

Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet

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The session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of the eleventh convocation opened on June 18 in the Kremlin with a joint meeting of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

Mikhail Gorbachyov, Andrei Gromyko, Nikolai Ryzhkov and other Soviet leaders took part in the work of the session.

The meeting was opened by Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The agenda of the session and its procedure were approved unanimously. The following items were subjected for discussion:

1. On changes in the composition of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR;
2. On the State Plan of the USSR's Economic and Social Development for 1986-1990;
3. On the approval of decrees by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Nikolai Ryzhkov's report on five-year plan

MOSCOW, June 18, TASS:

"THE current five-year plan period (1986-1990) is to play a special role in the realisation of the strategy of accelerating the country's socio-economic development. The plan envisages the attainment of the upper level of the targets endorsed by the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU)," said Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. He was delivering a report on the draft five-year plan at the USSR Supreme Soviet session which began in the Kremlin today.

Describing the main indicators of the plan, the speaker said that national income was to increase by 124,000 million roubles in the coming five years as against 79,000 million roubles in the past five-year period. The share of accumulations in it will grow. Capital investments are to increase considerably. Their absolute increment will amount to 190,000 million roubles as against 107,000 million roubles in the past five-year period. The application of advanced technologies in industry will grow by 50-100 per cent. Resources-saving measures will reduce the prime cost of industrial output by 29,000 million roubles as against 16,000 million roubles in the past five-year period.

"The plan", the speaker pointed out, "reflects the fundamental line towards large-scale reconstruction of the country's economy. Thus, the share of expenditures for the technical re-equipment of the operating production plants will grow

from 38 per cent in 1985 to 51 per cent in 1990. The rate of writing off outdated machines and equipment will considerably accelerate. Within five years write-offs will amount to 240,000 million roubles as against 110,000 million roubles in the past five-year period.

"Much attention in the plan is devoted to measures to raise the efficiency of production. Provision is made, in particular, for high targets to reduce power and metal intensity of products. It is planned to meet 65-70 per cent of the increment of requirements for fuel and raw materials through saving. The putting of secondary resources into economic uses will grow. Their utilisation in 1990 alone will make it possible to save 40,000 million roubles worth of feedstock, raw materials and fuel."

"Machine-building will account for two-thirds of the increment in the output of the heavy industry products in the current five-year plan period," the speaker went on to say. "We cannot put up with the fact that only 29 per cent of serially-made engineering products are now up to world standards. It has been decided to bring the share of such products up to 80-95 per cent by the year 1990. The manufacture of computing equipment will grow by 140 per cent. This will make it possible to raise the share of machines and equipment provided with electronic control means from five per cent in 1985 to 27-32 per cent in 1990 and in some important types of products — up to 70 per cent."

Speaking of prospects for the development of the power industry, Nikolai Ryzhkov stated that in the present conditions the generation of power increasingly relied on nuclear energy. "The correctness of such a road", he emphasised, "is confirmed by both world and domestic experience. At the same time the determination of a technical policy which ensures the high reliability of nuclear power stations is of importance here as in no other sector. The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station has shown the exceptional importance of the observance of such requirements."

"Capital construction which requires a cardinal restructuring is one of the most responsible sections of the plan," the speaker went on to say. "A huge building programme has been mapped out for 1986-1990. The volume of capital investment within the five years will amount to 994,000 million roubles."

Having pointed out that positive changes had taken place in agricultural production since 1982 when the Food Programme was adopted, the speaker said that the achieved results could not satisfy the country. The rate of increment in

agricultural production was to increase by 160 per cent in five years' time. Provision was made for priority growth in the food industry.

Speaking of concrete planned targets, he said that gross output of grain in 1990 was planned to be brought up to 250 million tons and the yield of cereals up to 21 metric centners per hectare on the average. The average annual production of meat was to grow by 2.8 million tons and of milk by nine million tons.

"The draft plan sets out measures which are to lead to the planned results. In particular, capital investments in the branches of the agri-industrial complex will amount on the whole to 33 per cent of the aggregate amount of the capital investments in the country's economy.

"The plan attaches paramount importance to the development of the production of manufactured consumer goods." The speaker emphasised that the plan exceeded the targets which had been projected earlier by the comprehensive programme for the development of the manufacture of goods and of the service sector. "In 1990 it is planned to manufacture 16,000 million roubles worth of consumer goods more than was provided for by the programme adopted several years ago. On the whole, the manufacture of these goods will grow by 35 per cent within the five-year period."

The speaker pointed out that the social directedness of the five-year plan was enhanced. It was based on the indisputable exercise of the principle of socialist justice, and of socialist distribution of material benefits.

"A major socio-economic measure projected

Session of Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW, June 17, TASS:

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet held a regular meeting in the Kremlin today. The meeting was chaired by Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium examined questions connected with the holding of the fifth session of the 11th Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The meeting's participants discussed and approved suggestions on the agenda and the procedure of the session of the country's highest body of state authority.

They also considered other questions of state life. □

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by the plan in the field of remuneration of labour will be the introduction of new, 25-30 per cent higher, basic wage rates and salaries for the workers of the material production sphere. Pay in the non-productive sphere for the work of personnel in the fields of public education, health services, culture, and higher school will go up as well.

"The social consumption funds—which are used in the USSR for payment for education, health care, social maintenance and so on which are free to the population—will grow in the current five-year plan at a priority rate as usual. Payments and benefits to the population from these funds will grow by 25 per cent. In the coming years it is planned to increase the number of paid days during which women with children will be able to stay at home looking after a sick child. The earlier fixed pensions for the members of the agricultural co-operatives will be raised, as has already been done with regard to industrial and office workers. Pre-natal leaves will be extended. Women will be granted child-care leaves for a period of one year and a half.

"The housing construction plan has been increased—it is planned to build houses with an aggregate area of 595 million square metres, which will be considerably higher than the level of the past three five-year plan periods.

"Requirements for accommodation at pre-school institutions will be fully met, and funds allocated for the strengthening of the material resources of culture will more than double."

The report's section devoted to the development of foreign economic relations formulates

the main directions of the country's policy in that field.

"Co-operation with the member-countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) will remain the core of the USSR's foreign economic relations," the head of the Soviet Government said. "The pooling of the efforts of the entire socialist community and the switching of the economies of all CMEA countries onto the path of all-round intensification are a reliable guarantee of our success. This was again emphasised at the recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries in Budapest.

"The draft five-year plan provides for an active development of trade-and-economic relations with socialist countries which are not CMEA members. A high dynamic in the growth of goods turnover with the People's Republic of China is provided for, in particular.

"Provision is also made for necessary measures for a steady implementation of the CPSU's line towards wide co-operation with the developing countries, towards supporting their efforts in carrying out progressive social and economic transformations. The principles in this field are invariable: equality and effective assistance to peoples who have embarked upon the road of gaining economic independence. The USSR is for a restructuring of the world economic order on a fair and democratic basis, guaranteeing economic security for all countries—big and small," Ryzhkov stated.

"We are also ready for most versatile, wide economic relations with developed capitalist

countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, including new advanced forms of relations. There is no doubt that well-adjusted, strong economic contacts between states with different social systems will be of benefit to the whole of mankind and to the cause of peace and detente. Of course, a resolute renunciation of any attempts at discrimination, and of various kinds of bans and restrictions is needed for that."

The concluding section of the report deals with the problems of restructuring economic management in accordance with new requirements. "The purpose is", the speaker said, "to form an integrated system of management which would fully conform with the intensive type of our economic growth. With this end in view, it is essential to enhance both principles of democratic centralism—to raise the efficiency of centralised guidance and considerably to broaden the economic independence of enterprises and amalgamations. To begin with, the switching over of industries to new management methods, which have been tried and tested during economic experiments, is to be completed."

"The restructuring of the economic machinery", the report pointed out, "is inseparable from a radical improvement of economic activities in all sectors—at each ministry and at each enterprise.

"The practicability of plans in the USSR has always been determined by the people's vigour. It is important today that this powerful factor should operate to the full," Nikolai Ryzhkov said in conclusion. □

Yegor Ligachyov's speech at meeting of USSR Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW, June 18, TASS:

ON the instruction of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and also the councils of elders of both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Yegor Ligachyov, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, submitted proposals on changes in the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, at a session of the supreme body of state power which opened here today.

He said that Vasilii Kuznetsov had requested to be relieved of the duties of First Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in connection with his retirement on pension for

APPOINTMENT OF YAKOV RYABOV

MOSCOW, June 20, TASS:

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Yakov Ryabov as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the French Republic.

Yakov Ryabov was born in 1928. From 1958 to 1979 he was involved in Party work and from 1976 to 1979 he was a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Between 1979 and 1983 he was First Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, and from 1983 to 1984 Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. From 1984 to 1986 he was Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet relieved Yuli Vorontsov of his duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the French Republic in connection with his transfer to another job. □

health reasons. The CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR recommended that Pyotr Demichev be elected to the post of First Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"Pyotr Demichev has long been a member of the Party's guiding bodies, he is an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and Minister of Culture of the USSR," the speaker said. "Earlier, Pyotr Demichev was First Secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the Party, and a Secretary of the Party Central Committee. He has considerable experience as a Party leader and a statesman. He is characterised by a responsible attitude to what he does, modesty and other personal qualities necessary for successful work in the new post."

Yegor Ligachyov also made a proposal to relieve Ivan Polyakov, Khalilov Kurban-Ogly and Bakken Sarkisov of the duties of vice-presidents of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in connection with retirement, and Ivan Kalinin in view of his appointment as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Moldavia.

The Party and government bodies of the republics of Byelorussia, Azerbaijan, Moldavia and Armenia proposed to elect the following presidents of the presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of these republics: Georgii Tarazevich—the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Suleiman Tatliyev—the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, Alexander Mokuhan—the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Grant Voskanyan—the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, as vice presidents of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet from these republics.

Yegor Ligachyov furthermore said that Deputy Lev Zaikov was now a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Party Central Committee. It was proposed to relieve him of the duties of member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in

view of the need to concentrate on fulfilling the duties of Secretary of the Party Central Committee.

Yegor Ligachyov also submitted a proposal that Viktor Grishin be relieved of his duties as member of the Presidium in connection with his retirement.

It was proposed that Deputy Boris Yeltsin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Moscow Party Committee, and Deputy Yuri Solovyov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Leningrad Regional Party Committee, be elected members of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Deputies of the Soviet Parliament accepted those proposals. □

DECISIONS OF SESSION OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET

MOSCOW, June 18, TASS:

At today's session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Pyotr Demichev was elected First Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Vasilii Kuznetsov, who had formerly held that post, has been relieved of his duties in connection with his retirement for reasons of health.

MOSCOW, June 19, TASS:

Gennadi Vedernikov and Vladimir Gusev were appointed today by a decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet as deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers.

By a decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Yakov Ryabov was today relieved of his duties as Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in connection with his transfer to another post. □

Mikhail Gorbachyov meets Soviet writers

MOSCOW, June 20, TASS:

ON June 19 Mikhail Gorbachyov, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting with writers who are deputies to the USSR Supreme Soviet and who had attended its 5th session, and also with a group of literary figures from Moscow.

They had a frank exchange of opinions on the place of literature and its tasks in the fulfilment of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and in the replenishment of the cultural and intellectual wealth of socialist society.

Mikhail Gorbachyov said in his statement that the Soviet country was living through a crucial stage in its history and social development. "The resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress marked a turning point. They are offering fresh opportunities for putting to use the entire constructive potential of socialism. But today we are just at the start of the road we have charted. A serious discussion was conducted on this matter at the recent June plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. A deep-going and comprehensive restructuring is needed to impart proper dynamism to every aspect of our life, to the economy, politics and social affairs. And it should be started with the restructuring of mentality and human psychology. This is not easy to do.

"Conflicts are coming to light and different

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPEALS TO SOVIET WORKING PEOPLE

MOSCOW, June 17, TASS:

THE CPSU Central Committee has appealed to the working people of the Soviet Union to increase labour productivity, improve the quality of products and save resources.

The appeal, adopted at the plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee on June 16, stressed that the 12th five-year plan period was the decisive stage in implementing the Party's strategic directives.

The plenum endorsed the draft state plan of the USSR's Economic and Social Development for 1986-1990. On its approval by the USSR Supreme Soviet, the session of which opens tomorrow, the five-year plan will become law.

The appeal pointed to the need for overcoming the unfavourable trends in economic development and imparting greater dynamism to it, raising the rates of production growth and obtaining higher end results through accelerating scientific and technological progress, retooling and restructuring the national economy and intensively using the potential created.

"We should drastically restructure the economic mechanism, create a flexible and effective management system that makes it possible to ensure everywhere an efficient organisation of work and to make fuller use of socialism's reserves and potentialities.

"We ought to carry out urgent social programmes, speed up the development of the socio-cultural sphere, improve considerably the working and living conditions of Soviet people and achieve a further rise in people's well-being.

"While handling these tasks in the complicated international situation, we are obliged to maintain at the necessary level the defensive capabilities of our state," the appeal pointed out. □

positions are laid bare. Everything, from fence-sitting philosophy to thoughtlessness and rashness, occur in the ongoing process. But what has been planned must be accomplished."

Discussing the need to revitalise the human factor, Mikhail Gorbachyov noted that, when all was said and done, everything was created by man and depended on man, on his activity in social life and production, on his civic maturity and moral standards. "The fate of all our plans, the fate of the country depend on what man is like today and will be tomorrow. All this is assuming priority at the stage of struggle for achieving a new quality of society. Naturally there is much room here for artistic creative work with its strong social impact," he pointed out.

"The course of the further development of the democratic foundations of the socialist system and of promoting criticism, self-criticism and broad publicity will be pursued by the Party firmly and consistently, without any vacillation," Mikhail Gorbachyov said further.

"The Party Congress gave a lesson of concrete, constructive and remedial criticism. This spirit of constructiveness and critical analysis should be preserved and developed."

Mikhail Gorbachyov noted that Soviet writers never isolated themselves from the troubles of today's world or from the life of our society. "Herein lies the moral strength of Soviet art. Naturally, nowadays, when the forces of peace and war are locked in a grim battle and when work is being unfolded to renovate every aspect of the life of Soviet society, the writer's word, the artist's voice is especially important and influential. Men of letters can play a substantial role in

psychological and moral restructuring and in the war on negative phenomena. It is clear here that an artistic analysis of our time calls for a bold, innovative thinking and an understanding of deep-lying phenomena and processes of life. There is an acute need today for high-level works of art that would present today's conflicts and real collisions, and convey the pitch of struggle for the accomplishment of the tasks set out, for works of art which would inspire confidence in the victory of the ideas and plans of the 27th CPSU Congress and assert true human values."

Mikhail Gorbachyov drew attention to the fact that the democratisation of life called for restructuring, for overcoming elements of stagnation in every public organisation, including the artistic unions. There should be no room there either for inertia, complacency or red tape. Soviet literature was a part of the people and wedded to the interests of the people and the Party.

The participants in the meeting noted that the country's artistic intellectuals were readily and enthusiastically joining the work in new conditions, and seeking to overcome negative phenomena in their midst and to take a stricter approach in evaluating the results of creative work. The urgent problems of literary criticism, publishing and the literary press were discussed from these positions.

Yegor Ligachyov, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Alexander Yakovlev, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Yuri Voronov, head of the Culture Department of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the meeting. □

Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, June 20, TASS:

AT its meeting today, the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee discussed the question of priority measures for the implementation of the decisions of the June 1986 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. Party committees, government, economic management, trade union and Young Communist League bodies are instructed to implement a wide range of practical measures aimed at translating into reality the decisions of the plenary meeting, at enlisting the working people, all work collectives for the successful implementation of large-scale tasks of the 12th five-year period.

The Political Bureau has endorsed the measures, drawn up in accordance with the directives of the 27th CPSU Congress, for the further enhancement of the role and increase in the responsibility of the soviets of people's deputies for the speeding up of social and economic development.

The question of the development of the production of computing equipment in the current five-year period was discussed. The resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted on this matter sets out measures for the manufacture of a wide range of promising types of electronic computing equipment and programming technical complexes. The assignments set are aimed at the implementation of the state programme for the construction, development of production and effective use of computing equipment and automated systems. Their implementation will be closely linked with the implementation of corresponding programmes of scientific and

technical progress in the CMEA member-countries.

The meeting of the Political Bureau also discussed some other matters of the country's social and economic development and of international politics, and the implementation of the decisions of the 27th Party Congress and the June 1986 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. □

Karpov meets representatives of Pugwash Movement

GENEVA, June 17, TASS:

VIKTOR KARPOV, head of the Soviet delegation to the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space armaments, met here today Dr Martin Kaplan, General Secretary of the International Pugwash Movement, and Professor Bernard Feld, chairman of the movement's executive committee.

The Soviet side set out the USSR's principled approach to arms control problems, directed at preventing an arms race in outer space, ending it on Earth and eliminating all nuclear weapons by the turn of the century.

It was shown that the USSR's practical proposals at the talks ensured everything necessary for the earliest reaching of effective mutually acceptable agreements in this field.

On their part, the representatives of the Pugwash Movement highly assessed the Soviet Union's positive steps directed at averting the nuclear threat and strengthening universal security. They pointed to the great importance of the USSR's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. □

SUPREME SOVIET:

Agreements must be respected

MOSCOW, June 20, TASS:

A JOINT session of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet took place in the Kremlin today. The parliamentarians examined the situation taking shape with regard to the Soviet-American accords on the limitation of strategic arms as a consequence of actions taken by the US Administration.

Participants in the meeting included: Yegor Ligachyov, a member of the Political Bureau, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union; Anatoly Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities; Mikhail Zimyanin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The meeting was attended by Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Tengiz Menteshashvili, Secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and heads of a number of ministries, departments and public organisations.

The session was chaired by Yegor Ligachyov. He stressed that the question submitted for the consideration of the deputies sitting on the foreign affairs commissions had acquired special urgency because of the decision recently announced by the US President no longer to comply with the Soviet-US agreements on the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

The US Administration announced that those agreements were outdated, that they had been done away with and no longer existed. "Washington proceeds from the assumption that the restrictions imposed by the agreements stand in the way of a runaway arms build-up and the achievement of military superiority by the USA over the Soviet Union. The arms race is generating fabulous profits for the monopolies, the military-industrial complex, and this is one of the main causes of the stockpiling of ever new mountains of armaments.

"The Soviet Union takes a fundamentally different stand on arms limitation and reduction," the chairman said. "It is well known: we stand for ending the arms race, both strategic and all others, for lowering the level of armed confrontation and for the provision of conditions to rule out nuclear war.

"To put an end to the arms race and go over to real disarmament, the Soviet Union tabled a series of proposals within a short period of time.

"First. Termination of nuclear tests. The Soviet Union unilaterally introduced a moratorium on nuclear explosions and put forward the proposal immediately to begin talks on a total nuclear test ban.

"Second. Total elimination of nuclear arms by the end of the current century with the prevention of the development of space strike weapons (SDI).

"Third. Elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe.

"Fourth. Elimination of chemical weapons and the industrial base for their production already during this century.

"Fifth. Reductions in the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

"Sixth. International co-operation in the

peaceful uses of outer space for the good of the whole of mankind.

"Seventh. Dependable verification at every stage of disarmament with the use of both national means and international procedures, to the point of and including on-site inspection.

"Eighth. Establishment of a comprehensive system of the international security of the peoples, embracing military, political, economic and humanitarian fields.

"The US Administration is ignoring the peace proposals of the Soviet Union and responded to them with acts of aggression against Libya, and fresh acts of provocation in Nicaragua, the Middle East, Angola and Afghanistan.

"The conference of socialist countries in Budapest this June reaffirmed these guidelines for the struggle waged by the fraternal countries for peace and for a switchover to real disarmament. They have now become the foreign policy platform of all the countries of the socialist community. The June 1986 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee approved the activities of our delegation at the conference and reiterated the Party's foreign policy course, mapped out by the 27th CPSU Congress, for stronger international security and for the prevention of the threat of nuclear war.

"The Soviet Union has been consistently standing for the strict observance of earlier agreements on arms limitation and reduction. The Soviet Union has not done anything since the ABM Treaty and Interim Agreement were concluded in 1972 and the SALT-2 Treaty in 1979 that would be contrary to the stipulations of those accords.

"The violation of agreements and cancellation of signed accords is not Soviet policy. Any attempts taken by Washington to present things differently are intended to create an atmosphere in which it would find it easier itself to renege on the agreements concluded earlier and to rationalise an arms build-up. The US ruling circles, launching a new arms race, are hoping to drag the Soviet Union into it, to exhaust us economically, to detract from our influence on the cause of peace and social progress and to regain their lost positions.

"The United States took an action which is subverting the very process of arms limitation and reduction. It is a very dangerous path and if the United States continues to follow it, the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, concluded in perpetuity, could become the next victim of American militarism.

"If this happens, strategic stability in the world would be further impaired and the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war would grow many times over.

"This explains the worry caused by the irresponsible actions of the American Administration in the USA itself, including in Congress, and among US allies, let alone the world public. Incidentally, one is getting the impression that the talks conducted in Geneva, Stockholm and Vienna the USA would like to use as a cover for the arms race."

"Naturally, the logic of today's international relations is such," Yegor Ligachyov stressed, "that the actions of the USA to upset the existing rough military-strategic parity are bound to provoke an adequate counteraction on the Soviet part." He recalled the warning made to the American side to this effect in the statement of the Soviet Government on May 31 in connection with the US renunciation of the accords on strategic offensive arms.

"The Soviet Union is firmly retaining the initiative in the struggle for peace, in the offensive on the forces of war. Mikhail Gorbachyov

said in the political report to the Party Congress that 'under all circumstances success must be achieved in the battle to prevent war. This would be an epoch-making victory of the whole of humanity, of every person on Earth. The CPSU sees active participation in this battle as the essence of its foreign policy strategy.'

"In the light of the situation now taking shape in the matter of compliance with the Soviet-American accords on the limitation of strategic weapons," the chairman said, "it is necessary to consider in the most careful manner the entire complex of problems arising in this context and to draw practical conclusions."

Reports on the matter under consideration were made by Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergei Akhromeyev, First Deputy Minister of Defence of the USSR and Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, and Yuli Vorontsov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

Sergei Akhromeyev noted the special place of the Soviet-American SALT-1 Treaty, including the ABM Treaty, and the SALT-2 Treaty in arms limitation and disarmament. He cited numerous cases of US violations of its commitments under the above agreements. "As regards the ABM Treaty, the gravest danger is presented by the US 'Strategic Defense Initiative' (SDI) programme. As for the SALT-2 Treaty, the so-called 'comprehensive strategic programme', approved by the USA in 1981, is in conflict with it. At the same time," the speaker stressed, "the Soviet Union is taking in all seriousness its commitments and that is why we are not only taking measures to preclude the possibility of even an inadvertent deviation from the stipulations of the agreements but also clarifying the questions asked by the American side. However, it is clear that the attitude of the Soviet side to the SALT accords cannot be defined without regard for the actions of the American side."

Yuli Vorontsov noted in his report that, in stating the intention of the USA to go beyond the limitations of the SALT-2 Treaty, President Reagan had actually unleashed a war against any treaty restrictions on the US military build-up programmes. Washington's decision not to comply any longer with the Soviet-American accords on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments was putting the Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons into a very difficult situation. The speaker also drew attention to the dangerous character of the efforts made by the USA to develop ABM systems, which are increasingly coming into conflict with the essence of the US commitments under the ABM Treaty. "The American Administration", Yuli Vorontsov said, "should give thought to the consequences of its actions and strictly respect the existing agreements."

Deputy Georgi Kornienko, a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union, delivered a report on the work done by a deputies' preparatory group which had studied the observance by relevant Soviet ministries and departments of the Soviet-American agreements on strategic arms limitation, and verification of observance of these agreements by the other side.

Deputies Georgi Arbatov, Yevgeni Velikhov, Natalia Orlova and Alexander Subbotin spoke in the debates and dwelt on various aspects of the matter under consideration. They denounced the US actions in subversion of the process of arms limitation and reduction and strongly demanded from the American Administration that measures be taken to rectify the existing situation. They voiced undivided support for the practical actions of the Soviet Government to ensure strict compliance with the existing SALT accords.

The closing speech was delivered by Anatoli Dobrynin. He stressed that the commissions had taken a justifiable and timely interest in the problem at hand. The very logic of today's development and the realities of the nuclear age were putting into the focus of world politics both the need for restraint in relations between the two major powers, possessing huge potentials of weapons of mass destruction, and the urgent need for limits on their stockpiling and for their eventual elimination. This approach of our Party and the Soviet State has been reaffirmed by the June plenary meeting of the Central Committee and by the latest session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"The foreign affairs commissions", the speaker said, "drew the firm conclusion that the Soviet Union is respecting its commitments under the treaties. The groundlessness of American claims in this respect was forcefully demonstrated in the speeches of the representatives of the Defence Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and other comrades at today's session.

"The SALT agreements are not to the liking of the more 'hawkish' forces in the USA because these agreements are based on the principles of equality and equal security, formalise strategic parity and constitute an obstacle to the fulfilment by the United States of its large-scale military build-up programmes. So when the bounds of treaty limitations had become too narrow for those programmes, the USA merely decided to throw those agreements overboard. One can say that Washington has demonstrated anew its

commitment to the ideology and concepts of military superiority, its real lack of interest in international agreements, and its unwillingness or at best lack of readiness to awake to the realities of the nuclear age.

"An extremely alarming situation is now taking shape in arms limitation and reduction in general," Anatoli Dobrynin stressed. "The negative effects of the decision of the US Administration to renounce the existing agreements on the limitation of strategic offensive arms are already making themselves felt. The situation at the Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons has clearly been aggravated. The grave doubts we had even earlier about the real wish of the American side to have new agreements have now been forcefully supported.

"In this situation the Soviet Union will counter the dangerous course of the USA with a consistent policy of shaping international relations that would be adequate to the character of the nuclear-space age, and seek perseveringly and with initiative a way out of the blind alley into which the US extremist forces would like to push the world.

"Our country stood and continues to stand for the strict observance of commitments under the existing agreements, for the preservation of everything positive that has been achieved with so much effort in the field of strategic arms limitation. This would be important to the maintenance of the strategic balance and to ensuring auspicious conditions for drafting new agreements on arms limitation and reduction. A good deal, naturally, will depend here on the

situation with the prevention of an arms race in space and US compliance with the ABM Treaty.

"In today's circumstances it is therefore exceptionally important", the speaker said, "that the Government of the United States weigh up anew all the responsibility it is incurring by taking the decision which is leading to the ruin of the SALT process and, while there still is time, draw the proper conclusion.

"The US Congress can and must play a role here. We would like to express the hope that US Congress and its members join in the demand that the Government of the United States strictly comply with the existing Soviet-American agreements and refrain from the renunciation of international legal documents supporting the arms limitation process."

Anatoli Dobrynin seconded the initiative of the deputies' preparatory group for a working meeting of representatives of the relevant commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet and US Congress to discuss mutual concerns related to the above questions. "It seems useful, too, to pass a special resolution of the foreign affairs commissions of the two chambers to reflect our principled evaluation of the current situation with the Interim Agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty," he said.

The Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet passed a resolution on the matter under discussion and decided to send the text of the resolution to the Government of the USA and to the US Congress, as well as to the parliamentarians of other countries. □

Resolution of Foreign Affairs Commissions of USSR Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW, June 20, TASS:

THE Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, at their joint session today, considered the state of Soviet-American agreements on the limitation of strategic arms as a result of the US Government's actions.

Having heard in this connection the reports by the ministries of defence and foreign affairs of the USSR and the report by the deputies' preparatory group which studied how the relevant Soviet ministries and departments handled the questions of complying with and monitoring compliance with the above-mentioned Soviet-American agreements, the commissions:

Declare that the US Government's decision to stop observing in the future the 1972 Interim Agreement on Certain Measures with Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT-1) and the 1979 Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT-2) represents a very dangerous step along the way to disrupting the entire existing regime of arms restrictions and undermining the possibilities of concluding in the future further-going agreements in this field;

Point out that this decision is a direct continuation of the US Administration's overall destructive approach to problems of restricting and reducing armaments, which rests on the striving to achieve military superiority;

Reject as groundless and having malicious aims the US Administration's attempts to ascribe violations of the SALT-2 Treaty and other Soviet-American agreements to the Soviet Union;

Draw the attention of all Soviet ministries and

departments concerned to the importance of continuing scrupulous compliance with the provisions, still in force, of the Soviet-American agreements in the field of limiting strategic arms as long as the American side complies with them.

The Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet express particular concern over the fact that the American side is undertaking steps that are also leading to undermining the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. This threatens to finally destroy the foundation on which strategic stability can only rest, and to pave the way for an unchecked arms race.

To discuss mutual concerns of the Soviet and the American parliamentarians in connection with the Soviet-American agreements on the limitation of strategic arms, it is proposed to hold shortly a working meeting between members of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the US Congress. Given the importance of the question of ending nuclear tests, this issue can also be discussed at the proposed meeting.

Such meetings could become regular, and their participants could exchange views both on questions related to the observance of the existing agreements and the elaboration of new agreements.

Mindful of the serious situation that is taking shape—a situation fraught with grave consequences for the destinies of peace—the members of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the USSR are urging the members of the corresponding commissions of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the US Congress, just as all other members of the US Congress, to do everything within their capabilities to see to it that the Government of the US observe the Soviet-American SALT-1

and SALT-2 agreements and refrain from actions undermining the ABM Treaty.

The commissions also express the hope that the US Government itself will weigh once again all the consequences of its announced intention to renounce the treaties, and will take decisions that would make it possible to stop the process of mankind's sliding into a nuclear catastrophe.

Proceeding from the premise that the outbreak of a nuclear conflict would constitute a lethal threat not only to the USSR and the US, but also to all other countries, the commissions consider it to be extremely important that the parliamentarians unequivocally express their desire to avert the threat looming dark over our planet and oblige their governments to pursue an active policy of peace, disarmament and negotiated settlement of disputes.

The Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the USSR, fully aware of the complexity of the present moment, at the same time express the conviction that the peoples of the world are capable of safeguarding peace, terminating the arms race and beginning the establishment of a dependable and comprehensive system of international security. Security for all—the West and the East, the North and the South, states big and small, irrespective of the religious beliefs, ideological persuasions or political views of their citizens. □

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SOVIET LAW ON FIVE-YEAR PLAN

MOSCOW, June 19, TASS:

THE Soviet Union's national income will grow by 22.1 per cent between 1986 and 1990, says the Law of the USSR on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for the next five-year period. The law was passed by the session of the Soviet parliament which closed in Moscow today.

The plan envisions a growth of 25 per cent in industrial output in the five-year period. The annual average farm production will grow by 14.4 per cent over the previous five-year period.

The real incomes of the population will rise by 14 per cent. A broad range of measures are planned to improve living standards. The average monthly earnings of workers and employees will grow by 14.7 per cent and remuneration to farmers by 18 per cent.

The public consumption funds will expand by 25 per cent between 1986 and 1990. It is from these funds that the state finances free health care and education and pays social benefits.

Altogether 595 million square metres of housing will be built during the five years.

The state plan provides for a rise in pay rates and salaries in the production sectors of the national economy, predominantly from the budgets of the enterprises and organisations, the

rights of which will be broadened.

It is planned to complete pay rises to workers in public education, which were initiated in 1981-1985. Stage-by-stage pay rises for workers in public health, culture and higher school will be started.

The plan provides for closer links between the pay of workers in research institutions and design, production and development organisations and the effect of the development and introduction of new technology and production processes.

Other social measures under the five year plan include percentage bonuses on pay to workers and employees with an uninterrupted work record in the Far East and Eastern Siberia. Bonuses will be introduced also to workers in the Urals and a number of other regions. It is planned to cancel taxes on earnings under 80 roubles a month and to reduce them on earnings between 80 and 100 roubles.

The social programme of the five year period envisions an increase in the duration of the partially paid leave to mothers to look after children till they reach eighteen months old and the introduction of the right to additional unpaid leave till the child reaches two years. The duration of the pre-natal leave will be extended from 56 to 70 calendar days.

Free issues of medicines to children up to three years will be introduced and the state allocations for meals at creches and kindergartens increased. A number of privileges will be extended to large

families.

The plan envisions larger payments and benefits to pensioners, in particular, higher minimum pensions.

The law on the state plan obliges the government to reduce prices for goods as the efficiency of production improves and production costs decrease.

The plan endorsed major indicators for the growth of each of the 15 union republics comprising the USSR. Industrial output in the Russian Federation, the largest union republic, will grow by 23 per cent and the annual average increment in farm production will be 15 per cent over the previous five years.

The law on the state plan obliges the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the governments of the union republics "to carry out practical measures to accomplish the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress in drastically restructuring the economic management system, in enhancing the effect of the managerial mechanism on the acceleration of scientific and technological progress, in improving the efficiency and quality of work at every level of social production, and in encouraging the initiative and socialist enterprise of work collectives." The task is formulated "to provide for broader economic independence of amalgamations and enterprises on the basis of a resolute switch-over to the economic methods of management, more effective cost-accounting and the broader application of the principles of self-financing." □

Nikolai Ryzhkov receives representatives of business circles

MOSCOW, June 19, TASS:

NIKOLAI RYZHKOV, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin today participants in the second meeting of representatives of Soviet organisations and business circles of Western countries, held in Moscow by the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the International Chamber of Commerce.

Welcoming the representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce, a major non-governmental organisation of business circles of 106 countries, Nikolai Ryzhkov pointed out that the chamber's activity for the development of international economic ties promotes mutual understanding among countries with different social systems, serves the consolidation of peace and, therefore, meets with sympathy and support in the Soviet Union.

A conversation was held on prospects of business-like co-operation between the Soviet Union and Western countries.

The possibilities for the widening of economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the USSR and Western countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage were set out in the light of the decisions and materials of the June plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee and the 12th five-year plan adopted by the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The large-scale plans for the Soviet Union's social and economic development are inseparably linked with its peaceful foreign policy which was confirmed again by the results of the conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states, held recently in Budapest.

It was noted that the consistent implementation of the general course of the 27th CPSU Congress would promote the Soviet Union's further participation in the international division of labour, the perfection of the structure and increase of the efficiency of its foreign trade ties, also with Western countries.

It was pointed out during the conversation that removal of the existing obstacles in international trade, abandonment by certain Western circles of the policy of pressure in the sphere of foreign economic relations would create favourable conditions for broad mutually advantageous co-operation in the spirit of the principles recorded in the economic section of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce and of the business circles who took part in the meeting favourably assessed the Soviet Union's efforts for the development of international economic co-operation and expressed their intention to promote the intensification of East-West commercial, economic, scientific and technical ties.

Taking part in the conversation were: Helmert Frans van den Hoven, President of the International Chamber of Commerce, and other representatives of the chamber's leadership, as well as leading officials of industrial, commercial and financial companies of Belgium, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United States, Turkey, Finland, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Taking part in the conversation from the Soviet side were: Guri Marchuk, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Boris Aristov, Minister of Foreign

Trade, Stepan Sitaryan, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, and Yevgeni Pitovranov, President of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. □

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Message of greetings to Socialist International Congress

MOSCOW, June 22, TASS: The CPSU Central Committee has sent a message of greetings to the 17th Congress of the Socialist International. The message says:

Esteemed Delegates,

Your congress discusses problems which are crucial to mankind's future.

The danger of nuclear catastrophe looms large over the international community.

The point at issue today is the survival of civilisation, which is, perhaps, the only one in the universe.

In October 1985, the Socialist International urged the United States and the Soviet Union to exert every effort to secure a turn from the armament policy to the course of preserving life on Earth in conditions of peace, freedom and respect for human dignity.

As you undoubtedly know the Soviet Union has made since then a number of major steps towards making it easier to effect this turn and expediting it.

We extended the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions till August 6, 1986, and suggested coming to terms without delay on banning nuclear testing;

We laid down in the January 15 statement a concrete and clear plan of eliminating nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction by the end of the current century and of reducing other

armaments to the limits of reasonable adequacy;

We advanced respective proposals on eliminating Soviet and US medium-range missiles in Europe and also regarding operational-tactical nuclear armaments, taking into account in so doing the Europeans' concern;

We put forward compromise proposals meeting the West halfway at the talks in Vienna and Stockholm, and also at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva—in the part concerning the speediest prohibition and abolition of chemical weapons under strict international control;

The Soviet Union declared most explicitly for effective verification in all directions of limiting armaments, including international forums on verification to the point of on-site inspections.

All these initiatives are aimed at implementing the programme for creating a comprehensive system of international security advanced by the 27th CPSU Congress.

The Warsaw Treaty member-states have recently proposed to the NATO member-states, all European countries a detailed programme of reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Given good will on the part of the United States, a turn from building up armaments to reducing them would be quite possible.

The Soviet-US summit meeting in Geneva generated the hope for an amelioration of the international situation. Regrettably we have not received, as you know, an adequate response from the US Administration, which acts at variance with the letter and spirit of the joint Soviet-US statement of November 21, 1985.

It becomes patently obvious in the light of the US Administration's refusal to join the moratorium on nuclear testing and the intention to abandon further compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Armaments of 1979 (SALT-2), announced by it, that it has embarked on the course of heightening confrontation, building up armaments without any restraint and attaining military superiority.

The claims of one state to force its will, its 'model' of development on others are inadmissible. The policy of *diktat* and violence can be fraught with gravest consequences for mankind.

The nuclear age calls for new thinking, an assessment in sober terms of the realities of the modern world, a world in which different socio-political systems and tens of states with their lawful interests exist, a world which is dynamic, changing, multi-faceted and full of contradictions.

Faced with problems common to all mankind and, above all, the problem of civilisation's survival, our world becomes more and more interdependent. The fact that not a single state can any longer hope to defend itself only by military-political means is also added to the realities of the nuclear age. Ensuring security has become, above all, a political task. So, it should be solved by political means.

The way to national security lies through mutual security—security for all. Proceeding from this, we call on all governments, parties, mass organisations and movements which are really interested in the destiny of peace on Earth to work for establishing an all-embracing system of international security.

Our proposals on the foundations for such a system of security—in the military, political, economic and humanitarian spheres—are set out in the political report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Congress. These foundations could serve as a starting point and framework for a direct and regular dialogue between leaders of countries of the international community. Abiding by them, it could be possible to achieve such a situation under which peaceful coexistence would become the supreme and universal principle of inter-state relations.

Understanding its historic responsibility as the ruling party in a nuclear power, the CPSU regards the struggle for stopping the arms race, for preserving and strengthening universal peace as the main direction in its activities in the international arena. We are ready to look actively for and use vigorously any, even the slightest, chance of reversing the trend toward the growing military danger.

The Soviet Union attaches much importance to a collective search for a political settlement of existing conflict situations in Central America, in the south of Africa and in the Near and Middle East. We resolutely denounce all forms of terrorism, including state terrorism.

To stop the arms race and to wipe out the hotbeds of the military danger means not only to stop the sliding to war but also to save the funds necessary for tackling economic and social problems, including of course those of developing countries, to combat hunger, poverty and diseases and to preserve the environment in a state suitable for the life of coming generations.

The Soviet leadership is fully aware that the struggle will be a long and persevering one. But we shall not turn away from the plotted course even if some would like to make us "bang the door".

The struggle against war must be won without fail. The growing support for demands for peace and disarmament by the international community, whose influence is assuming special significance nowadays, serves as an earnest of success in this struggle.

Therefore, we highly appraise relevant efforts by the Socialist International, an influential political force in the international arena. We also value initiatives by the Palme Commission, the leaders of the Delhi Six and all those looking for ways of stopping confrontation and seeking to contribute to mutual understanding, a dialogue and negotiations. The search for ways to peace is the cause of all and everyone.

The year 1986 was proclaimed the International Year of Peace by the United Nations. Complete discontinuation of nuclear tests in the nearest future and conclusion of an international agreement banning nuclear arms tests completely would be the best way of making it such in deed.

Attention to nuclear issues has become especially keen in the recent past. People understand better what disaster is in store for them if a nuclear war strikes mankind. Understanding is also growing of the need for invigorating efforts in the struggle against tests and for liquidating nuclear arms, for strengthening the international regime of safe development of the nuclear power industry.

We wish the congress every success in its work.

Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Eduard Shevardnadze meets Cuban Ambassador

MOSCOW, June 23, TASS:

TODAY Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, received Lionel Soto, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and Ambassador of the Cuban Republic to the Soviet Union, on the occasion of his final departure for Cuba.

During the talk, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, the sides expressed deep satisfaction with the fruitful development of Soviet-Cuban co-operation in all spheres and their close interaction in the interests of strengthening peace and international security.

They pointed to the identity of the basic foreign policy directives of the highest forums of the fraternal parties in the socialist countries on the question of strengthening peace, eliminating weapons of mass destruction and establishing a system of all-embracing international security. The participants in the talk noted the importance of the constructive initiatives put forward by the conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states.

The sides resolutely denounced the line of US aggressive quarters for whipping up the arms race and intensifying tension in several regions of the world, and Washington's encroachments on the sovereignty of independent states. In this context the solidarity of the Soviet Union and Cuba was expressed with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people to protect their basic rights. They noted the commitment of peace-loving states to the cause of a just political settlement in Central America and the broad support for the efforts of Latin American countries working in this direction.

Eduard Shevardnadze gave a luncheon in honour of Lionel Soto. □

Vladimir Petrovsky addresses Conference on Disarmament

GENEVA, June 24, TASS:

By TASS correspondent Vladislav Shishlo:

VLADIMIR PETROVSKY, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, addressed the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament here today. He said that ensuring security through disarmament in the inter-related world called for concerted effort and contribution by each and every one, called for setting into motion the entire disarmament mechanism.

This was especially important today, when the world was experiencing a justified sense of anxiety due to the fact that the US and NATO war machine was not only unwilling to slow its pace down but, on the contrary, was speeding it up—in all directions of the arms build-up.

The 'Star Wars' programme was being carried out at a high pace, and the development and creation of new systems of strategic offensive weapons were being boosted.

Simultaneously, the US and its closest allies were moving toward stalling rather than accelerating progress, as agreed upon at the

Soviet-American meeting in Geneva, in the political and diplomatic sphere.

The Soviet representative said that "we attach top priority to the task of ending nuclear tests and believe it is legitimate that this issue is placed first on the agenda of the conference.

"The Soviet Union is prepared for any talks: bilateral Soviet-American, trilateral—between the USSR, the US and Britain—or multilateral.

"We again call on the Conference on Disarmament to start work immediately, open multilateral talks and draft a treaty."

Petrovsky drew the attention of the conference to the political essence of the state of affairs at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space armaments, and stressed the importance of the latest Soviet proposals directed at accelerating them.

It was proposed to reach an agreement on staying within the ABM Treaty for at least 15 years and to agree, in order to strengthen the agreement, on where the border lay between the allowed and banned developments.

The Soviet side also proposed an agreement on equal limits on the ICBM's, SLBM's, heavy bombers and submarines armed with long-range cruise missiles, fixing the number of nuclear warheads for each side at 8,000.

The Soviet side tabled a draft agreement on another separate item of the talks—the elimin-

ation of American and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe.

"The proposals formulated at the Budapest meeting of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee, on reducing the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, are an important follow-up to the Soviet programme for a total elimination of nuclear weapons by the beginning of the 21st century," said the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister.

The speaker gave special attention to the tasks facing the disarmament conference in preventing an arms race in outer space, ending the nuclear arms race and preventing nuclear war.

"Shaping a safe world will be impossible without chemical disarmament," stressed the Soviet representative. The Soviet Union was setting a good example in this field, too.

The new approaches to the problem of banning chemical weapons, tabled by the Soviet Union, would allow the disarmament conference to reach the level of principled accords and advance towards working out a multilateral convention so as to outlaw chemical weapons in this century.

"Averting the threat of war and establishing a stable and secure world, that would be based on respect for one another's interests and observance of agreements and international law, rather than on force, should become the top-priority objective in the policy of all states," the Soviet representative concluded. □

For security and co-operation in Europe

MOSCOW, June 23, TASS:

"THE Soviet public urges all who treasure the destinies of Europe to take vigorous joint or parallel actions to safeguard life and civilisation." This is said in an address to all peace forces of the continent that was adopted today in Moscow by a plenary meeting of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation.

The meeting's participants discussed the committee's tasks in the light of the decisions of

the 27th CPSU Congress and the new Soviet peace initiatives.

Delivering a report, Lev Tolkunov, the committee's chairman and Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, pointed to the exceptional importance of the all-embracing programme of ensuring universal security advanced by the CPSU Congress. "Its implementation has become the cardinal and long-term direction of the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet State, of the entire Soviet public," he stated.

"Forty-five years after the treacherous attack of fascist Germany on the USSR, the aggressive forces of imperialism and revanchism are now

conducting an anti-Soviet campaign of slander with the aim of revising the post-war arrangement in Europe, of recarving territorial frontiers that have shaped since the Second World War," Tolkunov said.

"The Warsaw Treaty countries have proposed measures whose implementation opens a practical opportunity for arresting the present dangerous course of events, for stopping the development of unfavourable tendencies in Europe and in the entire system of international relations, and changing this development for the better. While the USSR and its allies set the example of honesty and sincere interest in the improvement of the European and world political climate, the ruling circles of the USA and NATO virtually ignore the Soviet Union's constructive proposals. The United States' refusal to observe the obligations under the SALT-2 Treaty, the US decision to continue nuclear testing, to conduct the preparation for 'Star Wars', deserve to be condemned," Lev Tolkunov said.

Having heard a report by Yuri Kashlev, the head of the Soviet delegation at the European Conference on Human Contacts that was recently held in Berne, the participants in the meeting expressed indignation at the fact that, contrary to the universal striving, the United States had frustrated the adoption of important agreed-upon recommendations on humanitarian issues, showing flagrant disregard for the interests of Europeans and for the implementation of the Helsinki accords. □

Lessons of the Second World War

MOSCOW, June 23, TASS:

WHILE remembering the lessons of the Second World War, the Soviet people and the people of other socialist countries are doing their utmost to preserve peace and prevent nuclear catastrophe.

This was the point made by members of the Soviet public at a meeting in Moscow today to mark the 45th anniversary of Nazi Germany's attack on the USSR.

Academician Boris Ponomaryov recalled that the Western countries had intended to direct the thrust of Hitler Germany's advance on to the USSR. But the calculations of the bourgeois governments of Britain, France and of Poland at that time had failed: Germany had directed its first blow at those countries. The peoples had paid a heavy price for the policy of their governments.

"It was only with the defeat of nazism by the Soviet armed forces in 1945 that the peoples of the European countries were freed from fascist oppression.

"Hitler's clique prepared, launched and conducted the war under the slogan of fighting communism. That served as a cover-up for the aggressive policy directed at establishing German fascist domination around the world," Academician Ponomaryov observed.

"At the present time, the trumpeting by overseas propaganda media about the so-called Soviet threat and the calls for a crusade against communism represent nothing but the aspiration to establish world-wide domination."

The meeting's participants adopted an address to anti-war organisations and movements all over the world, urging them to struggle against war before it started.

They said that the programme of reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals—advanced by the socialist countries, in addition to the Soviet proposal for abolishing nuclear and other weapons of mass annihilation before the turn of the century, opened up broad vistas for all peace-loving forces favouring an end to the arms race, disarmament and elimination of the threat of war. □

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