

Christmas In Russia For McLean Students

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The crunch of the snow of Moscow is what some McLean High School seniors will hear this Christmas.

Students of McLean's senior Civilization course are planning a two week trip to Russia during Christmas vacation. At least two Russian cities, Moscow and Leningrad will be on the tour schedule which will start Dec. 19 and end with the students return to Washington on Jan. 4.

Organizer

The chief organizer of the trip is Harry Maranian, teacher of World Civilization and a Vienna resident. Helping him on the faculty level is Robert Graham, a teacher of American Civilization, who has been at McLean for three years. Maranian is in his eleventh year of teaching at McLean.

Besides receiving enthusiastic support from his students, Maranian has been overwhelmed by parent interest and cooperation. Students and parents have joined efforts to raise money to finance the trip, and letters have already gone out to civic oriented bodies and individuals asking for contributions ... no matter how small.

Money-Minded

About 50 students expect to go on the Russian trip and it

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP.

will cost approximately \$550 per student for the excursion. Various money-raising schemes have been arranged by the students. They have set up a candy sale, car wash, bake sale, folk festival, sock hop, used book sale, and a greased-pig contest. They have even been enterprising enough to launch bank loans. The enthusiasm knows no bounds.

Source Material

Naturally enough, the idea for the trip came from the subject material of the seniors' Civilization course. This particular course in the Humanities is broken down into four areas: United States, United Soviet Socialist Republic, Red China and Black Africa. Each area studied is done through analyzing the particular society in such things as dance, music, arts, theater, philosophy, architecture, etc.

Besides extensive use of films and texts, original source material from the foreign countries is used. Material actually printed in Russia and China, translated into English, is obtained through outlets in New York and San Francisco for student use.

Moscow

This is the first time that a trip such as this has been planned at McLean. It is an ambitious endeavor and the schedule tentatively planned promises an exciting tour studded with many visits to famous sites. Intourist, the official Russian travel organization, will arrange a

tour of Moscow, including Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, Spassky Tower, Gorky Street, Central Stadium, Bolshoi Theatre, GUM Department Store, new housing developments, the Kremlin, Armory Museum and Tretyakov Gallery.

Meetings with students of the Lomonossov University and other Russian student groups will be arranged. The McLean students will stay in hotels in the Russian cities which they visit.

Intourist will also make plans for a Christmas Eve party for the McLean students.

Christmas Day will be a day of leisure for the

students and they can visit such places as Gorky Park which has a number of restaurants and an arena for chess and checker games and exhibitions of art and machinery.

Leningrad

In Leningrad, Intourist will show McLean students such things as the Winter Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress, Decembrists Square, and Hermitage Gallery.

They will visit the Leningrad Metro and the Palace of Pioneers (formerly a palace of the Czar Alexander), and Pushkin Theatre.

New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve will

probably be spent in Leningrad where Intourist will arrange a student party to welcome in the New Year. The flight back to Washington from Russia, will no doubt be one filled with conflicting desires to remain in Russia and see more, and to get back home and tell the family about the experience and the attitudes encountered, behind the iron curtain.