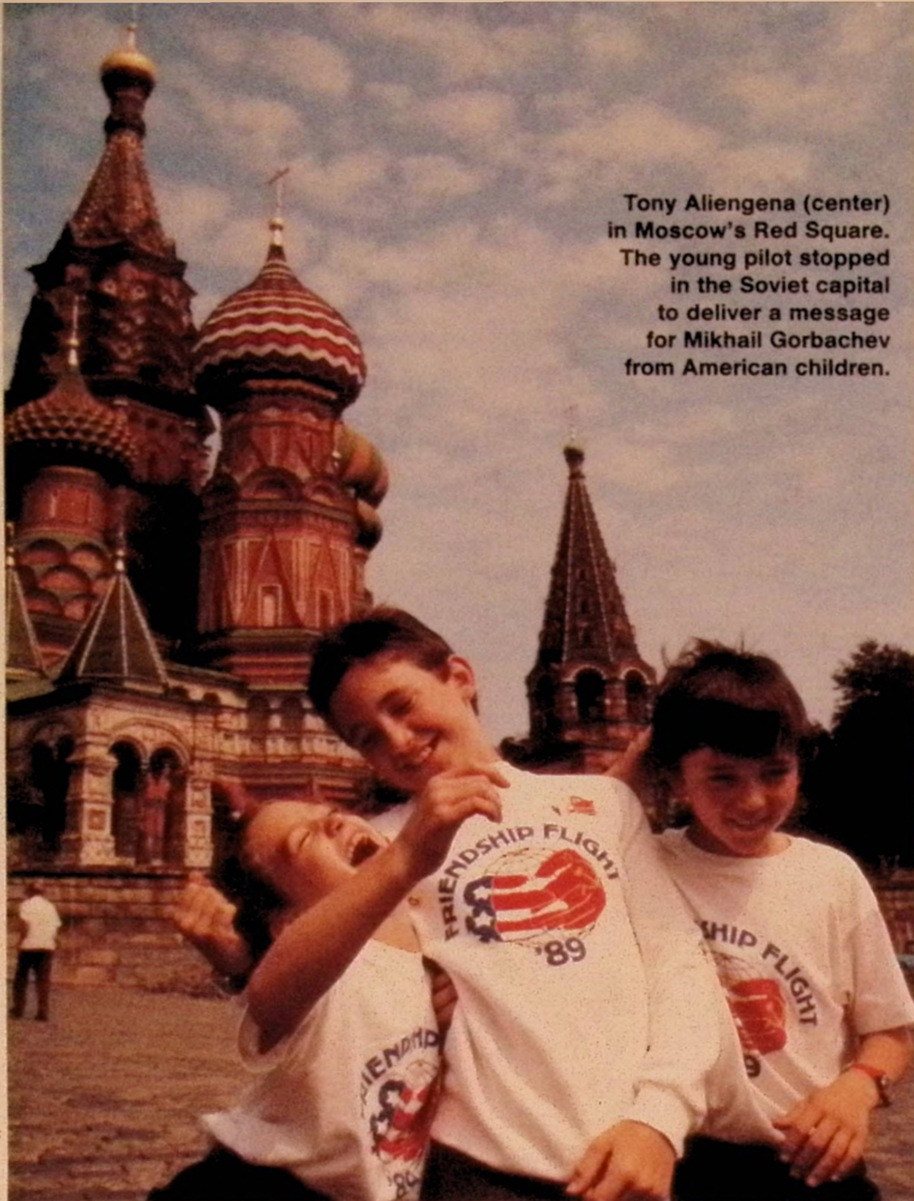
Soviet Life

September 1989 • $2.25

CAMERA AT WORK:
Valeri Shustov's visions



Tony Aliengena (center) in Moscow's Red Square. The young pilot stopped in the Soviet capital to deliver a message for Mikhail Gorbachev from American children.

SIBERIAN HUGS AND KISSES FOR TONY!

A hero's welcome awaited young Tony Aliengena when he landed his single-engine Cessna in Kemerovo, Siberia. The 11-year-old is the youngest pilot in the history of aviation. The Kemerovo stop was only one of several in the USSR on his around-the-world flight.

"It was sunny but windy at the airport," a reporter in Kemerovo wrote. "Tony's Cessna touched down on the runway, and the intense wait finally was over. Suddenly there he was, climbing out of the plane and raising his arms in a greeting to the Siberians who turned out to welcome him. Photographers, reporters, and other people rushed forward to meet the American kid and his crew. There were flowers, presents, and requests for autographs."

The welcoming party at the airport was large and diverse. But the most excited person in the crowd was undoubtedly Nina Cheremnykh, whose 11-year-old grandson, Roman Cheremnykh, was a member of the flight crew. How did a Soviet boy end up on this American's mission? The proud grandmother explained: "It all began when Tony's father came to Moscow and announced the project. He met my son, an official at the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the USSR. Both dads got on very well, and Roman, who is a serious aviator himself, was included in the crew."

Some people view Tony's flight as a symbol of what kids can do if given the opportunity. "It's time we parents realize that our children are capable of doing a lot more than we think they can," one reporter noted. ■

EDITOR'S NOTES

Leafing through old issues of SOVIET LIFE, I read, not without interest, an interview with a former trade union leader in which he explains why there were no strikes in the Soviet Union. "There is no use going on strike," he says. "If a conflict does arise between the workers and management, it is settled peacefully. The trade union guards the workers' interests and brings their demands to the attention of management, which accepts them without a murmur."

I don't blame that trade union leader. He said what he was supposed to say. At that time there were practically no strikes in the Soviet Union, and even if one had occurred, the press would have ignored it.

Naturally, the wave of miners' strikes that rolled across the USSR this past summer raised many eyebrows here and abroad. The *Washington Post* wrote that only a couple of years ago the Kremlin would have taken the workers' massive manifestations as an inadmissible affront to its authority. Well, there is much truth in that. Democratization continues in high gear, and ordinary citizens are becoming more and more political, which can be judged from the miners' strikes. What the miners were campaigning for was not soap powder and food but economic freedom.

One ABC reporter asked a group of striking miners if, in their opinion, the strike was a threat to *perestroika*. "Not at all," said one miner. "On the contrary, we are giving grassroots support to *perestroika*, while Gorbachev is directing it from above."

Of course strikes are not the best way to promote *perestroika*, since they inflict serious damage on our malfunctioning economy. However, sometimes nothing short of a strike can break through the bureaucratic wall, the chief obstacle on the road to change.

Future issues will focus on these events.

Robert Tsfasman

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Front Cover: Valeri Shustov's *Strike Up the Band!* More of the award-winning photographer's work appears on pp. 30-34.

Material for this issue courtesy of Novosti Press Agency

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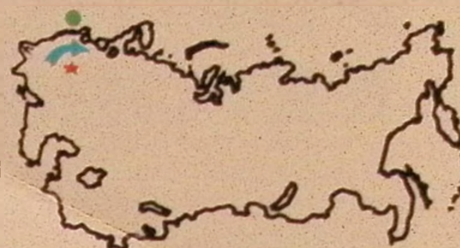

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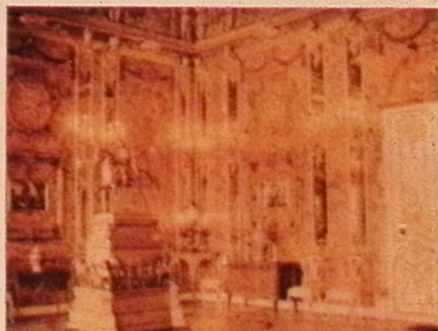

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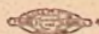

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POLITICAL REFORM

Anatoli Lukyanov, 59, was born in the city of Smolensk, the Russian Federation. He graduated from Moscow State University in 1953 and is a Doctor of Science (Law). He has been a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1955 and is a member of the Central Committee. Lukyanov is a People's Deputy of the USSR and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

On May 29, 1989, Lukyanov was elected First Vice President of the USSR Supreme Soviet at the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR.

In a recent interview with the Soviet news agency TASS, Lukyanov discussed the results of the first session of the newly formed Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The following are excerpts from that interview.

The work of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR cannot be assessed separately from the entire process of political reform under way in the country. The first session of the supreme legislative, directive, and control body is a component in the process, and a very important component at that. For some time the Supreme Soviet was the center of all social and political life in the country. Considering that, I think we have every reason to say that, on the whole, all expectations associated with the formation of a new Soviet parliament have been met.

True, not everything at the session went smoothly. Not all of the issues discussed there were of equal importance. Some of the initial plans have not been carried out. But at this point we shouldn't be too severe in evaluating the results of the session. The most important thing is that the new Supreme Soviet of the USSR is now a fact of life.

During the first session committees of the Supreme Soviet and standing commissions of its chambers were formed. The deputies reviewed the plan for the implementation of the assignments of the First Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR also formed such key state bodies as the Supreme Court and the Collegiums of the Procurator's Office and of the State Arbitration of the USSR.

A considerable part of the first session was devoted to the formation of the Council of Ministers. The deputies spent many hours interviewing candidates for particular ministerial posts. Candidates were required to outline their programs, and the Supreme Soviet selected the most-qualified executives to head industries and sectors.

The decisions passed by the session fall into several large categories: the economy and intensification of the economic reform; the implementation of social policy; acts aimed at reinforcing power at the local level, including the decisions on the convocation of pre-term sessions of local Soviets with reports by their executives; issues dealing with the consolidation of legality and, notably, with stepping up the fight against crime; the adoption of a series of acts in the sphere of international relations.

But the Supreme Soviet did not limit itself to these issues. One resolution that was adopted allows for a considerable increase in the purchase abroad of consumer goods and medicines. Another permits students to be relieved of their military obligation ahead of schedule. Other laws that were passed regulate various aspects of life in Soviet society. There are really too many to enumerate. I'd only like to emphasize that a procedure has been developed for the preliminary discussion, in principle, of practically every question on the agenda of the Supreme Soviet in the appropriate committee or commission. Therefore, it seems to me that the Supreme Soviet committees and the standing commissions of its chambers are increasingly becoming laboratories of a sort, test sites of our parliament.

The most diverse groups and associations of deputies emerged during the first session of the Congress of People's Deputies, in its wake, and at the session of the Supreme Soviet. And this is certainly useful, enabling the deputies to arrive at the truth through debate.

The Interregional Group, which was first referred to as the Moscow Group in the initial days of the session of the congress, also emerged. This group declared that its mission was to elaborate alternative resolutions, documents, and bills. And, of course, who can argue with that? At the congress and during the parliamentary session the deputies advanced scores of alternative proposals on a broad range of issues.

If the Interregional Group works for the common good, and if it promotes the idea of consolidating society rather than splitting it up, its efforts will be welcome.

I consider different views, opinions, and positions normal and natural. The way toward consolidation is to promote dialogue rather than to suppress it—but it should be a dialogue without tensions, suspicion, and splitting into factions.

The parliamentary recess will soon be over, and on September 18 all deputies will be back in Moscow. The second session will be considering a draft plan and budget for 1990, as part of the effort to halt the negative tendencies in economic development and to promote financial recovery. It's a formidable task, but it's not the only issue. When the first session recessed, the deputies took with them a bulky package of documents, including draft legislation on property, land, land tenure, lease holding, socialist enterprise, product quality, inventions, and so on.

On the whole, I am strongly convinced that the new stage in parliamentary activity will be more fruitful than the last because we won't have to start from scratch. The foundation has been laid. Now it's time to build on it. ■

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Leonid Abalkin, 58, graduated from the Institute of the Economy of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1952. In 1987, he became an academician.

Academician Abalkin, now the director of the Institute of the Economy, is one of the architects of Soviet economic restructuring. In June the Supreme Soviet appointed him deputy to Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. In this capacity Dr. Abalkin will head the government commission on economic reform. He is the first Soviet scientist ever to have been appointed to this post.

The question of economic reform in the Soviet Union is an urgent one. Academician Abalkin talks about this and other issues in an interview with correspondents Gennadi Khodakov and Pyotr Mikhailov.

Q: Where is Soviet society heading? Is it departing from socialism or coming closer to it?

A: These questions have frequently come up recently not only abroad but also in the Soviet Union. I think that we in this country are resolving our problems in such a way as to make for more socialism. But this raises another question: What kind of socialism? Many negative phenomena typical of the past—disproportions in the economy, underdeveloped services, an administrative structure suffering from inertia, red tape, and corruption—have not been overcome. However, none of these things are intrinsic features of socialism.

But there are people in the Soviet Union who believe that *perestroika* is canceling the gains that we have made since the October 1917 Revolution and in our 70 years of building socialism. I don't agree. By its ultimate goal, by an effort to encourage initiative on the part of the masses and its reliance on their active part in reforms, *perestroika* is the continuation of the October Revolution.

A common misconception is that we are going to renounce planning, the main principle of socialist economic development. This is by no means true. Today we continue to speak about planning and consolidating its role, but we no longer identify it with tough bureaucratic rule.

Q: Who is against *perestroika*?

A: I don't believe there are any overt opponents of *perestroika* in this country. Everyone wants more socialism. But different people have different ideas about the essence of socialism. Some see socialism in the command system of economic administration, in egalitarian distribution, and in tough control over the media.

The established administrative bureaucracy is one of the most serious forces resisting reform. This can be explained not so much by personal features as by sluggish structures and the preservation of traditional functions. The structure of the bureaucracy is capable of doing away with any attitudes if its functions remain unchanged.

Resistance to *perestroika* "from below" is also very serious. Why? People have become accustomed to working at a pace that isn't too demanding. But they aren't too demanding either. They simply want to have enough of the basic necessities.

Resistance is also coming from some ideological workers, including teachers of the social sciences.

We are in for a difficult struggle, but I'm not pessimistic.

Q: What do we want to accomplish through *perestroika*?

A: The Soviet Union is working on a combined model of a mixed socialist economy, in which a variety of approaches are to be used.

But the new model cannot be created overnight. It calls for a period of transition while the new elements are combined with old structures and some elements of the old system of administration. This transitional period will probably last until the mid-1990s. But first we must drastically reorganize the economic mechanism, including the organization of planning, economic management, financial levers, the banking system, and the price-formation mechanism.

Q: Can we use the established economic mechanism?

A: No. Just as a suit made for a child will be too small for an adult, the contemporary Soviet economy will feel uncomfortable squeezed into the framework of the economic mechanism that took shape in the thirties.

The beginning of the management reform is linked with a change in the working conditions at the grassroots level—the enterprises. This is a point of departure for *perestroika*. But the management bodies aren't ready to give up traditional administrative methods of running enterprises. Not all enterprises are ready to work in a new way: a result of decades of apathy and a lack of initiative.

Q: You stress the importance of independence for enterprises. But aren't independence and centralism mutually exclusive?

A: Only within the context of a tough administrative system. In the new system the center is supposed to carry out only the strategic functions of economic management. These include defining social priorities and ensuring a balanced economy through prices, interest rates, tariffs, and other economic levers. The center will deal with economic development as a whole. The scope of its activity will inevitably be reduced, while administrative methods will be replaced by flexible economic regulation.

For enterprises, the reform means a transition to complete cost accounting, self-financing, and self-investment. I hope that in two or three years we will achieve complete cost accounting without reservations or limitations.

When this happens, the principle of

Continued on page 37

SP

FINAL TRIBUTE To The Soldiers

Text and Photographs
by Alexei Varfolomeyev

Begun many years ago as one man's dedicated work, the project to bury the soldiers who fell on the battlefield at Myasnoi Bor has grown into an expedition involving large numbers of volunteers.

Until those who have fallen on the field of battle have been paid their final respects, until their lifeless bodies have been retrieved from the battlefield and given proper burial, we cannot consider the battle over. These words were once said by Generalissimo Alexander Suvorov, the Russian military leader of the eighteenth century.

With respect to the number of victims, the wars of Suvorov's day cannot be compared to the two world wars of the present century. Let's say that World War I (1914-1918) is over for humanity, as its echo grows fainter and fainter with time. But the same cannot be said about World War II (1939-1945), which gleaned almost half of its macabre harvest in the Soviet Union. The victims of that war, the widows, children, and families, are still alive and mourn their losses. They still bear the disturbing memory of their dear loved ones who left home one day and never returned.

I'm already 10 years older than my father was when he was killed in action at age 40. But to this day I don't know where he died or where he is buried, and I probably never will.

Traveling by train from Leningrad, I arrive in Novgorod around midnight. By dawn I'm already on my way again, heading practically in the opposite direction, this time on a motorcycle. Alexander Orlov, a Novgorod journalist, makes room for me behind him on the cycle. The sidecar is filled to overflowing with a tent, a week's supply of foodstuffs, hiking boots, topographical maps, various tools, and a megaphone.

Another expedition to one of the "blank spots" of the past war is on. As we speed along the highway, we seem to be racing into the year 1942, to the area where the 2nd Shock Army, under the command of General A. A. Vlasov of unhappy memory, had fought the advancing nazi troops and had allegedly surrendered to the enemy. No, that's not correct. We are going to pay our final respects to the soldiers who, unlike their commander, did not surrender voluntarily when they found themselves encircled. Most of the soldiers lie where they had fallen in that decisive battle—and they still lie there to this day. Once in a while they are mentioned, but despicably as the "Vlasov men." Yet, according to Suvorov, the men are still fighting.

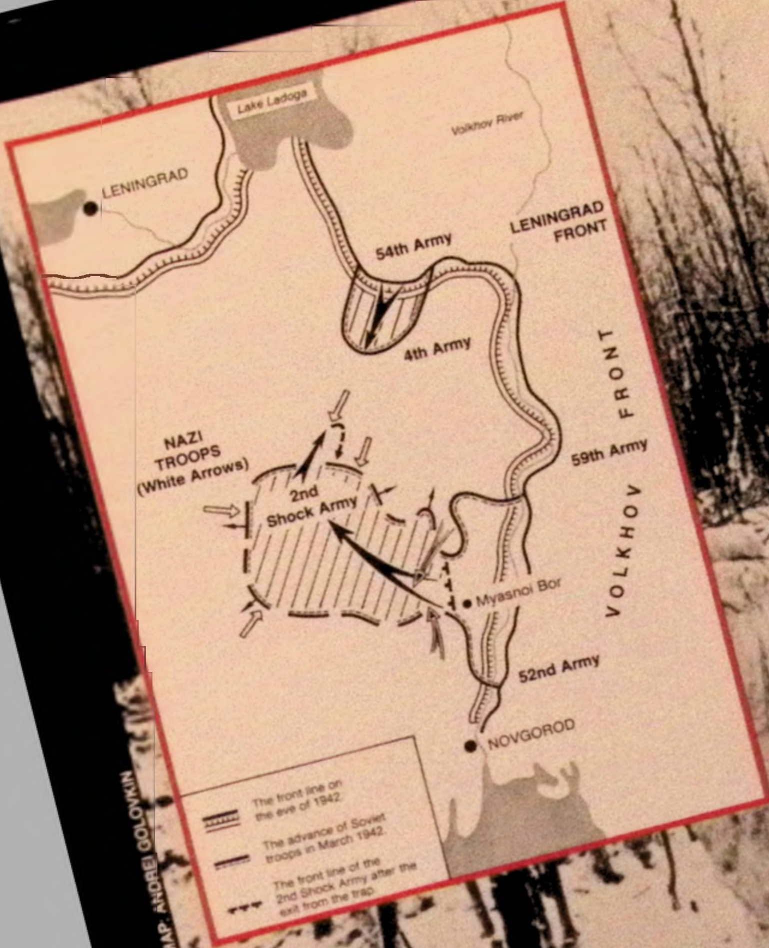
Our first stop will be Spasskaya Polist Station, where we are to meet a train bringing about 300 young people from Yaroslavl, Kazan, Naberezhniye Chelny, and cities in Bashkiria and Kazakhstan via Moscow. Alexander isn't sure exactly how many volunteers will be coming because membership in the officially unregistered groups is growing all the time. Only the living can defend the dead.

Our cycle speeds solitarily along the highway. It doesn't seem to scare the elks that stand like statues here and there in the rising mist. As the first rays of sun filter across the earth, outlines of the usually undetectable protuberances that had once been trenches, machine-gun emplacements, and dugouts come into view. The morning mist still hangs over the lowland, but there, too, shell holes glisten with melting snow. Somewhere to the right of us lies the Volkhov River, which gave its name to one of the fronts fought in the northwestern part of Russia. To the left are the railroad tracks and, beyond them, a low forest overgrown with moss and small streams hidden in thick grass. And all around are swamps.

We reach Myasnoi Bor, a small village several centuries old. Without looking at the odometer, Alexander says we're 30 kilometers from Novgorod. Alexander is the youngest of five brothers. He was born here in Myasnoi Bor after the war.

His eldest brother, Yevgeni, fought in the war and was killed in 1943 at the age of 18. Another brother Nikolai, was a trackman on the railroad. Almost every day he'd go into the forest beyond the tracks. In the lean postwar years, the forest with its berries and mushrooms was a source of sustenance for the local population. Moreover, the former battle sites contained a variety of useful things—axes, saws, shovels, and spare parts for all kinds of machinery. The people could even have salvaged Studebakers, if only they could be repaired. *Katyushas*, the multirail rocket projectors, had been mounted on those American vehicles. To keep them from falling into enemy hands, the *katyushas* had been blown up during the breakthrough. The metal carcasses still remain, some with trees growing right through them.

Every time Nikolai returned from the forest, he brought with him a handful of soldiers' identity tags. ▶



MAP: ANDREI GOLOVKIN

Уважаемый
Кирилл Афанасьевич!

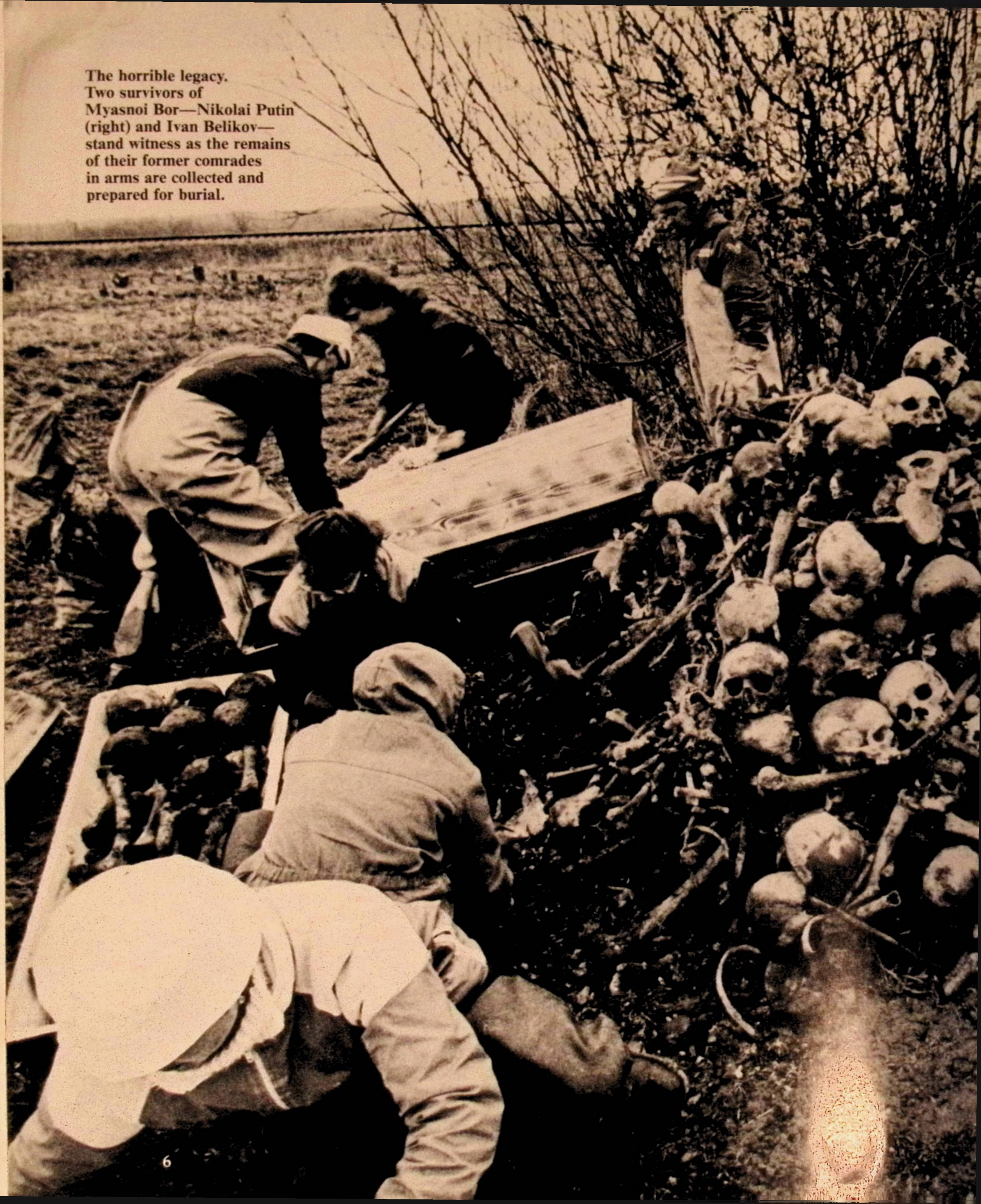
Дело, которое поручено Вам, является историческим делом. Освобождение Ленинграда, сами понимаете, — великое дело. Я бы хотел, чтобы предстоящее наступление Волховского фронта не разменялось на мелкие стычки, а вылилось бы в единый мощный удар по врагу. Я не сомневаюсь, что Вы постараетесь превратить это наступление именно в единый и общий удар по врагу, опрокидывающий все расчеты немецких захватчиков.

Жму руку и
желаю Вам успеха

И. Сталин

29.12.41.

Clockwise from
top left: A wartim
map of the Myasno
Bor area. Men o
the 2nd Shock Arm
on patrol. Josep
Stalin's message
then Arm
General Kiri
Meretskov, date
December 29, 194
A photograph
Meretskov durin
tactical exercis
that appeared
the newspap
Krasnaya zvez
(*Red Sta*
October 8, 194



The horrible legacy. Two survivors of Myasnoi Bor—Nikolai Putin (right) and Ivan Belikov—stand witness as the remains of their former comrades in arms are collected and prepared for burial.

[illegible] THEATRE OF OPERATIONS.
11 April 1945.

TO: American & Allied Soldiers & [illegible]

This man, Nikolai Putin, a Russian refugee is a friend and temporary member of this company.

M. O. SORENSEN,
Capt., U. S. Army,
Companz "D"

COMPANY "D"
45TH TANK BATTALION
APO 263

8 June 1945

SUBJECT: Service with United States Army

TO : Whom it may concern

1. That Nikolai Putin, displaced personnel of Russian extraction, served with the above organization from 28 March 1945 to 9 June 1945.

2. That he served through the Saar Valley campaign, Ruhr Pocket campaign, and Austrain push. That during the period he served honorably, faithfully and heroically both in combat and occupational duties.

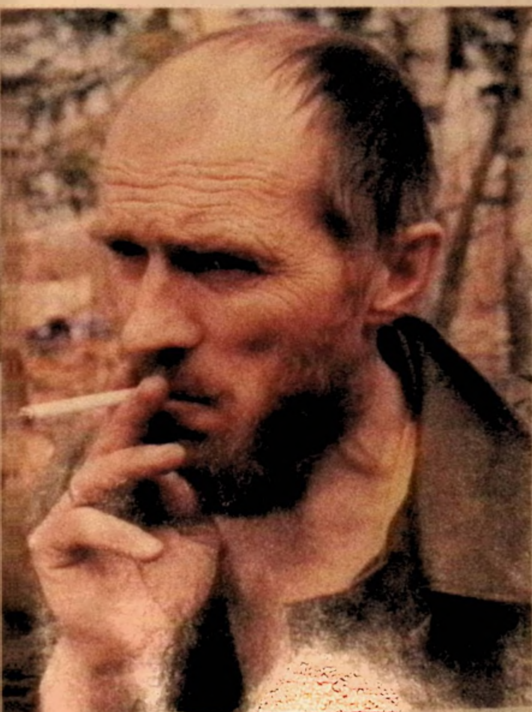
3. That during many difficult combat missions, his presence was responsible in many instances to help make the mission successful and save the lives of American soldiers. That he performed the duties of an American soldier, while not actually being in service, under hazardous and difficult conditions without regard for his own safety and welfare.

4. He was of great service to this organization with his knowledge of the German, Russian and Polish languages, thereby greatly facilitating the occupation and advance through Germany by this organization.

5. The undersigned wishes to give Nikolai Putin the highest recommendation possible and regrets that he has to leave this organization at this time. And that he carries with him the good wishes of every man in the organization.

M O Sorensen
M. O. SORENSEN
Capt., Cav.
Commanding

Above: Nikolai Putin (right) was captured in Myasnoi Bor. Eventually, he managed to escape and join up with the American forces. Left: Documents certifying Putin's service with the Americans. Above left: "Only 58 men remained of our regiment," recalls Ivan [illegible]



Dedicated students and workers from across the country spend their vacation working in Myasnoi Bor. Left: Yevgeni Burnashev is one of a group of volunteers who came from the Kama Truck Plant.

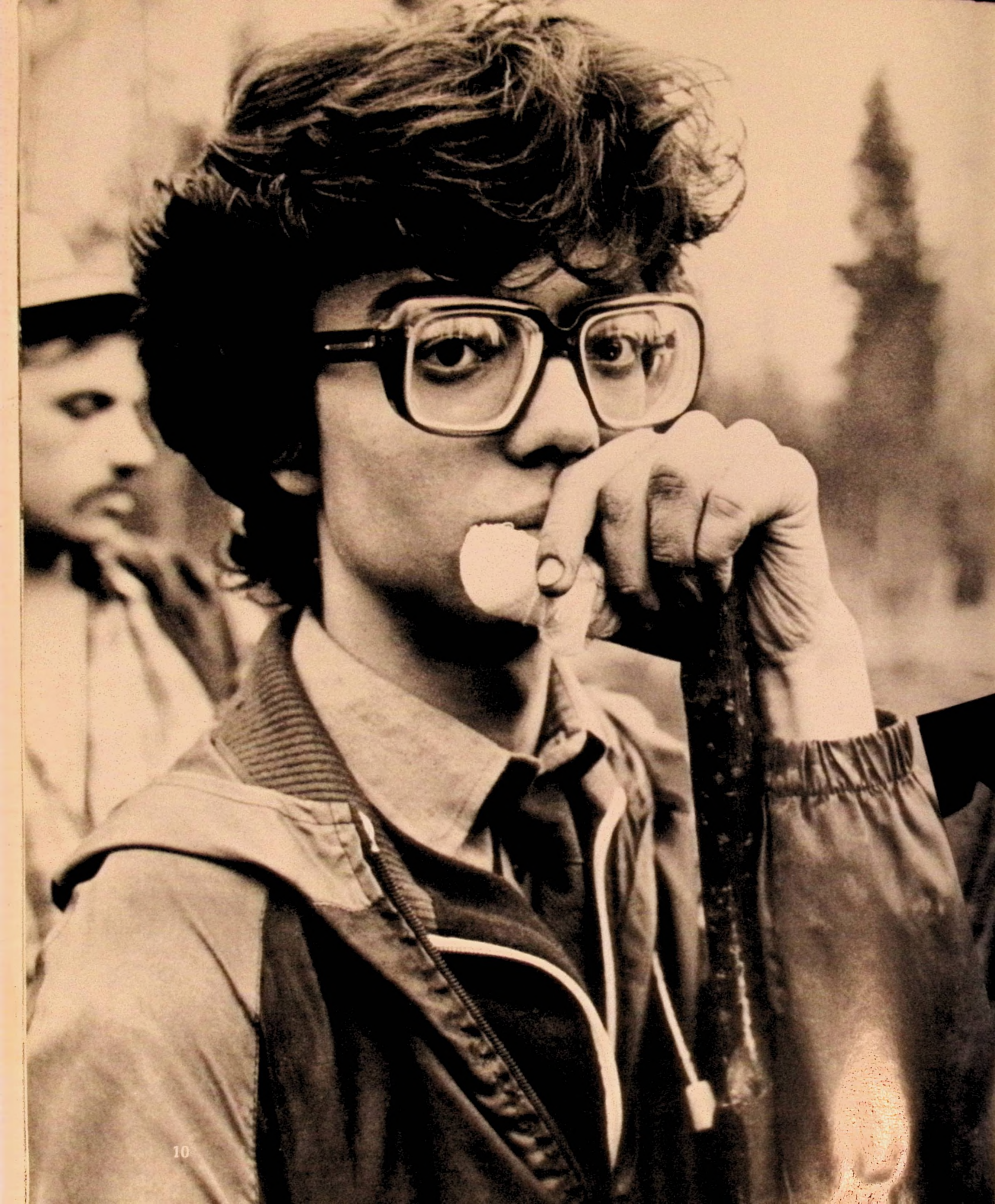
metal or plastic capsules that bore the name and place of birth of the soldier who had worn them. Later Nikolai would sit down at the kitchen table, carefully remove the strips of paper from the capsules, and write letters to the addresses.

As time passed, the other three Orlov boys—Valeri, Yuri, and Alexander—followed their brother into the forest. Then misfortune struck: Valeri was killed when he stepped on an antitank mine, and Yuri died some time later of injuries sustained from an exploding grenade. Only Nikolai and Alexander were left to continue their forays. The age gap between the brothers was 20 years.

"The ground was white with bones," says Alexander, recalling his first trek into the forest. "That time we found the remains of a German soldier among the hundreds of our dead. 'It must have been impossible for the Germans to retrieve him,' my brother told me. 'They never left their dead behind.' I didn't believe him then, but I came to realize that what he said was true. For all the years I've been going to Myasnoi Bor, I've only come across the remains of a few dozen Germans, but our men . . ."

Nikolai Orlov is also gone now. Though he had stepped on a mine twice, he died in 1980 of asthma, which he had contracted by his frequent trips to the battle site.

Sergei Smirnov, a well-known Soviet writer, shared Nikolai's view about giving a decent burial to those who sacrificed their lives for their country on the fields of Myasnoi Bor, and he tried to arouse public support ▶



This 1960 photograph from the Orlov family archives shows Nikolai Orlov (right) with a member of the Sokol Club examining an identity tag. Nikolai was the first to start looking for the remains of the soldiers who perished in Myasnoi Bor. When Nikolai died in 1980, the club, which he had set up, continued his work. Above left: Alexander Orlov is now the chief coordinator of the Myasnoi Bor expeditions. Left: An identity tag. Inside the metal capsule is a strip of paper with the soldier's name and place of birth. With this data volunteers try to locate surviving relatives. Facing page: Yevgeni Zykov, 18, a student at Kazan State University, has spent the past four summers in Myasnoi Bor.

Clockwise from left: On one expedition Alexei Sukhanovsky unearthed the identity tag of Ivan Vargasov, who was born in 1903 in the village of Yerkino, Arkhangelsk Region. Ivan built this log house in Yerkino before the war. The red star on the corner designates it as having lost a soldier in the war. This prewar photo from the Vargasov family album shows Ivan with his late sister Irina. Facing page: Until recently, the surviving Vargasovs knew only that Ivan was missing in action. Here Sukhanovsky (standing, right) shares the news about their lost loved one with Ivan's 82-year-old sister, Alexandra Vargasova (seated right), and his daughters, Nina (left) and Alexandra (center).

for the cause. In 1969, Leningrad film makers produced a documentary based on a screenplay by Smirnov. Entitled *Commandant of the Valley of Death*—Smirnov's name for Nikolai Orlov—the film told the bitter truth about the soldiers who had been forsaken on the battlefield. However, the film never made it to the screen.

Nikolai continued to pick up hundreds of identity tags on his own and to inform relatives about their war dead. On his initiative, the remains of thousands of Red Army soldiers were buried.

Alexander and I pass three common graves ("brotherhood graves" as they are called in the USSR) along the highway as we near our destination. One grave was dug during the war, before the encirclement, and the fallen soldiers were buried by their comrades in arms. The second grave is the final resting place for 6,000 soldiers who were buried by an army unit in the fifties. The third grave was Nikolai's project. His cause has been taken up by students from the Sokol Club, which Nikolai set up in Novgorod, and by other concerned people from all parts of the country. Since 1981 groups of students from Kazan State University on the Volga River have been coming to the Valley of Death during school breaks. Also, workers from the Kama Truck Plant in Naberezhniye Chelny, Volga Region, form a large contingent of volunteers who spend their summer vacation working with the Myasnoi Bor expedition.

Since his brother's death, Alexander has been leading the expedition. No one knows the area better than he does. But even he says he doesn't know when the work will be done: It's an enormous undertaking requiring a large number of volunteers.

What actually happened on the approaches to Myasnoi Bor in June 1942? The military offensive that was to break the blockade of Leningrad has gone down in history as the Lyuban Operation. Launched in January 1942, the offensive was expected to yield positive results before the spring thaw.

The breach between Myasnoi Bor and Spasskaya Polist—the left and right flanks of the advancing army—measured 11 kilometers. The units of the 2nd Shock Army and other formations advanced through the breach made by the troops of the Volkhov Front.

But, deep snow, the absence of roads, and the inordinately stretched communications cut off the supply of ammunition lines, food, and fodder (the cavalry also took part in the offensive). Without artillery and air support, without second echelons and reserves, the advance of the troops, which were wedged in so deeply, was bound to founder. And that's exactly what happened. Meanwhile, the enemy continued to deal the Soviet troops heavy blows along the Myasnoi-Spasskaya Polist line in its drive to surround the advancing troops and cut them off. Bloody battles were waged in this sector of the front. The embattled units were exhausted and losing men fast, and they were forced to re-form. More than 20 years later, Marshal Kirill Meretskov (1897-1968), commander of the Volkhov Front of which the 2nd Shock Army under Vlasov was a part, wrote the following in his memoirs: "Recording of the wounded and dead was carried out in slipshod fashion. The army wasn't even aware of approximate losses." But Stalin demanded that the operation should succeed.

In June the Soviet troops had to break out of the encirclement. By then the breach had been drastically reduced to a narrow corridor measuring a mere 300 to 400 meters wide that was completely exposed to crossfire.

On the morning of June 24 the 2nd Shock Army command gave the order to break out of the encirclement in small groups. On June 25 at 9:30 A.M. the breach was closed for good.

Meretskov later described the last day at Myasnoi Bor in the following way:

> ... The attack was to begin at 23:00 hours on June 23. The commanders of the formations of the 2nd Shock Army had been informed in advance that the offensive should succeed at any cost. All gunners, vehicle drivers, and other specialists joined the ranks of the artillery formations. ... The troops of the 2nd Shock Army went into motion at 23:30 hours. ...
>
> The artillery of the 59th and 52nd armies brought down their fire on the enemy who answered with a barrage of fire. ... Enemy night bombers appeared in the sky.
>
> Communication with the 2nd Shock Army broke off and was never restored. The subunits of the divisions and brigades moved toward the exit disjointedly, leaving the flanks without cover. Some of the soldiers were very weak as a result of the uninterrupted fighting and lack of food. Some men lay semiconscious on the ground. ...

On the morning of June 25 the officers who had broken through the encirclement reported that they had seen General Vlasov near the exit to the trap. As prisoner of war Vlasov later organized—mainly from among fellow POWs—the so-called Russian Liberation Army, which fought on the side of the Nazis, the shadow of his betrayal for many decades fell undeservedly on those who gave their lives for their country.

I talk with several veterans who have firsthand knowledge of the events at Myasnoi Bor. They give their accounts of what took place.

Khusain Khasanov, born in 1923 in Naberezhniye Chelny, a private in the 2nd Shock Army: "When I broke through the encirclement, all I saw were tree trunks and bushes without bark—it had all been eaten. I was of slight build and didn't need much nourishment; even so, I, too, ate grass. Some of the men even dug for worms. I'm surprised I lived through it all, considering that I was wounded in May."

Ivan Belikov, born in 1913 in Novoalexandrovsk, Stavropol Territory, a platoon commander in the 59th Army: "We were protecting the flank of the attacking 2nd Shock Army, at the exit near Spasskaya Polist. On May 1 we began a thrust to break through the blockade around our troops. By May 10, 58 men were all that remained of our regiment."

Gennadi Gerodnik, born in 1913 in Valga, Estonia, a master sergeant in the 172nd Detached [illegible] Battalion: ▶

Gennadi Gerodnik is a veteran of Myasnoi Bor. He is now a writer and has written a book about the events that took place there. He often comes back to the battlefield where he was wounded and where he lost so many of his friends. Left: This past May 9, Victory Day, the remains of 3,720 Red Army soldiers found in Myasnoi Bor were solemnly buried.

"Vlasov didn't surrender an army. That's been my view for many years."

In the spring of 1942 Gerodnik was wounded and evacuated from the front lines. He worked as an interpreter with the 2nd Shock Army. Today he is a writer. His book *My Wartime Ski Trek* describes the events on the Volkhov Front.

Nikolai Putin, born in 1918 in Onokhoi village, Buryatiya, a private in the 13th Cavalry Corps: "In January 1942 our corps entered the breach at Myasnoi Bor. I didn't return because I was taken prisoner. First I was put in a camp for Soviet prisoners of war on our territory; later we were taken to Germany and France. I worked in a mine. When the second front was opened in Europe, I managed to escape and reach the Americans. I continued to fight within their ranks. Here's the document I was given testifying to that fact."

Putin shows me a small piece of paper yellowed with time. The text is typed in English. Addressed to American and Allied soldiers and MPs, the note certifies that "Nikolai Putin, a Russian refugee, is a friend and temporary member" of Company D. It is dated April 11, 1945, and it is signed by a M.O. Sorensen, Captain, U.S. Army.

The name of military leader Kirill Meretskov does not figure in the chronicles of the opening days of the war. Why?

On June 24, 1941, Meretskov was arrested and charged with participating in a "military plot." Besides Meretskov, other "plotters" included the People's Commissar of Armaments, the aide of the Chief of the General Staff, Chief of the Air Defense Department, and other army leaders. False testimony was obtained by force. Twenty-five men were shot. "Meretskov was beaten until he bled." (This information was obtained after Stalin's death at the executioner's trial.)

All that was happening while starvation was raging in blockaded Leningrad and the enemy was already on the approaches to Moscow.

Having miraculously survived, Meretskov found himself transported from Stalin's dungeons straight to Stalin's office in the Kremlin. Meretskov writes in his memoirs:

> Stalin took a few steps toward me and said: "How do you do, Comrade Meretskov. How are you feeling now?"
>
> "How do you do, Comrade Stalin. I'm feeling quite well. Please explain my combat mission."
>
> Stalin lit his pipe leisurely. . . .

Meretskov got his assignment—to the northwest. The contents of Stalin's note to Meretskov, dated December 29, 1941, sheds an ominous light on what was to come. The note reads:

> I would not like the offensive on the Volkhov Front to turn into separate skirmishes; it should be a concerted and powerful blow against the enemy. I have no doubt that you will try to turn the offensive into precisely such a concerted and powerful blow. . . .

How could Meretskov disobey? It could well be that that note precipitated the poorly prepared offensive on the Volkhov Front.

Following the expedition to Myasnoi Bor with Alexander Orlov, I leave for Arkhangelsk Region with Alexei Sukhanovsky, age 22. We are carrying with us the identity tags of three soldiers who had died in Myasnoi Bor. The three men had come from Arkhangelsk Region: Roman Porokhin, born in 1904 in the village of Sultsa; Ivan Vargasov, born in 1903 in the village of Yerkino; and Mikhail Stukov, born in 1916 in the village of Svistunovka.

The villages of Yerkino and Sultsa stand on the bank of the Pinega River, wide and clean in this area and abounding in fish.

Talent is said to possess the gift of prophecy. Writer Fyodor Abramov, who was born in these parts, wrote about Myasnoi Bor a long time ago:

> . . . These soldiers did not betray their country. Bleeding to death, the disunited detachments of the army fought to their last breath and their last cartridge. They were not just one or a hundred; they comprised thousands of the country's sons. The 2nd Shock Army did its duty honorably, and the death of its men brought nearer the victory in the battle for Leningrad.

We find Roman Porokhin's daughter still living in Sultsa. We tell her about Myasnoi Bor and where her father is buried. Yerkino is about twice the size of Sultsa and has a population of 700. Only 12 soldiers returned to their homes after the war; 85 of the local sons fell on the battlefield. The Vargasovs had been a hard-working family who had enjoyed the respect of their fellow villagers. However, no one in the village bears that surname any more. Ivan Vargasov had no brothers or sons, and only women were left to carry on the family tradition. Ivan's younger sister, Alexandra, is now 82 years old, and his two daughters still live in the village. The elder daughter, Nina, is a baker. She is married to an accountant, and they have eight children and 14 grandchildren. The younger daughter, Alexandra, is a salesclerk, and her husband is a driver. They have five children and four grandchildren. Ivan Vargasov's house still stands facing out on the Pinega. It is now occupied by one of his grandsons.

Locating the relatives of Mikhail Stukov turns out to be more difficult. Mikhail was born in the village of Svistunovka, but he moved to Arkhangelsk before the war broke out. His identity tag has both addresses. We find none of Mikhail's relatives in the village and, in Arkhangelsk, the house where he had lived before going to war no longer stands. Alexei Sukhanovsky's public announcement about our search produces Mikhail's son—engineer Gherman Stukov, age 50. Gherman tells us that he has located his father's younger sister living in Leningrad, my home town.

Back in Leningrad, it takes us 20 minutes to get to Lydia Stukova-Belorukova's house. She is married to a native Leningrader. Lydia tells us that her elder brother fought outside Moscow and returned from the front without a leg. Her [illegible] brother, Izosim, died in Berlin o[illegible] 5, 1945. As for her third broth[illegible]ail, she knows nothing about [illegible]

Leafing through the prewar family album, Alexei and I find Mikhail's picture with the inscription, "From Mikhail and his young bride, Nyura." The date on the photo is 1939.

I receive a letter from war veteran Ivan Belikov, who writes that he was so shaken by what he saw on the Valley '88 expedition to Myasnoi Bor that he wrote a letter to Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Belikov received a reply stating that his letter had been passed on to the USSR Minister of Defense, who would be taking all the necessary measures.

Volunteers on the Valley '88 expedition worked for two weeks in May and August of last year. They collected and buried the remains of 3,720 men and officers. They also found many combat orders and medals. The recipients can be traced through the serial numbers. Scores of notebooks, diaries, and other papers as well as hundreds of identity tags found in Myasnoi Bor have been turned over to experts for deciphering. Time is of the essence since much of the paper is crumbling.

The 10 days that Alexander Orlov spent researching at the Central Archives of the USSR Ministry of Defense in preparation for the Valley '89 expedition brought new information:

The losses of the 2nd Shock Army amounted to 49,437 men in June 1942 alone. By the end of that month approximately 60,000 letters lay unclaimed in the post office.

"We've got a lot of work ahead of us," Alexander Orlov tells me.

From the Editor: As this article was going to press, we learned that 2,000 volunteers from all over the country had already arrived in Myasnoi Bor for the Valley '89 expedition that began last May. This year the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, the USSR Ministry of Defense, the USSR Council of War and Labor Veterans, and the Leningrad Military District are taking part in the work. Everything that the previous expeditions [illegible]—money, equipment, [illegible] and radio and television [illegible]—now [illegible] their [illegible]

COULD THE WAR HAVE BEEN AVERTED?

By Dmitri Gudkov

While Soviet historians are unanimous in their assessment of the Munich deal, the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 have recently given rise to heated debates among scholars, diplomats, and journalists.

About 8 P.M. on August 31, 1939, two trucks of SS men in Polish military uniforms arrived in the German town of Gleiwitz, near the then German-Polish border. The men were waiting for a signal to begin a top-secret operation. When the signal was given, they quickly jumped from the trucks, stormed a radio station, took control of the equipment, and read aloud a statement in Polish in a strongly anti-German tone. After firing several shots, the men disappeared, leaving behind a corpse in a Polish uniform.

In the wee hours of September 1, as if in retaliation for the attack on the radio station, nazi planes dropped bombs on Polish airfields, communications structures, and centers of industry and administration. Nazi divisions crossed the border and launched [illegible] offensive.

[illegible] began World War II, the most [illegible] and bloody war in human [illegible] which eventually snared dozens of nations in its deadly web. Within two years Hitler would order his troops to attack the Soviet Union.

Hitler's Helpers

Everything that took place in Europe and the world in the latter half of the thirties provided a harsh lesson for history. The flames of conflicts flared in different places, but those who could have extinguished them seemed to shut their eyes to the growing inferno in the hope that it would leave them unscathed. In the early 1930s Japan seized northeastern China and, later, overran central China. Italy attacked Abyssinia. Germany and Italy launched an offensive against Republican Spain.

The annexation of the Rhine area, demilitarized under the Versailles Treaty, was the Nazis' first trial of strength in Europe. France and Great Britain, whom the treaty concerned most of all, kept silent. The Anschluss of Austria followed. Still no action was taken.

An opposite trend—the attempt to set up a foundation of collective security initiated by the Soviet Union—also existed. Maxim Litvinov, USSR People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, and a number of influential French figures adopted a similar approach to a number of major international issues. The Soviet Union signed mutual assistance treaties with France and Czechoslovakia, established diplomatic relations with the United ▶

States, and joined the League of Nations. If the world community had pooled its efforts for a rebuff to the aggressors, the vast potential of the Soviet Union could have played a decisive role. But the West did not accept the USSR's idea of collective security, having opposed it with a policy of "appeasing" the aggressor.

After nazi troops marched into Vienna in March 1938, Hitler demanded another victim. This time it was Czechoslovakia that fell.

The policy of appeasement was embodied by the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. Aristocratic and conservative, he considered the Soviet Union an unknown entity. He took for granted the Führer's assertions that the future of Germany would be decided on its eastern frontiers. Consequently, Chamberlain concluded that it was necessary to make concessions to Germany, not to interfere with its actions, and to meet all its claims.

By the autumn of 1938 Chamberlain deemed it necessary to meet with Hitler in person. In the early morning of September 15, the 69-year-old Prime Minister flew to Munich. That was his first flight in an airplane. It wasn't until evening that, tired and hardly able to walk, he reached the Führer's home in the Alps. The meeting produced the September 19 British-French ultimatum to Czechoslovakia. The ultimatum offered Czechoslovakia a chance to renounce, of its own free will, the regions with a predominantly German population. The Czechoslovakian Government rejected this proposal.

Nevertheless, on September 29 four powerful leaders met in Munich: Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain, and French Prime Minister Édouard Daladier. On the same day they signed a pact under which Czechoslovakia was to surrender to Germany without delay the Sudetenland and adjacent areas. Czechoslovakia was to lose one-fifth of its territory, a quarter of its population, half of its heavy industry, and powerful defensive structures.

"The Only One That Remained with Us..."

These words addressed to the Soviet Union belong to Eduard Beneš, President of Czechoslovakia from 1935 to 1938. He described the tragic events of September 1938 in his memoirs:

> ... Personally, I never had even the slightest doubt about the Soviet position. I was convinced that it would honor its obligations.... We immediately informed the Soviet Ambassador about the interference of Great Britain and France, and the plan they offered on September 19, 1938....
>
> Always aware of the risk of war, I asked him to relay to his government in Moscow the following two questions:
>
> 1. I still hope that France will come to its senses and realize what Hitler is after. In that case, a war will break out. Considering our joint treaty, what will the Soviet Union do?
>
> 2. Suppose France finally refuses to fulfill its commitments, while Czechoslovakia continues its resistance, which leads to an armed conflict with Germany. What will the Soviet Union do in this case?

The Soviet Government gave clear-cut answers to Beneš' questions: The USSR would help Czechoslovakia militarily even if France refused to honor its commitments to Prague. This help would be rendered on the condition that Czechoslovakia defended itself and asked for Soviet aid.

"I was very grateful to the Soviet Union for this answer," wrote Beneš. "In this hour of trial it was the only one that remained with us and offered us more than it was obliged to." However, as the former Czechoslovakian President explained, the Munich conference "ruled out subsequent assistance to us and the very participation of the Soviet Union in the September crisis."

In September 1938 the military potential of nazi Germany was largely inferior to that of France and the Soviet Union. Czechoslovakia was not helpless either. It had a fortified line of defense along its border with Germany, an efficient army, and a developed military industry. The Czechoslovakian Chargé d'Affaires in Berlin assured a Soviet diplomat that "the Czechs, even if left to themselves, would be able to hold out for at least four months."

In those alarming days the Soviet Union did not limit itself to verbal statements. It moved 30 rifle divisions to its western border and put its air defenses and tank divisions on red alert. More than 300,000 men were mobilized from the reserves. The Soviet Union kept the French Government informed about these moves. The Western powers knew that the USSR would fulfill its Allied duty, but this ran counter to their plans.

After Munich

In Munich Hitler agreed to sign a bilateral Anglo-German declaration, which was actually a nonaggression pact. The two countries expressed their desire never to wage war against each other, as well as to remove any pretext for differences. After his meeting with Hitler, Chamberlain decided that peace had been henceforth guaranteed for a whole generation.

In December of the same year a similar Franco-German declaration was made public in Paris. The governments of France and Germany declared that they had no territorial disputes and would maintain contacts with each other and hold consultations in case the international situation threatened to be aggravated. In effect, this was also a nonaggression pact.

Many people in the West believed that Munich had appeased Hitler. This view was shared by the U.S. Government. On the eve of the meeting of the four powers, the U.S. President sent a cable to his Czechoslovakian counterpart. Beneš wrote in his memoirs:

> Roosevelt's cable was understandable diplomatically and correct in protocol and form: The neutral United States wished to appear equally objective to both conflicting sides and urged them to reach agreement by peaceful means; and to conduct a search for a peaceful, honest, and constructive solution of these questions. But the United States did not analyze the reasons behind the conflict and ignored the fact that, under the circumstances, agreement on the pro[illegible] terms could only mean prepar[illegible] for the complete destruction [illegible]oslovakia, which Hitler w[illegible]y out

Co[illegible] page 35

THE FRIENDSHIP SAGA

By Leonid Mitrokhin

The fiftieth anniversary of the start of World War II prompts a look into the wartime archives. What they reveal reads somewhat like a documentary saga of Soviet-American sharing.

As I review the many documents of the Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, housed in the Central State Archives of the October Revolution in Moscow, a feeling of great warmth and respect for the American people wells up inside me.

Immediately after nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, a deluge of letters and telegrams from the United States flooded the USSR. They were messages from American government officials, scientists, artists, priests, workers, and farmers expressing their heartfelt sympathy, admiration, and solidarity with the Soviet people in their struggle against the nazi invaders and wishing the Soviet Union an early victory.

A large number of the letters and telegrams came from the nationwide American organization Russian War Relief, which was established in mid-1941. At one time the organization's membership ran into the tens of thousands, and the functions it sponsored attracted hundreds of thousands of people.

The 70 [illegible] Russian War Relief [illegible] virtually every state in [illegible] think of these smaller groups as spontaneously emerging bodies of citizen diplomacy. Between June and December 1941 Russian War Relief activists raised over nine million dollars for its war relief fund, and it did much to educate the American public about the Soviet Union and, most important, its valiant fight to protect universal human values.

Many of America's most prominent citizens expressed their solidarity with the Soviet Union in that cause. One letter received by the Union of Soviet Societies is dated August 28, 1941. It was written by the famous American anthropologist Aleš Hrdlička of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Accompanying his letter was a pair of German-made binoculars that Hrdlička was donating to the Soviet Army, with the request that the gift be passed on to some Soviet commander. The binoculars were presented to Hero of the Soviet Union Pavel Kutepov, who later sent the American anthropologist his thanks and an autographed photograph of himself.

In June 1942, to mark the first anniversary of the Soviet Union's entrance into the war, hundreds of American scientists, scholars, and artists sent messages and telegrams to the USSR in care of Professor Harold Chapman Brown, president of the American Russian Institute in San Francisco, California. Many of the letter writers stated that when the war was over, [illegible] humanity would never forget the Soviet Union's gallant struggle against the Axis aggressors.

The most touching letters were from ordinary Americans, especially American women. Early in 1942 the United States held a week of solidarity with Soviet women. The honorary chairperson was Eleanor Roosevelt. The American women responded with gifts and letters for Soviet soldiers. One letter, dated November 15, 1941, was sent by Clara Scala of Stanford, Connecticut:

> Dear Red Army Soldier,
>
> It is nearly impossible for me to express my feelings toward you and the glorious Red Army. We are so proud and grateful but sad that you should have to sacrifice so much.
>
> We in America will do everything in our power to help in this bitter fight to crush Hitlerism. The making of this sweater is only "a drop in the sea," but I have loved doing it.

The acts of friendship did not go unnoticed. A letter dated November 7, 1942, from Red Army Sergeant Fyodor Grigorievich Sviridov, who was stationed at the front, expressed the sentiments of his fellow soldiers:

> Dear Friends,
>
> Thank you so much for your gifts. Across thousands of kilometers we can feel your fraternal helping hand. We can feel that the American people are with us. Long live an alliance of the people of freedom-loving countries, the USSR and the USA! Death to the German occupiers!

U.S. citizens donated dollars—▶

Leo[illegible] Mitro[illegible] of Science (His[illegible]y), is [illegible] national prize [illegible]

which they undoubtedly needed themselves—to the Soviet Union for food, medicine, and weapons. Why did they do it? Because they feared Hitler so much? Hardly.

Small as the world appears to be in the twentieth century, the United States was far enough from the battlefields at that time to feel more or less secure. Even after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States, with oceans on both sides, still remained safe from invasion. And yet, Soviet soldiers received letters like this:

> May these gloves warm your hands as comfortingly as your heroic service warms the hearts of all Americans.
> Signed: Mrs. George Etonewith
> Campbell, Ohio

Many of those who held out a helping hand to the USSR were prominent American cultural figures. On December 27, 1943, Dudley Fosdik, an activist in the American Russian Cultural Association, Inc., wrote the Soviet Embassy about a benefit reception and concert held in Carnegie Hall in New York, the proceeds of which went to the Russian War Relief fund. The benefit performance featured the cantata *We Will Retaliate, Stalingrad,* by Charles Kingsford. ▶

Dmitri Shostakovich's portrait on the cover of *Time* magazine (1943): "Fireman Shostakovich. Amid bombs bursting in Leningrad, he heard the chords of victory."

A drawing from the *New York Times* (1942): "We shall defeat nazism together!"

Solidarity for the Soviet people found expression in a variety of events. Right: A sample of programs and a promotional leaflet for an album of songs by Paul Robeson.

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Prominent Russian painter Nikolai Roerich was made the honorary president of the American Russian Cultural Association.

The Americans held a special regard for the wartime work of Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich, whose Seventh Symphony was performed in the United States and Mexico 47 times between July 14 and December 31, 1942.

In October 1942 many outstanding musicians and artists in the United States sent greetings to Shostakovich on his birthday. Below are excerpts* from a few of the telegrams that the composer received:

> I was astounded by the grandeur of your new symphony, and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you again when the war is over. In my mind I am always with you.
>
> Signed: Leopold Stokowski

> On behalf of artists and all the American people, I send you greetings and profound gratitude for your contribution to world culture and for your expressing the valor and heroism of the great Russian nation.
>
> On behalf of myself, I send my warm greetings to you and through you to the Russian people.
>
> Signed: Paul Robeson

> It is a great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the greatest musical genius now living in Russia and to send warm greetings to him and his courageous comrades, who are waging a hard struggle for themselves and for the great Allied cause. I am convinced that the ultimate victory will be with us.
>
> Signed: Charlie Chaplin

In wartime an important role was played by American correspondents reporting from the USSR. Reporters included well-known author Erskine Caldwell and his photographer-journalist wife, Margaret Bourke-White. When nazi Germany declared war on the Soviet Union, Caldwell and Bourke-White happened to be in the Soviet Union, and they decided to stay on and cover the war. They broadcast regularly to the United States from the Radio Committee in Moscow's Pushkin Square. Here is one example:

> There had been three consecutive nights with no Luftwaffe. Twelve minutes before I was due on the air, the antiaircraft guns began booming so loudly that we had to close all corridor doors, and still we could not keep the sound out of the studio. As the cultural program started, a 500-pound bomb fell outside in the courtyard. It threw me against the wall. . . . The boudoir clock lay at my feet, and it was plain that it had ticked its last transoceanic tock.

One American citizen, S. Blumenthal, was inspired to write a poem entitled "They Shall Not Pass." It reads, in part:

But Russia, with unconquered soul, united will endure
And though the way be long and hard, her victory is sure;
Her industries shall be restored, her granaries shall be filled
And from the ashes, Phoenix-like, her cities shall be rebuilt.

And the Soviet people responded. Prominent Soviet author Konstantin Simonov addressed the following to the United States in 1943:

> The feeling of friendship between soldiers is born when two soldiers fight a common enemy. Our people and our army are particularly aware of their friends' feats of arms; they have eagerly read about such feats and are proud of their friends.
>
> Last spring I returned from Murmansk and wrote an article entitled "The Americans." It is about the American seamen who transported cargoes for us. In this story I attempt to explain what it is like to ship cargoes to the Soviet Union via the Northern Sea Route, and how much heroism is needed every time to do it successfully, amid the greatest of dangers. I remember the interest with which the Soviet servicemen read this story. It probably wasn't because the story was very good but because the story responds to the aspirations of our servicemen. They had longed for the feeling of soldiers' solidarity. When they read about the feats of the American seamen, a real sense of this feeling became reality for them.

Ernest Bloch, an American, wrote in June 1942 in his message* to the Soviet Union:

> Let us passionately hope that after Victory is achieved, none of us in the United States will ever forget your immense contribution to this victory or the feeling of gratitude that we have for you. Let us hope that in the days of reconstruction we will be able to come together and cooperate with confidence in fraternity for the benefit of humanity.

In November of the same year, *The United Nations*, a cantata set to the music of Shostakovich, was performed in the United States. The words by Harold J. Rome included these lines:

As sure as the sun meets the morning
And rivers go down to the sea
A new day for mankind is dawning
Our children shall live proud and free.

Today it is the duty of Soviet and American artists, scholars, scientists, and public figures to restore the spirit of cooperation, to restore it many times over, in order to exclude the very word "war" from both vocabularies and from life itself. Anything less than this would be a betrayal of the ideals of the generation that came before us, a desecration of the legacy of those who defended peace and civilization in World War II.

Recently an idea for a Soviet-American museum was proposed in the USSR. To me, a museum or a center like that would fill in one of the so-called blank spots in history. Even more important, the museum could serve as a reminder of the devastation of war and help us to prevent another one in the future.

What is crystal-clear today is that the wartime solidarity between the American and the Soviet people is a subject that has not yet been covered in full. There are enough priceless wartime documents in the Soviet and the American archives to fill volumes.

We Soviet historians want to use this opportunity through SOVIET LIFE magazine to propose to American scholars, scientists, public figures, groups, and participants in those glorious deeds and developments that we pool our efforts to [illegible] a commemorative book on [illegible] friendship between American and [illegible] citizens during the war.

*Retranslated from the Russian.

THE INNER SANCTUM
OF SIMON AND SCHUSTER
PUBLISHERS · 1230 SIXTH AVENUE
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK CITY

January 19, 1943

My dear Mr. Tolstoy:

We are most deeply gratified to have your gracious comment on the Inner Sanctum edition of WAR AND PEACE. It is thrilling beyond words to have your letter directly from the Tolstoy headquarters in Moscow. I am sending a copy of your letter to Clifton Fadiman, as I know he will be deeply interested in your comment on his Introduction.

I am delighted to have the photographs to add to my Tolstoy archives and look forward to receiving the copy of "Jasnaja Poljana".

By separate post, I am sending you two more copies of the Inner Sanctum edition of WAR AND PEACE - for the Tolstoy Museum and for Jasnaja Poljana. We had the privilege of meeting some members of the Tolstoy family who told us that our edition of this masterpiece would have delighted Leo Tolstoy.

With renewed thanks and best wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

[signature]

MLSchuster:HLJ

L. Tolstoy, Esq.
The State Museum
Kropotkinstra ul.11
Moscow
U.S.S.R.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

May 18, 1943

TO: The Brave Citizens and Gallant Soldiers of Stalingrad

FROM: Clarence E. Wagner
Mayor of the City of Long Beach, California, U. S. A.

GREETINGS:

It is with the deepest feeling of admiration and personal gratitude that I send you this letter.

Yours has been an epoch-making victory against our ... enemy. But, it has been more than that. The defeat of ... hordes at your very gates, written in the blood and ... of thousands of your brave citizens and soldiers, has ... the world a burning symbol of gallantry and sacrifice ... so light the path of future history that never again, ... and inevitable victory comes, will human ... darkened by the madness of conquest and depraved ... one.

... only for myself but for the people of Long ... I give you my solemn promise and pledge to ... treble, every effort which will hasten ... victory -- yours and ours. Not until ... relax or our prayers cease.

... promise to you and your peoples, and ... the thanks and affection which ... of us.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Wagner

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY, CONDUCTOR
SYMPHONY HALL, BOSTON

RECEIVED

Дорогой Владимир Иванович:

Lenox, Massachusetts

На днях, по приезде в Ленокс, я нашел Ваше письмо и сердечно благодарю Вас за посылку партитуры 7-ой симфонии Шостаковича, с ценной для меня надписью автора, и за письма моих бывших учеников, Небольсина и Гертовича, глубоко меня тронувших.

Пользуюсь этим случаем чтобы послать Вам мою статью о композиторах в нескольких экземплярах. Буду очень рад, если Вы найдете ее интересной для перевода в России. Ни одна страна не сделала так много для творческих сил, как СССР. Достижения России в этой области меня восхищают и вдохновляют, и должны послужить примером всему миру. В это я твердо верю.

Статья моя нашла отклик в американских музыкальных кругах, и сейчас проэкт о конференции подвигается успешно вперед.

Пожалуйста, дорогой Владимир Иванович, держите меня в контакте с музыкальной жизнью в России и новыми произведениями советских композиторов. Дайте мне знать когда Вы снова собираетесь быть в Нью Иорке, так как я буду наезжать в Нью Иорк и был бы рад с Вами встретиться.

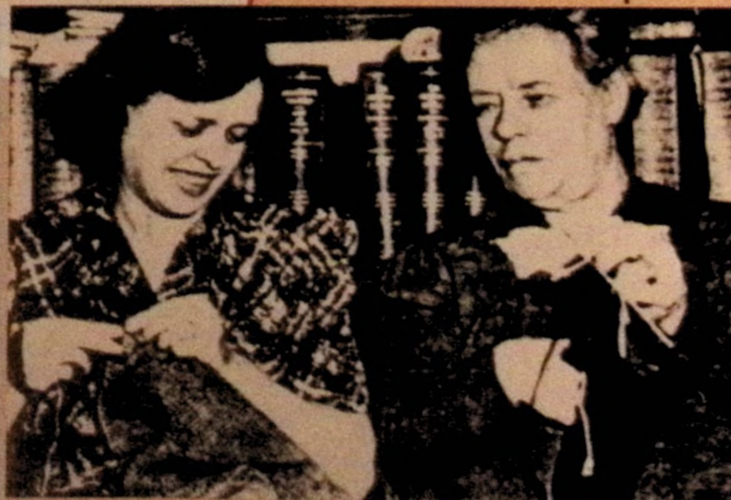
С сердечным приветом.

Ваш [signature]

Mr. V. Bazykin
Embassy of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Washington, D.C.

Letters came from all quarters of American society, including one (left) from the conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, expressing his gratitude for the full score of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony.

Below, left to right: Officials of the Russian War Relief Jewish Council with Albert Einstein (right). The council approved a list of 75,000 dollars' worth of supplies for a Saratov hospital. Students at the Salt Lake School for the Deaf and Blind made hand-knit woolen goods for Soviet soldiers.



New Biomonitoring

For many years environmental protection has been limited to maintaining a "safe" level of physical and chemical pollution, to making sure that certain indicators do not rise above permissible standards. However, the combination of individual concentrations, each within the norm, may frequently lead to disastrous consequences.

The Institute of Biophysics of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow has developed a method of monitoring the environment that will detect atmospheric pollution when there are still no visible signs of it. The new method makes it possible to pinpoint changes at a stage when remedial measures can still be taken. The method involves instruments called microspectrofluorimeters, which have been developed especially for this purpose. Mobile laboratories have also been designed to map polluted areas.

Arrivals from the Pacific

From time to time Latvian fishermen catch animals that resemble crayfish, only they are larger and have hairy claws. Experts say that these are visitors from the Pacific—Chinese crabs. How did they find their way into the Baltic Sea? Scientists believe that they were carried in with ballast waters. The first such rarity was caught in Germany in 1912. The 10-legged travelers seem to have adapted to the slightly saline waters of the Baltic. But how they propagate here is not yet clear. We have never caught young animals or a female with eggs.

Memory Day

On April 24 Armenians, in whatever country they may be, pay tribute to the memory of the victims of a bloody massacre. In 1915 in Turkey, local nationalists perpetrated unprecedentedly brutal carnage on almost half of the Armenians living there at the time—nearly 1.5 million people. Another 600,000 were driven into the deserts of Mesopotamia, where most of them died. Hundreds of thousands of other Armenians fled to other countries.

This past April, early in the morning, residents of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, and of neighboring villages, some of them eyewitnesses to the events of 1915, set out toward a hill called Tsitsernakaberd, the site of a memorial to the genocide victims. They went there to honor the memory of the dead. Vazgen I, Catholicos of Armenia, delivered a sermon.

Schoolgirl's Mystery

For a long time Inga's parents have been used to the wonders that their daughter performs daily with domestic utensils. They just call them "tricks." Twelve-year-old Inga extends her right hand, puts the bottom of a large pan against her palm, and somehow, as if magnetized, the pan is suspended in air. Inga's father adds two-kilogram weights to the pan, which adhere to the bottom with a dull thud.

This amazing ability of Inga Gaiduchenko from Grodno could be suspected of being a fraud or a joke. The sixth grader repeats the trick with a variety of objects: a dictionary, ballpoint pens, pencils, knives, and forks. The only things that are unaffected are glass objects.

Doctors have found that Inga's magnetic field has a curative effect on diseases such as osteochondrosis and radiculitis.

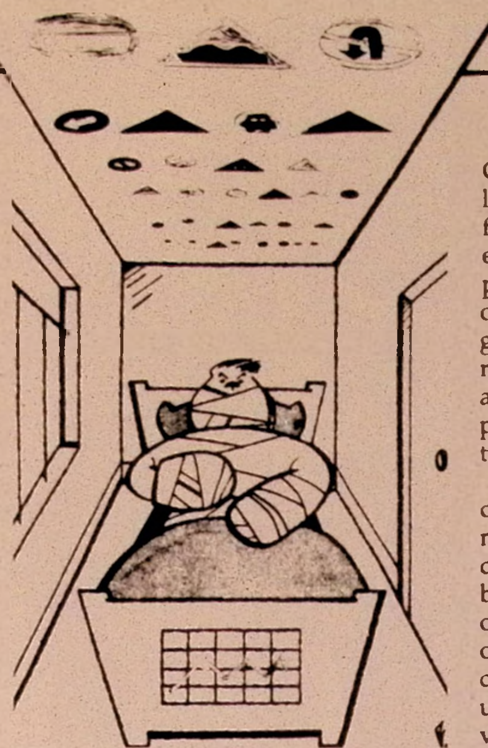
"We are dealing with a rare phenomenon," says Professor Vladimir Volchenko. "We have to investigate it."

Now Appearing . . .

Detective is the name of a new experimental theater in Moscow that marked its arrival with a production of the play *Executor*. The theater's aim, says its founder, is to present serious moral, political, and social problems in an entertaining way. The first production describes events of 1953 connected with the death of Stalin and with attempts by one of his close blood-stained lieutenants, Lavrenti Beria, to seize power after Stalin's death.

Wind Surfing Across the Gulf of Finland

Wind surfer Paap Kylar set off from Tailinn, the capital of Estonia, for the coast of Finland. Eleven hours later he reached his goal. The athlete had trained for a whole year, even in winter when temperatures drop to minus four degrees Celsius and the wind is fierce. But the crossing of the gulf took longer and was much more difficult than expected because of the head winds Kylar encountered. Nevertheless, the Estonian beat the record of Finland's Tomu Karlemo.



LAUGHTER HAS NO ACCENT

By James H. Boren and Alice Peter Boren

Visualize a cartoon of a traffic accident victim, bandaged from head to foot, studying traffic signs painted on the ceiling of his hospital room. Or, in a courtroom, a father leans toward the defendant on trial and whispers: "Son, I've been meaning to have a serious talk with you for a long time. . . ." Or, explaining a wondrously complicated machine, an inventor says, "We set out to invent the bicycle, but we made some changes and additions during the development phase." American humor? No! These are among the works of 80 Soviet cartoonists contained in an excitingly funny new book, *Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil.*

Krokodil (Crocodile), with a circulation of 5.3 million copies every 10 days, is the Soviet Union's 67-year-old national humor magazine. Its long life and great popularity are due to the high quality of its wide-ranging cartoons, jokes, interviews, and satirical articles, which touch upon everyday life in the Soviet Union and in the world.

The book is of great significance. It is the first collection of *Krokodil* cartoons ever to be translated into English and published by an American company. The brain child of Herman Weinstein of Educational Services Corporation and Oleg Benyukh, then Counselor of Information of the Embassy of the USSR, the book became a reality when Donna Martin of Andrews & McMeel and Alexei Pyanov, editor in chief of *Krokodil,* selected and organized the works included in the book. *Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil,* by the editors of *Krokodil* magazine, is published by Andrews & McMeel. The cartoons are presented in five parts: Relationships, Lifestyle, Social Vices, Politics and Bureaucracy, and Environment.

Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil, 192 pages, is available from: Educational Services Corporation, 1725 K Street, N.W., Suite #408, Washington, D.C. Price: $12.95 (plus postage: $2.25 book rate or $3.40 first-class shipping).

In the foreword to the book, Charles Solomon writes: "Although laughter is often cited as one of the few truly universal human experiences, the humor in many cartoons is predicated on the shared experiences of a specific social, cultural, or ethnic group. These drawings from *Krokodil* reveal that many situations we regard as uniquely American are actually the product of the daily life in any industrialized urban society."

An excellent example of shared concern is a cartoon showing a fisherman, against a background of oil-drilling platforms at sea, rescuing a beautiful oil-covered mermaid. Another shared experience is a cartoon of an angry child practicing the violin, declaring to his father: "When I grow up, I'm going to make you play the violin and make Mom drink cod-liver oil."

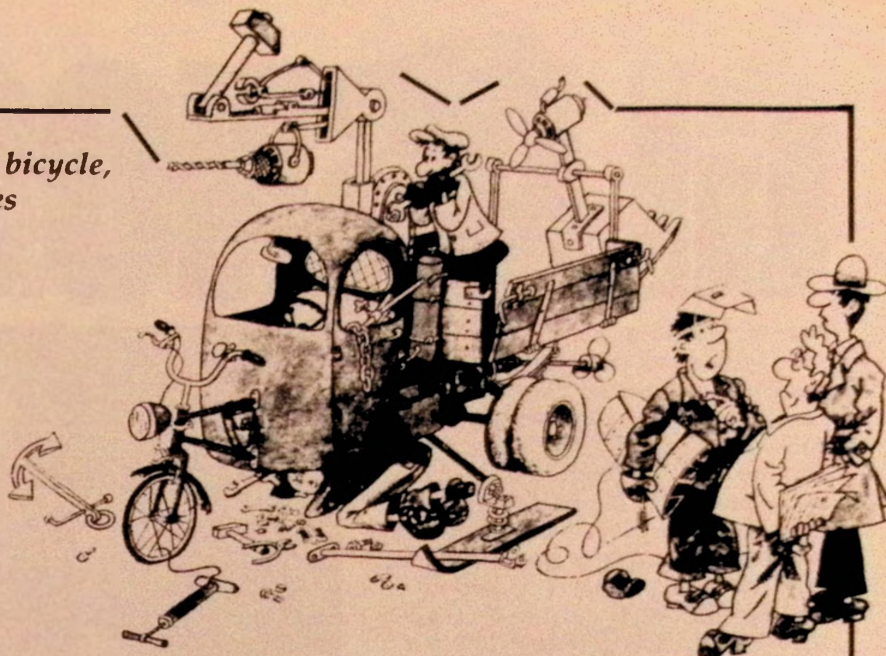
Consider the worldwide struggle with the absurdities of bureaucratic life. They are well shown in the cartoon of a sidewalk being constructed by the rotational laying of a few cement blocks by three workers. The first worker is carefully laying one block, while the second is carrying another block to him. A few feet away, the third worker is digging up the freshly laid blocks for the second worker to carry to the front of the project.

Another artist portrays a mother and child walking hand in hand down the street with the child's other hand being held by the shadow of his absent alcoholic father.

Our common concern for the future of the planet is depicted by a pair of talking heads revealing their thoughts: one, a jumble of bombs; the other, a peace dove.

We, the Borens, have a special relationship with *Krokod*[illegible]ause the magazine is the Sovi[illegible]nator for the Soviet-American [illegible] of Hu-

"We set out to invent the bicycle, but we made some changes and additions during the development phase."

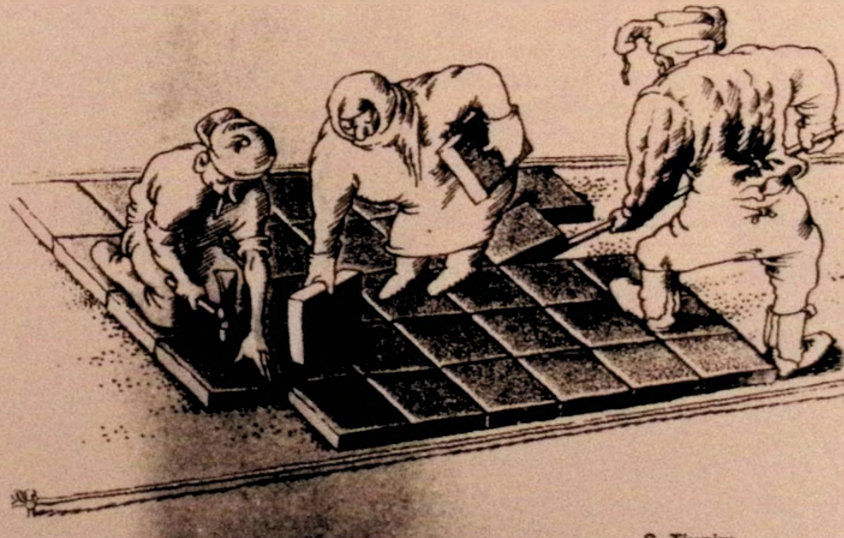


G. Ogorodnikov

morists. In 1987, under the auspices of the Workshop Library on World Humor, five Soviet humorists (three from *Krokodil*) came to the United States to participate in humor symposiums with their American counterparts in Tempe, Arizona; Los Angeles, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Nashville, Tennessee; and Washington, D.C. In 1988 five American humorists traveled to the Soviet Union and participated in sessions with writers, cartoonists, and performers in Moscow, Leningrad, Tallinn, and Kiev. The theme for the exchange was: "It is better to exchange humorists than bombs because you can't fight when you're laughing." The second exchange, under our sponsorship through our International Association of Professional Bureaucrats, is slated to begin in late September 1989. At that time we will welcome five Soviet humorists to our headquarters in Washington, D.C., and then travel to Saratoga Springs, New York; Los Angeles, California; and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Exchanges of humorists can lead to great things. As Alexei Pyanov writes in his introduction to *Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil*: "Our trip was not only enjoyable but also instructive. It convinced us that we can indeed laugh together: at ourselves, at each other, and at our recent fears." The contacts made during the first exchange led to the publication of this book. *Krokodil* is planning to publish a book of satire by Americans.

Soviet Humor: The Best of Krokodil will enrich the library of anyone who enjoys the humor and art of outstanding [illegible]. The fact that it is the [illegible] from the Soviet [illegible] even more valu[illegible] to share! As [illegible] the humor [illegible] almost [illegible] years, we are making [illegible] our favorite gift for our friends, our associates, and our local libraries. Read and enjoy!



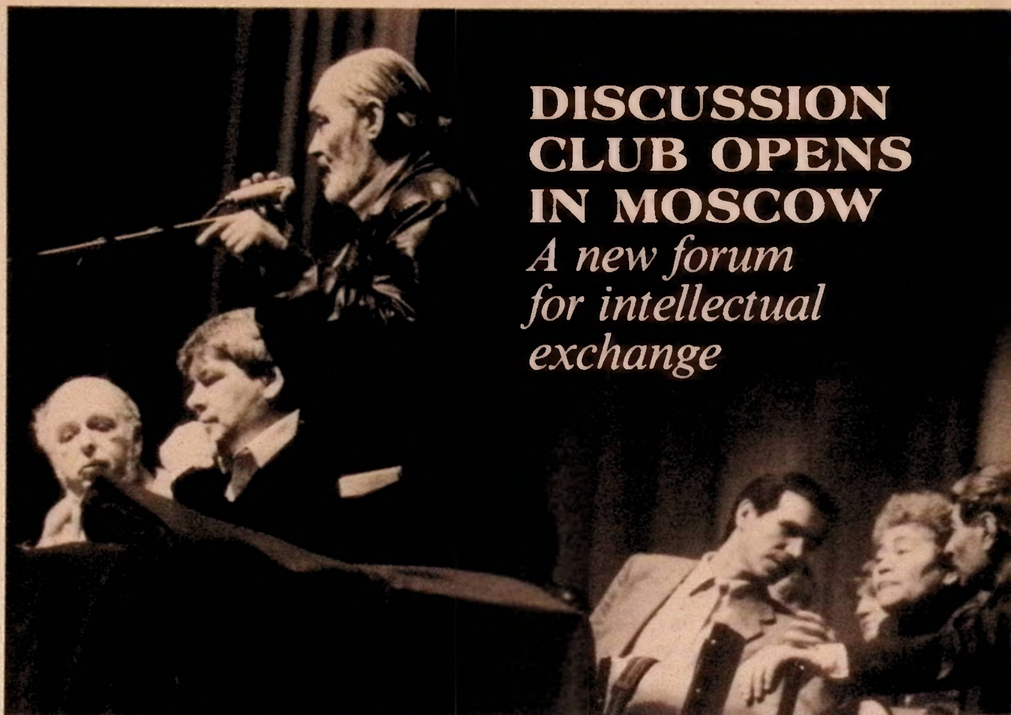
S. Tiunim

"When I grow up, I'm going to make you play the violin and make Mom [illegible] cod-liver oil."

V. Spelnikov

GLASNOST

THE SOVIET PRESS AT WORK



DISCUSSION CLUB OPENS IN MOSCOW

A new forum for intellectual exchange

To promote *perestroika* in all spheres of public life, Moscow's intellectuals have set up a new forum for discussion and debate. Called the Moscow Rostrum, the club has a shining list of sponsors, including such prominent names as academicians Roald Sagdeyev and Andrei Sakharov, philosophers and journalists Len Karpinsky and Yuri Karyakin, and writer Ales Adamovich. Club membership now numbers 200, but it is likely to grow.

The Moscow Rostrum meets not only to discuss burning issues but also to offer ways of dealing with them. Importantly, proposals based on expert opinion are drafted and then sent on to the appropriate agencies and organizations for their consideration.

Guest speakers from around the Soviet Union are also invited to participate. Some recent topics addressed by the club have been the food shortage, Soviet foreign policy, and the international aspects of human rights.

In the photo above: Yuri Karyakin at the podium. Karyakin is a deputy to the new USSR Congress of People's Deputies.

Courtesy of Novosti Press Agency

Who goes to jail and for what?

The main Department of Corrections under the USSR Ministry of the Interior has released statistics on the populations at penal institutions around the Soviet Union.

The largest number of convicts, representing 67.2 per cent, falls between the ages of 25 and 55. The smallest number (one per cent) is over the age of 60. People between the ages of 55 and 60 account for 4.4 per cent of all convicts, while those under the age of 25 account for 27.4 per cent.

What lands people in jail? Topping the list is hooliganism, which represents 11.8 per cent of those in prison. Premeditated murder accounts for 11.5 per cent; rape, 8.6 per cent; and robbery, 6.5 per cent. Percentages drop as the list of crimes continues.

Over the past three years the number of people behind bars has declined by 40 per cent (the number of women convicts and juvenile offenders has decreased by over 50 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively). The smaller figures, however, have nothing to do with improved morality. They are the result of an amnesty.

An alarming trend: Last year 33,000 (a 200 per cent increase over 1987) ex-convicts had difficulty finding a job or housing for longer than three months after being released from prison. Has society grown callous? No. It's simply that as many enterprises switch over to self-financing, they become more selective in their hiring of personnel. [illegible] may be so, but steps must be [illegible] prevent an increase in recidivism.

Courtesy of the [illegible] *Izvestia*

Antidrinking Campaign: Progress Report

Between 1985 and 1988 there was a 56.5 per cent drop in national alcohol consumption (in terms of straight alcohol), reports the USSR State Committee for Statistics.

Sounds good. The press is skeptical though. The committee deals with state-manufactured liquor, while the market is saturated with home-distilled spirits.

A rough estimate puts last year's output of moonshine at 120 million decaliters. As many as 325,000 devices for making home brew and about four million liters of illicit spirits were confiscated, an increase of 300 and 120 per cent, respectively, over 1986.

Last year, under the influence of alcohol, 379,000 citizens committed crimes. The figure for 1987 was 371,000. Another sad development: A lack of spirits in stores plus price hikes have sent drug and substance abuse skyward.

The bottom line is that the 1985 official clampdown on heavy drinking and alcoholism is bearing no real fruit, except that it is costing the country billions of rubles.

Most people feel that the antidrinking campaign should be continued, but with a greater emphasis on education and treatment. Anonymous treatment is important, and facilities should be expanded.

Courtesy of the newspaper *Izvestia*

At the Mayak Mine—three days underground.

NORILSK MINERS GO ON STRIKE

First one miners team working the Oktyabrsky Mine refused to leave the mine when its shift was through. Then another five teams followed suit. Soon all the mining teams in Norilsk, a city within the Arctic Circle, joined in.

The conflict had been brewing for several months after miners' ratings as well as wages were lowered as a cost-saving measure. There were other grievances too. The striking miners demanded, among other things, that additional pay for working in rigorous conditions be reinstituted (the benefit had been canceled some time before) and that the Norilsk Ore Mining and Processing Complex be switched to a self-financing basis, along the lines of plans adopted by other enterprises in the country.

At first the mine management refused to respond to the miners' statements, and a spokesman for the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy (recently this ministry was disbanded and merged with the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy) assumed a very tough position. The result was the strike that went on for four days until party officials from Krasnoyarsk, the capital of the region, and the minister from Moscow arrived in Norilsk. A frank and businesslike dialogue immediately resolved many of the problems, while others are still being dealt with.

Courtesy of Novosti Press Agency

A Moment In Time

By Nina Kryukova
Photographs by Valeri Shustov

Photojournalist Valeri Shustov, 60, was the first Soviet photographer to receive the grand prize at the Photomundi International Show in the Netherlands (in 1969, for his photo *Lake Baikal Is Calm*) and also, in 1979, the first among his compatriots to win the coveted Worldpressphoto's Gold Eye award, for his series *Swim Before You Walk, Baby*.

This year Valeri Shustov celebrates his thirtieth year in photojournalism. Today most people know him as the highly respected master he is.

There are only a few people who remember that he was once an obscure novice in the Photo Information Department of Sovinformburo, now Novosti Press Agency.

"A [illegible] camera in my hands and bu[illegible] in my heart," says [illegible] then that some[illegible] would be some[illegible]dy."

[illegible] Shustov [illegible]oved to Mos[illegible] [illegible] of Azer-bai[illegible] follo[illegible] There [illegible] people wh[illegible] get his [illegible] photojou[illegible] [illegible]ment [illegible] as well," says Shustov. "We, Novosti's top photojournalists now, were timid pupils then, and our teachers were people who had started their careers in photography in the forties as front-line war correspondents."

Shustov was a good and grateful student, and he traveled far and wide, capturing all of the Soviet Union and many cities abroad in his photos. His pictures appeared in all Novosti periodicals. He also toured the United States at the invitation of *Life* magazine and later worked in the USSR for *Life*, *Paris-Match*, and *Epoca*.

Every photographer has his own style and vision of the world. Some seek self-expression, others money. Some prefer photographing athletes, others landscapes.

"I shoot everything that catches my eye," says Shustov. "I'm not after the sensational shot. Everyday life attracts me the most, and the vastness and variety in this country provide me with a wealth of material to choose from. I can shoot the four seasons of the year within a week if I cross the country from end to end. The myriad ethnic patterns here constitute a ▸

⑥

⑦

lovely picturesque and colorful quilt."

Photographs capture a moment in time, and the photographer knows when to seize it. I asked Shustov to give us some background for the photos that accompany this article.

(1) "This is the snapshot I always send whenever I'm asked to include a picture of myself along with my exhibit photos. The portrait was shot by *Nedelya* (*Week*) newspaper photographer Victor Akhlomov."

(2) "A group of photographers was crowding around this Dutch fisherman, who didn't seem in the least bothered by all the attention he was getting. The old salt just sat there cool and collected. Suddenly, I noticed that he smoked his cigar exactly like Winston Churchill."

(3) "I call this photograph *Future Lords*. I was in London for that whole day, but I didn't take any pictures until I got to Eton, a quiet suburb of London, where there is a school for children of the elite. From a distance I saw two boys clad in traditional school uniforms approaching me. Hardly had I snapped the shutter when the youngsters noticed me and changed their pose."

(4) "These two Marshals of the Soviet Union—Ivan Bagramyan and Georgi Zhukov (left)—were good friends. I saw Zhukov for the first and last time at the Kremlin meeting in 1965 marking the twentieth anniversary of our victory over the Nazis. Now that many years have passed since then and I have read his memoirs, I think that I captured the inner feelings of this military leader, who had just been honored after having spent years in oblivion."

(5) "As photographic techniques have improved, I've grown more and more intrigued with taking color shots."

(6) "Paris is a miracle to me. Every time I visit the city, I feel joy mixed with fear—fear that I'll miss some- thin[illegible] The famous Eiffel To[illegible] after landing at [illegible] I was photo- g[illegible], but I con- ti[illegible] again. This s[illegible]

[illegible]

AVERTED

Continued from page 18

to achieve his goals as soon as he got the chance. The fact that Roosevelt sent similar cables not only to me and Hitler, but also to Chamberlain and Daladier, gave them an opportunity—to qualify his message as support for their policy throughout the crisis.

Beneš concluded bitterly: "In that time this was decisive support for Chamberlain's policy and tactics."

Before very long, however, the hopes and illusions created by Munich went up in smoke. At daybreak on March 15, 1939, German troops invaded Czechoslovakia. Czechia was turned into a nazi "protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia," and Slovakia into a puppet republic. Hitler made it abundantly clear that he did not give a damn about either Great Britain or France, or his own commitments under the Munich agreement.

The capture of Czechoslovakia came as a shock to the British and French public, but it did not have much of an effect on the policies of London and Paris. The German Ambassador reported from London at that time: "It would be an illusion to think that the British attitude toward Germany has fundamentally changed." His counterpart in Paris sent in similar reports: "In actual fact, France won't do anything in a situation created by the German moves in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia."

The Soviet Government resolutely disassociated itself from the Munich policy of the West. "We consider what has happened a disaster for the entire world," said People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Litvinov about the Munich agreement. The Soviet Ambassador in London, Ivan Maisky, reported to Moscow: "The League of Nations and collective security are dead. An era of no-holds-barred crude force and mailed-fist policy is coming in international relations." Confidence in the reliability of the guarantees and assurances of the Western governments, which had not been very high before, was completely undermined. Munich gave Hitler an opportunity to split the West and the Soviet Union by removing the Czechoslovakian link between them.

A search for alternative solutions was started in Moscow. This turn was manifest in Stalin's irritation at Litvinov, an active advocate of a rapprochement with the Western democracies on the question of collective security. In May 1939 Vyacheslav Molotov, a man with a quite different mentality, one that was closest to Stalin, was appointed to head the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Unholy Alliance

In the evening of August 23, 1939, telegraph agencies all over the world carried sensational news: Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop arrived in Moscow. The visit was a quick one. On that night Von Ribbentrop and Molotov concluded a nonaggression pact. It consisted of seven articles, was concluded for 10 years, and was to go into force immediately after signing. The pact compelled both sides to refrain from acts of aggression against each other. In the event of disputes, the sides were to settle them peacefully. If a third power attacked either of the sides, the other pledged not to support the attacker. The sides also signed secret protocols, but originals of these documents have never been found.

The signing of a nonaggression pact as such was not something extraordinary. But a pact between Communists and Nazis was by no means a typical agreement. The world public and some people in the USSR were shocked not so much by the contents of the pact as by the moral aspects of the move.

In late September, Berlin and Moscow concluded yet another agreement on a new border. It was called the Boundary and Friendship Treaty.

Was There an Alternative?

While Soviet historians are unanimous in their assessment of the Munich deal, the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 have recently given rise to heated debates among scholars, diplomats, and journalists. The gist of ▶

these debates boils down to the following two questions: Was the pact of August 23, 1939, really a must for the USSR? Did the Soviet Union have any alternative?

I think that one of the most radical positions on this issue is held by Professor Mikhail Semiryaga. In his article entitled "August 23, 1939," which was published in the Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya gazeta*, he comes to the following conclusion:

> For extending peace only for itself, the Soviet Union paid an exorbitant price, but the pact did not ensure its national interests nonetheless. . . . The signing of the pact was a political miscalculation on the part of the Soviet leaders.

A contrary view is held by Yevgeni Rybkin, Doctor of Science (Philosophy). He maintains that "the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 practically predetermined the victory in 1945."

Semiryaga believes that Germany stood to gain more from the nonaggression pact than the Soviet Union. By June 1941, that is, on the eve of the attack on the USSR, the Nazis had occupied practically the whole of Western Europe. A total of 290 million people (counting the satellite countries) lived on nazi-occupied territory. The gap in such a crucial strategic factor as the strength of the population changed in Germany's favor. The plunder of the occupied countries enabled Hitler to drastically increase his reserves of strategic and other raw materials and place a powerful industry at the service of his war machine. As a result, nazi Germany managed to considerably increase its armed forces: The number of divisions grew from 103 to 214, tanks from 3,200 to 5,600, and aircraft from 4,400 to 10,000. These moves allowed Hitler to develop military superiority over the Soviet Union.

What did the Soviet-Nazi agreements of 1939 give the USSR? The Soviet Union gained precious time, which enabled it to form 125 new divisions, to partially reorganize its army and military industry, and to move the borders by 250 to 300 kilometers away from its vital centers.

In Semiryaga's opinion, these agreements were by no means in the USSR's favor. That's why he considers it a "miscalculation on the part of the Soviet leaders." What does he think would have been an alternative to the conclusion of these agreements? "The Soviet Union could have dismissed Germany's proposal as unacceptable or prolonged talks with it," he writes. "At the same time, the Soviet Union could have been patiently but persistently working for the conclusion of a military agreement with Great Britain and France. Even if an agreement had not been signed at once, the threat of one being signed would have hung over the head of the aggressor like the Sword of Damocles, deterring it from immediate ventures."

The nazi aggression could only have been prevented by the success of the British-Franco-Soviet talks. But neither Great Britain nor France wanted to strike a military-political alliance with the USSR.

"But this tactic had already been used and had not justified itself by that time," object Alexander Orlov and Stepan Tyushkevin, two prominent Soviet historians, in their article entitled "The Pact of 1939: There Was No Alternative."

Three days after the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Government proposed that six powers—Great Britain, France, the USSR, Poland, Rumania, and Turkey—convene a conference to discuss measures to curb nazi aggression. Paris and London turned down the proposal.

In April of 1939 the USSR proposed to Great Britain and France a tripartite agreement on mutual assistance and a military convention on actions in the event of aggression against one of the contracting parties. The response to this was also negative. In the beginning of June the Soviet Government sent Great Britain and France its draft of a treaty on mutual assistance and an invitation to their foreign ministers to come to Moscow for negotiations. British Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax refused to go himself and sent minor officials to conduct the proposed talks.

The talks in Moscow started in the middle of June. By the beginning of August the sides merely agreed that British and French military missions would come to Moscow to conduct negotiations. When these talks started, the Soviet delegation presented its official powers for their conduct and the signing of a military convention. The French delegation had powers just to hold the talks. The British had no powers whatsoever.

In the event of a German aggression in the West or against Poland, the Soviet Union was ready to give military assistance to Great Britain and France. Yet the Western partners in the talks dodged reciprocal commitments. One more question remained outstanding: How could the Soviet troops be used in practical terms if the Germans attacked? The Soviet Union did not have a common border with Germany. To fight against the aggressor, Soviet troops needed to secure permission to pass over Polish territory. Meanwhile, the Polish Government stubbornly rejected all proposals on that score.

While the Western partners were creating a semblance of talks with Moscow, London and Berlin maintained intensive, tacit contacts, though they were no secret to the Soviet leaders. Chamberlain was expected to meet Göring in London on August 23. Somewhat earlier Chamberlain had sent a message to Hitler, suggesting a new version of the Munich deal, this time at the expense of Poland.

At that time the nazi aggression could only have been prevented by the success of the British-Franco-Soviet talks. But neither Great Britain nor France wanted to strike a military-political alliance with the USSR. Of course the fact should not be ignored that the repressive Stalin regime did not create for the USSR an image of "partner" in Western eyes. Be that as it may, the negotiations in Moscow were shipwrecked, [illegible]nd the last chance for halting [illegible] in Europe by concerted effor[illegible] m[illegible]sed.■

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Continued from page 3

the "survival of the fittest" will promote both economic progress and effectiveness. After all, under the new conditions, the liquidation of an unprofitable enterprise will not be just a threat but a reality.

Q: One of our biggest problems is the shortage of goods and services. Please comment on this.

A: This is a paradoxical problem. In absolute numbers we produce more than enough. The shortage is in goods that are fashionable and of high quality.

Let me give you an example. According to this year's census, our population now numbers 286 million people. Soviet factories produce more than 800 million pairs of shoes and boots a year. This is more than is produced in the United States, both in absolute terms and per capita. So the quantity of these goods is sufficient; it's in variety and quality that we fall short.

But there's another reason for commodities being in short supply. It's a fact that incomes have recently been growing faster than the production of goods and services. In 1986-1987 the planned assignments for the manufacture of consumer goods and the development of paid services were underfulfilled, whereas those on the growth rates of wages were overfulfilled. Apparently, the problem should be tackled from both sides. A realistic policy on income that rules out the flow of surplus money into circulation should be accompanied by an improvement in the quality of goods and services.

I'm convinced that it's time to discard the criterion of quantitative grow[illegible] [illegible]forts to do this are already bei[illegible]

Q [illegible] roses, we [illegible] the thorns. [illegible] about the [illegible]ment, which [illegible] in the USSR in 1930. [illegible] *perestroika* [illegible] affect full [illegible]ment?

[illegible] I don't [illegible] too far ahead on this issue. The principle of full employment remains immutable for us. It is a very important social priority and a major gain of socialism. We do not intend to relinquish it. I don't think that the threat of unemployment is at all troubling for the time being. On the contrary, most enterprises are experiencing a real shortage of workers.

Yet experts estimate that with the restructuring of the economy, we will have between 15 and 16 million surplus workers by the year 2000. So we

Academician Leonid Abalkin

will have to think about creating new jobs for them. Fortunately, our service economy is growing very rapidly. In the near future it will be able to accommodate not only the natural increase in the population but also all of the surplus workers. Of course this will only happen if enough is invested in the service sector and if its personnel is retrained. With this aim in mind, people in service jobs will receive the same wages for some time, although probably some adjustments will have to be made. So it's not unrealistic to speak of unemployment in the near future.

Q: What about inflation? The average Soviet citizen is already beginning to feel the impact of this problem.

A: Yes, inflation is here, but it is relatively moderate—two to four per cent a year. But we can't just hope that public ownership and planned economic management will prevent inflation automatically. Soviet scientists are elaborating a system of measures designed to prevent inflation from getting out of hand.

Q: What has to be done to make the Soviet Union competitive on the international market?

A: The main things we have to do are to overcome our bureaucratic approach to the regulation of foreign economic ventures and to develop the initiative of the masses.

To achieve these goals, major Soviet enterprises have been granted free access to the world market. They are allowed to use the currency revenues that remain after the payment of taxes. Joint ventures are being set up. A decree on their establishment was adopted in January 1987. Since then, more than 400 joint ventures have been registered.

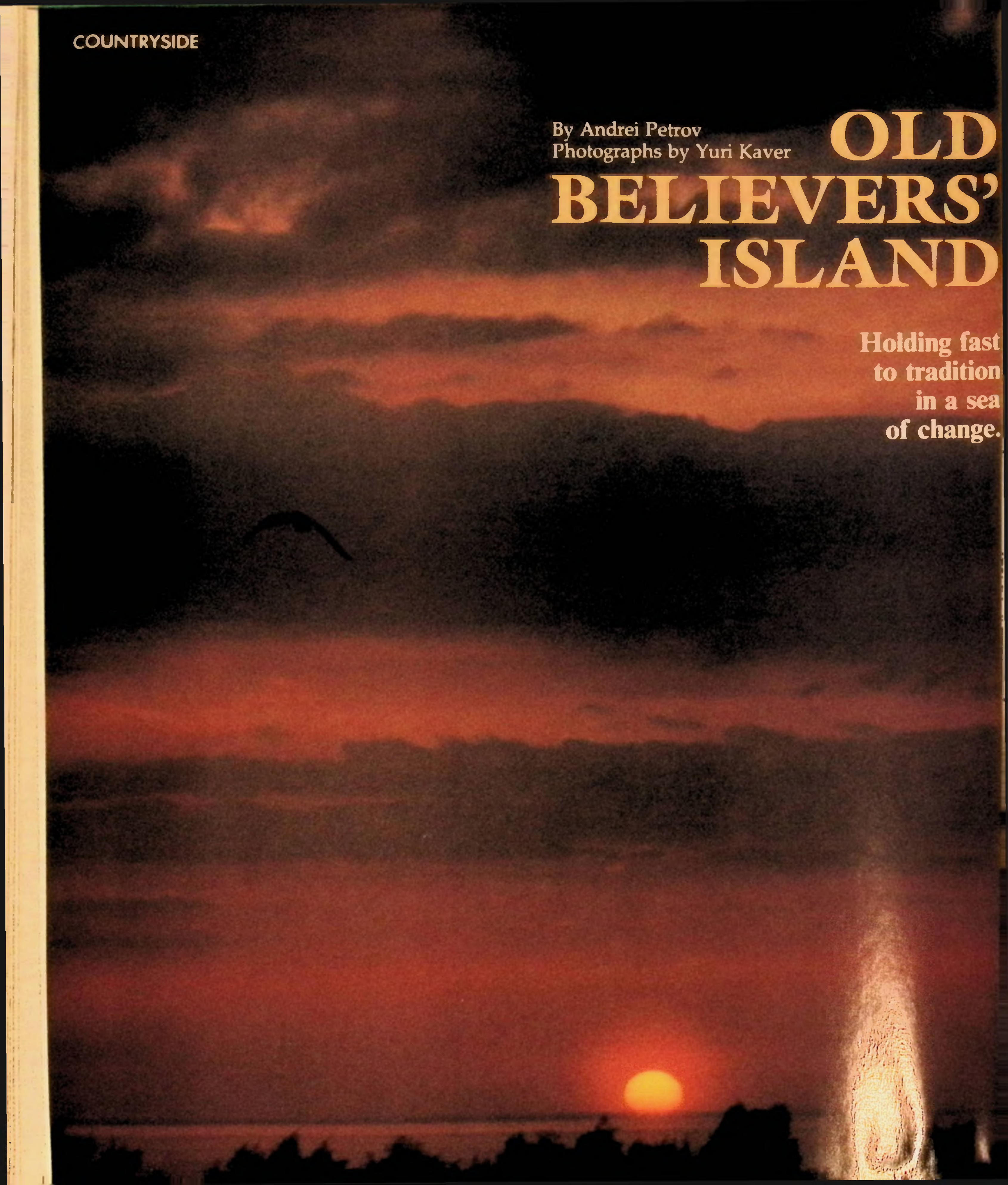
Q: When can we expect to see the real results of *perestroika*?

A: They are being accumulated gradually. Some trends are just paving the way for themselves. Of course serious changes have not yet taken place in either the economic or the social sphere. The situation on the consumer market has become even worse. For this reason we can speak only about the first results of *perestroika*. New people are now in office. Many who failed to work in a new way have been replaced. The changes envisaged by the economic reform are under way.

Q: What about future prospects?

A: Over the next 15 years the USSR should be able to solve its housing and food problems, complete the education reform, and supply its economy with new equipment on a substantial scale. The industrial base is likely to be fully renovated over the next 15 years, and even more than once for some types of equipment.

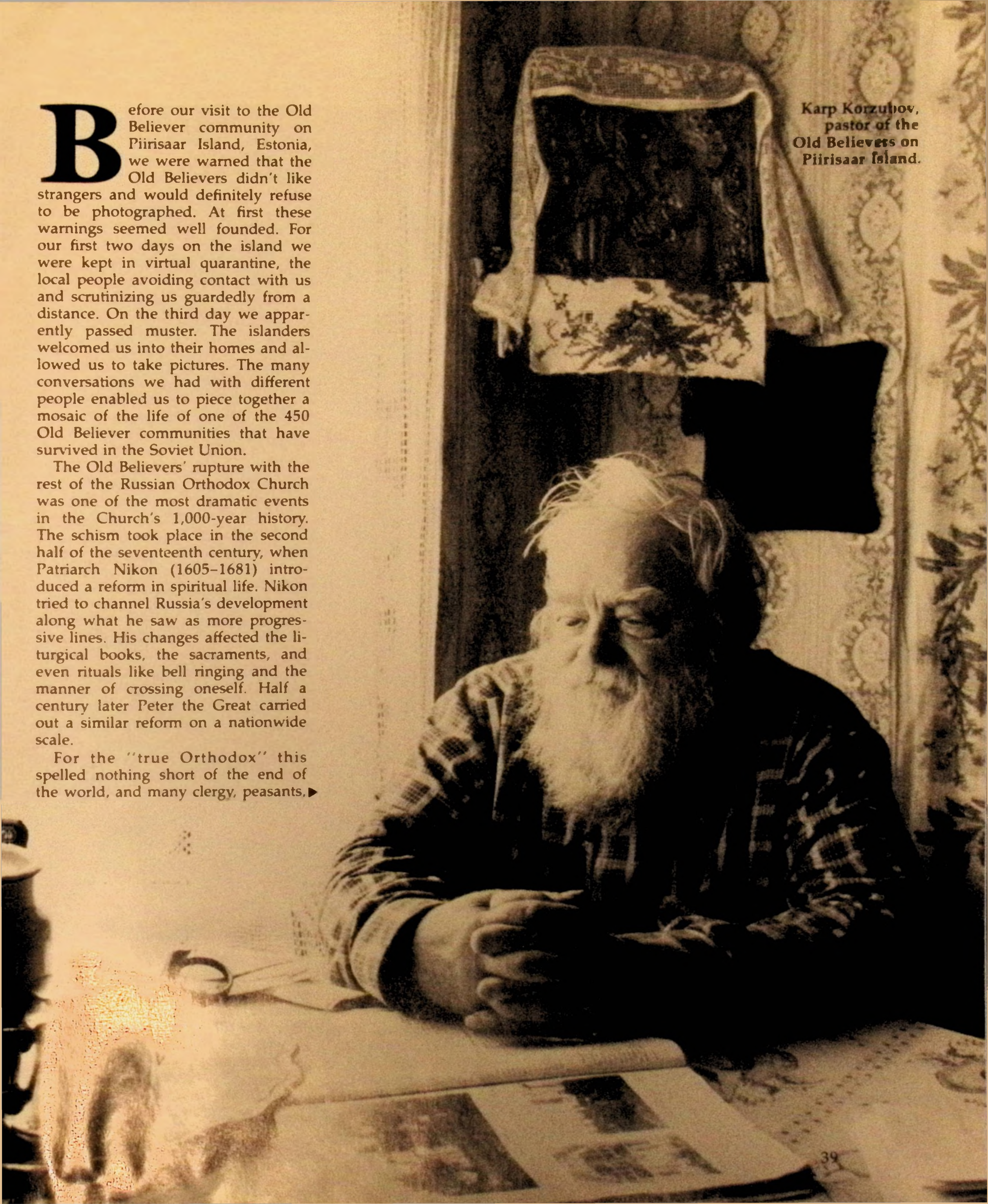
But if we continue to work as we used to until recently, there's no way we'll be able to build a new society. ■



OLD BELIEVERS' ISLAND

By Andrei Petrov
Photographs by Yuri Kaver

Holding fast to tradition in a sea of change.



Karp Korzubov, pastor of the Old Believers on Piirisaar Island.

Before our visit to the Old Believer community on Piirisaar Island, Estonia, we were warned that the Old Believers didn't like strangers and would definitely refuse to be photographed. At first these warnings seemed well founded. For our first two days on the island we were kept in virtual quarantine, the local people avoiding contact with us and scrutinizing us guardedly from a distance. On the third day we apparently passed muster. The islanders welcomed us into their homes and allowed us to take pictures. The many conversations we had with different people enabled us to piece together a mosaic of the life of one of the 450 Old Believer communities that have survived in the Soviet Union.

The Old Believers' rupture with the rest of the Russian Orthodox Church was one of the most dramatic events in the Church's 1,000-year history. The schism took place in the second half of the seventeenth century, when Patriarch Nikon (1605–1681) introduced a reform in spiritual life. Nikon tried to channel Russia's development along what he saw as more progressive lines. His changes affected the liturgical books, the sacraments, and even rituals like bell ringing and the manner of crossing oneself. Half a century later Peter the Great carried out a similar reform on a nationwide scale.

For the "true Orthodox" this spelled nothing short of the end of the world, and many clergy, peasants, ▶

In summer visiting children outnumber the local residents. Insets, top to bottom: Originally from Leningrad, Georgi Pankrukhin has worked as a general practitioner on Piirisaar for 30 years. All of the island's houses are of Estonian design. Church elder Kirill Yershov in front of the prayer house.

and artisans rebelled against the new teachings.

Archpriest Avvakum (1620?–1682), the most prominent figure among the partisans of the old faith, was burned at the stake for "abuse of the czar's name." Some Old Believers chose the path of self-immolation. In this manner, they believed they could purge themselves of the evils of the world. Other Old Believers fled to remote parts of Russia or left the country. They sowed new lands and, through unity and mutual assistance, set up prosperous farms and traded with their neighbors.

Catherine II, realizing the economic gain to be derived from religious tolerance, took a sober view of the situation and granted the Old Believers permission to return to Russia. In the late eighteenth century an Old Believers' center came into existence in Moscow. It was mainly from there that further religious guidance came and the communities' trade relationships were managed.

There are indications that by 1917 about 40 per cent of Russia's trade and industrial capital was in the

hands of Old Believers, although they composed a tiny fraction of the number of Orthodox believers. In the same way, the few sects of Old Believers, despite [illegible] outward modesty, owned a [illegible] number of priceless icons and [illegible] plate. Old Believer millionaires donated thousands of rubles to charity.

The fierce struggle between the of- ►

ficial Church and the Old Believers petered out toward the mid-1800s. But today, just as 300 years ago, Old Believers claim they are the custodians of the true Orthodox faith.

Piirisaar, an island 15 square kilometers in area, is located in Lake Peipus, in Estonia. The tiny island is not to be found on any tourist map. Even though the island is 12 kilometers from the mainland shore today, local legend has it that 250 years ago the island women carried on trade with the outside world by selling their homemade brooms, which they threw to people on the mainland. A likely explanation for the legend is that in those days a spit projected far into the lake from the mainland, but that over the years it has been washed away.

The lake has been gradually encroaching on the island as well. The water is creeping up to the home of the local Church elder, Kirill Yershov. Every spring Yershov must raise his cobblestone dam higher and higher. At the other end of the settlement the spring floods are so heavy that the fishermen can sail right up to their porches.

Piirisaar Island belonged to the Tartu Old Believers Church (Estonia), which used to send its priests out to the island. The community provided the priest with a house and a salary for conducting services several times a week and for educating the children, in both religious and secular subjects. After World War II the community selected pastors from their midst and built a two-story general school to take the place of the parish school. The pastor worked at the kolkhoz with the rest of the community and received an additional payment from the community for conducting Sunday services.

"We thought that all male Old Believers wore beards, but you yourself are one of the few bearded men we've seen on the island," I said to Pastor Karp Korzubov, aged 88.

"Our religion forbids shaving, but now most men shave anyway," the pastor answered. "The laws were strict in the old days. For instance, if a man went out among the unfaithful, he had to go to the priest for confession and penance. Only after that was the man allowed to drink from his own mug at home. We called the Orthodox 'antichrists' because they had anathematized us. But today you may come across visiting Orthodox, local Catholics, and others in our prayer house, and we go to theirs.

"We still have some 'special' Old Believers, who live on the western shore of the lake. They call themselves 'Slaves of God' and regard even us as 'impure.'

"I'm not actually a priest, only something like a deputy. I'll retire the minute a younger man appears. Our former pastor had an embroidered chasuble, while I wear a plain, dark blue one. In the old days the men came to service dressed in embroidered shirts; now they simply put on a good suit."

"Has the service changed?"

"We stopped delivering sermons a long time ago. Now people come for confession only once a year. We used to name babies according to the Church calendar; now parents choose any name they like."

Besides Karp Korzubov, the island has an "official" leader—Andrei Leshkin, 72, chairman of the local Executive Committee and secretary of the party organization, which has a membership of seven.

"As you can see, the population of Piirisaar is predominantly of pension age," he said. "Of the 130 people living on the island, 87 are senior citizens. About 20 years ago the island had a population of 1,500. The men caught fish for an Estonian collective farm nearby. Today only three of us fish for a living; the rest are amateur anglers. Most of the people have turned to farming because the land is very fertile.

"Our way of life takes some getting used to. Many people from the mainland come here to buy a summer cottage. But who wants to live here in the winter? It was so cold last winter that the wolves came out of the forest and into our settlement. Snow came up to our windowsills, and food had to be dropped in by plane."

In the summer the island's population nearly doubles when children and grandchildren come to visit. Still, there is little sign of the relaxed "summer resort" life. From morning until night the elderly islanders and their children toil in the onion fields. Children visit their parents in order to work, not play.

Even though outward signs of religiosity are few in the community, practically everyone in Old Believer families has a Church wedding. Children are baptized, and divorce is not practiced.

There have been quite a number of Old Believer-Estonian marriages on Piirisaar. And although Russia and Estonia argued for centuries about who really owned the island, there have never been conflicts at the personal level. On the contrary, Piirisaar natives speak both Russian and Estonian, and the two groups have grown closer over the years.

Many Old Believers—clean-shaven and wearing caps with broad visors—cannot be differentiated from Estonians. The same goes for the appearance of their homes.

In the middle of the island stands an abandoned Russian Orthodox church and near it, an old cemetery overgrown with burdock.

"The church was closed in the twenties," said Fyodor Kondratiyev, who, as both a member of the village Executive Committee and a member of the Church council, represents simultaneously the secular authority and the spiritual authority. "We're going to start restoring it next year. The collective farm has promised to help."

"Do you think that the island will revive?"

"It will if the fishermen stay. Fish is netting a good price these days. If you work hard, you can make good money during the fishing season.

"In the old days the fishermen were like one close-knit family. People on the island never locked their doors. After the catch, tables laden with food were brought out into the street to treat the returning fishermen. On St. Peter's Day and Christmas people gathered from all around. The young men put on their embroidered shirts, and the women got all dressed up. The ring dances would have a hundred dancers. The singing could be heard way out on the eastern shore of the lake, where the Russians lived. Those were the good old days. Who knows what the future has in store?" ■

CULTURE

These Wonderful Changing Times

By Marina Khachaturova

People are quick to grow accustomed to good things, and it would seem that's always been the case. But even four years ago it would have been difficult for anyone to imagine the scope of the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union and throughout the world. Naturally, the thaw in Soviet-American relations has given a boost to cultural exchanges between the two countries. These relations had been dormant for several years. During that period the magazines SOVIET LIFE and AMERICA were the sole cultural link between the countries. But today no one is surprised by televised spacebridges between the two countries that attract diverse audiences, from schoolchildren to government officials. A couple of months ago millions of television viewers watched the first international auction televised by Soviet TV. Among the auction's sponsors was the joint Soviet-American Intermedbio Company. Viewers played an active part in the auction, the proceeds of which went to help earthquake victims.

The Soviet Union is becoming an open society, and this, among other things, enriches our culture. More and more we are feeling that we are a part of the global cultural treasure-trove and that not only "we" but also "they" stand to lose from the lack of contact with other cultures. Within a short period of time, several public organizations h[illegible] set up that are pooling th[illegible] of our two countries in th[illegible] culture. The joint Soviet-A[illegible] company that was rec[illegible]ed is already shootin[illegible] [illegible]wly created Americ[illegible] is busy organizing tours of theatrical companies and promoting joint productions. This fall Muscovites were to have seen productions of the Arena Stage, a theater in Washington, D.C., and, in return, the Taganka Theater in Moscow was to have performed in several U.S. cities. Unfortunately, financial reasons caused this exchange to be canceled. Theatergoers in both countries may have been disappointed this time, but the future holds much promise.

Earlier this year, in February, Moscow's Yermolova Theater premièred the Clifford Odets' play *Awake and Sing* under the title *Bronx, New York.* American Michael Miner from the Actors Theater in Saint Paul, Minnesota, directed the Moscow staging. An article about the production appeared in the April issue of SOVIET LIFE.

Two exceedingly interesting American exhibits also were held in Moscow in January and February: a photography exhibit commemorating the centennial of the United States' National Geographic Society featuring some 300 photographs from the pages of *National Geographic* magazine and an extensive, several-room show of Robert Rauschenberg's works. The exhibit of the "father of Pop Art," who was in Moscow for the opening, is yet another proof of the positive changes under way in the Soviet Union. For three whole decades Rauschenberg's work was seen in this country as nothing but an illustration of the "crisis of bourgeois culture." Significantly, in Moscow Rauschenberg's works shared space with creations of Kazimir Malevich, whose works had long been scorned.

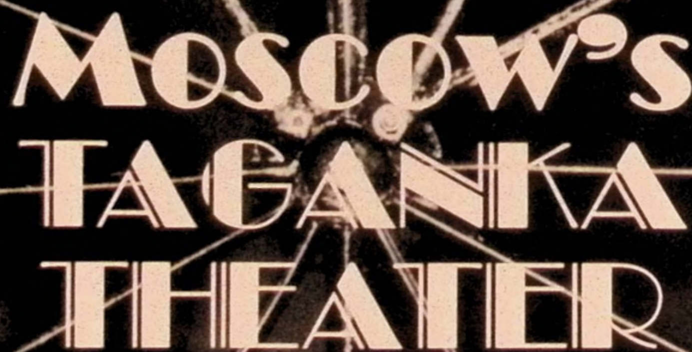
Today pluralism is a subject of great interest all over the Soviet Union. Art is a nursery of pluralism. A show of modern Soviet avant-garde art in Moscow made names for many previously unknown artists and presented a wide variety of genres. A similar show held in Western Europe was a huge success. Our avant-garde poetry is also making breakthroughs.

The current changes in the intellectual sphere have given birth to a legion of theater studios, which are struggling to outgrow their amateurism and become big time. Today nothing stands in the way of their development. Success depends on their own potential, the recognition of viewers, and attendance at performances. These studios are very active: They perform a great deal, tour various cities, hold festivals, and have the support of theatrical journals. They are popular with young (and not so young) people and provide an alternative to established theaters.

Could we imagine composer Alfred Schnitke's music festival four years ago? Well-known conductor Gennadi Rozhdestvensky played only one piece by Schnitke then. Our official music circles were indignant, while those who managed our culture were implacably opposed to further performances. But when a festival of modern music was held recently, music lovers and professional musicians heard a whole week of Schnitke.

The current changes in Soviet society provide for the diversification of international cultural exchanges. Even the traditional international festivals that were held in this country are changing their format as they expand their representation. Many international events that are sure to be of interest for the cultural world are scheduled for this year. ■

Ask any Muscovite—any Soviet man or woman, for that matter—to name the top five theater companies in the Soviet Union, and the Taganka Drama and Comedy Theater is sure to be on the list. Just one reservation: The Taganka is not everyone's cup of tea. It doesn't offer plays you can just sit back and enjoy. This company makes you think.



MOSCOW'S TAGANKA THEATER

By Ariadna Nikolenko
Photographs by Valeri Plotnikov

The Taganka Drama and Comedy Theater made a big splash as soon as it opened 25 years ago, and it has been making waves ever since. To begin with, there is its name. At a time when all Soviet theaters had official-sounding names, like Lenin Komsomol or Mossoviet, Yuri Lyubimov christened his theater with the name of the old square on which the former movie house stood. The simple name suited the austere style of the new company perfectly.

The Taganka Theater began as a class project of the Shchukin Drama Institute, attached to the Vakhtangov Theater. Brimming with talent and team spirit, the students made Moscow playgoers gasp with their final exam production—Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan*. The production was memorably directed by Lyubimov, who was the Vakhtangov's leading man at the time. Stunned by its success, the stage directors allowed the students to form a professional company. The directors lived to regret this, leading man Veniamin Smekhov ironically recollected at the company's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. But how were the directors to know that the small and inexperienced group would become the first political theater of the present Soviet generation, a daring revivalist harking back to the early Soviet years, a brave denouncer of stagnation? Lyubimov, a brilliant actor, who owed his early fame mainly to his performance in the title role in Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, went on to win world acclaim as the company's director.

Another production made no less a sensation, this time on Taganka's own stage. It was *Ten Days That Shook the World*, based on American journalist John Reed's reports from revolutionary Russia in 1917. The play had all the features that later became Taganka trademarks: metaphorical pageantry, dynamism, polished dialogue, first-rate acting, and the civic ardor with which the performers spoke about the most painful social problems. It was truly topical history. The stormy atmosphere of 1917 enveloped you the moment you crossed the threshold of the theater. Actors dressed as soldiers and sailors collected tickets at the entrance, pinning the stubs on their bayonets. Young Communist League activists in red kerchiefs, rebellious sailors armed to the teeth, and a priest uttering loud invectives against the Revolution—members of the cast mingled with theatergoers in the lobby before the show.

The backdrop and the outer wall were removed, and a panorama of the square opened from the stage. Participants in the crowd scenes entered the stage from the street. The historical play had the uncanny look of the real thing.

Over the years the Taganka stuck to controversial themes, and every opening night threw the company, fearing the worst, into an uneasy state: The ever-vigilant eye of the "keepers of ideology" could ban any play from going on. Of the 31 Lyubimov productions staged throughout his 19 years at the Taganka, only two went off without a hitch. Some plays were cut, four were banned after previews, and several were closed soon after opening.

But the Taganka hung on. One of its biggest hits was its stage adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel *The Master and Margarita*. The production was an effort of rare daring: Bulgakov's novel, which was finished in 1937 but not published until 30 years later, is a piece of biting satire and tragically profound philosophy. It was ▶

The Taganka's production of The Cherry Orchard *by Anton Chekhov. Facing page: A scene from* The Master and Margarita, *based on Mikhail Bulgakov's novel. Veniamin Smekhov plays Woland.*

Woland's retinue (left to right): Zinaida Slavina as Azazello, Ivan Dykhovichny as Korovyev, Tatyana Sidorenko as Gella, Veniamin Smekhov as Woland, and Vladimir Smirnov as Behemoth. Facing page: Scenes from The Master and Margarita. *Alexander Trofimov in the role of Joshua Ha-Nozri. Right inset: Dmitri Shcherbakov as the Master. Bottom inset: Valeri Shapovalov as Pontius Pilate.*

a challenge for the theater, with the action shifting from Jerusalem in the year A.D. 33 to Moscow in the 1930s, and back. Now we see a persecuted Russian writer, Bulgakov's contemporary, now Pontius Pilate—both in a tormenting search for the truth. Amusing deviltry staged by Satan, alias Professor Woland, follows the Crucifixion. Scriptural events start a mystical interplay with the routine of down-to-earth Muscovites. It took a director of Lyubimov's unbridled imagination to re-create this stormy, bizarre world. Amazingly, the production survived untouched—perhaps Woland, eager to sparkle on the stage, pushed the punishing hand of the powers-that-be away from the Taganka.

Pushkin's *Boris Godunov*, a historical play of Shakespearean impact, was another hit. It's hard to imagine why it is staged so rarely. In those days it was banned after a dozen performances, which played to packed houses and entranced audiences. The pretext was that the scenery and costumes weren't a true representation of the seventeenth century. The real reason lay deeper, of course. Socially minded as usual, the company emphasized Pushkin's contraposition of the ruler and the masses and delved into the roots of the patient submissiveness of the Russian people. It was an impressive piece of topical history.

After Vladimir Vysotsky, one of Taganka's best actors and a universally loved poet and singer, died in his prime at barely 40 years old, his company put on a production to commemorate his civic effort. This turned out to be another point of confrontation with the authorities.

Year after year the Taganka made stop-the-presses news. Regrettably, reporters could not resist the temptation to use a sensational approach when they referred to the theater, especially after Lyubimov was deprived of Soviet citizenship.

Left without its founding father, the company was for some time headed by Anatoli Efros, a prominent director and Lyubimov's friend. After Efros died, the actors elected a chief director from their midst, Nikolai Gubenko. A Taganka actor, Gubenko had already made a name for himself as a film director. Like the rest of the company, he openly declared his loyalty to Lyubimov's principles even when such a stance was unpopular.

Today the Taganka repertoire includes Russian and world classics, old and modern. In the old days some plays were performed 600, even 900, times, others two or three before they were forced to close. Some were not produced at all and were revived only with *glasnost*.

Yuri Lyubimov, his Soviet citizenship restored by the Presidium of the ▶

TAGANKA

A scene from Listen!, *a production based on Vladimir Mayakovsky's verses and poems. Below: A scene from Maxim Gorky's* The Lower Depths.

USSR Supreme Soviet, is again at the helm. He is staging Pushkin's *The Little Tragedies*. He explained his choice when I visited him at a rehearsal.

"Pushkin is truly our contemporary," Lyubimov told me, "a denouncer of the callous cynicism and greed that have brought our country to the edge of an abyss."

The Taganka reflects the invigorating change that is sweeping the Soviet Union. On the theater's twenty-fifth birthday, a *Pravda* reporter asked Gubenko: "Will the theater survive in the new conditions of freedom—or was it made to combat despotic bureaucracy? Will it now lose its reason for existing?"

"We really feel that our main purpose is to fight bureaucrats," Gubenko said, "and that's what we're doing. The Taganka is changing as society changes, but the theater remains its old self. In all our productions we always try to find the sources of our motherland's plight and blunders. The message of our work remains. A thorny path lies ahead for Soviet society, and the company is a part of that society. We share our search for the truth with our nation."

Says Yuri Lyubimov: "The Taganka appeared as a political theater and has traveled all the way from Dostoyevsky to Brecht. Today is the time for sophisticated artistry. Vsevolod Meyerhold, a renowned stage director who was shot after a Stalinist frame-up, asked his company at the beginning of every show: 'Well, how are we going to amaze our audience today?' As I see it, now is the time to amaze it with artistic perfection."

The theater will soon produce works by Pushkin, Boris Pasternak, and Andrei Platonov. Productions of Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Bulgakov are also planned. The Taganka has a difficult task—to live up to the name it earned for itself in strife and brave opposition. Its admirers are sure it will cope.

In September 1989 the Taganka was to have presented *The Master and Margarita* in Washington, D.C. Regrettably, the venture [illegible] to be postponed indefinitely [illegible] reasons. But we hope [illegible] will still have an opportunity [illegible] to applaud the forerunner [illegible]*roika*. ■

PETE PETRISKY/IMAGE 35

MIKHAIL ROMADIN'S Face of DALLAS

Reproductions by David Tedesco

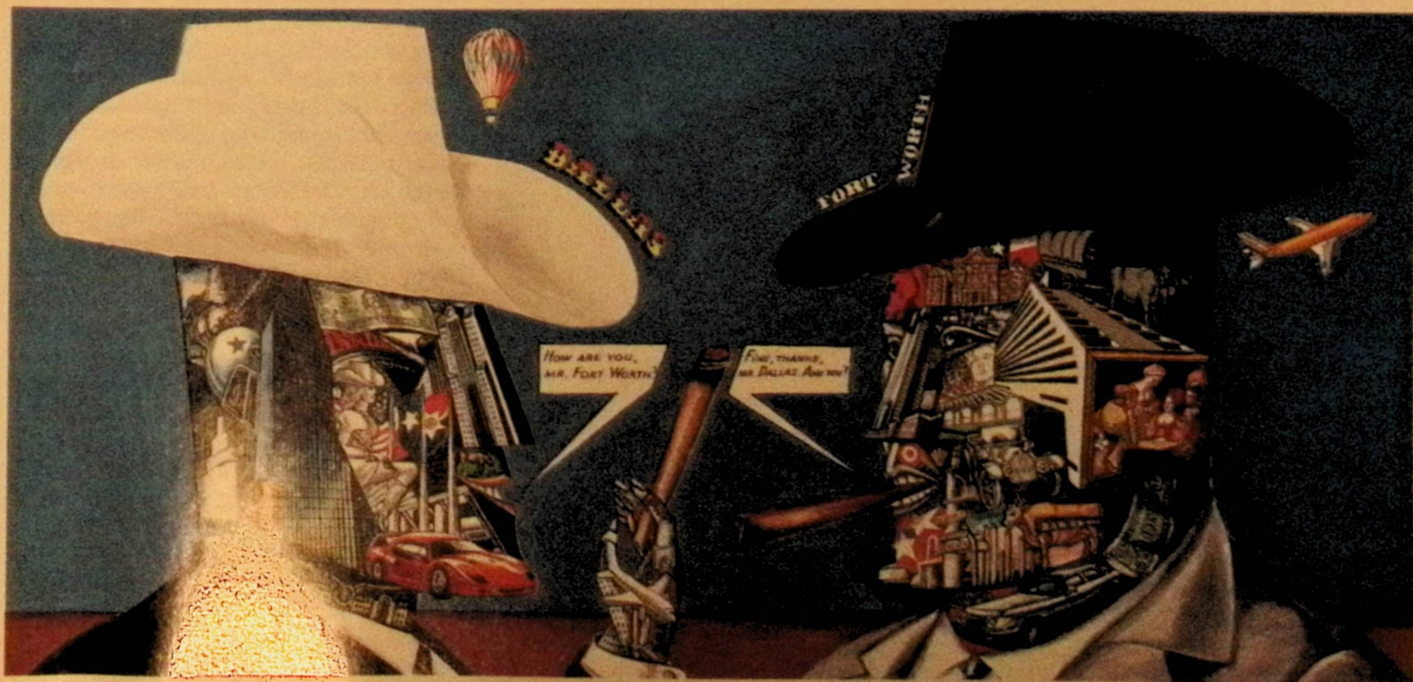
Artist Mikhail Romadin is a graduate of the art department of the Cinematography Institute in Moscow. Besides his work on several films and plays, he has illustrated over 100 books. Recently Romadin turned exclusively to drawing and painting. He has had frequent exhibits around the Soviet Union as well as abroad. Here he gives his impressions of his recent three-month stay in Dallas, Texas.

Twelve years ago, I visited the United States for the first time, as a tourist. At that time I was struck by American museums and architecture; by the powerful influence of art on people's everyday lives; by the great number of first-class sculptures—by artists like Alexander Calder and Claes Oldenburg—in the streets of cities; by paintings hanging not only in museums but also in banks, offices, hotels, and in private homes.

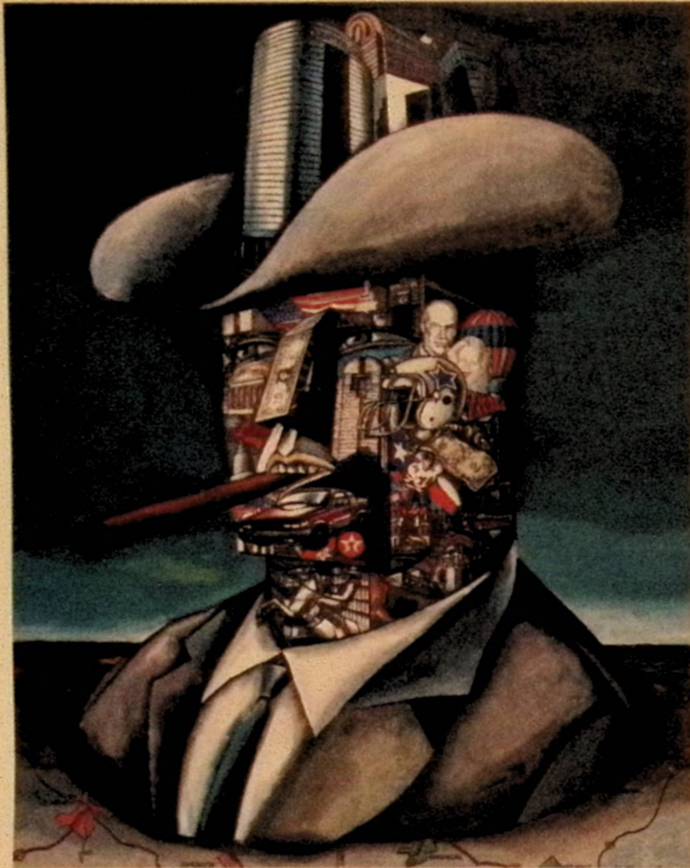
After I returned to the Soviet Union, I wrote an article about the place that art occupies in American life. I wrote that it is precisely in the United States that the dream of Vladimir Mayakovsky, the great Soviet avant-garde poet of the 1920s, has been realized: Here art does "splash out onto the street."

But a tourist trip is very limited, and one's impressions are generally superficial. In the short time I spent in the United States (18 days, including time spent traveling from city to city), there was no way I could do any painting.

Then, last January, my wife and I received an invitation to visit Dallas, Texas, from a businessman we'd met in Moscow at my exhibit at the Union ▶



How Are You, Mr. Fort Worth? **Oil on canvas. I did this ironic picture after my first trip to Fort Worth.**



The Face of Dallas. **Oil on canvas. I painted this picture in the allegorical style of the sixteenth century artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. It is a collage of my first, most vivid impressions of the city.**

Mikhail Shemyakin in His Studio in New York. **Water color, pen and ink on paper. I met émigré artist Mikhail Shemyakin at his one-man show in Moscow [a talk with Shemyakin starts on page 52—Ed.] the day before I left for the United States. This water color is part of my large series** ***Man in the Workplace.***

of Cinematographers. By the end of March we were already in New York City. In the three weeks we spent there, I did several water colors.

Then we left for Dallas, where we've been living for three months now. Finally, I have some peaceful time to get to know this city.

I must say that now my impressions are quite different from those I formed when I was in the United States as a tourist. They are also different from the perceptions of America that are prevalent in Moscow.

Everything I see here seems to reflect the reality of American literature—a mixture of Faulkner, Capote, Caldwell, and Twain. The people who invited me into their homes and with whom I have become good friends remind me of characters from American books. Here I can get a firsthand look at Aunt Polly and Tom Sawyer, Caldwell's old people, and characters from Faulkner's trilogy.

Before I came to Dallas, I knew nothing about the city other than that it was here that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. When I saw the city, everything delighted me: the magnificent architecture of the downtown business district, which empties of people when the workday ends; the residential areas that encircle the downtown area with their geometrically trimmed trees; and the apartment buildings with a separate staircase leading to each apartment.

Even though Dallas' downtown district was designed by world-famous architects, the buildings don't have plaques telling who designed them. But Dallasites don't seem to be too interested anyway. They take their city's architecture for granted, like something completely ordinary—the buildings are here, fine; they're a nice place to work. But I'd call the downtown area a museum of modern architecture, and in my water colors I've tried to convey my feelings about it.

My exhibition, "Three Months in Dallas," which is now being held at the University of Texas at Dallas, seemed to come together by itself. When the show ends here, I'd like to take it to Moscow and to Novosibirsk, where several of my exhibitions are scheduled. ■

The artist's view . . .

When the media's freedom under Khrushchev gave way to Brezhnevian stagnation and all newspapers and magazines became so alike, I stopped subscribing to periodicals, listening to the radio, and watching television. If someone had told me then that in several years I would be painting political works, I wouldn't have believed them.

My interests have changed dramatically. I now like documentary films and have developed a taste for political posters. And now I subscribe to such a mountain of magazines that I can't find the time to read them all.

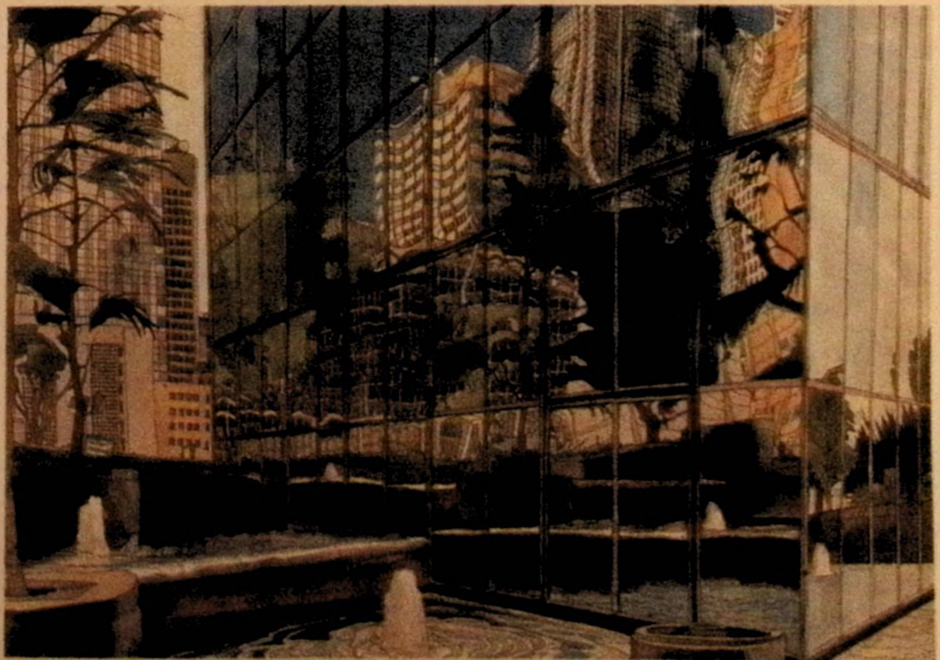
Once at the country house of some friends I found a pile of old magazines from the 1930s: "USSR—At the Construction Site." Leafing through the pages, I saw familiar figures from my childhood—laughing collective farmers, marching gymnasts, Lysenko, Stalin. Suddenly I got the desire to re-create an image of those times. My first endeavor was the painting *Personality Cult,* but only later, while I was working on that piece, did the idea for a whole series of paintings come to me. I threw myself into the task and finished five paintings—the pentaptych *The Revolution Continues*—a rendering of our history from the October 1917 Revolution to *perestroika.*

The pentaptych was done in the style of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, a sixteenth century Italian artist who worked in Prague. At that time Prague was the world center of the Mannerism movement, which exalted the extraordinary. Arcimboldo created a series of allegorical works, which consisted of the heads of figures, made up of symbolic objects. He borrowed his ideas from ancient Indian tantric drawings, which portrayed the gods in similar fashion. This was the first occurrence of Eastern cultural influence on the West. I used this ancient art technique to create a modern, even [illegible], political grotesque. The [illegible] moves on, while art ret[illegible] to itself. Even in the m[illegible] ancient [illegible]ing, I look for the contemporary.

Courtesy of [illegible] (Horizon)

Downtown. **Water color, pen and ink on paper. I painted this from a 58-story office on a weekend, when the office was empty. There was only one policeman on duty on the floor. He treated me to potato chips and a Coca-Cola.**

Reflection. **Water color, pen and ink on paper. Downtown Dallas is distorted by mirrored walls. This is a wall of one of the most amazing buildings in the city, designed by the architect I.M. Pei, in the shape of a drill. Pei also designed the pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.**



Mikhail Shemyakin (center) at a press conference in Moscow.

RUSSIA is my homeland

By Alexander Tropkin
Photographs by Igor Boiko

Artist Mikhail Shemyakin's recent return to Moscow and Leningrad after an 18-year absence was a real event among Soviet art and intellectual circles.

Sitting in front of me was a man of rare inner dignity. He did not complain or seem overly excited, nor did he exude an air of the celebrity tired of all the fanfare.

That's how I remember the artist, Mikhail Shemyakin. I still recall his dull, tired voice (he was giving countless interviews every day), calloused hands kneading one cigarette after another (he is a chain smoker), and piercing eyes. I have a strong temptation to call him a Soviet painter, but, alas, he is an American, though we both speak Russian.

For years Shemyakin had worn the label of a dissident, renegade, and do-nothing, and his artworks were declared vulgar or insane. Those were bleak times.

He left Russia, clad in a sheepskin army jacket and holding a half-empty mesh bag in one hand and his dog on a leash in the other. That was all that he owned. He was embittered and frustrated, and his uncertain future seemed just as scary as his hopeless present. And yet the 27-year-old artist was unbent. He knew he had talent, and that strong faith in himself helped him survive.

During his absence from his homeland, Shemyakin has accomplished a great deal. His one-man show, which opened in Moscow's largest exhibition center on Krymskaya Embankment on the eve of his visit, surprised many people by its size alone. Thousands of admirers from Moscow and other cities stood in line for hours to see the show, but what they saw was a mere fraction of his total work.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. My first question to Shemyakin was how it felt to be coming home.

"It's a strange feeling," he replied. "I haven't forgotten what was said about me in the past, but I'm eager to see for myself whether things are really different [illegible]

"I keep up [illegible]at's going on through the S[oviet ne]wspapers and magazines I subscribe to. And a lot of what I read would have been absolutely unheard of before."

"How do you explain the tremendous success of your recent one-man show?"

"The success of the show not only reflects on me and what I have done but also recognizes all the nonconformist artists and what they have managed to accomplish."

"I hear you had quite a surprise in store for you in Leningrad, the city where you were born."

"My friends who met me at the airport told me about another exhibit of mine in Leningrad. So I decided to head there straight-away.

"What I saw was truly moving. In my wildest dreams I could never have imagined that a collection of my works—even a small one—would ever be hanging in the museum home of my favorite Russian writer, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and that I'd be welcomed at the door by his grandson.

"In front of me were pictures, studies, and drawings that I had made a long time ago and that I had given up for lost. It was unbelievable! I felt as if I were back in my youth."

"Did you notice any changes in the artistic life in the two cities?"

"Time was much too short for me to make any sound judgment. But I did get a sense that things are really changing for the better.

"Nowadays you find art shows almost everywhere, in exhibition halls and even in the streets. On Leningrad's Nevsky Prospekt, the street where I used to live, artistic life is in full swing, though I wouldn't say everything I saw was in good taste. Never mind. Time will put everything in its proper place."

"While you've been away, you've gotten involved in several uncharacteristic things for an artist. How'd you get started in publishing?"

"My first project in the business was the *Apollo 77* directory, in which I tried to collect under one cover the most original names in the Soviet nonconformist arts and literature. In the mid-seventies people in the West became skeptical about Soviet artists, poets, and writers—whether they could create anything worthwhile in an atmosphere of pomp and officialdom. Meanwhile, artists and writers continued to create highly original works in the USSR. *Apollo 77* was designed to support them."

"Is there still a need for support like that now?"

"Sure, but of a different sort. Sotheby's first auction of modern Soviet artists of different schools and ages was a sensational success, though, to me, the best artists weren't represented. That's why I've decided to publish a new illustrated magazine called *Russian Art and the West*, through which I'm going to introduce first-rate Soviet and émigré artists and sculptors to art lovers in the United States and Europe."

"Russia and the Russian culture continue to have a great influence on you. Why?"

"You know, people often ask me a different question: 'Do you want to return?' Mother Russia is my homeland, and I am connected with her not only by birth but also by cultural and spiritual affinity. Where one chooses to live or work is a different thing altogether.

"The indomitable Russian spirit that lives within me makes me support every talented and innovative artist in my homeland. Life has taught me to be caring. It's very encouraging that compassion and charity are beginning to revive in Russia."

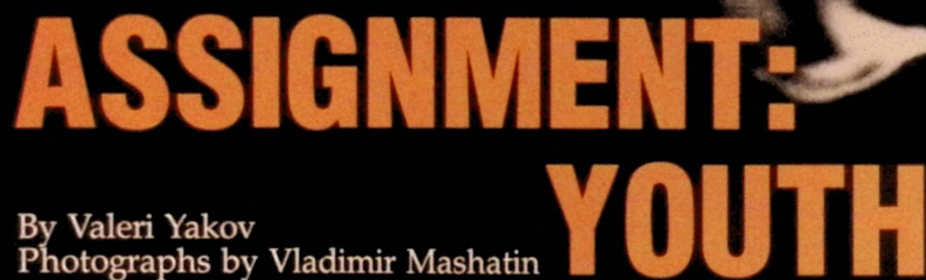
"Was that what motivated you to set up a committee to assist in the return of Soviet soldiers who were taken prisoner in Afghanistan?"

"Several years ago I saw a television program about Soviet POWs being shipped from Pakistan to the United States and Canada. The haggard look on their boyish faces and their sullen eyes produced a terrible impression. But I was particularly moved by the songs they sang—about blood and death and the senselessness of war.

"I knew then that I had to do something. So I decided to set up the committee."

"Does your involvement in the committee distract you from your art?"

"I'm not one of those artists who lives in an ivory tower. I think we artists should be open to what's happening in the world. Our attitude toward life always shows in our work, whether we want it to or not. Our work is of value only if it conveys a message and makes other people feel what we feel."



ASSIGNMENT: YOUTH

By Valeri Yakov
Photographs by Vladimir Mashatin

No matter what anyone says, I think a pistol in a woman's hands looks strange. But when 25-year-old Olga Dvoretskaya is the one holding it, it's a different story. Watching her lower the barrel of the gun to eye level and pull the trigger, you can't help admiring her as you hear again, "Bull's eye!" It's hard to believe that Dvoretskaya wields a gun only here on the shooting range, and even then not that often. The young militia lieutenant likes driving a car, shooting at targets, and honing her martial arts techniques. But her job requires more than driving skills, marksmanship, and physical fitness. As the officer in charge of youth offenders, Dvoretskaya says her duties call for patience, understanding, and the ability to communicate.

When still in high school, Olga was the only girl in her class who showed an interest in joining the militia when she graduated. Her girl friends thought the choice odd, even though they knew her father was a career militiaman and her older brother worked for Moscow's Criminal Investigation Department. The idea didn't thrill Olga's parents either. Who could blame them? Her father knew firsthand the demands of the job, while her mother could only think of the hours—sometimes even days—she had spent waiting and worrying about when and if her husband and son would return from an assignment. And now her daughter too!

"Wouldn't you prefer drama school?" she asked Olga with secret hope, knowing how much her daughter had enjoyed acting in school plays literally from the first grade upward.

"Don't worry, Mom," smiled Olga. "I'll be just like Dad, who has time for everything."

Olga Dvoretskaya entered the special militia institute of the USSR Ministry of the Interior in Moscow right after finishing high school, becoming one of the few women among the hundreds of men in the course. She was 17, and the only female in her group. The others were young men in their early twenties, who had already served in the army. All of them were eager to help, to give advice, and to take over, if the need arose; and had she been willing to let them take her under their wing, she could easily have breezed through the training period. But that wasn't Dvoretskaya's way. She was determined to make the grade on her own.

That was easy when it came to theory: Dvoretskaya was a good student and liked the subject matter. Things became a bit more complicated when it came to practical training. The [illegible] militia trainee practiced on the shooting [illegible] until she had blisters on her hands, all the while struggling to keep from involuntarily closing her eyes when she pulled the trigger. The fitness program was also a challenge. Dvoretskaya says she remembers all the evenings spent at home doing pushups, while the rest of the family watched television.

During one fitness test the men in the group good-naturedly suggested that Dvoretskaya go first. Without saying a word, she flashed a smile, dropped to the floor, and began her exercise. To the encouraging shouts of her classmates, she did 23 pushups. "Pretty good," said the instructor, "but you're two pushups short of getting an A." Dvoretskaya immediately rushed forward and repeated the exercise. This time her classmates looked on in silence. She said later that at that moment she felt like the eyes of everyone, not only in the gym but also in the whole institute, were on her. And when the instructor counted, "Twenty-five," a loud Hurrah filled the room.

Dvoretskaya conducted her first interrogation at age 18, while she was still in training. Every sound, word, and emotion that she heard, spoke, or felt on that day are forged in her memory: the bone-chilling clank of the prison gate closing behind her; the long, forbidding corridors between barred doors; the constant checking of documents; and the stark interrogation room with its table and chairs bolted to the floor . . . Dvoretskaya's heart skipped a beat when she imagined the gloomy face of the criminal she was to interrogate. Suddenly the door opened and in walked an extremely striking woman with seemingly flawless manners. The woman sat down, gave the militia officer an indifferent look, and asked for a cigarette. When Dvoretskaya said she was sorry but she didn't smoke, the woman got up and immediately began collecting the cigarette butts from the ashtray on the table. How deceptive looks can be, thought Dvoretskaya. Here was a woman about her own age, from the same town, with, most likely, something in common, yet their lives were worlds apart. Dvoretskaya felt sorry for the woman.

That first experience got the young militiawoman thinking about what makes some people—ordinary people living in the same town and in the same country—suddenly go wrong, commit a crime, and wind up behind bars. Dvoretskaya realized that her profession meant not only enforcing the law but also doing what she could to help those in trouble find their way back into the mainstream of life.

Her assignment as an inspector in charge of youth offenders came as a surprise to Dvoretskaya. At the institute she had learned to drive a car, to handle all kinds of firearms, and to decipher all kinds of codes. She had also studied sambo wrestling, the art of good investigative work, the fundamentals of logic, and psychology. But working with teenagers!?

The attractive blue-eyed blonde, who is socia-▶

Olga Dvoretskaya, a senior lieutenant in the Moscow militia, is a crack shot at target practice on the shooting range. But her assignment as an inspector of youth offenders calls for other skills—patience, understanding, and the ability to communicate. Here she makes contact with two local youths.

ble and has a good sense of humor, braced herself for the challenge. News of the pretty young officer spread quickly among the problem youth in the district. Some were so curious that they decided to stop by her office to see if what they had heard was true. But finding Lieutenant Dvoretskaya there was not easy. She spends most of her time at the children's home, the school, or in the local basements and attics, the frequent haunts of problem youth.

"These boys and girls don't fit the stereotype of 'street-smart punks,' 'school dropouts,' or 'victims of broken homes,'" says Dvoretskaya. "Everyone of the kids is different."

Dvoretskaya remembers one particularly heart-rending case. Responding to a call to investigate suspicious goings-on in a neighborhood apartment, she found two young girls, aged nine and six, living alone without supervision. It turned out that the father had left sometime before, while the mother, an alcoholic, hadn't been seen for more than two days.

When Dvoretskaya went into the kitchen, she found nothing for the children to eat, not even a slice of bread. Back in the living room, the girls stood hand in hand, listening to the concerned uncles and aunts, who had so unexpectedly appeared at the door and were now trying to convince their nieces to go along with "the nice militia lieutenant who would take them to the children's home." But the girls refused, arguing, "Mommy loves us. She'll be back soon. We're not afraid to stay by ourselves. Who'll take care of our turtles and our kitten, Ryzhik?"

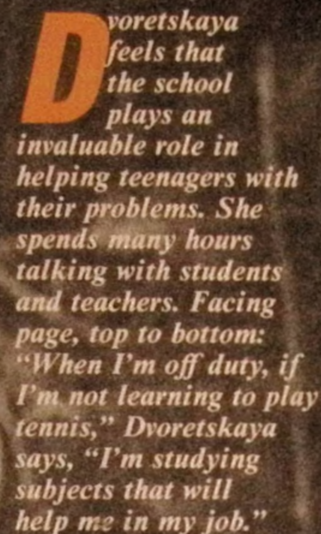
Fishing the two turtles from under the couch and coaxing the kitten from out of the cupboards took some time. By then the girls had started to cry. Dvoretskaya comforted them and got them ready to go to the children's home.

For the next several days Lieutenant Dvoretskaya dropped by the children's home every day before and after work to see how the two children were doing. The girls looked forward to seeing their new friend. When the mother arrived at the juvenile inspection section, she was teary-eyed and full of remorse. With a stern warning from the militia lieutenant, the mother had her children returned to her. But from then on Dvoretskaya would be keeping a watchful eye on the situation.

At home the young militiawoman never talks much about her work, just like her father and brother. She doesn't want to worry her mother too much. But her mother worries anyway.

"Will you be late tonight?" Dvoretskaya's mother usually asks when Olga is getting ready for work in the morning. "I don't know," says Olga, "I'll call you."

Not long ago militiawoman Dvoretskaya was promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant. ■



Dvoretskaya feels that the school plays an invaluable role in helping teenagers with their problems. She spends many hours talking with students and teachers. Facing page, top to bottom: "When I'm off duty, if I'm not learning to play tennis," Dvoretskaya says, "I'm studying subjects that will help me in my job."

FATHER HERMAN'S ALASKAN MISSION

By Isai Belenkin
Candidate of Science (History)

On August 9, 1970, Father Herman, an eighteenth century Russian monk, was canonized on Kodiak Island, off the southwestern coast of Alaska. With the help of missionaries, Father Herman, a spiritual leader and an enlightener, laid the foundation for the Orthodox Church in America.

In the eighteenth century Russia joined the ranks of the strongest European powers. Its might burgeoned with new possessions in the South and in the Far East, even spilling across the North Pacific Ocean to the Western Hemisphere.

Hosts of colonists, trappers, and fishermen settled in the newly acquired lands. These settlers were a motley crew. Some of them, the offspring of sturdy seafarers and craftsmen, were driven by simple wanderlust. Others, tramps and adventurers of the most disreputable sort, ventured to the New World in search of booty.

When the wild-and-wooly pioneers arrived on the mainland of North America and the surrounding islands and came upon the indigenous Americans—Aleuts, Eskimos, and Indians—with their pristine social structures, the culture shock was jarring for all involved.

The law of the jungle held sway on the islands. The Russian hunters seized seal rookeries and robbed the Aleuts of their catches. Clashes followed, with casualties on both sides.

But the newcomers also brought some good things with them: iron tools, fishing implements, and sophisticated weapons. As patriarchal patterns gave way, Alaska and the Aleutian and Kurile islands were gradually drawn into the civilized world.

Pragmatic merchants, who arrived after the pioneers, sought to establish friendly relations with the natives. The merchants told them about the Russian Empire, whose subjects they had recently and unexpectedly become, and tried to introduce the benefits of Russian culture into the daily lives of the natives.

The traders wisely saw the good that Russian orthodoxy could serve once it became established in the newly colonized lands. But there were no priests among the pioneers. Many merchants took it upon themselves to embark on missionary work, but their pious efforts were haphazard and sometimes did more harm than good.

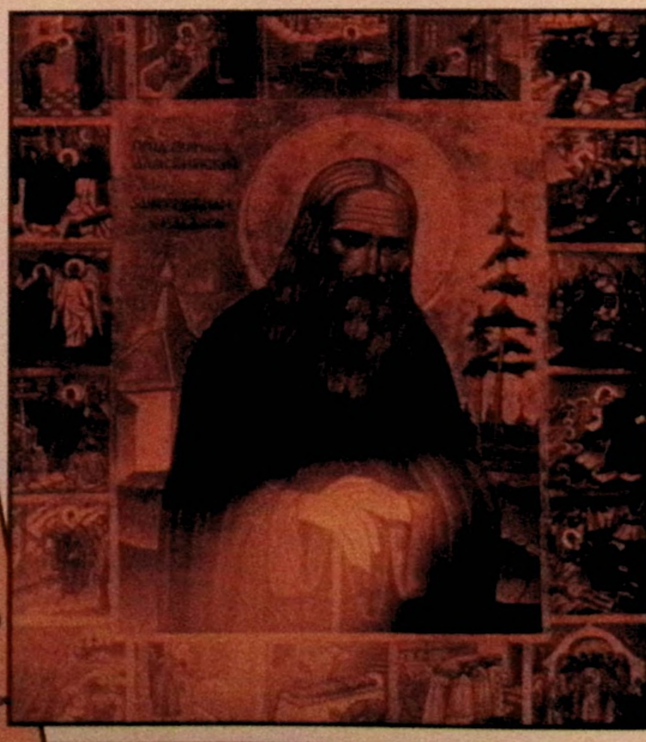
In 1793 Gabriel, Metropolitan of Novgorod, St. Petersburg, and Olonets, received an unusual visitor at his residence in St. Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire. The visitor, Grigori Shelekhov, enjoyed national renown as the "Russian Columbus." In 1775 he had founded a major trading company with interests in Russia's new possessions, the Aleutian and Kurile archipelagoes and the Alaskan coast. In the two decades that had elapsed since then, he had become a tycoon of vast wealth and influence. The Imperial Court held him in high favor, and the Holy Synod was receptive to his requests and advice.

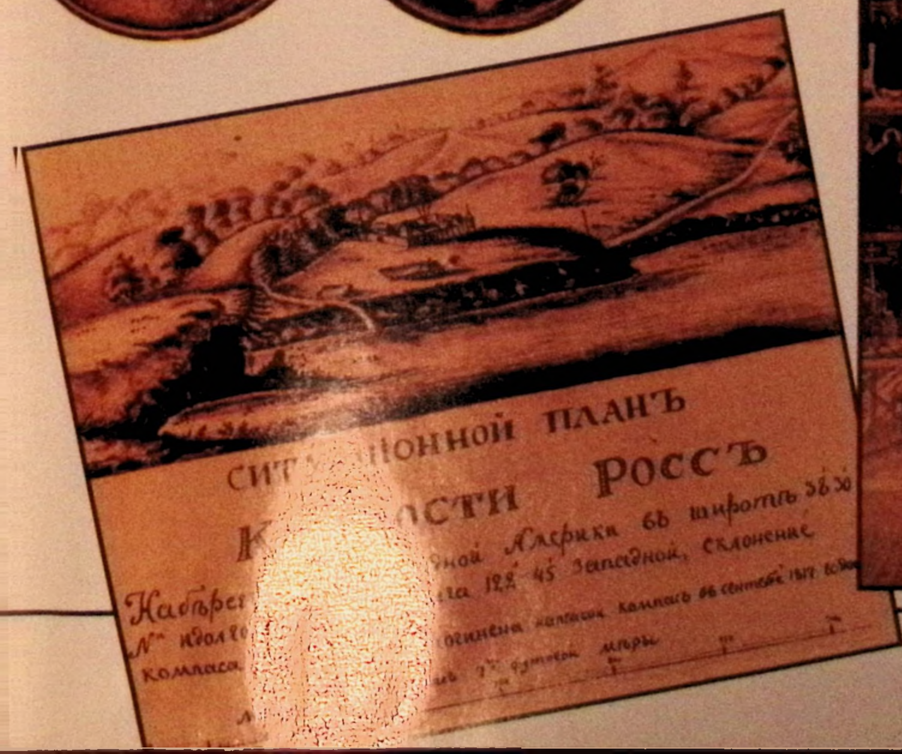
By the 1780s Shelekhov and his assistants firmly held all the trading companies in Russian America in their enterprising hands. Shelekhov and others streamlined the colonial government and made lasting and friendly contacts with the natives. Intermarriages became very common. The children of these marriages, of mixed Russian and Eskimo or Indian blood, were called Creoles, after the fashion of the French and Spanish Americas. These children accounted for the majority of the pupils in the schools established on Shelekhov's initiative.

The Russian Columbus attended to his spiritual duties almost as zealously as he did to his business. He preached as best he could and was godfather to many Creole children. But he knew full well that the sphere of his activity would always be severely restricted unless a regular mission were established. Alexander Baranov, Shelekhov's manager who was later appointed Governor of the Russian colonies in the New World, shared this view.

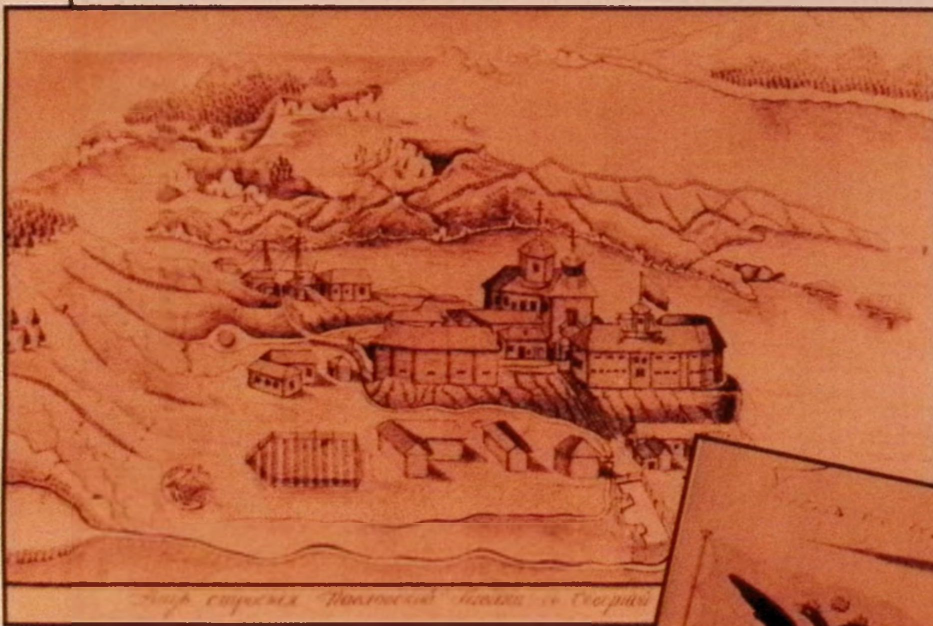
On May 4, 1793, the Holy Synod made public Catherine the Great's edict granting Shelekhov's request to establish a Russian Orthodox mission in the colonies. Metropolitan Gabriel was entrusted with the task. The prelate turned to the Balaam Monastery, a secluded place on one of the many islands in Lake Ladoga, in the northern part of European Russia, for help. As Father Nazarius, the head of the monastery, selected the monks for Alaskan missionary work, he was concerned not so much with choosing men of great evangelic fervor as with ridding his brotherhood of its black sheep. Only one monk enjoyed his well-deserved benevolence. That was Father Herman, who was then 37 years old. He was eager to preach the ▶

Clockwise from top: Novo-Arkhangelsk, *a lithograph by Pavel Smirnov, made in 1863. An icon portrait of Father Herman. Fort Ross, one of the first Russian settlements in Russian America. The obverse and reverse of the Allied Russias Medal, which was worn by Alaska's tribal chiefs to signify their Russian citizenship.*

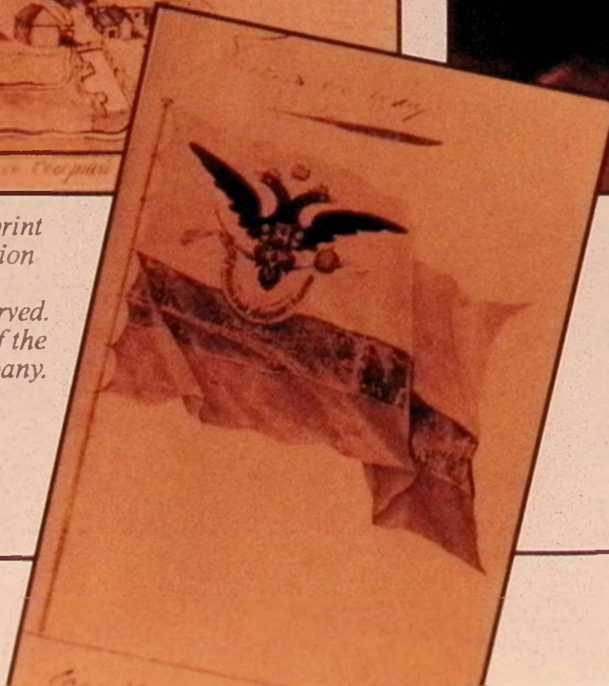




Natives of Sitka Island, *a lithograph by F. Kitlits, made in 1827. Above: The legendary Grigori Shelekhov, the founder of a large trading company in Alaska, was called the "Russian Columbus."*



This eighteenth century print shows the Orthodox mission church on Kodiak Island, where Father Herman served. Right: The tricolor flag of the Russian-American Company.



An anonymous portrait of Alexander Baranov, Governor of the Russian colonies in the New World and one of the most influential people in Alaska in the eighteenth century.

gospel to the unenlightened.

A son of well-to-do peasants from the fertile Voronezh Region in southern Russia, Herman took to piety and book learning from the time he was a child. His fiery imagination was captivated by the solitary mystical experiences of the hermits of old.

Missionary work in Alaska offered Father Herman a chance both to perform feats of devotion and to live among new people who intrigued him. Firmly set on leaving, he received Nazarius' blessing and a scholarly assignment: Father Herman was to collect information on the Russian settlements in Alaska and to write a detailed report.

At long last the mission of five monks, with Archimandrite Joasaph at its head, set out on its arduous journey. Two monks and two novices joined the mission in Irkutsk.

The route that the missionaries traveled was well trod by that time. From Yakutsk, they embarked on the Okhotsky Highway, which eventually brought them to the ocean. They encountered only one surprise—and an extremely flattering one at that—along the way: None other than Grigori Shelekhov himself accompanied them to Okhotsk. The Russian Columbus felt it his duty to take a closer look at the missionaries and to instruct them on the unusual flock to which they would minister.

In August 1794 one of Shelekhov's ships set sail for Kodiak Island, carrying, besides the missionaries, a mixed group of traders and hunters and a cargo of necessities for the settlers. Called back to Irkutsk by urgent business, Shelekhov made do by giving the missionaries a set of instructions for Governor Baranov, including an order that a monastery be built on Kodiak.

Perspicacious and practical, Baranov grasped the situation at once: a waste of the trading company's money, and what money at that?!

The newly arrived clergy were more optimistic. "With zeal and diligence, we started building a church, improving our quarters, and preaching Christianity with the help of interpreters and colonists. Father Herman is responsible for the [illegible]. Many natives have already embraced the true faith," Archimandrite Joasaph reported back to Father Nazarius.

Archimandrite Joasaph, seduced by visions of a brilliant career, embellished the truth and shamelessly exaggerated the number of baptisms that were performed. Taking his human weaknesses into account, it's easy to understand his position. For the most part, the monks in his charge were lazy and ignorant and could hardly cope with the huge task of gaining the natives' confidence and taming the Russian colonists.

The reckless outlaws caused a great deal of trouble for the company's manager, Baranov, and he, a rigid and exacting man with an unbending sense of justice, showed them no mercy. The trading company was essential for the Russian economy and, consequently, its dealings were closely watched from St. Petersburg: Too many ventures would fail if order were not imposed.

The missionaries' attitude toward the indigenous population was another object of concern. The Holy Synod's instruction to Archimandrite Joasaph read, in part:

> The utmost tact is needed as you bring the converts to prayer and fasting. Set a time for edifying talks with the people and repeat the Gospel's truths again and again in the simplest words you can find. Do not close your eyes to their circumstances. Help them as best you can.

This document describes Russian policy in the New World in the abstract. But these good intentions were very rarely carried out in practice. The monks, with the exception of Father Herman, waved the instructions aside.

Shelekhov's sudden death in Irkutsk in July 1795 made the indomitable Alexander Baranov sole head of the trading company, and he worked hard to make it prosper, even with a stone wall of monastic resistance. The missionaries sabotaged his initiatives and turned his men against him. The high wooden fence of the Kodiak mission hid ugly doings from the laity's eyes. Driven crazy by idleness, the monks spent their time in drunken brawls. Father Herman was the sole abstainer. He toiled in the vegetable garden and in the bakery, and in his spare time he painstakingly collected information on the medieval settlements of the Novgorod refugees who had fled to Kodiak to escape the wrath of Ivan the Terrible.

In 1798 the ecclesiastical authorities summoned Archimandrite Joasaph to Irkutsk to report about his missionary work. His scholarly description of Kodiak was published posthumously in 1805. The Archimandrite died in 1799 in a wreck of the frigate *Phoenix*. The Archimandrite's demise spelled the virtual end of the Alaskan mission. At the turn of the nineteenth century, only one monk remained on Kodiak—Father Herman.

Explorer Ferdinand Wrangel described Father Herman as follows:

> That monk was the best. Excelling in piety and intelligence, he was the true head of the mission. . . . We can only regret that he could not keep the brethren on the path of God. Hot-tempered, he could never put up with insults and abuse. He rose passionately in defense of the natives against the traders, hunters, and their elders, all famous for cruelty and debauchery. That caused him much suffering. He was the only one to hold on. Now he shines as a paragon of industry, piety, and unblemished morals. This holy man belongs to the number of truly outstanding people.

Father Herman's one cherished dream was to start a hermitage. Eventually he moved to tiny Fir Island and lived quietly, tilling his vegetable plot. New Balaam, a small convent, soon sprang up nearby. Mother Superior Sophia was an Aleut who converted to the Orthodox Church and became a nun after her husband, a Russian merchant, died.

Mother Sophia died in 1836, and Father Herman not long after. The convent was dissolved, and the novices were married. But they never forgot their pious and hard-working youth, and they brought up their children and grandchildren in faith and industry.

When Father Herman was canonized, a solemn procession brought his remains from Fir Island to Kodiak Island for eternal rest near the local Orthodox church.

the amber room returns

By Alla Belyakova
Photographs by Rudolf Kucherov

Left: A woman's head sculpted in amber by Nikolai Smirov. Below: Few pictures of the original Amber Room are in existence. This photograph was taken in 1930. Facing page, top to bottom: Members of the restoration team confer. Re-creating the amber carving is a painstaking job. Restorer Tamara Akimova's expertise is gilding.

For nearly half a century people have been wondering about the fate of the famous Amber Room of the Catherine Palace in Pushkin (formerly Tsarskoye Selo), outside Leningrad. The room was presented to Peter the Great by King Frederik William of Prussia in 1717 and was probably installed in one of the rooms of the Winter Palace.

Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, ordered architect Varfolomei Rastrelli to decorate a room in her palace with gem panels taken from her father's study. Rastrelli's genius produced the Amber Room, which remained the pearl of the palace for 200 years.

The Germans presented the Amber Room and the Germans stole it. Before escaping from Pushkin, the Nazis ransacked the palace and carried away many valuables, including the Amber Room. The booty was last seen in 1945 in Königsberg (now Kaliningrad), where several amber panels were on display in the King's Palace. Since▶

then, the supposed whereabouts of the room has created false hopes in this country and abroad. Regrettably, we are no nearer to the truth than we were 50 years ago.

In 1979 work to re-create the room was started under an order from the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation. Architect Alexander Kedrinsky, a Lenin Prize recipient and the author of the program for the restoration of the Catherine Palace, was put in charge of the project.

"The trouble was that we had very few photographs of the Amber Room," says Kedrinsky. "But we have water colors of the interior of the Catherine Palace and similar articles of the eighteenth century. The State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, the Armory in Moscow, and the museums of amber in Poland and Germany contain some amber items too. We have even located authentic articles made by the artists of the Amber Room. But 70 pieces left from the genuine amber panels are our main treasures.

"Shortly before the war we were planning to restore the Amber Room. The oak boards, on which the amber panels were mounted, had shrunk and warped. The amber pieces that fell off were kept in a cupboard. These 70 pieces were miraculously preserved during a fire. Their color range and the technique employed for polishing the amber became the basis for the work of the restorers.

"The re-created room will not be a fake. Scientific restoration means the creation of a piece of art having maximum likeness to the original. Since the original is lost, we are looking for similar works from past centuries.

"The most difficult problem proved to be the color of amber. Should we paint it? Must we boil it? We searched and searched for the answer in time-yellowed manuscripts. Amber had indeed been boiled and painted in the past to produce a rich range of color. But amber specialists are opposed to painting or boiling the precious resin. So, what was to be done? We went to the ancient city of Gdansk in Poland, which had had amber specialists way back in 1476. Our Polish colleagues gave us advice and practical assistance. The re-creation of the Amber Room is a collective project.

"The first panels of multicolored mosaics, which are breathtakingly beautiful, have been completed, but the whole project won't be finished until the mid-1990s.

"The lost Amber Room was priceless. The tentative cost of its re-creation will top five million rubles."

This amber altarpiece was restored by Alexei Zhuravlev's team. Far left, top and bottom: Amber panels. Facing page: The re-creation of the Amber Room is an ambitious project requiring the skills of many art masters like these experienced woodcarvers.

BERING BRIDGE EXPEDITION

A three-month Soviet-American journey across Chukotka and Alaska established a "bridge" of friendship and trust between two neighboring continents. The expedition, headed by Dmitri Shparo and Paul Shurke, wasn't out to break records but to restore friendly relations between the people of Chukotka and the residents of Alaska. The next issue tells how the travelers achieved their goal.

PHOTOS FROM AN ALBUM

Polina Boiko worked at an airfield near Poltava during World War II, and she took pictures of the American pilots who landed there for refueling and repairs after bombing missions. Boiko hopes that the photos in the October issue will help her to locate her wartime friends.

COMING SOON

Citizen Diplomacy

Mikhail Shemyakin's *Portrait of Vaslav Nijinsky* Pastel and colo pencil on pape 1984-1988. Shemyakin emigrated from the Soviet Unio 18 years ago. Coverage of his recent visit to his homeland starts on p. 52.