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**Gorbachev's tributes
to Nicholas Roerich**

MOSCOW, May 15.

The Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, has in a tribute to philosopher-artist Nicholas Roerich and his sons, Indologist Yuri and painter Svyatoslav, said that "the first sprouts of friendship" between India and USSR are associated with them.

He made these remarks when he and his wife Raisa, received Mr. Svyatoslav Roerich, Russia-born Indian citizen, and his wife, actress Devika Rani, in the Kremlin.

Mr. Gorbachev greeted the renowned painter, with the words: "Meeting you has long been our dream."

The Roerich family left the Soviet Union for West before the 1917 revolution and settled down in India in 1930. Nicholas Roerich died in Kulu in 1947. Yuri Roerich returned to the Soviet Union in 1957 where he died after long years of work as an orientalist.

Mr. Svyatoslav Roerich married Devika Rani in 1945, opted for Indian citizenship and settled down in Bangalore where he was actively associated with the Chitra Kala Parishad.

Mr. Gorbachev told Mr. Svyatoslav Roerich that Soviet people preserve, with profound gratitude, the memory of Nicholas Roerich whose paintings and educational activities served to bring the spiritual cultures of the Soviet Union and India closer and affirmed humanism in world culture.

They had wide-ranging talks on the role and place of cultural workers in the world today and on their influence in promoting the ideals of humanism, friendship and cooperation among nations, a Kremlin communique says.—PTI

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Roerich meets Gorbachev

MOSCOW, May 15. (UNI) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa met a prominent Soviet artist Svyatoslav Roerich settled in Bangalore, reports Tass.

Mr. Roerich the son of well-known Russian artist Nikolai Roerich and an honorary member of the Soviet Academy of Fine Arts, is presently visiting the Soviet Union with his wife Devika Rani at the invitation of the Academy.

The meeting on Thursday between the Soviet first couple and the artist and his wife was an informal one, the conversation ranging from the role of cultural workers in the present-day world to strengthening Indo-Soviet cultural relations.

Mr. Roerich has contributed tremendously in promoting Indo-Soviet cultural co-operation and most of his paintings centre around this theme.

Indo - Soviet talks to ensure peace'

MOSCOW, November 24 (PTI):

PRAVDA has said the New Delhi summit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and general secretary Mikhail Gorbachov "will be of major importance for ensuring peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region and for removing the threat of a nuclear war on the globe".

In the course of a commentary on Soviet foreign policy, the international observer of the Soviet daily said the visit will make a weighty contribution to the implementation of the "peaceful Leninist policy" of the Soviet communist party and state.

Mr Boris Averchenko observed: 'the Soviet people unanimously approve of the foreign policy activity of our party and support the course of developing further good relations' with India.

Mr Averchenko assured Soviet readers that the Indian public too looks forward to the visit with great interest, believing it will serve the common cause of fostering and broadening co-operation between the two friendly nations.

NEW IMPETUS

Pravda featured an interview with Russia-born Indian artist Svyatoslav Roerich who says the visit by the "farsighted, bold and energetic leader who has won immense international authority" to India will have historic consequences.

Interviewed in Bangalore where he has settled down with his wife, cine artiste Devika Rani, Mr Roerich declares that the visit will give a new and enormous impetus to Soviet-Indian relations and to international relations as a whole.

Mr Roerich, son of Russian mystic-painter Nicholas Roerich, who spent his last years in India, told *Pravda* correspondent Oleg Kitsenko that India and the Soviet Union struggle shoulder to shoulder to save mankind from the threat of death in a nuclear conflagration.

Mr Roerich, whose portrait of Jawaharlal Nehru adorns the Central hall of Parliament, expressed pleasure that Mr Gorbachov allots a great place for cultural personalities in the struggle against the war threat.

He recalled the words of Mr Gor-

bachov recently to a group of intellectuals who visited him in the Kremlin that none of the culture workers can remain on the sidelines at this juncture when all efforts must be made to save the human civilisation.

Sovyetskaya Rossia, the prestigious Moscow newspaper, said the visit is of tremendous political significance because mutual top-level visits have an immense role in drawing Soviet Union and India together ever closer and deepen their friendship.

Each visit gives a powerful impetus to mutually advantageous ties and helps consolidate forces advocating stronger international security.

SOVIET UNION



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ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

Founded by Maxim Gorky in 1930 as USSR IN CONSTRUCTION, Renamed in 1950. Published in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, Finnish, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese

SVYATOSLAV ROERIKH IN MOSCOW

World-famous artist Svyatoslav Roerikh, who lives in India, visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Academy of Art. Svyatoslav Roerikh is an Honorary Member of the USSR Academy of Art, a holder of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award, the Soviet Order of the Friendship Among Peoples and Padma Bhushan Order—the highest civil distinction in India.

In Moscow Roerikh and his wife Devika Rani met with Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his wife Raisa Gorbacheva. They had an enthusiastic exchange of opinions about the impact of artists on the education of humanism, and development of friendship and cooperation among nations.

"If we think back on the beginnings of Soviet-Indian relations we can see that the Roerikhs helped promote Soviet-Indian friendship," said Mikhail Gorbachev during the meeting. The general secretary went on to say that Svyatoslav Roerikh, who has for years been carrying on his father's pioneering efforts, has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening Soviet-Indian cultural ties.

In Moscow Roerikh was interviewed by a Soviet Union correspondent.

The Soviet Union cherishes the memory of Nikolai Roerikh, the founder of the Convention on the Protection of Art during Armed conflict, which is informally known as the Roerikh Convention. Roerikh's name has become a symbol of Soviet-Indian cultural cooperation and unity. An album "From the Altai to the Himalayas" was recently published by Planeta. It was compiled by the outstanding Soviet Indologist, Jawaharlal Nehru Award recipient Ludmila Shaposhnikova, who, using Roerikh's diaries, retraced his Central Asian expedition. One of the aims of Nikolai Roerikh's expedition was to find common sources of Indian and Slav cultures.

Nikolai Roerikh used to say that spiritual values and cultural heritage cannot and should not belong to just one country or nation—they are international achievements of the whole humankind. My father saw the Peace Pact which he proposed to all states of the world as an agreement of great practical and educational value.

I have always encouraged and supported all joint Soviet-Indian projects. Due to the geographical closeness of the two countries in Asia these projects take on a special importance internationally. Let's try to build successful bridges of cooperation via culture, arts and science. The forthcoming launch of an Indian satellite from a Soviet launch site is an important part of this work. We hope this will lead us to new discoveries: for what surrounds us is truly limitless as limitless are our powers.

The Indian Space Centre is not far from your home in Bangalore, where you set up a special Arts Centre.

The Indian Arts Centre was set up ten years ago. Now it is an integral part of our life and does not need any special promotion to boost its popularity. Equally popular today is the local arts school. I took part in its creation and now give a lot of attention to its development. The school aims at working out ways to bring up a more perfect generation of people.

We often receive teachers from other countries, among them colleagues from the Soviet Union. At present we are thinking of sending our pupils over to the USSR on an exchange programme. This will be especially valuable now that the revolutionary changes in your country are opening up new prospects for the moral and creative edification of each individual and providing a reliable basis for the rapid progress of all of society. I set this as the highest expression of humanism, a conscious action in the name of love for people.



Mikhail Gorbachev meets Svyatoslav Roerikh

We know that you took part in the setting up of a Nikolai Roerikh Museum which recently opened at the Roerikh estate in the village of Izvara not far from Leningrad.

Yes. A lot of people from the museum came to me to discuss what it should be like. I was happy to add a few things to the museum's collection. My father worked for bringing peoples together, he dreamed of supra-national human values that transcend state frontiers. His dedication to culture, humanistic ideals, understanding and peace are especially vital today. I know it, I feel it with all my being, and I try to live to be worthy of his ideals, not only in art but in everyday life."

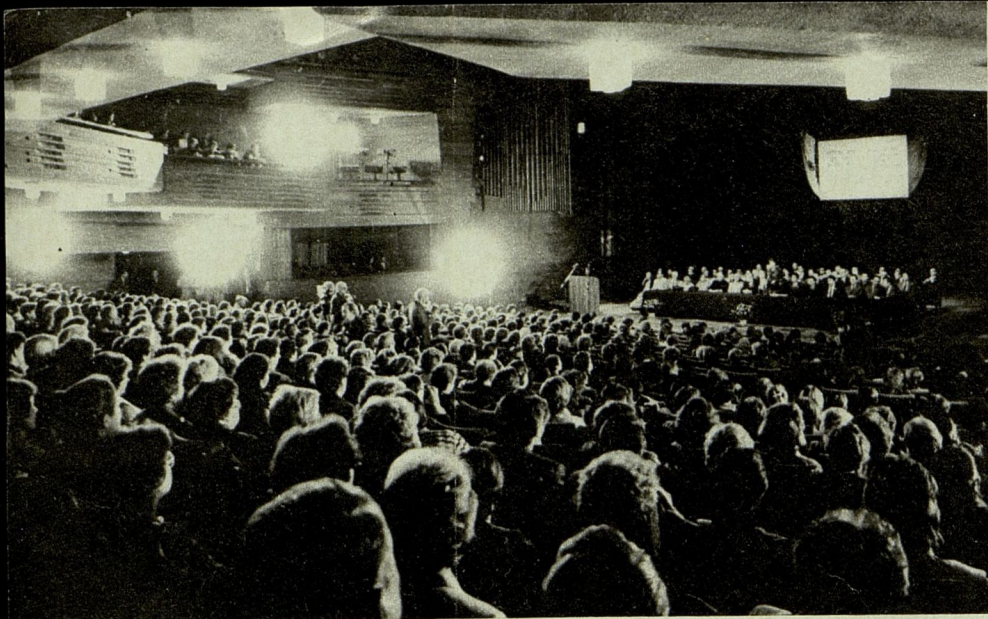
When nazi Germany invaded Russia, your brother Yuri and you sent a letter to the Soviet Ambassador in London asking to let you join the Soviet Army as volunteers. Our country also remembers that during the hard devastating years of the Great Patriotic War you raised money from special Roerikh exhibitions for aid to the Soviet Union. And in 1942, at your invitation Jawaharlal Nehru, the leader of the Indian National liberation movement, came to meet your father at his home in the Kulu Valley. The Soviet Union won the war, India gained its independence. This summer there will be an India Festival in the USSR and a USSR Festival in India—events that once again demonstrate the close, unshakable

ties of friendship that flourish between our two countries. What would you like to wish the thousands of participants in the forthcoming festivals?

I am pleased to see such stable and promising Soviet-Indian contacts. I wish the participants successful spiritual communication and hope to see such spill over into all spheres of life.

The festivals have a stable and sound basis. Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India last year and his talks with the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi helped to further friendship and understanding between the Soviet and Indian peoples. I was very happy to meet Mikhail Gorbachev and I am sure that his ideas are exactly what your country needs at the moment. I read many of his statements and they show much wisdom and breadth of thought.

There is much more to life than meets the eye. There are steep climbs and formidable hurdles. But every step, every sign of progress depends on overcoming the hurdles and problems you meet along the way. Nowadays no artist can simply stand on the sidelines and watch the efforts made to bring nations together and save civilisation. This is the message contained in all my paintings—especially my latest triptych, which was exhibited at the Academy of Art in Moscow. It examines the greatest issue of our time—the issue of war and peace.



A LOFTY ANNIVERSARY

Prominent state and public figures, ministry and department officials, and Indian guests took part in a gala meeting in Moscow. The gathering was dedicated to the 40th anniversary of India's independence and the 16th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between our countries. The participants in the meeting stressed that the four decades of India's independence were also decades of large-scale development of all-embracing Soviet-Indian relations. The Soviet

Union's peaceful policy aimed at strengthening peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region was highly appraised in the speeches of Shankar Dayal Sharma, Governor of the Maharashtra state and head of the delegation of veterans of India's national-liberation movement, Nawal Kishore Sharma, head of the delegation of the Friends of the Soviet Union Society and General Secretary of the Indian National Congress (I), and T.N.Kaul, India's Ambassador to the USSR.



Yash Pal (at right)

"WHAT WE BELIEVE"

This was the heading of the final document adopted by the participants of the Seventh World Congress International Physicians For the Prevention of Nuclear War that was recently held in Moscow. This document is a call for peace expressed in succinct form. "Since there could be no cure for a nuclear war, we felt it was our duty to prevent it. ...We concentrated on activities which addressed a common peril," says the physicians' statement.

The participants of the Congress, irrespective of their political differences, came to a unanimous conclusion that they cannot remain passive bystanders when the life and health of billions of people is at stake. The Congress gave us a chance to develop a common attitude towards the problem at hand, said Chairman of the New Delhi's University Grants Commission Yash Pal who participated in the Moscow forum. I am not a doctor, but it is gratifying that doctors from all over the world have gathered in Moscow. Why am I saying this? As is known, doctors in the West are the elite of the society. High salaries allow them to live quite comfortably. The very fact that these people came to the Moscow Congress speaks very well for them. This means that many physicians consider personal well-being to be of secondary importance when compared to the problem of human survival in the nuclear age. But don't think that I questioned the moral and civic qualities of these people; it was just satisfying to know that something I had taken for granted was in fact confirmed.

Members of India's delegation to the Congress



GUEST OPINION

"NO LACK OF FRIENDS"

"Though the problems now confronting the non-aligned movement are not new they are still serious. The most serious one is the survival of mankind. We cannot view it as separate from other problems such as disarmament, elimination of nuclear stockpiles and opposition to the 'star wars' plans", said Dr. Govind Narain Srivastava, General Secretary of the Indian Institute of Non-Aligned Studies, just before he left Moscow. He had come to the USSR to meet with the representatives of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

"Another paramount task," the guest went on to say, "is assisting those peoples fighting for national independence and subjected to pressure or downright imperialist aggression. We are also seeking to



help remove all hotbeds of armed conflict. In particular, we are promoting efforts to bring about a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

"While in the Soviet Union I became convinced once again that the Soviet people have a profound understanding of the aims and tasks of the non-aligned movement and are guided by the same principles of humanism. Cooperation among all progressive forces is especially important today. Therefore, I was greatly impressed by the efforts of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to render moral support to liberation movements and mobilise public opinion: I saw that there is no lack of supporters and friends of the non-aligned movement in Soviet society."

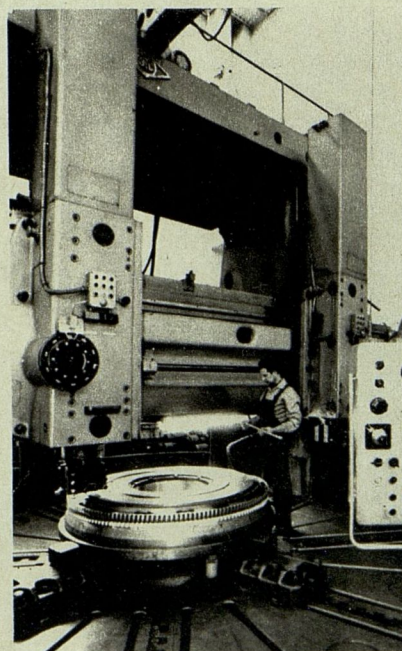
MACHINE TOOLS FROM KOLOMNA

The Kolomna heavy engineering plant, one of the leading enterprises of the Soviet machine-tool industry, sits on the high bank of the Oka, in the old Russian town of Kolomna. It manufactures unique metal-cutting machines and super-powerful presses. Its products are known in 40 countries around the world, including the USA, Japan, Britain and West Germany. India is a major importer of equipment from Kolomna. In the past decade alone 20 machine tools were delivered to that country.

"This figure may seem insignificant to those who are not familiar

with our products," says Nikolai Lobanov, general director of the plant. "It is different with specialists: they know that each vertical boring and turning machine and press-forging machine is a structure as high as a three-storey house weighing several hundred tons. Understandably enough, its productive capabilities are equally large. For example, such machine tools allow parts up to 25m in diameter to be machined, with all the operations being fully mechanised. They are all tape-controlled. Our products compare favourably on the world market because of their high reliability. According to experts, the machine tools manufactured today can operate efficiently for several decades."

The enterprise began its fruitful cooperation with Indian state organisations nearly a quarter of a century ago. Specialists from Kolomna have repeatedly gone to that country to install unique equipment and to train personnel. Indian engineers and workers are also frequent visitors to Kolomna. They say that the Kolomna giants have shown themselves to advantage in India. At present, the workers are fulfilling another order from their Indian friends; once again they will confirm their high workmanship.



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Во время встречи.

Фото Ю. Лизунова и А. Чумичева (ТАСС).

Дружеская встреча

14 мая М. С. Горбачев и Р. М. Горбачева имели дружескую встречу с известным художником и видным общественным деятелем, почетным членом Академии художеств СССР С. Н. Рерихом и его супругой Девикой Рани. С. Н. Рерих, который живет и работает в Индии (Бангалор), находится в Советском Союзе в качестве гостя Академии художеств СССР.

Состоялся широкий и заинтересованный разговор о роли и месте деятелей культуры в современном мире, об их влиянии на формирование идеалов гуманизма, дружбы и сотрудничества между народами.

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Индию, переговоры с премьер-министром Р. Ганди оставили глубокий след в сознании широких политических и общественных кругов Индии, индийской интеллигенции, способствовали укреплению дружбы и взаимопонимания между индийским и советским народами.

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(ТАСС).

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Мерз



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“Правда”
15 мая 1987

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ДРУЖЕСКАЯ ВСТРЕЧА

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