



Diane Varni

Santa Cruz Mayor Jane Weed and Boris Kalyadin, chairman (or mayor) of the Russian seaport town of Alushta, sign documents making the two seaside communities Sister Cities.

# Santa Cruz-Alushta link official

By KATHY SALAMON  
STAFF WRITER

Santa Cruz became formally linked with the Soviet town of Alushta in an afternoon ceremony yesterday in

which Sister City documents were signed by leaders of the two cities.

The fanfare included music, refreshments and speeches for the 200 people who attended the gathering.

The three-member Soviet delegation held a press conference, gave a few speeches and answered questions at a standing-room-only public forum.

The events of yesterday, the third day of the Soviets' visit, eventually turned to the topic on everyone's mind — politics.

Alushta Chairman (mayor) Boris Kalyadin answered questions about Afghanistan, glasnost (the Soviet policy of "openness"), problems in Soviet society and the peace movement.

On Afghanistan, which the Soviet Union invaded in 1979, Kalyadin said the majority of the Soviet people share the government's point of view of the matter.

"Our interest is that the Soviet troops go home," he said. "But first we have to stop the dangerous situation with the war." He was referring to civil war now engulfing the country as Afghan nationalists fight to free the country from Soviet domination.

To a question as to whether capitalism and socialism are necessarily in conflict with one another, Kalyadin responded that the different economic systems did not mean the two have to be enemies. The countries can compete with each other.

"Time will show whose system is right," he said.

The biggest problem in Alushta, which Kalyadin said has no unemployment, is housing.

"In Alusta, practically all

the residents have housing, but the problem is with the conveniences the housing has," he said. The city is working to upgrade its housing, he said.

Natalie Leontieva, a school teacher, said in response to a question about rent, that she pays 15 rubles per month for her apartment. That amounts to seven percent of her family's income.

In the press conference earlier in the afternoon, a reporter asked Kalyadin if he feels the same freedom to speak out against his government as Santa Cruz Mayor Jane Weed feels to speak out against the United States government.

"First of all, I have to say that Jane Weed and I have much in common regarding our opinions," Kalyadin

responded. "In our country we have glasnost which allows the Soviet people to have an opinion about whatever they think about."

Weed did not disappoint Kalyadin, the press or the Santa Cruz people who were at the document-signing ceremony later. She blasted the Reagan administration for its failure to meet the terms of Soviet peace proposals.

"The Soviet Union, under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, has provided many peace initiatives," Weed said in her speech. "During the same time, the Reagan administration has shunned these initiatives ... and brought us closer to direct conflict."

Weed said the Sister City program opens the opportunity for "individual diplomacy."

## REFERENCE

APR 1987  
76  
Apr 1987

WATSONVILLE  
Register-PAJARONIAN  
August 18, 1987