

Mikhail Gorbachyov's television address

MOSCOW, May 14, TASS: Here follows the full text of tonight's television address by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov:

Good Evening, Comrades,

As you all know, a misfortune has befallen us—the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It has painfully affected Soviet people and caused the anxiety of the international public. For the first time ever we encountered in reality such a sinister force as nuclear energy that has escaped control.

Considering the extraordinary and dangerous nature of what had happened in Chernobyl the Political Bureau took into its hands the entire organisation of work to ensure the speediest liquidation of the breakdown and the limitation of its consequences.

A government commission was formed and immediately left for the scene of the accident, while at the Political Bureau a group was formed under Nikolai Ivanovich Ryzhkov to solve urgent questions.

All work is being conducted actually on a round-the-clock basis. The scientific, technical and economic possibilities of the entire country have been put to use. Operating in the area of the accident are organisations of many union ministries and agencies under the leadership of ministers, prominent scientists and specialists, units of the Soviet Army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A huge share of the work and responsibility has been taken upon themselves by the Party, government and economic bodies of the Ukraine and Byelorussia. The operating staff of the Chernobyl nuclear power station are working selflessly and courageously.

So what did happen?

As specialists report, the reactor's capacity suddenly increased during a scheduled shut-down of the fourth unit. The considerable emission of steam and subsequent reaction resulted in the formation of hydrogen, its explosion, damage to the reactor and the associated radioactive release.

It is yet early to pass final judgement on the causes of the accident. All aspects of the problem—design, projecting, technical and operational—are under the close scrutiny of the government commission.

It goes without saying that when the investigation of the cause of the accident is completed, all the necessary conclusions will be drawn and measures will be taken ruling out a repetition of anything of the sort.

As I have said already, it is the first time that

we encountered such an emergency, when it was necessary quickly to curb the dangerous force of the atom that had escaped from under control and keep the scale of the accident to the minimum.

The seriousness of the situation was obvious. It was necessary to evaluate it urgently and competently. And as soon as we received reliable initial information, it was made available to Soviet people and sent through diplomatic channels to the governments of foreign countries.

On the basis of this information, practical work was launched to liquidate the accident and limit its grave aftermaths.

In the situation that had taken shape we considered it our top priority duty, a duty of special importance, to ensure the safety of the population and provide effective assistance to those who had been affected by the accident.

The inhabitants of the settlement near the station were evacuated within a matter of hours and then, when it had become clear that there was a potential threat to the health of people in the adjoining zone, they also were moved to safe areas.

All this complex work required utmost speed, organisation and precision.

Nevertheless the measures that were taken failed to protect many people. Two died at the time of the accident—Vladimir Nikolayevich Shashenok, an adjuster of automatic systems, and Valeri Ivanovich Khodemchuk, an operator of the nuclear power plant. As of today 299 people were in hospital diagnosed as having radiation disease of varying degrees of gravity. Seven of them have died. Every possible treatment is being given to the rest. The best scientific and medical specialists of the country, specialised clinics in Moscow and other cities are taking part in treating them and have at their disposal the most modern means of medicine.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee

and the Soviet Government I express profound condolences to the families and relatives of the deceased, to the work collectives, to all who have suffered from this misfortune, who have suffered personal loss. The Soviet Government will take care of the families of those who died and who suffered.

The inhabitants of the areas that heartily welcomed the evacuees deserve the highest appreciation. They responded to the misfortune of their neighbours as though it were their own, and in the best traditions of our people displayed consideration, responsiveness and attention.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are receiving thousands upon thousands of letters and telegrams from Soviet people and also from foreign citizens expressing sympathy and support for the victims. Many Soviet families are prepared to take children to their homes for the summer and are offering material help. There are numerous requests from people to be sent to work in the area of the accident.

These manifestations of humaneness, genuine humanism, of high moral standards cannot but move every one of us.

Assistance to people, I repeat, remains our top priority task.

At the same time vigorous work is under way at the station itself and the adjacent territory to limit the scale of the accident. In the most difficult conditions it proved possible to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading to the other power units.

The staff of the station stopped the three other reactors and switched them into a safe state. They are under constant control.

A stern test has been passed and is being passed by all—firemen, transport and building workers, medics, special chemical protection units, helicopter crews and other detachments of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of

SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

SOVIET Ambassador in Britain Leonid Zamyatin last week thanked the British Government and all those who had sent practical help and messages of sympathy to Chernobyl.

The Chernobyl accident, he said, required a serious approach, thorough consideration and proper conclusions "both on our part and on the part of other countries".

He spoke of the caution needed when dealing with nuclear energy: "It shows once again that governments and nations have no right to forget how immensely destructive nuclear power can be and what a lethal danger nuclear weaponry presents."

This was why, he said, it was important to "multiply the efforts of all countries to prevent war and, with this purpose in view, to stop all nuclear tests without delay and to initiate the reduction of nuclear weapons down to their complete elimination".

He reminded journalists that this was the aim

of the Soviet initiatives put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15 and which were reaffirmed by the recent Party congress.

The same aim, he said, was served by the proposals for international control, including on-site inspection.

"What happened at Chernobyl", said Mr Zamyatin, "strengthens our conviction that the course we take is the only correct one to follow."

"Ridding our planet of nuclear weapons, and the safe use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only, call for extensive international co-operation, pooling of the efforts of the nations, world organisations and all the social forces interested in establishing a comprehensive and reliable system of international security.

"The Soviet Union is open for such co-operation," he said.

Mr Zamyatin, who only recently took up his post as Ambassador, welcomed British journalists to what he hoped would be many press conferences at the Embassy. □

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Internal Affairs.

In these difficult conditions much depended on a correct scientific evaluation of what was happening, because without such an evaluation it would have been impossible to work out and apply effective measures for coping with the accident and its aftermaths. Our prominent scientists from the Academy of Sciences, and leading specialists from the union ministries and agencies, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, are successfully coping with this task.

I must say that people have acted and are continuing to act heroically, selflessly.

I think we will yet have an opportunity to name these courageous people and assess their exploit worthily.

I have every reason to say that despite the entire gravity of what happened, the damage turned out to be limited owing to a decisive degree to the courage and skill of our people, their loyalty to duty, and to the concerted manner in which everybody taking part in liquidating the aftermaths of the accident is acting.

This task, comrades, is being solved not only in the area of the nuclear power station itself, but also in scientific institutes and at many enterprises of the country, which are supplying everything that is necessary to those who are directly engaged in the difficult and dangerous struggle to cope with the accident.

Thanks to the effective measures taken, it is possible to say today that the worst has passed. The most serious consequences have been averted. Of course, the end is not yet. It is not the time to rest. Extensive and long work still lies ahead. The level of radiation in the station's zone and on the territory in the immediate vicinity still remains dangerous for human health. The top priority task as of today, therefore, is operations to deal with the effects of the accident. A large-scale programme for the deactivation of the territory of the electric power station and the settlement, of buildings and structures has been drawn up and is being implemented. The necessary manpower, material and technical resources have been concentrated for that purpose. In order to prevent the radioactive contamination of the water basin, measures are being taken at the site of the station and on the adjacent territory.

Organisations of the meteorological service

Mikhail Gorbachyov meets Alvaro Cunhal

MOSCOW, May 19, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met today Alvaro Cunhal, General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, who is currently visiting the Soviet Union.

In a warm and friendly atmosphere of complete mutual understanding, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Alvaro Cunhal informed each other of the political and theoretical work of the CPSU and the Portuguese Communist Party on the present stage of the development of their respective countries.

A profound exchange of views took place on major international problems, on the difficulties of and prospects for the struggle against the nuclear threat, for the discontinuation of the arms race. Topical issues of the workers' and communist movement were discussed.

The conversation confirmed the identity in principle of the views of the CPSU and the Portuguese Communist Party in the struggle for peace, socialism and the progress of mankind in general. The sides expressed their mutual striving for promoting in every way the development of equal, mutually advantageous relations between the Soviet Union and Portugal, and of friendly ties between the Soviet and Portuguese peoples. □

are constantly monitoring the radiation situation on the ground surface, on water, and in the atmosphere. They have at their disposal the necessary technical systems and are using specially equipped planes, helicopters and ground monitoring stations.

It is absolutely clear—all these operations will take much time and will require no small efforts. They should be carried out meticulously in a planned and organised manner. The area must be restored to a state that is absolutely safe for the health and normal life of people.

I cannot fail to mention one more aspect of the affair. I mean the reaction abroad to what happened at Chernobyl. In the world on the whole, and this should be emphasised, the misfortune that befell us and our actions in that complicated situation were treated with understanding.

We are profoundly grateful to our friends in socialist countries who have shown solidarity with the Soviet people at a difficult moment. We are grateful to the political and public figures in other states for the sincere sympathy and support.

We express our kind feelings to foreign scientists and specialists who showed readiness to come up with assistance in overcoming the consequences of the accident. I would like to note the participation of the American medics Robert Gale and Paul Terasaki in the treatment of the affected persons and to express gratitude to the business circles of those countries which promptly reacted to our request for the purchase of certain types of equipment, materials and medicines.

We evaluate in a fitting manner the objective attitude to the events at the Chernobyl nuclear power station on the part of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its director-general Hans Blix.

In other words, we highly appreciate the sympathy of all those who treated our trouble and our problems with an open heart.

But it is impossible to leave without attention and political assessment the way the event at Chernobyl was met by the governments, political figures and the mass media in certain NATO countries, especially the USA.

They launched an unrestrained anti-Soviet campaign. It is difficult to imagine what was said and written these days—"thousands of casualties", "mass graves of the dead", "desolate Kiev", that "the entire land of the Ukraine has been poisoned", and so on and so forth.

Generally speaking, we faced a veritable mountain of lies—most dishonest and malicious lies. It is unpleasant to recall all this, but it should be done. The international public should know what we had to face. This should be done to find the answer to the question: what, in actual fact, was behind that highly immoral campaign?

Its organisers, to be sure, were not interested in either true information about the accident or the fate of the people of Chernobyl, in the Ukraine, in Byelorussia, in any other place, any other country. They needed a pretext by exploiting which they would try to defame the Soviet Union and its foreign policy, to lessen the impact of Soviet proposals on the termination of nuclear tests and on the elimination of nuclear weapons, and at the same time dampen the growing criticism of US conduct on the international scene and of its militaristic course.

Bluntly speaking, certain Western politicians were after very definite aims—to blast the possibilities for balancing international relations, to sow new seeds of mistrust and suspicion toward the socialist countries.

All this made itself felt clearly during the meeting of the leaders of 'the seven' held in Tokyo not so long ago. What did they tell the world, what dangers did they warn mankind of? Of Libya groundlessly accused of terrorism, and also of the Soviet Union which, it turns out, failed

to provide them with "full" information about the accident at Chernobyl. And not a word about the most important thing—how to stop the arms race, how to rid the world of the nuclear threat. Not a word in reply to the Soviet initiatives, to our specific proposals on the termination of nuclear tests, on ridding mankind of nuclear and chemical weapons, on reducing conventional arms.

How should all this be interpreted? One involuntarily gets the impression that the leaders of the capitalist powers who gathered in Tokyo wanted to use Chernobyl as a pretext for distracting the attention of the world public from all those problems that make them uncomfortable, but are so real and important for the whole world.

The accident at the Chernobyl station and the reaction to it have become a kind of a test of political morality. Once again two different approaches, two different lines of conduct were revealed for everyone to see.

The ruling circles of the USA and their most zealous allies—I would like to mention specially the FRG among them—regarded the mishap only as another possibility to put up additional obstacles holding back the development and deepening of the current East-West dialogue, progressing slowly as it is, and to justify the nuclear arms race. What is more, an attempt has been made to prove to the world that talks, and moreover agreements, with the USSR are impossible, and thus to give a green light to further military preparations.

Our attitude to this tragedy is absolutely different. We realise that it is another sound of the tocsin, another grim warning that the nuclear era necessitates a new political thinking and a new policy.

This has strengthened still more our conviction that the foreign policy course worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress is correct and that our proposals for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the ending of nuclear explosions, the creation of an all-embracing system of international security meet those inexorably stringent demands which the nuclear age makes on the political leadership of all countries.

As to the "lack" of information, around which a special campaign has been launched, and of political content and nature at that, this matter in the given case is an invented one. The following facts confirm that this, indeed, is so. Everybody remembers that it took the US authorities ten days to inform their own Congress and months to inform the world community about the tragedy that took place at Three Mile Island atomic power station in 1979.

I have already said how we had acted.

All this enables one to judge who approaches how the matter of informing one's own people and foreign countries.

But the essence of the matter is different. We hold that the accident at Chernobyl, just as the accidents at US, British and other atomic power stations pose to all states very serious problems, which require a responsible attitude.

Over 370 atomic reactors now function in different countries. This is reality. The future of the world economy can hardly be imagined without the development of atomic power. Altogether 40 reactors with an aggregate capacity of over 28 million kilowatts now operate in our country. As is known, mankind derives a considerable benefit from atoms for peace.

But it stands to reason that we are all obliged to act with still greater caution, to concentrate the efforts of science and technology to ensure the safe harnessing of the great and formidable powers contained in the atomic nucleus.

The indisputable lesson of Chernobyl to us is that, in conditions of the further development of the scientific and technical revolution, the questions of reliability and safety of equipment, the questions of discipline, order and organis-

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Mikhail Gorbachyov's meeting with Nicolae Ceausescu

MOSCOW, May 16, TASS:

TALKS between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, and the General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, were held in the Kremlin today. Nicolae Ceausescu is on a friendly working visit to the Soviet Union. Priority attention was paid to the state of and prospects for Soviet-Romanian relations.

Mikhail Gorbachyov and Nicolae Ceausescu expressed the mutual resolve to continue strengthening friendship and all-round co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Romania, and between the CPSU and the Romanian Communist Party in every way, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, internationalist solidarity, equality, mutual respect and comradely mutual assistance. Proceeding from the community of vital interests and aims of the two countries, both leaders confirmed the intention consistently to widen and deepen fruitful co-operation in the spheres of economy, politics, ideology, science and culture, defence and other areas.

Noting the dynamic development of mutually advantageous commercial, economic, scientific and technical ties, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Nicolae Ceausescu confirmed their striving to widen them further and enhance their effectiveness. Favourable opportunities are opened up by

the long-term programme for the development of economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Romania for the period until the year 2000, signed during the visit.

Both leaders emphasised the importance of the consistent fulfilment of the decisions of the economic summit meeting of the CMEA member-countries (June 1984), vigorous work to implement the Comprehensive Programme of Scientific and Technological Progress of the CMEA Member-Countries up to the Year 2000, and a fuller tapping of opportunities for economic interaction between fraternal countries in order to speed up their social and economic development, ensure their invulnerability to the capitalist market and increase their participation in the international division of labour.

The programme for cultural and scientific co-operation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Romania for 1986-1990 was signed.

When opinions on international problems were exchanged, the sides expressed serious concern over the tense and dangerous situation that has taken shape in the world, a situation that is caused by the continuation of the arms race, above all in nuclear arms, and is connected with the actions of the United States and NATO in refusing to take the road of curbing the arms race, ending nuclear testing and preventing the militarisation of outer space. Manifestations of the imperialist policy of strength and of unceremonious interference in internal affairs of other states have increased of late.

Mikhail Gorbachyov and Nicolae Ceausescu discussed ways of solving the vital question of the

present—that of safeguarding peace, ending the arms race, making the transition to concrete measures for disarmament, above all nuclear disarmament, including the halting of nuclear explosions, and removing the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The Socialist Republic of Romania attaches much importance to and supports the Soviet Union's programme for stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction before the end of the present century.

Both leaders pointed to the need to press resolutely for a sizeable reduction in conventional armaments and armed forces and also in military expenditures, and for a comprehensive approach to the disarmament problem. They declared for the development of a political dialogue, against the further build-up of nuclear weapons in Europe, and for ridding the continent of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical.

The USSR positively assesses and supports the proposals of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Bulgaria to turn the Balkans into a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons. The creation of such zones in various areas of Europe and the globe would be an important contribution towards ensuring peace and international security.

Exchanging opinions on the course of the European process, both leaders declared for a successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference. They noted the importance of the coming meeting in Vienna of representatives of countries participating in the Helsinki Conference, a meeting that is called upon to give fresh impetus to the consolidation of security in Europe, a return to detente and the establishment of broad, mutually advantageous co-operation.

The sides emphasised the need for the elimination of seats of tension and armed conflicts in various parts of the world, and for the settlement of conflict situations and disputes between states through talks. The Soviet Union positively assesses and supports Romania's initiative for a peaceful settlement of conflicts. The danger that terroristic actions and state terrorism pose for the cause of peace and international co-operation was noted. The Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Romania declare for stringent observance in inter-state relations of the principles of national independence and sovereignty, equality and non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of force. Solidarity was expressed with peoples waging the struggle for freedom, independence and social progress.

The important role of the Non-Aligned Movement as an influential force on the international scene, its contribution to safeguarding and consolidating universal peace was noted during the talks.

Mikhail Gorbachyov and Nicolae Ceausescu pointed out the special importance in the present international situation of the unity and cohesion of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, which is an effective factor for ensuring the security and peaceful work of their peoples, and for safeguarding and consolidating peace in Europe and throughout the world.

The leaders of the CPSU and Romanian Communist Party emphasised that the two parties declared consistently for the strengthening of the co-operation, unity and solidarity of the communist and workers' parties, of all progressive and democratic forces in the struggle for detente, disarmament and peace. □

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ation assume priority importance. The most stringent demands everywhere and in everything are needed.

Further, we deem it necessary to declare for a serious deepening of co-operation in the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). What steps could be considered in this connection?

First, creating an international regime of safe development of nuclear power on the basis of close co-operation of all nations dealing with nuclear power engineering. A system of prompt warning and supply of information in the event of accidents and faults at nuclear power stations, specifically when this is accompanied by the escape of radioactivity, should be established in the framework of this regime. Likewise it is necessary to adjust an international mechanism, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, for the speediest rendering of mutual assistance when dangerous situations emerge.

Second, for the discussion of the entire range of matters it would be justifiable to convene a highly authoritative specialised international conference in Vienna under IAEA auspices.

Third, in view of the fact that IAEA was founded back in 1957 and that its resources and staff are not in keeping with the level of development of present-day nuclear power engineering, it would be expedient to enhance the role and possibilities of that unique international organisation. The Soviet Union is ready for this.

Fourth, it is our conviction that the United Nations Organisation and its specialised institutions, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), should be involved more actively in the effort to ensure safe development of peaceful nuclear activity.

For all that, it should not be forgotten that in our world where everything is interrelated, there exist, alongside problems of atoms for peace, also problems of atoms for war. This is the main thing now. The accident at Chernobyl showed again what an abyss will open up if nuclear war befalls mankind. For inherent in the nuclear arsenals stockpiled are thousands upon thousands of disasters far more horrible than the Chernobyl one.

In conditions when the attention to nuclear matters has increased, the Soviet Government, having considered all circumstances connected with the security of its people and the whole of humanity, has decided to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests till August 6 of this year, that is till the date on which more than 40 years ago the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, as a result of which hundreds of thousands of people perished.

We urge the United States again to consider with utmost responsibility the measure of the danger looming over mankind, to heed the opinion of the world community. Let those who are at the head of the United States show by deeds their concern for the life and health of people.

I confirm my proposal to President Reagan to meet without delay in the capital of any European state that will be prepared to accept us or, say, in Hiroshima, and to agree on a ban on nuclear testing.

The nuclear age forcefully demands a new approach to international relations, the pooling of efforts of states with different social systems, for the sake of putting an end to the disastrous arms race and of achieving a radical improvement of the world political climate. Broad horizons will then be cleared for fruitful co-operation of all countries and peoples, and all men on Earth will gain from that. □

Nikolai Ryzhkov's speech at reception for Felipe Gonzalez

MOSCOW, May 19, TASS:

A dinner in honour of the President of the Government of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, and his wife was given on behalf of the Soviet Government in the Grand Kremlin Palace on May 19.

Present at the dinner together with Felipe Gonzalez were the officials accompanying him on the tour.

Present from the Soviet side were Nikolai Ryzhkov and his wife, Geidar Aliyev, Eduard Shevardnadze, Pyotr Demichev, Nikolai Talyzin, Alexander Yakovlev, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, chairmen of the USSR state committees and other officials.

Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, delivered a speech at the dinner:

Your visit to the Soviet Union, dear Mr Gonzalez, is convincing evidence of the fact that Soviet-Spanish relations and contacts have attained a good level. Indicatively, this is the first visit by a head of the Spanish Government in the entire history of relations between our countries. The Soviet leadership welcomes their development along the line of ascent, and intends to continue promoting it in an all-round way in the future. One cannot fail to mention that, in assessing the accomplishments, we appreciate the trip to the Soviet Union made by King Juan Carlos I in the summer of 1984.

Our two states, situated at the two extremities of Europe, are separated geographically from each other. There are also other differences: for instance, the character of the social set-up, the place in the system of political alliances. But the universal principle of peaceful coexistence, of which the Soviet Union remains a convinced advocate, holds that such differences should not be an obstacle in the way of normal, mutually beneficial relations if they are developed by both sides on the basis of good will, reciprocal respect and non-interference.

The Soviet people's attitude to the Spaniards is one of sincere sympathy. They always welcomed in a friendly way the Spanish people's striving for progress, for democratisation of social life. As far as we can judge, good will between our peoples is mutual, and it is deep-rooted.

The talks, started today, the forthcoming meeting of the President of the Government of Spain with Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will initiate, as we hope, a new stage in developing Soviet-Spanish relations in various areas.

The importance of the present Soviet-Spanish meeting is not merely bilateral. It accords, in our opinion, with the joint efforts by many nations in

favour of easing tension and restoring the policy of detente. In order to look jointly for opportunities to improve radically the situation in Europe and the world, and in order to strengthen trust, there is no other way but broadening contacts, consultations and constructive exchanges—everything that is covered by the common notion of East-West dialogue.

The problems facing mankind in the last decade of the 20th century imperatively demand non-standard, innovatory approaches. In response to this demand, the Soviet Union offers a comprehensive programme of restructuring international relations on new, sensible foundations.

This aim is served by the plan for a stage-by-stage movement towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. This aim is served by the steps directed at preventing an arms race in outer space and promoting international co-operation in its peaceful uses. This aim is served by the proposal of the 27th CPSU Congress for establishing the foundations of a comprehensive security system to encompass the military, political, economic and humanitarian spheres. In line with that are, finally, our initiatives on the elimination of chemical weapons and sharp cuts in the conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe.

Hard as the path to attain this objective might be, it has to be covered in order to ensure the survival of mankind. Good will and readiness for sensible compromises will be required from every state. And no one should doubt the Soviet Union's intention to act persistently and purposefully together with its allies and friends for the sake of maintaining and strengthening peace.

We also declare, just as definitely, that the attempts to exert pressure on the Soviet Union, to achieve unilateral advantages and violate military-strategic parity will not succeed. In the conditions of the nuclear and space age, the states, especially big ones, bear immense responsibility for preventing the crossing of the line separating the world from the irreparable. And it is totally inadmissible to play with the destinies of peace by resorting to military adventures.

Is there any other assessment of the US armed attack on Libya? Can one agree that this or that state should assume the right to carry out punitive operations, no matter under what pretext, against other sovereign states? The international community cannot allow arbitrariness and chaos to prevail in international relations.

The Soviet Union and Spain are directly concerned by the developments in the European continent. We note with satisfaction that there is much in common in the approaches of our countries to the European problems.

How do we view today the overdue tasks of European politics?

First of all, it is important to complete the first stage of the Stockholm Conference with positive results. There are opportunities for this, and they are quite realistic given a mutual desire to achieve accords. But as all signs indicate, that is precisely what some of our Western partners lack so far. Otherwise, it is difficult to explain why the conference has been marking time. The success or the failure of Stockholm is in the present situation the touchstone of one's readiness to strive by deeds, not by words, for diminishing the threat of war in our continent, and to really strengthen trust. This is necessary both in itself, and for the new all-European meeting in Vienna. I think that Spain, like the Soviet Union, would like the Vienna meeting to adopt a decision to

turn to the second phase of the conference to deal with disarmament in Europe. This would impart a new impulse to the development of the Helsinki process in all its aspects.

Ridding Europe of the burden of armaments, above all nuclear ones, has become the most urgent need. In this connection, our attitude towards the position of Spain in not wishing to have nuclear weapons on its territory is one of understanding and respect. The Soviet Union, for its part, has advanced large-scale and constructive proposals that largely take into account the concerns and worries of the Western Europeans. We hope that they have not as yet said their final word in response to our initiatives.

The peace-loving states should keep the arms race from spreading into outer space and curb it on Earth by concerted efforts. If that is not done, all countries, the entire world, will find themselves in conditions of lesser security. The experience acquired by mankind in developing destructive nuclear weapons should become, in the words of the great Cervantes, "both a lesson for the present, and a warning for the future".

The tragic accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant came as an ample warning to mankind. For the misfortune, caused by a breakdown at the station, is incommensurate to the all-destructive pernicious whirlwind contained in nuclear weapons.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I want to express gratitude to Spain for the expression of sympathy, for the proposals of aid in eliminating the consequences of the accident.

We are drawing conclusions from the mishap—both for ourselves and for co-operation with other countries in the interests of the international community. The Soviet Union suggests establishing an international regime for the safe development of the atomic industry and mending the mechanism of providing reciprocal assistance as soon as possible in dangerous situations. But the most important thing is to achieve the earliest elimination of the catastrophic threat harboured by the thousands of nuclear warheads accumulated in the arsenals of states. The first step towards that is to end nuclear testing. The Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium till August 6—Hiroshima Day—was wholly prompted by the aspiration to rid mankind of that threat.

That is why the appeal made by Mikhail Gorbachyov in his televised address to the United States—to weigh with all responsibility the measure of the threat looming over mankind—is shared by millions upon millions of people in all countries of the world.

One would like to hope that in the struggle against the nuclear threat, our peoples will always be together, because this cause is common to all.

Our slogan is that scientific and technological progress should promote peace. Among the countries with which the Soviet Union co-operates in the most advanced branches of science and engineering, we would be glad to see more often Spain, a country with a growing industrial and scientific potential.

Mr Chairman of the Government, let me wish you, your esteemed wife and all our Spanish guests a pleasant and useful stay in our country, good health and well-being.

We wish happiness, peace and progress to the friendly Spanish people.

Let Soviet-Spanish relations be further developed for the benefit of the peoples of our countries, in the interests of European and universal security. □

Session of Supreme Soviet to be held in June

MOSCOW, May 17, TASS:

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has decreed the convening of the fifth session of the 11th Supreme Soviet of the USSR in the city of Moscow on June 18. The following issues are to be submitted for consideration to the session:

1. On the state plan of the USSR's economic and social development for 1986-1990.
2. On the approval of the decrees of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. □

SOVIET-SPANISH TALKS

MOSCOW, May 19, TASS:

SOVIET-SPANISH talks began in the Kremlin today. They are being conducted by Nikolai Ryzkhov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Felipe Gonzalez, President of the Government (Prime Minister) of Spain.

Taking part in the talks were Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and Nikolai Talyzin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Chairman of the State Planning Committee of the USSR.

In the course of the talks the sides noted with satisfaction that the USSR and Spain had points of contact on a number of substantial aspects of international life. This created possibilities for expanding the fields of mutual understanding, of concerted or parallel actions by the two countries in favour of strengthening peace, trust, security and co-operation in Europe and beyond it. It was noted in this context that a broad, productive dialogue along all lines—political, parliamentary and public—was a necessary element of normal, healthy East-West relations.

The sides expressed the mutual conviction that the constructive nature of relations between the Soviet Union and Spain accorded not only with the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries but also the cause of strengthening international peace and co-operation.

They stressed the great importance of developing the political dialogue between the USSR and Spain at various levels—this indispensable instrument of increasing trust and mutual understanding, promoting co-operation both in the solution of bilateral questions and also in terms of facilitating the settlement of the most urgent problems of the situation in Europe, the Mediterranean and in the whole world.

The attention of Felipe Gonzalez was drawn to the Soviet peace initiatives, including on the strengthening of the international regime of the safe development of nuclear power engineering, set forth by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, in his appearance on Soviet television on May 14 this year, and to the decision of the Soviet Union to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests till August 6 this year.

For his part Felipe Gonzalez confirmed the Spanish Government's intention to promote the strengthening of peace and curbing of the arms race. He spoke highly of the recent Soviet initiatives in the field of disarmament, stressing that they imparted a considerable impulse to efforts directed at reducing and eliminating

armaments.

Views were exchanged on the prospects for further developing trade, economic and scientific-technical co-operation between the USSR and Spain, including from the viewpoint of the possibilities that are being opened up for this by the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and for the Period Ending in 2000 approved by the 27th CPSU Congress.

It was noted that a deepening of Soviet-Spanish economic co-operation would facilitate the development of co-production, an expansion in the delivery of modern machinery and equipment, exchange of technologies and licences, and a fuller utilisation of the achievements of both countries in those branches of industry that determine scientific and technological progress.

The drafting within the shortest possible time of a long-term programme for developing economic and industrial co-operation between the two countries, on which it was agreed in the course of the talks, will serve the further consolidation of the treaty basis of Soviet-Spanish economic and industrial co-operation.

Having noted that recent years had witnessed a noticeable development of Soviet-Spanish ties in the field of culture, sport and along the lines of public organisations, the sides declared for their further expansion, including also in such new fields of co-operation as public health and environmental protection. □

Anatoli Dobrynin's speech at AAPSO session

MOSCOW, May 14, TASS:

"THE TASKS of consolidating national independence and of the social and economic revival of newly-free countries, of the struggle for the eradication of the vestiges of colonialism and racism, for the elimination of neo-colonialism and seats of military conflicts in Asia and Africa, and, of course, the problem of universal security of peoples are in the focus of attention of the solidarity movement and its national units today," said Anatoli Dobrynin, a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

He was speaking at the 14th session of the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) that opened here today.

"The time in which we are living has tied all these burning problems into a tight knot, made their solution dependent on the implementation of the main task of the present—removal of the threat of thermo-nuclear catastrophe and ensurance of durable and guaranteed peace.

"This meeting is taking place at a special, extremely dangerous and troublesome moment in the development of the international situation. Mankind has closely approached the milestone when its future, the destiny of our common home, planet Earth, is decided. The reason behind this state of affairs is the actions of imperialism, above all US imperialism, its striving to take social revenge on a global scale and its attempts at overcoming the deepening crisis of the capitalist system.

"Events of our time reaffirm that imperialism seeks to launch a massive, broad-scale counter-offensive against newly-free Asian, African and Latin American countries in the military, political, economic and ideological fronts at the same time. This imperial course has lately even received its 'theoretical substantiation' in the form of the concept of 'neo-globalism'.

"Mankind faces a number of complicated and difficult tasks. But the super-task is to prevent a

nuclear war. Together with you we realise that if a nuclear war is not averted, then all the efforts being undertaken in the struggle for national independence and social progress of the peoples are of no avail," said Anatoli Dobrynin. "Meanwhile, termination of the arms race would enable the whole world to release huge resources which could be used in the interests of developing countries. We hold that the struggle against the threat of a nuclear war is also the struggle for the development of newly-free countries and peoples."

Having characterised the concept of a comprehensive system of international security put forward at the 27th CPSU Congress, the speaker noted that it accumulated the aggregate positive experience of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries and also of the whole of the international community.

Specially emphasised was the historic significance of the peace initiatives which were put forward by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, in the January 15, 1986 statement, in the political report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Party Congress and in the speech at the 11th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in Berlin.

"The initiatives aimed at a political settlement of conflict situations in different parts of the world fit organically into the Soviet programme for consolidating peace, for establishing a system of international security," said Anatoli Dobrynin.

"Our country consistently supports the legitimate demands of the developing countries on the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic foundation. The convocation of the world congress on problems of economic security—the idea of which was formulated by the 27th Congress of the

Communist Party of the Soviet Union—would undoubtedly promote the economic decolonisation of these countries and the improvement of international economic relations.

"In its economic, scientific and technical contacts with the developing countries the Soviet Union proceeds from the principles of equality, mutual benefit and due account for the partners' interests. In terms of principles, aims and content this co-operation constitutes a new type of international economic relations which counters the system of exploitation of these countries by transnational corporations, and solidifies the positions of the emergent states in the struggle against neo-colonialism.

"It is our firm conviction", Anatoli Dobrynin emphasised, "that the principle imposed by militarism—arms instead of development—must be replaced by the principle Disarmament for Development."

The speaker noted that over the 25 years of its existence the Non-Aligned Movement had developed into a major anti-imperialist, anti-war force that exerted a positive impact on the entire course of world affairs.

"The USSR is firmly determined to continue to support in every way the efforts of non-aligned states in the struggle for universal peace, against the forces of aggression and neo-colonialism, for the settlement of all disputes and conflicts by means of political negotiations, and for a new international economic order."

Anatoli Dobrynin emphasised that the main lesson which the nations had learnt from the past war was that aggression should be countered resolutely and by joint efforts before the flames of war broke out.

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union", he said, "proceeds from the premise that, no matter how grave the threat to peace, a world war is not fatally inevitable. Forces of militarism and aggression are countered today by a mighty and ever-growing potential of peace, reason and justice." □

Geneva talks: facts and fiction

USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS CONFERENCE

MOSCOW, May 16, TASS:

ALEXANDER BESSMERTNYKH, a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists here today that the US Administration had lately begun once again to spread rumours about the Soviet position at the talks on nuclear and space weapons.

"In this way they want to create the impression that it is not the USA but someone else that is holding back progress at the Geneva talks. But this is not so. Actually, during the previous four rounds of the talks the American side did not offer anything new as compared with what it said from the outset and which was absolutely unacceptable. This holds true for the US positions on outer space, on strategic arms and on medium-range nuclear weapons," he continued.

"The claims by the American side that the USA introduced something fresh in the talks on November 1, 1985, and on February 24, 1986, are at odds with reality. Equally far-fetched are the statements of the US Administration that the Soviet Union has not responded to the above American proposals." The Deputy Foreign Minister pointed out that as long ago as the talks with US Secretary of State Shultz in Moscow in early November 1985, the Soviet side had given their official view of the American proposals and demonstrated in detail why they were unacceptable. Then, the Soviet side had produced at the Geneva talks themselves a detailed evaluation of the US proposals.

It was pointed out, *inter alia*, that the US proposal of November 1 circumvented the main question, that of averting the arms race in space. By substituting the vague concept of "stabilising the relationship between offensive and defensive weapons" for the problem of averting the arms race in outer space, the USA would actually like

to give legitimacy to the arms race both in space and on Earth.

"As for the arguments of the American side on strategic offensive weapons, at a closer look they mean a build-up of these armaments, though they seem to be speaking about halving them. Instead of the aggregate level of 6,000 nuclear warheads on strategic delivery vehicles mentioned by the American side as a ceiling for both countries, the United States, if its proposal were accepted, would have increased the number of its nuclear warheads to more than 15,000.

"Moreover, long range sea-launched cruise missiles (about 4,000 units) would not be restricted at all. The American proposals, if they were accepted, would wreck the existing structure of the Soviet strategic forces while that of the US strategic forces would be preserved," Bessmertnykh said.

"As for an 'intermediate agreement' on medium-range missiles under the proposals tabled by the American side on November 1, 1985, the United States would secure an opportunity drastically to increase, by more than two-fold, the number of nuclear warheads on its medium-range missiles in Europe while Soviet missiles would have to be reduced.

"Washington's proposals, by the close of the fourth round of the talks, did not contain anything constructive either, and were actually equivalent to a repetition of the unacceptable positions presented by the US delegation earlier. The American side responded to the Soviet radical proposal on the complete elimination of the Soviet and US medium-range missiles in Europe with its infamous 'zero option'.

"The American side", the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister stated, "has been doing whatever it can to quench the impetus given to the talks on nuclear and space weapons by the Soviet-American Geneva summit. Yet the US Administration still has a chance to back its words with deeds.

"Now that the USSR has announced the third

extension of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and offered the US leadership, in the words of Mikhail Gorbachyov, 'to demonstrate by action its care for human life and health', the US Government should use the chance offered to it and join the historic and important action of the Soviet Union."

If Washington really wanted to contribute to the Soviet efforts to break the deadlock at the talks on nuclear and space weapons, it could do so by reverting to a business-like and constructive discussion of all questions at the recently-opened fifth round of those talks.

"We now have a fundamentally new situation, which could break the stalemate at the Geneva talks if the American side is prepared to seek mutually acceptable compromises," he pointed out.

Responding to questions put by journalists, Alexander Bessmertnykh said that there was more and more talk in Washington about preparations for the United States' withdrawal from the SALT-2 Treaty.

"The Soviet side proceeds from the assumption that abiding, on a mutual basis, by the provisions of the treaty, which blocks the quantitative and qualitative perfection of the more powerful armaments, would be of no small importance to maintaining the strategic balance in the future as well, and to ensuring auspicious conditions for working out new accords on limiting and reducing nuclear armaments.

"The USSR's position as regards the SALT-2 Treaty will, certainly, depend on how matters stand with respect to preventing an arms race in outer space, and the observing by the United States of the ABM Treaty.

"The United States' further intentions with regard to this treaty will be verified when another US submarine of the *Ohio* class begins its sea trials, which is reported to be late in May," the USSR Deputy Foreign Minister said.

"Thus, the United States would, if corresponding measures are not taken, exceed the established limit of 1,200 units on intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles. For the United States to comply with this limit, it should dismantle the corresponding number of already-existing arms (either two *Poseidon* submarines or the corresponding number of Minuteman-2 intercontinental ballistic missiles).

"The intentions of the US side will apparently be verified for a second time by the end of the year when, as a result of the equipping of bombers with long-range cruise missiles, the United States will approach the treaty ceiling of 1,320 units of MIRV'd ballistic missiles and heavy bombers with cruise missiles.

"There is now talk in Washington to the effect that if in the first case the United States, possibly, does abide by the agreed limit, in the second it will not do so. Simultaneously, it is planned to launch a propaganda campaign charging the USSR with its alleged 'non-compliance' with SALT-2. The purpose is to find a pretext to lift from the United States the treaty restrictions which were agreed upon by both sides.

"So, the point at issue is the intention to violate the treaty most flagrantly, to withdraw from it through relieving itself of one or another of its provisions as soon as they become a hindrance to the new US military programmes. Should this happen, the entire responsibility for the consequences would rest squarely with the United States. The USSR would draw the corresponding conclusions and take measures to protect its security and to prevent the balance established by the treaty from being tipped."

Soviet Government statement

MOSCOW, May 20, TASS:

HERE follows the full text of a Soviet Government statement:

The world has witnessed once again an escalation of violence in the south of Africa. Showing once again its total disregard for the norms of international law and civilised behaviour, the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa has made a bandit attack on neighbouring African countries.

In the morning of May 19 special detachments of the South African armed forces attacked targets in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, and near Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. The South African aviation attacked a camp of South African refugees near Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. These actions caused loss of life and destruction. A spokesman of the command of the racist regime's armed forces has stated that these raids were against bases of the African National Congress (ANC), a liberation organisation struggling for liquidating the inhuman system of apartheid in South Africa.

The new crime of the South African military has become yet another link in the chain of unceasing acts of aggression by the racists against independent African peoples. The Pretoria regime's plans are obvious: to intimidate the continent's free countries, to make them withdraw support from the just cause of the patriots of South Africa, and to subordinate the peoples of

these countries to its will.

One cannot but note the sinister link between the aggressive actions of the Pretoria racists and the actions of their patrons from across the ocean that are analogous in style and method. The policy of state terrorism pursued by the American Administration, including the recent barbarous attack on Libya and the unceasing threats against other freedom-loving states, is an example for emulation by the Pretoria regime which has been declared in the White House to be a "historical ally" of the United States.

The regime of apartheid is trying to prolong its existence by means of bloody repressions inside the Republic of South Africa and by means of aggression against neighbouring countries. This confirms once again the indisputable truth that racism institutionalised in a state poses a serious threat to peace and the security of peoples, that it cannot be reformed, that it should be immediately and completely eliminated.

The Soviet Union firmly condemns the attack by the South African racists on Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia. Being true to its policy directed at maintaining universal peace and the security of peoples, it resolutely demands an immediate end to the criminal policy of terror and violence pursued by the authorities of the Republic of South Africa. The demand of the world community to apply to the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa comprehensive mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter should at long last be carried out in the interests of our planet's peaceful future. □