

Pat at the Bolshoi--Does a Little Leap

MOSCOW — (UPI) — Pat Nixon couldn't resist it. She did a little dance step today — right there in the Bolshoi ballet school.

"Wonderful! Beautiful!" she said after completing a 75-minute tour of the new Bolshoi theater school of choreography, the world's most famous.

Mrs. Nixon became so enthusiastic watching the students perform she did a little leap, ballet style. Then she laughed.

Special

It was Mrs. Nixon's special day in Russia. She also had a Soviet fashion show on her schedule and during the evening planned to attend a performance of her favorite ballet, "Swan Lake," accompanied by the President.

She said yesterday she had seen little of her husband, who has been huddling long hours with Soviet leaders.

"I haven't seen that guy," she joked to newsmen.

Mrs. Nixon was escorted on the tour of the Bolshoi

school by Mrs. Leonid Brezhnev, wife of the Communist Party general secretary, and Mrs. Andrei Gromyko, wife of the Soviet foreign minister.

Command

Opening the ballet school visit, students from 7 to 17 put on command performances. Mrs. Sophie Golovkina, former Bolshoi prime ballerina and the unofficial czarina of this ballet dancers empire, sat beside Mrs. Nixon and gave a running commentary. Madame Golovkina even demonstrated a few steps.

"I think she's great. She has more pep!" the First Lady said.

Mrs. Nixon said her daughters had taken ballet lessons at age 5 at a neighborhood school, "but they never became artists." Mrs. Nixon paused and said to Madame Golovkina. "Maybe with you at the helm they would have."

The dancers continued to perform. To Mrs. Nixon they seemed "so serious. They

really work." The leaps and twirls continued in front of her in the auditorium.

Mrs. Nixon gasped when two young men did the leg-kicking, squatting Gopak dance. And, viewing a Moldavian dance, Mrs. Nixon saw one youth leap almost into her lap. She leaned back and laughed.

She swept a hand toward a roomful of 14 year old ballerinas: "I hope someday I'll see you on the stage. I know you'll be successful." Then, through her interpreter, she told the Bolshoi

school, "They're all excellent. Invite them to our country someday."

Newsmen turned toward Mrs. Brezhnev. Would she like to visit the United States?

"I'd like to go to the United States very much if there is an invitation," she replied.

Mrs. Nixon stepped onto the stage and shook hand after hand. She was meeting the Russians, something she came to Moscow to do. And they were among her favorite people — dancers.