

Visits to the Soviet Union.

Maurie Crow's visit 1994,
Ruth Crow's visit 1966.

In August and September 1964 Maurie Crow visited the Soviet Union with a delegation of eight Trade Unionists who were members of the Communist Party of Australia. He visited Moscow, Leningrad, (now St. Petersburg), Stalingrad (now Volgograd) Krasnodon (a mining town.. probably on the Don River), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Yalta. The main interest of the delegation was to see workplaces, but they saw much more, especially some of the theatre productions and galleries, and churches

Ruth Crow visited the Soviet Union in August and September 1966 with a delegation of eight women who were members of the Communist Party of Australia. She visited Moscow, Leningrad (St Peterberg). Talinn (in Estonia), Yerevan (in Armenia) and Sochi. The main interest of the delegation was to look at schools, children's recreation and day nurseries. Ruth was particularly interested in the education of the "child with special talents" and thus the visit included spending some time at the Kirov Ballet School, the Moscow Circus School and the Puskin Music School. She also met students and teachers from the Arctic Eskimaux Schools, and other nationalities at the Leningrad Teachers College for National Groups.

Unfortunately neither Maurie nor Ruth placed much value on the material they brought back or the material about their report back efforts, so there is not much in the Crow Collection about their visit. However there are a few books and pamphlets to supplement this box of souvenirs. For those studying the USSR in the 1960s, the Hugh Anderson Collection and the Melbourne University Archives are recommended.

On her return to Australia Ruth was requested to write an article, about Lenin's contribution to the Soviet Union, for the Soviet publication "Soviet Women". She included her impressions of the School of Nationalities, quoting Lenin's treatise on the "National Question". The article was severely edited and only part of the quote from Lenin was included. The part left out was the right of nations to secede. !!

Both Maurie and Ruth contributed articles about the trips and gave lectures to various groups but not much from these efforts has been kept. Attached is one article by Ruth Crow from the Education Magazine published by the Victoria Education *Crow Coll* Department. Another article was published by the Kindergarten *372.947 mor* Training College (Kew) and I think Maurie wrote a series for either the Guardian or Tribune (both Communist Party weeklies). Copies of the Tribune and Guardian are probably in the Hugh Anderson Collection at VUT Werribee Campus or at the Melbourne University Archives.

Books of children's art given as "Friendship Gifts" from Hungary, East Germany, Rumania, and China of books children's art are in the Crow Collection. These were sent to the Junior Eureka League.

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