

Mikhail Gorbachev meets prominent international cultural figures

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on Tuesday received a group of prominent cultural workers who had attended an international meeting at Issyk-Kul, Kirghizia, at the invitation of Soviet author Chinghiz Aitmatov.

Taking part in the conversation were writer James Baldwin and actor David Baldwin, both of the United States, writer Yasar Kemal of Turkey, President of the Club of Rome Alexander King of Britain, composer Omer Livaneli of Turkey, public figure Federico Mayor of Spain, composer Narayan Menon of India, writer Arthur Miller and artist Inga Miller, both of the United States, writer Lisandro Otero of Cuba, writer Claude Simon of France, artist Afework Tekle of Ethiopia, philosophers Alvin Toffler and Haide Toffler of the United States, writer and actor Peter Ustinov of Britain, member of the UNESCO Secretariat Augusto Forti of Italy and writer Chinghiz Aitmatov of the Soviet Union, President of the Issyk-Kul forum.

At the meeting, which passed in a candid and friendly atmosphere, there was an exchange of views on a wide range of problems of our time dealing with the destinies of peace, civilisation and culture.

The participants in the conversation noted that at the Issyk-Kul forum they had discussed many outstanding problems faced by mankind today and which it can encounter tomorrow. They said that creative intelligentsia could make a substantial contribution to the moulding of a new thinking meeting the goals of the progress of mankind on the threshold of the third millennium.

In his speech Mikhail Gorbachev noted that he had responded readily to the wish to meet him expressed by the cultural personalities. He congratulated the participants in the Issyk-Kul forum, wished them success and hoped that this forum, which he described as a good beginning, would be kept going.

"The advantage of your meeting", Mikhail Gorbachev said further, "is that it has been attended by the most widely differing people. But they have been able to rise above everything that

divides them and reach consensus on the principal issue—the issue of everyone's responsibility for the future of mankind. This is a lesson for all others."

"Way back at the beginning of this century Vladimir Lenin voiced an idea of tremendous depth when he said that general human values took priority over the tasks of this or that class. The significance of this thought is felt especially keenly today. It is very much to be desired that in the other part of the world, too, they understand and accept this thesis about the priority of general human values over all others to which some or other people are committed," he said.

"Mankind has always had enough reason, courage and conscience to sort out the reasons behind these or other upheavals. This often happened, alas, only after the misfortunes had occurred. Just imagine the kind of world we would enjoy today if people had been able to ward off a misfortune in time whenever it was on their threshold," Mikhail Gorbachev said.

"We have all drawn lessons from the past and, overcoming hardships and privations, have all risen to our feet again and marched forward, choosing our own roads. But only imagine what will happen if we fail to fend off the nuclear threat looming large over our common human home. If this happens, there would no longer be a possibility to rectify mistakes. Now we have really reached the critical moment in history when it is obvious that the fatal danger can only be removed by joint effort," he said.

"There is a need to speak at the top of one's voice about the concerns of our time, to conduct a joint search for necessary solutions in consolidating the peaceful present and future, to awaken the conscience and responsibility of each person for the destinies of peace.

"Man is, ultimately, what is all-important. If progress in some or other area is accompanied by human losses—not only spiritual or political but also physical ones—the system which allows for

such losses should be called into question. Civilisation with all its difficulties and contradictions should be preserved for life, for man. And if mankind lives, it will sort out contradictions one way or another."

Mikhail Gorbachev then shared his impressions of the meeting with the US President in Reykjavik. "This meeting", he stressed, "showed that it is possible to reach agreements which would set the beginning to the elimination of nuclear weapons. The programme of new proposals put forward by the USSR opens rather than closes the door to the quest for mutually acceptable solutions. It provides the real opportunity to unlock the deadlock. But the meeting showed at the same time that no small difficulties should be overcome on the road towards agreements.

"One of the principal lessons of Reykjavik is that a new political thinking, corresponding to the realities of the nuclear age, is the indispensable condition for breaking out of the critical situation in which mankind has found itself at the turn of the 20th century. Deep modifications in the political thinking of the entire human community are needed.

"The spiritual energy of scientists and cultural personalities, their intellectual and moral authority can be instrumental in shaping this new thinking. The Issyk-Kul forum fully confirms this."

Speaking about the restructuring processes and changes under way in the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev touched upon the questions of the country's economic and social advancement, of developing democracy and promoting greater openness.

"The Soviet intelligentsia—and this is very important—has vigorously joined the restructuring process, and not simply joined but become its fervent advocate," he said. "All of our society has been set in motion. And this movement is gaining momentum." □

Issyk-Kul statement: p. 449

British guest at Soviet Chamber of Commerce

A BROAD exchange of opinions on the development of trade and economic co-operation between the USSR and Britain took place in Moscow on October 17 between Yevgeni Pitovranov, President of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Lord Jellicoe, Chairman of the British East European Trade Council.

During the talk it was noted that co-operation between Soviet organisations and British firms embraced many spheres.

Lord Jellicoe said that several understandings on exchange of technology and new methods of production had been reached during his meetings with leaders of Soviet ministries and departments. For instance, it is planned to start co-operation between organisations and firms of the two countries in the agri-industrial industries, starting with genetic methods of raising yields of agricultural crops and ending with packing and

transporting foodstuffs.

The British visitor pointed out that many British companies were interested in co-operation with the USSR, including such large firms as Shell, Metal Box, Schweppes and Imperial Chemical Industries.

Lord Jellicoe expressed the hope that the exhibition *Britagroprom* to be held in Moscow in February 1987, in which 60 British firms would be participating, would be a success.

The sides also discussed the question of opening in Moscow an office of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce. The date for signing an agreement on opening an office is planned for October 23, in London, during the festivities around the 70th anniversary of the founding of the British Chamber of Commerce.

The negotiations were attended by Sir Brian Cartledge, British Ambassador to the USSR. □

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Mikhail Gorbachev receives Danish Premier

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting in the Kremlin on Tuesday with Prime Minister of Denmark Poul Schlueter. The conversation was of the nature of a free, at times acute discussion of the biggest problems of our time.

The results of Reykjavik were at the centre of the discussion. In connection with the unprecedented distortion in the United States of the picture of the meeting there, Mikhail Gorbachev expressed the view that it was desirable to give up the strict confidentiality of the talks with the Americans, on which the latter insist.

Mikhail Gorbachev informed the Prime Minister of the development of the events, said that the three major Soviet proposals, including the question of strengthening the ABM Treaty, were made at the very beginning of the meeting, that all were presented in a package, in inter-connection, and also substantiated the logic of this approach: if nuclear arms are eliminated one must have full guarantee against attempts to gain military superiority by way of outer space.

The Soviet proposals contained an unprecedented readiness for compromise, for concessions on an equal basis. But they were confronted with the old Geneva positions and it became clear that the American delegation had not brought with it a single new idea, nothing that could be described as serious. So it was necessary to overcome very strong resistance before it became possible to advance in the question of reducing and eliminating nuclear arms, although here too the discussion was conducted not without attempts to "outplay the Russians".

The question of SDI was a point at issue throughout the meeting. It did not surface somewhere at the end as they in the United States

are now trying to say. And it was exactly the desire of the American leadership to achieve military superiority on the basis of SDI that was the reason why accords of truly historical importance, a breakthrough were not achieved.

Yet never before and nowhere has so much ground been covered in questions of disarmament. Reykjavik yielded a wealth of experience, our common experience. Now everybody can see better the situation in which the world has found itself, to visualise the real contours of the new situation from which there is no return. And problems of war and peace can be solved only proceeding from a correct understanding of this new situation.

This was received with tremendous satisfaction throughout the world. But there is already concern in some NATO quarters: "How are we going to live without nuclear arms, can't we return to the old positions?"

The meeting in Reykjavik, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed, was not only a success but also an event which highlighted the existence of stubborn resistance, and not only by the United States, to the cause of real disarmament.

Poul Schlueter raised the question of conventional arms and armed forces in Europe. In reply Mikhail Gorbachev said that the elimination of nuclear arms is viewed as a part of the overall process of disarmament, including also conventional and chemical weapons. The West European governments continue to "voice concern" and this despite the fact that for so many months already we have been waiting for their response to the major Budapest initiative of the Warsaw Treaty countries. Is it not time, he went on, to form working groups of NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries that could tackle this concretely?

Much attention was given to principled questions of the competition of the two systems, to regional problems and humanitarian aspects of

international life. Mikhail Gorbachev called in question the confidence of the West in the capitalist system since its exponents, contrary to the Helsinki accords, try to use the modern possibilities of mutual exchange for interference in the internal affairs of socialist countries, for undermining the values created by their peoples on the basis of their own choice.

Attempts to explain regional conflicts with references to the "hand of Moscow" are a result, just as in questions of disarmament, of the old thinking which prevents one from understanding the new realities and, consequently, from formulating a policy worthy of this term.

The mistakes of historical scope made by mankind in the past were rectifiable, Mikhail Gorbachev said. Now, in the nuclear-space age, there will be nobody around to do that. Herein lies the fundamental novelty of the situation. Many things are still in short supply in the world but what is especially lacking and what is vitally necessary is the ability to think and act in a new way.

Recalling the plan of influential circles in the United States to exhaust the USSR economically by means of the arms race, Mikhail Gorbachev told Poul Schlueter about the major programmes of modernising the Soviet economy, about the social transformations and the restructuring in the political and spiritual sphere which have already been started and which will be accomplished. A most powerful breakthrough along the main directions of the scientific and technological revolution is in the making. The Soviet people have the gifted minds, talents, the youthful energy and enthusiasm to make full use of the socialist society's potential.

In conclusion the interlocutors wished the two countries success in their development along the roads chosen by their peoples and declared for the deepening of the good-neighbourly, mutually advantageous and traditionally peaceful relations between the USSR and Denmark. □

Mikhail Gorbachev meets Argentinian President

THE General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev, had a meeting with the President of the Republic of Argentina, Raul Ricardo Alfonsin, in the Kremlin on October 15.

Welcoming the President, Mikhail Gorbachev highly appraised the realism and constructive character of the policy conducted by Argentina's civilian government towards the Soviet Union, socialist and developing countries, in questions of West-East relations and in connection with the dangers created by the arms race.

They had a frank and interested conversation on a broad range of present-day problems—how to remove the nuclear threat, how to protect the environment, how to create a new world economic order, ruling out exploitation of some countries by others.

Mikhail Gorbachev drew the President's attention to principal elements of the Soviet Union's policy based on the concept of diversity and integrity of the world, with every country having the right to respect for its social and political choice.

Emphasised was the great and positive role of the activities of the 'Delhi Six' in which Argentina is actively involved, particularly the efforts of that group of countries aimed at banning nuclear explosions. On behalf of the 'Six' Raul Alfonsin thanked Mikhail Gorbachev for the attention to

its initiatives and activities. Touching upon the recent Harare Conference, Mikhail Gorbachev and Raul Alfonsin exchanged opinions on the Non-Aligned Movement. This movement, representing a big part of mankind, is gaining strength, and is making a tangible and growing contribution to world politics, relying on the new political experience and on its prestige. It has now linked closer the problems of disarmament and development, and this fact adds to the total potential of peace.

Mikhail Gorbachev shared with Raul Alfonsin his impressions of the Reykjavik meeting and his assessment of its results. This meeting, he stressed, had been useful. It showed that it is possible to approach agreements that would make a beginning in the elimination of nuclear weapons. The efforts of the Soviet Union and all peace forces were not in vain. They made it possible to reach a new, higher stage in the struggle for disarmament and detente. Our platform of new proposals, which are inseparable from each other, and we do not remove any of them, promotes invigoration of the search for mutually acceptable decisions. The situation after the meeting, stressed the Soviet leader, did not deteriorate. It opens up new possibilities. This is also a signal to all who can and must play their role in favour of detente and disarmament.

Raul Alfonsin highly appreciated the Soviet leadership's responsible attitude to the Reykjavik meeting and its results, which is particularly important since what is at issue is the destiny of mankind.

Much attention was paid to Latin American problems in their connection with the world situation and with contradictions of an international scale. The situation in Central America was touched upon. Speaking of the intolerable pressure and interference that Nicaragua is subjected to, up to the threat to overthrow the legitimate government there, Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union had no egoistic designs with regard to that country. It had made its original revolutionary choice itself. We respect and, naturally, sympathise with it, he said. We are not going to impose anything, to create here or anywhere military bases, and so on. The USSR supports the efforts of the Contadora Group.

Fundamental questions of Soviet-Argentine relations were considered thoroughly, with great mutual understanding. The President of Argentina expressed his interest in the development of Argentine-Soviet economic relations, so that new elements and new forms could be included in them which took account of the intensive modernisation of Soviet industry in the next few years. Mikhail Gorbachev supported such an approach and promised to give attentive consideration to concrete ideas to that effect.

The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Mikhail Gorbachev and Raul Alfonsin agreed on continuation of contacts, and wished each other successes in the difficult but interesting work for the good of their countries and world peace. □

Nikolai Ryzhkov's speech at reception for Danish Premier

"WE firmly uphold the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. I believe this is also the most reliable basis for the further development of Soviet-Danish relations."

Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, stated this on Monday at a dinner in the Kremlin given by the USSR Government in honour of Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter and his wife.

Touching upon Soviet-Danish co-operation, Nikolai Ryzhkov pointed out that it rested on a solid treaty basis—a whole number of inter-governmental and interdepartmental agreements covering different fields. "We take note of the desire of both countries to broaden it, which is

indicated also by the signing of new documents planned for tomorrow. They will certainly help strengthen our bilateral economic relations and diversify them," he said.

"It should, however, be stressed that, all this being so, it is such problems as ending the arms race and achieving disarmament and the issues of international security and trust that have stood and continue to stand in the centre of our relationship, just as of the entire package of East-West relations."

Nikolai Ryzhkov pointed out that the outcome of the Reykjavik meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and US President Ronald Reagan had demonstrated the entire complexity of the developing situation and the difficulty of the struggle which will have to be waged for an end to the arms race and for nuclear disarmament. "There is a worthy place in this struggle,

in our conviction, for all countries, including of course the European ones, for it is they, by signing the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, that have given life to what is a unique phenomenon in European and world practical politics.

"We cannot but be encouraged by the successful results of the Stockholm Conference. The results of Stockholm are a long stride to easing international tension. The weighty political document worked out in Stockholm is the first real agreement in the field of military detente for many years," he said.

"We are convinced", Nikolai Ryzhkov emphasised, "that all who treasure peace must now assess realistically the situation which has taken shape after Reykjavik, and must work vigorously toward using the historic chance created by the Soviet Union's efforts in the interests of nuclear arms reduction and elimination." □

Speech by Yegor Ligachev at USSR Academy of Sciences

AT the General Assembly of the USSR Academy of Sciences on October 16, Academician Guri Marchuk was elected President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, by secret ballot.

Addressing the meeting, Yegor Ligachev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pointed out the great contribution made by the former President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Academician Anatoli Alexandrov, to the development of Soviet science. He said that the Political Bureau had expressed gratitude to him for the effective guidance of the Academy of Sciences.

"The whole of Soviet society's life", Yegor Ligachev continued, "is now proceeding under the impact of the ideas of the 27th Congress of the CPSU. The Congress elaborated the concept of acceleration and renewal of society, which was outlined in principle at the April (1985) plenary meeting of the Central Committee.

"The Party does not conceive the attainment of its aims without resolutely enhancing the role of

science in society, without effectively using the country's intellectual and scientific potential. Over the year and a half since the plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, important work has been done to increase the role of science in society, resolve the tasks of acceleration. But that is just the beginning. To keep up with the requirements of this day, Soviet science, in the first place academic science, is to undergo a serious restructuring. The points at issue are not minor, partial improvements, but a radical change in the manner of actions, a radical change in all spheres of activity.

"It is necessary above all to go over to an intensive path in the development of science. Unfortunately, it has been proceeding, in many cases, in an extensive way. The number of research institutes and laboratories grows, as does the number of research personnel. But the actual effect produced is insufficient. Clearly it is impossible to create an intensive economy without intensively developing science. There are great reserves in improving the coordination of activities of various departments of the Academy, and perfecting the practices of long-term planning of research." □

The speaker laid special emphasis on the fact that today research in connection with ensuring high reliability and security in the application of the latest technologies and hardware assumes exceptionally great significance. "The bitter lesson of Chernobyl was a reminder to us all that complacency is inadmissible. The USSR Academy of Sciences is to make its contribution to resolve these tasks," he said.

Yegor Ligachev spoke highly of the participation of Soviet scientists together with workers in science from other states in the fight for peace. It was stressed in that connection that the talks in Reykjavik between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan had shown 'who is who', who is for disarmament and who favours the development of new types of mass destruction weapons. It had been most clearly established that the Washington Administration did not wish a real agreement, but was out to ensure military superiority over the USSR. That was why it was important today as never before that scientists should take an active part in the fight for peace, for strengthening the country's defence capacity. □

FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE WORK

DRAFT LAWS on socialist enterprises, on the press and information, on individual labour activity and many other areas will be prepared and submitted shortly to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for consideration.

All these acts are mentioned in a recently approved plan for perfecting Soviet legislation in the next five years (1986-1990), published in the bulletin of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The publication of a plan for legislative work by the Soviet Parliament is nothing new. Yuri Korolev, head of a division of the Secretariat of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, explained. In accordance with traditional procedure the legislative work of the USSR Supreme Soviet is always planned. And these plans are made public. There are many examples of such practices.

The current constitution of the USSR was

adopted in October 1977 but already in December a plan was approved for revising the country's legislation in accordance with the new constitution. The plan was immediately made public in the bulletin of the USSR Supreme Soviet. This plan of more than twenty points has been carried out practically fully.

Characterising the plan for preparing legislative acts for the next five years Yuri Korolev said that this extensive plan of 38 points covered many aspects of the life of society and the state—the further development of socialist democracy, perfection of the economic mechanism, acceleration of scientific and technological progress, problems of nature conservation, social and cultural development, and so on.

The preparation of certain documents, such as the above-mentioned draft laws on socialist enterprises, on the press and information, is to be completed before the end of this year.

Plans for 1987 include the drafting of laws on

the quality of products, on discoveries, inventions and licences, on atomic power engineering, on the state archives, etc. The plans for the subsequent years are also concrete. Thus a draft law on the state security of the USSR is to be prepared in 1990.

Many draft laws directly reflect the now dominant tendency in Soviet society towards deepening democracy and greater publicity. For example the law on a procedure for nation-wide discussions and voting on major domestic issues, which is to be drafted next year.

Apart from laws of the USSR, it is planned to adopt, within the next few years, a number of normative acts which, though not being laws, are also binding. Draft statutes on ministries and state committees of the USSR will be prepared. It is planned to draft rules and regulations for communications services of the USSR, and prepare a new edition of the country's customs code and other documents, Yuri Korolev said in conclusion. □

Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee reviewed at its meeting on October 16 the results of the economic development of the USSR during the past nine months and the tasks involved in meeting the 1986 plan targets. It was noted that the national income had grown by 4.3 per cent and labour productivity had increased by 4.8 per cent.

High growth rates were achieved in virtually all the sectors of the national economy. The output of industry rose by 5.2 per cent, which is ahead of plan targets and substantially higher than the increment during the nine months of last year. In this way the fulfilment of the task of reaching the average annual production growth rates of the five-year plan period during the very first year is being ensured.

However, there still remain quite a few negative phenomena in the economy; restructuring is being carried out slowly in many sectors and has not yet involved all work collectives.

The slogans of the CPSU Central Committee for the 69th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution have been approved and will be carried by the press.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting approved the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's conversations with Erich Honecker, Herbert Mies and Horst Schmitt during their visits to Moscow to attend the unveiling of a monument to Ernst Thaelmann. Satisfaction was expressed with the continued strengthening of relations between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic and enhancement of the fraternal friendship of the CPSU with the Communists of the GDR, the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin.

The Political Bureau heard Mikhail Gorbachev's report on his meeting with Kaysone Phomvihane, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Political Bureau stressed the importance of steadily developing co-operation between the Soviet Union and Laos, and the unity of the stands of the CPSU and the LPRP and of the USSR and Laos in the issues of perfecting all-round Soviet-Laotian links and in efforts for improving the situation in the Asian-Pacific region.

After examining the results of talks between the Soviet leadership and Thomas Sankara, Chairman of the National Revolutionary Council and President of Burkina Faso, the Political

Bureau pointed out the identity of the two countries' positions on the main issues of the present-day international situation and reaffirmed a desire to further develop friendly relations between the USSR and Burkina Faso.

The Political Bureau summed up the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's and Andrei Gromyko's talks with President Raul Ricardo Alfonsin of the Republic of Argentina as marking an important step in consolidating Soviet-Argentine relations, which are becoming broader and broader in scope. Note was taken of the identity of the positions of the two countries on many important issues concerning the prevention of a thermo-nuclear catastrophe and the termination of the arms race and nuclear testing. In this connection the role of Argentina and the other countries of the 'Delhi Six' group in strengthening peace and international security deserves high appreciation.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting also discussed other issues concerning the development of the economy and the social sphere, as well as the implementation of the directives of the 27th Congress of the CPSU on foreign policy activities aimed at removing the nuclear threat and ensuring peaceful co-operation among nations. □

Anatoli Dobrynin receives Indian delegation

ANATOLI DOBRYNIN, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on Monday received a delegation from the Indian National Congress (I) led by Darbara Singh, a member of the party's working committee and of its central parliamentary council. The delegation is staying in the USSR at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

In their talks, the Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee explained the substance of the Soviet peace initiatives, and dwelt in detail on the results of the Reykjavik meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and US President Ronald Reagan. In this connection he stressed the urgent need to step up the efforts of all countries and peoples to safeguard peace and remove the threat of nuclear war. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of preventing the arms race from spilling over into outer space.

Anatoli Dobrynin stressed India's important and fruitful role in the campaign for peace and its activities in the Non-Aligned Movement and in the framework of the 'Delhi Six'.

Darbara Singh spoke highly of the Soviet Union's efforts to protect peace, ward off the nuclear threat and preserve life on Earth, and made special mention of the fact that Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals in Reykjavik had evoked broad response and approval in India. He stressed India's consistent stand for a ban on nuclear testing and against the 'Star Wars' plans.

The sides expressed mutual satisfaction with the all-round development and strengthening of Soviet-Indian relations, on the solid basis of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between the USSR and India, as meeting the fundamental interests of the people of both countries and the cause of peace and security in Asia and the world as a whole. □

Statement by USSR Foreign Ministry

A STATEMENT was made to the US Embassy in Moscow on October 19 on the impermissibility of the activities of a number of workers of American diplomatic missions in the Soviet Union. According to the statement, officials of the US Embassy William Norvill, Charles Ehrenfried, Gary Lonnquist, David Harris, also Jack Roberts, from the US Consulate General in Leningrad, have engaged in those activities in the territory of the USSR.

A firm protest was lodged with the US Embassy in this connection. For actions which are incompatible with their official status the above-mentioned officials of the embassy and the consulate general were declared to be "personae non gratae" and were asked to leave the USSR.

The attention of the US Embassy was again drawn to facts of the continuing use of American diplomatic missions in the USSR for illegal activities against the Soviet Union, and the demand was made that appropriate measures be taken to stop them. □

NOVEMBER 7th SLOGANS

ON October 18 the CPSU Central Committee published the slogans for the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the 1917 Great October Socialist Revolution.

They call upon the peoples of the world to scale up their efforts to improve the international situation and promote constructive co-operation between states. They urge them to "work actively against the imperialist policy of violence, pilferage and terrorist banditry!" and to "demand a political settlement of conflicts in Central America, in southern Africa and in the Near and Middle East!"

They urge the peoples of Europe to "fight for lasting peace and good-neighbourly relations, for detente and security in the continent". The CPSU Central Committee also proclaims: "May the class solidarity and co-operation of the communists of all countries in the fight for peace and socialism strengthen". □

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Internationalist Soviet servicemen return from Afghanistan

LAST WEEK the CPSU Central Committee addressed a message of greetings to the internationalist servicemen returning from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

At the request of the DRA's legitimate government, the message of greetings says, the peace soldiers helped the Afghan people to uphold their independence and freedom, the gains of the national-democratic April revolution, to ensure the reliable security of Soviet society's southern borders.

Together with the Afghan soldiers and all patriots of that country, the Soviet servicemen have courageously repelled and continue repelling the armed aggression of the hostile forces which encroached upon the sovereignty of the Afghan State.

Risking their lives every day, the internationalist servicemen have rescued thousands of Afghan children, old people and women from bloody reprisals by hired murderers and terrorists, have enabled children to go to school, the peasants to reap their harvests, workers to operate their machines. This heroic feat will remain for ever a symbol of Soviet-Afghan friendship. The soldiers and officers, physicians and medical nurses have selflessly done and continue doing their duty, the message says.

Our ideal is lasting peace and reliable security for all the peoples. But in conditions when imperialism continues threatening the security of our socialist motherland, of our allies and friends, is impudently meddling in the affairs of other peoples, we must be on our guard. And, certainly, as long as armed interference from outside in the affairs of Democratic Afghanistan continues, the Soviet Union will not leave its neighbour in trouble, the message of greetings from the CPSU Central Committee says.

Last Wednesday at Shindand, 120 kilometres south

of the large Afghan city of Herat, the first Soviet tank regiment was seen off. The regiment had fulfilled its internationalist duty in Afghanistan and was returning to the Soviet Union.

The tanks and their crew members were all lined up on the drill square. Local residents, elders, clergymen and soldiers of the Afghan Army were there to bid them farewell. A large group of Western journalists from different countries arrived specially to cover the event. Pavel Mozhayev, Soviet Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, read out the text of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's message of greetings to the internationalist soldiers. Najib, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, spoke at the meeting about the high mission of the Soviet soldiers.

"Today is a historic day," he said. "Having fulfilled their internationalist duty, Soviet soldiers are returning to the USSR. You came here when the issue of the life or death of the revolution, of the honour and pride of the people, of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Afghan State was at stake. You extended your helping hand, you have helped us to overcome the difficulties. The Afghans wholeheartedly thank you for everything you have done for the Afghan people and for the April Revolution."

"Our people will never forget those Soviet soldiers who gave their lives for the freedom and independence of Afghanistan," he stressed.

"The enemies of the April Revolution have seen the rout of many counter-revolutionary bands and have become convinced that our Soviet friends have taught us to defeat the enemy, have taught us the science of winning. Those transoceanic strategists should know that their plans are futile, and the millions of dollars spent by them to stifle the revolution are senseless waste.

"We stand for peace, for the speediest end to the bloodshed," Najib said. "We are launching a massive campaign for national reconciliation and are persistently broadening the social basis of the revolution. We are ready for an effective dialogue with all Afghan patriots. We are inviting to serious and business-like co-operation all political forces which are now outside the country but which are ready to take part sincerely in building a new Afghanistan. We are ready for reasonable compromises, for the formation of a national unity government."

"Soviet soldiers have fulfilled their internationalist duty for the sake of peace, and we are seeing them off, hoping for the speediest peace."

More than thirty large counter-revolutionary units, belonging to various groups of Afghan reactionaries, have stopped armed resistance and surrendered to the Afghan security forces over the past three months, Bakhtar News Agency reported yesterday.

Among them were groups of 500 *Hizb-I-Islami* members, 200 *Mahaze Melli* members and a big *Harakat-I-Islami* unit.

The Afghan Army has dealt devastating strikes at a number of counter-revolutionary strongholds, routing bandit bases previously considered impregnable in the provinces of Herat, Balkh, Kabul and others. The myth of the invincibility of the "Islamic freedom-fighters" has been dispelled.

Counter-revolutionaries are no longer able to engage Afghan Army units in open fighting. They carry out their actions in the dead of night.

Recognising the truth of the April Revolution, more and more bandits are laying down arms and joining the struggle to defend the people's gains. □

Statement by Issyk-Kul forum

A GROUP of prominent international authors, painters and scientists met last week at Issyk-Kul in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kirghizia. They were there at the invitation of Soviet author Chingiz Aitmatov. In their talks and discussions they examined the problems facing mankind on the eve of the new century and adopted the following Issyk-Kul statement:

Less than five thousand days separate us from the end of the century and our entry into a new millennium. Crises of global dimensions and unprecedented complexity threaten the future of the human race. Others still more difficult will emerge which cannot be solved by individual countries in isolation and which demand totally fresh approaches.

Facing such problems many people nowadays despair. This is why we intellectuals, writers, artists, scientists and scholars have come here to Issyk-Kul in the Kirghiz mountains to proclaim our faith in the genius of humanity, in the power of creativity.

As rapid change makes many old institutions and practices obsolete, all of us must help invent new solutions to our common progress.

Humanity already managed to survive through creativity for thousands of years burdened with hardships, wars and catastrophes. Therefore it is of crucial importance to make the next century not only the 'Century of the Planet' but also the 'Century of Creativity'. Survival and happiness through creativity is our answer to the challenges of this problem-ridden world. Both in the past and present the progress of the human race has often been held back by the denial of reality. Real wisdom is to do now through foresight what we will do anyhow later on by necessity, with imagination and courage.

In this sense we should not only project the present into the future but also creatively participate in shaping its destiny. This would call for a new way of non-linear thinking, imagination, new insights and new anticipative initiatives. Our future is no longer what it used to be. Only those able to see the invisible will be able to do the impossible. In the final analysis it means that we need the freedom to create, disseminate and teach the new ways of thinking, characterised by diversity and, above all, openness.

New ideas must reach into every field, including politics, thus creating new thinking in every nation. The future should depend not only on political decisions and confrontations of

power, but also on the imagination of men and women of genius, the initiatives and discoveries of scientists, the dreams of the poets, and the hopes of all people. It is such insights, initiatives, inspirations, breakthroughs and visions that would sow the seeds of new thinking—general and political.

We are well aware that the leaders of countries which carry the main burden of responsibility are trying very hard to agree on the future of humanity. We all hope that they will find the wisdom, inspiration and faith needed to pave the way to an acceptable world future.

All this led us to accept the timely invitation of Chingiz Aitmatov which brought us together to the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul, in Kirghizia, surrounded by the magnificent Tien-Shan mountains.

From this seed sown at Issyk-Kul we hope and expect that there will be an eventual harvest, and that many of the most creative minds of the world will join us in making possible the new world we envision.

In an interview on October 18, the eminent American playwright Arthur Miller said that the
(Continued on Page 451)

Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers' communique

A COMMUNIQUE of the session of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries held in the capital of Romania from October 14-15 was published in Bucharest last Wednesday.

According to the communique, the fundamental problem of our epoch is the consolidation of peace, the curtailment of the arms race, primarily the nuclear arms race, disarmament and the removal of the menace of a nuclear catastrophe.

Eduard Shevardnadze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, informed participants in the session of the results of the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and US President Reagan, which was held in Reykjavik on the initiative of the Soviet Union.

The session's participants voiced their support for the Soviet stand at the meeting, as well as for Soviet proposals on the dramatic reduction of strategic offensive armaments, the scrapping of American and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe along with the reduction of such missiles in Asia, as well as the proposals on the freezing of the number of missiles with a range of action under 1,000 km, the strengthening of the ABM Treaty regime, and on the complete and final banning of nuclear explosions. Support was expressed for the demand of the Soviet Union that the most reliable control be established over the proposed package of measures.

The ministers expressed the regret that these proposals had not been accepted.

The Warsaw Treaty member-countries urged the USA and the other NATO countries to realise all the seriousness of the current world situation and to approach constructively, in a spirit of realism and responsibility, the proposals of the Soviet Union, which remain the chief subject of the Soviet-American dialogue, the communique says.

There is need for resolute and responsible actions by all states, both large and small, regardless of their social systems, to put an end to the arms race on Earth and to prevent its spread into outer space.

The foreign ministers noted that positive tendencies had been making their way, not without difficulties, in the development of the international situation in the recent period. The proposals of the allied socialist states, pointing a concrete and realistic way to the removal of the nuclear threat and the ensuring of world security, are winning ever broader support in the world.

The Warsaw Treaty member-countries speak

highly of the results of the first stage of the Stockholm Conference. The Stockholm Agreement is a good starting point for talks on the reduction of the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe and, in parallel, on confidence-building measures, including restrictions on the scope of military activity, the communique says.

The foreign ministers welcomed the conclusion of the convention on notification and assistance in cases of nuclear accidents and called for broader co-operation with a view to establishing an international regime for the safe development of nuclear power engineering.

Resolutely advocating nuclear disarmament, the states represented at the meeting attached priority to the implementation of the Soviet-proposed programme for the complete elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass annihilation by the end of the current century.

The ministers noted the urgency of the need to terminate all nuclear tests. They hailed the Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing to the end of the current year and again urged the USA and other nuclear-armed states to halt all nuclear explosions and to conclude as early as possible an agreement on their total prohibition.

The Warsaw Treaty member-countries reaffirm their readiness immediately to enter practical discussions on the programme for reductions in the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe by 25 per cent in the early 1990s provided the military spending of states is reduced accordingly (a programme approved by the Budapest meeting of the Political Consultative Committee), and also to consider in a constructive spirit other similar measures that may be proposed by the NATO member-countries, neutral and non-aligned states or other European countries.

The participants in the meeting reiterated the need to achieve concrete accords at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons that would take account of the interests of both countries and all other states.

The ministers believe that 'Star Wars' preparations, the involvement of other countries in them, work on projects like the 'European Defence Initiative' and any other steps to militarise space, which are escalating the threat of nuclear war, should be stopped without delay.

Emphasis was laid on the need for the early finalisation and conclusion of an international convention to ban chemical weapons, to destroy their stockpiles and to dismantle the industrial base for their production.

The states represented at the meeting call for the establishment of an all-embracing system of international security that would cover the military, political, economic and humanitarian fields.

The ministers believe that the present-day situation in Europe calls more insistently than ever before for practical actions to reduce the level of military confrontation in the continent, the communique says.

The establishment in the Balkan peninsula, in the centre and in the north of Europe of zones free from such weapons of mass destruction would make an important contribution to ridding Europe of nuclear and chemical weapons.

The participants in the meeting noted that their states were interested in the early attainment at the Vienna negotiations of an agreement on reduction of troops and armaments in Central Europe and declared for relaxation of tension in the Mediterranean. The ministers stressed the importance of attaining at the Vienna meeting accords aimed at broadening co-operation in the economy, science, technology and environmental protection.

The ministers declared for further development of mutually beneficial co-operation with the countries of the European Economic Community.

The allied socialist states, the communique stresses, call for an end to the imperialist policy of strength, *diktat* and aggression and firmly declare for respect for every nation's right to decide its own future without interference from outside.

The ministers reaffirmed the principled stand of their states on the need for the early and fair negotiated settlement of conflicts and seats of tension in the Middle and Near East, in South-East Asia, in Central America, in the south of Africa and other regions of the world, the communique says. They declared for consolidation of peace and security, for establishing relations of confidence and good-neighbourly co-operation in the Asian-Pacific region, in the Indian Ocean basin, in Africa and Latin America.

The ministers stressed the need for holding an international conference on the Middle East under UN aegis, of forming for the purpose a preparatory committee with the participation of five permanent Security Council members, and also all parties concerned.

The ministers believe that terrorism, particularly state terrorism, imperils peace, security and international co-operation. Touching upon the results of the summit conference of non-aligned countries in Harare, the ministers noted the growing contribution of the Non-Aligned Movement to the struggle for removing the threat of a nuclear war, for disarmament, for ensuring the peoples' right to free and independent development, and for restructuring international economic relations on fair principles.

The countries represented at the meeting firmly declare for the use for peaceful purposes, including for accelerating the socio-economic progress of developing countries, of the means, material and scientific resources released as a result of reducing military expenditures. They attach great significance to the holding of an international conference on disarmament and development.

The Warsaw Treaty member-states call upon all countries and nations, the peace forces, acting in the spirit of the noble aims of the International Year of Peace, to pool their efforts and to do the utmost to attain concrete measures in nuclear disarmament, termination of all nuclear tests, reduction of troops, conventional armaments and nuclear expenditures. In the nuclear space age, this is the only way towards reliable security in Europe and the whole world. □

Soviet Foreign Ministry briefing

"REYKJAVIK is not the full stop, Reykjavik is a line after which fresh efforts need to be mobilised to achieve our common goal of disarmament," the head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Department said in Moscow on October 16.

Speaking at a briefing for Soviet and foreign correspondents, Gennadi Gerasimov added: "We believe that what has happened at Reykjavik should provide a powerful stimulus for all nations, mass organisations and governments to realise the need to join common efforts to consolidate peace."

Answering a question about the possibility of signing a separate agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that both the issues concerning strategic offensive nuclear arms and

space weaponry and those concerning medium-range missiles could naturally be discussed at expert level separately.

"On the whole," he added, "our proposals are well-known: presented in Reykjavik was a package of major measures."

Speaking of the position of the Soviet delegation in Geneva, Gerasimov said that the new initiatives made in Reykjavik were now on the table at the Soviet-US talks in Switzerland.

Explaining what the Soviet side meant when it called for strengthening the ABM Treaty, he said that the treaty by itself was a good one and that life had borne out its expediency. "What is meant specifically is that although the treaty envisages the possibility of either party withdrawing from it at six months' notice, we suggest refraining from using this possibility for ten years," he said. □

Reykjavik: More about facts

THE more that people, Americans included, learn the truth about the meeting in Reykjavik, the angrier they get about the fact that the nearly-concluded agreements on radical reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear weapons, both strategic and medium-range, hung fire because of the notorious SDI programme, the pet offspring of President Reagan which he elevated to the status of a 'sacred cow' which no one must touch.

In a bid to ward off criticism from the President for his failure to use the historic chance to improve the international situation, the White House has launched a clamorous propaganda campaign. This campaign is being conducted in several directions. It includes the attempts to prove what can't be proved, that is that SDI research, including out-of-laboratory testing of space-based anti-missile systems, would not contravene the ABM Treaty. There are also continued attempts to distort the course and contents of the negotiations in Reykjavik.

The thesis most frequently used these days as part of this campaign is that everything went well in Reykjavik until the end of the meeting when, after accords on strategic arms and medium range missiles which surpassed all expectations had already been reached, the Soviet side, all of a sudden, made the conclusion of those agreements conditional upon the demand to limit SDI research and that wrecked the whole thing.

White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan keeps saying that the package condition was made in the very end. No, we never thought that everything would be eventually linked to SDI, he says.

Echoing Regan, the US Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Perle, who is one of the most adamant opponents of any arms control agreements between the United States and the Soviet

Union, says that the Soviet side "made a last-minute demand" on limiting SDI research. Judging others by his own standard, Mr Perle went so far as to say that the Soviet side made that demand because it decided to backtrack on the problem of eliminating long-range ballistic missiles.

I shall leave these "pearls" of logic on Perle's conscience, and ask if there is a grain of truth in the fundamental thesis of Regan, Perle and other members of the US Administration that the Soviet side spelled out its position on SDI in the context of the ABM Treaty at the very end of the Reykjavik meeting and only then set forth the "package" idea—that is, made the problem of strategic and medium-range weapons conditional upon the observance of the ABM Treaty and a nuclear test ban.

But the facts tell quite a different story. As Mikhail Gorbachev told the world at a press conference in Reykjavik held on October 12 literally an hour after the end of the meeting, the entire set of new, far-reaching Soviet proposals on the listed questions had been set out to President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz during the very first conversation on October 11.

Moreover, it has been clearly stated that these proposals were being submitted as a package. The US leaders certainly know very well what a package of proposals is. They usually tend to include even truly unrelated proposals in a package, which can by no means be said of the Soviet package offered to President Reagan in Reykjavik.

The organic relationship of the proposals it contained was shown with the utmost clarity and persuasiveness by Mikhail Gorbachev at the Reykjavik press conference and in his speech on Soviet television.

But in this case we are concerned about the fact itself: just when did the American side learn about the package character of the Soviet proposals — at the start, or at the very end of the

meeting in Reykjavik, as White House spokesmen are now trying to convince the world?

In their zeal to twist the real course of events at Reykjavik, Regan and Perle have forgotten or pretend to have forgotten (hoping, obviously, that others also have a short memory) what was said on this question the day after the meeting by their own colleague—the President's National Security Adviser Poindexter.

At a press briefing in the White House on October 13, answering journalists' questions, Poindexter said the White House had always known that the USSR linked progress in strategic arms reduction with an agreement on the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and with the adoption of its position on questions of strategic defence.

He then added that he did not want to mislead the newsmen. From the very beginning, even before the US delegation arrived in Iceland, the Americans had been very well aware of a linkage (of the SDI question) with the process of reducing strategic armaments.

When the delegation arrived in Iceland, in the course of discussions it became clear, Poindexter said further, that the USSR linked progress in the field of reduction of strategic arms, and not only strategic, but also an agreement on intermediate-(medium-)range nuclear forces and on nuclear tests with a US acceptance of its position on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems.

To a specific question from one of the journalists: "But did they at once link the question of intermediate-range nuclear forces with SDI?" came Poindexter's simple and clear-cut answer "Yes".

Such are the facts. And no matter how much someone in Washington may now exert himself, repeating the word "No" five times at one go, facts will not cease to be facts and a lie will not become truth. Only the reputation of such people will suffer.

K. Georgiev, *Pravda*, October 12

Local Soviets get more funds

By Van Baiburt, *Novosti* correspondent

THE policy of consolidating democratic traditions in Soviet society endorsed by the 27th CPSU Congress involves the most numerous group of bodies of state power—local Soviets of People's Deputies.

Last summer the Soviet Party and Government passed a joint Decree vesting them with more rights over the socio-economic development of their territories.

This has helped them resolve the financial problem. Hitherto the budgets of local Soviets

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existing situation called for new thinking and an in-depth analysis of the global problems facing the people.

This, in his opinion, is the reason why the exponents of new ideas—authors, scientists and artists—should exchange views on all matters which concern and unite them, first of all, questions of peace, the fate of man and mankind.

It was both their right and duty to state their belief in man, in his reason and creative abilities, and also to work for the benefit of the future.

The American playwright expressed the conviction that the contacts started by the meeting should continue.

Peter Ustinov, the well-known writer, actor and producer, said that people who had devoted themselves entirely to art bore a heavy responsibility. "The artist is a link who binds nations and countries into mankind," he declared.

were formed mostly from government-provided funds and the turnover tax on communal enterprises directly subordinated to the local Soviets.

From now on large industries subordinated to the central authorities will be expected to share their earnings with local Soviets.

This solution arose from the results of a string of experiments during the past 18 months in several republics. In the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic it involved 70 industrial enterprises in 19 districts and towns, including

"Inertia in thinking, the habit of thinking in ulterior clichés, of apprehending events through the prism of old prejudices, keeps the world on the brink of a catastrophe," he said. "Moral progress lags behind the rapid pace of progress in science and technology."

Alexander King, President of the Club of Rome, stressed that closer contacts between people engaged in creative endeavour was especially necessary in the nuclear space age.

Their common duty was to drive home, impress upon the minds and hearts of millions the indisputable truth: if a nuclear war flares up, not a single people will survive. "The danger of war can and must be removed," he emphasised. He said that although he had been disappointed by the Reykjavik summit, the press conference given by Mikhail Gorbachev had shown that the door should be kept open for the search for ways to nuclear disarmament. □

Kutaisi, a major industrial centre.

I asked Zurab Nemsadze, vice-chairman of the executive committee of Kutaisi's municipal council, about the benefits. He replied that the city was now getting more money for its needs. He said during the first six months of this year 2 million roubles from large industries had been invested in new houses, food stores and the local water supply network.

He said that the industries benefitted from the arrangement, too. As the municipal council was getting a share of their profits, it was interested in improving their performance, etc. In addition, the workers of such enterprises are given free apartments by the municipal council. He said the town's authorities had more funds now for improving the local network of shops, cafes, cinemas, etc.

The Georgian experiment was also praised by Murman Murdzhikneli, Georgia's Deputy Minister of Finance. With more money totally at their disposal Soviets could adopt their own investment criteria, without waiting for orders from above as they had done earlier.

But neither the large-scale experiment nor the Decree settle the relationship between local Soviets and industries. For each Soviet is expected to oil the mechanism of co-operation with local industries in its own way, using its rights on a larger scale, spending the extra money it gets for the benefit of the local populace and trying to ensure a harmonious development of the territory it runs. □

In Copenhagen, after Reykjavik

By Vladimir Markov, *Novosti* special correspondent

"TO Preserve Peace and the Future of Mankind", this was the slogan of the world congress devoted to the International Year of Peace, held from October 15 to 19 in Copenhagen. It was attended by about 3,000 delegates from more than 130 countries, representing different political parties and public associations, and more than 60 international organisations.

The convocation of this great forum required a huge organisational effort. Moreover, it was necessary to resist those forces who were doing everything to prevent the holding of the congress, to portray it as a "Moscow conspiracy", to drive a wedge into the international peace movement and to limit the number of parties and organisations taking part in it.

There probably wasn't a single problem worrying the hearts and minds of nations which was not discussed in detail at the forum in Copenhagen. But the main topic – the Soviet-US meeting in Reykjavik and its consequences for the future of disarmament and peace – was given priority from the very start.

Why was no agreement reached at Reykjavik? What prevented the sides from using the unique chance to launch a non-nuclear era?

In the interval between the sessions I talked with James Bush, who knows his subject inside out and put these questions to him. He is one of the chiefs of the American Defense Information Center and has great experience in military matters. His service record is impressive indeed – for almost 30 years Bush served in various units of the US Navy, including 15 years on a submarine

equipped with strategic nuclear missiles. For three years he was the commander of a nuclear missile submarine.

"It is difficult to give an unequivocal answer to such questions," he replied, "all the more so when the results of complicated negotiations are analysed by representatives of different political and public groups. And yet, the conclusion which suggests itself here is unequivocal – the US Administration is to blame for the failure to reach agreements.

"The stumbling block was President Reagan's reluctance to create the conditions for implementing the agreements by consolidating the regime of the ABM Treaty, adopting equal commitments in that sphere, and introducing at least minimal reasonable limitations on the testing and development of new armaments with space-based elements. The SDI programme, no matter how hard its advocates might try to advertise its orientation to defence, implies the deployment of a powerful offensive potential. Therefore, its real aim is nothing new. It is aimed at surpassing the Soviet Union and winning a decisive strategic superiority. Speaking objectively, the attempts to implement SDI inevitably reduce to naught the chances of achieving disarmament and ridding our planet of the burden of nuclear weapons."

I asked James Bush to compare the positions of the sides stated at Reykjavik.

"The Soviet side made considerable concessions on all key questions discussed there," he pointed out. "Yet, there were no changes of any more or less meaningful character in the American position. Take, for instance, the problem of a nuclear weapons test ban. The contrast is striking. Despite a unilateral Soviet moratorium, the United States has not yet displayed a readiness to solve this problem.

"As I see it," he went on, "the real reason lies in the US Government's stake on 'Star Wars'. The US needs nuclear explosions for the development of its nuclear-induced combat laser. If the administration imposed a moratorium on nuclear tests, it would have to suspend the development of this new type of weapon. This is a weapon which cannot be called defensive in any way, because it can be used for surprise attacks on the other side's strategic targets. So, Nevada is already an operating proving-range for 'Star Wars'."

I mentioned that Mikhail Gorbachev had stressed, at his press conference for journalists who covered the Soviet-American summit, that the time had come when bold, responsible actions were needed in the interests of the entire world. I asked for some comments on the role of the anti-war movement in this context.

"The main thing is not to succumb to pessimism, not to slacken the disarmament effort," James Bush emphasised. "We see each day how difficult it is to win this battle. Peace campaigners encounter many difficulties, and make many sacrifices. But yet the peace movement has now become a factor which no government can ignore. This movement prevents many politicians from erroneous decisions and rash steps. Reykjavik urges us all to act.

"Another important factor is the position of the US and its NATO allies. For the time being many of them have reconciled themselves to SDI and have even agreed to take part in it. Now, I'm sure, they are bound to see the role played by SDI. In any case, both international and domestic pressure on the US Government on questions of SDI will grow after Reykjavik. Success can only be achieved by joint and vigorous moves." □

World still expects results after Reykjavik

EVALUATING the results of the Reykjavik meeting, French President François Mitterand noted last week that it had suffered a failure because of SDI.

This meant that the problem was going to remain at the centre of difficulties in the Soviet-American dialogue. He stressed, however, that not all possibilities for progress had been exhausted.

"The US Administration squandered an historic chance at Reykjavik to make deep cuts in nuclear arms, which would give a strong impulse to the world towards doing away in the long run with all weapons of mass destruction," Dutch General (Ret.) Michel van Meyenfeldt, Chairman of Generals for Peace and Disarmament, said last Friday.

He also criticised the US 'Star Wars' programme as preventing progress at disarmament talks, threatening to extend the arms race into outer space and poisoning the international atmosphere.

"A very important chance was squandered at Reykjavik," Johannes Rau, a prominent member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and its candidate for West German chancellorship, said in an interview yesterday.

"Can it still be hoped that the interests of Europeans will triumph and that it will ultimately prove possible to achieve the desired solution to

the issues of medium-range missiles and of strategic and chemical weapons? By all means. This is, in my view, a real prospect," he said.

"We reject SDI, but not because it is disliked by the Soviet Union. We have our own reasons to dislike it, both of a strategic-military and of a political nature."

"What is the main thing now? What has Reykjavik proved to us? It is first of all that accords on even the more complicated issues of disarmament are possible. Hence the tasks of the Europeans," he stressed.

Canadian MP Donald Johnston said this week that President Reagan lost an historic chance at Reykjavik, and was worried that the President's commitment to 'Star Wars' had been the reason.

Mr Johnston appraised highly the Soviet nuclear test moratorium. He said that he could not find any reasonable explanation why the USA had not responded to it. Such a step by the US would have created a good atmosphere for a constructive dialogue.

Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia, at the weekend urged Western powers to respond with concrete steps to Soviet peace initiatives. He expressed regret that Western countries continued to regard the new Soviet peace initiatives only in the setting of East-West confrontation. Kaunda stressed the need to give up this approach for the sake of ending the arms race and securing world peace.

At a press conference in Bangkok on Monday, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi expressed his concern that the Reagan Administration's SDI plans had led the Reykjavik talks up a blind alley.

However, both sides had reached "a very great extent" of agreement on questions of reducing nuclear arms, and this was a positive element, he stressed.

Hu Qili, a leading member of the Chinese Communist Party, said last Friday, in connection with Reykjavik, that China wanted an ultimate result to be achieved so as to contribute to the cause of world peace.

As far as the SDI problem is concerned, Hu Qili said that China held that the exploration of outer space should contribute to world peace, whereas its use with military aims only boosted the arms race. "Therefore we oppose the 'Strategic Defense Initiative,'" he emphasised.

"The problems of ensuring universal peace and disarmament concern the whole of mankind," Uruguayan MP Juan Pedro Siganda has stressed. "Reykjavik again demonstrated two contrary lines of conduct: the USSR's policy, its concrete actions for peace in recent months, especially its moratorium on nuclear tests, are opposed to the US policy of stepping up the nuclear arms race and spreading it into outer space.

"This must be a subject for serious consideration by the whole world public."