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Pat Rides Jammed Moscow Subway

MOSCOW — (UPI) — In a crunch of newsmen and Soviet secret police, Pat Nixon took a ride on Moscow's famous subway today, and the wife of the Soviet foreign minister told persistent newsmen where to get off.

"Why don't you ask your questions somewhere else?" Mrs. Andrei Gromyko said at one point.

The KGB — the Soviet secret police — took good care of Mrs. Nixon on the afternoon ride on the Moscow metro.

'Lovely System'

She said, "Yours is the loveliest subway system in the world," in talking to the metro administrator, Alexander Novochatsky.

Mrs. Nixon was caught up in a squeeze of Russian security agents, enthusiastic cameramen, reporters and sputtering Soviet ladies during the afternoon ride on the subway, built by Josef Stalin.

"Much to Mrs. Gromyko's irritation, reporters asked Mrs. Nixon if she had ever ridden the New York subway. Mrs. Gromyko demanded, "Why don't you ask your questions somewhere else?" But Mrs. Nixon laughed and replied, "Oh, yes. Many times."

Mrs. Nixon earlier in the day helped Mrs. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet first Lady, weather a crowd crush — largely of reporters and photographers — during a tour of a school where several subjects are taught in English.

"I'm going to take care of you," Mrs. Nixon told Victoria Brezhnev, who dislikes

crowds. She patted Mrs. Brezhnev's hand consolingly.

Mrs. Brezhnev did say she would like to visit the United States — "If I'm invited." Mrs. Nixon said "of course" when asked if she had invited Mrs. Brezhnev.

'Good for Peace'

At the end of the tour of the school, Mrs. Gromyko told Mrs. Nixon: "It's very good to have you here. It's good for peace. Words cannot describe how happy I am you are here."

It was a busy day for Mrs. Nixon, including the subway ride followed by tea in the Kremlin's old czarist family apartments with Mrs. Brezhnev and Mrs. Nikolai Podgorny, wife of the Soviet president.

Mrs. Nixon, herself a former schoolteacher, said she was impressed at the order in the classrooms.

"The students here are all better disciplined than in America," she said.

In a home economics class she sampled a cookie from a batch baked in honor of her visit.

"Ummm," she said.

In one classroom, a blonde girl with tightly braided pig-tails rose on cue and nervously recited a poem in Russian.