



Moscow subway station. [left] Ornate art characterizing Moscow subway system. [center] Vasily Pescov, "Pravda" journalist. [above]

Photo - journalist compares USSR - US

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as a by-product of war research and implementation. Soviet monies go directly toward peaceful research, without being conducted through the space or especially military programs as in the U.S." Working people in the U.S., Small said, "are being set-up to distrust science."

Soviet Laser Defense Against Nuclear Attack

December 8th issue of Aviation Week covers the four hour Soviet laser blinding

of U.S. early warning satellites and two U.S. communications satellites of the SAC bomb command network. The satellites were blinded at an altitude of 25,000 miles. According to IPS research and development staff, "any laser capable of coming even close to blinding U.S. early warning satellites at 25,000 miles would have sufficient power to destroy incoming ICBM nuclear warheads at a range of six miles." The laser beams would simply melt the two inch layer of heat shield (at 5,000 degrees Centigrade) and destroy the detonation device. This would allow the Soviet Union to 'survive' (with losses comparable to those suffered in WWII) a nuclear war. Steve Small, along with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, is sceptical. But the Soviets have "devoted the necessary resources for a crash program to achieve those breakthroughs..." breakthroughs which in turn stemmed "directly from their emphasis on basic science and a broad-based, well funded program of research in controlled thermonuclear fusion power, the same program which promises to provide the world with the almost limitless possibilities of a world fusion economy," according to an IPS release on laser work.

Small described Moscow as 'amazing': "The Soviets seem to have much more zeal - students in college recognize that they represent a part of the social wealth of the society - they're already contributing in various products, like the Soviet exhibit at the Expo '75 in Spokane - but many more innovative ideas and processes." Small notes that the society "is clearly progressing - there is a storage of scientists and engineers - it seems to function with the self conscious need to develop the potentiality of the population to the highest. Of course, there is red tape, and grumbling and bitching - but the Soviet people feel that things can be corrected, while we in the U.S. have the attitude that there is nothing we can do...we seem to have given up. Soviet people think they can change things to the way they want them to be."

Two Philosophic Notions

It is of value to briefly contrast the dominant philosophic notions of the two societies here. That in the U.S. is **induced** Malthusian-Darwinian 'existentialism' amalgamated to the reductionism of William James and John Dewey. 'Dialectical-materialism' mishmash predominant in the Soviet Union has the quality of **allowing** for the Marxist notion of freedom-necessity: mankind is the determining species for the evolution of himself and his environment (earth and beyond) at the point which he dominates it (approximately 10,000 years ago). At that point, he **uses it up** (raw materials, energy) and his survival is dependent on his ability to create new conceptions - new modes of production, new resources. It is his **creativity** which is his unique feature: his ability to formulate new ideas, new gestalts. The society which self consciously recognizes this is the society which will continue to progress.

In contrast to this, the Malthusian and Darwinian notion sees man in **competition** with his environment, and himself: a survival of the fittest, where the distinguishing feature of the human species is **cunning**. Such notions are key mechanisms of social control: 'all you can do, little man, is hustle', and have been recognized as such by the 'big people'. A famous boast by Thomas Huxley (Aldous' father) in the 19th century is illustrative. On his way to give a class in Darwinian evolutionary theory to a First International worker's meeting, Huxley said, "By next week I'll have the workers believing they're monkeys!"

Patched onto the Malthusian dog eat dog notion is the reductionism of James and Dewey: pragmatic cunning. In the light of the philosophic notions, it is easy to see why the Soviet would commit themselves to a crash program thermonuclear fusion development, while the top dogs in the U.S. shut down (via ERDA) fusion research, until oil (and fusion) resources are exhausted.



Steve Small discusses journalism with M.V. Limyanin, editor-in-chief of "Pravda", looking on are Ludmilla Sechova (an interpreter) and Igor Chkalov, son of the Soviet aviation. [above] Steve Small, "Columbian" photo editor. [Photo by Vasily Pescov, "Pravda"] [right]



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Boris Veprentzev, biologic physics scientist, records bird calls at game sanctuary near his home in Moscow.



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