

USS SARATOGA MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

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Russian Submarine Museum Announces a Week of Activities May 4-12 to Coincide with Cold War Conference

“In From the Cold: a Russian/American Reunion”

Public activities include a special screening of “K-19: The Widowmaker,” visits to local high schools by former Russian naval officers, and open house at the Sub Museum in observance of Russia’s “Victory Day”

PROVIDENCE, April 6, 2004 -- The Russian Submarine Museum today announced plans for a weeklong schedule of events coinciding with the “Cold War at Sea” conference being held at the Naval War College 7-8 May.

From May 4-12, 2004 cold war adversaries who once hunted each other above and beneath the sea will meet in Rhode Island for a peaceful and educational purpose. More than 15 active duty and retired Russian senior naval officers are expected to participate, to include four who actually served aboard K-77, the Project 651/Juliett class cruise missile submarine owned by the USS Saratoga Museum Foundation and now on display at Collier Point Park on the Providence waterfront.

This week-long reunion will commemorate the proud service of sailors from both the former Soviet Union and the United States during those difficult days. Naval War College, Brown University’s Watson Institute, USS Saratoga Museum Foundation and the Naval War College Foundation are co-sponsors of the event. The Cold War Museum (Virginia) is also cosponsoring some of the activities; founder Francis Gary Powers, Jr. (son of the U-2 pilot shot down over the USSR in 1960) will also be attending. Former Congressman Bob Weygand will introduce Powers at a luncheon at Watson Institute on May 10th.

The focal point will be an intensive, two-day, invitation-only academic conference entitled “Cold War at Sea”, to be held at the Naval War College in Newport on May 7th and 8th. The Russian visitors and their U.S. counterparts

will engage in a comprehensive, cooperative effort to to bring new understanding to this vital period in naval history.

These discussions will continue on Monday, May 10th at Brown University's Watson Institute in Providence, where the former Soviet sailors and weapon system designers will discuss tactics and technology with their American counterparts. (The Watson Institute sessions are open to the public but seating is limited.)

Other speakers at sessions open to the public include Professor James Galbraith from the University of Texas; CAPT James Patton, Jr., "Hunt for Red October" technical consultant; and Russian designers of the cruise missiles used on the submarine now in Providence.

This event evolved from the acquisition by the USS Saratoga Museum Foundation of the former Soviet cruise missile submarine K-77, popularly known as Juliett 484, which was featured in the Harrison Ford film "K-19: The Widowmaker".

Sergei Khrushchev, now a professor at Brown University's Watson Institute and honorary chairman of the Russian Sub Museum board originated the conference idea. As interest grew, Naval War College committed to host and organize the major academic elements of the visit, and officials of Russia's Central Naval Museum in St. Petersburg agreed to coordinate the Russian delegation.

"In the days immediately before and after the academic sessions (as well as on Sunday, May 9) there will be will be several social and cultural events which will provide ample opportunity for the public to meet with Russian sailors, especially those who crewed K-77," said Frank Lennon, President of the USS Saratoga Museum Foundation, Inc., which now owns the submarine. "We will also be hosting a senior Soviet submarine captain who was actually involved in the dramatic Cuban missile crisis."

Other public outreach plans in conjunction with this conference include:

1) Visits to selected Rhode Island high schools by members of the delegation, who will provide a first-person perspective for students about the other side of the Cold War [teachers and/or school administrators who wish to participate should call Frank Lennon at 401-831-8696];

2) A special presentation of the Russian version of the film "K-19: The Widowmaker", at the Columbus Theater in Providence on Monday evening, May 10th. This showing will include commentary by Captain Sergei Aprelev, who was the Russian Navy's technical advisor in the making of the film. Noted author CAPT. Peter Huchthausen USN (Ret) will also provide his observations about "K-19"; he was also an advisor on the film and author of the National Geographic book *K-19 The Widowmaker: The Secret Story Of The Soviet Nuclear*

Submarine. A post film party with Soviet sailors and technical advisors follows at Columbus Theater.

3) An open house on Sunday afternoon, May 9 at the Russian Sub Museum, Collier Point Park, to observe Victory Day with Rhode Island's Russian community. The activities would culminate in a social event to honor our Russian guests and toast with them as they commemorate the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945. A VIP/sponsor reception aboard the submarine will include a private tour of the missile control room and other areas normally closed to the public.

Admission fees and attendance capacities will vary for each event. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For information about participating in the Providence functions, please contact USS Saratoga Museum Foundation at 401-521-3600, or e-mail savesara@aol.com.

News media queries about the Naval War College portion of the conference should call the Public Affairs Office at 401-841-2220.