

DNBX 16

FAN-KIDS-FILM;1ST LD WRITETHRU;640

FLASERPHOTO 001

FEEDS: UPDATES WITH CHANGES; COLOR FROM PROGRAM

LKI

FBI LAURINDA KEYS

F ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN DIEGO (AP) - THREE HUNDRED CHILDREN; ARMED WITH BALLOONS AND CONFETTI; GATHERED IN STUDIOS IN MOSCOW AND SAN DIEGO WEDNESDAY AND WATCHED EACH OTHER WATCHING FILMS TOGETHER BY SIMULTANEOUS SATELLITE VIDEOCAST.

IT WAS 9:35 P.M. IN MOSCOW; AND THE 200 CHILDREN THERE HAD BEEN PARTYING FOR TWO HOURS AS THEY CELEBRATED THE END OF THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL.

IT WAS 10:35 A.M. ON THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUS; AND 1005 KIDS WHO WERE ROUNDED UP VIRTUALLY AT THE LAST MINUTE; WERE PLOPPED DOWN ON PILLOWS AND RUGS IN A RECITAL HALL.

SOVIET JOURNALIST VLADIMIR POZNER AND UCSD COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSOR MICHAEL COLE HAD ONLY ONE MONTH TO PLAN THE ENCOUNTER; TALK FILMMAKERS INTO COMING; EDIT SOME SEGMENTS FROM CHILDREN'S MOVIES AND WORK OUT A SCRIPT.

UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES; THEY DIDN'T EXPECT EVERYTHING TO GO RIGHT. AND IT DIDN'T. BUT THE IDEA; SAID SHANTA HERZOG OF THE AMERICAN CENTER OF FILM FOR CHILDREN; WAS TO "SHOW THESE CHILDREN THEY CAN COMMUNICATE AND MEET OVER MANY COMMON GROUNDS."

POZNER WAS DELAYED IN INTRODUCING THE FIRST SOVIET FILMMAKER BECAUSE SOME GIRLS IN LACY BLUE AND WHITE ETHNIC COSTUMES WOULDN'T STOP DANCING ON THE STAGE IN MOSCOW.

THERE WASN'T TIME TO DO AN ACROSS-THE-WORLD PANTOMIME DANCE THAT THE SOVIET CHILDREN PLANNED; AND INSTEAD OF JOINING IN AN EASY; REPETITIVE SONG THE AMERICAN CHILDREN HAD BEEN REHEARSING; THE SOVIET KIDS SURPRISED EVERYONE BY BREAKING INTO A RENAISSANCE OF "DO-RE-ME;" FROM "THE SOUND OF MUSIC."

OFTEN; THE QUESTIONS THE CHILDREN IN ONE COUNTRY ASKED OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS WENT UNANSWERED; BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES; OR THE PRESS OF TIME.

BUT SOMEHOW; THE MESSAGE GOT THROUGH.

AFTER SEEING AN AMERICAN FILM ABOUT A CURIOUS MONKEY AND AN ANIMATED VERSION OF A SOVIET WINNIE THE POOH; ONE BESPECTACLED BOY IN MOSCOW VOLUNTEERED: "IN THE SOVIET UNION; WE LOVE ANIMALS. ALMOST EVERY FAMILY HAS SOME PET; PERHAPS A DOG OR PARROT. NOW THAT TEACHES KINDNESS. DO YOU LIKE ANIMALS?"

ABOUT A DOZEN OF THE AMERICAN KIDS; OBVIOUSLY WARNING TO THE SUBJECT OF ANIMALS; RAISED THEIR HANDS TO RESPOND TO THIS JUVENILE ATTEMPT AT INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

BUT COLE ANSWERED: "YES; WE LIKE ANIMALS;" AND WENT ON TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED SEGMENT.

THE POINT WASN'T LOST HOWEVER. AFTER THE FILM CLIPS; AND THE EXPLANATIONS FROM THEIR CREATORS; THE SINGING AND CELEBRATING WERE OVER; LISA YARGAS; 11; OF LA JOLLA; CONCLUDED: "I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED NICE. THEY WANTED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH US. THEY SAID THEY LIKED ANIMALS; AND I DO TOO."

MARC LAITIN; 9; OF SAN DIEGO; WAS LUCKY. HE WAS SITTING IN THE FRONT ROW AND GOT TO GIVE HIS OPINIONS TO THE SOVIET FILMMAKERS; WHO LISTENED TO HIM FROM 11,000 MILES AWAY.

"I THOUGHT IT WAS SCARY AND I LIKE SCARY MOVIES;" HE COMMENTED ON ALEXANDER METTA'S FAIRY TALE ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD THE POWER TO ATTRACT GOLD TO HIM.

AFTER SEEING A CLIP FROM METTA'S FILM AND FROM SHELLEY DUVALL'S PRODUCTION OF "SLEEPING BEAUTY;" FOR CABLE TELEVISION'S FAIRY TALE THEATER; A SOVIET BOY COMMENTED: "THERE ARE SOME UNIFYING THREADS (IN THE TWO FILMS) TO TEACH MAKING GOODNESS."

(IN THE TWO FILMS) TO TEACH HARKING AND  
DESTROY EVIL.)

AFTER THE SHOWING, MARC LAITIN SAID: "IT SEEMS LIKE THEY GET EDUCATED VERY WELL. THEY USE A LOT OF BIG WORDS."  
KAREN GOLDSTEIN, 10, OF LA JOLLA NOTICED THAT THE SOVIET CHILDREN "MORE DIFFERENT CLOTHES." THE SAN DIEGO CHILDREN CHEERED AT SURFING SCENES AND THE SOVIET CHILDREN SIMPLY WATCHED PASSIVELY.  
BUT THE CHILDREN ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GLOBE SEEMED TO LAUGH THE LOUDEST AND POKE EACH OTHER THE MOST WHEN THEY WATCHED VLADIMIR BRANMATIKA'S COMEDY FILM ABOUT CHILDREN USING A COMPUTER TO PROGRAM THE SKELETON IN THEIR ANATOMY CLASS; AND SCARE THE NITS OUT OF THEIR TEACHER.

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HERE'S AUDIO-TAPE-FILM: 344

CHILDREN IN MOSCOW: SAN DIEGO WATCH MOVIES TOGETHER  
BY LHMUNUH KEYS

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SHN BIEGU (MP) - MORE THAN 100 AMERICAN CHILDREN THREW CONFETTI AND SANG "SO LONG: IT'S BEEN GOOD TO KNOW YOU" AFTER TAPPING INTO A MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL VIA SATELLITE AND TALKING TO CHILDREN IN THE SOVIET UNION.

THE 200 SOVIET CHILDREN WHO HAD STAYED UP LATE ON THE LAST DAY OF MOSCOW'S 17TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL TOSSED BALLOONS AND SANG "DO-RE-MI" FROM "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" BEFORE THE VIDEO SCREENS WENT BLANK WEDNESDAY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WORLD.

THE ONE-HOUR SIMULTANEOUS SATELLITE TRANSMISSION, IN WHICH CHILDREN HERE AND IN MOSCOW WATCHED THE SAME FILMS AND THEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER ON TV SCREENS, WAS PLANNED AFTER UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSOR MICHAEL COLE AGREED ON THE IDEA WITH SOVIET JOURNALIST VLADIMIR MOSENER DURING A VISIT TO MOSCOW IN JUNE. AMERICANS OFTEN SEE MOSENER ON TV AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SOVIETS WANTED TO TRY THE CHILDREN-TO-CHILDREN DISCUSSION AND THOUGHT THE FILM FESTIVAL WOULD BE A GOOD MEDIUM. A SIMULTANEOUS SATELLITE HOOKUP WAS MADE LAST MAY BETWEEN THE US FESTIVAL IN SAN BERNARDINO AND A GROUP OF MUSICIANS AND STUDENTS IN A MOSCOW STUDIO.

THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN PLANNED IN JUST ONE MONTH. THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FOUND OUT ONLY SATURDAY THAT IT WAS TO GO FORWARD; AND CHILDREN OF THE FACULTY; SOME STUDENTS AT A COMPUTER CAMP AND CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY SUMMER PROGRAMS WERE QUICKLY ROUNDED UP. THE TOTAL CAME TO 100 AMERICAN CHILDREN.

THREE SOVIET AND THREE AMERICAN FILMMAKERS WERE ON HAND TO INTRODUCE BRIEF CLIPS FROM THEIR WORK TO CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 15.

AFTER SEEING AN AMERICAN FILM ABOUT A MONKEY: "CURIOUS GEORGE GOES TO THE HOSPITAL;" AND A SOVIET VERSION OF AN ANIMATED "MINNIE THE MOON;" A BESPECTACLED BOY IN MOSCOW VOLUNTEERED: "IN THE SOVIET UNION, WE LOVE ANIMALS. ALMOST EVERY EVERY FAMILY HAS SOME PET. UENNNNS H JUU EK PARRUT. NON THAT TEACHES KINDNESS. DO YOU LIKE ANIMALS?"

ALTHOUGH A DOZEN AMERICAN CHILDREN RAISED THEIR HANDS TO RESPOND; THE BOY IN MOSCOW GOT HIS ANSWER FROM COLE. "YES, WE LIKE ANIMALS;" SAID THE MODERATOR; AND MOVED ON TO THE NEXT SEGMENT.

BUT THE JUVENILE ATTEMPT AT INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING WASN'T FUTILE. AFTER THE SINGING AND CELEBRATING WERE OVER; LISA VARGAS, 11; OF LA JOLLA; SAID: "I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED NICE.

"THEY WANTED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH US. THEY SAID THEY LIKED ANIMALS; AND I DO TOO."