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# From Arthur, with love

Following disclosures of the NUM's trip to Libya, the race is on among Arthur Scargill's adversaries to find further evidence of such disreputable links. A question is soon to be asked in the House of Lords demanding details of a long, unpublicised trip he allegedly made to the Soviet Union in the 1970s. The right-wing group Aims of Industry, which claims to have been informed of such a trip by no less than 10 informants, is also pressing for details. A separate independent source tells me Scargill spent five months in the Soviet Union in 1972, leaving Tilbury Docks on July 28 and returning by an Aeroflot flight to Paris in mid-December. My investigations show that a Soviet-owned ship called the Baltica did indeed leave Tilbury for Leningrad on that date although the passenger lists are destroyed after three years. 1972 was the year in which Scargill won his famous Saltley victory. He subsequently became Yorkshire NUM compensation agent and was, at some point, away from work on sick leave. Arthur Akeroyd, an NUM colleague at that time, recalls that Scargill did make a trip to Russia for "three weeks or a month", thinks it was at the invitation of the Soviets - and was even sent a postcard by Scargill. My inquiry to Scargill was still unanswered after 24 hours yesterday.