GREEN CRIES FROM RED SQUARE

By Elizabeth Darby Junkin

Moscow is laid out like a target, with roads ringing each section of its history over a thousand years. The innermost ring, the bull's eye, surrounds the Kremlin, fortress of old Russia and the first dream of Moscow, a city of churches and the third See of the Church. The Boulevard, the second ring, surrounds elegant Russia, when its architecture more reflected the western Europe of the 19th century. The few buildings remaining standing from that era reveal that Moscow was indeed a city of colors, as Moscovites claim, each Rîve Gauche-esque home a different shade of blue, pink or yellow pastel. A park full of children, sledding on old-fashioned runner sleds through an ever new glaze of light snow and ice crystals, balances in the middle of the Boulevard like a sash on a fashionable 19th century lady's dress. The third ring, the Garden ring, circumnavigates the industrial 20th century. Here is the architecture of the Soviet Union, the superpower, where bigger is better and industrial grandeur—oxymoron that it is—best describes in smooth-faced stone the birthplace of Communism. The buildings along this ring reveal the cool, stoic, analytic and unemotional progress that befits the nation that is superpower by dint of its scientific concentration and military largess.

A fourth ring is still under construction at this end of this century. A superhighway, it is an ironic symbol of the moment of change and history gripping Moscow, its inhabitants and the country itself. The six-lane highway construction was brought to a halt last year when college students gathered in public protest in front of a 19th century hospital/church complex, a human wall protecting history from the state's wrecking ball. Now it is the superhighway that ends abruptly at the pastel-colored building, with a snake of small, human-sized roads and narrow lanes emerging beyond it. A private visitor to Moscow today is taken on such a tour of each ring of Moscow, not once but many times. Any hour of the day is liable to become a tour, with the giant monuments to the 20th century being pointed out only in passing, but the car or taxi stops at every graveyard, Czar's castle—and at every church.

"We want you to know what has kept our spirits alive all these dark years," says an economist, smiling broadly, her eyes glistening brightly in the sharp cold.

Understanding the plan of Moscow begins to offer explanation for seeming contradictions within Moscovites. When sitting down at a square table for an interview, accomplished and preeminent scientists will warmly and genuinely warn not to place yourself with the corner of the table pointing into you because it will take seven years off your life. Beneath the broad, smoothly impenetrable face of national communism are the rough-hewn features of these individuals, a people of the land, still called peasants by government leaders, scientists, academicians and peasants alike.

A century ago food—or lack of it—was the foundation for war and revolution. What is more important to a people of the land than the crops, the sustenance that the land produces, for the food becomes a symbol of the health of the land, and thus of the country itself. In 1914, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov—Lenin—promised an end to hunger for the people of Russia. He promised power to the people. He promised peace. And he promised land to the people. They've never forgotten.

At the end of the 20th century, the Russian people are demanding these promises be filled, starting with the land. The tinderbox of revolution, the call for land reform, the lack of food supplies and the questionable quality of agricultural produce are notably present on every street corner of the largest country in the world. It is known and said throughout Moscow that some of the meat, milk, butter and in summer, the fresh produce come to the markets of Moscow from lands poisoned by Chernobyl. Groundwater in the grain belt is poisoned by pesticides, mineral fertilizers and salinization from forced-land irrigation projects. Water must be boiled in Leningrad and meningitis is common in children because of a dike-like dam built at the mouth of the Newa River. The raw effluents poured into the river from Leningrad wash back, poisoning the water supply with untreated sewage and industrial waste. Desertification is taking place across the central plain and salt and dust storms are large enough to be mapped spanning thousands of miles. A new Soviet five-year-plan calls for using industrial waste water to irrigate crop fields. Some 365 million hectares (a hectare equals 2.47 acres) of good, arable land are eroding; 130 million hectares of plowed land have lost 20 to 30 percent of the life-giving humus while 51 million hectares have lost up to 40 percent of their humus. The damage to the land from industrialized agriculture is counted in billions of rubles, say agrarian economists. An organic farmer estimates that 1 million hectares are not fit for farming and 3.5 million hectares of forests no longer exist. In another, once rich area, some 500,000 hectares have blown away, the top soil turned to sand and lost.

The traditional Russian saying for such times was, "We wouldn't be happy but for our misfortune." Now the traditional is being replaced with "Every minute another Russian becomes an ecologist."

The cookies and cakes, meats and small sandwiches were laid out carefully on the long, smooth table in the fastidious conference room of the giant, neo-industrial design building. This room was an inner sanctum for the Presidium, the honored guests, attending the First All-Union Conference on Agriculture and Environment in Moscow. Over 500 citizens from all over the Soviet Union traveled to Moscow in November to talk about the state of the most basic foundation of the environmental concern: agriculture, the ability of their land to grow food and necessities. It was the largest independent conference on environment yet held in these early days of Glasnost, sponsored by a fledgling environmental group called the Association for Ecology and Peace.

As the speakers and participants slowly filed back to a packed auditorium, one man remained seated on a chair against the wall in the emptying room. He had waited patiently for over 40 minutes. "Pajalsta . . . please." He opened the sentence quickly and seriously, without compliments or the formalities of introduction, speaking far faster than the interpreter could repeat. "I live in the southern part of the Soviet Union, near Urgench. We grow cotton there. There is no water now. The land is poisoned. Our children are dying. . . ."

He stopped for a moment while the interpreter echoed his words and his emotion, his hunger not for cakes but for knowledge and information he could trust. She seemed almost shocked as she heard her own voice finish his sentence, her voice becoming his voice, his concerns becoming hers. She looked at him intently. He looked at his hands. After a moment of silence, he continued in a whisper. "Do you know of any ways we can grow clean cotton?"

The All-Union Conference on Ecology and Agriculture seemed to offer watershed information to the accumulation of scientists and peasants, collective farmers and environmental organization members who had gathered from around the largest country on earth. The news was all bad. Each speaker revealed ecological situations worse than previously reported. The term used by the distinguished chair of the sponsoring group, Sergei Zalygin, to summarize the findings of the two-day session was simply "Ecological Catastrophe."

"In the past, foodstuffs—as nature—abounded. There was no contamination," Zalygin, a deputy of the People's Congress of the Supreme Soviet, told the packed audience. "We have been poisoning our foodstuffs and the animal kingdom. For 20 or 30 years, populations of breeding animals and fish have decreased as a result of our poisoning the animal kingdom. We have been poisoning humans, too. Human evolution is mainly the result of impacts of man—regarded as a top priority. Foodstuffs, the resources of existence, may become resources of death. In our country long ago, we all lived life in a different way—now being a moment when not only in agriculture but all of life is deteriorating."

Industrial pollution darkens the dawning of Soviet environmental Glasnost.

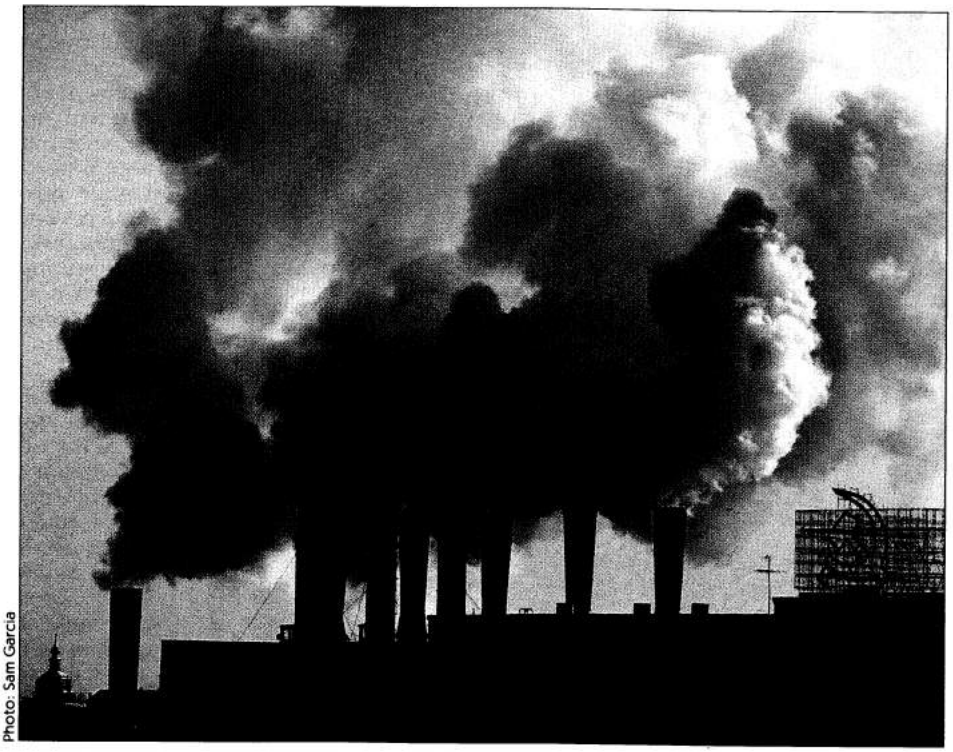

Photo: Sam Garcia

In the Soviet Union exists one-sixth of the arable land of the world. The 1950s and 1960s green revolution in the Soviet Union translated into massive industrialization of agriculture. Under schemes known as "land amelioration," millions of hectares were forced into higher production using aids such as large irrigation projects, widespread and heavy use of mineral fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides. Some of the land was prime growing land and the "amelioration" techniques used to boost production. Other areas, like the arid steppes of Kirghiz, were what might be considered "marginal" lands forced into agricultural production with irrigated water brought thousands of miles and fragile soils "ameliorated" with mineral fertilizers and pesticides.

"It didn't increase output, but decreased soils, increased pollutants and decreased the health of people," economist M. R. Lemeshev told the conferees. "It was all based on tractors and the output of tractors—hundreds of kinds of tractors which destroyed the soils. We have been mining the ecology and it's a menace to humanity. Agriculture is the key product of any country. There can be no flourishing economy without agriculture."

The Ministry of Water Economy and other, mid-level administrations, set out to build 700,000 hectares of irrigation lines—1.5 times the length of the highway system in the Soviet Union—all for irrigation. Despite being first in the world in the amount of fertilizer used, the country fails to meet designated foodstuff production quotas. The new five-year-plans for the 1990s call for still heavier use of fertilizers. "It will destroy all soils and children will starve," said Lemeshev.

"We used the most expensive type of amelioration on good soils, and that should be the last time to use it," noted Dr. Zalygin at the conference. "We built gigantic projects with people in concentration camps; but they were not important for economy or the society but instead destroyed our morality."

Soil and its degradation is the number one environmental problem facing the Soviet Union, asserted Fyodor Morgoun. A little over a year ago Morgoun was named the first chairman of Goskompriroda, the Soviet equivalent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He lost his position during internal political scrambling last summer. An older man with a startling shock of white hair and a simple yet probing manner belying his Ukranian origins, Morgoun believes intently that the future of Perestroika rests in a healthy Soviet agriculture and its ability to meet people's needs. Now out of the political limelight, he speaks quietly and somewhat reluctantly in the quiet of the Presidium room.

Hydropower plants plug many of Russia's great rivers, flooding wilderness areas and altering aquatic habitats.

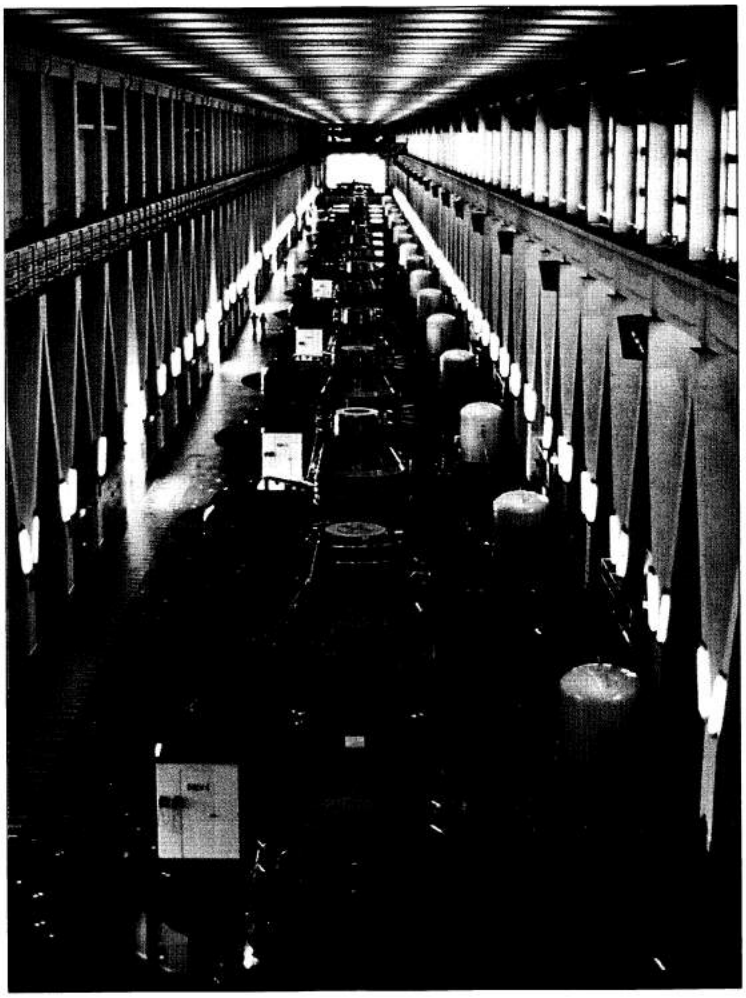

Photo: Dieter Blum/Peter Arnold, Inc.

"Soil is the number one problem globally as well. To most people, the worst problems are water and air pollution—because they can see it and smell it. However, if anyone is unsure, soil pollution is a significant threat to humanity, but not appreciated. Before Perestroika, we knew little about what was going on. When people voice protest on the situation with soil, they were told it's ok, it's healthy. But soil is a living organism. Every year it was decreased through the impact of fertilizers, tractors, etc. . . . We are looking at actual annihilation."

His views were echoed through the conference hall.

"Now they want to recycle water from industry to agricultural land," noted Academician A.L. Yanshin, esteemed elder scientist and past vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. "It's the most terrible thing to be conceived. Three years out, we will turn into a wasteland. This opens up a way for systemic destruction of soil and water. It's not dealt with in the press. Only a few people are concerned with these problems. The future of irrigated land shall bring us to general disaster."

After Chernobyl, the Aral Sea area is probably among the most internationally-known agricultural disaster areas. The groundwater is polluted with mineralized fertilizers and pesticides from cotton cultivation. Contamination of groundwater with organo-chemicals measures 1.5 grams per liter the conference was told. The level of the water in the sea drops 70 meters during the agricultural season and never returns fully to its former level. Wind gusts create salt and sand storms. "We don't see a way out of the situation," noted Vladimir Shoubynkin sadly. He lives in Tushauz near the sea.

The Kuban river valley was known as the Pearl of Russia because it had a favorable climate and was rich in wildlife. It now is spread with more than 125,000 types of pesticides. Yet after spreading 43,000 metric tons of pesticides in the 1970s, the end of the decade saw not a single crop giving a cost-effective yield.

"Everything done well in our country was on individual farms not because of the supreme Soviet system, but in spite of the system. It is the style of life we have been living," Zalygin said.

Agriculture is not the only area of environmental trouble for the Soviet Union, but is at the base of many of the other problems. Of course, air pollution and acid precipitation mar many of the Soviet Union's forests. A recent study revealed that all the cities with populations more than 500,000 and a majority of cities over 100,000 people have dangerously high levels of air pollution. Massive areas of the western Soviet Union are in ecological crises while northern borders of dust storms march across the vast countryside.

Kuzbassa is called an ecological disaster area. Like Louisiana's chemical corridor, the air, groundwater and soils in the Kuzbassa area are contaminated with high amounts of toxins from chemical manufacture and industry.

A large hydropower project along the River Katun area is planned, ruining an area that is potential wilderness/national park and placing into peril three kinds of plants already listed as endangered in the Soviet Union, including two rare orchids. Another hydropower facility has been mentioned in the Altai region and there are apparently many such projects planned.

And there is Chernobyl. The failed nuclear power plant and subsequent meltdown has become a symbol of the power, social endangerment and routine coverups of what the Soviet environmental movement calls the "nuclear mafia." Chernobyl now publicly represents the many projects that haven't been discussed in the press either in the Soviet Union or outside of it. Each month, the scientists of the Association for Ecology and Peace note, Chernobyl is revealed to be ten times worse than they were led to believe the month before.

The news of Chernobyl comes across the nightly television reports. On Thanksgiving evening, dinner was offered by friends. Although they did not know of the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, they offered a feast by average Soviet daily experience, with vegetables and meat, bread and butter, and two homemade desserts in a country that is rationing sugar. The table conversation was joyful and full of

laughter as the details of daily lives and shared concerns were exchanged between the people who were supposed to have been enemies just a couple of years ago. It was the kind of talk that unraveled years of enemy rhetoric and dismantled the wall of fear, all while the television remained on in another room of the small apartment. Then the news came, the broadcaster's voice reporting that an eight-legged colt was born that day in the Chernobyl area. Words were replaced by silence and furtive glances around the table, each human looking physically for an expression of comfort and shared disaster, for something pleasant to say. The nuclear industry was built under the flag of protection from each other. Its cost has been very high. No toasts were offered then, only a sigh and an uncomfortable shift in a chair, or a gulp of sweet red wine. Where the Soviets bury their nuclear waste is a "national secret," the host said, and the Russian people are not told where it is. Indeed, the hosts say, recent building construction in Moscow revealed buried hazardous waste. No one is sure what will turn up where.

The language of the environmental problems facing the Soviet Union are couched not in the diplomatic terms of "challenges" or of "dangers" but in "catastrophes" and "disasters" or, more simply, "We have very many serious problems." For each environmental catastrophe or ecodisaster, a small grassroots organization is popping up. The groups are, for the most part, loose coalitions of concerned individuals who lack the basics of organizing. For the groups that have become "official"—officially approved and recognized by an ever-opening government in the last two years of Glasnost—money is no problem. There is simply nothing to buy with the rubles that will ease communication. Even if accurate information on an ecological danger is obtained, there is little chance of obtaining ample telephone lines or expediting installation of even one telephone line. Xerox machines, readily available stocks of paper, personal computers and word processors are unreachable, although an American franchise of a copy shop has recently opened in Moscow, offering the promise of fax. There is no easy means of reaching the large number of people necessary to create an environmental coalition or a popular force to sway the entrenched bureaucracy.

Even so, coalitions have formed. Public opinion, in a country where public opinion has been recently encouraged but not yet heeded, has leveraged a change in some decisions on the environment. The ecologist that is created each minute in the Soviet Union works from the heart and with a sense of stubbornness and determination that is reminiscent more of an agrarian society than a modern industrial power.

The first murmurings of a national environmental movement began in the 1960s, focused against specific projects, such as an energy power station being built on the Ob River in Siberia. Sergei Zalygin, the Chairman of the Association of Ecology and Peace, was against the project. The construction was successfully obstructed and marks an early environmental achievement. There was opposition mounted to the pulp and paper mill on Lake Baikal, but the mill continued operation. "In the 1960s, only individuals protested," noted Natalya Petrova, an economist and secretary of the Association for Ecology and Peace. "A movement didn't exist."

The Soviet mass environmental movement began in earnest about ten years ago, when a self-described "loose coalition of scientists" gathered to halt a common threat. The Soviet Ministry of Water Economy intended the largest hydraulics of any nation on earth, planning to reverse the direction of northward flowing rivers in Siberia and Central Asia to deliver water to industrial, agricultural and more populated areas in central Asia and the Steppes. Some 3,000 kilometers of canals were planned, taking water from the confluence of the Ob and Irtysh rivers to the Tobol River. The projects were reminiscent of the canals built in the 1950s and 1960s, between the Volga and the Don rivers and across the Fergana, where the water was sent to the Caspian Sea, the Sea of Azov and to Kazakhstan to "make the land fertile."

American scientists were concerned that the redirection of the northern rivers would affect more than just the Soviet Union, but also the Arctic ecosphere. Soviet scientists were warning of "unpredictable consequences" for the Soviet environment. Builders in the Ministry of the Water Economy called the arguments against the diversions "mere emotion," said Natalya Petrova. "They said the country needed foodstuffs. As a result of the projects, scientists and scholars joined and were pulled together. Economists, mathematicians and soil experts tried to establish what other consequences of the projects would be in the politics, economy and government. We sent the materials to the ministry and government in 1986."

Chernobyl left the health of thousands threatened for decades to come.

Photo: Dr. Robert Gale/Sygma

Once again, Sergei Zalygin was among those who opposed the plan. The Gorbachev administration in the Supreme Soviet made the decision in 1987 to halt the project—at least for the time being. The victory marked "the beginning of Perestroika in reality, not just in words," said Ludmila Zelikina, a mathematician and officer of the association. "When the projects were sustained, we were happy and thought we beat them. We thought it was the first victory over the water economy mafia." It was the beginning of environmental organizing and of successes but also of a taste of the basics in environmental compromise.

"We also demanded that they remove those who would so endanger the ecology of the country," continued Ludmila Zelikina with a concerned and baffled note in her voice. "But they were not beheaded. Now they are trying to build a trade canal on the Volga. The project has already cost 4 billion rubles and will affect 500,000 people. It's just a waste of money. If people put that money in a hole, they could be found guilty of treason. They are just throwing it away."

There was no point for a movement before Glasnost and Perestroika, mostly because group assemblies were illegal. In

the last two years the environmental movement has come of age. The number of environmental groups in the Soviet Union has grown rapidly. Among the early individuals fighting for the environment in the 1960s, was Svjatoslav Zabelin, who helped in creating the Nature Guard in 1968. Now he heads the Ecological Union, the "activist arm" of the Association for Ecology and Peace, and has an alliance of 1,000 small organizations but representing 1 million people throughout the Soviet Union.

In a richly wood paneled hallway of an older, graceful building, women in their 50s and 60s ambled on bowed legs under heavy skirts. They wore shawls and thick tights, and in groups of two, put their entire and ample weight into lifting a heavy box of written materials prepared for the conference. Older men in heavy wool, dark suits scrambled to open doors and lead the way for them. These were the volunteers of the Association for Ecology and Peace who enabled the fledgling group to hold the conference without asking its parent sponsor for any additional funds. The scientists that joined to stop the reversing of the rivers saw other problems and decided to create a formal organization, supported at first by the Soviet Peace Fund which became legal under Perestroika. They awaited final approval of their budget, the mark of "legalization," while using the conference to prove that they are "more than just an activist group," Natalya Petrova, says proudly. "We don't have time for actions like Greenpeace."

Round-the-clock industrialization of Soviet agriculture threatens croplands.

Photo: Tass/Sovfoto

The Association for Ecology and Peace has only 100 members. "We aren't very nice—we only accept as members those people who have already done something for the ecological movement," said economist and group organizer Ludmila Popova. "We have hills of letters in which organizations want to become members but we have only accepted ten as associate members. We want to have people who work more than cry." The group will concentrate on agriculture because it is the "number one problem in the country" but also nuclear power and energy problems.

The need for hard currency in the country has raised another threat. The lucrative possibilities of joint ventures with western industries has created a willingness by industrial interests to start groups that masquerade as "environmentalists." For the members of the association and other like-minded environmental groups, it is a rude awakening to divergent voices trying to woo a constituency where previously only Big Brother mandated what was safe for the people. "We have a big file on statesmen who are not in an ecological way of thinking," warns Ludmila Popova. But files are not enough. "This is a dangerous situation because of the need for hard currency," said Petrova. "Scientists among some so-called environmental groups will sign any conclusion, obtain the status of public organizations, then the people believe them."

The conclusion of the First All-Union Conference was, if anything, a collective plea. Solve the agricultural situation in the Soviet Union, the gathering of scientists said. It was a plea, now familiar in the United States, for "clean products": organic, nonlethal, nondamaging means of producing food and cotton. The arguments offered against "clean" products were familiar as well—organics will cost too much; production will decrease. Such organic, simple methodologies are not the way of a modern, industrial society. But the speakers responded with science and economics—and criticism of the political system that has brought them to the brink of this "ecological catastrophe."

After presentation of the papers, the floor was opened up for discussion. Although vociferous, the shouting and grabbing of microphones was no more lively than any other Soviet public conference or even of the debate on the floor of the People's Congress of the Supreme Soviet, which is broadcast on radio. But the debate had the ring of revolution in it.

"We should speak about social and political problems as well as environmental" one respondent demanded during public discussion. "The existing economic and legal mechanization is the number one enemy of environment and of us, too. We have no social order that already exists for development of these changes. Goskompriroda? No, they don't do it. The Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union? No. The Academy of Sciences? I worked for them and unfortunately they are not interested in working on such developments. Ecology is not regarded as the dear daughter of science. The Supreme Soviet and elevated local authorities will not do it. But time is pressing. We will see even agriculture has created a situation where it is dangerous to live in certain areas. It will rely on the public to do these things. . . ."

Another economist, Alexander Petrovich Berdechin, noted that the "revolutionary peasant was supposed to produce one food unit and spend 1/20 of an energy unit." But by current production methods, he said, "90 percent of costs go to [environmental] destruction, and only 10 percent goes to produce what we consume and need. We only get one percent of that and the rest goes to nothing. That's why we have shelves with no products."

"Time and again, we are critical of bureaucratic departments using technology rather than brains," said another speaker from the floor. "It is different to change the situation and wanting to change the state of the state."

The floor of the conference hall was buzzing with people practically running for the microphones to contribute to discussion.

"People who do not know what they are talking about should be outlawed from making decisions."

"That's the bureaucrats."

"Peasants shouldn't decide which mineral fertilizers to use."

"They are all in it together—special interests of bureaucrats and local authorities—they hurt the land and poison us."

Then the idea came up again. "An owner of the land will care the most about it." It is the discussion of land reform, that only those who own the land will care about it, that caused the greatest amount of shouting—in agreement.

Two years ago, this discussion was unstated and unheard. Today it is simply unbelievable. "It was not useful to have such a discussion," said Svjatoslav Zabelin of the Ecological Union. "Nothing would change then. Now citizens are beginning to understand about health and population and about infant health. We are trying to offer constructive action, like alternative projects, to the country. We must have a dialogue, but we fear this as well. Our goals are the same—in rubles, in rights, and in the same fear."

Finally it was time to read the resolutions of the conference, drafted by a volunteer committee. The conclusions would be presented not to Goskompriroda, but to the Environmental Committee of the Supreme Soviet. A gentleman of the drafting committee took to the podium to read the document and the audience fell silent.

"The current system of land management has led our country to ecological catastrophe. The critical ecological situation has resulted in low living standards, food problems and social tensions. The ecological situation, tied with social inequities, has brought us to a nonrational society in the use of agriculture. Increases in the use of chemical fertilizers have increased the toxicity, both into surface soil and groundwater and further into food products. This stimulates growth of diseases and of children who are born with problems. Activities of the Ministry of Water Economy has led to salinization, flooding and degradation. This has brought blight to the land and to the health of the people, but there are no juridical laws which would determine the responsibility for the damage to Nature . . . ."

The reading of the document continued, demanding establishment of laws defining punishment for "ecological crimes." They demanded establishment of a system of oversight and of responsibility for damaging the environment. The words were strong, but sentiment was stronger. An immediate rewrite was called for that would include stronger language and demands. "Look, I am not responsible for the writing of the document," said the reader, shifting uncomfortably behind the microphone. "I shouldn't have to stand here as if I am guilty and listen to the criticism." He was given permission to take his seat again, while the discussion continued on.

Finally, Academician Yanshin, respected and eminent scientist, gingerly took the floor to offer resolution. "The time has come when people are being heeded." His voice shook. "The environmental movement has radically grown and wants radical changes. There is a lot still to be done with red tape in the Committee, but I believe that each of the members of this conference, when they go back to their farms and institutes, will popularize the ecological ideas put forth here. We will agree that those criminals who argue against the farms producing in clean methods are against the well-being of the country."

They are only words. But they are green words in Red Square. It is the stuff of a new resolve and of a new, green revolution in the Soviet Union. As the snow drifted softly in a Moscow winter and ice etched the tree limbs against the grey sky, the boisterous scene shook and rattled. But like the ice crystals, it seemed delicate and fragile.

The ecologists hold up two fingers, creating an X in mid-air. This, not the V-sign of two fingers held up in victory or peace, is the most popular explanation for the sluggish governmental change. "This is our system," physicist Alexander Mischenko said quietly, holding up the X. "At the top the leaders and at the bottom the people—both want to work, and want changes to come. In the middle, stopping it, are the bureaucrats." The bureaucrats in the middle, represented by the closely closed juncture of crossed fingers, have the most to lose.

"Don't be disheartened," Lenin is quoted as saying in another "dark era" of counter-revolution, "these dark days will pass, the muddy wave will ebb away; a few years will pass and we shall be borne on the crest of the wave, and the proletarian revolution will be born again." For the first time since the revolution began, a revolutionary patriot is again defined as a person who wants change—this time to change the massive bureaucracy, to open what became a closed system, to offer peace to the people, to protect the environment—so the crops will grow.

Ice crystals form overnight on tree limbs in a Moscow winter, only to evaporate almost unnoticeably the next day with the ambient change in the city. Cold and hard, they are also fragile. How quickly the ability to congregate and to question, to discuss and to demand change could evaporate. The conditions for environmental change are as precarious. It seems the dark days are over, or so the people assure a foreigner. This time the people may get their land. And the fourth ring around Moscow may never be finished, the triumph of a pastel building of the past being reserved as part of a park for the people.

Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake, is threatened by the severe pollution of pulp and paper mill effluents.

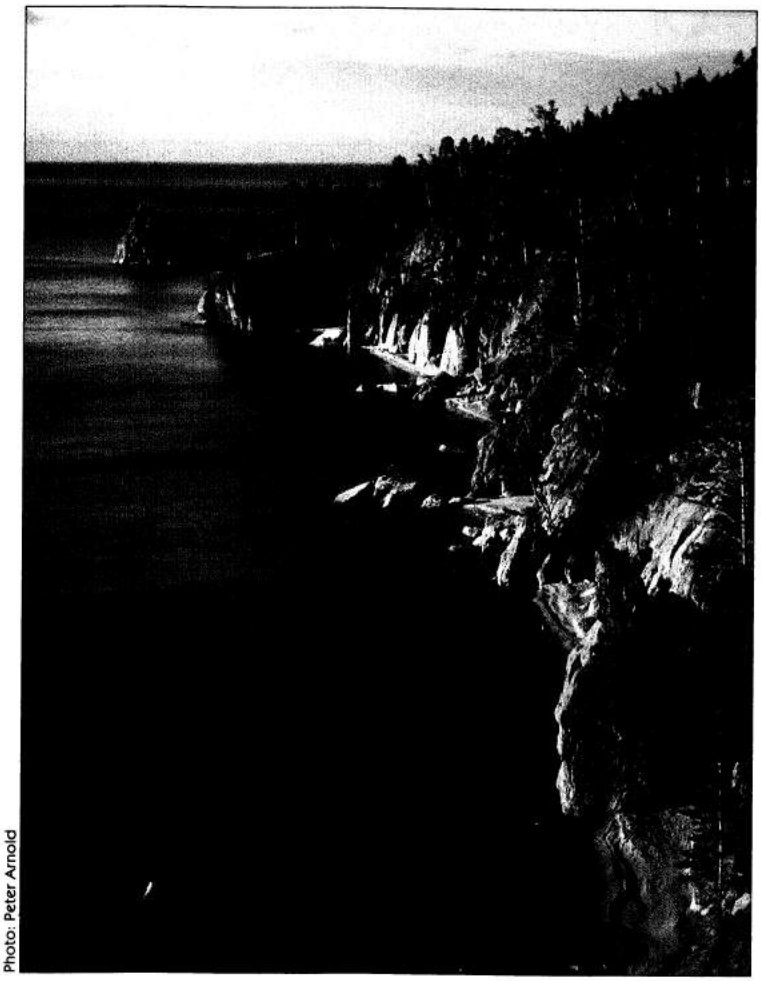

Photo: Peter Arnold

Elizabeth Darby Junkin is managing editor of BUZZWORM.

For further information on Soviet environmentalism, contact the following organizations:

Association for Ecology and Peace
103051 Neglinnaya St., 21
Moscow, USSR

Organization for Soviet American Exchanges (OASES)
1302 R St., NW
Washington, DC 20009

For further reading on the Soviet Union, consult the following books:

A History of Russia
George Vernadsky
Yale University Press, 6th ed. 1969

The Lenin Anthology
Robert C. Tucker, Ed.
W. W. Norton & Co., 1975