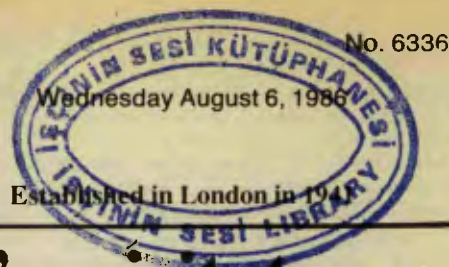


SOVIET NEWS



Mikhail Gorbachyov's visit to Khabarovsk Territory

By V Khatuntsev, A Chernyak, G Yastrebtsov, Pravda special correspondents

ON July 29, Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met the members of the Bureau of the Primorye Territorial CPSU Committee and of the Territorial Executive Committee, and leading Party and local government officials in Vladivostok.

On the same day, Mikhail Gorbachyov arrived in Komsomolsk-on-Amur from Vladivostok. He was welcomed there by A K Cherny, First Secretary of the Khabarovsk Territorial CPSU Committee, and N N Danilyuk, Chairman of the Khabarovsk Territorial Executive Committee. The tour of the city began with a visit to the Y A Gagarin Aircraft Factory.

Aircraft builders told the General Secretary that in their long-range perspective for this five-year period and beyond they were focusing on retooling and advanced techniques and processes. They are already using hot moulding of components of high-strength steel combined with thermal treatment. Another technique that is becoming effective is bag moulding under high specific pressures. Installations using laser, ultrasound and plasmas have been set up. So, no wonder that under the three previous five-year plans in succession, the factory was building up production only by raising productivity. In fact, that is the way the Party wants our industry and the whole of our economy to develop: enhancing the grade, dependability and stability of all of our output—from jet liners to grain crops—by constant retooling, with less expenditure of labour and materials.

In the square in front of the factory gate of another industrial giant of the city—the Leninist Komsomol Shipyards—the General Secretary was welcomed by sons and grandsons of those who had laid the keel of the first ship at what was then the Amur Shipyards half a century ago. Mikhail Gorbachyov spoke to the workers:

“What we have projected will begin to pay off by the end of this five-year period if we do what we have set out to do: as far as housing, commodity production and quality are concerned. And there will, of course, be more and more order. That is not just a dream—something for somebody. That is for all of us, for our generation, not to speak of our kids. So our plans, difficult though they are, are within our power and will begin paying off provided we carry them out.

“Nothing comes of itself. I have said it already and will say it again: Dear comrades, all our

policy, all that we have projected is for the people. But it is the people themselves that have the key to it.

“You may have heard what I said yesterday—I am putting the same question everywhere: ‘Are our plans clear to everybody?’ ”

“They are clear to all!” responded many voices.

Mikhail Gorbachyov asked again: “Do you feel like working?”. The reply came back: “Working, yes! Working better!”

“What else do you wish for?” was Mikhail Gorbachyov’s next question.

“Peace! Peace!” he was told.

Mikhail Gorbachyov said that he had devoted half of his speech in Vladivostok on July 28 to peace. “It is an uphill task,” he remarked. “Inside the country, almost everything depends on us, whereas outside it not everyone wants peace. Tension and the arms race are needed by those who want to make profits on armaments, force their conditions on other countries, blackmail them by force and impose their will on them. I shall not conceal from you the fact that they want to exhaust us economically. They fear that we shall carry out our peaceful plans. They are afraid. That is why they want to draw us into the arms race. We must take all this into account in our policy and we must actively pursue this policy. Did you listen to my address yesterday in Vladivostok?”

“We heard it”, “we watched you on television”, “we read it”, were the various replies.

“Good. Let’s carry on like this,” Gorbachyov responded. “And let them account for their own policy there. No one will put us on our knees.”

“We shall not be cowed!” came a voice from the audience.

“Never!” Gorbachyov agreed. “We are not that kind of people. And sabre-rattling is not our policy. But we’ll keep on building up our defences and, most important, boost our economy so that the people feel good and confident.

“You know, all those radio stations, and not only them, are now trying to besmirch our plans and our policy and set the people at loggerheads with the government. They want to weaken our country. Hence our responsibility, comrades. Without us the events in the world would have been different. The Soviet Union is the main obstacle for the imperialists. Its might and our organised and determined people.”

“We’ll stick up for ourselves,” someone put in.

“We shall,” Gorbachyov affirmed. “You’re right. If we continue to understand each other the way we now do—and we must keep up this understanding, if there is understanding between the working class and the country’s leaders, if there is understanding in each work collective and between the leaders and the working people, we shall have everything, comrades. Everyone must feel master in his own country. Let’s raise our heads higher!”

“We did, after the Congress,” several voices said.

“Go on holding your heads high,” Mikhail Gorbachyov went on. “And you may rest assured that the Party’s Central Committee won’t swing off its road.”

... The residents of Komsomolsk are deter-

mined to keep up their glorious traditions. The city hopes that most of the members of the youth building teams that have arrived here recently will stay. But one must take care of their living conditions. Youth hostels make up a whole district in the city. The foundation of a four-stairway co-operative block of flats for young people has been built and plans are afoot to build a community centre and sports grounds next to it.

From the busy Amur embankment one can see a bridge that links the Baikal-Amur Railway with a railway that cuts across the taiga towards Sovetskaya Gavan, so extending the second Trans-Siberian Railway to the Pacific coast. Thus, historically and economically, Komsomolsk-on-Amur and the whole of the Far East are the country’s outpost in the Pacific. Yet, as Mikhail Gorbachyov stressed in his speech, this is not enough now. The Maritime Territory and the Far East must be turned into an advanced economic complex.

(Pravda, July 30. Abridged.)

On July 29, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Khabarovsk from Komsomolsk-on-Amur. Mikhail Gorbachyov saw local enterprises, met production groups and talked to Party officials, business executives, factory and farm workers.

He was taking counsel with Communists and with the people on the most topical domestic and international problems. They discussed the readjustment and streamlining of economic machinery, style and methods of Party work. The discussions also involved daily wants and matters which might well seem to be of minor importance at first glance but which are actually of close concern to people.

Yesterday, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee gained an insight into the operation of the farming and related industries of the Far East. He visited the Krasnorechensky State Farm and talked to workers and managers of the district and the whole territory.

The General Secretary showed interest in everything.

Khabarovsk Territory has a five-year plan under way for accelerated housing construction. The aim is to build 25 apartments a year on every farm. This programme has been successfully carried on for more than two years. And so it will be till the end of this five-year period and beyond.

While talking to people, Mikhail Gorbachyov stressed that more has to be built, by various means, including a profit-and-loss system. Now, to that end, it is necessary to develop the local production of building materials. State farms should pool their efforts in building their enterprises together. Many districts now have small brickworks of their own. In the Ukraine, in the Kuban country and other southern areas, for instance, people have resumed using straw bricks: that’s handy and cheap. That is the easiest-to-get material, the best to keep your house warm in winter and cool in summer.

There must be more initiative and more enterprise—that was the keynote of the dis-

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ussions. Opportunities for that are many. Is it wise to have the simplest kind of implements brought over to the Far East from somewhere in the Baltic country? There must be woodworking shops here in this area to make furniture and other necessary things for local demand.

The General Secretary made a tour of Khabarovsk and saw the exhibition "Khabarovsk Territory Under the Twelfth Five-Year Plan".

Mikhail Gorbachyov had dozens of meetings in Khabarovsk. There was an openhearted discussion, with people telling him what was uppermost in their minds, criticising shortcomings and prompting ways to resolve problems. Here is one episode that took place at Lenin Square in Khabarovsk yesterday.

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "You must feel that you are the masters here. You are to speak openly about everything, through newspapers, directly. This wave is bringing up some demagogues who want to denigrate everybody. That must be taken

into account, too. But everything sound, everything that is said correctly, honestly and quietly, is good. That must be welcomed . . .

"There has to be a human and comradely attitude to everyone. A respectful attitude. That does not mean that we will be just nice to one another or that we will have an exchange of niceties. No. We have to do it the way we do in everyday life. If anyone makes a mistake, we've got to help him correct it. If he reacts to something in the right way, we've got to support him. If he does nasty things, we must bring him to his senses. If he takes to crime or abuse of office, we've got to use our laws and deal with him.

"If a person earns well, we must not condemn him, if he makes good money by good work on an open-hearth furnace, or as metal worker, fisherman, and so on and so forth. Now, someone whom you see is not working, but is all of a sudden feathering his nest, deserves to be looked at closely to see where he derives all his income

from!

"It is the people themselves that must run their society, through production groups, tenants' committees, Soviets and unions. We must speak about it boldly and raise issues just as boldly."

Voices: "Mikhail Sergeyevich, we trust you! We trust the Party and its course!"

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "And we trust you. Perhaps I will be repeating myself, but one may repeat a hundred, a thousand times whatever good one has to say about one's people—I do not know any other people as devoted to their country, restrained and modest."

Mikhail Gorbachyov laid flowers at the monument to V I Lenin and at the Eternal Flame memorial in Glory Square.

The General Secretary met the commanding officers of the Far Eastern Military District. *Khabarovsk.*

(Pravda, July 31. Abridged.) □

Sergei Sokolov's speech at reception in honour of graduates of military academies

ON July 30, the USSR Ministry of Defence and the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and the Navy held a reception at the Grand Kremlin Palace in honour of the graduates of the military academies.

Present at the reception were generals, admirals and officers of the USSR Armed Forces and of the Armies of the fraternal socialist

countries who had completed their studies at the Soviet military higher educational establishments, professors and teachers who had trained ideologically strong and highly skilled specialists for the Army and Navy.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergei Sokolov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Defence of the USSR, made a speech at the reception. He congratulated the graduates and the personnel of the military academies on the regular graduation and read out greetings from the Central Committee of the CPSU, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The message of greetings notes that those passing out of the military academies today do so at a time of a radical turn in the life of our society, when the Soviet people have enthusiastically launched intensive work for implementing the history-making resolutions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU and for speeding up the social and economic development of the USSR. It expresses the firm confidence that they will work in a creative manner full of initiative and devote all their knowledge, experience and energy to further raising the combat readiness of the Army and Navy, and to strengthening the field regulations order and military discipline.

"To accomplish the constructive tasks, durable peace is necessary," the USSR Minister of Defence went on to say. "The Soviet Union displays consistent peaceability, restraint and a constructive approach in conjunction with firmness and a principled attitude, and pursues a policy aimed at strengthening universal peace and ensuring international security. Mikhail Gorbachyov's peace initiatives, advanced in his speech in Vladivostok, are a major step in the implementation of this policy. They are directed at improving the political climate in Asia, the Pacific zone and all over the world, and at eliminating the threat of a nuclear war.

"As is its nature, imperialism, first of all US imperialism, carries out an aggressive, adventurist policy. It has not renounced the unattainable dream of gaining world supremacy, and its rulers are still hoping to take social revenge.

"Taking into account the growing war danger, the CPSU Central Committee and its Political Bureau pay unremitting attention to our country's defences, to enhancing the defence potential of the Soviet Armed Forces. The Soviet Army and Navy possess up-to-date armaments and military technology, and well-trained personnel who are selflessly devoted to their people and who duly fulfil their patriotic and internationalist duty."

(Pravda, July 31. Abridged.) □

Soviet-American consultations in Moscow

MOSCOW, August 2, TASS:

A scheduled round of Soviet-American consultations on questions of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was held in Moscow from July 28 to August 1.

In keeping with the agreement reached at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva on November 21, 1985, during the consultations the sides exchanged views on a broad range of problems related to the strengthening of the international regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to ensuring the effectiveness of this regime, and also on questions pertaining to the establishment of an international regime for the safe development of the nuclear power industry.

Richard Kennedy, head of the American delegation, was received by Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

The sides agreed to continue consultations on questions related to the strengthening of the international regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. □

Soviet-Spanish Consultations

MADRID, August 1, TASS:

THE Soviet Union and Spain held consultations here on July 31 and August 1 to discuss topical international issues, including problems connected with the task of completing successfully the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and connected with the forthcoming all-European conference in Vienna.

The consultations were attended from the Soviet side by Lev Mendelevich, member of the collegium of the USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry. □

Special expert group ends session in Geneva

GENEVA, August 1, TASS:

By TASS correspondent Vladislav Shishlo:

A SPECIAL expert group for international co-operation in discovering and identifying seismic phenomena ended another session at the Conference on Disarmament here today.

The session was attended by experts from 72 countries.

They unanimously adopted a report to be submitted to the disarmament conference, which deals with the results of a successful international technical experiment in the transfer of data concerning the parameters of seismic signals (the so-called first-level data) via the global telecommunications system of the World Meteorological Organisation, which involved 75 seismic stations of 37 states throughout the world.

The experts held a lively debate on the further tasks facing the special group in connection with the Soviet Union's proposal made at the Conference on Disarmament on July 22, 1986. They reached consensus on the fact that an international system of seismic control over a nuclear test ban should be created on the basis of the fullest possible use of all the latest developments in seismology and the automation of the processes of receiving, transmitting and interpreting first- and second-level seismic data. □

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Andrei Gromyko receives Turgut Ozal

Turgut Ozal: "If the Soviet Union takes big steps in developing our relations, Turkey will take similar steps."

Andrei Gromyko: "So it appears we shall meet somewhere on our common border."

This joke is expressive of the relaxed and sincere atmosphere surrounding the talks on

Nikolai Ryzhkov visits Chinese exhibition

MOSCOW, August 2, TASS:

A commercial and economic exhibition from the Chinese People's Republic has been opened at Moscow's Sokolniki Park.

Exhibits contributed by almost all sectors of China's industry and agriculture are being shown on an exhibition area of 2,500 square metres. The exhibition tells visitors about the achievements and the level of development attained by the Chinese People's Republic over the more than 35 years since its founding.

Today Nikolai Ryzhkov, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Vadim Medvedev, a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the exhibition. They viewed the exhibits and had conversations with Chinese specialists. □

Resolution passed

THE Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers have passed a resolution on further enhancement of the role and responsibility of the Soviets of People's Deputies for the acceleration of social and economic development in the light of the decisions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

The resolution envisages measures to enhance the role of the Soviets of People's Deputies in securing comprehensive development of the economy and the social and cultural spheres on their territory, in speeding up the rates of growth and in boosting the efficiency of social production, and in raising on this basis the contribution of the republics, territories, regions, areas, districts, cities and villages to the consolidation of the integrated Soviet national economy.

It also provides for the expansion of the rights of the republican and local government bodies in the development of consumer goods production, services, intersectoral production spheres, capital construction, environmental protection, social and production infrastructure and in the settlement of other problems; for a greater responsibility of the Soviets for meeting the demands of the population within their territory for foodstuffs and manufactured goods, housing, social and cultural services and utilities; for the advancement of the Soviets' leadership and co-operation with associations, production works and organisations on their territory; for the stimulation of their common interest in the improvement of their economic performance results; for further promotion of the democratic principles in the work of the Soviets; for the improvement of the style and methods of their work and for the reinforcement of the Soviets' machinery with qualified personnel.

(Pravda-TASS, July 30. Summary.) □

July 29, in the Kremlin, between Andrei Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Political Bureau and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of the Turkish Republic.

The sides expressed satisfaction over the state of and prospects for Soviet-Turkish relations, and declared for their further widening on the basis of good-neighbourliness. Favourable prerequisites exist for this: the experience of co-operation accumulated over many decades, and the absence of irreconcilable contradictions between the USSR and Turkey. It was noted that commercial and economic ties could be widened considerably, which was an important basis for the further steady development of a complex of relations between the two states.

Andrei Gromyko told Turgut Ozal about the Soviet foreign policy strategy mapped out by the 27th CPSU Congress. He pointed to the particular importance of the January 15, 1986 Statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, and the Soviet initiatives on eliminating nuclear weapons before the end of the century, on preventing an arms race in outer space and on limiting and stopping the arms race on Earth, which formed a sequence to the Statement.

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR described in detail the causes

Friendly meeting

MOSCOW, July 30, TASS:

ANATOLI DOBRYNIN, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Karen Brutents, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, met today Walid Jumblatt, Chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party.

The representatives of the CPSU reaffirmed that the Soviet Union supports the struggle of the Lebanese people for the strengthening of their homeland's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, for the right to decide themselves upon the form of its government and social system. The CPSU considers the struggle of the Lebanese patriots against the Israeli aggressors to be legitimate and just, and demands the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli occupiers from the whole of Lebanon's territory. Support was expressed for the striving of the Lebanese national-patriotic forces for an end to the fratricidal strife and a democratic settlement of the outstanding problems.

The participants in the meeting stressed the importance of unity of actions by the Lebanese and Palestinians and all the Arab patriotic forces in countering the intrigues of imperialism and reaction. Walid Jumblatt expressed profound gratitude to the CPSU for its solidarity with the struggle waged by the Lebanese patriots.

The sides also stressed the identity of the stands of the CPSU and the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon on questions of the Middle East situation. The sides declared for a just and all-embracing Middle East settlement through the convocation of an international conference with the participation of all sides concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. To ensure successful advancement on that road it takes the cohesion of the Arab countries and restoration of the unity of the Palestine resistance movement on an anti-imperialist basis. □

of the existing explosive situation in the world, chief among them being the stubborn bidding by certain US quarters for world domination and their unwillingness to renounce power methods in their policy towards the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

"In the past, when people spoke of a danger," Andrei Gromyko said, "they used the term 'powder keg'. Now this term seems to be hopelessly outdated because mountains of nuclear weapons have been stockpiled. It is difficult to imagine what would happen if even part of these weapons are used."

Andrei Gromyko emphasised that the pooling of the efforts of all who were capable of assessing soberly the realities of the nuclear age, both politicians and non-politicians, was necessary for effectively opposing the nuclear menace. Hope was expressed in this connection for an increase in Turkey's contribution to the solution of the tasks of safeguarding peace, for the possibility of a closer interaction of our two neighbour countries in this sphere.

Turgut Ozal said that Turkey, for its part, wished for the Soviet Union and the United States to reach agreement, taking into account the latest Soviet proposals.

Pointing to the usefulness and constructiveness of the Soviet-Turkish dialogue, Andrei Gromyko and Turgut Ozal expressed the conviction that the talks and the meetings held in Moscow would give fresh impetus to versatile co-operation between the USSR and Turkey.

The conversation was attended by Pyotr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Yuli Vorontsov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V. S. Lavrov, the Ambassador of the USSR to Turkey, and O. Cankardes, the Ambassador of Turkey to the USSR.

(TASS, July 29/Pravda, July 30.) □

Eduard Shevardnadze meets Vahit Halefoglu

MOSCOW, July 29, TASS:

A conversation was held here today between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, and Vahit Halefoglu, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, who is staying in the USSR in connection with the official visit of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

The foreign ministers had an exchange of opinions on the situation in the world, above all in the sphere of arms reduction and ensurance of security, discussed some international problems and a number of practical questions of Soviet-Turkish political relations.

The conversation passed in a business-like and constructive atmosphere. □

STATEMENT
by Mikhail Gorbachyov,
General Secretary of CPSU
Central Committee
January 15, 1986.

Available from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary
Gardens,
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Andrei Gromyko receives Iranian representative

MOSCOW, August 4, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has received in the Kremlin today Mohammad Javaad Larijani, a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Deputy Foreign Minister of that country.

The Iranian guest delivered to Andrei Gromyko a message from President Sayed Ali Khamenei of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressing the wish of the Iranian leadership to develop good-neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union.

Andrei Gromyko thanked Mohammad Javaad Larijani for the message and stressed that the Soviet Union favoured good relations with Iran, and their development both in the political and economic fields. If Iran held to a stand of peace and of eliminating the threat of nuclear war, this would further broaden in perspective the pos-

sibilities for co-operation between the two countries. He pointed out that the new Soviet proposals, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech in Vladivostok on July 28, 1986, were aimed at ensuring international security and developing peaceful co-operation between the states of the Asian-Pacific region.

During the meeting, the problem of the Iran-Iraq war was examined. Andrei Gromyko stressed that both sides would act sensibly by putting an end to the war and agreeing to talks.

Eduard Shevardnadze's conversation with Mohammad Javaad Larijani

Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, today received Mohammad Javaad Larijani.

The Iranian side emphasised the intention and wish of the Iranian leadership to develop good relations with the Soviet Union.

Eduard Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union had always declared and continued to declare for good-neighbourly relations with Iran, for their development in the spirit of equality and mutual respect.

Questions of the present-day state of and prospects for the development of Soviet-Iranian relations, as well as a number of international and regional problems of mutual interest, were discussed during the conversation, which passed in an open and business-like atmosphere.

The Iranian representative was informed in detail about the new Soviet proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech delivered in Vladivostok on July 28, proposals aimed at the ensurance of international security and peaceful interaction of countries of the Asian-Pacific region.

When questions of the Iran-Iraq war were discussed, the Soviet side confirmed its stand of principle in favour of the early ending of the Iran-Iraq conflict and its undelayed channelling onto the path of peaceful political solutions. □

PRAVDA:

Moratorium on nuclear blasts

MOSCOW, August 5, TASS:

"THE Soviet Union marked the 40th anniversary of the Hiroshima tragedy with a bold initiative, by unilaterally halting all nuclear blasts, both those for military purposes and those for peaceful ends, from August 6, 1985, till the end of that year," *Pravda* political commentator Vsevolod Ovchinnikov recalled in the paper today.

"The results of the Geneva meeting between the Soviet and US leaders, where encouraging joint statements were made on the inadmissibility of a nuclear war, prompted the Soviet Union to make yet another gesture of good will and extend the unilateral moratorium till March 31, 1986," he said.

"Meeting the wishes of world opinion, it then

renewed the unilateral moratorium once again, in the hope that the United States would follow the lead," the commentator added.

"An official White House spokesman said several days ago that a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty remained a long-term US objective but Washington believed it would only be appropriate to sign it when there was no longer any need for a deterrent, when nuclear armories had been drastically cut down, verification possibilities significantly improved and mutual trust (understood as changes in the Soviet Union's domestic policy) strengthened.

"An official spokesman for the State Department, by contrast, did not even think it necessary to pile up any such pre-conditions. He put it all far more bluntly, explaining that the term of the Soviet moratorium depended on the USSR itself, while the United States believed such a moratorium was not in its security interests.

"In Washington," Ovchinnikov said, "they claim the United States cannot join the moratorium because the USSR is ahead in developing and modernising nuclear arsenals. However, it is known that, first, it is the USSR that has had to catch up with the United States at all stages in the nuclear race and, second, statistics show that the United States has staged more nuclear explosions than the rest of the nuclear powers put together."

"There are no sensible arguments against a complete end to nuclear blasts," the commentator emphasised. "The American side's assertions about the difficulties of verification hold no water. Both countries have quite adequate national technical means to verify the proposed ban. The USSR has declared more than once that it will also accept international forms of verification, including on-site inspections, on condition that these will help monitor a complete end to nuclear explosions rather than use foreign observers to legalise them." □

PRAVDA:

Nuclear-free zone in Asia

MOSCOW, August 4, TASS:

THE idea of creating a nuclear-free zone in South-East Asia enjoys ever greater support in the countries of that vast and densely populated region, a commentary published in today's *Pravda* points out.

The idea was put forward this summer by Indonesia at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of ASEAN member-countries in Manila and, on the whole, was approved there. It was decided to start its practical implementation. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia reaffirmed recently that Jakarta was busy drawing up a draft treaty to this effect.

The creation of a nuclear-free zone in the concrete conditions of South-East Asia is a complicated undertaking involving a lot of problems. The problem of the Philippines, where two of the biggest US military bases are situated, is one of them. According to numerous evidence, nuclear weapons are stockpiled at those bases.

For a long time the problem of those bases was regarded as the main obstacle on the way of creating a nuclear-free zone in the region. As far back as 1971 the concept of a nuclear-free South-East Asia was adopted, among others, as the idea of the ASEAN group. However, for many years it was believed that it could be put into practice only in the distant future. Today the situation has changed. Life itself demands the solution of this problem.

Indonesia's initiative in the drawing up of a nuclear-free zone treaty for South-East Asia is based on a correct assessment of the sentiments of the public and of a number of governments in the countries of the region, and on the fact that the creation of a nuclear-free zone will consolidate peace and security in South-East Asia and, at the same time, will enhance the prestige of the countries which support the idea.

According to *Pravda*, all this clearly shows that the countries of South-East Asia, as well as those of the Pacific region, are seeking to get rid of the nuclear threat and to join the overall process of the creation of an all-embracing system of international security. □

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Press conference at USSR Foreign Ministry

11TH ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT

MOSCOW, July 31, TASS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE was held at the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today, to mark the 11th anniversary of the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Speaking at it were: Oleg Grinevsky, leader of the Soviet delegation at the Stockholm Conference on Security- and Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe; Yevgeni Silin, Vice-President of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation; Major-General Viktor Tatarnikov, a spokesman for the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces.

"The Soviet Union has been and is attaching much importance to the Stockholm forum as part of the CSCE process. It is precisely along these lines that a turn can be achieved both in European and international affairs," stated Oleg Grinevsky.

"Success in Stockholm will be a step towards the success of the follow-up meeting in Vienna this year and an earnest of a good start for the second stage of the Stockholm Conference," he emphasised.

"The conference has gradually begun to make headway. The general atmosphere has changed appreciably for the better, and prospects for ending it with tangible results have opened up," Oleg Grinevsky continued.

Among the positive results, he mentioned first of all the solution to the problem of notifications about air exercises, a question which had long blocked headway at the conference. This arrangement now covered practically 90 per cent

of the entire air force activity in Europe.

Oleg Grinevsky emphasised that respect for human rights was a substantial factor for peace. He said the Soviet Union came out in favour of an "effective and adequate verification" of the arrangement for confidence-building measures.

The leader of the Soviet delegation to the Stockholm Conference highly appreciated the efforts which have been or are being made by neutral and non-aligned countries for achieving progress at the conference, and emphasised that reciprocal moves on the part of the West, too, were essential for steady headway.

Yevgeni Silin, for his part, pointed out that the work of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation inside the country and abroad was based on the Helsinki Final Act. "In our activities we proceed from the realisation that this unique document is a beacon that enables peaceful and realistically-minded forces to work towards normalising international relations, despite the existing difficulties."

"Members of the general public, trade unions, women's and youth organisations, scientists and people in the arts are taking part in the work of our committee which regards its main task as implementing the provisions of the Final Act," Silin said.

"The past few months have witnessed a number of international developments indicative of the striving of the Europeans to change the relations in Europe for the better," he went on to say. "The diplomacy of socialist countries accomplished much in this respect. The 27th Congress of the CPSU put forward a comprehensive programme for ensuring security for the whole world, and we hope that the process of the

establishment of a security system will begin in Europe, the more so as a certain headway has been made in this direction thanks to the Helsinki Final Act."

The spokesman for the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces said that the Helsinki Final Act had helped to achieve certain progress in the confidence-building effort.

"We now invite observers to military exercises," Major-General Tatarnikov stated, "which enables the European nations to see for themselves that this military activity is not of a threatening character."

"The region to which the confidence-building measures apply is currently being expanded. Previously, it comprised Europe and the 250-kilometre zone east of our border, while now the zone has been expanded up to the Urals."

"Further confidence-building measures are being considered at the Stockholm Conference. It has been suggested, in particular, that notification should apply not only to the exercises of land troops, as now, but also to the exercises of amphibious forces and air-borne troops, and that information should be provided about air force exercises conducted at the end of ground troops exercises," Tatarnikov said.

The general emphasised that new parameters for notification were being worked out to lower its threshold.

"Earlier on, the notification parameter started at the threshold of 25,000 troops. At present, a lower threshold is being discussed. We are prepared to discuss even lower thresholds than those currently under consideration at Stockholm." □

Trud: Who's closing the 'iron curtain'?

MOSCOW, August 2, TASS:

"THE authorities in the United States of America are hindering contacts between Soviet and American working people and between their professional organisations. In essence, such contacts have become a 'one-way street'. And one must say that it happened through no fault of the Soviet side or the American workers," the Soviet trade union daily *Trud* said today.

"In 1985 alone 14 delegations comprising 300 people who represented different labour unions and 18 tourist groups from the United States visited our country. But the US Department of State stubbornly refuses to grant entry visas to members of Soviet trade unions invited to the US by their American colleagues."

"Closing this 'iron curtain', the US Administration is trying to prevent normal human contacts and is infringing on the right of the American working people to meet with their class brothers freely. In essence, the case in point is a gross violation of the spirit and the letter of the Helsinki agreements which, let us recall, were signed by the President of the United States of America." □

Shevardnadze to meet Shultz

MOSCOW, August 4, TASS:

Under an arrangement reached, a meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, and George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, will be held in Washington on September 19-20. □

PRAVDA EDITORIAL:

Helsinki anniversary

MOSCOW, August 1, TASS:

"EUROPE became our planet's first testing ground for establishing peaceful co-operation between states belonging to different social systems," says today's *Pravda* editorial.

"The shoots sprouting on that field have proved to be so viable that even a serious aggravation of tensions failed to destroy the foundation of detente. One of the most important events of the post-war period (whose 11th anniversary is observed today) was the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It was the day when a unique phenomenon, now described as 'the Helsinki spirit', came into being. It stood the first tests and continues to promote stability and peace."

"The experience of the development of fruitful interstate relations on the continent is instructive. The USSR invariably devotes much attention to European co-operation," *Pravda* continues. "Take this July alone—political dialogue continued with France, Britain and West Germany. No matter how different these countries, their history and current policy, there is a possibility of joint or parallel actions on a number of crucial problems of the present day."

"It is exceptionally important that West European states come out with greater determination in favour of the termination of the arms race, disarmament and progress in the Geneva negotiations on nuclear and space arms. One should also take note of the common viewpoints in the approach to a new meeting of the top leaders of the USSR and the US. It is the

common conviction that it should achieve substantial practical results, primarily on problems of enhancing security and promoting disarmament," *Pravda* says.

"Europe is capable of continuing its efforts to ensure a turn from a history of wars to a history of peaceful co-operation," *Pravda* goes on. "This would be a commendable contribution to the science of civilised relations in a nuclear age. Today, as never before, it is important to mobilise the potential of common sense existing in the world, the partnership of reason, in order to prevent the world from sliding into a catastrophe. The Soviet Union's determination to do everything that depends on it is undiminished. All the people on this planet can be sure of that." □

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Press briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW, August 4, TASS:

"IN recent days spokesmen for the US Administration have come forward with statements which misinterpret the course of the work and results of the extraordinary session of the Soviet-US Standing Consultative Commission (SCC), the session which was held in Geneva from July 22 to 30," stated Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He was speaking at the Ministry's Press Centre at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

"During the session," the Soviet Foreign Ministry's spokesman said, "the Soviet delegation emphasised that the US Administration's decision to abandon further adherence to the SALT-1 Interim Agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty would entail extremely dangerous consequences. That decision is aimed at upsetting the military-strategic balance and leads to an uncontrolled and unpredictable arms build-

up, to an increased threat of nuclear confrontation, and to higher international tension.

"The fact is that, as the treaty obligations enter into conflict with the realisation of new US military programmes, the United States unilaterally relieves itself of the obligations, thereby opening the floodgates for an uncontrolled arms race, putting the security of all countries in jeopardy.

"The entire course of the SCC's extraordinary session", Gennadi Gerasimov emphasised, "confirmed the validity of the concern expressed by the Soviet side over the US Administration's decision to abandon the Interim Agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty."

"It is necessary that the US side seriously weigh all the consequences of its decision and take effective measures which would make it possible to stop the process of breaking up the treaty system which restrains the nuclear arms race," the spokesman pointed out.

Speaking about the US plans to produce binary chemical weapons, Gennadi Gerasimov said that the Soviet Union had more than once drawn attention to the dangerous consequences, both

for Europe and the whole world, arising from the implementation of these plans.

"The decision of the United States on the production of binary weapons is, as a matter of fact, a programme for a future chemical weapons race," he pointed out. "This decision runs counter to the aim of eliminating chemical weapons, which is supported by all. This decision is also in conflict with the accords reached at the Geneva summit meeting on ending the weapons race on Earth," the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry stressed.

"The implementation of the American decision will do serious damage also to the current talks at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on hammering out a convention banning chemical weapons. The Soviet Union has recently put forward new constructive proposals at that conference.

"The Soviet Union wishes that a ban be imposed on chemical weapons with sufficient appropriate control," Gennadi Gerasimov emphasised. "The Soviet proposals take account of the stand of many states, including the stand of the USA.

"The Soviet Union favours the most effective and strict control over the ban on chemical weapons, over elimination of its stockpiles and the facilities for its production," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "Evidence of that is the progress which has already been made at the talks on all aspects of control over the observance of the future convention. The Soviet Union agrees to on-site inspection on request on its territory, should a country feel that there is a violation of the convention on our part."

PRAVDA:

Deployment of US chemical weapons in Europe

MOSCOW, August 2, TASS:

"WASHINGTON has taken a dangerous new step, which is fresh evidence of the intention of the USA to stop at nothing in the arms race, in the build-up of mass destruction weapons, acting under the cover of hypocritical statements about a 'wish for peace'," Vitali Korionov pointed out in the newspaper *Pravda* today.

He is commenting on the message from the US President to Congress, notifying that the administration has drawn up, jointly with the NATO command, a plan for the deployment in Western Europe "in the eventuality of crisis situations" of US binary chemical weapons.

"Thus," Vitali Korionov stressed, "a large-scale programme for the production of new chemical weapons has been dragged through the Congress and NATO bodies."

"Not only have the ideas of Helsinki been

abandoned, the relevant Soviet-American accords at Geneva have been disregarded. The will of the peoples of the European nations protesting against their being turned into the Pentagon's nuclear and chemical hostages has been disregarded too. The objections of the governments of a number of NATO countries opposing Washington's dangerous plans have not been taken into consideration. Ways have been found, using all sorts of manoeuvres, to bypass even the stand of the US Congress, which stipulated that the start of production of binary munitions should depend on the West Europeans consenting to accept them on their territory 'in the eventuality of crisis situations'.

"Thus," Vitali Korionov emphasised, "the Pentagon has already deployed on the territory of a number of West European countries its Pershing II and cruise missiles, it has started a secret deployment in some NATO member-countries of nuclear shells, which can be converted into neutron munitions. Now an announcement has been openly made on the start of production of binary weapons in the USA soon, which will usher in a new round in the chemical weapons race.

"To reassure the alarmed public, the apologists of the 'silent death' are trying to prove with an air of innocence that things will be confined only to the stockpiling of new chemical weapons in the USA.

"Yet it is common knowledge that the Pentagon is planning to use these weapons where they can produce the greatest 'effect' that is, in densely populated Western Europe. It is also obvious to everybody that there is only one step from the start of production of binary weapons to the start of their deployment on the territory of the West European member-countries. As far as the notorious 'crisis situations' are concerned, in which the new-generation chemical weapons will be deployed, it is known to everybody that the Pentagon top brass has a rich experience of creating such situations," the commentary says.

Replying to questions at the briefing Gennadi Gerasimov reported on the coming contacts between the consular services of the USSR and Israel. "They concern purely consular matters and have no political nature," he noted.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that the Soviet Union's position towards Israel remained unchanged. □

Soviet Peace Committee statement

MOSCOW, August 4, TASS:

"MARKING the 41st anniversary of the tragedy of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and expressing their solidarity with the victims of the atomic bombings as well as the people's anti-war movements against the nuclear threat, Soviet peace campaigners call upon the US Administration to immediately join the Soviet moratorium and thereby show in practice its readiness to curb the arms race," says a statement issued by the Soviet Peace Committee in connection with the 41st anniversary of imperialism's atomic attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In the statement which has been circulated here, the Soviet Peace Committee called on all other nuclear countries to abandon nuclear tests and to begin talks on a total ban on nuclear weapon testing.

"Let the week of international solidarity with the victims of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki become a concrete contribution to the struggle by the realistically-minded forces of the world for an end to nuclear tests and for complete elimination of nuclear weapons," the statement points out. The solidarity week begins on August 6. □

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Helsinki: second wind

By Dmitri Ardamatski

AT the time of its 11th anniversary, the European process seems to be getting its second wind. It is not only a matter of active political and other contacts between East and West, which, on the whole, have never stopped during this period. What is more important is their content. Besides, it appears both sides are disposed to compromise, something promoting a fresh atmosphere and overcoming mutual fears and mistrust.

A number of events in the recent weeks and months give reason for a certain optimism with respect to the Helsinki process. The conference on contacts in Berne showed that East and West were ready to expand co-operation in the humanitarian sphere, even though the USA succeeded in blocking an agreed final document. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union announced it would abide by its provisions and called on other European states to do the same.

There is encouraging progress in East-West economic relations. A few days ago, the European Economic Community and the CMEA, the economic organisation of socialist countries, reached an agreement on contacts. The Moscow international economic conference (June 1986) attended by industrialised Western countries demonstrated that both sides were interested in more substantial and flexible forms of economic co-operation, such as joint ventures. More opportunities are emerging today for closer interaction between European countries in establishing a system of international security for the nuclear power industry, and in environmental protection.

But can these events, big and small, be interpreted as signs of approaching political

changes for the better in the European process? This is a more complicated matter. On the one hand, there are too many weapons in Europe, which, naturally, aggravates military tensions and compels both sides to look for a way out of the deadlock, to seek military detente. On the other, there still exist considerable East-West differences on many arms reduction and disarmament issues, and most importantly on the security concept.

The Soviet Union believes that to normalise international relations in Europe and in the entire world, all countries ought to renounce outmoded philosophies and doctrines whereby a state or group of states should depend for their security on a continuous arms build-up. The present-day realities make it clear that the arms race bringing all of us to the brink is absolutely senseless. It is for this reason that Moscow is insisting on its concept of a comprehensive international security system, in which the security of each country or alliance will depend intimately on that of others.

This concept forms the basis of the Soviet Union's 1986 programme for eliminating nuclear weapons by the end of this century, its initiatives on banning chemical weapons with provisions for deep-going verification measures, and its proposals on considerable reductions in conventional weapons and armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals.

In many respects, the new Soviet approach to arms reductions and disarmament, and to the Helsinki process in general, has considerably increased the chances of reaching political accords. This is evident, among other things, from the recent Soviet-French talks in Moscow, the results of the visit to Britain by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who conveyed to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher an invitation to visit the USSR, and the recent talks between the West German Foreign Minister and Soviet leaders. These talks have shown new promising signs of trust and an understanding that there can be only one security for all in Europe. Most importantly, all parties recognised that differences in positions could be narrowed down

only on the basis of respect for each other's legitimate interests.

It is this approach that can bring success to the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, whose previous round was marked by encouraging East-West steps. This gives hope for success at the Vienna meeting of the participants in the European conference, which is to be convened this autumn.

These latest Soviet-West European contacts make it possible to hold joint consultations on the issues of banning chemical weapons, reducing conventional arms and armed forces in Europe, and reaching agreement on confidence-building measures at the Stockholm Conference.

The announced US withdrawal from the SALT-2 Treaty formed a sharp contrast to the growing hopes for success in the policy of detente. That step was denounced by practically all European governments, something quite indicative of the present-day political mood in Western Europe. This is a case when the West Europeans may use 'Atlantic solidarity' to hold up, rather than promote, the arms build-up. In this context, one can only welcome the fact that the West European capitals want the new Soviet-American summit to yield concrete results. But the USA, Mikhail Gorbachyov said in Vladivostok on July 28, is not complying with the chief accord reached at the last Soviet-American summit in Geneva, which provides for accelerating the talks on arms reductions and a better international climate. The forthcoming summit must pursue this aim.

For their part, Paris and London are not helpful in reaching an agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe, while, by supporting the US 'Star Wars' programme, Bonn and London help the Reagan Administration drag its feet over the strategic arms reduction talks.

East and West continue looking for mutually acceptable solutions, but what is important to remember is that today a higher price is placed on both political blunders and lost time.

(Novosti Press Agency, July 30, 1986) □

Italian specialists visit Kiev

MOSCOW, August 2, TASS:

THE radiation situation in Kiev, only 130 kilometres from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, is normal and does not give rise to alarm. This conclusion has been made by Italian experts who arrived in Moscow from the Ukraine yesterday.

The group includes Luigi de Ejaco, director of the nuclear reactor project and member of the National Department for Nuclear Engineering, Domenico Riccio, head of Rome's fire-fighting department, Carlo Rosa, chief editor of the fire-fighters' magazine, and other representatives of Italy's press and television. They spoke at a press conference in Moscow.

The Italian guests described their meetings with Kiev residents, representatives of the Ukraine's Health Ministry and Foreign Tourism Department. They were convinced that the situation in the city posed no threat to human health. □

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Meeting at press centre of USSR Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW, July 29, TASS:

"PARAGUAY provides shelter to nazi criminals," said Nikolai Bazhenov, First Deputy Procurator-General of the USSR, speaking at a round table meeting 'The Fascist Regime of Paraguay and its Patrons'. The meeting, held at the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today, was sponsored by the Novosti Press Agency and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the People of Latin America.

Over the past 30 years the military dictatorship has imprisoned and tortured some 400,000 Paraguayans. Tens of thousands of innocent people were summarily killed. The current events in Paraguay show that a new form of fascism which survived the fall of the 'Third Reich' has emerged. After the war thousands of nazis found refuge in Paraguay. Many war criminals were among them, including Mengele who had committed atrocities in the Oswiecim concentration camp.

The meeting was also addressed by Ilya Heifitz from Riga, who was an eyewitness and victim of atrocities committed during the occupation of the capital of Soviet Latvia by SS troops under the command of Eduard Roschmann. After the

defeat of nazi Germany Roschmann, who had murdered civilians in the Riga ghetto, found safe haven in Paraguay.

"The Paraguayan people are waging heroic struggle against the dictatorship which owes its power to American imperialism," said Ananias Maidana, a senior member of the Paraguayan Communist Party. "This struggle is not limited to social demands, such as higher wages and land. It is aimed at toppling the dictatorship and eliminating the military regime as a first condition for liberalisation in the country." He exposed manoeuvres by the American Administration which is now keen to replace the dictator with another figurehead, so that foreign monopolies and the local oligarchy could retain power and wealth.

Ananias Maidana urged the participants in the round table meeting to start a campaign for the release of political prisoners in Paraguay, including the First Secretary of the Central Committee of Paraguay's Communist Party, Antonio Maidana.

"Nothing can hold back the march of history," the Paraguayan communist stressed. "Our people will topple the dictatorship and win democracy and independence." □

Soviet economy: Pacific accent

By Gennadi Pisarevsky, *Novosti* political correspondent

WE call this land the Far East. We mean an area of four and a half thousand kilometres from the north-eastern tip of the Euro-Asian continent to the borders of China and Korea—14 per cent of Soviet territory.

The Russians came there in the 17th century to find nothing but never tilled land, untrodden taiga teeming with beasts, and rivers abounding in fish. Our forefathers had only axes and wooden ploughs to open up those vast areas with. Close by, there was the roaring sea, rivers filled to overflowing by downpours, tigers prowling about by night and wild boar ravaging the fields. Generations of Russians worked long and hard to make these vast expanses of north-east Asia fit to form part of world civilisation.

The Far Eastern region has always been prominent in our national economy. But the time has come for it to increase its contribution to the nation's economic potential markedly. That is what Mikhail Gorbachyov said over and over again during his numerous meetings with Far Easterners. Speaking in Vladivostok on July 28, he pointed out that the region was to create a high-efficiency economic set-up with extensive resource, research and production capacities as part and parcel of the national and international division of labour.

For ages, the people of the Far East have been living by the ocean and for the ocean. They speak about it as if it were a living thing: many families have either a father, or a son or a brother away for long in its vast storm-haunted expanses. The Pacific coast has become the nation's major fishing ground. Besides, it is an area of great promise in terms of mineral prospecting as its continental shelf is rich in oil, gas and all kinds of ores.

The exploitation of the world's seas, with the Pacific Ocean as the largest of them, is a problem of common interest to all humanity. The USSR is ready to co-operate with all the nations of the region, above all with its neighbours the

Japanese, talented shipbuilders and brave sailors, in resolving it. We are offering to the Japanese to join our space-for-peace programmes. The USSR, with its biggest-ever research potential and its wealth of experience in space exploration, and Japan, with her high-performance industry, could, by pooling their efforts, give much to one another and to the rest of the world community.

The idea is to make the fullest possible use of the available opportunities for developing the Far Eastern economy to produce goods for export. There has to be a breakthrough over here, Mikhail Gorbachyov said, a new line of approach so as to revive coastal and frontier trade and promote advanced forms of economic links with foreign nations, including production co-operation and joint enterprises, and to establish specialised export capacities.

The historically-established intercomplementary Soviet and Chinese economies, particularly in the border areas where trade has been going on for centuries, present great opportunities for broader co-operation. The Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachyov emphasised, is ready to discuss with China at any time, at any level and in the most serious fashion, anything that can be further undertaken to foster a good-neighbourly relationship.

Then there is the prospect ahead for tourism—a dynamic, prospering and diversified sector of the world economy, which is a fusion of economic and political activities and an exchange of cultural values. We want to turn the Far East into a major centre of international tourism, including high-sea and high-latitude tourism.

I lived and worked on Sakhalin and I have been to various parts of the Far East many times, so I am sure that if there is an exotic pole anywhere on Earth, it is just here. In the Ussuri taiga, I talked to tiger-catchers. They don't trap or snare them, but just catch them with their own hands. Let me note that the Ussuri tiger is the most powerful beast of prey on this planet. Many times I saw salmon coming to spawn. Endless shoals of fish

made the river boil, as it were, and taste like fish. On the banks, you can quite often come across a bear who eats to his heart's content and so will never hurt you. Fur-seals sing at the top of their voices on the Kuril and Commander islands from spring till far into the autumn. There is the sea-otter there, the most expensive fur-bearing animal, trustful as a child. In Kamchatka there are some giant volcanoes rimmed by mists which the sun paints in all colours. There is the unbelievable beauty of the valley of geysers...

One can go on talking about the Far East which would strike anyone by its beauty, by the power and tenderness of its nature, by the everlasting community of the land, water and sky. But it is better to see it once with one's own eyes...

Let me finish on an historical note. The ancient Mediterranean civilisations were wonderful. But their fate was sealed by the iron age: swords and spears in endless wars laid waste the lands that were once famous for their affluence and worldly wisdom. Of the seven wonders of the world, only the Egyptian pyramids have come down to us.

The wise men of ancient Greece and Rome were the first to curse iron. So there arose a dream, so kind as to stay for ever young, that of beating the swords into ploughshares and the spears into sickles. Now however, should the irreparable happen, that is, should a war break out, everybody—whether warrior or civilian—would perish, some by explosions, instantly, as fast as megaton flares, some dying a lingering death from radiation or from the unfathomable severity of a nuclear winter.

So the overriding problem now before the human race—the problem of survival—is equally pressing and urgent for Europe and for Africa, for the Americas and for Asia, Mikhail Gorbachyov said in his Vladivostok speech. What is more important today than ever before is the mobilisation of the world's total potential of common sense and a partnership of reason so as to stop the drift to catastrophe.

So let the great ocean and, indeed, the other three too, be really pacific for ever and ever. (Novosti Press Agency, July 31, 1986) □

Sovetskaya Kultura comments on moratorium anniversary

MOSCOW, August 5, TASS:

A year ago, on August 6, the Soviet Union announced the introduction of a voluntary moratorium on all types of nuclear explosions.

Grigori Oganov, political observer for the newspaper *Sovetskaya Kultura* wrote in the newspaper today: "We prolonged the moratorium several times, trying to create in this way more favourable conditions for the successful holding of talks on a whole package of military-strategic problems, and each time we urged to follow our example. The termination of nuclear weapons tests would be the beginning of their steady elimination, and this is what humanity is dreaming of."

"People in all parts of the world demand today that other countries follow the example of the USSR. The voice of scientists is especially prominent.

"Ivan Laptev, head of the Environmental Protection Department of Tomsk University, Siberia, said in a recent TASS interview: "We believe that no task is more urgent, responsible

and noble today than the continuation of the moratorium on any nuclear explosions introduced a year ago by the Soviet Union. The moratorium should be spread in an obligatory way to all the nuclear powers and primarily the United States.

"The courageous and I should say selfless step of the Soviet Government which unilaterally committed itself to observing the moratorium was understood and welcomed by outstanding scientists the world over, including the US. It cannot be otherwise. I am a veteran of World War Two and I remember with what enthusiasm we made friends with American soldiers who contributed to the struggle against fascism. At that time we believed wholeheartedly that there would be no recurrence of a war on our planet. We believed in the same way in the unbreakable friendship between the allies which was sealed with blood.

"This is why we are indignant over the inflexible stance of the US Administration and the military-industrial complex, although it is camouflaged by vague words about self-defence peace and the balance of forces." □

Hiroshima—memorial ceremony

HIROSHIMA, August 6, TASS:

TASS correspondent Sergei Logachyev reports: OVER 50,000 people attended a memorial ceremony here today timed for the 41st anniversary of the Hiroshima tragedy.

A tolling bell broke the silence at the city's Peace Park at exactly 8.15, the time when Hiroshima was flattened by a US atomic bomb 41 years ago.

Hiroshima's Mayor Takeshi Araki read out a peace message which was consonant with the set of Soviet proposals to eliminate nuclear arms. He put a high value on the Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and stressed the need for an immediate end to nuclear tests for good. □

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