

TM M26

Audio cassettes recording Mendez's trip to the Soviet Union in 1964

These cassettes were originally on 8 reel-to-reel tapes which have been transferred to cassette. Mendez made daily recordings of her activities in the Soviet Union as part of her participation in the Women's Committee for International Friendly Visits, an exchange program under the auspices of the United Nations.

Tape 1

Side A1

(1 hour)

Invitation to visit the Soviet Union made through the Committee for International Friendly Visits. Eight women made the trip and Mendez was appointed Chairman of Public Relations.

June 28 - 30 Briefing

June 30 - Left for Copenhagen, arrived July 1

July 2 - Left for Moscow, arrived that evening and went to the Moscow Hotel. Remarks on her first impression of the Soviet Union.

July 3 - Went to meet with Soviet Women's Committee; comments on meeting; itinerary discussed, (Leningrad to Kiev to Yalta to Tbilisi to Moscow); remarks on impressions; went to municipal building to meet with the Assistant Mayor; description of meeting

Tape 1

Side B2

(20

minutes)

Continued description of meeting with Assistant Mayor; sightseeing tour of Moscow for one hour; in the evening they went to the New Concert Hall for a ballet performance

Tape 2

Side A1

(1 hour)

Remarks about evening at the ballet

July 4 - Went to the American Embassy; received invitations to Ambassador (Kola?) for a July 4th party; went to a technical vocational training school; met with the Superintendent; information on the training school; went to residence of

Ambassador (Kola?); met with man in charge of "Press" for the American Embassy; went to the Tretyakov Gallery; met with the curator of the museum; went to Soviet Circus
July 5 - Went to exhibition of Achievement of the Peoples' Economy; description; went to a Soviet residence; met a man from Radio Moscow; stopped at several subway stations on the way back to the hotel
July 6 - Went to the biscuit factory; met Assistant Director and Director

Tape 2
Side B2
(1 hour)

July 6 - Comments on visit to biscuit factory tour; went to Soviet Womens' Magazine for meeting with publishing executives; met Editor in Chief of the magazine as well as the executive staff; went to the Pravda plant at which time she met the editor in Chief of Krokodil (also housed in the same building); Mendez proposed a book of children's letters to Premier Kruschev in connection with Krokodil magazine, as well as an exhibit of the same; left by train for Leningrad

July 7 - Arrived in Leningrad at the train station; went to the Hotel Europa; visited the Hermitage; attended the ballet; she notes her requests for television time and press coverage for stories to be fed not only to the Soviet Union but also the U.S.; received a request for an interview by the local Leningrad newspaper; met Assistant Director of Palace of Culture while at the ballet; information received about the Palace of Culture

July 8 - Visited the Russian Museum and the Pioneer Camp, a day camp for children; comments; visit to Peterhof (Peter's Summer Palace) and to a puppet theatre

July 9 - Visited a Red Banner Factory; information about the factory; went to the Marriage Palace where they witnessed several ceremonies; met with Deputy Mayor Anna Baclanova at the City Hall; visited a television station; the announcer and interviewer met with them

Tape 2
Side B4
(25 min)

Visited a home for retired theatre people and met a former ballerina.
July 10 - Went to the hotel beauty salon; left Leningrad and flew to Kiev to stay at the Hotel Dnipro; took a tour of the city

Tape 3
Side A1
(1 hour)

July 10 - Attended a concert at the Concert Hall in Kiev
July 11 - Remarks on Kiev and the Soviet Union in general; visited a children's pre-school day camp; met with the Director; visited a children's hospital; met with the Director; visited a television station in Kiev where a recording was made regarding the Women's Committee activities; attended a meeting at the Ukrainian Society of Culture and Friendship; met with members of Tass, Pravda, Radio Moscow, a former citizen of the U.S. who defected to the Soviet Union, met with Natalia Kelina, vice president of the Ukrainian Society for Culture and Friendship, and numerous people from a variety of professions; remarks on the contents of the meeting with the Society; saw a film
July 12 - Took a boat outing along the Dnieper River on their way to Kaniv, a shrine to Gregory Shedchenko, poet; visited City Hall where she met the Deputy Mayor; attended the Opera Concert Hall.

Tape 3
Side B2
(1 hour)

July 13 - Left Kiev for Yalta; arrived at Simfomropol just outside of Yalta; proceeded to Yalta; discussed further exchanges such as a cartoon exhibit with one of the delegation's Soviet guides; stayed at the Oieanda Hotel; attended an open air concert hall for a gypsy program.
July 14 - Took a motor trip around the city; arrived at the Palace of Count Verantsovs and the

Palace of Tsar Nicholas II; now a rest home; met with the Director of the rest home for workers after touring it and talking with residents; comments; went shopping for clothing for one of the Americans; later went shopping and sightseeing without any Soviet guides; remarks on prices, products, etc.; went to a special screening of a Primia (sp?) public relations film, given by the city council; saw a film on sunburn prevention; attended a meeting in the hotel between the American women and their Soviet hosts regarding the differences in way of life between the two countries.

July 15 - Yalta

Tape 4
Side 1A
(1 hour)

July 15 - Met Assistant Mayor of Yalta; visited a Ukrainian Sanatorium; went to Nikitski botanical garden and research center; met with the director; met with members of the local press after lunch; visited pioneer camp, Aratek; remarks regarding the communist part at a meeting at hotel in Yalta

July 16 - Visited the Mayor's office at the City Hall; met various professional people; discussion of Soviet judicial process; took a ride in a speed boat in the Black Sea; visited the Golden Beach, a kindergarten, and a famous artist, Balentina Tchova, in his studio

Tape 4
Side 2B
(1 hour)

Further comment on meeting with Balentina Tchova; visited a boarding house for miners and people in heavy industry called Donbass; took a walk along the seaside

July 17 - Traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia

July 18 - Toured the city; visited the City Hall; met with the Executive Secretary; met Vice Mayor of Georgia; comments; went to the Museum of Georgia Arts, famous for its collection of icons; visited a health clinic and met with it's Director

Tape 5

Side 1A July 18 - Visited Tbilisi Research Center; remarks on the centers findings; visited exhibition grounds at Tbilisi; returned to Soviet Counsel building which they had been visiting in the morning ; taken to a screening room, saw films about Georgia; toured the countryside to see an old Greek Orthodox Catholic Church.
July 19 - Plans to visit a collective farm; arrived a the collective farm; met the Director; attended meeting with Director and members of the collective farm, named Japaridze; taken into a recreation hall; visited the home of the Director; returned to Tbilisi

Tape 5
Side 2B

July 19 - More information on the collection farm; comments on the relationships with the Soviet hosts
July 20 - Travel back to Moscow; went to the American Embassy; visited Red Square and the Kremlin
July 21 - Took a walk near the hotel; visited a food store; went to a beauty salon; visited Pioneer Palace; description of several art exhibits

Tape 6
Side 1A
(1 hour)

July 20 - More information on the Pioneer Palace in Moscow; visited a new suburban development and a department store; met the Director; attended the ballet; recounts a conversation with a Soviet man walking home from the ballet
July 22 - Attended a Soviet Women's Committee; met author of the New Times; remarks about the meeting

Tape 6
Side B2
(1 hour)

July 22 - More comments on meeting; discussed various project proposals regarding an art exhibit exchange; visited the Lenin Library; met a Director of the library; a few of the American women took a walk around the hotel and stopped at a coffee shop
July 23 - Took a walk through Red Square; went

into a department store; comments; went to the Metropol Hotel to exchange money; plans by the Americans to give dinner party; morning is spent shopping near Pushkin Square; delivered a bottle of Scotch to Georgi Bolshakov, of APN News Agency, at his office on Pushkin Square; had an appointment at the American Embassy with Mr. Lesch (sp?); visited Lenin's Tomb; attended a reception at the Friendship Society

Tape 7

Side A1

More of the meeting at the Friendship Society; returned to the Moscow Hotel to host the dinner party; conversation with the Chairwoman of the Friendship Society and the Soviet Women's Committee; comments on meeting at the Friendship Society; Olga Shalkova, editor of the Soviet Women's Magazine gave a talk; comments on the dinner party.

July 24 - Left Moscow and the Soviet Union to travel to Paris, France; details of departure; met Leo Ruth from the University of California on the plane; recounting of some of his experiences in Moscow; additional thoughts on the trip; met Boris Belitsky of Radio Moscow at a private home; a list of names and addresses of Soviet people she met during her visit

Tape 7

Side 2B

(1 hour)

List of Soviet Names and addresses continues; names of Soviet women in attendance in July 22nd meeting of the Soviet Women's Committee; more names and addresses; American people's names and addresses with whom she met in the Soviet Union; further comments on the Soviet Union; record of itinerary, including Hotel names