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Foundation for Social Innovations Alaska

Newsletter

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Juneau, Alaska

April 1991

Juneau to keep Vladivostok visitors busy

Some 150 Soviets from Vladivostok - everyone from teachers and students to government officials and welders - descend on Juneau April 13 for a busy schedule of business meetings, tours, dinners and social events.

The delegation is part of Juneau's exchange with the Far East port city. A delegation of 102 Alaskans visited Vladivostok last December. Both trips were organized by FSI Alaska.

The Soviets and their Juneau hosts hope to make progress toward establishment of a formal sister-city relationship. They also hope to lay the groundwork for exchanges among educators, environmental experts and set up a pen-pal exchange between Soviet and Alaska students.

"The response by Juneau has been incredibly positive," said organizer Glenn Gray. "There are so many people in this town who either speak Russian, lived there or had relatives sneak across the ice bridge and they all want to help."

The Soviets are scheduled to arrive at Juneau International Airport the afternoon of April 13, one day later than originally scheduled.

The delegation includes Soviets from nearly every walk of life, who Juneau organizers hope to get together with their local counterparts.

Several social and cultural events are planned for the Soviet visit.

An art show of Soviet art opens the afternoon of April 15 and continues through the week in the Behrends Building lobby.

A Vladivostok folk dance group, Veche, performs at Juneau's Centennial Hall at 7 p.m. April 16. The group performs authentic Russian folk music and dance in costume. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door; \$8 for students and senior citizens.



Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski not only looks similar to Alaska's Unalaska but has a common culture, history, industry and interests.

Alaskans hopeful of success on Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski trip

The city that launched Vitus Bering's historic expedition of Alaska nearly 250 years ago will play another important role in the history of the 49th state when a delegation of more than 100 Alaskans visit Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski in mid April.

The Alaskans - mostly from Unalaska in the Aleutian Chain - hope to establish a sister-state relationship with this Soviet city nestled between two volcanoes on the Kamchatka Peninsula. They also plan to take initial steps to reunite Native Aleut people separated when the Russians ended their fur trade in Alaska a century ago.

"The main thing our two cities have in common are the shared resources of the Bering Sea," said former Unalaska Mayor Paul Fuhs, now economic development director for the Alaska Department of Commerce. "We want to work together to protect the resources that we both depend on."

Approximately 102 Alaskans plan to travel to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski April 13-20 on a trip organized by the Foundation for Social Innovations Alaska. The group will travel on an Aeroflot jet that will deliver a delegation of 150 Vladivostok residents to Juneau on April 12.

Fuhs said the Unalaskans also hope to establish business ties, a student exchange program, scientific and technical exchanges, increase tourism and develop a relationship between the Russian Orthodox churches in both cities. Unalaska's Russian church is the oldest building in Alaska, constructed from California redwood in 1895.

The two communities have a great deal in common. Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski is the Soviet's chief fishing port while Unalaska enjoys that distinction in the U.S. Both cities also have geothermal resources their residents hope to develop.

An estimated 335 Aleuts live in the Kamchatka region, relocated there by Russian

(Please see P-K trip, page 4.)

From the director

FSI Alaska adapts to USSR changes



JoAnn Zentner

After two years in operation, more than 100 exchanges and the expansion of our offices into key cities of the Soviet Far East, the Foundation for Social Innovations Alaska is entering a new phase designed to meet the challenges of a changing era in Alaska-Soviet relations.

These relations are undergoing a transition from the enthusiastic friendship exchanges of 1988-1990, to current complex cooperative undertakings and commercial ventures. Although personal interactions between Soviet and American citizens have broken down many of the ideological barriers separating our two countries for so long, corporate and institutional mergers do not necessarily follow. Many impediments remain - cultural, monetary, technological, logistical and governmental.

Restructuring the Soviet economy translates both into opportunity and uncertainty. FSI Alaska and everyone interested in better relations must recognize the potential and the pitfalls that present themselves in each exchange and project.

FSI Alaska's strategy is to build a foundation for successful ventures by encouraging the growth of a social and economic infrastructure connecting Alaska and the Soviet Far East, thus expanding the knowledge and network necessary to make cooperative programs work.

This means we will be facilitating more exchanges of scientific and technical information designed with the specific objective of establishing a mutually compatible database.

We also will continue to coordinate sister-city exchanges. As the Soviet government becomes more decentralized, local governments - both in Alaska and the Soviet Union - must take on new roles. That already has become evident in Juneau, Unalaska, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Nome.

One facet of our commitment to keeping FSI supporters tuned into the latest developments is this quarterly newsletter designed to present our new undertakings to you.

Because of our supporters, and with each new member of FSI Alaska, we are better positioned to carry out our mission - to facilitate people to people exchanges with our Soviet neighbors.

FSI Alaska believes in and is committed to the ideas and aspirations of the people of Alaska and the Soviet Union. As we continue to meet, consult and chart our shared future, FSI Alaska will be there.

From all of us at FSI Alaska, we extend our thanks to you and continue to invite your ideas and innovations that help to create a new world order.

FSI provides services to both business and cultural groups

The Foundation for Social Innovations is a coalition of dedicated Americans, Soviets and Europeans committed to furthering improved relations with the Soviet Union.

Relying on grassroots efforts, FSI cuts through bureaucratic red tape to promote business and cultural exchanges. Members subscribe to the belief that all relationships are based on cultural understanding.

FSI's Juneau office is an independent U.S. affiliate of FSI-USSR, the first private non-profit foundation ever established in the Soviet Union.

The Juneau headquarters directs the operation of new FSI offices in the Soviet Far East cities of Anadyr, Magadan, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, Provideniya and Vladivostok, the Far East's central office. Other chapters are located throughout the Soviet Union, in San Francisco and in Milan, Italy.

By using the latest technology and refined political connections, FSI-Juneau puts citizens in touch with each other across the globe.

For those pursuing business ventures, the Juneau office uses electronic mail to instantaneously connect sister offices in Moscow and San Francisco, the location of the Soviet Union's West Coast consulate. FSI can transmit proposals, obtain the necessary Soviet permissions and coordinate itineraries.

FSI-Juneau specializes in cultural exchanges and is well equipped to arrange missions to the Soviet Union, regardless of their size or duration. The office can coordinate charter flights, expedite visas and arrange meetings with the highest officials as well as cultural groups.

To date, FSI-Juneau can claim a number of successes:

- Coordinating the charter visit of more than 100 Southeast Alaska residents to Vladivostok for a one-week stay.
- Sponsored more than 300 Soviet citizens to visit Alaska.
- Created educational programs that link American and Soviet students via electronic mail.
- Facilitated student exchanges between Alaska and Soviet schools.

The Foundation for Social Innovations-Alaska

A private non-profit corporation established under Alaska law and headquartered in Juneau, Alaska. FSI is dedicated to assisting the pioneering ventures of cultural exchange, commerce and citizen diplomacy between the US and USSR, with an emphasis on the Soviet Far East.

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Newsletter, Vol. 1, Number 1

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Contributors: Dixie Hood, Ke Mell, Jean Cameron

FSI Executive Director: JoAnn Zentner

Volunteers are needed to help with the quarterly newsletters. We also welcome contributions of news stories, tips or information on Alaska-Soviet activities.

Vladivostok trip produces memories, changes impressions

By Dixie Hood

After 10 months of snarled negotiations, two advance trips and last minute visa hang-ups, 102 Alaskans on Dec. 15 boarded an Aeroflot jet for an historic visit to Vladivostok organized by FSI Alaska.

Closed to outsiders - and even other Soviets - for 70 years, the city was mysterious yet inviting for those of us from Juneau and Sitka who paid a bargain \$1,500 for the seven-day adventure.

The purpose of the trip was to lay the groundwork for a sister-city relationship with Juneau. While there was plenty of interest in economic development by many on the trip, most of us considered ourselves "citizen diplomats."

Cold weather and shortages were anticipated, so we came stocked with our Southeast wardrobe. The corners of the single suitcase we were allowed were crammed with every gift imaginable - T-shirts, Levis, sample bottles of shampoo and lotion, canned salmon and postcards of Juneau.

In busloads, on foot in small groups and as single adventurers, we absorbed the sights, sounds and smells of Vladivostok.

Overlooking the ship-crammed harbor from a hilltop, it was hard to imagine that this city of 750,000 was a place of forests and tigers not so many decades ago, or so reported our tour guide. With its grey naval fleet and omnipresent statues and memorials commemorating Lenin or the suffering of wars past, the city seemed grim in its winter landscape of leafless trees and polluting smoke stacks.

As we drove along the streets, we peered through bus windows at dark-garbed, fur-hatted people moving silently about their business. But up close, the Russian people were



The memorial on Vladivostok's waterfront is a favorite for newly married Soviet couples who pose for photos.

generous and welcoming.

In official and unofficial capacities, they helped us with shopping and touring and taught us much about their history, politics, families and culture. Best of all, they invited us into their homes and hearts in a remarkable, even overwhelming way.

In often cramped and sparse surroundings, we were plied with festive food and drink, pastries, chocolates, champagne and the inevitable sausage and dry brown bread. Gifts were bestowed on us - hand-carved and painted laddles and dolls, books, maps, jewelry, perfume, miniature samovars, fur hats and military belt buckles.

The generosity of the Soviets we met exceeded anything in our experience. We found such a sense of shared joy and happiness about our countries coming together after all the years of cold war and hostile propaganda.

There was also in our heartstrings a tug about the ongoing political and economic struggle and deprivation in the lives of these courageous people we came to care about.

Alaska Airlines, Aeroflot, Northern Air to service Soviet Far East

The Soviet Far East will soon be only an airline ticket and a few hours away.

Both Alaska Airlines and Aeroflot, the Soviet national air carrier, have announced plans to begin regular service between Alaska and the Soviet Far East as early as May. A third carrier, Northern Air Cargo of Anchorage, plans to begin weekly cargo service from its hub to Magadan and Khabarovsk in early August.

According to industry publications, beginning May 12 Aeroflot will launch twice-weekly flights to Khabarovsk, Magadan and Anchorage. Another flight will continue to San Francisco. Beginning May 31, Aeroflot plans to offer twice-weekly service between Moscow, Anchorage and San Francisco.

Alaska Airlines' service begins June 17 with three-times weekly flights from Anchorage to Magadan and Khabarovsk. Targeted for West Coast tourists, Alaska's packages include local tours and options to venture as far west as Irkutsk on the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

Tour prices start at \$1,295, which includes food, lodging and local transfers. It will run in the summer only.

Alaska's maiden flight will include a trade mission sponsored by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and the US-USSR Trade and Economic Council.

New US/USSR consulates urged

Alaska-Soviet relations have caught the attention of the state Legislature and new administration of Gov. Walter Hickel.

A group of Alaskans doing business with the Soviet Far East told the House Special Committee on International Trade and Tourism in February that there's enormous potential in trade and cultural ties with the Soviet Union, but that the obstacles are many.

The committee introduced a resolution urging the Soviet and U.S. national governments to establish consulates in Alaska and the Soviet Far East to help process the required paperwork for exchanges.

Hickel plans to hold a second meeting of the Northern Regions Conference in Anchorage May 30-31. Launched by Gov. Steve Cowper, the 10-nation group focuses on issues common to northern countries.

P-K trip to explore ties between Native peoples

(Continued from page 1)

fur traders. Many originated from Atka Island and still have relatives living in the Aleutians. They will travel to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski to meet the Alaskans.

Some 15 Alaskan Aleuts will be among the delegation to lay the groundwork for a larger reunion planned for August as part of the 250th anniversary celebration of Bering's expedition.

Fuhs said the Alaskans hope to learn from the Soviet's use of geothermal resources, which they use to generate electricity and operate greenhouses. Unalaska is 12 miles from a 400 degree fahrenheit geothermal fault, which Fuhs said could supply electricity to his community for 500 years.

The April visit is the result of a protocol signed in May 1990 between Fuhs and Mayor Nicolai Zadaroznei, who met through the efforts of FSI. Zadaroznei invited the Unalaskans to visit his city last October, but processing problems prevented it.

The city has been closed to non-residents for 70 years and only a handful of westerners have visited. The Alaskans comprise the first official delegation and approval had to be obtained from the Supreme Soviet.

Juneau FSI fund-raiser exceeds all expectations

"The enthusiasm showed by the Juneau community was simply overwhelming. The turnout exceeded everyone's expectations. It convinced us that there's a large and growing number of Alaskans committed to better relations with our neighbors across the Bering Strait."

That reaction from FSI board member Steve Nelson summed up the feelings of most who attended the tremendously successful FSI fund-raiser at Juneau's Centennial Hall on Feb. 8.

Attended by an estimated 450-500 - about three times the expectation - the event not only raised the necessary funds to keep FSI operating, but reinforced the spirit behind the organization.

Dubbed "A Russian Celebration," the fund-raiser generated \$5,800, about 60 new memberships and plenty of good cheer.

Courtesy of Alaska Airlines, Sitka's New Archangel dancers performed authentic Russian folk dances. Juneau chef John

DeChemey oversaw a menu of Russian treats, including piroshky, Russian black bread, sausages and tea cakes.

Soviet goods ranging from art to samovars to watches went to the highest bidders during a featured auction while maps, posters, lacquer boxes, chess sets and calendars were sold at display tables.

A live computer link permitted participants to send messages directly to Vladivostok.

Sergey Frolov, on temporary assignment from the Vladivostok FSI office, spoke of the significance of the changes in his own country and how efforts such as those of FSI were improving the status of Soviet citizens.

FSI Executive Director JoAnn Zentner said she hoped to make "A Russian Celebration" an annual event, perhaps featuring a Soviet folk group next year.

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Foundation for Social Innovations Alaska Newsletter

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Dueling banjos and flutes

The Vladivostok folk dance group Veche wows a full house at Juneau's Centennial Hall April 16 with their authentic brand of Russian music played on traditional instruments.

Photo by Monica Rivera

Vladivostok brings its magic to Juneau

By Lesley DeKrey and Ron Clarke

Magic marker numbers on yellow cards came down the escalator, clutched by smiling Soviets. Whoops of delight erupted from the crowd and, one by one, visitors were encircled and swept away by their hosts. Finally, the number matching ours peeked over the moving rail. Our man had made it to Juneau.

James Bond? He chuckled and held up his card, boldly marked "007." "No Kah-Jay-Bay," he laughed. Suddenly, Cold War fear of KGB spies seemed outrageous and silly. We snagged his suitcase from the baggage carousel and headed out to share our lives for a week.

Nikolai was clearly fascinated by the size of our home, but the biggest surprise was the waterbed he was to occupy for the next eight nights. Even simple ideas and sentences were

(Please see Waterbed, page 5.)

Visit successes charted

The April visit to Juneau by 150 Vladivostok residents produced more than goodwill. There also were a number of specific breakthroughs, such as:

- Juneau teacher Judy Maier will spend a year in Vladivostok starting in September on a teacher exchange.
- Local artist Dan DeRoux launched Gallery Still, a Juneau gallery selling Soviet art, some of the proceeds of which go to buy art supplies for Vladivostok artists.
- State tourism officials exchanged a letter of agreement with their counterparts calling for further cooperation.

From the director

FSI contacts, not magic, producer results



JoAnn Zentner

The Wizard of Oz has always been one of my favorite films, especially the part when Toto pulls back the curtain to expose a small man pulling levers and pushing buttons to create the illusion of "the wizard." Some days, while attending to the myriad of details involved in every U.S.-Soviet exchange, we here at FSIA feel a little like that man, arranging the puzzle pieces into a completed picture.

When we stand back and contemplate that picture, it can look impressive. But if people had any idea what goes on behind the scenes, they probably wouldn't believe it. Sometimes it is difficult for us to fathom how seemingly dissonant circumstances can magically transform themselves into harmonious happy endings.

FSIA's success is due in part to its international network, linking 13 Soviet cities and three U.S. cities with our headquarters in Juneau. Through this cooperative structure we coordinate projects with some degree of efficiency. Soviets and Alaskans working together to address obstacles in merging our two systems is crucial.

FSIA has also developed a working relationship with the Soviet consulate in San Francisco as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow. Frequent communications with both while applying for permissions to enter Soviet "closed" cities is vital.

Another key element to the success of FSIA is vital: The generosity and pioneering spirit of the Alaskan people. During my July trip to the USSR, local officials hailed Alaskans as "pioneers who have persevered, despite the country's instability, to create lasting change."

Creating new models of international cooperation is a difficult but rewarding quest, yet Alaskans have proven we possess the qualities needed to succeed. It takes courage, brains and a heart to make this dream a reality. So close your eyes, click your heels together three times and repeat after me: "There's no place like Khabarovsk, there's no place like Khabarovsk..."

Russians speak out on Yeltsin election

Many Alaskans watched the recent presidential election in Russia, the USSR's largest republic, with the same intensity as an American political campaign. The Russian Republic includes the Soviet Far East, Alaska's closest neighbor and the home to many Soviets with whom Alaskans deal regularly.

To find out what Soviets think about the Boris Yeltsin's election, FSI conducted a "person in the street poll" in the Soviet Far East city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on July 19. We asked: "How do you feel the election of President Yeltsin will affect future relations between the Soviet Far East and Alaska?"

Andrew Kazhedub, 18, student: I hope the election of President Yeltsin will have a positive influence on relations between the Soviet Far East and Alaska. Yeltsin is a much more progressive leader than Gorbachev. I am sure he will be able to break the last barriers which separate our countries, such as the bureaucracy which people must overcome while getting visas, so that we can exchange visits without any problems.

Shulgina Elena, 28, psychologist: No. The election of Yeltsin won't affect future relations between the Far East and Alaska. One person, even if he is a leader, can't do anything alone. To achieve something, there must be many of them in the government who think in the same way. Besides, the relations between the countries do not depend on one man only; they depend on the attitude of the people of these countries towards each other.

Teslenko Ludmila, 54, economist: We support Yeltsin and his program. We voted for him and we are sure that everything will be changed for the better, especially the relations between people who live in neighboring countries.

Vadim Bogolepov, 35, builder: No, I don't believe in Yeltsin.

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Replicas of Bering's ships sail to Alaska

About three dozen brave Soviet sailors, artists and filmmakers this summer are reenacting Vitus Bering's exploration of Alaska 250 years ago by sailing replicas of Bering's ships from the Soviet Far East to six Alaska communities.

The so-called "packet boats" are scheduled to arrive in Unalaska about Aug. 1 after sailing 1,600 miles across the Bering Sea from Vladivostok. The sailing boats, which only measure 17 meters long (about 56 feet) are similar in design to the St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Gabriel in which Bering explored the Alaska coast in 1741.

Bering, a Danish explorer under contract to Russian Czar Peter the Great, spotted land at Cape St. Elias near current day Yakutat on July 16 and sent some of his crew ashore on Kayak Island searching for plants to alleviate the scurvy of his crew. Bering died later that year en route back to Russia, but his discovery remains one of the most significant for Alaska and Russia.

This year's voyage is sponsored by FSI under the auspices of the Far East Children's School of Traveling based in Vladivostok. In April, officials of FSI and the school signed an agreement to secure the necessary approvals and sponsorship for the trip.

The ships, brightly painted and built of wood, will carry 12-15 persons each, including Soviet artists, photographers, film makers and poets. The crew are



Replicas of boats Bering used to explore the Alaska coast in 1741 are readied in Vladivostok.

Photo by Sergey Frolov

experienced Soviet sailors.

After spending two or three days in Unalaska, the boats will travel to Kodiak with a scheduled arrival date of Aug. 11. Other communities and their tentative scheduled dates of arrival include: Cordova, Aug. 18; Yakutat, Aug. 21; Sitka, Aug. 25; and Juneau, Aug. 28. The boats are slated to remain in each community a couple of days, giving tours to local residents.

This expedition is one of four which is considering making the trip this summer to celebrate Bering's journey. A group of four Soviet ships arrived in Unalaska July 13, but because they lacked visas and official permission, had to remain on their boats for several days while Customs officials decided their fate.

The expedition is expected to produce a book and film to be used in schools in each country.

New American consulate in Soviet Far East closer to reality

The establishment of new consulates in the Soviet Far East and Alaska to aid relations between the two countries is a step closer to reality, apparently at least in part because of a recent Alaska trade mission to the Soviet Far East.

The U.S. State Department has acknowledged plans to open an American consulate in Khabarovsk as early as the summer of 1992. The announcement comes on the heels of a June trade mission during which agreements were signed with four Soviet Far East regions calling for the new consulates.

The agreements, authored by the Alaska House Special Committee on International Trade and

Tourism, were signed with Magadan, Khabarovsk, Sakhalin and Vladivostok. Alaska signers included Rep. Tom Moyer, chairman of the House committee; Sen. Arliss Sturgulewski, a member of the Senate trade committee; state Office of International Trade chief Bill Noll and John Sims of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

The four were among 60 Alaska businessmen and women who spent 10 days in the Soviet Far East in mid June on a Chamber-sponsored trade mission. The group traveled on Alaska Airlines' inaugural service, which serves the Soviet Far East three times weekly.

Petropavlovsk visit emotional for Alaskans

By Garrey Peska

We sat on the Aeroflot jet blinking at the dawn light rising outside the window. Having been up so long that some of us were turning into zombies, I would have understood people being irritable.

But they weren't. Instead, most of the 94 Alaskans were quietly contemplating the emotional experience of that previous week in Petropavlovsk, a picturesque city on the Soviet Kamchatka Peninsula.

The night before we had attended a huge going-away party sponsored by our Soviet hosts. Afterwards, we picked up our luggage and spent several tedious hours clearing customs. We accepted the bureaucratic delays as "part of the Russian experience" and passed the time talking about the new friends we had made in Petropavlovsk.

Many of them were still with us at the airport. There were tearful good-byes and cheerful assurances that "we will see each other again."

Now Glen Reed, one of the delegation leaders, had just asked us all to write our impressions of the trip and I looked out the window at the crowd of well wishers standing in the cold wind at 6 a.m. waving enthusiastically. Behind them stretched rows of Soviet military planes and the bunkers that house them, which provided a stark jolt of reality.

Many of those same people had been at the airport the week before to greet us when we arrived in a snow storm. Then, we were hustled along so fast that the waiting crowd barely had enough time to offer us the traditional Russian greeting of a loaf of bread and dish of salt.

During the week we came to understand what it meant that we were the first Americans the people of Petropavlovsk had met. They were intensely interested in showing us the best that Russian hospitality has to offer. There were times when the local children treated us in a way usually reserved for rock musicians.

They wanted us to tell them everything we could about Alaska and America, and especially about the history that Alaska and Petropavlovsk share.

Vitus Bering sailed to his destiny from Petropavlovsk's beautiful Avacha Bay 250 years

ago and that was a big part of the reason our delegation was there. Many of our group were from Unalaska-Dutch Harbor, in part to make arrangements for a joint US-USSR celebration of Bering's discovery of Alaska to be observed in August.

Some of the American visitors were Alaska Natives hoping to meet cousins they knew about but were unable to contact because of the Cold War. These people who shared common grand parents had a touching reunion.

Petropavlovsk is a large city by Alaskan standards, with an estimated population of 300,000, with between a quarter and a third military personnel.

It is set in spectacular country. A line of volcanoes (some currently active) provide a backdrop for the typical concrete apartment buildings that house the residents. The surrounding countryside boasts numerous natural hot springs and it seemed that everyone, from the military to the Tourist Club, has their own hot bath. We were treated to that age-old cure for everything on day trips.

Most, if not all of the members of our delegation had at least one dinner, lunch or coffee at the home of a new-found Russian friend. We met warm, family-oriented people who want very much to improve their living conditions and hope for a strong, healthy economy for their children.

Like Alaskans, they are teaching their children English, Japanese and Korean languages and telling them that the Soviet Far East economy of the future lies in the Pacific Rim.

We have much in common - our history and future. I know many Alaskans who have decided to open their hearts to the people of the Soviet Far East and I know a lot of Russians who feel the same about Alaskans.

We can't cure the ills of the world with a magic wand but we can try to understand each other and make it a better world as a result.

We had a great time. You should have heard us sing the Alaska Flag Song on stage in front of 600 people and you should have heard their loud and long applause.

Waterbed, cat laxative mystify Soviet visitor

(Continued from Page 1.)

struggles, but a bed full of warm water was too strange. We faced a long, difficult week in the communication department.

The next morning, through a remarkable session of international charades, he showed us that his back was sore. He needed liniment - perhaps that tube on the bathroom counter would do the trick? Through a truly remarkable session of international charades, we think we explained that what he saw was cat laxative. (Lesley is a veterinarian). We would go to the drug store.

After breakfast, Nikolai retreated to his room and shut the door. At first, we thought he had gone back to bed, but could hear him talking. Puzzled, I knocked and asked if he needed anything. No.

After nearly three hours, he emerged and announced, "Now I have learned English." Nikolai had written out about 30 pages worth of Russian words translated phonetically into English with the help of a 1959 phrase book. That smoothed our conversations immensely. He taught us some Russian, we taught him some English. We all tried to polish our rusty German. Nikolai called our new language "Anglaiski-Russki-Deutsche." When an attempt to convey an idea succeeded, Nikolai smiled and said, "I can understand of you."

We showed each other photographs of our friends and families. We tried to describe our respective jobs. Did he like Gorbachev? Nyet. Yeltsin? Nyet, nyet, nyet. George Boosh? Wimp. Hickel? Nyet. Who needs political details?

The days flew by, packed with tours, dinners and evening programs. A day trip on the state ferry was a welcome, relaxing break. Only 40 minutes in Skagway allowed us an Alaskan beer and a couple of rounds of lovely Soviet vodka, accompanied, as always, by lovely Soviet toasts. We returned at 2:15 a.m., stopping at the all-night grocery on the way home for snacks for the flight home the next day. Shopping at 3 in the morning is unheard of in Vladivostok.

Hugs, handshakes, tears and waves sent our new friend back across the ocean. "Clarke," he said, "if only two weeks more together, we are fluent in Anglaiski-Russki-Deutsche, but nobody else understands us." Da, Nikolai. We look forward to the chance to work on it with you.

Chernobyl area students take breather in Alaska

Thirty-five students and four teachers from the areas of the Soviet Union radiated by the Chernobyl nuclear accident were scheduled to visit Anchorage beginning Aug. 1 as part of a rehabilitation effort.

The group is traveling under the auspices of "Chernobyl-Help," a Soviet-based international humanitarian non-government organization that arranges for school children affected by the disaster a brief "time-out" in a clean environment.

The students, who range from ages 13 to 18 and include about 20 girls and 15 boys, are scheduled to stay until about Aug. 18. They will enjoy outings

arranged by volunteer host families in Anchorage and Kenai.

"We want to give them fresh air to breathe and uncontaminated food to eat," said Susan Clark of CAMAI, a Juneau-based humanitarian group sponsoring the visit along with FSI. "It gives the kids some badly needed time out of the radiated areas."

The students and their teachers hail from Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the Russian regions of the Soviet Union affected by the 1986 disaster in which a nuclear reactor melted down, spewing radiation over the countryside.



Nikolai Moskvitchev
on the Alaska ferry Aurora

Return trip to Vladivostok set for Sept. 21-28

Alaskans will have an opportunity to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Vitus Bering's exploration of Alaska from the region of its origin this September when FSI sponsors a return trip to Vladivostok.

Some 150 seats are available for a trip to the Soviet Far East's largest city from Sept. 21-28. In addition to observing special Bering activities, the trip gives Alaskans the opportunity to pursue business ventures and cultural exchanges with Juneau's Soviet sister-city.

"This is an easy and relatively cheap way for Alaskans to cement the relations we've been building with our Soviet neighbors the past three years," said FSI board member Steve Nelson.

Participants will fly from Anchorage to Magadan and then Vladivostok on a chartered Aeroflot TU154 aircraft and stay at the centrally located Hotel Amorskiy Zalif, originally built to house Soviet Olympic trainees.

Cost of the trip is \$1,985, which includes roundtrip airfare from Anchorage, housing, meals, document processing, ground transportation and interpreting services. The deadline for turning in visa applications and a non-refundable deposit of \$200 is Aug. 21.

Vladivostok, a picturesque city of 700,000, rings the deep water bay known as the Golden Horn. Home to the Soviet Union's Pacific Naval Fleet, the city is not only a major seaport, but is the terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Last December, a delegation of 102 Alaskans under FSI auspices visited Vladivostok (see FSI's April newsletter) and in April, Juneau hosted a like delegation of Vladivostok residents.

A special celebration of Bering's expedition to Alaska is planned in the Soviet city Sept. 23-25. In addition, FSI has been asked to help organize a conference to explore the feasibility of using the Northeast Passage to transport goods from the Pacific over the top of the Soviet Union to northern Europe. Shipping companies from the U.S., Soviet Union, Japan and Australia will attend the conference, set for the same time as the Juneau visit.

In June of 1741, under a contract to Russian Czar Peter the Great, Bering sailed his three ships from the Kamchatka Peninsula to explore the unknown waters to the east. On July 15, his ships spotted land at what is believed to be Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska and went ashore on Kayak Island. The discovery eventually led to Russian domination of the North Pacific and the recognition of Alaska's strategic place in it.

To sign up for the trip, visa and trip application forms and four passport photos must be at FSI's Juneau office by 4:30 p.m. Aug. 21. Contact the office at 463-5586 or stop by at 119 Seward St., for further details.

Russian "survival" class readies Juneau residents

A "Survival Russian" class is being offered by FSI in Juneau this summer, in part to help prepare Alaskans for a return trip to Vladivostok in late September.

Being taught by Moscow State Ballet Theatre ballerina and teacher Valya Elovskaya, the six-week course is designed to help students learn the alphabet and read and speak basic Russian.

"Your face can smile and your hands can gesture, but you can't really express yourself," Elovskaya said.

"After my class you'll actually be able to say something."

The course is being held at the Resurrection Lutheran Church, meets Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and costs \$125, plus \$15 for the textbook.

Foundation for Social Innovations Alaska

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'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'

JUNEAU, ALASKA

WEDNESDAY

January 29, 1992

Juneau aid on the way



MARK KELLEY/JUNEAU EMPIRE

Steve Nelson, left, and JoAnn Zentner, right, of the Foundation for Social Innovations-Alaska and other workers check off, tape and label 100 boxes Tuesday night filled with donated food for families in the Russian city of Vladivostok. Dozens of Juneau residents volunteered to fill the boxes with food to help people in the Russian port city, which last year set up a sister-city relationship with Juneau. Nelson said Alaska Airlines, which has donated free freight for the food, also has agreed to take an additional 60 boxes. He said more boxes will be available for volunteers at the Juneau Empire on Thursday morning. The boxes are due back by 5 p.m. Thursday. Though the group's plan was to fly the food from Anchorage on Aeroflot, Nelson said the latest plan is to send the boxes to Seattle, where they will be put on a ship with other goods from the Seattle Rotary Club for delivery to Vladivostok.

JUNEAU EMPIRE

'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'

WEDNESDAY
January 22, 1992

U.S. offers Russian relief

Local effort
organized for
Vladivostok

By ED SCHOENFELD

One hundred hungry Vladivostok families soon will receive a 20-pound box of food each from Alaska to help them through a long winter of shortages.

But first, Juneau residents are being asked to provide food to fill those boxes.

The Foundation for Social Innovations-Alaska, based in Juneau, has made arrangements with Alaska Airlines and Aeroflot to ship the 2,000 pounds of food from Juneau to Vladivostok in early February.

The port city of Vladivostok — a naval base and shipping center on Russia's Pacific Coast — already has strong ties with Juneau. The downtown district of Vladivostok has a sister-city relationship with Juneau for cultural, educational and business dealings, and plane-loads of people have traveled between the two communities over the past 13 months.

Steve Nelson of the foundation's Juneau office said distribution of the boxes will be handled by Sergey Kirillov, the head of the foundation's Vladivostok office, who visited Juneau in April.

"Kirillov is going to work with the local government and the local sister-city committee to decide what is the best way to distribute the food to the neediest people," Nelson said Tuesday.

Shipping and production problems tied to the breakup of the former Soviet Union have contributed to food shortages in Vladivostok, said JoAnn Zentner of the foundation's Juneau office.

The recent deregulation of food prices by Russian President Boris Yeltsin has pushed the cost of items beyond the reach of many Vladivostok residents, leading to demonstrations this week.

"As winter progresses and the foods are depleted, the situation could become serious," Zentner said.

To meet customs and shipping requirements, the foundation is providing the shipping boxes, which can be filled with no more than 20 pounds of goods each. The foundation also has drawn up a suggested list of 17 items to be included in each box, from dry soup mix to raisins to bandages.

"It's really crucial that they stay at 20 pounds because we're working with two different air carriers and three different transfer points," Nelson said.

The list of items suggested for the boxes was drawn up with the help of the foundation's Vladivostok office.

The pickup and dropoff point for the boxes will be at the Juneau Empire, 3100 Channel Drive.

Boxes may be picked up between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday.

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Food for Russia: Soldiers unload 60 tons of food from a military transport plane in Chita, about 155 miles east of Lake Baikal. The food was donated by citizens of the Brittany region of France.

AP LASERPHOTO / HEIDI BRADNER

Why should U.S. help?

Proponents say effort
a bargain in long run

By JIM ABRAMS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Should America, mired in debt and struggling with recession at home, shell out billions of dollars to help its onetime enemy, the former Soviet Union?

Proponents say aid to ensure that the emerging democracies survive their first winter is crucial — and a bargain.

"We spent trillions to bring about the collapse of communism," said Gabriel Schoenfeld, a Soviet expert with the private Center for Strategic and International Studies. "We shouldn't see our efforts go to waste" by not spending far less to see the Soviet people through their economic crisis and efforts to develop viable free-market systems, he argues.

"Now is the critical time," said Lewis Townsend, executive director of the Fund for Democracy and Development, a clearing house for private aid programs to the former Soviet Union.

"Yes, we've got serious needs and problems here at home," he said, but a former enemy, armed with nuclear weapons, is in disarray and "it's certainly not in our interest to see more civil unrest."

Foreign ministers from 47 nations are converging on Washington today to coordinate aid efforts in one of the largest relief operations since the 1947 Marshall Plan that helped European nations regain the economic strength needed to repulse Soviet expansionism.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin, D-Wis., a sponsor of a \$1 billion aid proposal, has knocked President Bush for being president when the Cold War was won but "having trouble figuring out how to secure the peace."

Yet with the country in recession, even Democrats on Aspin's committee shied away from the higher sum. Congress, said Florida Democrat Charles E.

Please turn to Europe, Page 10

Bush seeks \$645 M
in additional aid

By TERENCE HUNT

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush said today he will ask Congress for \$645 million in new aid for the shattered Soviet Union and challenged other countries to provide assistance to "give these people a reason to hope."

Bush said the new aid would put American assistance over \$5 billion, most of which is in the form of agricultural credits.

He announced his proposal at the opening of a conference of 47 nations exploring strategies for speeding food, medicine and other assistance to the former Soviet republics known as the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The administration, in hosting the aid summit, said it is not meant to be a pledging contest, insisting that the primary goal is to coordinate aid. Nevertheless, the United States would welcome donations, particularly from oil-rich Arab kingdoms, and has been under pressure from Germany and other Western European nations to boost the U.S. contribution.

Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin saluted the participants in a message declaring "humanitarian and other forms of assistance by the international community will no doubt help alleviate the difficulties our population is facing as we move to a market economy."

Yeltsin offered assurances that Russians have made an irrevocable decision to create a civilized, democratic state. "However," he said, "one has to pay dearly for past mistakes and delusions."

Bush, in his address to the visitors at the State Department, said: "A new day has dawned throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States, with hope for a fundamental transformation in the way people live and work and think."

Please turn to Bush, Page 10

Local...

Continued from Page 1 and Friday. Packing instructions and a detailed list of items that may be included will be handed out with each box.

The filled boxes must be returned between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Monday or Tuesday.

The food and other supplies will be carried for free to Anchorage by Alaska Airlines, and an Aeroflot flight Feb. 2 will take the boxes to the Russian Far East. Aeroflot also has donated the air freight.

The airlift was organized at the suggestion of many Juneau residents who called the foundation to

see if they could help Russians hurt by food shortages, Zentner said.

If there is enough interest to arrange another airlift, the foundation will see if a second food drive can be organized.

"If community response is overwhelming, we'll certainly work with it," Nelson said.

The Russian Far East: Administrative Regions



TRAVEL TIPS

Western travellers to Russia are often uncertain about the custom of gift giving, which is much stronger there than here. To whom should you give gifts and what should you give?

Here are a few suggestions from our Russian correspondents:

These days gifts should be of a practical bent. Leave the souvenir stickers and picture books at home!

Anything edible or wearable will be warmly received. For instance, tins of coffee, tea or cookies, t-shirts, sweatshirts, gloves, small sample bottles of liquor, perfume, and even children's multivitamins.

SOVIET BUSINESS JOURNAL

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PRICE INCREASES

In anticipation of price liberalization the consumer market is panicked. In November, price increases in commercial trade amounted to about 22% in the average, while prices for goods in great demand rose by 120%, in comparison with October.

State prices for food have increased by 15% a month, while for some kinds of meat and bread they have increased by four times. As a result, prices at farmers' markets have also increased by 100-200%.

The growth of the cost of living in major cities was 24%. The rate of inflation grew by 35%.

Experts predict that in December the average growth of the cost of living will be at least 25%.

This data clearly shows that prices became free long before the official date of their liberalization.

In spite of sharp price increases, there are practically no goods to buy - there are just prices. Stores are even emptier than before. People standing in lines for food for hours say that it is time for Yeltsin to come out of his study and have a look at what is actually going on. Prices are already so high that many people can afford only bread. The consumption of bread has significantly increased and the longest lines are those for bread. What will happen next when prices are freed? Officials seem to believe that liberalization of prices is the last possible remedy that will immediately

solve all the problems. But prices are already sky-rocketing, and nevertheless the situation shows no signs of improvement. (*Kommersant*, No. 48)

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

On December 8, the leaders of the three Slavic republics - Yeltsin (Russia), Kravchuk (the Ukraine) and Shushkevich (Byelorussia) - signed an agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States. The three leaders managed to reach an agreement on a unified monetary policy for the period of economic stabilization and the openness of their borders. The Ukraine and Byelorussia confirmed their obligations to supply more food in order to prevent emergency situation in Russia and especially in Moscow. The Ukraine and Byelorussia also agreed to liberalize prices in order to support the same in Russia but insisted that the date will be changed from December 16, 1991 to January 2, 1992. The agreement also stipulates that its member-countries will ensure unified control over the nuclear potential of the country.

As a result, Yeltsin again appeared a great politician who managed to turn the coming confrontation with the Ukraine into a hearted consent. But the hardest job of

working out concrete details of the pact is still ahead.

President Gorbachev seemed offended. In a talk with a Ukrainian TV correspondent he said: "I started this process and I stand for it. But I do object to an extremist approach to the problem of achieving national independence and sovereignty. The consequences may be very severe. I agree, that I bear the responsibility for the fact that the process of disintegration of the USSR was not stopped in time. We are now on the brink of chaos and anarchy."

On December 9, President Gorbachev made a statement. "For me, the president of this country, the main criterion of the document in question is how far it meets the interests of the security of its citizens

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News From The Republics

RUSSIA

■ Aeroflot opens its international operations with a flight from Moscow to Paris. Before the end of the year, its airplanes will fly also to Tokyo, London and Rome. Tickets are sold for hard currency only. (*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, 11/12)

■ Russian Interior Ministry officials do not believe that the introduction of coupons for food staples in Moscow will play any significant role in the lives of Muscovites. Most of the food products are now bought by dealers from the Caucasus with the help of corrupt shop employees and sold for astronomical prices in the provinces. This concerns sugar and vodka which were rationed a couple of years ago. (*Trud*, 11/14)

■ The unemployment benefit (272 rubles a month) is much lower than the minimum survival level (521 rubles) according to the estimation of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions. (*Trud*, 11/15)

■ The chairman of the Peasant's Party, Yury Chernichenko, who is also a prominent public figure and writer, has accused the Moscow administration of putting their power ambitions before the well-being of Muscovites. To back up the charge, Chernichenko says that on November 10 he wrote to Mayor Gavril Popov and Vice Mayor Yury Luzhkov asking them to offer the Farm Manager cooperative 15 vacant food stores so that it could provide muscovites with meat, sausage, pickles, fresh fruit and vegetables. Besides homegrown produce, the cooperative said its groceries would offer a wide choice of imported food from Hungary, Switzerland and other countries whose firms agreed to sell it for rubles. The author blames red tape for the matter remaining still unresolved. Worse still,

it has been learnt that his letters were handed down to deputy mayors, then further down to their clerks, and on to the bottom of the bureaucratic hierarchy where the Farm Manager was told to forget the idea altogether. (*Vechernaya Moskva*, 11/23)

■ The mayor of Moscow, Gavril Popov, has signed an instruction on the privatization of government-owned and municipal housing. As of today all contracts on the transfer of housing to Muscovites for private use are to be drawn up by district and neighborhood housing offices. To have their flats privatized its occupants are to submit an application and pay 250 rubles for the operation. A law on real estate taxes is expected to be drafted before January 1st. (*Radio "Echo of Moscow,"* 11/25)

■ By the beginning of next year, the Russian labor market will number close to 15 million people. Over 2 million will have the official status of unemployed persons. Only 8 to 10 percent of those registered with employment agencies can hope to receive unemployment benefits. (*Trud*, 11/26)

■ Eighty percent of all the icons that were in the territory of the USSR during the 80's have been smuggled out of the country. Now there seems to be more Russian icons abroad than in the USSR. (*Vesti*, 11/27)

■ It was announced that the Russian Republic is going to undertake the obligation of paying the salaries of all workers in the Union Ministries and officers in the Soviet Army. By doing this, Russia retains the right to cut down its contribution to the Union budget by several billion rubles. It looks as though the army and the Union structures are being peacefully transferred under the control of the RSFSR. (*Vesti* 12/2)

■ The mayor of Moscow, Gavril Popov, apart from his main job as the mayor of the capital, holds the following positions and titles: editor-in-chief of the *Voprosy Ekonomiki* (economic questions) journal, a member of the High Consultative Council of the Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, a member of the Political Consultative Council of the USSR President, head of the City Assembly, a USSR people's deputy, President of the USSR Baseball and Softball Federation, and a Moscow University professor. Popov has made several unsuccessful attempts to become a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. (*Syn Otechestva*, No. 46)

BYELORUS

■ Second-hand clothes which used to be worn by citizens of the USA are being sold in a shop in Minsk. The prices are quite reasonable. There is a proposal to export used clothing from Byelorussia to the USA and sell it there as souvenirs. (*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, 11/30)

■ Deputies representing the National Front of Byelorussia demanded the resignation of the Byelorussian government at a session of the republican Supreme Soviet. They accused the Prime Minister and his team of passivity, incriminating them for the fact that they have not taken any steps to form a national financial and bank system and have failed to organize any preparation for the introduction of a national currency. (*Radio "Echo of Moscow,"* 11/13)

News From The Republics

ARMENIA

■ In early November, Armenia was cut off from gas supplies. The pipeline delivering gas from Russia was blocked in Azerbaidjani territory. As a result of this action, Armenian industry is at a standstill and hospitals, schools and kindergartens receive no heat. There is no gas in apartment houses. The Azerbaidjan side has set the terms for reopening the gas pipeline, the main one of which is the creation of a 10 kilometer wide buffer zone between the two republics controlled by Interior Forces. For Armenia, this would mean another blockade ring and, the main thing, complete isolation from Nagorny Kabarakh, which is quite unacceptable. (*TV News Service, 11/13*)

■ Ever since the establishment of a blockade on November 4th, the Armenian industry has lost over 600 million rubles. Around 85% of the Republic's manufacturing enterprises have stopped operation because of fuel shortages. (*TV Inform, 12/02*)

■ The Armenian delegation made a statement that they are not going to continue negotiating with the Azerbaidjan Republic. When the gas trunk pipeline was cut off on the territory of Azerbaidjan, leaving Armenia without energy, Armenia regarded this hostile action as an attempt to ruin its economy and exert pressure on its people. (*TV Inform, 11/22*)

SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

■ The Kazakh leadership is pursuing negotiations with Chevron Corporation for joint exploitation of oil fields in the Tengiz region. The plan is to begin operations before the end of the year, and a joint venture is being formed, to be named the Tengiz-Chevron Oil Company. Certain details have not yet been worked out concerning exactly how the profits will be divided between the partners, and this matter is delaying the signing of the contract. The Kazakh side apparently does not agree to the terms that Chevron Oil Corporation is offering, but it is hoped that this most important matter will be ironed out in the very near future. (*EXPRESS, a Kazakh Independent Youth Daily, No. 192.*)

■ Kazakhstan has begun to close down uranium mining enterprises located within its territory. The Shagly and Tasbulak mines have stopped operation altogether. At the same time, the Caspian mining and metal smelting plant cut down the output of substances used in the production of fissionable materials. (*TV Inform, 12/2*)

■ A center for refugees and migrants has been formed in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata and is the first of its kind in the Soviet Union. Many former Kazakhs and Russians are returning to the republic. The opinion prevails that this is the result of the growing stability in Kazakhstan. Refugees in the new center will be able to go through a course of adaptation to new conditions and to polish up their languages. It is planned to house the center in one of the former luxurious rest homes of the Kazakh Communist Party's Central Committee in the outskirts of Alma-Ata. (*Kazakhstanskaya Pravda No. 237*)

UZBEKISTAN

■ The Uzbek Republic has introduced stringent customs regulations on its borders. Only goods exchanged on a barter basis are allowed to be exported. As people leave Uzbekistan, they can only take with them two kilograms of vegetables and fruit per person. (*Vechernaya Moskva, 11/11*)

KIRGHIZIA

■ Kirghizia's state inspectorate has imposed a freeze on bank deposits of more than 100 small businesses in Bishkek, pending the revision of the tax legislation which has been ordered by President Akayev. (*Kuranty, 12/10*)

MOLDOVA

■ Moldova's ex-Premier Mircha Druk, who leads the Popular Front faction in the republican parliament, has declared that Moldova is going to integrate with Romania next July. He was speaking in Kishinev at a public meeting organized by the December 16th National Alliance. About a thousand people came to the city to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the "reintegration of all Romanian lands." (*Izvestia, 12/2*)

■ On December 1st, in Kishinev the supporters on the Moldavian Popular Front formed a council for the unification of Moldova and Romania. (*TV Inform, 12/2*)

News from The Republics

THE BALTICS

LITHUANIA

■ The Deputy Director-General of the Lithuanian Statistics Department, P. Adlis, writes that exports remain at the same level: 46% fuel, minerals, iron and steel; 18% products of the chemical industries and fertilizers; 14% industrial raw materials; 10% consumer goods; 5% food products; 2% building materials. A large part of these exports go to Germany (22%), Belgium (20%) and Poland (9%). Imports comprise mainly consumer goods (46%), raw materials for food processing (27%), food products (6%), machinery, equipment and transport means (7%). Of this, 15% comes from the United States, 12% from France and 10% each from India, Poland and Germany. So far exports to Latvia comprise only 7% and to Estonia 3%, and imports from these republics are around 4%. (*Lietuvos Rytas*, a Lithuanian weekly No. 41)

■ Prime Minister of Lithuania Vagnoris is not in any hurry to introduce the Lithuanian national currency. He plans first to discuss the situation and

sign a corresponding agreement with the USSR on currency policy. (*Kuranty*, 11/15)

■ The Law Department of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry confirmed the fact that famous ballerina Maya Plisetskaya and her husband, composer Rodion Shedrin, received Lithuanian citizenship. Plisetskaya's mother was born in Lithuania. The famous family has built a beautiful villa in Trakai and Maya keeps saying that "she is charmed by the way of life in Lithuania and hopes that she will soon forget about the disgusting life in Moscow." (*Trud*, 11/22)

LATVIA

■ The mother of a young girl, a Riga resident, who was killed in a road accident was shocked to find in the morgue that her daughter's head and body were all crisscrossed with scars. The woman thought there could not be so many, considering the way the girl had died. Research which was done later by a Zemlya newspaper reporter revealed that

the brain and some bones of the deceased had been taken away as "biological materials" used for the preparation of some medicine. It turns out that operations of this sort have been sanctioned by the Health Ministry of the Latvian Republic. It was further discovered that these "biological materials" are also exported to the West, specifically Germany, for hard currency. (*Izvestia*, 12/2)

■ The Vice President of the Latvian Bank, Alfred Bergmanis, refuted information that Latvia had put into circulation a limited amount of the new currency, Lats. According to Latvian officials, the new currency will be introduced in the republic no earlier than September 1992. (*Radio "Echo of Moscow"*, 12/5)

"SIBERIA"

■ The Kuzbass coal mines have refused to supply coking coal to the Ukraine. Two reasons are cited for this decision. First, the Ukraine owes the coal miners some 11,000 tons of sugar. Second, while buying coal cheap,

(Continued on Page 5)

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■ A series of public opinion polls, conducted recently, show that only such political figures as Yeltsin, Burbulis and Khasbulatov get positive assessment from the Soviet people. The rating of Gorbachev, Rutskoy and Sobchak is mostly negative. (*TV Inform*, 12/19)

■ The USSR State Statistical Committee announced that there are currently 2 million unemployed in the Soviet Union. About 80% of them live in Russia. Four hundred and nine thousand out of a million jobless people manage to find jobs through the unemployment centers. Six thousand people receive unemployment benefits.

which amount to 75% of their salaries at their last place of work. (*Trud*, 11/14)

■ The number of crimes committed against foreign citizens in our country has gone up in comparison with last year by 21% (not more than a third of them were solved) according to the information given at the USSR Interior Ministry briefing. Guests of our country are usually robbed of money, clothes, VCR's and cameras. About half of the crimes are committed in hotels, hostels, camping sites and so on. (*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, 11/13)

■ The Deputy Minister of Railroads

declared that as of January 1 all Soviet Citizens travelling abroad by rail will have to buy tickets for hard currency. (*Kuranty*, 11/19)

■ Losses caused by the conversion of the military industry have totalled 3.3 billion rubles for the converted enterprises. The losses were supposed to be replenished from the so-called Stabilization Fund. However, the Fund has ceased to exist. (*St. Petersburg TV Program*, "600 Seconds," 11/20)

■ According to statistics every third patient in the Soviet Union is not operated

News from The Republics

Ukrainian representatives offer sugar at commercial prices. The miners' proposal to conduct trade at world prices has been left unheeded. (*Radio "Echo of Moscow," 11/12*)

■ Authorities of the Chita region in Siberia are going to sabotage all the decrees of the Russian President. Eighteen leaders at various levels met in Chita and formed a committee which proclaimed the protection of the interests of the Siberian population to be their top priority. They will insist on the formation of the Far Eastern republic, which would be independent of the Russian "center" in its social policy. (*Izvestiya, 11/21*)

■ Yakutiya does not plan to secede from the RSFSR yet. Its Presidential election will take place on December 20th. There are four candidates for this post, among them three Yakuts and one Evenk. The Russian people, who make up more than half of the republican population, have not nominated their own candidate so far. (*Kuranty, 11/21*)

■ On November 19th, the parliament of the Chechen Republic adopted a special statement containing its assessment of Yeltsin's decision to impose a state of emergency in the republic. The statement says that the Russian leadership seeks to destabilize the situation not only in Chechnia, but in the whole of the

Caucasus. (*Radio "Echo of Moscow," 11/19*)

■ Chechen President Jokhar Dudaev today assumed full control of the republic following the former Prime Minister's resignation.

Feature Articles

(Continued From Page 1)

and the tasks of overcoming the present crisis, the preservation of its statehood and the continuation of democratic reforms." The president does not exclude the possibility of a national referendum on this question.

On December 10, the Soviet president's press secretary, Andrei Grachev, rejected as unfounded rumors of Mikhail Gorbachev's possible resignation.

With regard to the new political role of Mikhail Gorbachev, Lithuanian leader Vitautas Landsbergis does not rule out the possibility of attempts to regain his former authority, which may take the form of a coup.

On the same day, Ukrainian President Kravchuk pointed out that the

Commonwealth is in full accord with international law and the Ukraine's declaration of independence. Asked who could join the new commonwealth of nations, Kravchuk first named Kazakhstan and then the Baltic states. He did not exclude Bulgaria and any other European countries, saying that "whoever decides to join us will not regret it."

Armenia was the first to express support for the new commonwealth. President Ter Petrosian has stated that Armenia is ready to seriously consider joining.

Russia's senior Vice Premier, Gennady Burbulis, stated that the signing of the accord between Russia, the Ukraine and Byelarus does not mean the

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on although he needs an operation. This is due to the lack of drugs, equipment and highly skilled doctors. (*Vesti, 11/27*)

■ The humanitarian aid sent to the Soviet Union is not successfully distributed among the poor. Items are often given to two people to be shared. Very often the two people are absolute strangers. (*St. Petersburg TV Program "600 Seconds," 11/27*)

■ The magazine "Stolitsa" published information from an ex-employee of the KGB saying that the All-Russian Stock Exchange Center (ARSEC) and its affilia-

tions are headed by ex-KGB officers. According to this information, Vice President of ARSEC, Boldyrev, and Head of the Financial Department, Chukhlantsev, were senior officers of the KGB. The ex-KGB man claims that the Stock Exchange Centre was created to launder the money which belongs to the military industrial complex, the KGB and most probably to the CPSU. (*Vesti, 11/14*)

■ A new privatization concept has been developed in Moscow by a group led by Larisa Piyasheva, Deputy Director General of the Moscow mayor's office. Under it, trade, catering and service businesses are

to be turned over to private owners without delay. The workers of these enterprises are to collectively send an application to the privatization center and pay a percentage of the asking price. If they fail to meet the deadline, their enterprises will be auctioned to other buyers, including foreigners. (*TV News Service, 11/18*)

■ Although the USSR State Bank continually prints money to cover the expenses of the Finance Ministry to cover the budget deficit, there is money in the country: enterprises and organizations have as much as 172 billion rubles in their accounts. Individuals have accumulated nearly 564

Feature Articles

(Continued from Page 5)

immediate death of the USSR. He added that the USSR will cease to exist in the course of the establishment of new statehood. According to Durbulis and other Russian officials, the document must in no way be interpreted as a Slavonic accord. It is open for all sovereign states. Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, and State Counsellor Sergei Shakhrai rejected the idea that the agreement removes Gorbachev from politics. The Foreign Minister describes the accord as the last chance to avoid the repeat of the Yugoslav scenario on the territory of this country.

According to Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's President, a union of Central Asian republics which he planned to form to counterbalance the newly born Slavic commonwealth of three independent states will not be created.

After parliaments of all the three member countries ratified the Treaty on Commonwealth, they recalled their representatives from the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Nevertheless, a session of the USSR Parliament took place on December 12. Probably it was the USSR People's Deputies who were the most indignant over the creation of the new Commonwealth. The chairman of the

federal parliament, Konstantin Lubchenko, contended that the document is contrary to the laws of the USSR and anti-government. Among the dangerous consequences of the Minsk treaty he named the loss of control over the nuclear potential of the country, the danger of an even worse economic and political crisis, the "pushing" of the "Moslem" republics into the embrace of the Islamic world, which is itself on the brink of creating its own nuclear weapons. Deputies demanded to convene an extraordinary session of the USSR People's Deputies "in order to restore the Constitutional order on the territory of the USSR." This decision was supported by President Gorbachev.

Gorbachev did not speak at the session of the USSR Parliament as had been expected. There was unofficial information that he decided not to influence the opinions of the deputies in any way and to give them a chance to determine their own attitude to the treaty. But later the USSR President made a statement to TASS: "Such decisions in the present difficult economic and political situation in the country do not work for the stabilization of society. At present, when the fate of the country is at stake, everything should be done to make the decisions on this matter well-bal-

anced, mature and unmistakable. And this can be done only on the basis of a Constitutional and normal democratic process. There should be no rash decisions. Because they can be the cause of fatal consequences for our people. I call upon the Parliaments of Byelorussia and the Russia once again to reconsider their decision to recall their deputies from the session of the USSR Parliament." He believes that it is necessary to declare the transfer of power to a new political structure, to the Commonwealth of Independent States, in a civilized way at the last session of the USSR Parliament.

A statement by the political board of the Civil Reconciliation described the creation of the Commonwealth as "an act of arbitrary rule which will result in disagreements." The Civil Reconciliation group incorporates many parties and movements, including the Liberal Democratic Party, the Vseslavyanski Sobor (*All-Slavic Assembly*), the Marxist Platform of the CPSU and the Monarchy Party. According to G. Gusev, the secretary of the political board of this amalgamation, the group calculates that its statement will be supported by the broad masses.

On December 12, a meeting of the Presidents of the "Moslem" republics took place in Ashkhabad. The President

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billion rubles in their savings bank accounts. The economy is in a free fall, and one of the reasons is the policy of the State Bank to charge an exceedingly high interest rate making it unprofitable for the enterprises to ask for loans. Since January 1991 the demand for bank credits has dropped by 25 billion rubles. Enterprises now try to stick exclusively to barter deals to avoid the high interest rates (*Narodny Deputat*, No. 14)

■ Free economic zones are currently being set up in 13 regions of Russia. Some are: the Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novgorod, Kaliningrad, Zelenograd, Buryat, Chita, Taimyr, Tomsk and Nakhodka zones and

that of the Jewish autonomous region. According to the Russian State Committee on Statistics, the total area of the 13 Russian free zones is 1.3 million sq. km. Their total population is about 18 million people, or 12% of the population of Russia. (*Ekonomika i Zhizn*, No. 48)

■ A Siberian chemical plant has earned its first million US dollars by selling 10 kilograms of processed uranium to Canada. Impressed by the high quality of the product, the Canadians have expressed an interest in continued cooperation and signed a new \$1,000,000 contract. A similar project, this time for \$6,000,000, is be-

ing considered by Americans. (*Trud*, 12/13)

■ In early December, the Vneshekonombank resumed operations selling hard currency to Soviet citizens. The bank will buy US dollars for 90 rubles and sell them at a rate which is 10% higher. At the same time, the Moscow Business Bank started buying US dollars for 117 rubles and selling them for 130 rubles, thus undermining the activity of the Vneshekonombank. (*reported by Natasha Lozitskaya, WPS*)

■ Apple Computer has signed an agreement with the Soviet-American joint venture, ParaGraph, to purchase technol-

Feature Articles

(Continued From Page 6)

of Uzbekistan, Karimov, expressed his views on the problem: "On all the questions which we had for the leaders of the three Slavic republics we have received satisfactory answers. We still have to determine our attitude to the Commonwealth but I can tell you that we treat it with understanding and do not exclude the possibility that our republic may join it in the future."

The recent congress of the Democratic Reform Movement supported the idea of a commonwealth of independent states, expressing the hope that the new association will follow the road of democracy and respect for human rights. The congress represented over 30 political parties and 70 public movements, all former union republics and 15 autonomous republics. It elected seven co-chairmen of the Democratic Reform Movement: Alexander Yakovlev, Eduard Shevardnadze, Stanislav Shatalin, Arkady Volsky, Gavril Popov, Anatoly Sobchak and Viacheslav Shestakovsky.

On December 17, Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin met in the Kremlin to discuss the results of their talks with the US Secretary of State Baker and questions related to the commonwealth. They agreed that before the end of the year all structures of the

former Soviet Union should be either closed down or transferred to Russia's jurisdiction. (Compiled from reports by Soviet media)

CENTRAL ASIA, KAZAKHSTAN REACT TO YELTSIN'S COMMONWEALTH

On the night of December 13th, a joint statement of the leaders of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, N. Nazarbayev, I. Karimov, S. Niyazov, A. Akayev and R. Nabiyeu, was signed in Ashkhabad.

The document runs: "We perceive the Commonwealth of Independent States with understanding. There is no other way out, because democratization is in a deadlock, and the shortsighted policy pursued by the Center has resulted in the breakup of everything which could be broken up..."

A. Akayev made this statement later: "Gorbachev's mistake was that he has always wanted to see a Union state, but not a union of states."

The republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan are ready to join the Commonwealth. However, only under the following condition: they must be co-initiators enjoying equal rights with the initial contracting parties. While the

Brest agreement must be revised taking into consideration another five republics with their social and economic peculiarities.

It seems that, choosing between Yeltsin and Gorbachev, the central asian presidents have preferred Yeltsin. They have preliminarily coordinated all the points of their statement with the Russian President over the phone, but none of the five has phoned Gorbachev. Moreover, Nazarbayev, while speaking about the lack of confrontation among his colleagues, said that it's time Gorbachev stopped shouting about the coming war and blood. In Nazarbayev's opinion, the new Commonwealth will not lead to it in any case. (Komsomolskaya Pravda, 12/14)

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ogy used for scanning handwritten text. According to William Pirlman, leader of ParaGraph, "our Soviet partners managed to accomplish what Americans have been trying to do for 20 years." (*Business and Banks*, No. 44)

■ According to Norwegian businessman, Oivind Otesstad, recently appointed as an advisor to the Russian government, Russia has signed two contracts with foreign companies to research Russian consumer and banking services, including automating 40,000 Russian savings banks. It is planned to introduce VISA cards as well. It is still unclear who will finance both

projects. (*ibid*)

■ For the first time in Russian history, the Moscow commercial Inkombank is issuing hard currency deposit certificates for legal entities and individuals, including foreigners. They will be sold as of January 1, 1992. Certificates' nominal value is 1, 10 and 50 thousand dollars, as well as 1, 10 and 50 thousand German marks. The total sum of certificates will be 10 million dollars and 10 million marks. According to the bank employees, large foreign trade amalgamations, joint ventures, and a number of individuals have already placed their orders for the purchase of certificates.

Experts stress that because hard currency payments through both state and commercial banks are usually being delayed, certificates may become a universal means of payment between enterprises. Besides, if the RSFSR Supreme Soviet adopts the Decree on Liberalization of Foreign Economic Activity on the Territory of the RSFSR proposed by Yeltsin and prohibiting hard currency payments on the territory of Russia, these certificates will present a chance to ignore this prohibition. (*Kommersant* No. 45)

Feature Articles

BORIS YELTSIN: "IT IS DIFFICULT, BUT WE SHALL SURVIVE"

His comments on the Formation of the Commonwealth.

"I am convinced that the most important condition for providing stability is maintaining links between the republics. I think that during the recent months (and especially days) the Union was at the edge of an abyss which we managed to avert having concluded the Commonwealth Agreement..."

"I have already said several times that the Ukraine's nonparticipation in discussing the new Union Treaty put Russia in a position where it could not continue discussions because we did not imagine a Union without the Ukraine. This is for several reasons: First, it has a population of over 52 million people; second, 11 million of them are Russians; third, we are linked by a thousand-year-old joint history and thousands of modern economic, political and social links. The all-national referendum in the Ukraine has demonstrated that the Ukrainian people do not want to be part of any union at all. While the Novo-Ogaryovo treaty implied a state (though a confederative one) consisting of sovereign republics, it became clear that if Russia signed the treaty in Novo-Ogaryovo, its road with that of the Ukraine would diverge. We could not afford it, and that is why we started to search for a way out... A new approach to joining forces..."

"In addition, the republics saw that while verbally the Center favored the independence of the republics, in fact it continually sought to preserve the status-quo... Then everyone understood that the so-called 'radical' Novo-Ogaryovo reforms were nothing more than just another attempt by the Center to continue its same influence, but under a different shape. When this became clear, the breakup and separation of the republics began in earnest."

"Our way to fight back was to start a contra-movement, but with such separatist forces driving us apart, how?

Our one way out was to become united, not within the framework of one state, but within the framework of a commonwealth of states, similar to what the European states are doing now. That was how the idea of a Commonwealth of Independent States was born. I would like to emphasize that it seems to me that we have found an optimal pattern. It allows us to:

- preserve existing borders without remapping and dividing the republics;

- preserve the common economic system and the unified ruble system;

- pursue a coordinated pricing policy and continue further with reform strategies;

- prevent disintegration of the Army into separate republican segments, thus preserving a unified command of Air Defense Troops, Air Forces, and strategic, tactical and nuclear weapons..."

"Regarding the fact that we did not initially invite President Nazarbayev to Minsk, we at first had to find out the Ukraine's position. When we managed to agree with the Ukraine and closely approached signing the agreement, I called Nazarbayev and told him about everything. He was ready to fly to Byelorussia immediately, but it turned out that a day later he was to be inaugurated as president and immediately after that he had a meeting with Gorbachev on the schedule. He could cancel neither of these occasions. However, when President Nazarbayev got acquainted with the final document on Commonwealth, he said that in all practicality he agreed with everything..."

"I can positively tell you that we shall speak about Kazakhstan's joining the Commonwealth. Maybe, some amendments will be made. In addition, Armenia and Kirgizia have already announced their readiness to join the Commonwealth."

Member-countries have also unanimously confirmed the common

opinion that a unified command over the common military strategic system is a must. This requirement concerns nuclear weapons as well."

"I have met with Gorbachev several times since I returned from Minsk. The conversation was polite and gentle, although its very structure reminded me of a talk between a plaintiff and a defendant (my part being that of a defendant, of course). Later, however, he changed his tone." (*Trud*, 12/14)

NEW BANK REGISTERED IN RUSSIA

In late November, a first officially registered bank, named "Help," has been formed with the help of private investments. Thus, the Russian Central bank has officially recognized the possibility of appearance of private banks. Rolan Bykov, a famous Soviet actor and businessman, has been nominated its chair. Besides him, 18 other Soviet millionaires made their investments of 100,000 rubles each. The bank primarily intends to provide credits for small and medium-sized businesses. In the course of three or four months the bank plans to set up a chain of hard currency exchange offices. It will also provide individuals with safes for storing valuables, whose leasing cost will be approximately 10,000 rubles a year.

The bank is open for new investors, provided they are millionaires who have proven their competency in commercial and legal entities, both Soviet and foreign. By now, an Israeli, a Japanese and a German bank have applied for membership. The bank's phone numbers are (095) 253-5055 and (095) 253-8602. (*Kommersant*, No.45)

SOVIET TRADE 101

BY CAROL VIPPERMAN

Green salad. Oh how I longed for green salad during my recent trips to the Soviet Union.

Westerners face many hardships in pursuing opportunities in the Soviet Union; the lack of Western foods is only

one of them. There's the grueling travel, the differences in living standards (hotel, food, service), communication problems, and the totally foreign business cultures and work ethics. Each of these alone is reason enough to think twice about doing

business in the USSR.

There are ways to escape the personal hardships — you can stay in \$400-a-night Westernized hotels like the Savoy and experience what *U.S. News & World Report* calls "Moscow on \$1,370 a Day." Better for doing business is to rough it a bit by living with families or staying at an assortment of hotels and dormitories to learn more about the real life of the Soviets and to be accessible to Soviet entrepreneurs.

As president of the Foundation for Soviet American Economic Cooperation since 1989, I have traveled extensively in the Soviet Union to explore potential opportunities and contacts for Northwest businesses. I have had many opportunities to learn about Soviet life and to make business contacts.

It hasn't always been easy. Misunderstandings can crop up in the most innocent situations. For example, I quickly found that for many Soviet business leaders, the concept of a "non-profit" organization is foreign.

But in the USSR, even a non-profit representative like me gets bombarded by budding Soviet entrepreneurs with joint venture opportunities at all times of day and night. It has been difficult to separate the dreams from real opportunities.

And entrepreneurial spirit remains strong in the USSR today, even under the strain of recent political and economic problems. On a recent visit to the USSR, I lead a group from the Soviet Far East to Moscow to explore business opportunities and conduct workshops on Western business techniques. The Soviets seemed even more interested in Western business techniques now than during earlier visits.

Indeed, there are many challenges for Northwesterners establishing businesses in the USSR however. Here are some of the most common obstacles:

1. Knowing who to do business with is one of the greatest challenges facing a Westerner. Dun and Bradstreet and bank reports are not available in the USSR. The best alternative may be to meet with many of the entrepreneurs who present themselves with proposals.

It is getting a little easier as more



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Soviet entrepreneurs recognize the importance of translating their proposals into English. Also, new associations, foreign trading organizations, and Western consulting firms are emerging as trade resources.

2. Knowing who has the authority to make decisions is also a constant dilemma facing businesses, particularly those who are interested in exporting natural resources. Often the republic says they have the power to make the decision, but ultimately the central government needs to approve the contract. In addition, the more recent political difficulties and changes in laws and regulations continue to make co-production or joint ventures difficult.

3. The red tape frustrations are endless. The changing and sometimes conflicting regulations imposed by either the central republic, city, or local regional governments are often overwhelming. Converting rubles into other currencies or exportable items continues to be difficult. The need to train, reinforce and find ways to reward the work force so that they will deliver the needed level of production can tax the most patient person.

4. Financing is and will continue to be problematic for Westerners. Currently, there are not many financing resources available through U.S. banks or the government, which gives an unfair advantage, some entrepreneurs state, to Europeans and Asians who receive government assistance for their exports to the Soviet Union.

Some recent developments in the Soviet Union are encouraging, however, especially one decision which potentially allows foreign companies full ownership of their ventures, thus protecting their investments. In addition, President Bush's six-month waiver of the Jackson-Vanick act — which restricts U.S.-Soviet trade until the USSR establishes an emigre policy — will hopefully pave the way for MFN status for the Soviet Union.

Why pursue this market? The Foundation asked this question in a 1990 survey of Northwest business persons working

with the USSR. One respondent summed it up by pointing to the "great potential of the vast, untapped Soviet consumer market and the incredible mineral resources of the Soviet Union, which have either been mismanaged or completely unmanaged."

The USSR is not for the faint hearted. Even though some positive moves are being taken to facilitate trade, only those U.S. entrepreneurs who are willing to be patient, long-term oriented, and creative about getting their money out will be

rewarded. However, those companies and individuals who make and nurture business relationships now will be best poised to reap the rewards financially and personally. ■

Carol Vipperman is president of the Foundation for Soviet/American Economic Cooperation, a non-profit, membership organization that fosters business and trade between the Soviet Union and the Northwest.



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BREAKING TRAIL

Foundation works toward matches for Soviet trade

Kennewick potato farmer John Peterson had been trying for four years to find out if the Soviet Union might be interested in setting up a farm there, American-style. "My letters and phone calls to American and Soviet officials went unanswered or only elicited the most superficial responses," Peterson explains. Then he found out about the Foundation for Soviet/American Economic Cooperation. Eight months later he's close to signing a lease agreement for 400 acres in Tashkent. What's more, negotiations with McDonald's to supply the Moscow fast-food purveyor with potatoes are nearing completion.

In arranging such cooperative ventures, contacts can mean the difference between success and failure. More and more the person to know when considering U.S.-Soviet projects is Carol Vipperman, the energy source behind the recently formed Foundation for Soviet/American Economic Cooperation.

VIPPERMAN'S non-profit organization and its 18-member policy-setting board of trustees provide information to business and government agencies in both America and the Soviet Union. The foundation makes introductions and helps smooth the way to a productive relationship. It's a membership-based organization with a roster of more than 50 Northwest businesses. The majority of the businesses are small enterprises.

Linking American surplus to Soviet need is more than a simple exercise in supply-side economics. Obstacles are numerous, not the least of which are obsolete trade regulations. But despite obvious

political, cultural and economic differences, there are important similarities between the Pacific Northwest and the Soviet Far East, Vipperman explains. For example, the Soviet Far East is geographically closer to the Pacific Northwest than to anywhere else in the U.S. And both the Pacific Northwest and the Soviet Far East are rich in natural resources. But America also has a valuable commodity the Soviets lack: technology.

THE OBSTACLES to making matches among common interests are finally beginning to look less forbidding, Vipperman says. "The issue of doing business with the Soviets is really a matter of trade regulations. We now have the opportunity to influence trade policy, which is crucial to exploring Soviet markets."

Vipperman will be in the thick of it. She's well-known in regional and state governmental circles for her energy and leadership. In addition to managing her own marketing business for the past 13 years, she is serving on the Washington State Efficiency and Accountability Commission and the state tourism commission, and has chaired the Governor's Small Business Improvement Council.

"Carol's very committed and very honest," says Steve Odom, program manager for the Washington State Department of Trade and Economic Development. "Her organizational ability, her standing in the business community and the focus she brings to the foundation have been valuable assets to those seeking trade with the Soviets."

The impetus for forming the foundation was a citizen-diplomatic mission to Mos-

cow and Leningrad in May 1989. Viperman was one of the only visitors knowledgeable about pre- and post-revolution Soviet culture and able to communicate in Russian. The trip was moving and exhausting. "At one point" she says, "we were listening to children sing an American song and my host

raised nearly \$40,000 from corporate and individual sponsors. The foundation's goal for funding is \$150,000.

Viperman's success with the foundation can be attributed to commitment, hard-headed business acumen and an eye for more than bottom-

Viperman explains the complexities of cooperation.



leaned over and said, 'This is what keeps me going, knowing there are children here and in the U.S. who will have a different kind of world.' I know that's emotional, but it really affected me."

Back in Seattle, Viperman

line results. "I feel strongly that, aside from making sound business sense, this has real meaning," she says. "We're not only learning a lot about each other, we're helping to bring two worlds closer together." —Loryn Paxton

JAPAN'S LAZY 8

Consensus management finding a home on the range

Montana's Lazy 8 ranch may have its barbed wire fences, its bunkhouses and its horse troughs, but it's not your typical spread. There's a Japanese garden, raked daily, just outside the ranch house and, inside, rows of slippers and bottles of sake—and cold Coors—await visitors. Consensus management has replaced the traditional chain of command, in which orders traveled straight from ranch house to bunkhouse. Here, cowboys meet with their bosses in a barn each week to discuss goals and fundamental principles.

This novel arrangement has left some farmhands feeling a little fenced in. About half of them have departed for greener pastures since Zenchiku Ltd., one of Japan's largest beef distributors, purchased the Lazy 8, a 77,000-acre spread near Dillon, in southwestern Montana, two years ago.

On the other hand, the ranch has become a popular destination among Japanese. One or two Japanese management trainees are always on hand, working side by side with the farmhands and ranch executives. "You can't learn much from looking out a window," says president John Morse, who also shows trainees the business side. He's entertained more than 250 Japanese businesspeople here. They drop by on their way to Las Vegas or other travel

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"The U.S., in particular, has an important role to play in encouraging business growth and change within the USSR," says Carol Vipperman. "There is a timeliness and urgency to build economic and business bridges now."

THERE'S MORE TO GOODWILL GAMES THAN GAMES

This month *Washington CEO* celebrates the 1990 Goodwill Games with a special report on the people behind the Games and the significant events taking place in conjunction with this unique athletic and cultural extravaganza.

As Bob Walsh, president of the Seattle Organizing Committee, says in our CEO Closeup story beginning on page 16, "It's the largest international event that will take place in North America in the next decade."

While the Games promise to pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Washington's economy and give the state an untold level of worldwide media exposure, there are other more intrinsic forces at play here that deserve equal attention. Indeed, the Games will unite athletes, artists and influential citizens from 50 countries — including the Soviet Union — at a time when the global cry for freedom has practically thawed the Cold War and shredded the Iron Curtain.

Perhaps the best thing to come out of the Games will be the comradery and good tidings that occur during the two-week event as Soviet visitors, and those from other countries, share our homes, eat our food, take in our sites and enjoy our hospitality. There's no doubt the Games can, and will, have a significant impact on improving relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. Washington state is positioned to play a major role in this process.

Already, Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost or openness policy has allowed cultural exchanges between the two countries that were unheard of as recently as 1986 when Ted Turner's original Goodwill Games were held in Moscow.

Now business groups all over the country, including many in Washington state, are setting their sights on the Soviet Union as that nation slowly shifts from a production economy to a market economy.

"The U.S., in particular, has an important role to play in encouraging business growth and change within the U.S.S.R.," says Carol Vipperman, executive director of the Foundation for Soviet American Economic Cooperation based in Seattle. "There is a timeliness and urgency to build economic and business bridges now."

The nonprofit corporation, originally known as the Foundation For U.S./U.S.S.R. Cooperation ("We changed the name 'cause the latter was a mouthful," says Vipperman) started last June following a small-business education mission to the Soviet Union led by Vipperman and a group of other consultants. "We put on seminars and explored other ways to help them," says Vipperman. "We saw this as a real important window of opportunity, but felt we needed to do something long term." Thus the Foundation was born.

The Foundation, says Vipperman, exists to foster business activities between firms in the United States as well as Soviet Cooperatives and State Enterprises. It provides the following:

- Advocacy for increasing the awareness of economic possibilities and the removal of trade impediments and legislative restrictions between the U.S. and U.S.S.R.;
- Policy development in formulating new directions and providing new trade opportunities; and,

- Economic development by increasing specific business and trade ventures.

A particular focus of the Foundation, Vipperman says, is increasing economic development in the Pacific Rim area by uniting the Soviet Far East with the Western U.S.

"It clearly needs to be an organization that's advocating trade with the Soviets and is used as resource," says Vipperman, who is one of the Foundation's 15 volunteer board members. "It's one place where people can go to get started." The Foundation, which has received financial support from U.S. West Communications Inc. and Alaska Airlines Group, is already getting phone inquiries from California and other states. One caller wanted to raise Arabian horses in the Soviet Union, but she didn't know where to turn, recalls Vipperman. "We connected her with a man who's putting together a joint venture to build a racetrack in Leningrad. She was ecstatic."

Among its other services, the Foundation provides a common thread for individuals and groups to participate in economic development opportunities. In each of the organization's three specialty areas — advocacy, policy development and economic development — it offers the following services:

- Access to a data bank of Soviet/American companies for possible business partnering;
- A referral system of names of traders, buyers, government agencies and others who can assist businesses;
- Working cooperatively with individual businesses and government agencies to foster new policy directions;
- Research and analysis of current and proposed trade policies and providing information on Soviet policies;
- Seminars, training programs, educational courses and business development seminars in both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. in order to spread knowledge of natural business practices;
- Promote and inform the business communities in both countries of opportunities through co-sponsored public seminars, forums, lectures and other relevant informational activities;
- Provide publications on the "how-to's" of doing business in each country as well as broader policy questions;

"We want to make a contribution," says Vipperman. They already have. For more information on the Foundation call (206) 443-1935.

Kevin Dwyer

Managing Editor



ФСН-А.ІЯСКН



Foundation for Social Innovations-Alaska

*"...and now Alaska and the Soviet Far East
have additional opportunities to develop ties."*

*Gennady Gerasimov
chief spokesperson
Minister of Foreign Affairs, USSR*

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FSI-ALASKA

ФСН-АЛЯСКИ

A non-profit organization dedicated to providing assistance to pioneering ventures of cultural exchange, commerce and citizen diplomacy between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., with an emphasis on exchanges between Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

The Foundation for Social Innovations-Alaska (FSI-Alaska) is an independent U.S. affiliate of the Foundation for Social Innovations (FSI-U.S.S.R.), a non-profit foundation based in Moscow.

FSI-U.S.S.R. was founded by Gennady Alferenko, a Soviet citizen, to facilitate grass-roots social initiatives in the U.S.S.R., including international cooperation. In 1988, with the backing of 24 Soviet news agencies, FSI-U.S.S.R. became the first private non-profit foundation ever established in the Soviet Union. Soviet citizens have since proposed thousands of projects to the foundation and have contributed millions of rubles to fund the best ideas.

During a trip to Alaska in February of 1989, Mr. Alferenko determined that the dynamic conditions existing between Alaska and the Soviet Far East called for the creation of an affiliate organization, and FSI-Alaska (originally called the Alaska-Siberia Project) was founded in Juneau, Alaska's capital.

Pioneers of U.S./U.S.S.R. exchange face major barriers

Citizen diplomacy efforts across the Alaska/Soviet Far East frontier in the 1980's presaged the thawing of the Cold War. When the borders that had been sealed for 40 years began to open, excitement was high on both sides of the frontier. This was especially so among Eskimos with family ties on both sides of the Bering Strait. Numerous plans were made for visits and cooperative endeavors.

Despite the political thaw, however, many formidable obstacles remained to frustrate or block such exchanges.

- The Soviet Far East is still officially closed to foreigners, and entry is possible only with special invitations ap-

"Your task is a challenging one: navigating the rough seas of government bureaucracies is every bit as difficult as the barriers faced by the explorers and adventurers who preceded you. I am confident that together, we will meet that challenge."

*Alaska Governor Steve Cowper
in a letter to Gennady Alferenko,
founder of FSI-U.S.S.R.,
March 1989*



Governor Steve Cowper of Alaska signs a legislative proclamation endorsing an FSI-Alaska project, April 1989.

"We appreciate the importance of building bridges of understanding between our two countries at all levels and in every sector of our respective societies. In that respect we view the foundation as one of the major engineers in this endeavor."

*Juneau, Alaska Mayor
Bruce Botelho*

proved by Moscow and with permissions from regional Soviet authorities.

- The infrastructure of the Soviet Far East is designed to serve socialized enterprises and is not normally available to visitors.
- The inconvertibility of the Soviet ruble hinders trade and travel; the absence of scheduled air traffic between western North America and the Soviet Far East also limits contacts.
- Although Alaska and the Soviet Union are separated by a mere two miles at their closest point, international mail must travel around the world.

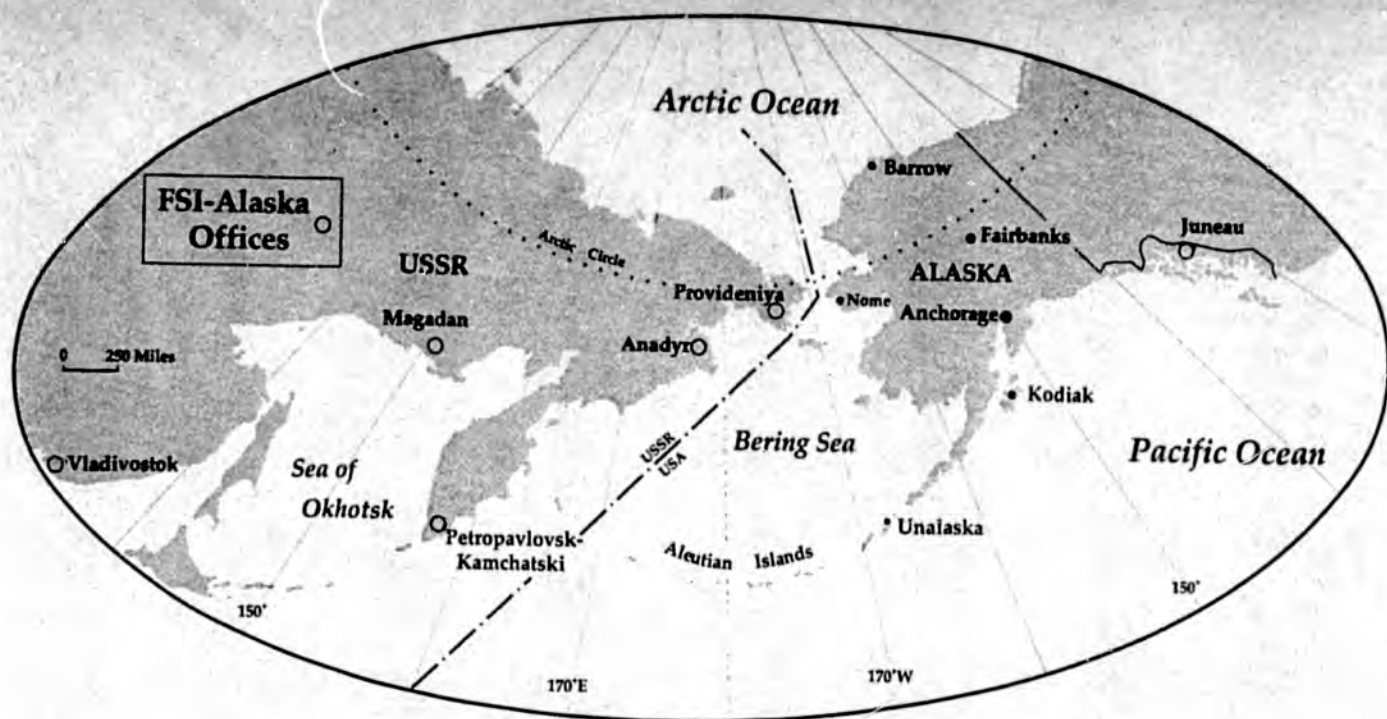
All these problems are compounded by differences in language, culture and governmental systems. As a politically knowledgeable and efficient intermediary, FSI-Alaska has played a critical role in overcoming the obstacles blocking exchanges between the northern frontiers of these two nations.

With the help of FSI-USSR, FSI-Alaska has worked successfully to bridge many of these barriers, obtaining government permissions, establishing electronic communication links, arranging transportation and complex logistics, fostering negotiations and attending to all of the organizational details necessary to transform the dreams, ideas and plans of citizen exchanges into reality.

As FSI-Alaska has grown, so has the demand for its services.



The Communist Party Central Committee of the Primorskiy Region met with members of an FSI-Alaska delegation to discuss the opening of a FSI-Alaska office in Vladivostok and the sister city relationship between Juneau and Vladivostok.



FSI network links northern frontiers

During its first year and a half of operation, FSI-Alaska built an infrastructure including FSI-Alaska offices in the Soviet Far East whose operations are directed by staff in the Juneau headquarters. The central office for the Far East is in Vladivostok; other offices are located in Anadyr, Magadan, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatki, and Provideniya. In addition to these offices in the Soviet Far East, FSI-Alaska is also linked with its sister organization, FSI-USA, headquartered in San Francisco. The breadth of this network enhances the potential for Pacific Rim co-operation.

♦ **Electronic Mail** FSI-Alaska exchanges messages via computers, fax machines and satellite-linked telephone lines with FSI-U.S.S.R. in Moscow and with its offices in the Far East, capabilities unusual in the Soviet Union. In addition we are linked electronically to four Foundation for Social Innovation (FSI) offices in major cities throughout the Soviet Union, and to the FSI-USA office in San Francisco.

♦ **Air Travel** The establishment of regularly scheduled air service between Alaska and the Soviet Far East is the most vital piece of infrastructure needed to give substance to Alaska-Soviet relations.

In February 1989, a pioneering Soviet Aeroflot jet flight co-sponsored by FSI-USSR brought a group of 92 Soviet citizens to Anchorage. This was the first civilian flight to fly the air corridor from Moscow east to the U.S.. As a result of this and subsequent flights, permissions allowing Aeroflot to land in Alaska are now commonplace. Establishing regular air service continues to be a major focus of FSI-Alaska. Toward this end, the foundation has worked with the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation and its American counterparts, with other relevant government agencies, and with the private sector. An air taxi service is now making charter flights from Nome to Provideniya, and scheduled jet service between Anchorage and the Soviet Far East cities of Khabarovsk and Magadan will begin in April 1991.

Of necessity, FSI-Alaska's early efforts were devoted to establishing communication and transportation systems to link Alaska with its Soviet neighbors more efficiently. Without electronic mail and the opening of air routes for charter flights, implementation of many projects would have been unthinkable. Leaders in science, art, culture and education as well as business entrepreneurs can now use this network, promoting a new and dynamic flow of ideas.

Arts & Cultural Exchanges

"It was only with the help of the Foundation for Social Innovations office that permissions were finally acquired for our 3-9 August, 1988 visit to the village of Novoye Chaplino aboard the schooner 'Cyrano.' This allowed us to bring eleven Eskimos from Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, to recontact and actually stay in the homes of their relatives for the first time in forty years."

Dr. David Lewis and
Dr. Mimi George
University of Alaska
anthropologists

All relationships are built on cultural understanding; therefore, FSI-Alaska emphasizes cultural exchanges which bridge our differences by communicating what Soviets and Alaskans have in common.

The indigenous people of Alaska and the Soviet Far East have family ties which span the Bering Strait. The Russian culture established in Alaska 100 years before it became a territory of the United States still thrives in several Alaskan communities. Other communities were established in Alaska more recently by Russian "Old Believers."

In addition to these historical ties, the people of this region have geographic bonds, with similar climatic and social struggles, natural resources, and the common experience of life in a northern frontier, distant from the centers of power.

Similarities in art and culture have been the basis for many of the unique exchange projects facilitated by FSI-Alaska, including:

♦ **The Pilliken Expedition** reuniting Siberian Yupik Eskimos with their relatives in Alaska by crossing the Bering Strait in traditional skin-covered boats, the first such crossing in 48 years.

♦ **Through Eskimo Country**, an epic four-year traverse of the Northwest Passage in Eskimo skin-covered boats. Departing from the Soviet Union, the voyage crossed the Bering Strait in 1990 and will continue along the arctic coast of Alaska and Canada to Greenland. The crew consists of Eskimos from these four arctic countries, and several non-native Russians and Americans.

Pilliken Expedition crosses the Bering Sea



♦ **Russian Orthodox Church** Members of the Moscow Patriarchate exchanged visits with members of the Anchorage, Kenai, Kodiak and Unalaska Orthodox churches in June of 1989. Relations continue with a constant flow of visitors to and from the Soviet Union.

♦ **Vasily Peskov**, a Soviet television celebrity and author, traveled through Alaska to conduct research for a book and film showcasing the historical ties and newly reestablished relationship between Alaska and the Kamchatka Peninsula.

♦ **Veche**, a Vladivostok folk ensemble, plans to tour communities throughout Alaska in April 1991. An Alaskan group will reciprocate with a tour of the Soviet Far East the following summer.

♦ **Art Bridge** is an exchange of artworks organized by citizens of Juneau and Vladivostok to celebrate Soviet-Alaska ties. The art currently hangs in Vladivostok. A reciprocal show will travel to Juneau in the Spring of 1991.

- ◆ **Museum Directors** benefited from an exchange between museums in the Soviet Far East, Alaska and Canada.
- ◆ **Chess Games** were facilitated via electronic mail between subscribers of the *Anchorage Daily News* and *Anchorage Times*, and *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a Soviet national paper with 21 million readers.
- ◆ **Project Baidarka**, with FSI-Alaska as its chief coordinator, involved the construction of a traditional Aleut skin-covered boat in Unalaska, Alaska.

Образовательные Проекты

Education Projects

While the United States is very active in the global economy, many American citizens remain intellectually isolated due to their lack of knowledge regarding political and cultural geography. The public education system provides American students with little information about Eastern Bloc nations. Similarly, Soviet schools have taught an ideologically determined version of the history and society of a Cold War enemy. Both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. require reform of their international education curricula.

◆ **Educators' Conference** To facilitate connections between the University of Alaska Statewide System and the Soviet State Education Committee, FSI-Alaska arranged for two representatives from the Soviet Committee to travel to Alaska to meet with their Alaskan counterparts.

◆ **Project World 2000** In October 1989, a group of Juneau educators traveled to Moscow to share co-operative learning techniques and to develop a joint environmental education program focusing on global health issues. A high school class in Juneau was linked by electronic mail with a class in Moscow so Soviet and Alaskan students could share their school work for this curriculum. The course is now in its second year, and the curriculum has expanded to include other topics.

◆ **Student Exchange** FSI-Alaska initiated student exchanges between the University of Moscow and the University of Alaska Southeast (U.A.S.) in Juneau. A Moscow student hosted by the university and the Juneau Rotary Club is currently attending U.A.S. In September 1991 a U.A.S. student will travel to Moscow to attend school at the University of Moscow.

◆ **Vladivostok Connections** In February and May of 1990, FSI-Alaska sponsored delegations including Alaskan education, civic, business and cultural leaders to establish relations with groups in the Soviet Far East capital city of Vladivostok. The University of Vladivostok was a special focus; plans for teacher and course exchanges were developed for implementation during the coming academic year. The opening of FSI-Alaska's Soviet Far East headquarters office in Vladivostok was one of the highlights of these visits.

"...Soviet delegations have visited Alaska and other Alaskan groups have had rewarding experiences in the Soviet Union. Again, these have been valuable to the University of Alaska. The Foundation has often served as a catalyst."

*George C. Christensen
Vice President for Academic
Affairs, University of Alaska*



Students in Moscow School 1201.

Социальное и Экономическое Развитие

Social and Economic Development: Building on Cultural Exchanges

FSI-Alaska is presently entering a transition period between the enthusiastic friendship exchanges of 1988-1990 and the beginning of complex cooperative undertakings and commercial ventures.

Although major shifts in Soviet and American relations have broken down many of the ideological barriers separating our two countries for so long, the development of commerce does not automatically follow. Many impediments — cultural, monetary, technological, logistical and governmental — remain, and Soviet economic restructuring lends both opportunity and uncertainty to our relationships at this time. The Board of Directors has adopted this transition as its special focus for the next three years.

The strategy is to build a foundation for successful ventures by encouraging the growth of social and economic infrastructure connecting Alaska and the Soviet Far East, and by expanding the knowledge needed to make cooperative ventures work. Moreover, as Soviet economic restructuring begins in earnest, opportunities will be identified for aiding development of the private sector in the Far East.

The strategy envisions symposia and technical exchanges designed to attain concrete objectives. At the same time, sister cities connections, television program exchanges, and student exchanges will enhance mutual understanding and generate business opportunities. The benefits of sharing information and technology are evident on both sides of the Pacific.

Sister City Delegations

Among the most enthusiastic delegations travelling to the Soviet Union under the sponsorship of FSI-Alaska are citizen groups travelling to establish sister city relationships. Under the umbrella of these people-to-people exchanges, business ventures are initiated and areas of mutual interest in health, education, communication and transportation are identified. As the Soviet government becomes more decentralized, local governments must take on new roles and may benefit from a first-hand knowledge of municipal government in Alaska.

◆ Petropavlovsk-Kamchatki and Unalaska, Alaska have established a sister city relationship as the result of negotiations facilitated by FSI-Alaska.

◆ Vladivostok and Juneau are discussing a sister city relationship. Nego-

"We feel it is essential that the true 'citizen diplomacy' efforts have such an office available to assist them, for they lack the powerful leverage of the political-economic establishment."

*David Lewis, Ph.D. and
Marianne George, Ph.D.
University of Alaska
anthropologists*



Students of the Soviet port city of Vladivostok, which was closed to foreign visitors for over 60 years, greet a student from Juneau, Alaska traveling with a FSI Alaska delegation in May 1990.

tiations were begun when the mayor of Juneau and representatives of FSI-Alaska visited Vladivostok in May of 1990. Discussions will continue in December 1990, when 120 people will fly from Juneau to Vladivostok for an eight-day visit. Soviet permission and organization of this visit was coordinated by FSI-Alaska. Plans are being made for a reciprocal visit by 120 people from Vladivostok to Juneau in spring 1991.

♦ **Vitus Bering "250"** Many projects are being planned to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the discovery of Alaska by a Russian expedition led by Vitus Bering. FSI-Alaska has been asked to serve as logistical coordinator for this joint celebration involving the State of Alaska and the four regions of the Soviet Far East (Chukotski, Magadan-ski, Kamchatski and Primorski) during the summer of 1991.

Commercial Ventures

Building on its cultural and sister-city exchanges, FSI-Alaska has already sponsored or assisted several commercial ventures, including:

♦ **Tourism** An 11-day exploratory trip by kayak and other craft along Siberia's Chukotka Peninsula undertaken by the Far Eastern Expedition Center of Vladivostok and Alaska Discovery, a Juneau-based wilderness guiding company, was a successful first step toward marketing this kind of adventure trip.

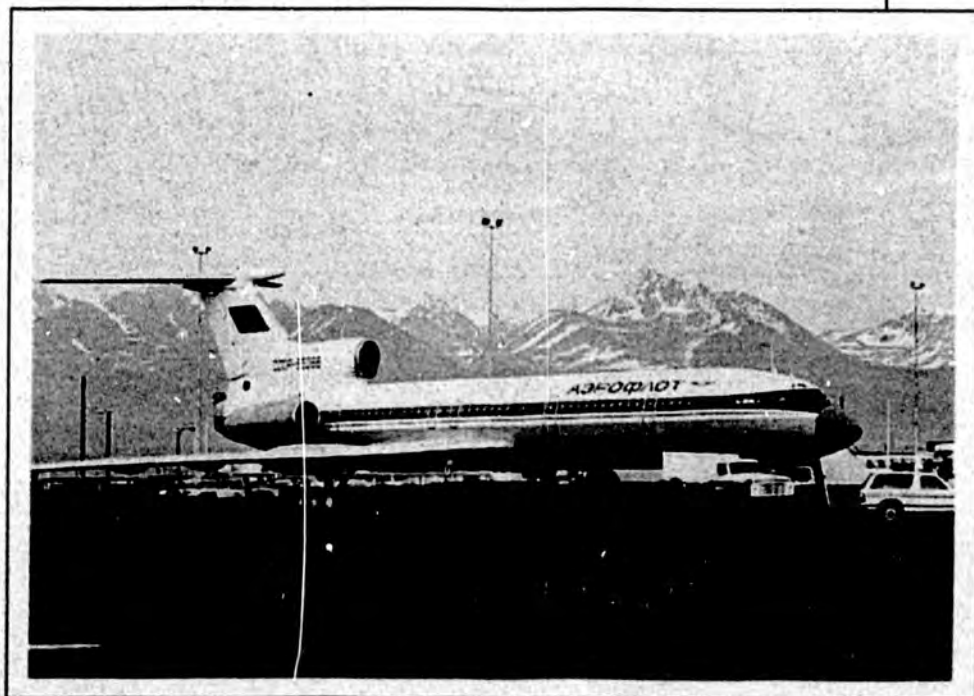
♦ **National Geographic Arrangements** by FSI-Alaska made it possible for National Geographic magazine staff to travel throughout the Chukotka Peninsula conducting research for a story on the Bering Sea. While in Chukotka, National Geographic staff accompanied FSI-Alaska's Through Eskimo Country expedition on the first leg of their journey through the circumpolar region.

♦ **Television** FSI-Alaska is working on an exchange of television programs between Alaska and the Soviet Union, so that viewers from both societies can learn more about each others lives.

A number of other ventures with commercial potential are presently being reviewed by FSI-Alaska.

"One of the most exciting possibilities of the next decade is the blossoming relationship between Alaska and the Soviet Far East. FSI-Alaska is doing pioneering work to cultivate these possibilities with its inspiring energy, bold ideas and innovative activities."

*Juneau, Alaska Mayor
Bruce Botelho*



Aeroflot jet chartered by FSI-Alaska, on the ground in Anchorage.

Project Funding

"In many cases there is no replacement or alternative to what the FSI-Alaska office is doing for these initiatives....The office has shown itself to be on the cutting edge of new projects and proposals which do not always qualify for—nor can they wait for—traditional funding and support."

David Lewis, Ph.D.
and Marianne George, Ph.D.
University of Alaska
anthropologists

The University of Alaska Southeast generously provided in-kind support for all FSI-Alaska office expenses during the first year and a half. During that period, FSI-Alaska secured federal tax exempt status and received contributions from business and government sources, including a share of grants received by FSI-USA in San Francisco.

Given the organization's expanding role, the board of directors has initiated a campaign to diversify FSI-Alaska's funding sources. In addition to charging fees for the services provided to businesses, FSI-Alaska is actively soliciting corporate sponsorships, foundation grants and in-kind contributions. In conjunction with its funding campaign, FSI-Alaska has launched a media campaign in Alaska to promote the organization and to help raise funds in the state.

FSI-Alaska is seeking general financial support to fund operations in Juneau and to maintain the FSI-Alaska network of offices in the Soviet Far East. Individuals and organizations are also invited to contribute to selected projects, planned or in progress. In addition to acknowledgement for their sponsorship, contributors may be involved in project planning and status.

Contributions will be used in accordance with the goals expressed in this prospectus. In addition to office staff expansion, the board of directors has elected to facilitate the following projects during the next quarter:

- Facilitating television program exchanges between Alaska and the Soviet Union;
- Providing logistical coordination for the Vitus Bering 250 celebration;
- Continuing sponsorship of the Through Eskimo Country project as it enters its second year enroute to Greenland;

Detailed descriptions of these projects are available from the FSI-Alaska office.

Supporters of FSI-Alaska

Organizations

Aeroflot, Moscow
Alaska Airlines
Alaska Department of Education
Alaska Department of Natural
Resources
Alaska Discovery, Inc.
Alaska Office of the Governor
Alaska State Museum
Alternativa
Baranof Hotel
Bering Air
Camai
Dyn Air
Executive Committee, City of
Petrovsk-Kamchatki
Executive Committee,
Primorski Region
Executive Committee,
City of Vladivostok
City of Fairbanks

City of Gambell
City of McGrath
Far East Expedition Center
Foundation for Social Innovation-
USA & USSR
Foundation for the Survival and
Development of Humanity
Greyhound Bus Lines
Inland Boatman's Union
International Airport Systems
City of Juneau
Juneau School District
Komsomolskaya Pravda
KTOO, Juneau Public
Broadcasting Station
Little Feet, Inc.
National Endowment for the Arts
City of Nome

Government of the Northwest
Territories, Canada
Oonashka Corporation
Peninsula Air
Rockefeller Foundation
Russian Orthodox Church
Scandinavian Airlines
School 14, Vladivostok
School 1201, Moscow
Sealaska Heritage Foundation
Team Marine
Tesoro Petroleum Company
City of Unalaska
University of Alaska Southeast
U.S.S.R. Ministry of Civil
Aviation
U.S.S.R. Ministry of Foreign
Affairs
Vitus Bering "250" Celebration
Committee

Individuals

Patrick Anderson
Rose Arvidson
Dixie Belcher
Gretchen Birch
Don Black
Sergey Bogoyavlensky
Sergey Braga
Judy Brakel
Ken Burch
Louise Champagne
George Christiansen
Susan Clark
Stoney Compton
Sharon Cook
Larry Cotter
Laurie Ferguson Craig
Karen Cummins
Henry Dakin
Andrei Diatlov
Stan Fischer
Jack Frost

Mark Garber
Mimi George
Nelli Gregorian
Dawn Groves
Pat & Tuckey Hayes
Cindy Holland
Dan Hopson
Daniel Johnson
Karil Kassatkin
Sergey Kirillov
Nancy Korn
Steve Krall
Madeleine Lefebvre-Fisk
Ken Leghorn
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Andra Martin
Tom Matheson
Mike McKennett
Jo Michalski
Giorgi Nachaev
Jim Noyes
Shirley Nygard

Jason Ohler
Marina Paskina
Jim Rowe
Sandy Rutherford
Evgeniy Ryabov
Kathleen Samalon
Velodia Sertoon
Joyce Shales
Lena Sherbakova
Sherri Sirkin
Walter Slipchenko
Don Southerland
Jim Stimpfle
Barbara Swedell
Andrei Symikov
Teri Tibbett
Rosemary Van Der Laan
Todd Weir
Kent Woodman
Dan Zantek
Alexei Zhukov

FSI-Alaska Board of Directors



JoAnn Zentner

has served as Executive Director of FSI-Alaska since its inception in February, 1989. Ms. Zentner holds a degree in sociology and is the former director of the Institute for a Violence Free Society, which, among other activities, worked to develop relations between Alaska and the Soviet Union. She was invited by Mr. Alferenko to establish the Alaska regional office of F.S.I. She has resided in Alaska for fifteen years and travels frequently between Alaska and the Soviet Union. Ms. Zentner lives in Juneau, Alaska with her two children, Eric and Katie.

Bruce Botelho

is an assistant attorney general for the State of Alaska and mayor of the City of Juneau. He is a former deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue, supervising oil and gas taxes and the permanent fund dividend program, and is past chairman of the Alaska Resources Commission. He is president of the Juneau International Folkdancers and has served on a number of other Juneau area civic organizations. He has traveled to the Soviet Union to promote a "Sister City" relationship between Juneau and Vladivostok.



Mike Davis

has been a member of the Alaska House of Representatives since 1983, serving the Fairbanks area. His areas of expertise include natural resources, environmental law, international trade and legislative ethics. Davis has worked as a commercial fisherman, college instructor in math and government, school teacher in bush villages, counselor/advisor for the University of Alaska, Vista volunteer and legislative aide. He has been instrumental in promoting FSI-Alaska among the state's political leaders.



Sergey A. Frolov

a native of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, USSR, is president of the Far Eastern Expedition Center in Vladivostok; consultant to the History Department, University of Leningrad and the Magadan Museum, Magadan, USSR; and a member of the Board of Directors of the USSR Expedition Society. He has served as a ranger on a nature reserve, a marine engineer with the Far East Scientific Research Institute, Vladivostok, and an instructor of traditional boat-building and sailing in both the USA and USSR. His extensive experience in marine expeditions has culminated in a leadership role in "Through Eskimo Inuit Country", a four-year ethnographic expedition through the Northwest Passage.



Paul Fuhs

is mayor of the City of Unalakleet/Dutch Harbor. In addition to serving as Business Relations Director for the FSI-Alaska, he is a commercial diver and underwater explosives expert. Mr. Fuhs is co-chairman of Ports Alaska and has been a leader in promoting large-scale Soviet/Alaskan transportation and communications business ventures. In his current position as Executive Director of the Bering Sea Marine Institute, Mr. Fuhs has been promoting cooperative Soviet/Alaska fisheries research and environmental protection programs in the Bering Sea.





Ernst Holland

has lived in Alaska for 11 years, residing in Anchorage with his wife, Cindy, and his four children. He is in the retail shoe business and carries on hunting and fishing ventures. He participated in the first Aeroflot charter flight sponsored by FSI-Alaska and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and has been an active board member since the inception of the organization. Mr. Holland has made numerous trips to the Soviet Union in the last few years and has great interest in helping to facilitate exchanges of all kinds between the Soviet Union and the USA.

Marshall L. Lind

has served as Chancellor of the University of Alaska Southeast since April 2, 1987. Prior to that he served as Commissioner of Education, Alaska Department of Education for over 14 years. In his role as UAS Chancellor, Lind took an active role in the creation of The Foundation for Social Innovation/Alaska Siberia Project by providing the office space in which to get started. He has served on its board of directors since its inception and has taken an active interest in Soviet issues through the University's presentation of an Honorary Doctor of Humanities to President Mikhail Gorbachev, and in promoting program development and exchanges between UAS and Soviet universities.



Steve Nelson

has 15 years of television and radio experience in Alaska including Radio Production Director, Videographer, Engineer, Editor, Producer and Chairman of the Board of Directors of KTOO/Juneau and Chief Videographer for C-SPAN in Washington, D.C. He currently works for the Governor of Alaska producing video news releases and special programs. He has visited the Soviet Union twice, once as Producer for an independent news crew which provided CNN and CBS with video segments on Soviet activities, and again as part of an Alaskan delegation to coordinate program exchanges between Soviet and Alaska television stations.

Greg Pease

serves as chairman of the board of FSI-Alaska and is also Executive Director of Gastineau Human Services Corporation, a private non-profit organization providing aid to socially disadvantaged people. He has promoted the international radio "Global Town Meetings", co-produced the television spacebridge "Alaska Celebrates the International Year of Peace", sung in the "Alaska Performing Artists for Peace" tour, served as Pacific Rim chairman of the "International Association of Residential and Community Alternatives", co-founded the "University of Alaska Institute for Circumpolar Health," attended the joint "USSR/USA Film Summit" and served as a board member of the "CAMAI Foundation."



PHOTO: MARY FANDELLETT

James Schoppert

is a native Tlingit sculptor living in the Seattle area whose art is widely exhibited throughout the Northwest and Alaska. He says of his work, "I am especially influenced by the art conventions of the Tlingit and the freedom and whimsy seen in the traditional art of Alaska's coastal Eskimos. This ancestral influence is then interfaced or mingled with approaches to art developed in Western art.... When I look at the historical works of the Eskimo peoples I'm inspired to take the pictographic and surrealistic imagery into a more modern context." He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington.