

Tundra Times



Inupiat People's Heritage
Ut Kah Nook Informing and Reporting

Yupik Kalluniat the Way Yup'ik Talk

Don Neme Hemash Our Land Speaks
Unangut Tunakting the Aleuts Speak

Alexandra J. McClanahan
Michael Chase
Holly Reimer
Mary Lekanof

President-Publisher
Advertising Manager
Production Manager/Staff Reporter
Office Manager

Howard Rock Editor and Publisher
October, 1962 to April, 1976

Editorial

A step toward world peace

Only a very cold person would have been unmoved at the breakfast Thursday at the University of Alaska Anchorage where Alaskans said goodbye to their new Siberian friends.

Touring Alaska for 12 days as part of the Alaska-Siberia health research exchange were Drs. Yuri Nikitin, Vladimir Davidenko and Evgeny Starkov. It was obvious from their comments that these three physicians enjoyed their visit. More importantly, however, they were impressed by Alaskans' attitude toward them.

We believe that Dr. Nikitin put it very well when he pointed out that Soviet journalists have questioned him about just what the Siberians will gain from this health research exchange. Americans are asking the same thing: What's in it for us? Dr. Nikitin's response is that both nations will benefit.

If we worry too much about whether it's a 60-40 or a 50-50 exchange, we may lose sight of one of the most important benefits of this exchange. What we're talking about is cooperation between Siberia and Alaska — cultural exchanges, people communicating with each other.

You see, what's really behind this is the promotion of peace.

Many Alaskans believe in this vital program, and they undertook a tremendous amount of work to make the Siberians' visit successful. In Anchorage, among those working the hardest was Ermalee Hickel. Also working with her were Kay Linton, Patt Kay, Lynn McDonough, Kathy Rieger and Arlys Loew.

In Kotzebue and Buckland, Mary Schaeffer and Nina Dahl literally gave the Soviets the "red carpet" treatment. In Barrow, Bob Harcharak did a tremendous amount of work in organizing a dinner for more than 150 people.

And in Nome, Anna Walker, Jim Stimpfle and Nancy Mendenhall did much of the work to welcome the three physicians.

Many others deserve credit. We can't even begin to name them all. But we can say that it is truly inspiring to realize that so many people see this program for what it is: a people-to-people exchange that really does offer us a chance to work toward peace.

And, of course, we must not forget that the person who truly deserves much of the credit for all of this happening is Dr. Ted Mala. He has been working for years to unite Siberians and Alaskans.

The beauty of Mala's dream is that it is one we can all share in. All of us will gain by any promotion of cultural exchange, cooperation and peace.

The Tundra Times is 25 Years Old