slutsk, Byelorussia. The wailing of the village women rings in his ears to this day. While mourning the loss of their own homes, the women, at the risk of their own lives, attempted to save the other families' houses that hadn't been completely destroyed. The shaking boy watched them cut-

guish the fires in seven houses, which later had to shelter the whole village.

"That was a lesson to last a lifetime," said Shkliarevsky. "For a long time I thought about how I could repay that kindness. And I made up my mind then to study medicine. Circumstances, though, prevented me from becoming a doctor."

## The Biggest House

Alexandra Demidchik, with whose words I began this story, was a partisan during the war. Once when her unit was completely surrounded, it managed to get out of the encirclement without a single shot being fired on either side. She, a young and beautiful girl then, is credited with performing that "miracle." This is how it happened: The partisans' way was blocked by a Slovak regiment that was being forced by the Nazis to join them in a punitive

action. Demidchik volunteered to go and see Colonel Husar, the Slovak regimental commander, and to hand him an ultimatum from Sidor Kovpak, the commander of the partisan unit. The ultimatum demanded that the regiment surrender or agree to a cease-fire until the partisans were able to get out of the encirclement. Colonel Husar agreed to let them out. "Do you always dress so well in the forest?" he asked her, referring to the fashionable dress and high-heeled shoes she was wearing. "Oh no," she replied. "Since I knew I was risking my life coming here, I got dressed up. It's our custom to wear our best clothes when we are preparing to die."

Demidchik was very popular among the members of her partisan unit, and everyone promised to visit her when the war ended.

"I'd be glad to see you, but where on Earth would I put all of you?" she retorted jokingly. "First I've got to build a house big enough to accommodate everybody."

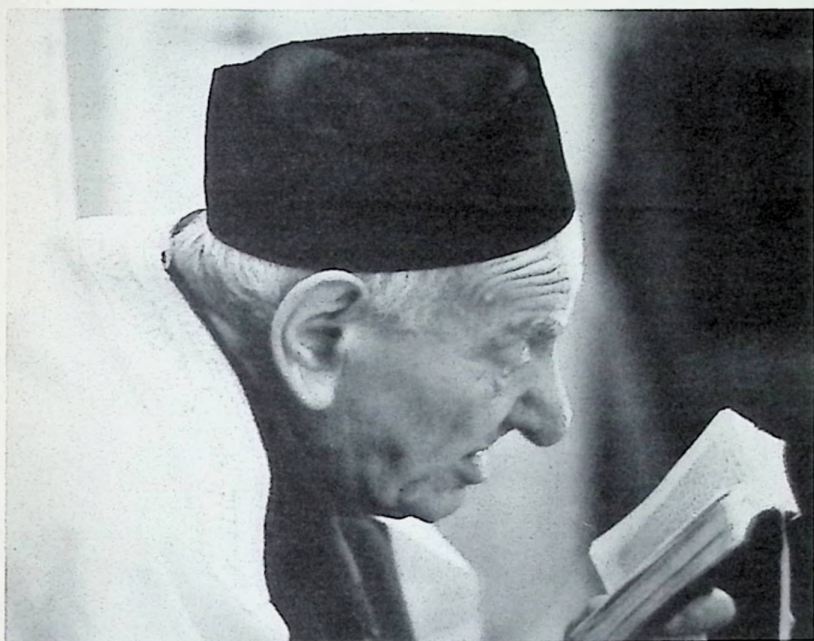
After the war money started pouring in to Demidchik's village from all corners of the country, from Georgia in Transcaucasia, from Kazakhstan and Kirghizia in Central Asia, from Moldavia in the southwest and from Estonia in the northwest. The accompanying letters began: "Dear Alexandra, Here's my contribution for your new home. I'll be coming to visit you soon. . . ."

And that is how her new house was built. It is the biggest one in the village, but it still isn't large enough to accommodate all of her comrades in arms when they come to visit her, like they did on her sixtieth birthday.

Olga, a flower grower of national renown who lives next door, presented every guest with a bunch of flowers from her garden. "When my flowers travel to other towns, they seem to bring those areas closer to my village of Narovlya," Olga told the guests. "And people who live miles away become neighbors."

# ROSH HASHANAH AT THE MOSCOW CHORAL SYNAGOGUE

By Igor Troyanovsky



**M**ore than 2,000 members of the Moscow Choral Synagogue took part in the observance of Rosh Hashanah, the New Year 5746 according to the Jewish calendar. In his sermon head Rabbi Adolf Shayevich wished the members of the congregation and their families a happy life and prosperity, and expressed the hope that the new year would bring the world peace and security. He noted that the Jewish people are active in the Soviet peace movement, attend interreligious forums held in the USSR and in other countries and regularly contribute to the Soviet Peace Fund.

On an order placed by the synagogue, a state printing house published 20,000 copies of a Jewish pocket calendar both in Hebrew and in Russian on the eve of the holiday. In addition to the calendars, the *Five Books of Moses* and prayer books have also been published in the past few years.

The interior of the synagogue was renovated and repairs were made to the dining room. The Yeshivah, the religious school attached to the synagogue, resumed classes after the summer holidays. Head Rabbi Shayevich is its director. Representatives of the Jewish community can also get religious training at the Yeshivah in Hungary. Incidentally, Rabbi Shayevich is one of its graduates. Before becoming a rabbi, he worked as an engineer in the Far East.

Boris Gramm is the head of the Jewish community in Moscow. He came to the capital from Rostov-on-Don, where he worked as a theater producer. After completing the course of studies at the Yeshivah, he remained in the capital, where the congregation elected him head of the community's executive body.

"The past year was particularly remarkable for us," said Gramm in an interview for SOVIET LIFE. "Like all Soviet people, we marked the fortieth anniversary of the victory over Hitler fascism. Millions of Jews died in nazi concentration camps. We'll never forget it was the Soviet Army that saved us from complete extinction. Our duty today is to devote all our energy to efforts for peace, against the threat of nuclear war.

"Besides the prayer we say every day, we have a special one, a prayer for peace, that we offer on Saturdays and holidays," Gramm continued. He noted that the followers of Judaism in the Soviet Union welcomed the country's unilateral proclamation of a moratorium on nuclear tests and urge their counterparts abroad and all people of good will to support the peaceful initiatives, which are an answer to the cherished aspirations of the peoples of the world.

Gramm said that the life of Soviet people was becoming better and more prosperous with each passing year. This is evident from, among other things, the synagogue's growing income. The head of the congregation refuted the allegation that the rights of Jews were infringed in the Soviet Union, declaring that such assertions were absolute nonsense. There are some Jews who are



The Jewish New Year—Rosh Hashanah—is a two-day holiday. It marks the beginning of 10 days of penitence that end on Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement. Orthodox Jews believe that on the first day God passes judgment on all human beings and decides their lot for the year to come. Both days are devoted to prayer and rest from work. A special ceremony is the "casting out of sins." Right: Head Rabbi Adolf Shayevich.



atheists and others who are believers. They enjoy absolutely the same rights as all other Soviet people. The members of our synagogue often speak about their families and children. The son of one of them has received a state prize, and another shared the joy of his son's having been promoted to the rank of general. A lot of literature is being printed in the Soviet Union in Yiddish. Not long ago a TV miniseries based on Shalom Aleichem's *Tevye the Milkman* was shown on Central Television, with People's Actor of the USSR Mikhail Ulyanov, a Russian, in the main part. Prominent Jewish actors were cast in many of the roles.

As an illustration of the good relations that the Jewish community has with the municipal authorities, Gramm said that, at his request, Arkhipov Street, where the synagogue is located, is closed to traffic during certain holidays so that the young people can do the traditional dances right in the street. He also said that state organizations help out when it is necessary to make repairs on the synagogue, publish religious literature or bake matzoth.

Of course, a lot of kosher meat and poultry was needed for the holiday meal. The slaughtering (*shehita*) was done in keeping with the prescribed method of killing animals and fowl. Rabbi Shayevich supervised the special butchers (*shohet*) trained at the Moscow Yeshivah.

At the festively laid tables in believers' homes throughout the city, you could see Orthodox Jews wearing the traditional yamilke. Many people used the Rosh Hashanah holiday to visit with their friends, fellow workers and neighbors. Jewish folk songs were sung, and the traditional dances, in both their ancient version and their modern interpretation, were performed. ■

**B**ONECARVING is a traditional craft practiced by ethnic minorities in the Soviet North like the Chukchi, the Evenks, and others. Below are two samples of their handiwork: an intricately carved walrus tusk and a miniature sculpture. As for the Russians, wood has always been their traditional handicraft material. The sculpture *A Hunting Incident* (bottom) comes from Bogorodskoye, a village renown for its carvers.



**FOLK ART**

# Things cultural

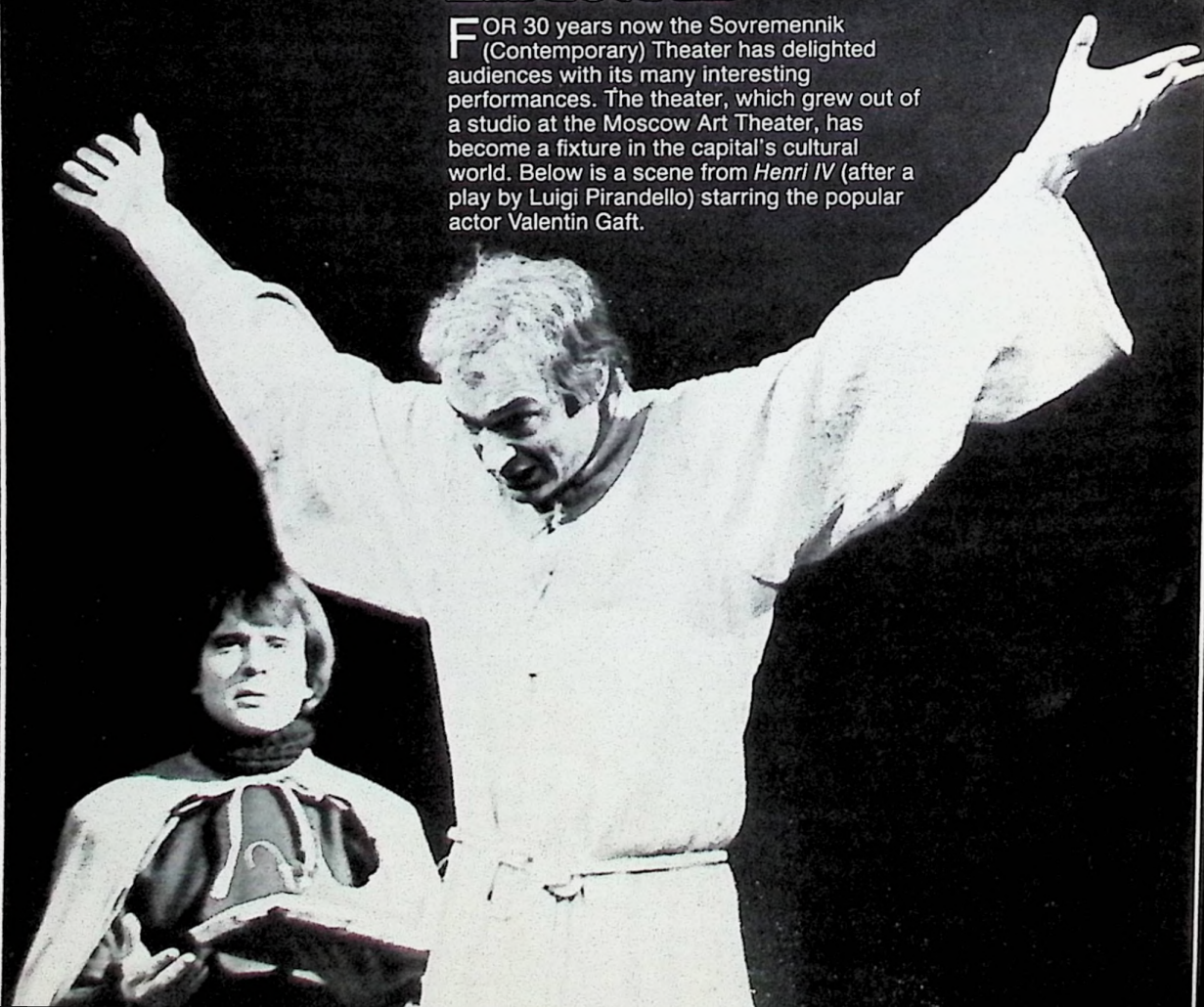
## MUSIC

**T**HE Polotsk Teachers Folk Choir of Byelorussia is famous for its style of singing, high standards of professionalism and varied repertoire. The choir often performs in the organ and classical music hall of the St. Sophia Cathedral, a wonderful specimen of architecture that was built and rebuilt between the eleventh and eighteenth centuries.



## Theater

**F**OR 30 years now the Sovremennik (Contemporary) Theater has delighted audiences with its many interesting performances. The theater, which grew out of a studio at the Moscow Art Theater, has become a fixture in the capital's cultural world. Below is a scene from *Henri IV* (after a play by Luigi Pirandello) starring the popular actor Valentin Gaft.



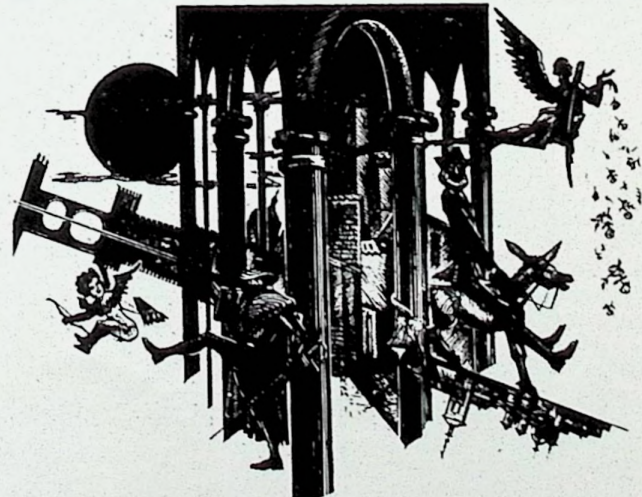
## ARCHITECTURE

**G**ATES, balconies, window gratings and fences made of cast iron or steel are common features of many houses in Old Tbilisi, Georgia. Time, however, is merciless even to those strong metals. This is where experienced smiths step in and restore the metal parts of the décor. Smiths Ivan Togonidze and Temur Sulkhaniashvili survey their work.



## ACTORS AND PARTS

**N**ATALIA GUNDAREVA is one of the most popular contemporary Soviet actresses. She plays in many performances of the Mayakovsky Theater, where she works full time. Gundareva was magnificent in Alexander Ostrovsky's comedy *It's a Family Affair*, Mikhail Bulgakov's *Flight* and the stage version of *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, based on a story by Nikolai Leskov.



**T**HE Moscow school of printing illustrations from wood blocks is renowned for its tradition and original style, which can turn a book into a true art object. Woodcuts by Yuri Konnov, 44, illustrate the style typical of the Moscow school. At left is a dust jacket for *Lyrics* by Luis de Góngora. At far left is his cover for poetry by Fernando Pessoa and below *The Seventeenth Century Poetry of the Netherlands*.

## GRAPHIC ARTS



ice hockey players from the celebrated Central Army Club, which has taken the USSR national title on 28 occasions (from 1977 to 1985) and won the European Cup 16 times, ceding it only once to a Czechoslovak team, will be touring North America. They will play Los Angeles on December 26, Edmonton on December 27, Quebec on December 29, Montreal on December 31, St. Louis on January 2 and Minnesota on January 4. Oleg Spassky takes a look at the team and gives clues as to the reasons for its continued success.

## THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING...



The No. 1 ice hockey team in the USSR—the Central Army Club.

Since 1977 Victor Tikhonov has been managing the Central Army Club ice hockey team. He also manages the Soviet national team. Holding both posts is only natural since players from the Central Army Club have traditionally made up the backbone of the Soviet national team. Twelve of the 20 players at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, came from the Central Army Club, and 12 Central Army Club players competed in the 1985 World Championship in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The Central Army Club is the recognized leader of Soviet hockey, and it has introduced many tactical innovations that are shaping the puck game today. The club is also known for its well-established traditions. According to hockey veteran Vladislav Tretyak, three-time Olympic champion and former Central Army Club goalie, as well as many other players, these traditions largely determine the club's steady success.

Well-known forward Anatoli Firsov, who used to play with the club, stresses that everything depends on training. "I remember we all did a tremendous amount of work," he recalls. "In summer I played tennis and ran long-distance cross-country races to keep in shape and compensate for the lack of regular workouts on the ice. It's the same for today's players. Diligence and capacity for work are passed down from one generation of puckchasers to the next."

The continuing success of the Central Army Club is often attributed to its way of selecting only players with star potential. The uniform has been worn

by top athletes Vsevolod Bobrov, Valeri Kharlamov, Vladimir Petrov and many other stars. But in fact, especially in recent years, the club has the same opportunity in selecting its lineups as any other team has had.

### Creativity

The brilliant performances of the Central Army Club are more likely a result of the creative work of the coaches, the intensive year-round training schedule and the players' will to win.

During the spring of 1984, after the Central Army Club had won its thirty-fourth game in a row, I asked Tikhonov whether he would now allow the players a respite since they had exerted such effort and were the obvious winners of the national title.

"No, I never excuse defeat, and the players know why," he answered. "True, we no longer need the points, but we're playing the game for more than points. And why should we rest on our laurels? I believe we should continue improving our skills and playing standards. Thirty-four victories in a row doesn't mean that Vladimir Krutov or Igor Larionov, for instance, have reached their peak. It also doesn't mean that Sergei Makarov or any other Central Army Club puckchaser couldn't be even better tomorrow or next season. Our defenseman Vyacheslav Fetisov and Alexei Kasatonov spent around 150 to 160 minutes on the ice at the Olympics in Sarajevo. Within that time the Soviet team scored 25 goals and didn't let in a single goal from the opposition. Those are excellent results, to be sure. But both players can have bad days, too.

They've been fooled more than once—like the trouble they gave goalie Tretyak in the game with Canada. To me, this means that both players can still improve, though according to the press, they are at their best. In short, there is no such thing as a good player who can't get better."

### A Close-knit Team

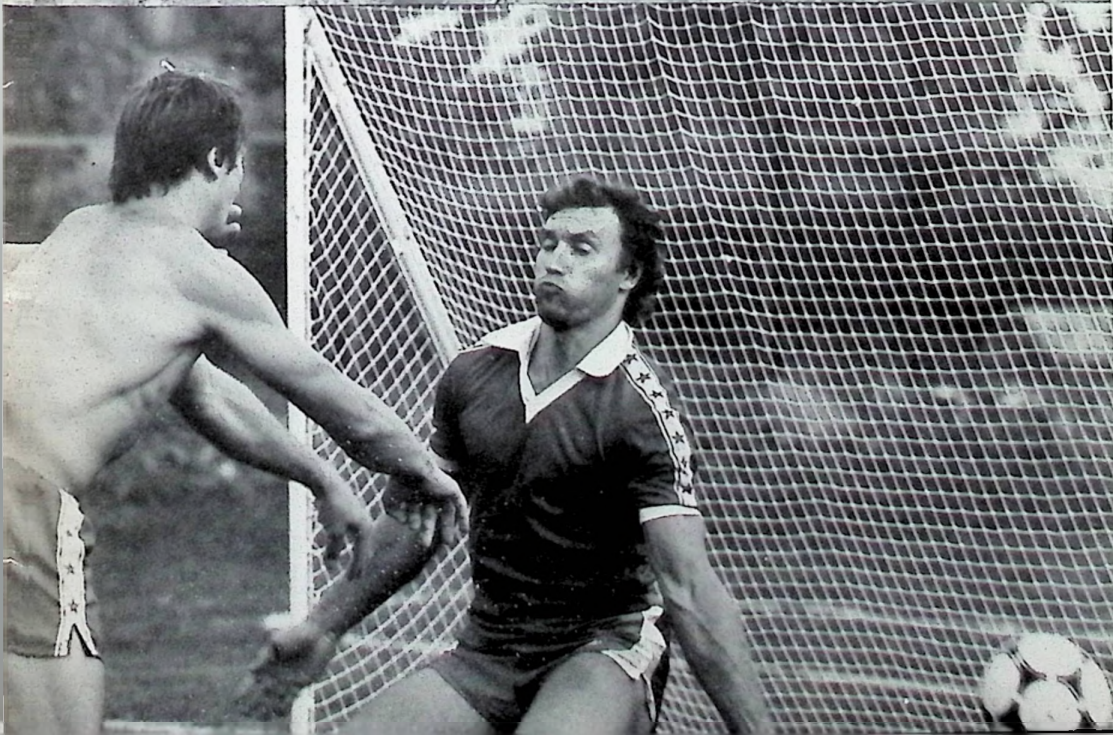
Along with physical fitness, strategy and good equipment, what counts in contemporary hockey is strong nerves and the will to win. Therefore, coaches of the Central Army Club attach great importance to a player's psychological conditioning. They stress that all of the players must live up to present-day demands. Tikhonov believes that the Central Army Club is a close-knit team, where each player is a leader and feels responsible for the common cause. Neither a defenseman nor a forward shifts his burden onto anybody else. That's why the younger players care just as much about how the team is faring as Igor Larionov, Vyacheslav Fetisov, Sergei Makarov, Alexei Kasatonov and Vladimir Krutov, who comprise the leading lineup.

Leaders remain leaders at all times. Fans will remember the brilliant performances of Vsevolod Bobrov and his teammates Yevgeni Babich and Victor Shuvalov who played in the forties and fifties and the trio of Boris Mikhailov, Vladimir Petrov and Valeri Kharlamov who starred in the seventies.

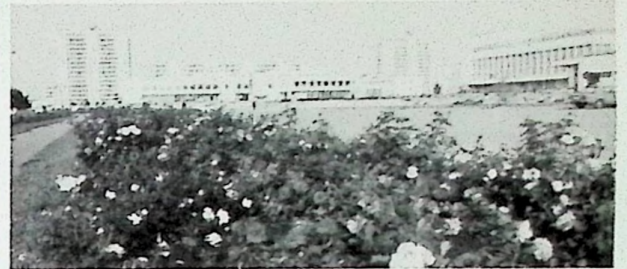
What distinguishes Central Army Club players of various generations is their doggedness in keeping up the team's traditions, their serious attitude toward the sport and their concern for teammates. ■



To keep in shape during the off-season, players follow a rigorous schedule of physical exercise. Some go in for cross-country running, soccer, and the like.



**NEXT  
ISSUE**



## A TOWN BORN OF THE ATOM

### How Safe Is It to Live There?

Above is a wide-angle view of Pripyat, a town in the Ukraine. Only 15 years old, it owes its existence to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, the first in the republic. Before Unit No. 1 was put into operation, experts examined samples of air and water as well as the flora and fauna in the area. Testing has been done on a regular basis ever since then. The results confirm that the nuclear reactors have had no damaging effect on the environment. More about the Ukraine's nuclear power industry in a special report in the February issue.



## ENGLISH THROUGH PLAY

### Learning to Love the Language

The English lessons taught by young Moscow teacher Sergei Loiko are more like stage productions or sports events than language classes. Loiko maintains that you can learn a foreign language only if you enjoy the learning process.

## INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN MOSCOW

### 200,000 Volumes on Display

Next month we will report on the Fifth Moscow Book Fair, which was attended by 3,300 publishers and book dealers from over 100 countries. The stream of visitors who wanted to see the displays continued unabated for all seven days of the fair.

**COMING SOON**

Communism and Society:

A Special Issue



# RUSLAN

The new AN-124 transport plane that is causing a sensation in world aviation. It can carry 60 Lada sedans with passengers and luggage. See the story on page 20.