BY ROBERT HILBURN

Fort Worth-Soviet tensions melted Thursday when four Russian patriots in the Van Cliburn piano contest hit town, eager to bunk in private homes.

They had little opportunity, though, to tell reporters what they thought of Texas and Fort Worth.

What happened when the Soviets arrived proved once again that people communicate better face-to-face.

The big meeting of minds took place behind closed doors in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition suite at the hotel.

"It's been a sad misunderstanding," sighed Mrs. Grace Ward Lankford, chairman of the competition, in regard to reports the Russians would be confined to a hotel.

"The head Russian, Sergei Fedorovtsev, a USSR ministry of culture functionary, agreed."

He thought the competition office here had understood, in exchanges with the Russian embassy in Washington, that the Soviet delegation would have to stay at Hotel Texas.

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Fedorovtsev will stay at the judge in the contest, rode from hotel. Dallas to Fort Worth with the most adept linguistically. judges.

Voskresenski was "very impressed" with the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike and the Fort Worth skyline.

"In the beginning I must win," he replied, "then I will decide what to do with the money."

Sergei Fedorovtsev

LAURA SHIRSHOVA

SHE PROVIDED principal language liaison between her fellow countrymen and their newfound Texas friends, although all of the contestants except Petrov appeared to be a trifle bewildered but anxious to please.

By Robert Hilburn

Soviets arrive—Soviet entries in the Van Cliburn International Piano Contest here pose beneath welcome sign in Hotel Texas Thursday upon arrival from Moscow which shot Cliburn to fame. Cliburn will arrive Saturday.

The Russian contestants flew to Love Field in Dallas from Moscow, via Copenhagen and New York. They are: "It was settled two months ago when the..."