

# BIA Social Worker Attends Moscow Meeting

Along with 6,000 other people from throughout the world, Patricia Emstrom went to Moscow last August to attend the International Congress of Psychology. She made the trip from Fairbanks to attend.

"We saw so many interesting things," Patricia said. "One of the things that struck me was the beauty of the country. I always thought it would be drab and forbidding. People were hospitable, courteous, and very helpful to us."

She said that Russia seems to be a land of contradictions. On one hand magnificent restorations of old Russia have been made. These were old cathedrals and palaces.

"And these are open to the Russian public as well as to the visitors who, otherwise, would not have had a chance to see them," Patricia said.

"On the other hand, seemingly endless and monotonous

blocks of identical, crowded apartment buildings can be seen."

Patricia said that black market flourished to a great degree in the Russian capital.

"People will offer to buy the clothes you're wearing and packages you carry," she said. "American dollar on black market, we understood, was selling for three rubles. Perhaps it was the desire of the people to have material things."

The first session of the International Congress of Psychology was held in the Congress of Palaces in Kremlin. It was the first time that an organization was ever invited to that country.

The sudden influx of 6,000 visitors created some problems. Although Russia is welcoming tourists at the present time, it is apparently not quite

ready for wholesale influx of people. To accommodate the visitors created frustration among some of the Moscow residents. This was perhaps due to Premier Stalin's regime when tourism was discouraged.

After the 6,000 visitors, the Soviet city was expecting 10,000 mathematicians who were to hold their world convention.

The ICP convention itself was rewarding according to Patricia Emstrom. She said there seems to be emerging new personal relationship for other peoples of the world among the present population of Moscow at least.

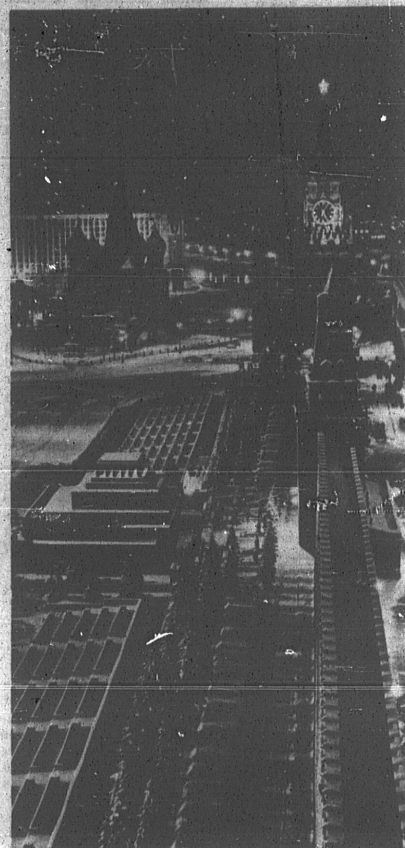
"The thing that surprised the Congress, as far as the intellectual climate was concerned, was what appeared to be the emerging humanism," Patricia pointed out. "This is not to say that the strictly scientific approach is not emphasized but there was a real concern about the factors that go into personality development which makes the person a unique individual."

She said the conferees also encountered a young Russian professor who was concerned about his children. He was concerned about the Soviet pre-school system where children were missing the dynamic emotional inter-action required for sound personality development.

The International Congress of Psychology meets every three years. It is an exchange of anything important that happened in psychology throughout the world.

Patricia Emstrom was born in Portland, Oregon. She attended the Marylhurst College. She did her graduate work at the St. Louis University at St. Louis, Missouri.

She is a social worker for the Bureau of Indian Affairs operating out of the Fairbanks district office of that agency.



MOSCOW SQUARE—Looking elegant and quiet on a winter's night, Moscow Square in Moscow, Russia, belies a turbulent history that has characterized the entire country.