

Good Will Tour

Reported By
Howard Burdick
U.S.S.R.

Travel Information

Leave Brussels 11:30 a. m. 8/9 via twin jet Aeroflot plane, flew at 39,000 feet, 500 miles per hour. 11:45 a. m. over Holland with its intensively cultivated fields. No hedgerows as in England and parts of Belgium. Many ditches and many canals with barges. Amsterdam seemed to be a city of six to eight story apartment buildings with numerous canals. Left Amsterdam 1:35 p. m., (3:35 Moscow time.) Arrived Moscow 6:45 p. m.

Guides: Irene Makeiva (brunette) 30 years old. Irene Kovalova (blonde) 23, years old. Address: USSR, Moscow, Karl Marx Ave., 16, Guides Dept., of In-tourist.

Embassy: R. Keith Severin, Asst., Agr. Attache.
Hotel: Ukraina—built in 1956 one of several buildings in Moscow built in the same design. Others are the University, an apartment house and a governmental building.

General Information about the U.S.S.R.

1. The U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) is a fed-

eration of 15 republics of which Russia is the largest and most populated. Russia has 6 1/2 million square miles of the 5 1/2 million in the U.S.S.R. and has 117 1/2 million of the 209 million people.

2. Moscow is the capital with a population of 5 million (7 million in the Greater Moscow area). It is being transformed into a city of wide streets or boulevards and many parks in the center of town with multi-story apartment houses on the outskirts. An extensive public transportation system including subways, buses and street cars serve to move people throughout the city.

3. The Exposition of Peoples Economic Achievements of the U.S.S.R. (commonly called the Exposition of Economic Achievement) is the show-place to which visitors to Moscow are taken. The grounds cover 500 acres with many large buildings and pavilions housing exhibits. For example: one building is devoted to chemistry, another to atomic energy. Several agricultural buildings include such exhibits as machinery, poultry, dairy or crop production.

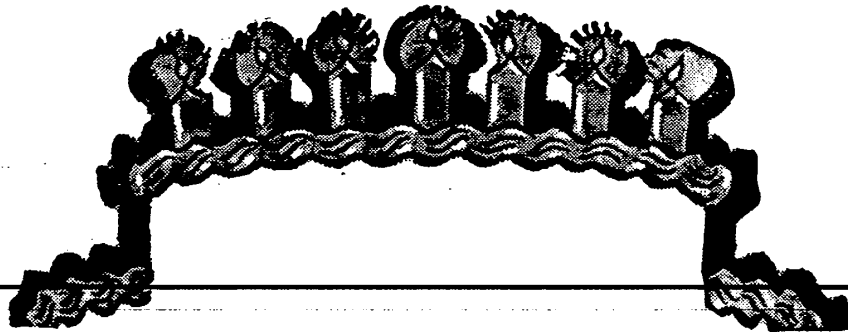
One of the highlights of the Exposition is the Circlorama Theatre in which the audience stands in the center with the action flashed on screens around a full 360° circle. The color and sound film depicted many scenes

from within the U.S.S.R. and various parts of life in the Soviet Union.

4. One of the most striking impressions made upon the visitor to Moscow is the great number of apartment buildings under construction. The gantry cranes protrude into the horizon in any direction one wants to look. The second impression that strikes the visitor is the similarity and the brazenness of the construction and a third impression is the fact that the buildings are rather poorly constructed and are deteriorating quite rapidly. Much of the construction is done with pre-fabricated cement units trucked to the site of construction.

There is no question but what the housing situation has been improving for people in Moscow and probably other sections of the Soviet Union. Housing is low-cost with most people paying about 5% of their income for the state-owned apartments. Details of the amount of space available per person and the number of families using common baths or kitchens were not readily available. It was obvious that the space per person was far below standards in this country but rapid improvement is being made. One figure reported was that new space for 350 families was being

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