

FRIENDSHIP FORCE  
of  
Cedar Rapids/Iowa City

January 1988

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding new year with our growing Friendship Force group. Thank you for making last year so successful. Without all of you, we wouldn't continue to grow as we are.

Our cocktail party was a roaring success. Everyone had a great time and the hors d'oeuvres were super. My sincere thanks go to Jan McKamy, Connie Williams and Betsy Sargent for making this party so successful. We hope to have a party periodically, so watch for your next invitation.

1988 FRIENDSHIP FORCE TRIP

20 very special people will be leaving for Northern Europe on October 20 and arriving home on November 3. These dates are firm. As had been announced, Friendship Force is returning to the secret destination format. Because of this new rule, I will not be disclosing the location to ANYONE. I will not be making any exceptions to this new ruling. 90 days prior to departure I will announce the destination. I can tell you that we are going to Northern Europe but not Germany. The average temperature of this country is 57 degrees in October. I will continue to give clues as time passes.

The cost of this trip will be \$695.00. If a second week of home hosting is desired, the cost will be another \$25.00. If a second week of home hosting is not wanted, all expenses for that week are the travelers responsibility.

I have applications available. These are new applications, so if you picked one up at the party, please give me a call and I will send you a new application. With each application, a \$100.00 deposit is required. This deposit will be refunded if you are not selected to participate on this trip. All applicants will be interviewed by a committee. We will attempt to recruit a broad cross-section of people. We want to send a true representative sample of Iowans. All ambassadors must be members of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City F.F. Please notify me if you are interested in an application. Time is not a factor as this is not first-come first-served. All applications should be in by March 15, 1988. For an experience of a lifetime, join us. We're going to have a wonderful time!

International Conference

The international conference in Richmond, VA was great. 6 members of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City group attended. We all learned a great deal about the F.F. group and how to make our club better. It was time well spent. It was very exciting to spend 4 days with people from all over the world. There were representatives from 41 countries and 36 states. It was very stimulating and exciting. The Soviet Union was represented for the 1st time. Turns out the Soviets love Louie Armstrong as much as Americans do. One of the delegates

spoke no english but he could speak english when belting out a Louie Armstrong imitation. It was absolutely wonderful. Every person should experience a conference at least once. The next international conference will be in Amsterdam, Holland next October.

### General Meeting - January 17

We will be having a general meeting on January 17th at 2:00. It will be held at the Westdale Mall Community Room, in Cedar Rapids. The program this month will be by our returning ambassador to the Soviet Union, Dan Mucil. Dan has just returned from a trip with the Des Moines F.F. to the Soviet Union as the first group of ambassadors hosted in homes. This had never been done so we were very honored that Dan was asked to participate in this exciting exchange. To hear all about this experience, please join us. We would love to see you and PLEASE bring a friend or 2.

### Soviet Visit

Betsy Sargent and I spent a delightful day with a group of Soviet ambassadors. These folks were guests of the Des Moines club. The day began with a visit to ADM corn sweeteners. Then on to lunch at Armstrong's and shopping. Everyone at Armstrong's was very helpful and they planned a very nice time for us. BeeBee Davis made the great arrangements for us at Armstrong's. Our guests were amazed at the variety of items that were for sale. They said they could not buy anything because they had no idea where to begin! A trip to the Paramount Theatre and the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre was next on the agenda. One of the ambassadors was a Soviet actor, so he was delighted to see an American theatre. Our final stop of the day was Farmstead Meats. A very interesting and informative tour was given by the fine people at Farmstead. Again, one of the Soviets was the manager of a meat-packing plant, so it held a special significance for him. All-in-all, it was a super day. I only wish more of our own members could have participated. It was a wonderful experience for all of us. Betsy Sargent set up the entire day and she did a superb day. Thanks, Betsy.

### Memberships Due

If you are due for a membership renewal, please remit your dues with the enclosed application to the box number as soon as possible. We don't want to lose you as a member.

Friendship Force of C.R./I.C.  
P.O. Box 81  
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*P.S. Quad Cities F.F. has some openings on their trip to Osaka, Japan, March 9-23. Cost - \$895<sup>00</sup> from Moline. contact: Mary Jean Blough - 319-326-2492 or Ben Patterson - 319-242-0179*