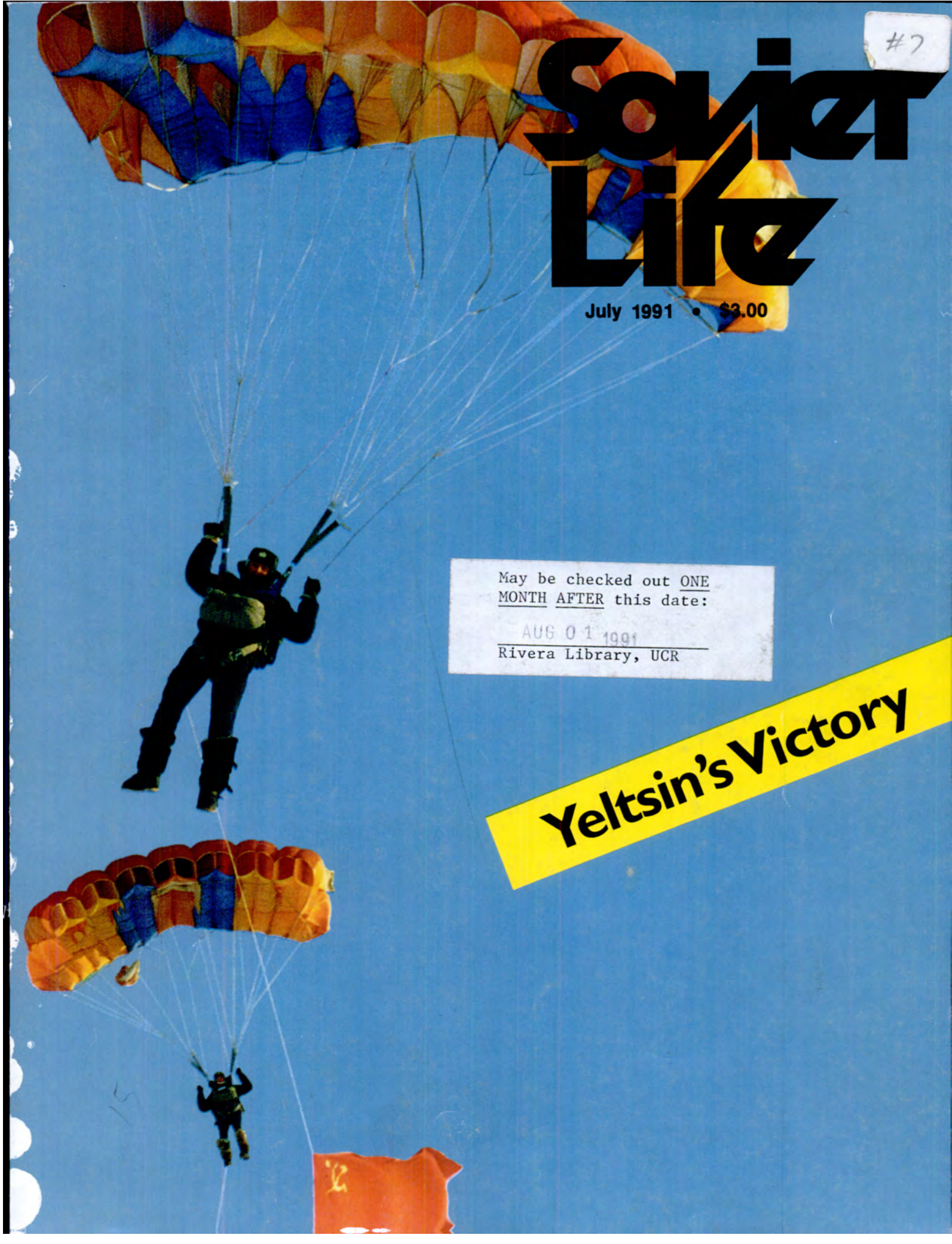

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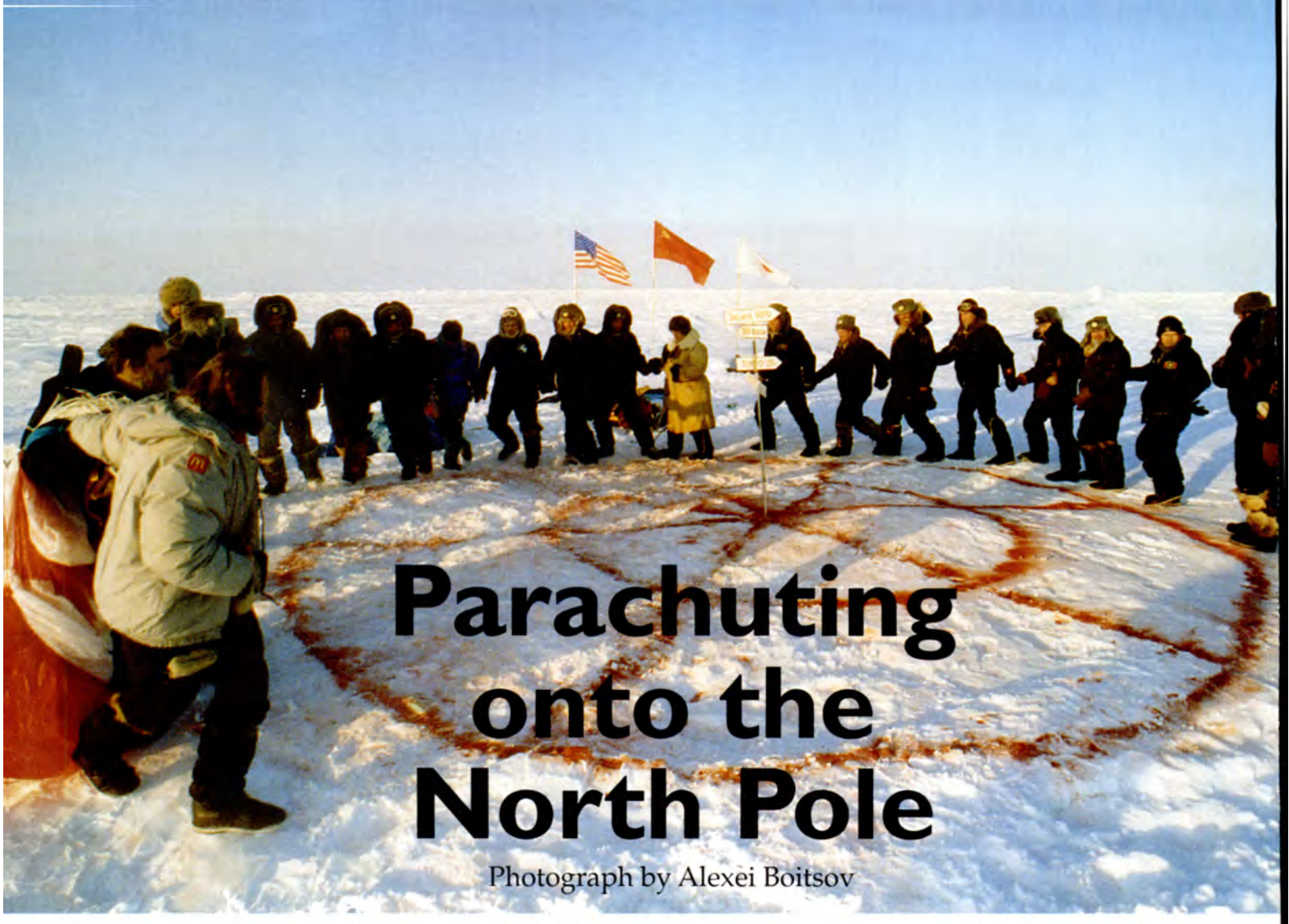
Yeltsin's Victory



Parachuting onto the North Pole

Photograph by Alexei Boitsov

In May 1937, four Soviet planes landed a research expedition under the guidance of Ivan Papanin in the Arctic, setting up the first drifting station, North Pole 1.

During the half century since that event, submarines and nuclear-powered icebreakers have visited the North Pole, to say nothing of airplanes crossing polar air space. The need for efficient rescue work in the Arctic zone has become more pressing.

On April 10, 1991, thirteen representatives of the United States, Japan, and the USSR parachuted from a long-range airplane of the Soviet Air Force onto the North Pole. Their objective was to test rescue work in the region and to practice airlifting people by helicopter from a disaster zone.

The operation involved standard Soviet parachutes and three American tandem parachutes, which deliver two people to the destination, a professional parachutist and a specialist such as a doctor, who has no experience parachuting.

Tandems were operated by an American, Bill Booth, and two Soviets, Sergei Insarov and Sergei Potekhin, associates of the Parachute Salvage Center of the USSR Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The two Soviets, who underwent special training organized by Booth in Florida, are the first in the USSR to get a license to guide parachute tandems.

The tandems carried as passengers Dmitri Shparo, chairman of the Adventure Club; Igor Pechnikov, head of an Ulyanovsk Tool-Building Association; and Takako Takano, a Japanese journalist and the first woman to land at the North Pole by parachute.

Three flags, American, Japanese, and Soviet, were raised above the North Pole together for the first time. The members of the expedition hope that the experience gained from this risky operation will be helpful in rescuing many people in the future.

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Novosti Information Agency
Zubovsky Boulevard 4
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Editor in Chief—Robert Tsfasman
Layout by Nikolai Smolyakov

Washington Editorial Board
1706 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Editor—Sergei S. Ivanko
Managing Editor—Victor L. Karasin

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Front Cover: Parachuting to the North Pole. *Photograph by Alexei Boitsov.*

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Moscow has been having unusual heat this summer. Every evening, TV viewers hear about our "African heat wave." But June was a hot month for other reasons, too. Political passions ran high. For the first time in Russia's millennium-long history, the citizens of the republic elected a president by a democratic ballot. The majority of the voters (57.3 percent of those who went to the polls) chose Boris Yeltsin. The Russian people thus reaffirmed their determination to follow the course toward democracy and economic reforms that was begun by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The United States was the country to which the newly elected president of Russia made his first official visit. One high-ranking Russian diplomat described the visit as follows:

"The visit succeeded in creating Russia's image in America. There will definitely be further meetings, which will strengthen Russia and, thus, the Soviet Union. This will gradually get us out of the current mess."

What kind of Russia is the newly elected president thinking of? Yeltsin has a short answer to this question: "We've set out to renew Russia for the benefit of its citizens and for the purpose of improving their lives. This is the main task. How will the system be described? That's up to social scientists to decide—later."

"The recent election is not the end," says another winner, Gavriil Popov (Muscovites elected him mayor of Moscow). Popov undoubtedly meant that the Russian Federation faces another series of elections that will almost certainly rearrange the political forces in the republic.

This means that even when Moscow's "African heat wave" abates, the heat of political passions will remain in Russian society.

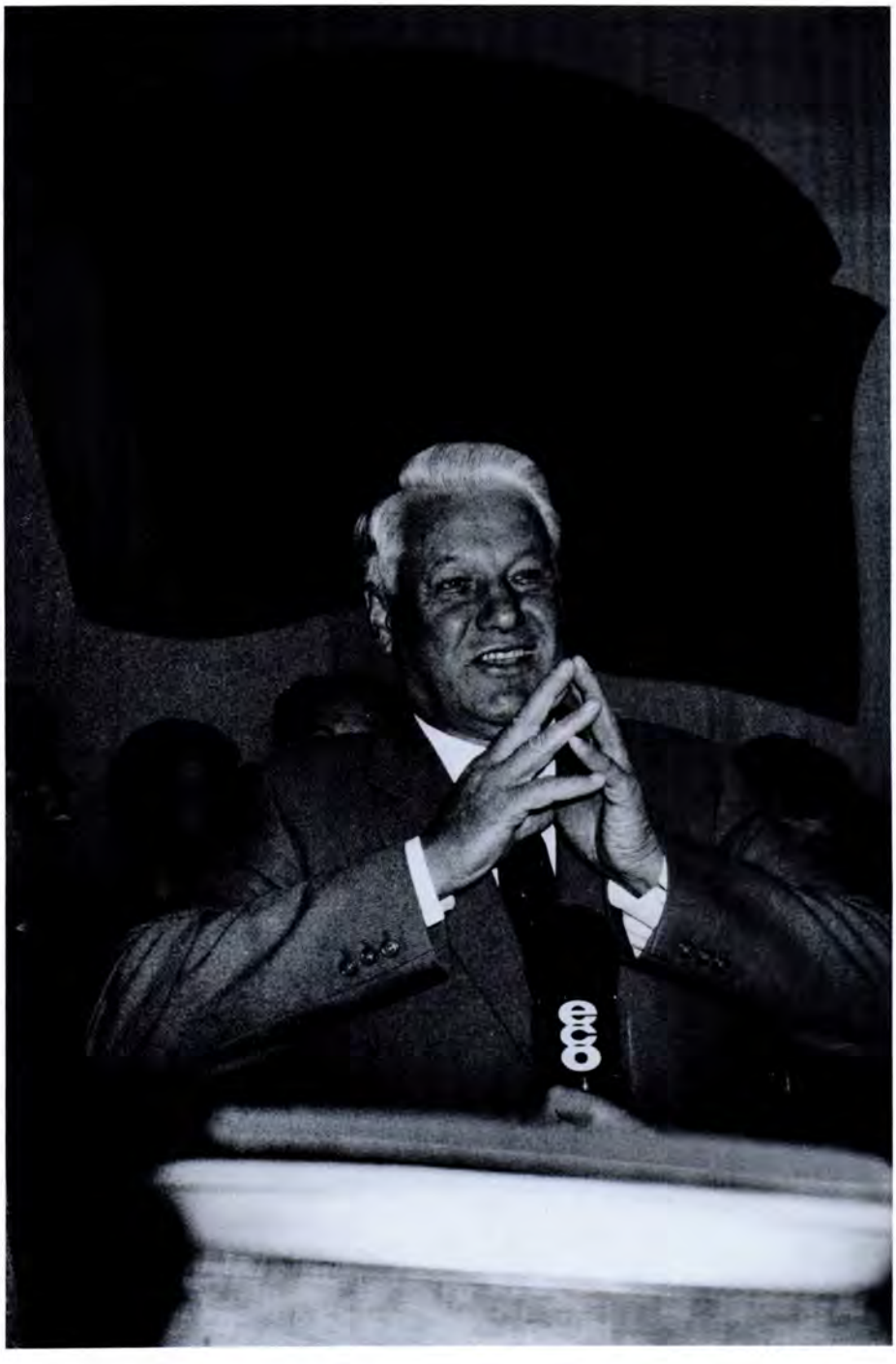
Loyal to its tradition of informing its readers about everything that is happening in the USSR, SOVIET LIFE will try to touch on all current events. We'll try to do so gently, lest you experience the same difficulty as Muscovites, who have trouble keeping up with the ever-changing situation.

Robert Tsfasman

in focus

Boris Yeltsin's

By Vyacheslav Kostikov
Novosti Political Observer



Political Victory

Radical sentiments have proved stronger than anyone previously suspected. The recent elections for president of the Russian Federation not only elevated Boris Yeltsin to a high political post, but also untied Mikhail Gorbachev's hands as he attempts to balance the rates of economic and political reform in the USSR.

The results of the voting will contribute to nationwide stabilization, which started taking shape with the conclusion of the nine-plus-one accord, signed by, among others, Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Supreme authority is vested in both leaders, and, in spite of some friction and difficulty in their relations, they are now tied to each other more closely than ever before.

Yeltsin's victory has made it possible to avoid confrontation between the reformists and the hard-liners, which might have flared up if Nikolai Ryzhkov had been elected Russia's president. Yeltsin's program has more in common with Gorbachev's than does Ryzhkov's. Yet there is every reason to believe that the future relationship between the Soviet and the Russian presidents may be full of pitfalls. Gorbachev is the number one Communist in the Soviet Union (General Secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR); Yeltsin has withdrawn from the party ranks, has on many occasions been highly critical of Communist party demagogy, and has urged that the organs of state power, the army and the KGB, be removed from party control.

It is most unlikely that a serious ideological conflict will develop between Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Their political careers have much in common, which makes it possible for them to find a common language. This common tongue is the language of political pragmatism. Both leaders have matured in the corridors of Communist party power. Both were promoted to high positions by the party and reached the top of the Soviet hierarchy through the party. Both are criticizing the conservatives, albeit with differing degrees of vigor. The conservatives have an equally negative attitude toward both Gorbachev and Yeltsin, believing that they have both betrayed the Communist party and are continuing to bring about its downfall. The hard-liners have criticized Gorbachev even more severely than Yeltsin recently, and they regard the tandem as extremely dangerous to party autocracy.

Both leaders were born in 1931. The faithful servant of the Communist party before the onset of perestroika, Gorbachev somewhat earlier than Yeltsin came to understand the dire need for democratic reforms in the Soviet Union. The rates of democratic reform urged by Gorbachev and Yeltsin were different, and this discrepancy gave rise to confrontation and dogged discussion between them. But in order to comprehend Yeltsin's evolution, we must recall that Yeltsin, then head of the regional party organization in Sverdlovsk, came to Moscow under the auspices of Yegor Ligachev, a diehard leader of the conservative wing of the Communist party.

The initial stage of Yeltsin's party career was marked by atypically orthodox and stringent adherence to party dogma. Under his guidance, the regional party committee in Sverdlovsk built as its headquarters an enormous building, the tallest building of a regional party committee anywhere in the USSR. At the same time, the notorious house where the Russian royal family was executed in 1918 ☞

For the first time in their thousand-year history, Russians went to the polls in June and elected a president. Boris Yeltsin took on the Communist party candidate, Nikolai Ryzhkov, and several other contenders, pulling off a surprising 57 percent victory in the multicandidate race. Facing page: Yeltsin speaks to a mass media audience after the announcement of his election.

Photograph by Diane Stebbins

During Yeltsin's visit to the United States in June 1991, Jack Kemp, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, presented the Russian president with a copy of a speech on democratic capitalism that he subsequently delivered at an international business conference in Edinburgh, Scotland.

was torn down. Such gestures during the early stage of Yeltsin's ascent had little in common with democratic moves. Yet, he worked for quite some time in a major industrial center in the Urals, where he witnessed the degradation of the system to which he had been loyal.

Yeltsin was never considered a dissident. His democratic evolution was the result of the complicated and painstaking political developments in the Soviet Union, whose genuine heroes were people like Andrei Sakharov. But realizing that democratic reforms were inevitable, Yeltsin, a man of enormous political energy and will, succeeded in becoming a symbol of democratic advance. His political destiny is unusual. Ejected from the top echelons of the Kremlin hierarchy several years ago, and, as was commonly believed, doomed to political oblivion, Yeltsin confounded the pundits by reemerging on the Soviet political scene to head the democratic movement. Now he has become Russia's first elected president. Prone to critical and at times extreme judgments (which was evidenced by his recent unjustified demand for Gorbachev's resignation), Yeltsin is at the same time a man who provokes a great range of emotions, from blind admiration to downright nonacceptance.

The long road Yeltsin had to travel from orthodox party follower to democratic leader gives hope that he is capable of further progress, as a Russian president should be. ■

DEMOCRACY AS A CAPTIVE OF NATIONALISM

By Vyacheslav Kostikov

The democratic process in the Soviet Union may fall victim not to conservatism, but to nationalism and separatism, as events in the Transcaucasus reveal nationalism to be one of the main threats to perestroika. Against this background, the rivalry between Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin recedes into the shadows. Even the seemingly unbridgeable gap between the views of the two men (Gorbachev is for a "humane socialism" with "a communist perspective," while Yeltsin, having resigned from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, totally rejects that view) disappeared when they had to join forces in the face of a threat of the disintegration of the union. The peace—or the truce, at least—that the two leaders established shows that they clearly realize that nationalism poses a threat to both of them. This fact increases their chances for cooperation.

The burst of nationalism and separatism has handed hard-liners a high trump in their struggle against the democrats. Leaders of Soyuz, the parliamentary faction in which the opponents of reform have united, today accuse the democrats "of letting the genie of separatism out of the bottle" and now "of not being able to control the destructive process." In an aggressive assault, the faction even goes so far as to charge further that the democrats have inflicted greater damage on the USSR than nazi Germany did in 1941.

Recently, a number of leaders of the conservative wing of the CPSU have joined in the criticism. In truth, the conservatives, appealing for restoration of the totalitarian system with its rigid nationalities policy, and the separatists, acting under the guise of democracy, have united forces in a fierce attack against Gorbachev and Yeltsin.

The greatest danger of this attack for democracy lies in the fact that the conservatives, with their slogan of preserving Russia intact, have gained broad public support. There are several reasons for this. First, the inertia of imperial thinking, a nostalgic longing for the times when Moscow controlled the vast multinational territory. Second, out of the country's 290 million inhabitants, over 60 million—Russians, Ukrainians, Kazakhs, Tatars, Armenians, and Georgians, among others—now reside outside their national boundaries as a result of vigorous economic migration. We also have millions of mixed families, with husband and wife belonging to different nationalities and professing different faiths. In practice, this means that if, for example, the Baltic republics secede from the USSR, many Russians, who by no means desire to become "foreigners" in their own country, will find themselves living abroad. In Kazakhstan, only 40 per cent of the population consists of Kazakhs, the remainder being chiefly Russians and Ukrainians. These scores of millions of potentially "displaced persons" represent the mass support of such movements as Soyuz.

Separatist phenomena in the USSR are something different. From the point of view of pure logic, the desire of, say, Georgia to secede from the USSR is quite understandable. From the point of view of the right of nations to self-determination, which is enshrined in the Soviet Constitution, Georgia has every right to independence. If you extend this logic to all the other republics, it would mean the appearance of a totally new world map, with many new countries, which in reality might need more than a decade to achieve real independence. Moreover, these "states" already have a whole number of territorial, economic, and religious contradictions existing among them. You can just imagine the chaos that would result if such a vast region were flung into the depths of conflicts, wars, and protracted instability.

History may bear this trial. Historians view the breakup of an empire as a normal evolutionary process. But the drama of the current Soviet leaders is that this disintegration coincides with the long-awaited democratization and the collapse of a totalitarian regime. Besides, for a number of reasons, the breakup has assumed an explosive character. Another paradox: In Western Europe, the growth of political culture and the extension of democracy are leading to an erosion of national and economic borders, to the birth of a so-called united states of Europe, while in the USSR democratization has aroused the destructive forces of nationalism and separatism.

Under the attack of these forces, room for democratic maneuvering increasingly narrows. Even now, separatism has already tarnished democracy to some extent in the eyes of the Soviet people.

The burst of nationalism has also posed for democracy very complex issues concerning its ability to resolve a certain type of crisis and conflict. Politicians who long for a strong-arm dictator assert that such a ruler would put the country in order in several weeks. The democrats may see the reasoning but deplore the results: They offer the scenario of how Stalin might have handled the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He would have ordered the arrest of the members of parliaments of both republics, he would have deported the populations of the disputed areas, and he would have had several hundred of the "troublemakers" executed, after first accusing them of acting in the interests of world imperialism. And the conflict would have been "settled," or, more precisely, put down for another couple of decades.

But Stalin, who died in 1953, was a dictator. He could afford to act by downright repressive methods, ignoring world opinion and that of his own country. Neither Gorbachev nor Yeltsin can, nor do they wish to, act in that manner. That's why the conservatives are pushing them toward such action (just look at what happened in the Baltics) in order to put an end to democracy in the USSR.

Gorbachev and Yeltsin cannot act in that way, nor can they allow the breakup of the union. Caught between the anvil of democracy and the hammer of separatism, they seek a Solomonlike solution. Is there time to find it? That's a question for all who cherish democracy to ponder. ■

South Ossetia

Undeclared War

The Human Face of Tragedy.

A South Ossetian woman who was forced by ethnic violence to leave her native village.

Inset: A Russian journalist inverviews a Red Beret officer in an Ossetian village.

By Dmitri Leonov and Andrei Tugai
Photographs by Alexei Rodionov and Sergei Titov

In the nationwide referendum on March 17, South Ossetia voted for the preservation of the USSR. But on March 31, the people of Georgia went to the polls and voted in favor of independence for their republic. These events do not make one hopeful that the parties involved will find a civilized compromise to the problem.

On November 10, 1989, at a meeting in Tskhinvali, capital of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region, the regional soviet asked the Supreme Soviet of Georgia to change the status of South Ossetia to that of autonomous republic. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia decided the request was unconstitutional.

On November 23, members of unregistered organizations from all over Georgia boarded buses bound for Tskhinvali to attend a "peaceful, authorized rally" in defense of Georgia's territorial integrity. It was regarded as "authorized" only by its organizers; no permit had been granted.

Death and destruction are everywhere. Inset top: Weapons of Georgian military formations fire at houses in Tskhinvali. Inset bottom: An Ossetian farmer, more than eighty years old, was killed during an attack on his village. Facing page, inset: Elbrus Tabuyev, fourteen years old, was wounded during an attack on Tskhinvali.

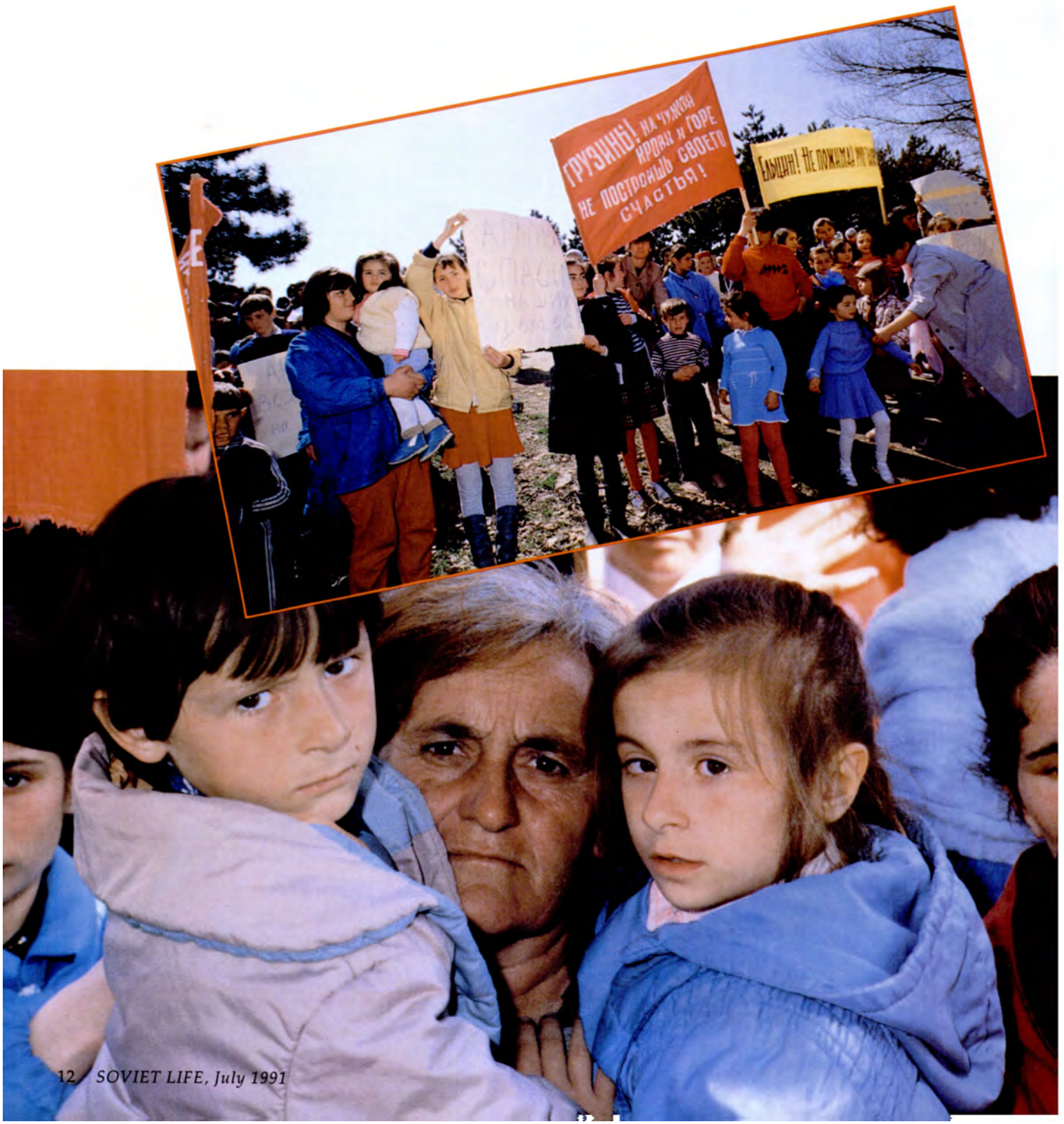
Tskhinvali has been blockaded for months. People line up for food, which has arrived by armored carrier. Facing page: Ossetian militants.

At the approaches to Tskhinvali, the Georgians, including the first secretary of the central committee, were met by several dozen young Ossetians. According to the Ossetians, there were 40 of them against 40,000 people. The Ossetians, unarmed, joined hands and formed several rows, stopping the column until reinforcements came and interior ministry troops intervened. According to the Georgians, the column was stopped by interior ministry troops; the Ossetians arrived later.

In the evening, the entire male population of the city gathered at its boundaries. The Tskhinvali stand-off lasted almost twenty-four hours, until a large section of the column went away on buses. The Ossetians believe that some of the demonstrators scattered among the surrounding villages. From that ☞

Victims of War

Refugees both young and old pay the price for armed confrontation in South Ossetia.



time on, until peace was made in April 1990, there were exchanges of fire, people taken hostage, and villages ransacked and plundered. During this time six people were killed, thirty received gunshot wounds, and more than three hundred received some kind of injury. The criminals had departed with impunity, and civilians on both sides started arming themselves.

On September 20, 1990, the regional soviet adopted a declaration "On the Sovereignty of South Ossetia," according to which South Ossetia itself was to delegate powers to Georgia and the USSR and to sign a union treaty. The reasons for such a decision are understandable. In the event that Georgia seceded from the USSR (on March 31, Georgia declared its independence), South Ossetia would like to remain a part of the USSR.

On that same day, September 20, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia ruled that South Ossetia's declaration of sovereignty was invalid. On October 16, 1990, a provisional executive committee of the South Ossetian Soviet Democratic Republic was formed, and it set a date, December 9, for elections to the republic's supreme soviet.

But on November 22, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia declared the October 16 resolution invalid and warned leaders of South Ossetia that they would have to be prepared for the possible consequences of their unconstitutional actions.

The elections took place as scheduled, however. Of the sixty-four seats in the new legislature, the People's Council won twenty, the Youth Bloc, fifteen. Authority in the Supreme Soviet, whether one considers this body to have been formed unconstitutionally or to have been dissolved unconstitutionally, is actually in the hands of independents.

On December 11, the day after the elections to the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia, the Georgian Supreme Soviet passed the following laws: "On the abolition of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region" and "On a State of Emergency." The next day it passed a resolution declaring a state of emergency in Tskhinvali and in Dzhava District. The voting on this resolution took place after the delegates learned

From January 6 to January 26, seventeen people were killed and sixty were wounded among the Ossetians; dozens of others were reported missing, most of them, evidently, taken hostage.

that three Georgians, staff members of law enforcement bodies, had been killed and another three seriously wounded by submachine gun fire in the center of Tskhinvali. Among those killed was a bodyguard of Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Many Georgians left Tskhinvali early in January. There was a reason for this, the Ossetians concluded later. Evidently, they said, the Georgians had known that trouble was in the offing.

From January 6, when the militia or, to be more precise, people in militia uniforms, as many of them had put them on just the day before, entered Tskhinvali, to January 26, when these uniformed men left Tskhinvali, seventeen people were killed and sixty were wounded among the Ossetians; dozens of others were reported missing, most of them, evidently, taken hostage. The Georgians do not release data on this subject, but the number of casualties among the Georgians is probably several times greater.

On January 7, the Georgian militia were driven back from the whole of the city. Later, on every street leading to the center, two barricades arose: one Georgian and one Ossetian. Every evening, as dusk fell, the people manning the barricades exchanged intensive rounds of gunfire.

As the Georgian militia left on January 26, houses belonging to Georgians were set on fire. The first to be put to the torch were those houses from which the Ossetians believed gunfire had come. These were burned, without plundering, with crowds of people looking on. Later, hiding their faces, some Ossetians plundered and burned the houses of some Georgians whose "guilt" was questionable.

Almost all the Ossetians we interviewed thought the burning down of the houses from which gunfire had surely come was a just and necessary measure of self-defense. They also justified the instances of thuggery and plunder on the basis of their need to have money to buy arms so badly needed for them to survive as a nation.

In Tskhinvali, the only effectively functioning institutions connected in one way or another with public order are the groups of armed Ossetians, which are controlled to some extent by the official Emergency Coordination Office. Right after January 7, when the Georgian militia were driven back to the center of the city, the groups available at that moment, a little more than a dozen of them, were actually legalized by the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia for self-defense. These groups comprise anywhere from a few dozen to several hundred people and are sometimes based in residential neighborhoods. At night foot patrols guard almost every street to protect houses against arson and plunder. Most of the city's male population takes turns on these patrols.

In the villages of South Ossetia the situation is just about as lawless. The Ossetian population, in the main, is the object of victimization. According to eye-witness reports, civilian houses are ransacked here and there in Tskhinvali District every day. People are taken hostage and treated cruelly. Muggers, looters, robbers, and murderers on both sides are unpunished.

On April 24, 1991, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR passed a resolution concerning the situation in South Ossetia. The resolution can be summed up as follows: The situation in South Ossetia is critical; all the measures taken have failed to produce results; and the interior ministry troops stationed there are unable to maintain public order.

These three reasons prompted the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to recommend that President Gorbachev declare a state of emergency in South Ossetia "that would be guaranteed by interior ministry forces." The resolution envisages inquiries into crimes committed on the territory of the autonomous region, rehabilitation of the economy, compensation for the damage done, and a return of refugees. ■

Coming and Going in the USSR

By Fyodor Burlatsky
Chairman, Subcommittee for Humanitarian, Scientific, and Cultural Cooperation,
USSR Supreme Soviet's Committee for International Affairs

The main problem in passing the exit and entry law was stereotypes from an earlier time.

The struggle to assert the basic human right to freedom of movement is finally over. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR has passed a law with the boring name, "On the Procedure for the Exit from the USSR and Entry into the USSR of Citizens of the USSR." Although the law will not come into full effect until January 1, 1993, and there will certainly be obstacles, mostly economic, on the way to its implementation, the victory has been won. This may be the most significant step toward an open society. It marks the beginning of the end of the isolation of the Soviet people from the international community.

I don't remember another law whose passage was so dramatic.

The Supreme Soviet's International Affairs Committee has a Subcommittee for Humanitarian, Scientific, and Cultural Cooperation, of which I am a member. The subcommittee took an active part in drafting laws in the field of human rights—freedom of the press, conscience, and public organizations—but never did we encounter such fierce resistance as with the exit and entry law. We held more than ten preliminary conferences with representatives of other parliamentary committees, of the government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the KGB, the Ministry of Defense, and various economic agencies. We heard every kind of objection from the opponents.

The main problem in getting this legislation passed was stereotypes from an earlier time. Remember how it used to be? Every person leaving for abroad was scanned and screened from all angles. Renowned academicians or world-famous singers were sometimes snatched out of planes about to take off. People coming from abroad could not make a move without the KGB's knowledge; they were naturally expected to plant here if not a nuclear then certainly an ideological bomb. There were enemies plotting against the USSR everywhere and spies anxious to get into the USSR. All who left were naturally traitors.

All this created the notion that a trip abroad is one of the most important privileges and a kind of reward for loyalty to the regime or simply to one's superiors. This seemed illogical: Trips to the rotting West should have been used as punishment for the worst, but they were instead awarded as a privilege to the favored.

We knew all this and were not in the least surprised when the objections began. Even so, it was simply impossible to understand the position of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the Cabinet of Ministers, which all but blew up the entire new law. At first, when the members of the commission believed that the country's leaders opposed this law, the commission calculated with due servility that the law would cost 11.8 billion normal and 7.2 billion "hard-currency" rubles, whatever that meant. Then, when they understood that the country's leaders were not at all opposed to this law, they produced another quotation featuring costs of 160 to 240 million normal and 110 million "hard-currency" rubles. It would be nice, of course, if there were more planes, railway cars, and buses available for those leaving for abroad, but even if there aren't, no one should be denied the right to the freedom of movement.

Only two government agencies, the Foreign Ministry and the visa and registration office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, maintained sensible and consistent positions from the very start.

All these different moods spilled

Continued on page 45

Around the World

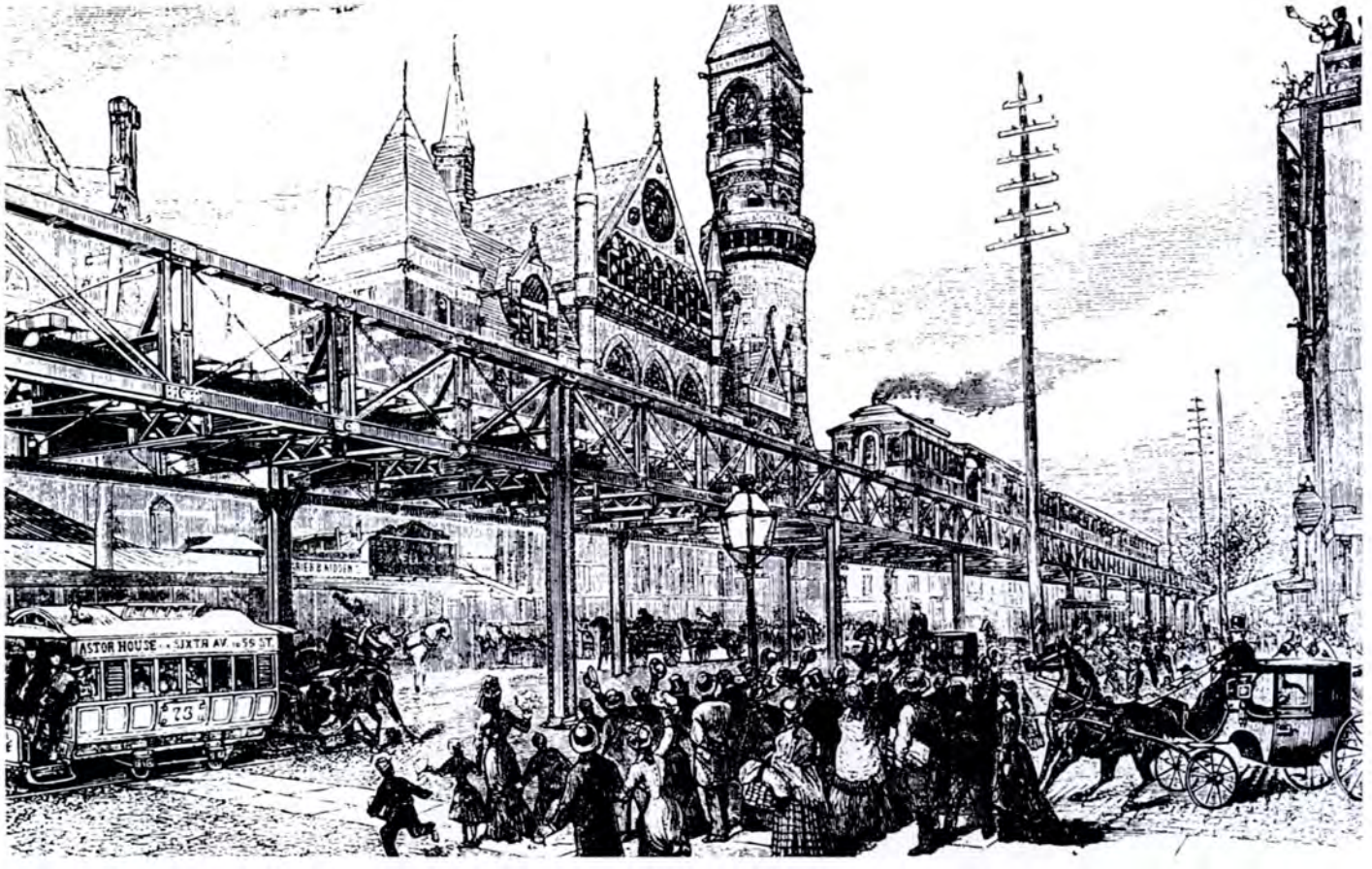
The magazine *Vokrug sveta (Around the World)* is celebrating its 130th anniversary. When the Law on the Press was adopted, many periodicals became independent. Among them was *Vokrug sveta*.

By Victor Anoshkin

Alexander Poleshchuk, editor in chief of* Vokrug sveta (Around the World). *Montage: Covers of back issues of the 130-year-old magazine.

In 1860, a St. Petersburg newspaper, *Severnaya pchela (Northern Bee)*, printed a notice that book publisher Mauritius Wolf was starting publication of a monthly magazine on "farming, natural sciences, the latest discoveries, inventions, and observations." The new magazine, entitled *Vokrug sveta (Around the World)*, actually published its first issue in 1861. In addition to the announced subjects, the magazine had articles about the peoples of Russia and about geographical discoveries made by Russian travelers and research expeditions.

Vokrug sveta's current editor in chief, Alexander ☞



Poleshchuk, who is well versed in the history of the magazine, says of his precursors: "Among them are many well-known people. For instance, Pavel Olkhin was the founder of Russian stenography. The future wife of the great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky attended his courses. For a long time, the magazine was run by Victor Saparin, a famous writer and traveler. Among other contributors to the magazine were at different times Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the legendary French researcher of the ocean's depths; Gerald Durrell, a well-known British naturalist and storyteller; and Soviet writers Konstantin Paustovsky and Ivan Yefremov.

After 1885, the magazine was published by the Verner brothers, who turned it into "a monthly of journeys and adventures on land and at sea." Later it was bought by the most famous publisher of the nineteenth century, Ivan Sytin. The magazine offered feature stories, science fiction, and short stories with an adventurous bent. Sytin introduced the Russian reader to Jules Verne's *Le tour du monde*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, Mayne Reid's *Fiery Land*, and H.G. Wells's *On the Moon*. The magazine published regular supplements, the first of which was the complete works of Leo Tolstoy, published shortly after the great writer's death.

"The magazine's popularity grew rapidly," said Poleshchuk. "It was the favorite reading of schoolchildren and of all those who were fond of adventures."

An engraving from a prerevolutionary issue of the magazine shows an elevated portion of the New York subway system. Facing page: An early illustration for a travel article.

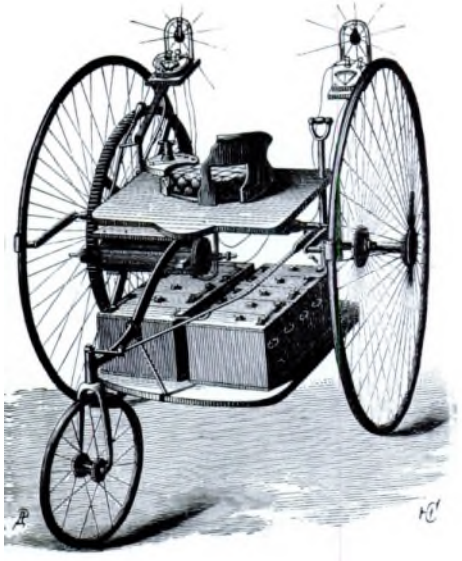
In December 1917 a Bolshevik decree closed down all nonparty publications. *Vokrug sveta* was not published for a decade. In 1931 it was placed under the wing of the Komsomol.

"The magazine acquired a distinctive political bias," said Poleshchuk. "Just five years ago, there was simply no material without that political coloration, whether it was about a new tribe discovered in the Amazon basin or the exploration of Soviet Arctic areas. Still, for three million subscribers, judging by their letters, the magazine remained a gulp of fresh air in the stuffy, politicized environment. Showing their respect for the magazine, Kirghiz geographers named one of the alpine glaciers in the Tien Shan Mountains Vokrug Sveta after the magazine.

Free enterprise is proving to be a painful process for publishing. Since 1991, periodicals have increased in price as the cost of paper has skyrocketed. Dozens of magazines that existed on state subsidies were compelled to close down and give way to new publications. What are the prospects for the veteran *Vokrug sveta*?

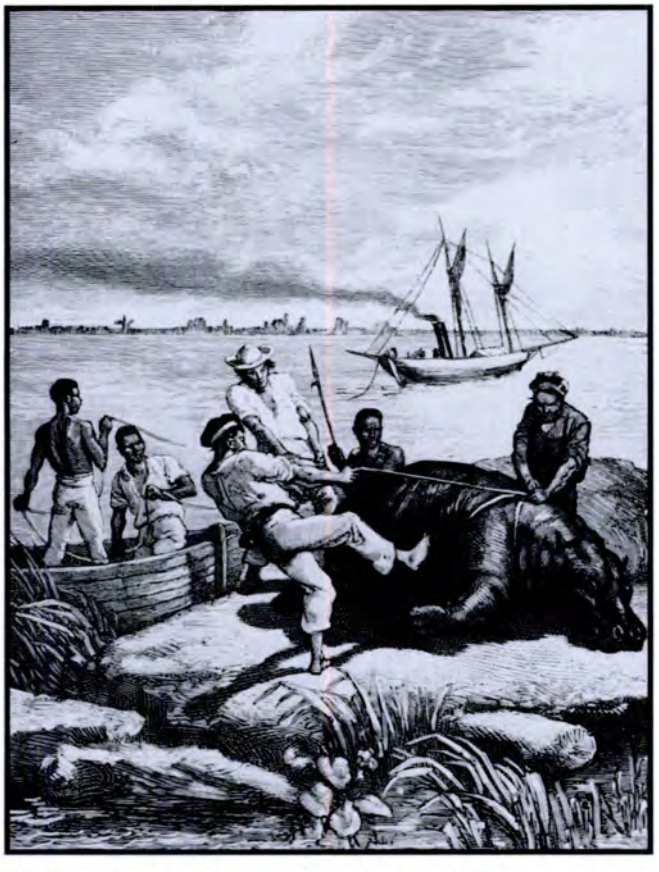
"We've managed to preserve 67 per cent of our subscribers," says the editor in chief. "Most other magazines have kept less than 50 per cent of their circulation. This means that many of our readers have remained loyal."

The magazine is virtually independent now. Its movers and shakers are the twenty-five editors (journalists, geographers, philologists, and economists) and the publishing house that is the umbrella agency for publication of the monthly's 1.8 million copies. *Vokrug sveta* has become a small enterprise and gained the right to engage in different kinds of activity. The editors have many ideas for new



Illustrations from early issues of the magazine.

features: expeditions, festivals, contests, broader contacts with similar publications abroad. In new economic conditions, the magazine will inevitably have to compete with numerous cooperative publishers who are deluging readers with adventure literature. Poleshchuk and his colleagues are gambling on the high publishing standards of their publication, the meticulous choice of materials, conscientious translation from foreign languages, and cooperation with free lances, among whom



are famous scientists, writers, and travelers.

"We want to get back to our roots," said Poleshchuk. The editor in chief decided to resume the column "Scanning Old Pages," which takes a journey into the magazine's past.

At the request of readers, a six-volume supplement containing the best materials from the past 130 years will be published. For a long time *Vokrug sveta* has been cooperating with such popular Eastern European magazines as *Fantastyka* (Poland), *Kosmos* (Bulgaria), *Vilag ifjusag* (Hungary), and *Mlady svet* (Czechoslovakia). Business contacts are broadening today. Poleshchuk intends to establish contacts with Germany's *Geo* and America's *National Geographic* and to conduct a contest for readers with Spain's *Los aventureiros*, dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

Publisher Ivan Sytin wrote in the nineteenth century: "We hope that every issue of *Vokrug sveta* will be a welcome guest in any family." These words are still true 130 years later. ■

The Spirits of the Talysh Mountains

By Murad Adjiev
Photographs by Vladimir Semyonov

Talysh women at work. Above: A house in the village of Shaglaser.

The Talysh Mountains in southern Azerbaijan are named after a people who have lived here since time immemorial. Herodotus wrote about them. This ancient group of people existed until 1938, then vanished.

No, the Talysh people were not executed, were not exiled, did not suffer the tragic fate of many nationalities in the USSR under Stalinism; they were simply passed over during the census of that year. All the inhabitants of the Talysh Mountains were henceforth categorized as Azerbaijanis, according to the current policy of combining nations and ethnic groups. No one was bothered by the fact that Farsi, the root of the Talysh language, in no way resembles Turkish, a variation of which is spoken by Azerbaijanis, or that the Persian culture is completely different from that of the Azerbaijani.

In 1938 the language barrier was eliminated. How? People were simply forbidden to speak in their native Talysh language. Newspapers were shut down, school classes fell silent, books vanished. This was how the process of combining nations and ethnic groups was carried out in the USSR. The penalty for breaking this law was stiff. One could be sent to prison merely for speaking Talysh.

Fortunately those terrifying times passed, but the ethnic group, which numbered almost a million, remained nameless.

Very little has changed in Talysh villages over the past fifty years. People speak their native language from birth, so their troubles begin with school. Classes are still conducted in Azerbaijani, which, for many children, especially in the mountain villages, is an unknown language. Not a single school in the country teaches in Talysh.

Half the people in Talysh villages are unemployed; cheap manual labor is used everywhere; the social situation has become desperate; the region has virtually no industry; and the standard of living is among the lowest in the country.

Roads in the Talysh Mountains are unreliable. During the winter and following rainy season, even an off-road vehicle cannot drive over them. The rest of the time, an off-road vehicle is the only way to make the trip from village to village except for a horse, which still remains the most reliable form of travel.

We made our first stop in the settlement of Palikesh, a typical Talysh village, clinging to the mountain slopes. Fantastic beauty surrounds the place. Sometimes it seems as if you are looking at the world through an airplane window; you see mountains and forests, and far below you can hear the roar of a river rushing through rocky gorges.

A little girl named Aibonis led us to her home. Her name means "moon-faced." Her round face is not typical for this area. As a rule Talysh people have narrow faces with black, very expressive eyes.

The girl's father, Safar, greeted us majestically. Guests are traditionally well cared for in the mountains. A table is dragged out under a tree, along with chairs and cushions, and the ubiquitous tea is served. The women sit at a distance and examine the guests with undisguised curiosity. This is exactly how it was this time; after all, we were the first Russians to visit their home.

Safar considers himself a rich man. He has fourteen people in his family; a young bride had just joined the family. She is still just a girl but has already fastened her scarf in a particular way to hide half of her face. In the East women used to wear the veil everywhere except in the Talysh khanate. There they wore a triangular scarf whose ends covered the lower portion of the face. It was considered improper for a man to see the mouth and nose of an unknown woman.

The Talysh people live in the mountains and encounter civilization only rarely. They are virtually self-sufficient. One wife can't keep up with all of the work, even with all the help she gets from her children. For this reason, polygamy is acceptable.

The Talysh people have preserved their pre-Muslim beliefs. Although they are now Muslims, they still worship *pirs*. A *pir* is a humble holy site, such as a lone tree or a rock. Many problems are solved in the quiet holiness of a *pir*. For success in an important affair, a Talysh goes to a *pir*, usually a tree, and ties a colored thread to it. For forgiveness of a sin, he may take a rock to a *pir*. The larger the sin, the larger the rock. There are local *pirs* for everyday problems and famous ones that become the object of pilgrimages.

We learned that a small group of Charuzh lived in the village of Sarak and still speak in their own language. Our interpreter, Gilal Mamedov, managed an invitation for us to visit.

The Charuzh inhabit only seven villages in Azerbaijan. Their language more closely resembles Gilyak than Talysh. The Gilyak people live in Northern Iran on the coast of the Caspian Sea. They are all Muslims now, but they used to be fire worshipers.

The village of Sarak looks like any other village—it is full of the same neat white houses that you see all over this region. Many of the houses are mud.

Charuzh people used to wear a garment something like a vest, which is called an *orkhalug*, and they had a false pocket on their clothing that was sewn in a triangle. Women wore jewelry made of small coins on their faces. None of this exists anymore; everyone wears European clothing.

Members of another "ghost people," the Melezh, live in Sarak as well. Where did these people come from? When? No one knows, but probably, it was a very long time ago. The remains of their ancient city seem to be at least 2,000 years old. The Talysh Mountains are the home of at least two other ethnic groups, the Khaladji and the Derezha, about which nothing is known, either.

There have never been any archaeological digs in Sarak. Archaeologists have ignored the village, and not just the village, but an entire culture. We talked with one man who told us how he had been working in his garden one day and almost fell into a pit. A potter's studio had once stood there, and piles of pots stood in the hole.

The fate of these wares was sad; they were ground up by local people. How could they have any idea of their value? We saw a somber symbol in this story—other people have behaved in the same way with the fates of entire ethnic groups. ■

Facing page: A wall of preserved bathhouses in the village of Pensar (top).

TO MOSCOW FOR PRACTICE

Text and Photographs by Alexander Meshcheryakov

Liz Pascal, a twenty-three-year-old New Yorker, visiting Moscow (above) and practicing her violin (facing page).

Improvements in the political climate between the Soviet Union and the United States have led to a great increase in mutual contacts on many different levels. Official visits, meetings of scientists, sports figures, and members of the art and cultural worlds have become frequent, and these contacts have helped dispel the stereotypes that have existed for decades.

Exchanges of young people also play an important role in this process, inculcating in the politicians and business people of the future a spirit of friendship between the two countries.

Driven by this spirit, a number of American and Soviet universities, including the Herzen Institute in Leningrad, Moscow State University, and others, launched a program of student exchanges.

Liz Pascal, twenty-three, born in Georgia but a resident of New York, was with a group of ten American students and postgraduates that trav-

eled to Moscow and Leningrad in September 1990 to begin eight months of study at different colleges and universities. At the same time, ten Soviet students traveled to America to study at Rice, Harvard, and Duke.

"I began to study Russian in my first year at Columbia University, and I graduated in 1990," said Liz.

"Now it's difficult to say why I chose this language, since I studied French in high school. But when I started college in 1986, there was a great deal in the press and on TV about the political relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, about the beginning of perestroika and glasnost. I chose politics and international affairs as my major, so I decided to study Russian."

After two years of studying Russian in college and nine weeks in summer school, where the students spoke only Russian, Liz spent a semester in the department of Russian language for foreigners at Leningrad State University in the spring of 1989. So when she had to undergo an interview in Russian before traveling to the Soviet Union the following year, she did well.

"They selected ten of us—seven to study in Moscow and three in Leningrad. Our subjects ranged from ecology to Russian literature.

"I wanted to get some experience working at a well-known publication, and I was helped in this endeavor by the dean of the journalism department at Moscow State University, who recommended me to the newspaper *Moscow News*. I worked there for several months and at the weekly *Megapolis Express*. I wrote articles about the cooperative movement, did commercial digests, and interviewed American lawyers and activists of a religious group.

"The experience really taught me how much more complicated it is to get things done here. The problems ranged from getting in touch with people, because of the shortage of answering machines or secretaries, to trying to get some written information because there are very few computers available."

Pascal's family has considerable experience in education: Her father is a doctor, her mother is a university administrator, and her sister, who is two years older than Liz, is studying microbiology in graduate school.

Living in the USSR during a difficult and rather unsettled time, Pascal kept up with events. She went to several meetings and demonstrations, including the Democratic Russia demonstration on November 7, at which she was able to take some pictures of Boris Yeltsin. Besides Moscow and Leningrad, Pascal visited Kiev, capital of Ukraine; Tallinn; capital of Estonia; and Odessa, a port on the Black Sea.

Pascal has played the violin since childhood, and she took lessons in Moscow once a week. She also went frequently to classical music concerts at the Moscow Conservatory, to museums, and to the theater. Everything would have been just fine with her but for the worsening economic situation in the country.

"My stipend is 240 rubles a month," she explained. "Staying in the dorm, I mostly cook for myself. In the fall of 1990 you could still find butter, cheese, and milk in the stores, but there were lines. I bought fruit and vegetables at the farmers markets. But things gradually became worse and even more complicated and expensive after the monetary reform and price increases. I understand why a lot of people want to leave the USSR, especially the young ones; they don't have the opportunities to realize their potential here, and many of them are very talented. But I also have great respect for the people who want to stay and, despite the difficulties, make this country a better place to live. Either way, the important thing is to make the most of the opportunities you have and to work to achieve something."

Pascal also had a hard time fighting the infamous Soviet bureaucracy when she tried to invite her sister's family to come to Moscow. First she had to fill out a whole stack of papers, and then she learned she would have to wait a month for those papers to be approved by the authorities. The papers hadn't been approved even in six weeks, however, so her sister and brother-in-law were not able to visit while she was in Moscow.

I asked Pascal what she thought was the most important aspect of her visit.

"I think that such exchanges are very useful because Americans know very little about how the Soviets live and think. I wouldn't necessarily recommend to everyone that they stay here for eight months, but it is good to come for a while, to have conversations with people, and to see everything with one's own eyes.

"The most valuable aspect of my time here was the opportunity to learn what Soviet people think about different problems. This country has been closed to Americans for so long that it is time for us to start taking advantage of these new opportunities and trying to get beyond just politics. It is important to understand the culture and the people." ■

MENATEP

First Success of The Free Market

By Victor Akimov
Photographs by Alexei Boitsov

Late last year, MENATEP announced that it would issue a large number of shares, thus becoming the first stockholding company in the "first country of socialism." MENATEP is an acronym for Interbank Association for the Promotion of Scientific and Technical Progress. The demand for its stock was so great that MENATEP opened an additional sales office in the Manege, the largest exhibition space in Moscow. A long line of nervous people wait to buy shares outside. I asked some questions of the bystanders and learned that, in general, elderly people saw securities as a good way to save their money from inflation and young people, though wary of the stock, were willing to take the risk. Well-off people expected that the dividends would allow them to launch their own business. Many were naive enough to think that shares were an easy path to wealth. Some stood in the line only to sell their turn for fifty rubles.

A customer-friendly atmosphere prevailed in the Operations Room. Despite the line outside, MENATEP personnel answered all questions patiently and in detail. An official advised potential clients how to register the deal and what benefits would accrue from it.

In selling shares, the bank gives a client a loan for the purchase. For instance, a buyer of a 1,000-ruble share receives a 2,000-ruble loan for five years, which makes him an owner of three 1,000-ruble shares. Each share earns a guaranteed four per cent a year plus dividends. If you want to sell your shares, you may return them to the bank at the current price or sell them on the stock exchange.

Do shareholders have a say in the bank's activities? Certainly, with the exception of bank loan recipients—until the loan is returned, they do not have voting rights in the bank or its subsidiaries. These subsidiaries include the trading house Menatep, Menatepinvest Ltd., and the Commercial Bank for Research and Technology Innovation. Each of them has issued 10,000 shares, and the face value of a share is 1,000 rubles.

Potential buyers were checking out the people in line. There were two lines. One numbered 5,000

MENATEP is really the first public stock association because its shares, their number limited, go to its personnel and outsiders.

people, each willing to buy 1,000 to 10,000 rubles' worth of stock. Over 1,500 people in the other line each wanted to invest more than 10,000 rubles in MENATEP shares.

But on the day that I visited MENATEP, cash was unnecessary.

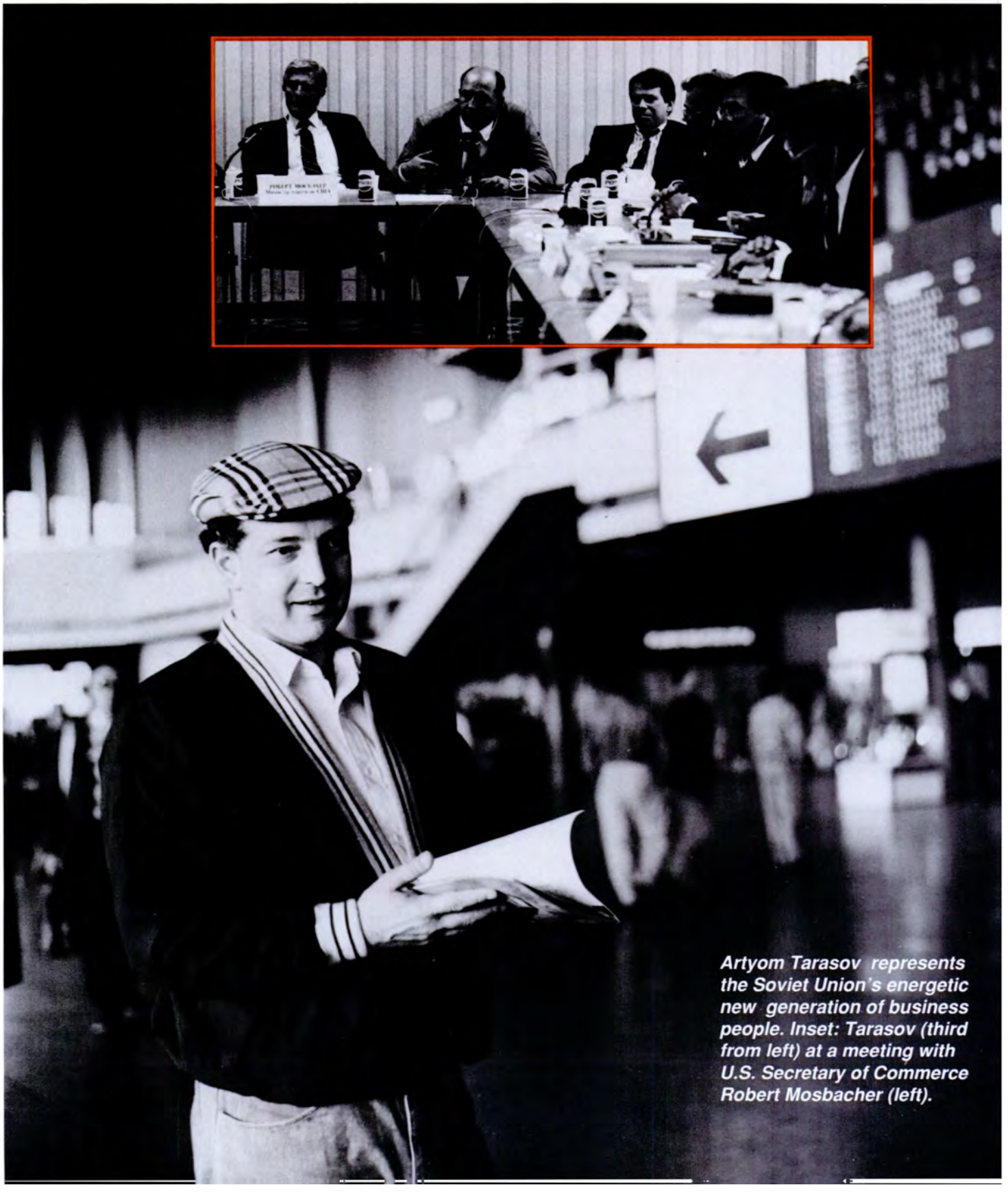
"We'd had no experience of selling stock for cash, so we decided we'd better start sales ahead of time to see how things would go," said Valentin Silin, deputy head of the loans division of the Commercial Bank. "In three busy days, we sold some two-and-a-half million rubles' worth of shares to fewer than 200 clients. The line of potential buyers was growing with each passing day. Such a large crowd of eager buyers assembled the night before the shares actually went on sale that we decided to sell stock by invitation and appointment. When the client came for the appointment, all he or she had to do was to sign the stock and pay for it."

"We want to buy stock and learn how to organize such operations. We are contemplating a similar joint-stock company," said Alexander Tombak, a member of the board of a cooperative concerned with automation of the oil industry.

MENATEP was established four years ago. From a modest investment center (statutory capital 500,000 rubles) of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, MENATEP has grown into a major company. MENATEP coordinates the activities of twenty commercial banks, two insurance companies, a trading house, and about thirty manufacturers, with aggregate production turnover of more than 100 million rubles, trade turnover of 300 million rubles, and fiscal turnover of 5 million rubles. This year MENATEP will have as many as 100 banks under its wing, and its aggregate fiscal turnover will reach nine million rubles. MENATEP has offices in Geneva, Paris, Budapest, and Gibraltar.

MENATEP expects to get a high price for its shares based on its record and institutional structure. The businesses under its control are available to assist their partners if another business gets in trouble; they undertake to do so when they join MENATEP. To protect its stock against most contingencies, MENATEP has insurance arrangements with a state bank. In other respects, however, the state banking system is not responsible for MENATEP or vice versa.

Artyom Tarasov's Business



Artyom Tarasov represents the Soviet Union's energetic new generation of business people. Inset: Tarasov (third from left) at a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher (left).

Artyom Tarasov is one of the stars of the nascent Soviet business community. He is director of the External Business Association, Istok; vice president of the Alliance of USSR United Cooperatives; and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. SOVIET LIFE correspondent Oleg Chechin interviewed Tarasov.

Q: The USSR has innumerable domestic political and economic problems, yet you remain an optimist. Why?
A: Because the USSR still has people who can effectively improve the nation's life. New thinking is inexorably making headway. For instance, the Russian Federation's Ministry for External Economic Relations is now headed by Victor Yaroshenko, a bright and competent man, who pins his hopes on entrepreneurs.

Q: Tell me about Istok.
A: Istok is an export-import middleman that caters to twenty-five major Soviet producers. These producers have empowered Istok to select the best commercial partners for them and to handle any international arrangement efficiently. Istok has little in common with similar organizations under the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR. Istok organizes the entire export and import process, beginning with production. Istok invests, say, in the manufacture of refinery products and receives finished goods, then transports the finished goods to a port by rail. To accomplish this, Istok has organized a transportation and forwarding system. It owns four trains and cargo-handling facilities in ports. It is building storage depots on the Black, White, and Baltic seas and has plans to build on the Caspian to accommodate shipments to Iran and Turkey.

Istok has many attractive proposals from the Far East. It has decided to participate with North Korea in modernizing a port on the border.

Q: What prompts clients to choose Istok rather than a similar operator under state control?
A: State exporters and importers are on fixed pay, and they don't care how things develop once a contract has been signed. Their pay is not related to their performance.

Istok is interested in maximizing the benefits its client derives from a deal. Istok's share is the percentage left after the supplier's bill has been paid. The more effective a deal, the larger it is, the higher the middleman's receipts. That is why Istok earns 30 to 40 per cent more foreign exchange and pays a third or less for imports than official foreign trade organizations.

Istok has a wide network of branches in other countries, including Canada, France, Germany, and Italy. Istok has commercial agents in the United States to solicit clients, to look after freight, and to charter foreign tonnage.

Istok doesn't resemble any Soviet state company. Setbacks are rare because it operates under a common plan with other parties to a deal, while state companies are often let down by departmental monopolism.

Soon we will be carrying freight by air, as well. We have decided to open an airline in competition with Aeroflot. An influential group of shareholders is helping us organize the new airline to carry both passengers and freight.

Q: From your point of view as a businessman, what are the most important innovations in the structure of the Russian Federation?
A: It is very important that Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev now has the Innovation Council under him. Membership on the Innovation Council is open to people under forty who pass certain psychological tests. Council members support projects in the business sector that is not owned by the state, unofficial management strategies, and innovative approaches.

The council has Russia's Innovation Center attached to it. I agreed to be the center's president because I realize the importance of this work. Istok will actively collaborate with the Innovation Center. Only 25 per cent of the center's share capital may be owned by state organizations, and the remaining 75 per cent belongs to Soviet and foreign entrepreneurs.

Q: The Innovation Center is just getting under way. How will it fare?
A: It will be an independent organization, strong, rich, and capable of implementing any worthwhile ideas without delay. We have collected some exciting ideas, among them a technique for increasing the recovery ratio of abandoned oil wells by 98 to 99 per cent! The method has been successfully tried on many deserted oil wells. No one else in the USSR showed any interest in this recovery booster or wanted to help the person who developed the plan, although many outside the Soviet Union would be happy to make his acquaintance. The Innovation Center has decided to support this novel technology, provided the center will be permitted to export the oil produced with its aid.

Q: You are a member of Young Presidents of the World. This international experience is important for the Innovation Center, isn't it?
A: I think so. With Jim Jameson, president of Young Presidents of the World, I have formed an organization, Course Industrial, that will guarantee Western economic investments in the USSR. We'll start with small projects that can be implemented in the short term. When we're successful, we can diversify. We hope to be a bridge for those interested in joint ventures.

The Innovation Center will also be a bridge that will serve the Russian Federation, and it will be a holding company that can finance any innovation likely to generate profits.

Q: They say you are contemplating a lot of activities for the Komi Republic, which is fostering active and diversified contacts with the United States.
A: We're outlining some plans, which cover, among other things, development of the Komi Republic as a democratic center of the Russian Federation. Yuri Spiridonov, recently elected head of the Komi parliament, is firm on his independent economic policy. Istok has not yet begun any major collaboration with him, however. First Spiridonov needs to proclaim his republic a free enterprise zone, as Anatoli Sobchak did with Leningrad. The sooner a free economy takes shape in Komi, the sooner we will be able to move in there. ■

Historians Should Be Kind

By Leonid Lipilin

Sigurd Shmidt

Sigurd Shmidt is a Moscow intellectual with old-fashioned manners and speech, and he is conservative in his daily routines. He lives not far from Arbat Street in downtown Moscow. Shmidt has a doctoral degree in history and is chairman of the Archaeographic Commission of the USSR Academy of Sciences, a professor at the Moscow Institute of Historian-Archivists, a member of the board of the Soviet Culture Foundation, and the author of numerous monographs and articles on the history of Russia.

Fortune has smiled on Shmidt. His mother was a well-educated woman, a connoisseur of world and Russian history and literature. His father, Otto Shmidt, was an outstanding scientist, a member of the Academy of Sciences, and a specialist in mathematics, astronomy, and geophysics. A famous Arctic researcher, he was very popular in the Soviet Union in the 1930s. Sigurd could easily have followed in his father's steps, but he wanted to be a trailblazer himself. His father's fame would have stood in his way. He decided to take up history.

Shmidt entered the history department of Moscow State University in 1939. For an independent report in a seminar conducted by historian Mikhail Tikhomirov, a future academician, Shmidt chose the topic "The Ideology of Autocracy in the Work of Ivan the Terrible."

Outstanding personalities in history attracted the interest of many people at that time. The air was filled with analogies, Shmidt recalls. Young people strove to find in the past the answers to questions concerning the present. Shmidt studied Alcibiades, the ancient Greek strategist, and in 1940 he wrote a paper on Machiavelli.

This was a period during which Stalin's rule was unquestioned. Those people whose views and ideas did not coincide with the official views were repressed.

Shmidt has returned several times to Ivan the Terrible (1530-1584). Ivan was the embodiment of arbitrariness and permissiveness, representing the triumph of military and civilian bureaucracy. During his rule also, any dissidence or initiative was punished. Did Shmidt look for the key to Stalin's system in sixteenth-century Russian history? He discovered part of the truth in his youth, and he has been looking for the whole truth ever since.

Shmidt is also concerned with the fate of intellectuals in the first years of Soviet power. He grew up among intellectuals, and he saw how tragic were the fates of some of them. Many educated and thoughtful people who could have emigrated preferred to stay, sacrificing their well-being because they were dedicated to the ideal of their country's cultural transformation. Of their own free will they doomed themselves to hardships in the name of protecting the nation's cultural heritage.

They did, however, manage to do something. No serious damage was done to cultural values before 1928. Shmidt found letters in which people described their efforts to collect documents, pictures, and other artifacts that had been left in abandoned homes. He found a letter from Academician Alexei Shakhmatov, which the famous philologist had written during the Civil War. "It turns out that the most difficult thing is not to chop wood but to carry it upstairs," wrote Shakhmatov. Shakhmatov nearly died of starvation because he had to divide his food ration among eight people—six women who had no means of subsistence, a former guard, and himself.

In the first years of Soviet power, the authorities realized that people like Shakhmatov were useful, and they appointed them curators of museums, archives, and libraries. Shakhmatov received food rations on Lenin's personal request.

When Stalin came to power, Shakhmatov and people like him became redundant.

Shmidt thinks that historians should be kind. This does not mean that they should justify everything, but they should realize that people are only human. He believes that the majority of past political leaders wanted a good life not only for themselves but for others. It is important to understand why they failed to achieve it. Finding this out is far more difficult and useful than passing irrevocable judgment.

Q: How would you evaluate Soviet historical studies?

A: I am glad that an interest in history has been growing, that different views are compared, and that documents that were once classified are now available. We are coming to realize that history cannot be objective if we don't know what foreign authors have written about Russian and Soviet history.

The good names of many politicians and cultural personalities have been restored, and works by historians and others have been allowed to surface. The contribution of these people and their work to world culture and to the development of social thought has thus become more obvious.

I am alarmed that some scientists are pushing to have an article or monograph of their own on a popular topic published as soon as possible without serious research and study. Sometimes independent analysis is replaced with a superfluous interpretation for transient considerations, for ideological reasons, or even for sensationalism.

Q: The Soviet Union is plagued by numerous economic and social difficulties. Will it find the strength for cultural development?

A: Most probably it will. But the restoration of culture and, in particular, spirituality at a certain level is an extremely difficult task. It will take the strenuous efforts of more than one generation of teachers and educators, not only in postsecondary schools but especially in secondary schools and in the family. A culture has a future if it has struck deep roots in the masses of people, not merely in the elite.

Q: Do you believe in the creative possibilities of intellectuals?

A: Democratic traditions are typical, in my opinion, of our Russian intelligentsia. Russian intellectuals have always felt an obligation to awaken others to cultural and moral ideals. They are industrious and have deep respect for working people and their labor. This predetermines that they will have a responsible attitude toward any cause. Unfortunately, some Russian intellectuals merely talk a lot. Claiming that

Continued on page 58

KARGOPOL

By Alexander Tropkin
Photographs by Alexander Lyskin

Kargopol, a small old town in the north of European Russia, is interesting for its customs and the scenery and wildlife around it. One of its nineteenth-century residents, Alexander Baranov, became the first governor of Russian America.

Kargopol is older than Moscow and many other renowned Russian cities. Its precise birthdate is unknown; historians connect it with a twelfth-century prince, Vyacheslav of Belozersk, and an expedition he led against the Chud, a local Ugrian tribe. An 1146 chronicle says: "The prince found a field well suited for his warriors' rest, named it Kargin Field and was determined to have his new residence there. Russians built a fortress in that field."

The first walls of the Kargopol fortress were made of solid fir logs. They protected the community from enemies but not from fires, so later the logs were replaced by limestone slabs.

Alexander Baranov, a native of Kargopol, was the governor of the Russian settlements in America. Right: The fifteenth-century Church of the Annunciation. Bottom right: The Baranov House.

Kargopol is a town of many old churches.

A landscape typical of northern Russia.

White limestone was a lasting and beautiful material for churches. The town had forty churches in the eighteenth century, all magnificent.

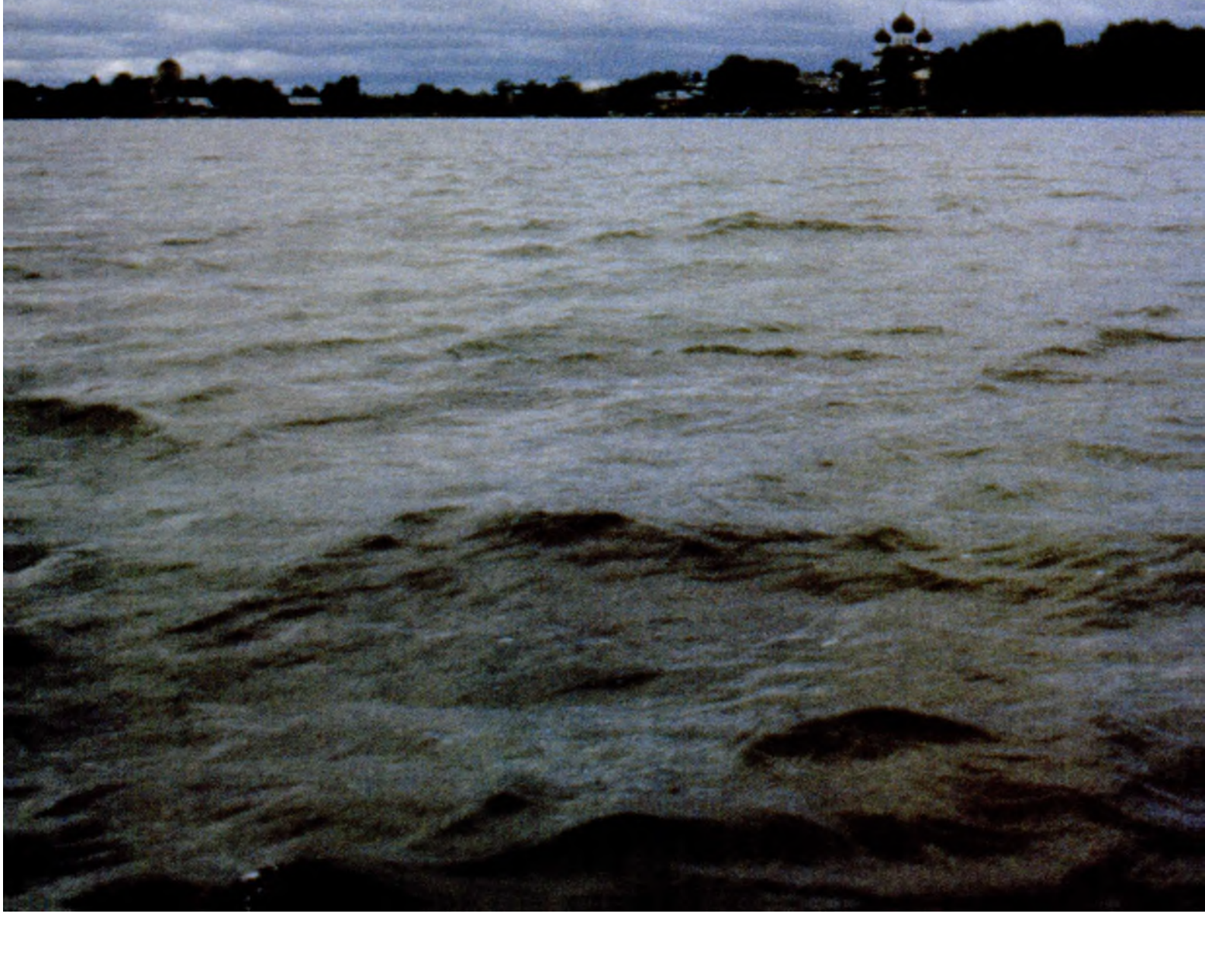
A wooden building on Embankment Street is known as the Baranov House. It is not the house in which Alexander Baranov was born in 1746, but it is built on the site where his parents' house had been. Alexander was baptized in the nearby Church of the Annunciation.

Baranov, like many an enterprising Russian northerner, was a merchant and made his first commercial expeditions down the Onega River to the cold White Sea. Later he traveled to Arkhangelsk, Vologda, St. Petersburg, and Moscow by rowboat.

The stories of Captain Cook's voyages were Baranov's favorite reading when he was an adolescent dreaming of sailing expeditions. At that time, daring merchants from Kargopol, Totma, Veliki Ustyug, and other prosperous northern towns constantly plied the Arctic waters. Many planned seal hunting expeditions in the northeast. As soon as they heard of the promised land across the Bering Strait, they risked the trip. Many died in the ocean storms. The survivors suffered from scurvy and spent cold winters in damp dugouts. When they came home years later, rich from seal and beaver pelts they had sold on their way back, their fellow townspeople considered the adventurers heroes.

The Pacific merchants contributed huge sums of money to the building of new churches, opulently decorated structures. The Church of the Nativity of Our Lady, consecrated in 1678, has all its windows framed in decorative bands, none the same. The Cathedral of John the Baptist, 1754, is topped with several domes of unconventional shapes. The other Kargopol churches are no less impressive.

Kargopol is being renovated through a program inspired by the memory of Russian America. Crafts that were dying out have received a new lease on life. Kargopol clay toys, once famous, are emerging on the world market. The town is working on a new, dynamic image. ■



Natalya Satz

Grande Dame of Children's Theater

By Victor Karasin
Photographs by
Diane Stebbins

They call her the "mother of children's theater." In fact she is considerably more than that; she is a legend.

In July 1986 SOVIET LIFE introduced "The First and Only One in the World," the Children's Music Theater in Moscow. At that time the theater was making a tour of the United States. Natalya Satz founded the first permanent theater for children, the Children's Theater of the Moscow Soviet, in 1918 with the goal of creating an art that was directly addressed to children. Since that time she has inspired several hundred creative people, not only in the Soviet Union but in other countries all over the world, to open theaters especially for children. In 1964 she became the head of the Moscow Children's Music Theater. During her long career she has also written plays for children and librettos for children's operas and ballets.

Now she is almost eighty-eight-years-old and still working as the art director at the first children's music theater in Moscow. She arrived in Washington at the end of May—just two days after returning to Moscow with her theater from a tour in South Korea. Before that they had been touring Japan.

Natalya Satz's visit to Washington was made possible by Esther Coopersmith, a prominent public figure in Washington, who became acquainted with Satz a few years ago in Moscow. This latest trip was planned to coincide with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev.

Soviet Ambassador Victor Komplektov enjoys a moment with Esther Coopersmith at a reception at the Soviet Embassy.

Natalya Satz; Ann Lewin, director of Washington's Capital Children's Museum; Mrs. Komplektov, the ambassador's wife; and Esther Coopersmith.

During the first week of June Satz met dozens and dozens of people, including such long-time friends as Mstislav Rostropovich, though most of the people she met were unfamiliar to her. She never forgets the important people she meets. Important to her means important to the children. Important for their future and for their education.

Probably the most interesting event of that week took place on the evening of June 3 in the Red Hall of the Soviet Embassy, where she narrated Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* for an audience of several dozen Soviet and ☞

***Introducing* Peter and the Wolf.**

An accomplished musician, Natalya Satz entertained embassy guests with a polka written by her father, the composer Ilya Satz, and dedicated to Konstantin Stanislavsky, one of the greatest figures in Soviet theater.

American guests. She read it in English to a piano accompaniment played by Alexander Satz, her cousin. But it could also have been performed in German, French, Italian, Japanese, and of, course, in Russian and many other languages. *Peter and the Wolf* and Natalya Satz's work are universal classics.

Prokofiev wrote his famous symphonic fairy tale for children in 1936 and dedicated it to Natalya Satz, who requested that he write it. They had been friends for a long time.

Peter and the Wolf is a tale about musical instruments. The idea of it originally was to introduce some of the orchestra instruments to children. That night at the embassy the only instruments available were piano and voice. But in the voice of Natalya Satz you could hear the flute (playing the role of the Bird), the oboe (the Duck), the clarinet (the Cat), the bassoon (Peter's Grandfather), the French Horn (the Wolf), the drum (the Hunter's shots), and the whole orchestra (Peter). And in the audience you could see that children of all ages and their parents and grandparents were listening to the play with the same interest and rapt attention. A wave of applause signaled the end.

It is impossible to argue with Esther Coopersmith when she says: "The Children's Music Theater is the most incredible theater in the world, and Natalya Satz is among the most incredible women in the world."

I asked Natalya Satz what prompted her to start the theater. "I believe that it's impossible to bring up a child without music," she answered. Another irrefutable statement. ■

BUSINESS BRIEFS

business digest

PARIS AIR SHOW SENSATION

The international air exhibits in Paris in the middle of June attract the attention not only of aircraft experts but also of amateurs interested in all aspects of aviation technology. News from the shows tend to be either tragic or sensational. This year's number-one sensation was the announcement that engines made by the American company Pratt & Whitney will be installed on the new Soviet long-distance passenger airliner, the IL-96MO.

The U.S. Government's granting of a license to the American company to deliver its engines to the USSR provided the go-ahead for two aviation firms to sign a so-called basic understanding on collaboration.

According to the understanding, Pratt & Whitney will donate the first five engines to the Ilyushin firm so that it can begin work without delay on its 375-seat airliner. When it is completed, the IL-96MO will be able to make nonstop flights of up to 13,000 kilometers.

TWO-STORY AMERICA ON MOSCOW STREETS

Robert Ury, owner of the American construction firm Rotech, has become a regular visitor to Moscow. He is interested in building subdivisions of individual cottages in the Soviet capital. With money he has obtained on credit from an American export-import bank and with the help of a large Soviet construction firm, Ury is planning to put up several small-scale housing communities within Moscow's city limits. One plan calls for constructing 2,000 new single-family homes; a second, for 5,000. Both communities include all services.

Rotech's basic model is for two-story homes with two or three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a garage. The American businessman is planning to sign a contract in early July with the USSR Foreign Economic Bank, which will act as the Soviet guarantor for the transaction. If everything goes according to schedule, the first subdivision will be ready for occupancy in twelve months.

FOREIGN FIRMS TO BANK WITH BELARUS

At the beginning of June the Belarus Commercial Bank in Minsk became the first bank in the republic to register current ruble accounts for foreign firms.

Observers think that this is in concert with the Byelorussian parliament's idea on providing foreign firms with the possibility of participating in hard-currency auctions, in other words, with an opportunity to transfer ruble profits into foreign currency.

According to official sources, the Belarus bank registered current ruble accounts for six Western firms, including two American companies—Stanford Group, Inc., and Drager Brothers Popcorn.

Foreign clients continue to apply for registration, and there's every reason to believe that foreign investment in the Byelorussian market will grow. This trend attracts special interest in light of the official announcement that the government has decided to allow foreign firms to participate in the privatization of enterprises and to take part in hard-currency auctions, with the right to purchase foreign currency for rubles.

AMERICAN STORE IN SOVIET PACIFIC

The Soviet-American joint venture Khabarovsk-Pacific has opened a store in the Soviet Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk. Various American, Canadian, South Korean, and Chinese products are available there for rubles.

According to the Soviet and American partners of the joint venture, the American side purchases the store's inventory for dollars. The store sells its merchandise for rubles, which are then invested in dollars. The hard currency that is received goes toward the purchase of new goods, and so forth.

The store, which just recently opened, netted about 300,000 rubles in its first week of operation. The directors predict that their dealings will be successful and that toward the middle of the summer they will be buying their next batch of inventory, worth half a million dollars.

Soviet representative Oleg Kuznetsov and his American counterpart, Orson Swindle, intend to open a similar store in September in Vladivostok, a large Soviet Pacific port.

According to Swindle, 70 per cent of the firm's ruble profits will be put toward the purchase of Soviet cement, asphalt, and ferroconcrete telegraph poles for delivery to countries in the Asian Pacific region.

IBM OPENS MOSCOW BRANCH

The American computer giant, IBM, has officially opened an office in Moscow entirely at its own expense. According to a high-placed representative of the corporation, IBM is prepared to participate actively in the development of Soviet society and to serve Soviet customers for rubles, especially in the field of software and in training people to use the firm's sophisticated computer technology.

The company already conducts a lot of business with the USSR State Committee for Education, committing itself to supplying 1,100 schools with 13,000 computers, with the possibility of increasing its deliveries to 40,000.

A plan for a computerized reservations system for the Soviet airline Aeroflot is also being studied.

In response to a question about relations with rivals in the USSR, a company representative said that IBM has sufficient experience in competitive conditions and in the Soviet Union it intends to occupy nothing less than a top spot.

SOVIET SCRIPTS FOR AMERICAN PRODUCERS

By Dmitri Marchenkov

A Soviet-American film award, established by Ted Hartley and Dina Merrill, encourages Soviet scriptwriters to produce films that will be viable in the world market. Judges, left to right: Dave Williamson, Hartley, George Kirgo, and Merrill. Inset: The award.

In January 1988, a group of Hollywood filmmakers arrived in Moscow to discuss with their Soviet counterparts the possibility of jointly producing and distributing films. Many of the Hollywood representatives repeated assurances that Soviet films were very good indeed, but a British producer, David Puttnam, who works in Hollywood, expressed the delegation's common view when he said: "I'm going to give it to you straight. Your films are never going to make it in the West." A hush fell upon the hall. The Soviet representatives sat in depressed silence.

This particular episode made Ted Hartley, president and chairman of RKO/Pavilion, who was among the guests, start searching for ways of establishing cooperation with Soviet filmmakers. After talks with film director Nikita Mikhalkov, Hartley concluded an agreement promising help in introducing Soviet films to the American and world markets.

That deal marked the beginning of a project, which in 1989 evolved into a contest of Soviet scripts for American filmmakers. The American-Soviet Film Initiative (ASK), set up at that time with Mikhalkov as one of its founders, took charge of organizational matters, which included handling applications, selecting scripts, translating them into English, and, finally, arranging the awards ceremony. The other Soviet sponsor is the Screenwriters Guild of the USSR.

The American side of the competition was organized by the Foundation of Artists, represented by RKO/Pavilion Communications, Inc., led by Ted Hartley and his wife and business partner, Dina Merrill.

Hartley first met actress Dina Merrill thirty years ago. After graduating from Harvard Business School, he worked with several investment banks in New York. In the early 1970s he had made his film debut and starred in a number of films before returning to his business career in the late 1970s. Meanwhile, Merrill had appeared in more than a hundred TV films and starred in twenty-two motion pictures.

They met again in 1986. Hartley was the managing and artistic director of the American Theater Company in Aspen, Colorado, producing and directing plays for Colorado audiences; Merrill was a founder of Greenroom Enterprises Company. They married and united their companies, creating Pavilion Communications (now renamed Foundation of Artists). RKO/Pavilion, which is part of this corporation, and the Writers Guild of America/West are the American sponsors of the competition, whose winners will be awarded the Hartley-Merrill prize.

The first script competition was held in 1989-90. "Its chief goal was to draw the attention of the world community to Soviet scriptwriters," says the competition's director, Tatyana Nazarova. "At the same time it teaches our authors to work by world standards, which, unfortunately, does not rule out a certain adherence to clichés. Naturally, the theme is international or Soviet-American. Many of the entries are so alike, however—for instance, a Soviet-American love affair, or participation in joint combat operations on earth or in outer space—that we have to dismiss them right away. We select the ones that combine American professionalism and brilliant technique with deep emotional content typical of the Soviet cinema. This, in my opinion, is the chief goal of the competition."

"The competition has two stages," says editor Irada Ismailova. "In the first stage, ASK collects applications, which briefly outline the idea of the script. For better objectivity, all of the applications were anonymous and were registered under a code selected by the author. A group of experts picked the best twenty-five from about 7,000 applications.

"You can imagine what an enormous amount of work we have to do. Now we are holding the second competition of this kind. We are proposing that the initial selection be done by the local cinematographers unions, but the ASK leaders have not yet supported this idea.

"Then the selected applications are translated into English and sent to America, where they are read by an international jury. The five winners of this first stage receive a prize of 500 dollars and honorary diplomas. At the second stage the five authors write scripts, and the international jury selects the best script, whose author receives the Hartley-Merrill prize, the winner's diploma, and a prize of 10,000 dollars. The winner also gets a tour of Robert Redford's Sundance Institute filmmakers laboratory in Utah, where the screenplay is developed. The American sponsors also search for an American producer to screen the script."

The international jury, headed by Hartley and Merrill, includes Robert Redford; British producer David Puttnam; Italian director Lina Wertmuller; Soviet director Nikita Mikhalkov; George Kirgo, president of the Writers Guild of America/West; Eduard Akopov, president of the Screenwriters Guild of the USSR; David Williamson, president of the Writers Guild of Australia; and Soviet screenwriter Rustam Ibraghimbekov.

Last year the finalists were Vadim Letov (*Keelover*), Dmitri Ivanov and Alexander Trifonov (*A Rainy Weekend in Moscow*), Pavel Chukhrai (*Mirage*), Vera and Andrei Samsonov (*Order: Remove Gorbachev*), and Irakli Kvirikadze, whose screenplay *American Whore* won the contest.

Not everything goes smoothly, however. Although the second contest is under way, the two sides have not yet concluded any agreement because of differences over the distribution of the box office. The contest itself is a noncommercial project and does not bring in any profit. Most of the costs are absorbed by ASK, which can hardly be described as rich. The agreement also must take into account the interests of the writer, who is supposed to receive a share of the film's box office.

Though some details still need to be worked out, nothing seems to threaten the contest: Its importance is obvious, and its popularity is growing in the Soviet Union. "This award, which is now famous in the Soviet Union, brings together many strata of Soviet professional and creative communities," says Hartley, "and encourages a national interest in motion-picture writing that is not just American or Soviet, but global. We, together with the members of the international jury, are building an annual literary and motion-picture event that has already brought in a phenomenal, unprecedented response from the Soviet creative community. That's the happy reality of the Hartley-Merrill dream."

Vitus Bering
Russian-America Pioneer

By Leonid Repin

Vitus Bering commanded the second Kamchatka expedition, during which Alaska was discovered. Above: Bering's ships in the harbor at Petropavlovsk before setting sail. Inset: Travel diary kept by Alexei Chirikov during the historic voyage.

When we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Russian America, we cannot forget its heroes, Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov, who discovered Alaska and a number of islands of the Aleutian Archipelago.

In the early eighteenth century there were many uncharted places on maps, and these areas fascinated Czar Peter the Great. Some maps, for instance, showed Siberia with the sea on the northeast; others had it linked to another continent. No scientist could say for sure whether there was a strait in the east or not.

Eventually Peter issued an order: "Construct one or two boats in Kamchatka. Sail the boats along the land that stretches north. This land is apparently part of America, since one cannot see the end of it."

This order generated a geographical expedition. Peter put Captain Vitus Bering in charge, with Martyn Shpanberg as first mate and Chirikov as second mate.

Peter died in January 1725, five weeks after issuing the order, so he never learned whether America and Asia were connected.

Vitus Bering was born in 1681 in Denmark, a country that owed its living to the sea. Bering learned sailing early. By the time he was twenty-two, he had entered the Russian service and been to many countries, including East India. Bering was a good sailor and had displayed courage fighting in the Baltic Sea during the Northern War between Russia and Sweden.

The great sea expedition had to cross Russia and reach the Pacific Ocean by sledge. Part of the sledge train reached Okhotsk after enduring two years of terrible conditions in Siberia. There had been no road to speak of. The travelers had to cross forests, mountains, and marshes. People died of hunger. Members of Shpanberg's crew harnessed themselves to a sledge because their horses had died.

In the spring they began to build a vessel in Okhotsk, again encountering great difficulties. There were no nails, resin, or hemp. Some members of the crew ran away, and the food supplies dwindled. Although Bering was doing his best, they made no progress. In the summer of 1727 they launched a single-masted sailing ship. Bering called it *Fortune* to attract good luck.

Late in August the *Fortune* and another dilapidated vessel, which had been obtained by chance in Okhotsk and patched up in a hurry, set sail for the western coast of Kamchatka. Later the expedition crossed the peninsula and built a new ship, called *St. Gabriel*, on its eastern coast. In the summer of 1728 the explorers sailed off in the *St. Gabriel* in search of America.

When the boats reached the shores of Chukotka, Bering invited both mates to his cabin for a consultation. On the basis of evidence provided by Chukchi whom he had met near the shore, Bering declared that Chukotka was separated from America by the sea and that therefore their mission was accomplished. Yet he had no proof, and he was not sure.

Shpanberg suggested that they go east for another two days and then return to Kamchatka and find a harbor for wintering. Only Chirikov suggested moving north along the coast. Bering decided to return.

In the summer of 1729, Bering decided to check the stories of local residents, who maintained that on clear days they could see land across the sea. Additional evidence of land to the east was not hard to find. In the spring flocks of birds flew from the east. Ice floes with charred marks on them were often washed ashore, indicating that fires had been made on them. The sea cast ashore pine and fir trees; land must have been nearby.

Bering had bad luck, however. After sailing about 120 miles east, his ship had to stop because the wind died and thick fog set in. Prudence again prevailed, and, after a month of wandering, Bering turned back to Okhotsk.

Bering returned to St. Petersburg in 1730, five years after he had left it. He immediately showered the Admiralty Board with reports describing the expedition, focusing on its difficulties. After studying Bering's reports and the officers' diaries, the board concluded that the expedition's premature return was a mistake. They decided that Bering had not proved the existence of an open strait and agreed to continue the search.

The new expedition was to mark the northern and northeastern Russian border on the map and find a way from Kamchatka to America and from Okhotsk to Japan. Bering had two packet boats built in Okhotsk. On June 4, 1741, Bering and Chirikov set sail in them toward the American coast.

The expedition discovered the Aleutian and Commander Islands, a large part of the northwestern coast of America, and several islands along the coast of the New World.

On June 20, 1741, during a storm, the *St. Peter*, navigated by Bering, and the *St. Paul*, navigated by Chirikov, were separated, never to meet again.

Not far from the Aleutian Islands Bering's ship was caught in a violent storm. Water and food were running out. Twelve sailors died of scurvy; another thirty-four were at death's door. The remaining eight sailors somehow managed to sail the ship. Eventually, on November 5, 1741, they approached land. They thought that it was Kamchatka, but it proved to be an island. The ship ran aground on the rocks.

The sailors dug holes in the sand and covered them with sails to make shelters. The sick commander was carried on a stretcher to one of the dugouts, where he lay for a month dying a slow and painful death.

Bering died on December 8, 1741. The island where he died was named after him. Both islands that he discovered, Medny and Bering, were named Commander Islands in his honor.

Chirikov also suffered greatly after the ships were separated. He discovered several islands and gave the first description of the northwest coast of America. He tried to look for Bering, but his crew was exhausted, and Chirikov himself came down with scurvy. He gave up the search and passed by the Commander Islands, unaware that his commander was lying on an island nearby.

Chirikov returned to Kamchatka. He eventually sent a letter to the empress from Yeniseisk, Siberia, saying that he was ill and could not sail anymore and asking to be transferred to St. Petersburg to do a job within his powers. He was transferred, appointed trustee of nautical schools, and promoted to captain commander. But he was too weak to serve any longer. Much younger than Bering, he outlived him by only seven years.

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Coming and Going in the USSR

Continued from page 14

out during the discussion of the draft law at a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. At first, the Council of the Union voted for the approval of this law and the Council of Nationalities voted against it. In the second voting the two houses reversed their positions. It was only at the end of these marathon debates that the required number of votes was gathered at the cost of a postponement of its enactment: We first suggested January 1, 1992, then July 1, 1992, but finally settled for January 1, 1993. It must be admitted, however, that we won a considerable concession, too: a stage-by-stage enactment of the law, whereby many of its articles will come into effect at once. Most important of all, the old regulations, with their absurd restrictions, have been abolished.

An important role was played by Mikhail Gorbachev, who gave his support to the draft law from an early stage. At one time he yielded to the pressure from certain high-placed officials with their scary predictions that at least eight million of the country's best specialists would quit. Who is going to carry through perestroika? Gorbachev must have asked himself this question.

We refuted these figures by carrying out a serious sociological survey. Emigration has now stabilized at the level of 0.5 million people a year, and there are no grounds for expecting rapid growth in this rate, especially bearing in mind the restrictions and limitations on immigration in the West. Also important was the active support given to the law by the chairman of the Council of the Union, Ivan Laptev.

The new law restores the natural and inalienable right of a person to live, work, and travel in any country of our big world. This right existed in Russia before the October 1917 Revolution, but it was enjoyed by no more than four million people, mostly aristocrats and members of the bourgeoisie, though not only them. Let us not forget that the czarist regime allowed even Lenin and other revolutionaries to emigrate.

The new exit and entry law sets in place a judicial procedure for appeals against refusals of exit visas....

Some of the deputies claimed that their constituents were showing no interest in the adoption of this law and were even opposed to it. Here, though, are the results of our public opinion survey. An absolute majority of those surveyed, 98.4 percent, believe that the adoption of the law is a mandatory condition for the creation of an open democratic society.

What are the benefits from the adoption of this law not only for each individual but also for society at large? This question was repeatedly asked during the hearings. First of all, the United States would grant the USSR most-favored-nation status, associated with the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which made the granting of this status conditional on freedom of emigration.

Second, within the next few years our banks will get an infusion of hard currency. Yugoslavia, Turkey, and China, for example, get three to five billion dollars a year from the export of manpower. Yugoslavia has thus accumulated about ten billion dollars in banks, which has allowed it to make the transition to a convertible currency.

Third, the flow of capital and investments into our country would increase. It has sharply decreased recently because of apprehensions in the West that our reforms might stall. Western business people and banks are firmly insisting: first reforms, then credit. Otherwise there is no guarantee that the loaned money will not be squandered once again.

Fourth, the new law would encourage an invaluable influx of knowledge and experience, technological, scientific, agricultural, managerial, and so on, without which we will never have modern workers in this country.

On the whole the new law does meet international standards, although some restrictions have regrettably found their way in. The length of time during which a foreign passport may be denied to someone who is in possession of official secrets has been set at five years, and it can be extended indefinitely by a special commission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

This is not right, however. There must be a limit here, too. Equally questionable are the restrictions on the exit of people against whom suits have been instituted in court and the prohibitions against young men of draft age.

On the positive side, the law sets in place a judicial procedure for appeals against refusals of exit visas for any of these reasons.

To sum up, let me repeat what I said during the session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR: "By adopting this law, you are continuing the cause of Peter the Great, who opened up a window into Europe, and are putting an end to the humiliating isolation of our people from the rest of the modern world." ■

THE GARMAYEV PHENOMENON

By Valeri Demin
Photographs by Victor Chernov

At camps run by Anatoli Garmayev people learn to integrate the life of the spirit and the life of nature in a scientific and religious framework.

Once Anatoli Garmayev's educational lectures are issued on tape in the Soviet Union and abroad, Garmayev will be revered by thousands of people. His followers are sure of this. Garmayev has taped the discourses over the past twenty years.

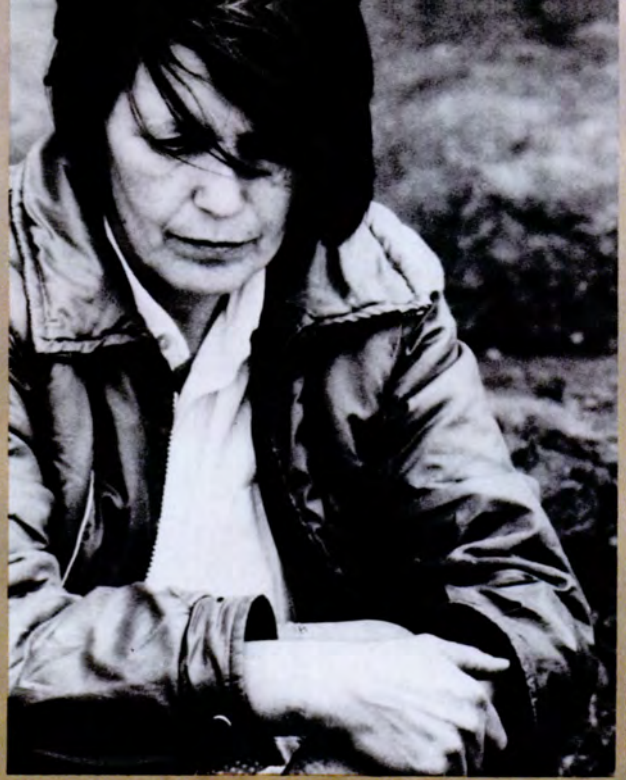
Garmayev, a Buryat whose stature and behavior give him the appearance of a modest, well-bred teenager (despite his actual age of forty-two), has become one of the most interesting figures in our revitalized Orthodox culture. He was tempered during what we now call the period of stagnation, though Garmayev himself does not see it that way. He believes that one always has a duty to resist the times because only the eternal is worthwhile. "Isn't it just as easy today as it was previously to get caught up in the whirl of transitory concerns and fall victim to vanity and conformism?" he says.

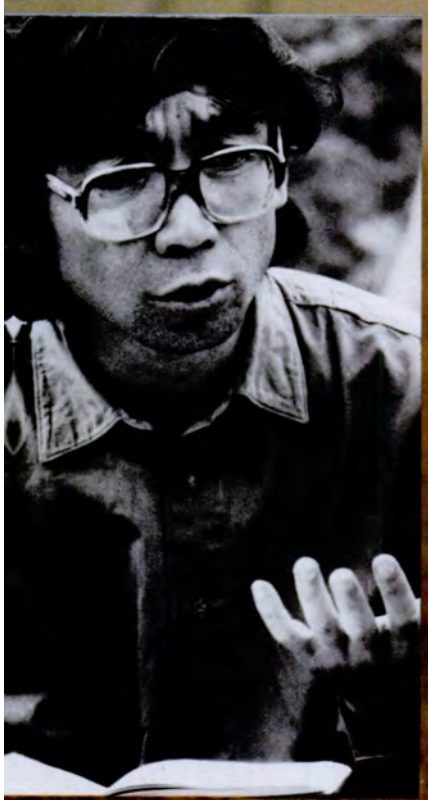
When he smiles, his oriental eyes give nothing away. He looks at me with quiet attention, and I feel slightly uncomfortable under his gaze. There is a pause. That drawn-out Garmayev pause, which he taught us to fill with inner prayer.

I first learned about Garmayev in the early 1970s, when I read about his work in the newspaper *Literaturnaya gazeta*. The article I read was about a documentary television film, one of a series about outstanding contemporary educators. The film, censored at the last moment, did not go on the air on schedule but was finally shown after journalists launched a campaign in support of it. The reasons for its prohibition were obvious: The program told the story of a young teacher whose charisma, intelligence, and moral values won the love of his students and the hatred of the bigoted bureaucratic machine of public education. The teacher was driven out of the school on the grounds that he was religious.

The brilliant reviews of the film in the press only made things worse for Garmayev. He was out of work for several months and finally found a miserably paid teaching appointment in a housing development. He twice lost even this modest employment. The last dismissal was accompanied by a prohibition on teaching, allegedly for immoral conduct: Children at the fam-

Garmayev (below) encourages a routine that begins and ends each day with prayer. Study sessions focus on ethical questions and on social issues such as married life.





ily summer camp he had started were wearing crosses. The shocked authorities investigated and found that their suspicions were justified; the camp really was run along religious lines.

The camp was closed, and the teacher who had dared to teach children eternal moral values became a librarian at the Theological Academy.

But life has changed rapidly in the Soviet Union. Just three years later, Garmayev was head of the Research and Practice Laboratory of Moral Psychology and Pedagogics at the Innovative Association of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The summer camp he organized last year was openly religious. It was located near Ryazan, beneath the wall of the revitalized Monastery of St. John the Theologian. Life there was strictly regimented, with common prayers, days of fasting, and confession and communion in the monastery church for those who had been baptized. Everyone took part in the work to restore the monastery buildings. Garmayev had several camps going on in different locations in the country that summer.

"You think nothing has changed?" I asked Garmayev. "But remember that summer camp on the Volga, where worshipers had to hide in the bushes to read Scripture? Everyone was in mortal fear of some outsider spying on them. When was that? Five years ago!"

Adults and children in national costumes filed up the slope toward the monastery. On top of the hill people were reading the morning canon.

Garmayev did not hurry with his answer. Then he said quietly: "The conditions of the task have changed, but the task remains the same."

"You mean the task of seeing ourselves as we really are? Is that it?"

He did not answer. Possibly he felt that I had succumbed to the temptation of demonstrating my knowledge of his Cycle. Perhaps his silence was meant to show me the vanity of my desire, my urge to make a good impression on my former teacher.

Five years ago it took a lot of effort to persuade my wife to spend our vacation with our children at Garmayev's camp on the Volga. It's hard to say what scared my wife most, the prospect of a month in a tent, the strangeness of the preparations for camp (ev-

eryone had to make a Russian national costume), or the semilegal status of our existence, with prayers in the bushes and the unwanted attention of the authorities. But today my wife takes pleasure in remembering that month on the Volga, the sleepless nights when the rain leaked through our tent and the mosquitoes tormented us with special zeal, when clan councils that were full of sincerity and forgiveness sometimes lasted into the wee hours. And we will not forget the fear we felt when Garmayev ordered the children to be sent to an island to spend a week without adults. Our younger daughter was only five then, and we had never let her out of our sight!

My wife remembers the ceremony at which we met the children again after the week had come to an end; the ring dances in the woods; the seemingly absurd occupation of weaving shoes and baskets; the discourses on Russian history in the Clan Council Clearing that were held every evening; the day of remembrance for the first Russian saints, the assassinated Princes Boris and Gleb. And she also remembers the daily twenty minutes of silence, when everyone moved noiselessly and no one dared speak, even in a whisper.

Could anyone remember all that other than as a feast?

Those who have taken part in such a feast together become kin, and every meeting of Garmayevites, even those who have lost contact with their teacher and his Cycle and returned to their daily routines, is a joyful event because it reminds them of the feast they enjoyed together, a feast that is really movable after all.

There was a time when Garmayev's camps were like native American camps, where both adults and children went Indian for four weeks. To the best of their knowledge, they tried to imitate the way of life, clothes, ritual, dancing, and tests of will of the Indians. After that there were Russian camps, where the guests tried to live the life of Old Russia, which for Soviet citizens is even less familiar than the life of American Indians. It was all a game that united children and adults, a game that, according to Garmayev,

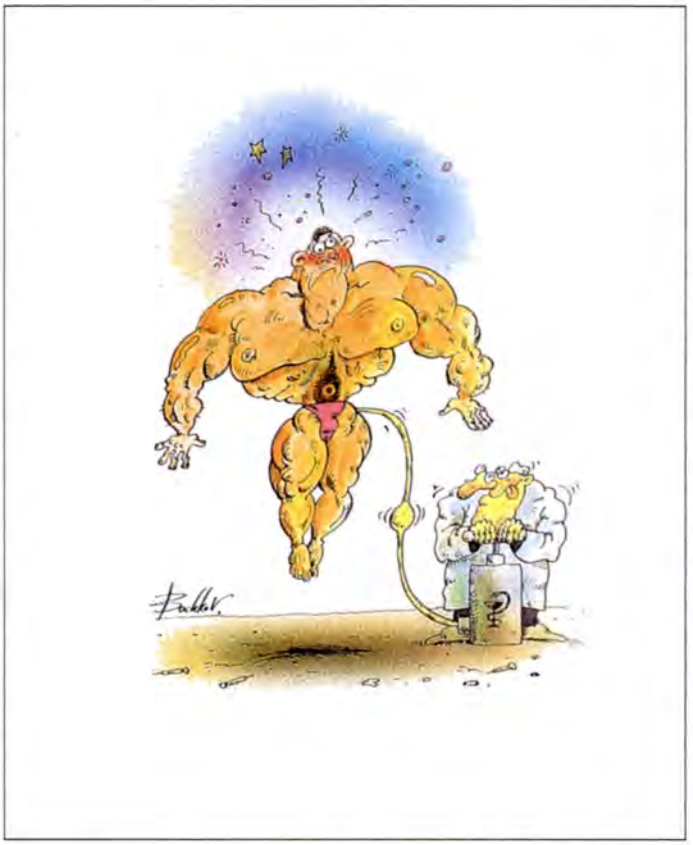
A study group meets in a

that the atmosphere of mystery and secrecy engenders mistrust and suspicion. A drug-control system existed in the past too; those found guilty of using prohibited drugs were punished, and appropriate measures were adopted, but few people knew about this. This produced the impression that the central authorities 'suppressed' everything and tacitly encouraged drug use. Today the door of our antidrug laboratory is open. The effectively operating computer system makes it impossible to distort or 'lose' the results of any test."

Some leading Soviet athletes use banned substances in pursuit of success at all costs, especially because the value of victory, including its monetary value, has been growing with each passing year. Stimulants help improve the results temporarily, though practice shows that it is impossible to become a champion only through the use of tablets or injections. It would be naive to think that outstanding performances in sports are a result of miracle-making elixirs. No, talent, grueling training, and many other factors, including high living standards, are crucial to success in sports.

In Gromyko's view, drugs act as an artificial additive. Some of them, for instance, anabolic steroids, are used in training, others (stimulants)—during competition. Many athletes are sure that their opponents behave in the same way.

The greatest percentage of drug users is among the body builders. Here is just one example. A year ago the first Soviet to win a European body-building championship, twenty-six-year-old Nikolai Shilo, died while doctors in the emergency room at a hospital in Minsk, Byelorussia, were trying to revive him. The splendidly built athlete suffered from many serious illnesses caused by the regular use of drugs.



In autumn 1990 four leading Soviet track-and-field athletes were caught using anabolic steroids during preparation for major competitions. Gromyko commented on this incident:

"For two months we tried to 'dig deeply' into our athletics. About 200 tests were taken. From them we learned that, as a rule, athletes begin to use prohibited drugs during their training at home when they lack the nutrition necessary for intensive training. This is our woe: Even the sports centers in the USSR are experiencing a shortage of high-quality foodstuffs. This makes athletes turn to prohibited substances. A solution seems simple enough—to use vitamins, which are a natural restoring agent. But Soviet industry produces them in very small quantities, and the shortage of foreign exchange makes it impossible to buy them abroad. This forms a vicious circle."

Three weight lifters—Sergei Kretsu, Alexander Popov, and Yurik Karapetyan—were caught using prohibited substances at the 1990 USSR championship in Lipetsk. All three were deprived of their sports titles and disqualified for two years.

November 1, 1990, was a milestone in weightlifting. On that day a new drug-control method developed by German Professor Manfred Doicke took effect. This method, used together with traditional tests, reveals prohibited substances in an athlete's body even six months after their use.

Furthermore, the executive committee of the International Weightlifting Federation adopted the following major decision: Beginning January 1, 1991, any athlete caught using anabolic steroids would be disqualified for life and his federation barred from international competition for one year for each disqualified athlete.

Such a severe move was vital because drug use had struck weightlifting like a malignant tumor. All the previous measures had produced little effect—the high-ranking officials of the national federations confined themselves to lip service to the "cleanliness" of sports.

To what extent do anabolic steroids help weight lifters? Special research has shown that without drug use the existing world records could have been attained only in ten to twenty or even more years.

The struggle against drug use may result in a sharp decline in results at major international and national competitions and hence a decrease in the spectators' interest in these events. Not a single record was set at the 1990 World Weightlifting Championship in Budapest. Neither the athletes nor the coaches wanted to take any chances, and the Budapest championship was the first "clean" one. If public opinion in various countries develops along the lines that drug use is as unacceptable as, say, the use of narcotics, no more records will be set with the help of steroids. ■

these wonderful, magical beasts

By Marina Galitskaya
Art Critic

Photographs by
Vsevolod Tarasevich

The word *"gzhel"* immediately conjures up the famous blue-and-white dinnerware in the minds of ceramics lovers. But that is only a part of what was and of what is still made in the region bearing the same name.

Some thirty miles outside Moscow, Gzhel became famous as a major center of ceramic art in the latter half of the eighteenth century, when the local potters learned to make majolica. An abundance of superior clay, the proximity of a big city, and the high skill of the artisans—all that quickly turned Gzhel into a center of ceramics manufacturing. By the 1770s twenty-five factories were operating there. Most of the items were sold in Moscow and in the towns surrounding Gzhel.

By the nineteenth century Gzhel's masters were producing china and faience in addition to majolica. It was also in Gzhel that the country began a systematic search for faience techniques. However, during the second half of the nineteenth century, a severe industrial crisis hit the region. Pitted in serious competition with the well-known Kuznetsov firm, many Gzhel factories went bankrupt, and the manufacture of ceramics was significantly decreased.

The first attempt to revive the art of Gzhel took place in the 1950s. The traditions of eighteenth-century majolica and nineteenth-century faience ware were continued in Gzhel china with its blue glaze designs by the state's Gzhel Plant, which has several factories. The pottery factory is trying to revive the former style of majolica with designs painted directly onto the unfired enamel. Several other factories produce applied art.

Recently, the Gzhel Experimental Ceramics Factory has gained special popularity. Founded in the mid-1970s, this factory is run by the Moscow Art Fund. The factory is distinguished for its staff of professional sculptors and ceramic artists. In addition to its normal output, the factory makes items according to special orders taken from different organizations, and it produces original works, too.

Pyotr Khokhlovkin and Ramil Sherifzyanov, young sculptors, are two members of the factory's Moscow art collective. Their creations ☞

Artists Pyotr Khokhlovkin, his younger brother Dmitri, and Ramil Sherifzyanov. Inset: Ramil Sherifzyanov.* Saigas. *1989. From the* Kalmykia *series. Engobe and enamel.

Pyotr Khokhlovkin. **Procession of Plant Lice** ***(top). 1989. Ceramic.*** **Sugar Cane Beetle** ***(above). 1990. Ceramic. Right: Dmitri Khokhlovkin.*** **Goat Horns, Big and Small.** ***1990. Ceramic.***

Ramil Sherifzyanov.* Steppe *(above). 1989. From the* Kalmykia *series. Engobe and enamel.* Handsome *(right) and* Gray *(far right). Both from the* Commander Islands *series. Engobe and enamel. Top right: Pyotr Khokhlovkin.* Empusa (Praying Mantis). *1989. Ceramic.

offer a new look at animal forms as an independent genre.

The works of these two young ceramic artists depict a trend, which is somewhat untraditional for animal sculpture. Simultaneously modern and steeped in centuries-old tradition, the creations are reminiscent of Egyptian bas-reliefs showing the gods, with their frozen images of birds and animals. They also conjure up African and Mexican cliff paintings and sculptures.

For example, Khokhlovkin's piece *Triangle —A King and Two Fräuleins* (1989, ceramic) is a magical transformation of three praying mantises. The graphic details and the form of the triangle transport viewers to the beginnings of cult art. *Axolotls* (1989, ceramic), *Chameleons* (1989, ceramic), and *Procession of Plant Lice* (1989, ceramic)—other Khokhlovkin works—typify the new approach toward contemporary animal sculpture.

Ramil Sherifzyanov's works *Saiga Antelopes* (1989, ceramic) and *Stela* (1989, ceramic) produce a different effect. The colored clays used by the young ceramic artists recall mysterious ancient vessels that were used to hold magical potions. Sometimes in African sculpture the magic potion vessels are found in a special hollow or in a horn fastened to an animal's head.

Just recently Pyotr Khokhlovkin's younger brother Dmitri joined in the factory's Moscow art collective.

GARMAYEV

Continued from page 51

escaping one's narrow cycle. In summer camp 1990, where no one was afraid of being caught at prayers, and it never occurred to the children to hide their crosses, there were no more games of the type I have just described. They were replaced by participation in the mystery of the Good News, understanding of which is granted a person by inclusion in church life.

I scrutinized the people in the camp to see how they differed from us oldtimers. I discovered that I knew ten of them, the Garmayev veterans. Three of them had returned to continue the Cycle after they had done their stint in the armed forces. But the majority were newcomers.

"That is natural," said Garmayev. "The Cycle is called a cycle precisely because people leave it eventually. After all, this is not a sect. We simply help people to understand themselves and to realize that they cannot cope by their efforts alone. All the schools of self-improvement are a delusion. One can build up one's biceps, while at the same time one's soul sinks lower and lower. Only God, who has breathed life into us, can make us better people.

"The veterans of the Cycle are my assistants, those who have taken up the Cycle professionally, that is, for the sake of others. It is their work. We are self-supporting and receive no subsidies. We have cycles for teachers, for parents, and for nursery and kindergarten teachers. Our laboratory now has a staff of about thirty. Tomorrow they will become the leaders of groups, just as it was when you studied in a group of this kind. Remember?"

Of course, I remember. For almost two years we used to meet every week. Sessions lasted for five to six hours, sometimes more, plus homework.

Garmayev's program is not psychoanalysis or group psychotherapy, though he uses the methods of both. He is familiar with the innovations of psychology; his system combines the ascetic spiritual experience of the church and the achievements of modern psychology.

The source of energy with which he associates those who work in his Cycle is not the energy of self-assertion, which is the motive force of modern civilization, the psychological foundation of creativity, business, and sports, where the vital thing is to be first. This energy permeates all human relationships and is the motive power of almost everything that we do. Another type of energy occasionally breaks through, however. Garmayev's system is calculated to increase a person's beneficial energy at these points of lesion in the egocentric membrane.

We can live in this world not on ideas (which are dear to us because we find them viable) but on life and its eternal springs. Living on ideas invariably brings civilization to an impasse.

The fact that the Soviet Union is the first of the world's powers to feel this impasse gives hope that, after recovering from the terrible diseases of materialism and idealism, the country will be able to return to the sources of life.

If there is an antithesis to Garmayev's approach to psychology, it is best expressed in Dale Carnegie's best seller *How to Make Friends and Influence People*. The person who reads such a book shares its aims, which means that he will not derive from it any impulse to genuine life, only its imitation, only lifeless action motivated by an ephemeral goal. Garmayev's collected works might be called: "How to Give One's Life for Others and How Not to Use People for One's Own Ends." That would be a very suitable title, for the goal of our thousand-year-old culture is quite different. The goal of our culture is freedom. ■

Historians

Continued from page 29

this is characteristic of intellectuals, however, is wrong; it is part of the myth of intellectual wordmongering. Real intellectuals are not passive observers on the sidelines; they are thinkers and builders of life. They therefore respect people of unorthodox views.

Q: Can we talk today about Russia's historic mission?

A: The influence of Russian culture on the development of world culture is immense, indeed. Russian ideas have taken root in literature, social sciences, religion, philosophy, music, and space research.

The political influence of Russian culture is also great. It has largely determined the course of universal history. In the thirteenth century, on the eve of the Renaissance, the peoples living on the lands that would soon compose Russia protected Europe against the invasion of nomads. They saved European civilization, though by sacrificing their own progress. Russia put an end to the growth of Napoleon's imperial power. The USSR sacrificed millions of its citizens to save humankind from the nazi plague.

The Soviet people have lived through the terrible experience of forced and accelerated transformation in a system that did not rely on popular tradition. Their example has shown others the harmfulness of such experiments. The people nevertheless have the strength for regeneration. Sacrifice in the name of the world is probably this country's real historic mission. ■

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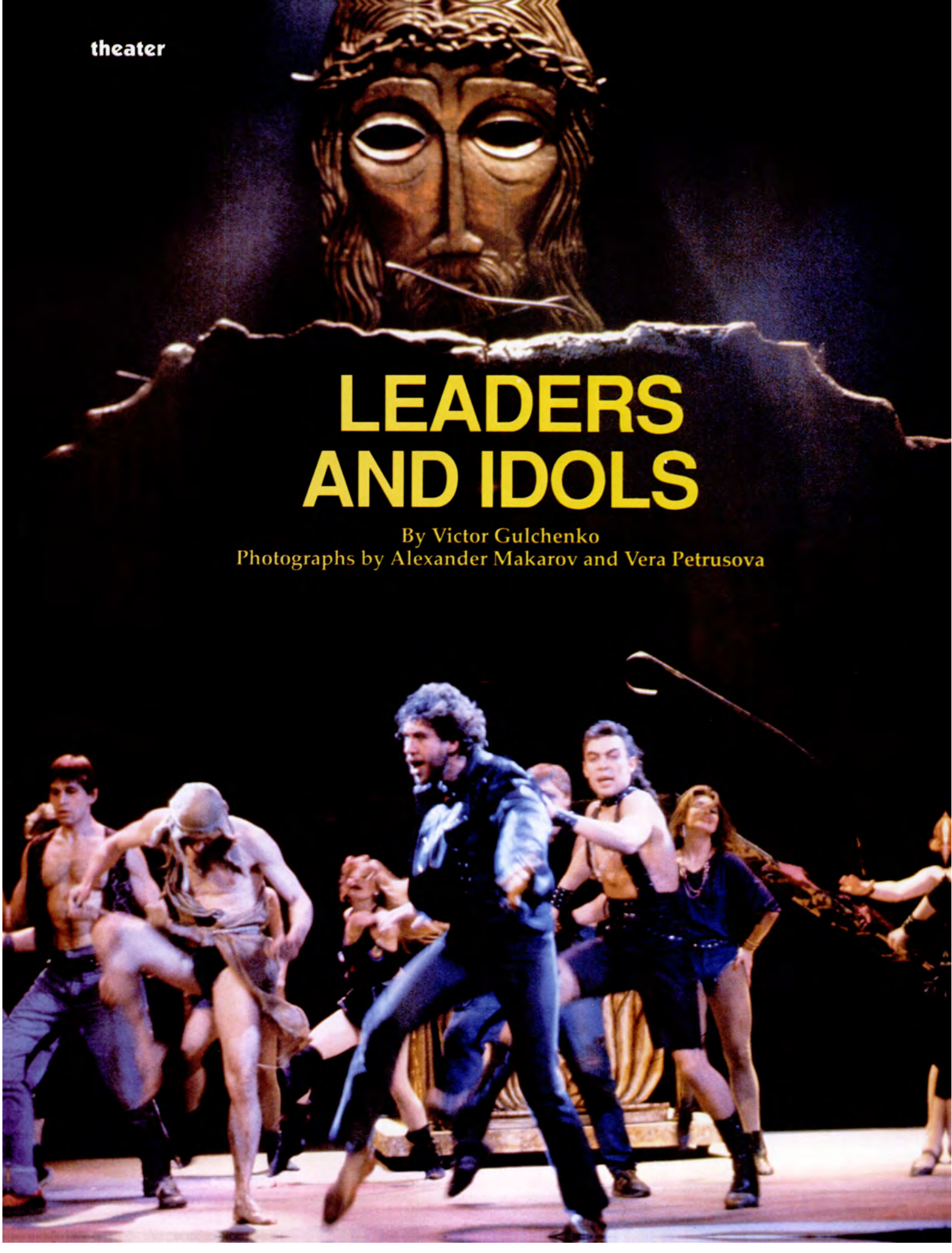


LEADERS AND IDOLS

By Victor Gulchenko
Photographs by Alexander Makarov and Vera Petrusova

Two plays staged by the Mossoviet Theater—the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, directed by Pavel Khomsky, and the drama *Caligula*, directed by Pyotr Fomenko—were hits last year in Moscow.

Oleg Menshikov plays the part of Caligula in the play by French dramatist and philosopher Albert Camus. Now, in the sixth year of perestroika, it is extremely interesting to watch as Menshikov tries to find sources of despotism in his hero.

Camus wrote his play in 1944, when he was twenty-five, and devoted it to the young Roman emperor. Menshikov's hero is unusual for daring to rise above the gods: "Destiny cannot be comprehended. That is why I myself have become destiny. I have adopted the capricious and unattainable image of a god.... Any human being may act out ☞

Oleg Kazancheyev portrays Jesus of Nazareth in the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar *by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Timothy Rice. The Moscow production was staged by the Mossoviet Theater and directed by Pavel Khomsky.*

celestial tragedies and become a god. All you need is a heart of stone." Caligula voluntarily subjected himself to a tragic trial.

The young Caligula, as portrayed by Menshikov, is defiantly insolent and dazzling. He becomes a ruthless despot, who plays with other people's lives and destinies like a child. And the emperor at times truly resembles a child, revealing the childishness of humankind.

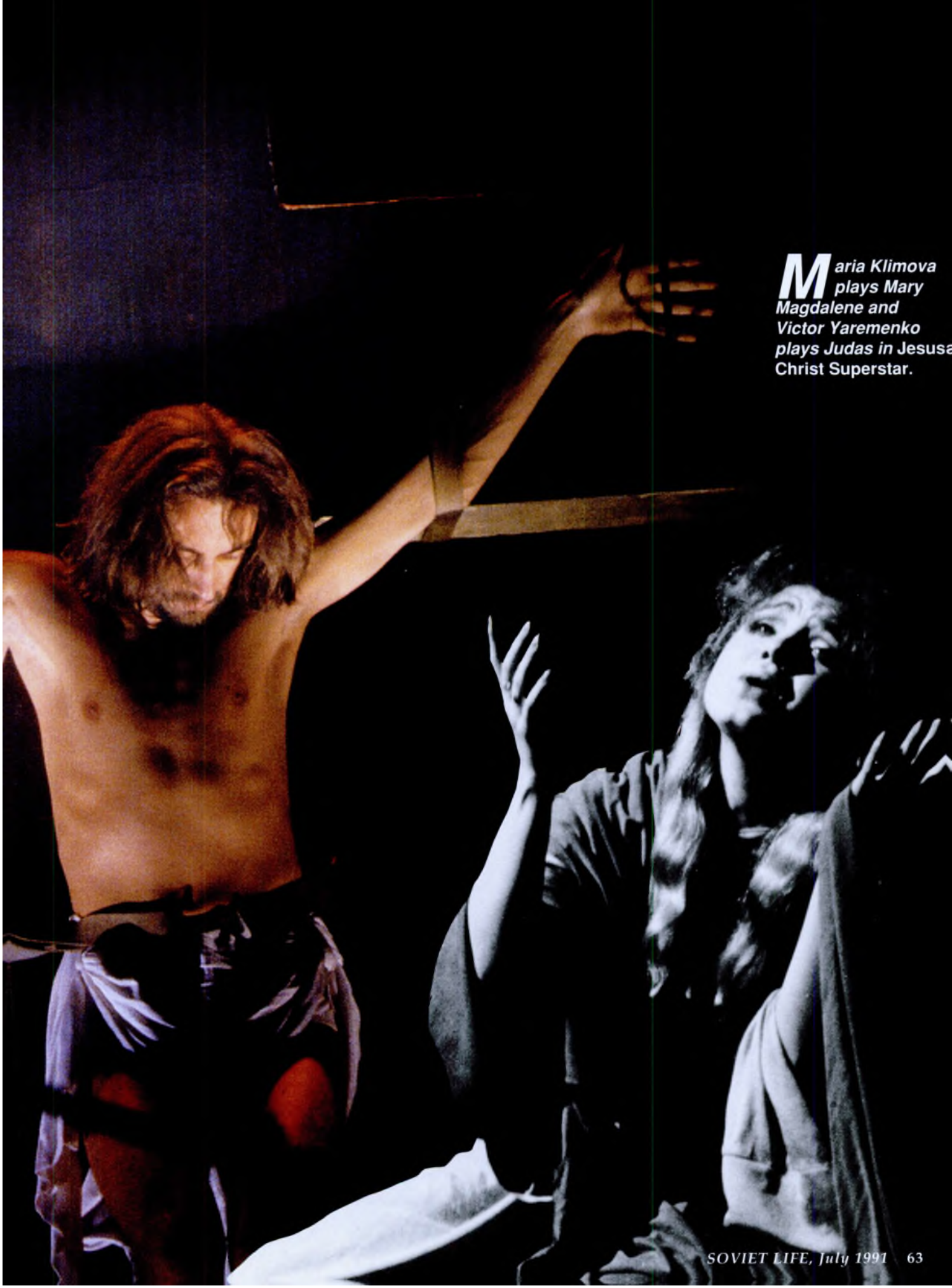
Caligula's individuality is emphasized by the theater and expressed by

the hero's right to be a personality. It seems as if the mutiny of individualism has reached Europe's eastern outskirts—especially since that mutiny has become interesting and understandable to the people in this country, which was for so many years a bulwark of collectivism. The play could be called Caligula's Liberation, for the road to his death was a road to inner freedom.

The director has stamped the action with his own rhythm. Caligula is introspective; the audience serves as his mirror, with the emperor subjecting the spectators to a spiritual test.

The small stage of the Mossoviet Theater brings the actors and the audience close to each other. They must not be insincere. And it seems that Caligula not only sees slaves in the Roman patricians, but also sees something similar in the viewer.

Caligula and *Jesus Christ Superstar* appeared on the two stages of the Mossoviet Theater almost simultaneously, with only a small interval between them. The viewer who sees these hits is given a choice of ideals—



Maria Klimova plays Mary Magdalene and Victor Yaremenko plays Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar.

ers; freedom in acquiring faith in God as the bearer of eternal truth, the expression of people's aspirations and hopes.

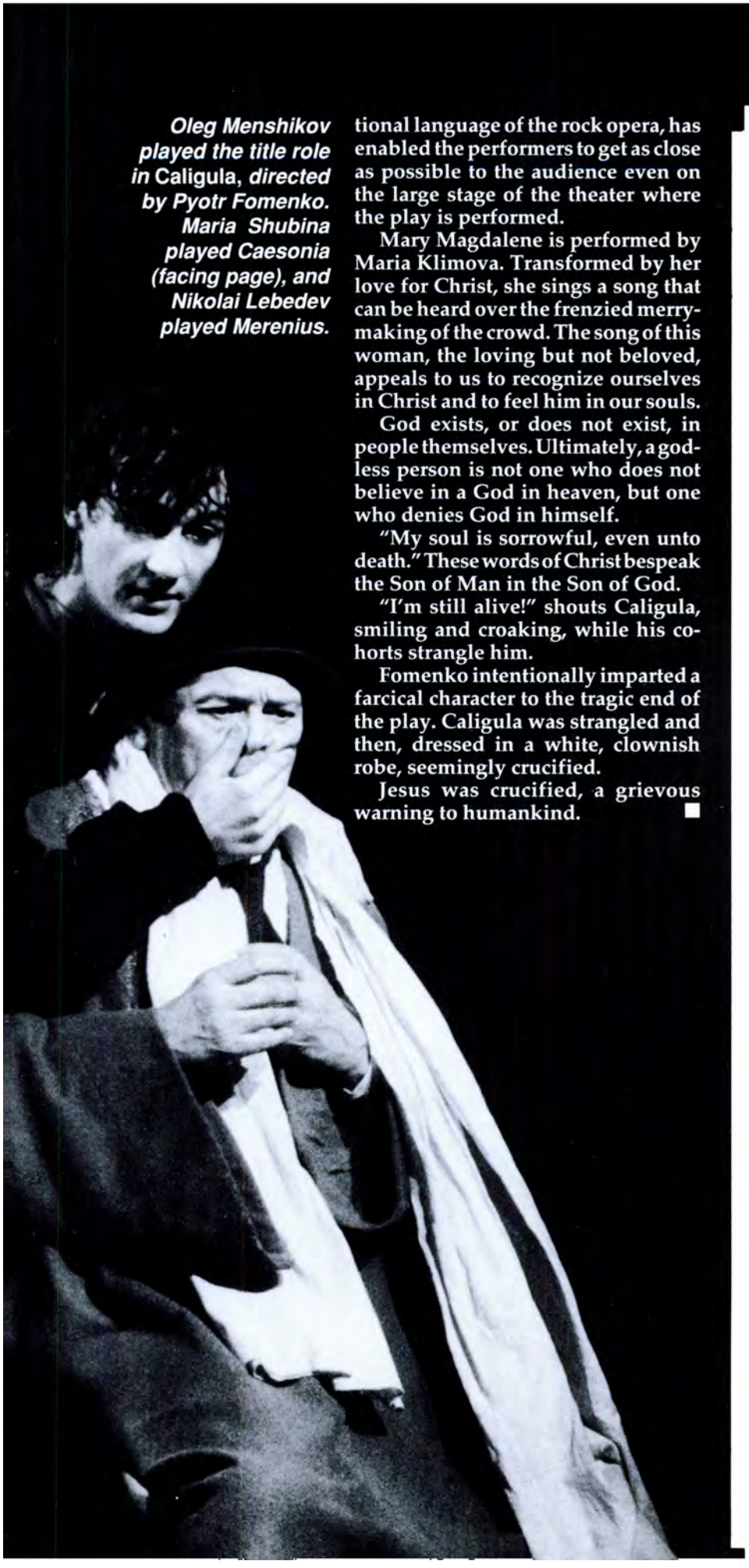
The rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Timothy Rice has become part of the world repertoire. But some people think that it is premature to present Christ to the Soviet people. Perhaps the producers did anticipate events. As with *Caligula*, however, the theater took a step forward by beginning to speak of things that should no longer be suppressed.

Caligula and *Jesus Christ Superstar* both expose the conflict between the masses and the individual and, in a broader sense, the conflict between the transient and the eternal, a conflict that is tragically insoluble. The diametrically opposed victims of this conflict are Jesus and Caligula.

Actor Oleg Kazancheyev, who plays the part of Christ, has given the movements of his hero an ethereal quality and his voice an impassiveness that makes his character extremely expressive. Though he does not walk on water or perform miracles, a major miracle does take place: The meek Christ quietly accepts the sufferings of all humankind.

The rock opera makes free use of the religious scenario to interest the contemporary viewer in earthly stories about the unearthly. Lloyd Webber and Rice were lucky to catch this need of the audience, and Khomsky consolidated it.

Jesus' everyday behavior, which is particularly noticeable in the conven-



Oleg Menshikov played the title role in Caligula, *directed by Pyotr Fomenko. Maria Shubina played Caesonia (facing page), and Nikolai Lebedev played Merenius.*

tional language of the rock opera, has enabled the performers to get as close as possible to the audience even on the large stage of the theater where the play is performed.

Mary Magdalene is performed by Maria Klimova. Transformed by her love for Christ, she sings a song that can be heard over the frenzied merry-making of the crowd. The song of this woman, the loving but not beloved, appeals to us to recognize ourselves in Christ and to feel him in our souls.

God exists, or does not exist, in people themselves. Ultimately, a godless person is not one who does not believe in a God in heaven, but one who denies God in himself.

"My soul is sorrowful, even unto death." These words of Christ bespeak the Son of Man in the Son of God.

"I'm still alive!" shouts Caligula, smiling and croaking, while his cohorts strangle him.

Fomenko intentionally imparted a farcical character to the tragic end of the play. Caligula was strangled and then, dressed in a white, clownish robe, seemingly crucified.

Jesus was crucified, a grievous warning to humankind. ■

NEXT ISSUE

AIRPORT SECURITY?

Soviet aviation has recently been plagued by an unprecedented number of hijackings on domestic flights. Most of the hijackers have been unarmed, but the incidents are alarming. How reliable are the security checks at airports? How easy is it to smuggle weapons onto a plane?

ARISTOCRACY REVIVED

Not too long ago, very few people would have been willing to admit that they had aristocratic ancestors. But today, having roots in the Russian nobility has a distinct cachet. A union of descendants of the Russian nobility, recently organized in the Soviet Union, pursues the noble aims of reviving Russian national culture, organizing charitable activities, and inculcating a sense of duty in young people.

COMING SOON

Flood on the Volga—
Report from the Disaster Area

Pyotr Khokhlovkin. Triangle—A King and Two Fräuleins. *1989. Ceramic. Right: Ramil Sherifzyanov. Red Salmon. 1988. From the* Commander Islands *series. Salts and oxides.*

Photographs by Vsevolod Tarasevich

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Soviet Life

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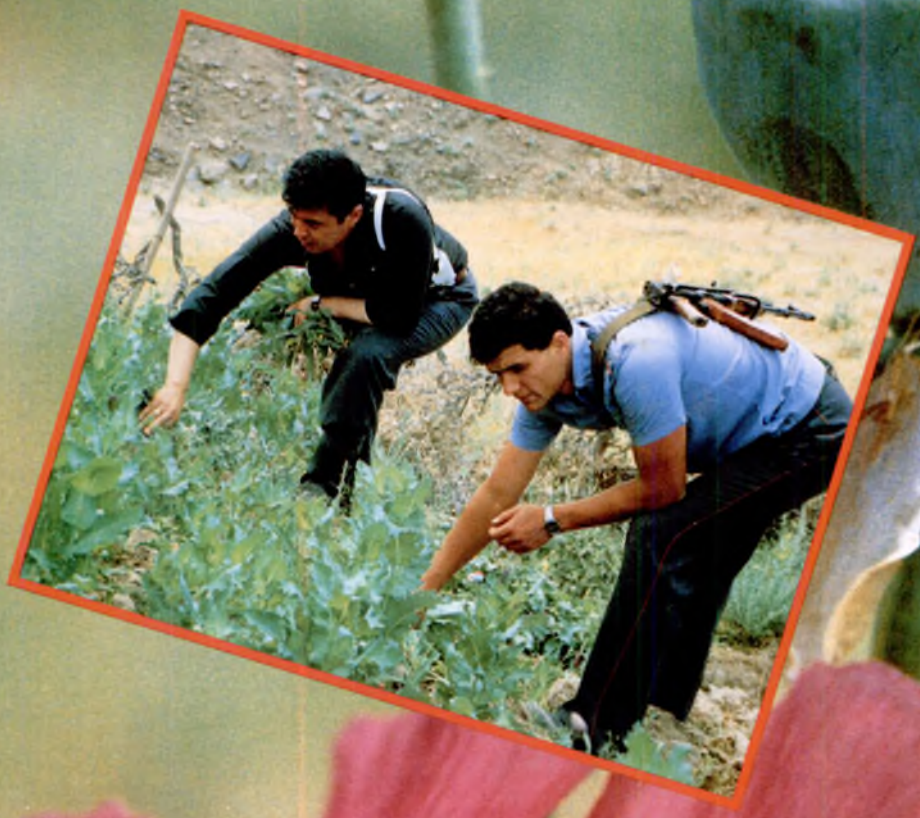

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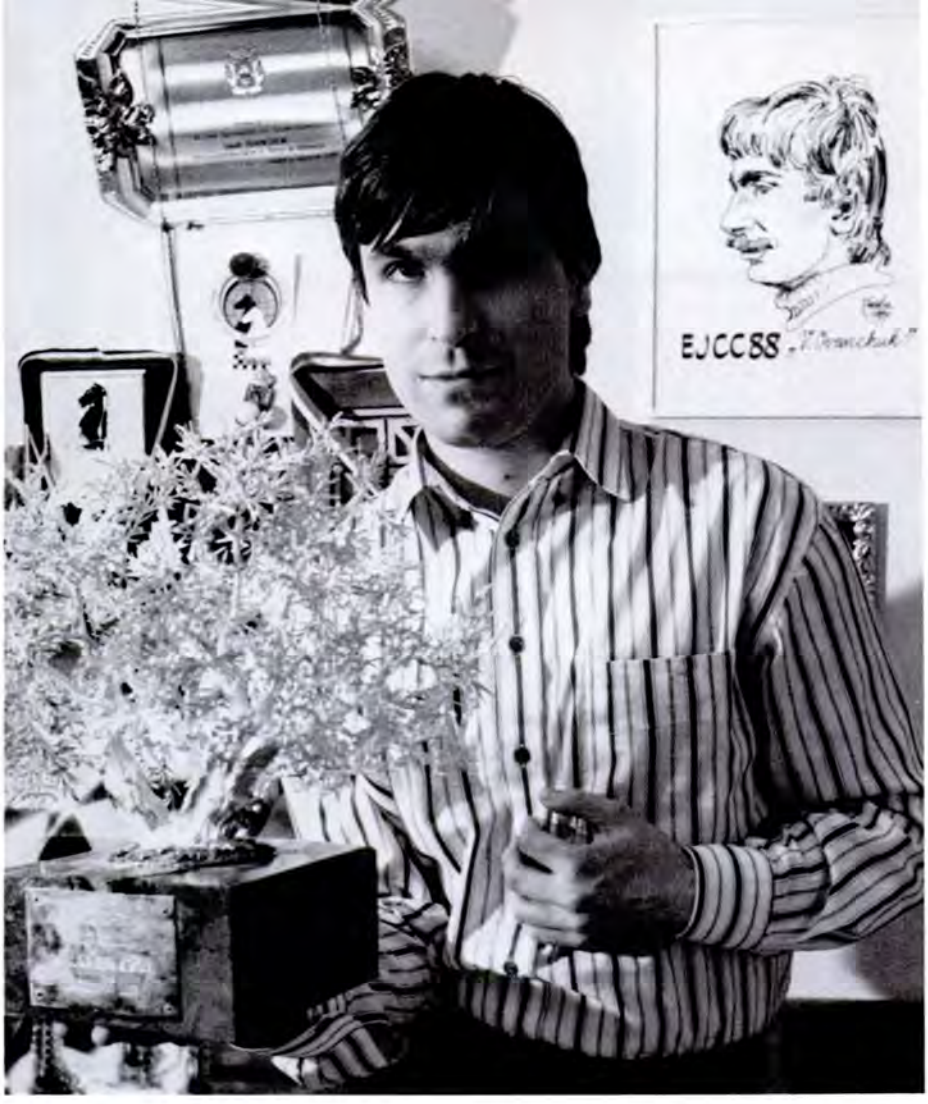

A NEW CHESS CHAMPION?

By Rimma Bilunova, International Master

Vasili Ivanchuk, a twenty-two-year-old Ukrainian, is one of eight challengers contending for the right to play the world title match against Gary Kasparov. Last January, Ivanchuk gained a victory in the challengers elimination round, winning a match in Riga, Latvia, against Leonid Yudasin of Leningrad 4.5-0.5. Last March Ivanchuk caused another sensation, placing first at the supertournament in Linares, Spain. This was a competition of the seventeenth and highest grade. Also participating were world champion Kasparov, former world champion Anatoli Karpov, five other challengers, and a number of other international grand masters. Ivanchuk scored 5.5 points out of a possible 7 against these stars. He toppled Kasparov and won against Karpov and two challengers without sustaining a single setback.

This showing stunned those commentators who had long asserted that none of the younger players has what it takes to intervene in the contest between Kasparov and Karpov for the world chess crown.

The young grand master is extremely demanding of himself. Since he cannot bring himself to accept the inevitability of mistakes, he takes some of his setbacks hard.

Ivanchuk has not only become a grand master, but has served his tour of duty in the army and started a family. Recently his wife, Alisa Gallyamova (also a grand master), gave birth to a son, Mikhail.

This August Ivanchuk is to play a challengers quarter-final match against Artur Yusupov in Brussels. No matter how the match ends, chess has acquired in Ivanchuk a great sportsman and a true fighter. ■

EDITOR'S NOTES

I wrote this column during the Moscow summit, which we will cover in greater detail in the next issue of our magazine. I would like to share with you just one of the impressions that came to me while I waited for the summit to start. In spite of myself, I couldn't help comparing the arrival of George Bush in Moscow with the trip made just three years ago by his predecessor, Ronald Reagan. The press and the public demonstrated a great deal more interest and enthusiasm in the former president's visit than they have in this one.

Reagan's visit was a major sensation in Moscow and throughout the country as a whole. There he was: our long-standing enemy, who had openly referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," coming to Moscow. When this man publicly abandoned his former perceptions in our capital, the exhilaration most of us felt was a bit overwhelming.

Things are much calmer now. It almost seems as if an old ally and partner has come to Moscow to sign yet another friendship treaty, the way our former partners in the socialist camp used to come here. There is nothing sensational about Bush's visit. This is certainly not to belittle the importance of this year's summit; it is a history-making event. I am talking here only about the psychological and emotional side of it.

The Soviet-American partnership is becoming something that people take for granted. And thank God for that! But some divergences remain between the sides—our different circumstances cause us to perceive things differently. The Americans seem to be anxiously waiting for political passions to subside in the USSR and for people to start to abide by the law, not by individual whims. Only then, they feel, will there be really solid and fertile soil for businesslike cooperation. I think that they are right.

Robert Tsfasman

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Editor—Sergei S. Ivanko
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Front Cover: The militia combats drug traffic. *Photograph by Sergei Zhukov.*

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Two Presidents: Allied Forces?

Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR, congratulates Boris Yeltsin on his inauguration as president of Russia. The gesture could have an optimistic symbolism: Two leaders whose confrontation has been a talking-point of long standing may finally find a common language. This country is weary of rows and political strife.

The two presidents work in the Kremlin, their offices not far from one another. Their physical proximity means nothing, however, unless it is accompanied by full-scale cooperation.

Gorbachev and Yeltsin are different as human beings and as politicians. Each has certain strong points that the other may lack. Gorbachev is an excellent diplomat, who can skillfully reduce tensions between the conservative forces and the reformers. Yeltsin, with his bold radical approach, enjoys popularity with the democratic movement, which is gaining strength. Plain logic suggests that cooperation between the two would strengthen and consolidate the democratic camp and help Russia and the rest of the country find a solution to its crisis.

In his inauguration speech Yeltsin promised to improve living standards in the Russian Federation by late 1992. He cannot possibly live up to his promise without the support of the president of the USSR.

Yeltsin has moved to make peace with Gorbachev, and this has added to his prestige in the West, which sees him as a cautious leader pursuing a balanced policy. Said Yeltsin on a recent trip to the United States, "Russia is open for business." But American business people need a stable Russia and a stable Soviet Union. Perhaps they, like Soviets, will see this photo as a sign of change for the better. ■

SEVEN PLUS ONE

By Stanislav Kondrashev, Political Analyst

Much has been said and written about President Gorbachev's meeting with the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations. The most impressive comment, however, is the group portrait of the eight leaders. We have seen many pictures of Gorbachev with each of the seven Western leaders, but never before with all of them together.

Only three or even two years ago, Gorbachev could often be seen in a group with the leaders of former socialist countries, all of whom have by now relinquished their posts. These old photographs symbolized a different world system. This is also gone. In those solemn pictures, our country and its leaders were at the center of the universe, while everything else, including the supposedly doomed capitalist world, revolved around them.

On July 15, on the steps of Lancaster House, photographers took pictures of the seven leaders—the establishment of the capitalist world, which has not died after all. Two days later they were joined by another man, neither a member of the establishment nor even a participant, but a guest of honor at their meeting this year. He might very well also be a guest at their next meeting in Munich in 1992, a guest of honor and a young partner, the leader of a country without a socialist camp or a socialist community behind him.

These new pictures were the embodiment of hope for the beginning of the Soviet Union's integration into the global economy. Our integration into this system would require us to follow the laws of the market economy and the tough laws of competition, with a governmental system of parliamentary democracy.

The pictures taken in London signified nothing less than a change of the model of the universe—the transition from a utopia with its poor life to a world of pragmatic and presumably civilized reality which, judging from the experience of other countries, gives a chance for a better life for the majority. The Soviet Union as a federation and its constituent republics would like to blend into the world economy. With the transition to a market economy, each Soviet citizen has to change his or her outlook. The same is true of the state as a whole.

As a condition for such a blending, the G-7 leaders, who are actually the masters of the world economy, demanded that each of us and, in particular, the Soviet state institutions more resolutely move into the market.

Right up to the London meeting, some Soviet newspapers stubbornly refused to accept reality. They tried to outguess one another about how much money we would be given. In doing so, they distorted the true criterion for success of this important initiative.

President Gorbachev tried to put an end to such frivolous guesswork when he said that his very invitation to the meeting was a success. The G-7 leaders decided to set the limits of the possible well in advance: Gorbachev would not be issued a "blank check," but he wouldn't leave the meeting empty-handed either.

The results of the meeting were well within these limits. British Prime Minister John Major said it was the general agreement to work jointly to help the USSR merge into the global economy. In practical terms this means creating a mechanism of assistance and interaction or, as our country prefers to call it, a mechanism for moving along.

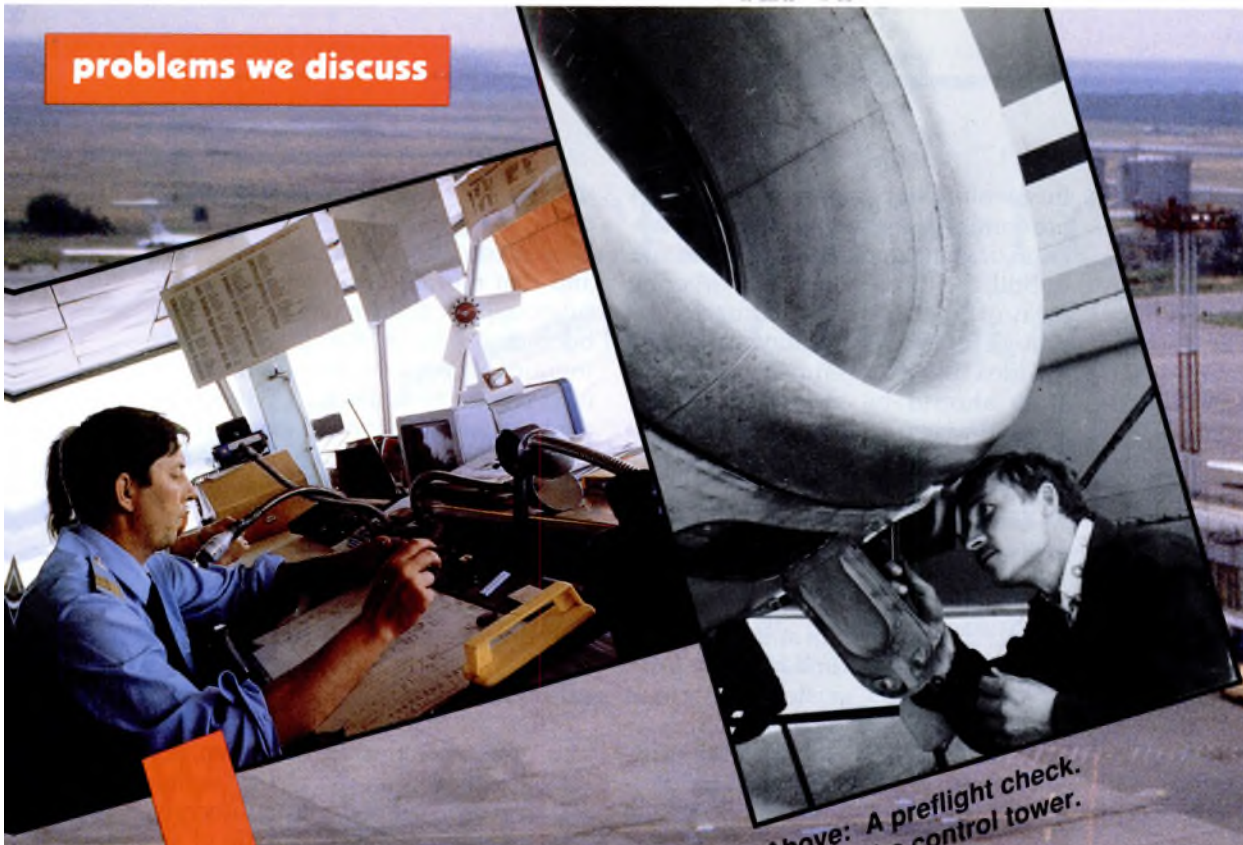
What will happen now that the six-point blueprint for the beginning of interaction and continuation of on-site reconnaissance has been drawn up? The G-7 countries still reserve the right, which is tantamount to a threat, to back out of the agreement to force the Soviet Union to pursue more radical reforms. The six points of our associate membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which does not give us any access to money, provide for technical assistance from the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and priority assistance in such fields as defense conversion, transportation, power engineering, and food distribution. The G-7 finance ministers are to visit Moscow shortly to make an on-site study of the situation. With the same aim, John Major will visit Moscow. Later, as part of preparations for the G-7 summit meeting in Munich, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will make a trip to Moscow.

Our partners, who have vast experience with market deals, are prepared to help first of all in the fields that are most advantageous to themselves, including the development of the fuel and raw-materials complex. This is a field in which our interests coincide, because this field brings the USSR most of its hard-currency revenues. The G-7 countries also have an eye on the difficult but promising field of converting defense industries, in which most advanced technologies and the best scientific and technical minds are concentrated, to civilian production. The West has a military-political stake in this field in addition to its economic interest; it will demand a swifter and more radical reduction of Soviet military spending. Now that the world outlook is different, the Soviet Union no longer has to fulfill the function of global confrontation, which in the postwar decades developed into a mania, plunging the country into its present, shameful state of poverty.

The changes reduce the role of the military in Soviet society, though it remains the defender of national security and an important support of the state. For the members of the armed forces, adaptation will be even more difficult than it will be for civilians.

History follows its natural course and does not tolerate being nagged. But the Soviet Union started thinking in real earnest about integrating itself into the global economy at a time when it is faced with life-or-death questions: To be or not to be? And if the answer is Yes, then in what form?

Gorbachev, speaking at a luncheon in London, said: "Regrettably, politics has no days off." He surely knows this better than anyone else. ■



Above: A preflight check.
Left: In the control tower.

June 9, 1990, seventeen-year-old Dmitri Semenov forced the crew of a plane headed from Minsk to Murmansk to land in Sweden, threatening to blow up the aircraft. Several days later, Anatoli Mikhailenko and Mikhail Mokretsov also hijacked planes to Sweden. All these hijackers were extradited to the Soviet Union, but air piracy did not end there. Within a week, two more planes were hijacked to Finland.

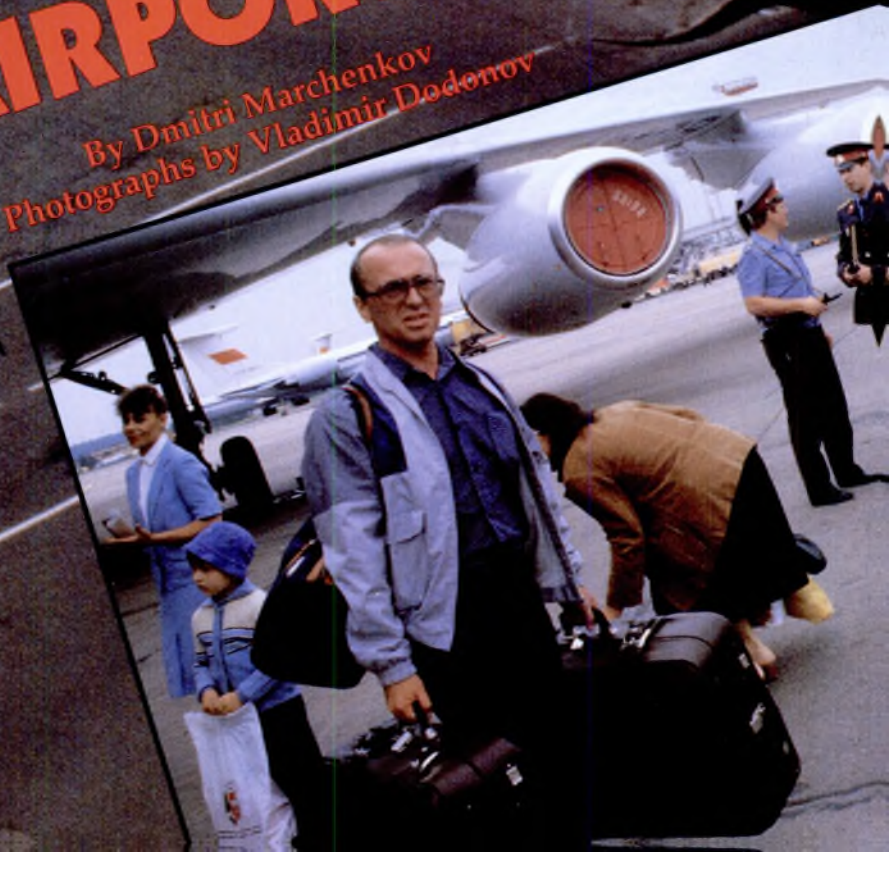
Similar reports have come from all parts of the country. Remarkably, this upsurge in air piracy appears not to be politically motivated. Most of the hijackers are eighteen to twenty years old; they seem to be prompted to commit the crime by a kind of immature bravado and, most importantly, by the ease with which planes can be hijacked.

The security system of Aeroflot, the world's largest airline, has begun to deteriorate, and this has been immediately exploited by young hotheads. But is there any real danger behind the terrorists' threats? According to the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation, last year Aeroflot received more than a hundred bomb scares. All of them turned out to be false, but they resulted in long delays, emergency landings, and repeated security checks. That's why the crews are often accused of being too gullible.

In the long run, however, the final decision to comply with or to refuse to comply with a hijacker's demands is the chief pilot's. It is a decision that must be made in a few minutes. At that moment, the pilot's decision depends largely on the extent to which he trusts the airport security services. If they're reliable, it's likely that the hijacker is bluffing. But what if they aren't? Even at Moscow airports, the state of the security system is such that

HOW SAFE ARE OUR AIRPORTS?

By Dmitri Marchenkov
Photographs by Vladimir Dodonov



Moscow's Domodedovo Airport. Right: A safe landing.

relying on it is a dubious enterprise. Let's examine the situation, for example, at the southern Moscow airport of Domodedovo, the USSR's largest airport.

Domodedovo has a staff of about 10,000. It handles 7.5 million passengers and 120,000 flights a year, with 205 flights a day in the summer and 120 to 130 in the winter. Planes fly from the airport to ninety Soviet cities in the Far East, Siberia, the Urals, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Volga Region, and the Caucasus. It's been a long time since the last major emergency at Domodedovo, but does that mean that the airport's security system can guarantee passenger safety?

It's quite possible that twenty years ago Domodedovo's glass and concrete terminal looked impressive and imposing. Now it is dilapidated and weather-worn. Inside, the building seems like a huge anthill or a twentieth-century Babel—it is packed with people speaking almost every language that is spoken in the USSR. Long lines at the check-in counters and the board- ☞

Waiting to board the plane. Facing page: All of these weapons could have gotten onto the aircraft.

ing gates, at the luggage lockers and the snack bars, snake throughout the whole building. Many Muscovites and people from other cities have to sleep on the floor while they wait for delayed flights; there is a catastrophic shortage of seats at the airport and not nearly enough space at the only five-story hotel nearby.

Recently the airport, which has always been overcrowded, has been further burdened with cooperative venders' stands and kiosks. The extra crowding has posed real problems for the 150 members of the militia force whose responsibility it is to stop armed criminals from boarding aircraft. The problem is that these same militia officers must also keep order inside the air terminal, a big job in itself. Catching a criminal in such a crowd is extremely difficult.

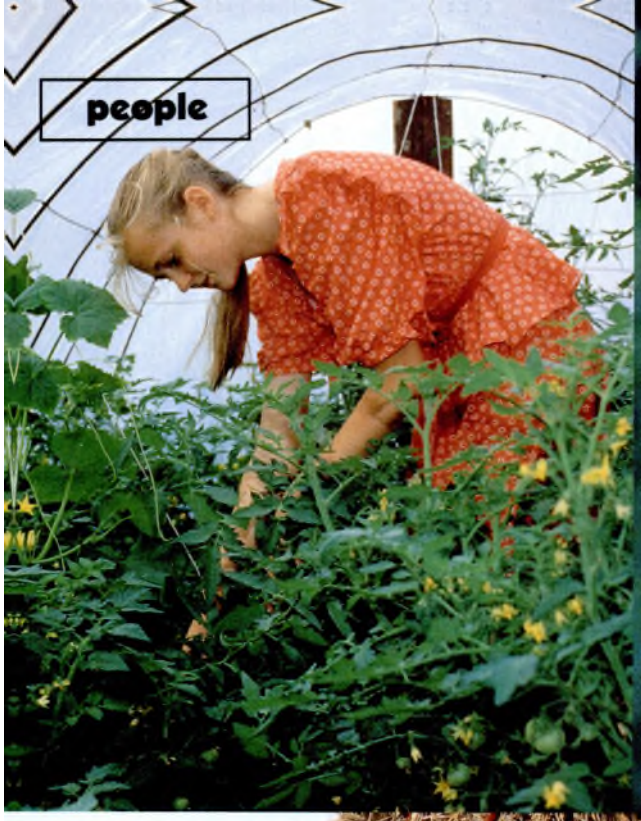
The security check area, of course,

is calmer, but the conditions there make the work inefficient.

"Look at how our people have to work," said deputy chief of airport security Valeri Belov, in a wounded voice. "The enclosure is small and stuffy, and there is no air conditioning. When it's hot, the sweat gets in your eyes, but you still have to keep looking at the screen of the x-ray scanner.

"And then, Aeroflot breaks its own rules. A passenger is supposed to be allowed only five kilograms of hand luggage, but on one flight about 800 kilograms of extra hand luggage got aboard—and that was just one inspection. Of course, all that extra volume puts quite a strain on our people's eyesight. And even though our x-ray scanners are new, they're still black and white. It's hard to work with them, and I think there are definitely things we miss." ☞

Security officers keep unauthorized people away from the planes. Insets, clockwise from top: Here come the dogs! Weapons confiscated from luggage. Making sure the craft is airworthy.



Nadezhda's house, house of hope

By Yevgeni Samuylov
Photographs by
Yevgeni Matveyev

What does a Soviet farmer dream of? Many things, including pickup balers. Farming is extremely difficult without one, as Vladimir and Nadezhda Tarasov know from last year's haying, when it poured for half the summer in Pskov Region. It's no joke to try to bale hay for twenty cows in that kind of weather. Today Nadezhda sent her husband off to Pytalovo, the regional center, to get this necessary, scarce item.

Top to bottom: Nadezhda's eldest daughter, Ira, is in charge of this small greenhouse. Vladimir Tarasov gets tremendous satisfaction from working his family's land. Nadezhda's brother-in-law stopped by for a visit and was immediately put to work.

When Nadezhda Tarasova met her husband, Vladimir, she was a thirty-two-year-old divorcée with a daughter and a rewarding career with a local newspaper. She had come a long way from her girlhood in the village of Chernolesye, where she had begun her career working her way through the ranks of the district Komsomol committee. Now she had a nice apartment and many acquaintances among the local elite of Pytalovo, the regional center. But she wasn't happy.

Then Vladimir came into her life. The general opinion was that ☞

In the summer, the family can enjoy dinner in the open air.

Nadezhda was marrying beneath her: Vladimir was both younger than she was and quite ordinary. Instead of helping him to improve himself and to grow professionally, she quit her job at the newspaper and moved to the country to become a farmer.

But Nadezhda, whose name means hope, didn't get married a second time to be a submissive wife. Her life as a single parent had taught her a thing or two. So she didn't stand in the way of any talk about farming, but began to direct the conversation in the direction she wanted it to go.

Strictly speaking, Nadezhda's home is not a house at all. By local standards it's just a cottage. A three-room hut with a porch, to be precise. The porch is made of planks instead of logs. The ceilings are low, and there are several windows in each wall. Ira, the eldest daughter, has her own room. There is a living room, which the whole family uses. Nadezhda and Vladimir have had two children together, son Zhenya and daughter Xenia. So the house is very crowded. But the Tarasovs know they won't be living there forever.

Vladimir and a friend bought this house, which had been deserted by its owner, back when they had only started working as tenant farmers at the state farm. It took the Tarasovs a lot of time and effort to restore the abandoned house. But when they were done, the ceilings shone with a whiteness unusual in the countryside, the floor had been redone, and the walls were covered with bright wallpaper.

All of the Tarasovs' personal machinery stands next to the house: a secondhand truck, bought cheap in the neighboring region, and three tractors, one of which is still leased from the state farm.

Nadezhda's father often comes over to lend a hand. He came today, unexpectedly. Vladimir wasn't around—he'd gone to town to buy the pickup baler.

Nadezhda's father grinned, "Well now, if he comes back with that baler, you'll have your fortune made." Then he warned: "Be careful, now, it's rich farmers like you who'll be the first ones to suffer when they abolish private property again."

Nadezhda kept quiet. She'd heard this kind of thing before, and she knew that these comments were motivated by a father's fears. Some parents show their love by taking pride in their children, others by fearing for their well-being. Nadezhda's parents have something to be proud of. Their daughter and son-in-law's farm is a good one—they have seventy-five hectares of land for their own use. The old farm is leased from the state farm, but eventually it will become new and productive, the kind of farm a person wants.

Why does this father fear so much for his daughter? The long-ago farm collectivization sticks like a bone in his throat. The successful farm that belonged to Nadezhda's grandfather was destroyed because of the lazy good-for-nothings who held power in their hands. Nadezhda's paternal grandfather died in Siberia. Her father worked on a collective farm and held good positions, but he had been born and raised to be the owner of his own farm, and the change weighed upon him heavily. Now working on his daughter's farm is balm to his spirit, especially since the land that was seized from Nadezhda's grandfather is part of the seventy-five hectares they farm.

Above: For three-year-old Zhenya, his father is an example to follow and an indisputable authority figure. Facing page: The family poses in front of the house they will live in until their dream house is built.

When Vladimir and his friend decided to lease some land, the smart, careful Nadezhda advised them to choose land where her father lives. Both leasers were city dwellers and in great need of farming help. By the time Vladimir came here and then brought along Nadezhda and her daughter, Nadezhda's father was the last resident left in the village of Chernolesye.

Farming demands equal amounts of hope and stubbornness. How do these people, who are now called by the English-derived word "farmer," differ from others in a Russian village? Do they differ in that they are their own masters? Yes. In that they own private property? It depends on how you look at it. Is it that they take risks when others don't want to? That too. Nadezhda has learned this trade well, and in depth.

Everything about this new life is unstable and fragile. Laws are constantly changing, and often a farm's fate depends directly on who holds power in the region. The peasants in this region who want to lease land for their own use are fortunate—that is a real option here. The farmers open bank accounts and deal directly with the government, which allows them to buy precious livestock and machinery. In other regions, where the managerial old guard still reigns supreme, farmers' requests are constantly rejected.

Yes, farming in the Soviet Union is still hard. But you can't get stuck in a rut. Nadezhda's thoughts now center around a new house. The final preparations are being made before beginning construction. All the arguments about the site of the new house are over. The new house will stand where Nadezhda wants it: on a sunny hill, next to the new road, which, if not today, will soon be paved. The site is designed to leave room for the Tarasovs' children to build their nests nearby.

Some may say that women are generally more emotional than rational, but Nadezhda refuses to give in to her father's arguments that the house should be built on the foundation of her grandfather's home. She sees her new house in her mind's eye. ■

A Hundred Days to Decide

By Pyotr Mikhailov

History is like a picture gallery, with few originals and many copies, claimed Alexis de Tocqueville, a French historian of the nineteenth century. The situation in the early 1990s might well have reminded us of the situation that existed in the late 1930s. Although historical comparisons can never be exact, the main elements are similar.

Today, just as it did fifty years ago, a threat created by aggression induced the Western powers to overcome their distrust of the Soviet Union and made the Soviet leadership forego one of its main ideological precepts, a class attitude toward foreign policy. In both cases the awareness of danger encouraged the countries involved to agree on measures to be taken to teach the aggressor a lesson. In both cases it took the countries at least a hundred days to decide.

On August 2, 1990, immediately after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein launched his aggression against Kuwait, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 660 denouncing the aggressor. Few could predict then that 120 days later the Soviet Union, together with the other eleven Security Council members, would vote for Resolution 670, under which all necessary measures were to be taken to bridle the aggressor. On November 29, when the resolution was put to a vote, the Soviet Union sided with the great Western powers, rather than with Yemen and Cuba, which voted against, or with China, which abstained.

This incited a critical anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, and pseudopatriotic response in the Soviet press and the parliament. The change in the traditional position of the Soviet leadership was too dramatic for those who had grown up before perestroika in the spirit of the sacred struggle against imperialism.

But the Soviet attitude toward the aggressor was far from equivocal. On the one hand, it recognized the priority of global human interests over class loyalties. On the other hand, President Gorbachev attempted to use his special relations with Baghdad to find a solution to the deadlock without resorting to armed conflict.

The cooperation of the Soviet Union and the West in the United Nations over the Gulf crisis became yet another proof of the effectiveness and great potential of the policy of new thinking advocated by Gorbachev. Furthermore, that cooperation refuted the arguments of pessimists who claimed that lessons of history remain unheeded and the only thing history can do is punish the culprits for not learning them. The joint Soviet-American statement on the Gulf and the Soviet position in the United Nations showed that the lesson of fifty years ago did not go unnoticed.

Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, immediately set off alarms in London and in Washington, where it was regarded as a threat not only to the Soviet Union but also to the United States and Great Britain.

Speaking over the radio on June 22, Winston Churchill said that Hitler's invasion of Russia was only a prelude to an invasion of the British Isles. That is why the threat to Russia, he concluded, was a threat to Great Britain and the United States. His point of view was shared in Washington. President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally added to the speech of Sumner Welles, then acting secretary of state, the following: At present Hitler's armies are the main threat to the American continent. In his speech of June 23, Welles proclaimed that U.S. defenses and security would be promoted by any form of struggle against nazism.

Other opinions were also expressed in London and in Washington. On the day of Welles's speech, Senator Harry Truman stated: "If we see that Germany is winning, we ought to help Russia, and if Russia is winning, we ought to help Germany, and that way let them kill as many as possible." In Great Britain a similar opinion was expressed by John Moore Brabazon, minister of the aviation industry, who believed that the Western powers should let Germany and the Soviet Union bleed each other white, creating conditions for Great Britain to call the tune in Europe at the end of the war.

Officially London and Washington, although they did not conceal their negative attitude toward the communist dictatorship in Russia, proclaimed their readiness to cooperate with it in defeating the aggressor, despite the alarming reports from their embassies on the situation at the Soviet-German front.

Cooperation among the three nations was difficult to achieve. The attitude toward the Soviet regime in London and Washington determined

Soviet and American soldiers meet on the Elbe River in May 1945.

caution at the initial stage of establishing cooperation with Moscow. In late July the British embassy in Moscow received a telegram from its chief, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, which said: Dislike for communism has taken deep root in Great Britain. There is nothing more unpleasant than the growing impression abroad that, in striving for a better Anglo-Soviet understanding, His Majesty's government tends to popularize communist convictions, to which it is actually very hostile.

Proceeding from information from London, Ambassador Stafford Cripps told Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov that military cooperation should be limited to an exchange of military experience and combat intelligence. Cripps said that the time was not ripe for a bilateral political agreement. But Josef Stalin believed that long-term cooperation would be possible only if both countries were linked by an assistance pact. Churchill suggested only the publication of a joint declaration. Stalin pressed on, and the British government conceded. The Soviet Union and Great Britain signed an agreement on joint actions in the war against Germany on July 12, 1941. It was a major achievement.

Soviet-American relations were complicated too. The American military believed that the Red Army would not last long against such a powerful enemy as the Wehrmacht. As a result, after the visit of the Soviet military mission to the United States, the Soviet ambassador to the United States, Konstantin Umansky, sent the following telegram to Moscow: "It should be said frankly that the meeting has revealed a hostile attitude on the part of the defense secretary and his apparatus, which we have felt from the first day of the war."

Time went by, but the blitzkrieg promised by Hitler did not materialize. The gloomy forecasts of Western military strategists concerning the fall of Moscow did not come true. Harry Hopkins, personal envoy of President Roosevelt, visited Moscow in late July 1941. In his report to Washington he said that the USSR had an unlimited resolve to win.

Despite the desire of the Soviet government to sign a lend-lease agreement, however, the United States was in no hurry to comply.

On August 14 Churchill and Roosevelt, meeting off the coast of Newfoundland, published the so-called Atlantic Charter, which outlined the aims of the war against Hitler's Germany and its allies and plans for a postwar structure of the world. On September 24, 1941, the Soviet Union signed the charter. The Soviet announcement to this effect said that it was the task of all peoples and states to guarantee the earliest possible decisive defeat of the aggressors.

The Atlantic Charter became the first document in which the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union jointly proclaimed the aims of their struggle against Hitler's Germany and its allies. Facing a global threat, Communists and imperialists deemed it possible to proclaim common aims. It remained only to elaborate ways to attain them.

The Atlantic Charter and the declaration of the Soviet government were ☞

major steps toward the creation of the anti-Hitler coalition.

From September 29 to October 1, 1941, Moscow hosted a tripartite conference of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, at which the participants decided to pool their efforts in the struggle against Hitler and his allies. Between July and September the United States had sent fifty-nine fighters and five hundred trucks to the Soviet Union, which was not enough. On the first day of the aggression the Germans had destroyed more than 1,200 Soviet planes and other military hardware. The enemy was virtually standing at the walls of Moscow, and the officers of German advance units could see the cupolas of Moscow churches through binoculars.

The Moscow Conference ended on October 1 with the signing of the first tripartite Allied agreement, a secret protocol of deliveries. The idea of the anti-Hitler coalition was complemented with a solid material basis. Under the protocol, the United States and Great Britain pledged to deliver to the Soviet Union four hundred planes, five hundred tanks, air defense and antitank guns, tin, aluminum, lead, and other kinds of military materiel and armaments monthly in the period from October 1, 1941, until the end of June 1942. Moreover, in late October 1941 the United States government gave the Soviet Union an interest-free loan of one billion dollars to pay for lend-lease deliveries.

On November 4 Stalin sent a telegram to President Roosevelt in which he called the decision "vital aid to the Soviet Union in its tremendous and onerous struggle against our common enemy—bloody Hitlerism."

Stalin's address and Molotov's final speech at the conference in Moscow testified to a very important change in the position of the Soviet government, a change that had occurred during the hundred days since the beginning of the German attack. That change can be seen clearly in Molotov's speeches at the final session of the conference on October 1, 1941.

In late October 1939, when Great Britain and France were already fighting Germany and the Soviet leaders had a nonaggression pact and an agreement on border friendship with Fascists, Molotov thundered at the "ruling classes in Great Britain and France." He said: "The British government has proclaimed that the aim of its war against Germany is allegedly nothing other than the destruction of Hitlerism. But wars of this kind cannot be justified. Anyone will understand that ideologies cannot be destroyed by force of arms, by means of war. That is why it is not just senseless, but criminal to wage such a war as the war to destroy Hitlerism, under the false motto of struggle for democracy."

On October 1, 1941, a hundred days after Germany attacked the Soviet Union, Molotov, quite forgetting about his class attitude, proclaimed: "It should be said that not only Great Britain, which is fighting Nazi Germany, but also the nonfighting United States of America have unanimously agreed on the need to destroy Hitlerism and help the Soviet Union in this struggle with their rich material resources. Against his will, Hitler has helped to pool efforts of the main democratic countries against the nazi tyranny, which is a deadly threat not only for those who have been attacked but also for those who will be attacked in the near future."

Yes, it was a dramatic change. The same man who had criticized the ruling classes of Great Britain and France for their desire to destroy Hitlerism two years before now hailed the coalition created for that very purpose. Molotov declared: "We are convinced that our great anti-Hitler front will become stronger soon, that no force on earth can destroy this anti-Hitler front, and that at long last a coalition spearheaded against Hitlerism was created by states that would find ways and means to banish the nazi abscess in Europe, threatening all peoples, from the face of the earth."

Leaders of the Western powers and of the Soviet Union learned an important lesson. It took them a hundred days to change their opinion of each other in conditions of a global threat, a hundred days of breathing space that was guaranteed by the Red Army. As a result, each side made the only possible choice. The West overcame its distrust of the Soviet Union and pinned its hopes on the valiance of the socialist state, while the Soviet leadership abandoned its class attitude and joined forces with the leading capitalist powers. Both sides did this in the name of eliminating the absolute evil of the twentieth century, nazism.

Some three years later, at the Yalta Conference of the Big Three on February 11, 1945, when the fate of the nazi monster was sealed, Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill stated that the victory in that war and the projected establishment of the United Nations Organization provided the greatest possibility for guaranteeing peace. In principle, they were correct, although the cold war that followed, despite the establishment of the United Nations, postponed the implementation of their idea by forty-five years. It took much time and effort for the Western leaders to overcome their traditional distrust of the Soviet Union and for the Soviet leadership to renounce its dogmatic class attitude toward politics.

Only after perestroika was launched in April 1985 did the Soviet Union recognize the priority of global human values over class interests. One of the results of the new thinking advocated by Gorbachev was a change in the Program of the Communist Party of the USSR. Two of this document's fundamental phrases, which recognized the theoretical possibility of waging a nuclear war in the name of class interests, were deleted. These sentences were: "If the imperialist aggressors dare to initiate a new world war, people would no longer tolerate a system that imposes devastating wars on them. They will sweep away and bury imperialism." In our nuclear age this would have meant an end to humanity.

Free from the bonds of bias and a dogmatic class view of foreign policy, the Western leaders and the Soviet leadership acted as one when the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait created a new global threat. They did so in the United Nations, the organization conceived by the leaders of the three great powers during the Second World War. The fifty years that have passed since the establishment of the anti-Hitler coalition have evidently been long enough to learn the lesson of history but not so long as to forget it. ■

REDEFINING THE KGB

By Victor Bashkin

The Law on State Security Agencies is a long-awaited legislative act. And no wonder—so much has been said and written about the violations of our laws by the KGB, (the Committee for State Security). The historical truth is acquiring a more definite image; its complex and tragic pieces are finally clicking into place. That is why the Soviet people want to make sure that the changes that have taken place in our country are irreversible. The people want firm guarantees that their rights and freedoms will be safeguarded.

Laws on special services are a legal standard in any civilized country. It would be wrong to say that previously there were no legislative acts to regulate the activities of the KGB in the USSR. The problem was that the regulations were issued by government agencies and kept secret from the public. Today they do not conform to the spirit of the times and the democratic processes under way in this country.

Interestingly, it was the KGB itself that initiated the new law. The effort involved hundreds of people: lawyers, KGB personnel, experts on international affairs, and independent experts. The draft law reflected the numerous observations and suggestions submitted by members of union and republican government bodies.

It wasn't a smooth effort in any way. Some of the people's deputies argued that a law on the KGB should indeed be passed, but not until there was a new union treaty and a cohesive plan for national security. The point is certainly a valid one, but the experience of perestroika indicates that the bodies of state authority are often late in making crucial decisions, which has had a negative impact on this country's progress. This applies to both economic reform and the work of law-enforcement agencies. It would hardly have made sense to shelve the draft approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet last May.

So what exactly is the Law on State Security Agencies? In the first place, it is a document that clearly and unambiguously regulates the agencies of state security and defines their spheres of competence, even in areas that have been kept secret from the public until now. The people, who once reacted with fear at the very mention of the secret agency, will now realize that their relationship with the KGB is based on legal standards.

Notably, the law stresses human rights and respect for the individual. It does this in a very specific manner. For instance, Article 4 of the law states that the agencies of state security will in their activities undeviatingly observe the rights and freedoms of the individual. If such rights and freedoms are violated, the law enables any person to appeal the illegal action in court, and the KGB branch in question will be obliged to restore justice, compensate for damages, and prosecute the culprit or culprits.

Under the draft, the KGB's main functions are intelligence and counterintelligence activities; the provision of essential information to the supreme bodies of state authority; crime control; the ensuring of state secrets; the protection of state borders; guaranteeing the readiness of wartime security forces; and methodological, organizational, and technical assistance to interested departments.

The draft's largest section describes the authority of the agencies of state security. Three levels are described. There is a range of duties assigned to the KGB proper, another assigned jointly to the central KGB and the agencies of state security in the republics, and still another that is the responsibility of the state security agencies in the republics.

In particular, the central KGB organizes intelligence and counterintelligence work; guards against terrorism and investigates organized crime; protects state borders; ensures the safety of diplomatic missions, and consular and other agencies of foreign countries; uses its troops to ensure state security on the basis of and in compliance with the procedures stipulated in the law of the USSR; establishes contacts and maintains interaction with special services in foreign countries; and so forth.

Many areas having to do with the ensuring of common interests fall within joint authority.

From now on, the republics' state security agencies will have broad powers. The rigid, centralized management structure is no more. Appointments to and removals from office in the republics' security bodies will be the domain of the republics. Holders of such posts will be ex officio on the board of the central KGB. The republican KGB branches will be in charge of intelligence and counterintelligence work, crime control, assistance in the protection of state borders, and many other things.

For the first time in Soviet history, the rights of the KGB bodies have been described openly. The law permits KGB personnel to carry out public or covert search operations, and to use the assistance of individuals on a secret or public basis. In certain situations described in the law, the KGB has the right to intercept mail or wiretap telephones. Such activities, however, must be approved by the procurator.

Under certain extraordinary circumstances, the KGB has the right at any time to enter and examine a citizen's home or the territory and premises of an enterprise, agency, or organization. The KGB must notify the procurator twenty-four hours in advance. The law describes in detail situations where KGB military personnel have the right to make use of weapons (Article 15).

The law gives society a chance to more effectively monitor KGB activities. This is evident in the fifth and final section of the document: Overseeing the activities of the central KGB will be the domain of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the President, and the Cabinet of Ministers (Article 1). Monitoring the uniform execution of laws by the KGB will be the responsibility of the USSR Procurator General, the procurators of the union republics, and procurators accountable to them (Article 20). From now on, the KGB's activities will be permanently governed by law. ■

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know Syoma. Gradually I learned the details of his unusual biography.

The photographs on these pages have all been exhibited in the senior Simon Kiladze's shows at one time or another.

middle of bloody battles, Lieutenant Kiladze took over a platoon near Rzhev. He finished fighting in Germany as Captain of the Guards. He was later awarded the Order of the Red Star for forcing a crossing over the Oder River. He also received the Polish Grunwald Cross for the liberation of Warsaw.

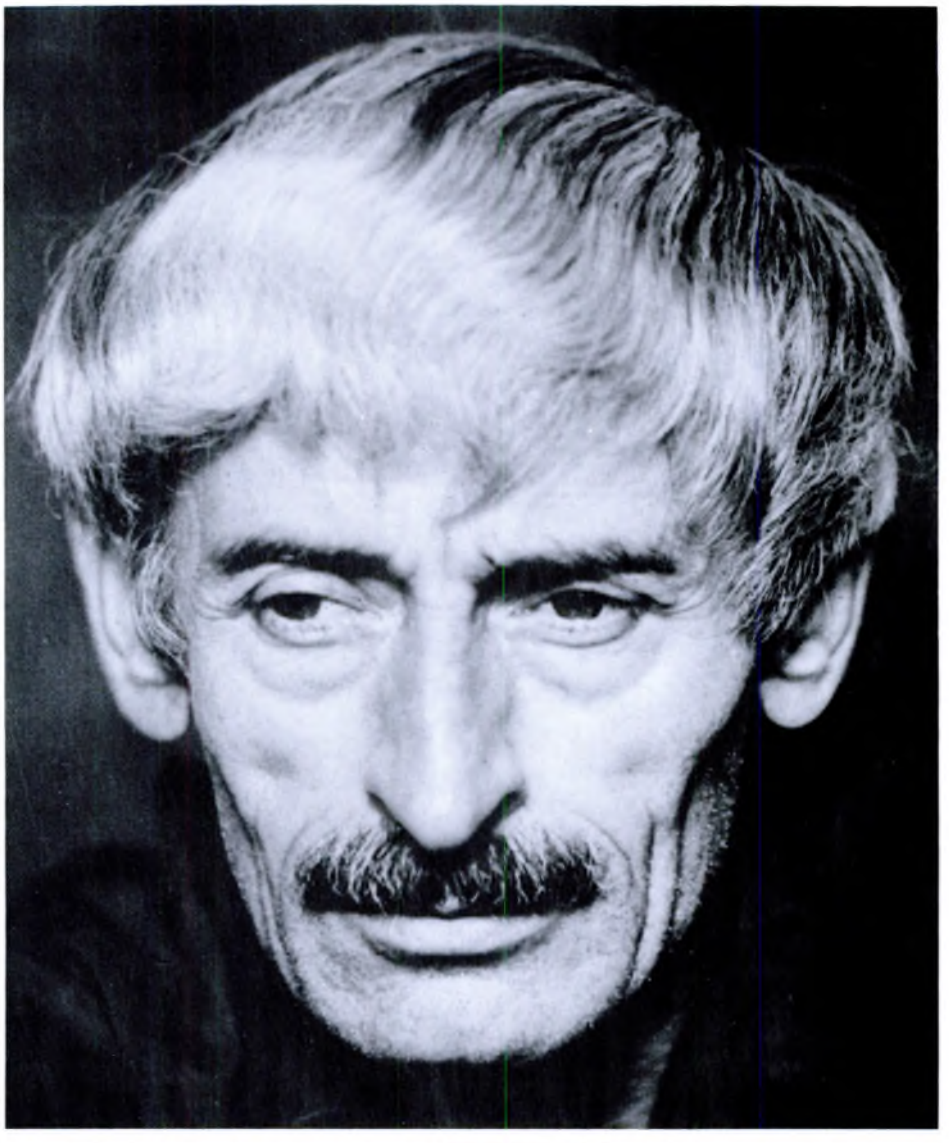
Simon's unit was billeted in the small Polish city of Bad Polzin. There he met a charming Polish woman, Bozena Czerwinska. Only Major Sergei Petrov, Simon's friend and commanding officer, knew about their romance. Petrov told Simon that headquarters had received a decree forbidding Soviet citizens to marry foreigners. "If you want to marry Bozena, do it now, before the decree is made public," he advised.

Simon and Bozena were married that very day: January 9, 1946. She worked as a secretary at the municipality, a fact that helped the young couple arrange the matter quickly. The decree was issued within the week. That fall Simon was demobilized, and the couple moved to Berlin, where Simon was promised a job with a military publishing house. Soon Bozena gave birth to a son. Simon threw a party for his friends to celebrate the occasion. Everybody congratulated the couple and wished them happiness. Everything seemed to be going well. But that same night, the young family was awakened by a knock on the door. An examining magistrate with two submachine gunners in tow had come to arrest Simon. After interrogation in a military prison, he was sentenced to ten years of hard labor on charges of attempted high treason and escape to the Western zone.

On the way to the labor camp in Yakutia, the train stopped in Kansk, Simon's birthplace. "They took us for a bath there, but there was no water. So in the end they only disinfected our clothes," Simon recalled with a short laugh.

That's how his life in prison began. The former decorated Captain of the Guards marched to the gold mine under escort, dug the ground under close supervision, and returned to his hut at night with the same column and escort. That was his daily routine for five years.

"How did you stand it?" I asked in amazement. ☞



The people of Georgia—their faces and their way of life—are a favorite subject for Simon Kiladze, Sr.

"To tell you the truth, my wartime experience helped me out a lot," he answered. "I was with the infantry. Believe me, the worst hut is a resort compared to a trench in the winter. That was real penal servitude."

Although the physical trials he endured were hard, the uncertainty about his wife and son was worse. He did not know what had happened to them or where they were. Had Bozena returned to her parents, to Bad Polzin, or had she stayed in Berlin? Had she been arrested, like Shushana, as the wife of an enemy of the people? It was only in late 1948 that he got a letter from his sister, Olga. She enclosed a letter from Bozena, which said that she was living with her son in the Ruhr, West Germany. Why the Ruhr? The letter explained nothing. But the main thing was that his wife and son were alive. Simon reasoned that he was not going to spend the rest of his life in the camp. In six years he would be free.

Then an incredible thing happened. Simon's cell mate, Otto Neidorf, was a German. He had killed an SS man during a fight in a camp for German POWs and had been transferred to a "regular Soviet camp" as a criminal. Otto corresponded with his family in West Germany through a German contract laborer who lived in a neighboring village. In one of his letters he asked his wife to look for Bozena. In the summer of 1951, Otto took Simon aside and showed him a letter from his wife, with two photographs enclosed. Both portrayed the same boy. The first picture was taken in a park, when he was very little, and the second later, in a room next to a portrait of a young man. Looking closely, Simon recognized himself. Simon felt a lump in his throat. The inscription on the back of the picture said May 9, 1950. It had been taken on his birthday!

Simon received no more news from Bozena. Still, the knowledge that his wife and son were waiting for him gave him the strength he needed to survive in the camp. He was released in March 1955.

His sister, Olga, lived in Gagry, a seaside resort on the Black Sea coast of Georgia. She was Simon's only close relative in the USSR. As he passed through Moscow on his way to Gagry to see her, Simon sent a letter to Bozena's aunt, who lived in Bad Polzin. He told her that he had been released and asked her to find his wife and son. He got an answer on New Year's Eve. The aunt wrote that Bozena had been killed in an automobile accident two years before and that the boy had been taken to America by his grandparents,

who had emigrated there shortly after their daughter's death. She had no idea where they were. So Simon lost his family for the second time. But even then he did not lose hope; he knew his son was alive.

Simon bought a camera. At first he mostly took casual pictures of vacationers in Gagry, but then he took up photography seriously. In 1959 he moved to Tbilisi and got a job as a photographer with the newspaper *Zarya vostoka*. By that time both his father and he had been fully rehabilitated. His private life was gradually getting back to normal as well. Once on his way to work he bumped into Tina Lezhava. They had gone to school together and had lived in the same building. Their families had been friends. Tina's father, a professional revolutionary and high-ranking party official in Georgia, had been executed in 1937, like Simon's father.

Tina and Simon were attracted to each other and were soon married. Gradually Simon became one of the best photographers in Georgia. His works were published in several Moscow periodicals, and he won several national awards. His reputation attracted international attention. In 1977 he was invited to take part in an exhibition in Grudziadz, Poland. He sent photographs selected for the exhibition and a letter to the director of the exhibition, Janusz Nowacki. Simon wrote that he was especially happy to accept Nowacki's invitation because during the war he had helped liberate the city from the Fascists. The letter was published by the local newspaper, and Simon received a hearty welcome. The visitors to the exhibition appreciated the photographer's mastery and originality. Through Simon's work they discovered an unknown land—Georgia—with its own characteristic people, nature, and customs. Nowacki arranged a one-man show for Simon in Grudziadz.

Then, suddenly, life took an unexpected turn. Late in January 1979 Simon received a letter from Poland. Bozena's aunt, who had written about her niece's death, now wrote that Bozena was in fact alive. There had been no automobile accident. She had married a Canadian and gone overseas, taking her son with her. When Simon was released from the camp, the aunt, who had been made cautious by bitter experience, decided not to tempt fate anymore. But the situation had changed, and Poland and the USSR had changed too. The cruel times that had wrecked so many lives were passing.

Bozena's aunt had happened to visit Grudziadz when Kiladze's one-man show was on display there. She was surprised to see the familiar name on the advertisement. After seeing the exhibition and reading about the artist, she understood the situation and wrote to her niece in Canada. Bozena asked her to contact Simon, since she was still afraid to do it herself. Janusz Nowacki gave the aunt Simon's address in Tbilisi.

Simon held no grudge against Bozena. On the contrary, he always thought that he had ruined her life. Now he was grateful for the chance to meet his son, who was named Simon, after him.

Father and son met at Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow on October 14, 1981. On that day Simon Kiladze, Jr., turned thirty-five. They celebrated his birthday at the airport restaurant, just the two of them. Simon, Sr., spoke English. At the age of sixty-four, he had learned it in one year while waiting for his son's arrival. "When I found Simon and learned that we would meet, I said to myself, we can't talk through an interpreter. That's why I decided to learn English." Unsentimental, he added thoughtfully: "I'd have learned Chinese for that."

His son stayed with him for a month. They traveled all over Georgia together. Simon, Jr., a road and bridge designer, proved to be fond of photography too. "He's got my genes," the elder Kiladze said, smiling. Indeed, the son took after his father in more ways than one.

A year later Simon, Sr., paid a return visit to Canada. Tina cried when she saw him off. "You think I'm not coming back?" Simon asked, with a sad smile. "I certainly am, and you know it."

In Toronto he met a large family: his son; daughter-in-law Debora, a biology teacher; granddaughter Rachel; grandson Timothy; and Bozena. I don't know what they discussed or what they reminisced about. Simon didn't tell me, and I didn't ask him. ■

POPPY

Continued from page 15

ken up, the militia found four million rubles' worth of ready drugs, 200,000 rubles' worth of other goods and weapons, and sizable wads of dollars.

Soviet law-enforcement agencies today aim mostly at eliminating the raw material base and distribution channels of narcotic drugs, together with the underground drug factories. Many pharmacies have recently been forbidden to dispense medicinal narcotic drugs altogether, and the remaining licensed stores are under strict supervision. Law-enforcement agencies also scrutinize the operations of legal drug manufacturers.

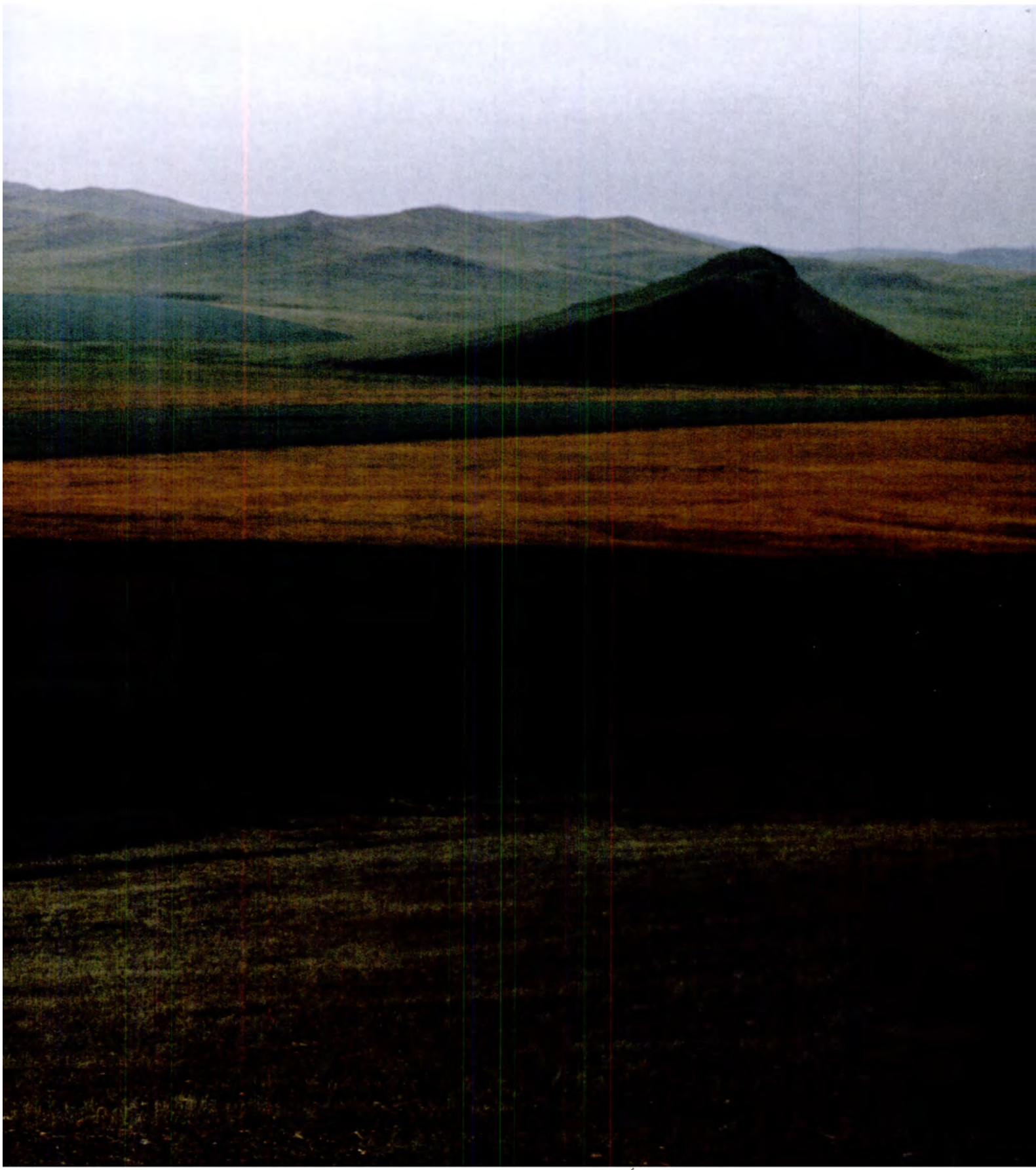
In 1986, the USSR Ministry of the Interior began its regular across-the-board operations, code-named Poppy, to expose and destroy illegal poppy and hemp plantations and to identify drug traffickers and owners of pot-smoking dens. This operation normally starts in the spring in the Central Asian republics and in Kazakhstan, further expanding to other republics. Poppy involves tens of thousands of members of the militia, investigators, traffic inspectors, and others. Sometimes it requires the assistance of interior troops, the KGB, the USSR Procurator's Office, and army and civilian helicopter units.

These forces destroy illegal crops and apprehend the "farmers," who often go high into virgin mountain country or far out onto the steppe to cultivate their illegal crops. However, drug-enforcement officers often face daunting problems. For instance, in many cases last year, drug growers in Central Asia had their plantations located on the territory of neighboring republics, thus creating conflicting claims from law-enforcement departments. Drug dealers often protect themselves from prosecution by operating through pushers. Sometimes they use minors for this purpose, most commonly Gypsy children.

The USSR Ministry of the Interior is trying to set up a highly centralized interrepublican network to thwart the thriving drug trade. The network is to feature a unified data bank and to coordinate its operations. ■

The landscapes of Buryatia are an inspiration to Buryat artist Serenzhav Baldano.

Photograph by Vladimir Lagrange



THE MASKS OF SERENZHAV BALDANO

Photographs by Vladimir Dodonov

Correspondent Nina Vaneyeva talks to a Buryat artist who is determined to preserve his national heritage.

When the Soviet writer Ilya Ehrenburg went to Paris to see his friend Pablo Picasso for the latter's jubilee, he brought three gifts with him: a bead-embroidered Uzbek *khupan* cap; a set of brightly colored clay toys from Dymkovo, in Central Russia; and a wooden mask by Buryat sculptor Serenzhav Baldano, a pious Buddhist and prominent art collector.

Soviet authorities banned Baldano's fantastic works from museums and shows for many years. Still, his masterpieces can be found in many private collections in Moscow and abroad—in the United States, Germany, Canada, and Australia.

I first saw Baldano's wooden masterpieces at his recent one-man show in Moscow, "The World of Serenzhav Baldano." They captured my imagination, and I was eager to meet the sculptor.

His daughter Irina, a Moscow art historian, had warned me that the interview would hardly make her father's world crystal-clear to me. Reticent to the utmost, Baldano pretended to avoid conversation about his work, and kept strangers—and even his friends and family, for that matter—at a safe distance.

An aroma of incense filled Baldano's small suite at the Hotel Kiev. My host smiled, fingering his rosary, as he parried my questions. The most essential he answered with a polite but firm,

Facing page, bottom: Serenzhav Baldano with granddaughter Erzhena on the opening day of his exhibition. *Right:* Three Gods Conversing. *1990.*

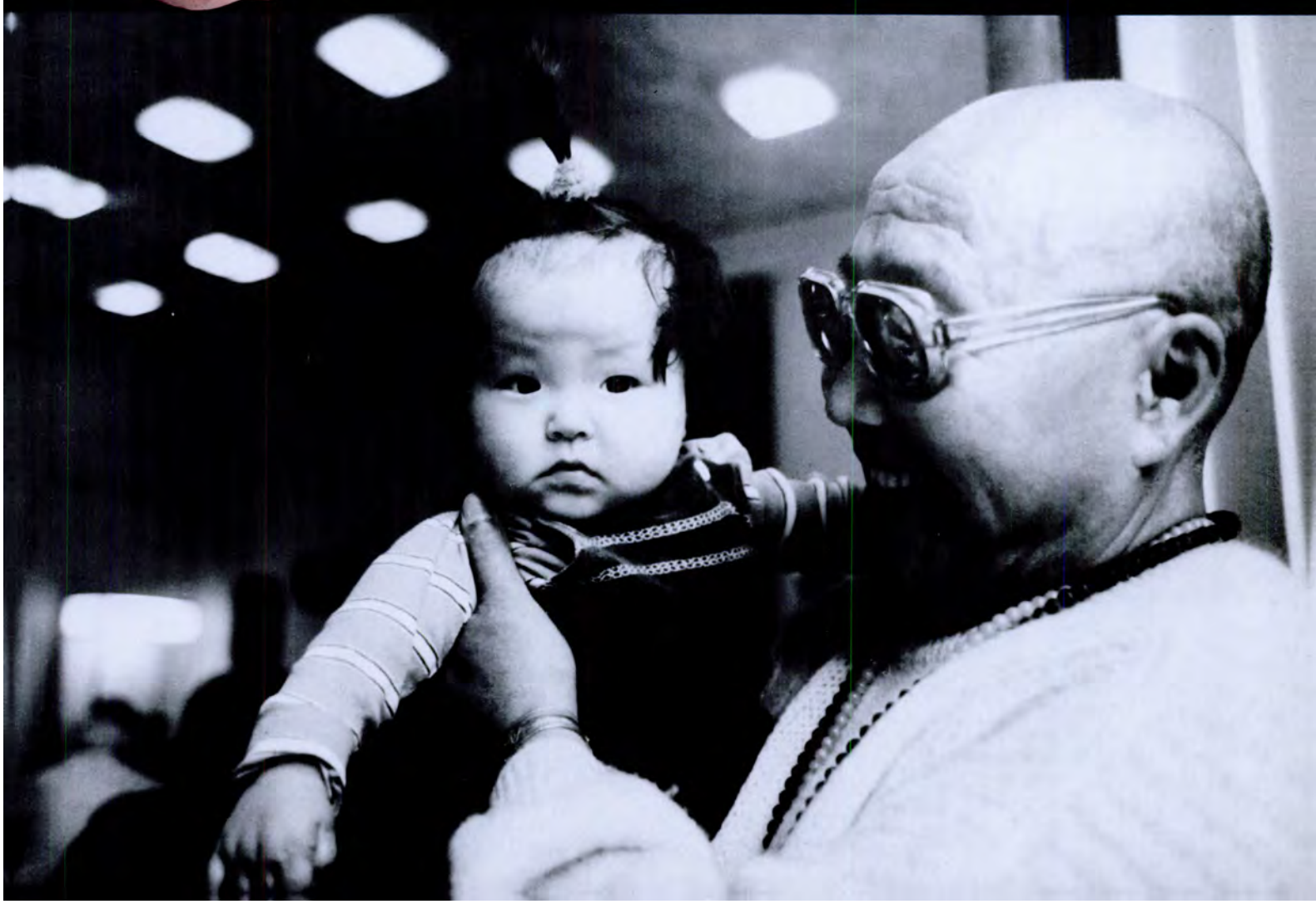
"That is a personal matter, which I won't discuss."

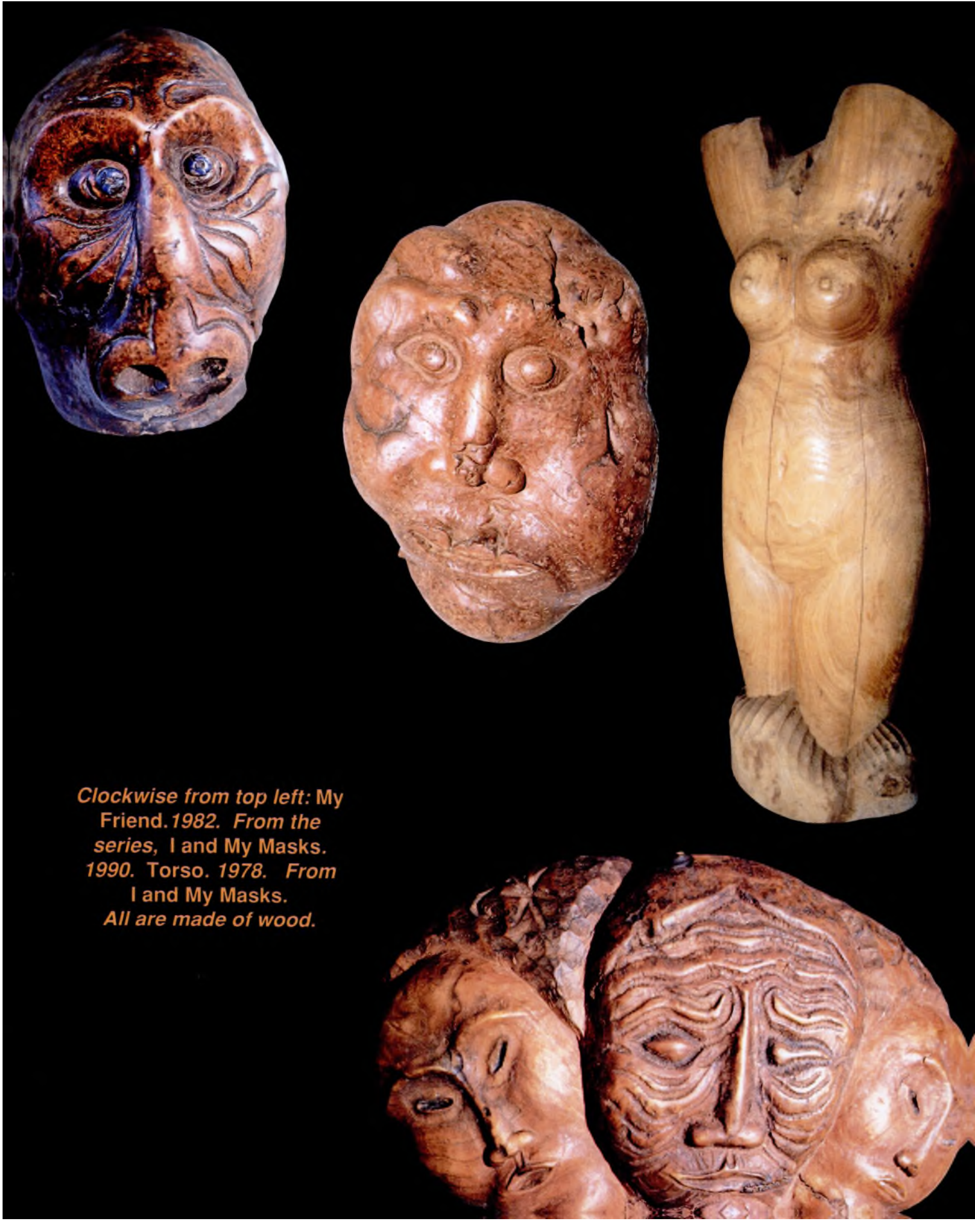
A stocky man of sixty-one, with a clean-shaven head, Baldano was wearing a loose, homespun shirt, square glasses, and a huge ring on his left hand. He appeared no less striking than he had at a private preview of his show, where he had worn a loose, coarse sweater like the ones favored by Montmartre bohemians, and a rosary around his neck. Little children, his grandchildren and nephews, swarmed around him, trying to shock their Moscow visitors.

"Is that a folk costume you're wearing?" I asked Baldano.

"No—and the sweater you mentioned wasn't Western, either. My wife knitted it, and this shirt was made by my youngest daughter—both of my own design. I wear only homemade clothes. I want them loose. When I'm happy, I put on a red, yellow, or brown monastic robe. Not that I ever go out in public dressed like that. A monk's robe is for home."

Baldano regularly visits his favorite *datsan*, or Buddhist monastery. It is located in the Aginsky-Buryat Autonomous Area, near the Soviet-Mongolian border and not far from Baldano's birthplace. Everyone in the area knows him. The ☞





Clockwise from top left: My Friend. *1982. From the series,* I and My Masks. *1990.* Torso. *1978. From* I and My Masks. *All are made of wood.*

"Coercion leads to the death of art. Yet Soviet rule relied on coercion. Our education was based on alien patterns and socialist realist precepts. The Baltic republics, Georgia, and Armenia had enough stamina to preserve their spiritual values. As for Siberian, subarctic, and Far Eastern ethnic entities, they find themselves in a dreadful plight. Now we can hardly hope to revive their cultures," says the sculptor.

Once he became head of the Buryat Artists Union, Baldano was in a position to challenge official castes. The local bosses saw a formidable enemy in this uncompromising idealist. In 1967, Baldano was stripped of his presidency and expelled from the USSR Artists Union—not, however, before he had made his name as an artist outside Buryatia. His wooden vases (decorated with relief faces), statues, and designer furniture were well known, and his masks sold briskly in Moscow art shops. But the critics knew which side their bread was buttered on. They no longer went into raptures over his works but branded them obscurantist attempts to revive Lamaist traditions.

The story may sound absurd today, but at that time it meant a loss of livelihood for Baldano and his family. Moscow studios no longer needed his services. He received no more orders. The Baldanos were compelled to move to Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, where they have lived to this day.

But now back to my Moscow interview.

Q: Masks have been your lifetime pursuit. What exactly do they mean to you?

A: A mask can express every feeling, every secret of the psyche. In Africa, for instance, masks are quintessential expressions of the national spirit and culture.

Q: Your masks are all totally different, yet I recognize you and your daughters in many. Am I right?
A: Yes, some are self-portraits.

Q: They represent the countless aspects of your personality. I don't think you know in the morning what you'll be like as the day progresses. Or do you?

My Kids and I. *1989. Wood.*

A: I haven't yet achieved my true self. I don't know what it is. I only know what I don't want to be—a decrepit old man. I will leave this world in full command of my powers. I chose a hill near Alma-Ata, where I've been piling up hay. The day I feel is the last that I'll have strength enough to reach it and set fire to the hay, I'll go there [illegible]

Self-immolation is in keeping with my religious beliefs. My near and dear ones will scatter my ashes to the wind, and the elements will do the rest. And my mortal flesh will dissolve in the universe.

Q: Two of your sculptures, *Protest* and *Amnesia*, have much in common. Do they, too, express your heart and mind?
A: *Protest* is a work that I did in 1969. It is a self-portrait, done at a time when I realized that my fate was sealed and art alone could preserve my selfhood. So I carved that figure to express my non-acceptance of the establishment as it was at the time.

Amnesia was made twenty years later. It proceeded from traditional Buryat masks and philosophically represents Evil as a spirit opposed to Humankind, Nature, and Life.

Q:Why "amnesia"?
A: Because all over the world, men and women are forgetting their ancient roots and ignoring the nature around them.

Q: You have three daughters, and their names all begin with the letter "I": Irina, Indira, and Inga. Is there any symbolism here?
A: Yes; their names are meant to bind them together. I didn't want them to take up the arts—but it was in the family, and that turned out to be stronger than the plans I had for my girls. They've made their own choices. Now, Irina and Indira are on the threshold of art. Inga, my youngest, a fashion designer, is already an artist. So is Carina, my granddaughter. I had her drawings exhibited at my show. I'm sure they caught your attention. These two are the really gifted girls, and it [illegible]

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A: I haven't yet achieved my true self. I don't know what it is. I only know what I don't want to be—a decrepit old man. I will leave this world in full command of my powers. I chose a hill near Alma-Ata, where I've been piling up hay. The day I feel is the last that I'll have strength enough to reach it and set fire to the hay, I'll go there [illegible]

Self-immolation is in keeping with my religious beliefs. My near and dear ones will scatter my ashes to the wind, and the elements will do the rest. And my mortal flesh will dissolve in the universe.

Q: Two of your sculptures, *Protest* and *Amnesia*, have much in common. Do they, too, express your heart and mind?
A: *Protest* is a work that I did in 1969. It is a self-portrait, done at a time when I realized that my fate was sealed and art alone could preserve my selfhood. So I carved that figure to express my non-acceptance of the establishment as it was at the time.

Amnesia was made twenty years later. It proceeded from traditional Buryat masks and philosophically represents Evil as a spirit opposed to Humankind, Nature, and Life.

Q:Why "amnesia"?
A: Because all over the world, men and women are forgetting their ancient roots and ignoring the nature around them.

Q: You have three daughters, and their names all begin with the letter "I": Irina, Indira, and Inga. Is there any symbolism here?
A: Yes; their names are meant to bind them together. I didn't want them to take up the arts—but it was in the family, and that turned out to be stronger than the plans I had for my girls. They've made their own choices. Now, Irina and Indira are on the threshold of art. Inga, my youngest, a fashion designer, is already an artist. So is Carina, my granddaughter. I had her drawings exhibited at my show. I'm sure they caught your attention. These two are the really gifted girls, and it [illegible]

easy. I know very well that their life won't be a bed of roses.

Q: Must true art always be fundamentally religious?
A: Religion is the basis of all culture and art. But then, you can be a gifted artist and still be unaware of your link with the transcendental. I made a statue called Three *Gods Conversing*: It depicts Christ, Mohammed, and Buddha as worlds apart from one another; it portrays my opinion of them. Any conclusions are for the viewer to make.

Q: You possess a unique collection of old Buryat art—the world's largest and most expensive—which it has taken you a lifetime to compile. Why did you do it?
A: What I saw when I came back to Buryatia and headed its Artists Union dumbfounded me. I saw museum treasures in utter neglect and haphazardly distributed. I did what I could to change things. I wanted to have an inventory of the surviving exhibits—but what could I do on my own? I traveled to every nook and cranny of the republic in search of folk artists and craftspeople, and every trip brought me some precious old artifact, from ritual objects to household utensils. Some I found literally in scrap heaps; others I bought or swapped for a watch or some clothes. My collection grew over the years. The money it cost! Now it's more than twenty years old, and it's shaped up into the perfect embodiment of my nostalgia for Buryatia the way it was in the old days. No other person in the world has anything like it, and I'll never sell a single item. Let everything stay in the family for generations to come. ■

Socialism

Continued from page 7

bureaucratic apparatus. The power of the bureaucracy leads sooner or later to one-man dictatorship and to economic and political oppression. Regardless of the ideas and aspirations of its leaders, the revolution eventually returns to its starting point.

Globalization of the System

Emboldened by perestroika and tired of the endless pursuit of the unattainable, many people say that we should stop deceiving ourselves and others, give up socialist fantasies, and take the best of what has already been achieved (having in mind the developed Western countries).

If we do so, we will be making yet another mistake. We won't be able to "outrun" history but will fall hopelessly behind it, because the policy of society does not depend entirely on preference and choice. It is dictated by powerful objective tendencies in social development. It is important, however, to make the most of the changes and to reduce to a minimum the dangers they create.

There are historians and writers who claim that all our troubles result from the rashness of the Bolsheviks, who did not want to wait for the victory of the working-class movement in the Western countries. If we follow this logic, we may come to the conclusion that the policy of state socialism may succeed "this time." However, this policy has become so discredited that its repetition is very unlikely, at least in the near future. We must move in a new direction, looking for the best way to combine elements of different social systems. And we must not go it alone. We must work together with all other peoples. Social progress today is inextricably linked with the establishment of a new world order.

In a "strictly international" sense, the Soviet Union has no need for integration, because it has long been a part—and even one of the bulwarks—of the present-day international order. Integration with the rest of the world has meaning for the USSR if we mean the overcoming of the economic and social gap with the prevailing forms of social organization. It is not integration with capitalism, as claimed by some orthodox Communists to frighten us, but integration with an entirely new international social and economic environment, in which many different social models coexist, but the principles of democracy and social market economy prevail.

The Defeat of Reason

According to classic Marxist theory, socialism should have prevailed in all of the advanced countries at the same time. Lenin formulated the thesis that it could prevail initially in one country. Soviet experience has shown, however, that it is extremely difficult to swim against the tide and create a new social model while the majority of countries have a different economic and political system. And yet it would be quite wrong to think that socialism can only be a universal cause or no one's cause. It appears that the development of today's increasingly integrated world community is determined by the pattern of the international system itself rather than the social system in individual states.

From this viewpoint, the crisis in the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries is a universal crisis. The fact that the hopes for a perfect system based on freedom and equality have not materialized is, to some extent, the defeat of reason. Socialism as an ideal has not died. I am convinced it will survive and regain its appeal after it is modified on the basis of past experience. The idea that it was possible to create heaven on earth by using a scientific doctrine has died. As for the socialist principle, one can assume with a fair degree of confidence that it will be widely used in regulating relations between the North and the South and allaying new social conflicts that will break out in the emerging new world order.

In short, the search for a lost ideal allows one to come to the conclusion that socialism has not disappeared but has to occupy the place accorded to it by the nature of human society. Combined in reasonable proportions with democracy, humanism, liberalism, and other values of human civilization, it is destined to determine the nature of the future social order. ■

Andrei Golitsyn, a new leader of the Russian nobility.

ARISTOCRATS UNITE

By Leonid Lipilin

Photographs by Victor Velikzhanin

The Russian nobility numbered 1.2 million before the October 1917 Revolution. Now very few of these aristocrats' descendants openly claim their noble origin. Andrei Golitsyn is one who does. He comes from a famous family of Russian princes. Not long ago he became the head of a new organization of descendants of the Russian nobility.

According to the ancient chronicles, the Golitsyns were active on Russia's political scene as far back as the early sixteenth century. A Golitsyn even claimed the Russian throne in the seventeenth century. Subsequently, the family gave its country outstanding statesmen, military leaders, scientists, and cultural personalities.

Hard times fell on the Golitsyns, as they did on the other surviving Russian nobles, in October 1917. Soviet power not only eliminated the last privileges of the nobility that remained after the February 1917 Revolution, but branded all of them "enemies of the people." The Golitsyn family dwindled. Some of its members died in the Civil War, others in concentration camps during Stalin's repressions. Still others left their country for good. Only a few, like Andrei Golitsyn, still live in the Soviet Union.

A talented artist, Golitsyn had to restrict his interests to the confines of his trade and family. But as they say, everything changes with time. Perestroika and glasnost came, and charity and compassion became fashionable again. The people took a long, hard look at their past and present, and they suddenly remembered that the Russian nobility had played a significant role in creating and strengthening the Russian state and that this state had elaborated a code of honor that firmly asserted that the protection of the weak by the strong, compassion, high moral standards, and truthfulness were important things in life.

When Soviet newspapers and magazines began printing objective information about Russian history, a noticeable shift occurred in the public consciousness. People have revised their attitudes toward the classes and social groups condemned by the October 1917 Revolution. Now it is commonly understood that the strength of the state is not in "class" hatred that some citizens feel for others, but in agreement on the community of interests and the optimal ways of achieving a given goal. The creation of the new Union of the Russian Nobility is evidence of this change. Prince Golitsyn was elected its first leader.

The organization by no means strives to restore the past social privileges of the nobility. According to Golitsyn, the union does not pursue any political goals. Its members do not demand any privileges. They are against any discord over class, religious, or nationalist principles. Prince Golitsyn thinks that people should be judged by their moral qualities and merits, such as conscience, loy- ☞

Above: The St. Daniel Monastery, the upkeep of whose necropolis is partially funded by the union of descendants of the nobility. Left: Andrei Golitsyn's portrayal of the Andronnikov Monastery of the early eighteenth century. The illustration is for a book on Moscow streets, written by Golitsyn's uncle, Oleg Volkov.

Left: Andrei Golitsyn, with his wife, Irina, and their daughter, Masha. Top: Golitsyn's illustration of the Church of Christ the Savior, for his uncle's book. Facing page: The Golitsyns at their dacha with Andrei's uncle, Oleg Volkov, and his wife.

alty to one's duty, and honesty. The main task of the union is to give people back the feeling of duty to society and their loved ones. It is indicative that the members of the organization are considering the construction of a monument called Reconciliation—of the Reds and the Whites, so that the nation should never again be divided into hostile groups.

Culture and charitable activities are the main concerns of the members of the Union of the Russian Nobility. They intend to help the Russian Orthodox church in the restoration of churches and monasteries, to revive old estates of the nobility and turn them into museums, to organize a lyceum and a tourist agency, and to promote the development of crafts. The union has set up a special fund (named after Grand Duchess Elizabeth, who was canonized), and supports a children's home and various cemeteries in Moscow where famous nobles are buried. Some historic relics have been returned to Russia as a result of the union members' efforts.

The organization corresponds with Russian nobles in emigration. Its activities have been praised by Grand Duke Vladimir, who lives in Paris.

To become a member of the union, one should really have deep roots in the Russian nobility. The origin of every new applicant is carefully considered by a special commission. People who have rendered "special services to the motherland" can be made nobles by a special decree from Grand Duke Vladimir. ■

ALL HUMANKIND SHARES ONE BIG COMMUNAL APARTMENT

Collage by Yuri Fidler

Historian-philosopher Lev Gumilyov is a native of St. Petersburg. His father, the poet Nikolai Gumilyov, was executed in 1921. His mother, the great poet Anna Akhmatova, was ostracized during Stalin's rule. Lev fought in the Great Patriotic War and was twice interned in concentration camps in the Soviet Union. At last he was rehabilitated. He has written more than 200 research papers and 10 monographs. At the age of seventy-eight, he is happily married and continues his research, developing his original study of ethnogenesis, which deals with the emergence and disappearance of ethnic entities. Recently, journalist Natalya Dubrovskaya interviewed him.

Q: Can your theory be used to forecast the future?

A: First let's ask ourselves a couple of questions: What is the future, and what is a forecast? The past is definite because its events have already occurred. The future is conditional because it has yet to occur. A forecast is the enumeration of possible events. Even when we are guided by the most concrete of laws, we still can't avoid random factors, which can upset everything. Predicting the future is quite a risky business for an expert in any field. Even meteorologists, who have thoroughly studied the laws governing changes in the weather, make mistakes on a fairly routine basis.

We all know that, like any plant, animal—including humans—every nation goes through phases of development in a definite order. All nations are born, mature, and age, and every period is characterized by its own behavioral peculiarities. Not all periods live to an old age, often for external reasons—random factors.

Logical and random factors reveal themselves in various ways. In times of stability, when long-established traditions determine people's behavior, no dramatic changes occur. In periods of profound change and painful reforms, random factors move to the fore. In such fateful moments, when an ethnic community is faced with a choice, its future becomes unpredictable. When the choice has been made and the old traditions have been supplanted by new ones, everything begins to go smoothly. This lasts till the next tremor.

Studying ethnogenesis, we can never say whether a new phase has occurred or is approaching. The duration of a phase is also random. For instance, in Rome the critical period of civil wars brought Emperor Augustus to power. He was a dull but decent person. The only really bad thing he did was to exile the poet Ovid to the Black Sea coast, God knows for what.

Q: Not a bad place to be exiled.

A: Well, it sometimes snowed there, and Ovid thought the place was awful in comparison to Italy. Emperor Augustus was succeeded by Caligula, a true monster. Who could have predicted such a turn of events? The development of natural phenomena is determined by a multitude of interrelated logical and random factors.

Q: Does this mean that an intelligent social policy may only be guessed at? I'm talking about the policy of governing a multiethnic state, the Soviet Union for instance, in which ethnic conflicts and mutual enmity have become quite common.

A: I can't speak for the politicians, and I really don't have any ready solutions to our problems. As a researcher, however, I know what should *not* be done in order to avoid ethnic conflicts. We should not impose an alien lifestyle on people from different ethnic groups. We should not be guided by mythological ideas about the essence of ethnic processes, and we definitely should not shape our practical policy in accordance with these ideas. We should not make everyone live together. It's better to live apart, but in peace.

Q: Do you mean to say that the disintegration of the union will benefit the people?

A: Not at all. I didn't mean "apart" to refer to the state system. The structure of the state system does not matter very much. One can reorganize the ministries or eliminate them completely and set up new ones. But if the old ministries were filled with crooks, there will still be crooks in a new setting, and nothing will change. The root of the problem is in the people and in their actual conduct. That is what must be changed.

Human behavior is a function of ethnicity. It is molded under the im- ☞

pact of an ethnic group's age and of its links with the native landscape. The age of an ethnic community determines its strength, energy potential, and ability to act. Ethnogenesis is set in motion by the energy of the live substance of the biosphere, which was discovered by the great Soviet scientist Vladimir Vernadsky. The world develops under the impact of this energy. I have named this effect "passionarity." Passionarity is the inner drive to act, which is stronger than the individual. If there are many passionary people in an ethnic group, the system becomes aggressive and ungovernable. The optimal amount of passionarity in an ethnic community brings prosperity, and a shortage of it makes the group nonviable.

An ethnic community feels comfortable in its native landscape. When the landscape changes radically, people change too, evolving into a new ethnic community. Therefore, when I speak about "life apart," I mean the possibility for every ethnos to live in a familiar setting and to work as it thinks best, using the experience of ancestors, not strangers. History shows that intermingling, particularly when people with strongly different traditions are involved, has not done anyone any good. On the contrary, a certain degree of isolation does away with ethnic conflicts, prolonging the community's life.

I personally support our country's time-tested arrangement. I am for a united state, with one government, in Moscow. The population of the republics will only benefit from this. The local bureaucracy becomes redundant if the central government understands the aspirations and needs of all peoples and if it really respects their right to live their own way. Otherwise, disintegration is inevitable.

Q: Do you agree that the current ethnic conflicts in our country were caused by the general economic crisis?
A: We live in an enormous communal apartment. That's the way the earth is. People may love, hate, tolerate, or quarrel with their neighbors. I think that people who hate each other now hated each other long before our stores became empty.

Now about the destiny of the republics. In our multiethnic state, economic and political borders are nonsense. It is impossible to ensure political autonomy because the aggressive will always find a pretext for conflict. For some unfathomable reason, we refuse to recognize that the essence of ethnic relations lies outside the sphere of consciousness. It is to be found in our emotions—love or hatred. The bias of these emotions is historically motivated for each ethnic group. Whatever you think about it, you can't get away from the fact.

Lev Gumilyov.

Q: Then what about internationalism?
A: For seventy years, this term had a vulgar connotation. We used the word "internationalism" to mean the deliberate neglect of ethnic differences for the sake of class ones. We were trying to put everyone on an equal footing and to apply a common standard to all.

I believe that instead of talking about "the principle of internationalism," we should be talking about the competence of researchers and the skills of the politicians who are supposed to establish and maintain relations among nations.

Q: If a new setting shapes a new ethnic group, was Stalin's resettlement of the Crimean Tatars, the Kalmyks, and the Meskhetian Turks an experiment in shaping new ethnic entities?
A: I would rather describe it as a sophisticated kind of genocide. Any resettlement is very painful. When some of the people of the Pamir Mountains were resettled to the valley, most of the unfortunate people died—not of famine or ill treatment, but from the heat and the absence of their native environment. The Tatars, banished from the Crimea, have lost the skill of viticulture. The enforced isolation of an ethnic group from its native environment amounts to genocide.

Q: So not every attempt to change the world makes it a better place. Even if a nation has many energetic and enthusiastic people, it is doomed to misfortune if it is led by an incompetent or evil leader. The destinies of nations depend on what kind of a passionary person makes his way to power, which is a random factor. Is that right?
A: Passionarity is not directly linked with social status. One doesn't have to be a passionary person to be an efficient leader. By the same token, an ordinary citizen can be a passionary person. Stalin lacked conscience and a love for people. He's an example of a person who combines passionarity and misanthropy.

There are different levels of passionarity. For example, you can aspire to material well-being, work two shifts a day, buy a car, and die in a traffic accident. Or you can aspire to knowledge, write books on a subject that interests you, and die with a clear conscience. There is passionarity of a higher level: the desire to become a celebrity—there are many examples of this kind—or to sacrifice one's life. Passionary leaders constitute the visible part of a group's passionary stock.

Q: How did the idea of passionarity occur to you? Why did you look at history from this particular angle?
A: I have always loved history. I read a great deal, and at sixteen I asked myself this question: Where are nations born, and where do they disap-

Continued on page 59

SIBERIA—NEW ENGLAND REPRISE

Last year a citizens delegation from the Khakass Autonomous Region, in Eastern Siberia, made a second trip to the town of North Brookfield, Massachusetts. SOVIET LIFE correspondent Pyotr Zubkov, the author of this piece, was with the group. The photographs were taken by the author.

Getting a call through from Abakan, Khakassia, to North Brookfield, Massachusetts, is like trying to call the moon. Mail takes more than a month to get there. We hadn't seen our American friends for more than a year, and a lot of personal worries had somewhat dimmed the pleasant recollections of our last meeting. So we'd begun to wonder whether we were really expected in North Brookfield, a cozy town by the Atlantic Ocean with a population of 6,000, or whether maybe the invitation we'd received was just a polite gesture.

Even when we set foot on American soil at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, I still had my doubts that anyone would come to meet us. But before long our worries vanished. A crowd of people had come to meet the arriving plane. Among them I could see the smiling faces of Louis and Elaine Grace, who had become my friends during my first trip to North Brookfield.

It's no easy trick to host a delegation of eight people. Quite frankly, in our country this kind of visit is left mostly to powerful authorities to deal with. It's still a little hard for me to imagine that our entire two-week stay in the United States was organized by ten Americans, none of whom held a high official position. Our American friends had arranged for us to attend various meetings. They drove us around in their minibus for hours to meet their friends and relatives. Even our meeting with former governor Michael Dukakis was organized through personal channels—the Dukakises are old friends of the Graces.

Here are a few portraits of Americans who made our stay in Massachusetts memorable.

Dr. Lou Grace is a prominent physician in North Brookfield. He is not a talkative man, but when he tells a joke, he can get a smile out of even the most morose person. His advice is highly valued around North Brookfield, and I don't mean just as a doctor. I think that Lou is the kind of person America depends on.

Elaine Grace has what is commonly called a heart of gold. Not even the most inveterate misanthrope could dislike her. When we met, Elaine told me enthusiastically that she had learned to make tea as we Russians do it. ☞

Louis and Elaine Grace pose in the Khakassian folk costumes that they received from their Siberian friends.

People's deputy Vladimir Shtygashev (left), Father Olympi of Abakan's St. Nicholas Church, and Michael Dukakis at a meeting in Boston.

wife, Charlotte, had two students from Abakan living in their house. On this trip, we saw the Chabots mainly in official circumstances, which I deeply regret.

Then there's Peggy Coleman. In her house by the ocean she has a collection of old samovars that any museum in Russia would be proud to possess. She speaks fluent Russian and is well-versed on the history of Soviet-American trade. Peggy displayed her excellent organizational abilities to the full in New York and Boston, where she accompanied us.

"Our trip has been a success—we feel we've really gotten to know the people of North Brookfield," said Vladimir Shtygashev, chairman of the regional council of people's deputies. "We've conducted negotiations with business people and told them about the business possibilities that our region has to offer. We would like to follow the example of the citizens of North Brookfield and open a Soviet-American friendship society in Abakan. And we invited our friends to come to Khakassia on a return visit."

"We talked to a lot of people," said Father Olympi of Abakan's St. Nicholas Church. "Everything we've seen has given me the impression that Americans are kind people with high moral standards."

Before returning home, we were given a letter saying that our American friends would do their best to ensure that North Brookfield and Abakan become sister cities.

So long, until we meet again! ■

Father Olympi and Big Bear Stevens met in North Brookfield.

The Graces and their friends did not think it was too much trouble to organize visits for us to the United Nations or to laboratories where space and aircraft equipment is designed. They even arranged for us to become members of the Rotary Club.

Philip Spiva is a psychologist and the principal of a private school. He is a very hospitable person and a gifted manager. Philip combines the high-tech with the exotic in his life. He does a lot of his work on the telephone, often directly from his car. He's pitched a yurt, which took three years to transport from Mongolia, on the lawn in front of his ultramodern house. In his office, which is full of electronic devices, I was delighted to see a photograph of a Khakass girl in national costume. Last spring Philip visited Abakan with a group of his students (see the article on pages 50-51 of this issue). For people like Philip, nothing is impossible in life. His credo is "No problem!"

David Libby is a pastor and the son of a World War II veteran. As befits a clergyman, he has kind eyes and a sincere voice. At the same time, he is a jolly fellow and an excellent athlete. His wife and daughter are very nice too. While I was visiting them, David helped me realize a childhood dream of mine. He and his friend Garry took me in a small plane on an exciting flight to Niagara Falls.

Richard Chabot served in the navy in his younger days. He has a kind heart and is the picture of health. He reminds me of many of my friends at home. Richard is the owner of an auto repair shop and is also a selectman of North Brookfield. Last year he and his

business digest

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UCI to Build Movie Theaters in Moscow

United Cinema International (UCI), an American company, has announced that it has reached agreement in principle with the Moscow municipal government to construct several large movie complexes. Before carrying through with its plans, however, UCI's financial experts are scheduled to spend six months in Moscow studying the feasibility of the project.

If all goes well, construction on six large movie complexes is due to begin in the Soviet capital early next year. Each complex will have from eight to eighteen theaters, each with a seating capacity of from 160 to 900. The theaters themselves are to be owned by MCI and managed at first by Americans, that is, until Soviet workers complete their training courses in theater management.

Le Monti Begins Trading for Rubles

Since Le Monti opened its retail outlet two years ago, it has been selling winter clothing, footwear, home appliances, and electronic equipment for hard currency. Last October it set up the Lemos joint venture with the Moscow City Executive Committee to analyze the profitability of trading American goods for rubles.

Earlier this year, Lemos had signed a contract with GUM, the largest state-run department store in the USSR, to sell American coats and leather goods. If this venture is successful, the U.S. firm is ready to put together a bigger deal with Lemos before the end of the year.

Ads for Soviet Products On American TV?

The Soviet-American joint venture DMBB is one of the founders of TVIN, a Moscow-based international television industry exchange, which at present offers a wide range of commercial TV services.

For instance, besides helping to expedite, on request, documentary filming anywhere in the USSR, TVIN is exploring the possibilities of advertising Soviet-made items on Western TV and Western-made goods on Soviet TV. Says Sergei Korytov, international TV industry exchange president, "At trading sessions, which are held in Moscow four times a week, foreign firms can buy airtime for their ads. At present the average going price for air time is $750 a minute." Not long ago, the New York TV channel RTN (Russian Television Network), which caters to Russian-speaking Americans, offered its airtime for sale.

REFCO Chooses MCE

The American financial group REFCO, which specializes in stock exchange operations, has expressed a desire to become a member of the Moscow Commodity Exchange (MCE). Observers believe that REFCO wants most of all to get the jump on other Western companies and to gain a foothold in the developing Soviet exchange market. Yuri Miliukov, chairman of MCE's Exchange Committee, noted that at this stage REFCO will hardly be able to participate in trading sessions, since the exchange infrastructure has not yet been sufficiently developed in the country.

Sergei Rachmaninoff Brings People Together

The Rachmaninoff name is helping to bring the Soviet and American people together. The recently founded joint venture is the brain child of the American Ventwood Corporation and the Soviet Sergei Rachmaninoff Musical Culture Center.

The main aim of the joint venture is to set up a cultural center in Moscow with special emphasis on music. Later, branches in Zagorsk, the ancient center of Russian Orthodoxy in Moscow Region, and in Kaliningrad, on Russia's western border, will be opened.

Although the joint venture is relatively new—it was set up early this summer—it has already started work on a documentary entitled *Sergei Rachmaninoff—Two Lives*.

Soviet Managers To Train in America

Within the framework of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Sabit Program, Soviet managers are now able to attend practical training courses at U.S. firms, with the American side picking up the tab. The long-term Soviet-American program of teaching business enables heads of Soviet enterprises to do six months of practical work at American firms similar to their own.

According to Cynthia Anthony, the program's director, about four out of every ten candidates proposed by Sabit will be invited to training sessions.

Eligibility for the courses is limited to Soviet citizens who hold responsible positions in their organizations and who have a good command of English.

AMERICANS LAND IN SIBERIA

This issue includes a report on the trip of a delegation from Abakan, Khakassia, to North Brookfield, Massachusetts.This spring a group from North Brookfield came to Abakan.

Text and Photographs by Pyotr Zubkov

Sixteen Americans appeared on the local military base and opened fire from submachine guns and grenade launchers. But strange as it might seem, the local Soviet army unit did not put up any resistance. This was probably because the members of the assault group were aged twelve to fifteen years old.

Having caught their breath after the battle, the students from Valley View School told me that they were enchanted with Siberia. Back in the States they would never be allowed to get anywhere near a shooting range, let alone to shoot real submachine guns.

I must say that it isn't easy to get onto a shooting range and use real firearms in the Soviet Union either—especially for children, and from a foreign country, at that. In this particular case, however, hospitality prevailed, and a very rare exception was made.

The young Americans received most-favored-nation treatment everywhere they went in Abakan. They met with Vladimir Shtygashev, the chairman of the local council of people's deputies, like old friends, and sat at his desk to be photographed next to the phones connected to the Kremlin. They had become acquainted with Shtygashev last fall, when he visited North Brookfield.

Top: Philip Spiva, principal of Valley View School (top row, center), and his Soviet counterpart, Nikolai Feofilov (to his left), at a meeting with Abakan students. Above: Lunch at a military base.

"We were a little nervous before the kids arrived," says Galina Titova, one

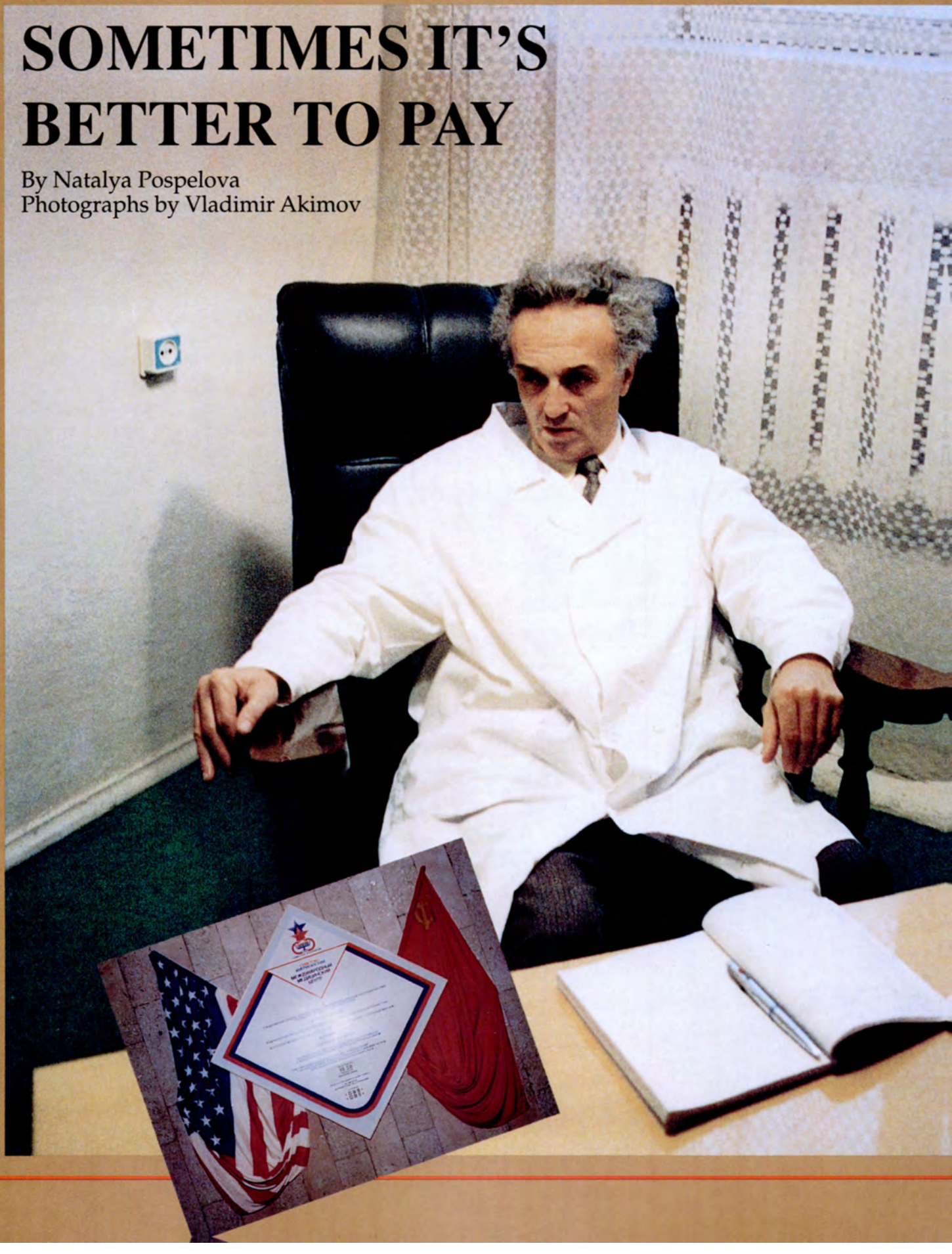
of the people who accompanied the American guests. "Life is rather hard in Abakan, and our living standards are so different from the Americans'. But the American boys and girls turned out to be wonderful guests."

It was the ninth visit to the Soviet Union for Philip Spiva, Valley View's principal, who always travels with his students. The other times he was a tourist, but this trip was more like a visit to see friends, he says. ■

Do these guys want to fight each other? Insets, clockwise from bottom: Target practice. Riding a Russian troika. Teacher Wallace Hall gets a balalaika lesson.

SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO PAY

By Natalya Pospelova
Photographs by Vladimir Akimov



Doris Lukin is a psychic at the Meditsina Medical Center. Above: Cosmetologist Irina Popova. Right and bottom: The massage equipment is a popular means of relieving tension.

Some time ago a friend of mine rushed into my apartment with the following news: "A joint Soviet-American medical center has been opened in Moscow!" I was a bit skeptical. But since the unpleasant experience of making the rounds of the local clinics had made me put off having my minor medical problems treated, I decided to satisfy my curiosity and see what the new medical center was all about.

The unusual began as soon as I walked into the building. Accustomed to the drabness of most Soviet clinics and hospitals, I was pleasantly surprised to find myself in a cozy room. Visitors sat in soft armchairs, patiently waiting their turn. Everything was calm and orderly.

The waiting room was filled with people who had given up on traditional medicine. An elderly woman who suffered from headaches had come to make an appointment with a psychic. Sitting next to her was a young mother who had brought her child to see a specialist in iridodiagnosis.

I immediately wondered why, during these hard times, people were willing to pay the rather high fees here, when care at the local clinics is free. My question was answered by Ramaz Pichkhadze, the organizer and director of the firm Meditsina.

Dr. Pichkhadze is one of the founders of the clinical computer iridodiagnostic method in the USSR. Meditsina is a ☞

whole medical complex, complete with research laboratory, outpatient clinic, and training and educational center.

"You probably know," he began, "that members of the Soviet and American cultural communities have set up an association called the American-Soviet Film Initiative (ASFI), whose charter allows it to engage in commerce. In 1989 I was approached by Soviet scriptwriter and dramatist Rustam Ibragimbekov, and the film director Nikita Mikhalkov, who proposed that I organize an international diagnostic and treatment center within ASFI. I agreed.

Dr. Ramaz Pichkhadze (with flowers), director of Meditsina, at the certification ceremony of doctors who completed his special training course.

"For the first six months I worked alone. Then I got some people to help me: Farid Mamedov and Favziya Akchurina, colleagues from the Institute of Reflexive Therapy."

Every day from nine in the morning to nine in the evening, patients come to the center from all over the Soviet Union and from other countries. Meditsina's work has two major components: first, diagnosis and treatment of disease; and second, research, teaching, and training work.

"When negotiations were under way to set up the firm, we believed that specialists from the United States would get involved in the project," continued Pichkhadze. "The Americans provided the financing and equipping of the firm. We were also counting on hooking up with a university or clinic in the United States. But as the situation now stands, we have to rely on ourselves. Quite frankly, though, we haven't entirely given up on the idea of cooperating with Americans in the future."

The examination and subsequent treatment of patients at Meditsina are based on the iridodiagnostic method, which is rather well known in Western Europe and the United States. It is also applied in Soviet medical practice, though on a considerably more modest scale.

"You probably want to know what iridodiagnosis is," said Pichkhadze. "I'll try to explain it to you. You see, your eyes are blue, and mine are brown. That's the color of the iris. All internal organs are projected on the iris in the form of spots, dots, and lines. No two people have identical irises, just as no two have identical fingerprints. So researchers thought that maybe all these signs could be transformed into charts, telling a doctor about a given person's predisposition to any disease in general or a disease that's already present. To put it briefly, the iris is extremely useful when it comes to diagnosis."

The experience that experts in many countries have accumulated over many years has made it possible to set aside special zo
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the arsenal of folk and rehabilitative medicine. These have the advantage of producing no side effects.

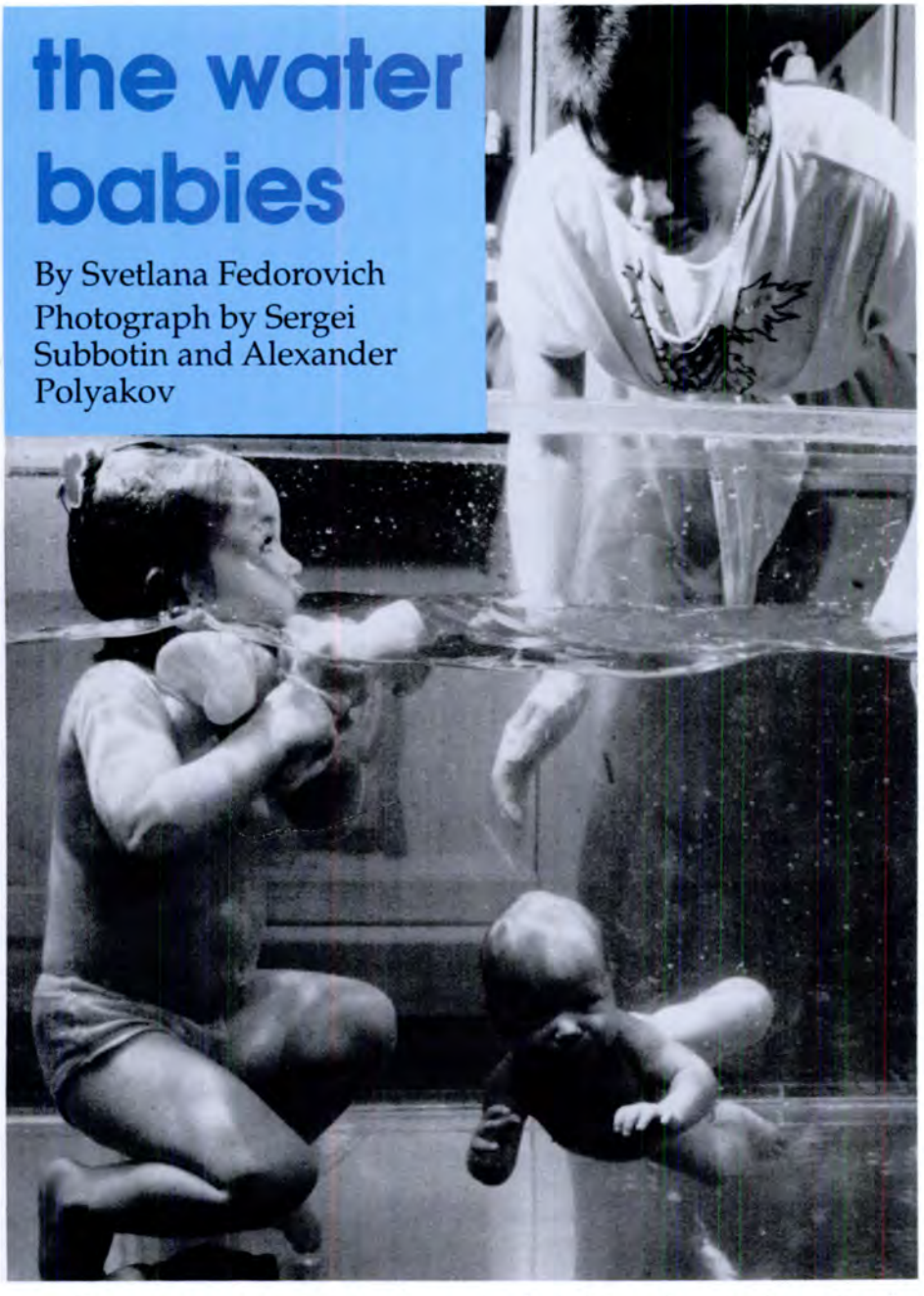
The center also offers various cosmetic and weight-loss treatments, which have proved to be extremely popular.

Meditsina's aim is to set up similar centers in other countries. For example, Dr. Pichkhadze's many years of cooperation with Belgian experts have resulted in the establishment of such a center in Brussels. Work is about to be completed on equipping a center in Israel, and negotiations are under way with Czechoslovakian and Italian firms as well. Meditsina is capable of fully equipping the work place of an iridology expert, and it also offers its clients specialized iridodiagnostic computer programs.

Meditsina has been renting space from the municipal authorities for a considerable fee. But it is quickly outgrowing the place. Most of the firm's profits today go to the American-Soviet Film Initiative, but before long Meditsina will leave its patrons. That will give it financial independence and will untie its hands, enabling it, at its own discretion, to expand its premises, to increase the number of specialists it employs, and naturally, to raise the salaries of its whole staff.

the water babies

By Svetlana Fedorovich
Photograph by Sergei Subbotin and Alexander Polyakov



Future aquanauts Dasha (two years) and Vera (twenty-three days).

Natasha Tarakannikova gave birth to her two sons in a special department of the USSR Cardiological Center in Moscow. She suffered from congenital heart disease, and her kidneys did not function normally. When she got pregnant for the third time, her doctors told her that both she and her fetus were at risk. And to make matters even worse, she contracted a bad case of the flu. Traditional medicine could suggest nothing but an abortion.

"I was desperate," Natasha told me. "Then, quite unexpectedly, I learned about the Moscow Healthy Family Club. I heard the club had a fantastic prenatal care section there, based on Igor Charkovsky's work. I had everything to gain and nothing to lose, so I decided to try it."

The name of Igor Charkovsky, a Soviet scientist who developed an unusual method of delivering infants underwater, is well known in the Soviet Union and abroad. SOVIET LIFE has carried articles about him and his method, most recently in June 1988. He has saved dozens of pregnancies that had been diagnosed as nonviable by traditional medicine.

There is a school of Charkovsky's followers in the USSR. Healthy Family clubs have been opened in many Soviet cities. Natasha went to one of them hoping for a miracle.

But it was a hard, hard miracle: ice-cold showers every day, even when she had a high fever; winter swimming until the last week of pregnancy; childbirth in the water. Following Charkovsky's method, Natasha's husband delivered the child himself. The result exceeded all the family's expectations. It was a quick and easy birth. The newborn girl looked strong and healthy.

Some time later, Natasha started to attend Charkovsky's courses for "spiritual midwives." Then she became a baby-yoga instructor.

"Baby yoga is a path to a spiritually rich personality," said Natasha confidently. "Charkovsky took traditional Hindu methods of controlling one's mental faculties and physical functions, and used them to create his own methods of bringing up a spiritually and physically full-fledged person. That's how baby yoga began."

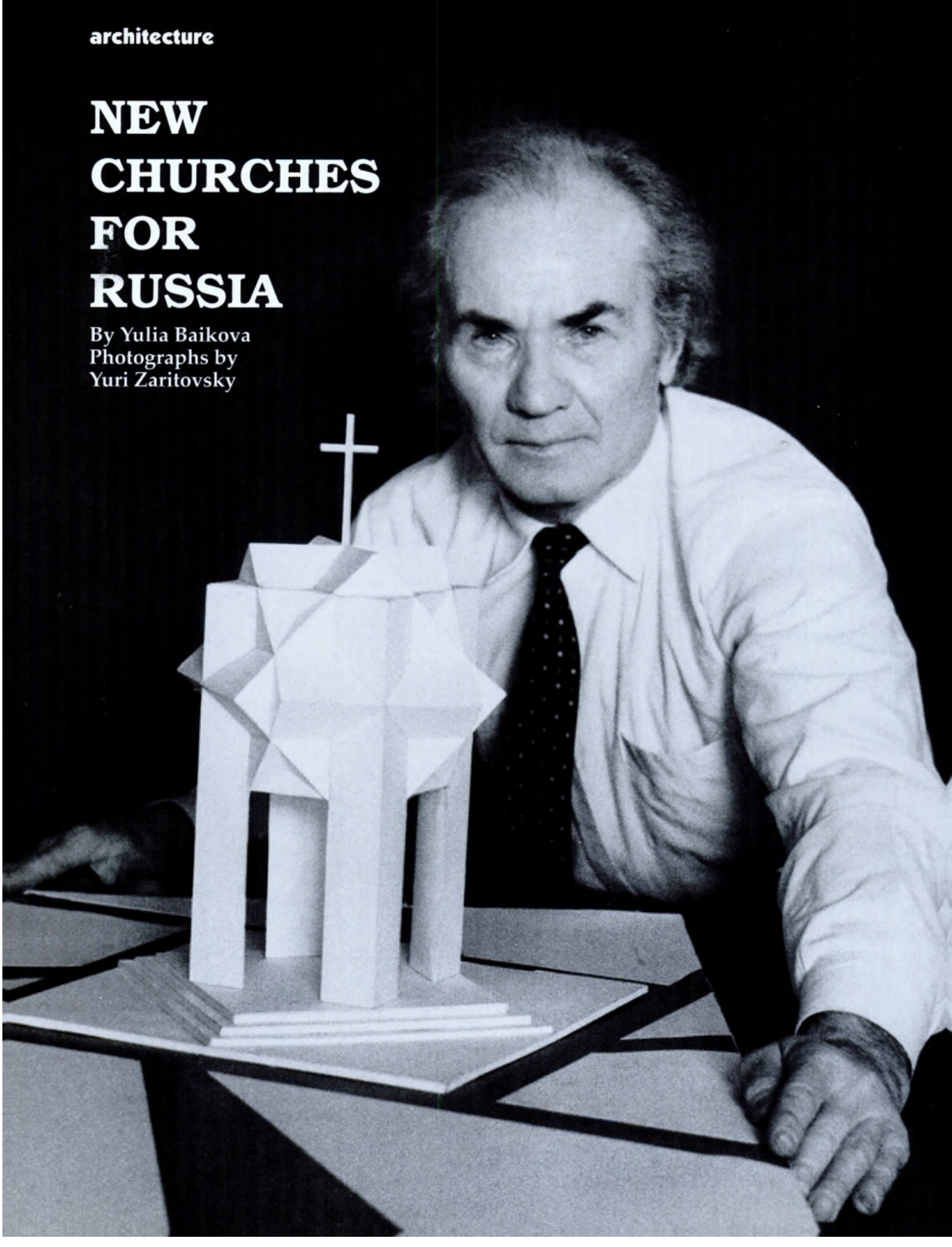
At the beginning of the training session that Natasha leads, the babies are thoroughly "warmed up." This is accomplished by massaging all their joints and muscles. The youngest of the babies is twenty-three days old. The procedure is sure to shock a person watching it for the first time. The babies' arms and legs are twisted in an incredible way. At the end, their extremities are stretched behind their back. But the babies react to all these exercises very quietly.

"There's nothing strange about it at all," explained Natasha. "Just think about how many months the baby stayed in the fetal position before being born. And you can't exactly call that position an easy one! Having babies do our exercises just develops their natural abilities."

The warm-up is followed by exercises in a swimming pool. Here the future aquanauts are trained to conquer expanses of water, the birthplace of everything living. ■

NEW CHURCHES FOR RUSSIA

By Yulia Baikova
Photographs by
Yuri Zaritovsky



Thousands of churches have been destroyed in the USSR since 1917, but almost none have been built. Recently, however, the Moscow Patriarchate announced its decision to build 542 churches in Russia.

The long interruption in church construction has led to a loss of many trade secrets and a breach of continuity in architectural style.

Soviet architect Vladimir Somov is one person who has never ignored these problems. He has worked on them for years. Somov was one of the first to submit his architectural models for review. He designed two cathedrals, updated versions of traditional Russian churches.

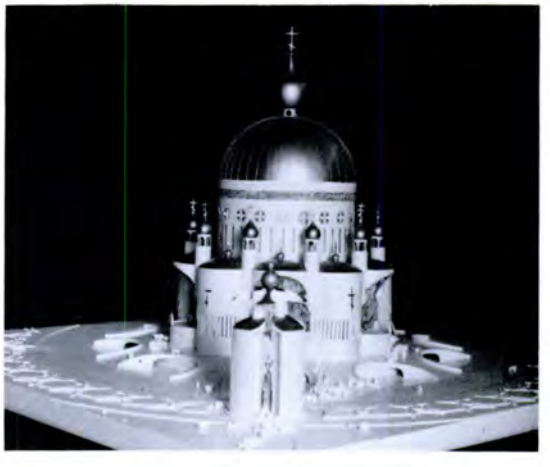
Somov combines old methods used by Russian masters with the latest geometric trends. In his work he uses the old Russian units of measurement, the archine (27.95 inches) and the sazhen (7 feet), for example.

The latest Orthodox church models are not Somov's first designs of religious buildings. His most interesting is a church that makes up part of the university complex in Calabria, Italy. Three intersecting cubes underlying the building form large crosses along its perimeter. A few years after completing work on the project, Somov came across this form in a decorative detail of a drawing of a church designed by Leonardo da Vinci.

Somov has had a part in designing buildings in many Soviet cities. Recently he participated in the restoration of the Triumphal Arch in the Far Eastern city of Blagoveshchensk. The arch was built in 1891 to commemorate the return of the successor to the throne—the future Czar Nicholas II—from Japan. The monument is so intricate that separate drawings had to be made for each piece of masonry, of which there are more than 200.

Somov's work has been influenced by painting, which he took up more than forty years ago. He works extensively with symbols and signs. In the 1960s Somov was a member of a well-known group of artists, headed by Eli Belyutin, whose work was banned by Nikita Khrushchev. An exhibit of works by members of the Belyutin group will be displayed in Washington, D.C., this summer. The exhibit will include paintings by Somov. ■

Facing page: Architect Vladimir Somov with a model of a Roman Catholic church. Above: A hip-roofed Orthodox church. Right: A more traditional domed church.



the music of Russia's lands

By Isabella Verbova
Photograph by
Anisim Sorkin

Victor Ivanov's life has been connected with the balalaika since the village holidays of his early childhood. Later, he studied with famous balalaika virtuosos. Ivanov says that he got his best training at the acclaimed Nikolai Osipov USSR Russian Folk Orchestra, where he was a soloist for seventeen years. With the orchestra he toured many countries, including the United States. Ivanov's balalaika has been heard at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and even at a reception at the White House.

But for years he'd dreamed of forming his own ensemble and resurrecting true folk-music traditions. Today, national musical instruments are becoming rarer and rarer. But not so long ago, when Ivanov was a child, many Russian villages had entire family groups of balalaika and accordion players. They used to arrange village contests of musicians, singers, and performers of musical folk verses.

Ivanov decided to form an ensemble that would make people want to learn to play folk instruments. Thus was born a unique theater of folk music, the Russian Bells.

The group's name came about naturally. The three members imagined Russia's wide expanses, over which echoed the bells of carefree troikas, the church bells, the plaintive folk songs.

A performance by the Russian Bells is not your typical concert—it's a musical spectacle where each number is an entire performance in itself. Each of the three musicians creates an image that reflects a facet of the national character. The performers find the sources for their fantasies in Russian fairy tales, old prints, and peasant traditions.

Accordionist Vladimir Denisenkov, who looks like a hero warrior from a Russian folk song, personifies free-wheeling Russian generosity and spontaneity. Alexander Makeyev, who plays Russian percussion instruments, is the buffoon. Ivanov's own stage persona is that of the fairy-tale Czarevich Ivan, with his nobility and virtue.

In this group the musicians are not only performers, but also arrangers and directors. The show proceeds at a

Below, left to right: Vladimir Denisenkov, Victor Ivanov, and Alexander Makeyev.

fantastic tempo, and only the performers' virtuoso technique and outstanding acting skills make it possible for them to keep up the pace.

The audience gets a charge even before the performers have come out on stage. The viewers are already intrigued—an entire stageful of musical instruments many have never seen before is displayed before them. In addition to the familiar balalaika, tambourine, and accordion are unusual percussion and wind instruments. But that isn't all; antique items of Russian life have also been pressed into musical service. Here is a scythe, there a pair of oven tongs, and over here is a genuine nineteenth-century samovar. All have bells attached to them.

The main set of bells is made up of fifteen genuine coachmen's bells, which have been fastened to a yoke. The instrument wasn't easy to assemble. First of all, these bells are no longer cast, and the secret of making them has been lost: troikas are no longer made, and the bells are now antiques. Also, the work of a master was judged in those days by his ability to incorporate two or more sounds into each bell. But the performers here need pure sounds. They had to tune each of the bells that they had found to one pitch, and that was no easy task. The musicians are quite fond of one particular craftsman, who lived in the lower Volga Region in the last century. The craftsman's name, Igor Klyukov, can be found on his pieces. His bells have a precise, delicate sound.

During its three years, the folk group has become quite popular. It can often be heard on Soviet radio or seen on television. The musicians have played in Norway, Switzerland, Great Britain, Finland, Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, and Costa Rica, and they've been to Italy and Egypt twice.

During one of their Italian tours the Russian Bells gave a concert in the building that had once housed the studio of the great Raphael. After the show, the organizer of the concert came up to the musicians, hugged each of them, and, wiping away tears, said: "The great Paganini coaxed magical sounds out of strings, but that was the noble violin. Today the strings of the Russian balalaika made me both laugh and cry! Thank you!" ■

GUMILYOV

Continued from page 46

pear? The theory of passionarity shaped up in my mind in 1939, when I was in a Leningrad prison. At that time scientific ideas were preferable to thoughts about my personal circumstances. A ray of light cut through a small window and fell on the cement floor. So light penetrated even into prison! I thought, history must be promoted by some form of energy. Only in 1965, when I read Vladimir Vernadsky's book *The Chemical Composition of the Earth's Biosphere and Its Surrounding Medium*, did I learn that this theory was not mine alone. In 1967 my first book on ethnogenesis came out.

Having concentrated on ethnic groups, one starts studying their behavior. Any behavior can be described in terms of space and time. Geography deals with space, and history with time. I studied both sciences until they merged into ethnology.

Q: What is the current relationship between science and society?
A: We can't expect science to produce more than it physically can. In this country, everybody expects new recipes from science. There's an army of researchers who have learned to speak smoothly about what their bosses want to hear. They call this "scientific substantiation." But there have always been true scientists, who were not afraid to speak the truth. Their fate was unhappy, as a rule. One of them was the geneticist Nikolai Vavilov. Once Stalin asked him if it were possible to grow bananas in the Pamir Mountains. "It is possible," said Vavilov, "but inexpedient, because the climate in the Pamirs is not good for growing bananas. The whole thing would be an unaffordable luxury."

"You are against growing bananas in the Pamirs. You do not understand Marxism. You may go," said Stalin. Vavilov went—to die in prison.

Given such a history, how can anyone complain that the level of Soviet science is too low and that there is neither food nor order in our country? The level of science and of any other sphere of activity depends on the behavior and moral imperatives of the researchers. If sycophants try to please their bosses, and if the bosses choose sycophants instead of real scientists, science begins to die.

Q: These days we're trying to catch up with the civilized nations, and we turn to history in search of a solution to the crisis we're in. Is this worth doing?
A: We can and must study other people's experience, but we must never forget that this experience is alien. The so-called civilized countries represent the Western European superethnos, which came into being in the ninth century and over the centuries has traversed a natural path of ethnic history. That is why Western Europeans have well-developed technology, good living conditions, and order based on the law, not on force. All this is the result of long historical development.

Russia is a separate superethnos. It took shape 500 years later, in the fourteenth century. We and the Western Europeans have always felt this difference and have never considered each other kin. Since we are 500 years younger, however hard we try to study the Western European experience, we won't be able to duplicate the prosperity and the moral standards typical of Europe. Our age and level of passionarity suggest quite different behavioral imperatives. Of course, we could try to join the community of civilized nations, an alien superethnos. But that would be at the cost of our native traditions. And it would lead to our ultimate assimilation.

Q: You have achieved a great deal in science. Your life has been a long and dramatic one. Do you consider yourself happy?
A: It's been said that in order to live happily, one should live a long life. I'm seventy-eight. To be honest, I never thought I'd live so many years. Sometimes life has been very hard. But I was not the only one suffering. What decent person—and I venture to refer to myself as one—has lived an easy life? I have never been alone. I have always been with my homeland and my people. If anyone thinks that what I've done deserves attention and warm words, then I am a happy man. ■

Courtesy of the newspaper *Nedelya*

The Soviet Union's first independent film studio, Fora-Film, emerged two years ago. It was followed by a number of imitators. They all realized, however, that individually they would not be able to compete with the USSR State Committee for Cinematography (Goskino), which for decades had enjoyed a monopoly on film production. So the Independent Film Association was born, bringing together about 60 independent studios (there are 140 now). Our correspondent talked to the president of the association, Andrei Razumovsky, who is also artistic director of Fora-Film and secretary of the USSR Union of Cinematographers.

fighting for a piece of the

BIG SCREEN

By Vadim Vernik
Photographs by
Galina Kmit

Q: Has the Independent Film Association become a higher bureaucratic authority for the studios incorporated in it?
A: Not at all. The association grants rights, but it does not demand subordination. It doesn't interfere in either the creative or the production process. The association's council coordinates the budget, film production, distribution, festivals, staff training, and international cooperation.

Q: State studios are state-financed. Who provides the association's financial backing?
A: We receive funds from organizations that have money and are interested in new films: state-run and joint-stock banks, and rich collective farms and plants. Naturally, everything should be beneficial for all concerned. For instance, we take public orders, and we are now filming several pictures ordered and financed by Goskino.

Q: So while you compete with Goskino, you're really not looking for any kind of confrontation?
A: We ha[illegible]inst Goskino; w[illegible]aving a m[illegible]o- n[illegible] ta[illegible] re[illegible] fr[illegible] fi[illegible]

based on a Ray Bradbury story. The film was made by Alexander Khvan and Marina Tsurtsumia, both fresh from the Institute of Cinematography. It was risky to offer them the job, but we're willing to take risks; one of our association's tasks is to discover new talent. We want to find our own stars: The melodrama *The Brilliant Idea* stars Marina Dubareva, who became famous after *The Mug* was such a hit.

Young director Leonid Gorovets made the film *Ladies Tailor*, whose screenplay was written by Alexander Borshchagovsky. The action takes place in Kiev, on the eve of the Babi Yar tragedy, when the Nazis shot more than 100,000 people, mostly Jewish women, old men, and children. The film stars Innokenti Smoktunovsky, a brilliant actor.

We've made other serious films, too, like *Ten Years Without the Right to Correspond*, directed by Vladimir Naumov, and *Sobs*, the directing debut of Leonid Filatov, who'd already proved himself a talented actor and poet.

Q: How are the association's other studios doing?
A: The studios Parity and Perspective have been successful. The studio Pilot makes interesting cartoons.

We recently held a screening for art [illegible]ritics and journalists, where we [illegible]owed some serious pictures, like [illegible]*ux*, about intellectual revelation; [illegible]*mit*, about a man who decides to [illegible]t suicide; and *Eisenstein: Lessons* [illegible]*ng*, about the great film direc- [illegible]want to change people's per- [illegible]of independent cinema as [illegible]ommercial, and I think that [illegible]de the first steps toward dis- [illegible]is misconception.

[illegible] days you can make a film [illegible]ything, and in any genre, [illegible]he framework of Goskino. [illegible]e no ideological fetters any- [illegible]ow do you attract directors [illegible]rs? Why do they choose you? [illegible]e independent and we're not [illegible]by red tape. If we make the [illegible]ves, we'll do well; if not, we'll [illegible]ease to exist. Everything de- [illegible]n us.
[illegible]s profit from working with us. [illegible]e more financial potential than [illegible]n studios, and we aren't subject to the Goskino structure. We invite in a director and a financial manager, sign an agreement with them, give them money, set a deadline, and that's it. They're free, as far as creativity and production are concerned.

Q: "Independent" films are made in an unusually short time—one or two months. But sometimes their professionalism suffers. Don't you think that such works are a discredit to independent cinema?
A: Of course, but I think those are just growing pains that can be overcome. And what do you mean by "a discredit"? Don't state-owned studios sometimes make bad movies? They do, I assure you.

Q: Your association attaches great importance to producers. Unfortunately, in the USSR there aren't many of them.
A: Film production requires professional lawyers, administrators, and managers. Recently we sent ten people to study management in France and one to the United States. Of course, that's just a drop in the bucket. That's why we're putting together a study program for the next ten years. We need real professionals.

Education should begin in childhood—and not just for the most glamorous jobs. We should let kids learn about the professions of assistant director, editor, camera operator, and costume designer.

We opened an aesthetic center at a Moscow school, and we want to teach the filmmaking professions there too. We teach first graders stage movement and manners. Filmmaking professions will be taught from the fourth grade on. The association is going to open another school of this type in one of the Central Asian republics.

Q: But independent studios don't have their own learning centers yet!
A: No, they don't, and that's why state-owned institutions can charge such exorbitant prices.

Foreign firms that know about our problems—and whose possibilities we know about—are ready to begin construction and to invest money. But we can't guarantee them that in a year or so everything won't be confiscated by the state. We need laws. When there ☞

are guarantees, production centers will spring up everywhere.

Q: How do independent studios distribute their films?
A: On a contractual basis. We negotiate directly with film associations and cinemas. We've held the first independent film markets and a nationwide film fair. Distributors from all over the country have seen our productions.

I can't say we've been welcomed everywhere. But we won't give up. Distributors must be attracted by the films and only by them. The attitude toward us is changing, although some inexplicable things still happen.

For instance, our pride and joy, the wonderful film *Ladies Tailor*, has not been bought, even though foreigners have shown some interest in it. We'll distribute the film ourselves and then pass it on to television.

Q: So sometimes a film doesn't pay.
A: That's right. But we'll make the profit back through advertising and with other films. The problem is that even though distributors pay lip service to "serious cinema," they only buy commercial movies. It's impossible to get them to change.

Andrei Razumovsky, movie director, head of the independent studio Fora-Film, and president of the Independent Film Association.

Q: The association has the right to penetrate the world market. What successes have you had?
A: Our first positive achievement was when Pavel Lungin took best director at Cannes, for *Taxi Blues*.

We've reached agreement on the staging of week-long Soviet independent film festivals in 1991 in the United States, France, Australia, Italy, Poland, Egypt, and Sweden. We've signed a contract with Sovexportfilm and are working out a package of measures for international cooperation. One of the important provisions is joint production. Fora-Film has begun work with the British on a movie called *Orlando*, and another with the Americans, called *Moscow Connection*.

Fora-Film and the association of which it is a part are already making films dependent only on the viewers' interests. ■

Leonid Filatov's allegorical account of the famous Taganka Theater and its director, Yuri Lyubimov, whose citizenship was revoked during the stagnation period.

S.o.b.s

Taxi Blues

Pavel Lungin's directorial debut won him a prize at Cannes. The film is about work, art, and what it means to live in Soviet society.

Ladies Tailor

Leonid Gorovets's haunting film about life in Kiev, the Ukraine, on the eve of the Babi Yar tragedy.

"If we make the right moves, we'll do well; if not, we'll simply cease to exist. Everything depends on us."

NEXT ISSUE

HIGH WATER FOR VOLGA REGION

Over the past few years the Volga River has been in the headlines. Last spring was no exception, as the mighty Russian waterway overflowed its banks once again, this time causing unprecedented flooding in its lower reaches. Pointing to, above all, irresponsible management, experts believe that an ecological disaster is inevitable for Volga Region. Even with this latest disaster, though, the local people, who are a hardy lot, haven't lost courage.

WORKERS BECOME STOCKHOLDERS

Not long ago the state government announced that an aircraft-building plant in Saratov, a big industrial center on the Volga River, was to be the first large factory in the country to be turned over to the workers. All assets of the Saratov Aircraft Plant are now the property of the people working there, and all workers now have a stake in the plant's profits.

COMING SOON

SOVIET LIFE's First Visit to Kaliningrad

the sweet taste of bygone days

Below: The Syuzanna cooperative's honey cake department. On the left is its production manager, Tatyana Romanova.

The traditional Russian spice cakes, *pryaniki,* are made from sweet dough seasoned with ginger, cinnamon, cardamom, and other spices. For many years the baking of gingerbread cakes was one of the most widespread domestic crafts in Russia. Gingerbread cakes come in various designs and sizes, with or without decorative icing. Decorative cakes were made with the help of heavy wooden molds. The surface of the cakes was decorated with colored sugar, glaze, and even gilt. The cakes shown here are honey cakes much like those eaten centuries ago. These specimens were baked

Soviet Life

September 1991

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PEOPLE CHOOSE DEMOCRACY

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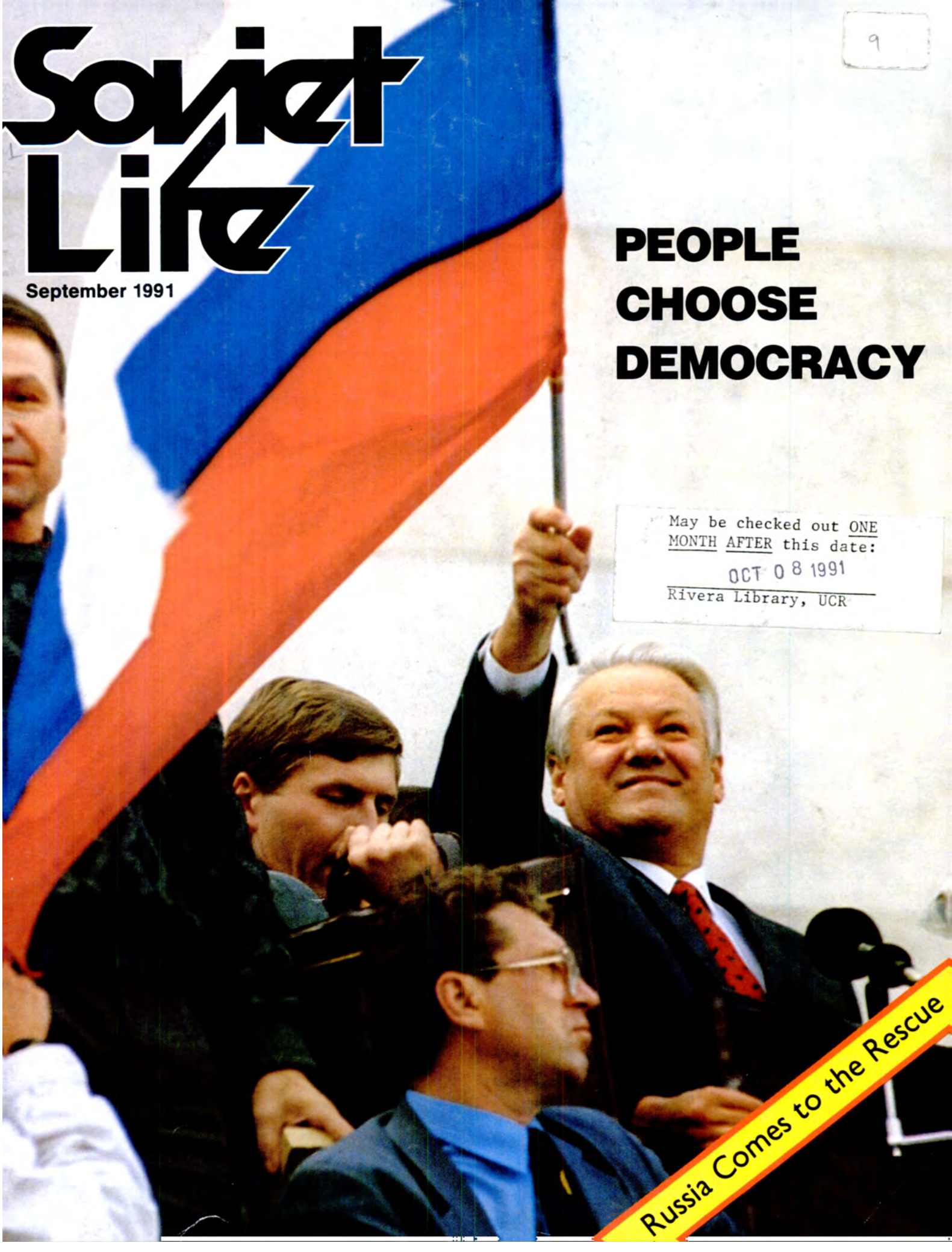

Russia Comes to the Rescue

NOVOSTI PHOTO

The leaders exchange pens after signing the START treaty.

MOSCOW SUMMIT—

Bringing Hope for the Future

Each of the Soviet-American summit meetings that have been held in the past two decades has been called "historic." The latest visit to the USSR by the U.S. president was no exception. And this summit was surely worthy of the designation—not only because it marked the culmination of nine years of strenuous work to reach an agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons or that after so many years of rivalry in the Middle East, the sides decided to try jointly to settle a dangerous regional conflict.

This latest visit to the USSR is historic because, for the United States, it means the end of the era of containment with respect to the Soviet Union. And for the USSR, it means the end of the era of confrontation with another superpower.

Judging by everything, in the new postcontainment period, the pivotal point of relations between the two countries will be the adjustment to the realities that are developing right before our very eyes. And we are becoming witnesses to history.

The Soviet Union and the United States are only on the threshold of a new relationship. May the future bring peaceful skies to both nations and their peoples! ■

EDITOR'S NOTES

Two or three years ago, the media talked a lot about the breakdown of Soviet and American stereotypes—meaning the enemy image, above all. Today we are partners, as the latest summit shows, but some stereotypes persist.

One concerns American pragmatism—a delusion that the majority of Soviet people in the street share. An article I read recently again brought it to mind. The article described a young American couple—a doctor husband and a schoolteacher wife—who had come to Syktyvkar, capital of the Komi Autonomous Republic, with its forbidding climate and crying shortage of consumer necessities, to work for inflated Soviet rubles.

In this issue we profile Danielle Downing, an American employee of the Moscow Commodities Exchange. She likes her job and her life in the Soviet capital, which doesn't offer much in the way of creature comforts but there are surely more in Moscow than you'd find in Syktyvkar.

Then there's the American businessman I met recently who had displayed an extraordinary lack of judgment by arriving in Moscow a year ago without having made hotel reservations in advance. As was to be expected, he found himself with nowhere to stay until a kind Muscovite family took him in. The impractical visitor became the family's best friend, while the businessman developed such a fondness for Soviet hospitality that he gave up a well-paying job with an American company to work in the USSR and "to help perestroika," as he put it.

This man is convinced that the stereotype currently circulating about the USSR being a nation of starry-eyed, idealistic ne'er-do-wells is dead wrong. He says Moscow is teeming with enterprising people who simply had no chance until quite recently.

This gave me an idea: Why shouldn't the magazine try its hand at business—as a go-between, for instance? Many readers ask us to help them find partners in the USSR. We're doing our best. Fat commissions are the last thing we're after. We simply want to do our part.

Robert Tsfasman

Soviet Life

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Moscow Editorial Board
Novosti Information Agency
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Editor in Chief—Robert Tsfasman
Layout by Nikolai Smolyakov

Washington Editorial Board
1706 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Editor—Sergei S. Ivanko
Managing Editor—Gennadi A. Syomin

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Front Cover: Boris Yeltsin in front of the Russian parliament building. See story starting on page 2. *Photograph by Boris Babanov.*

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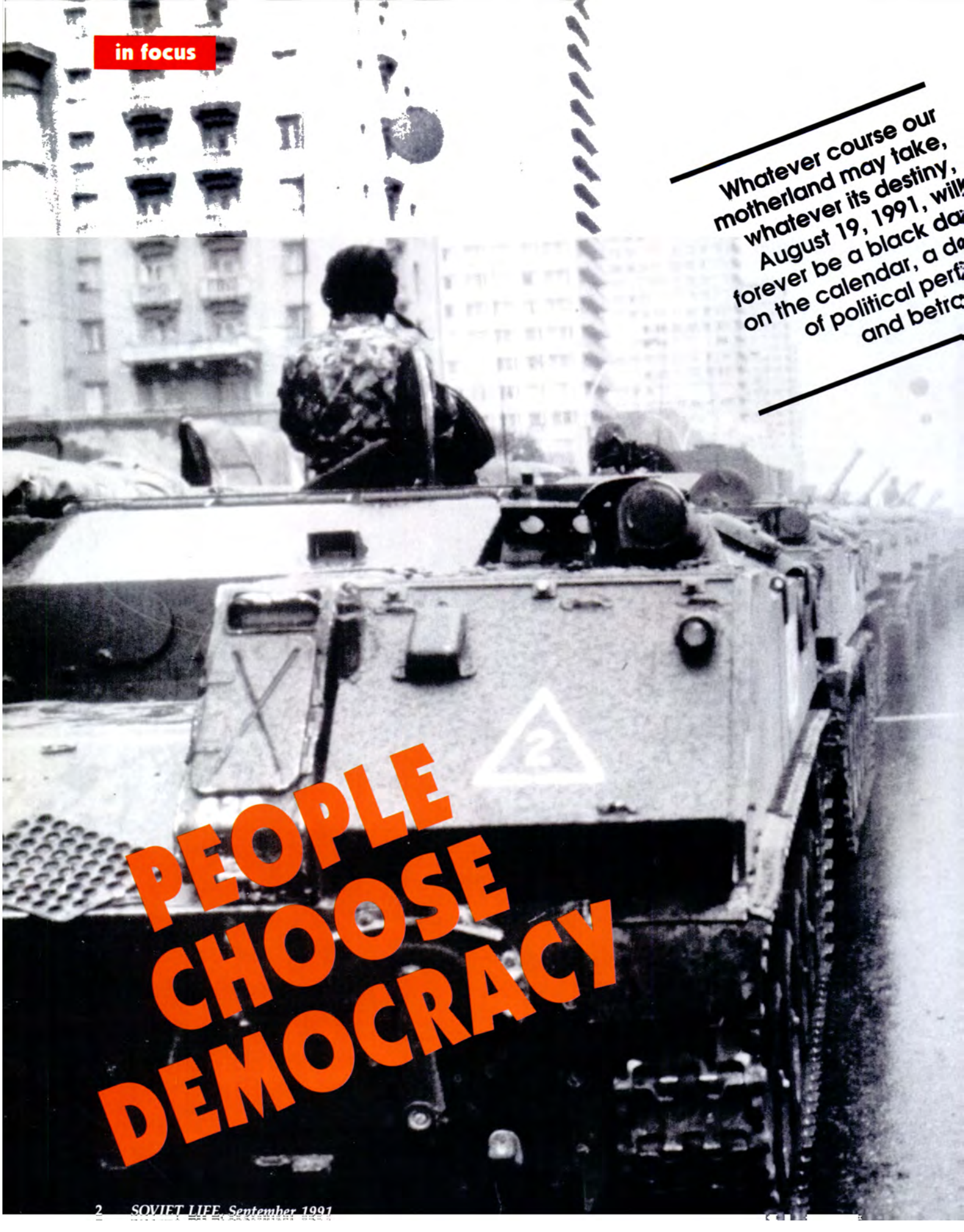


Whatever course our motherland may take, whatever its destiny, August 19, 1991, will forever be a black da on the calendar, a da of political perf and betra

PEOPLE CHOOSE DEMOCRACY

Day of Political Perfidy

Hypocrisy and Treachery

Let us put aside the cynicism of the eight coup plotters who seized power: History does not know "quiet," "honest," coups d'etat. The reaction of those for whom the new order was intended has proved to be quite predictable, since the very first hours of its imposition. Some locked themselves in their apartments, listening to the monotonous radio appeals; while others, Muscovites, lay under the tank treads near the Russian parliament building. Some people were quick to support "the initiative", of the half-baked leaders, while others started erecting the barricades.

Any putsch is a test of human conscience. Events of this nature cannot leave anyone indifferent. It is hard to imagine how all this would have turned out just a couple of years ago. But by the time the coup

Triumph of Democracy

took place, not every worker was willing to stay at his bench at gun point. Not every journalist was ready to serve the coup plotters. Not every man in military uniform was prepared to shoot unarmed compatriots. Not every militiaman or KGB officer was eager to abet terror and violence, to assist in the construction of a new GULAG. Brazen trampling of the Constitution, lies taken as a basis for action by the plot's engineers, the hypocrisy and treachery of some, and the desperate heroism of individual citizens are nothing in comparison with the fate of the Soviet people.

Every honest citizen faced a vital decision: What was he or she willing to do? Either to support illegal power and slavishly pander to it, watching silently as dictatorship crushed everyone under the tank treads, or to try to return to the democratic path. To return wiser, more experienced, more sober, lest another coup catch people unawares. To try, at least in the future, to ensure that no one could within a few hours seize the communications media of our motherland, intimidate, insult, and impose their own will, ignoring public opinion.

Russia Comes to the Rescue

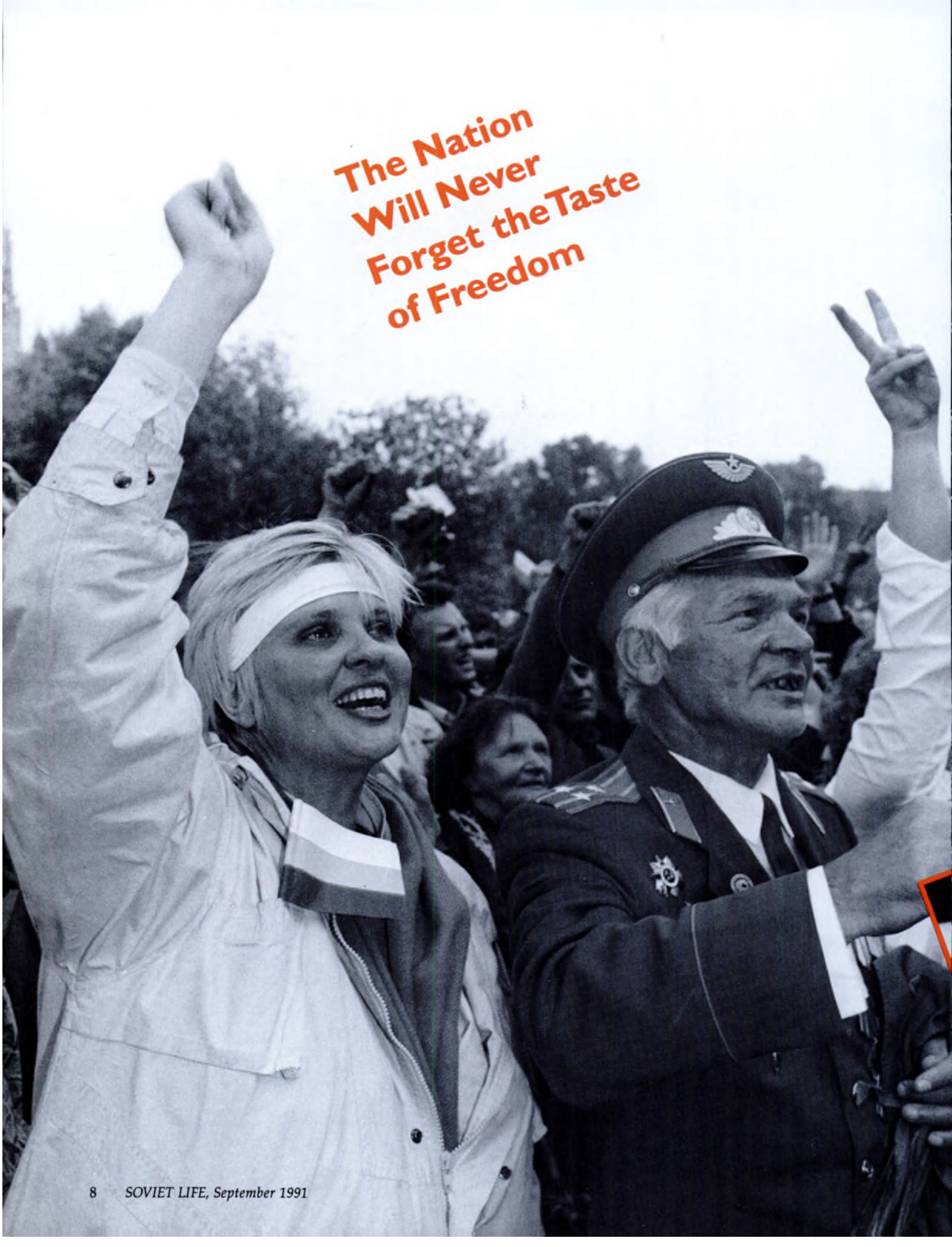
Sacrifices on the Altar of Democracy

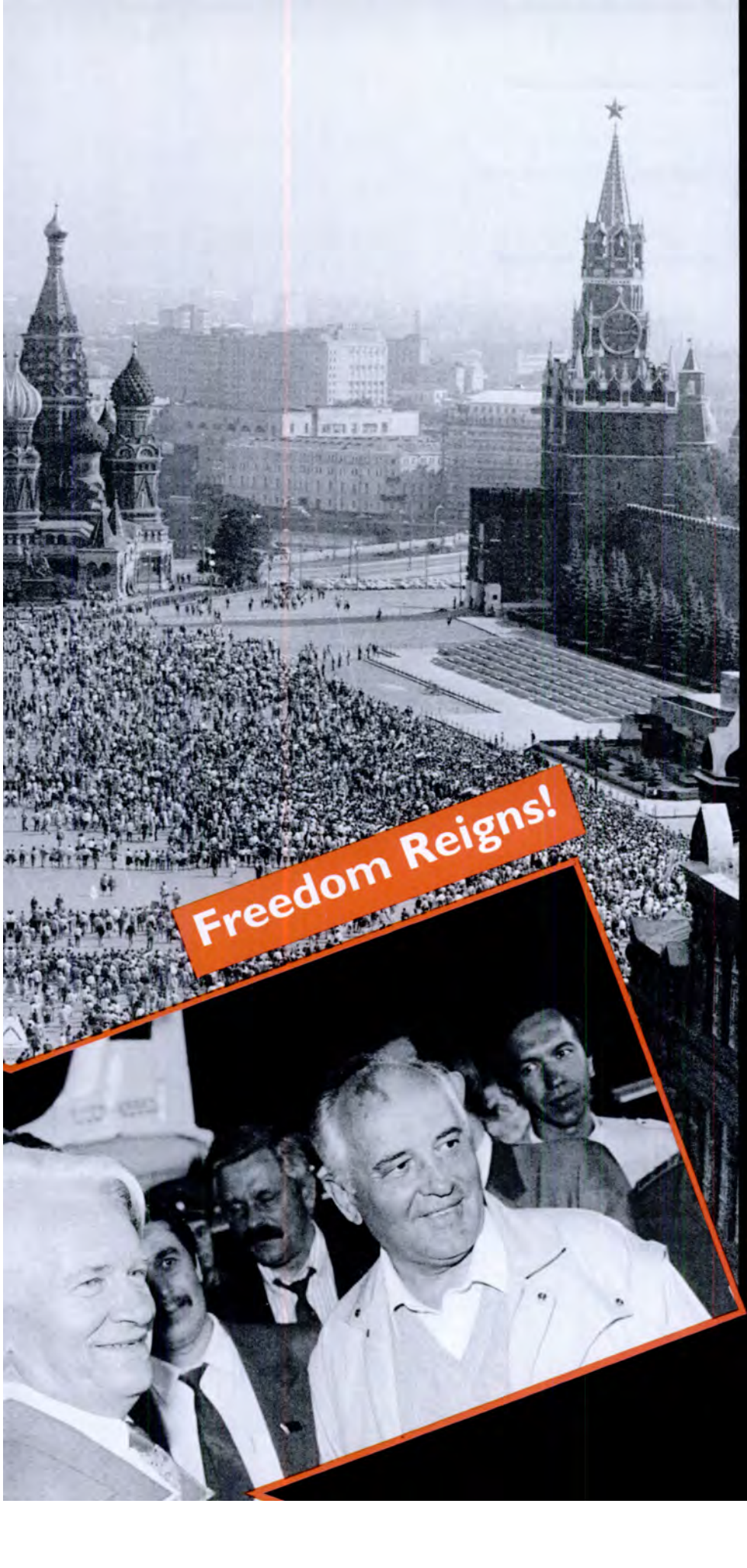
What has proved to be more important for the Soviet people: to tremble in fear, awaiting new restrictions on freedom and human rights to be imposed by the putschists, or to start searching for possible opportunities? It's a rhetorical question. There was no need to search for an opportunity. The opportunity lay with Great Russia, which had already chosen sovereignty and independence. The opportunity already lay with its parliament, its lawful and, for the first time in history, popularly elected president. The position taken by the leadership of the largest republic of the Union is firm, definite, and unshakable. And in spite of the controls on the information media, the voice of freedom was heard by the country. "We appeal to the citizens of Russia to give a deserving reply to the putschists and to

Confrontation

Test of Human Conscience

The Nation Will Never Forget the Taste of Freedom





Freedom Reigns!

demand that the country return to normal constitutional development." The cry was heard by Moscow workers who raised barricades to defend lawful Russian power. It was heard by the public who did not choose to live staring down the barrel of a gun. The voice was heard by honest army officers who refused to shoot their own people.

It will be a great misfortune if the people do not remember the lessons of their own history. And it will be a real tragedy if the people cannot draw the proper conclusions about it. Nevertheless, however hard the plotters of the coup tried to take over, the time for when it might have succeeded had already been missed. What was possible yesterday is very hard to carry out today because the nation will never forget the taste of freedom.

People in this country used to talk a lot about the threat of a military coup that might be backed by bureaucrats. They said the Soviet reactionaries were summoning their strength. And such a coup, albeit an abortive one, did happen. Nevertheless, few thought that the putschists would hold out for such a short time. The Soviet people were accustomed to carrying out commands from above without saying a word. Now, however, the people have changed. They didn't lose their nerve when the tanks rolled in, and they rose in democracy's defense.

This democratic victory has caused an all-out euphoria both in Russia and in the West. The "three days in August" are being called "a popular revolution," which can dramatically change our way of life. Incidentally, many Americans share this opinion. I can see this from their letters to the editor and the TV coverage. Sounds okay to me, but I don't think we should be that euphoric. Whether we like it or not, the cause of freedom was defended by a politically active minority, with most of the local population preferring to sit it out. And the most important thing is to weather the present-day crisis.

The recent victory will not yield any results by itself. Vladimir Maximov, a clever and worthy Russian émigré writer, said the other day, "We'll have to sweat it out daily,

JACK MATLOCK ON OFFICIAL AND CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

The former United States ambassador to the Soviet Union talks with **SOVIET LIFE** *Editor in Chief Robert Tsfasman.*

Jack Matlock gave this interview shortly before his departure from Moscow, where he had spent the past four and a half years in the post of U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union. Over those years Soviet-American relations have changed considerably for the better. Ambassador Matlock, a great connoisseur of Russia and a convinced proponent of the current shifts in the USSR, used all of his energy, knowledge, and good will to promote the changes.

Matlock is fluent in Russian and knows many other languages spoken in the USSR. He has done a great deal of traveling around the country and has made a good number of friends. The former ambassador and his wife, Rebecca, were a highly visible couple, who were seen not only at formal state dinners and diplomatic functions but also at cultural events such as theater performances, concerts, book presentations, and art exhibitions.

Many Muscovites sincerely regretted the Matlocks' departure. But there is a consolation. As the ambassador himself put it at one of his briefings, he is bidding the Soviet people good-by, not farewell.

Q: Some would consider you very lucky to have worked in Moscow during such an interesting period in the life of Soviet society. What do you say?
A: I agree. These past four and a half years have been an absolutely fascinating period to be here. I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to observe the changes that have taken place during this time.

Q: Summing up the results, are you satisfied with your mission's work?
A: Yes. First of all, our embassy has been able to understand the situation here and to provide a good and accurate analysis for our government. I think we've also been useful to the press and to others—to scholars, for instance—in helping them understand the forces at play here and the changes that are taking place. I think we can be proud of, frankly, the depth of our analysis. On the whole, I don't believe we've missed any important subjects. That's significant. Second, I think that during this period of time we've achieved a number of important agreements and, of course, the embassy has been one of the participants working on these agreements. We have very good relations with our Soviet counterparts, so I think we both have a lot to be proud of.

Third, I'd say that I have been here at a time when we had increasing access to the Soviet media. That gave us a chance to communicate with the public at large, and I think that has been done very satisfactorily.

Finally, regarding the embassy: Despite the fact that we are working under very difficult physical conditions, in not very good offices, in cramped quarters—we even had a fire—I'm very proud that we have been able to maintain a wonderful spirit. And I consider myself privileged to have been able to lead the embassy.

"These past four and a half years have been an absolutely fascinating period to be here."

Q: You once noted that you know Moscow better than Washington and that you're known in Moscow better than in Washington.
A: That's right. Undoubtedly, more people know my wife and me here than in the United States because we've been living here, and most people are not that familiar with the ambassadors that their country sends abroad. They are more familiar with the people in their midst. So that's quite true.

Q: I've heard that your interest in our country stems from your interest in Russian literature.
A: Yes, that was one of the stimuli when I was a college student. It was one of the stimuli, but not the only one, of course. Many things caused me to take an interest in the Soviet Union, particularly during the war when I was still in secondary school. When I was in college, I began to read Russian literature, first Dostoyevsky and then novels of other writers. I attended Duke University for my undergraduate studies, and, subsequently, I did my graduate work at Columbia University.

Q: What was your major in college?
A: As an undergraduate, history; as a graduate student, Soviet studies and Russian literature.

Q: The American press reported not long ago that the USSR's rating has slightly declined in the United States. What do you think on that score?
A: Well, I think the degree of the drop in the polls can be exaggerated. You get fluctuations. When the Soviet Union was cooperating with us, par- ☞

ticularly in the Gulf, there was a great increase in popularity. When there seemed to be criticism of our policy, this created a problem.

But, in general, I'd say that there has been a very substantial change in American opinion over the past four or five years. Most Americans no longer see the USSR as an extremely hostile country.

Q: Do you think that the Soviet Union should copy the Western model, or should it search for its own road?
A: Of course, I don't think that any institution should simply be assumed by another culture. Obviously, each society has to develop institutions that suit its own purposes. I think, though, there are some basic democratic principles that really attract everybody. In that sense, it might be the way in which these principles are put into practice that is different with each culture. Principles such as the rule of law, separation of powers, protection for minority rights and majority rights, and the willingness to hold periodic elections—all are elements that every democracy shares.

"Unless the citizens of one country understand the citizens of another, it's very difficult to have a close relationship...."

Japan is quite a different country from Germany, England, or the United States; nevertheless, it is a democracy. And it did not damage Japanese culture to have a parliament that is powerful and an emperor that is ceremonial, although these conditions never existed in Japanese history before World War II. In fact, Japan really began to flourish after it became a more democratic and a more peaceful country.

It's the same story with Germany. It wasn't always a democracy, although it's now a very solid democracy. England itself, the country from which we got our institutions, wasn't a democracy for many centuries of its history. So, institutions obviously vary.

As far as economics is concerned, here, too, I think there are certain basic principles that really have nothing to do with ideology. They operate despite the political system or economic system. For example, issuing too much money creates inflationary conditions. I mean, that's a law of nature. It's not political or ideological. It's a fact. Many elements of a market system have nothing to do with ideology but simply with the way people operate.

Some things, I think, are important, but the specific institutions and the specific manner in which they are implemented must be consistent with every culture. The most important thing is that the people of that culture have to view it as theirs and to accept it.

Q: As an expert on Russia, how do you view the traditional concept of the Russian soul?
A: I've never thought that the Russian soul was particularly mysterious. People of a different culture always seem to be a mystery to those who do not understand their culture. Sometimes you'll hear, "the inscrutable Orient" when people are speaking of the Chinese or the Japanese. We all know, they mean their ways.

But that doesn't mean they are unpredictable or a mystery so much as it means that they simply have a different cultural background. No society is entirely predictable, and no society is easy to understand, sometimes even by the people of that society. Fundamentally, I think that the Russians are no more unpredictable than anybody else.

You have a very big country and one that has a lot of diversity. Diversity in many things, and that makes for a very complex situation. We, too, are a very complex society in many respects, but our institutions, I guess, are a little older because, after all, Russia went through a number of cataclysms over the past few centuries.

Although as a nation you are much older, your specific political institutions are relatively new; while we are a young nation, our political institutions are relatively old. And maybe that gives ours a coherence that's not always apparent here, but I wouldn't say your country is mysterious.

Q: Many people believe that you happily combine official diplomacy and citizen diplomacy, specifically your participation in Soviet-American contacts at different levels.
A: I'm an avid proponent of bringing people together because I think it's very important. Unless the citizens of one country understand the citizens of another, it's very difficult to have a close relationship, so we've considered it very important to support programs that bring people together, just ordinary people, people of all walks of life. That develops a base of understanding that otherwise wouldn't exist.

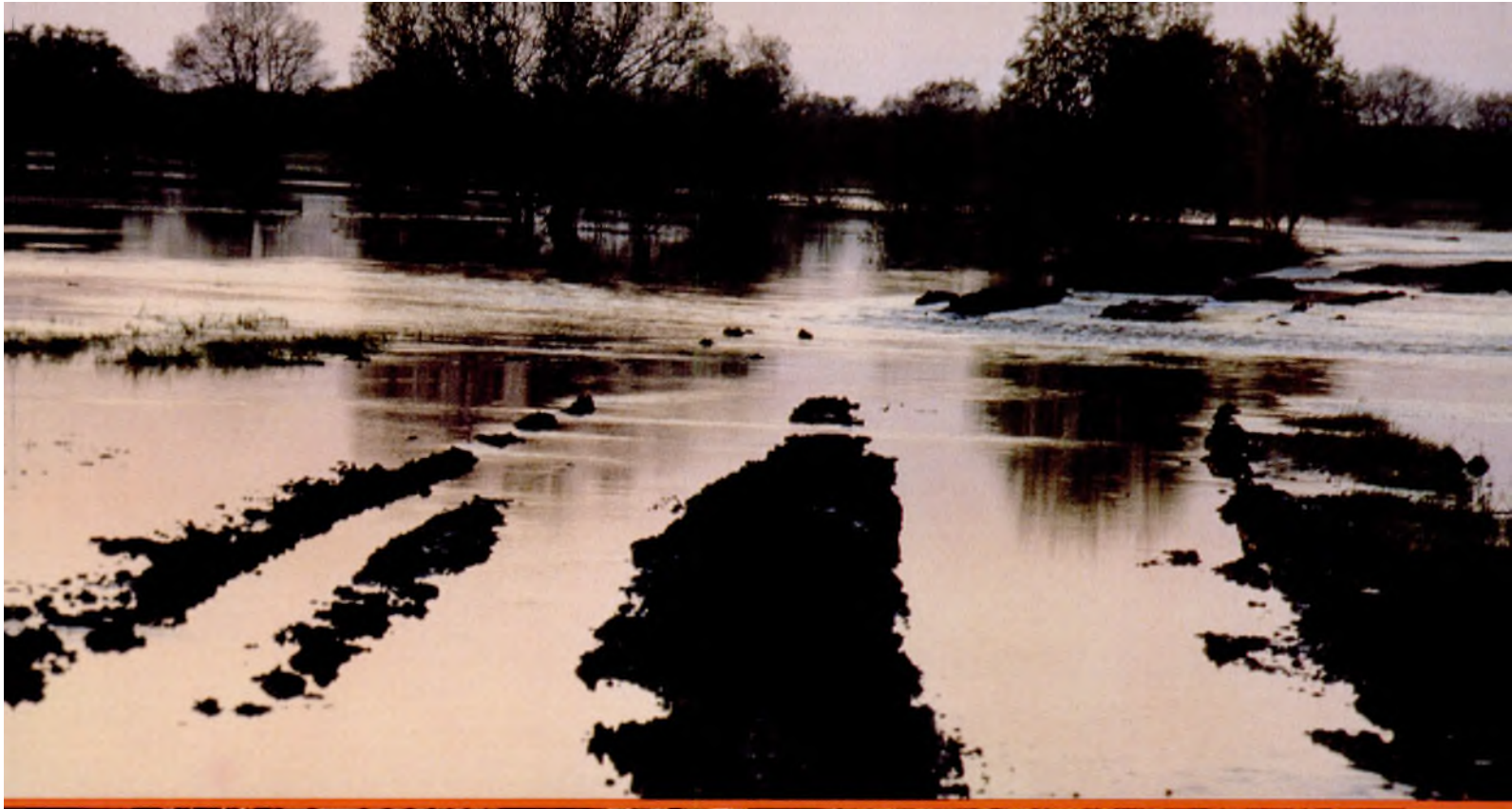
Q: Finally, a traditional question. What do you have to say to SOVIET LIFE readers?
A: Well, I think that both countries will benefit if we learn more about each other. Given the size of both countries, our cooperation is very important for the future of the world.

So, I hope the readers of SOVIET LIFE will retain their interest and will continue to try to stay current with developments in the Soviet Union because I think it's important for Americans.

HIGHWATER!

By Vera Kondratenko
Photographs by Oleg Lastochkin

The sun sets over the inundated Volga-Akhtuba flood plain. Right: In the village of Zubarevka—water, water everywhere, but not a drop fit for drinking.



Flood waters cover farm fields and village streets. Local resident Maria Bocharova uses a boat to transport her pets to safety.

A FEW INCHES FROM TOTAL DISASTER...

Our motorboat sped over the inundated meadow, skillfully maneuvering around trees and skirting electric power lines. As we sailed smoothly over a bridge, I saw a truck whose engine had obviously quit on the spot. I only hoped that the driver had made it to dry land.

The meadow was under six meters of water; while the bridge, which had once risen high above ground, was now covered by a wet blanket a meter-and a half to two meters thick. All of this was the result of unusually high water that hit the lower reaches of the Volga River this past spring. With almost no warning, disaster hit nearly 20,000 hectares of land in Volgograd Region, southern Russia. The old-timers said that only the floods of 1926 and 1979 could compare to this one.

Sergei Moiseyev, the chief engineer of the lower Volga basin, explained how it happened. It seems the mighty Volga, which is usually frozen until mid-spring, experienced an early thaw this year. Then the ice began to break up on the Kama, one of the Volga's main tributaries. Simultaneously, the snow began to melt in the Volga-Kama Basin. To make matters worse, heavier than usual rains hit the upper reaches of the Volga. Another factor complicated the situation. The land in the Volga's lower reaches hadn't fully recovered from the fairly heavy rains that had saturated them last fall. By winter the local reservoir was filled to 90 percent capacity.

By early May, 80 percent of the Volga-Akhtuba flood plain, where 45,000 people reside and 100,000 more come for the summer, was under water. In all, ninety-one populated areas were flooded. Nature's deed was especially cruel since this region, which covers an area of 2,570 square kilometers, is considered the jewel of Volga Region. The area is known for its deciduous and mixed forests, a rarity in this climatic zone, and abundant wildlife. The local residents grow good harvests of vegetables, watermelons, and apples.

Of course, high water is nothing new in the region, but usually only the low-lying areas get flooded and the water recedes in a week or two. People who live there are quite familiar with their river's habits, and they work the low ground only when they feel it is safe. They sow their crops after the spring thaw and harvest a bumper crop in the fall. Summer is mowing season, and there's always plenty of hay to feed the cattle. The villages are sited on high ground, just to be sure.

Over the decades several large hydroelectric power plants were constructed on the Volga, and flooding occurred less and less on the Volga-Akhtuba flood plain. Up to 40 percent of the land experienced no flooding at all every year. With such encouraging news, people rushed to develop the land. The area sprang up with state farms, cattle ranches, villages, dachas, and vacation resorts.

"We really should have taken greater precautions before developing the flood plain," Moiseyev admitted.

In 1979, the elements reminded everyone of their power: The experts put the flood damage that year at nineteen million rubles, and the authorities did show concern. All along the Volga River, dams were built and embankments were reinforced. The efforts paid off, and for many years the region was spared nature's fury.

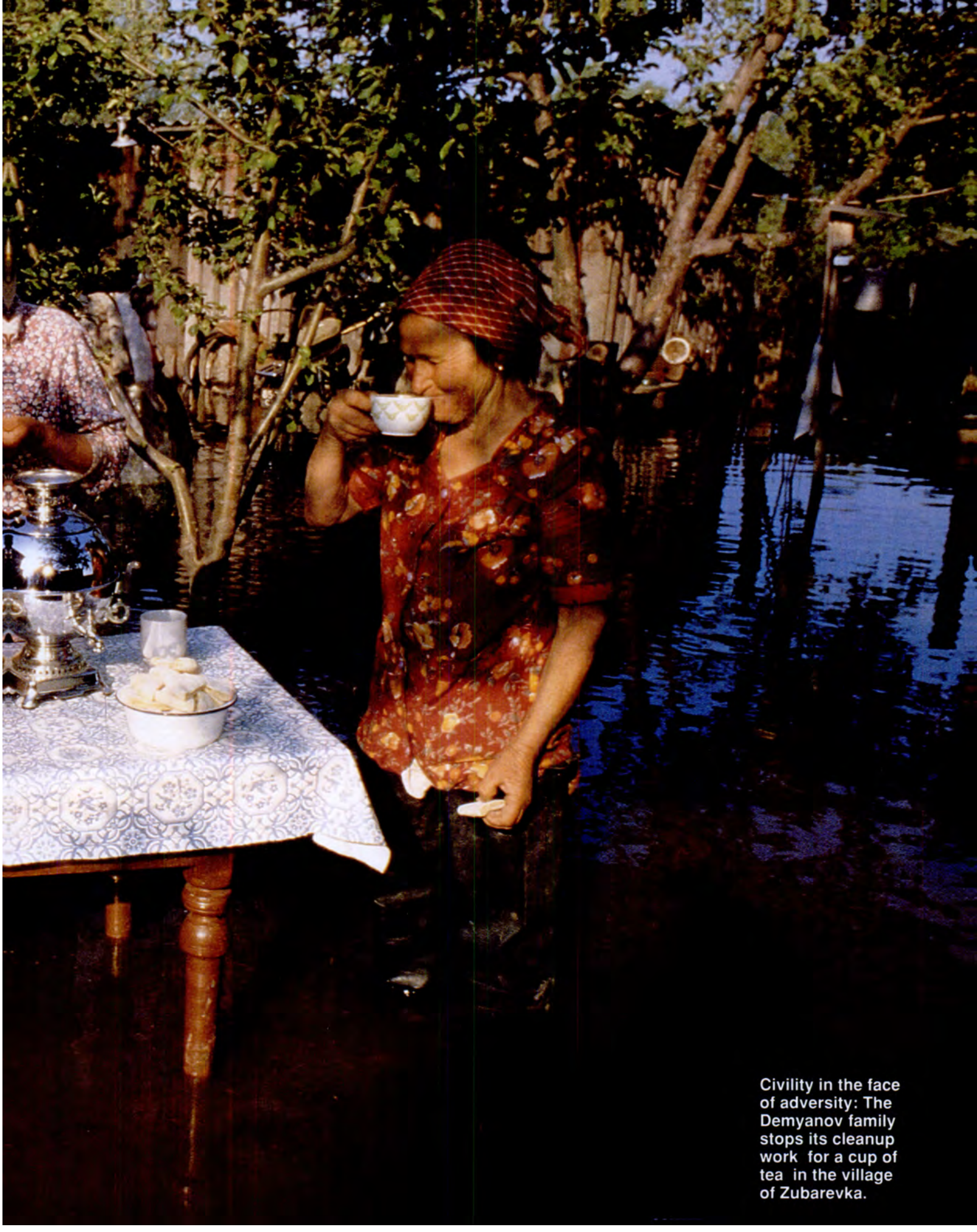
Suddenly, trouble came again this spring. A bird's-eye view of the landscape showed that instead of dry steppes, wetlands were everywhere. Isolated patches, once populated hamlets, stood like forlorn lovers with outstretched arms. Part of one state farm had been completely inundated. Though water had rendered the land useless, practically all of the cattle were fortunately saved. The farmers had to drive the animals deep onto the steppe to keep them safe, giving no thought to what a chore it would be to feed the herds and to later round them up. Those thoughts became of secondary concern.

Where it was possible, people tried to hold the high water back. Volgograd Region spent twenty-five million rubles building dams and shoring up the river's banks. Two thousand specialists took part in the effort. People worked day and night, seven days a week. Bulldozers, dump trucks, and tractors were brought into Volgograd Region from all over.

Despite the heroic efforts of man and machinery, the water levels continued to rise, gradually overwhelming all these attempts. Sarpinsky Island, where 11,000 dachas had been built, was especially hard hit. Boards, logs, fence posts, and household goods sadly floated downstream from the island, while the disaster victims tried to fish out their belongings from the torrent.

In May, 30,000 cubic meters of water per second were pouring through the Volgograd Hydroelectric Power Plant daily—more than three times the average amount. The flood waters had swelled to less than a foot below the maximum level in the Volgograd Reservoir. If the water rose any higher, gushing torrents would surely have washed everything away.

"True, property losses were high—around fifty million rubles' worth. But the situation could have been a lot worse," said Ivan Shabunin, chairman of the regional soviet's executive committee. "We were caught almost totally unawares, but the people pooled their efforts—neighbors helping neighbors and strangers becoming friends. With this kind of spirit, the region will surely recover. ■



Civility in the face of adversity: The Demyanov family stops its cleanup work for a cup of tea in the village of Zubarevka.

NATURE'S WAY OF WARNING...

The villages of Pokrovka and Korshevitoye in Volgograd Region were especially devastated. When we visited the area in midsummer, the roads to the villages had dried out in some places, but for the most part they were still so flooded as to be impassable by ordinary car. To get from village to village required an amphibious vehicle or a motorboat. We decided to ride in one of the Ural military vehicles, and it served us well without any problem. Several times we had to cross deep stretches of water, but each time the Ural emerged safely.

"The roads get bogged down pretty fast," said our driver, pointing to a dry portion of the road that doubled as a dam. The edge of the road had already begun to wash out.

Pokrovka, Korshevitoye, and a number of other villages had literally turned into islands, crumbs of dry land surrounded by water. The young soldiers bringing in food, medicine, and other necessities became angels of mercy, as they ferried people, cars, and technology across nature's moats.

Members of the military even helped the local state farm plant seedlings, I was told. The young tomato plants, which had been started in greenhouses, were ready to be transplanted into open beds when the high water came. Fortunately, the water spared the greenhouses and the vegetable beds, but the only way to reach them was by amphibious vehicle.

But those villages were comparatively lucky. The village of Zubarevka was hit a lot harder. The water began to rise in April, almost imperceptibly at first. Later it came faster and faster, inundating the low-lying areas and only stopping at the edge of town. Then, slowly but surely, the water started to creep into the kitchen gardens. The local people began building mud dams, but as the water level rose, it washed the dams away. No sooner had the people fortified one area than another spot needed immediate repair. The high water seemed to have the upper hand.

Some twenty farmhouses were flooded and remained in this state for two months. Most of the people who live in Zubarevka are pensioners who used to work at the Pokrovsky State Farm. Many of the region's young people have left for larger towns and cities.

We switched to a motorboat to get to Sergei Dyomin's house. Only the fruit trees and the occasional fence post sticking out of the water indicated where the family garden used to be.

"Our garden was virtually all we had," Sergei explained. "My wife and I are retired and live on our pensions, so even in good times it's hard to make ends meet. Now it's that much harder. We always planted potatoes, onions, garlic, parsley, cucumbers, and tomatoes—we'd plant enough to sell to the government, and we still had plenty for ourselves. And now? Everything's gone. We've got no money and no seeds. And the water continues to come closer to the house. We keep waiting and watching as it creeps closer."

Maria Feklistova's yard is also flooded. In order to take even a step off her porch, she has to put on high rubber waders. She rows a boat to do her chores and to get to her neighbors, the local council, or the store.

"Boats are our salvation right now," Maria told me. "We are helpless without them. It's strange how things work: We have been up to our waists in water for two months now, but there is no water for washing."

She pointed to a new, brick bathhouse and continued: "The bathhouse was flooded. The bricks are waterlogged, and it'll have to be rebuilt. There's also a problem with drinking water. We had a well, which we've used for twenty-five years. It had good water, but now it's flooded, just like everything else. The authorities are doing what they can, but the devastation is great."

"What happened to all the cows, sheep, and goats in this area?" I asked.

"Some people sent their livestock to other regions to stay, while other people drove them to dry land deep onto the steppe, where they can graze."

Not all Maria's animals have deserted her. She's still got her pets—two dogs and a cat. She takes them everywhere with her, even when she's traveling in the boat.

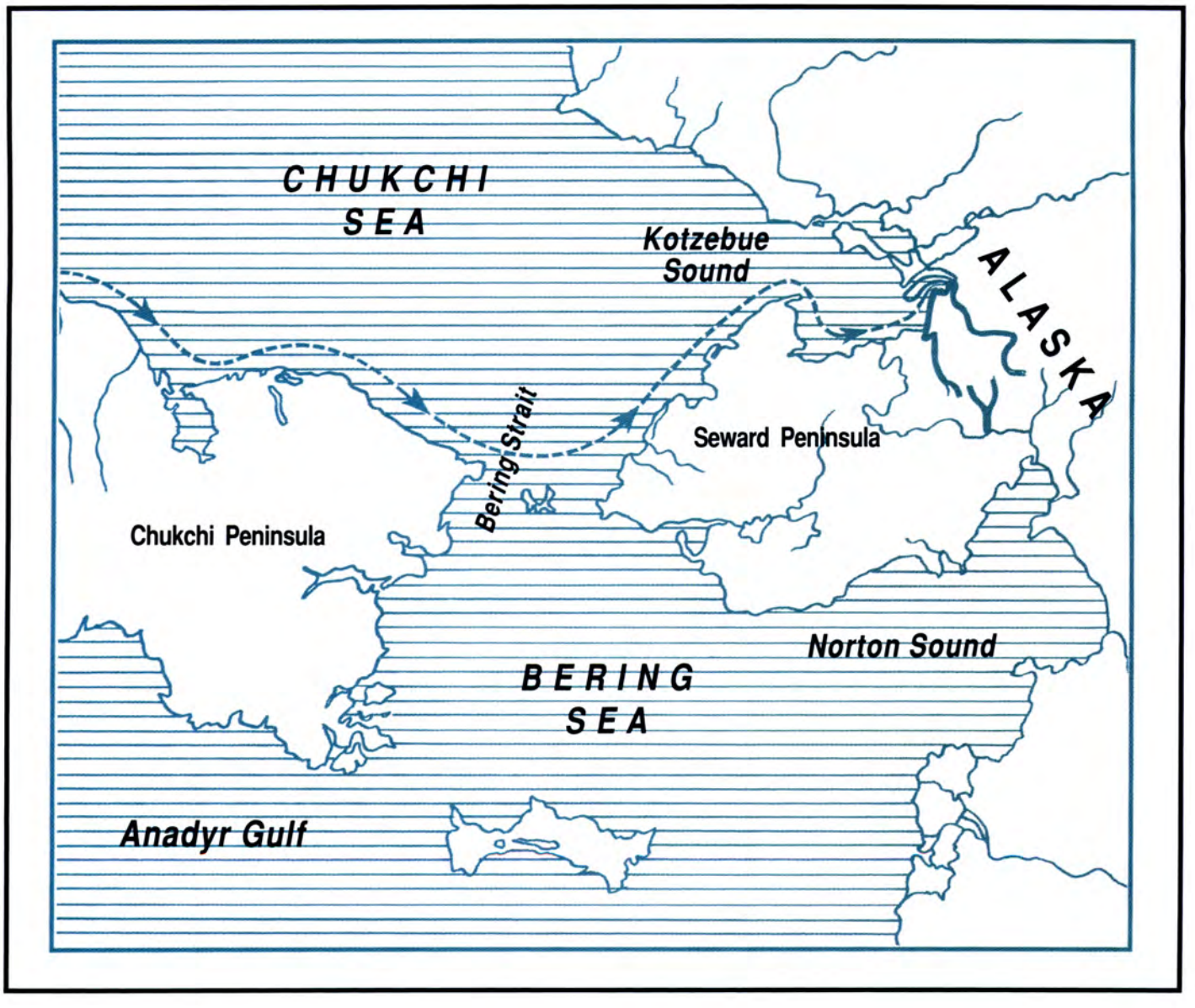
"My three neighbors at the end of the village are also named Maria, and, like me, they too are flooded," my hostess explained, as she transported me by boat to the home of Maria and Pavel Demyanov, a wonderful couple who simply refused to let the elements get them down.

As we rowed up, I saw the Demyanovs enjoying a break from the cleanup. There they were in their yard near a festive table surrounded by water. On the table triumphantly boiled a samovar, which seemed to be whistling, "Life, indeed, does go on!"

"We can't wait for the water to recede," complained Maria Demyanova. "Everything is wet and rotting, and all our work will have to be repaired, replaced, and renewed!

"Sometimes I think we must be made of steel. I'm retired, but I'm still working day and night. I get up at four in the morning to milk the cows and do my chores—that's how it is in the village. Life was never easy here, but now we're doing everything with water up to our waists, higher in some places. Not long ago I was on my way to feed our cattle when my boat capsized. I fell into the water and almost drowned. Fortunately, I managed to grab hold of a branch and to pull myself out."

"Don't you want to go and live someplace else, at least until the water subsides?" I asked.



When Was Alaska Settled by Russians?

By Leonid Sverdlov

SARATOV: MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE

By Alexander Yevreinov
Photographs by Vladimir Akimov and Andrei Solomonov

Only a year ago, the idea of transferring ownership of an aircraft plant from the state to the workers would have been unthinkable in the USSR. Today, as the country moves toward a market economy, divisions of the armaments industry, including the aerospace sections, are being converted to civilian production. In fact, state property and centralized planning are receding into the background in many areas of Soviet life. However, with the changeover has emerged a whole set of new problems that must be dealt with, such as how to make the newly privatized factories cost efficient and how to ensure that the new owners, the workers, take a personal interest in making their concern profitable.

To make a long story short, not long ago the USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry turned the Saratov Aircraft Plant over to the people who work there. The bulk of the factory's assets was handed over free of charge; the remainder is being purchased in installments. All workers received a stock certificate entitling them to a certain percentage of the plant's yearly dividends in profits. The workers were also granted the right to bequeath their certificate to other people.

With this change, the Saratov Aircraft Plant became the first enterprise of its size to be denationalized in the country. The plant turns out Yakovlev (YAK-42) short-range airliners, which are presently plying the skies all over the USSR.

I'll admit, I was somewhat skeptical when I first visited the plant. A lot of questions rumbled around my brain. What's the difference between state and collective property? I wondered. How does it change the status of the workers? In the past, "collective property" often meant nobody owns it. What makes this different? Also, I heard that the enterprise's capital couldn't be divided—that is, if workers quit their jobs, they forfeit their right to withdraw their share of the capital. Hm, capitalists who can't dispose of their capital as they want? How is that supposed to promote a sense of ownership among the workers?

I talked with former plant manager Alexander Yermishin. Yermishin is now chairman of the plant's board of directors. He was elected to his present post for a term of five years by a group of the workers' representatives. Three years ago, when he was a deputy director of economic affairs, Yermishin was instrumental in preparing the draft statute streamlining the collective enterprise's joint-stock structure and functions. In February 1991, after Yermishin's draft statute was discussed at the shop-floor level for several months, it was endorsed by a plant conference.

"At present, we're living in a house divided," explained Yermishin. "On the one hand, we can ☞

Alexander Yermishin (above) heads the newly formed board of directors at the Saratov Aircraft Plant. "A game of billiards helps me relax whenever I've got a tough problem to solve," he says. Right: The main entrance to the aircraft plant.

see the benefits of an effective market economy based on individual ownership of fixed assets to increase our profits. On the other hand, we don't have the right conditions yet to introduce this arrangement at the plant. Let's say, for instance, the workers buy shares of stock with their own personal funds. They still can't sell them because Saratov doesn't have a stock exchange. The plant is in no position to buy them either unless it declares bankruptcy and liquidates its assets.

What lies ahead for the workers-owners of the Saratov Aircraft Plant? Hard work will ensure good prospects, many people believe.

"A collective enterprise is something altogether different. Every worker's share is, in fact, made up of the enterprise's total profits, and any worker can withdraw his or her share in full anytime.

"Of course, we had to impose restrictions on withdrawing the initial share. We wanted to prevent our authorized capital from being squandered during the transitional stage. We wanted to ensure that all workers had equal opportunities for investment."

When I talked to the shop-floor workers, they told me that it is going to take them some time to get used to their new role as co-owners.

"When I hear that somebody has bought a store," said worker Sergei Kovalenko, "I know right away who the boss is. But when we hear that all of us 15,000 workers are going to enjoy equal rights in running this plant, I find it a little hard to say who is in charge. That will take a bit of getting used to."

"For sure, we're going to have more independence," said Vladimir Khlebnov, 40, who heads a team of turners. "Before, we used to look to the ministry in Moscow to solve many of our problems. Now, we have to rely on ourselves and find our own clients. Will we stand up to the competition? And what price will we have to pay? What if down the road we find we have to lay off workers? It's the unknown that frightens me the most. It's all new to us."

"So far, we've been pretty lucky in running the plant," Yermishin explained. "We've been able to resolve most major issues by a conference of co-owners. We do have our problems, though, such as the average age of our work force."

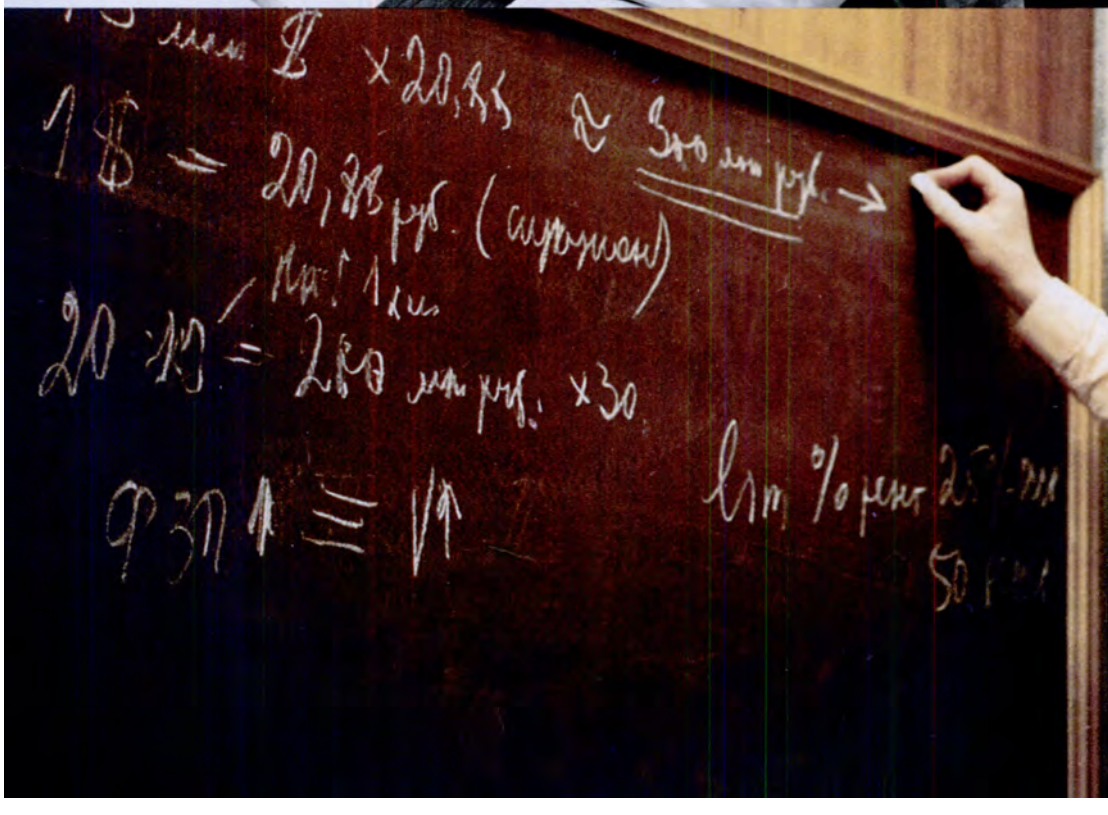
From what I gathered, the problem Yermishin touched on is acute and must be solved since the average age of the plant's workers is fifty years. Younger people prefer working in cooperative businesses and small enterprises, which can adapt more readily to new conditions and pay higher wages. No one at the aircraft plant believes that offering a stock incentive will attract new workers overnight, but everyone agrees that it's a move in the right direction. At present, the derailed Soviet economy has little to offer except empty store shelves. As a result, the plant has acquired three farms (two state and one collective) of its own. The plant's management is hoping to turn these into highly productive crop-growing and livestock-raising businesses, which will produce enough to feed not only its own workers but also the people of Saratov.

Barter trade with foreign firms seems to be another way out. Some time ago the plant sold several aircraft to China; in return, the Chinese delivered three railroad cars packed with consumer goods.

What lies ahead for the workers-owners of the Saratov Aircraft Plant? Hard work will ensure good prospects, many people believe.

The Saratov Aircraft Plant is getting ready to start production on several new, low-noise, passenger-friendly models of aircraft, which conform to current International Civil Aviation Organization requirements. In addition, the plant is negotiating terms for setting up a joint venture with Western European business people. ■

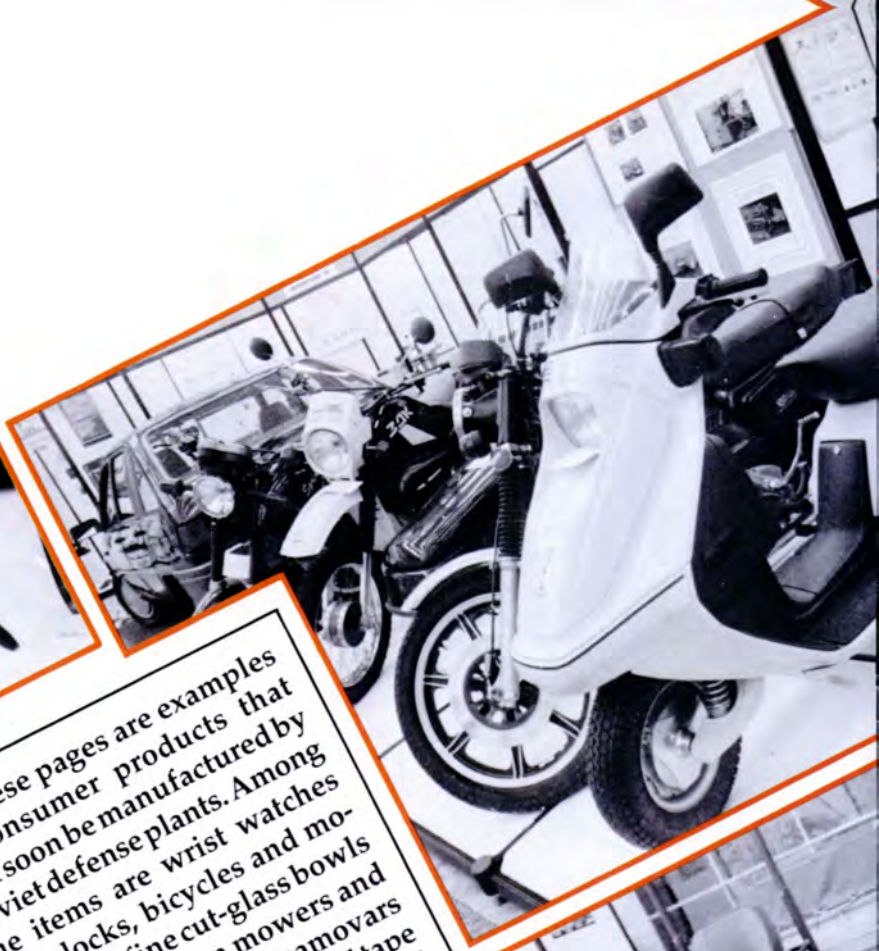
The plant's management team—chief engineer Nikolai Dubrovin (top); supply agent Alexander Lebedev (center photograph, left) with Yuri Zakharov, in charge of capital construction; and vice chairman of the board of directors Victor Gorbunov (bottom).



Top to bottom: Vladimir Khlebnov (center) discussing a production problem with members of the aircraft-assembly team that he heads. Programmer Alexandra Zhelubayeva (in the foreground) in the plant's computer center. Chairman of the Board Yermishin at the blackboard in the main conference room.

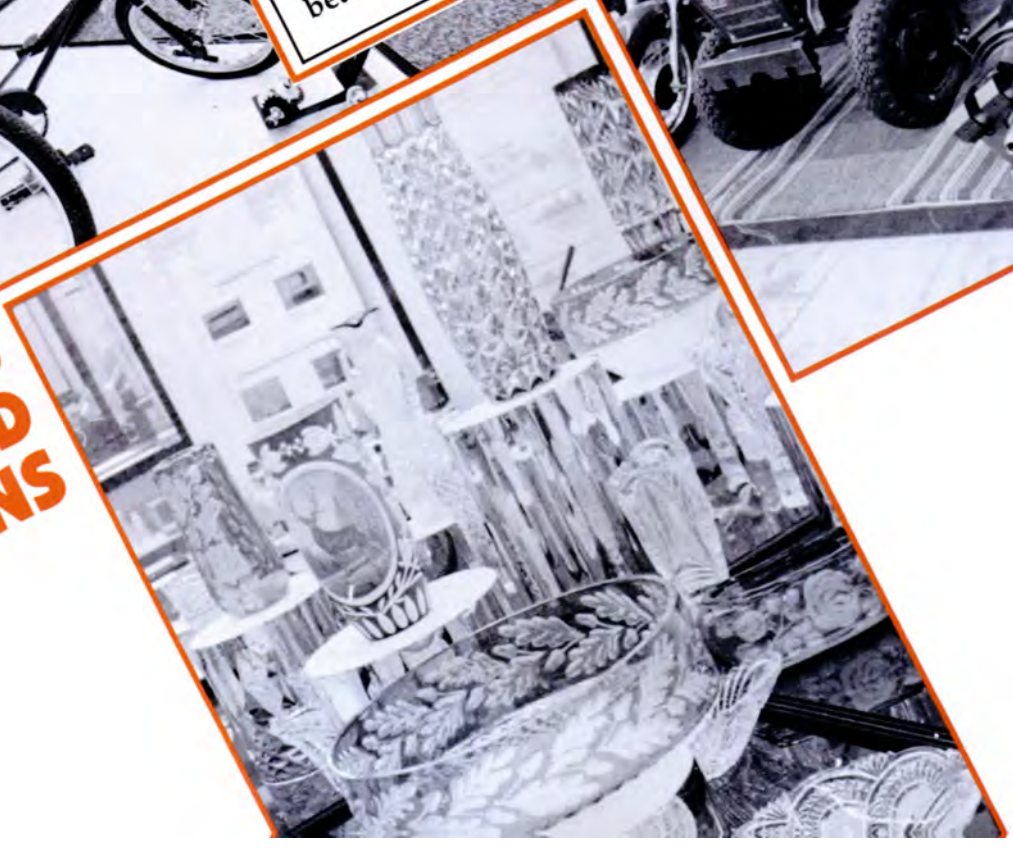
MODERN, SLEEK SILVER BIRDS

In the aircraft-assembly shop. Inset: Workers turn over a finished product to the test pilots. Currently the plant turns out the Yakovlev (YAK-42) short-range airliners, which ply the skies over the USSR. Future plans call for producing several new, low-noise, passenger-friendly aircraft models.



On these pages are examples of consumer products that will soon be manufactured by Soviet defense plants. Among the items are wrist watches and clocks, bicycles and motorbikes, fine cut-glass bowls and vases, lawn mowers and farm machinery, samovars and teakettles, radios and tape recorders, refrigerators and freezers, automobiles and trucks, and a line of women's beauty aids and cosmetics.

GOODS INSTEAD OF GUNS



ЯЕРЛЬ РМ-266 С

IT ALL STARTED WITH A PIANO

By Natalya Buldyk
Photographs by
Yevgeni Koktysh

Business partners (from right to left) with a model of their product: Belarus Piano Factory head Ivan Yanchik, Byelopromінvest general manager Vladimir Buloichik, and Dutch businessman Johan de Heej of Pianofortex. Inset:The men seal a new deal with a handshake.

Unlike the quick-moneymaking production and trade associations, which came into existence with a great deal of fanfare but soon went bellyup amid loud scandals, the Byelorussian firm Byelopromінvest has been doing business for quite some time, all the while continuing to better an already sound reputation. The firm has again caught the eye of business circles as one of its production sections climbed from twenty-seventh to eighth place on the world market, commanding 15 percent of sales. The product that is proving to be such a huge success is the line of Belarus pianos, no doubt a result of the vast improvement in their design and quality from years of cooperation with Holland's Pianofortex company.

Vladimir Buloichik, Byelopromінvest's general manager, explains that the cooperation between his firm and Pianofortex is based on a long-term coproduction arrangement and major joint investments rather than on traditional trade.

"It wasn't easy wedding the interests of our firm with those of our foreign partner," Buloichik says. "But then, founding a concern that doesn't depend on the old management structures wasn't easy either. Although everyone's talking about making a transition to a market economy and we've made some movement in that direction, you encounter obstacles everywhere. You have to be ready for red tape and unpredictable restrictions. Only the tenacious and cunning need apply, as we say."

Even with the twists and turns and volatile nature of the economy, several other businesses affiliated with the firm are not afraid of taking the risk of updating their production lines and forging their way into the Western market. For instance, the Minsk-based Enamel Kitchen Utensils Plant is about to start outputting electric ranges in addition to its traditional line of gas-range products, which are in high demand. The Grodno Souvenir Factory is turning out knitted goods and children's underwear of the latest designs and superior quality, and the Molodechno Musical Instruments Factory is producing balalaikas, which are quickly being snatched up by knowledgeable tourists. All of the concerns are planning to add new products to their lines in the future.

What does the foreign partner have to say?

"Let me give it to you straight," says Johan de Heej of Pianofortex. "Doing business in the USSR isn't easy. But we're already seeing results, and our prospects are good." ■

WORKERS AS OWNERS

By Mikhail Krushinsky

Alexander Mironov heads MOVEN, the Moscow Ventilator Factory. Above: On the ventilator assembly line. Production has increased 30 percent since the company was privatized. Inset: A draft of a new contract comes over the firm's fax machine.

The Moscow Ventilator Factory, MOVEN, was one of the first Soviet factories to become a private joint-stock company. The factory's total assets, which amount to 6.5 million rubles, were divided into shares and offered for sale to the factory workers at the minimal cost of 200 rubles a share. In this way MOVEN's workers became stockholders in the firm.

Since privatization began, production at the factory has increased 30 percent. Though output has increased, costs have not. Since the factory has not yet introduced major technical innovations, the increase in production is for the most part the result of higher labor intensity.

"We have to literally hold the workers back now," MOVEN president Alexander Mironov told me (the firm's vice president, Andrei Deripasov, nodded his head in agreement), "since we don't yet have a market economy outside our factory gates. We are still operating according to a centrally planned ☞

In the factory's kindergarten. Inset: Designers discuss a new ventilator model.

socialist economy in which metal, electric motors, and the like, are distributed. Metal is in especially short supply. Only half of the needed quantity has been ordered from the state for 1991. Nobody knows where to get the rest."

The managers of MOVEN, which has outpaced the entire country in practical privatization, told me a lot. This is what they said:

"State property should be passed on only to those who have the means and the will to multiply it. Social justice has nothing to do with it. We at MOVEN could also have offered the stock-purchase option equally to everybody, including pensioners, but that would have done nobody any good. Owning property is more than a sign of wealth or an investment in one's old-age security. It's a heavy and responsible burden. What kind of a property owner is one who grudges having to cough up 200 rubles a share? None at all. But the person who is willing not only to risk his own money, but to borrow money from his wife, in-laws, and friends to own a share—that individual merits owning property. That personal investment won't ever be lost. And everyone stands to gain."

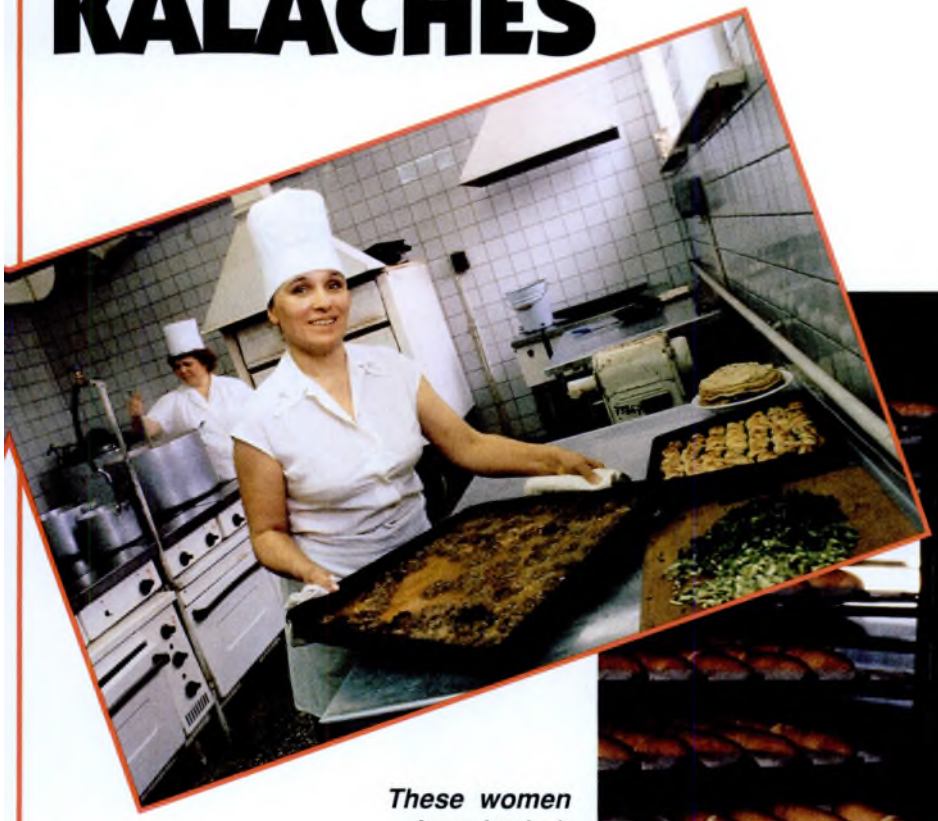
Seeking to increase the number of factories that are willing to face the many risks of joint-stock ownership, MOVEN is prepared to share its experience with all who are interested.

For more information, contact MOVEN in Moscow. Telephone: 309-02-05 and 309-23-11. ■

SARATOV KALACHES

What in heaven's name is a *kalach*? you might ask. It's the Russian word for a fancy loaf of bread, and the people who live in Saratov think the ones made in their local bakeries are simply the best.

Some kalaches, such as the ones being prepared by chef Tatyana Safonova (left), have tasty fillings. Other kalaches, like the ones coming out of the oven at the small bakery run by Mikhail Kolychev (below), are plain. Incidentally, Kolychev's ovens produce 4,000 loaves of bread a day.



These women bought their bread at a small bakery in a residential neighborhood of Saratov. The bakery was equipped by the Saratov Aircraft Plant.

GOOD-BY, NEW YORK— HELLO, MOSCOW

By Jean Katser

Photographs by Vladimir Akimov

Former New Yorker Danielle Downing is ranked third among the women joggers at the Moscow Commodities Exchange, where she works. Insets, top to bottom: Downing feels at home with her colleagues at the exchange. During negotiations with Masahiro Miyazaki (far right), a Japanese businessman.

When New York banking expert Danielle Downing told her friends that she planned to take a job in Moscow, they were astonished. At the time Downing, who is fluent in five languages, was working at a leading New York bank, which has extensive dealings with Asian nations. What made this professional woman decide to make such a radical shift in her life and career?

As Downing herself told me, it was the dramatic changes occurring in the USSR that caught her attention, and she wanted to play a role in the events that were shaping history.

She wrote to various state and private enterprises and organizations in Moscow, offering them her banking expertise. "I'd studied Russian at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow during the Brezhnev era," she recalled. "So I was ready for the distrust of foreigners that had been so common before. Honestly, I didn't think my idea stood much chance for success."

To her great surprise, Downing received a number of promising offers from firms in the Soviet capital. She chose the one from the Moscow Commodities Exchange, whose president, Gennadi Polishchuk, offered her a consultant's job and a salary in rubles.

"I thought Downing, with her knowledge of foreign languages and her banking experience, would be just perfect for us as a consultant," said Polishchuk. "And I've been very satisfied with her performance."

Downing now heads the exchange's international business development department. ☞

I asked Downing how it felt to be germinating the first sprouts of a market economy in the USSR.

"It's been quite an experience! At first, the concept of a commodities exchange existed only on paper," Downing explained proudly. "Now we have a real, although modest, market. We have 450 brokers, and our trading draws dozens of business people. Stock market experts and brokers' offices have sprung up around the country.

"The Moscow Commodities Exchange has been followed by similar firms in other Soviet cities. The nation has begun to move toward a market economy. I've just come back from trading that is considered a record in the USSR. Sales totaled 250 million rubles. That's really something, you know. Regular grain-sale operations and oil auctions have opened."

How does the Moscow exchange compare with, for example, a New York exchange?

"The Moscow Commodities Exchange today," said Downing, "is like a New York exchange a hundred years ago. But by no means will it take Muscovites a hundred years to catch up. Everything will go much faster here. I figure, maybe, it will take only a few years. Things are harder when you're just getting started. But I'm optimistic. There's no way back now. The market is one of the greatest inventions of civilization. And the USSR should use the benefits of a market economy to get itself out of its crisis."

What one aspect of Moscow trading would the financial consultant single out as especially unusual?

"Soviet dealers," answered Downing. "They usually begin with the highest price and then lower it. In the West it's the other way around."

Working on the commodities exchange carries a great deal of responsibility. Has she noticed that the male brokers treat her any differently for being a woman?

"Not at all," Downing is quick to respond. "All of the brokers at the Moscow Commodities Exchange have total respect for the women on the staff. We work long hours, often putting in ten- or twelve-hour days. But I love my job, and I wouldn't trade it for any other."

What about living in Moscow?

"I'm fond of classical music and the Bolshoi Theater, and I go to the movies a lot. Cultural events are nowhere as expensive as in the States. I also love to dance, and I'm thinking about taking some Russian folk-dance lessons. So you can see, I lead a full and busy life here. And when I get lonely, I pick up the phone and call home." ■

Downing acts as a coordinator at a meeting of young Soviet and American scientists. Bottom: At the party at the Cosmos Hotel that was given to celebrate the first birthday of the Moscow Commodities Exchange.

JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES!

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an "eggstra" special SURPRISE

By Oleg Torchinsky
Photographs by Sergei Subbotin

In 1741, that is, 250 years ago, Russia's vessels the *St. Paul* and the *St. Peter*, under the command of Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov, reached the shores of Alaska.

By the time readers lay their hands on this issue, many of the activities dedicated to marking that historic

One egg bears the portrait of Captain Vitus Bering, the commander of the original expedition. Right: The team of artists who created the unusual souvenirs (clockwise from top left)—Vladimir Polishchuk, Alexei Zhemchuzhnikov, Vitali Polyakov, and Natalya Polishchuk.

River, on whose banks the mysterious settlement was built is the Koyukuk River on the Seward Peninsula.

This conclusion is based on the *Map to the Journey of Ivan Kobelev*, which was compiled from stories told by residents of the islands in the Bering Strait and on data gathered by Kobelev during his journeys to the islands and to the American shores.

The modern map of the Seward Peninsula does not mention the Heuveren River or Kymgovey. Nor are these features found on the maps of the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The Russian settlement on the Heuveren River was located in the zone of construction-grade forest. The winding Koyukuk River spirals through just such forest in its middle and lower reaches.

Why would Russians have gone to the area in question? One possible scenario is that they went there from northern Siberia, trying to circumvent the Chukchi Peninsula. The voyage most likely began in late spring or early summer. In those days the most sensible way of sailing in the northern seas was to follow the retreating ice in between the shore and the large blocks of ice that had run aground. The technique presumed that the ship would have to follow the contour of the shore quite accurately.

With a draft of a mere two or three meters, the *koch* (a type of old Russian ship) was in no danger of being squeezed by the ice, but it was in serious trouble when it came to storms. For this reason drifting ice was the logical choice when the alternative was a big wave. The seafarers avoided such waves by following the retreating ice and even using it as protection. When they were in the midst of ice floes, they could take advantage of the ship's shape, which made it virtually squeeze-proof. Furthermore, because the ship followed the ice, it prolonged the navigational season, which was particularly important for long voyages.

In summertime the prevailing winds in the Bering Strait are from the west. This helps ships sailing from the mouth of the Kolyma River. The main current flows along the American coast from the Pacific to the Arctic Ocean, reaching into Kotzebue Sound. One subtlety is that when it reaches the Bering Strait, one of the branches of the current creates a ten-mile zone of reverse current from the Arctic to Pacific oceans.

In summertime most of the Chukchi Sea south of ice is taken up by clear water; the smaller part is covered with broken ice. Broken ice may sometimes gather in large amounts, especially during the first half of summer. Some seventeenth-century documents note that "ice has blocked passage for several years in a row."

Masses of broken ice are mobile, their movements governed by currents and wind. When the wind is out of the north or northwest, a strip of fairly clear water usually stretches from the northern shores of Chukotka to Kotzebue Sound. This area is suitable for navigation and is situated between the ice line in the north and the masses of broken ice in the south (there is a lot of such ice in the western part of the Bering Strait). There is always fog above the edge of the ice that conceals the coastline from view. Such fogs are a constant feature at the juncture of ice and clear water.

A voyage could have been made in the seventeenth century from the Siberian shores to Kotzebue Sound north of the Bering Strait because the direction of the wind and of the current was suitable for such a voyage, whereas the ice in the western part of the Bering Strait could have prevented seafarers from heading south.

This assumption fully corresponds with reports from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which repeatedly described complicated navigational conditions as a result of which the Russians had to keep changing the route. They eventually found themselves in Alaska, although they sailed from northeastern Siberia around Chukotka.

A well-known but rather controversial document, a report by a certain Nikifor Malgin, caught my attention. The following note was written in the Yakutsk chancellery in February 1710 on evidence offered by Malgin:

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"In past years merchant Taras Stadukhin told Nikifor in the Kolyma winter hut that previously he, Taras, and comrades had come to the Kolyma and from there they embarked on *koches* to explore by sea the impassable cape. They couldn't sail around the cape and went back. They walked across the cape to the other side. They made *koches* and traveled by sea to the mouth of the Penzhina. They defeated warriors and captured a woman. They saw an island and land opposite the mouth of the Penzhina. Taras and his comrades asked the woman about the island. The woman told them that there were bearded people on that island who wore long robes and called Russian people 'brothers.' They, Taras and his comrades, didn't go to that island. They headed back. The aliens killed eighty-one of Taras's comrades. Only nine survived, and they returned to Kolyma."

I should add that other documents refer to Malgin's arrival in Kolyma as early as the year 1669, that is, the voyage of Taras Stadukhin and his friends could be attributed to an even earlier period.

Let us try to reconstruct the route followed by Stadukhin, bearing in mind the above-mentioned weather conditions north of the Bering Strait.

As they traveled from Kolyma along the shoreline, the seafarers reached the Chukchi Sea north of the Bering Strait. There they were carried to the funnel-like trap of Kotzebue Sound, which they didn't notice because of weather conditions. The contour of the coastline of Kotzebue Sound may have told the travelers that they couldn't circumvent the land, so to continue their journey around the shore had become senseless.

When they received what they took for irrefutable evidence that the alleged Chukotka Cape was impassable, that is, that Chukotka was not a peninsula but an isthmus, the travelers may have decided to walk across the isthmus. For this they "went back," as the story goes, to where they had seen the estuaries of large rivers, and along one of them they traveled deep onto the Seward Peninsula.

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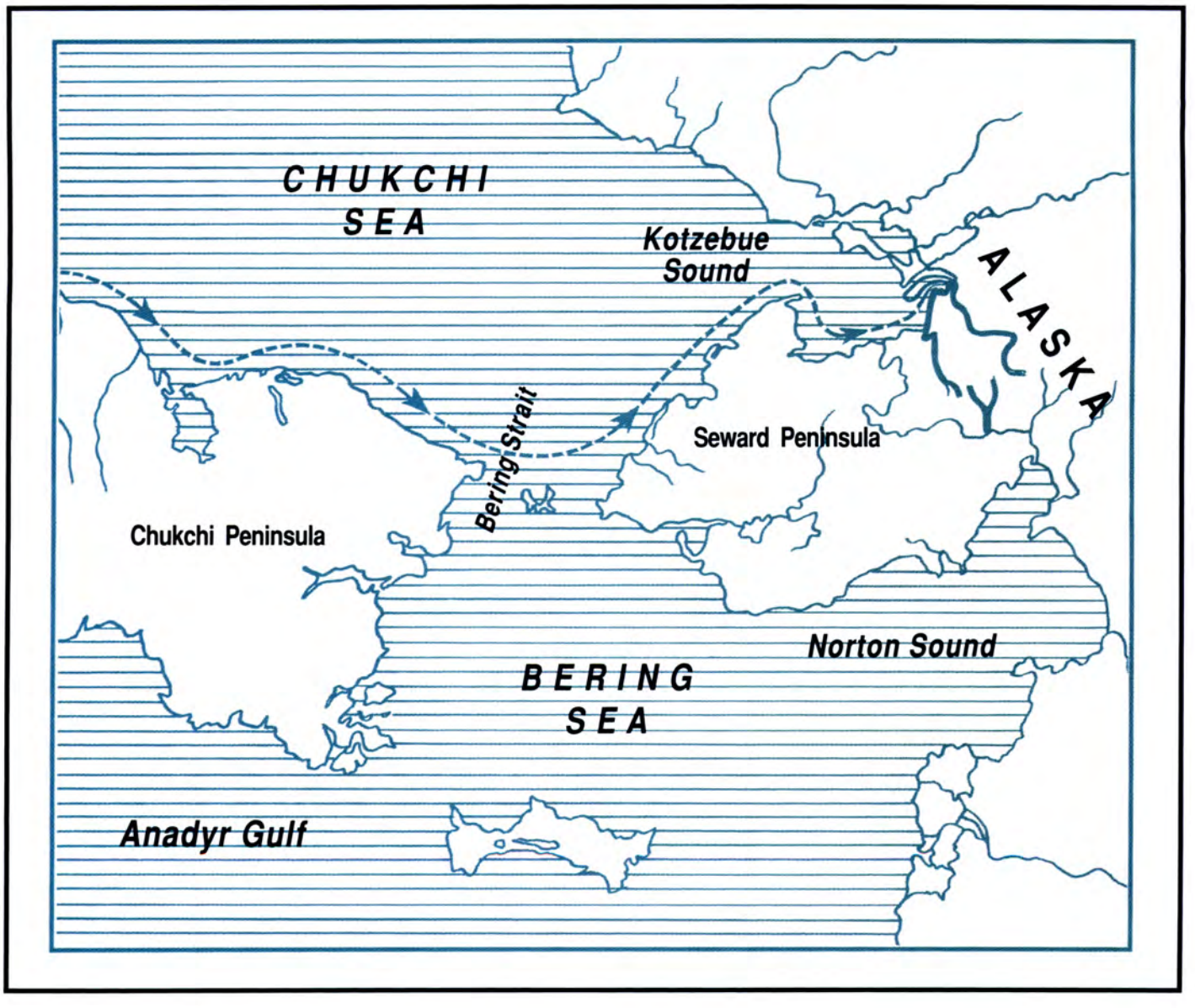
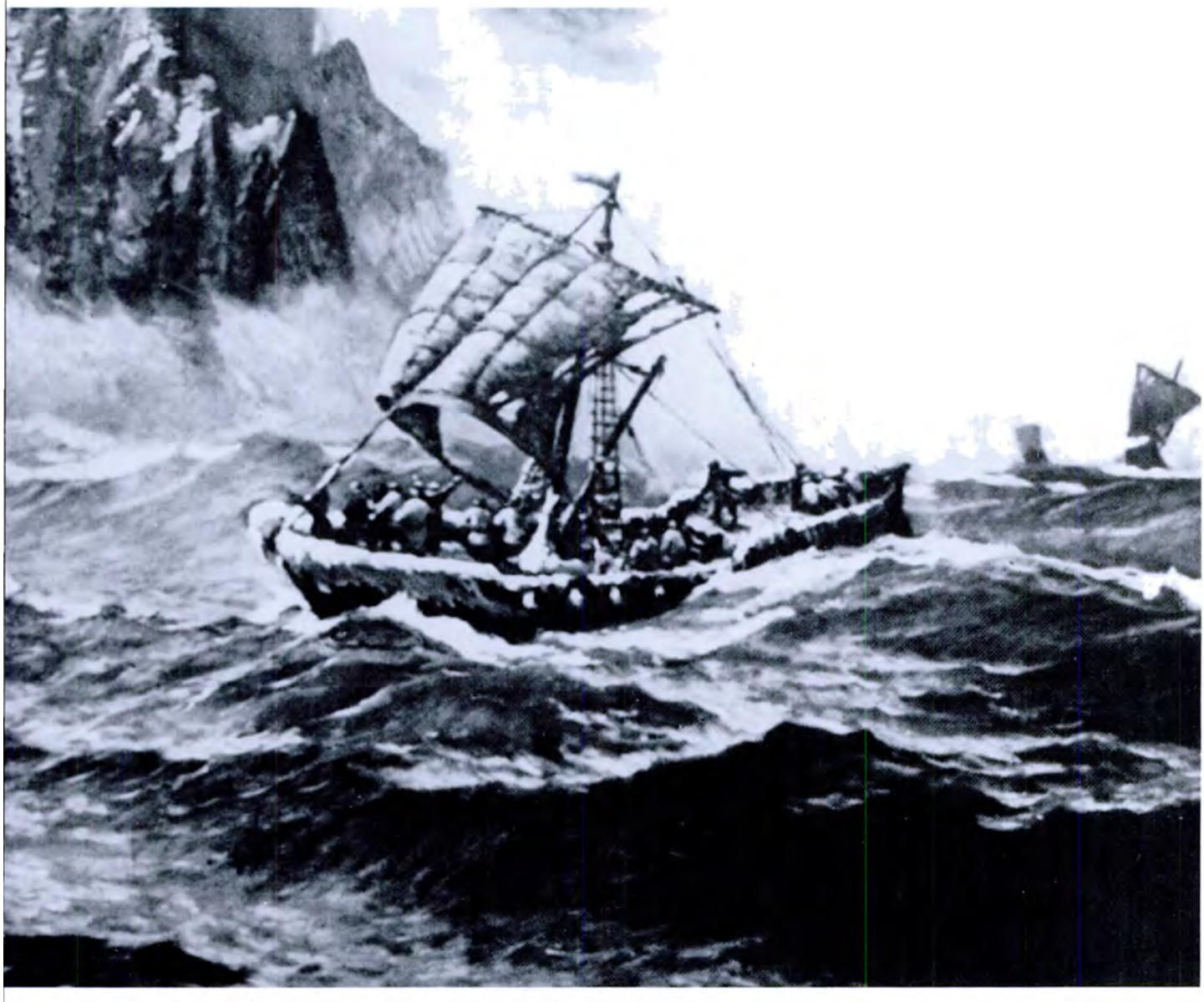


When Was Alaska Settled by Russians?

By Leonid Sverdlov



This year marks the 250th anniversary of the historic voyage to American shores of the Russian ships the *St. Peter* and the *St. Paul* under the command of Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov. The expedition is generally considered the beginning of exploration of North America by Russian trailblazers—the beginning of Russian America. Archives contain documents, however, indicating that a Russian settlement existed in Alaska opposite the Chukchi Peninsula (Chukotka) as early as the seventeenth century. The documents contain miscellaneous information obtained from indigenous residents of Chukotka, the islands in the Bering Strait, and the American coast.

The story has it that some bearded people lived in the settlement of Kymgovey on the banks of a remote Alaskan river, the Heuveren. The indigenous population believed that these men were Russians. They were Christians; they read books, wore long robes, lived in log cabins, and made wooden kitchen utensils. They were never seen by anyone from Russia, but the information was taken rather seriously nevertheless.

Here are a few facts. Participants in the Kamchatka expeditions led by Bering referred to various rumors and to some documents in the Yakutsk (a city in Eastern Siberia) chancellery concerning Russians who had settled on the American shore a long time before.

In 1779 and 1791, a Kazak commander, Ivan Kobelev, attempted to establish contact with Russians in Alaska, but he was unsuccessful.

In 1795 news about a Russian settlement in Alaska was reported to the Valaam Monastery by a Russian Orthodox missionary in Alaska, Father Gherman.

Kazaks in Yakutia were informed by Chukchi of a Russian settlement in Alaska.

The book *Russian Settlements in Alaska and California* by Svetlana Fyodorova offers a detailed analysis of all information about a Russian settlement that may have been founded in Alaska in the eighteenth century. The author established that the Heuveren ☞

River, on whose banks the mysterious settlement was built is the Koyukuk River on the Seward Peninsula.

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They may have walked across the

cape (that is, Seward Peninsula) to its southern part, along the Koyukuk River to the forests, that is, to the only place where they could have built their new ships. They called the river Penzhina by mistake. In fact the real Penzhina flows on Russian territory and joins the Sea of Okhotsk. They actually sailed down the Koyukuk River "by the sea...to the mouth."

If we try to pinpoint a location for the meaningful part in Malgin's story, where he recounts the conversation with the woman captive, it appears that the island the natives knew about and from which the land was visible was in fact an island in the Bering Strait. The land where Russians lived was the coast of Chukotka, visible from the Seward Peninsula. This conclusion is corroborated by the circumstance that the island in Stadukhin's story was located not next to the mouth of the "Penzhina" but at a certain distance from it. "Taras and comrades didn't go to the island but headed back." This corresponds to the locations and relationship of Big Diomede Island and the Koyukuk River.

The above not only establishes one of the actual routes traveled by Russians on their way to Alaska in the seventeenth century but offers a basis for the assumption that members of Stadukhin's party founded the mysterious Russian settlement in Alaska. Malgin reports that eighty-one of the ninety-man party were killed, but the authenticity of the information is doubtful.

Further research is needed to prove the hypothesis. It would make sense to conduct the research on the basis of documentary evidence, in particular, on the basis of eighteenth-century archives and reports and the diaries of geographers and geologists who prospected for gold in those parts in the early twentieth century.

Naturally, the probability is very small that after so many years Russian artifacts could be traced on Seward Peninsula, but the idea shouldn't be brushed aside completely. The history of archaeology, especially in the Arctic area, reveals many unexpected finds.

I believe that a search expedition is realistic, but only if Soviet and American researchers pool their efforts.

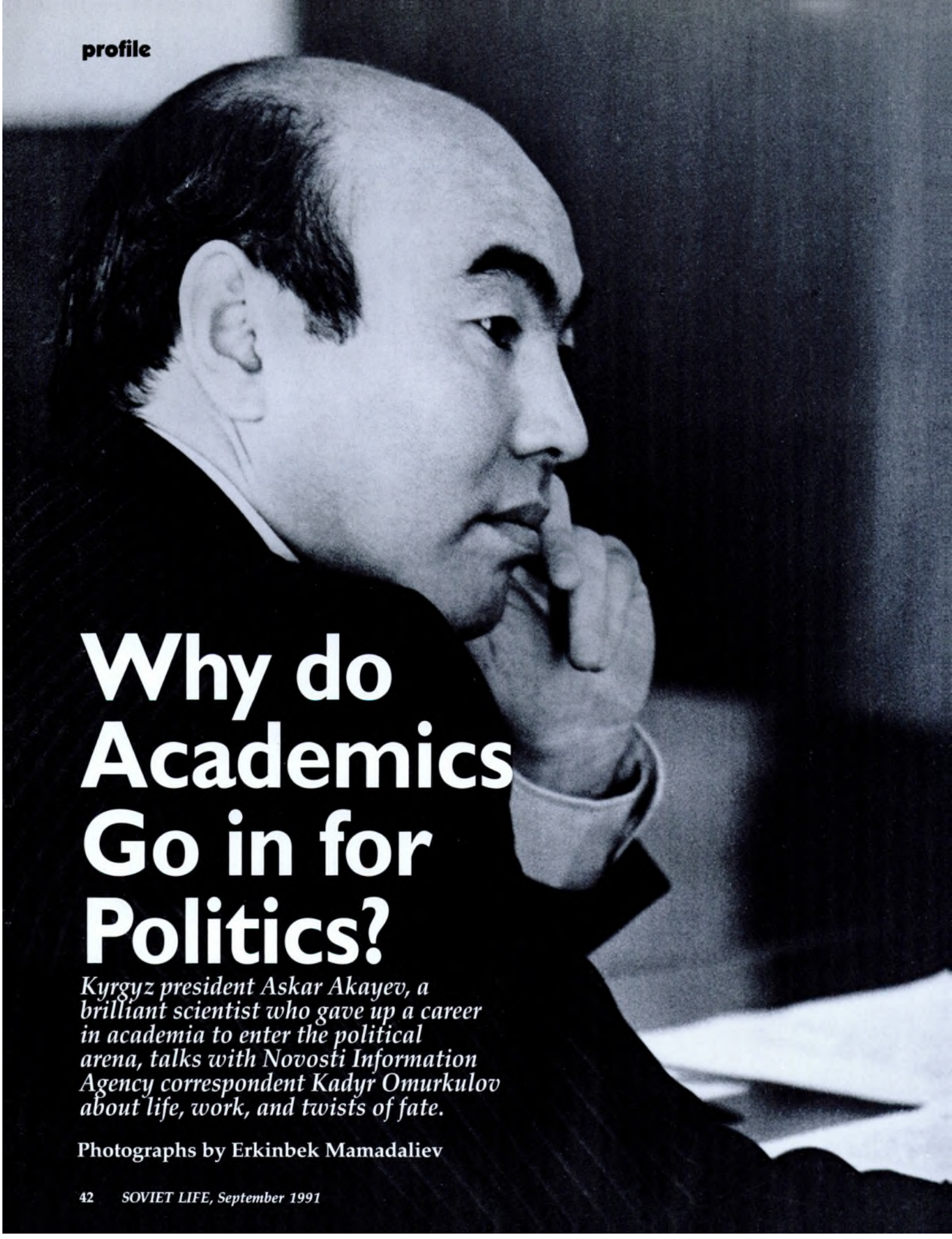
There is every reason to believe that the seventeenth-century Russian settlement in Alaska isn't a myth but a historic reality that has yet to be fully discovered. ■

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Discovery of Alaska

The famous expedition by Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov to Alaska is a chapter of history that has fallen into the cracks of memory. A commemorative medal has been struck under the auspices of the California History Center at De Anza College, Cupertino, California. The medal is intended to be a reminder of a time when the history of Russia and the history of America were part of each other. The names on the map of Alaska have immortalized the Russians who came to America.

Additional articles on Russian America can be found in the May, June, and July 1991 issues of SOVIET LIFE.

The medal was designed by Nicholas I. Rokitiansky in gold plate on bronze. Size: 2.5 inches; number struck, 150.



Why do Academics Go in for Politics?

Kyrgyz president Askar Akayev, a brilliant scientist who gave up a career in academia to enter the political arena, talks with Novosti Information Agency correspondent Kadyr Omurkulov about life, work, and twists of fate.

Photographs by Erkinbek Mamadaliev

Kadyr Omurkulov: You used to be president of the republic's Academy of Sciences. Is it more difficult being president of the republic?

Askar Akayev: Two years of working on the USSR Supreme Soviet have been a wonderful school of parliamentary subtleties. However critical we may be about the achievements of the Supreme Soviet, we have to admit that it has engendered a new phenomenon in our life—made us think about a law-based state. The role that the parliament plays in the country is immense. As for me, it has been my introduction to big-time politics.

During the past two years I traveled around the country. I visited Uzgen, the center of ethnic unrest; the Issyk-Kul area; and regions devastated by earthquakes. I talked with shepherds in alpine pastures and saw how they lived. I saw the extreme poverty of my people, the problems facing the young, the plight of women—all these problems aggravated by the threat of unemployment..... I realized we were in a deep crisis, and I became worried about the future of my people.

Previously, I simply wasn't that aware of what was going on around me. But when I saw things with my own eyes, my conscience began to bother me. I simply couldn't remain in my ivory tower, although I was busy spearheading a new direction in science that combines computer technology and quantum electronics. The republic has enough talented scientists who will continue without me.

I decided that I could make a greater and more important contribution in politics.

K.O.: You've stressed repeatedly that the republic will have to work hard to overhaul society and the economy, to foster initiative and the entrepreneurial spirit. You once said that it would take three years to get palpable results. What do you think now?

A.A.: To begin with, we have to restore civic peace and concord in the country. Regrettably, conflicts are a fact of our life now. As the social processes become very strained, we must search for points of contact, reach compromises, and focus our attention on constructive solutions rather than on destructive ones. ☞

Facing page: Askar Akayev, the president of the republic of Kyrgyzstan. Left: In conference with a group of agricultural specialists. Below: At the dinner table with his family.

K.O.: You were born into a farm family but pursued a career in computer science. Why did you choose that field?
A.A.: Why? It was probably destiny. In school, I liked history, physics, and mathematics—history best of all. That's probably why I ended up in politics. But several factors influenced my choice of profession.

First, I had a wonderful physics teacher, Toktonazar Sultanaliyev. He loved teaching and was simply fantastic at it. He kept telling me that I had talent in physics.

Second, my older brother—there were three of us kids in the family—died during World War II near Leningrad. My father wanted very much for one of his remaining children to go to Leningrad and find where my brother was buried. As I grew up, I wanted to fulfill my father's wishes.

Third, during my senior year in high school, I read an article about cybernetics in the magazine *Tekhnika molodyozhi*. The article by the outstanding scientist Academician Nikolai Glushkov was written in simple language and captured my imagination.

I think those three factors had the greatest bearing on my future. So, when I graduated from high school, it was no surprise that I enrolled at the Institute of Precise Mechanics and Optics in Leningrad.

That's where I met my wife, Mairamkul. Though we were still in college, we decided to get married and start a family. We spent the next couple of years living in married student dorms and rented apartments. Mairamkul once figured that we've moved eighteen times. While I was busy with science, she was studying at the textile institute.

Money was tight, and our living conditions were less than ideal, but we were happy. We led a normal student life, just like the others. Both sets of our parents were getting up in years, and they didn't have any extra money. We couldn't rely on them to help us financially. Besides, we felt we should be independent.

K.O.: Have you found your brother's grave?
A.A.: No, I haven't. I think he is buried in one of the numerous common graves.

K.O.: I asked people who have known you for a long time about your strong and weak points. They mentioned kindness and gentleness. Some regard these as your strengths; others, your weaknesses. What do you think?
AA: Really, I'd like to be thought of as kind and gentle. Kindness is a strong point for anyone. Force and violence never lead to anything good. But kindness must be combined with a strong will and persistence. I've tried to foster these qualities in myself.

Some people get what they want by pounding their fist on the table, but I prefer a gentler approach. You can achieve results in different ways, despotic or democratic. The latter appeals to me. Wise people say: Kindness and gentleness are not weaknesses if you have a strong will. ■

FACES IN THE NEWS

Topchubek Turgunaliyev (left at a demonstration and with his family, below) heads the philosophy department at a teachers college in his native Kyrgyzstan (formerly Kirghizia). He is also the cochairman of the Democratic Kyrgyzstan Movement (DDK), a grassroots organization that sprang up from the small public associations that existed at the higher educational institutions in the republic. Originally conceived as an alternative to the local Communist party organization, the DDK supports genuine change in the republic. Membership in the DDK is open to anyone, irrespective of national origin. Members believe that a democracy can't be regarded as such if it tolerates discrimination in any form.

"The old economic system may be collapsing," says Turgunaliyev, "but outdated elements still remain in place. Kyrgyzstan has paid too dearly for being a vassal of the center and a source of raw materials for the rest of the country. We've neglected our culture, and our standard of living is lower than the national average. So we've got a lot of work to do."

But Kyrgyzstan cannot ignore the ethnic mix of its population today. Turgunaliyev feels strongly about that. "People representing more than a hundred different nationalities now live in the republic," he says. "The path we choose must safeguard the rights of the individual, of all citizens—ethnic Kyrgyz and members of any other national minority residing here. We must develop our national cultures and traditions, and preserve our freedom to profess our convictions, as long as they don't infringe on anyone else's."

Now that he has entered politics, Turgunaliyev doesn't conceal his ambition to play a leading role. Perhaps not everyone agrees with what he says, but political observers say he's someone to keep an eye on.

Bygone Faces Of a Bygone War

From an Exhibit of Photographs from 1914

By Galina Ryzhova

A moment of prayer before battle. Above: At a ceremony to award the St. George's Cross.

Not everyone in Moscow is concerned only with everyday life—food, soap, finding an apartment, and changes in the emigration law. A surprising phenomenon is occurring: An insatiable thirst has appeared for anything having to do with the past, with historical details, which until recently may have been hidden or distorted. It's amazing the consternation people experience when they discover something completely different than what they had learned in school. That more or less explains how many Muscovites feel about the appearance of the multitude of archival photo exhibits, one after the other.

The 1989 exhibit entitled "August 1914," which was timed to coincide with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the start of the First World War, was a landmark in that sense. Many people had Alexander Solzhenitsyn's work of the same name on their minds, and all of it struck a common chord.

The fairly extensive photographic exposition portrayed our country and our people of that time: soldiers, Cossacks, chaplains, the disabled, military pilots, generals, members of the czar's family. Everybody could see for themselves the empress and her older daughters working as nurses in a military hospital. In short, visitors to the show were left with a number of impressions, which gave them reason for serious reflection.

The exhibit, the first of its kind, was candid. Since its opening night two years ago, it has been revived about three times, not counting its tour of many cities around the country, such as Suzdal, Yaroslavl, Rybinsk, Kiev, Novgorod, Novorossiisk, Leningrad, Krasnoyarsk, and others, attracting a throng of viewers everywhere it went. In the beginning the exhibit's organizers were worried about the feelings the pictures would evoke. But their worries were unfounded. Several visitors recognized relatives in the photographs and were able to supply the organizers with information about the shots. Some people also brought family albums and helped supply additional material to go on display.

The exposition became somewhat like a meeting place—a fate shared by a subsequent exhibit dedicated to the

Empress Alexandra Fyodorovna and her daughters Olga and Tatyana, who were military nurses during the First World War. Facing page, top to bottom: At the entrance to a field church of a Siberian infantry regiment. Soldiers install a machine gun in the trenches only fifty steps from the enemy, 1916. Shared fate—two wounded soldiers, a Russian and a German, are transported in the same cart.

history of old Russian dynasties—priests, merchants, and nobility. The exhibit, conceived and organized by philosopher Albert Sobolev, was entitled "Family Album."

This show had another fascinating dimension: a stream of living descendants who came to view their well-known relatives on display. Representatives of Moscow's renowned Trubetskoy and Golitsyn families attended, while astrophysicist Dmitri Ptitsyn represented the celebrated Abrikosov merchant family. Candidate of Medical Sciences Irina Mechyova turned out to be the daughter of the well-known Russian Orthodox priest Father Sergei and the granddaughter of Father Alexi, who was even more famous in his time.

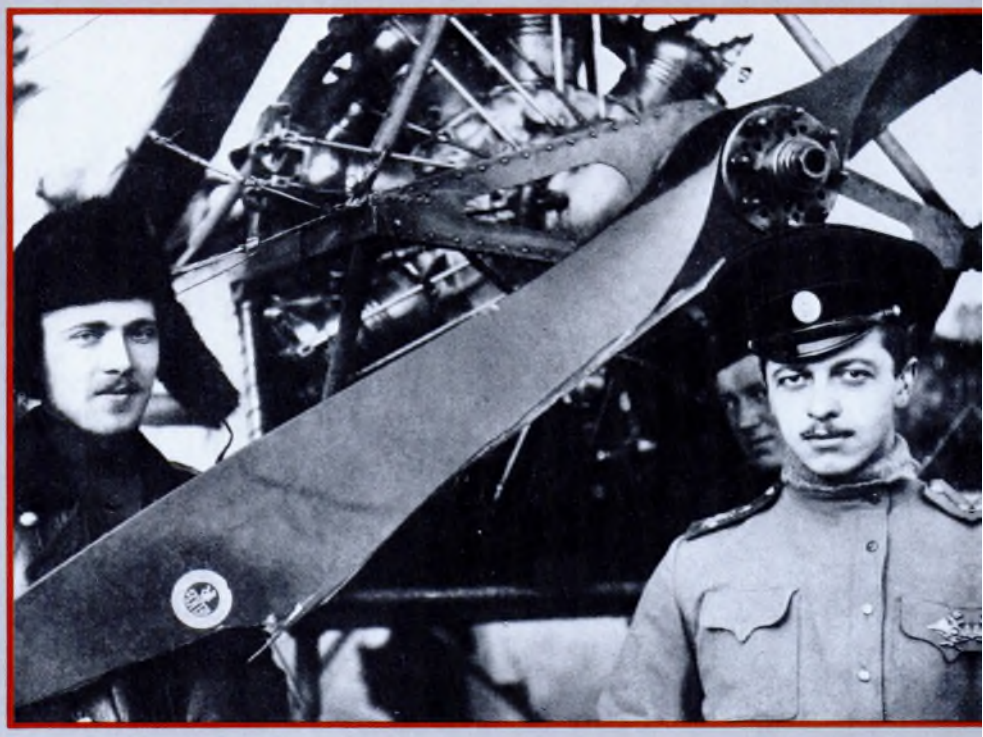
The Put, meaning "path," cooperative organized the presentations of archival and family photographs.

"The shows are interesting for us too," said Vladimir Roketyansky, who heads Put. "We consider ourselves researchers together with the public, and we, too, are becoming acquainted with little-known aspects of Russian history. The 'August 1914' exhibit generated such enthusiasm everywhere it toured that it's clear there's definitely a need for more shows like it.

"As for our future plans, we're contemplating a Russian Civil War exhibit and a sequel to 'August 1914.' We're also looking into a display about children, depicting how things have changed over the years—clothes, toys, games, and hobbies. Then there's the permanent exposition we're setting up in a church on Maroseika Street, where Father Alexi Mechyov officiated. It'll be like a little museum, dedicated to him and the history of that church.

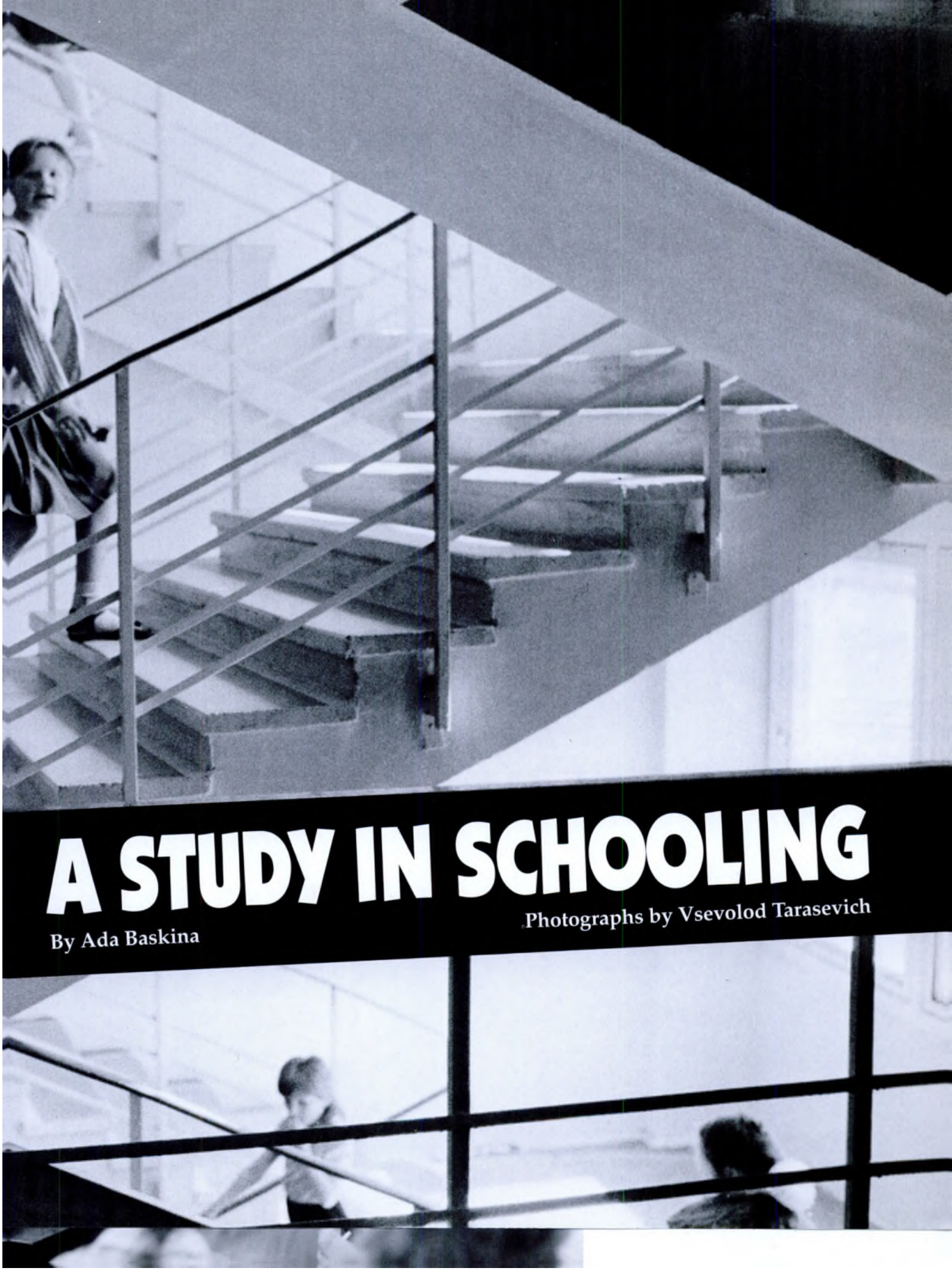
"What prompts us? Many things. Above all, there's the desire to share everything that we are discovering with people who are interested. Then, we feel that our situation is unique and that it is up to us to fill in the blank spots of our knowledge. That gives us a sense of purpose.

"I still get goose bumps whenever I recall Irina Mechyova's reaction when she viewed the exhibit of photographs from 1914 and came across the picture on the wall of her own mother, a World War I nurse. Her joy made all our work worthwhile." ■



Clockwise from above: Graduates of the General Staff Academy, 1906. Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolayevich, the supreme commander. A recipient of the St. George's Cross. Facing page, top to bottom: Czar Nicholas II. Two of Russia's first military fliers.

Between classes at the Pushkin Lyceum in Riga, Latvia. Insets: The lyceum building. Principal Alina Vladimirskaya.



A STUDY IN SCHOOLING

By Ada Baskina

Photographs by Vsevolod Tarasevich

All the classes I saw that day pursued this goal. In one room, kids were building houses out of toy bricks. The ones who made the most unusual structures got the most praise. In another room, children with puppets were improvising on a fairy tale. In a third, the children were lying flat on the floor around a huge sheet of paper, happily working together on one picture. No one was reprimanded for adding a detail to the work of the next child or for stealing a glance at someone else's work to get an idea. To encourage imagination is the supreme goal of the Pushkin preschool branch.

"Why is your school called the Pushkin Lyceum?" I asked one of the teachers.

"The word *lyceum* goes back to antiquity. The world's first such school was started by Aristotle. The philosopher did not teach his disciples in the present-day sense of the word—they came together for free logical reasoning. The famous nineteenth-century school in Tsarskoye Selo, near St. Petersburg, where Pushkin used to study, was called lyceum to stress that it was modeled on the Aristotelian pattern. We want our school's name to show this succession."

I got a thorough idea of the lyceum's teaching methods, and I am sure that it really can give a first-rate education, with the humanities curriculum head and shoulders above the average. But I wondered about science.

I met two boys in the senior class, Misha and Sasha. They host all the school TV programs and write their own scripts in the bargain. Girls adore them. Amazingly, the boys are not rivals but close friends.

I read the applications the boys had submitted to enter the lyceum. Misha wrote: "The extended curriculum in the humanities will certainly help me in developing my literary gift."

Sasha wrote: "Though the computer age is relegating humanitarian education to the background, I think the humanities matter more than the sciences. I am losing my old interest in physics, biology, and astronomy."

Misha is the best argument for the proponents of the school's ideas. An

Computer and gym classes (above and left). Below: A field trip to the National Museum. Facing page: Students celebrate a birthday. Inset: The lyceum has a museum of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin.

average student in the conventional school, Misha became a star at the lyceum in no time. Sasha has pragmatic rather than artistic aptitudes. It is a pity that he will get less information about physics and biology than his precise mind needs.

When I mentioned my apprehensions, the teachers said Sasha was an exception, and most of the students had definite humanitarian gifts. Still I see him as a victim of reform.

"Don't think our lyceum is an oasis of free educational experimentation. Too many of our teachers, especially the older ones, flatly refuse to accept any of the new methods," said Stanislav Semkov, an assistant to the principal. Younger teachers are indignant to see that their older colleagues are indifferent to their spectacular experiments. Conservatives retort that the children have become undisciplined with the new patterns and that their classes are more like the circus than school.

The lyceum has every opportunity to get at the truth, with its smooth system for analyses and popularization of its trailblazers' best finds. The more experienced teachers train the beginners. The lyceum has chairs, like a university, to work out pioneering methods of teaching. It is more like a university than a high school in every respect—twenty professors from the University of Riga teach classes in literary and religious history, philosophy, Latin, and Greek at the lyceum.

I asked two of the students about their literature teachers.

Yulia Shchiptsova: "I love literature. My teacher always asks us for the psychological analyses of everything literary heroes say and do. You really get down to the subtleties in her class!"

Lena Safonova chimed in: "Oh, but analyses and other highbrow things make literature so dull! I like Anna Yeremina's classes better. She just asks us all: 'What would you do if you were in this hero's shoes?' and we no longer feel it's a book we're talking about; it's the Real Thing!"

Ethics is the third goal of the lyceum. In some happy moments, I saw ethical education of the best kind going on before my very eyes.

The lyceum may have some things still to work out, but after all, it's just getting started. ■

scene

MOTLEY pompoms and more

As photographer Yuri Zheludyov walked down Moscow's Arbat Street, he came across a group of fashion models taping a show for local TV. Grabbing his camera, he caught these colorful shots.

СТАРЫЙ АРБАТ

CREATING BEAUTY

By Galina Marevicheva
Art Critic
Photographs by Alexei Sverdlov

Folk artist Tatyana Smirnova and her creations are in harmony. Both are cheerful, witty, and charming.

Tatyana Smirnova in her studio. Above: A display of the artist's painted wooden toys and decorative items. 1989-1991.

Wonderful meadows, exotic birds and butterflies, and picturesque animals fill the studio of folk artist Tatyana Smirnova. She creates fine miniature patterns on wood and ceramic. Her colors are fascinating and her technique is brilliant as she combines spider-web-thin ceramic patterns with bright and whimsical wood designs. All that lives, moves, sparkles, and disperses into pastel hues.

An ornately painted table top. 1991.

Where does the naturalness of her compositions come from?

"I work like the old village masters did," says Smirnova. "They painted their houses, household utensils, and furniture without any sketches. I want people to smile and feel good when they look at my work."

Smirnova's shows often include the work of her students, and there's a strong resemblance among their creations. "That's as it should be in folk art," Smirnova maintains. "Folk artists are supposed to pass their trade secrets from one generation to another.

"I subscribe to a 'learn while teaching' philosophy. My students teach me a great deal about color and composition. Young people are less inhibited and have an ingenuous way of looking at the world, which takes the most unusual artistic forms. As I'm learning from my students, they're learning from me, all the while honing their skills and improving their techniques. My students try to imitate me, but their work is their own."

Today, while many artists abandon form for content, Smirnova creates representational artworks that are complete and polished to perfection.

"In terms of drawing, my favorites are Ivan Bilibin and the artists who belonged to the World of Art association, the late-nineteenth-century school of Russian artists who combined folk-art traditions with Western European art trends. I'm attracted to the refined art traditions, which were crowned by Fabergé."

Adorning the walls of Smirnova's studio are sketches of costumes and designs for interiors. The artist had studied interior and costume designing in school, but was drawn to working with the natural materials of wood and clay.

Smirnova's creative interests run the gamut of the arts, from the fine arts to music. "My life and career have been a series of twists and turns," the artist explains. "I spent two years studying philology at Moscow State University, then I switched to the design department at the Moscow Art Theater Drama School. I enjoyed working on stage design, costumes, props, and sets."

After the birth of her two children, she decided to quit her job at the theater and work at home.

"Art shouldn't be separate from life and people," says Smirnova. "The whole while that I'm working on miniatures, I'm thinking about how they'll fit into the surroundings.

"I've also written several poems, which I want to have published along with my illustrations. My interest in foreign languages helps me communicate with people in different countries. I like people, and I like talking with them. My children have inherited my hobbies. My daughter is an interpreter, and my son is a musician."

Smirnova's work is famous beyond the borders of the USSR. Thanks to auctions and her cooperation with the Hungarian firm Orgware, her creations have been exhibited in Europe and the United States.

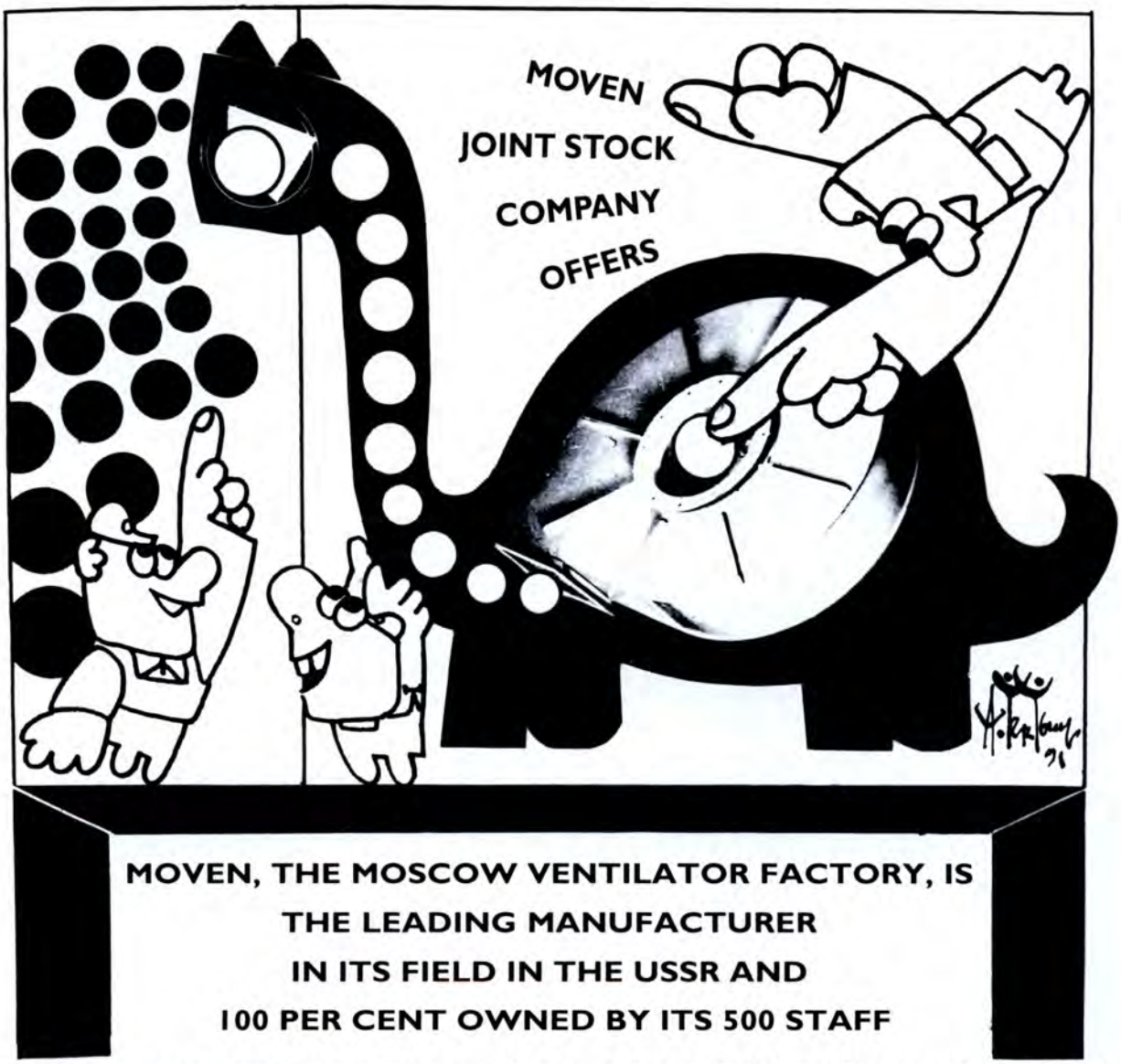
Smirnova's future looks very bright. The artist is currently hard at work transforming one of her long-held dreams into reality: creating a line of high-quality painted furniture and fine furnishings. With a supply of expensive woods and bronze that the artist obtained from the Ampir firm in Leningrad, she has made decorative bowls, boxes, candlesticks, and wall lamps.

What inspires her?

"It seems to come from out of nowhere," Smirnova says. "But when I think about it, I can usually find the source. For example, my work *Peacock in Gold* has a strange origin. I trace it back to a book depicting black-and-white patterns of North American Indian art. The drawings became the basis for my fairy-tale bird, which I painted in colors typical of Russian folk art. This confirms my belief that no matter what corner of the world your travels take you, you come across similar folk themes, just like ideas of people who have no way of knowing one another." ☞

This set of painted wooden kitchen utensils is entitled Lacrimosa. *1991. Below:* Trinity, *a painted wooden decorative ensemble. 1991.*

Top to bottom: Trio, *1991;* Butterfly, *1991; and* Conversation, *1991.*



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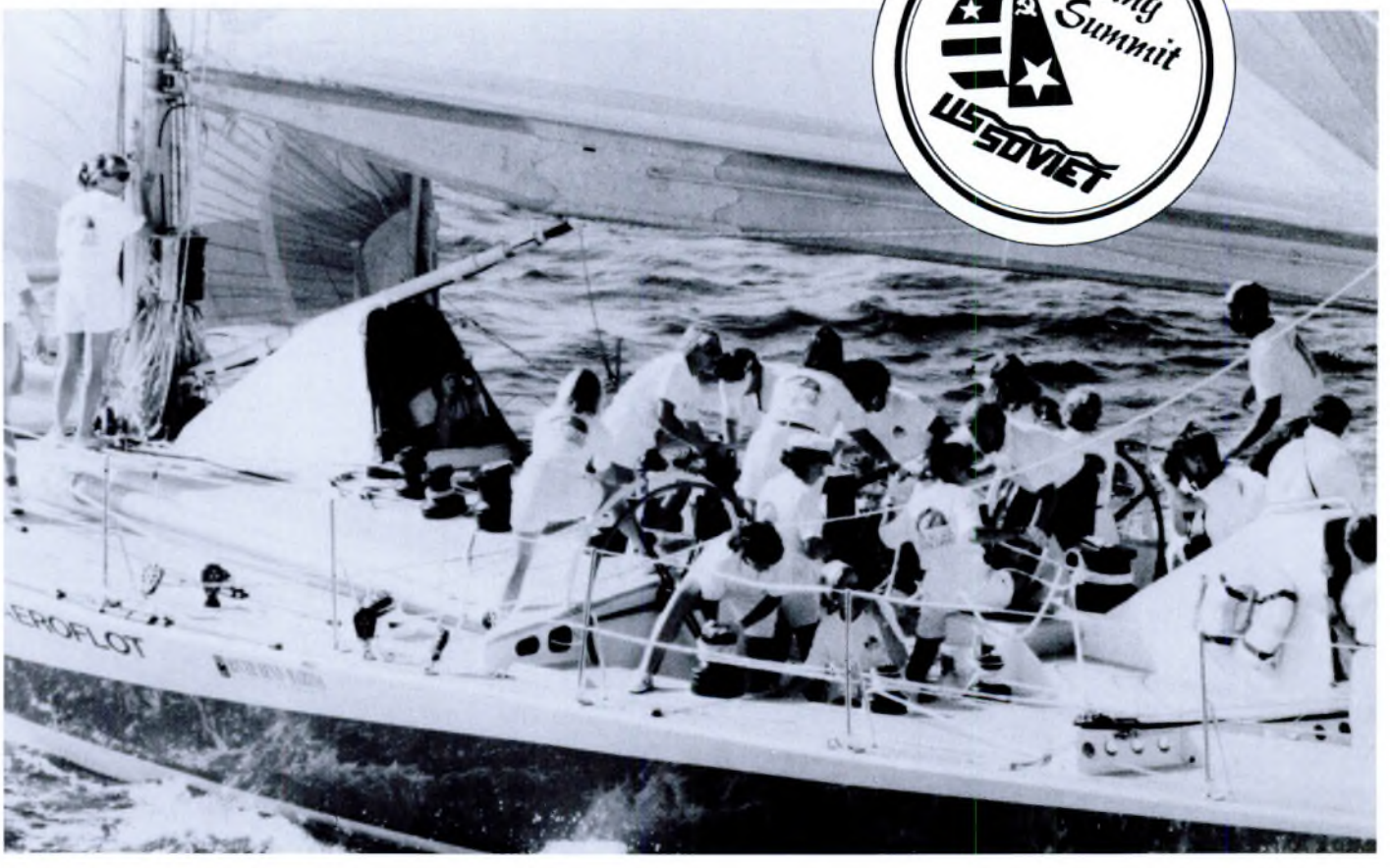
Soviet and American Yachtswomen Link Up to Sail

AROUND THE WORLD

By Nina Vaneyeva
Photographs by Vyacheslav Bobkov



Members of the USSR Women's Sailing Association (WSA) and of the American sailing corporation U.S. Women's Challenge first met in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in May 1990. On arriving in the United States, Valentina Kuptsova, WSA president and mathematics professor, presented her new friends with a clock set at Zero Hour. "From this moment on we will begin to count our cooperation," Kuptsova explained.

The yachtswomen are now preparing for two major events—the festival program that will coincide with the Columbus-500 celebrations in 1992 and the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race scheduled for 1993-1994.

"For too many years sailing was considered a man's sport in the USSR, even though all over the world women have been making great strides in this sport for years," said Kuptsova.

Things began to change in 1984, when the Women's Sailing Committee was set up under the USSR Sailing Federation. The committee attracted the interest of yachtswomen from different Soviet clubs. At that time the sports experts spoke ironically of the committee's plans to give women's sailing a boost. The men had no intention of allowing "the fair sex" into their all-male bastion without a struggle, but the women would not back down. The yachtswomen drew up a schedule of events, sent their best athletes to compete in international tournaments, and attracted the attention of leading coaches. And the women's efforts bore fruit. When the Soviet yachtswomen took the bronze medal in the 470 class at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, they created a sensation. Soviet sports officials finally realized that women's sailing had a right to exist and could produce tangible results. A self-supporting organization that had legal rights and broad powers was needed to further the women's cause. The Women's Sailing Committee became the USSR Women's Sailing Association.

The founding convention approved the association's rules, elected a presi- ☞

dent, and set up working groups. The number of applicants for membership exceeded 200. Under the rules, membership in the association was open to anyone wishing to promote women's sailing. Quite unexpectedly, nearly the entire Soviet men's national sailing team decided to join. The women welcomed them, especially the yachtsmen with knowledge of the technical aspects of the sport.

At present over 300 Soviet yachtswomen hold official national ratings. In addition, a large number of women participate in republic, city, and local competitions.

"Anyone involved in yachting knows it's an expensive sport," noted Kuptsova. "We certainly found that out. That's why we really have to do a lot to attract and keep rich sponsors. Still, sponsors come, and sponsors go. So the WSA decided to open a small sail-making enterprise, which brings in a modest but steady income. But the more money we make, the greater our plans. So the bulk of our expenses is borne by our main sponsor, Teledisc Company. The manager of the firm, Vladimir Starchenko, has become an ardent sailing devotee."

Winning requires training, practice, and competing in major tournaments. The WSA covers most of the Soviet women athletes' expenses in these areas. It holds a cup and women's national tournaments and subsidizes the yachtswomen's Olympic preparations. The Soviet women took part in the world title meet in California, in a women's international event in Newport, Rhode Island, and in other prestigious tournaments. The WSA supplies members with yachts and special equipment.

"We also value the moral support and social benefits that the WSA gives us," said yachtswoman Natalya Sarkisyan. "For instance, in case of illness we can seek treatment, without charge, at an international medical center. Also, the athletes who represent us at international events receive special stipends all year round."

The WSA is also involved with the young. It has equipped a children's sailing center near Moscow, and it is working on a program for promoting the sport among physically handicapped and deaf-mute children.

The association maintains steady, friendly contacts with the U.S. Women's Sailing Committee and the U.S. Women's Challenge, which is headed by Nancy Frank. Frank, an energetic and highly professional yacht skipper, suggested the idea that a joint Soviet-American crew take part in the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race. She invited Kuptsova and her counterparts to America to meet each other and to work out the organiza-

At the Sailing Summit in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Below: Valentina Kuptsova (left) and Nancy Frank—two skippers, two presidents. Facing page: Members of the USSR Women's Sailing Association.

tional problems associated with such an ambitious project.

The Sailing Summit at Fort Lauderdale was held in between two stages of the Whitbread 1989-1990 race. Sailboats from all over the world, including the Soviet yacht *Phasis*, moored in the city. The Soviet and American delegations signed a protocol of intent and published a statement on common plans for a future round-the-world voyage.

Proceeding from the motto, "The Atlantic does not separate but unites our nations," the presidents of the two sailing associations expressed their readiness to develop women's sailing and to exchange delegations, experience, and cultural programs.

In keeping with the agreement that was reached, the Americans will provide the yacht, and the Soviet side will train the joint crew. The race will last nine months.

Though both organizations are busy selecting their athletes to take part in the race—only the best will do—joint participation in the Whitbread program is still not a done deal. Hurdles—the biggest being money—must still be leaped. We wish them luck! ■

NEXT ISSUE

KALININGRAD—THE UNKNOWN CITY

The Soviet press has long been reticent about Kaliningrad, a city once known as Königsberg. The reason for the veil of secrecy: Kaliningrad was a strategic military point. Today, the city and its environs have been designated a special economic zone, and everyone hopes that foreign companies interested in cooperating with local firms will come.

TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT

Tamara Mayorova, principal of a Moscow secondary school, puts her extraordinary energy to work in trying to run her school in a new way. American teachers and students often visit the school on exchanges.

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Farewell

By Boris Alexeyev

By 10:00 A.M. on August 24, a huge crowd had gathered in Manezh Square near the Kremlin. The people were there to pay their last respects to the three young men who died defending the Russian White House during the abortive August putsch. Vladimir Usov, Dmitri Komar, and Ilya Krichevsky. A few days earlier they had had no renown; but on this day everyone recognized their names.

The faces of the three young men looked down at the crowd from huge photographs carried by mourners. These faces were full of promise, of promise that would not now be realized. Usov, Komar, and Krichevsky gave up their lives for freedom. Ironically, young Muscovites had remained indifferent to politics during the years of perestroika, but most of the White House defenders were young people. They would not allow themselves to be manipulated anymore.

The words of Boris Yeltsin to the parents of the slain young men echoed in the minds of many: "Forgive me for failing to keep your sons safe." ■

EDITOR'S NOTES

The tumult caused by the August events has subsided. Life has returned to normal. The victory of the democratic forces over the putschists, which *Newsweek* called "the second Russian revolution," has not yet produced any tangible results. Anxious faces have reappeared. The shops are empty, and this winter is expected to bring cold and hunger. Inflation is skyrocketing. The mafia, which has made a mess of the service sector, has become insolent. The threat of unemployment is becoming real for many people. Ethnic conflicts are raging.

Meanwhile, the democratic administration remains mired in endless questions of procedure and in disputes, mostly on property issues, with the defeated side and within its own legislative and executive bodies. Simultaneously, it is waging "territorial wars."

If the slide toward a catastrophe does not slow down, a third Russian revolution is a strong possibility. If that happens, infuriated people rather than a bunch of cowardly apparatchiks will be the ones attacking the state.

As the August events lose their emotional halo, they appear in a new light. Logic shows that the strength of the conspirators and the danger of their actions were clearly overestimated. One journalist wittily called these events "a television coup," implying that the putschists' activity eventually boiled down to the endless reading of decrees on television.

The weakness of the putschists does not belittle the courage of those who built the barricades around the Russian White House, refused to carry out the orders of the army and the KGB leaders, and remained loyal to the presidents of the USSR and Russia. Perhaps an assault on the White House would never have taken place, but the important thing is that people defended democratic ideas. This is typical of Russia, where people have more often fought and died for ideas than for a specific cause.

Now that the new ideas have won and the old ones have collapsed, only concrete action on specific tasks can save us. Otherwise, the new ideas will become obsolete, too.

Robert Tsfasman

Soviet Life

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Novosti Information Agency
Zubovsky Boulevard 4
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Editor in Chief—Robert Tsfasman
Layout by Nikolai Smolyakov

Washington Editorial Board
1706 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Editor—Sergei S. Ivanko
Managing Editor—Gennadi A. Syomin

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Front Cover: Clock tower in Kaliningrad shows times around the world. *Photograph by Vladimiir Fedorenko.*

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more than 20 percent of those to be Addressing the First Congress of people of the world was only begin-

An Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies, which took place at the beginning of September, was a truly historic event for our country. The Soviet Union does not exist any longer. A new union, based on principles of genuine free will, is being born. This process is complicated, but, as Mikhail Gorbachev said, "The congress has justified hopes. It has proved that agreement between the republics is possible."

The State Has Fallen Apart

The Country Remains

By Otto Latsis

Soyuz group leaders (left to right) Leonid Sukhov, Victor Alksnis, and Nikolai Petrushenko, representatives of the old guard. Above: Special session of the Congress of People's Deputies.

"We have come to a formula: UNION OF SOVEREIGN STATES. Let us make this union really voluntary so that it will serve the interests of all."

—Mikhail Gorbachev

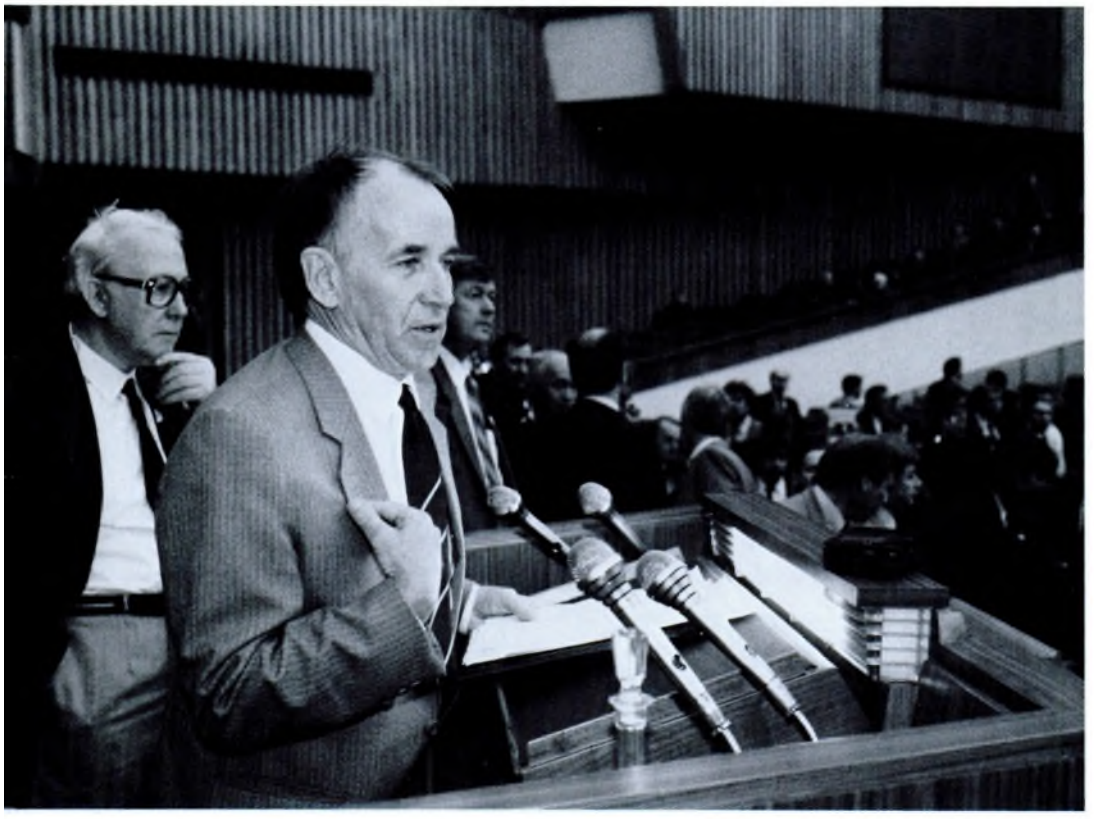
September 5, 1991—the last day of the extraordinary session of the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR—is said to have marked the end of the Soviet Union. To say this is, at best, inaccurate. The congress did no more than give legal sanction to the dissolution of the state, a process that had begun and ended long before. Surely, the Soviet Union cannot have been a voluntary union of nations if we can find the following message among its records of 1944: "To Comrade Stalin, the State Defense Committee. Operations to deport the Chechen and Ingush began today, at dawn, February 23. The deportation is proceeding normally. There have been no accidents deserving notice. There have been six attempts at resistance on the part of some individuals, which were cut short by arrest or use of weapons. By 11 A.M., 94,741 people were moved out, that is, more than 20 percent of those to be deported." The message was signed by the chief of the secret police, Lavrenti Beria. Surely, a political structure built in this way could not have withstood the current winds of change.

The attempts at careful repairs made since 1985 might have been successful if all prejudices and self-serving interests and the inflexible age-old imperious mentality had been swept away immediately. Unfortunately, the chances of that happening were slim.

First and foremost, September 5 marked the beginning of efforts to form a new union by those who will choose to join it. I think the vast experience of the old union, both negative and positive, will prove useful. As we say goodby to the old union, we would do well to keep something in mind. Let us look back and remember a little of what was said on the very first day of the almost sixty-nine years that we have lived in a single state.

Addressing the First Congress of Soviets on December 30, 1922, Stalin said that the new union was "the prototype of the future world soviet socialist republic." He proposed that the text of the declaration and treaty of union be approved with "characteristic communist unanimity." Only the next speaker, Mikhail Frunze, did not show the necessary unanimity, calling for measures "to try out in practice" and fine-tune the declaration and the treaty.

As if to make up for Frunze's lack of enthusiasm, Sergei Kirov delivered a passionate speech, saying that the Bolshoi Theater could not accommodate all the delegates of the future for a congress of workers from around the world, so a new palace would have to be built on Moscow's best square. A peasant delegate named Odinets, from Chernigov Province, said that Lenin would be the guardian angel of the union and that the unification of the people of the world was only begin- ☞



Sergei Alexeyev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Constitution SupervisoryCommittee (left) addresses the deputies. Below: Alexander Yakovlev, architect of perestroika.

ning. "We shall march from Moscow to Warsaw to Krakow to Berlin to London, on and on."

The person referred to as guardian angel and elected honorary chairman of the congress also had his say. The ailing Lenin began to dictate a letter that said, in part: "I seem to be guilty toward the workers of Russia because I failed to intervene sharply enough in the notorious issue of autonomies, officially termed, I think, the question of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.... It appears that the whole idea of 'autonomies' was inherently wrong and untimely."

Lenin thought the next congress of Soviets should move away from the idea, leaving the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in place only as a military and a diplomatic union.

There was no one to put this into practice at the time. It is only at this point that we are going back in many respects, rebuilding the clumsily laid groundwork of the common home. Not that anyone should be surprised at the delay, considering that even the letter itself remained unpublished for a third of a century, while Lenin himself was considered the architect of the union. Millions of people have paid an enormous price for the delayed understanding of the reality.

The most important certainty of the day must be that the edifice of a pseudo-federation—in actual fact, a unitary state—has collapsed. What has remained is a country as a social and economic reality that needs to find new arrangements for normal life.

An important consideration is that the single economic machinery is still in place. It may be cumbersome and ailing, but it is functioning as a single whole and cannot change its ways overnight, even if someone should want that very much.

Statistics can tell us how much electricity will have traveled through the single power grid of the USSR during the time the reader takes to finish this article, how much gas, oil, and other commodities will have been carried by transcontinental pipelines, and how many cars will have run within the railway network with the largest cargo turnover in the world. The integrity of the country's vital infrastructure is an obvious fact. Its disruption may come at a heavy cost (though it is hard to imagine who would stand to gain from this.) Less obvious but more powerful factors nevertheless prompt close economic links.

The Soviet Union of today—unlike the Russia of 1922—has vast industrial, research, and engineering capa-

"The disintegration of the totalitarian empire has become irreversible. At the same time, new, voluntary, and equal relations between the republics remain in effect."
—Boris Yeltsin

bilities. The more economically developed a republic, the greater its industrial and modern agriculture sector. That Soviet industry has always been geared to supplying domestic needs, first and foremost, is both its asset and its liability. Curiously, backward raw-materials-producing regions may well have better prospects of entering the world market. They may linger on the sidelines, fall into dependence, and have poor chances of growing rich, but they will find a market for their products. But the parts of the country with developed manufacturing industries will take a long time to gain ground outside the Soviet market.

Soviet-made producer and consumer goods are, however, marketable within the country as long as they are sold for rubles. Should any Soviet manufacturer have to sell for convertible currency, its Soviet customers would immediately turn to other suppliers.

The economic challenges of our new way of life may not be the most difficult and dangerous. Personally, I am very worried by the ease with which many people liken the disintegration of the Soviet Union to the fall of the British and other colonial empires. One can point to similar methods of imposing a ruthless imperial sway, but the empires themselves cannot be compared. Our country has for years developed as a single economic and social polity. Indeed, the country is a melting pot of different ethnic groups, with millions of mixed marriages and millions of people uncertain as to how they should determine their ethnic identity—by blood, by language, or by culture. The human dimension of our actual unity may prove stronger than the economic. Reckless attempts to disrupt it may prove no less costly than the rash efforts at unity in the past.

The empire has broken up. A civilized community is sure to endure, for objective interests prompt unity. ■

Courtesy of the newspaper *Izvestia*

After Fifty Years in the Shadows

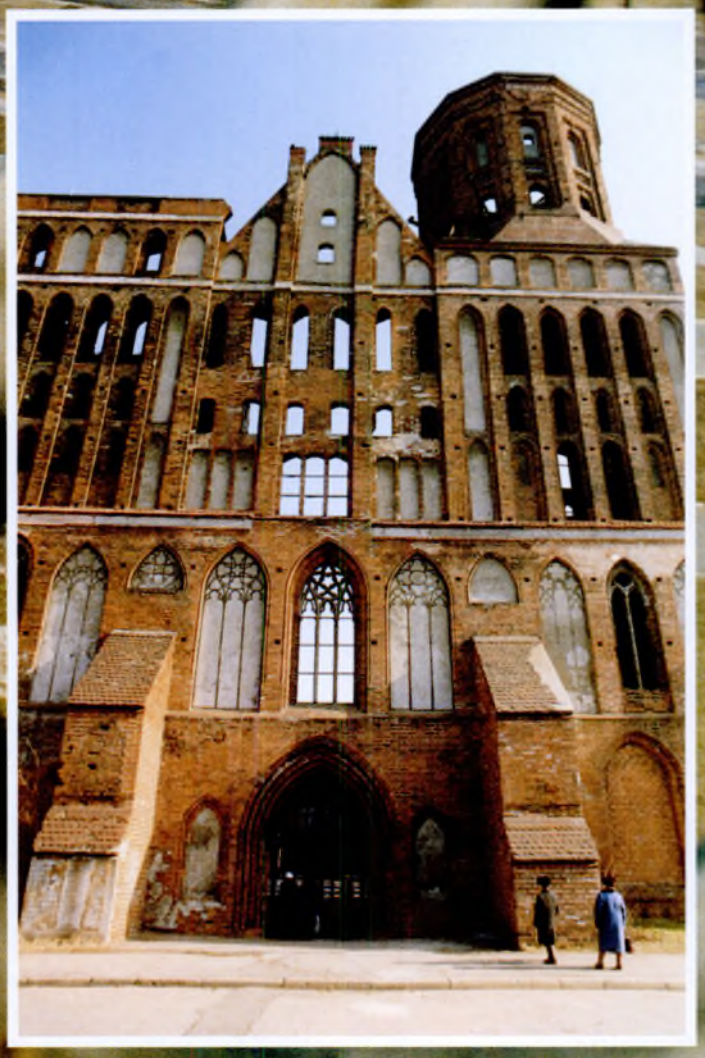
Kaliningrad becomes a free economic zone after more than a half century of being off-limits to foreigners.

By Vladimir Guryev
Photographs by Sergei Subbotin and Vladimir Fedorenko

Not too many people in the postwar world have paid much attention to Kaliningrad, a small spot of Russia squeezed in between Lithuania, Poland, and the Baltic Sea. Only in the summer of 1990, when the Russian parliament decided to set up a special economic zone there, did Kaliningrad catch the attention of the business community, and people began to realize that its name rang a bell.

The reason for the city's fifty years in the shadows? The region was a crucial strategic outpost and naval base of the USSR, and the traditional veil of secrecy was so impenetrable until very recently that no facts slipped out.

This place has been the pivot of Europe, and the destiny of the continent has often been settled there. Kaliningrad's history includes pages that record the rise and fall of the Teutonic Order, the ascendancy of the Polish and Lithuanian principality, the rise of the Russian Empire, the Treaty of Tilsit, and the last blow at fascism.



Because of wartime destruction and the postwar construction policy, only a few old buildings remain in Kaliningrad.

In the early Middle Ages, these lands belonged to the Prussians, who are first mentioned in the chronicles in the ninth century. Prussians were cultured people who hunted, fished, traded, and cultivated land. In early times, the so-called Amber Road provided a route for the supply of crude amber and amber artifacts from the Baltics to the Prussian lands to the Adriatic and the outskirts of the Roman Empire. Local people had maritime and river connections with European states, too.

This idyll lasted only until the early thirteenth century. The trouble began when a Polish prince, Conrad Mazowiecki, asked the Teutonic Knights to help him in his struggle against the Prussians. In 1226, the first great master of the order, Hermann von Salz, concluded an agreement with Conrad that promised the Teutons a return of the lands they had lost in exchange for a crusade against the pagan Prussians and the Slavs. Pope Gregory IX gave his approval, and the campaign began.

The eastern expansion stalled after the invaders were violently defeated twice—in 1240 and in 1242—by Russian Prince Alexander Nevsky.

In 1255, the Teutons built a fortress on the bank of the Pregel River and gave it the name Königsberg. Smaller Teutonic settlements began mushrooming around it. Burgeoning trade brought these towns under the flag of Königsberg in order to set up the Prussian branch of the Hanseatic League, which traded with Eastern European towns.

☞ **At the amber museum in the old fort tower.**

Immanuel Kant, 1724-1804

Immanuel Kant, one of the great philosophers of all time, lived in Königsberg all his life. The only memorials to him, however, are his tomb and a small house where he lived for a short time while writing one of his most famous treatises, *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime.*

The tomb of Immanuel Kant.

Helping out the Producers

By Vladimir Guryev
Photograph by Sergei Subbotin
and Vladimir Fedorenko

Logo of the Kaliningrad Union of Entrepreneurs.

Against the backdrop of the dramatic economic changes in the Soviet Union, the following news item was hardly sensational. It was, however, remarkable for Kaliningrad Region, where a free economic zone will be set up in the near future. The news item I'm referring to was the establishment of a people's enterprise, the first of its kind in the region. The personnel of the Prozorovsky fur-breeding state farm bought the enterprise from the state. This might not have happened without the help of the Kaliningrad Union of Entrepreneurs (KUE) led by Sergei Pasko, an expert in economic law.

KUE was established last September to offer legal defense and consulting to businesspeople. Pasko began to specialize in the legal aspects of free enterprise long before the recent revival of this system of doing business. A Kaliningrad native, Pasko is well acquainted with the region's problems, and he was tailor-made to head KUE.

For two years before KUE was set up, Pasko worked in Uzbekistan, where he helped organize four business schools and several independent enterprises. While he was in Uzbekistan, Pasko kept an eye on developments in Kaliningrad, returning home now and then to size up the situation and to pursue promising leads. He drafted the KUE charter while he was in Uzbekistan. With such thorough preparations, it took him just a few weeks to formalize KUE and get it in gear. The example of the Prozorovsky farm and other similar plans are tactical matters for KUE.

KUE's "main aim is to promote a market economy in accordance with the KUE charter, which was read out at a session of Russia's parliament. In this respect, we are ahead of parliament," said Pasko.

"Helping individual entrepreneurs is not our sole concern. Our short-term objective is to ensure that the local authorities stop interfering in economic affairs and concentrate on social issues, as Western municipalities do. This requires a change in business attitudes. Most operators associate the future free economic zone with tax incentives and massive aid from the federal authorities and foreign partners. But these conditions are unlikely to make the zone a success.

"Our agenda highlights three areas. First, helping small corporate entrepreneurs buy out state-owned operations and assisting individuals who want to launch their own business; second, facilitating operators' contacts with the authorities on matters of sales, property contracts, taxation, and so forth; and third, restoring the business mentality through our own newspaper and the business school we plan to open soon."

The bulk of KUE's cash comes from membership dues—120 rubles a year per individual member and 1,200 rubles per corporate member. KUE is concentrating on profit-making sidelines. In particular, it is setting up a Swiss-type savings bank, which will offer clients portable triple-control safes at an annual cost of 300 rubles each.

KUE encourages entrepreneurship and free-market activities. Its ambitions include converting the local state-owned hotels and telephone network into limited liability companies and organizing an enterprise that will process and market amber.

KUE is doing everything it can to encourage viable operators for the nascent free economic zone. ■

NEW BUILDINGS FROM OLD

By Vladimir Guryev
Photographs by Sergei Subbotin and Vladimir Fedorenko

Vladislav Vors and Father Pantelei of St. Nicholas's Cathedral. Vors's firm specializes in church restorations.

Even connoisseurs find it hard to define the age and origin of the carved ash doors at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Apparition of the Cross in Kaliningrad. Though the doors look as if they had been created at least a hundred years ago, they are in fact less than a year old. They were made at the Samshiet (Box-Tree) multipurpose cooperative. The cooperative is headed by a former navigation engineer, Vladislav Vors.

In September 1987 Vors quit his job at a state-owned plant, and he and a friend opened a business together. On his monthly salary of 160 rubles he had been finding it hard to feed his family. Vors and his friend decided to manufacture ordinary kitchen furniture.

They rented a workshop at a packaging plant on the condition that they could work from 5 P.M., when the first shift was over, to 10 P.M. In the first four months they were in business, they sold only 500 rubles' worth of products. They owed the plant a tidy sum for the rent and raw materials. Their lack of experience had taken its toll. Vors himself said that they were too self-confident.

In early 1988 the two friends shifted gears, switching over chiefly to the manufacture of wooden packaging—the plant's main product. In the meantime, they studied the market situation to extend the sphere of their activity. By the end of the year the cooperative's profits totaled 30,000 rubles, and its staff numbered five.

In 1989 the cooperative paid off its debt to the plant and rented new quarters where work could be done in the daytime. During the year the business took on another ten workers, and profits rose to 140,000 rubles.

The year 1990 proved crucial. Samshiet's staff changed not only quantitatively (increasing to fifty) but qualitatively. The firm took on building workers, interior designers, furniture makers, and people from other trades.

The cooperative started restoring churches, houses of prayer, and other architectural monuments. Work has been completed on the Cathedral of the Apparition of the Cross and is in full swing at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Zelenogradsk and at the History and Art Museum.

The firm's business prospects look promising for at least the next two or three decades. Numerous Russian Orthodox, Polish Catholic, and Lutheran churches, castles, country estates, and other historic buildings were ruined in the city and its environs during the severe battles of early 1945, and until recently no one thought seriously about restoring them. Broad areas of activity are opening up for Samshiet.

In 1990 the cooperative's profits, close to a million rubles, were four times greater than those of the previous year. Capital assets total 150,000 rubles, including fifteen automobiles, a truck crane, and some woodworking equipment.

The firm has leased two hectares of land from an agricultural complex not far from Kaliningrad's airport, and it has built production facilities there.

Samshiet is extending its range of services. Soon cottages will be built to individual orders and at standard or even lower prices.

The cooperative is also developing international contacts. Not long ago an American company placed an order for furniture with Samshiet. International recognition of this sort is better than any advertisement.

Vors is quickly mastering the art of business. When he realized that Samshiet could successfully service Soviet and foreign tourists, the cooperative signed an agreement leasing a collective farm club and its adjacent plot of land with an option to buy it. The club is located in the splendid main building of what used to be a country estate. The building has been neglected, but this presents no problem to Samshiet. The cooperative intends to repair the building and furnish the guest rooms, a café, bar, and sauna, and to restore the gardens. Not far away, on the Baltic coast, are an excellent sand beach and a game preserve. When Samshiet is finished with this project, the place will be a wonderful resort. ■

MASTERS OF AMBER

By Vladimir Guryev

Photographs by Sergei Subbotin and Vladimir Fedorenko

Most of Europe's amber comes from the southeastern shores of the Baltic. The greatest amount of amber is found in Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation. Such an abundance of this fossil resin, which is highly prized for jewelry and carved ornamental objects, encouraged the formation of a high-capacity extracting and processing enterprise, the Kaliningrad Amber Combine (KAC).

"Demand for amber and amber articles is at its highest ever today," says Vincas Maciavicius, KAC director. "This condition certainly delights us as producers, but it creates a lot of problems.

"Our biggest problem is that we lose money selling our amber articles on the world market. Our equipment is obsolete, so the quality of our products sometimes leaves much to be desired, and we earn less hard currency than we could. We need the hard currency to renew our equipment because no domestic equipment is available."

Amber jewelry and decorative items created at the Kaliningrad amber factory.

Is this a vicious circle?

"In a way it is," Maciavicius says. "We could easily break this circle through international cooperation. We have taken the first steps in this direction. We are almost ready to register our joint venture, Amberbaltex; a few details remain to be worked out. The new venture is cosponsored by KAC and a Canadian and a German firm. We have about 70 percent of the founding capital. We're working on joint ventures with U.S., Japanese, Hong Kong, and South American firms."

Why didn't KAC intensify its foreign economic activities earlier? Perestroika has entered its sixth year, and many other businesses have already launched joint ventures, which yield them millions in hard currency, with foreign partners.

There are several reasons, but the most important one is that Soviet economic legislation is a mess. No one denies the positive influence of the fundamental laws of the economic reform. Thanks to these reforms, for instance, businesses can at their own discretion use the part of the revenue that belongs to them, and no one may confiscate what they have created with their own money.

Another problem is the mountains of resolutions and directives, which create utter confusion. A decision is made to grant entrepreneurs a certain degree of freedom in a particular activity. Soon, however, another document is adopted, and it totally contradicts the previous one.

Last November, for instance, the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR increased the prices of a number of commodities, including jewelry (KAC's output was naturally on the list). The Russian parliament overrode this decision. As a result, on November 15, the Russian agency in charge of jewelry banned the shipping of KAC's articles. Two weeks later the federal government issued an order to sell these articles at prices set by agreement. I visited KAC shortly afterward. Its director did not know which of the orders to obey. Meanwhile, the enterprise was sustaining losses because its output was not available for sale.

Under the most liberal of Soviet laws, enterprises that manufacture articles made of precious metals and gems could not be either leased or purchased. Thus, there was no way of getting away from the administrative control of the combine until very recently. But times do change. The Russian parliament has decided to turn Kaliningrad Region into a free economic zone. Among other things, this means that all enterprises in the region will acquire real economic independence—that is, they can begin developing contacts directly with partners in the Soviet Union and abroad. This decision was a major stimulus for the intensification of the combine's foreign policy activities.

People can also be an obstacle to the reforms. Things started moving at KAC when its workers elected a new director, Maciavicius, in May 1990. Maciavicius had proved himself very capable as head of a similar business in Druskininkai, Lithuania. But KAC workers were mostly attracted by his program. The program pursued two objectives—technological reconditioning of the plant and improved living conditions for the plant's workers.

The most important goal of the social part of his program—food supply, which is a very painful problem across the country today—has already been accomplished. The combine now maintains direct ties with agricultural firms in Kaliningrad and in other regions, and it has started a subsidiary farm of its own. KAC also contributes to the development and improvement of the town in which it is situated, building roads, homes, and a hospital and improving child-care facilities.

"Of course, our combine has to help the local council at this stage because the council's own budget is too limited," says Maciavicius. "As the largest and richest business in the area, we are ready to shoulder the bulk of the responsibility. And we won't mind continuing to shoulder this burden for some time in the future. But we can't do it forever. It is not the task of jewelry makers to sell meat and to make diapers for babies. As we change over to market relations, we will gradually shift all these responsibilities to the municipal authorities, paying them only the necessary taxes.

"The enterprise does, however, have to try to create market relations in the region. We will concentrate our efforts in this area. We will set up joint ventures. We are also creating a foreign economic service of our own, which will be able to offer its services to neighboring businesses. A commercial bank is about to be opened. And, finally, the enterprise should eventually belong to the people. What is impossible to achieve within the limits of the law on a countrywide scale can be easily accomplished in a free economic zone." ■

Bottom left: The quality-control department.

Nursultan Nazarbayev

Kazakhstan's Man of the Hour

By Irina Konovalova

The greatest priority today is the economy. We should free it of its ideological fetters, at long last, and let it live, the way it should live, according to its own laws." This is the credo of Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev opted for the realistic course toward the free market economy rather than the vague "communist perspective."

The son of a shepherd, Nazarbayev dreamed of becoming a pilot. And he rose high, albeit in a different sphere. Starting as a blast furnace worker, he soon found himself scaling the ladder of success, and he climbed rapidly through the ranks of the *nomenklatura*, the Soviet party and government elite, which also provides a springboard for rising even higher. More than a year ago, Nazarbayev, at age 50, became Kazakhstan's first elected president. He seemed to fit perfectly into the stereotyped image of a Soviet leader. But let's not rush to judgment: Nowadays many people think of Nazarbayev as a new kind of man at the top.

When this imperturbable Asian speaks from the podium in his impassive voice and uses his iron logic to bring pressure to bear on the country's top leadership, you get the impression

that he is perfectly self-confident. If you see him in a Kremlin lounge during a break just half an hour later, however, your impression is likely to change. Like a teenager, he holds his cigarette behind his fist, smiles self-consciously and says: "Don't think that because I hold a high position, I know everything. I keep studying hard—every day. And another thing. Don't ask me whether we in Kazakhstan are trying to build communism or capitalism. I'm really tired of that boring question. We stuck to the old myths for too long. It's time to recognize that it is impossible to move toward a free-market economy while adhering to the socialist choice."

The economy is Nazarbayev's forte. Throughout his career he has focused on economics: oil, ore, engineering, agriculture, and machinery production. Nazarbayev is confident that the market economy will bring prosperity to Kazakhstan. On this point he sides with the radical wing of the reformers. Though many leaders on coming to power show a great deal of romanticism and too little business acumen, this is not the case with Nazarbayev: He has experience and a pragmatic approach.

Last autumn Nazarbayev, the leader of a Central Asian republic that used to follow Moscow's orders obediently, suddenly showed that he was a different kind of man. The catalyst for this rebellion was a manufacturing crisis: Plants were about to shut down because of massive disruptions in contracted deliveries. The central government was largely helpless, and it actually abandoned the newly elected republican leaders, letting them deal with the managers of the crisis-stricken enterprises. Nazarbayev's managerial expertise enabled him to salvage 90 percent of the contractual links for the current year.

The next step in Nazarbayev's independence was a widely advertised campaign aimed at concluding "inter-republican economic agreements." These agreements lacked any meaningful legal base and were mostly just words. Moscow's attitude toward them was skeptical. Nazarbayev, generally a cautious and pragmatic person who is not fond of publicity, was one of the architects of the concept of "horizontal ties" among the republics. He very openly pursued contacts with Boris Yeltsin (still out of political favor at that time) and acted as a mediator in relations between the Central Asian republics and the western regions of the USSR. This was the first time the republics had made an attempt to exercise their sovereign rights. In essence, the new leaders exchanged credentials of sorts and openly declared their desire (and ability) to maintain direct contacts among themselves, contacts that Moscow did not need to oversee or direct. As one of the initiators of that process, Nazarbayev demonstrated his far-sightedness, and this gave a great shot in the arm to his prestige and authority.

"Four years ago the Baltic republics asked only for economic independence. No one heard—or listened for that matter," Nazarbayev says. "And this at a time when everyone should have been given economic freedom. Here's your freedom, here's your responsibility to the people, and here's the tax that you, as members of a single state, should pay for the upkeep of the central authorities. Instead, they simply continued to cling to power and tried to keep the republics inside the union by force. That was how the process of declaring sovereignty began."

Nazarbayev is an accomplished federalist—primarily because he is a realistic person. At the moment it would be unrealistic to speak of Kazakhstan's "self-determination" for a number of serious reasons of an ethnic, social, and political nature. Right now Kazakhstan is better off as part of the Soviet Union. Why should a republic that produces raw materials and remains largely agrarian (manufactured goods account for only 18 percent of its exports) give up the enormous market where it can sell its output? (It's another matter that Nazarbayev is no longer willing to give away the republic's enormous natural riches.)

Kazakhstan produces 70 percent of the country's lead, zinc, titanium, manganese, and tin; 90 percent of its phosphorus and chromium; 65 percent of its silver; 30 percent of its copper, as much as 60 percent of its molybdenum; 142 million metric tons of its coal; and 30 million metric tons of its grain a year. The Soviet Union used to take in 1.7 billion dollars for the commodities exported from Kazakhstan. The republic did not get any of this amount. Nazarbayev naturally began to press for an equitable share of the revenue. He is more and more forceful in his demands that Moscow's policy not infringe on Kazakhstan's sovereignty. On questions of fundamental importance, Nazarbayev is prepared to be tough in defending his position. The more often Moscow yields to his demands, the greater Nazarbayev's popularity rating.

When Nazarbayev visited the United States in July 1990, American newspapers noted that he had his own concept of economic development based on privatizating ownership, breaking up the state monopolies, and supporting entrepreneurial activity and the independence of producers. Soon a wave of reports about an "economic experiment" swept the Soviet press. But Soviet newspapers had it all wrong. No miracle is going to happen. No radical economic reforms will take place as long as the central authorities make all economic decisions themselves. Only the central authorities can initiate price reform and liberalization or measures to fight inflation and stabilize finances. The same is true of the settlement of property disputes between the union and the republics.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan is moving toward free-market relations. One year ago, Nazarbayev formed a supreme economic council to advise the president. In so doing, he created a precedent: He invited not only top Soviet scholars but also prominent Western economists to elaborate and analyze economic programs. He talked the managers of major enterprises into establishing a "personnel for perestroika" fund, administered by the president of Kazakhstan, to send young people to study abroad.

Continued on page 59

Who's in Charge of the Nuclear Weapons?

By Vladimir Markov

Late on August 21, I had a conversation with a leading German television journalist that had a profound effect on me. Although it was already clear that the coup had failed, tension persisted in Moscow. The defenders of the Russian government building were afraid that the KGB might mount an armed attack.

"A terrible thing may happen," I told a German colleague by telephone from Moscow.

"A missile launch?" he asked.

I will never forget the dread that sounded in that question from Cologne, although I'd meant something different: I feared there might be bloodshed in Moscow.

Since Gorbachev's seventy-two-hour captivity, during which the leaders of the coup took control of the "nuclear trigger," concern about the fate of thousands of nuclear warheads has not subsided in the Soviet Union. No wonder Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin have discussed the future of the Soviet armed forces, especially their nuclear armaments, with practically every Western politician who has visited Moscow lately. This is an issue on which the presidents of the USSR and Russia fully agree: The entire Soviet nuclear potential will be under full control of the central government, and none of the republics, even though some may create armed forces of their own, will gain access to it.

As soon, however, as the Soviet leaders gave such assurances to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other Western leaders in Moscow, a different statement was reported from Kiev, the capital of Ukraine.

"We are surprised by the view that one state should transfer its nuclear weapons to another," said Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the Lvov Regional Council and one of the possible nominees for the republic's presidency, at a press conference on the same day.

The most surprising thing about that statement was that in the same breath Chornovil declared that "Ukraine is determined to become a nuclear-weapons-free state."

"There is no doubt, however, that independent Ukraine is a legitimate heir to all the material and technical resources, including weapons, of the former Soviet Union," said Chornovil. He said the problem of nuclear weapons should be decided through negotiations "between nuclear states" and that way Ukraine would gradually eliminate all its nuclear weapons.

However controversial, this position definitely means that some republic leaders are trying to use the presence of nuclear weapons on their territory as a means of exerting political pressure. In fact, Chornovil made no secret of the fact that he regarded "the presence of [nuclear] weapons in Ukraine and the desire to turn this republic into a nuclear-free state" as "a good impetus" for the creation of independent Ukrainian conventional armed forces and "international recognition of Ukraine as an independent state and a full-fledged subject of international law."

The existence of a similar problem in relations between Russia and Kazakhstan was confirmed by an interview in the Japanese newspaper *Tokyo Shimbun*. Kazakhstan's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, said in this interview that Russia and Kazakhstan would be "the nucleus of

The defense ministers of all the republics gathered at the negotiating table ... and made the crucial decision that the strategic nuclear forces would remain under single, centralized control.

the future union," but he questioned the view that Russia should control all nuclear weapons. Nazarbayev called for reducing Soviet nuclear capabilities "to a reasonable level" and placing them under the control of a special committee under the State Council.

So, Gorbachev and Yeltsin will have a hard time discussing the issue with the republics in order to prevent the use of the nuclear weapons issue for political ends. Their position is based on the evaluations of military experts, such as the commander of the Soviet strategic missile forces, General Yuri Maximov. During the coup Maximov refused to obey the orders of the organizers of the putsch and refused to send in troops and military hardware. Some sources claim that he even reduced the combat readiness of some strategic forces and that he ordered SS-24 and SS-25 mobile missiles back into their hangars.

"None of the newly independent republics can ensure that nuclear missile systems meet modern requirements," he said. "That is very difficult and expensive for them. At the same time, it is impossible to divide the warning system, which was built over many years and is located throughout the Soviet Union."

Although Maximov believes that the republics will resolve the issue, he warned that in an emergency Moscow could put the missiles out of commission at any time by switching off their control system.

Army General Vladimir Lobov was appointed chief of the general staff after the coup to replace the disgraced Mikhail Moiseyev. Lobov feels that a single armed forces system must be preserved. "The more armies, the more likely a conflict between the republics," he said. "Imagine for a second what would have happened if Azerbaijan and Armenia had their own armed forces." The two republics have been in a virtual state of war over the territory of Nagorny Karabakh.

The emergence of one or of several more nuclear states as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Union would endanger existing international agreements on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The republics simply cannot ignore the opinion of the international community.

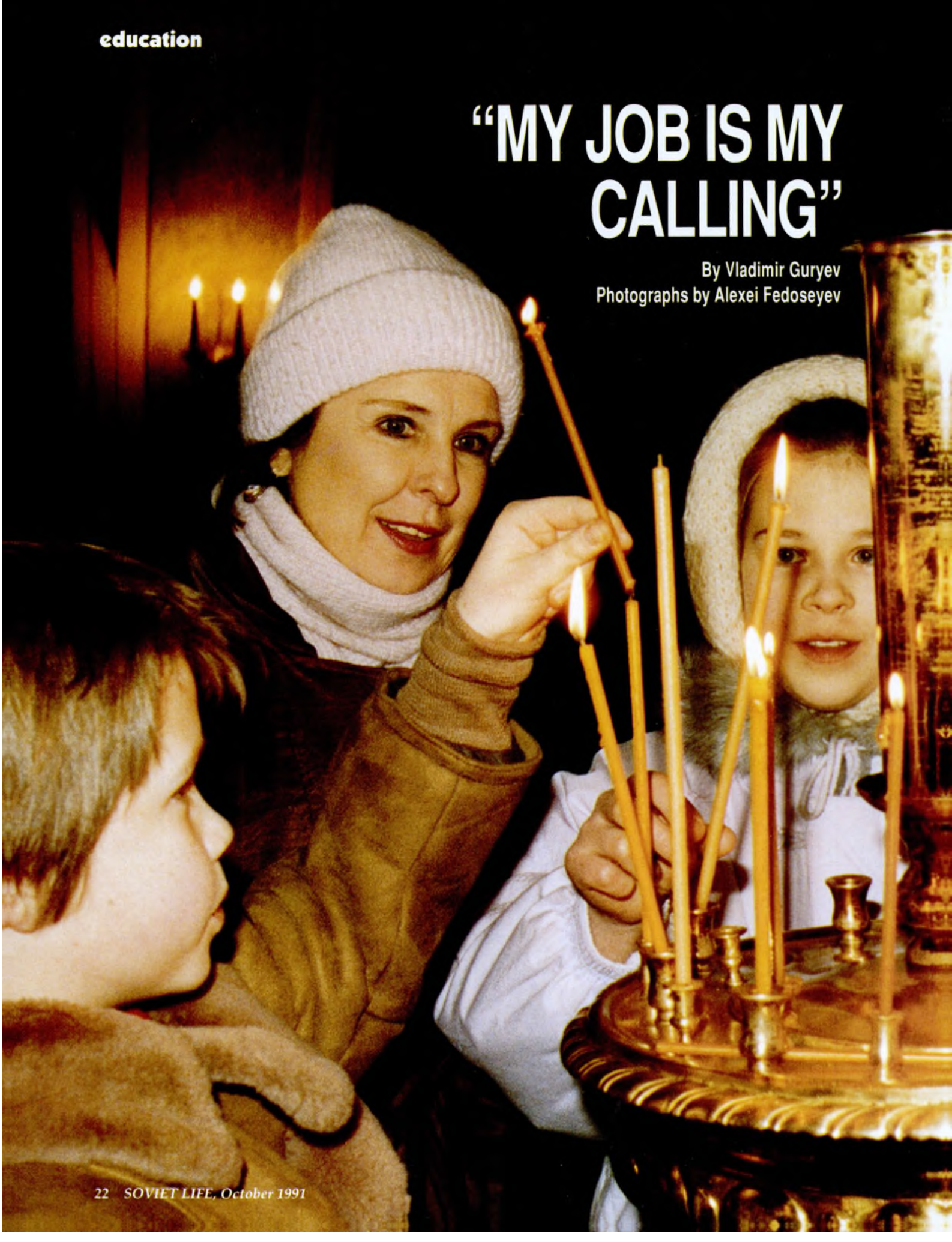
"It is important now that new arms control and disarmament agreements be signed," said a leading Soviet expert on arms control and disarmament. "It is also important to comply with the START and conventional forces agreements, to begin negotiations with the United States on strategic stability, and to begin eliminating tactical nuclear weapons as soon as possible."

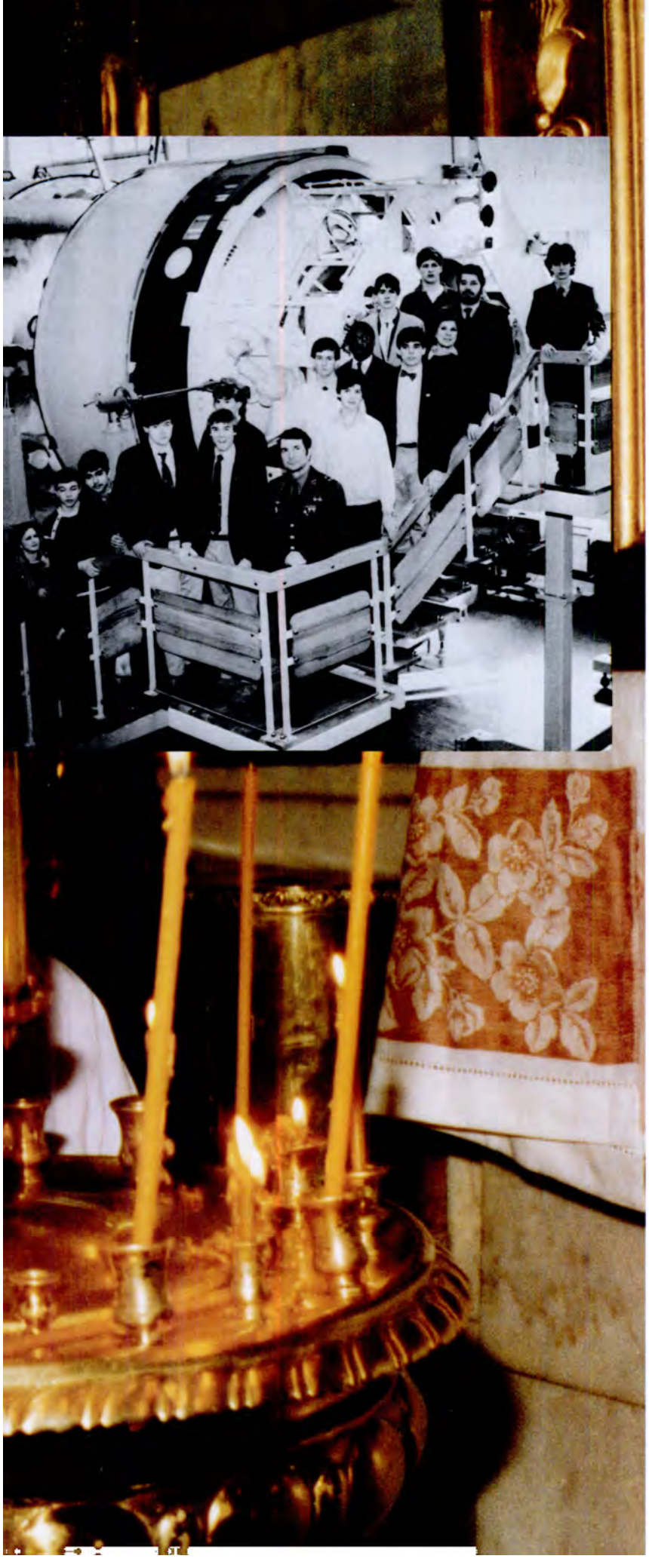
A significant two-day meeting has just ended at the country's Defense Ministry: The new Soviet defense minister, Air Force Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov (one of the military commanders who resisted the coup), and the defense ministers of all the republics gathered at the negotiating table—even earlier than their counterparts dealing with the economy—and made the crucial decision that the strategic nuclear forces would remain under single, centralized control.

Although national guard units and other troops are being formed in the newly independent republics, the Gorbachev-Yeltsin position on the most sensitive issue of control of Soviet nuclear weapons has received the support of the republics' leaders. ■

"MY JOB IS MY CALLING"

By Vladimir Guryev
Photographs by Alexei Fedoseyev





At a joint conference of Soviet and American lawyers in Moscow, the guests were asked what places they would like to visit. The answer was quite unexpected: "School No. 4." None of the organizers even knew the school's address, and they had to look it up. It must be some special kind of school if Americans know more about it than Muscovites, they thought.

To look at, the school is an exact replica of thousands of other Soviet schools, built according to a standard plan.

The curriculum is quite ordinary as well. The school doesn't train its charges for especially prestigious professions. It does offer intensive English classes, but there's nothing unusual about that. Dozens of schools in Moscow place special emphasis on foreign languages or on physics or on mathematics.

Nevertheless, ten years or so ago, the school's surface ordinariness belied its truly privileged nature. Access to this modest school, with its unremarkable set of subjects, was not open to everyone. Located just off Leninsky Prospekt, the school was surrounded by blocks of apartments populated by high-ranking Communist party and government officials. In fact, School No. 4 was a kind of "court college" for the children of the Soviet ruling elite.

But when the Americans became interested in the school three years ago, only the school building and the team of teachers were left of the former "court college." The school now admits to its classrooms all the youngsters in the neighborhood, the children of workers and researchers as well as those of important officials.

What is it about this school that makes it so special? One answer is its principal, Tamara Mayorova. Mayorova took the position only in 1985, but since then she has made a lot of changes. She established direct contacts with American schools, for instance, and this explains why Americans want to meet with her students.

About thirty years ago, Mayorova graduated from the Moscow Technological Institute with a degree in design. She studied at the department that is now run by world-famous fashion designer Vyacheslav Zaitsev.

Of course, she could have found a job in her chosen field at a design college or institute. But there were no such educational establishments in her neighborhood. Mayorova was unwilling to ☞

Facing page: Principal Mayorova takes a group of students to church. Inset: On a field trip to Stellar Town with students from School No. 4 and from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia.

spend very much time commuting, and she wanted to devote more time to her little son, so she took a position teaching art at a neighborhood school. She worked there for seventeen years, until her son grew up. Only then did she take a new job, at an institute that had tried to hire her years ago.

After five years or so, a phone call changed her life completely. It was a call from the principal of School No. 4, who was about to retire. He told her he was recommending her for his job. Mayorova agreed to take the position without hesitation. She still remembered the special, turbulent school atmosphere, with all its joys and sorrows. In short, what she had once considered a second-choice occupation turned out to be her vocation.

Mayorova's return to School No. 4 coincided with the beginning of perestroika. At first the change was hardly noticeable in the schools. It even complicated life, especially for the history teachers, who had to change the old curriculum. But in the long run, the teachers realized that perestroika gave them a lot of freedom.

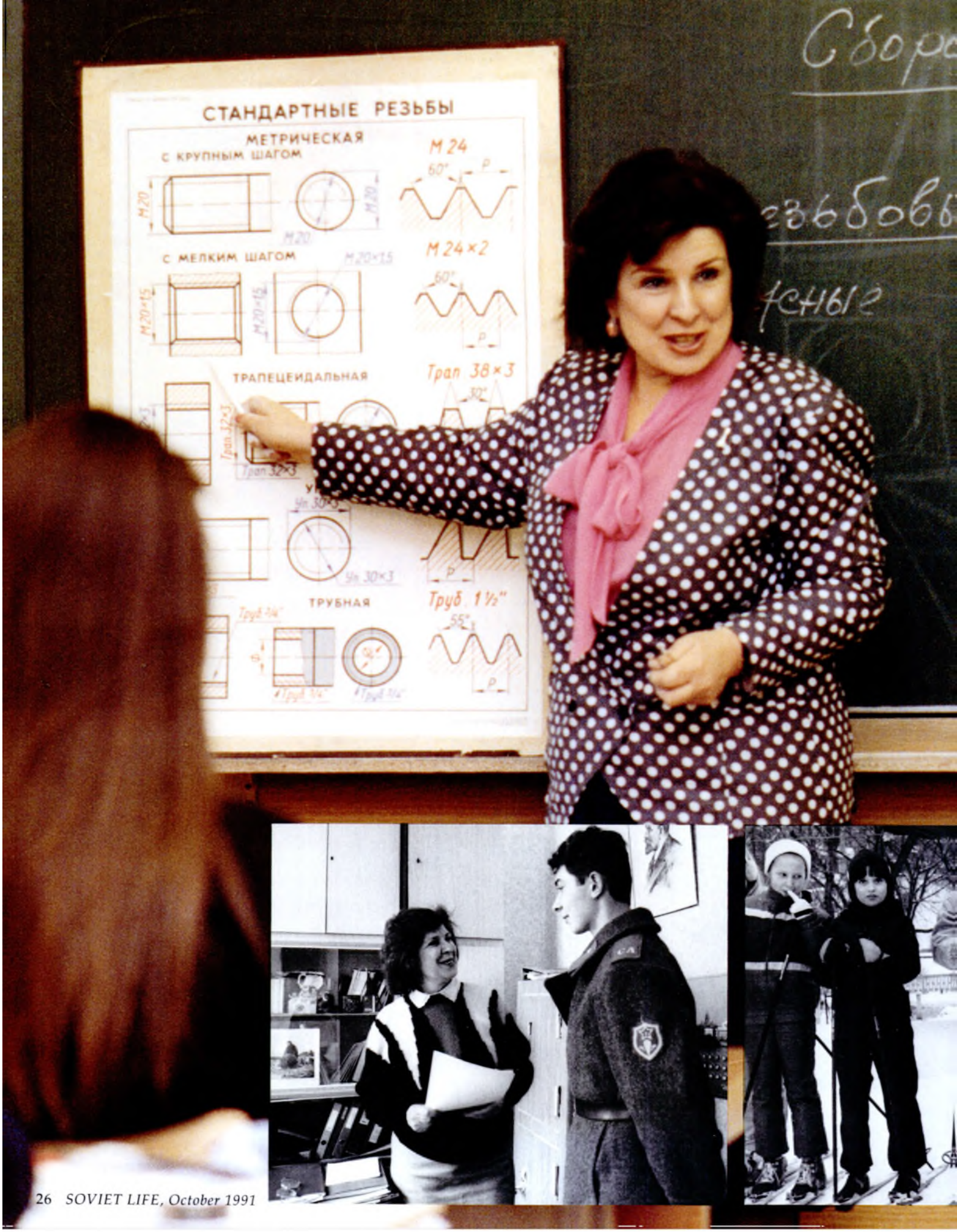
Mayorova told me: "When I was a teacher, I longed to change the teaching process, to change it for the better. I could tell from my students' eyes that they were bored. History and literature classes were really just dogma. At that time only one of the physical education teachers and I had comparative freedom; there were no heavy restrictions on art or sports classes."

The first thing Mayorova did as principal was to introduce a new system of school government. Now the school is run by the School Council, with teachers, parents, and pupils equally represented (eight members from each group). The council's powers are unprecedented. Only personnel matters remain the exclusive domain of the school principal. All other things—finances, discipline, schedules, and the school charter—are the prerogative of the collective government.

Mayorova believes that a modern school principal must be not only a good teacher and organizer, but also an astute entrepreneur. Thanks to her efforts, the school has a budget of 160,000 rubles, which will be used to buy equipment and to improve the teachers' living and working conditions, among other things. The teachers are offered free classes in Chinese martial arts and in rhythmic gymnastics, and they also receive vouchers to health and recreation centers.

The school's highly qualified teaching staff and the students' excellent knowledge of English have won the school a place in the Presidential Exchange Program and in the Soviet-American electronic mail project. School No. 4 maintains exchange programs with American schools. Traveling abroad is fun, especially since the kids live with the ☞

Below: Sunday at the Mayorovs. Bottom left: Believe it or not, the principal was just called to a classroom to settle a conflict. Bottom right: Christmas at school.


СТАНДАРТНЫЕ РЕЗЬБЫ
МЕТРИЧЕСКАЯ
С КРУПНЫМ ШАГОМ
М 24
М 24×2
С МЕЛКИМ ШАГОМ
ТРАПЕЦЕИДАЛЬНАЯ
Трап 38×3
ТРУБНАЯ
Труб 1½"

The principal also teaches art and design. Insets, left to right: Graduate Andrei Yakovlev comes to visit. Mayorova doesn't expect to win this race, but it's so much fun! With graduate Zhenya Savyolov.

families of their American peers, all of which gives a special touch to exchanges. The schools publish a joint newspaper, *Sovremennik* (*Contemporary*), with Russian materials prepared in Moscow and American ones in the United States. The whole experience is an excellent opportunity for the students to brush up on their English.

Of course, the desperate state of the Soviet economy distresses Mayorova. But she hasn't lost her optimism.

"Life goes on," she says. "Now the school must concentrate on its main task, educating the next generation. The younger generation, thinking freely and unfettered by dogma, will carry out truly fundamental reforms in this country. I firmly believe that."

What School No. 4 has achieved so far only provides a basis for turning the school into an educational center that meets the highest modern standards, Mayorova believes. To carry this project through, the school needs a stable source of income. In the evening, the school building is rented out to the World Fuel Organization, whose members go there for advanced courses. The WFO rents the space for 25,000 rubles a month. Moreover, it has promised to equip the school with computers, which will be used jointly. The cooperation is expected to last for years, so the school should benefit a great deal.

Meanwhile, comparisons with American schools have led to energetic efforts to update the school curriculum. When students from School No. 4 arrive in America, they amaze their hosts with their brilliant English and knowledge of world literature and history—in short, by what is known as erudition. Still, they are a little envious of their American peers, who far outdistance them in business skills and independence. All this derives from different educational systems.

Mayorova's goal is to ensure that her students, while retaining their advantages, gain the strengths of their American peers. This goal is quite attainable. The school has established contacts with the School of International Business at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, where twenty seniors study the essentials of marketing, banking operations, and business correspondence. Now the students can use their linguistic and business skills in an international organization or joint venture.

The school is changing in other ways, too. It will gradually add classes in dancing, the arts, and etiquette.

Naturally, the school can't get along without skilled faculty members. Although it had no problems hiring teachers in the past, now vacancies are beginning to appear. Teachers are retiring. Who will replace them? To this day, the teaching profession is not very popular in this country.

But some of the promising young teachers who left the school for higher educational establishments, editorial boards, and other organizations have heard about the reforms and are coming back.

Mayorova works twelve hours a day. She hasn't taken a vacation for several years now. She works under enormous pressure, and her salary leaves much to be desired. To most people, her job would seem onerous, indeed.

"Maybe it would be," says Mayorova, "if it weren't my vocation. It's not easy, of course. But all school principals live this way. There is no other way for us in the Soviet Union. We just have to accept it.

"That's not to say we have to go without rest completely, of course. Personally, I need seven or eight hours of sleep a night. To relieve the strain, we've opened a rhythmic gymnastics section at school. My personal favorite pastime is painting. I've been concentrating on oils lately." ■

Letters to

During the past weeks, since the failure of the attempt to overturn the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, many of our readers have taken the time to write expressing their concern for the people of the Soviet Union. These letters have even included proposals to solve some of the problems confronting the Soviet

Your June issue Editor's Notes column, quoting John F. Kennedy, to wit, "if a democracy cannot feed its people, it is bound to collapse," should be widely understood and acted on by those able to do so, given the totally remarkable events of the past couple of weeks.

To the immediate problems I would make the following suggestions. At the grassroots level of our respective societies, sister communities would be paired, at comparable population levels. Families in need would be identified by name and given for adoption to supporting families in the U.S. sister community. A standard package of staples would be prepared by the donor family, packed in a standard sealed container for clearance through customs, and the entire load would proceed to the designated family. Contents might include dried beans, rice, whole wheat flour, dried fruits, canned meats, and other staples. The manifest should be strictly standard, to avoid the necessity for customs examination. Seed packages for the spring planting season might also be helpful, if not essential. Packages would range from ten to twenty pounds.

The payback for everyone involved would be immediate: communication and education for both sides; enhancement of physical survival for your people; and, more important, the survival of your mission, which for the entire world community is critical.

Peter Miller
Wytheville, Virginia

I just want to let you know how much I enjoy your magazine. It is so interesting, informative, and educational—keep up the good work!

Congratulations on the victory over the coup! I'm so glad that democracy prevailed! The troubles and turmoil must have been awful.

Christa Burg
Chugiak, Alaska

No matter which way the world swings, to me [Gorbachev] is the man of the century. He is the champion of the democratic movement. To prove his point, I believe, he will seek re-election, knowing full well that he may lose, and will welcome the verdict of the people. Thus, in his apparent defeat he will score the final victory—the triumph of democracy and freedom, to which his entire political life has been devoted.

The Soviet people should be on guard and learn to preserve their newfound liberty. As Pope John Paul II said, "Communism should not be replaced by consumerism." Their hard-earned liberty should not turn into a flag-burning episode; their openness should not open the door to pornography, drug abuse, and other social evils.

I hope the excitement and frustration of the Soviet people will soon be over. People will come to their senses and contribute to the resurrection of Gorbachev, the pioneer of the very New World Order that President Bush hopes to bring about. Amen!

Sunil K. Das
Boston, Massachusetts

Convolution

Russia has a history of woe:
Tyrants in charge; since long ago,
Russians in chains, in sweat, in tears,
Romanovs ruled three hundred years.

Romanovs fell, but not the trend,
When Stalin died, it did not end,
But when the eight set up their coup,
Then Russians knew just what to do.

Against great odds of tank and gun,
They fought with courage and have won
Democracy, new growing seed,
And chose two men who now must lead.

Freedom for all, no other choice:
Vox populi, the people's voice,
New birth, new life, emancipation,
The world applauds the Russian nation.

Nicholas Bird
Los Alamitos, California

-he Editor

people. Such an outpouring of good will from the American people has been extremely heart-warming. The editors of SOVIET LIFE magazine wish to thank you for your support at this difficult time. Excerpts from some of the many letters that have been filling our mailbag appear on these two pages.

Wow! These past two weeks have been a brief era of unparalleled events—the sixty-three-hour coup against Mikhail Gorbachev and its complete fiasco; Boris Yeltsin's laying his very life on the line as he faced the guns of the reactionary elements of the military forces of the USSR; the ultimate bravery of three young Muscovites, as they forthrightly posted themselves facing the incoming tanks of the reactionary element within the armed forces; Mikhail Gorbachev's triumphant return to Moscow after the failure of the reactionary coup d'état; the major, revolutionary type of political-social reform put into effect by Mikhail Gorbachev together with his dear colleague, Boris Yeltsin; and, too, the apparent breakup of the union, as different national interests try to establish their own representative governing bodies—and all of the above are occurring at such an escalating pace as to seem almost exponential.

Well, Mr. Tsfasman, perhaps through your offices I may convey to President Gorbachev, President Yeltsin, and all the courageous citizens of Moscow, Kishinev, Leningrad, and the rest of the great Soyuz, my personal congratulations, and my personal best wishes.

And for you, Mrs. Raisa Gorbachev, Get well soon!

Carl N. Klure
Los Angeles, California

The recent coup in your country failed because the coup makers failed to recognize that the people had changed from being powerless pawns to being a powerful queen, willing and able to defend the people's chosen leaders against self-appointed dictators.

Many people here in the United States have forgotten that the people are responsible for making democracy work. Many do not even bother to vote so they can replace officials they feel are doing a poor job.

As your country moves toward a market economy, you will need to accept the responsibility for making your economy work.

Government mismanagement has left your economy in very bad shape. You will have to make some sacrifices to make it work better, but you can make it work if you try.

Your country is so large that the United States and other industrialized nations lack sufficient resources to rescue your economy. You will have to use your energy and abilities to get the maximum value from the limited assistance we can provide.

The people of the various Soviet republics have made remarkable progress toward democracy since Mikhail Gorbachev began dismantling the communist dictatorship several years ago. If you can make similar progress in improving your economy, you might pass the other industrialized nations by the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Kenneth B. Lucas
Hutchinson, Kansas

The news depicts the Soviet Union as facing starvation for the coming winter. I have some suggestions as to how to set up a system to prevent that.

First, I would get dispatchers for all means of transportation. There must be a dependable network of communication from telephone to radio. Whenever there is need, a call on the telephone or radio would go to the dispatcher command. There the appropriate truck, train, or aircraft full of food would go to where it is needed. Ships and trains with food from overseas would be added to this dispatching system. Food could be paid for with credit toward the assets of the Soviet Union, the wealthiest union in terms of natural assets. Once in place, this distribution network could supply not only food but needed supplies to keep the factories running, as well as deliver the finished goods that factories produce.

I assume that there is already a distribution network of sorts in place. To me it does not seem to be working, so this new system would by-pass the existing system. A big problem would be to keep the fleet of trucks, trains, and aircraft running, so fuel depots need to be set up to keep the fleet supplied. There is also the need for mechanics and spare parts to keep vehicles running. And the people that run the system must be fed, clothed, and housed. The system would get buyers for those who need things and salespeople for those who have anything that needs to be sold.

This is just my suggestion as to how to prevent disaster and build a distribution system that will work if the right people work for the system. That is the key; to remove people from the system that will not work and replace them with people that will. Good luck.

Michael Petri
Wheeling, West Virginia

THE GORGE THAT TIME FORGOT

By Yuri Kushko
Photographs by Gennadi Ratushenko

Sunrise over the Yagnob Gorge in Tadzhikistan. Inset: Ancient cave pictures and inscriptions near the village of

Imagine the discovery of a Celtic village in Great Britain, with people living in a way that has scarcely changed in the past thousand years, or a community of people living on the banks of the Euphrates and following the laws of Hammurabi and speaking Sumerian. You would say such a thing was impossible.

The impossible is a fact of life, however, in the inaccessible Pamir-Alai mountain range in Tajikistan. A hundred kilometers away from Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, you can find people whose language, cultural traditions, and customs retain the characteristics of the ancient state of Sogdiana. This state originated in Central Asia in the first millennium B.C. and lasted until the Arabs' invasion in the seventh century A.D. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus wrote about the wealth and might possessed by the Sogdian kingdom.

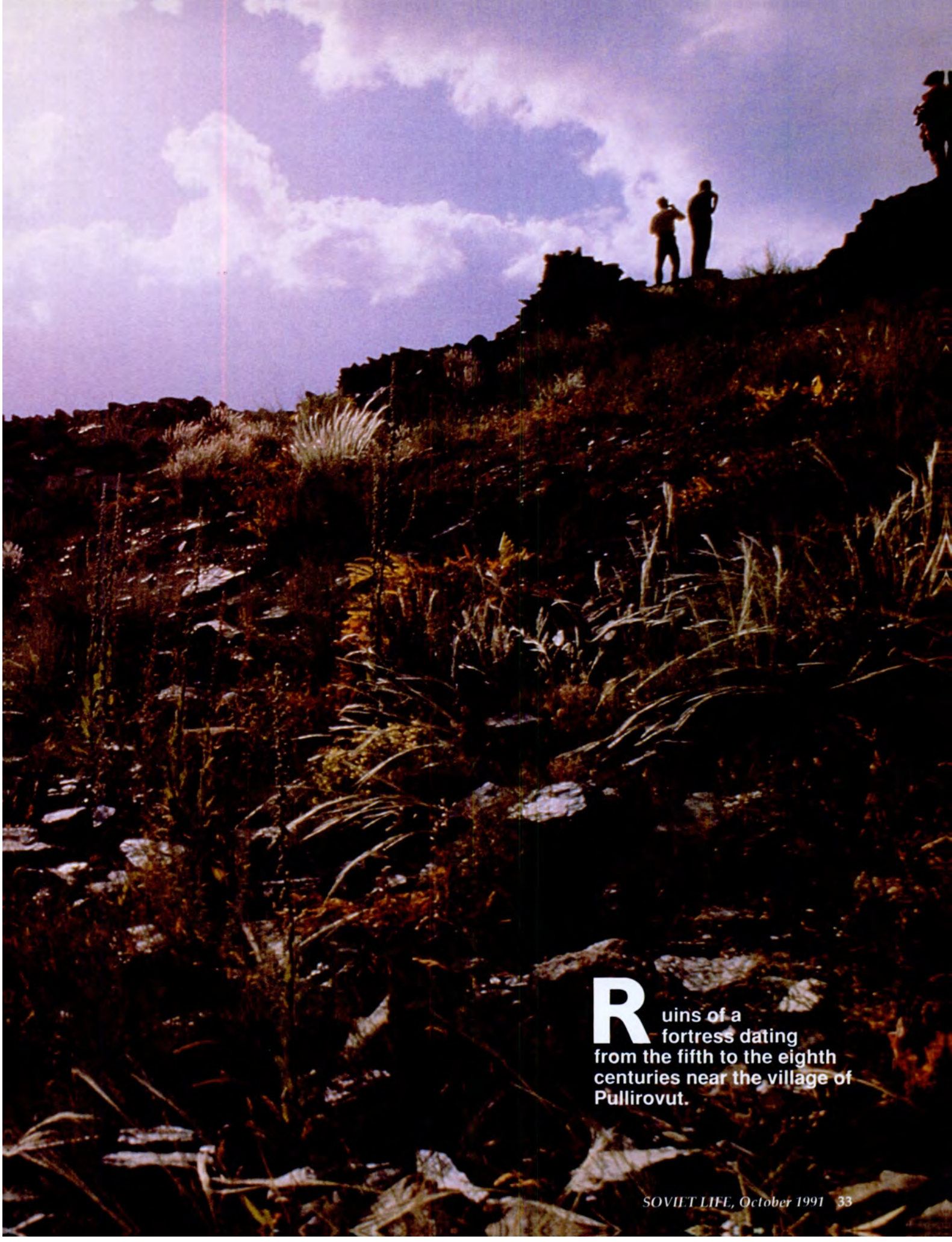
Modern maps show the habitat of this relict people as a narrow strip spreading from the center of Tajikistan northeastward. This is also the extent of the Yagnob Gorge, which is home to this vestige of ancient civilization. The residents of the gorge, the Yagnobians, are direct descend-

The height and difficulty of the rocky mountains made Yagnob inaccessible through many centuries and to all invaders. Even today you can reach it only by narrow paths carved along the edge of the cliffs. "Traveler, you are here like a tear on an eyelash," warns the inscription on a stone.

The most intimidating aspect of the terrain is Koukhi-Kof Mountain, the most difficult part of the journey to Yagnob. A local legend has it that Satan visits this place regularly to take sinful souls to hell. The folklore of other peoples usually locates such places underground, but the Yagnobians placed theirs above ground and close to their villages.

According to travelers' notes—Russian scholar Alexander Kun was the first outsider to reach the gorge in 1870—the Yagnobians hunted with dogs and sticks. They worshiped wild roses and poplars and believed in Sipidateu, a kindly demon who took the form of a beautiful woman bringing prosperity. The Yagnobians venerated fire. This practice evidently had its roots in Zoroastrianism, which was practiced by the ancient Sogdians.

"Our present habits retain many features of the old way of life," said Khurshed Dilmurodov Qurbonov



Ruins of a fortress dating from the fifth to the eighth centuries near the village of Pullirovut.

don't buy bread; we bake it on hot stones. Allah be praised, cars cannot reach us, and we use donkeys and horses for transportation. Sickles are good for harvesting crops. So we work as our predecessors did."

Important changes have occurred only in the religious beliefs of these people. Islam, which has permeated the area over the past hundred years, has replaced Zoroastrianism, though echoes of Zoroastrianism are still heard. Like many converts, the Yagnobians follow Islam's precepts with particular fervor. For instance, many of the local residents, especially women, are reluctant to pose for pictures.

Any stranger is greeted here like a very dear guest. You are certain to be invited to somebody's home, usually an abode structure, where the table is laid with all the food the hosts have in their house. The head of the family entertains the guests, while a woman sets a fire, using a lump of dry manure, and boils a kettle.

After a meal, you can take a walk around the village. All the huts are grouped together near the cliff faces, a manifestation of the tribal way of life. You come across a boy dragging an obstinate donkey; a woman who has put a bucket of water on her head and is skipping toward her house, without even touching the bucket with her hands; men busily harvesting winter hay for the cows. These are typical scenes in any village.

There will certainly be a volunteer to show you a sacred place in a far-away cave, a place once used for Zoroastrian meetings and prayers. In 1932, near the ruins of an ancient castle, a wicker basket was discovered. It contained ancient documents carried by a detachment under the leadership of Divashtich, the last Sogdian ruler, when he was escaping from Arab invaders. The ruins of another medieval fortress stand on the outskirts of the village of Pullirovut.

Yagnob has slightly more than a dozen villages, Kiryente, Kantse, Piskon, Dumzoi, and others, with a total population of 300 people.

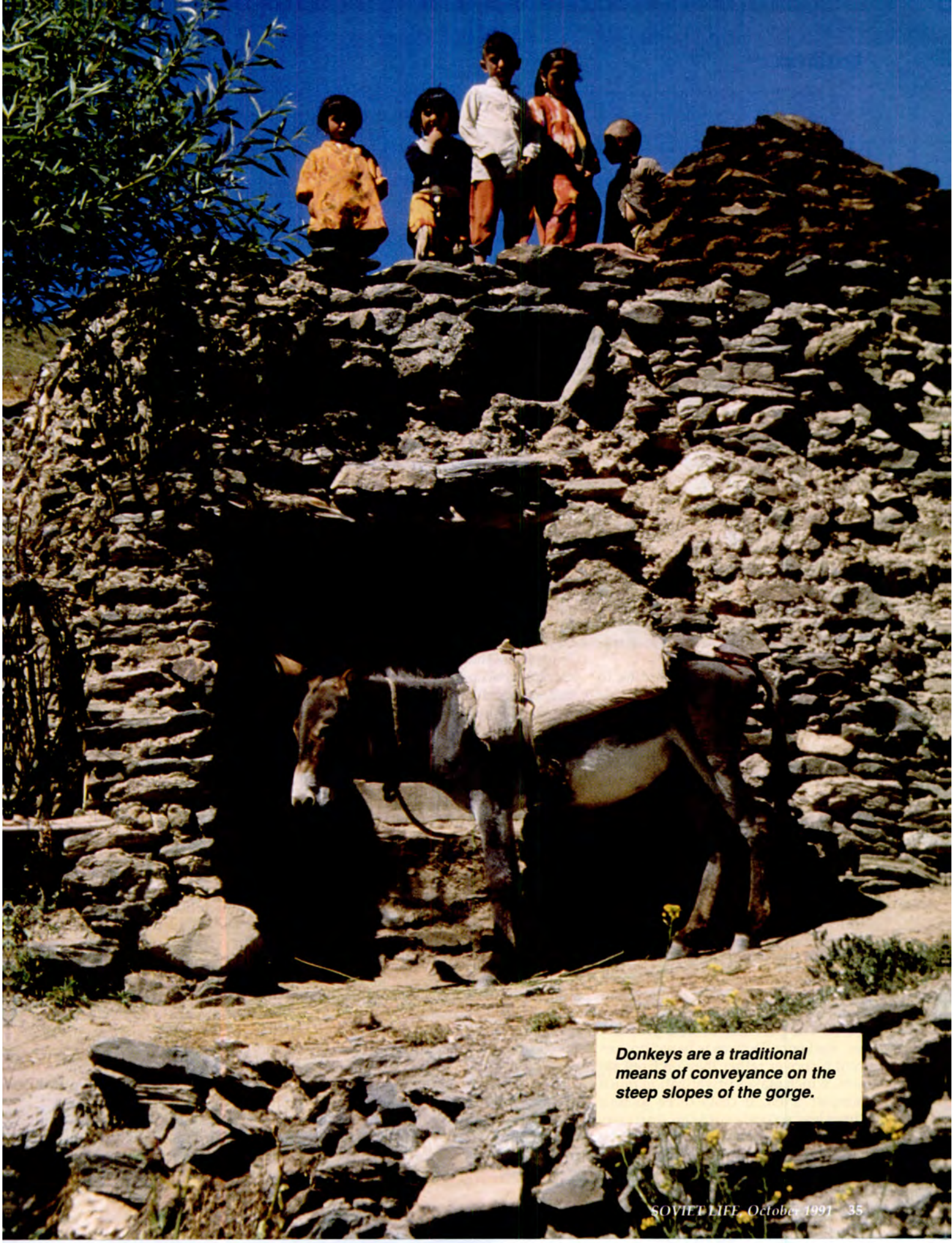
"The other 10,000 Yagnobians were resettled to the valley to grow cotton," said seventy-year-old Mirzo Boturov. "This happened twenty years ago, and the leaders who did it didn't even ask us whether we wanted to go."

A people accustomed to mountain life can hardly stand it in the valley. The heat in summer suffocates the Yagnobians, and the excessively mineralized water causes them stomach problems. family after family returns to the gorge, leaving behind the so-called benefits of valley civilization. The establishment of the Yakhyo Yagnob (Revival) Society has increased the number of Yagnobians returning to their traditional mountain home.

The society's priorities are to lay an auto road to the gorge and to build new houses, schools, and a hospital. Philologists are compiling a dictionary and manuals of the Yagnobian language. Two hundred copies of the Yagnobians' first primer was published a year ago through the efforts of someone working on his own. An ethnographic museum is also in the planning stages.

"I hope that my small people will see better times," says society activist Rinat Mirzoyev. "Our prosperity will come not from factories and plants, but from traditional livestock breeding, pottery, and weaving. Tourism will also help, because I think many inhabitants of the polluted cities would enjoy seeing the multicolored fields of our medicinal herbs, riding horses through the gorge, and breathing in the pure mountain air." ■

Yagnobian women working in the traditional ways.



Donkeys are a traditional means of conveyance on the steep slopes of the gorge.

registration in different parts of the country. But even this more modest estimate is dramatic, considering that there was not a single exchange in the Soviet Union only a year ago. The rapid development of exchange trading is not a tribute to fashionable trends or a short-lived economic passion.

As a result of the early and quite restrained attempts to put the Soviet economy on a market footing, the majority of industrial and agricultural enterprises have faced a number of serious problems. One of these is the lack of horizontal links among producers. Under the central planning system, any factory, no matter how unprofitable and inefficient, was guaranteed a steady supply of the primary products, materials, and equipment it needed for its operations. The state only supervised the production process and distribution of whatever the manufacturers turned out. Now that many enterprises have been granted sufficient autonomy in pursuing independent production and commercial policies, they have to look for suppliers and customers on their own. Faced with the shortage-ridden market of primary products, materials, and equipment and forced to depend on an outrageously imperfect pricing mechanism, the producers have found themselves in a difficult predicament.

Before the start of sales.

This has resulted in direct contract arrangements between producers of various goods, barter arrangements, auctioning, and fair trading. In such conditions, producers and consumers can more effectively do business through exchanges. Economists understand that exchange trading is crucial to the development of economic links in a market environment. Nearly every large industrial city is planning at the present time to open a commodities exchange of its own.

None of the permanently functioning Soviet exchanges has so far chosen any particular line of business. The list of goods offered at the Moscow Commodities Exchange comprises about 120 items, including construction materials, electronic goods, oil and oil products, engineering equipment, and metals. But the exchange plans to specialize only in the trading of grain and agricultural produce in the future.

Another feature of all Soviet exchanges is that none of them conducts futures trading, which the majority of sister exchanges around the world do routinely. And most exchanges preside over barter deals rather than trade in physical goods. The arrangement, also known as counter trade, implies that, for example, the trader offering timber will only exchange it for several trucks.

Even so, the early experience of the budding Soviet exchanges is undoubtedly of great value to the economy as it moves toward market arrangements. Exchanges today help to ascertain from whom goods or materials can really be obtained, how far demand outstrips supply, and what price tags can be applicable to the goods in great demand. The ongoing expansion of exchange trading will certainly bring strong pressure to bear on prices. Bidders found out in the first few months of floor trading that prices for goods in exchange transactions were often lower than those charged by producers in direct contract arrangements with customers.

"Already different exchanges are competing, and their rivalry has had a positive effect on trading," said Konstantin Borovoy, chief executive officer of the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange. Even now, the exchange is investing heavily in information infrastructure, which is indispensable to effective trading. It is negotiating to buy satellites and computers.

Soviet exchanges are making ambitious plans. Some estimates suggest that the turnover at the Moscow Commodities Exchange may be as much as two to three billion rubles this year. ■

JOINT VENTURES:
IS THE FORMULA RIGHT?

By Boris Alexeyev

Five years ago an economist told me quite emphatically that he and his colleagues had a cure for the ailing Soviet economy. It was concise and dynamic: joint ventures. According to this plan, a Soviet partner and a foreign company would set up a firm to engage in business together.

The Soviet government was quick to give the new idea a green light. Many hopes were pinned on it, and most forecasts were more than optimistic—the scheme would result in a market filled with goods, and the qualifications of the work force would improve by using Western equipment and methods.

Joint ventures soon came into existence. The count now is 3,400 firms involving foreign businesses.The views of the architects of the theory, however, are not all that rosy. "Joint ventures are still to play a substantial role in filling the domestic market with manufactured goods, raw materials, and foodstuffs," wrote the journal *Vneshnaya torgovlya* (*Foreign Trade*).

In Leningrad, Russia's second largest and most important city, virtually every corner sports boutiques and stores with brightly colored signs announcing that they are joint ventures. But you don't have to look too long to notice that they are not selling anything they produced. Some joint ventures are a convenient front for those trying to make money (preferably in hard currency) as fast as possible.

Of course, things are not all bad. Some joint ventures were set up by firms that are not pursuing get-rich-quick schemes in the Soviet market. Some of these are Cranload (a Soviet-Swiss company that makes self-propelled cranes), Homatek (a Soviet-German joint venture that manufactures machine tools), and Lenvest (footwear). Lenvest, incidentally, employs 3,000.

Some U.S. companies have gotten into the Soviet market. Among them are Polaroid, Combustion Engineering, Honeywell, Carlyle, and McDonalds.

Belye Nochi, a major Soviet-American joint venture in the oil industry, is producing and shipping petroleum.

Some joint ventures in the Soviet Union produce computers and computer parts, garments, telephones, metal-cutting machines, and so forth.

But these companies are small. Only 1.7 percent of all such companies employ more than 1,000 workers. About 54 percent of joint ventures are businesses with fewer than fifty employees.

Carl Sovant, of the UN Center on Transnational Corporations, spoke about the difficulties that lie ahead:

"A major industrial corporation still has trouble going into the Soviet market. It has to start production using as many locally available resources as possible. But one should not hope right now that essential raw materials will be available in sufficient quantities, because the Soviet Union lacks a commodities market. Virtually everything is centrally distributed."

Thus far, only 20 to 30 percent of joint ventures have proved viable in the conditions that exist in the Soviet economy. Eighty percent of the German companies that tried to open subsidiaries in the USSR have given up.

At present, acceptable conditions exist only for companies extracting minerals and firms building hotels. But there may be light at the end of the long tunnel: Recently promulgated laws permit 100 percent foreign ownership on the territory of the USSR.

The establishment of "purely Western businesses," said Soviet economist Pavel Bunich, means that Soviet people employed by them will work with all their might and earn good money. "Who would otherwise want to lose benefits more or less guaranteed by the state?"

A British commercial delegation representing leading aerospace firms spent a week in the Soviet Union on a fact-finding tour and got acquainted with the Soviet aviation industry.

The delegation, led by Lord Reay, minister of industry and technology, visited some Soviet plants that were until recently considered secret.

The visitors were not interested in classified information, but in the broadening of a future market and of prospects for British-Soviet cooperation in the aviation industry.

"The Soviet aviation industry is in output and employment one of the largest in the world. Over several decades aviation has enjoyed a high priority in the Soviet economy and still forms one of its most advanced and competitive sectors," Lord Reay said, explaining the interest in that particular sector.

He estimates that the Soviet Union will double its civil aviation fleet by 1995. That was the reason the delegation was in the Soviet Union. Members of the delegation had been allowed to see everything they asked to see.

"We have big plans all right," confirmed Appolon Systsov, minister of the aircraft industry. "To make them more specific, we had to show everything to our British guests."

What are the big plans?

First, the parties agreed to put a British space vehicle in orbit with the help of the Soviet-made ANT-225.

Second, solid relations were established with Rolls Royce, which will provide engines for a new Soviet airliner, the TU-204.

Other cooperative arrangements cover onboard equipment for planes. A joint aviation enterprise (to be named Rossiya) will be opened in Moscow and another in Rostov-on-Don.

Special difficulties in setting up joint ventures exist in the aviation industry. And problems are technical rather than financial. Differing standards and systems of certification are holding up joint activities. But the parties seem to have resolved such problems.

"Our efforts are bringing us nearer to cooperation. Once the mutual desire is here, there will be joint projects," Systsov said. ■

Lina Telegina's "Imminent" Art

By Artist Eli Belyutin
Photographs by Vladimir Fedorenko

Kostroma. **1968. Tempera on cardboard (left).** ***Remembering Modigliani.*** **1987. Oil on canvas (right). The artist in her studio (below).**

Sometimes a painter may astonish people with the transparency of his or her art. In the disappointment and confusion of Soviet art, the works of Lina Telegina stand out for the complex simplicity that is their trademark. The artist succeeds in expressing the complexity of human feelings and experience with her colors. Her art is irrational in the true sense. Its force has been concentrated in the artist's temper and in the modern artistic forms she has chosen.

Lina Telegina belongs to the new school of Russian avant-garde, which took shape in the fifties. It happened in a studio that I was and still am in charge of. We called the school new reality. An art direction that emerged at the same time and under a similar name in France had nothing to do with our movement. In this country, which has experienced great tragedy, artists (I mean genuine artists, of course) have never been able to distance themselves from the rest of society and sit in lofty perches in ivory towers.

When the art establishment wanted painters to produce pictures of a way of life that did not exist, the real artists realized that they should focus on

Marathon of Life. **Oil on canvas (above).** ***A Woman's Day. Morning.*** **1989. Oil on canvas (left).**

the actual experience of their contemporaries. The artists understood that life in this country demanded such an approach and that if they worked in this manner they would help their compatriots at least partially to shake off their spiritual paralysis.

But then the artists had to change both their artistic method and their artistic language. They had to produce methods that would convey to the viewer the spiritual reality experienced by the artist. Telegina was able to find such means.

Born in 1934, Telegina has worked in my studio since 1961. She made a name for herself with her "imminent capsules," which allow her to convey in a condensed form her reaction to the world. On the canvas, such forms have a life of their own. They may resemble a human body or distort it, but they convey the feelings and the tragedy of human beings. To the artist the forms may be just as intense as real people. The capsules are extremely expressive; they live and move about in their autonomous space and resemble thoughts that we often have trouble taking control of. As a result, they are a means to involve the irrational part of the human mind. Deep in the mind of the viewer, impressions arise that the artist has conveyed in her images.

☞

Paintings, clockwise from above: *Moon Stone*. 1989. Oil on canvas. *Nika*. 1990. Oil on canvas. *Spring*. 1987. Oil on canvas. Facing page: *City of Pavlov-on-Oka*. 1968. Tempera on cardboard.

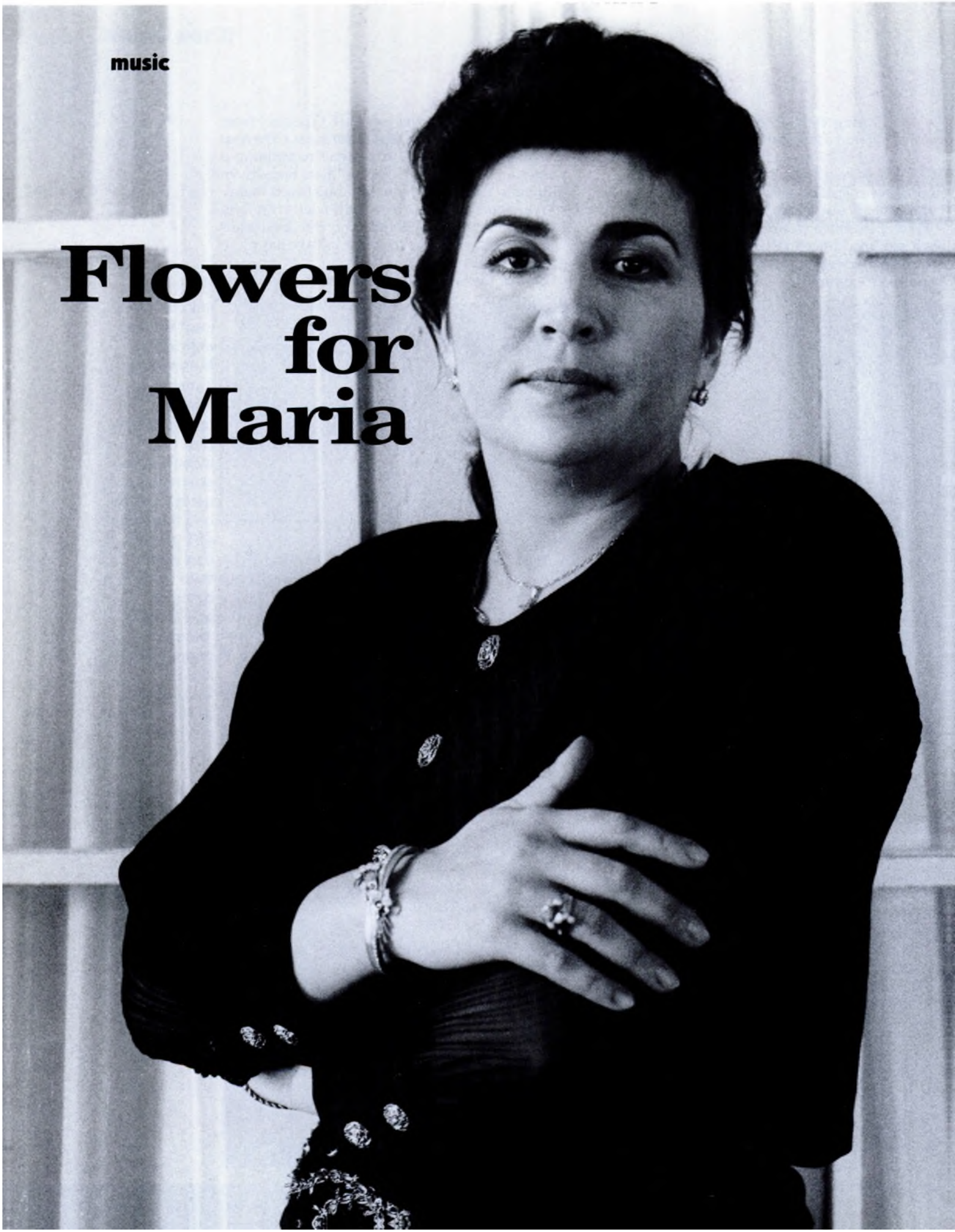
Telegina's discovery coincides with her long-standing infatuation with Russian folk toys. Hers has been a lifetime of complicated artistic quest. Her capsules didn't appear until the eighties, though as early as the sixties tendencies began developing in her work that resulted in the creed she espouses today. Telegina has always had an active approach to life that has encouraged her to study the techniques of plastic art, which allow the artist effectively to convey her contacts with reality. In her works, form often seems to dissolve in pure emotion. But then it only seems so, else we would be speaking of an amateur.

Telegina's imminent images win the viewer through their universality, as it were. They contain everything that's simmering inside human beings, no matter where and how they live. When you perceive her images, you inevitably have the feeling that you wanted to express something like this but couldn't.

Telegina contributes to all the exhibitions mounted by our studio. Art experts in England, Poland, and the United States know her works.

What matters most to her (as to any other master in the new reality school) is the validity of feeling and emotion. This is the source of her independent artistic thinking and original manner of painting. ■

Flowers for Maria



"And when the performance was over, and we stood in front of the curtain, Pavarotti was standing next to me, and he said: 'Brava! Bravissima! Brava! Bravissima!'"

By Lyudmila Mareyeva
Photographs by Alexander Kurbatov

A udience ratings for two performances of Puccini's opera *Tosca* on the stage of La Scala in Milan, Italy, demonstrated clearly that the discriminating Italian public appreciated Soviet singer Maria Gulegina. Her performance as Floria Tosca received a nine!

Gulegina's recent concerts in Moscow were also a huge success. She sang with the Moscow Experimental Musical Theater Symphony under the direction of Gennadi Provatorov, took part in a series of musical programs held in the main hall of the cultural center at Novosti Information Agency, and performed in a charity concert at the Moscow Conservatory.

It had been a long time since opera lovers in Moscow heard such a celebration of music or such a beautiful voice. And when the orchestra played its last chords, the burst of applause literally shook the hall of the conservatory. Grateful listeners kept placing flowers at Gulegina's feet.

Gulegina is applauded in the greatest theaters of the ☞

world. Her participation at La Scala was declared truly sensational, but only now is her artistry receiving attention in her homeland.

After Gulegina graduated from the Odessa Conservatory, she ended up at the Minsk Theater of Opera and Ballet. Her creative talent was greeted with indifference, and later, even dislike, because that was characteristic of the times. But she has other, treasured memories of these times in her heart, also.

"I shall always be grateful to director Yaroslav Voshchak, a beautiful and strict person," says Gulegina. "He taught me what real work on a role means."

"And what began your singing career?" I asked.

"The beginning for me was the Glinka competition, which was held in Yerevan, Armenia, in 1984. There I not only took first place, but also felt the creative atmosphere of good will for the first time. People said that I might even have been singing in the land of my ancestors—my maiden name is Muradyan.

"In 1986 I took third place at the Tchaikovsky competition and received an invitation to sing at La Scala. A contract was drawn up for one performance, but instead I sang in three. My partners on the stage were Luciano Pavarotti and other world opera stars.

"Fate smiled on me twice. First, when it brought me, an unknown singer, to La Scala; and second, when I was given such outstanding partners. At the same time that Voshchak was pushing me onto the stage in Minsk, Maestro Gianandrea Gavazzeni was becoming the director of La Scala in Milan. When I got to La Scala, Gavazzeni understood that it was still difficult for me, a foreigner, in such a cast, to sing Puccini's opera. He was extremely patient and attentive, working with me on each scene. The same can be said for my partners on stage. We rehearsed three times a day with only short breaks. This was when I realized what it meant to pour yourself into a role. And when the performance was over, and we stood in front of the curtain, Pavarotti was standing next to me, and he said: 'Brava! Bravissima! Brava! Bravissima!'"

In a review Gulegina's voice was compared to that of the great Maria Callas. And for the performance of *Tosca* in which Gulegina sang, Callas's costume was brought for Gulegina to wear from the London museum where it is preserved. ■

Maria Gulegina at home with her husband and daughter.

Soviet Loan Fund

By Rod Baum

Plans call for the fund to distribute one hundred million dollars per year for the next three years to small- and medium-sized entrepreneurships primarily in Russia, the Baltics, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

A 300 million dollar loan fund is being established by American companies to support the development of private business in the USSR. The Soviet Loan Fund, as it has been called, has been developed in response to the massive changes underway throughout the country. Plans call for the fund to distribute one hundred million dollars per year for the next three years to small- and medium-sized entrepreneurships located primarily in Russia, in the Baltics, in Ukraine, and in Kazakhstan.

The International Business Development Association (IBDA), which has offices in Washington, D.C., and in Fairfield, Iowa, has been established to manage the fund. FYI Information Resources, a company that has its headquarters in Washington and has partners and affiliates throughout the Soviet Union, has been retained by the IBDA to develop and implement loan application, review, disbursement, and collection procedures.

Marc Schechtman, founder and president of IBDA, explained how the association is raising capital for the Soviet Loan Fund by offering a unique combination of services to American businesses—including free membership in the IBDA. "By joining the association, members participate in a group long-distance discount program that uses the AT&T worldwide network exclusively. The program, which is available to current AT&T customers and customers of other long-distance carriers, does not require changes in dialing methods or telephone equipment. Members' rates are approximately 18.5 percent lower than AT&T's standard business rates. These savings go directly to the members. In addition, 8 percent of all paid long-distance bills is given to the association, at no cost or inconvenience to the members, for the loan program and to cover the costs of other free services to members."

Association membership is limited to no more than 200,000 American companies that have four characteristics in common:

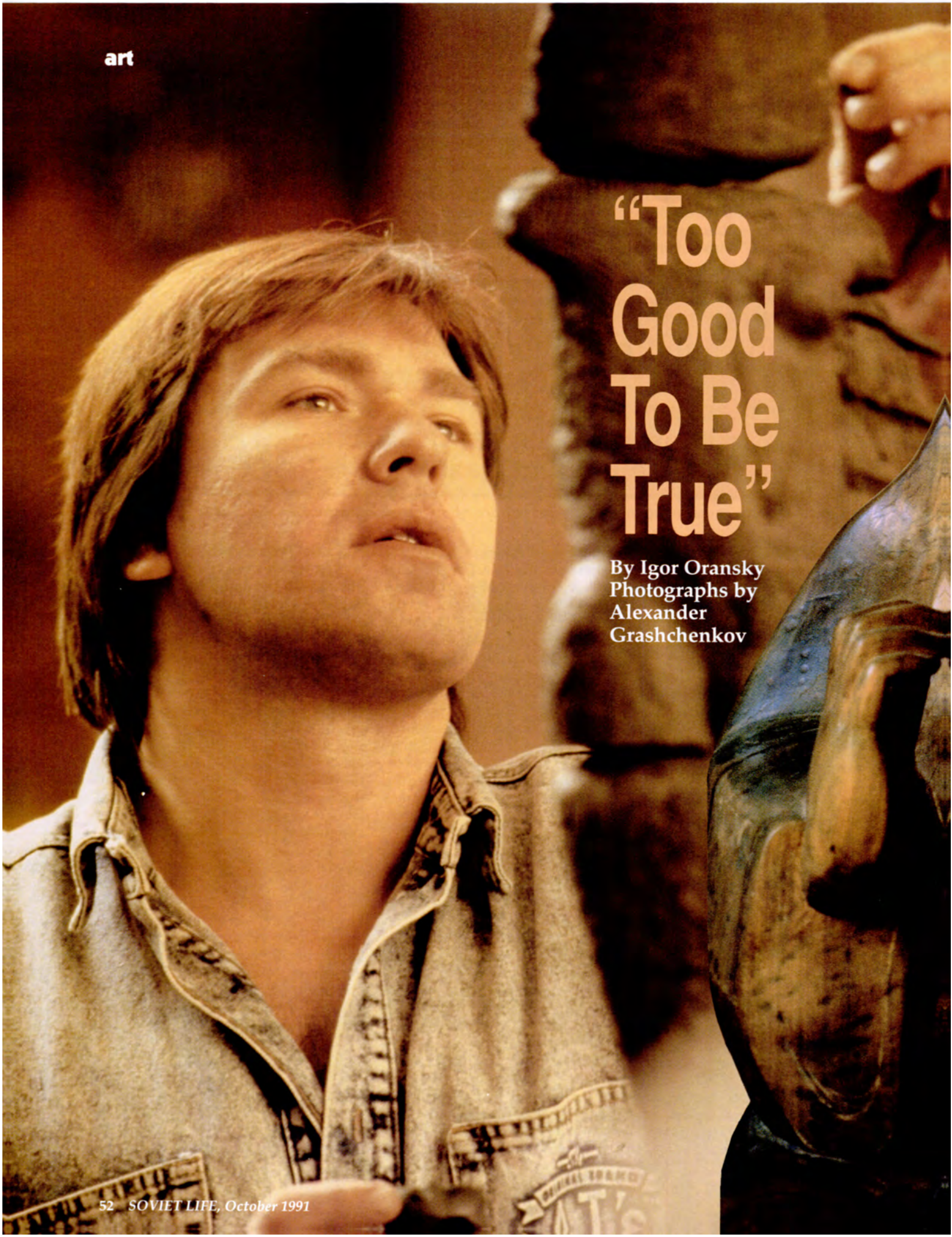
- support for entrepreneurship in Russia and its neighboring states;
- a desire to expand their sales into these emerging markets;
- hesitancy to invest in this large but unfamiliar market; and
- a desire to reduce their monthly long-distance business phone costs.

In addition to reduced rates, association members will be provided free advertising space in the USSR-USA Business Directory and a monthly newsletter on developments in the Baltics and in the Soviet republics. The Business Directory will be distributed at no cost to loan recipients and other businesses throughout Russia, the Baltics, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

Commenting on the IBDA approach, Jonathan J. Halperin, president of FYI Information Resources, noted that "this is a very unusual and creative approach. Whether Russian, or Estonian, or Kazakh, entrepreneurs throughout the region are starved for capital and for accurate information on the availability of foreign products." FYI's extensive experience in the region includes production, with Ukrainian partners, of the Soviet Independent Business Directory and a set of market studies for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

There is no question, according to Halperin, that since the failed coup there has been an explosion of private business activity throughout the region. Small, carefully targeted loans to business leaders in these areas, combined with a Yellow Pages of products available from association members, will have a tremendous impact at this historic juncture.

Additional information on the Soviet Loan Fund and the International Business Development Association can be obtained from the association at 800-437-4485 or from FYI Information Resources at 202-544-2394. ■

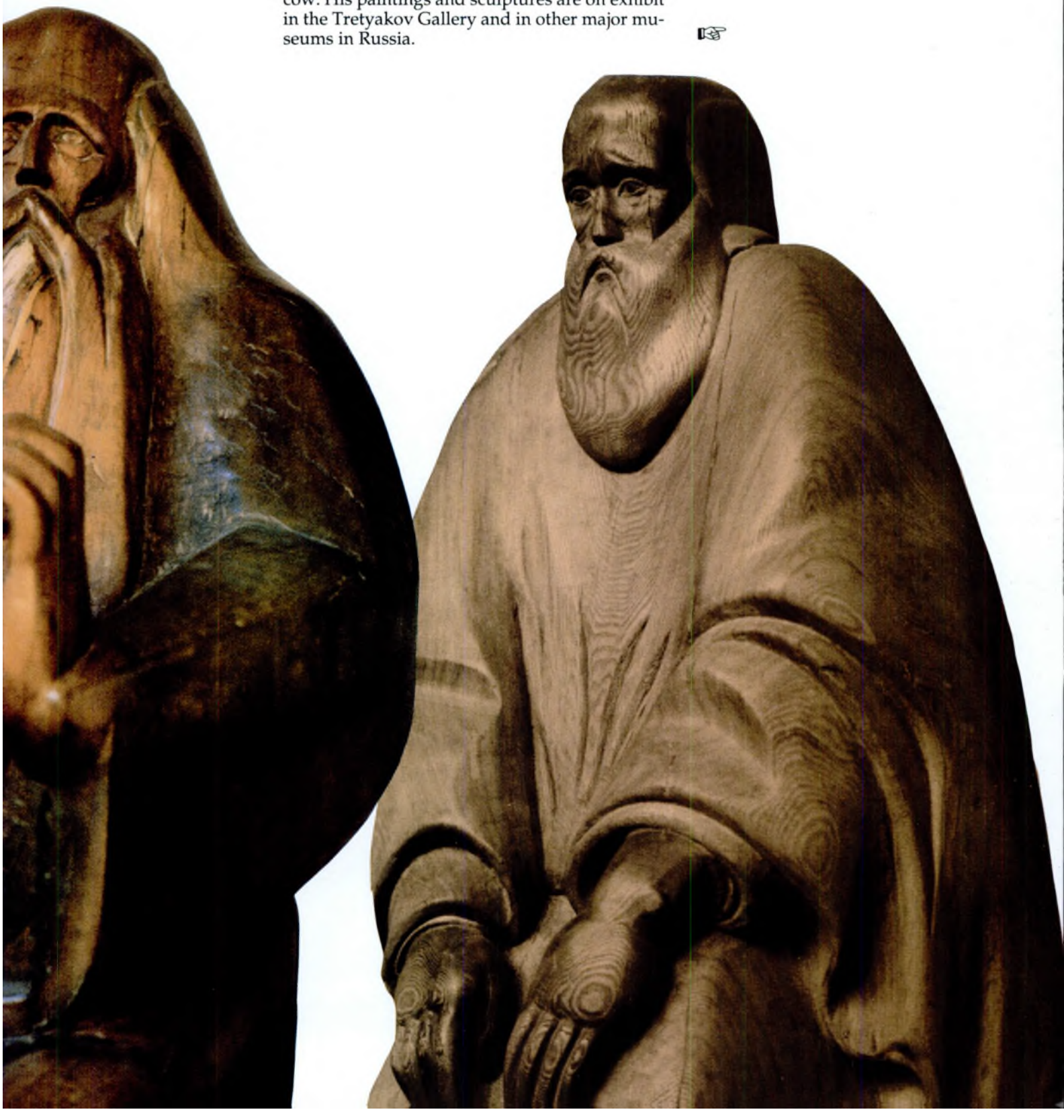


"Too Good To Be True"

By Igor Oransky
Photographs by Alexander Grashchenkov

Alexander Rukavishnikov, a world-renowned artist, also has a black belt in karate. His monumental works are on display in the United States, Spain, South Korea, and other countries. He created the monument to Vladimir Vysotsky that stands over the poet's grave in Vagankovskoye Cemetery in Moscow. His paintings and sculptures are on exhibit in the Tretyakov Gallery and in other major museums in Russia.

Rukavishnikov's image of an icon painter, Feofan the Greek.

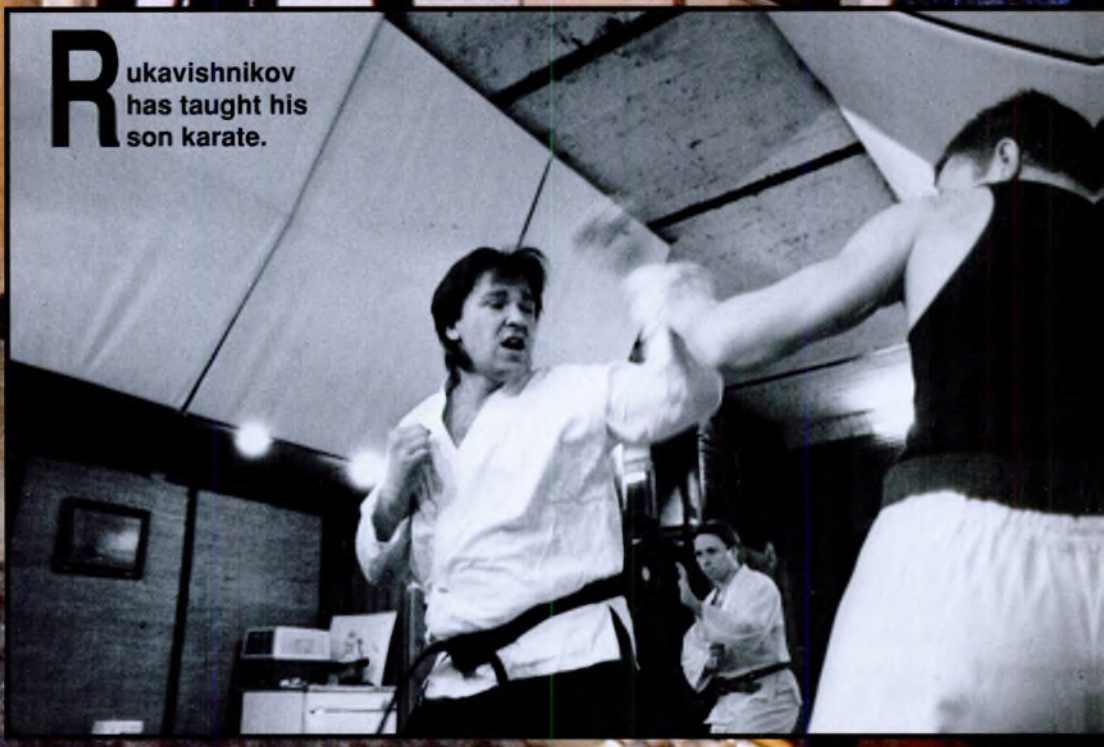


Some say Rukavishnikov has led a charmed life since childhood. He is intelligent, rich, lucky, and happy in his family life. "Too good to be true," his detractors say. Truly, he is a good advertisement for the possibility of honest success in these troubled times.

He was born in Moscow, the son of a famous sculptor and an equally famous painter. It is certainly no surprise, then, that Rukavishnikov became fascinated with art at an early age.

Children who follow in their parents' footsteps often have to face special difficulties. Perhaps this is because many people disapprove of the idea of dynasties. Alexander worked hard and created his own unique style, eventually surpassing his father's fame. Rukavishnikov's sixteen-year-old son, Philip, will soon face the same problem; he is a serious art student, and he has shown great promise.

Rukavishnikov has received an amazing number of awards, which he told me about at my request. He is a Merited Artist of Russia, a board member of the USSR Artists Union, laureate of many prestigious Soviet and foreign awards, and recipient of the Soviet Order of Badge of Honor and medals from the Soviet and French academies. He is also the youngest corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Arts. He doesn't take all of this



Rukavishnikov has taught his son karate.

too seriously. After he had enumerated all of these honors, Rukavishnikov noted that Leonardo da Vinci never received an award, but this did not prevent him from being a genius.

For Rukavishnikov, fame is not an end in itself. World renown brought him true freedom, and now he works as he pleases, choosing his subjects and refusing commissions that do not interest him. He categorizes all art as either conjunctural, less conjunctural, or incomprehensible for the viewer, classifying his own work in this last category.

Rukavishnikov combines painting and sculpture, using as many as ten different materials in one piece. He calls his style neorealism or transcendental realism. Soviet citizens do not purchase his works, but serious collectors from the West often ask him to sell his pieces. He complies reluctantly, selling only those works that can be re-created. One might say that the West feeds him, but his soul belongs to the East.

For a long time, Rukavishnikov has been interested in the East, believing that Eastern religion, philosophy, and martial arts, which he has practiced for more than twenty years, bear a direct relation to creativity. For example, a beginner in karate is given a rank only after he has mastered the rudiments, which he must later reject. Rukavishnikov believes that creativity must also reject all previously existing rules. A technical base is needed only to develop a new style.

Rukavishnikov says that Zen Buddhism has had an enormous influence on his work. Guided by the principles of Zen Buddhism, he begins a piece when he gets an idea—even if the idea is unclear—without visualizing the end result.

Rukavishnikov never forces himself to begin work until he feels he has accumulated enough creative potential. If a piece doesn't turn out, he doesn't consider it a tragedy, and he doesn't smash his sculptures the way most films about "true artists" picture this situation.

Zen has liberated Rukavishnikov from the tortures of creation. He works quickly and freely; creation brings him only joy. Zen helps him to avoid the habit that many other artists have of first complaining that they lack inspiration, and then waiting for this inspiration for years with a glass of vodka in their hands, not understanding why the Muse visits them less and less frequently.

Some say Rukavishnikov has led a charmed life since childhood. He is intelligent, rich, lucky, and happy in his family life. "Too good to be true," his detractors say. Truly, he is a good advertisement for the possibility of honest success in these troubled times.

Some artists create new trends, while others squeeze most of their productivity out of a single theme. Rukavishnikov does not limit himself in any way. He adopts and discards styles with ease, depending on the task he has set himself. As he says, he is guided by the "principle of a lack of principles." Some people claim that in this respect he resembles Bruce Lee, the legendary master of martial arts and a film star. This principle decrees that a person should not limit himself to any one style, which he may hide behind and which is easily predicted. He should always rely on intuition. In karate, when some sort of difficult situation arises, the body always shows a way out. Combat guides the person, not the other way around. It is the same with sculpture. The material, whether it is stone, bronze, or wood, guides the sculptor's hand, each in its own way.

When Rukavishnikov was learning karate, he was fortunate enough to be one of the first students of Alexei Shturmin, the father of karate in the Soviet Union. Rukavishnikov earned his black belt fairly quickly, and he still practices the sport, even though he is already forty.

Rukavishnikov also got his son interested in karate, and the boy already shows great promise. They have turned part of their garage into a family gym. Rukavishnikov believes that training not only helps maintain a person's physical condition, but also has a positive influence on the psyche. He realized a long time ago that his creative potential increased after each karate session.

In 1980 a Swede named Pol Hogland, a major figure in the karate world, came to Moscow. After watching an exhibition match between Rukavishnikov and his disciple Sergei Shapovalov, Hogland offered them a contract: "Your performances would earn millions within a few years." Rukavishnikov just smiled. He has always thought of karate more as an art than as a sport, believing that the athletic aspect weakens the technique and vitiates the beauty of the battle.

One might think that all of Rukavishnikov's interests are centered on "the wonders of the East," but he has never ignored the so-called social aspects of life. Nevertheless, he has managed to avoid turning into a timeserver.

He has had many offers to leave the Soviet Union and work abroad, but he does not plan to emigrate. ■

Post-Coup Culture

Idols Collapse, Monopoly Flops

By Gavriil Petrosyan

The defeat of the coup resulted in the official abolition of the term "Soviet culture"—at last! Now the phrase is a mere convention in the temporary absence of a better description.

In the grim August days, Nikolai Gubenko, USSR minister of culture, stepped down in protest against the junta. As soon as Mikhail Gorbachev returned from captivity safe and sound, he reinstated the loyal minister to his office. Gubenko's rating nevertheless remains as low as it ever was with our intellectuals—they will not forgive the signatories of the notorious extreme right appeal to the nation just before the coup.

Now Gubenko's ministry has only nominal power. Decision making is in the hands of the republics. This must be why his republican counterparts were so eager as they coaxed Gubenko to return to his post. They have nothing against him as a straw man, and they know that old friends are best. The intellectual and artistic worlds want to preserve the interrepublican links that took shape during Soviet time, so some of the cultural contacts remain intact.

The Moscow Book Fair would surely have tolled the death knell for VAAP and Mezhkniga.

Gubenko's ministry is now affiliated with a new body, the Council of Republican Ministers of Culture, for decision making and implementation. The old patterns of subordination are tumbling down in the ministries; red tape is being ripped out so as not to entangle them any longer, and obtuse bosses are on the way out.

Still, the picture is not so radiant as it may seem—suffice it to cite one example. The Eighth Moscow International Book Fair was to open on September 3, but it never did. On August 20, the second day of the coup, Mikhail Nenashev, then USSR Minister for Information and the Press, announced that the event would start on schedule despite everything. A week later, however, he said that the economic crisis and political instability necessitated postponing the fair for two years—this after the democratic triumph! Even according to modest preliminary estimations, the country stands to lose a huge amount of money, not to mention the respect of book traders throughout the world.

The writer depends on the reader, not the other way around—the spectacular achievement of a free market.

The success of private businesses would have made the necessity for the Ministry of Information and the Press even more dubious than it was.

What really lies behind the thwarted book fair is the huge debt for earlier book imports, which the country cannot pay, say many experts. The bosses, however, had another reason, even more important in their eyes. The international event would surely have tolled the death knell for the leviathan All-Union Copyright Agency (VAAP) and Mezhkniga. The joint-stock and private publishing houses that are proliferating in the country would have been selling their books without the mediation of these two agencies, which have had an iron-clad monopoly on the book trade. The success of private businesses would have made the necessity for the Ministry of Information and the Press even more dubious than it was, so the fair should not take place, said the fat cats as they gave themselves a renewed two-year lease on life. Vain hopes! The way things look, central state-owned offices are doomed in the book publishing industry. The failure of the coup disarmed retrogrades in their fight against tough, independent business.

The old patterns of subordination are tumbling down in the ministries.

Problems had been accumulating for a long time in the literary milieu. The democratic victory brought the tension to a climax. As the coup leaders got applause from many writers, among them some leaders of the Russian and USSR writers unions, their left and liberal colleagues said,

Continued on page 59

Cities Join Hands

By Boris Ivanov

The sister city movement celebrated its thirty-fifth anniversary last September.

Not many Soviet people know the name of the founding father of the sister city movement because our history books portrayed him as a diehard hawk and so downplayed his role. That man was U.S. President Dwight David Eisenhower. He was nevertheless enormously popular as a World War II strategist and a man of peace. Ike, as he is called to this day, knew that people's diplomacy could easily overcome the barriers that thwarted official diplomacy. He saw the sister city movement as the shortest way from cold war to peace and accord.

Richard Neuheusel, chairman of the board of trustees of Sister Cities International, says: "History proved him right. Millions in my country and the world grew to believe in Ike's dream. His idea of people-to-people diplomacy aroused the public in many countries. Now, over 900 American settlements have 1,400 sworn sisters in 97 countries. Contacts with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are the most attractive today. As in Eisenhower's time, we want democracy to thrive as the basis of human life irrespective of citizenship.

"The sister city program is bearing magnificent fruit. America is working on a large-scale municipal technology exchange to train city fathers for Poland, Hungary, and other countries. The project is spreading throughout the Soviet Union. In the final analysis, innovative programs of this sort improve the quality of life. The sister city movement is extending its activities to major joint economic projects and ventures, and environmental protection endeavors."

Only five or so years ago, the Soviet Union and the United States each had a mere two dozen sister cities, and these maintained only formal contacts, Neuheusel said with considerable feeling. The mid-1980s gave a great impetus to the movement. Today the number of sister cities is snowballing. It approximates fifty from each side, and many more are planning to join the effort. Dikson, Siberia, and Dixon, Illinois, are setting a fine example. "We are accustomed," said Neuheusel, "to seeing sistership only between big cities, such as Tashkent and Seattle, or Kiev and Chicago. The two Dixons, each of which has fewer than 20,000 people, broke this pattern. Their venture was very promising because most Soviets and Americans live in small towns. We never thought about it until the Dixons opened our eyes with their new chapter in the sister city movement. I'm sure people's diplomacy allows every one of us to lay his or her stone in the foundation of what every man and woman in the world desperately needs." ■

Nazarbayev

Continued from page 19

One of Nazarbayev's indisputable achievements is the reform of economic management bodies. "Our country's economic structure, with its division into branches, took on ugly forms long ago," Nazarbayev recalls. "When the republics presented their economic plans for the coming year to the USSR State Planning Committee, days of 'national cuisine' were organized just to please top officials and to lubricate business. The republics that managed to please the officials most received a larger chunk from the center."

Kazakhstan's former ministries have been replaced with the Committee for State Property, the Central Tax Authority, the Committee for Antitrust Policy and Support for Small Businesses, and the Committee for Foreign Economic Affairs. Radicals in the republic are prodding the president to dismantle the system even faster. Nazarbayev is in no hurry, however. Until new structures become firmly established, he prefers to use the existing means of leverage, which are fully under his control. On a more general level, Nazarbayev is not inclined to part with authoritarianism. It's not because he is hostile to democratic ideals; his motives are pragmatic. He has studied the experiences of other countries and concluded that serious economic reform has never occurred without a strong central authority.

Kazakhstan is the stable leader in working out its own economic legislation. It was the union's first republic to enact a package of legislative documents that enable the republic to establish wide-ranging economic links with the world.

The republic also enacted a law on property. That the question of property is the key question, none can deny. It is also the most difficult. "We are giving up that ugly form of property that was called, misleadingly, 'the property of the entire people' but in effect never belonged to the people." Nazarbayev made this statement in a televised address to the nation. With its property law Kazakhstan proclaimed the right of private ownership of the means of production and money (hard currency included). Private banks may be established. The total denationalization of property lies ahead. To avoid setting a cornerstone that may turn into a stumbling block, Nazarbayev asked the supreme economic council to consider four different proposals for privatization and to select the most effective provisions from among them.

One of Nazarbayev's continuing concerns is adherence to the principle of social justice so that people will not panic as privatization gets under way. Another concern is social and political stability in the region. It would be naive to hope that the reforms will succeed without stability. Until now Nazarbayev has managed to prevent any outbreaks of ethnic or political violence. His personal peacemaking mission cannot be overestimated. People trust him.

Nazarbayev has managed to create a tranquil atmosphere, which is not characteristic of other republics. As a result, foreign investors are readily moving into Kazakhstan. The number of joint ventures is growing, lucrative contracts are being signed one after another, and long-term plans are being developed. ■

Culture

Continued from page 57

Enough is enough, and dethroned the kings of both unions to elect Yevgeni Yevtushenko, Yuri Chernichenko, Ales Adamovich, and Yuri Karyakin. All have the deserved love of our liberal public.

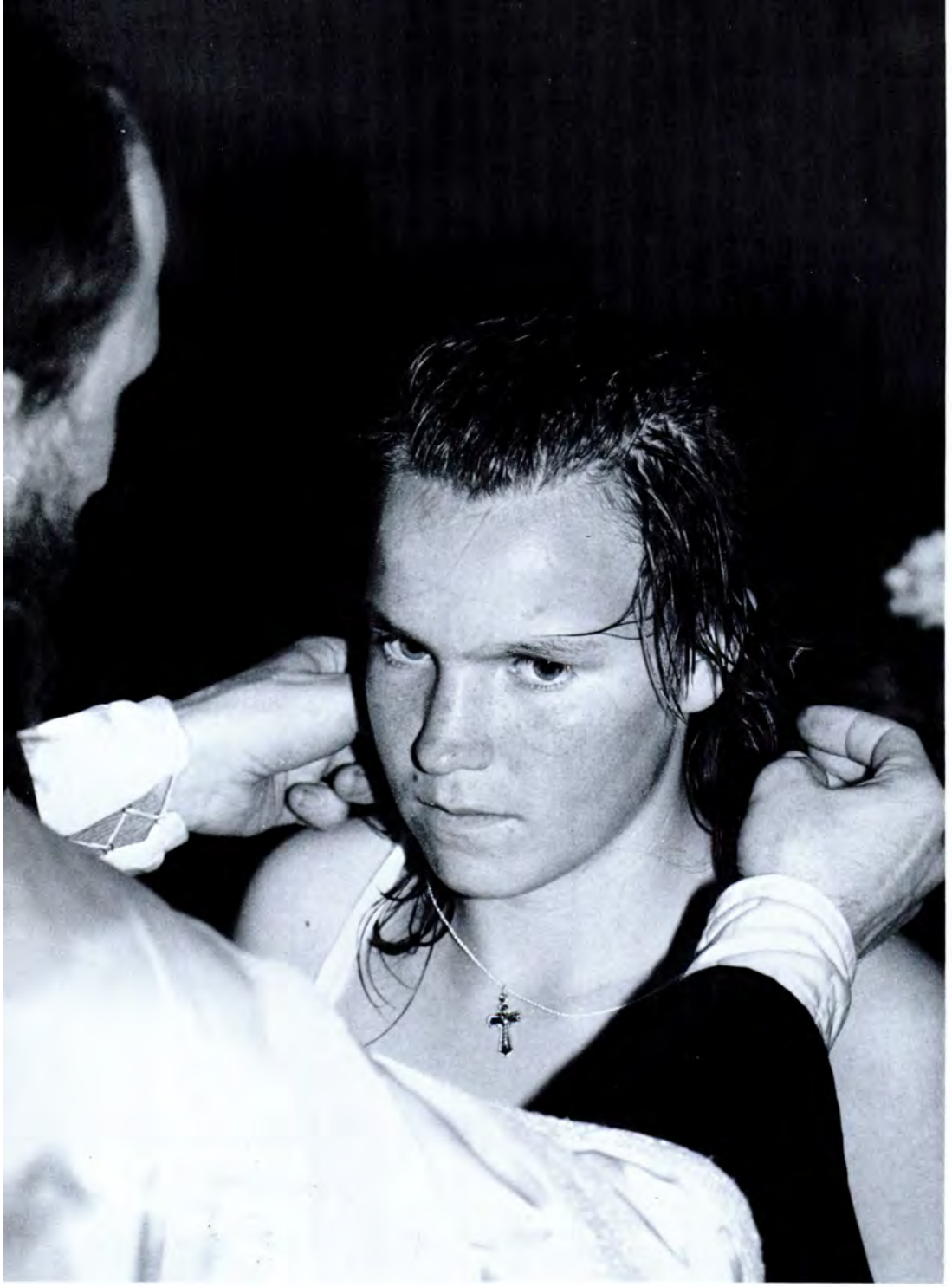
As always, money is the vehicle of the political conflict in the literary world. The coup was a ray of hope for the privileged nonentities who anticipated a return to the old ideology-dominated book publishing policy, which had no use for public opinion. No matter if books didn't sell. What counted was obedience to the line of the ruling party. Now the literary tycoons will hardly find a publisher, to say nothing of readers.

Of the 10,000 members of the Writers Union, only about a hundred are sure to thrive in a free market. Some will find jobs within the media. The drab majority—of all political inclinations—will have to give up writing if they want to survive. These bleak expectations threw them into the junta's embrace. The dethroned thought they could be kings again. The failure brought the writers civil war to a head, with guilds dividing, the huge literary foundation split in a ferocious fight, and the formerly high-placed literary ladies and gentlemen stooping to anything to retain their privileges.

We are coming to see—better late than never—that culture is stronger than any rule and develops according to its own patterns, not according to directives from the corridors of power.

Characteristically, the educated public remained indifferent to these squabbles after seeing the literary majority on the other side of the barricades. Things are taking their natural course, when the writer depends on the reader, not the other way around—the spectacular achievement of a free market.

The defeat of the coup threw open the door to the independent arts. Private publishers and galleries are welcome. We are coming to see—better late than never—that culture is stronger than any rule and develops according to its own patterns, not according to directives from the corridors of power. Nothing gives it a stronger impulse than freedom, and commerce only strengthens it. ■



They are fourteen to eighteen years old, their souls and minds crippled by violent crimes, their arms decorated with vulgar tattoos, their vocabulary larded with prison jargon. Until recently our society claimed these people were nonexistent; they were a blot on the statistical picture of tranquil and happy Soviet society. They were kept behind barbed wire, like outcasts. Today penitentiaries are transforming themselves into correctional institutions.

The Soviet correctional system is under intensive review. We seem finally to have realized that the isolation of juvenile offenders from their par-

Father Andrei Pravdolyubov of the Church of Boris and Gleb places a cross around the neck of a newly baptized young woman at the Ryazan penitentiary.

Baptizing the Inmates

By Yuri Savchenko and Yelena Titova
Photographs by Oleg Lastochkin

ents and society is a severe punishment in itself. When in addition these young people must endure stringent internal rules, hard labor, and intensive political indoctrination, it is easy to understand why the current penitentiary system may only crank out hardened and vicious criminals, prone to bouts of violence and escapes.

The administration of one penitentiary for juvenile delinquents decided to conduct a radical experiment: pulling down the prison fence. Amazingly, there have been no escapes since the fence disappeared. The inmates realized that people had faith in them, that they were not regarded as hopeless.

A women's penitentiary in Ryazan chose another way to make the lives of their inmates more interesting. They took girls on excursions, held beauty contests and sports competitions, and invited people to meet them. Some of the young women were baptized in prison.

On a warm, breezy day in July, the senior priest of the Church of Boris and Gleb, Archpriest Andrei Pravdolyubov, baptized twenty-one juvenile offenders at their personal request and with the consent of their parents. Seventeen young women were baptized in the prison's cultural center, and four others were baptized in a picturesque lake, as a reward for their exemplary behavior.

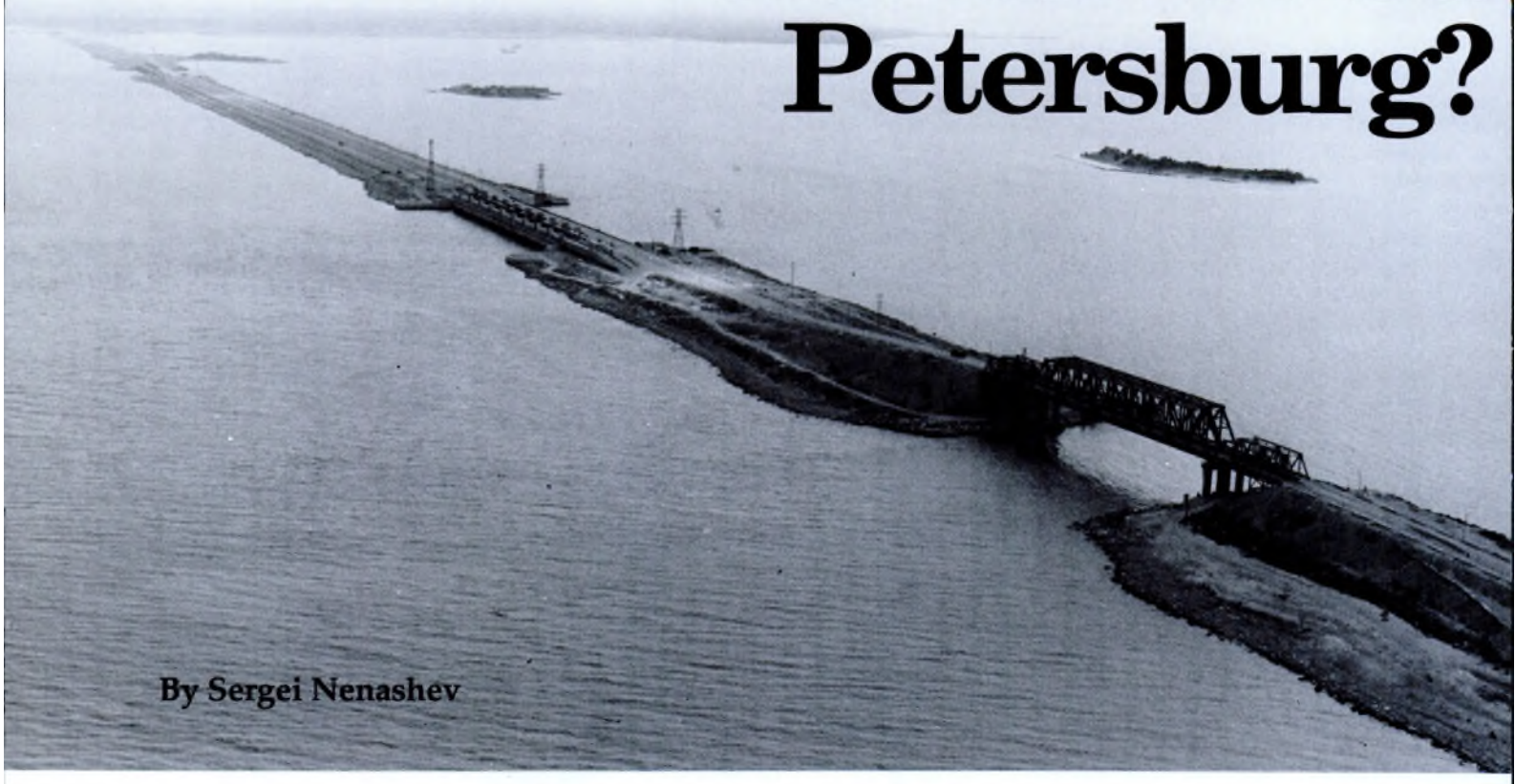
The sacrament of baptism cleanses the human soul, washing away sin. Is that why those young women, convicted of murder, larceny, robbery, and other violent crimes, realized their guilt and decided to relieve their souls of that burden?

Before the baptism, Father Andrei talked to each young woman, trying to ascertain whether she really wanted to receive the sacrament or whether she was simply doing it because the others were.

Holding lit candles in their hands and timidly listening to the sermon, they all seemed to have different reactions to the sacrament. Some were deep in thought, trying to review their blighted lives; others were observing the procedure with ill-concealed curiosity—a bright moment in the drab life of the penitentiary. The main thing is that they made this choice of their own volition. ■

Four of the twenty-one were baptized in the lake, the others in a baptismal font in the cultural center. Below: Father Andrei talks with the women in their dormitory.

A Dam for St. Petersburg?



By Sergei Nenashev

A dam is being built on the Neva River to protect St. Petersburg (Leningrad until recently, when its original name was restored) from frequent flooding. Critics regard the dam as an economic mistake and even a crime "against the sea and against humankind." Last year the Leningrad City Council put the ambitious project on hold.

Yuri Sevenard is in charge of the project, and he thinks it will be completed eventually. "It's one thing when the burden of responsibility is shared among more than 200 elected representatives who voted against the project; it's quite another when one man, Mayor Anatoli Sobchak, is responsible," Sevenard argues. "If we had a flood similar to that of 1924, the damage would cost the city almost the equivalent of its entire annual budget. We certainly can't count on the central government to cover the costs. And it's more and more likely that we'll have a repeat of the 1924 disaster because the sea level has risen thirteen centimeters. It may continue to rise during the next thirty years on account of the greenhouse effect. This would be a disaster for the city."

Will the project go ahead despite pollution of the Neva inlet and the eastern section of the Gulf of Finland?

Sevenard attributes the pollution to industrial effluents, sewage, and agricultural chemicals that are washed down by rain and melted snow into Lake Ladoga, the Neva, and the Gulf of Finland. As early as 1978—two years before the dam project got under way—a commission of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology found the condition of the Neva inlet unsatisfactory. Even now, thirteen years later, none of the commission's recommendations has been acted upon.

"We shouldn't be worrying about opposing the dam; we need to get going on construction of new treatment plants and to make sure that existing sewage treatment facilities work more efficiently," says Sevenard.

The activists opposing the dam contend that the water in the Gulf of Finland gets moldy in summer, and algae are proliferating. The activists who favor the dam argue that the project is a very complex hydroengineering structure comprising eleven dams, two drawbridges, and six water gates; it can hardly have an adverse effect on water circulation. Furthermore, cyclical increases in algae have been recorded before, too, depending on air temperature and sources of pollution.

"The dam has now become a trump card in a political game," Sevenard says. "Recently a group of Soviet scientists appealed to people in all countries to organize an international trial of the project. And this has occurred at a time when the international commission of experts requested by the Soviet Union and formed by foreign research centers has confirmed that the dam is *not* the cause of pollution in the Neva inlet and the Gulf of Finland. I think that such a trial—a disgrace for the Soviet Union if it should take place, for we can, and must, deal with the issue on our own—would quickly demolish the arguments of the antidam campaigners." ■

Tapestries

By Yelena Barteneva
Photographs by
Anatoli Lykov

We are in a one-room apartment on the outskirts of Moscow. The place is a strange combination of comfort and confusion. It is occupied by a huge loom, antique furniture, a large chest, and many beautiful tapestries made by the apartment's inhabitants, artists Galina Roshchina and Andrei Savchenko.

Roshchina was born in Leningrad, now renamed St. Petersburg, the name given to the city by Peter I in the early eighteenth century. Roshchina finished art school there (easel painting) and for some time worked as an animation artist in a film studio. After that she moved to Moscow, where she worked as an interior decorator. She recalls with pleasure how she succeeded in making the dull rooms of a research ☞

Tapestries *Red Cathedral* (above) and *Apparition of Our Lady* (right).

institute look bright and pleasant. She created her first tapestries for that institute. Later, when she had the good fortune to attend an exhibition of Baltic tapestries in Munich, she realized that their style was closer to her heart than any other art form.

To study the technique of tapestry making, Roshchina went to work at an applied arts factory as a weaver's apprentice. There she met her future husband, Andrei Savchenko.

Savchenko had always loved to draw. Although he was pretty good at it, he still didn't dare apply to an art college because there were too many applicants. Instead, Savchenko started to work at an applied arts factory, where he tried out his talents in many genres, including tapestry making.

Soon after they got married, Andrei and Galina left the factory. The two artists wanted to make their own tapestries, and they didn't have enough time while they worked at the factory.

Thus began a difficult period in their life. They did not have enough money to buy yarn and dyes. The only thing Galina could do was to draw sketches for tapestries she planned to do in the future. But her efforts were not in vain. Later, when they did have money, her dreams came true.

Savchenko ensured the material aspect of their plans. He worked as a loader, as a janitor, and as a watchman, like many intellectuals who had broken with the official system and preferred to live in their own world. His world was religious philosophy. Roshchina's quests in art and Savchenko's philosophical strivings became the two inspirations for their common artistic credo.

Time passed. Life improved. They started to receive orders from people who remembered their work at the applied arts factory and from people with new views and more refined tastes. As soon as they had some money, the problem of raw materials disappeared. The loom remained in their apartment. They never parted with it. It was a present from Andrei's mother, who was a fabric designer.

Their current style is the result of a long developmental process. At first their creations were in the Baltic traditions. Later they improvised, using different components: Lurex, leather, coins, wooden beads, wool, linen, pieces of fabric, and even ceramics.

Now their work is based in many respects on Christian principles. Roshchina and Savchenko believe that even the process of weaving itself is associated with what's going on in your soul. "Our tapestries," said Savchenko, "are the reflection of what we've lived through; they embody the need to realize our emotions in material form and to convey our thoughts."

Much in their style results from their love for ancient Russian art. Their *Blue Domes, Red Cathedral, St. George Slaying the Dragon*, and many others have been done in that tradition. These tapestries attract by their content. It is hard to believe that they are the product of weaving, not easel painting.

One of Savchenko's latest works produces the same effect. It is done on the basis of a sketch by a Chinese artist. It seems impossible to convey in a tapestry what was created with pen and ink, yet it is brilliantly done.

Roshchina and Savchenko live almost like hermits. They do not work at any enterprise, are not members of any artistic union or association, and rarely take part in exhibits, although they receive many invitations to do so. They say that exhibitions create too many problems and distract them from their work. They are nonetheless well known in the world of art and are among the most highly regarded tapestry makers in Moscow. Roshchina and Savchenko have plans to visit the United States, where they have been invited to exhibit their tapestries in San Francisco. ■

Bonfire. **Facing page: Andrei and Galina.** ***Blue Domes*** **(far left).**

NEXT ISSUE

THE KAMAZ TURNAROUND

KamAZ (Kama Automotive Plant) trucks have long been known in the USSR, but only recently have people in other countries learned about them. Last summer, KamAZ cars came in first in the difficult Paris-Dakar International Rally. But behind the scenes, the huge automotive plant has many problems, which have prompted it to become a joint-stock company. Read about what this means in our next issue.

THE POET'S LONG-LOST DAUGHTER

The great Soviet poet Vladimir Mayakovsky has a daughter. Her name is Patricia Thompson, and she lives in the United States. For many years, Thompson told noone about her father, but recently she decided to explore her roots and to apply for dual citizenship. Her story will appear in the November issue.

COMING SOON

Festival of Russian America

Tapestry *St. George Slaying the Dragon.* Photograph by Anatoli Lykov.
Story begins on page 63.

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11

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YAVLINSKY-STYLE ECONOMICS

Grigori Yavlinsky is a leading Soviet economist and one of the authors of the famous 500-Day Program. When the plan was rejected by President Mikhail Gorbachev, Yavlinsky resigned as Russian vice prime minister.

Yavlinsky is also known in the United States. With American economists and business people, he developed a Soviet-American program to save the Soviet economy. But this new program was rejected too.

Only after the failure of the August coup was Yavlinsky's opinion heeded. He took two important posts—as vice chairman of the Committee for the Management of the National Economy and as a member of the Political Advisory Council to the Soviet president.

On October 18 in the Kremlin, the leaders of eight sovereign republics signed a treaty on economic cooperation. It had been elaborated by a group under Grigori Yavlinsky.

"The treaty," says Yavlinsky, "starts from a recognition of the republics' independence and the plight of their economies. It is based on enterprise, the expansion of the private sector, and free cross-border movement of goods and services."

This treaty is only the first step toward a new economy for a new state. Further corrections, as well as costs, are inevitable. The next few months are going to be very hard for people. But, says Yavlinsky, without radical reforms the country will perish. ■

EDITOR'S NOTES

A public opinion poll published in the newspaper *Izvestia* shows that 45 percent of the respondents would like to see a return to the conditions that existed in the USSR before Mikhail Gorbachev's accession to power.

Our readers, who have sent many letters to our editorial office congratulating the Soviet people on the failure of the August putsch, might not even believe the poll's conclusions. Could so many people really abandon the ideal of freedom for the sake of a little bread?

Unfortunately, they could. Don't forget that Russia is not America. The harshness of our life and the mismanagement at various administrative levels cannot even be imagined by most Americans. Furthermore, for a large majority of my compatriots, the idea of individual freedom simply does not have the sacred position it holds in the minds of Americans.

This is true not only of narrow-minded Philistines in my country. An acquaintance of mine, a physicist who has always held progressive ideas, recently said to me, "My day-to-day life today is much, much more complicated than it was before perestroika. Do you want to talk about freedom? I read Solzhenitsyn's works long before they were published in our country. And no one ever interfered with my work. But now, there's absolutely no way to get physics journals from the United States, for instance. Our institute can't afford to subscribe to them anymore—there's no hard currency."

There's much to what my friend says, especially about the fact that the state lacks hard currency. I don't want to upset our readers, but I'm afraid that our magazine is going through a difficult time of transition. As you know, SOVIET LIFE is printed in the United States, and its operating expenses in dollars are very considerable. We are feverishly seeking U.S. partners who would risk investing start-up capital in our magazine. We would then be transformed into a joint venture. But for the moment, it's too soon to tell what the outcome will be.

Robert Tsfasman

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Front Cover: Actress Galina Yatskina now heads a firm called Kinokontact. *Photograph by Valeri Plotnikov.*

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THE COMING WINTER

FOUR VIEWS ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

The changes taking place in the USSR have elicited a wide range of reaction among ordinary people. Most people believe that hard times are coming, but opinion on what should be done is not so unanimous.

Rimma Sinaryova, nurse
Moscow

I'm not sure what to think—on the one hand, I don't think that we're ready for free prices; on the other hand, a free market cannot exist without price liberalization. Look at what's happening in Poland. All the TV reports show the stores overflowing with goods, and even though everything is very expensive, the Poles see this "shock therapy" as the only way out of this crisis. But that's Poland. Russia is a different country, and I am afraid that what we are going to see is "shock surgery," not just the therapy we need.

I have absolutely no idea how the people are going to react to free prices. Personally, I earn 300 rubles a month. You can't even buy a decent pair of shoes for that amount. Many people like me are caught in the pinch even without free prices.

I think that we can introduce free prices only when we have a certain minimum of goods.

In any case, free prices should be introduced simultaneously with a wage index. Wages should rise automatically in some proportion to escalating costs. Another thing—we need special stores for retired people, so that they could buy food staples and essential goods at affordable prices. In my line of work I see the elderly a great deal, and I see how badly off they are these days. Old people tell me that life was easier even in the first few years after the war. Is this really what our life has come to?

Boris Ozhered, metalworker
Cherepovets, Vologda Region

I still don't understand: Where did the Moscow newspapers get the idea that the democrats are in power? Are they really that poorly informed? Take our city of Cherepovets, for example. The totalitarian regime that ruled here still exists. If anything, it's gotten more powerful.

The main power, the economic power, is in the hands of the administrative-economic bosses. No independent labor unions can do anything to change that. On the contrary, the bosses are strengthening their own position at the expense of the people, by making political capital of the catastrophic deficits of food and consumer goods. Incidentally, after the August coup failed, our city bosses, paradoxical as it may seem, branded the people who'd defended democracy as extremists and neo-Bolsheviks. We had a real witch-hunt.

Maybe the revolution succeeded in Moscow or in St. Petersburg, but the only changes we've seen here are price hikes and a rise in crime. The people haven't protested yet, but anger is growing. I think this lull is very scary.

Galina Chernova, house painter
Shevchenko, Kazakhstan

The newspapers and TV stations bombard us day and night with horror stories of famine, cold, general chaos, and civil war. Wonderful things like that. The general message is simple enough: Save yourself while you can! But nobody knows how to do that, so people are beginning to buy up everything that could possibly be eaten or worn, even though the food will spoil and the new overcoat would probably look better on a garden scarecrow.

The new problems in our life have affected me just like everyone else. But why make the situation worse than it is? Sure, things are tough, but desperate measures won't help anything. We need to work intelligently and conscientiously. Our country still has its riches. The factory workers are demanding to be paid market wages to compensate for the new market prices. That's only fair, but in exchange they need to start showing some market productivity. If we spend all of our time demonstrating instead of working, nothing will stop us from going down the drain.

Nikolai Mikhailov, engineer
Moscow

I'm afraid there will be mass unemployment in Moscow soon. Specialists predict that by the end of this year, tens of thousands of Muscovites will lose their jobs. Many Soviet and Russian ministries are being abolished. What will happen to their employees? Not as many of them are bureaucrats with cozy sinecures as people like to believe.

Unemployment in Moscow is assuming a clearly "intellectual" character. I read in the papers recently that almost three-quarters of the Muscovites on the unemployment rolls at the municipal labor exchange have received a university education. But only 10 percent of the job vacancies are for specialists with degrees. Most of the vacancies are blue-collar jobs, which guarantee good wages and lots of benefits.

Unemployment benefits in Moscow are currently 270 rubles a month. The minimum living wage is closer to 500 rubles. You can do the arithmetic yourself. I personally am not threatened by unemployment—at the moment. The future is another story. If the research institute where I work doesn't switch over to self-financing, the government will cut its grants drastically. And then...well, I don't really want to think about it. ■

LAST TANGO IN MADRID?

The author, Stanislav Kondrashov, is one of the USSR's leading political analysts. Some readers may think that he has painted too somber a picture in this article. Nonetheless, his point of view deserves attention.

Mikhail Gorbachev's main task in Madrid was not to reconcile the Arabs with the Israelis, but to look as if he were the head of a superpower, equal to George Bush as cochairman of the peace conference. This was an unattainable task.

Even three months ago, when Gorbachev and Bush met in Moscow, claims of equality seemed artificial, to put it mildly. But at that time Gorbachev still had more real power than Boris Yeltsin. Now this has changed. On the day that the president of the USSR left for Madrid, public attention centered on the Russian president's address to the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia. In this address, Yeltsin completed the rout of the center and resolutely, if recklessly, opened wide the doors to a market economy and to an entirely different society.

On that day, Yeltsin tried on the crown of the Russian czars. The burden is as heavy as the one that bent Gorbachev's head. But it looks different, at least to the outside world. Even if the reform, which will fall heavily upon tens of millions of people, is seen through, and if Yeltsin can hold onto the crown, it will never be the crown of the leader of a superpower. There can be no doubt about that, because to build a superpower has never been the aim of democracies, as it was the aim of totalitarianism.

During the Soviet-American arms reduction talks of the early 1980s, Ronald Reagan commented, "It takes two to tango." For Gorbachev this must be the last tango. We are not rivals, as we were long ago, and we are not partners, as we were only recently. To be brutally blunt, the U.S. has become our patron, one of the few factors that unites all the fledglings that have hatched from the former empire. The leaders of the new states are seeking America's protection. This makes them compete with each other for the good graces of the United States and the West as a whole.

The disarmament problem has not yet been solved, but the multilateral global imperative of self-preservation in the face of nuclear death has been replaced by an imperative that concerns only us—namely, to live through the coming winter and the next year under conditions that will get worse before they get any better. Even now more than half of Russians live below the poverty line.

Before the Madrid meeting, Bush promised that we would not starve this winter. This promise was made after a group of American experts visited several regions of the former Soviet Union. As the inspectors found out, we have enough food, but it is not distributed properly because of the general chaos, stupidity, and anarchy in our country. Hence Washington's cautious, if not skeptical, attitude toward Moscow's requests for credits and help.

Friends are fine when they don't get in the way. We still don't understand that this is a cornerstone of Western democracies. Unfortunately, our reputation in this world is falling, along with our ability to pay. Naturally, the deputy ministers of finance of the Group of Seven who came to Moscow wanted to know more about our needs, but their main concern was whether they had lost their money.

Who will pay for the debt of the deceased union? Meeting with representatives of twelve new sovereign states at a large negotiating table, the emissaries of the big seven got general assurances. They could not possibly have gotten anything else. Time will show whether they have lost their money. Obviously, this answer will not please Western creditors. Germany, the largest and most sympathetic among them, is becoming more and more cautious and is about to express its dissatisfaction openly. The U.S. offer to defer Soviet payments on loans for six to twelve months met resistance from Germany because the Germans are losing several times more from it than the Americans.

Uncertainty exists on the still more important question of nuclear armaments. Gorbachev assures Bush that the treaty on strategic nuclear arms reductions signed three months ago will be ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet. But what would be the real value of ratification by the USSR Supreme Soviet? Now the implementation of the treaty depends on the republics and, above all, on the Russian Federation.

The question of control over nuclear weapons has become more complicated too: Ukraine has not yet decided whether it should transfer part of the nuclear arsenal from its territory to Russia. The republic, together with Kazakhstan, also claims the right to veto the use of nuclear weapons. The desire of Ukraine and of some other republics to create their own national guards threatens to complicate matters even more.

From now on, the other Moscow leader, Boris Yeltsin, will be more noticeable in the international arena. Arrangements are being made for Yeltsin to visit Bonn and Paris. The Russian president has already received an invitation to visit Rome. Russia is establishing direct contacts with other states, although it is not yet going to open its own embassies.

We should harbor no illusions. The new structure is definitely new, and the sophisticated world capitals will treat Russia as a debutante, a novice, although a very tall one. ■

Courtesy of the newspaper *Izvestia*

FALLEN IDOLS

Text and Photographs by
Yuri Zaritovsky

The sky over Moscow is cloudy. It is drizzling. Large monuments to former Soviet leaders lie on the grass near the Central House of Artists on Krymsky Val. The site looks like a set from a play in the theater of the absurd. A large bronze Yakov Sverdlov looks proudly down from his pedestal. Lying face down at his feet is a statue of KGB founder "Iron Felix" Dzerzhinsky. Early Communist party figure Mikhail Kalinin sits next to him in an armchair. A small monument to Joseph Stalin lies on its side at a distance, its nose broken.

A powerful Japanese crane and a Soviet trailer drive up. Three or four onlookers watch as the monuments are loaded onto the trailer, one by one. The symbols of the old regime are then trundled down a path near the Central House of Artists. They are unloaded at a spot from which one can clearly see a luxurious hotel, meant for the members of the Central Committee of the USSR Communist Party, and a residential building for the party officials.

Monuments to leaders of the totalitarian regime, pulled down in Moscow immediately after the failure of the August coup, seem to have found refuge in Sculpture Park.

Architect Yuri Sheverdyayev is one of the originators of the Sculpture Park project. He explained that the exhibition's organizers wanted to find a permanent location for the dismantled monuments, and to do it as tactfully as possible.

It is hard to say how many similar relics from the past will be delivered to the park from Moscow and other cities, but one thing is clear: the most important monuments to statesmen who betrayed the confidence of millions of Soviet people will not be melted down. They will be preserved as historical relics. ■

From top to bottom: Once revered as "our good grandfather," Mikhail Kalinin (left) is now denounced, like many other former leaders. Joseph Stalin's likeness, like his memory, has taken a fall. The monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky (right), pulled down from its pedestal near the KGB headquarters by enraged Muscovites, will find its last resting place in Sculpture Park.

KAMAZ
A Friendly Takeover

The heavy-duty, three-axle trucks manufactured at the KamAZ auto plant are a common sight around the USSR. But the rest of the world seemed to be completely unaware of the existence of these vehicles until the summer of 1991, when KamAZ trucks driven by Soviet racers triumphed in the Paris-Dakar rally. Prestigious contests such as this one make a name for racers and test the product quality of the manufacturers. The winning manufacturer gets a lot of good press out of the event. So the victory of several KamAZ trucks produced a sensation both at the rally and throughout the automotive industry worldwide.

By Vladimir Zhigulsky
Photographs by Vladimir Akimov

Nikolai Bekh, general manager of the KamAZ joint-stock company.

KamAZ trucks were displayed at an international automotive exhibition in Hungary.

The foundry, part of the giant KamAZ complex on the Kama River in Central Russia. Left: Sculpture entitled *Tree of Life*.

The KamAZ story begins in 1969, when the Soviet leadership decided to build a heavy-duty truck plant at Naberezhniye Chelny on the Kama River, the largest tributary of the Volga. (KamAZ stands for Kamsky Avtomobilny Zavod, or Kama Automotive Plant.) This was a time of triumph for the command regime. Each new economic project was examined in the context of the prevailing ideology. The first workshops at KamAZ began production in 1976. In its message of greeting the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR compared the auto giant with the Magnitogorsk Steel Plant, the first hydroelectric power station on the Dnieper River, and other key projects of the industrialization program implemented in the 1930s. By the mid-1970s, however, the old economic policies had run out of steam, and Western powers had begun to restructure their economies radically.

Child of Détente

The thaw in East-West relations did not last long, but it undoubtedly influenced the breakdown of the Iron Curtain. The experience of KamAZ, in a way, documents this process. American, West German, French, and Italian firms supplied hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment to the plant. Possibilities for people-to-people contacts also expanded. More than 1,000 foreign experts worked in Naberezhniye Chelny during the construction of the plant. The common cause united people holding different views and eroded stereotypes.

The building of this up-to-date auto plant, accompanied by large-scale cooperation with foreign companies, could be seen as a rehearsal for the USSR's transition to market-based relations and its integration into the world economy.

The rehearsal seemed to succeed. But the Afghan war and other events led to a marked deterioration in the international climate. In response to Western restrictions on trade with the USSR, the Soviet government resumed its policy of isolationism.

Self-reliance, the policy the country adopted during this period, had a negative effect on KamAZ. By the early 1980s, after the first five years of operation, the plant's equipment required major repairs. The foreign companies ☞

that had supplied the technology stopped providing services. KamAZ hastily started producing its own equivalents of foreign instruments and equipment and turning out shoddy assembly line units. Local engineers concentrated on copying foreign inventions.

Everything looked all right. The plant was turning out more and more trucks and engines, pushing their annual output to 125,000 and 210,000 units. KamAZ was considered one of the leaders in this field. Although it failed to reach design capacity, it was obviously surpassing older, similar enterprises in many technological and economic indicators. In order to keep up with the world automotive industry, the plant's engineering and technological services were designing second- and even third-generation trucks. All their prospective plans had to be shelved, however, through no fault of the plant's management. There was simply an acute shortage of the equipment that was needed to manufacture more advanced truck models. The state pocketed all the profits without returning even depreciation payments to KamAZ. The government was in no hurry to modernize the plant's equipment.

Extolling the virtues of "real socialism," propagandists would often wax lyrical about the plant and the city, which had risen from nothing and now had a population of 500,000.

The command administrative regime, which had conceived KamAZ, became a cruel stepmother. Deprived of its profits, the plant had to take bank loans. By the late 1980s, KamAZ, a model enterprise of "developed socialism," was seriously in debt. Although the money had been loaned on preferential terms, 500 million rubles still had to be repaid.

The social problems at the plant, with its staff of 170,000, intensified. For example, 46,000 people were on the waiting list for housing. In order to resolve the problem by the year 2000, as much as three million square meters of living space would need to be built every year. The ministry in charge of the plant, however, allocated only enough money to cover the construction of 90,000 square meters a year. ☞

Plant personnel, top to bottom: Stanislav Ipatov (second from right), head of the engine-manufacturing section, negotiating with German specialists. Semyon Yakubov (right), head of the Paris-Dakar rally team, discusses a truck model with chief designer Ramil Azamatov. Designers at work.

Ralina Peregudova, an engineer in the shop that makes Oka compact cars.

By the late 1980s, it had become clear that KamAZ had to spend more than eight billion rubles over the next ten years to complete its modernization, to launch the full-scale manufacture of new trucks, and to take care of the social needs of its workers. But it could earn no more than five billion rubles. Were there any solutions to these problems?

Privatization on Trial

The word "privatization" began to be heard more and more often in the workshops and offices at KamAZ. In the summer of 1989 the plant's workers approved the draft law on leaseholding and empowered the management to negotiate its implementation with the government. Meanwhile, the new form of management was tried out at the plant. Major workshops and departments experimented with leaseholding arrangements. The automotive shop was transformed into a cooperative. Prospects for economic independence seemed excellent and imminent.

Talks with the ministry on the rent and other mandatory payments to the state budget, however, showed that the rigorous lease terms imposed from above would not enable KamAZ to improve its situation. The staff members proposed that the state-owned production association be transformed into a joint-stock company.

"We had no alternative," said Nikolai Bekh, general manager of the joint-stock company. "Joint-stock companies had already been established in other Soviet industrial centers. But we weren't wrong to do it. More than 1,200 plants and organizations, including numerous related enterprises, purchased shares in our first stock issue. Now they all have a direct interest in maintaining stable working conditions at KamAZ.

"We have even managed to increase production slightly in the current, extremely complex economic situation," he went on. "The greater part of the extra profit has been channeled toward employee benefits. Housing construction has doubled. We now offer paid maternity leave until a woman's child is three years old. After the April retail price reform, we raised salaries to a level that is double the compensation offered elsewhere in the country. We've allocated subsidies for meals at the plant-run cafeterias and child-care centers. In a word, the joint-stock company hasn't forgotten about its staff during the transition to a market economy."

The advantages of privatization at KamAZ are perceptible to all. But a mere twelve months ago Bekh and his team were severely criticized. They were accused, for example, of attempting to make KamAZ a monopoly and to increase its efficiency by making it a sweatshop. But grassroots support was very strong. A vast network of cooperators and leaseholders had been assembled at the plant by that time. The general manager and his team relied on their assistance.

The Charisma Factor

Bekh is certainly a remarkable man. A leading business executive, he is also vice president of the National Research and Industrial Council, and a member of the board of directors of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC).

Bekh started at KamAZ in 1981. The thirty-six-year-old engineer was then appointed manager of the plant's foundries. Foundry workers still recall their first meeting with the new chief. KamAZ had been adversely affected by the Western boycott following the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan. Foreign equipment composed the greater part of the plant's machinery, and spare parts were running out. Everyone expected that the new chief would use his first meeting to focus on technological problems. Quite unexpectedly, however, he spoke of the need to improve working conditions and to build comfortable lounges and up-to-date rehabilitation centers.

The gifted and energetic business executive remained loyal to these principles—giving personnel problems top priority—and was finally promoted to general manager of KamAZ.

"I trust Nikolai Bekh," says Yuri Goryachev, a production crew leader in the engine workshop. "I've seen from my own experience that empty promises aren't his style. The entire nation is in the midst of a deep crisis, but so far we've been able to keep turning out trucks as usual. His decision to make this a joint-stock company was certainly the right choice. I also admire his ability to boost people's confidence. He never abuses the great power invested in him. At production meetings he listens attentively to opposing views, cools other people's flaring tempers, and usually manages to find a compromise."

Just as it was much talked about during the years of its construction, KamAZ is again enjoying a moment in the limelight. It is, certainly, not that easy to erect a giant auto plant with an ownership capital of 4.7 billion rubles. But it is also quite difficult to bring its estimated cost to twelve billion now that the country is struggling to establish a market economy and the future of many enterprises is in doubt.

At last summer's session of the Naberezhniye Chelny City Soviet, deputies decided to cancel the Soviet government's decision to transform the state-owned KamAZ production association into a joint-stock company on the grounds that the draft document had not been coordinated with the local authorities.

A top-of-the-line auto repair truck. Bottom: On the compact car assembly line.

"Look," said Leonid Komm, director of economic affairs at KamAZ, as he was attempting to persuade the agitated deputies: "KamAZ has hundreds of subsidiaries—in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Bashkiria, for instance. How could we ever collect documents from all these local councils?"

Then parliamentary debates on KamAZ broke out in Tatarstan, which declared its sovereignty. (Naberezhniye Chelny is located in Tatarstan.) But everything was settled in the end. The deputy mayor of Naberezhniye Chelny became a member of the joint-stock company's board; the government of Tatarstan received 12 percent of the shares.

Workers Take Stock

Until the end of the year each staff member at KamAZ will be able to buy shares. The longer the worker's record at the plant, the greater the discount. Shares may also be purchased on installments over a three-year period. For this purpose the management allocated 250 million rubles from its profits this year.

The privatization of basic assets entails major changes in the way wages are allocated. The government has set wage ceilings on all Soviet enterprises in order to avoid galloping inflation. So what incentive would motivate the workers to increase their productivity? The KamAZ management decided to pay the workers in company shares for whatever they produced that would raise their wages past the official ceiling.

Testing their mettle. Facing page: At the Hungarian international exhibition in 1989 (top). In the Paris-Dakar rally in 1991 (bottom).

HUNGAROCAMION TRUCK TROPHY '89
81
KAMAZ
BUDAMOBIL
SHELL MYRINA TX
Shell KAMAZ Shell
PIONEER
8404 TTA

Semyon Yakubov (center) and members of the winning team in the Paris-Dakar rally.

"We wouldn't have experienced the changes to such a great degree if it hadn't been for the shares," noted Galina Panicheva, head of the leaseholding team and a member of the board of the joint-stock company. "It's great that workers are finally becoming owners. Leaseholding and small-scale enterprises should certainly take inspiration from the KamAZ experience."

Panicheva makes particular note of the democratic spirit that prevails at meetings of the joint-stock company board. Managers invariably solicit her opinion, no matter what the question under discussion.

"Democratization has influenced the entire management system," said Victor Korolyov, head of the executive body of the joint-stock company. "On the whole, the system has justified itself. But some issues can't be resolved by a mere vote. We have seen, for instance, that wages can't be regulated on a voluntary basis."

Meanwhile, KamAZ is perfecting methods for taking care of pensioners, disabled workers, and large families. It has instituted a charitable agency to give assistance to the needy. The small-business format makes it much less complicated to work out programs to employ disabled persons at home and to develop folk crafts. In the final analysis, KamAZ workers link their higher living standards and social protection with growth of production and improvement in quality.

Ready for Cooperation

The plant's future growth depends heavily on its success in penetrating foreign markets. KamAZ heavy-duty trucks were designed for the roads in the USSR, which do not, to put it mildly, meet world standards. The three-axle vehicles, with each axle carrying a load of up to six tons, seem anachronistic on American and West European superhighways.

KamAZ has actually made its way into the group of leading automotive producers, however. The new series of trucks that began production in 1988 and the victories of KamAZ racers in international rallies played a major part. KamAZ racers triumphed in this year's Paris-Dakar rally, the most prestigious competition of its kind in the world. These successes have demonstrated how reliable the KamAZ truck actually is. Saudi Arabia purchased a large order of KamAZ trucks, and a profitable deal was concluded with Senegal. KamAZ trucks are being tested in Egypt and Ghana and are to be assembled in Botswana. They can be seen more and more frequently in Latin America.

The KamAZ joint-stock company, a manufacturer of the most reliable and lowest-cost heavy-duty trucks, is ready to cooperate with trading firms and automotive corporations all over the world. ■

The fax number of KamAZ's Moscow representative is (7-095) 271-31-34

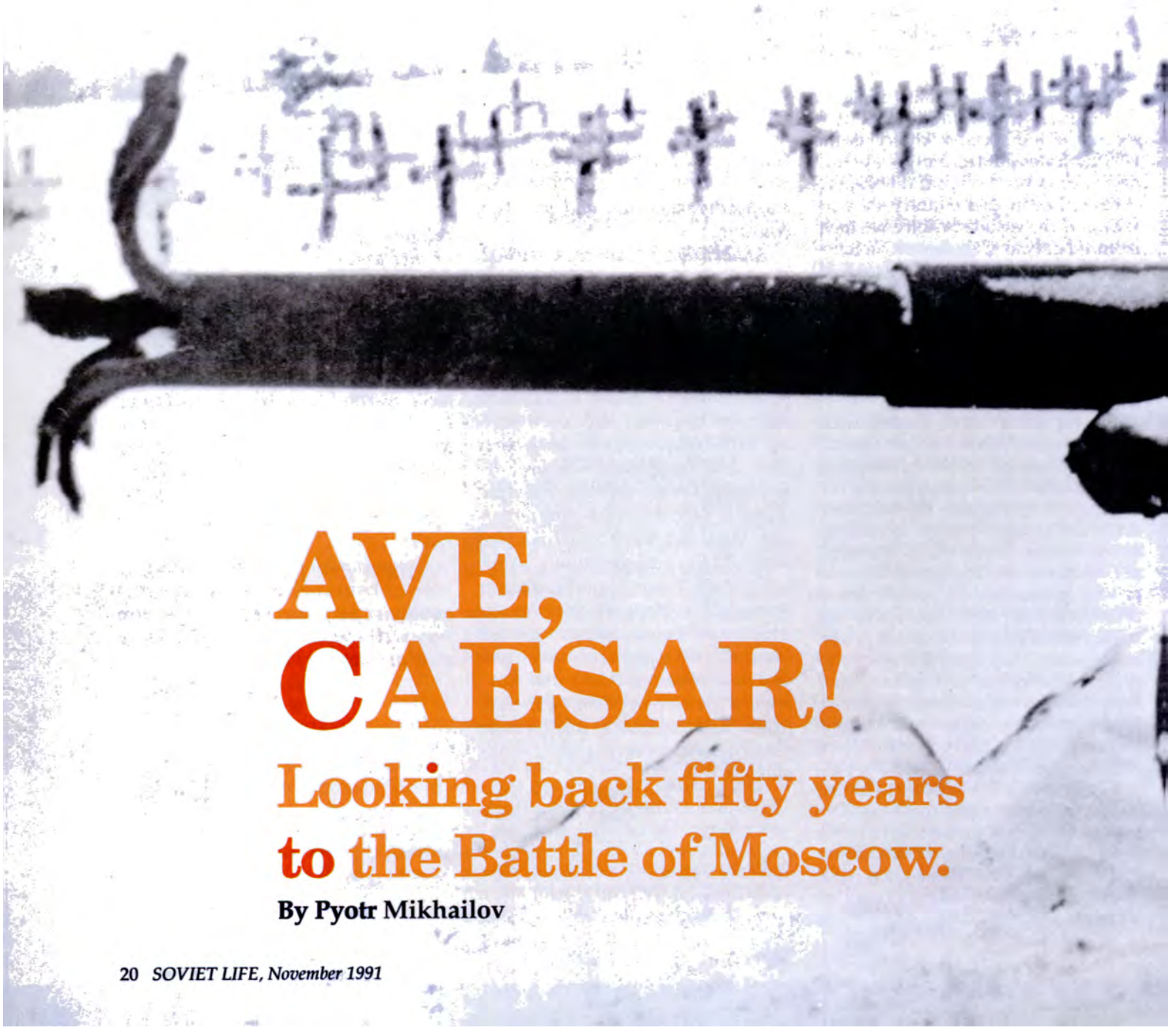
Prizes the plant has won in various competitions.

Ave, Caesar! Morituri te salutamus.
(Greetings, Caesar! We who are about to die salute you.)
—Salutation of the gladiators to the Roman Emperor

On June 22, 1941, the day that Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill adressed his people on the radio. Churchill told his nation that Hitler's invasion of the USSR was a prelude to an attempt to invade the British Isles. The danger facing the Soviet Union also faced Great Britain and the United States.

Six months later, the British prime minister sent a message to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, saying that he had never been more confident in the positive outcome of the war.

What caused this dramatic change of attitude? What event at the Soviet front gave Churchill confidence that he did not have in the summer of 1941? It is common knowledge that in the first six months after the Wehrmacht's invasion of the Soviet Union, the Red Army, caught unawares, fought a rear-guard action and that its growing



AVE, CAESAR!

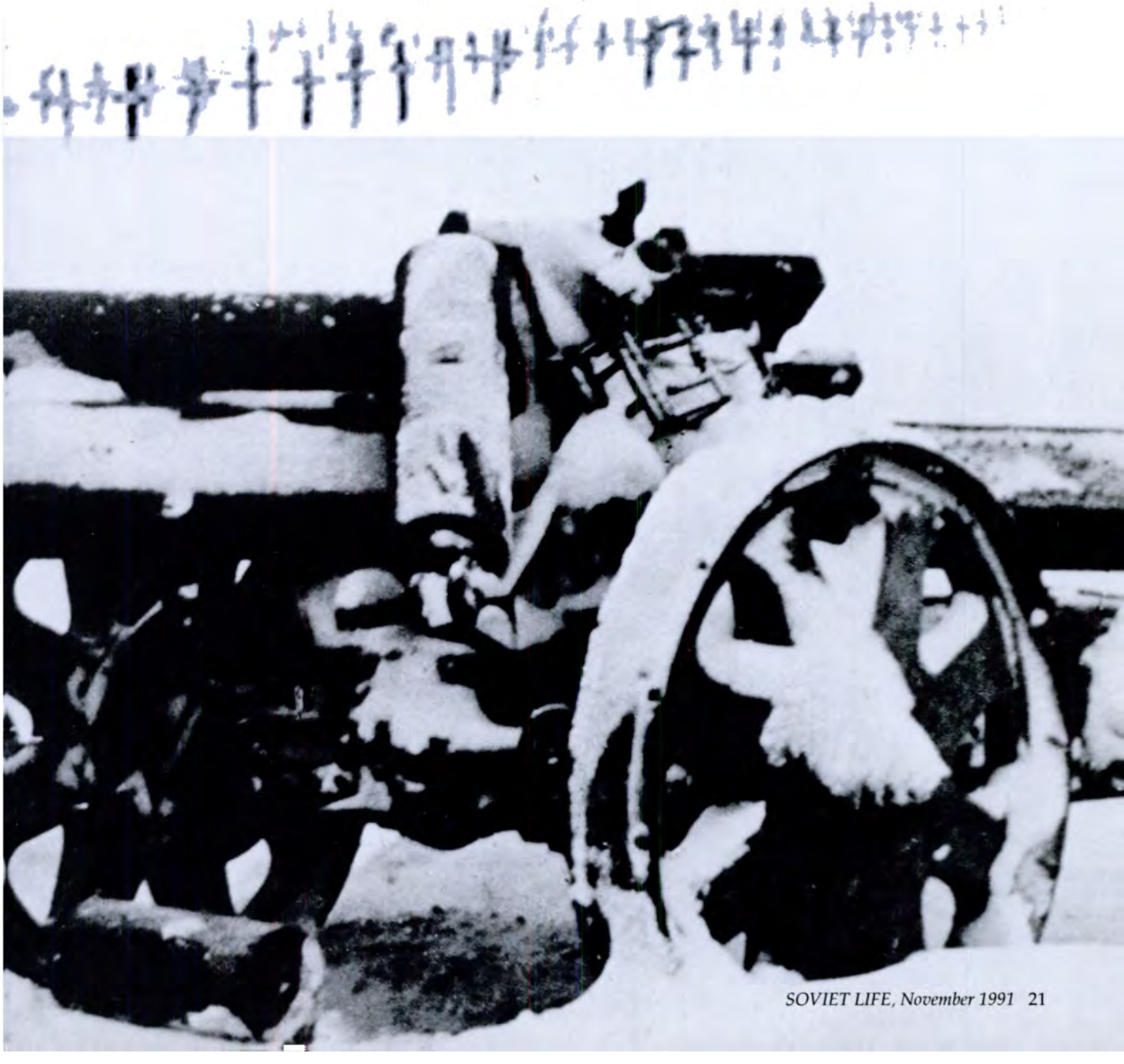
Looking back fifty years to the Battle of Moscow.

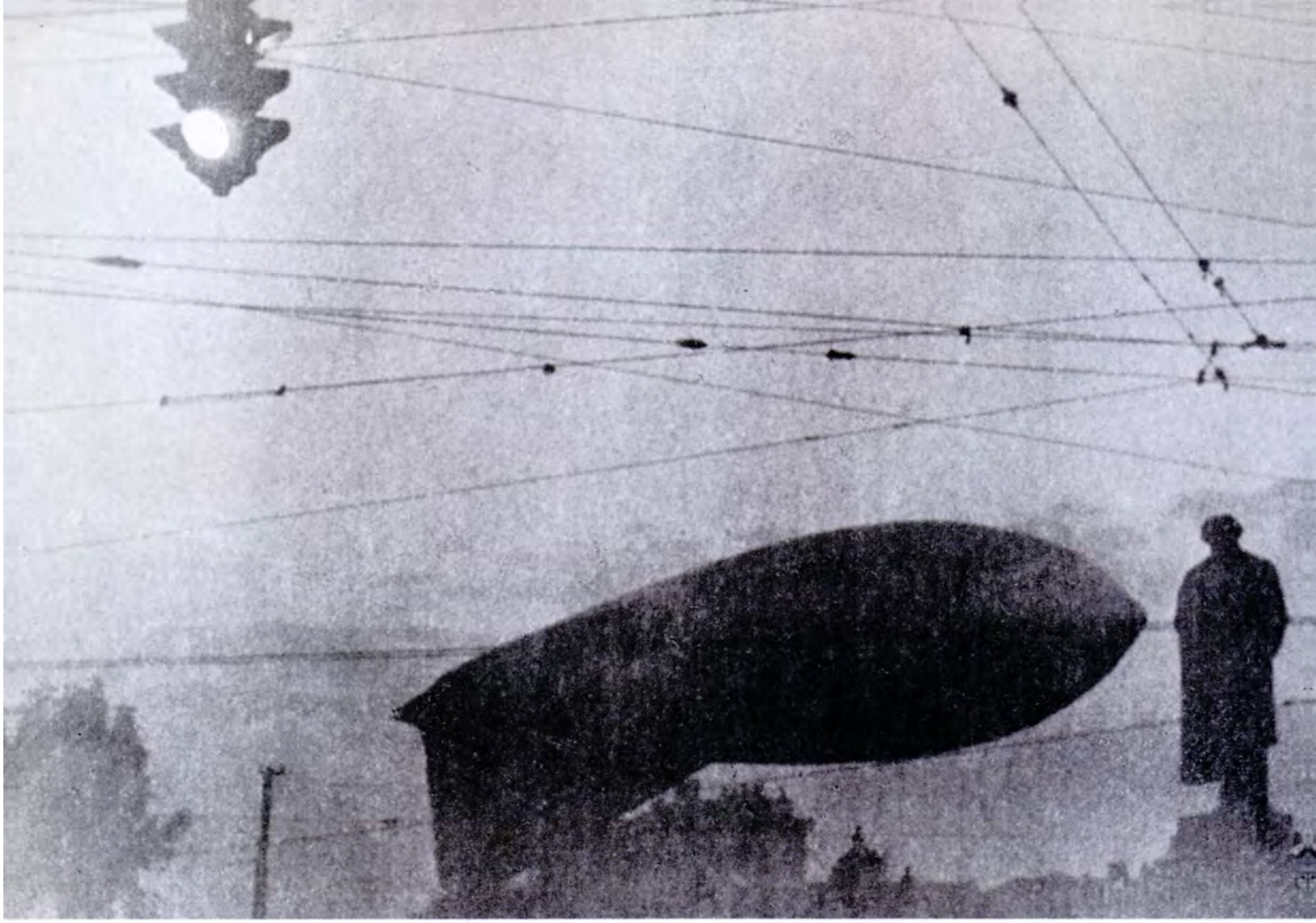
By Pyotr Mikhailov

losses amounted to hundreds of thousands of soldiers every month.

It was the successful defense of Moscow that so encouraged the British prime minister. The struggle for the Soviet capital lasted from August 30 to December 5, 1941. It was not only Hitler's generals who expected the Soviets to capitulate, but also millions of Europeans who had experienced the might of the Nazi juggernaut. But the Red Army not only defended the Soviet capital but went on the offensive early in December. Apparently such an outcome had seemed impossible even to Stalin.

As for Stalin, from the very beginning of Hitler's aggression against the Soviet Union, "the leader of nations" often failed to display the greatness of soul and confidence in victory characteristic of great military leaders. On the morning of June 22, Stalin flatly refused to address the nation, although his allies considered him the only man for the job. Later, his close ally Anastas Mikoyan said that he did not know what to say to his people, who had been told for a long time that there would be no war, and if one did begin, the enemy would be defeated on its own territory. Therefore, the radio broadcast the address of USSR Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. ☞





At the end of June, when the news from the front was not encouraging, Stalin went to his dacha in Moscow Region. According to Molotov, he was impassive, inert, and depressed. But the people were waiting for his speech. Almost twenty years of propaganda about Stalin's wisdom had not been wasted on the Soviet citizens—they believed in their leader. Fully aware of this, Stalin decided to strengthen their faith.

On July 3, the Soviet leader addressed the people by radio. He appealed to his "brothers and sisters" to offer fierce resistance to the aggressor for the sake of their country. It was Stalin's first wartime speech. From that time on, the habitual "socialism and the party" call began to give way to "homeland and patriotism." In his address to the people, Stalin called the war of the Soviet people the "Great Patriotic War," rallying all party and nonparty people, believers and atheists, around the idea of the motherland. Although by the beginning of the Great Patriotic War 2.3 million "brothers and sisters" were serving terms in prisons and *gulag* prison camps, the people paradoxically pinned their hopes on the main culprit in this tragedy. That was the effect of the extensive propaganda of the regime, which turned the leader's mistakes and crimes into great deeds.

The fall of Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia, depressed Stalin a great deal. The Red Army was forced to retreat from the city on June 28, a week after Hitler's invasion of the USSR. According to Marshal Kirill Moskalenko, quoting Stalin's vassal then-Minister of the Interior Lavrenti Beria on July 19, 1941, Stalin, Molotov, and Beria had discussed the possibility of the USSR's capitulation to Nazi Germany. Citing the treaties of Brest-Litovsk, under which Vladimir Lenin gained peace for Russia in 1918 at the price of large concessions to Germany, Stalin, Molotov, and Beria decided to do the same. They wanted to give the Baltic republics, Moldavia, and part of Ukraine and Byelorussia to Germany. Beria's testimony was substantiated by Ivan Stamenov, former Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR, who was to contact Hitler about the agreement. But the ambassador refused to do this, saying that even if the Soviets were pushed back as far as the Urals, they would win.

In mid-October 1941, when German tanks made a breach in the Soviet defenses on the Kalinin front, Stalin became so worried that he called western front commander Georgi Zhukov, whom he trusted more than others, and asked him: "Are you sure that we'll be able to hold Moscow? I'm asking this with pain. Answer me honestly, like a Communist." In a few days, assured by Zhukov that Moscow would be held, Stalin advanced an idea which, although it sounded strange, showed his ability to influence public morale. In the days when fifty enemy divisions held Moscow in a vise, he suggested holding a parade in the besieged capital to celebrate the twenty-fourth anniversary of the October 1917 Revolution.

Stalin's confidence in the need to mobilize the people's moral strength and his ability to do so was so great that he decided to address the people twice. He spoke at a public meeting in a Metro station and, on the next day, during the parade in Red Square. In both speeches Stalin resorted not to social and political arguments, but to national and historical ones. He mentioned the Slavic nations laboring under Hitler's slavery and "the courageous image of our great ancestors," who defended the freedom of their country. During the parade, which was held according to tradition in Red Square, soldiers passed by the reviewing stand where Stalin stood. They saluted him like gladiators, and went straight to the front. "Ave, Caesar! Morituri te salutamus." Many of them were truly going to meet their death.

While changing his means of psychological pressure on the masses, or at least his rhetoric, Stalin continued to develop new "carrots" and "sticks." On August 16, when the Red Army was fighting a rear-guard action all over the front and was sometimes encircled, Stalin signed the notorious Order No. 270, which made all Soviet POWs traitors. The families of captured commanders and political workers were subjected to repression.

As a carrot, *gulag* prisoners who were not deemed socially dangerous were released early and sent to the army. In fact, this was done to compensate for the huge losses at the front. Thus, before the end of 1941 approximately 420,000 ex-convicts joined the army. Many of them were later awarded orders and medals, and some even became Heroes of the Soviet Union. Moreover, convicts built defense projects and worked at defense plants. Nearly 100,000 convicts made ammunition, built tanks, and worked in the coal and oil industries.

However, the *gulags* were not empty. In the first six months of the war, nearly three million Soviet soldiers were taken prisoner. Since Stalin did not trust any former POW, he personally sanctioned the organization of special prison camps of the People's Commissariat (Ministry) of the Interior to investigate those who had broken out of encirclement. In a word, although the "brothers and sisters" whom Stalin had asked to defend their country believed in him absolutely, Stalin had no faith in them. He did not trust anybody, even members of the emergency volunteer corps who fought the mighty enemy with primitive weapons and were reported missing.

What about war veterans? Paradoxically, many of those who lived through World War II remember Stalin with real love. Unfortunately, millions of their compatriots who were killed during the war as a result of Stalin's mistakes and crimes cannot tell us how they feel. ■

Above: 1941. Moscow under attack. Pushkin Square in the evening. Below: November 7, 1941. The military parade in Red Square.

USSR

NEW MOSCOW OFFICES FOR IBM

By Boris Alexeyev
Photographs by Yuri Abramochkin

International Business Machines, otherwise known as IBM, has new offices in Moscow.

"We have big plans," said Burt Polishook, who until recently headed IBM USSR Ltd. "IBM wants to assume a leadership role in providing quality information systems for use in the USSR and thereby to help the USSR achieve its objective of creating a market economy."

The company made its first steps into the Soviet market in 1972. The job was handled by IBM's trade development organization, then headquartered in Paris. The IBM office in Moscow opened on Pokrovsky Boulevard, in the very center of the city.

At that time, East-West détente allowed IBM to supply System/360 and System/370 machines to the USSR. Among the company's first Soviet customers were the Ministry of the Chemical Industry of the USSR and the Kama Automotive Plant (KamAZ). Sweeping plans to computerize Soviet organizations and enterprises filled the Americans with confidence that the Moscow office was at the beginning of a long and promising road, a road that would be highly profitable to both IBM and the Soviet state. But the road turned out to be rougher than expected.

Suddenly, the trade thaw gave way to a strict embargo on deliveries of sophisticated technologies to the USSR. For a decade after 1980, new computers were barred from the Soviet market. But the company did not lose heart. Its office on Pokrovsky Boulevard remained a tiny island of hope. Sitting idle is not in the IBM tradition, and the Moscow office dealt in everything that was allowed by the embargo conditions. Alas, the range of products was restricted to typewriters and copiers, which IBM also serviced.

It was during this time that future IBM business partners in the USSR began to emerge. The local service organizations that helped maintain the typewriters and copiers bought by Soviet clients from IBM convinced the representatives of the company that they would be able to count on finding reliable Soviet business partners.

It's hard to say what other sources of optimism sustained the office during the dark years of the trade embargo. In the early 1980s the picture seemed gloomy and unlikely to take a sharp turn

IBM demonstrated its latest personal computer models last summer at Moscow's PC World Forum.

for the better. But that's exactly what happened. The population of the "island of hope" quickly began making up for lost time. The year 1990 opened a new chapter in IBM activities on the Soviet market.

Moving to new premises on Bakhrushin Street was a major event in the life of the Moscow IBM office. On the eve of the great move, a Russian Orthodox priest performed consecration rites in the new office. IBM, true to its rule to keep the ways and customs of the countries in which it operates, observed the old Russian traditions.

Burt Polishook will soon depart the Soviet Union and return to the United States. The new head of IBM USSR Ltd. is Lennart Krook.

Today IBM supplies a wide range of the latest computer hardware and software to the Soviet market. Practically all of the firm's specialties have become available to customers in the USSR.

The corporation looks confidently to the future of the Soviet market, despite the confusion in the economy today. ■

Renato Riverso, president of IBM Europe, cuts the ribbon at the ceremonial opening of the Moscow office. To his left stands Moscow representative Burt Polishook.

Right: Soviet and American experts work together at IBM's Moscow branch, located in a nineteenth-century mansion in the heart of the city.

MAYAKOVSKY'S AMERICAN DAUGHTER

By Gennadi Rezanov and Tatyana Khoroshilova
Photographs by Boris Kavashkin and Lyudmila Pakhomova

When Patricia Thompson arrived in Moscow, the most important item on her agenda was to see the famous statue of the great Soviet poet Vladimir Mayakovsky. It isn't unusual for admirers of Mayakovsky's work to make a special trip to see this "bronze idol," as Lilia Brik, an intimate friend of the poet, once called it. But this visitor was different—she was the poet's daughter.

Many of us do not agree with what the "poet of the Revolution" stood for, but his poetry is indeed real art. The secret of Ellie Jones and her daughter, Patricia, sheds some light on Mayakovsky's life.

Ellie (Elizavyeta) Siebert was born October 13, 1904, in Bashkiria. Her father was a wealthy landowner, a German by birth. Ellie met Englishman George Jones in the early 1920s and married him. The Joneses left for England and from there for the United States, where they divorced. Ellie began to work at a cosmetics company.

In 1925 Ellie Jones met Mayakovsky at a poetry reading in America. Their meeting produced a daughter.

Ellie took little Ellie (Patricia is her middle ☞

Patricia Thompson (far left), daughter of the famous poet, has lived all her life in the United States. Center: Thompson with her son, Rodger, and Mayakovsky's niece, Svetlana Volodina, near the Mayakovsky monument. Right: At the poet's grave.

Gatchina

a priceless heritage not yet recovered

By Tatyana Kozlova, Art Critic
Photographs by Vsevolod Tarasevich

The eighteenth century was a time of momentous change. Russia, driven by the reforms of Peter the Great, had finally become one of the European powers. Later in the century, in 1762, Catherine the Great came to the throne as the result of a palace coup. Her contemporaries wrote: "Joyful, haughty, naturally cheerful and kind, she has many friends. She finds it easy to work. Having ascended the Russian throne, she wishes only prosperity for her subjects and tries to make them happy...."

Foreigners observed the transformation of the Russian state with interest. They were astonished by its new capital, St. Petersburg, which had been built on swampland. The city's wide, straight boulevards and luxurious palaces were fine enough to grace any world capital.

The outskirts of St. Petersburg were no less wondrous. No one had ever seen the like of the palaces and parks that sprang up almost simultaneously with the city. These stone, fairy-tale buildings and exquisite gardens, pavilions, and ponds that had appeared on the deserted seacoast could have been achieved only in Russia, where there was room to give reign to creative fantasies. Of course, all of these masterpieces cost inordinate sums of money, but the Russian autocracy never heeded the expense.

Catherine the Great's generosity became legendary. She spent colossal sums on her court favorites, especially the Orlov brothers, who had helped her reach the throne. Count Grigori Orlov enjoyed Empress Catherine's special favor. A fierce warrior, he was also an intelligent and educated man. He read a great deal, studied astronomy, and corresponded with notable French philosophers. Catherine gave an especially generous present to her favorite: a piece of land near St. Petersburg, the village of Gatchina and its environs.

Count Orlov chose Gatchina as his summer retreat, and from that time on, the area's prosperity increased. The owner's palace was to become the center of the area.

Catherine recommended architect Antonio Rinaldi to design the palace. Orlov, an intense Anglophile, commissioned Rinaldi to create an Anglicized romantic palace and park. Rinaldi infused the park with an English air, making skillful use of the many inlets, river forks, and islands in its lake.

Gatchina Palace. Facing page, top: A monument to Paul I stands in the square in front of the palace. Facing page, bottom: One of the many bridges at Gatchina.

Empress Catherine took an active interest in all aspects of the construction process. She often visited the palace while it was being built.

Soon the palace was ready, but it never brought any joy to its owner; it would be the site of Orlov's exile after he fell victim to court intrigues.

After Orlov's death in 1783, Empress Catherine purchased the Gatchina holdings from his heirs and presented them to Crown Prince Pavel, who was to become Emperor Paul I.

Thereafter, all remodeling in progress at the palace at Pavlovsk, which until that time had been the Crown Prince's only residence, ceased. Gatchina was more appealing than Pavlovsk for a number of reasons: its healthy climate; its location at the crossroads of routes to St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Warsaw; and finally, the palace itself, furnished in excellent taste and at great expense. Pavlovsk, by contrast, was situated in the middle of a damp forest. Paul I made Gatchina his permanent summer residence. ☞

Above: A nineteenth-century water color of the Chesmen Gallery in Gatchina Palace, which is now under restoration. Left: Nineteenth-century portrait of Grand Duchess Alexandra Yosifovna, by Franz Wienterhalter. Oil on canvas.

By 1796 the palace had been expanded considerably. Its external restraint contrasted dramatically with its interior luxury and comfort. The royal couple lived in the main wing, and the apartments surrounding the kitchen and arsenal housed the retinue, cavalry officers, and musicians. These apartments also housed the district offices, a chapel, a pharmacy, a theater, a bakery, and a military division. Paul's throne room was located in the very heart of the palace, serving as the main link in a chain of grandiose chambers.

For amusement at Gatchina there were long walks and concerts and theatrical performances, of which Paul was particularly fond. All performances were accompanied by fireworks displays.

Paul's ascension to the throne in 1796 brought about changes in life at Gatchina. By royal decree the area was turned into a city with its own coat of arms, which decorated the entry gates from the St. Petersburg side.

Following the assassination of Paul I in 1801, Gatchina passed into the hands of his widow, Dowager Empress Maria. She spent a great deal of time involved in charitable activities. Her efforts benefited the construction of the city itself, a hospital, ☞

Top to bottom: Nineteenth-century china service. Seventeenth-century marble statue of a nymph. A display of Russian and West European weaponry.

a school for the blind, a reform school, and much more.

Maria willed Gatchina to the Romanov dynasty as an entailed estate. All of the Russian emperors used Gatchina as a summer residence.

Changes were made to Gatchina for the last time under the reign of Nicholas I. Reconstruction began in 1845. The palace was redecorated in a fashion that better corresponded with nineteenth-century tastes: lots of pictures, bronzes, china, tapestries, and other decorative objects.

In May 1918, soon after the Revolution, the palace was converted into a museum. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century period rooms were opened for viewing, and the collections were catalogued.

The museum's existence was interrupted by World War II. Gatchina's marvelous collections were evacuated from the premises. From July 7 to August 19, 1941, more than 8,000 items were shipped into the heart of the country by four military trains, and more than 4,000 items were taken to Leningrad. On September 9, 1941, Gatchina was occupied by the Fascists, who stayed there two and a half years. The city was freed on the night of January 26, 1944.

A sorry sight met the eyes of the palace's rescuers: broken glass, destroyed floors and ceilings, burned-out interiors, smashed sculptures, and felled trees. Despite all of this, the palace and park at Gatchina had suffered less than other palaces on the outskirts of Leningrad. Even so, the government decided not to restore the ensemble, arguing that the palace was too far from the city. As a result of this inexplicable decision, the damage that Gatchina suffered over the next thirty years far exceeded the damage it had sustained during the war. Various organizations have been housed there until recently. They adapted the premises to suit their own needs, not always to the benefit of the parks and palace.

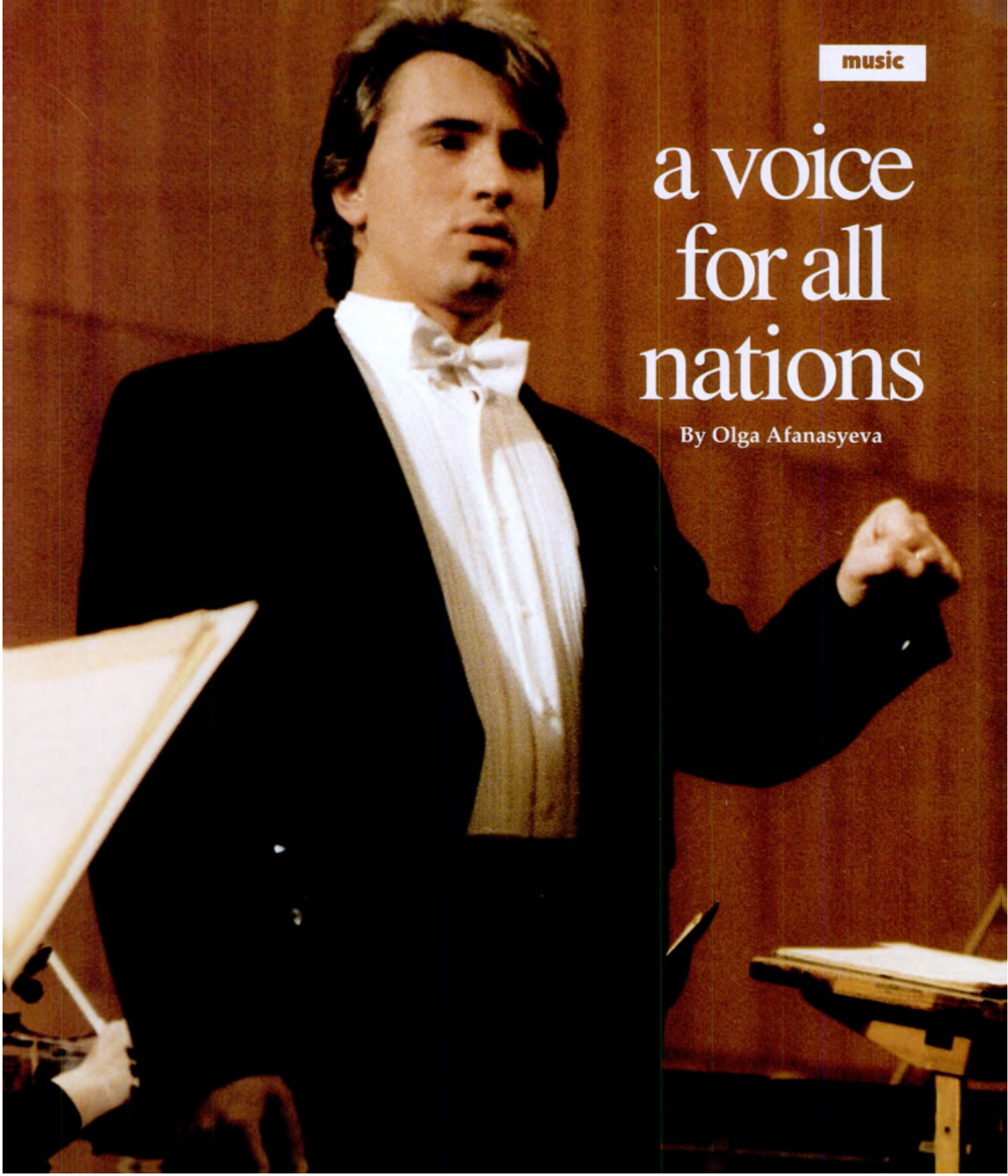
Restoration of Gatchina Palace began only in 1976. It proceeded at a snail's pace, but thanks to the enthusiasm of the museum staff, several ceremonial chambers were opened to the public in 1985. These chambers house the valuables salvaged by the museum.

Today, six ceremonial chambers are open for viewing. They are not all filled with exhibits, but the search for lost items continues. Furniture is being reconstructed according to drawings and pieces that have been recovered.

When you walk through the palace and see its half-destroyed corridors, halls, and galleries, which once echoed with life, you may have trouble believing in its complete restoration. But someone will have to take the bull by the horns. In time the Gatchina ensemble, the former residence of Russian emperors, will undoubtedly take its rightful place among the world-famous palaces outside St. Petersburg. ■

a voice for all nations

By Olga Afanasyeva



Only a few years ago, the name of Krasnoyarsk opera's young soloist Dmitri Khvorostovsky was known only within a narrow circle. Today prestigious concert halls all over the world are competing for his performances.

Audiences in Krasnoyarsk, in Eastern Siberia, went wild after Khvorostovsky's very first solo concerts. The singer appreciated their warmth very much, but a talent of such magnitude can't be kept within rigid limits. A real star shines for everyone.

The general instability in all aspects of Soviet life has had its inevitable effect on the artistic life of our country. That could explain why, after Khvorostovsky's victory at the All-Union Glinka Contest in 1987, the twenty-four-year-old singer, whose ambition to take Moscow by storm was very strong at that time, was not actively wooed by the leading Soviet opera companies. He did receive an offer to join the Bolshoi Theater's group of understudies, but Khvorostovsky, a soloist and a prize winner, after all, considered the offer insulting and turned it down. Which of the two parties lost out is quite evident today.

In 1989, Khvorostovsky took first prize at the Singer of the World contest in Cardiff, Wales, held once every two years. He was recognized as the best baritone of the year.

American music critic Francis Rizzo, an established authority on vocal music, heard Khvorostovsky sing in Cardiff. Rizzo was so impressed with the Russian singer's voice and acting that he underwrote the expenses for supplying all of the major U.S. opera companies with video cassette recordings of Khvorostovsky's Cardiff performances.

Engagements from all over the world flooded in. If the artist had accepted even half of the proposals he received, he would have had to schedule his performances for several years in advance. But he had earned the right to be selective, and he opted for the best.

Khvorostovsky sang in New York and Washington, in Covent Garden and La Scala, in Lisbon, Amsterdam, Paris, and Brussels. His recordings of works by Tchaikovsky and Verdi are known around the world. In the autumn of 1990, the Bolshoi Theater presented a glamorous concert featuring Khvorostovsky and the talented Natalya Troitskaya, who has spent ten years abroad.

Khvorostovsky's professional horizons now seem boundless. It is clear that the wonderful conditions he enjoys abroad are not available to him at home. Still, Khvorostovsky considers himself a Russian singer, a citizen of Russia; he spends a great deal of time in the Soviet Union. This year he sang in Yalta, Moscow, Kishinev, St. Petersburg, Tver, and Odessa, besides his native Krasnoyarsk. Khvorostovsky will give many performances at home.

The situation in the Soviet Union is gradually changing for the better. The singer has an apartment in Moscow and a contract with the Moscow Art Opera Center. He relishes the prospect of working with director Olga Ivanova and chief conductor Yevgeni Kolobov, for whom he has nothing but the highest praise.

A while ago, the attraction of opera in the Soviet Union was beginning to diminish. But Khvorostovsky's magnificent lyrical baritone woke up the music community. No doubt the singer's popularity will greatly benefit Russian opera. He's a real Russian star, even if he often shines from afar.

Such a beautiful voice, especially enhanced by acting talent like Khvorostovsky's, is a heavenly gift. His three-octave vocal range is truly remarkable. But despite the fact that the artist seems destined for success by nature, he continues to work hard, constantly diversifying his programs. His repertoire includes romances by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, leading roles in Italian and Russian operas, classical chamber compositions, and folk songs. Khvorostovsky continues to perfect his rare gift in other ways, too. In Milan, he works with an experienced coach on Verdi opera parts, improves his English and Italian, and records for Philips, with which he signed a five-year contract.

No doubt the singer's popularity will greatly benefit Russian opera. He's a real Russian star, even if he often shines from afar.

Khvorostovsky has not been spoiled by fame; he seems to be resistant to the disease of "stardom." Maybe this has to do with the fact that his mother, a doctor, and his father, a chemical engineer, would not appreciate arrogance in their son.

Wonderful voices run in the Khvorostovsky family. Circumstances prevented Dmitri's father from becoming a professional singer, but he succeeded in instilling in his son a love of vocal music.

Dmitri's wife, Svetlana, is a ballerina. She sacrificed her career with the Krasnoyarsk troupe to accompany her husband on his trips. They also have a young daughter.

Dmitri Khvorostovsky is not about to desert Russia, though he prefers to be a free man and to work in different countries. Genuine talent belongs to all humankind. ■

Dmitri Khvorostovsky is famous in the United States and elsewhere, but he has no contract with the Bolshoi Theater. Facing page: The artist receives applause (bottom) and warm words (top) after a concert.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW

By Nina Dimas

In the first joint venture of its kind, two leading industry groups have teamed with international accountants and consultants KPMG Peat Marwick to form a Moscow-based construction industry consulting firm.

"This joint venture is designed to make management training and technical assistance available to the more than 40,000 Soviet managers in the construction industry and in other related industries," explained Barry Mundt, KPMG International partner and board member of the new joint venture. "Our primary objective will be to acquaint managers with various business methods and the dynamics of a market-driven economy."

KPMG established the International Construction Management Centre (ICMC) in cooperation with the Institute of Post Graduate Management Training in the Construction Industry, Perestroika Joint Venture (a Soviet-American enterprise developed in Moscow), and the Moscow Civil Engineering Institute.

"KPMG has been very aggressive in establishing a presence in those Eastern European countries that have pursued political and economic reforms, including Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary," explained Mundt. "But before penetrating the Soviet marketplace, we wanted to develop a strategy that would meet the firm's long-range objectives. Rather than open a full-service presence first and identify a market second, KPMG established a representative office and monitored local market developments. Working with the Soviet construction industry has provided a perfect opportunity to upgrade KPMG's activities in this rapidly changing market."

According to Mundt, construction makes up more than 30 percent of all Soviet business. The industry employs about ten million people—more than 10 percent of the entire labor force in the USSR. Mundt stressed, however, that there is an enormous shortage of office space, employee housing, and infrastructure in Moscow, mainly because of the lack of foreign investment in the country.

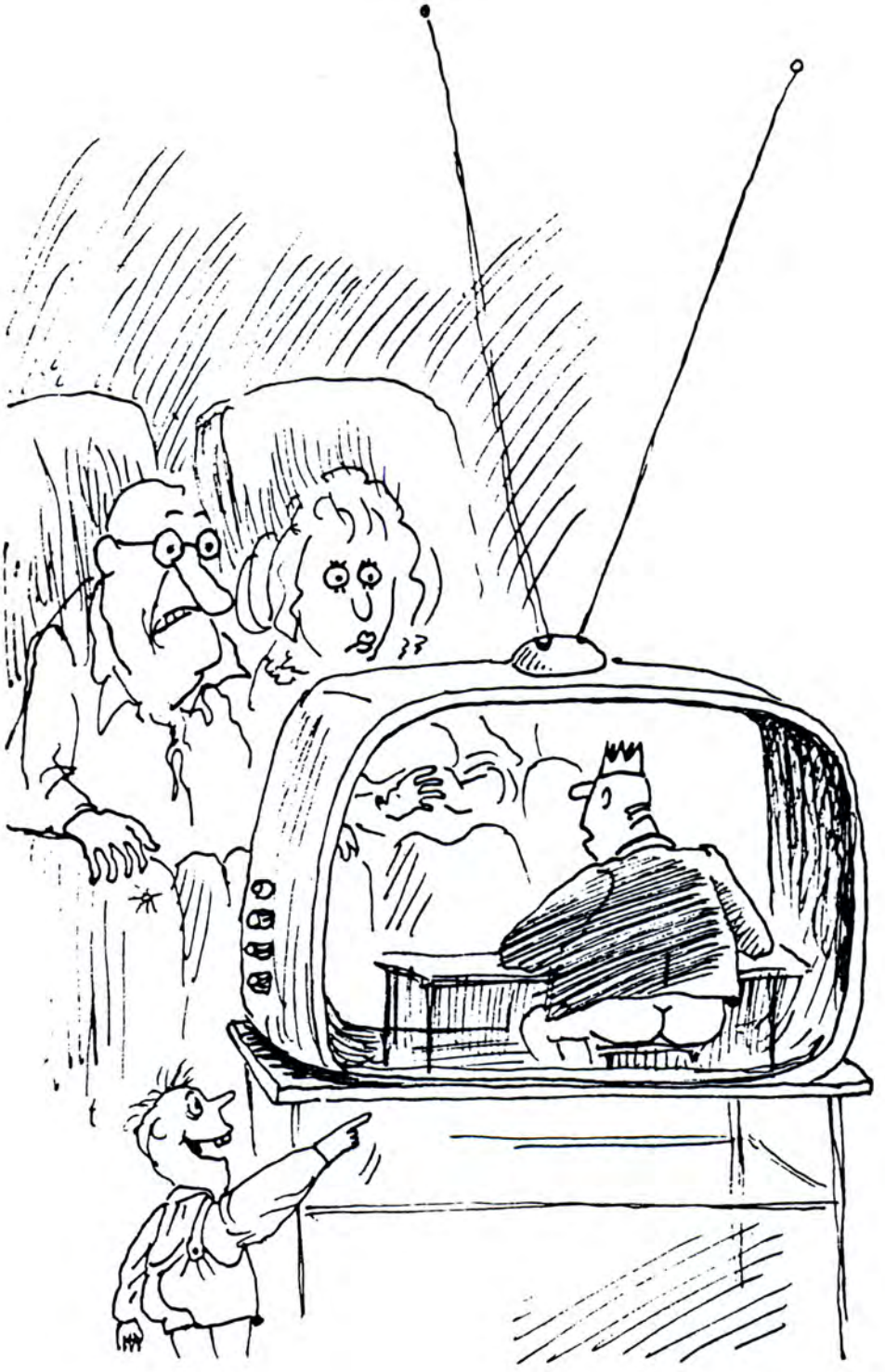
"To compensate for this shortage of construction projects, the Soviet Union will increasingly encourage foreign investment," he said. "The ICMC hopes to be instrumental in linking Western businesses, including construction firm suppliers, financial institutions, and governments, with appropriate business opportunities in the area. The result should be an increase in construction starts, a leading economic indicator in market-driven economies."

The ICMC opened in Moscow on October 1 at a ceremony hosted by the Moscow Civil Engineering Institute. For more information on KPMG's involvement with the ICMC, contact Nina Dimas, Peat Marwick's manager of Soviet affairs, at 212-909-5091.

KPMG Peat Marwick provides accounting, auditing, tax, and management consulting services to leading multinational businesses with operations around the world through a network of 800 KPMG offices in more than 120 countries. KPMG posted 1990 revenues of $5.4 billion. ■

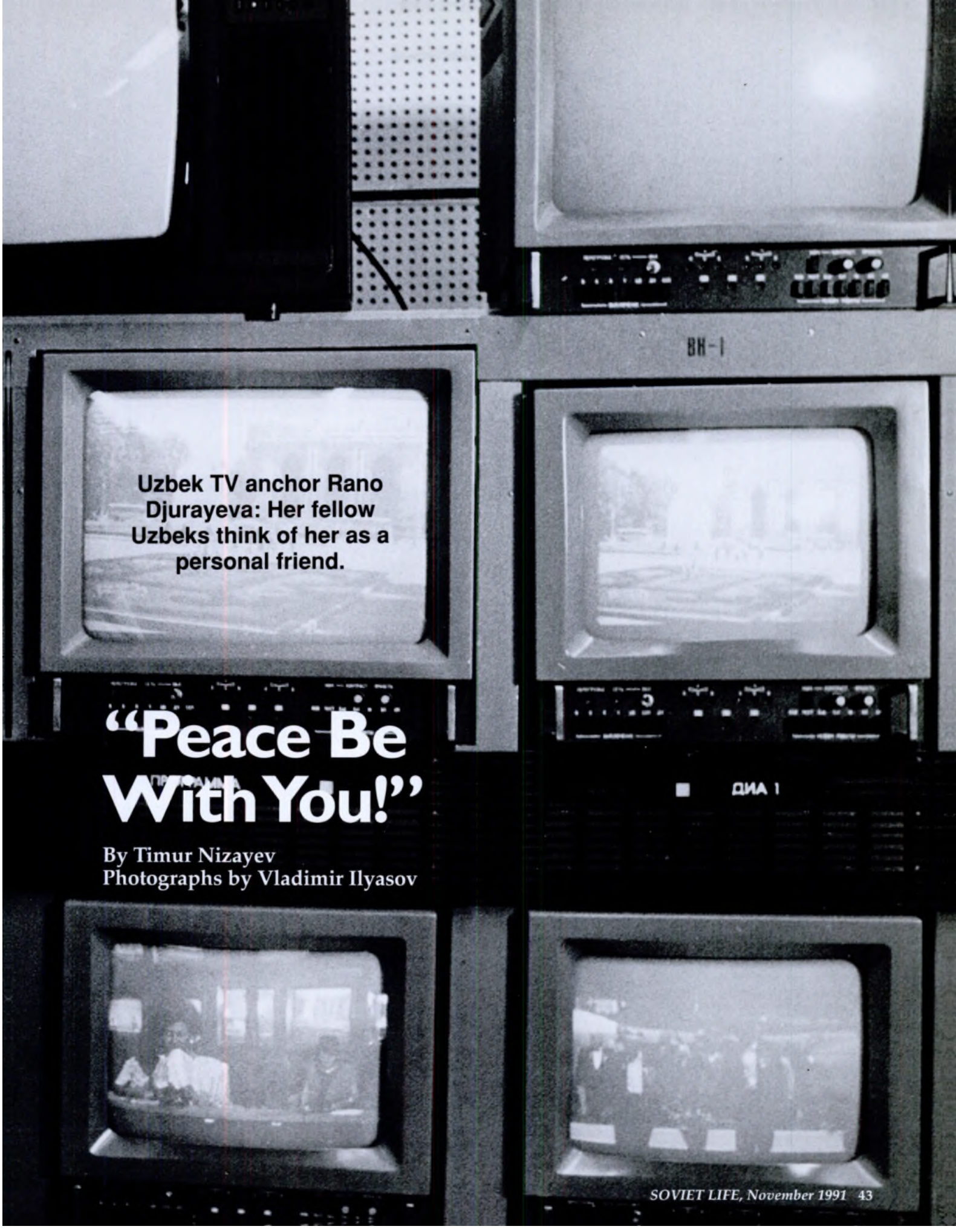
At the reception celebrating the opening of the ICMC. From left to right: Dr. Alexander Lukashov, ICMC acting general manager; and Johan Steenmeijer and Barry Mundt, of KPMG International.

HUMOR



By Victor Bogorad

KAMERA-2



Uzbek TV anchor Rano Djurayeva: Her fellow Uzbeks think of her as a personal friend.

"Peace Be With You!"

By Timur Nizayev
Photographs by Vladimir Ilyasov

Everyone in Uzbekistan feels as if they know Rano Djurayeva personally.

"Once when she was ill, she was absent from work for a few days," recalled a colleague, Alisher Baralov. "The editorial office was inundated with letters and phone calls. 'What has happened to Rano? Why hasn't she been on TV?'"

The chief anchor person of Uzbek TV, Rano Djurayeva has made her way into the hearts of Uzbeks. She is very popular in the republic.

"*Asalam w'alaikum*" ("Peace be with you"). Every evening Djurayeva begins her program with this greeting. According to sociologists, 86 percent of TV viewers watch news programs in Russian and Uzbek broadcast from Tashkent, capital of the republic. Djurayeva is the anchor for both programs because she has an excellent command of Russian and Uzbek alike.

Says Djurayeva: "I graduated from the Drama and Art Institute in Tashkent as an art critic. In my childhood I dreamed of becoming an artist, but, while I was still a student, I realized that I would never make it because I was not talented enough. Since I did not want to be a mediocre artist, I decided to take up research instead. I worked at the Tashkent Art Museum, digging in the archives and repositories, and collected material for my thesis on art criticism. All the time I was doing that, however, something was wrong, and deep in my heart, I knew it. It just didn't work. I got married early, and my family life demanded a lot of time. As a result, I became an ordinary museum guide. I tried to console myself that this profession was also useful.

"I might have remained a museum guide for the rest of my life if fate had not intervened."

"You are telegenic, and you have good diction. Would you like to work as a TV announcer?" Erkin Akhmedov, an editor with Uzbek TV, asked this question after hearing Djurayeva give an enthusiastic account of Renaissance artists on one of the guided tours.

Djurayeva still remembers her first day at the studio—April 29, 1976. She made it through three rounds of competition, defeating more than 100 rivals, and she appeared for the first time on TV on her birthday, May 15.

Her debut was so successful that she received invitations from many TV programs, such as "Yeshlik" ("Youth") and "Zapandas" ("Contemporary"). Djurayeva also hosted concerts and the entertainment program "Blue Light"; she stood in for regular broadcasters on holidays; and she interviewed well-known academicians, artists, and writers.

Six months later, however, she submitted her resignation.

"The drive that had kept me going for the first few months was gone, and I suffered from a lack of professionalism," Djurayeva explained. "I suddenly felt like a robot repeating other people's words. I think many people go through this at some point in their lives. I was lucky that Ubai Burkhanov, vice chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio of the Uzbek republic, tore up my resignation and assured me: 'You've got everything it takes to become a professional.'"

Djurayeva was helped by an old-timer, Uktam Djabirov, nicknamed "*Ustoz*" (Master).

Today Djurayeva's professionalism is appreciated not only by the audience but also by her colleagues.

"Does your popularity interfere with your personal life?" I asked Djurayeva.

"I'm used to strangers saying hello to me, but they are never impolite. I take advantage of my popularity in the bazaar. When venders recognize me, they usually sell me their goods at a lower price."

"With all these activities, do you still have time for housekeeping?"

"Of course I do. I'm a wife and mother first of all. I get up at 7:00 A.M. and cook breakfast. Then I see my husband off to work; my older son, Marat, who is twenty, off to the institute; and my fifteen-year-old son, Azamat, and seven-year-old daughter, Shirin, off to school. Then I clean the apartment, do the laundry, and learn my lines while I'm at it. I often get ready for work as I cook dinner. I leave for work at 3:00 P.M., and I don't get home until 10:00 P.M. at the earliest. I work every other day. On public holidays we work especially hard. In a word, my lifestyle is not typical of most women—I'm not at home in the evenings and on weekends.

"Today Soviet women face many problems. That's why, when I speak on TV, I try to support them and to inspire in them hope for a better future. One cannot think about the future without hope."

"What are your favorite programs?"

"I prefer documentary programs, a journalist's investigation that expresses his or her point of view on a subject. The changes on Uzbek TV let us do more analytical programs. Programs

about traditions and customs, the age-old wisdom of the people, are coming back. Television has done a lot to regenerate the celebration of *Navruz*—New Year's Eve by the lunar calendar. On the vernal equinox, I will again take part in a charitable fund raiser with the other broadcasters. Last year we raised nearly seven million rubles in a twenty-four-hour TV marathon to help the elderly, the ill, and orphans. This is concrete. I'm glad I could make a contribution."

"What's your greatest dream as an announcer?"

"Not to say things that have no meaning." ■

Djurayeva at home (left and below left): teaching her seven-year-old daughter, Shirin; with her husband, their daughter, and one of their two sons.

Right: Djurayeva in the control room at the TV station.

But...what if he hadn't been mistaken, and it was her voice there in that smoky room among the bottles? How could he be sure? How was he to know the truth? He'd have to wait until she came out. If she was there, she couldn't disappear into thin air. If she came out, everything would be clear.

Chains jangled below, but no door banged; nobody came out. They weren't expecting anyone else there. It was strange, this sudden, simultaneous noise of chains and bolts locking doors for the night, on all the landings, all up and down the flights of stairs.

It occurred to the boy that his mother also bolted the door at night, making it impossible to get in with a key after that. Who in the world would rob them? Every time he heard the clang of metal, he jumped, before he realized that the noise came from another door, not the one he was watching.

Somebody was going up to his door from the inside—he could hear their footsteps.

Now...the door would open—she would come out....

The same noise of the bolt, only louder.

That meant they were all staying the night! She wouldn't, would she?

The boy wanted to fling himself at the door, to break it open, to see...

The steps retreated from the door that was now locked for the night.

He would break the door down. She would be there. He would give her such a look, and then he would tell her proudly, cuttingly, the whole bitter truth. She would sob, beg his forgiveness, crawl on her knees, clutching his feet. But he would just stand there, pale, handsome.... And nobody would be able to reach him anymore. He would never believe in anything again. He would leave, while she sobbed and wept.

She would cry.... The boy had once seen her crying. She had been late then too, and when she did arrive, she was in tears. She told him that her brother had upset her and that he, the boy, was the only friend she had. The boy felt very sorry for her as he remembered. His nose began to itch.

He chased away this image and concentrated instead on the previous one of himself. Then he smiled at his silliness, his childishness. If he burst in and if she were there, it might be like that—but what if she wasn't? What would he say to all the astonished faces? What would he do? He pictured with dreadful clarity how embarrassing it would be, and he blushed.

And how would he "burst in"?

Well, he'd have to decide. He had to do something. He didn't really want to call again so late, but how else could he find out? He went back downstairs to the telephone. Okay, he'd call again. If she picked up the phone, everything would be fine; if not, well, he'd hang up. The same unfriendly voice answered. The boy hung up. His heart thumped in a kind of emptiness, as if it had fallen into a void.

The boy waited dully. From time to time he dozed off, only to awake cold and shivery.

It was warm on the radiator. He couldn't get into more trouble at home; he might even get into less. He felt sorry for his mom. This last sentiment poked its nose out like a small, gray, timorous creature, and immediately bolted. The boy felt cozy, and waves of warmth flowed sweetly through his body. There was a slight buzzing around him. He had no desire to move. When he narrowed his eyes, a light green dot danced in the darkness, a trace of the bulb in the stairwell.

He was in bed, dying, pale, and thin. At last she had found him. She approached him, crying. "Don't cry—I've always loved you. You're not to blame." She went on crying, pleading with him: everything would be different from now on. "No, for me there is no future."

...The years passed. He comes to her. His manly face bears the traces of his hard, dramatic life. His thick curls, tumbling forward onto his forehead, cannot hide a deep scar. Yes, the curls are gray. So young and already gray. "It's too late, everything is too late," he says, and goes away. She sobs. He continues along long, high-ceilinged rooms, opening doors, lots of doors.

When the boy woke up, he felt shivery. It was cold. Well, chilly. He pumped his arms up and down and jumped around to get his circulation going.

What a mess it all was. He should have warned his mother. It really would have been better not to have come at all in the evening—he should have come now. After all, she hadn't turned up! He'd wasted all this time hanging around. If he had come around now, say, he could have told his mother...told her something, anyway. What a mess. He should have gone straight home. And now? It was late now: two or three o'clock in the morning. And he had to know. The boy sat on the radiator, his shoulders hunched, breathing into the front of his coat.

He wasn't thinking about anything anymore.

Three A.M.

Four.

The boy waited dully. From time to time he dozed off, only to awake cold and shivery. He knew everything about these stairs, this landing now; knew about the crack in the wall that looked like a bull, and another one that looked like Maria Stepanovna. He knew everything about Minka, who was a crook, and Valya, who was a fool, and about that door, his door: what kind of bell it had on it, and how the felt in the right-hand corner was coming off.

Steps. Voices. Two voices. The metallic sound of the latch. It was his door.

The door opened a little bit.

It was she!

The boy leaped off the radiator. She glanced out and jumped back. The door slammed. Everything happened so fast. One glimpse and then nothing. He was bewildered. His heart was thumping with surprise and from his sudden leap off the radiator after having been immobile for so long. Voices sounded behind the door. The boy tried to decipher them: one was a man's and one was a woman's—hers! The boy was sure now that the noise, those two noises, were their voices. He heard

them loud and clear. The words seemed to expand, to grow, and to crawl over the boy.

The click of the lock again. The door opened.

A young man, that same young man, was coming out backward, saying something to someone—to her! The boy stood by the radiator and stared. The young man turned around and started to go. The door closed behind him. The boy thought he caught a glimpse of her again. Again the latch clicked shut. The man started down the stairs, coming closer and closer to the boy. He was even with him now. He looked at him. What a look! The boy felt a cold shiver go up his spine. What a look! The young man passed him, going down. The boy stared after him. When the young man was on the last flight of stairs, he turned to look up at the boy. He seemed curious. Then his steps disappeared into the distance.

Again the boy sat on the radiator. He bit his lip. He would wait to the end now—now that he knew she was there. He would wait till the end and say all he had to say to her.

"I'll kill her! I really will—I'll kill her!" repeated the boy.

At five-thirty the first door banged. Somebody rushed down the stairs, buttoning up his coat on the way. After that the doors banged more and more often above and below the landing where the boy stood.

First there were the manual workers. They went past the boy with a preoccupied look, their faces impassive. The boy was grateful to them.

After them came the office workers: they sailed down, the women with handbags and the men with briefcases. These people stared at him, some even turning around. The boy recognized some of them: yesterday they had come up the stairs and had stared curiously at him then. Now their glances oozed curiosity.

"I'll kill her!"

The boy huddled up, forcing himself, painfully, to look calm, and unconcerned. He stood there, resolutely, biting his lip.

The doors banged according to particular time laws, in waves, around the half hour, and the hour. These waves swelled and, at a certain moment, reached their peak; then they died away to the last, rushing stragglers, chewing as they ran. Then there would be a lull: the boy would relax and immediately feel very tired.

His door banged twice, but it was just people who lived there; it wasn't her. The boy was afraid these people would recognize him. The first time he turned toward the window and tried to whistle nonchalantly. The second time he pretended he was going downstairs, as if he'd come out of some other apartment.

At nine the last wave subsided.

At nine-thirty the housewives, with their bags, bottles, and milk cans, began to come down. By now the boy was too tired to shrink at every new appearance. He had become truly indifferent to them.

He looked at him. What a look! The boy felt a cold shiver go up his spine. What a look!

When on earth was she going to come out? His waiting no longer was so painful. He just wanted it to end—he couldn't leave yet.

The wave of housewives subsided.

It occurred to him that if he waited another two hours, people would start coming back up the stairs.

And then, quite unexpectedly, his door spoke.

She came out.

Calm and beautiful—so beautiful!

She started down the stairs. She saw the boy. She recognized him. She smiled. What a lovely smile. But she wasn't going to trick him this time.

"It's you, my little sweetheart," she said. "Oh, honey, you haven't been waiting all this time for me, have you?"

"Yes," said the boy. His voice trembled. He tried to control his nervous shivering. "Yes. And you were there the whole night. I waited for you under the archway, but you didn't come. And then, when I rang the bell, you told them to tell me that you weren't there. You knew I was here. And then, at four o'clock, you opened the door, saw me, and hid. And that guy came out. I know everything!" The boy's voice broke.

"Oh, my dear," she said quietly, caressingly, "you've got it all wrong. I couldn't get to the archway on time. There was nothing I could do about it, I just couldn't, and I didn't know how to let you know. I got here much later. When you asked for me, I hadn't arrived yet. When I came up the stairs, you weren't there—I thought you must have gotten tired of waiting."

"I was on the stairs the whole time."

"No, love, you weren't. No, my dear, not the whole time."

"Don't call me that! You spent the whole night there—with that guy."

"Oh, you silly boy. I should be angry with you. You silly thing.... It got late, that was all, and I decided to stay the night at my girlfriend's, don't you see? That young man is her brother—we were in the same class at school. He had to leave last night—he's going far away."

"No," said the boy.

"My dear, my little sweetheart, my love, it's the truth. Anyway, don't let's stand here. Let's go. So, you spent the whole night here? You'll get into trouble at home!"

"It doesn't matter," said the boy.

She laughed.

They went out into the street.

"Off you go," she said, "off you go, my little sweetheart. Till tomorrow."

The boy walked home. It wasn't far. It was a gray, warm, misty day. The mist made everything seem unreal—the buildings, the cars, and the people. Things would suddenly appear and, just as suddenly, disappear—light, weightless, as if in a dream.

And his body was also light and weightless. And his thoughts, too.

There was a pleasant hum inside him. Somewhere in there a dream was hiding.

"Right," the boy thought as he walked, "right. That was how it was—just like she said. And I'm a bastard. I've been rotten to everybody. To Mom and to her. I'm a bastard. Everything was the way she said." ■

MAYA GORDEYEVA
bringing a Russian kick to Twain

By Linda Stout and Nancy MacCaig
Photographs by Warren Winner, Martha Horton, and Linda Stout

When Dr. Maya Gordeyeva lectured at Elmira College in Elmira, New York, during the past two summers, her students often applauded at the end of her classes. Perhaps they applauded because of the warmth and candor that Gordeyeva wove into her lectures. Or maybe the American students believed that their Soviet teacher really represented part of a changing world.

But Dr. Gordeyeva did not come to Elmira only to teach. She also came as the managing director of the Russian Stars ensemble of dancers, which has been part of Elmira's annual *Mark Twain Musical Drama* for the past three years.

No newcomer to the United States, Dr. Gordeyeva calls both countries home. Her father was an international trader, and she spent her childhood in the 1930s in Chicago and in New York City, where she attended public schools before returning to the Soviet Union.

Top: Sergei Gupalov and the Russian Stars ensemble, performing in the *Mark Twain Musical Drama* in Elmira, New York. Above: Maya Gordeyeva.

From 1937 to 1978, she remained in the USSR, restrained from travel abroad like most Soviet citizens. She has been in the United States every year since 1978.

"I'm very fond of America; I consider it my second home," she said. "In all the interrelations between our two countries, there should be a candor, a sincerity.

"Christ said, 'Know thyself.' It's the 'Know thyself' stage that we are going through in Russia now. Whether we learn about ourselves as individuals or as nations, self-discovery is what leads to enlightenment."

Certainly Dr. Gordeyeva is candid about the problems of both nations. "The military-industrial complex is a waste of money," she said. "That money is needed for the care of the hungry, for medical research, and for education and the arts."

While Gordeyeva describes the Soviet people as committed to education

and as voracious readers, the material conditions of the educational system in the USSR are certainly a far cry from those in her classroom at Elmira College. The Moscow State Institute of Foreign Languages, where she has taught for the past twenty-eight of her forty-four years of teaching, still operates in three shifts. The buildings are shabby, and the equipment is limited, she says.

Dr. Gordeyeva earned a Doctor of Science degree in philology. She then went on to combine her language skills with her love of theater. She translates Soviet plays into English, and British and American plays into Russian.

Russia has a fine theater history, peopled by great writers like Anton Chekhov and directors like Konstantin Stanislavsky, who developed method acting. Classical ballet and great music are closely associated with Russia. Dr. Gordeyeva became interested in American musical theater, because it merges music, theater, and dance. Among the plays she has translated for the Soviet stage are Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*, as well as the musicals *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Candide*. Her translations from Russian to English have been produced in the United States, as well.

"Each language reflects the character of its people and their culture. Language is a window onto another culture, onto the world. It is the way you come to understand other people."

The Russian performers who came to Elmira for the *Mark Twain Musical Drama* range in age from ten to forty-three. Dr. Gordeyeva says that her experience with children has brought her to a new phase of teaching.

"Through working with children, I have discovered the joy, the deep reward, that comes from young children who are talented in music and dance. Children's musical education has now become a top priority for me. Children are our springboard into the twenty-first century." ■

Clockwise from below left: Young Soviet performers signing autographs at an Elmira children's festival. Anna Agapova of the Russian Stars with Bob Kane in a scene from *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* in the *Mark Twain Musical Drama*. Dr. Gordeyeva with American kids.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE FOREST

By Igor Mosin
Drawings by Irina Shipovskaya

A Soviet scientist's hypothesis allows for a new interpretation of many forest phenomena.

Dr. Ivan Marchenko, head of the forestry chair of the Bryansk Technological Institute (Russian Federation), held out a small branch from a silver maple.

"Look at this closely," he said. "What do you notice about it? Look here, at the thicker end, where the branch joins the tree. See how rounded it is? That means that this branch was not broken off—it was discarded by the tree. Everyone knows what defoliation means, but you won't find a single description of natural debranching in any textbook, though it does exist."

But why should a tree get rid of its own branches? To answer this and other questions, Marchenko outlined to me his theory of the forest's biological field.

"Soviet scientists have discovered that animal cells are surrounded by a special field in the ultraviolet range of the spectrum. Other experiments have shown that plants are capable of reacting to the emotions and moods of people. Instruments have also detected some very faint emissions from objects of animal and plant origin. In other words, quite a few facts already indicate that humans, animals, and plants are surrounded by some invisible field."

"Do you think that this differs in principle from the generally known gravitational, electrical, and magnetic fields?" I asked.

"Yes, it does, though it is also linked with these fields in some way. Our body reacts with great sensitivity to gravity and to the transition to weightlessness. It conducts electricity very well and is sensitive to fluctuations in the magnetic field, too. All this supports the theory that as a result of the integration of these fields, living matter creates its own, biological, field."

Many of the experiments staged by the Bryansk scientist on various forest species are nothing short of amazing. Here is an example. On the trunks of two neighboring young ash trees, Marchenko made deep vertical incisions so that the "wounds" faced each other. In several months, each of the trunks had turned around on its axis ninety degrees. The length of the incisions that had turned away from each other had decreased by half. The most

remarkable thing, though, was the intensity with which this process was effected: on one of the ashes, a side branch that had prevented the trunk from turning bent so much that its bark split open.

"This experiment alone raises a lot of questions," Marchenko said. "How did the trees learn about the incisions on each other's trunks? What made the trunks turn, and why did they stop turning when the cuts faced away from each other? There is a sensible answer to all these bewildering questions if we assume that trees have a biological field, whose main characteristics are repulsion and attraction."

According to Marchenko, the biological field around a tree standing in an open place is uniform, weakening with distance from the trunk. The biological fields of adjacent trees repel one another, forcing the trunks of the trees to move apart a certain distance.

When cuts are made on the trunks, the trees, like any living matter, immediately mobilize their internal resources to heal these wounds as quickly as possible; the processes of metabolism and cell division around the cuts intensify, and so does the potential of the biological fields in the area of the incision. When the incisions face each other, the forces of repulsion intensify, too. They cannot bend the mature trunks, so they force them to turn on their axes until the former equilibrium is restored between the biological fields.

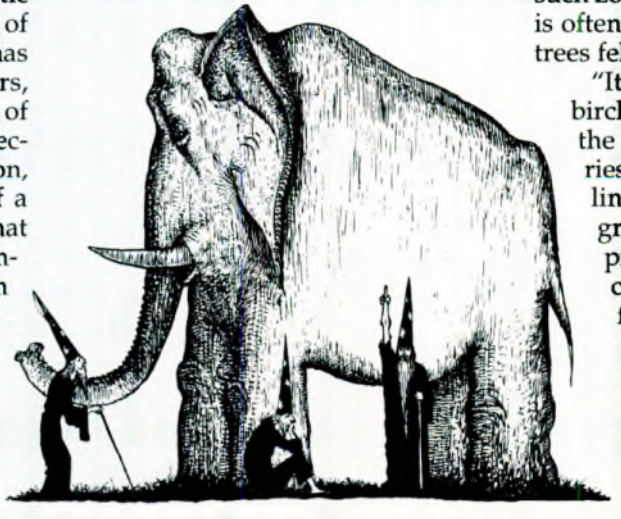
These conclusions are explicitly illustrated using the Kirlian effect. The essence of this effect is that living organisms placed in an electromagnetic field begin to emit a certain kind of luminescence. This luminescence has been photographed by researchers, who used as samples cross sections of tree branches. In the branch cross sections from trees that stand in isolation, this luminescence has the form of a circle. In cross sections from trees that grow near others, the circles are concave between the trunks—a clear sign of mutual repulsion. If an incision is made on the trunk, an oval tongue cuts into the circle.

"Our experiments not only demonstrate the existence of a biological field; they also show us some of its characteristics," Marchenko continued. "For example, we've learned a lot about the relationship between coniferous and deciduous trees."

If you like to take walks in the woods, you may have noticed that when a spruce, pine, or fir grows next to a birch, the needles on the evergreen turn away from the birch. Or if a pine has the bad luck to grow under an aspen, all its needles point toward the ground. Why? It turns out that the biological field of deciduous trees is stronger than that of conifers.

"The biological fields of trees of different species don't seem to recognize one another," Marchenko said. "If one tree is artificially forced into the sphere of another, it will try as hard as it can to get rid of its neighbor. In one experiment we grafted pine branches to a birch tree, but the tree rejected the branches very quickly.

"Now we're getting back to our original topic of debranching. It's easy to understand why a tree would try to get rid of alien branches, but why would it discard its own? Proceeding from the biological field theory, we have come to the conclusion that each tree species occupies a strictly limited space. In other words, it cannot accommodate more living matter than its biological field allows. If the amount of living matter exceeds this limit, the tree takes its own measures, restoring the balance through repulsion."



According to Marchenko, the density of each tree's crown is regulated by the biological fields of the individual branches, the leaves, and the trunk. As they grow, the intensity of their biological fields increases, and, consequently, the repulsive force grows as well. When these forces reach a certain point, the tree begins to discard some of its branches. As a result of this thinning out, the intensity of the biological field decreases and open spaces form in the crown, which will be filled with new branches the following year.

Such observations and the biological field theory have led the investigator to form important practical conclusions. Under current afforestation programs, for example, new saplings are planted in straight rows. But does this make sense? After all, we already know that by the time trees in both natural and artificial forests reach maturity, they remain in groups only in certain places: so-called biologically active zones.

That being the case, wouldn't it be more rational to plant saplings not in straight rows, but only in biologically active zones? There are normally 300 such zones per hectare. Their location is often marked by the big stumps of trees felled there earlier.

"It's common knowledge that birch and aspen seeds are always the first to seize vacated territories," said Marchenko. "The saplings of these deciduous trees grow fast, so if there are nursery pines or spruces nearby, they come under the oppressive influence of the birches and aspens from the very first years. That is why many of them die by the age of three to five years. We have suggested

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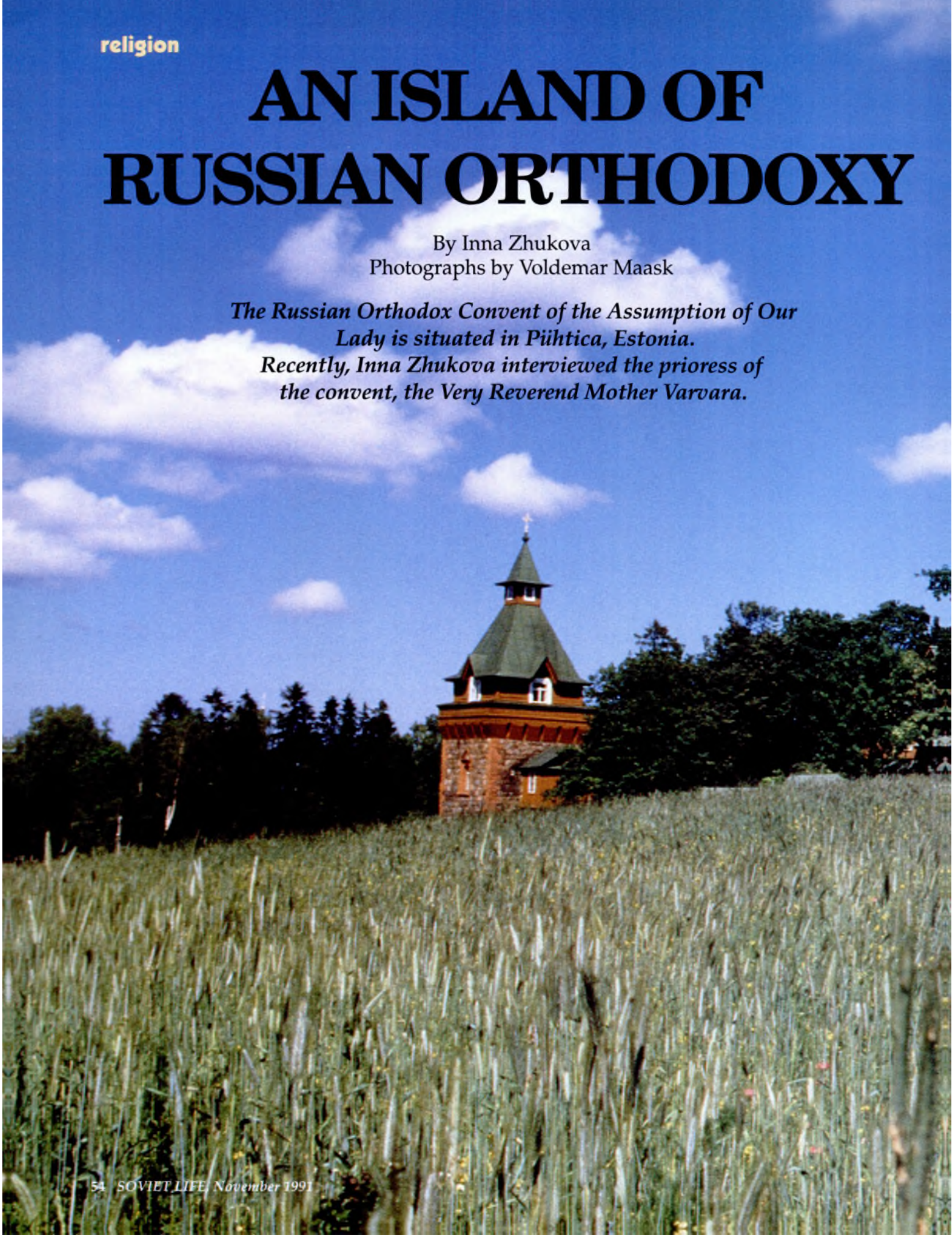
AN ISLAND OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY

By Inna Zhukova
Photographs by Voldemar Maask

The Russian Orthodox Convent of the Assumption of Our Lady is situated in Piihtica, Estonia. Recently, Inna Zhukova interviewed the prioress of the convent, the Very Reverend Mother Varvara.



Q: Reverend Mother, would you tell us something about your convent?

A: Our convent was established here a hundred years ago, by a synodal resolution of February 27, 1891. It was a tiny community at first, comprising only a prioress—named Mother Varvara, like me—and three novices, who lived in a log cabin.

Now we have six churches, ranging in size from the magnificent Assumption Cathedral, with its congregation of 1,200, to the tiny chapel in our charitable institution. We have several hostelries for pilgrims and a hotel for official visitors. The old fence has been replaced with a granite wall.

The community is directly subordinate to Alexis II, Patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia. His enthronement, in June 1990, was another landmark in our history. In fact, our sisterhood owes its survival to His Holiness. Our convent ☞

was to be closed down in the atheistic campaign of the early 1960s, and only Alexis's interference saved it—he was Bishop of Tallinn and All-Estonia at the time. Alexis never flinched from confronting the secular authorities. The nuns' hearts are grateful to His Holiness for his protection in the past and his present spiritual guidance.

Q: When and why did you decide to take the veil, Reverend Mother?
A: I was born in 1930, the seventh child in a pious family. My worldly name was Valentina Alexeyevna Trofimova. My mother had dreamed of becoming a nun when she was a young girl, and later she wanted to see at least one of her daughters in a convent. My sisters, two teachers and a nurse, got married; but I was drawn to the church from childhood. When I was twenty-two, I went to Pühtica, which was close to my native town, Chudov, in Pskov Region. I have never for a day regretted that I became a nun. I really had a vocation—I see that clearly now.

Q: Some people think that a young woman can't possibly reject the world unless she is bitterly frustrated in life. When we see a nun, we often start inventing things in her past that might account for her sense of inferiority or need to escape—unrequited love, abject poverty, instability, even insanity. Is this true, to some extent?
A: No. Monasticism has exerted a potent attraction for centuries. With moral perfection for its goal, and with the truth and grace it offers, the church gives the faithful a sublime ideal.

Don't think nuns are complex-ridden little miseries. We're an educated lot. Many sisters have academic degrees. It takes an experienced engineer to manage our computerized heating system. We have to hire workers from the outside only when we need repairs that require physical strength. There's Sister Alexandra, who has a degree from the Moscow Conservatory. She conducts the choir and teaches music to novices. We have two qualified nurses in the community. They look after the sick and the eight elderly women in our charitable institution.

Q: Do the novices have any special schooling?
A: No obligatory classes, if that's what you mean. Our entire routine is a long lesson in culture and spirituality. The very air of the convent is permeated with history and reverence for moral values. Everything, from the books we read to the bells we hear, carries its own powerful message.

Many scholars envy us when they see our library, with its philosophical and theological rarities, prerevolutionary and contemporary religious books and periodicals, and national and local newspapers. We subscribe to literary and art magazines and to journals on farming, cattle breeding, agriculture, and horticulture.

Manual labor also provides good schooling. Throughout Christian history, monks and nuns have toiled hard for their daily bread, though many laypeople seem to think that our life consists solely in prayer and contemplation.

Our convent farms seventy-five hectares (185 acres): twenty-four hectares (sixty acres) of wheat, oat, rye, and fodder crops and pastureland for our thirty cows, five horses, and a large flock of sheep. We also keep bees and poultry, and we have hothouses and an orchard.

Q: When you take your vows, are you supposed to ignore the world, with its trials and tribulations?
A: No, monastic vows mean rejecting sin and temptation. We are not aloof from the world, with all its good. We pray for it and feel that we are dedicated citizens. For example, Estonia was occupied by the Nazis in 1941. German officers were billeted in our refectory. A concentration camp for prisoners of war and Jews was set up near the convent. The nuns helped the prisoners with food, medicine, and clothing. The nuns would have faced the firing squad if they had been found out. Some of them ran even greater risks by taking fugitives along secret paths to meet partisans in the woods.

More recently, we have felt the changes in Estonia and in Russia. The church supports perestroika as it does all good endeavors. The Gospel calls on every Christian to repent, for the spirit revives as the heart is cleansed. We see it as our duty to help the community as it works to improve itself. ■

Below: A service at one of the churches of the Pühtica convent. Facing page: Alexis II, Patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia, visited the convent in June of last year.

RAISING THE *KOMSOMOLETS*

By Sergei Nenashev

Salvaging the Soviet nuclear-powered submarine the *Komsomolets*, which went down in the Norwegian Sea in April 1989, settling at a depth of 1,700 meters, will be a formidable task," says Academician Igor Spassky. Spassky, who heads the Rubin Central Design Bureau of Sea Technology headquartered in the city of St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), is one of the leaders of the Soviet-Dutch-Norwegian salvage operation aimed at raising the vessel. Spassky also coordinates the activities of a dozen Soviet institutes concerned with various aspects of salvage.

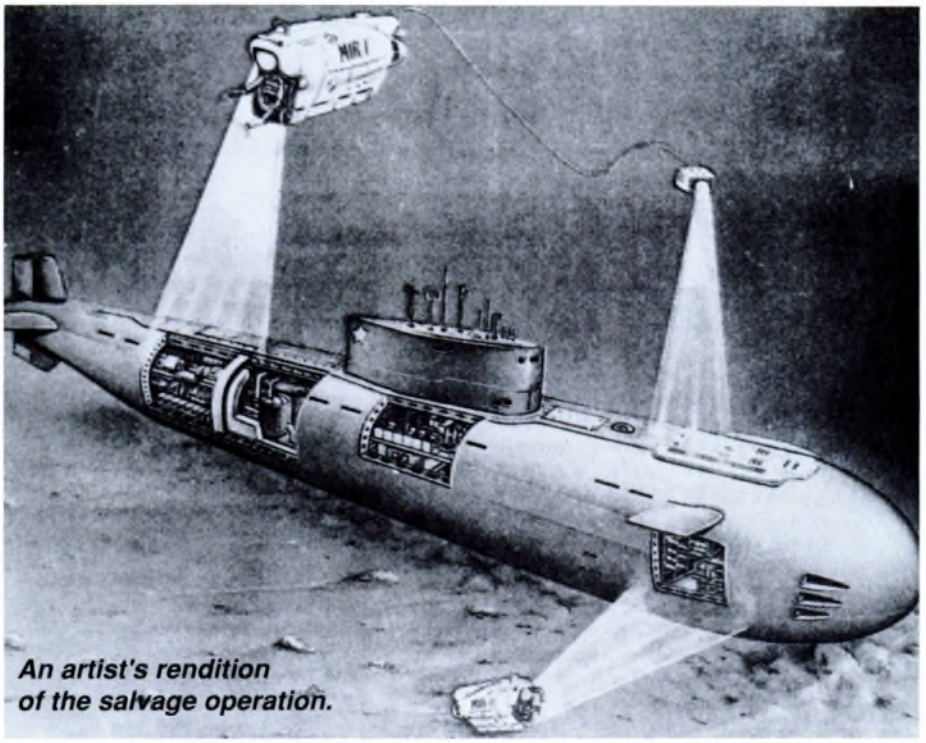
For the most part, the Soviets are focusing on the environmental aspects of the salvage operation. The Dutch and Norwegians are conducting separate environmental checks. The deep-sea diving equipment to be used is being built by Dutch firms.

Studies show that if the submarine remains at the bottom of the sea, radiation levels at and near the site will increase somewhat, but it does not present a great risk to anything outside the area. The experts maintain that only the accident site itself will be affected. Though radiation may be higher for some 100 meters above the sub proper, the top layers of seawater will remain unaffected.

Since it presents such a small hazard, should the salvage operation be tackled at all? "Yes," stresses Spassky, "and the sooner the better, unless we can come up with some very sound reasons for leaving things as they are. Any factor, however insignificant it may seem, may in reality contribute to the deteriorating global environment. As far as the submarine is concerned, it's pretty hard to forecast the long-term environmental consequences. We don't know enough about the behavior of biological chains in situations like this."

When the salvage operation gets under way in the summer of 1993, the risk to the local environment is expected to remain just about the same as it is now with the sub on the sea bottom. Any negative impact will be short-lived—no more than twenty hours, the time required to raise the sub.

"After working together for the past twelve months, we've succeeded in developing an almost ideal salvage concept," Spassky says. ■



An artist's rendition of the salvage operation.

FOREST

Continued from page 53

partial cutting of low-value tree species in such mixed forests. This would reduce or eliminate the oppressive influence of the biological fields of birches and aspens on other tree species. This is already being done in Karelia."

"But why can't this biological field be detected, even with the most sensitive instruments?" I asked.

"There is a parable about three blind sages. One of them touched the leg of an elephant and said that it must be a column. Another touched the trunk and said it was a snake. The third bumped into the elephant's side and decided that it was a wall. I think that we act like those blind sages when we try to discover and touch the biological field.

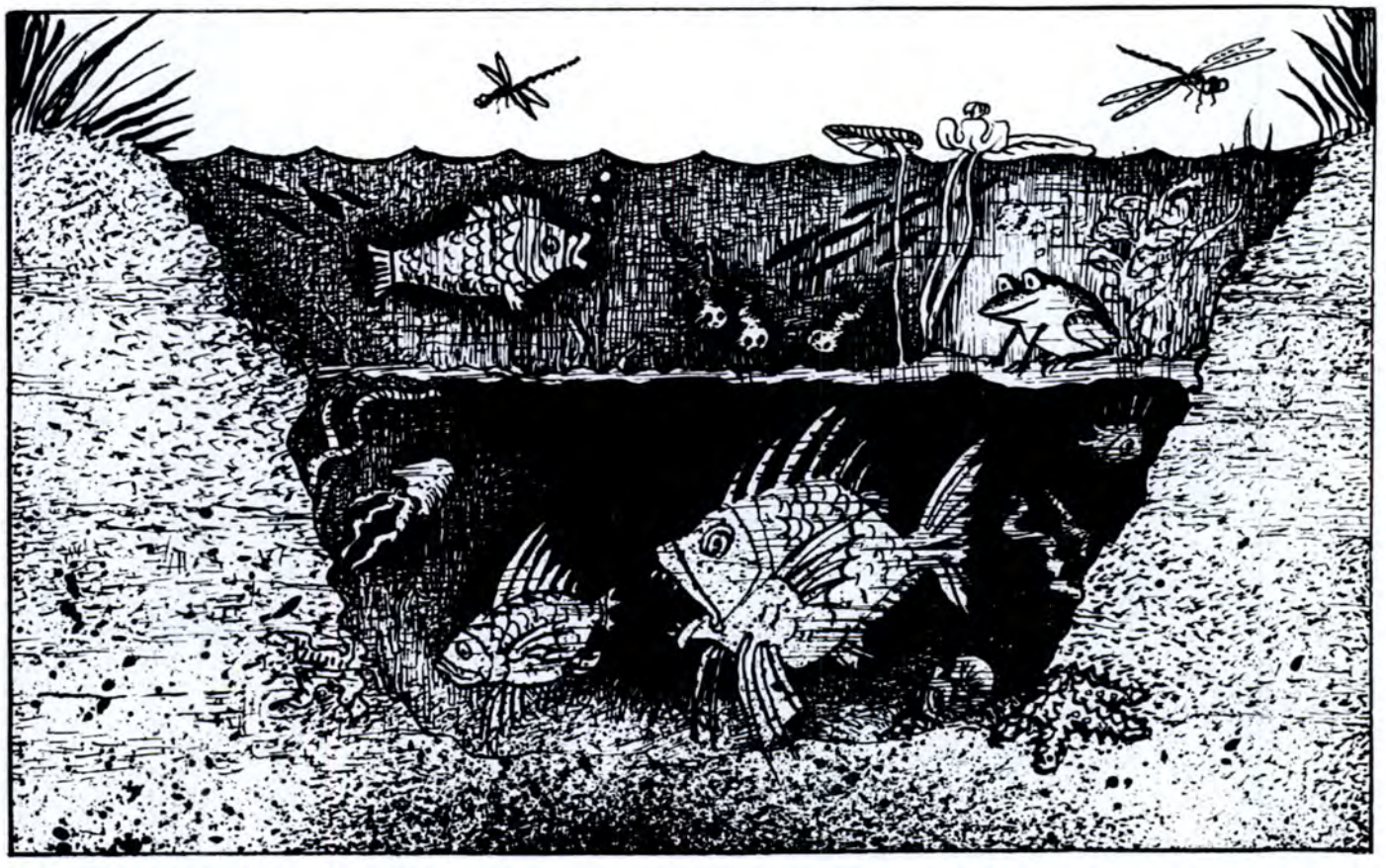
"In my opinion, the biological field is an independent phenomenon, so it has to be studied as a whole instead of in bits and pieces. Think of it this way: there's no sign of whiteness in any sector of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum, which consists of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. But when all these colors merge, we get a white flower. In the same way, the biological field has gravitational, magnetic, electrical, and other components, though none of them separately expresses the biological field's properties. I don't think that the biological field can be studied with conventional physical instruments; it's a property of living matter only. We need to find some way to learn more about this phenomenon, and various research teams are already working in this direction."

"Is there any relationship between the biological fields of plants and humans?" I asked.

"The human animal, like any other living thing, must have a biological field. I'm not going to make a judgment about its properties—that's not my specialty. As for the relationship with plants' biological fields, it's probably significant that after a stroll in the forest, many of us feel as if we've been charged with new energy. It may be a result not just of the fresh air but also of the interaction with the biological fields of all those plants." ■

AMAZING LAKE MOGILNOYE

By Igor Mosin
Drawing by Irina Shipovskaya



Several years ago a press report drew attention to a rare and curious phenomenon: Lake Mogilnoye, on Kildin Island in the Barents Sea, is the habitat of both marine and freshwater fish. Several distinct layers of water give refuge to marine and freshwater species of flora and fauna. For these organisms, straying into another layer spells mortal danger.

What is the origin of this fantastic layer cake of a lake? Biologist Marina Shirokova, of the Leningrad Lake Research Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, told us about some recent findings:

"Long ago on this site there was a bay, which gradually lost its direct link with the sea. Such detached reservoirs usually develop in one of two directions: either they become freshwater lakes and the marine life dies, or they turn into salt lakes, in which only salt-tolerant organisms can survive.

"Lake Mogilnoye followed its own evolution. It consists of three layers today: an upper, freshwater, layer, teeming with freshwater fish; a middle, saltwater, layer where marine organisms live; and a lower, supersalinated layer, devoid of flora and fauna as a result of hydrogen sulfide that emanates from the bottom of the lake.

"A comprehensive study was conducted by the Murmansk Marine Biology Institute, which demonstrated the existence of a hidden link between the lake and the sea. It turns out that Lake Mogilnoye takes in about forty-five cubic meters of seawater daily. The seawater penetrates the porous sandy pebbles at a certain site during high tide. During low tide, the process is reversed.

"Lake Mogilnoye is inhabited by Kildin cod, butterfish, and three-spined stickleback. The existence of the cod and butterfish has long been known, but the stickleback was found here by the Murmansk institute only recently.

"Some of the lake's inhabitants have developed unique features. For instance, the Kildin cod that is native to Mogilnoye has a reduced life cycle and a modified digestive system. Other species that have long disappeared from the coastal waters of the area have survived in the lake.

"Russian limnologist Konstantin Deryugin aptly described the marine fauna in Lake Mogilnoye as living between a hammer and an anvil. There is evidence that the lake is gradually freshening. Its transformation into a fully freshwater reservoir should be complete in some 350 years. Meanwhile, the marine fish are trapped between the increase in fresh water and an increase in hydrogen sulfide." ■

art

OLEG NEFYODKIN

A RESTLESS TALENT

By Robert Tsfasman
Reproductions by Alexei Sverdlov

When you look at these reproductions, you may think that the pictures are the work of many different artists. In fact, however, this is a one-man show, even though the paintings are worlds apart in style, and the excellent workmanship and the searching mind you sense behind them are the only things they seem to have in common.

Moscow artist Oleg Nefyodkin, thirty-five, is unlike too many artists of my acquaintance. No sprees when he makes a fat commission, no complaints about bad luck, and no vicious gossip about his fellow artists. Granted, he does have a bohemian air about him—you'll never mistake him for a prosperous businessman. But he's not doing so badly, with a luxurious rented studio, a Volvo, and repeated trips abroad. His canvases sell like

Below: Artist Oleg Nefyodkin. Above: *Angel Over the City. 1990.* Oil on canvas. Facing page: *The Dream.*1990. Oil on canvas.

hot cakes. Many are sold abroad, bringing him dollars, which help make his life with his beautiful wife and baby son quite comfortable.

Fortune has always smiled on Nefyodkin. At thirteen, he won an award in a children's art competition in Milan, Italy. Several years later, he entered the Moscow Art Institute, a prestigious establishment that refuses thousands of gifted applicants every year. Many of his professors there were well-known painters and graphic artists.

After Nefyodkin got his degree, he took a job with Detskaya Literatura (Children's Books) Publishers. Illustrating books did not distract him from his easel, and he took part in many high-profile shows. He was admitted to the USSR Artists Union six years ago, at an unusually young age. Now he is finishing a postgraduate course at the arts academy. ☞

Nefyodkin doesn't know much about pulling strings to advance his career. The secret of his success has been very simple—talent and industry.

The sound classical schooling that the artist received at the Moscow Art Institute can be seen most clearly in his filigree illustrations of nineteenth-century Russian novels. Nefyodkin has followed the tradition of realism in his painting, too, but gave it up five years ago to try his hand at one avant-garde trend after another. Not that he was an imitator: he just tried different paths, eventually taking his own.

Nefyodkin's protean modernism has been influenced by Russian medievality ever since the artist's days at the institute—not so much by the artistic style as by the pious content. Nefyodkin has spent a great deal of time in northern Russia, and he has become familiar with its famous churches and monasteries. He lived a hermit's life for two years at the Storozhev Monastery of St. Sabbas in Zvenigorod near Moscow, where he restored murals and icons. Later, before the millennial celebration of Russian Christianity, he had a prominent place on the restoration team led by the renowned icon painter Father Zenon, which worked in St. Daniel's Monastery in Moscow.

"I want to combine modernity and the refined spirituality of the Middle Ages, which is most easily conveyed through light," Nefyodkin said to me.

"So you keep to national traditions in art?"

"National traditions are fascinating to me. Take, for example, Russia and America, two huge multiethnic countries. Russian art is multiethnic, like the population, and can be clearly traced to many traditions. American art is different. The New World has gathered immigrants from all continents, so it's a kaleidoscope, for the time being—not a solid mosaic. There are certainly already some purely American artists, though."

Nefyodkin knows what he's talking about from personal experience. He crossed the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific on the Peace Walk of 1988 and has revisited the country several times at the invitation of friends. His canvases have been exhibited in Berkeley, California, and in Alexandria, Virginia. Several of his paintings have found buyers.

When I asked the artist how he explained the current Western fascination with Soviet art, he said: "We were isolated from the West for too long, so now our art has the attraction of novelty. This will pass soon. Only those artists who are truly original will remain on the scene. The public will forget the many who are now making money hand over fist by copying the Russian art nouveau of the early twentieth century."

"Would you like to settle in the United States for good?"

"For good? No. But traveling is another story. I love to travel. I think that an artist can be happy anywhere for a limited time. But of course, there's no place like home." ■

Right: *Portrait of Natella.* 1990. Below: *Science-fiction Landscape.* 1989. Facing page, clockwise from top: *Northern Autumn.* 1990. *Winter.* 1991. *Twilight.* 1990. All are oil on canvas.

actress-businesswoman galina yatskina

An Interview with Pyotr Kuzmenko
Photographs by Valeri Plotnikov

Q: In how many films have you had acting roles?
A: Nineteen. That isn't very many, but I'm not ashamed of that. I've only appeared in good movies, with good directors. My favorite is still the film I did with Vadim Abdrashitov, *A Word for the Defense*.

Q: You are best known for your films *Women*, *A Word for the Defense*, and *French Lessons*. But until recently, you'd dropped out of sight. Now you are the head of the firm Kinokontact. Does this mean that you've given up acting?
A: No, certainly not. I play the lead role in the film *Provincial Girl*, which was made for Ukrainian television and is due to come out soon. I'm also filming *The Cuckold*, directed by Arkadi Krasilshikov. But Kinokontact is what I live for nowadays. Our company was founded with the help of the Cinema Actors Guild of the USSR. Our purpose is to help actors.

Q: Why did you suddenly start studying business?

A: There's a wise saying, apparently Indian: "Your character determines your fate." All our successes and failures, misfortunes, and defeats are conditioned by our character. Personally, I love to immerse myself in an unfamiliar field, another life. The theater and cinema are no longer the whole world to me. I started graduate school and began to write my thesis. Nobody took me seriously at first. But I was in the library from nine to five. I wrote and defended my thesis. I began teaching at a theatrical college.

Galina Yatskina. Below left: In stills from the movie, *A Word for the Defense*.

Now I've taken the plunge into business. I was always afraid of numbers. I didn't have any idea of what self-financing meant. Now I know.

Q: Let's assume that you were a born businesswoman. How did you become an actress in the first place, then?
A: Like many young girls, I loved the theater and always dreamed of appearing on stage. As a child, I would gladly clean the whole house, floors and all, in exchange for a theater ticket. After I finished school, I left my native Saratov for Moscow, where I didn't know a soul. I had twenty-five rubles in my pocket and two outfits in my suitcase. I immediately enrolled at the Shchepkin Theater College attached to the Maly Theater, where I now teach.

Q: Do you still feel a pull toward the theater?
A: To be perfectly honest, I've already reached an age at which it's not worth pinning all your hopes on an acting career. But I'm an inquisitive person, and the new and the unknown attract me. I do want to act, but being simply an actress isn't enough for me. I'm also interested in business and teaching.

Q: Very happy people often have such a thirst for life.
A: I'm a woman who does what she wants to, and I consider that the greatest happiness of all. There are so many people who have to do jobs they don't like—every day they wake up and go to work, hating every minute.

I have experienced everything in my life. There were moments of bleak solitude: nine years of widowhood—my first husband died of a heart attack at the age of thirty-seven. I had to bring up a six-year-old son on my own, without any help whatsoever. So I know exactly what it means to earn one's living and to be a single parent.

Now it seems God has sent me happiness. My second husband is a wonderful man. My son is already in his first year at Moscow State University. My husband is a businessman; maybe that's why I'm so enthusiastic about business—it's infectious.

Q: I saw your film *Beat Around the Bush*, about the Sixth Congress of the USSR Cinematographers Union. You seem to be a real risk taker.
A: Absolutely. Three days before the congress was due to open, I found out that the leading names in the film world had not been chosen as delegates. Who was going to decide the fate of our cinema? I phoned Sergei Sholokhov, of the popular television show "Fifth Wheel." We did a piece on the non-delegate Congress of Cinematographers. The film was the first documentary film Kinokontact released. We've started work on a feature film tentatively entitled *When You Die*, about the quest for the artistic ideal.

Q: Ideal? That's a word you rarely hear nowadays.
A: My ideal is to be surrounded by intelligent and honest people, whom I respect and with whom I want to socialize and work. People who dare to live. That's not just a concept; in our difficult times you need courage to live with dignity.

Q: I think that you have that kind of courage.
A: I wouldn't have survived otherwise. I was bedridden for four years. When I was a child, I suffered terribly from tuberculosis, which affected my bones. I've suffered further attacks periodically since then. After filming *A Word for the Defense*, I received many interesting offers, but I had to stay in the hospital for two years. I was in excruciating pain, though that wasn't the worst part. I had to be taken from the hospital for the filming of *French Lessons*. I left my crutches behind the set, played my scene, and then was back on my crutches again.

Q: You've started a new career just when many people have gotten apathetic because of the instability of our life. How do you feel about today's situation?
A: Like everyone else, I notice the vacillating nature of our troubled times. But now I'm investing all my energy in Kinokontact. Together with other members of the Actors Guild, I hope that we really will be able to help actors solve some of their problems, so that their creative path develops in the most positive manner possible. ■

IN MEMORY OF ALLIED CONVOYS

Not long ago celebrations were held in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Allied convoys that had delivered arms, equipment, foodstuffs, and medicines to the USSR during World War II. The festivities were attended by veterans from the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Special tribute was paid to the brave seamen who died in the northern seas.

SCALING THE PAMIRS WITH DOGS

A group of mountain climbers recently scaled a peak 6,400 meters high in the Pamirs—a feat that's been done before. What makes this effort unique is that this time the climbers were accompanied by a team of Eskimo dogs.

COMING SOON

The Year 1991 in Review

Life in our country is not easy these days. Problems of everyday living threaten to grind down the individual. But the human spirit is resilient. With family, friends, and a little imagination, these Muscovites manage to have fun in spite of it all!

Soviet Life

December 1991 • $3.00

Commemorative Medals For American Seamen

12

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by Vladimir Molodkhin
Happy New Year to You!

Soviet Life

December 1991, No. 12 (423)

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Editor—Sergei S. Ivanko
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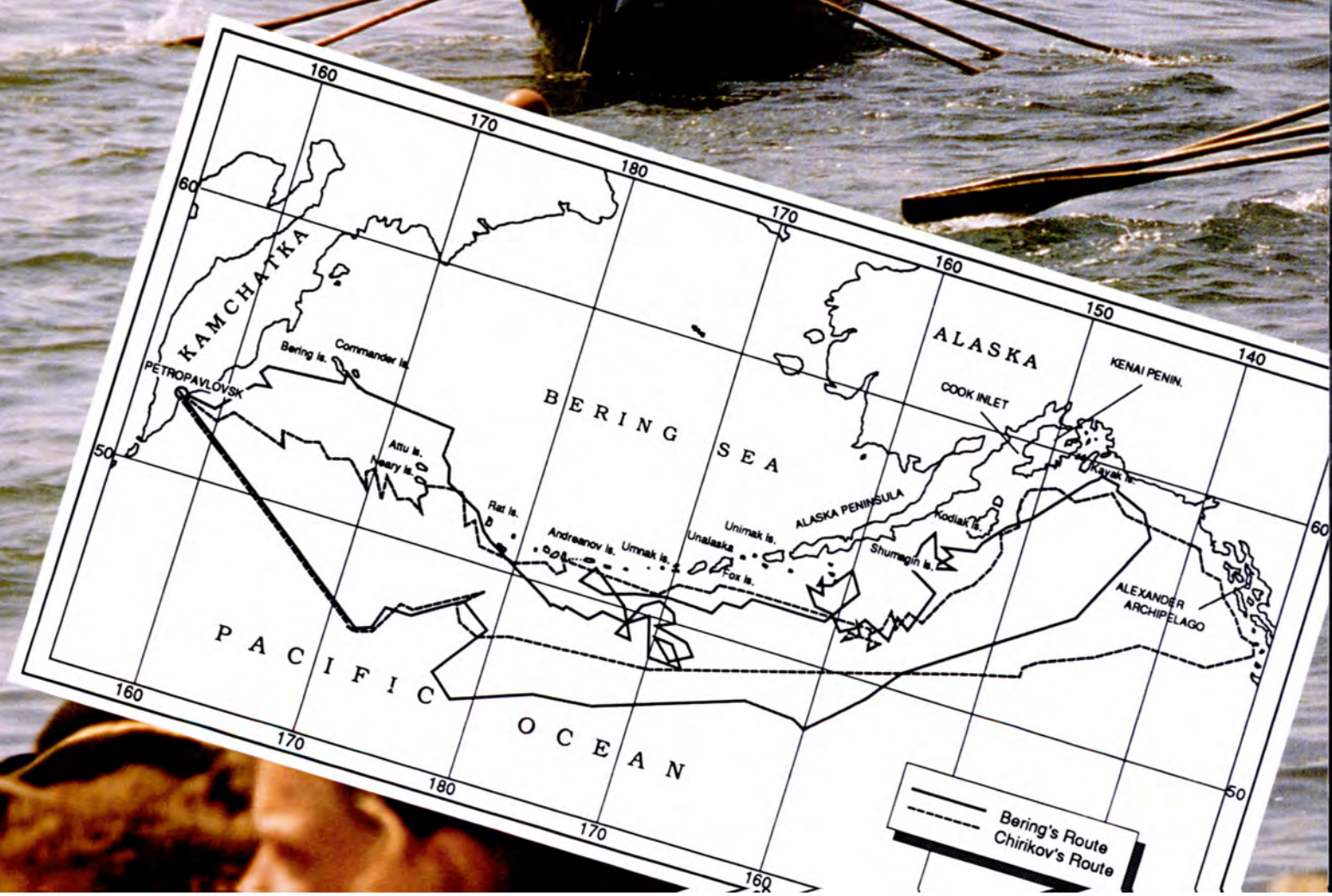
USSR-USA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RUSSIAN AMERICA TODAY

By Alexander Tropkin
Photographs by Alexander Lyskin and Alexander Kurbatov

The events in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of Russian America re-created the atmosphere of the period. The modern sailing frigate *Pallada* (above) sits in the harbor before embarking on its journey following the route (far left) taken by Vitus Bering's 1741 expedition. Left is an artist's rendition of the legendary sailing ships the *St. Peter* and the *St. Paul* making their way to the New World.

Top to bottom: Members of the Marathon Winter Swimming Association, who demonstrated their abilities in the frigid waters of the Bering Strait off the Alaskan coast. Soviet historian Dr. Alexander Alexeyev, who has penned several books on Russian America, and his colleague and friend American Nikolai Rokityansky (left), curator of the Fort Ross museum in California, meeting on the pier in San Francisco. Musicians donning guardsmen's costumes of the time of Peter the Great play at the sendoff in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

Wooden dwellings and public buildings of Novoarkhangelsk, the Russian capital of Alaska, in the early nineteenth century. The engraving is by an unknown artist. The tricolor flag of the Russian-American Company carried a two-headed eagle with an orb and scepter.

In the June issue of SOVIET LIFE we wrote about the Russian America-250 expedition being planned to mark the 250th anniversary of the discovery of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands by Russian seafarers. The pioneers of the 1741 expedition were Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov. Today their achievement is as famous in Russia as it is in the United States, with dozens of articles having been written on the history of Russian settlements in the New World.

One of the highlights of the celebrations marking the anniversary centered on three Soviet vessels, including the sailing frigate the *Pallada*, which followed the eighteenth-century route across the Pacific to the Aleutians, Alaska, and the coast of California. Along the journey, the ship visited several cities and villages situated on former Russian territory, gave presents to their residents, established friendly and business contacts, and celebrated the anniversary together with the local population.

The ships set out in early July, with the hope of reaching the Alaskan coast by mid-month, around the same time as when the expedition commander Captain Vitus Bering moored his packet boat, the *St. Peter*, near "the strange island of a strange land." Later that rocky piece of land in the ocean was named Kayak Island.

The atmosphere was festive in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky this past summer as the expeditionary ships stood in the shipping lanes of the port, ready for their journey across the Pacific. The old city on the Kamchatka Peninsula had good reason for celebrating the anniversary. It was from here, in Avacha Bay in Petropavlovsk, that Vitus Bering set out on the second Kamchatka expedition. The difficult voyage of 1741 ended in triumph, but not without tragedy: The strait dividing Eurasia and North America was discovered, but it cost Bering and half of his crew their lives.

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky was all decked out for the anniversary festivities, with the tricolor flags of the Russian-American Company (1799-1867) flying on the local houses. Many of the local young people wore baseball caps and T-shirts printed with the American flag to welcome their guests from abroad.

Guests from Alaska, who were invited to participate in the festivities, enjoyed the warm hospitality of Petropavlovsk residents. Bob Berents, of the Cordova chapter of the Bering-Chirikov-250 Committee, headed the Alaska group. He complained jokingly that the people of Petropavlovsk had showered the Americans with so many gifts that shipping the precious cargo home presented a serious problem. Berents proudly showed one of the gifts—a handmade replica of the famous sailing ship the *St. Peter*—and added: "This wonderful object will be a jewel of our city museum!"

The enthusiastic welcome given to the American guests could largely be explained by the fact that they were practically the first foreigners to visit Kamchatka. For decades, the peninsula was closed to outsiders. Today it opens its arms to visitors and tourists, displaying its unique volcanoes, hot springs, forest preserves, and azure bays.

Pyotr Premyak, chairman of the Kamchatka Regional Soviet of People's Deputies, has great plans for the peninsula's future. He dreams of restoring the Russian-American Company, which he believes will revive trade and business cooperation with America's West Coast.

"The future Russian-American Company will shoulder the bulk of Kamchatka's trade and business with Alaska and California. Joint fishing and fish-processing prospects are major lines for development. In addition, large natural gas and gold deposits have recently been found on Kamchatka. Americans have displayed an interest in these reserves, but not all Kamchatka residents approve of the ☞

large-scale development of these resources, mostly for ecological reasons.

"I think the future company must concentrate on creating the infrastructure for tourism with the help of substantial American capital investments. There are good prospects for Soviet and American volcanologists and seismologists too. We can also work jointly to solve common ecological problems, problems facing the Arctic regions and preserves. In short, America is turning from our No. 1 enemy into our No. 1 partner."

The research vessel the *Academician Shirshov* was the first to leave Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for the New World. The weather boded well for the journey as the members of the expedition and the crew, except those on duty and our tireless cooks, gathered on deck to get acquainted and to exchange first impressions and tales about other journeys and voyages.

On board the ship were businessmen and actors from Siberia, musicians from St. Petersburg, managers and artists from Vladivostok and Odessa, and historians, interpreters, and journalists from Moscow. I began getting to know the members of the expedition on the first day of the voyage. Let me introduce some of them, starting with the captain—our leader on board.

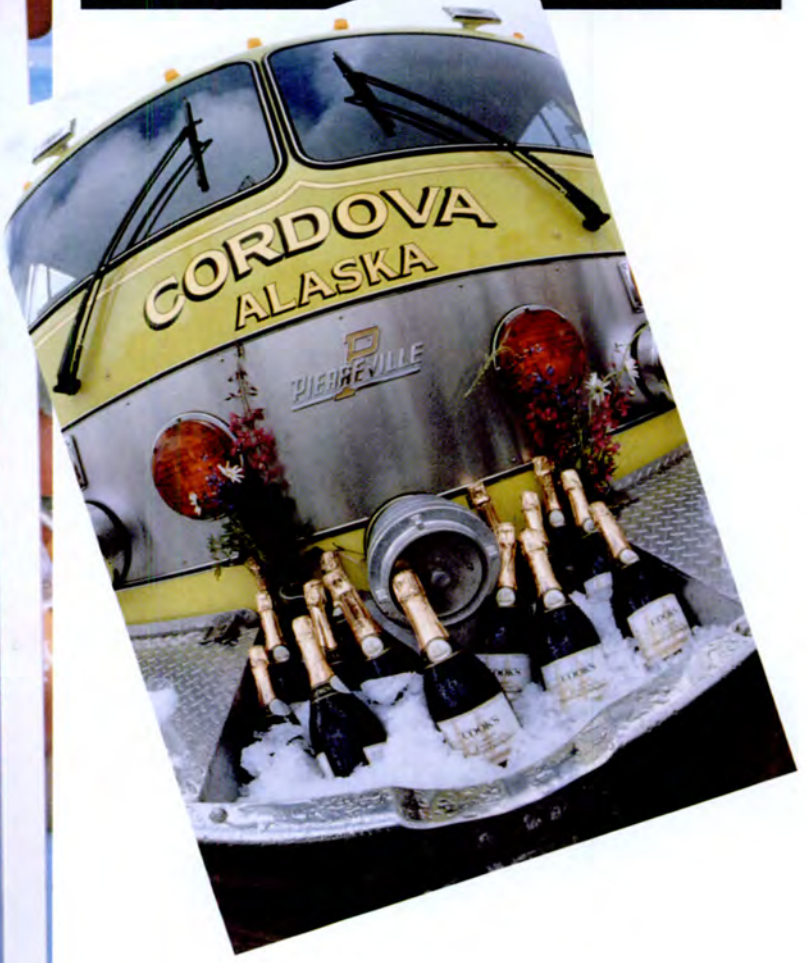
Captain Vilen Alper, fifty-nine, is an experienced veteran of the country's research fleet. Over the years his vessel has taken part in several risky operations. The *Academician Shirshov* has twice faced the mortal danger of Antarctic ice, but each time the captain and his crew have emerged victorious. Although Captain Alper has furrowed the Pacific far and wide and visited dozens of ports in Pacific countries, he had never been to America, and the thought of doing so made him somewhat nervous. Asked what he expected from the visit, he answered: "It's a great honor to follow Bering's route. I want to step on the land that was long ago discovered by Russians. I'm looking forward to meeting with the descendants of those early pioneers. I hope that Americans will return our friendship."

Siberian businessman Vladislav Grinevich roomed next door to me. He was representing the interests of Severovostokzoloto, the country's largest gold-mining association. Grinevich hails from Chukotka, where he works in the distant Ostrozhny Mine as chief engineer. He just recently developed an interest in business, and the mine

A souvenir photograph taken near Fort Ross. Facing page, clockwise from left: A family of Russian emigrants, owners of the Kalinka Restaurant in Seattle, Washington. An eighteenth-century engraving of Aleutian natives who inhabited the islands when the Russian explorers arrived. Bottles of champagne presented by Cordova fishermen to members of the expedition.

has profited greatly from his innovations: Gold nuggets are no longer remelted. Instead, they are fashioned into beautiful pieces of jewelry, which brings large profits to the mine. Grinevich's mine is not ready to trade with America yet, however.

"I'm looking to find business partners in Alaska, people who will be interested in developing Chukotka's rare-earth metals, such as lanthanum and iridium. Demand for these metals on the world market is high, and we have rich deposits. We are also willing to share profits from the development of ceolites, a valuable raw material. Ceolites make an excellent additive to the diet of domestic animals and poultry. They also increase crop yields, and they are ever more often being used in construction. The end product's delivery from Chukotka to Alaska wouldn't be a problem. The Bering Strait is the shortest route between our countries." ☞



Another passenger was Vladimir Podgorodinsky, chief director of Rock Opera, St. Petersburg's musical theater. Though the theater is young and not yet very well known, connoisseurs assured me that Podgorodinsky had collected the best young voices of St. Petersburg in his troupe. Every day of the voyage, the theater rehearsed its performances, treating the passengers and crew to scenes from the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* and to songs from the musical *Yunona and Avos*. The latter suited the occasion perfectly because one of the musical's main characters, diplomat Nikolai Rezanov, "discovered" California for Russia in 1806 and dreamed about broad trade contacts between Russia and America. Podgorodinsky interpreted the story and Rezanov's personality from a fresh angle.

"I wasn't trying to stick to Rezanov's biography, although his main idea—that of uniting Russia and America—is clearly expressed in our performance. I wanted to emphasize the Russians' irrepressible striving for freedom. Rezanov dreamed of a free Russia. His love for a California girl was a godsend for his ordeal and suffering.

"Although our performance wasn't staged specially for American audiences, we hoped it would receive a hearty welcome."

The hopes of the chief director were later justified. In all the cities where performances were given, Americans gave the Russian theater a standing ovation, and many people in the audience had tears in their eyes.

Only by plying the ocean can one really appreciate the courage and skill of the pioneers of Russian America who safely steered their ships through the treacherous northern straits. The wooden packets the *St. Peter* and the *St. Paul* were mere toys compared to the modern research ships by which we traveled the same route. When, however, our ships were caught in a storm in the middle of the ocean, we realized that even the best modern ship is a toy against nature on a rampage. We were tossed left and right and up and down, and our deck was washed by waves several meters high. Though nature did its best to dissuade us, ship life went on as usual. Nothing short of total disaster could daunt our spirits.

Finally, the day arrived when we saw the outlines of the rocky Aleutian Islands on the horizon. Over the ship's radio came the announcement that we were approaching Unalaska Island.

Everyone on board piled on deck so as not to miss out on this historic moment. We all viewed the place where Alexander Baranov, the first governor of Russian America, lost his ship and where many of our countrymen, founders of the settlement with the poetic name of Good Harmony, are buried.

Suddenly, Kayak Island appeared from under heavy storm clouds. According to legend, Bering's ship had cast anchor near the Kayak shore, and the captain and his trusty assistant—Georg Wilhelm Steller, a doctor and a natural scientist—stepped on the shore for the first time. We later found out that Steller is remembered and honored in Alaska as much as the great

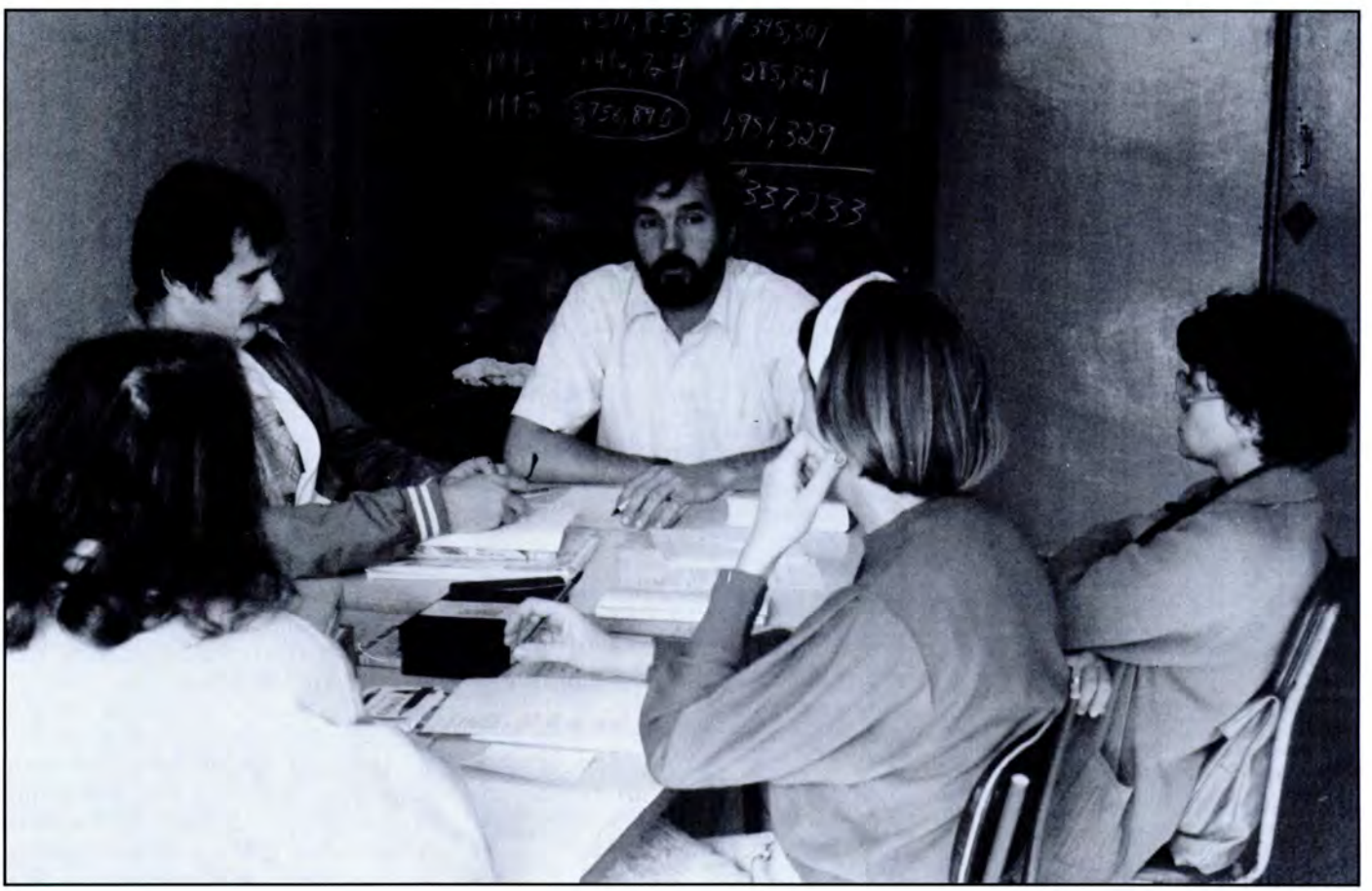
Residents of Cordova turned out en masse for the festive welcoming of their guests from Russia. On Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Bob Berents (center) a leader of the Cordova chapter of the Bering-Chirikov-250 Committee, accepts the Kamchedals' traditional greeting reserved for honored guests—a large fish pie. The celebrations on Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the capital of Kamchatka, included a craft festival drawing artisans from neighboring regions and from abroad. Facing page: An unknown artist's engraving of the Russian fortress and fishermen's settlement on Kodiak Island in the early nineteenth century.

The port of Novoarkhangelsk (Sitka) on the coast of Alaska. The engraving was done by P. Tikmenov, 1863.

The Aleutian Islands as they were viewed by members of the Russian America-250 expedition. The islands were discovered by Vitus Bering and Alexei Chirikov in 1741. The expeditionary ship the Academician Shirshov *anchored near Seattle, Washington, in view of the magnificent skyline of the American city.*

An Exchange of Experience and Knowledge

By Ada Baskina



American professors and their Soviet counterparts in a study group discussing business practices.

Marketing," "management," "business people," "enterprise,"—these words, so familiar to the American ear, sounded strange in a luxury hotel outside Moscow, where a three-week Soviet-American symposium on management and business was held last August. Not that we had never heard these words; but until recently they were used as invectives.

Our centralized economy had no need for words like those. But times have changed, and our economy is turning toward market relations. With the appearance of the first business people and small- and

medium-sized businesses, we discovered we know almost nothing about marketing and management, business law and business ethics, pricing and tax policy, and related topics. Though our higher educational institutions graduate thousands of specialists annually, they aren't equipped to be managers in the true sense of the word.

That's why we decided to look to the United States for help. The beginning was very chaotic. Some of the teachers taught courses without having had sufficient training. Some students were sent to American business schools, but, because conditions in this country are so different from those in Western countries, the effect was negligible. Not much of the knowledge that our students acquired in the United States could be applied at home.

Then some enterprising heads of higher educational institutions and the progressive leadership of the State Committee for Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation decided to bring some order to the assistance they were getting. They approached two U.S. institutions known for their strong business programs—Eastern College and the Christian College Coalition—with a request for help in drafting a plan to train people interested in going into business. The plan went on to become the Coalition/Russian M.B.A. Project.

"What was your reaction when the Soviets first approached you?" I asked Dr. John Bernbaum, vice president of the Christian College Coalition.

"We didn't know what to think," he replied. "On the one hand, we were impressed by the changes in Eastern Europe and, above all, in the Soviet Union. On the other hand, we decided that it would be better to see for ourselves, so we sent a delegation of experts to the USSR. The experts reported back that though the whole situation was terrible, the students needed the most help."

Dr. Bernbaum told me that he saw for himself how desperate the situation was when a delegation of Soviet teachers came to Washington. They virtually besieged the coalition staff, asking them to start talks immediately on business-training programs in the USSR.

I talked to Van Weigel, a professor at Eastern College. "You want to know what made me agree to teach business and marketing under this joint program?" he asked me. "It was purely emotional. First, wonderful changes are taking place in your country, and I didn't want to look on from the outside; I wanted to help in whatever way I could. Second, I teach business ethics. I feel it is important to teach students—American and Soviet—the main ideas about morality and the modern market."

And so teachers from Soviet and American institutions of higher learning got down to work. The Soviet participants had a surprisingly wide range of experience and reasons for taking part.

Vladimir Kozlov, professor of marketing at the Russian Plekhanov Economics Academy, told me: "Twenty years ago, as a teacher at an economics institute, I used American and other Western textbooks to teach the fundamentals of marketing. As a result, I was expelled from the institute for teaching a bourgeois science."

Vladimir Kalgin, professor of economics and management at the Moscow Auto Institute, had his own story: "Our institute was the first in our country to adopt a two-tiered system of education. During the first four years, all students study together. They don't pay for their education, as in all other Soviet schools of higher learning. Upon graduation, students receive a Bachelor of Science degree, which is unusual for this country.

"The second stage, from which graduates receive a Master of Economics and Management degree, is individually paid education. The tuition fee is covered not by the students or their parents, but by enterprises that need specialists. A company may request that we train a manager, for instance. We can find teachers in the necessary fields, but we don't have textbooks or a grasp of the theory and practice of small businesses, marketing, or business ethics."

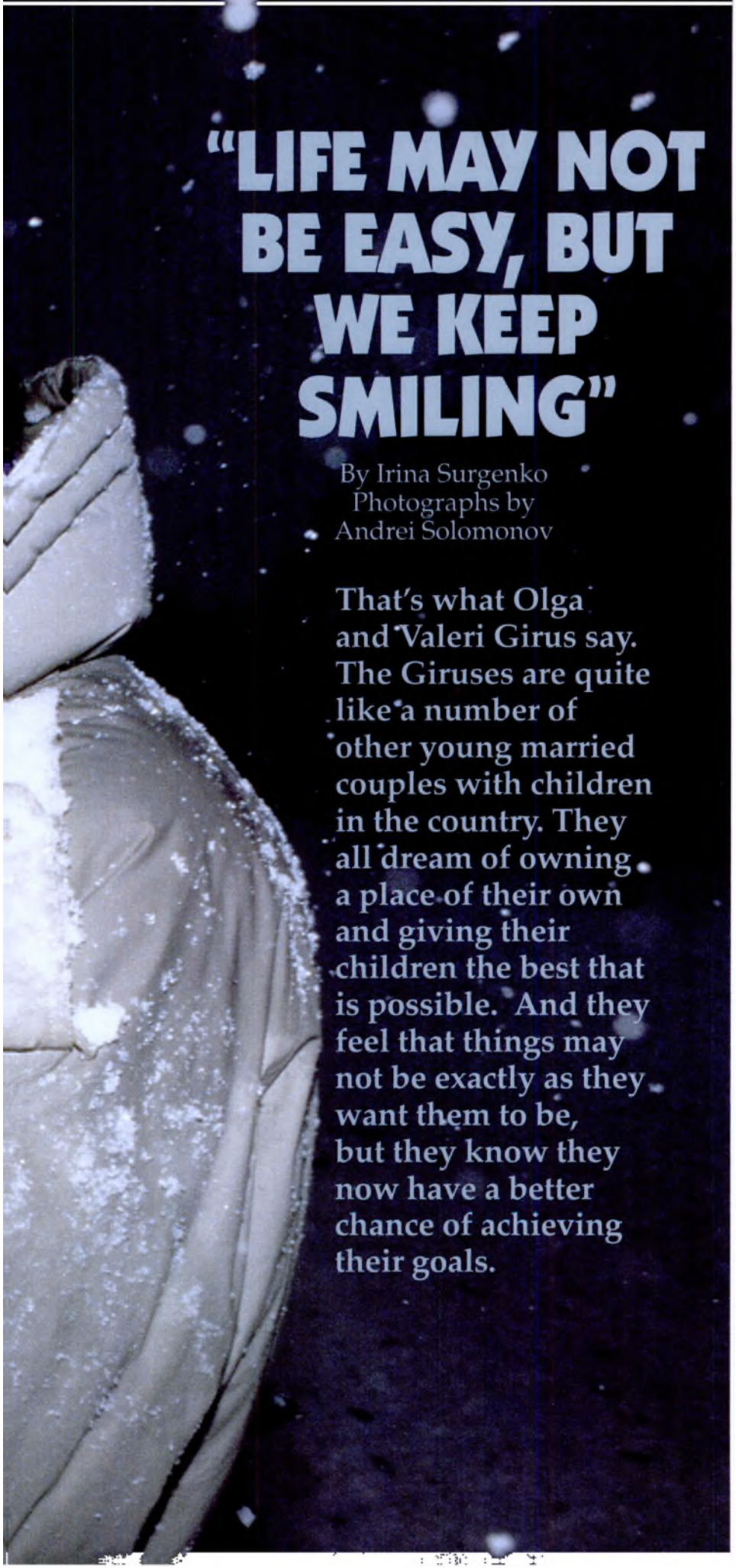
Soviet-American cooperation in this sphere is based on the existing American program adapted to Soviet conditions. The program was designed for a period of many years, with the final goal of creating a curriculum that could be taught at any Soviet institution of higher education. The American partners are represented by the Christian College Coalition. The supervisors of the program are the leaders of Eastern College. The Soviet side is represented by five schools from Moscow and other cities, headed by the Moscow Auto Institute.

The agreement was signed last July. The following month twelve American professors from nine Christian colleges met with their Soviet counterparts in Moscow. The studies began. They worked in groups, each on its own part of the program. American professors delivered lectures, but group discussions had the greatest success.

Said James Engel of Eastern College: "Of course there's a big difference between the Western and Eastern European countries. Our students cannot understand some concepts because they have nothing to relate them to. But that only spurs me on. I feel like a pioneer blazing a trail."

The seminar ended with its students approaching the goal of creating a sixty-hour curriculum covering twelve subjects to be introduced at five Russian schools next year and another twenty-seven in 1993.

Though the differences were great at times, both the Soviet and American participants in the seminars agree that the three-week consultations were invaluable. ■



"LIFE MAY NOT BE EASY, BUT WE KEEP SMILING"

By Irina Surgenko
Photographs by
Andrei Solomonov

That's what Olga and Valeri Girus say. The Giruses are quite like a number of other young married couples with children in the country. They all dream of owning a place of their own and giving their children the best that is possible. And they feel that things may not be exactly as they want them to be, but they know they now have a better chance of achieving their goals.

The last two weeks of December used to be a real headache for Olga Girus, twenty-four. Getting ready for the family's New Year's party, which always included the purchasing of gifts for relatives and friends, is a pleasant but time-consuming business.

"I've found the way out," said Olga. "I no longer leave everything until the last minute. Now I try to get as much done ahead of time as I can."

I met Olga and her husband, Valeri, at a New Year's bazaar, where we were picking out our New Year's trees. Later we climbed aboard the same bus to go home. As it turned out, the Giruses and I didn't live too far from each other, and they invited me to drop by.

Bringing in the New Year is celebrated in a big way in Russia. Unlike Western tradition, the New Year's holiday precedes the Russian Orthodox Christmas (observed on January 7) by a week. Our New Year's celebrations wouldn't be complete without a festively decorated tree, Grandfather Frost (our Santa Claus), the exchange of gifts, and a family dinner.

When I took the Giruses up on their invitation, their New Year's tree stood in all its grandeur in their house. A mischievous group of children, led by three-year-old Nastya, Olga and Valeri's daughter, seemed to be enjoying themselves. It was clear that Grandfather Frost had already been here.

"We're lucky our parents had tickets for the theater tonight," said Valeri. "Otherwise, we'd be pretty cramped for space."

"All young couples want a home of their own and the feeling of being the masters of their own fate. Sure, living on your own has its difficulties, but the sense of independence you get definitely makes it worth the trouble," Olga chimed in. Although the Giruses and the Korovkins (Olga's parents) manage to get along and to avoid any conflicts, the housing problem is, nevertheless, unsatisfactory.

"There's light at the end of the tunnel," said Valeri. "We've joined a house-building cooperative organized by my place of work, so we'll most likely be able to buy our own place. All we need is a down payment right now. We'll pay the rest of the cost in installments over a period of several years.

☞

New Year's scenes: All of Moscow gets caught up in the holiday spirit. The parks hold parties, and families spend time together. Grandfather Frost is always a welcome guest.

"Can you imagine our joy? It was like a gift from Grandfather Frost," Olga said.

Like many other Soviet young marrieds, Valeri and Olga met in school. They were both enrolled at the Institute of Food Technology in Moscow at the same time. Valeri was studying the elements of wine making, and Olga was studying confectionery. For three years they barely noticed each other in the corridors.

Then one summer they both decided to make some extra money, and they joined a group of students heading off to work on a state farm near Moscow. Valeri and the other young men were to build a cow barn, while Olga and the other young women were to do the cooking. One day Valeri dropped by the kitchen to fix a broken appliance. There he met Olga. The rest is history.

Valeri is three years older than his wife. He comes from a family of wine makers who live in Stavropol, in the southern part of Russia. He admits that sometimes he gets homesick for his native town.

Valeri and Olga are so different and yet so harmonious at the same time. Not a man of many words, Valeri is self-controlled and quiet. He has had to work hard to overcome his natural shyness. Olga, on the contrary, is very impulsive and easy-going.

"For me, jumping into married life wasn't hard," confided Olga. "I've been doing household chores since childhood. I love to cook, knit, and do needlework. I get a lot of enjoyment out of cleaning and decorating the apartment. I just wish that we had a place of our own. But that's coming."

"The first year of marriage was very difficult," Valeri added. "My in-laws are wonderful people, but I was still an outsider, so it was a painful period of adjustment. I also felt somewhat inadequate because here I was, the head of the house, but I still couldn't provide my new bride with everything I wanted to. We were both students, and our money was very tight. I took some part-time jobs on weekends to improve our financial situation, but without the help of our parents we'd never have been able to survive."

Valeri and Olga's daughter, Nastya, was born in 1988. By law, student mothers can take a year's leave of absence ☞

from their studies without losing any credit. But that's not how Olga wanted to do things. With Valeri helping her at home with the baby, she was able to graduate on schedule.

"Valeri really took to fatherhood. Right from the start, he took good care of our daughter, helping me with literally everything," said Olga.

After graduation Valeri got a job at a Moscow distillery, where he has been working as an engineer and a technician ever since. Olga decided to stay at home with the baby. Now that Nastya is already three, however, Olga has taken a part-time job in the confectionery department of a small business in Moscow. She works three days a week.

"I guess you could say I earn an average wage," confessed Valeri. "Only recently were our salaries at the distillery increased to 400 rubles to adjust for inflation. Olga works for an economically independent firm. She brings in another 250 rubles a month. Even so, with the skyrocketing increases in prices, we can afford only the most essential items. The governmental stipends that we qualify for do help, but ever so slightly. Of course, I'd never say we were living from hand to mouth—actually we're doing better than others—but we'd like to have so many things. There's the down payment on an apartment, new furniture, and, of course, a car. We'd also like to travel abroad, to provide our daughter with a good education.... The list goes on.

"Olga and I have decided to start our own business as soon as we can. At last the country is doing something to encourage private enterprise. Many of my coworkers dream of owning their own businesses too. Our national wine-making traditions are long and rich, and we want to revive them. I'm an optimist. I think that everything will be fine."

As working parents, Valeri and Olga are quite busy, but they both find time for health and physical fitness. Olga attends an aerobics class at a local health club three times a week, while Valeri's thing is weightlifting. The couple also go to a swimming pool year round.

Olga and Valeri Girus, like many other Soviet couples with children, say, "Life may not be easy right now, but we keep smiling." ■

Last New Year's at the Girus home. Top: Daughter Nastya sits with one of her young guests. Right: "So much fun—I'll never fall asleep, but my eyes are so heavy," Nastya seems to be saying to her new, stuffed pals.

Ancient Russian books from fifteen private collections were displayed at a small book exhibit recently held in Moscow. The books have been preserved, hand-copied or printed by Old Believers who broke off contact with the official Russian Orthodox Church in the second half of the seventeenth century.

CUSTODIANS OF MEMORY

Today a desire to preserve the old Russian religion, customs, and lifestyle is common to all groups of Old Believers. Copies of Old Russian literary masterpieces printed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and even as recent as twenty years ago, in the 1970s, show a loyalty to the ancient traditions. Bedtime stories with morals, religious poems, historical works, and interpretations of the Bible and ecclesiastical laws are preserved, copied, and read to this day, especially among people who live in the countryside.

One collection at the recent book exhibit in Moscow consisted mostly of religious texts, which were written in the last quarter of the eighteenth century in the Russian North, by people living on the shores of the White Sea. For nearly 200 years the texts were passed down through a peasant family of Old Believers. Over the years members of the family made notes in the margins of the books, telling about the vicissitudes of the Northern weather, the price of bread, the harvests, and the hunting season; recording family births and deaths; and noting the construction of a wooden church, the time of the drifting of the ice, and many other important aspects of the peasant's world. This book of texts attracted the greatest atten-

Above: An eighteenth-century prayer book. Left: A seventeenth-century Psalter.

Another collection included an alphabet primer, Psalter, and prayer book that had been used for centuries by all Russians—from peasants to crown princes—learning to read and to write and to follow the ABCs of righteous living. Today these books are still used by communities of Old Believers in the Urals, Siberia, Moscow, Canada, Australia, and the United States to teach Church Slavonic and the basics of the Orthodox faith. Since Psalters and prayer books play a major role in the church service, time and the ages have taken their toll on these books and it is the rare copy that has survived. Alphabet books were printed in large editions, but not a single original copy has been found.

Two copies of the first Russian edition of a grammar book by Meleti Smotritsky, the famous Russian linguist, were displayed among other textbooks. In 1648, 1,200 grammars were published in Moscow. For years they were not only the major Russian textbooks but also the basis of contact between the nations of Slavs.

The displays that were devoted to the second half of the sixteenth century—during the lifetime of the first Russian printer, Ivan Fyodorov— included not only the world-renowned editions printed by Fyodorov himself (three copies of the first printed Slavic Bible dating from 1580-1581), but also manuscript books created before and simultaneously with them.

Among them was a Psalter written in the 1580s or the 1590s. The manuscript copy of this rare and famous edition of the Psalter was issued by order of Ivan the Terrible on January 31, 1577.

A book of folk medicine dating to the eighteenth century and printed on quality Dutch paper includes 338 treatments for such human disorders as insomnia, the common cold, bleeding, headaches, toothaches, and snakebites. The ☞

book also contains a list of forty-seven medicinal herbs, other remedies, and helpful hints on preventive medicine.

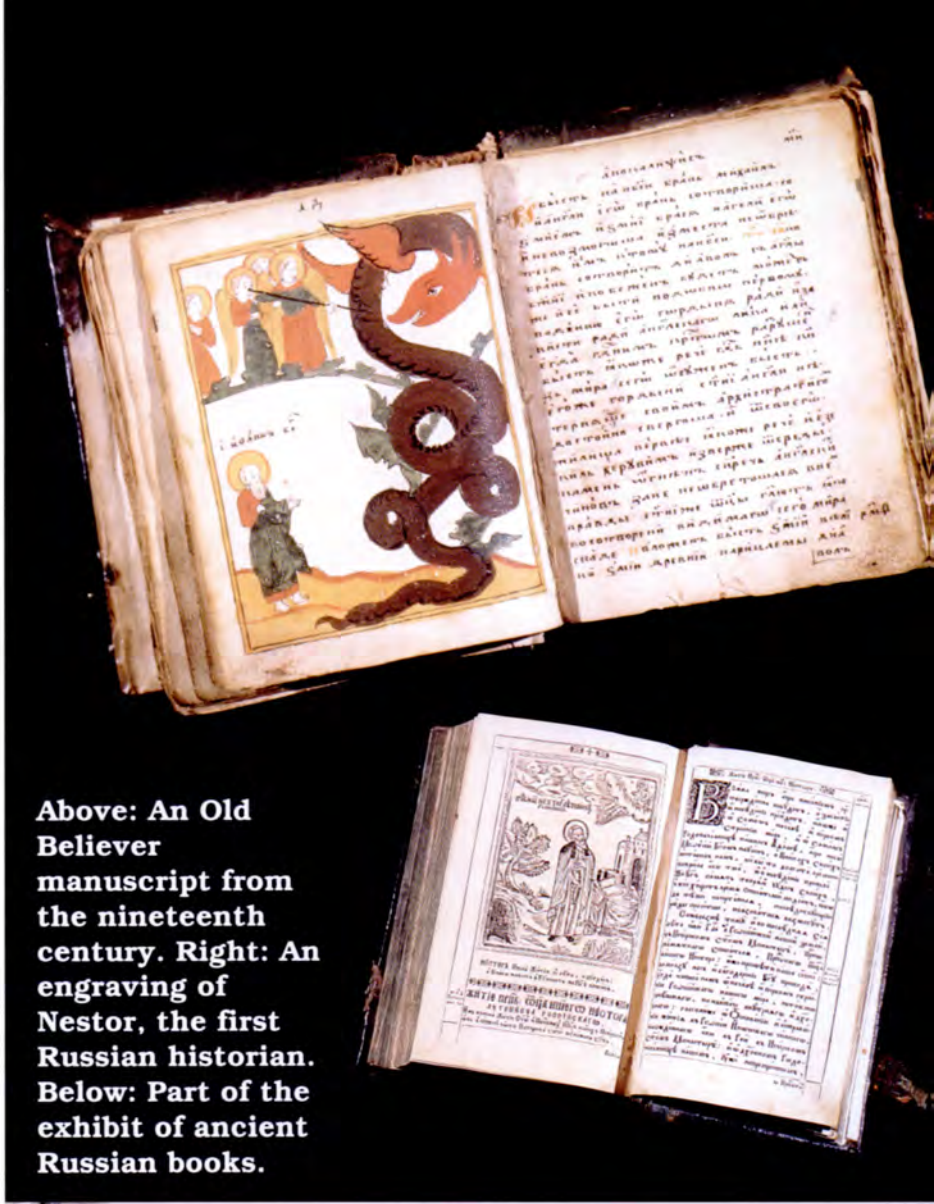
Visitors to the rare-book exhibit were especially attracted to the display devoted to Old Russian sheet music, which has been preserved by communities of Old Believers. The tradition of unison singing existed in ancient Rus until the second half of the seventeenth century. Composers noted the chorus melody with special signs over the instrumental score. From the form of these signs, the song manuscripts came to be called "hooked." By the early eighteenth century, the signs had been replaced with five-line notations and unison singing, and with polyphony in the Orthodox Church service.

A prominent feature of the exhibit were book illustrations ranging from seventeenth-century miniatures to late nineteenth-century drawings. An excellent example of an illustrated manuscript of the second half of the eighteenth century was a copy of *Passions*, a popular work of its day that described the last days of Jesus Christ. While the manuscript's fifty-two miniatures were drawn in the seventeenth-century traditions, with dynamic elongated figures, the fact that they depict emotions was highly unusual for the times.

For example, Jesus appears outraged in the scene that describes his driving the traders from the temple, tense in the miniature that describes the resurrection of Lazarus, and full of contempt in the scene of Judas's kiss.

The bindings of the Old Believers' books followed the ancient methods: manuscripts bound in wood covered in leather and inscribed in gold and silver.

Books of courtiers and of the poorest people were on display too, and each of the rarities has an interesting history—intriguing, colorful, and edifying. ■



Above: An Old Believer manuscript from the nineteenth century. Right: An engraving of Nestor, the first Russian historian. Below: Part of the exhibit of ancient Russian books.

business digest

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Microchips For the USSR

The U.S. InterTechnologies Corporation has started selling microchips to the Soviet Union and has initiated the sale of individual components here. The use of microchips in assembling computer units and circuits will greatly reduce production costs.

In late September InterTechnologies presented its new products in Moscow. Dmitri Rotow, the corporation's regional manager, hoped that with the use of his company's units, Soviet enterprises would immediately start producing electronic goods.

In the first week after the presentation, a Soviet enterprise bought the company's microchips for the price of 100,000 dollars.

Soviet Business People to Study in America

A hundred Moscow business people will soon be able to visit the United States for free. The opportunity is being offered by two charitable organizations—the Center for USA-USSR Initiative (CUUI) and the Foundation for Social Inventions of the USSR—which in the past have sponsored the Capital-to-Capital spacebridge television programs.

Sharon Tennison, chairwoman of CUUI, said that the visit of Moscow's business people is currently planned for September 1992. It is hoped that during the trip, the visiting business people will establish contacts with their counterparts on the East Coast of America.

Fords Sold in Moscow

Ford Taurus cars are now obtainable in Moscow for 1.6 to 2.0 million rubles (depending on whether the vehicle is equipped with such items as an onboard computer, automatic transmission, air-conditioning, a seat-heating system, and other luxuries).

The cars are sold through Druzhny, a small business that is a partner of U.S. Transport Trading International. After the company sells its first 200 cars, it plans to open a service center here.

American Shares For Rubles

Russian business people have an unprecedented opportunity to become co-owners of General Motors and Boeing. According to Valeri Belokon, president of the Baltic Stock Exchange headquartered in Kaliningrad, the exchange will buy shares of the foreign companies through its centers, which will be opened in nearly all European capitals. The securities of these companies, bought for hard currency, will then be sold at auctions for hard currency and rubles.

Apple to Use Soviet Designs

Apple Computer Inc. and the Soviet-American joint venture Paragraf International have signed a licensing agreement for the use of technologies and software for computer scanning of manuscripts.

The financial aspects of the deal have not been reported, but observers believe it is quite considerable.

Soviet-American Business School

A Soviet-American business school has recently been set up in the ancient Russian town of Novgorod, in northwestern Russia. The two-year, American-style curriculum includes two months of practical training in the U.S. Graduates of the school will receive an M.B.A. degree from Portland University, in Portland, Oregon.

"The number of applicants is more than we had expected," says school director Alexander Garenkov.

The Novgorod Business School is the second in this country to be opened with the help of the Soviet-U.S. Society of Business Training. The first school is situated in Khabarovsk, a major regional center of the Far East.

The Novgorod school will also organize seminars on such topics as how to start a business in a market economy. The seminars will be led by professors from Portland University.

California Business People Analyzing the Soviet Market

A delegation from the California Chamber of Commerce, representing leading business people from the state, visited Moscow for three days to learn about the situation in Russia and the progress in eliminating the centralized command system of management.

Academician Stanislav Shatalin, a leading radical Soviet economist, said at a meeting with the American business people that this country would need three to five years in order to get out of the current situation.

Shatalin believes that the new authorities will sell land to all who are willing to buy, including foreigners. He suggested that Americans should invest their money in Russia's vast and rich oil and gas industry and should not be discouraged by Moscow's bureaucrats. Shatalin said that Americans should visit provincial Russian towns, where people are not spoiled and where the more talented, energetic, and honest people, who are eager to deal with them, live. "The future belongs to the young theoreticians who have new and exciting ideas, " said Shatalin.

exploration

INTO THE PAMIRS WITH DOGS

By Yuri Borisikhin
Photographs by Alexander Kurbatov

In August 1990 a team of mountain climbers and dogs began their historic ascent of the Pamir Mountains.

The climbers share a cup of hot tea to brace themselves against the cold. Above: A mountain peak glitters in the sun.

In 1982, prior to our 10,000-kilometer journey from Uelen, on the Chukchi Peninsula, to Murmansk, on the Kola Peninsula, we received sled dogs from Chukchi hunters. After our successful finish in Murmansk, however, we couldn't bear to part with our trusty pals and brought the dogs home with us to the city of Yekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains, where the dogs were given another job—pulling sleds of children in the city park.

Over the years, the dogs were bred, and the litters grew up to replace their parents. Several descendants of the original huskies, who had proved so reliable on our trek through the ice and snow along the Arctic shore, accompanied us on our ascent of Mount Elbrus in the Caucasus, demonstrating that dogs could handle all snow routes.

With that experience behind us, we decided to tackle an expedition to the country's highest peaks—the Pamir Mountains in Central Asia. Last summer, as we were finishing up our training exercises in preparation for our ascent, we received the tragic news that a group of more than forty mountain climbers had been killed in an avalanche in the Pamirs. That news changed the very purpose of our expedition. We immediately decided to join in the rescue work and, if possible, make an ascent with the dogs. Almost all members of the Advance National Expedition Association, which comprises over twenty mountain climbers, flew to the Pamirs. We had nine dogs with us.

From the very start it seemed that luck was against us: The 300 kilograms of frozen fish we had taken with us to feed the dogs defrosted and spoiled. Pavel Smolin, head of the expedition, took ill during the first days of the journey and was confined to bed in the base camp. The main group of climbers started the ascent with the dogs, but two of the dogs, Mishka and Taimyr, the lead dog, had to come back down because they would not take commands from anyone but their personal masters.

After four days, Smolin's health had improved sufficiently for him to rejoin the group.

Unlike rescue dogs, who rub their paws sore and have to be bandaged, sled dogs do fine. The skin on their paws is so thick that they can easily walk on rocks and ice. They do not suffer in high altitudes either, which was apparent from their healthy appetites. They ate the fish with gusto, although its quality was dubious. Only Mishka and Taimyr refused it. We had to give them bread, although we worried that the other dogs would envy them and would try to take revenge. That's the law of the team. But we could not allow Mishka and Taimyr to go without food because they had work to do. We were planning our first adaptation ascent to an altitude of 5,300 meters.

Smolin wrote in his diary:

> We were climbing the mountain without sleds. The dogs were running along. The surface of the glacier, which had tightened up at night, was prickly, and the dogs were advancing cautiously. However, their paws turned reddish-orange and were leaving traces on the ice. Surely they hadn't cut their paws! I stopped the sleds and examined them. No, it did not look like blood. Only on reaching the foot of a steep mountain did their paws regain their usual color. They had been colored by dust from the scree where we had stopped the last time.

It took us about four hours to reach the high-altitude plateau, "the frying pan," as it is called. The dogs behaved very well. They carefully avoided rifts by following snow bridges, sometimes stopping to sniff a spot that caught their interest. Near one large rift, the dogs dug out a silvery tent that had been left near an ice wall. Then one of the dogs, Bob, energetically began digging a hole higher up, away from the path. Tishka joined in the digging, but not for long because Bob drove him off. The whole while the other dogs continued to run in circles and sniff. By their excitement, we could tell that they had detected something interesting—of course, it had nothing to do with our reason for being in the Pamirs last July—but we decided to mark the spot and to tell another rescue team about it later. We climbed higher, convinced that the dogs were quite capable of doing rescue work.

Luck was still against us, and we returned to base camp. High winds and snowstorms delayed our departure for several days.

At last, we could push on. Both men and dogs were doing fine. One unfortunate circumstance did darken our mood, however.

Smolin wrote in his diary:

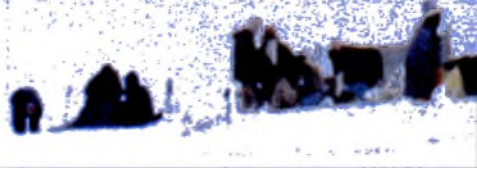
> At last, the day came when we left base camp to return victorious or... We did not want even to think about the other option. A helicopter took us to an altitude of 4,200 meters, from where we climbed still higher. The dogs were traveling light because we had left the sleds at an altitude of 5,300 meters. The ascent was surprisingly easy.

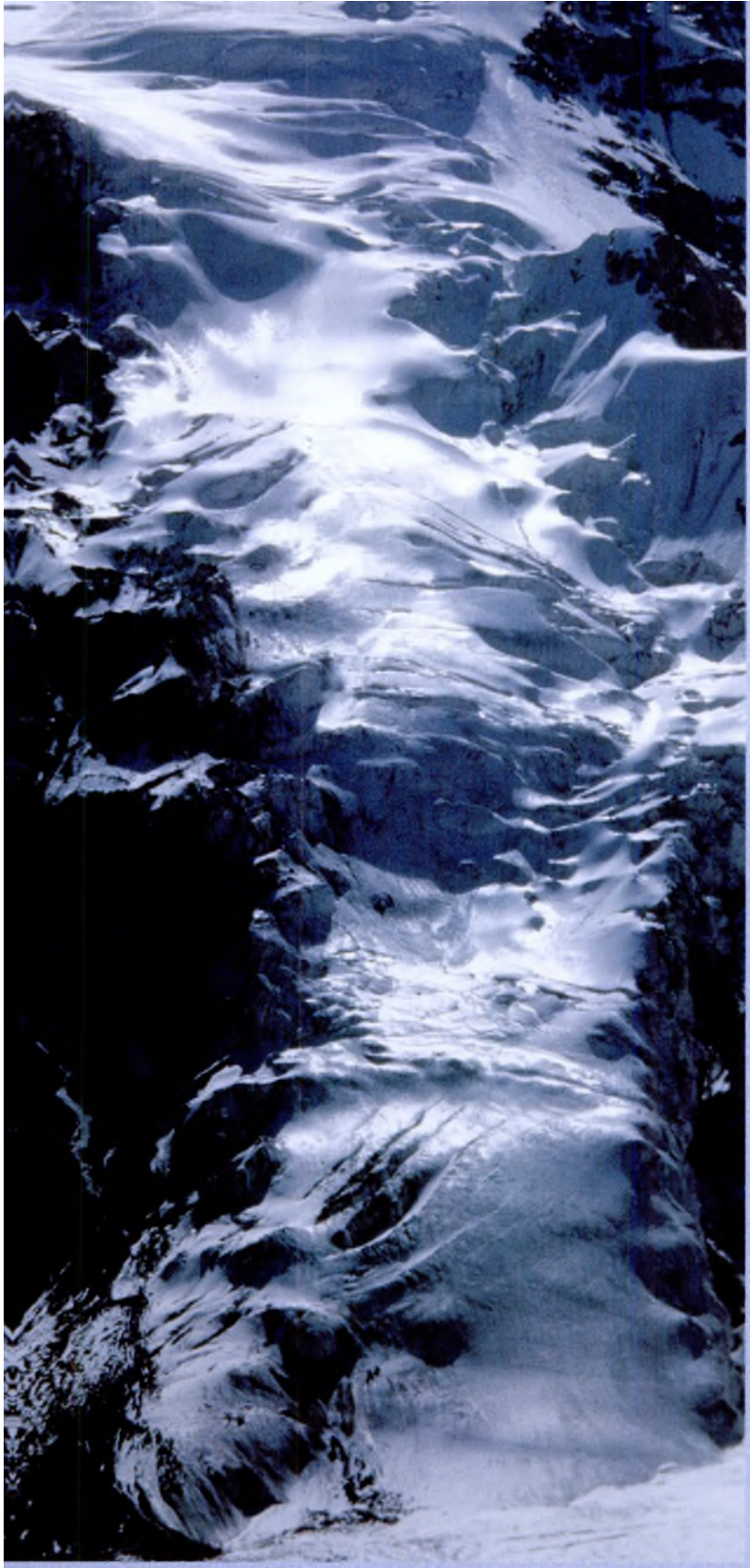
Taimyr, Pushkarik, Stary, Tishka, and Mishka ran alongside the sled. Bob was kept on a chain because he had started a serious fight.

When we reached the frying pan, the dogs were attracted only to the place where we had unloaded the fish and to our old camp by the foot of the rock. They also showed a great interest in the new camp on the rock. I called the dogs to come. Suddenly, I heard Vladimir Rykshin shouting: "Pavel! Are all the dogs with you? I hear one barking down there!"

I looked over to where he was pointing and saw a dog's track ending at a black hole. One of the dogs must have fallen in. Which one? A count of the dogs showed that Sever was missing. We immediately formed a rescue party. Secured by a rope, Alexander Shvaba descended into the narrow rift, which gradually widened to one and a half to two meters. He stopped at a cornice about eight meters wide and called out the dog's name. There was no response. The rift was much deeper than we had thought, and we could do no more. Depressed by our loss, we climbed to our camp and began preparations for the next day's ascent to an altitude of 6,100 meters. I kept thinking about Sever. Why hadn't he sensed the rift? Perhaps because it was covered with fifty centimeters of soft, fresh snow...

Feeling miserable and with my head pounding, I climbed into a tent and took some medicine. By eight o'clock that evening I felt somewhat better.





Setting up camp amid snow and rifts. Insets, clockwise from far left: An innocent-looking snow drift poses the greatest danger for mountain climbers; a funeral bell and ice axes mark the spot where several previous climbers had lost their lives in pursuit of the summit; crosses, like this one erected in memory of the mountaineers who were buried in an avalanche in July 1990, dot the landscape of the Pamirs.

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ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

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The dogs barked from time to time down under the rock and looked in the direction of the rift where Sever had disappeared. Perhaps they could sense him or could hear his barking. Just before dusk, I sent Mikhail Slobodokhikov and Victor Dolganov to feed the dogs. They returned saying that they had detected Sever's voice. Many of the expedition members were already bedding down when we formed another rescue party and returned to the rift. This time Victor Shadrin descended into the chasm. Tying a rope to my belt, I lay on the edge of the rift and coordinated the work. Shadrin descended to the cornice. He lit the rift with a flashlight and requested a rope. As soon as he had disappeared into the darkness, I heard him shout:

"Sever is here. I can see him!"

A few minutes later, Shadrin yelled: "I've got him. He seems to be okay!"

Though the weather worsened, and we had to wait several days more to go, the successful rescue of Sever had improved our spirits.

We began our record ascent on August 20, 1990.

Smolin wrote:

> At last we get lucky. The weather is beautiful. The sky is clear, and the snow has virtually disappeared. The sleds, with thin titanium runners, glide easily over the stone. Suddenly I realize we are moving almost horizontally. We are at 6,400 meters! The summit, standing out against a background of a bluish-black sky only 700 meters above, appears a stone's throw away. But it will take seven hard hours to reach it. It's getting dark, and we're running out of time.

We left a sled near the path as a souvenir of our achievement. We had to be satisfied with being the first in our country to reach an altitude of 6,400 meters. But we were the first in the world to do so with sled dogs.

The descent was uneventful, except for a night at an altitude of 6,100 meters, when I suffered chest pains from exhaustion. Toward evening of the following day, we were again in base camp.

We had tested our endurance and demonstrated how much people in concert with animals can achieve. ■

The ascent of the Pamirs is difficult and risky. The men take a short rest in a camp at an altitude of 5,000 meters. Insets, from top to bottom: Needing special care and attention during higher-altitude climbs, the dogs are constantly monitored for health problems. Writer Yuri [illegible], who accompanied the group and wrote this article. Every stage of the climb is carefully analyzed.

WHEN PLANETS COLLIDE

Drawing by Boris Dolya

After analyzing a wealth of scattered facts left by long-ago scholars, some Siberian scientists believe that a collision of planets once destroyed a great terrestrial civilization.

The giant island Atlantis is said to have disappeared into the sea over the course of a day and a night. This occurred, according to legend, 10,000 to 11,000 years ago. The catastrophe was accompanied by a "shifting of the stars" and "the appearance in the sky of new suns, which then fell onto the Earth, bringing death and destruction."

Modern research has confirmed the tales of our ancestors. The Earth's crust has been found to contain a thick layer of ash, which covered the planet's surface during the same period—10,000 to 11,000 years ago. That period also saw a massive outbreak of volcanic activity and the birth of new mountains.

It has now been established that 11,542 years ago, a comet crashed through our solar system. Scientists hypothesize that it was about this time that Phaëthon, the now-defunct tenth planet whose orbit had been somewhere between Mars and Jupiter, was destroyed.

Taken together, these facts can help us trace a link between the destruction of Phaëthon and the terrestrial cataclysm that may well have led to the sinking of the legendary Atlantis. Most probably, the comet knocked Phaëthon from its orbit and hurled it toward Earth, where it was captured in our planet's gravitational field.

Many facts support this hypothesis. One is the existence of the famous Egyptian water clocks, which would have shown accurate time had they been placed at the equator. Likewise, according to an ancient star map of China, the Chinese could once observe the skies of both hemispheres, which is again possible only at the equator. These two facts alone suggest that the equator has shifted. Frigid Yakutia, in the northeast of the USSR, was once situated in a near-equatorial zone. That is, incidentally, why the warmth-loving mammoths could have survived there. The extinction of these ancient animals may be connected with the shifting of the Earth's poles and the ensuing rapid changes in its climate. It is not insignificant that undigested food was found in the stomachs of many mammoths in the permafrost.

Recall the ancient Greek legend about Phaëthon, the son of the sun god Helios. Phaëthon asked his father to let him drive the chariot of the sun. Unable to control the chariot, Phaëthon came so close to the Earth that he caused fire to flare up on the planet. The people implored the gods for help. Gaea, goddess of Earth, asked Zeus, ruler of gods, to intervene. Zeus shot bolts of lightning at Phaëthon, who fell to Earth.

Historically speaking, the legend probably deals not with the planet Phaëthon, but with a large meteorite that entered the denser layers of the atmosphere at an angle to the Earth's orbit. The meteorite became so hot as it traveled through the Earth's atmosphere that, in passing over ancient Greece, Egypt, and India, it glowed almost as bright as the Sun.

But scientists hypothesize that it was indeed the collision of the planets that could have caused the shifting of the equator and the destruction of Atlantis. During that period there was a massive eruption of volcanic activity and an intense process of mountain formation. One may well imagine the darkness that enveloped the Earth. A multitude of "suns" suddenly flared above our planet—fragments of Phaëthon trapped by the Earth's gravity and burned in our atmosphere.

The force of the planet's impact was tremendous. It must have caused a fracture in the Earth's crust and created the so-called anomalous zones, which scientists have long been at a loss to explain.

It is entirely likely that the Bermuda Triangle, for instance, is nothing more than a deformation of the Earth's crust, which formed a kind of gigantic funnel that sucks in objects on the ocean's surface. Magma that entered the ocean depths may have produced warm currents, like the 2,000-kilometer-wide current near the continent of Antarctica. It is here, scientists believe, that the collision occurred.

Not long ago a round crater, 250 kilometers in diameter, was discovered near Antarctica. The Chinese scientists who explored the area found no foreign bodies. This suggests that Phaëthon, after striking the Earth and destroying its civilization, was not destroyed itself, but rebounded like a ball. It is unlikely that it had enough inertia to tear free of the Earth's gravity, and it turned into Earth's satellite—the Moon.

Apollonius of Rhodes, the chief keeper of the Alexandria library who lived in the third century B.C., reports that there was a period when there was no moon in the sky. This is also mentioned by the Greek mathematician and astronomer Anaxagoras (500-428 B.C.), who quotes ancient manuscripts. Legends of the South African bushmen say the same. Moreover, an ancient American legend states that before a great catastrophe, "the Sun was closer to Earth than now and its abundant warmth made clothes unnecessary...."

No doubt this hypothesis may seem fantastic to many. Nevertheless, it explains many unconnected and hitherto mysterious phenomena. ■

REUNION AFTER FIFTY YEARS

By Yelena Titova

The festivities began in Murmansk. With the last days of summer so warm and sunny, it was hard to imagine that everything was taking place above the Arctic Circle. Two hundred twenty participants in the Northern convoys had traveled to Murmansk from all parts of the USSR, joining the 117 veterans who had come from Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

For many of these people, it was their first visit to the Northern city since World War II, and they had a hard time recognizing it. The last time they had seen Murmansk, the city lay almost completely in ruins. The veterans strolled the streets, recalling days past. Later they placed wreaths at the soldiers' tombs in the Valley of Death and in the British Cemetery.

A large group of former sailors, among whose ranks were British veterans, traveled to Severomorsk, where they boarded the hospital ship the *Svir*. Later, the *Svir* joined the convoy of warships led by the destroyer *Gromky*, which was on its way to meet the British frigate the *London* in the Barents Sea.

The veteran seamen assembled on the reviewing stands situated on the upper deck. The men kept a steady gaze on the rocky banks of the Kola Gulf, the rising hills, and the deserted islands—places where the veterans had fought during the war and where they had lost their friends.

Sailing in column formation, the convoy of ships began its tactical exercises under the Dervish '91 program as soon as it left Kola Gulf. The exercises re-created the atmosphere of combat actions at sea and in the air during the war years.

The following day the *Gromky* met up with the *London* off the Norwegian Cape Nordcap, where a fleet of Soviet

The Dervish '91 anniversary celebrations honoring the veterans of the Allied convoys during World War II, took place in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk last summer.

combat and merchant ships was assembled to take part in the activities commemorating the Allied caravan that had assembled there years ago.

The Allied convoy arrived in Arkhangelsk on August 31, exactly fifty years ago to the day that the first British vessels had arrived in 1941. The 1941 convoy, carrying a precious cargo of much-needed military equipment, ammunition, foodstuffs, vehicles, medicines, and hospital equipment, suffered heavy casualties and irreparable losses: Of the 813 vessels sent to the Soviet Northern ports, 58 were destroyed; of the 717 ships that set sail for the West, 27 did not reach the port of destination. In the course of these operations, about 3,000 seamen lost their lives, including almost 2,000 men on escort ships.

Thousands of Arkhangelsk's residents turned out on Red Pier for the services honoring the heroic deeds of the World War II convoys. And the port filled with fully decorated ships and yachts that had come to meet the anniversary convoy.

A pierful of friendly cheers and other warm greetings arose as the *Gromky*, the *Svir*, and the *London* sailed into port. The welcoming ceremony on the pier was followed by a procession to Mir Square, where an urn containing the remains of an unknown soldier was solemnly interred inside the monument to the fallen heroes. The British and Soviet veterans and residents of Arkhangelsk placed wreaths and flowers at the tomb, and a salute of nations was fired. On the same day in Solombal, on the bank of one of the districts of Arkhangelsk, a foundation stone was laid in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Allied convoys.

The veterans later said that one of the highlights of the anniversary celebrations was that it gave them a chance to get together and talk. They considered their meeting very important, seeing in it a symbol of peace, friendship, and mutual understanding. It was not for nothing that Bob Allan, head of the British-Russian Convoy Club, admitted: "I haven't been here for the past fifty years, and now I am overwhelmed with happiness because my dream has come true. I'm here in Arkhangelsk to see my old friends again, and that's the main thing." ■

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS FOR VETERANS

Around 4,000 American sailors took part in the Allied convoys to the Northern ports of Russia during World War II, but contacts between the Soviet and American seamen were not fully developed. Relations between the British and Soviet sailors were more fruitful. A year before the anniversary, direct contacts were established with the British Northern Russia and Russian Convoy clubs, which unite more than 3,500 sailors. Working together, the sides solved organizational problems associated with the anniversary celebrations and decided to award medals (right) to the convoy participants.

One side of the medal shows the convoys' route along the northern coast of Europe from the Scottish port of Edinburgh past Medvezhy Island, where they were met by Soviet ships, which escorted them to the port of Murmansk. An inscription in Russ

sian along the medal's edge reads: "The fiftieth anniversary of the 1941-1945 naval Convoys." On the other side is the fighting formation of battleships and an inscription in English: "Eternal Memory to Soldiers." Four thousand sailors and 900 airmen died during those dangerous operations.

The anniversary celebrations in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk were attended by a large delegation of British veterans, but for some reason there were only a few American guests, and only one who received his commemorative medal. The situation can be remedied though. American sailors who took part in the convoys can receive their anniversary medals simply by writing to Konstantin Lyubimov, who is responsible for correspondence with the veterans. His address is:

Apt. 212, Block 2
14 Stroginsky Boulevard
Moscow 123592, USSR

I LOVE YOU, MY FRIENDS

Our correspondent Ada Baskina gives her impressions of America and Americans.

Over a period of three months I visited several American cities, large and small. I stayed in Wheaton, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, longer than in any other place. In Wheaton I made many friends and realized for the first time (it was my first visit to the United States) how mistaken were my conceptions about America. I realized that though our countries have some points of commonality, our two peoples are products of different cultures, and they have different values.

I had not planned to stay in Wheaton for a long time. What could be so interesting about a small city with a population of only 50,000? That was one of my first misconceptions to be dispelled. The bigger the city, the better the quality of life and the higher the level of culture and education, I thought. Was I surprised to learn that the average annual income of Wheaton residents is higher than for the United States as a whole! And four out of five Wheatoners have college educations—a higher percentage than many big American cities.

I always knew that America was a rich country. When I arrived in the United States, I realized that was only part of the story. Things were so different here. Perhaps that was my greatest discovery.

My discovery began in the bathroom of the first house in which I stayed. All the faucets worked differently. Before I learned how to operate them, I shivered in many ice-cold showers or became a master at jumping out to avoid getting scalded by hot water. I realized then that I was in for many surprises. I decided I had better take a closer look at everything.

An American family's house not only has more rooms than any apartment in Moscow, but the rooms are even used differently. No problem with a bedroom, dining room, or kitchen—I surely know what they are—but what exactly do you do in a living room? Also, we Russians seem to cram more furniture into our smaller apartments, while Americans prefer the spacious look and fill all kinds of cupboards with all sorts of things. While the bookshelf is the fixture of the Russian home—we really are a nation of readers—it is a rarity in the American.

Though my American hosts were as attentive and caring as they could be, I sometimes felt hungry because our daily routines are quite different. Americans eat lightly in the morning, while we usually have a heavy breakfast. At noon Americans are ready for a solid meal of soup and a sandwich, meat with vegetables, and the like, while I couldn't eat because I wasn't hungry. By dinner time—between five and six o'clock—I was ravenous for a solid meal, while my hosts were still digesting their big lunches.

My ideas about American food, by the way, were also mistaken. Sure, I'd heard that American food was plentiful and healthy, but I had also heard that it was unimaginative and tasteless. Yet, after dining in American homes and restaurants, I found the American fare tasty and pleasing.

Another stereotype soon collapsed. Most of my Soviet friends who have never been to the States think that rational and pragmatic Americans have no interest in aesthetic values. How wrong they are! The things that surround Americans—department stores, restaurants, libraries, schools, and hospitals, not to mention museums and government buildings—are not only functional but also constructed in such a way as to please the eye with their design and abundance of decorations, flowers, and light.

The Americans' harmonious, happy attitude toward life amazed me. If I were asked to name my ideal happy person, it would be Jane Cram, no contest. My first impression of her was rather strange. Most Americans I met put a great deal of emphasis on their appearance and like to dress well. Jane is the opposite, you could say. Most days you find her in well-worn jeans, a dark ski sweater, and an old woolen cap, pulled low. The only thing that betrays the gloomy effect of her outfit is her laughing eyes.

Only after I lived with Jane's family did I understand that it was all completely in line. She is a happy and beautiful person who doesn't pay any special attention to the external expression of her personality. But if the occasion calls for it—like the time Jane and her husband were invited out on the town—he dons his best suit and Jane her best dress, and they are transformed into an elegant couple.

Rosalinda and Charles Karolek are about twenty years older than the Crams, and they are just as happy. Rosie is an artist, which becomes obvious as soon as you enter her home. Carpets, wallpaper, draperies, and upholsteries are all in sync, and everything else is perfect to the last detail. She is full of life and never moody. Charles, a pilot, is braced, imposing, and healthy looking. The Karolek children, who are all grown up, no longer live at home—which is quite different from my country, where a shortage of housing has several generations having often to share a home.

Another couple, Sam and Naomi Mallory, are retired. They have had a long life together, but contrary to the saying that married couples grow to look alike, Sam and Naomi are like night and day. While Sam is a jolly, robust fellow, Noomi is tall, thin, and reserved. Sam is a talker; Naomi is a listener. As different as the Mallorys are, they share a common trait—unequaled kindness.

Many Americans told me that they are happy. When I learned more about them, I understood that that had nothing to do with good fortune; it was more a matter of psychological condi-

tioning. Though the people I met have had both good and bad things happen in their life—illnesses, business failures, problems with their children—their basically optimistic nature and their ability to find joy in what they have prove stronger than all the troubles and suffering that may come their way.

Though life can be difficult, Americans don't complain or dwell on their hardships. I discussed this American trait with several of my Russian friends. Many of them don't like it, saying they regard it as a sign of insincerity. I, however, do like it. "Fine"—the most common American answer to the question, "How are you?"—is not a word to hide one's problems from others, but more of a command to oneself.

I was in the United States to attend a symposium on "Women in Leadership." I listened to many reports and held dozens of interviews, but it was only when I became closer acquainted with American businesswomen that I came to understand some of the problems and difficulties they face.

I feel two social causes engender the bulk of the businesswoman's problems: her inadequate involvement in social life (until recently) and tough competition in her chosen sphere of endeavor. Both circumstances require businesswomen to organize their time efficiently and to continuously upgrade their skills so as not to waste either time or energy on their jobs. I didn't come across a single lax or apathetic businesswoman in America.

Gwen Henry, mayor of Wheaton, told me that she works fifty-five hours a week, which comes to eleven hours a day. "That's a lot," I said, but what she forgot to say was that she was talking about the ten-plus hours a day she puts in as the manager of a company. She fulfills her mayoral duties in her free time and without financial compensation. In addition, she is active in her church and the local women's Rotary Club. Then there are her home chores.

In the morning, half awake, I'd hear her car racing off. Before dinner, around five or six in the evening, I'd see her in the kitchen. After dinner, she'd be off and running again.

I don't think it would be fair if I didn't mention Chet Henry, who is not just a husband but a reliable friend and partner to his wife. Gwen and Chet have been married for some thirty years, and, as Gwen confided, Chet has never let her down, neither when she, one of eleven children of a Kansas farmer, was studying at the university, nor later in Oklahoma, where they started their family.

When their youngest of four children, Peter, turned ten, Gwen went to work and soon became a highly respected financial specialist. Was it difficult to combine work with home chores? Sure, but Chet has always been there to help around the house and with the children.

Gwen Henry is very energetic, but Ann Wollenseck, who manages the municipality of Wheaton, is even more so. She can do dozens of things at the same time. I am deeply indebted to Ann for helping me gather information for future articles.

While dispelling my previously held stereotypes of the American way of life, I caught myself creating new ones. Take American businesswomen. Could they all be like Gwen and Ann?

One thing that struck me in Wheaton was the scale of work that is performed by volunteers. I'm ashamed to say that in my country charities and charitable activities are in the infancy stage. I was eager to learn why Americans are so willing to help the elderly, disabled, and homeless. That became clearer to me when I made friends with the family of Ivan Fahs.

Professor Fahs teaches sociology at Wheaton College, and he is involved in doing research on the plight of the homeless. His articles on the subject have appeared in several journals and popular magazines. To many people, that activity would be enough, especially if the person has recently undergone heart surgery. But not to Professor Fahs. A true Christian, he considers it immoral not to help people in trouble.

"Ada, let me ask you," he said, "today is Wednesday—Homeless People's Day at our church. Our whole family is going there. Why don't you join us and talk to these people?"

This proved more difficult than I had thought. True, some of the homeless are mentally unstable, others are alcoholics, and still others are drug addicts. But the people who really touched my heart were the healthy and perfectly normal people who had fallen on bad circumstances. I felt more like crying than smiling.

While I tried to compose myself, Ivan, his wife, and his mother talked freely to everybody as though they were honored guests. The conversations were friendly and intimate. It was the Fahses' attitude rather than the words they spoke that mattered.

I decided to try my hand at talking with a disabled old man. I could tell he had had a few drinks and was rather aggressive.

"He's much better now," Ivan said encouragingly. "You should've seen him when he was brought here right after his operation. He needed professional medical help—for example, changing the dressings on his wounds. My mother, Elsie, took care of that. He cursed her up one side and down the other—never a word of thanks. He was angry at the whole world. That went on for several days. Once, when he was already getting better, Elsie changed his bandage and was about to leave when he called out after her: 'Hey, you, come here!' As usual, she didn't take offense or grow indignant, but approached him quietly. 'Come closer! Closer! Closer!' It seemed to her that he might want to hit her, but she still leaned down to him. The old man rose on his elbows and gave her a gentle kiss."

I could go on and on about the volunteers in Wheaton, but I think that story of the old man says it all. I will be forever grateful to the Fahses for the opportunity they gave me to share in their experience. ■

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Marinist Publishers does not ignore children. In 1992 it will publish *Magical Tales* by the Countess de Segur, a colorful book for young children titled *The Lonely Penguin*, and a comic book based on Nekrasov's famous story "The Adventures of Captain Vrungel." In addition, over the next year Marinist Publishers will issue four series of coloring books on the history of ships.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your October 1991 issue of SOVIET LIFE is a remarkable example...not only of openness but also of historical open-mindedness and fairness. You have chosen as your feature the story of Königsberg/Kaliningrad, that Baltic Sea city with a long German and a historically brief Soviet past. Few of us historians in the so-called Western part of the world would have thought it possible just a few years ago that a Soviet publication would describe aspects of that city dealing with its German past.

Armin E. Mruck
Towson, Maryland

Joan A. Riedmiller, marketing/public relations for the City of St. Petersburg , enclosed this photograph with her letter.

She wrote: "In celebration of the name change—from Leningrad back to St. Petersburg—our City of St. Petersburg City Council recently provided an opportunity for council members and residents to officially express their best wishes to the citizens of St. Petersburg, Russia. A banner of friendship was signed by hundreds of St. Petersburg, Florida, residents and then hand-delivered to the Russian city in October by a local businessman."

Annette Lindemann, media relations manager of Marine World Africa USA, sent us the photograph below showing cadets from the Soviet ship *Pallada*, during its recent stopover in San Francisco, California, as part of the Russian America-250 celebrations. "The elephant tug of war was the highlight of the afternoon," she wrote. "Despite a valiant effort from the young men, Taj, a 9,500-pound female Asian elephant, easily won the contest. Taj's trainer, Sever Johnson, is pictured on the right."

Ever since I started receiving your magazine, I have read it with much interest. Back in the 1960s a friend went to the Soviet Union and I asked her what she thought of the empire. She simply said that the people there were wonderful, but the government was terrible, which is a good way to sum up the Soviet Union under Russian communism.

In the past the Soviet Union appeared to be such a mysterious place that only showed to foreigners what the state wanted them to see and no more. Of course, the changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union in the past few years are amazing and mind-boggling to say the least. Your articles answer many of the questions that many people have about these amazing changes taking place.

Virginia Borkenhagen
Washington, D.C.

SVERDLOV'S ONE-MAN SHOW

By Lyudmila Ptitsyna
Photographs by Alexei Sverdlov

Open any major Soviet book devoted to fine art, and the chances are you'll come across Alexei Sverdlov's photographs of paintings, sculptures, and museum exhibits featured among the illustrations.

Applied photography has been Sverdlov's specialty for the past twenty years of his working at the Novosti Press Agency. Surely, SOVIET LIFE readers are familiar with his name (we have published his photographs quite often).

Sverdlov's chosen genre may not be one of the most glamorous, but he is recognized as one of the best in a highly specialized field.

Through his work he seeks to bring the masterpieces of art to life on the printed page by conveying the original impulse of the artist. Lighting the subject is vital to this process.

"Every picture requires its own

Above: Photographer Alexei Sverdlov. Left: *Russia*, a cast-iron sculpture made in the Ural Mountains. It was first exhibited at the Paris World Exhibition in 1896 (Yekaterinburg Art Gallery).

***Taking Down from the Cross*, an eighteenth-century wooden sculpture**

The Pavilion, cast-iron castings made in the Urals (Yekaterinburg Art Gallery). *St. Maria*, an eighteenth-century Rostov enamel (Rostov Kremlin Museum).

the crowning glory—

Far left: Emperor's crown. Gold, silver, diamonds, and pearls. Eighteenth century. Height with cross: 27.5 centimeters (Moscow Kremlin Diamond Fund). A brooch fashioned as a bouquet of flowers. Gold, silver, diamonds, and emeralds. Eighteenth century (Moscow Kremlin Diamond Fund).

A seventeenth-century goblet made in Central Asia (the Hermitage, St. Petersburg). Above: The Gonzag Cameo, sardonyx, third century — (the

particular lighting," Sverdlov explains. "That provides a moment of 'resurrection' that I aim to catch."

His work is especially impressive when it comes to capturing the natural qualities of physical materials. Sverdlov's reputation has grown through his series of images of semiprecious stones, such as agate, where the mineral's quartzlike qualities shine forth. The collections of his work on emeralds and jaspers were highly rated also.

Sverdlov's appreciation of the natural beauty of physical materials was probably awakened when he worked as a turner, before he took up his current profession.

A veteran of the Soviet Air Force, Sverdlov was badly wounded in World War II. Still robust and full of energy, the cameraman is constantly on the look-

A SIGN OF NEW COOPERATION

Photograph by Jim Brozek

Milwaukee—U.S. Senator Herb Kohl called the Soviet contribution of a World War II T-34 tank to the Wisconsin Military History Museum a sign of new cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

At a Port of Milwaukee ceremony recently, Kohl joined Robert Costa, founder and president of the museum, and representatives from the U.S. and Soviet military in officially accepting the gift.

In April 1990, Costa wrote Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev asking for the contribution of some military hardware to the museum that was being planned. At that time Costa also requested assistance from Senator Kohl's office for procuring the equipment. On August 15, 1990, Costa was notified by the Soviet embassy that his request had been approved and that the tank would be delivered in late 1991. The tank arrived in the Port of Milwaukee on the Soviet ship the *Alexander Starostenko* not long ago . The tank is the first such gift from the Soviets to any museum or organization in the United States.

"During a period when the world is looking for real peace, it is gratifying that the Soviet government has responded to the request of one American, representing a Wisconsin museum, by making such a major contribution as this historic military machine," Kohl said.

Kohl noted that the timing of the ceremony was fitting since this event, coupled with both countries' work in arranging the Madrid Middle East peace conference, was another sign that the United States and the Soviet Union are willing to work cooperatively.

"I would like to thank the Soviet government for making this gift possible and for the cooperation it has shown in trying to find meaningful peace in the troubled parts of our world," Kohl said. He added that the gift of a World War II tank at this time is especially meaningful because World War II was the last time in history when the United States and the Soviet Union worked together as allies to ensure world peace.

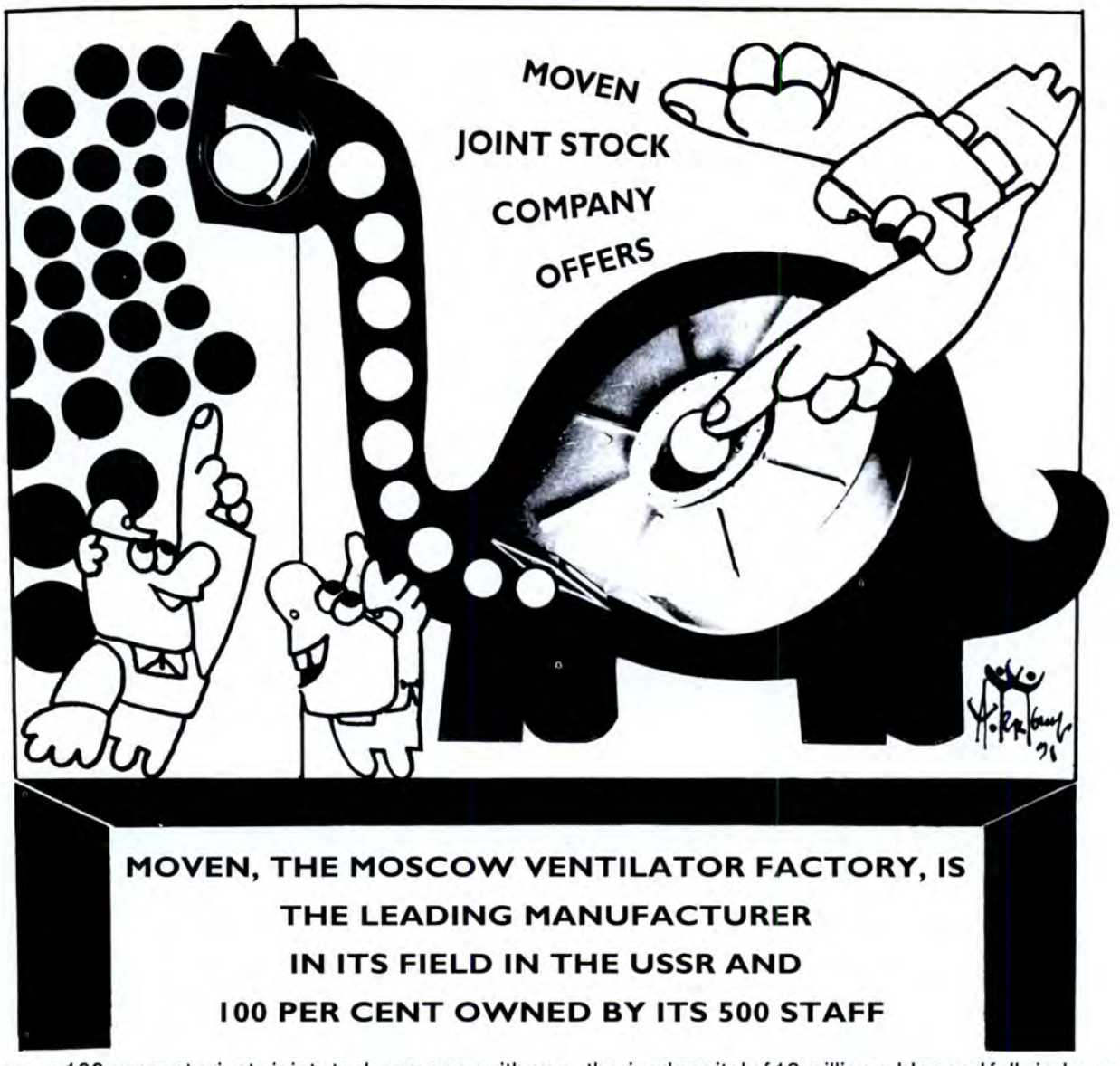
Costa said that the gift was a major accomplishment for the museum and that the Soviet tank will greatly increase the interest of museum-goers.

"This gift is a dream come true for historians and for people interested in military history. It will be one of the major displays in our new facility," Costa said.

"The Wisconsin Military History Museum is under planning and will be constructed in Egg Harbor," Costa said. He also noted that the tank would leave Milwaukee for a local ceremony in Egg Harbor, and then it would be shipped to the U.S. Army's Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor at Fort Knox, Kentucky, for display until construction of the museum facility is complete.

Costa and Kohl were joined at the ceremony by Soviet Military Attaché Major General Nikolai Zlenko and Colonel Joseph Gesker, the deputy commander, U.S. Army Center for Military History, Washington, D.C. ■

Robert Costa, founder and president of the Wisconsin Military History Museum, with the Soviet Army T-34 tank.



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festival of ice

Photographs by Vladimir Fedorenko and Sergei Subbotin

The festival drew artists from all over. *Dance* (bottom) by the Chinese took second place. *Crystal City* (right) by the Americans was the first prize winner.

The sun, the snow, and the extreme cold—all required elements of an ice sculpture competition—appeared as if on cue for Moscow's first international ice festival, making this event an enormous success.

Predicting which sculpture would be the most popular was easy. Not an entry in the contest, the sculpture was impressive: an exact replica of the ice palace built 250 years ago by order of the willful Russian Empress Anna. Contemporaries called her palace "a wonder." The modern replica was created according to the original plans—"8 sagenes long, 2.5 sagenes wide, and 3 sagenes high together with the roof."

Just like the original, six ice cannons with ice wheels and mounts stood in front of the structure, and two ice dol-

phins, with special pumps implanted in their jaws to enable them to spew fire at night, guarded the gates.

Near the magnificent palace was a replica of the famous twelfth-century Church of the Intercession on the Nerl. The original structure still stands near the old city of Vladimir.

The event drew contestants from France, Great Britain, the United States, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Switzerland, China, and different parts of the USSR, all competing under the same conditions: five days to create a sculpture out of 1.5-meter-high rectangular slabs of the finest quality ice.

First prize went to the American team for their composition *Crystal City*. Second prize went to the Chinese for their elegant and graceful *Dance*. Third prize was won by the Estonians. ■

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REALITY IS MY DUTY

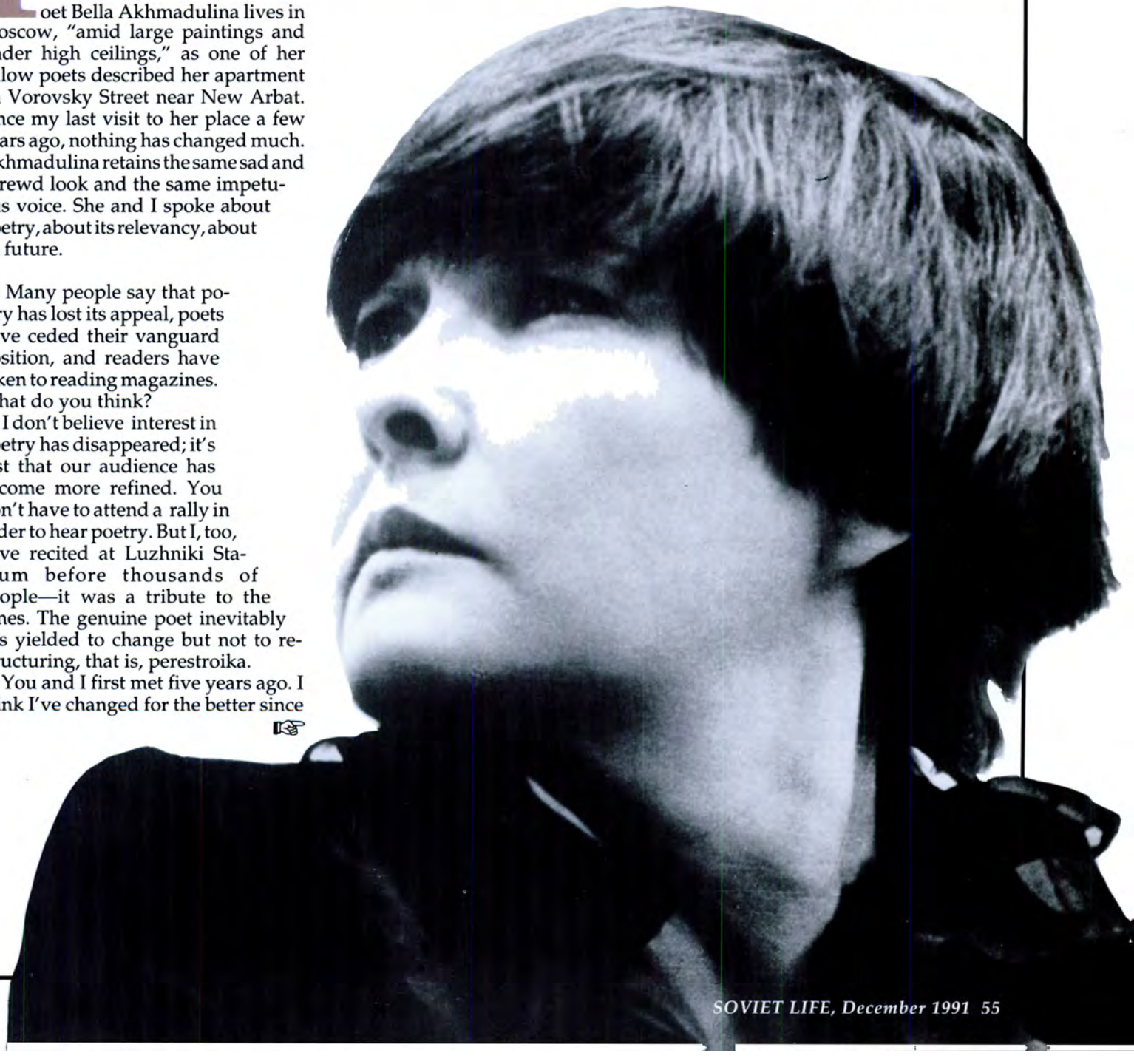
By Anatoli Shunavikin

"Bella Akhmadulina is, above all, inside history, inside the irreversible historical current connecting each of us with the past and future."
—Poet Pavel Antokolsky (1896-1978)

Poet Bella Akhmadulina lives in Moscow, "amid large paintings and under high ceilings," as one of her fellow poets described her apartment on Vorovsky Street near New Arbat. Since my last visit to her place a few years ago, nothing has changed much. Akhmadulina retains the same sad and shrewd look and the same impetuous voice. She and I spoke about poetry, about its relevancy, about its future.

Q: Many people say that poetry has lost its appeal, poets have ceded their vanguard position, and readers have taken to reading magazines. What do you think?
A: I don't believe interest in poetry has disappeared; it's just that our audience has become more refined. You don't have to attend a rally in order to hear poetry. But I, too, have recited at Luzhniki Stadium before thousands of people—it was a tribute to the times. The genuine poet inevitably has yielded to change but not to restructuring, that is, perestroika.

You and I first met five years ago. I think I've changed for the better since ☞



then, although that's certainly for others to judge.

Q: Writers used to complain about themes that were taboo. Now all the bans have been lifted. Hasn't this caused an amount of confusion?

A: I've always written what I've wanted to. I never considered any themes taboo. Unlike nowadays, when most of my work is being published, nearly all of my poems were rejected back then, but that never really upset me. I'm happy now that many good things are being published, and readers are gaining access to good literature. This should have an effect on people's lives, on their spiritual values. I want literature and life to change for the better.

To answer your question, I don't feel any confusion. Since I've never bowed to the times, I don't feel any difference. Literature isn't like the weather, changing with the wind. It develops according to eternal laws and truths, with eternal themes. Genuine writers should be loyal to their responsibility. They should never compromise their integrity for profit, never bow to the times.

SOMETHING ELSE

By Bella Akhmadulina

What has come over me? For a whole year
I've been unable to write poetry.
This burden that upon my lips I bear—
this muteness—weighs upon me heavily.

But—there's a ready stanza!—you will say;
four lines in it, complete with rhythm and rhymes.
That's not the point! I've long since learned the way
one strings up words to make poetic lines.

It's habit—just a sort of knack of mine!
That's not the point. How was it then, by God?
What was it that emerged then? Not a line,
but something else. Just what, I clean forgot.

That something else—why, did it ever fear
when, bold, it broke through as a playful voice,
itself as laughter on my lips appeared
or came in sobs—whatever was its choice?...

Translated by Dorian Rottenberg

Q: Apart from poems, you've also written lyrics and prose. Can we count on any more surprises?

A: You say "lyrics," meaning songs, I guess, but I've never specifically set out to write a song. I don't know how to do it. Songs appear only because composers take my poems and set them to music. That's their right; I can't stop them, and I don't want to.

As for different genres, sometimes my imagination runs riot, and I'll offer to write a skit for a circus performer, for example. Initially , I think I can do it, but more often I fail. I consider prose writing proof of one's maturity, and most writers come to prose sooner or later. Sometimes I feel a great urge to write prose because certain thoughts and feelings can be expressed only in prose. But I seem to lack something.

As for poetry, I don't compose it; it just comes on its own. Once one of my friends, who is also a poet, and I were strolling along the beach. He told me that whenever he looks at the waves, he is inspired to write a poem. I've always admired his work, but that's not how I go about it. I need solitude and a change in environment. Ten days in some remote corner, away from the hustle and bustle, and I usually find the apt words. After that, everything seems to flow smoothly. I can write day and night, without a break, as long as the feelings in my heart do not fade.

Q: Can you describe how a poem is conceived? What acts as an impetus?

A: I think it is important for us writers to grasp the connection between ourselves and the world, between ourselves and nature, and to express it. We are indebted to nature, in tune with its call. To me, it sounds something like this: "Reality is your duty!" because I don't believe that a sense of duty lies inherently within the poet, but it comes from outside the self.

You feel obligated to all living things. They depend on you to correctly express their feelings. They all seek your help and assistance, not only as a poet but also as a human being.

Many of my poems were born of struggle. When I was writing "Fever," I shook so much that I scared my family. My state, which itself transformed into an illness, gave rise to a poem.

Q: What would you put first—thoughts

or feelings—in the process of creation?
A: Ideally, thoughts and feelings should coincide. If you start with thoughts, you are certain to make an error. Thoughts should be the result. I always get off on the wrong track when I let my thoughts lead me. That's what happened with my poem about a literary critic. I knew how and why I should write it. It became a kind of mental assignment. As a result, the thoughts didn't comply with the form, and the poem had no harmony.

Q: Are you always conscious of being a poet?
A: I try never to think of myself as a poet. I'm a human being. But I do notice—by the extent of my suffering, by the sharpness of my perception—that I belong to this troubled profession. The anxiety I feel whenever I see a clean piece of paper is proof of my involvement in literature. I fear and admire it; I seek and resist it.

Q: You've been to the United States and visited its famous universities. What's their attitude toward our literature in general?
A: Wonderful. Americans have a great interest in our literature. Students majoring in linguistics are well read and study Russian writers in-depth. Judging by the fact that my poetry recitals drew full houses, I'd say that Americans want to know more about us and follow the development of our literature avidly.

Q: Are you still in contact with representatives of Russian émigré literature?
A: Sure. I often see Vasily Aksyonov, Vladimir Voinovich, and others. They are my friends, and you just don't renounce your friends. The fact that many people are abroad now isn't their fault.

Q: Your poems were published in literary journals before, though seldom. As for your books, they were published only rarely. Has the situation changed?
A: Prior to 1985, few publishers would even look at my collections, never mind one of my poems.

Nowadays, my poems are readily published in magazines and journals. Three of my collections are also now in print. So I'd say things have certainly changed.

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Artist Eli Belyutin

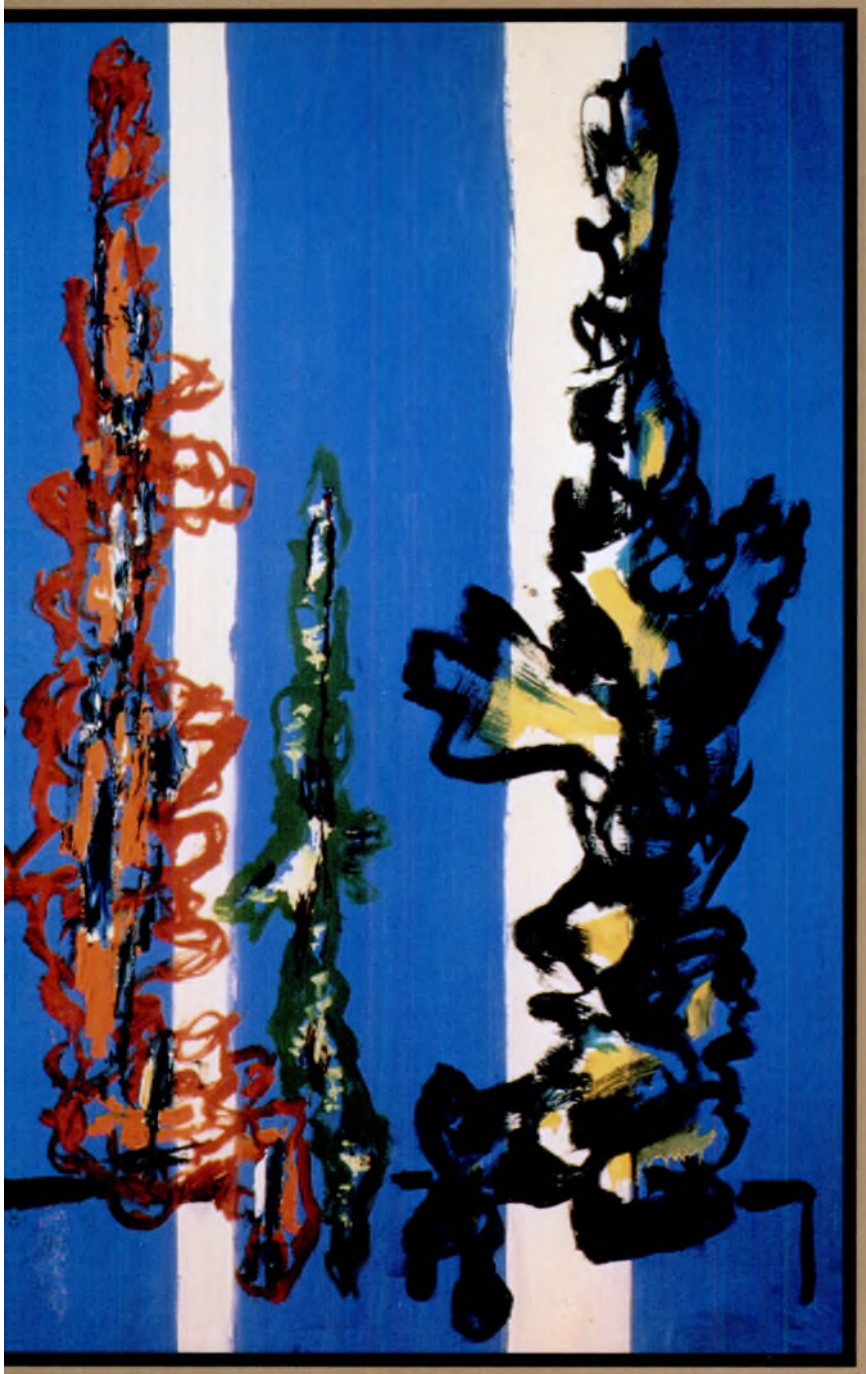
By Nina Rusova

This man combines the features of a High Renaissance master in a way almost inconceivable in the twentieth century," Professor Franco Miele, a prominent Italian art critic, has said about Eli Belyutin.

A brilliant artist, Belyutin invariably follows the fundamental principle of painting: What counts is not so much the subject, the refined composition and form, as color in the endless range of shades of its influence on the human mind and eye. He is a sculptor who has proposed an original system in which color participates on a par with form, a theoretician who has elaborated a theory of universal contact, which gives people of today new insight into the most effective means of overcoming the inner discomfort to which humanity is now doomed on the threshold of the third millennium. And, last but not least, he is a man who has managed to convey his unwavering belief in freedom and the creative impulse to each of his students during the decades of Russia's hardships.

The Belyutinites (followers of his school) are not a mere symbol of the opposition between the human right to spiritual freedom and all forms of authoritarian regimes. The Belyutinites are the symbol of the affirmation of people's indestructible ability to create and to remain human beings. In this sense their art is international and therefore common to all humankind.

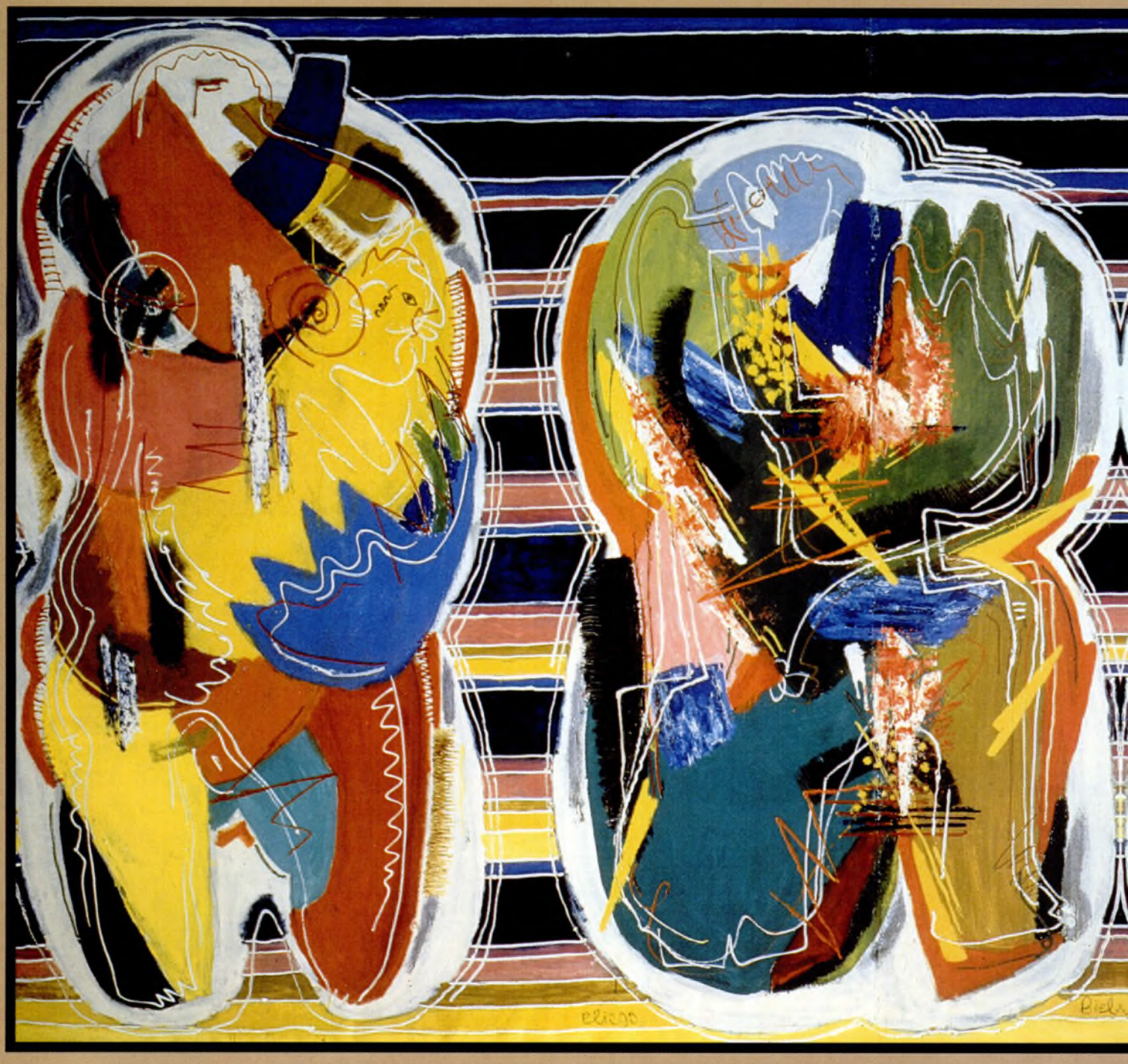
For almost a quarter of a century Belyutin kept up an active correspondence with Jean Cassous, a French writer who inspired the Resistance Movement, was a personal friend of Picasso and Matisse, and founded and served as director of the National Museum of Modern Art in France. Belyutin is the only Russian artist whose work is represented in the museum's collection. Cassous thought these works were an embodiment of the deep sense of genuinely Russian art with its leap into the unknown, but always for the sake of people. Just a few days before his



death in 1987, "Black Jean," as he was called in France, gave his last testament, as it were, to Belyutin and the Belyutinites, asking them to continue following their chosen path. Cassous felt that their art was not of a petty material nature, but expressed all the good things that the world had begun to doubt: "Your colors are like smiles, tears of love and compassion—they are pure and genuine. I'm with you with all my heart, my dear friends."

Even today we do not dare to express the full truth: Russia was doomed to 1917 by the development ☞

Clockwise from above: Family, Convergence. *1986.* Granny and Grandson. *1964.* Resistance. *1988.* ***Facing page: Artist Eli Belyutin . Top:*** Woman with Child. *1967.* ***All paintings are oil on canvas.***



of its nineteenth-century culture with its utopian dreams of an ideal society of universal equality, affluence, and love. The first years after the October Revolution destroyed all illusions. The noblest dreams turned to violence, injustice, and hatred. Many people of culture fled from the ruins of hopes cherished for centuries.

Those who did not have the strength to reconcile themselves with the disaster and, in spite of everything, looked to the possibility of future revival, were compelled, like the early Christians, to go underground and continue working, officially unrecognized and persecuted. An art market ceased to exist for them. The meaning of their life was to pass on the dying traditions to younger hands. The undisguised striving toward the utopian ideals expressed by Kazimir Malevich and Vladimir Tatlin gave vent to the expressionist inspiration of Aristarkh Lentulov and Pavel Kuznetsov, who were Belyutin's direct teachers.

Belyutin's first abstract composition, in many ways unexpected, was born on the day Russia entered the war against fascism. Belyutin called his picture *June 22, 1941*: Ocher planes give the feeling of earth, and black gaping cracks symbolize future graves, ready to be filled with the remains of people and their hopes.

As a sixteen-year-old, Belyutin volunteered to go to war. He was wounded in the hand, ending his dream of becoming a musician. In his father's family (people from the environs of Venice, Italy) only two pro-

Left: **The Meaning of Life.** ***1970. Above:*** **Victoria.** ***1981. Right:*** **Runaway Module.** ***1988.***

fessions had been known since the fourteenth century—musicians and artists. The only possible choice now was to be a painter.

For all its unthinkable cruelty, the war had given the Russian people a chance for regeneration, a chance to rid themselves of totalitarianism. On the front line a man could not be a faceless creature; struggle against death called forth individuality. This process had caused the Soviet regime to do all it could for the ideological regimentation against which Belyutin

rebels. At the height of the repression in culture, he created the embryo of a future mighty movement by uniting six young artists who said an emphatic No to the barracks system.

Belyutin became a target for persecution while he was still studying at the arts institute. If the innovator-artists of the older generation did not cause any special irritation among the ideological bosses—they were doomed to natural extinction as it was—Belyutin's growing popularity showed the rebellious sentiments among the younger generation.

Olga Carlyle, granddaughter of Russian writer Leonid Andreyev, left a literary portrait of Belyutin of the early 1960s: A big, happy, noisy, and amiable man, he attracted people and had numerous followers.

He did not change much over the next thirty years in character or even in outward appearance—he was just as mobile, emotional, and young-looking. He himself said, it is inherent for man to struggle, to act, to affirm himself, rather than to lead a dull and uneventful life. Belyutin gave his followers the opportunity to work in his Moscow studio and to occupy his entire country house in the village of Abramtsevo near Moscow.

Recognition came to Belyutin in all countries where the value of human individuality has never been in doubt. His works were specially noted at the Paris and Rome biennials and at the Polish and Hungarian academies of art, where Belyutin was the only Russian artist among West European masters.

Belyutin received the title of honorary member of the Italian Academy of Modern Art and won medals at a number of personal exhibits in Italian towns and the Grand Gold Medal "for creative achievements and international cultural activity" (the last for his drawing *Motherhood*, which is now in the Munich Pinakothek). This is a subject that the artist was particularly fond of in the 1960s and 1970s. Soviet newspapers mentioned the name of the picture that received the grand prize, but not the name of the artist.

Even more painful was the persecution of the artist by the USSR Artists Union, since art materials and studios were distributed only according to lists compiled by the union. Naturally, Belyutin and his followers were not included on these lists. Only people on the lists were permitted to take part in exhibitions.

The ban imposed on Belyutin existed for almost thirty years. In December 1962, Khrushchev raised a ruckus over a large avant-garde exhibition (the first in Soviet years), which Belyutin organized in the Manezh exhibition hall in Moscow. In December 1990, following government apologies in the press, a giant exhibition of the work of Belyutinites and his followers opened in the Manezh. Concerts of avant-garde music by young composers and performers who failed to find recognition in their country were held there daily.

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Did that mean a complete lifting of the ban? No. According to Andrei Anikeyev, an official of the USSR Ministry of Culture who was in charge of foreign and national exhibitions, two avant-garde movements existed and continued to exist in the country; an official one, which the state supported, and an unofficial one, not supported by the same administration. The Belyutinites belonged to the unofficial group.

Only the enthusiasm of Mrs. Linda Weintraub, director of the Institute of Arts of Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, made it possible to surmount the countless barriers raised by the USSR Ministry of Culture and to show part of the Manezh exhibition in the United States in 1991. Another part of that exhibition will be shown to Americans too. It will open in Boston, Massachusetts, in early 1992.

For the first time Belyutin and his students had a chance to visit another country and come into contact with international viewers. The reception accorded the Belyutinites in the United States and the comments of artists and art critics were extremely favorable. "Belyutin's work may reawaken our ability to feel, breathe, and think in a primal manner... Belyutin is a champion of the individual," wrote Mrs. Weintraub in the exhibition catalogue.

At the same time, this art is endowed with an acute feeling of contemporaneity, being on the brink of the most daring artistic quests... Liam Nelson, president of the Artists Association, describes this feeling as follows: "It is interesting that Belyutin, by continuing a tradition started in the 1950s, now seems to relate to something that has resurfaced in current Western art. The younger Russian artists are more influenced by the conceptual art of the 1970s, which means that younger Russian artists today seem old-fashioned to us, while the older ones seem more modern."

Life has always been hard for people. They have always been at the mercy of conflicts with the world around them, inner confusion, and contradictory desires. Throughout all of the turbulent creation, which at first glance may seem quite unpredictable in its development, Belyutin searches for the possibility not so much of transporting the viewers but of drawing them into the creative process.

And, surprising as it might seem, the American art critics were the ones to unravel Belyutin's mystery. Jim Reed wrote the following in May 1991: "Art, he teaches, restores balance to life's disorders. It achieves harmony. It is the one potent response to adversity. It can even 'compensate' for what has been denied in the individual life. Excessive claims? Visitors from another era?" ■

First Lady of Women's Open

Larissa Savchenko in action on the tennis court.

By Vladimir Keshishev
Photographs by Victor Chernov

Sunday, September 29, was the last day of the International Women's Tennis Tournament of the Kraft General Foods series, which had a $100,000 purse. In the finals was Wimbledon doubles champion Larissa Savchenko, twenty-five, from the Soviet Union. She won a close match (3:6, 6:3, 6:4) over Germany's Barbara Rattner, taking the tournament's main prize ($18,000) and a mink coat, which was presented as a special prize offered by Soyuzpushynina of the USSR.

Savchenko is known as a doubles player. That is why her victory in the singles match came as a surprise to many.

"We lived in Lvov when I was a child," said Savchenko. "One day when I was eight and in the second grade, some people from the sports school came to our physical education class and asked who wanted to learn to play tennis. I raised my hand. I must say, I certainly learned a lot from my first coach, Galina Lyaskalo."

I remembered a conversation in which world-famous tennis player Olga Morozova, who headed the country's national women's team, said: "I am firmly convinced that a woman coach works with her young pupils much more ably than a man. At first all our top players were trained by women. Only women can give the seven- or eight-year-olds the maternal attention they need."

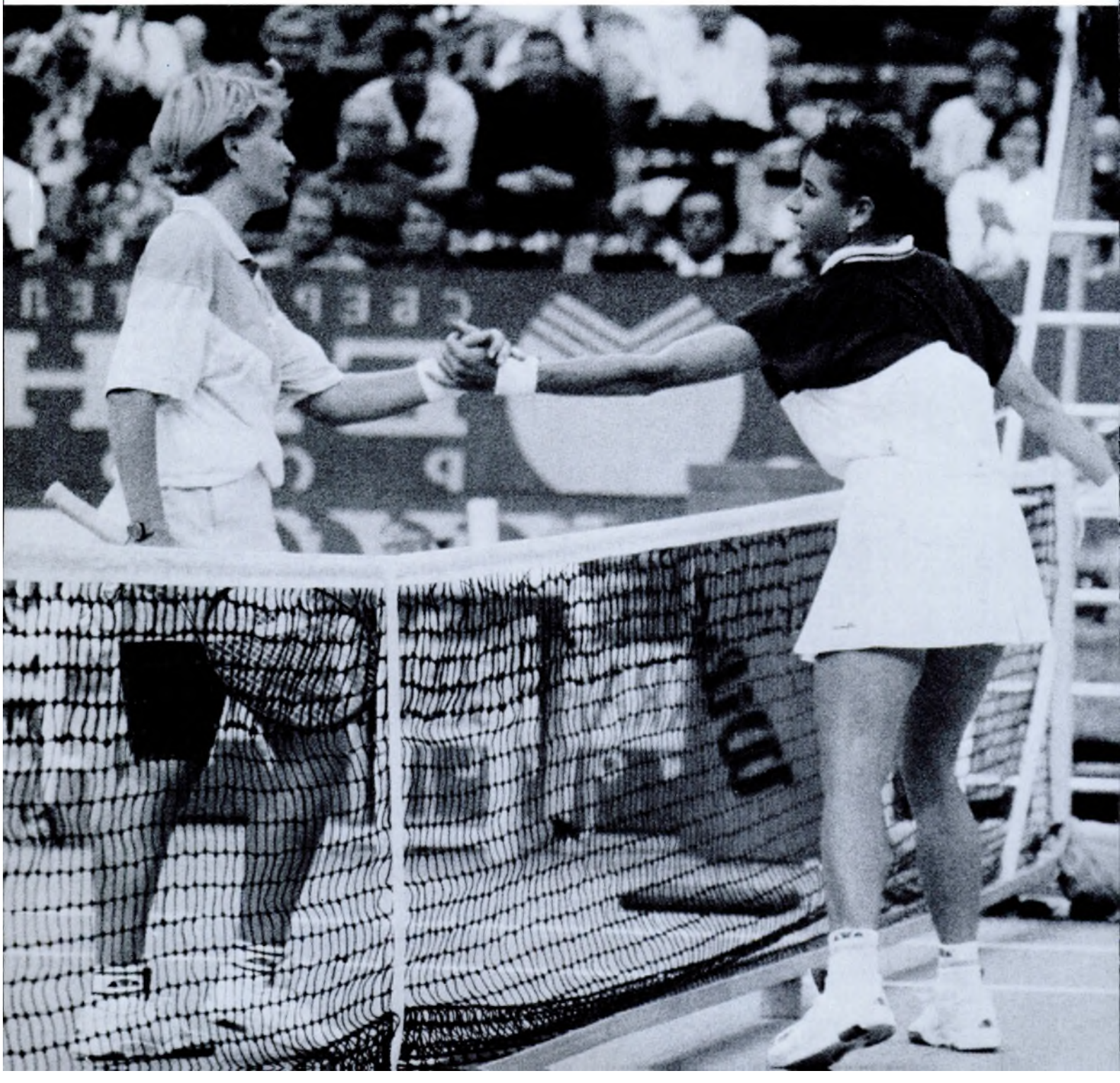
This applies to leading Soviet tennis players Andrei Chesnokov (whose coach was Tatyana Naumko), Andrei ☞

Chepkasov (coached by Natalya Rogova), Savchenko, and others.

Shamil Tarpishchev, Savchenko's current coach, who now heads the USSR Tennis Federation, had for a long time trained the Soviet national team (both men and women).

"Larissa Savchenko is a born doubles player," said Tarpishchev. "I noticed her when, as a twelve-year-old, she was sent to the national team's practice camp because she was a promising tennis player. You could already see that she had quick reflexes, that she saw the court well and had a fine sense of the ball, and that she would become a good doubles player. As further developments have shown, she hasn't let me down."

Savchenko won singles matches at international tournaments in 1984 in Chicago, Illinois, and in Caserta, Italy. Then she had a period when she was not very consistent in singles. At Wimbledon in 1989 she lost in the first round to Donna Faber, of the United States. Later, at the U.S. Open, after winning over American Pam Shriver and other strong rivals, she lost in the fourth round to Helena Sukova, of Czechoslovakia, winning the first set but then quickly losing the others. Her 1990 season was still more uneven.



Savchenko shakes hands with Barbara Rattner of Germany after the finals (facing page). Left: Savchenko talks with TV commentator Anna Dmitrieva, a former tennis star. Below: Both winner and runner-up received Russian fur coats.

Tarpishchev explained that Savchenko excels in doubles, where the player needs constantly to alternate between excitement and inhibition. She has trouble in singles because the tactics are more tiring to the nervous system. In doubles the nervous system is not subjected to such continuous stress, and between shots the player has a brief respite.

"At the end of last year," said Tarpishchev, "Savchenko asked me to coach her, and we decided to emphasize the strong points of her technique. Savchenko is good at the net, so we changed her tactics: After her serve—which she has improved, especially her first serve—she plays net. She has increased the pace of her singles game."

One result of these changes was the doubles victory she won with Natalya Zvereva at Wimbledon this year. This was a long-awaited success for Soviet tennis. Before that, Soviet teams had won at major tournaments in Paris, Chicago, Indianapolis, and so forth, but this was the first success at Wimbledon. Having won in the semifinals over the strong team of Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver, the Soviet tennis players won in three sets in the finals over Jana Novotna and Mary Jo Fernandez. Where Zvereva puts her opponent in a difficult position with her strong service and spin, Savchenko specializes in placing the ball in the court.

But let's go back to the St. Petersburg tournament. It used to be held in Moscow, where it was known as the Virginia Slims. Altogether, thirty-two tennis players from fifteen countries took part in the women's singles. Savchenko, who ranked eighty-second in the world on the eve of the tournament, won her early matches fairly easily. In the finals, against Barbara Rattner of Germany, Savchenko lost the first set 3:6. With the score in the second set 3:3, Savchenko was behind, on her serve, 0-40. She remembered what Jimmy Connors once said: You have to fight for every ball and seize the slightest chance for victory. Savchenko managed not only to come back from a triple break point, but also to win the next three games, evening the score. This match was the highlight of the tournament. ■

Eli Belyutin. *Quarrel*. 1988. Oil on canvas.