

Larry's Russian Connection

**Personal recollections and best wishes from many friends
(originally) from former USSR who could not come**



Time-line

† Nov. 82

Nov. 82 - Feb. 84

Feb.84 - March. 86

March. 86 -Dec 91



Arctic school in Finland - first Larry's contact with Russians including Mitya Diakonov who invites him to Leningrad

Took longer than Andropov's rule: First visit to Leningrad spring 84

Visits to Leningrad, Novosibirsk, Moscow, Kiev, and many other places

Larry's visits started during the gloomiest times

Typical joke: *Five year plan of funerals has been approved by the Party - Party will try to fulfill it in four years*

Children liked funerals - they had a day off from school. After Gorbachev's election, my 10 years old daughter looked at his photo and said disappointedly - no days off soon.

Mitya and Larry walking along Nevsky (main street).

Mitya: Chernenko is an idiot - I am eager to cry this out right now.

Larry: Please, please don't do this.

Before 80 - there was a stream of visitors to the Gatchina/Leningrad theory department - in 81 - 84 practically none. Larry's visit was a very unusual event. He mentions in his Anecdotal vita that he had good advice from Finish colleagues - he seemed to understand the situation far better than any visitors I remember.

Larry and Alice smoothly fitted into our tradition of late evening discussions about everything. No other visitors before or after did.



In Diakonov's apartment 84. For me it was illegal to attend. But by that time most of people did not care.

Dec. 31, 1981 - several of us wrote and performed at Diakonov's dacha audio play in the Greek tragedy style: "Bunker". Action takes place in the Bunker of Leningrad Communist party committee. Our successful predictions included: Nobel peace prize to a *Russian leader* for destruction of the country, the independence of Georgia, and, unfortunately, resurrection of the Communist party after initial collapse.

Science discussions

Larry was the first Western visitor with high energy background interested in nuclei and using high energy methods.

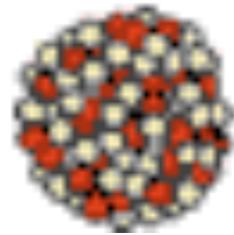
Larry gave a seminar on production of few GeV lepton pairs as a way of probing heavy ion collisions.

I appreciated use of hard probes, but argued with Larry that such observables should be affected by the leading twist nuclear shadowing - we still argue on this and other issues 25 years later and enjoy doing this, I think.

Difference of backgrounds



Larry - **up down** - from very large energies and very heavy nuclei down to experimental situation



LET THERE BE HEAVY
NUCLEI

LET THERE BE CGC



Are heavy nuclei
heavy enough?

Leonya Frankfurt and me -
down up - from medium energies
and moderate $A^{1/3}$ to experimental
observables

Second visit - spring of 1986. Gorbachev just came to power.

Still few visitors - we could put L & A in the apartment near Tzar Winter Palace which belonged to the tzar head of the stuff.



Larry came with PC - first PC we have seen.

Leonya Frankfurt: we live in different worlds

Larry: Do not worry you will have your PCs
- either USSR will allow PCs - and than it will collapse, or it will not - in this case it will collapse and you will get your PCs.

Successful theoretic prediction - took just five years for USSR to collapse

I wish most of the theoretic predictions could be checked that quickly.

1989-1990

Larry and path to freedom of Cuban postdocs at the Lebedev institute (Moscow) Efrain and Vivian Ferrer

Vivian trusted Larry - to tell him in Moscow, risking that the apartment might be bugged, that they wanted to avoid going back to Cuba. Contrast between Moscow and Cuba could never be greater than in 1989. Larry himself had no expertise in such matters, but promised to do what he could. He needed time, though, to learn what might be possible, and how. He and Vivian arranged to meet again at a conference in Georgia the following year and came with a plan



My reading - KGB most likely knew one way or another - Larry should have been monitored continuously at least starting his second visit. KGB thought that an only reason for a person to come twice to USSR is to spy. They would not come if they had a choice. But by 89 KGB guys did not care - were busy planning how to grab the direct economic power.

Larry's escape plan worked !!

MARTES 28-8-90 NACIONAL

Un matrimonio de físicos cubanos viajó de Moscú a Madrid para pedir asilo político

Durante diecisiete días vivieron con el terror de ser capturados

Madrid. Isabel San Sebastián

Efraín Ferrer, de treinta y nueve años de edad, su esposa, Vivian de la Insera, de treinta y cinco, y el hijo de ambos, Efraín, de trece, pidieron ayer asilo político en España, tras una «odisea» de diecisiete días que les llevó de Moscú a Budapest y de allí a

Madrid, movidos por la firme decisión de abandonar «esa cárcel enorme en que Fidel Castro ha convertido a Cuba», según declararon a ABC. La familia Ferrer tiene la intención de trasladarse a Estados Unidos, «ya que aquí no nos sentimos seguros».

The map, titled "UN MES EN BUSCA DE LA LIBERTAD", illustrates the escape route of a Cuban family. It shows the following path and events:

- Moscú (URSS):** Salida de Moscú en tren, el 8 de agosto, con dirección a Budapest.
- Budapest (HUNGRÍA):** El 10 de agosto sale de Budapest hacia la frontera austriaca en tren. Le hacen regresar a Budapest en el mismo día.
- Budapest (HUNGRÍA):** El 13 de agosto visita las Embajadas de USA y España en Budapest.
- Budapest (HUNGRÍA):** Salida de Budapest el 17 de agosto, en avión, hacia Madrid.
- Madrid (ESPAÑA):** Desde Madrid salida hacia Miami, con fecha indeterminada.
- Miami (ESTADOS UNIDOS):** Final destination.

Other locations marked on the map include Viena (AUSTRIA), La Habana (CUBA), and the Atlantic Ocean. The map is credited to A. RODRIGUEZ.

Vivian recently wrote to me and Alice: “In the weird geometry of the surreal world in which we were born . . . the geodesic line between Havana and Miami is one that passes through Moscow, Budapest, and Spain. Thanks to Larry, we were able to find that line and ride it together toward our freedom.”

Larry - builder of scientific communities

Came with idea of the Theory Institute in Minnesota with strong Russian connection - 89 - would be impossible before and hardly practical after.

Larry in Leningrad in 89:

Russians would not be afraid of the Minnesota winters, in fact they may even like them.



Arkady Vainstein:

Larry and Alice greeted scientists from Russia with warm hospitality creating a Russian-like atmosphere. Helped us a lot to adjust.



Joint birthday party of Larry and Arkady at Larry's house
2/24/1991

Russian hospitality, but with an American twist at a later birthday party





Gribov's 65 birthday party - 1995

Julia Nyiri (Gribov's wife) - we had nice time in Minnesota - I am sure many visitors would have joined them.

Creation of the institute - strong impression on the physics communities in Russia and US. Common perception: All Russians go to Minnesota.

Sid Drell to me a couple of times - how things are in Minnesota?

Lev Okun to me - at least two times - you do work in Minnesota - correct?

Happy Birthday, Larry & Jean-Paul !

Enjoy AA at RHIC and LHC

**What else are you planning to build in the
years to come?**