

Clearing up some misconceptions

Citizen delegates tout U.S.-Soviet cooperation

By Hemant Shah
HT Staff Writer

Americans have many misconceptions about the Soviet Union but also a desire to better understand the Soviet system, according to Soviets who visited Bloomington this week.

Many Americans think there is little freedom of movement and no democratic decision-making in the Soviet Union, said Constantin Cherbakov, editor-in-chief of a Soviet cinema magazine. "We have tried to explain the reality" to Americans, he said.

Cherbakov and two colleagues, Efim Gamburg, a director of animated films, and Eugene Breus, an assistant professor in Moscow's Institute of Foreign Language who served as translator, were visiting Bloomington Wednesday to discuss a Soviet-American citizen's summit in Washington, D.C. The men taped a segment for WTIU's public affairs-show Studio Six, which will air 8 p.m. March 3.

The five-day summit at the beginning of the month involved 120 Americans and 100 Soviets, and was sponsored by the Center for Soviet-American Dialogue in Bellevue, Wash. The participants discussed a wide range of topics including glob-

al security, education, social change, medicine, world views, space projects and the arts.

The citizen's summit was a continuation of a meeting between Soviet politicians and American citizens that took place last year in Chautauqua, N.Y. "At that meeting, many issues were discussed but no action was taken," Cherbakov said. "At this conference, the emphasis was on discussing and implementing specific projects."

Gamburg said several joint film projects are being considered. One film would depict a group of Cosacks ("Russian cowboys") in Texas. Another, which Gamburg is involved in, is about misconceptions, he said. "The film examines what it would be like if the misconceptions were carried out to their logical conclusions," he said. "People on the other side would seem to be beastial."

Another project discussed at the summit was developing an international code of conduct for journalists. The code would forbid, among other things, propaganda in the form of journalism and dissemination of negative images. Journalists would be required to take an oath promising to live by the code. Cherbakov said that the American jour-



Staff photo by Kent Pr...

nalists he met at the meeting were "quite positive" about the project.

From left, Dan Drew, Diane Ward, Constantin Cherbakov, Efim Gamburg and Eugene Breus tape a segment for the WTIU public affairs-show Studio Six Wednesday at the University Club of the Indiana Memorial Union. The show will air March 3 at 8 p.m.

has been a drastic change in the attitude of the government towards people in the cultural field," he said. "Earlier, artists felt pressure of the authorities and many fields were taboo or restricted. The taboos and restrictions are being lifted now and artists can speak, write and work freely."

Cherbakov said many new books, films, plays and other artistic works are being produced. But, he added, these works are not coming out of nowhere. "Many people had some critical ideas but were not free to speak their mind before

meetings like the citizen's summit are taking place with increasing frequency. Part of the reason is the new Soviet policy of glasnost, or openness.

The new policy has meant more freedom of expression for Soviet artists, Cherbakov said. "There

Cherbakov, Gamburg and Breus were in Bloomington after participating in a citizen's summit last week in Washington, D.C. The men stayed in Jasper as guests of Drew and his wife, Marilyn. Ward is host of Studio Six.

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Gorbachev. But now they are given freedom of thought and they are making use of it."

While in Indiana, the men were staying in Jasper as guests of Marilyn and Dan Drew. Dan Drew was delegate at the citizen's summit.

The Soviets have visited art schools in Jasper and made a trip to Louisville, Ky., where they visited the Kentucky Derby Museum and bar and grill restaurant.

The men will fly to New York today, where they will meet the rest of the Soviet delegation before returning to Moscow Sunday