

Soviet Citizens Pester Visiting U.S. Tourists

By ROY ESSOYAN
Associated Press Staff Writer

The claimy fear of the mid-night knock on the door is gone from the Soviet Union, but the memory lingers.

A few years ago the average Russian wouldn't dare talk to an American on the street. Today an American can't step out of Moscow's Metropol Hotel without being besieged by Russians asking for everything from chewing gum to Glenn Miller records.

A block or two farther away the more serious ones fall into step. They'll ask you for American magazines or shirts.

In the last several months some have even started offering to buy American dollars. Even under relaxed Soviet laws they are risking Siberia. Or—you never know—they may be just testing you out.

Many of the people who approach you just want to talk to a real, live American. They might even join you for lunch. Few will go beyond that.

Despite the Kremlin's protestations of peaceful coexistence and freedoms for all, the people still have some of the feeling of the days when association with a foreigner was a crime.

"I think it's perfectly all right for us to meet now," one Russian told me, "but you never know. Things may change again."

"You never know," seems to be the present state of mind in Russia.

A few Russians visited our Moscow apartment. Some wanted to know badly they didn't care about the militiaman (Soviet policeman) who guarded our door and checked out visitors 24 hours a day. You never knew if they were bold, or had reason not to worry. All of them wanted to read magazines, listen to records and talk about life in the United States, art, music and similar topics.

Earlier this year Komsomolskaya Pravda, guardian of youthful Soviet morals, denounced some young Russians for such associations. I saw one of them a few months later. Her head had been shaved, she had been kicked out of the Komsomols, the party youth organization, and was having trouble finding a job.

The charge: aping Americans, immoral behavior and giving out information.

Association with Americans, which the Kremlin has officially

disapproved since Stalin's death, sometimes produces reverse results.

John Baker, a young American Embassy official, was declared persona non grata and expelled from the Soviet Union a few months after he started attending classes at Moscow University, and making friends.

That was called behavior unbefitting a diplomat. There was no other charge.

Some of the ordinary people talk with amazing frankness. They love their anecdotes, that amazing Russian safety valve that lets off steam with every turn of the party line.

One of the anecdotes describes the Communist type catechism Soviet children go through on entering the Pioneers, the kiddies' party organization.

"Who is your mother?" the boys are asked.

"The Communist party, for it takes care of all our needs," they answer ritually.

"And who is your father?"

"Nikita Sergeievich Khrushchev."

"And what do you want to be when you grow up?"

One aspires to be a factory manager, another a scientist, the third a football star.

Comes the turn of little Ivan. He too says the party is his mother and Khrushchev his father.

And what does he want to be? "An orphan," he replies.

The Kremlin is launched on a tightrope. When Khrushchev denounced Stalin 2½ years ago, he said, in effect: Let a little freedom grow.

A little freedom has a way of burgeoning.

In the last two years the little freedoms that the Russians won have been burgeoning only to be batted down again. So far they haven't been batted down to the level of Stalin's day.

But the Communist party is still in complete and unchallenged control, and it's not likely to anything that would jeopardize this control.

Foreign ideas have an explosive effect on minds shuttered up a lifetime.

I never will forget the week-long scenes of pandemonium in Moscow's Pushkin Museum during the first exhibition of Picasso's works. The halls were packed day after day, with wild-eyed young Russians arguing at the top of their lungs.

And the ones who argued for the sort of freedom in art that Picasso personalities were just as loud, if not louder than the ones who denounced it as stupid, filthy and bourgeois.

I'm sure the men in the Kremlin heard them too, and won't forget them.

Economist Tells Of War Between Russia, America

EUGENE (AP) — The United States is engaged in a war, a noted economist said here today, "and we are going to have to gear our economy that way for a long time to come."

Alfred Clarence Neal, president of the Committee for Economic Development, said the war is a production battle between the economic systems of America and

Russia. The outcome, he said, may well influence the way a billion "uncommitted" peoples of the world incline.

So far, he said, Russia is leading the race. This is easy to explain in part, he said, "since the Soviet Union has started with a much smaller industrial base and hence her gains are more spectacular."

"But more than this," he said,

"Russia has made it an element of patriotism—almost religion—to beat the United States at its own game, industrial growth."

He said that it is unfortunate that Russia has placed a higher value on education and research than America has. And he noted that some of our government policies "actually subsidize the reverse of productivity."

"We encourage marginal farms and mines by subsidies," he said, "when we should be encouraging these people to get into other industries."

Neal was here Tuesday for an address on the University of Oregon Campus in connection with the university's Charter Day program.

As president of the Committee on Economic Development, he heads a large program of privately supported business research and education.



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