

Soviet Student Peace Contribution

by Alexander Lunkov, Chairman of the Soviet Union of Students.

The USSR student council maintains business contacts with all national unions of students existing in more than 130 countries and with regional and international organizations of students, including associations of students—communists—socialists, liberals, radicals, conservatives, and religious.

Last June, Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia, a constituent republic in the West of the Soviet Union, was a venue of the 19th European student meeting. For the first time in the history of these meetings, it was attended by representatives of ultra-rightwing students of Europe and by national unions of students occupying conservative positions. The recognition by all European national unions of students of the fact that defence of peace and the prevention of a new war are the main tasks today, provide the principle basis on which our forces united. This enabled the 19th meeting to adopt an appeal of the European students to the UN. It said in part, "We demand effective and urgent measures in all

spheres to stop the arms race, to carry out disarmament, to create denuclearized zones and abolish nuclear weapons in Europe, both medium range and tactical... Let money be spent on the needs of education, not on armaments!

Such is the programme of student actions for peace. The Soviet students organized campaigns of solidarity with the young people of Chile, Salvador, and Lebanon. The students take part in Subbotniks and Voskresniks and

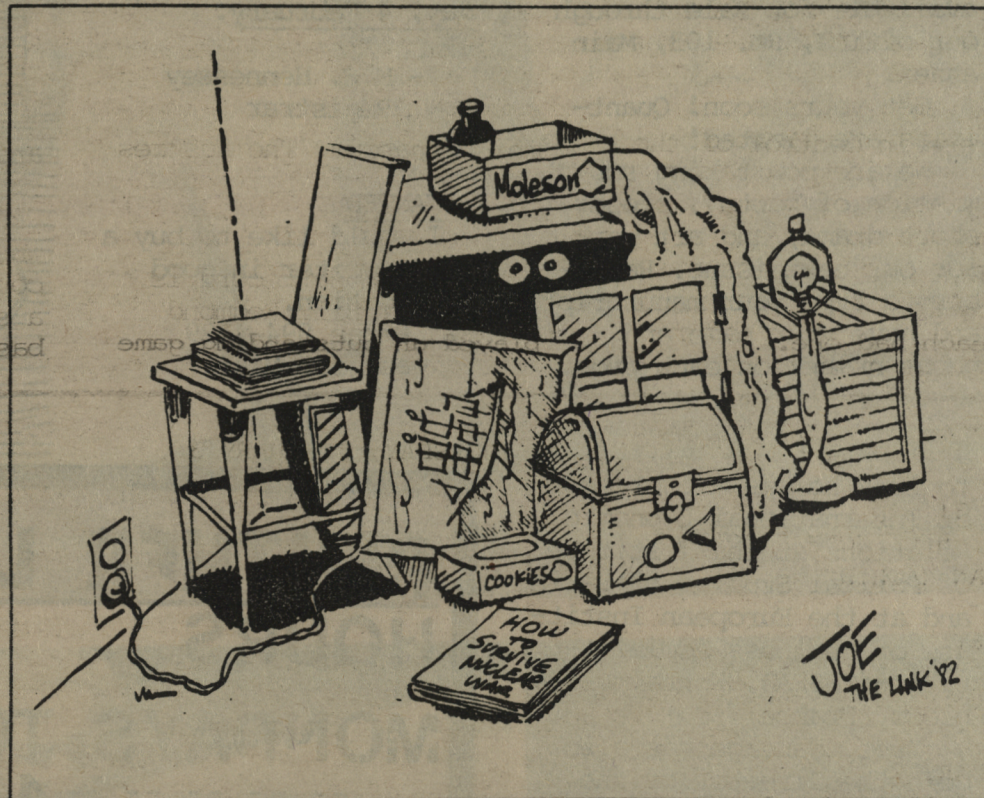
send the money thus earned to the Soviet Peace fund and to the fund of Solidarity action with the peoples fighting for their independence. The students took part in collecting money for so-called "ships of solidarity"—ships which carried textbooks, writing materials and sports equipment as a gift to the young people of Vietnam, Nicaragua and other countries.

The Soviet students took an active part in such large scale actions of the international student movement as

the world forum of young people and students for peace, detente and disarmament/ Helsinki, 1981' and the campaign organized by the International Union of Students—Students for Disarmament, "No! to the Neutron Bomb", and "No! to Pershings-2 and Cruise Missiles in Europe".

Speaking at the recent 19th Congress of the Young Communist League of the Soviet Union in Moscow, the IUS President said: "Your successes are a remarkable contribution to the common cause in the struggle of young people and students for peace, democracy and social progress. Many initiatives, supported by the IUS, were born here in the USSR.

As the head of the USSR Student Council, I can say that in the future we shall try to make the contribution of Soviet students to the international study movement for peace much weightier. Today we are preparing for a forum on questions concerning the social position of students in society to be held in Helsinki forum is being worked out now—at anti-war meetings in many educational institutions of the country.



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- Joey Murphy
alumnus '77