

CHILDREN IN SOVIET EXPRESS WAR FEAR

2 Studies Find Their Feelings Echo Anxieties Expressed by Children in the U.S.

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BOSTON, Oct. 12 — Three American psychiatrists who taped interviews with children in Soviet youth camps say the children echo the fears of nuclear war expressed by their American counterparts in a similar study.

The study of Soviet children was co-sponsored by the Harvard Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a group based in Boston.

The antinuclear physicians' group, founded in 1981, says it has 60,000 members worldwide, and it is a vocal supporter of the nuclear freeze movement.

The interviews with Soviet children were arranged through Dr. Eugene I. Chazov, a co-founder of doctors' group, whose patients include Soviet leaders. Dr. James E. Muller, secretary of the group, said the psychiatrists had been given freedom to talk to children at random at two large Pioneer children's organization camps and to ascertain that they had not been "prepped." The psychiatrists took along their own interpreter.

Similar Questions Were Asked

The questions asked of both groups of children allowed replies at length, seeking what the children knew about nuclear weapons and their effect. They were also asked what sources of information they had and how their feelings about nuclear war affected their plans for the future.

A videotape of some of the interviews was released today. The children talk about the effects of radiation, dismiss the notion that shelters can save them and speak of nuclear nightmares.

Oleg, a 14-year-old, said through an interpreter that he once saw a film about how war almost broke out between the Soviet Union and the United States. "I didn't sleep for several nights," he says. "Our existence is hanging by a thread."

The physicians had made a similar tape of school children in Massachusetts. Seen back to back, the tapes are remarkably alike.

"You get a few crazy people, press a couple of buttons and blow up the world," an American boy said.

"One person could push the button," a Russian girl commented.

Eric S. Chivian, a staff psychiatrist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who directed the Soviet project, said the studies showed that "we should be asking questions about the effects of a cold war on children, whether or not there is a nuclear war."

Dr. John E. Mack, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Jeremy P. Waletzky, associate clinical professor of psychiatry at George Washington School of Medicine, also participated.

Kansans See Nuclear War Film

LAWRENCE, Kan., Oct. 12 (AP) — Hundreds of Kansans watched the mock devastation of their hometown today in "The Day After," a network television movie about nuclear war.

"I would hope everybody could see it, everybody in the whole world," said Cha Miller of Lawrence, 58 years old, whose grandson was an extra in the film, which was previewed here.

But Jerald Keating, a university student, commented: "I thought it was a sensational and emotional movie for the simple fact that war was put way out of proportion. I commend ABC in its successful effort to promote hysteria."

They were among more than 1,500 people who attended three free screenings of ABC's two-hour television movie, which was filmed last year, mostly in Lawrence and Kansas City, Mo.

Broadcast Set for Nov. 20

The drama, which is scheduled to be broadcast nationally by ABC on Nov. 20, paints an unrelentingly vivid portrait of the human condition when the Kansas City area is hit by a nuclear bomb.

The film, which never clearly points to which side started the global nuclear war, ends with a legend to viewers that the actual effects of a nuclear bomb would be more severe than those depicted, and it concludes:

"It is hoped that the images of this film will inspire the nations of this earth, their peoples and leaders, to find the means to avert the fateful day."

For 12-year-old Holli Hartman, a junior high school student in Lawrence, the message was clear.

"It's scary to think about what will happen," she said.

Did she think it will happen?

"It probably will."