And I believe I speak for all in our group when I say the Soviet people and their government want more than peace with America. They want to live and work together with us as their brothers and sisters and they want the arms race to end as soon as possible.

SOVIET VISION AND THE NEW MAN

Barbara Hubbard saw our task as a sharing of visions; to learn what the future of the world should be from the Soviet and American point of view, and see how close we can come.

We met with the Leningrad Peace Committee for the Soviet answer and I videotaped their response (in black & white, amateur fashion).

The vision they called communism would consist of a new society in which each person would receive according to their need and would give according to their ability. Such a society, they believed, could not be a direct result of the present socialist system or even of the children's education which we were later to observe as possibly the best in the world. (Not their words, but mine - Art).

The belief of the communists was that when the true communist society would arise, love would be the real motivation and the State would 'wither away' - almost the opposite of the present system called Socialism. For this to happen, however, a new kind of humanity must arise; a humanity based on love.

Barbara Hubbard suggested that we ought to have a special international conference to work on the creation of the "new man" and I believe she has the intention of organizing it in October. Soviets were very interested.

Some of the Soviets who got to know her told Barbara that Gorbachov was also on her 'wavelength' and that had they known her better at an earlier date, they might have arranged for her to meet with him. She hopes to meet with Gorbachov in October.

USA CONSULATE: AN EXPERIMENT IN CONFIDENCE

A great new age songwriter/singer was an important part of our group and so a bunch of us were happy to be invited to a party at the U.S. consulate; we felt it would be a great "new age influence" for them to hear Michael Elley sing his songs,

About 40 of us came and to enter we had to stand in line while a U.S. marine checked each one's identification. While waiting, it came to me that I would try an experiment in confidence so I didn't get out any I.D. When I got to the front I just said with total assurance, "I'm Art Rosenblum; its O.K.!",and I walked right by.

Leningrad monument: Intourist guide explains "900 Days" (of Nazi siege) to Samantha Smith.

The marine turned and stared at me; I smiled back at him and went on in. He then continued to check the others' I.D.

About an hour later, I was chatting with the same marine at the party and he was telling me that they were prohibited by our own government from having any contact with the Soviets or others from any eastern block country. Our government feared they might "fall in love with someone and so compromise security".

I then said, "weren't you the one who was checking our I.D.s outside ?" He was and, so I said, "What would you do if someone walked right past without showing any identification at all ?"

"I'd grab him and throw him out" was the certain reply, "But it's never happened !"

Afterwards I wondered why our marines in the S.U. were not allowed to talk to Soviets, and came to think that the real reason is that they could find the Soviets to be very reasonable and begin to wonder what this "cold war" is all about. Whose 'security' would be compromised ?

Throughout our time in the Soviet Union we had very well prepared guided tours with Intourist guides, but at all times we were also totally free to do our own thing without being followed or observed. We also had free use of the phone system (and most phones inside the city are totally free; some require

2 kopeks (almost nothing) to talk all you wish.

OUR WEEK IN MOSCOW

An overnight sleeper train took us from Leningrad to Moscow where my schedule became especially busy. My first intention was to go to the home of my poet friend, Igor Mikhailusenko and bring him the video machine and Japanese TV for which he had waited so long. It was great to meet with Igor after all our letters and phone calls for six or more months. This would be my best chance for a really intimate contact with a Soviet citizen through whom I could really know what the ordinary people experience. I wish that my original plan to stay with him for several days had worked out, for we never really had enough time together.

Igor did give me insights that I might not have gotten in other ways and I found that he is very much like any of us with his fears and joys and ordinary humanity. His special problem is that he lost both legs as a boy of ten during a Nazi air attack and therefore has a difficult life. However instead of giving himself to a hatred of the Nazis, Igor has devoted his life to the cause of peace so that other children would not have to suffer as he has. He receives a government pension which is 64% of the minimum wage and has a relatively large apartment where he can easily take in an additional person. Most of all, he would like to invite an American to come and stay with him.

If anyone is interested in a long term visit as a guest of Igor's, they could contact me for more information and also see about an hour of videotape I made of him telling his life story including an out-of-body experience at the time he lost his legs.

It would take 3 months to get a guest visa and some time longer to correspond with Igor and myself, but in that way, one could arrange an extended visit without the $100 a day for a tourist hotel. One could even earn good money teaching English part time.

Igor was, of course thrilled with the VCR but unfortunately due to my own impatience I made a mistake which resulted in the failure of a small power supply that provides it with 12 volts d.c. power, so that I am now looking for a traveler who can take Igor another one from here. Please call at once if you know anyone headed for Moscow real soon.(215) 849-3237 or 849-1259. Parson -person collect OK.

I was able to bring Igor to meet our group and to share several stately dinners with us at the hotels where we ate. I also stayed at his apartment one night and learned much of typical Soviet life.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPECIAL SCHOOLS

In Moscow alone, there are over 60 grade schools where all the children learn English from grade 2 on and speak it fluently by the time they are 11 or 12, Igor supplied me with a list of 28 of them which our kids can start to write letters to now. Soviet students are eager for our letters. I hope soon to have a listing of all such schools and be able to pair them with schools in our country.

Right now it takes 7 - 14 days for a letter each way, but in a few weeks we will have a direct flight schedule (4/wk) between USA & Moscow which could reduce that considerably and I intend to ask my top Soviet contacts to make a special arrangement for speeding up letters between schools even more.

VISIT TO OUR SPECIAL SCHOOL

These schools get so many visits from American tour groups that tours go to each of the schools in turn to avoid interfering too much with their educational work.So ours was a long way outside the city but the trip was well worth it even though we had to decide to miss supper to make it. (it was circus night).

Soviets spare no expense in education and I found a spirit of warmth and friendship there that I've never experienced in our system. All rooms were decorated with green plants and felt homey, and it was easy to talk English with teachers and chidren.

I must have seen about 400 children altogether and only three wore eye glasses. I understand that emotional stress is a major cause of eye problems for children, but when I asked the reason I was told that it was due to good food. No chemicals are permitted in Soviet agriculture.

AN ALTRUISTIC APPROACH

The school system in general aims at much more than academics and children are led to look at the world and one another from an altruistic approach. Almost all of them hope to some day be invited to join the Communist Party.

I used to believe that the low percentage of party members in the Soviet Union was due to disinterest, but now I realise that it is only that the party is so difficult to enter. You have to prove your dedication to become a Communist which is seen as a great honor.