

that served both nations well: Pietro A. Shakarian (Opinion) # Posted January 6, 2019 at 5:08 AM #
When Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan visited the United States in 1960, he started his tour near Cleveland at the home of industrialist Cyrus Eaton. Here Cyrus Eaton's wife Anne, a polio victim, shakes hands with Mikoyan from her wheelchair while her husband (center) smilingly looks on. In a guest column today, Pietro A. Shakarian writes about Mikoyan's Jan. 7, 1959 visit to Cleveland and to the Eatons' farm, ushering in a significant period of detente. # By Guest Columnist, cleveland.com #
CLEVELAND -- On Jan. 7, 1959, at the height of the Cold War, Cleveland received a most curious visitor. Anastas Ivanovich Mikoyan arrived at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport to a spectacle of news reporters, Hungarian demonstrators, and curious onlookers. Catching a glimpse of the city's iconic Terminal Tower, the Soviet Armenian statesman became emotional. The tower reminded him of the tower of Lomonosov Moscow State University. According to veteran Plain Dealer journalist George E. Condon, "reporters who stood close to him... swear that the old Communist's mustache twitched and his eyes were misty as he raised an arm in comradely approbation and said: 'Now you're talking! This is my kind of town!' " # Mikoyan was Moscow's #2 man, after Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. His visit to Cleveland would have been the equivalent of a visit to the city today by Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev or Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Born in Sanahin, Armenia, Mikoyan was originally part of Josef Stalin's inner circle, but became a close political ally of Khrushchev and