

Stalin Name Is Erased In Youth Appreciation

EDS: Note: this is the third in a series of articles by a U.S. newspaper man-tourist who recently spent three weeks in Russia.

By DON DEDERA
Arizona Republic Columnist
(Distributed by The Associated Press)

KHARKOV, Soviet Union—“We thank our nation for our happy childhood,” read the translation of a red sign over an outdoor stage of a kindergarten near the city's industrial centre.

A few years ago the same sign read: “We thank Stalin for our happy childhood.”

Next year there may be another name on the sign, but the moppets of the Soviet Union will live on in gratitude toward whatever symbol is selected by the Communist party.

Our Intourist guide suggested we visit the kindergarten, a ministry of education project for children of workers of the Kharkov tractor plant. The director is an altogether pleasant grandmother named Fera Moiseyeva.

“We begin educating our children as soon as they are able to learn,” said Fera.

BOARDED DURING WEEK
The 300 children of the kindergarten are boarded during the week and some go home for weekends.

“Our program gives proper rest and recreation,” Fera continued. “In winter the children sleep in good protection, and they exercise in ultra-violet light.”

“Our children are from three to seven in age. A typical schedule for an older child would be: Up at seven, gymnastics until eight, then breakfast, then a lesson in music or some other art, followed by a walk in the outdoors, and then return for dinner. A bath and then sleep for two hours. Up at 3:15 for tea, some amusing play such as a folk or theatre. Seven o'clock supper, and to bed by eight.”

“Parents pay as they can. Some children are boarded free.”

“Now the children have prepared a show for you.”

We were seated around a sandy rectangle with a stage. On the stage was a large portrait of Lenin.

The bright-eyed children marched on pudgy legs to their chairs, single file, by squads.

POEM TO LENIN
A girl of seven strode to the front of the stage and recited: “Once I became lost in the forest, and I became cold, and the darkness fell, and I was afraid to die, but comrade Lenin found me and made me warm and showed me the way to his safety.”

The girl smartly faced right and marched to her seat.

With gusto, the children sang

He is known to everybody. He is smiling especially at me. After the last Lenin poem was intoned, we were shown the dormitories and dining rooms, also guarded by pictures of Lenin, and draped in flags and hung with slogans of communism.

Fera had us sit down and eat a lunch of magnificent fish soup, kvas, dark bread and corn bread with sour cream.

“You see—nothing is too good for our children,” she said.

PROGRESSION SMOOTH
In kindergartens and camps, at Leningrad and at Moscow and at Kiev, at every urbanized area and even on the collectivized farms, the children are in state institutions.

The progression to maturity is smooth. After kindergarten comes school, with emphasis on technology and respect of humanities.

After school, pioneer camps to age 14, and then to the Komsomol (Young Communists League) which now claims a membership of 20,000,000.

For those who rebel, or are dull, the factory and the farm.

Problems Of Latin America Topic At Brazil Conference

OTTAWA (CP)—An international group of 80 leaders in public affairs, economics, business and education will discuss problems of Latin American economic and social development at a six-day conference in Brazil next month.

The conference, to be held Aug. 6-11, was announced jointly Saturday by Liberal Leader Lester B. Pearson and Dr. Alberto Fraga, rector of the University of Bahia in Salvador, Brazil, where the private gathering will be held.

Mr. Pearson made the announcement in his capacity as international executive chairman of the Council on World Tensions of New York. He and Dr. Fraga will be co-chairmen of the meeting.

“Vigorous economic and social development in the Latin American countries and greater understanding and mutual help toward this end are essential if this continent is to have its place in an expanding world

necessary which alone can meet the universal rising expectations,” Mr. Pearson said.

LAC CAUSES TENSIONS
“The lag in meeting these expectations is a serious cause of tensions which are troubling elements in the world-wide quest for well-being and peace.”

Three other Canadians will attend the conference: Dr. John W. Holmes, president of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs; Rev. Georges-Henri Levesque of Quebec City, vice-chairman of the Royal Society

of Canada, and Mitchell Sharp of Toronto, vice-president of Brazilian Fracton, Light and Power Company Limited.

The announcement underlined the importance of the presence of “so many persons in a position to help translate into policy and practice recommendations which may emerge from these private, high-level discussions.”

Representatives will go from Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

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