

Sailing on a goodwill mission to the Soviet Union, the Aircraft-carrier "Triumph" led a squadron of six ships across the North Sea to Leningrad - once the proud capital of Russia.

Anchoring in the River Neva, the squadron was welcomed by Admiral Baikov - Commanding the Leningrad area.

It was not long before ~~these~~ ^{those} eager Bluejackets were off on shore leave - taking the good wishes of Britain to the Soviet peoples. And a demonstration of friendship - such as Leningrad could seldom have seen before - soon surrounded the blue-clad ambassadors of goodwill.

During the six-day visit, our men were taken on sightseeing tours.- And here, the summer palace of Peter the Great is an ornate reminder that, as St. Petersburg, the city was a great centre of European art and culture.

But what is more important, they met the Russian people. Here, can be seen the mutual ~~trust~~ ^{regard} and friendship that could disperse ~~East-West~~ World mistrust and suspicion. Dare ~~we~~ ^{ONE} hope that this human feeling can be translated into future ~~top-down~~ ^{EAST-WEST} diplomacy?

Though spending money was limited - some did manage to make provision for the fast-approaching ~~season of goodwill~~ ^{STET} (S)

With the coming of darkness - the squadron radiated its own message of friendship - underlined with a toast to better understanding.