

# Pat Nixon Jams Moscow's Subway

## Moscow

First Lady Pat Nixon rode Moscow's famous subway yesterday and brought her own rush hour with her.

Normally, at the midafternoon hour at which the wife of the President visited the

rapid transit system, the subway is unrushed and uncrowded.

Yesterday, the Koltsevaya line resembled the 34th street station in Manhattan at the rush hour.

The result was a pushing, shoving, elbowing and bilin-

gual yelling match as members of the American press tried frantically to keep up with Mrs. Nixon on escalators and fast subway cars.

Throughout the tumult, Mrs. Nixon, who rode subways often when the Nixons lived in New York, remained poised and politely unnoticing of the uproar.

The scene so unnerved Mrs. Andrei A. Gromyko, wife of the Soviet foreign minister, that she snapped at reporters persistently trying to interview Mrs. Nixon: "Why don't you ask your questions elsewhere?"

Mrs. Nixon told the subway administrator, Alexander Novochatsky, "Yours is the loveliest subway system in the world."

"It's wonderful to get such high praise from you," he said.

The four-stop ride through the immaculate, tiled, and frescoed system was thoroughly enjoyable, Mrs. Nixon said. She appeared impressed by the fact that the Russians still charge five kopeks, about a nickel. New York's fare is 35 cents.

Mrs. Nixon had ridden the Moscow subway on previous visits. "But what happened to the beautiful music?" she asked. Mrs. Gromyko said the piped-in music is played only on festival days. This was not a festival day.

The First Lady, smartly



AP Wirephoto

MRS. NIXON AND MRS. GROMYKO  
The big crowd made the foreign minister's wife nervous





LPI Telephoto

The First Lady visited an elementary school, where she sampled a cookie

turned out in a beige and gold suit, appeared apprehensive once. That was at the top of a 400-foot escalator. On the fast ride down, she held on firmly while Mrs. Gromyko held her other arm.

Mrs. Nixon also noted, "They don't have advertisements here like in New York. Isn't that nice."

The subway ride came after Mrs. Nixon toured an elementary school where several courses are taught in English.

At the school, Mrs. Nixon was impressed at the class-

room order. "The students here are all better disciplined than in America," said Mrs. Nixon, a former teacher.

She sampled a cookie at the school and pronounced a nervous young girl's recitation of a poem in Russian "very good."

Mrs. Nixon told an English teacher in another class, "you speak beautifully." The teacher, blushing and smiling, said, "You flatter me."

The first lady presented six basketballs to the school and watched a group of boys

play under direction of a woman. "I've never seen a woman basketball coach before," Mrs. Nixon said.

Later Mrs. Nixon returned to the Grand Palace of the Kremlin, for tea with Mrs. Leonid I. Brezhnev, wife of the Communist party leader, and the wives of members of the Politburo.

On the way in she chatted with reporters.

"Are you going to invite Mrs. Brezhnev to Washington?" she was asked.

"I hope she's going to come. I want them all to come." *A.P. & U.P.*