

Valentina NIKOLAYEVA-TERESHKOVA
(Phonetic: neekuhLAHyevuh-tehreshKovah)

USSR

Chairman, Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries (since February 1987)

Addressed as: Madam Chairman

Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, the first woman in space, orbited the earth 48 times during the Vostok-6 flight in 1963. Since then she has been active in numerous party, youth, and peace groups; her most prominent post was that of chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women (1967-87).

Born on 6 March 1937, Nikolayeva-Tereshkova is the daughter of a collective farmer who was killed during World War II. She began her career as a cotton-spinning technician and was selected for the space program through her amateur parachute club. After her space flight, she went on to graduate with honors from the Zhukovskiy Military Air Engineering Academy; she holds the rank of colonel. She is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Nikolayeva-Tereshkova was elected in March 1989 to the Congress of USSR People's Deputies as a candidate from the Rodina ("Motherland") society, an international friendship organization. She has been a frequent visitor to UN sessions in the United States. (U)

Nikolayeva-Tereshkova is married to fellow cosmonaut Andriyan Nikolayev, although she frequently uses her maiden name, Tereshkova. (U)

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