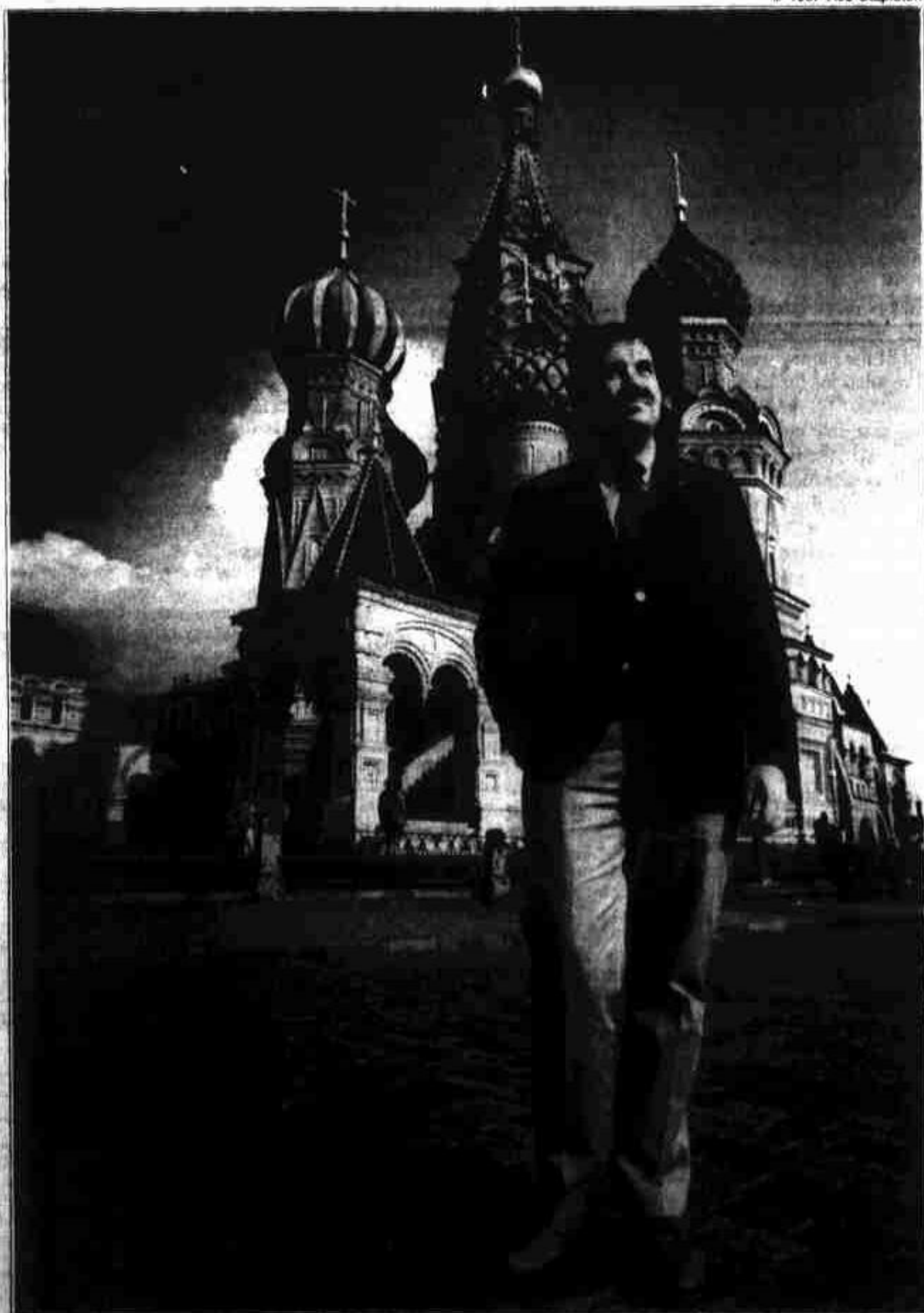


Mala travels to Soviet Union

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Dr. Ted Mala, in Moscow's Red Square, just returned from the Soviet Union. See story and photos, pages 8-9.

UA officials: USSR trip successful

Officials from the University of Alaska have entered the world of international health care relations with the unprecedented Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program, spearheaded by Dr. Ted Mala.

University of Alaska President Donald O'Dowd, Board of Regents President Ann Parrish and Mala returned from a trip to Novosibirsk, Siberia, last week. There they set the groundwork for finalizing a medical exchange agreement between the university and the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Medical Science.

O'Dowd said he was pleased with his meetings with Dr. Yuri Nikitin and other Siberian educators and scientists regarding the University of Alaska-Siberian Medical Exchange Agreement.

"We now know the people involved on both sides and have established mutual trust and open communications," O'Dowd said. "It is now up to professionals and representatives from universities and other research facilities in our country to probe where we are and how we will proceed."

Nikitin will be one of three Soviet medical scientists and physicians visiting Alaska in early October to visit university facilities, meet the medical and research community and sign an agreement that will allow the two private institutions to enter into an educational and research exchange. Previously all such exchanges have been arranged through the govern-

ments of participating nations, Mala said.

"The two academic institutions are eager to exchange people and ideas to learn from the results," Parrish said.

She added that the trip gave Alaskan officials a better understanding of the common interests between the institutions and an opportunity to meet the people who will direct the Siberian portion of the exchange program.

"Dr. O'Dowd and I have a much better understanding of what Dr. Mala has been talking about for years," Parrish added.

"We have laid the foundation for an agreement," Mala said. "The Soviets have been told what we can offer, and they will visit here in October to see first hand what our university and medical community can offer."

"We will then prepare a document to sign on Oct. 10 at the signing celebration at Egan Center."

Accompanying the university officials were freelance photographer Rob Stapleton, whose trip was sponsored by Charter North Hospital; writer Betzi Woodman, sponsored by Reuters News Service; reporter Gerri DeHoog and cameraman Dan Williams, sponsored by KTUU-TV.

The October signing ceremony in Alaska forms the centerpiece of a 13-day visit by three prominent Russian medical educators and administrators to Alaska — Nikitin, a cardiologist and director of the 1,000 bed Institute of Internal Medicine in Novosibirsk; Vladimir Davidenko, a

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cardiologist and physiologist who has done extensive work in Antarctica; and Evgeny N. Starkov, who has taught at the medical school in Novosibirsk.

Nikitin is deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences in Novosibirsk. Davidenko is the scientific secretary of the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine at the academy, and Starkov is the chief scientific secretary assistant head of the External Relations Department of the academy.

The delegation's Alaskan agenda includes three days in Bush Arctic and Interior, where they will meet with health care providers in Kotzebue, Barrow and Buckland. They will spend two days in Fairbanks for a medical symposium at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and then fly to Anchorage for six days of meetings, special events and tours of health care and educational facilities.

On Sunday Oct. 11, the University of Alaska Anchorage Campus Center

will host a Potlatch Sampling, to share Alaska's Native culture with the Siberian guests.

Mala has been working on the exchange for years, and has had extensive contacts throughout the world in order to get it started.

He is currently serving as the secretary general for the International Union for Circumpolar Health, which includes the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada, Iceland, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Finland and Sweden. In conjunction with that assignment, the World Health Organization has expressed interest in designating a university program in circumpolar health as a collaborating center for the World Health Organization.

The mission of the Alaska-Siberian program will be to achieve the policy goals in circumpolar health as established by the WHO and those of the U.S. National Arctic Health Science Policy, within the framework of the University of Alaska's 1986 long-range plan.