

UK Buzz

UB40 are to become the first rock group to have their records released in Russia. Their last album, "Rat in the Kitchen," will be the first product released there, with one-third of the record's profits to be donated to the Chernobyl disaster fund.

They have just returned from a 12-date tour of Moscow and Leningrad which was both tragic and successful. When I went to meet their plane at Heathrow Airport, I found them alternately exhilarated and frustrated; there was no consensus of opinion about the trip.

While they were there they made two films: one a documentary of Russian life and their trip, the other an hour-long film of their concerts. The films were directed by UB40 sax player **Brian Travis**.

"I was able to move around wherever I wanted. I really saw Russia. **Ali** and **Robbie (Campbell)** were cooped up all day — the highlight of their days was to go to the gig and have the interpreter say the opposite of whatever we were saying. When we came to do a press conference, we had to tell Ali to keep his mouth shut.

Singer **Ali Campbell** came off the plane in a hot sweat under his Russian fur hat, saying, "Never again. It was tiring, frustrating, extremely successful, but really terrible. Just as we got the audiences up to dance they were pushed down again. Anybody who made friends with us was arrested, and people are still in jail because they talked to us. We saw girls getting slapped by the KGB."

His brother, guitarist **Robbie**, adds, "We are not communists. But we were asked there because of our anti-establishment lyrics. They thought we would be good propaganda. We kept having press conferences where we were asked about our lyrics, but we would only say we are a dance band."

Travis seems to be a little more naive about Russia. He claims there is no violence there. "The film is really important. Kids in London can see that Russian teenagers are the same as them. Of course, their clothes are a bit moody. They pay 100 pounds for horrible jeans. They look like 1977 punks who lived in the sticks and never got to wear **Vivienne Westwood**."

"I think Russia is like England in the fifties when **Bill Haley and the Comets** came over. This is the beginning of the change. When people went to the cinema to watch *Rock Around the Clock* they were beaten up in the aisles for dancing, and that was what was happening in Russia. Just as we started to get other bands in the fifties, so will Russia. And eventually, just as our 16-year-olds don't like ballet, the Russian 16-year-olds will stop going to ballet. People will become more decadent and bourgeois."

Drummer **Jimmy Brown** was more infatuated with the place. "It's very refreshing that there is no consumerism.

The only adverts you see there are for peace."

Astro, the group's rasta toaster, was sporting a new rasta Russian look, with a grey rabbit fur hat covering his multiple dreadlocks. He croaked, "I've got Russian flu. I went to the doctor with a sore throat and he said you have to get used to the high radiation here, so he gave me a spray which had a glow around it."

While they were in Russia, they went to a legal underground club called The Rock Club and sampled the local bands. "The music was from the heart, but it was not good music. The people were really into it, but they were really angry," said tour manager **Ron Friedman**...

New Order are just off to do a massive Stateside tour to promote their new album, "Brotherhood." Singer and guitarist **Bernard Albrecht** talked about how he will perform. "When we play it's vital that you lose your mind. I go into a frenzied trance. Recently, when I was in Italy I tried to strangle someone. I never lose my temper, but when I do I could definitely kill someone. This really nice, beautiful girl who was our interpreter asked us to do an encore. I was worked up to a frenzy and the next thing I knew I was strangling her. The funny thing was I wanted to go back onstage and I don't know why I did it. Afterwards, I apologized to her profusely, but I was apologizing to the wrong girl. She thought I was mad, still at least I didn't try and strangle the wrong person."



Land of Distraction

Watch out for a new British band called **Land of Distraction**. They are two brothers based in London's Tottenham. Their song, "Distraction," is disco angst, juxtaposed with the super-sweet vocals of **Fitzjames Wood**. He has the same sort of flavor as **Green** from **Scrritti Politti**. His brother, **Sean Wood**, is a former actor who toured in productions of *Hamlet* to make his way across the Eastern seaboard. When he came back to England he joined the Labor Party and quickly became disillusioned with people in politics and their "externalizing their problems." Once reunited with his brother, they formed the band and both became heavily into the Jehovah's Witness faith. Although they stress that they are not Britain's answer to **Stryper**, and the songs have nothing to do with religion, they are obsessed with religion.

Chrissy Iley

Argentina

By **Miguel Smirnoff**

BUENOS AIRES — Ruben Aprile, president of Interdisc, has returned from Brazil, where he had been negotiating the rights to release the Johnny Rivers recordings and the Interdisc catalog of Argentinian rock music. Interdisc has recently signed agreements with companies in Peru, Colombia and Venezuela for the release of recordings by Alejandro

Lerner and G.I.T. in those countries, thus opening new markets for this successful Argentinian product.

Oscar Lopez, producer of the Miguel Teos album recorded in New York, spent several days in Buenos Aires before trailing back to New York and on to Madrid where he has had offers to establish offices. (continued on page 3)

Japan

By **Kozo Otsuka**

TOKYO — Japan Phonograph Record Association (JPRA) announced last week the publication of *The Record Industries Of Japan, 1986*. The booklet details the state of the music market in Japan according to JPRA president Toshio Ozawa. "In contrast to the steady growth experienced by the

record business in Japan for many years, beginning in the later 1970s, the music industries of Japan have entered into an era of gradually decreasing annual sales due to widespread consumer use of high-quality tape recorders and the record rental business. (continued on page 3)

Japan's Top Ten

Top Ten 45s

1. **Cha-Cha-Cha** — Akemi Ishiyi — CBS Sony
2. **Fin** — Akina Nakamori — Warner Pioneer
3. **Shinkokyo Hite** — Marina Watanabe With Onyanko Club — Epic Sony
4. **Subetewa Konoyoruni** — Koji Yoshikawa — SMS
5. **Natsu No Owari Ni Harmonica** — Yosuyi Inouye Anzenchitayai — Kitty
6. **Heart No Ignition** — Satomi Fukunaga — Canyon
7. **Sekkin (Approach)** — Yoko Minamino — CBS Sony
8. **Melody** — Mamiko Takayi — Vap
9. **Say Yes!** — Momoko Kikuchi — Vap
10. **Otome Biyori** — Mari Mizutani — Vap

Top Ten LPs

1. **J. Boy** — Shogo Hamada — CBS Sony
2. **Mode De Sonoko** — CBS Sony
3. **True Colors** — Cyndi Lauper — Epic Sony
4. **Fahrenheit** — Toto — CBS Sony
5. **Fore!** — Huey Lewis And The News — Toshiba EMI
6. **Cancel** — Minako Honda — Toshiba
7. **Mix Blood** — Chage & Asuka — Canyon
8. **3rd Break** — Berby Boys — Epic Sony
9. **E.B.I.S.** — Komekome Club — CBS Sony
10. **True Blue** — Madonna — Warner Pioneer

Italy's Top Ten

Top Ten 45s

1. **Easy Lady** — Spagna — CBS
2. **Papa Don't Preach** — Madonna — WEA/Sire
3. **Venus** — Bananarama — Polygram/London
4. **Rage Hard** — Frankie Goes To Hollywood — Ricordi/ZTT
5. **Touch Me** — Samantha Fox — CGD/Jive
6. **Hi Hi Hi** — Sandra — EMI/Virgin
7. **Lessons In Love** — Level 42 — Polygram/Polydor
8. **Geil** — Bruce & Bongo — CGD
9. **Don't Leave Me This Way** — Communards — Polygram/London
10. **Hunting High And Low** — a-ha — WEA/Warner Bros.

Top Ten LPs

1. **True Blue** — Madonna — WEA/Sire
2. **Giorni Infiniti** — Pooh — CGD
3. **Profumo** — Gianna Nannini — Ricordi
4. **Venditti E Segreti** — Antonello ditti — Ricordi/Heinz Music
5. **Muovi Eroi** — Eros Ramazzotti — CGD
6. **The Final** — Wham! — CBS/Sony
7. **Break Every Rule** — Tina Turner — EMI/Capitol
8. **Dancing On The Ceiling** — Little Richard — RCA/Motown
9. **Rispetto** — Zucchero — Polygram/Polydor
10. **Senza Avvisare** — Fabio Concato — Polygram/Philips

England's Top Ten

Top Ten 45s

1. **Every Loser Wins** — Nick Berry — BBC
2. **All I Ask Of You** — Cliff Richard, Sarah Brightman — Polydor
3. **Walk Like An Egyptian** — The Bangles — CBS
4. **True Blue** — Madonna — Sire — Warner Bros.
5. **You Can Call Me Al** — Paul Simon — Warner Bros.
6. **In The Army Now** — Status Quo — Vertigo
7. **True Colours** — Cyndi Lauper — Portrait
8. **Don't Get Me Wrong** — The Pretenders — The Real
9. **Suburbia** — Pet Shop Boys — Parlophone
10. **You Are Everything To Me** — Boris Gardiner — Revue

Top Ten LPs

1. **Graceland** — Paul Simon — Warner Bros.
2. **Silk And Steel** — 5 Star — Tent
3. **Scoundrel DaQ&E/A-Ha** — Warner Bros.
4. **True Blue** — Madonna — Sire
5. **Word Up** — Cameo — Club
6. **Revenge** — Eurythmics — RCA
7. **South Pacific** — Various Artists — CBS
8. **Liverpool** — Frankie Goes To Hollywood — ZTT
9. **U-Vox** — Ultravox — Chrysalis
10. **Communards** — The Communards — London

Melody Maker Chart