

INTERNATIONAL

the southern part of the district, an angry knot of babushkas had gathered outside the village bakery in Duminichi (population: 7,000). The morning's bread delivery was nowhere in sight, and it was almost 9 o'clock. In the Russian countryside, where feed grain is distributed only to state and collective farms, peasants have no way to feed their livestock except with loaves of bread; the problem was not feeding themselves, but feeding their cows. The peasants were resentful, but not hungry, and seemed a little surprised at the question. "We've all got cellars full of tomatoes and

potatoes and cabbage and onions," said one woman. True, meat was rationed to one kilo a month. But many people slaughtered their own livestock. "There's no hunger here," said another old lady. "I lived through the second world war, the destruction, the suffering. The Russian people are patient. We'll live through this."

No one looks a gift horse in the mouth. Officials in Moscow last week heartily welcomed Bush's initiative, and even opposition skeptics were reluctant to say flatly that food aid wasn't the kind of help they needed most. But Red Cross officials out in

the provinces have other methods of staving off hunger. Nikolai Manuilov, who runs the Red Cross in Tula, has rented a piece of farmland for growing vegetables so he can give his blood donors a good meal in exchange for a pint. "Farming is not the Red Cross's business, and I'm a doctor, not a commercial manager," admits Manuilov. "But these are the times we live in." Russians are finding unorthodox ways to solve their own problems without central government (following story). And sometimes the small-scale solution does more than big-time aid. ■

The Secret to Soviet Aid: Think Small



PETER TURNLEY FOR NEWSWEEK

Fighting infection: *The Institute of Epidemiology in Kiev*

The American plan to give the Soviet Union \$1.5 billion in food aid is good news for U.S. farmers. But it's help on the wrong scale. The Soviets need something more like George Bush's idea of a model farm where Soviets can learn about efficient production. Here are a few low-cost projects that could help the Soviets to their feet:

■ In Kiev the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident left immune systems vulnerable to hepatitis, diphtheria and the AIDS virus. The Institute of Epidemiology there hopes eventually to produce diagnostic kits for the entire Soviet Union. But without a \$70,000 machine that meas-

ures chemical preparations into tiny test tubes, assembling the kits takes too long to be feasible. These machines are made in the West.

■ Project Hope has already used a few hundred thousand dollars of U.S. money to distribute medicines around Soviet Central Asia. The American doctors were appalled by what they found. One little hospital in Muinak had no running water. Its infant-mortality rate was as high as 100 per thousand births, 10 times the U.S. figure. More medicines are needed. But so is a longer-term project to train doctors in low-tech Western health care. Project Hope has training clinics un-

derway in Moscow and Armenia. Setting up one in Central Asia might cost as little as \$3 million over five years.

■ Everyone agrees that the Soviets need training in Western know-how. But bringing them to schools in the United States is expensive, so the University of California and the Armenian General Benevolent Union have found a better way. This September, the American University of Armenia opened its doors in Yerevan, offering M.A. degrees in business, industrial engineering and earthquake engineering. The university's American professors have imported everything from paper clips to an entire library. One hundred students are now undergoing intensive English and computer training. The university hopes eventually to offer a full range of departments for 5,000 students. But the 6,000-ruble tuition, while more than a year's salary for most Soviets, doesn't begin to cover the school's hard-currency expenses. The university is looking West for funding.

■ Soviets fear that discontent in the Army could lead to another coup attempt. Perhaps the greatest single source of military anger is a lack of decent housing, especially for troops returning from Eastern Europe. The German government granted Moscow about \$5 billion to build housing. But the Ministry of Defense says that defense factories producing the

construction materials are overburdened. So why not invite suppliers from outside the Soviet military-industrial complex? Joint-venture construction companies, of which 75 are registered across the Soviet Union, could build villages for the military in the near future. A new contract from the West would give impetus to the private construction industry.

■ The U.S. public television series "Adam Smith's Money World" has been a big hit on Soviet TV. But its descriptions of leveraged buyouts, greenmail and Christie Hefner's Playboy empire are a little remote from everyday concerns. Soviet programming officials say a simple primer of basic business terms would go a long way toward educating the public in capitalist economics. But the officials lack the business know-how—and the ability to make a slick show that would attract viewers. Alvin H. Perlmutter Inc., a New York production company that worked on "Adam Smith," is interested in gearing a series to Soviet viewers, including segments on the concepts of free pricing, accounting, credit and taxes. "The only thing that's keeping us from doing it is money and sponsors," says Nancy Pelz-Paget, director of special projects at Perlmutter. "We used to broadcast propaganda," says Leonid Zolotarevsky, director of international programming at Soviet TV. "Now we're ready for this new kind of propaganda."

CARROLL BOGERT in Moscow