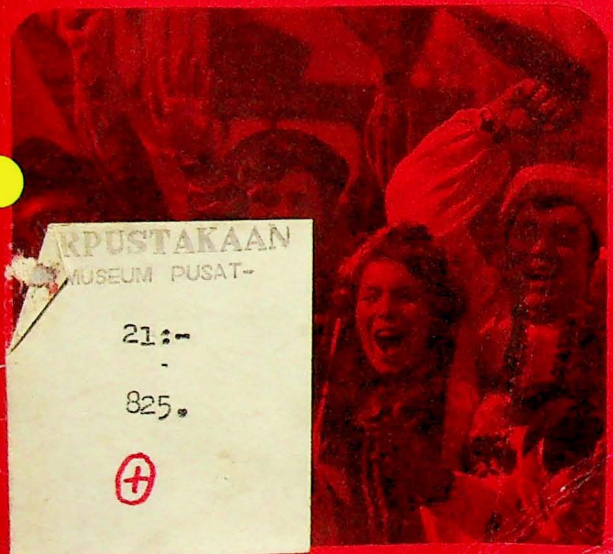


Soviet Youth



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Soviet Youth

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Introduction

The human race is many millions of years old. According to the scientists, there have been 1,600 generations since the emergence of Homo sapiens. In this constant succession of generations lies the past, present and future of our planet.

From time immemorial each generation has looked with hope and excitement to the generation that will succeed it. How will the new generation receive the heritage of the old, what new things will it create?

The modern generation of youth is our tomorrow, for it is they who will complete what has been done in the 20th century and begin the construction of the new, 21st century.

Soviet youth has travelled a long and difficult road, sharing in the hardships and joys of their country. If one were to draw a portrait of Soviet youth today, it would reflect in concentrated form the entire history of the country, and, revealing the hopes and aspirations of the people, indicate their future as well. The question "What is Soviet youth?" might be depicted in this way by the artist, or in the language of a scientist or by the pen

of a writer. But let us turn to statistics, to facts and documents.

Of course, such figures by themselves are lifeless. However, the breath of human thought reanimates them, helps them to speak, convince and prove. The language of facts and figures can draw a picture that is not only objective but also expressive.

Young People and Work

Socialism and youth... The two concepts are inseparable. Socialism has given youth social optimism, confidence in the future, the assurance that society will need them today and tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow. This optimism is based on reality, on the conditions created by the Great October Socialist Revolution which overthrew the landowners and capitalists in Russia; it is based on the rights guaranteed to citizens by the Constitution of the USSR.

With the victory of the Revolution, the Soviet state took steps to protect the rights and interests of the youth. Its action had not only a political and economic, but also a moral significance, reflecting the humanism of the new society. Immediately following the victory of the October Revolution, the working day of young people of 16-18 years of age was established at six hours, and for youngsters under 16 at four hours (and this despite the weak state of the economy at that time).

Soviet youth are guaranteed the right to work, a right which is ensured by the wide possibilities of getting jobs in different fields, by free training to acquire a profession, by the policy of full em-

ployment (unemployment in the USSR was abolished as far back as 1930), by guaranteed wages and by labour legislation.

The USSR has a state-financed system of vocational-technical and on-the-job training for youth. Students at vocational training schools are fully provided for by the state (tuition, meals, clothing, etc.). The students are also paid for what they produce in the course of their training. On finishing their studies, the students are given jobs appropriate to their qualifications.

At specialised secondary schools, in addition to the special subjects required for a specific trade, general subjects are taught as well. On finishing this school, a young worker receives both a diploma and a school leaving certificate.

In 1972, the Soviet Union had 5,476 vocational training schools, with a total enrolment of 2,496,000.

Altogether, more than 25 million skilled workers were trained at vocational schools between 1941 and 1971.

By the end of the current five-year plan period (1971-1975) more than nine million skilled workers in 1,100 specialities will have been trained by schools of this type throughout the country. Young people have a wide choice of trades and vocations in which to employ their knowledge, experience, skill and energy.

At present young workers account for about 40 per cent of the entire work force of the nation. In industry, they account for 49.7 per cent of the work force, in construction—56.5 per cent, in transport—41 per cent. A large proportion of the youth is found in the modern branches of the economy, in the jobs which require special technical training. For example, 70 per cent of machine tool

operators are young workers, with 60 per cent in the case of the chemical industry; they account for 65 per cent of assembly workers and 52 per cent of lorry drivers.

The modern young worker is a person of versatile knowledge, with a broad outlook. He combines high moral standards and integrity with his trade or professional skill. When a number of top workers in many fields of science, art, industry, and farming (among them young Heroes of Socialist Labour, holders of the Order of Lenin and Lenin Prize winners) were asked to what they attributed their notable achievements, they answered that they regarded perseverance and know-how, co-operation, a creative atmosphere in the work team and a high degree of skill and training as the main condition for success on the job. Many front-rank workers continue their studies while working, engage in public activities of various kinds, and help new workers to master advanced methods and raise their qualifications.

Ten million young men and women work on the country's farms. The younger generation of Soviet farmers have received from their elders the bounteous land, powerful modern equipment, and scientific methods of farming. Following in the footsteps of the older generation, the rural youth are building up the wealth of their native soil, and successfully carrying out the task of transforming farm life.

The proportion of young people among engineering and technical personnel is very high. They account for 43 per cent of all engineers and technicians in the USSR. Every year more and more young men and women are qualifying in specialist occupations.

In 1972, some 1,800,000 specialists graduated

from higher education establishments and specialised secondary schools.

Young people are enthusiastic about their work and make it their lives.

A group of sociologists in Leningrad recently conducted a poll among 2,035 young people. To the question: "What do you need in order to be happy?" 1,558 (76.6 per cent of the total) replied, "An interesting job".

The same poll revealed more about their attitude to their work. The meaning of their work, its social value is the most important thing for young people.

Soviet youth is attracted by the romance of life in remote places. They have a keen pioneering spirit which takes them to far-off construction sites and projects. Altogether more than three million young men and women are working on the nation's numerous construction projects.

Young people here have a long-standing tradition—to be the first at the key construction projects, those of great national importance. It was the youth who built Komsomolsk-on-the-Amur, a large city in the Far East, the giant Bratsk, Krasnoyarsk and Nurek hydropower stations, the Bilibino and Toktogul hydropower stations and others.

"The people who went to these remote places were not mere lovers of adventure, nor did they go just for the pay. These were people with a passion for life and work, for whom the whole meaning of life is to give unstintingly of their efforts." These words are from Boris Gainulin, one of the well-known builders of the Bratsk hydropower station.

The desire to be useful to people and to the country is characteristic of all generations of our

young people. The students of 1964, for instance, began a patriotic movement to help out on key projects in industry and agriculture during their summer holidays. This is how student building teams first appeared. In 1965, 40 thousand students spent their long vacation—what they called their "third semester"—working in Kazakhstan, in the area of the newly developed oil and gas fields in Western Siberia. In 1966, the multinational Friendship student group was formed to help rebuild earthquake-ravaged Tashkent.

During the last five-year plan period (1966-1970) student building squads worked on over 35,000 construction projects, contributing to the national economy 1,648 million roubles in terms of capital value. More than a million students received first-class practical schooling in this way.

In 1972, more than half a million students of higher education establishments and secondary and specialised schools took part in this "third semester."

Soviet society has shown its appreciation of the patriotic enthusiasm and work of its students. Five hundred members of the student building teams were decorated with orders and medals.

All Soviet youth are taking part in the movement known as "Our best work for the five-year plan." Every youth team in industry and in agriculture is contributing its creative effort and enthusiasm to this campaign. The young people of Gorky, for example, have formed shock-brigades and have undertaken to meet the targets of the current five-year plan six months ahead of schedule. Moscow and Leningrad youth initiated the movement known as "Complete the five-year plan in four years."

The youth of the Soviet Union have always

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played an active part in the development of science and technology. In industry 816,000 members of the All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalisers are under 25 years of age, and agriculture has 80 thousand members.

Some 800 thousand students of science are doing original work. About 10 per cent of their graduation theses have found practical application in industry. In 1971, student design bureaus (there are about 250 of them today) fulfilled orders worth eight million roubles.

Every year national exhibitions of the work of youth in science and technology are held in the USSR. Beginning with 1967, an annual Central Exposition featuring contributions of young people to the technological development of the country has been held at the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements. In 1972, the work of 8,300,000 young men and women was represented at the national exhibitions.

Education, Culture and Sport

Having removed all the pre-revolutionary class and social barriers to education, the Soviet Government has given the youth broad access to learning. Whereas, before the Revolution, the total number of pupils and students was about ten million, in 1967 (fifty years after the Socialist Revolution) it was more than 72 million.

In 1971-1972 school year, the USSR had 184 thousand general education schools of all types. The enrolment at day-time schools exceeded 45 million.

The country's 16 thousand evening schools

(mostly senior grades) were attended by 4 million young workers of industry, farm and office.

Under the present ninth five-year plan, schools are being built to accommodate another six million pupils.

The decisions of the 24th CPSU Congress provide for the nation-wide transition to universal secondary education to the age of seventeen in the USSR in this period.

All education in the Soviet Union is free. The Soviet Government spends 120-130 roubles per pupil each year at general schools and 720 roubles per pupil at boarding schools.

All expenses for higher and specialised secondary education are borne by the state.

About 75 per cent of day-time students receive allowances. Those who receive top marks are entitled to a 25 per cent increase in their allowances, and students showing outstanding academic achievement receive still higher allowances, the granting of which is associated with the names of prominent scientists, government leaders, writers and artists, etc.

On September 1, 1972, student allowances at universities and institutes were raised by 25 per cent, and at specialised secondary schools by 50 per cent.

As of 1971-1972 academic year, the Soviet Union had 811 higher education establishments, including 52 universities, with combined student body of 4,597,000.

In the past five-year plan period (1966-1970) 61 new colleges (including 9 universities) were opened in the Soviet Union.

There were 188 college students per 10 thousand of population in 1970-1971.

More than 30 per cent of the total number of

specialists engaged in the Soviet national economy are under 30 years of age. Of these young people 25 per cent have a higher education and 40 per cent a specialised secondary education.

All school leavers and graduates from universities and institutes are guaranteed jobs appropriate to their qualifications.

Young specialists have wide opportunities for creative work and research and for the application of their knowledge and talents in every branch of science, technology and culture.

For Soviet youth life without an education is unthinkable, and a specialised or higher education figures prominently in their plans.

Soviet youth have the widest possibilities and conditions for their all-round cultural development, and for rational and purposeful recreation. The Soviet Union has some 360 thousand libraries with 3,324 million books and periodicals, 553 professional theatres (including 149 children's theatres and theatres for the youth), 1,173 museums, 157,000 cinema projectors, and 133,000 cultural centres. In the Soviet Union today is rising a generation of culturally accomplished, spiritually rich and intellectually inquiring young people. Their interests are rich and varied.

One of the favourite leisure pursuits of Soviet youth is reading. In Kazan (capital of the Tatar ASSR) sociologists conducted a poll of the youth to ascertain how they spent their leisure time. The results of the poll were corroborated by studies carried out in other cities. Practically all of those questioned read books, newspapers and magazines. Many had built up their own libraries, while others made extensive use of public libraries. Magazine readership was classified as regular (73 per cent), occasional (12 per cent), and

seldom (15 per cent). The most popular books and articles were on international and historical subjects, novels, short stories, poems, and books on art, science, sport and moral problems.

Second place in the leisure time of the youth polled was held by TV (84 per cent were regular television viewers). Most were selective viewers, while 8.5 per cent watched all programmes. On the whole, from 1 to 2 hours a day were spent on television.

Young people like the cinema, theatre and concerts. Of great popularity with the Soviet youth are youth societies, film societies, societies of music lovers, tourist clubs, gardeners' clubs, etc.

State and public organisations in the USSR are directly concerned with the cultural education of the youth and development of their talents. They regularly sponsor:

youth theatre festivals;
young composers' contests;
festivals of Soviet youth songs;
film weeks for children and the youth;
book weeks for children and the youth;
ballet contests;
contests for young opera singers.

The Union of Soviet Writers, together with the Komsomol (the Young Communist League), holds conferences of young writers at regional, district and republican level. All-Union conferences of young writers have become a tradition.

In 1966, the Lenin Komsomol Prize for literature and art was instituted. This prize is awarded for the best works on and for the youth.

Physical culture and sport are an essential part of the life of Soviet youth. Optimism, enthusiasm, the will to win—these characteristic qualities of Soviet young people are developed not only by

the entire make-up of our life but also by physical culture and sport which in the USSR are of mass proportions. Some 50 million young people engage in sports, i. e., more than 20 per cent of the entire population of the country.

There are approximately 3,000 stadiums seating 1,500 or more, about 45,000 gymnasiums, 369,000 volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, 90,000 football fields and 900 swimming pools at their disposal. In addition to this they have hundreds of thousands of sports grounds at factories, plants, schools, colleges, parks, health resorts and recreation zones.

Physical culture is regarded as an important means of health building and of developing a well-balanced personality. It is a compulsory subject at all general education schools and at higher and specialised secondary education establishments.

Large numbers of young people attend various sports circles and sports schools. There are about 4,000 such schools, with a membership of 1,323,000.

The Soviet Union has 39 volunteer sports societies, and 141,000 trainers who work with the youth. There are 18 sports institutes in the USSR, 72 physical culture departments of schools, universities and institutes, and 30 physical culture secondary schools. Among the trainers are the world-famous gymnasts Latynina and Shakhlin, the cyclist Kapitonov and the weightlifter Vorobyov. The Soviet Union has four research institutes engaged in studies relating to physical culture and sport.

The Soviet Union is the first country in the world to have a scientifically based system of physical training. Part of it is a physical culture complex known as GTO (Ready for Work and

Defence of the USSR), designed for everyone.

On March 1, 1972, a new All-Union GTO complex was introduced. It is based on the age principle: the first grade, "Courageous and Agile", is for boys and girls of 10-13; the second grade, "Sports Generation", is for the 14-15 year age group; the third grade, "Strength and Courage", is for young people 16-18 years old.

There is also a fourth grade for women of 19-34 years of age and for men of 19-39. This grade is called "Physical Perfection". And finally, the last grade ("Vigour and Health") is for men of 40-60 years of age and for women of 35-60 years of age.

Every year many thousands of sports competitions are held in the USSR. They include local contests and national competitions at which young people demonstrate their strength and prowess.

Among the best known and most favoured competitions among schoolchildren are "The Golden Puck" and the "Leather Ball", contests for "Friendship" prize, instituted by the Track-and-Field Association and for prizes instituted by the newspaper *Pionerskaya Pravda*. Every year an all-Union Universiada is held in which 1.5 million students take part. All told some 350 national championships and competitions are held in various sports every year.

The biggest and best known sports festival is the Spartakiada of the Peoples of the USSR in which millions of young men and women and all sports groups take part. The final competitions of the Spartakiada programme are held in Moscow once every four years.

Taking part in the Spartakiada of 1971 were 44 million people and 184,255 sports groups. The fi-

nalists from 234 cities and towns of the country who gathered in Moscow numbered 7,382. Altogether, 20 world, 19 European and 35 national records were established.

Soviet youth have conquered many "golden" peaks of world sport. About fifty per cent of all official world records are held by Soviet sportsmen. More than 300 Soviet sportsmen are Olympic champions.

At the 11th winter Olympic Games in Sapporo, in 1972, Soviet athletes won 15 gold medals.

The Soviet skier Galina Kulakova became the Olympic champion in the 5 thousand and 10 thousand metre women's events. She won her third medal for the relay race, an outstanding Soviet team event. Vyacheslav Vedenin is a twice Olympic champion.

Soviet biathlonists, hockey-players and figure skaters won convincing victories at Sapporo.

In 1972, the year the Soviet Union marked its 50th anniversary, Soviet athletes won 50 gold medals, and took first place in the team score at the 20th Olympic Games held in Munich. For young Soviet people such names as Borzov, Bragina, Avilov, Vassin, Turishcheva, Korbut, Alexeyev, Melnik, Chizhova, Saneyev, Tarmak, Medvedev, Lemeshev, Malyshev, and other Olympic champions have come to symbolise perseverance and good sportsmanship.

Soviet Youth in Government

Socialism has given young people extensive political rights, and the possibility of taking part

in all sorts of social and political activities.

On reaching the age of 18 young men and women are entitled to vote and to be elected to the bodies of state power. In the last elections to the Supreme Soviet of the union and autonomous republics and to local Soviets of Working People's Deputies held in 1971, young people under thirty years of age were elected to: the Supreme Soviets of union republics (924, or 15.7 per cent of the total number of deputies), the Supreme Soviets of autonomous republics (540, or 18.1 per cent), and local Soviets—city, district, regional and rural—(554,560, or over 25 per cent of all the deputies). All together, 556,000 young men and women were elected to Soviets in the 1971 elections. Thus, one out of every four deputies is under 30.

The concern shown by the government for the new generation and for increasing its role in the life of society is evidenced by the setting up of permanent deputy commissions for the affairs of the youth under the aegis of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Supreme Soviets of the union and autonomous republics, and the local Soviets.

"We cannot advance successfully without the participation of our young people in the social and political life of the country," said Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in an address to the 16th Congress of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League (YCL).

The YCL is an independent youth organisation, communist in its aims and activity and mass in character.

It is called an all-Union organisation because it

unites young representatives of all the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union.

The Komsomol has borne Lenin's name since 1924, when the 6th Congress of the Young Communist League, which was held soon after Lenin's death, pledged itself to be loyal to Lenin's cause, to "live, work and fight according to Lenin's principles, and to carry out Lenin's behests."

The Komsomol is called communist because its aim and its task is to build, together with all the Soviet people, a classless communist society, to educate people in the communist morality.

The YCL, with a total membership of 31 million, is the most widely representative public organisation of the young people of the Soviet Union. Every year more than four million young men and women become members of the organisation. Young people join the Komsomol because they feel that it is an organisation which helps them to identify themselves more closely with society and the state, to develop their character and form their ideological convictions and to learn how to live in a spirit of friendship and brotherhood.

According to the Rules of the YCL, "Any young citizen of the Soviet Union can be a member of the YCL if he recognises its rules and regulations, if he takes an active part in the building of communism, if he works in one of the Komsomol organisations, observes its decisions and pays membership dues."

The YCL draws its membership from all categories of young people between 14 and 28 years of age—workers and scientists, farmers and students, artists and soldiers, engineers and teachers.

The Komsomol plays an active part in helping young people to become politically and socially conscious. It publishes 132 Komsomol newspapers, 28 papers for Young Pioneers and 66 magazines for children and young people, with a circulation of 68 million.

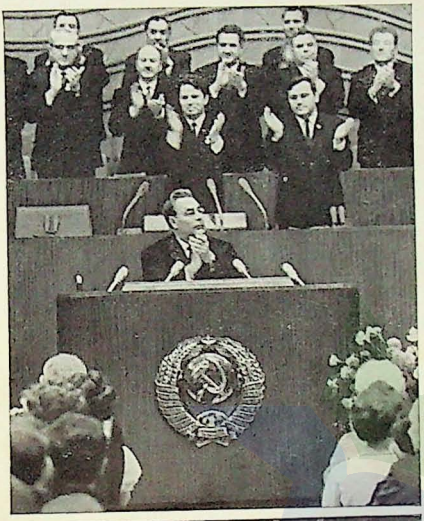
The magazines most popular with Soviet youth are *Smena* (circulation: 1 million copies), *Selskaya Molodezh* (1.3 million), *Tekhnika—Molodezhi* (1.6 million), *Molodoi Kommunist* (850,000), *Komsomolskaya Zhizn* (1.5 million), *Vokrug Sveta* (2.4 million), *Yuni Naturalist* (nearly 2 million) and *Murzilka* (5.6 million).

The Komsomol publishes two central dailies—*Komsomolskaya Pravda* (10 million copies), and *Pionerskaya Pravda* (10 million copies).

The Komsomol has its central publishing house, "Molodaya Gvardia" (in Moscow), which puts out about 400 book titles every year, with a total printing of 39-40 million copies, the "Molodj" publishing house in Kiev and the "Yesh Gvardia" publishing house in Tashkent.

All Soviet radio and television stations have their youth departments. The Komsomol also has its own higher school where future Komsomol workers receive their training and where the scientific principles of Komsomol work are developed.

The Komsomol has the right of legislative initiative, and it takes part in drafting laws and decrees on matters concerning the work, recreation, everyday life, and education of young people. At all factories, plants and offices of the Soviet Union, questions involving the hiring and dismissal of young people, work-rates and rates of pay, incentives, the allocation of housing, the organisation of vocational training and general





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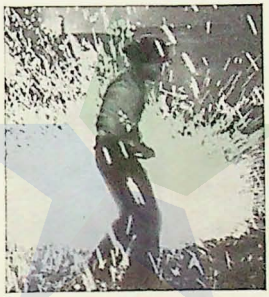



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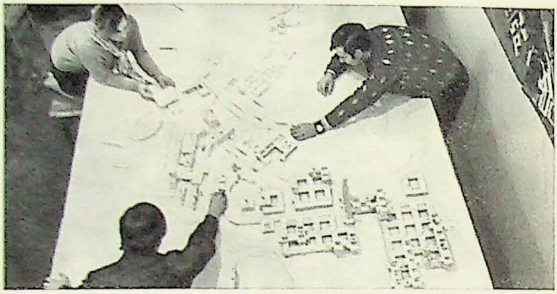





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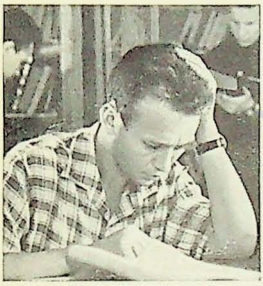





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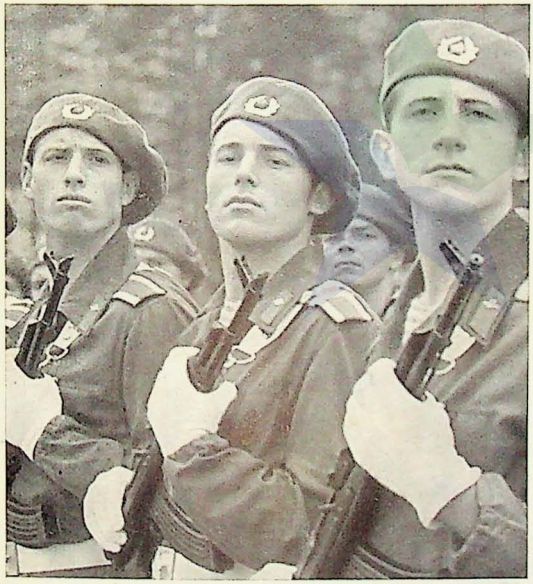

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education, etc., are always decided with the participation of the local Komsomol organisations.

The Komsomol has representatives at ministries and departments involved in the education and upbringing of young people (the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education, the State Committee for People's Control, the Committee for Radio and Television, the Committee for Physical Culture and Sport, and other central bodies).

The Central Committee of the Young Communist League, together with ministries and departments, makes decisions and carries out measures to improve the working conditions of young people, to advance their studies and their vocational training, and to improve recreation facilities and living conditions.

Below are some of the decisions taken in 1972 alone:

— On the further improvement of the activities of student building teams (taken jointly with the Collegium of the Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education);

— On measures to promote tourism, excursions and museum trips among schoolchildren and students (taken jointly with the Presidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Education and the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Vocational Training);

— On the holding of all-Russia contests among young mechanisers (jointly with the Collegium of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, the Collegium of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, and the Pre-

sidium of the Central Committee of the Union of Workers in Agriculture and Supplies).

— On the holding of the All-Union Week of Music for Children and Young People (jointly with the Secretariat of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Collegium of the Ministry of Education of the USSR, the Collegium of the Ministry of Culture of the USSR and the Secretariat of the Board of the Union of Composers of the USSR);

— On the results of the all-Union children's film contest (jointly with the Committee for Cinematography under the USSR Council of Ministers, the Collegium of the Ministry of Education of the USSR, the Board of the Union of Cinematographers of the USSR and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Union of Workers of Culture);

— On measures to improve the service at libraries for workers at shock Komsomol construction projects (jointly with the Secretariat of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Collegium of the Ministry of Culture of the USSR);

— On the improvement of physical culture and sports work among the local population (jointly with the Committee for Physical Culture and Sport under the USSR Council of Ministers);

— On the holding of an all-Russia rally of members of schoolchildren's forestry societies and young naturalists' circles (jointly with the Collegium of the Ministry of Education of the RSFSR, the Collegium of the Ministry of Timber Industry of the RSFSR, and the Presidium of the All-Russia Nature Conservation Society).

— On the results of the all-Union competition for the 1971-1972 academic year for the best

work in the field of the natural and technical sciences, a competition dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the formation of the USSR, and on the holding of the 1972-1973 contest (jointly with the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education).

The range of the activities of the Komsomol is very wide, covering the key branches of the economy, science and culture, participation in government bodies, the communist education of young people, and the organisation of their recreation and their everyday life.

The Komsomol is entrusted with many matters of state importance. It is taking an active part in the construction of more than 100 large industrial projects, including the development of oil and gas deposits in Siberia, the construction of the Novovoronezhsky nuclear power station, an automobile plant on the River Kama, a fertiliser plant, etc. Thousands of young volunteers go to shock Komsomol construction projects where they begin their independent working life. The members of the Young Communist League regard active participation in economic construction as their principal revolutionary duty.

The Soviet state and the people have shown their appreciation of the great services of the Young Communist League to the nation.

The League has been awarded six of the highest Soviet orders:

In 1928, it was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for the courage and valour of its members in the years of the Civil War.

In 1931, the Komsomol was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner of Labour for its initiative in socialist emulation movement which fa-

cilitated the fulfilment of the five-year economic development plan.

In 1945, the Komsomol was awarded the Order of Lenin for outstanding service to the nation in the years of the Great Patriotic War and for the important work done to educate the young people of the country in the spirit of dedication to the socialist Motherland.

In 1948, the Komsomol received the Order of Lenin for its contribution to the communist education of Soviet youth, and for active participation in socialist construction and in connection with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Young Communist League.

In 1956, the Komsomol was awarded the Order of Lenin for its important services in the socialist construction of League members and the whole of Soviet youth who always responded to the appeals of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, and for their dedicated work in the virgin lands.

In 1968, the Komsomol received the Order of the October Revolution for the outstanding services and the great contribution of League members to the establishment and strengthening of Soviet power, for their courage and heroism in the war against the enemies of our country, for their active participation in socialist and communist construction, and for their valuable work in training new generations in the spirit of loyalty to the behests of Lenin and in connection with the 50th anniversary of the formation of the All-Union Young Communist League.

Many republican, regional, city, district and primary Komsomol organisations, and some newspapers of the Komsomol and the Young Pioneer

organisations have been awarded orders and medals.

The Young Communist League is the reserve of the Communist Party. The Komsomol has the right to issue recommendations for membership in the CPSU.

More than 120 million young men and women have received in the Komsomol experience in the field of social and political activity. Through the school of the Komsomol have passed millions of future workers in the Party and the Soviet state, economic executives and deputies to the Soviets. Twelve million members of the Young Communist League have become members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Internationalists

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union is constantly inculcating in the younger generation of the country a profound sense of the indivisible community of interests of the working people of all countries, and a high sense of responsibility for the cause of the international working class, and the ideals of freedom and justice throughout the world.

Speaking at the 16th Congress of the All-Union Young Communist League, Leonid Brezhnev said: "Internationalism has become the flesh and blood of Soviet young people, along with the October revolution. The heroic achievements of the young generations of the country of the Soviets are the incarnation not only of their limitless love for their Motherland, but also of the high feeling of responsibility for the cause of the in-

ternational working class, for the ideals of freedom and social justice all over the world."

Soviet youth regard their active participation in the building of a communist society as an important manifestation of their internationalist duty. The labour of young Soviet people, their heroic work for the benefit of their country, is a worthy contribution to the consolidation of the world's first socialist state, of the entire system of socialism, and the struggle of the peoples of the world for their national liberation and social emancipation.

Right from the first years of Soviet power, Soviet youth, in spite of the arduous conditions of the war, famine and economic chaos, made collections for youth organisations abroad. In 1920, for example, a "Day of Aid for Western Youth" was held in Petrograd (now Leningrad). Over the 1924-1927 period alone the Soviet youth donated six million roubles to the assistance fund of the International Class War Prisoners Aid. Even in those difficult years Soviet youth could not turn its back on the struggle of other nations against imperialism for national independence and social progress.

Soviet youth organisations (the Committee of Youth Organisations of the USSR, the Soviet Union of Students, etc.) are guided in their activities by the views of all young Soviet men and women and all the people of the USSR who support the peaceful foreign policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

The Soviet Union is consistently carrying out a constructive programme of peace and co-operation, for the freedom and independence of nations, a programme which was adopted at the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union,

and which co-ordinates long-range efforts to resolve the key problems of foreign policy and a practical approach to the solution of urgent international problems.

The Komsomol and all Soviet youth organisations are doing their utmost to strengthen and develop co-operation with all sections of the world progressive democratic youth movement, to help create a united youth front in the struggle against imperialism.

The Soviet people, including the youth, have greeted the great victory of the heroic people of Vietnam with joy and satisfaction. Loyal to the Leninist principles of proletarian internationalism, the young people of the Soviet Union have always regarded all-round assistance to their Vietnamese brothers as their immediate concern.

Soviet youth, including members of the All-Union Young Communist League, were the initiators of many acts of solidarity with the people and the youth of Vietnam and took an active part in all the international campaigns in support of that country.

There is not a single young person in our country who does not honour the memory of Song My, or does not know about the heroic exploit of Nguyen Van Troi. The acts of solidarity, meetings, work-drives, voluntary work on Saturdays and Sundays, and fund collections are among the contributions Soviet youth made to help the Vietnamese people in their struggle against aggression.

A ship loaded with lorries, various kinds of equipment, clothing and medical supplies bought with the money collected by Soviet young men and women was sent to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The Komsomol is sending money and medical supplies for the Nguyen Van Troi Hospital which

is under construction in Hanoi with the funds raised by the democratic youth of the world. The Young Pioneers of the Soviet Union have sent a shipload of gifts to the children of Vietnam.

The working youth see to it that the machinery and all the other things being made for the Vietnamese people, are made in the shortest possible period of time and that everything is of the highest quality.

The younger generation of the Soviet people have always given their wholehearted support to the struggle of the people and the youth of the Arab countries against Israeli aggression, and they demand that the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967, be carried out.

The Soviet youth are voicing their solidarity with the struggle of the patriots of Northern Ireland for their civil rights, and the democratic forces of Spain, Portugal, Greece and other countries fighting against reactionary regimes, fascism and militarism — the sources of violence, injustice and war.

Soviet youth organisations are giving moral and material support to youth organisations in Angola, Guinea (Bissau), Mozambique and other countries fighting for the liberation of their countries from the oppression of colonialism and racism. A group of young Soviet doctors have done a great deal of work in the liberated areas of Guinea (Bissau) by administering medical aid to the local population.

Young Soviet people are working in many independent and developing countries, building factories and plants, prospecting for minerals, building schools, hospitals and roads, and helping young people in these countries to learn new skills.

Fifty-five young Soviet doctors spent 80 days in Peru, during which time they gave medical aid to 45 thousand people.

For eleven years now young Soviet scientists, builders, and technicians have been going to Cuba at the invitation of the young people on the Island of Freedom to help harvest crops and work at sugar refineries.

A group of young Soviet workers, part of the international team of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, helped build a boarding school in Cuba.

Over the past several years about 60 thousand foreign specialists have been trained in the USSR.

Every year the number of students from countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which are badly in need of specialists, is increasing. In the 1971-1972 academic year over 30 thousand foreign students studied at 300 colleges and specialised secondary schools in the Soviet Union. Four thousand students, post-graduates and trainees from 85 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America are studying at the Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University alone. This University was founded in Moscow in 1960.

Soviet youth are taking an active part in resolving one of the key issues in the future of mankind — the problem of setting up a strong and dependable system of security in Europe.

Europe has been the starting point of two world wars. All Soviet citizens honour the memory of their 20 million countrymen who gave their lives on the battlefields of the Second World War, and of the patriots who died in the fight against nazism in many countries of Europe.

Over the past several years the political life of Europe has undergone changes which were out of the question in the quarter of a century following the Second World War.

The clear-cut consistent policy of the Soviet

Union and other socialist countries, and the readiness of the governments of some capitalist states of Europe to work towards solving the problems of Europe and the peace movement in Europe, in which young people have taken such an active part, have created a situation in which the forces of the cold war, those which are opposed to a relaxation of tension in Europe, have been curbed.

The peoples of Europe are faced with an important task: to consolidate the progress achieved on the continent, to support and develop the positive tendencies, and to prevent the enemies of détente from undoing what has been done and turning the clock of history back to the days of the cold war.

The governments cannot achieve this objective alone, however great their efforts. It is the people of Europe, including the young people, that should make timely and effective use of the existing possibilities for strengthening peace, mutual understanding and co-operation.

Supported by the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students, the progressive youth organisations of Europe are making their contribution to the general improvement of the political climate on the European continent. During the past several years, important meetings and conferences of the youth and students of the European continent on problems of European security and co-operation have been held in Helsinki and Munich (1970), Florence (1971) and again in Helsinki (1972). These meetings and conferences demonstrate the growing activity of the European youth movement for ensuring the security of our continent. They have been an important step towards the strengthening and consolidation of co-operation between various youth organi-

sations in Europe. The young people of the Soviet Union have taken a most active part in the work of these meetings and conferences, and have made constructive contributions to the security of the peoples, and to the relaxation of tension on the continent.

A Soviet youth delegation took an active part in the work of the Assembly of Representatives of Public Opinion for European Security and Co-operation held in Brussels, which stressed the importance of the mass movement for peace and security in Europe.

The Soviet youth and all the Soviet people are demanding that an all-European conference be called at the earliest possible date to discuss questions of security and co-operation, that the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany be admitted into the United Nations.

At present the balance of forces on the continent is in favour of peace and peaceful co-operation. Soviet young men and women believe that war can be eliminated entirely from the life of the peoples of Europe.

The international ties of Soviet youth organisations are co-ordinated by the Committee of Soviet Youth Organisations. This is a public organisation whose activities promote the education of Soviet youth in the spirit of internationalism and are directed at strengthening and expanding ties of friendship and co-operation between the young people of the Soviet Union and the youth of other countries. The All-Union Young Communist League and the Committee of Soviet Youth Organisations represent the Soviet youth in the World Federation of Democratic Youth, while the Student Council of the USSR represents Soviet students in the International Union of Students.

Young Soviet men and women welcome extensive co-operation. At the present time Soviet youth organisations maintain contacts with youth organisations in 129 countries.

In its internationalist activity the Leninist Komsomol devotes most of its attention to the development and consolidation of co-operation with the fraternal youth organisations of the socialist countries, and with the communist leagues of the capitalist and the developing countries.

The Soviet youth organisations aim at strengthening the unity of the international democratic movement of youth and students.

Being in the forefront of the struggle of the younger generation against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism — the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism — the young people of the Soviet Union, together with the youth of other socialist countries and the young Communists of the whole world, are strengthening co-operation with the world youth movement, which is taking part in the anti-imperialist and general democratic struggle.

Co-operation between the Committee of Soviet Youth Organisations and the various foreign youth organisations takes various forms. These include bilateral and multilateral activities, recreation camps, festivals and friendship weeks, conferences, an exchange of delegations and tourist groups, and an exchange of books. Another important and interesting form of co-operation is educational trips around the Soviet Union for representatives of foreign youth organisations.

Emulation movement between youth teams, Komsomol shock brigades, construction projects in which young people from many countries take part, an exchange of student construction teams,

the building of priority projects and whole industries, encouragement of the technological efforts of the youth — all these forms of work have become part and parcel of the joint activities of the fraternal youth organisations.

International youth tourism is an effective way of strengthening friendship between the youth of various countries of the world.

The "Sputnik" bureau of international youth tourism is actively co-operating with 350 organisations in 60 countries. In 1972 the "Sputnik" bureau received more than 100 thousand young tourists from abroad, and also arranged for more than 85 thousand Soviet young men and women to visit other countries.

"Sputnik" organises international youth camps, and arranges tourist exchange between cities, educational institutions and industrial enterprises.

The year 1972 saw many events of great interest to young people. Young Soviet men and women took part in the Soviet-American youth rally, in Weeks of Friendship with the youth of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the People's Republic of Congo, and Syria, and in the Festivals of Friendship with young people from the German Democratic Republic, and India. They also lived and worked in Friendship Camps with young people from other countries, and in the International Workers' Camp of Solidarity and Friendship. Young Soviet people also took part in other activities such as the International Youth and Students' Conference for European Security and Co-operation in Helsinki.

The most important event of the past year was the World Meeting of Working Youth which took place in Moscow and was initiated by Soviet youth organisations and supported by the World Federa-

tion of Democratic Youth and many other democratic youth organisations.

Taking part in this meeting were representatives of 271 national youth organisations and the youth sections of the trade unions of 115 countries. The meeting was sponsored and arranged by the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the World Federation of Trade Unions; and representatives of the United Nations, UNESCO, and the International Labour Organisation took part in it. An important feature of this meeting was its widely representative character. It made an important contribution to the unity and solidarity of various sections of the working youth of the world, and of all the anti-imperialist forces in the international youth movement. This meeting also demonstrated the growing social and political role of young working people in the struggle for a relaxation of international tension, for an early solution of international problems, and for ensuring peace and security throughout the world.

The outstanding feature of the present-day international youth and students' movement is the extensive co-operation and active solidarity of the progressive forces in the fight against imperialism.

The joint action of various sections of the youth movement within the framework of the campaign "Youth Accuses Imperialism" is gaining in importance as part of this co-operation. This campaign has absorbed the valuable experience of the many years of struggle by the youth against imperialism, and has been joined by the great majority of the democratic forces in the international youth movement. It has concentrated the efforts of these young people on the solution of the urgent problems of national and international life. The All-

Union Young Communist League, which initiated this campaign, is taking an active part in it.

On December 21, 1969 young Soviet people held a meeting in Moscow devoted to the 10th anniversary of the formation of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. That meeting was the first event in the campaign.

All over the country meetings were held at which young men and women demanded the immediate release of Angela Davis, the young American Communist and courageous civil-rights fighter, and protested against the travesty of justice meted out to the sixteen Basque patriots in Burgas (Spain).

The young workers at the automobile works in Togliatti have called upon Soviet youth to contribute one day's pay to the member organisations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth fighting against imperialist aggression and colonialism. This initiative has been supported by the young men and women of many union republics, regions and territories. In the Ukraine, for example, the young people volunteered to do overtime work, the money earned being donated to the "Aid Vietnam Fund", and the fund of solidarity with the organisations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth fighting for their independence. Their initiative was supported by many collectives of young workers in Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Byelorussia.

International meetings, youth conferences and "Sing for Peace" contests, poster-displays and photo exhibitions have been held in Leningrad as part of the "Youth Accuses Imperialism" campaign.

The results of the campaign will be summed up at the 10th Youth and Students' Festival in Berlin.

Young Soviet men and women have taken an active part in all the youth festivals that have been

held so far. Groups of young people who came to the 6th World Youth Festival in Moscow in 1957 saw for themselves how the young people of the Soviet Union, a country of victorious socialism, live, work, study and spend their leisure time.

These festivals have become a mass demonstration by the young people of the world, one of the most important mass movements of our time, and an important weapon in the struggle for peace and progress.

The fact that the 10th World Festival will be held in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, has added symbolic importance. The choice of venue is not by any means accidental and testifies to the high international prestige of the first German state of workers and peasants, which has made an important contribution to the struggle for peace, democracy, national independence, and social progress. The participation of Soviet youth in the 10th Festival is another manifestation of the fraternal friendship and unity of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, and of all countries of the socialist community.

The young people of the Soviet Union are confident that the 10th World Youth Festival will be an enthusiastic demonstration of the anti-imperialist unity of the younger generation, that it will strengthen the friendship and solidarity of the youth, will draw new groups of young people into the struggle for world peace and the struggle against injustice, that it will help strengthen and expand the international democratic youth movement, and consolidate the world-wide anti-imperialist front.

An integral part of the preparation for the 10th Festival was the All-Union Festival of Soviet Youth,

dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the formation of the USSR. The festival programme included international production drives, sports contests, and art competitions. The All-Union Festival served as a review of the achievements of the Soviet youth. It helped young men and women to attain new heights in their work, in their studies, in art and in sport. The festival ended several weeks before the 10th World Festival, on June 24, 1973, on Soviet Youth Day. Prize winners at the All-Union Festival will represent the Soviet youth at the 10th World Youth Festival in Berlin.

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We have tried to give you a picture of the conditions in which the young people of the Soviet Union live, work, study and take part in the political life of their country. However, the picture is far from complete, and many things have gone unsaid. Nevertheless, the facts cited here are enough to enable one to see that the young people of the Soviet Union play an important part in the social life of their country greatly contributing to the solution of the problems facing socialist society.

The slogan of the Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, "Everything for the sake of man, for the benefit of man", has become the guiding principle for the activities of Soviet youth.

The young people of the Soviet Union still have many tasks to carry out and many problems to solve. They want to see peace throughout the world; they want to see the energies of the young people of the Soviet Union and other countries to be directed into creative work. And all mankind will benefit.

1—2. Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, addressing the 16th Congress of the Young Communist League.

3—9. Young Soviet people are hard-working students.

10. These students of Moscow University contributed their labour to the work of restoring historical monuments in the Arkhangelsk Region.

11—14. Everywhere—on farms, in factories, in fishermen's teams or at control desks—the young builders of communism work with dedication.

15—17. Whether they are designing a new housing estate, honouring the winners of a socialist emulation movement, or running a "best-lathe-operator" contest—enthusiasm is the key-note!

18—21. Sometimes a production problem demands concentration. But it is gratifying when the solution yields good results.

22—27. Young servicemen of the land of Soviets.

28—32. Sport and youth go together.

33—36. The happiness of young lovers. The happiness of motherhood. The happiness of newlyweds. It is always boundless and beautiful.

37—40. Students live as one big family.

41—43. International friendship is strong.

44—45. Young people will always revere the memory of those who laid down their lives for the freedom and independence of their country. And they will always try to follow the example of heroes of labour.

МОЛОДЕЖЬ СТРАНЫ СОВЕТОВ
на английском языке
Цена 17 коп.