

Mikhail Gorbachev's selected writings reviewed in *Kommunist*

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S selected writings, published recently in three volumes, reflect the Party's intensive theoretical and practical work and its search for solutions to the most complicated problems facing the Soviet people, the journal *Kommunist* says in its latest edition (Nr. 12).

"Never before have real socialism, its achievements and problems, its theory and practice been studied so thoroughly and intensively as in the period following the April 1985 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee," the article says.

"The aspiration to analyse theoretically the character of socialist development and the

outstanding problems and to find practical ways for their solution marks all the works contained in the three-volume publication."

The review goes on to consider aspects of the reorganisation of the country's economic and social development and the broadening of democracy and openness.

Mikhail Gorbachev's articles and speeches, *Kommunist* points out, are putting forward a new concept of Soviet foreign policy. Underlying his idea of new political thinking is "the clear and profoundly humanistic thought that universal public interests have priority before the interests of states, classes, nations and ideologies in conditions when the world is armed with devastating nuclear weapons.

"Today's world is too little and fragile for

power politics.

"It is impossible to save and preserve it without breaking — resolutely and irreversibly — with the modes of thought and action that have for centuries been based on the admissibility of wars and armed conflicts."

The review emphasises that Mikhail Gorbachev's concept, clearly expressed in his speeches and articles, is that the times have faced all countries and peoples with the fundamental task: "Without turning a blind eye to social, political and ideological contradictions, to master the science and art of behaving with restraint and caution in the international arena, of living in a civilised way which is in keeping with the demands for correct international relationships and co-operation." □

Meeting of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee has studied the question of accelerating the development of priority directions of chemical science and technology, at its meeting last week. The task has been set of satisfying the national economy's requirements in high-quality chemical products and materials on the basis of intensifying research, and developing and introducing advanced technological processes and equipment.

The most important directions of fundamental and applied chemical research are outlined in the Resolution on this question adopted by the

CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR. It is intended to create new generations of construction and composite materials, and other chemical products with properties substantially superior to the present ones.

The Politburo supported the proposal to publish a definitive ten-volume work 'The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet People'. The preparation of this publication is entrusted to the USSR Ministry of Defence, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CPSU Central Committee.

The Politburo approved additional measures to prevent Aids in the country and deepen international co-operation in the struggle against

this disease.

On studying the question of Eduard Shevardnadze's trip to Geneva, the Politburo positively assessed its results. It stressed the importance of raising the role of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and turning it into a permanent universal body in the system of disarmament talks. The Politburo especially noted the topicality of reaching agreement on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons of the USSR and the United States — medium-range and short-range missiles — involving the destruction of all nuclear warheads, including those for the West German Pershing-1A missiles.

Some other questions of Party and state life were also discussed at the meeting of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee. □

CPSU Central Committee's greetings to 24th National Convention of CPUSA

THE CPSU Central Committee has sent a message of greetings to the 24th National Convention of the Communist Party USA.

"Your Congress takes place at a complex and contradictory time. The ongoing nuclear arms race, the plans to extend it into outer space jeopardise the very existence of life on Earth," the message says. It stresses the need to speed up talks in order to halt

and reverse the arms race, to ward off the nuclear threat.

"New approaches are needed now, including to Soviet-US relations, a new mode of thinking which proceeds from the premise that ensuring security is a political rather than a military task, that the security of the United States and the USSR can be only mutual, and — if one is to take international relations as a whole — only universal.

"And universal security means also unconditional respect in international practice for the right of each nation to be free and independent, to choose in a sovereign way forms and ways of its development, it means the inadmissibility of imperialist diktat and interference in other people's internal affairs whatever coverup is used."

The realities of today's world demand that defence of national interests be closely in line with an understanding of the interests of the whole of humanity.

The message stresses that the Soviet Communists see the fundamental principles of democracy in their society and the cornerstone of harmonious interstate relations as social justice and national equality.

The CPSU Central Committee's message expresses solidarity with the Communist Party USA. It says that Soviet Communists highly value the US Communist Party's efforts aimed at defending the interests of the US working class and all the working people of the country, and at making popular movements a more cohesive force in the struggle against imperialism and reaction, against racial and social discrimination.

The CPSU delegation at the National Convention of the CPUSA is led by Karen Brutents, Alternate Member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy head of the Central Committee's International Department. □

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Soviet Government Statement

WE give below the full text of a Statement by the Soviet Government.

The heads of five Central American states — Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador — have signed, upon the results of their meeting in the Guatemalan capital on August 6-7, a document on ways to settle the conflict in Central America and establish lasting peace there, and agreed on the procedure and concrete terms for implementing the accords reached.

All peace-minded states, the United Nations Organisation, the Non-aligned Movement, many international forums and various political parties and public movements, authoritative representatives of the church and prominent cultural personalities have been declaring for a

long time and persistently for a political breakout from this dangerous flashpoint of confrontation.

The accords worked out confirm the viability and effectiveness of the Contadora process aimed at attaining a fair political settlement in Central America by the forces of Latin American states themselves on the basis of strict respect for sovereignty and non-interference, and the right of each of them to decide ways of their own development.

The document signed by the five Presidents in Guatemala makes it possible to get down in practice to defusing the conflict situation and creating stable peaceful conditions for solving acute socio-economic problems of each country and the entire region.

Certainly, much will depend on the stand to be taken by the United States, on whether it will be ready to respect the will of the sovereign states, or will, as before, keep implementing the interventionist policy, flouting international law

and throwing down a challenge to the whole of Latin America, to the entire world.

The new time that has come in world development calls for discarding great power stereotypes, for a broad and responsible approach everywhere, including towards Central America.

The Soviet Union, the principled supporter of political methods of settling regional conflicts, welcomes the outcome of the Conference in Guatemala. Expressing support for the accords reached and evaluating at its true worth the contribution by the Contadora Group and support group, the Soviet Government states its determination to respect the decision passed by the five Presidents.

Within the framework of its responsibility for preserving peace and shaping civilised relations in the world community, it will contribute to the efforts to translate this decision into life. □

Igor Rogachev meets China's Foreign Minister

IGOR ROGACHEV, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, who heads the Soviet Government delegation now in Beijing in connection with the Soviet-Chinese talks on border issues, was received on Monday by Wu Xueqian, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China.

The Soviet side clarified the new peace initiatives launched by Mikhail Gorbachev in the interview with the Indonesian newspaper *Merdeka*. Wu Xueqian said that the Statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on eliminating all intermediate-range

missiles in the Asian part of the USSR is evaluated positively in China, and he expressed the wish that the USSR and the United States reach an agreement on this issue within the shortest possible time and eventually pass over to arrangements on other types of nuclear weapons.

The sides expressed the conviction that the settlement of the border issues between the Soviet Union and China, and the turning of the Soviet-Chinese border into a zone of friendship and goodneighbourliness will be of major significance to both countries as well as to peace in Asia and all over the world.

They regard as useful the exchange of views on the running of the line of the state border between the USSR and the People's Republic of China in its eastern part, which was held during

the just-ended round of the Soviet-Chinese talks on border issues.

Oleg Troyanovsky, Ambassador of the USSR to the People's Republic of China, took part in the talk.

A DELEGATION from the Commission of Nationalities of China's National People's Congress, led by Yu Wen, member of the NPC Standing Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Commission, arrived in Moscow last week at the invitation of the commissions of both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The visitors were welcomed by Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Stressed during the meeting was the need for strengthening the developing Soviet-Chinese parliamentary ties. □

New Times on strengthening stability in the Mediterranean

THE Mediterranean area has so far been sparsely affected by the positive dynamics tentatively showing in international relations, the *New Times* weekly says in its latest issue.

Saying that there are very powerful forces opposed to movement to stability and co-operation, the article invites readers to recall, for instance, the implacability with which the United States objected to an in-depth discussion

of security in the Mediterranean at all phases of the Helsinki process.

"In the West they have got used to using, with regard to the Mediterranean, such terms as the strategic military significance of the region, its value as a supply line for delivering Middle Eastern oil to Western Europe and the United States, and the like," *New Times* says, in its Russian-language edition.

"They effectively ignore the fact that it is the Mediterranean nations themselves that really have vital interests there.

"The US position gives grounds for concluding that the current tense and volatile situation in the Mediterranean obviously suits the US Administration, for the United States has become established there since the Second World War."

The Soviet Union, *New Times* says, has called for applying agreed confidence-building measures for Europe to cover the Mediterranean as well — measures for reducing armed forces, and for withdrawing ships with nuclear weapons from the Mediterranean.

"In general, we are for pulling the naval fleets of the USSR and the United States out of the Mediterranean, for renouncing the deployment of nuclear weapons on the territories of the non-nuclear Mediterranean countries, and for

the nuclear powers to pledge not to use nuclear arms against any Mediterranean nation that does not allow such arms on its territory.

"The Soviet Union has put forward the idea of convening a broad-based forum similar to the Conference on European Security and Co-operation.

"The USSR has profound understanding for the desire of non-aligned nations to strengthen security in the region," *New Times* says, "and expresses readiness to pursue dialogue with these countries in the interests of making the Mediterranean a zone of stable peace and co-operation." □

Friendship Vessel visits Nakhodka

TWO hundred representatives of the Socialist Party of Japan arrived in Nakhodka on Monday on board the Friendship Vessel.

Seminars and discussions between young people of the two countries will be held in Nakhodka, the Soviet Far Eastern port, and in the city of Khabarovsk. The reorganisation in the Soviet Union and its impact on peace in the Asia-Pacific region will be the centrepiece of the discussions. The exchange of friendship vessels has become a tradition with the USSR and Japan. Some 300 residents of the Primorye Region sailed out from Nakhodka recently to their twinned cities in Japan. □

Mikhail Gorbachev

To Make Working People's Life Fuller and Richer

Speech at

Romanian-Soviet friendship meeting
Bucharest, May 26, 1987

The above speech is available as a Novosti booklet from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW (01-373 7350).
Price 20p.

Anatoli Adamishin on human rights

"THE Soviet Union's proposal to convene a widely representative conference in Moscow on the development of humanitarian co-operation reflects the general intent to bring about changes and re-organisation — the vast process of revitalisation which has pervaded various aspects of Soviet society's life," stated Anatoli Adamishin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. He was speaking at a press conference in Moscow yesterday on the USSR's stand on the human rights issue.

"The process could not but involve the foreign policy aspects of the activities of the Soviet State, including such a field of growing importance as international humanitarian co-operation."

"In this field we would like to move on from confrontation to businesslike co-operation," Anatoli Adamishin said. "At present, numerous international forums which discuss human rights issues turn in actual fact into an arena of heated arguments, accusations and recriminations."

"Of course, it would be possible to go on accusing one another but we think that to co-operate is better. The 27th Congress of the CPSU gave prominence to humanitarian issues in an overall comprehensive international security system which the Soviet Union suggests. Neither is it fortuitous that our concept of new international relations is epitomised in the words 'a nuclear-free and non-violent world'.

"A Moscow conference which we suggest could discuss various issues concerning the entire range of civil, political, economic, social and other rights and freedoms."

"The standards which we propose for the holding of the conference fully conform with the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference as well as with the practice that has been established in the process of all-European co-operation."

"Over the nine months that have passed since the time when Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, put forward this proposal at the meeting in Vienna, the Soviet Union has taken into account a whole

number of considerations and wishes which were set out by representatives of Western countries."

"Unfortunately, no goodwill is seen on the part of many Western countries about the idea to hold such a conference in Moscow. Of course, there are statements made at an authoritative level in support of the idea. But we also see the efforts of the US delegation who seek to put forward terms for holding the conference and who demand that Moscow should ostensibly meet their invented self-styled criteria of holding such a conference," Anatoli Adamishin said.

"It even resembles something like patting us on the back: you just grow up to our level and then we shall talk with you. Such a position of self-satisfaction would evoke only an ironic smile if it did not conceal an obvious intention to provoke confrontation."

"Naturally, there arises the question: who is to judge? Does the Final Act or any other international document give anyone a right to regard oneself as a model, to judge whether other states conform to criteria which are invented by oneself, or, moreover, to impose one's way of thinking and living upon others?"

"And in general, is co-operation altogether possible in a field which is so much saturated with ideological motives, prompted by varying concepts of human rights based on differences in the social systems of states? The Soviet Union answers this question in the affirmative," the Deputy Minister stressed.

"We are convinced that we have solved a whole number of problems in the field of human rights better than in the West: Soviet people's social security is higher than that in the West, and confidence in the morrow is stronger."

"However," Anatoli Adamishin emphasised, "we do not consider that we have reached the ceiling in this respect. Much has been done over the past two years, ranging from people's opportunity to influence production and social life, and to the refinement of legislation and the adoption of laws defending the lawful interests of citizens, including laws on the right to appeal against the actions of officials, from changing the practice of exit from the USSR, people-to-people contacts, and to vigorous blossoming of cultural and creative life."

Outlining the Soviet view of human rights, Anatoli Adamishin stated that "it implies the unity of political, civil, social and economic

rights."

"We proceed from the premise that a person should have a right to work, housing, normal existence, to an opportunity to express his or her opinion, and to participation in political life," he said.

Some Western officials show an inclination to separate political and civil rights from economic ones. It is not proper, the Deputy Minister said, either from the standpoint of logic or from the standpoint of international documents. The Final Act of the Helsinki Conference emphasises, among other things, that all these rights arise from the human personality and dignity and constitute its inalienable quality.

Some Western countries are putting emphasis on rights which cost them nothing in economic terms. And on the other hand, coping with such problems as unemployment, homelessness, economic and social security is being shifted on to the individual as it were, while society walks away from taking care of him. This is the difference between the individualistic and collective concepts.

In answer to correspondents' questions, Anatoli Adamishin said that approximately 15,000 people, including children, had left the Soviet Union in the seven months of the current year.

"This is four or five times as many as last year, and is connected with two main causes. New regulations concerning entry and exit on private business have been in effect since January 1. The regulations equally apply to all citizens of the Soviet Union irrespective of sex, race, nationality or other criteria."

"Besides, cases which piled up in previous years have been considered anew. One should say that there is a comparatively small but rather distinctive category of persons who either decline the granted permission to leave or are not in a hurry to use it."

The Deputy Minister pointed out that there has also appeared another new category of persons: those who would like to arrive in the Soviet Union from the United States for permanent residence.

In particular, he said that Leonard Peltier, the prominent fighter for the rights of American Indians, has applied to the Soviet Government in a request for political asylum. □

On entry into and exit from the USSR

THE supplements to the Document regulating entry into and exit from the USSR, which entered into force seven months ago, substantially expand the possibility of contacts both in terms of short visits and departure for permanent residence. Rudolf Kuznetsov, head of the Visa-Issuing and Registry Office of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, told a briefing at the press centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week.

In particular, this has found reflection in article 24 of the Law which says that departure for permanent residence can be effected not only on the invitation of the most direct and closest relatives but also of brothers and sisters. Kuznetsov continued.

Whereas before January 1, 1987 exit was denied to those most of whose closest relatives remained in the USSR now this restriction has been lifted. One can leave, for instance, on

the invitation of a brother together with one's family, regardless of whether there are relatives remaining in the USSR.

In the first seven months of this year about 13,000 people received permission to leave the Soviet Union for permanent residence abroad, or 140% more than throughout the whole of 1986. It follows from this that the Supplements are not of a restrictive nature, as some people in the West are contending, but on the contrary expand possibilities in this respect, Rudolf Kuznetsov pointed out. As to short trips, not only any relatives but also acquaintances can leave the Soviet Union on invitation and invite to visit the Soviet Union. Here there are no restrictions, with the exception of article 25 of the Law and the Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the USSR.

Prior to January 1, 1987 Soviet citizens were allowed as a rule to travel abroad once a year. Now these restrictions have been lifted and Soviet citizens can make as many trips as their personal time permits them. The following rule has also been introduced: if a person who left the USSR for Israel lives in a third country

with which the USSR has diplomatic relations and he has citizenship there, he can enter the Soviet Union on the same basis as citizens of such countries.

Replying to questions from journalists, Rudolf Kuznetsov said that the number of applications to the visa-issuing office to leave the USSR from people of all nationalities, as at the current date, does not exceed a thousand, yet in the West it is alleged that the figure is much bigger.

Oleg Avramenko, deputy head of the Consular Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the number of people returning to the USSR reached 240-250 at the beginning of this year. Roughly the same number of people are to return to the country shortly. They will come in several groups. Oleg Avramenko also stressed that a special commission has been set up under the Commission on Citizenship of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet recently, to study questions connected with appeals against decisions concerning exit from the country adopted by bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Viktor Karpov on US nuclear warheads for Pershing-1A missiles

"THOSE who contend that the question of West German Pershing-1A missiles with American nuclear warheads is an invented one, want to obscure the crux of the problem," Viktor Karpov, head of the Arms Limitation and Disarmament Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has told a TASS diplomatic correspondent.

"The point is that if the Soviet and American medium-range and shorter-range missiles together with their warheads were liquidated while the Pershing-1A missiles with the American warheads were preserved, the FRG would remain the only power in the centre of Europe with missiles of this class. Missiles that would pose a threat to the GDR, Poland,

Czechoslovakia, a part of Hungary and the western regions of the Soviet Union," Vladimir Karpov continued.

"The American warheads for the West German Pershing-1A missiles constitute a serious threat," he emphasised. "Each of these warheads is equal, according to some estimates, to seven or even more atomic bombs of the type dropped on Hiroshima. If we multiply this by 72 we will get a very significant figure. So the issue of Central Europe's security in connection with the Pershing-1A missiles is by no means an invented one.

"The press in the GDR and Czechoslovakia is receiving numerous letters from the public expressing concern that the plans to leave Pershing-1A missiles in West Germany with American nuclear warheads places in jeopardy the security of these countries. The letters, in particular, raise the question that the GDR and

Czechoslovakia would have to approach the Soviet Union so as to counter this threat with appropriate military measures. So this problem is of an international nature and directly concerns all the peoples of Central Europe," Viktor Karpov pointed out.

"At present the FRG and the United States are trying to avoid answering the question about what should be done with the warheads for the Pershing-1A missiles. Washington points to the FRG and NATO, while Bonn points to Washington. But time demands the adoption of a decision which will open the way to an accord on the elimination of Soviet and American medium- and shorter-range missiles," Viktor Karpov stressed in conclusion. "The only road to this is to implement the 'double zero variant' proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev in his interview to the Indonesian newspaper *Merdeka*." □

Pravda on manoeuvring by US and FRG

"THE issue concerning 72 US warheads on Pershing-1A missiles stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany has become the main obstacle preventing nuclear disarmament from getting moving," Vladimir Peresada, Pravda's news analyst,

A new History of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people

NEW definite studies will be reflected in the 'History of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet People', Lieutenant-General Sergei Radziewsky, acting head of the Institute of Military History of the USSR Ministry of Defence, told TASS last week.

He recalled that a six-volume 'History of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union — 1941-1945' had already been published in the USSR but that it no longer met the present-day requirements of Soviet society in which openness and democracy are being expanded. The existing six-volume publication has a number of serious shortcomings. First of all this concerns objectivity in the assessment of historic events. Besides, the six-volume work was put out more than twenty years ago and in a small printing — 38,000 copies.

The ten-volume publication will deal with all the political aspects of the Soviet people's preparations to repulse the aggression. General Radziewsky continued. It is intended to use previously-unpublished documents of the Stavka (Headquarters) of the Supreme Military Command, the State Defence Committee, the People's Commissariats (Ministries), the Central Statistical Board and other state and Party bodies.

Materials by foreign authors are also to be included in the publication. Extensive joint work will be conducted with scientists from socialist countries.

The first volume is to come off the press two years from now. After that two volumes will be published annually. The entire publication is to be completed in 1995, the Year of the 50th anniversary of the USSR's Victory in the Great Patriotic War. □

writes in Sunday's issue.

"It is a question of the US side's attempts at separating the nuclear warheads for the missiles from the 'double zero'," he specifies.

"Once the United States gave consent to the 'double global zero', it means that both the missiles of the appropriate class and the warheads for them should be eliminated."

"At the same time," the news analyst points out, "officials in Washington give assurances, with increasing stubbornness, that Pershing-1A missiles, ostensibly, belong entirely to the FRG and that the United States cannot conduct talks on 'weapons of a third party'."

The article emphasises that to keep US nuclear warheads for these missiles stationed in the FRG's territory would signify the virtual provision of nuclear weapons to a country certain circles of which are mad with the ideas of revanche.

"Assurances by Bonn spokesmen that West Germany is not a nuclear power and does not wish to become such are not backed up by

real deeds."

"As a result, one gathers a dual impression," Vladimir Peresada writes. "On the one hand, the United States' evasiveness over the issue of warheads for the Pershing-1A missiles looks rather like an intention to give up the already accepted 'zero option' on short-range missiles."

"On the other hand, owing to Washington's and Bonn's manoeuvring, there is developing a situation which suggests that there exist some hidden considerations, if not plans, aimed at turning West Germany into a nuclear or near-nuclear power."

"The Soviet Union has done everything depending on it, and has made a whole number of concessions to get nuclear disarmament moving," Pravda says. "The near future will show whether the United States at the Soviet-US talks in Geneva intends to continue to hinder the talks' headway or whether it will steer matters in real earnest and in a constructive spirit towards reaching a truly historic accord." □

TASS Report on Novaya Zemlya test

IN connection with claims circulated by the Western mass media, with the Americans being especially zealous in their efforts, that the underground nuclear explosion conducted by the Soviet Union on August 2, 1987 on Novaya Zemlya island was accompanied by the release of radioactive debris outside Soviet territory, TASS has this to report:

During the nuclear explosion on Novaya Zemlya island, all the necessary precautions were taken to rule out radioactive fallout, as required by the Soviet Union's commitments under the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater. The population was not subjected to any danger from radiation effects, as has been confirmed by the national control systems of the USSR.

In connection with incoming queries, competent organisations in the USSR have carried out an extra and all-round check, which has shown that after the explosion there took

place a leak of an insignificant amount of gaseous products which have not led to the formation of radioactive fallout. This excludes the possibility of radioactive fallout in any state as a result of the underground nuclear explosion on Novaya Zemlya island.

The Soviet Union attaches great significance to strict and unfailing compliance with the provisions of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater, regarding it as an important means of limiting the arms race. Corresponding Soviet organisations have invariably taken all the necessary measures to make certain that the demands made in this international act are met.

Our goal is general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. The Soviet Union reaffirms once again its proposal for talks on this issue without delay—in any form and at any level. It depends first of all on the United States whether nuclear blasts will continue or not. The answer has to be given by it. □

Gosplan Vice-Chairman on changes in the USSR's planning

"PLANNING should assume a fundamentally new quality" in the course of the economic reform under way in the USSR, says Anatoli Reut, Vice-Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee (Gosplan), in an interview published in the newspaper *Izvestia* on Monday.

Touching upon changes in that area, he says that the plan will be based on "long-term scientific-technical programmes and the concept of the country's economic and social development for the coming fifteen years. It is to contain a set of development priorities, determine the trends in structural and investment policy and in the scientific and technological revolution, and set out the goals of social development."

The draft State Plan drawn up on that basis "will take into account, on the one hand, the proposals of the ministries and departments, generalising the needs of plants, and on the other hand the proposals of the Union Republics. As far as the plants are concerned, they are known to be starting to develop independently an optimum version of their plan. Herein is the focal point of the restructuring of planning," Anatoli Reut emphasises.

The plant will get "from above" only control figures, long-term stable economic standards, state orders and limits. "The aim of these indices is to ensure the balanced character of the national plan and achieve the proportions envisaged in it," Anatoli Reut explains. He points to the need to distribute government orders on a competitive basis.

"The work to draft a plan for next year has

shown that a state order in the manufacturing industries may embrace from 50 to 56 per cent of the volume of production, and in raw material and fuel energy industries a little more. Thus from a third to a half of the volume of their output will be formed by the plants independently," Anatoli Reut says.

"Ensuring more democracy in planning, we link with it above all the development of direct ties between manufacturers and consumers, and arrangements for wholesale trade of industrial equipment (for which 60-70 per cent of the range of the products will be transferred). Wholesale trade opens up opportunities for the manufacture of machines and equipment on a competitive basis," Gosplan's Vice-Chairman says.

He also says that at present the structure of the USSR State Planning Committee is being revised and a considerable cut in the number of personnel is planned. □

Latvia's first family farm

Vidvedis Knops from Riga started his career as a farmer at the age of 36. After inheriting his father's farmstead 200 km away from Riga, Knops, who has a degree in agriculture, decided to take up farming together with his family.

He offered his services to a collective farm which provided him with building materials to repair the farmstead, a car, a tractor, 90 hectares of pastures and 90 bull-calves. This is how Latvia's first family co-operative farm came into being.

The Knopses wished to start a large-scale undertaking, so they invited two families living nearby to share the farm with them. Members of the co-operative farm work from morning till evening, which nevertheless suits them very well.

"We are masters here, at this farmstead, and the terms of the contract that we signed are profitable to us. In a year and a half the fattening of bull-calves will bring the family farm 90,000 roubles in profit. When settling accounts with the collective farm, the sums of money paid in advance to members of the family farm, amounting to 75 per cent of the

average wages for Latvian peasants, as well as the cost of bull-calves, fuel and electricity, seeds and the hiring of farm machinery, will be deducted. And still the monthly wages of members of the family co-operative farm will be twice as high as average wages of collective farmers. In its turn, the collective farm will perceptibly increase its meat deliveries to the state.

In the opinion of economists, the trend of drawing the population into agricultural production will develop rapidly in the coming years. This optimism is based on the broad support given to the economic reforms by the population of the Republic. □

Soviet technology exports

SOVIET machine builders are offering more than 120 energy-saving technologies to help improve product quality and cut production costs markedly to foreign partners.

Valeri Kosarev, deputy chairman of the Soviet foreign trade organisation Prommachexport, told TASS last week that these include a fundamentally new technique for the hot calorising of metalwork, different methods of precision pig iron and steel casting, and a way of manufacturing superhard ceramic cutting tools among others.

He said his organisation is currently negotiating the sale of new technologies and related equipment to firms from Finland, Greece, India and other countries.

An understanding has already been reached with Italian firm Leopoldo Biasi SPA, for the

delivery of hot calorising equipment to Italy.

"Technology exports are new to Prommachexport," Kosarev said.

"Previously, we were mostly selling complete sets of plant. At present, however, many countries prefer to modernise existing facilities rather than build new factories because this pays off better.

"We believe therefore that promising technologies devised in the Soviet Union will find a place in this process too."

Prommachexport is promoting its technologies on the external market together with the Soviet foreign trade association Licensintorg, Kosarev explained. This makes it possible to provide the whole range of services, including the sale of licences, the transfer of production forms and records and the delivery and start-up of equipment. □

USSR-FRG BUSINESS CO-OPERATION

"WE are discovering the Soviet Union as a business partner once again," Carl Schafer, commercial director of the Van Waveren firm which is part of the KWS-Gruppe company, has told a TASS correspondent. "Our firms have been co-operating with organisations in the Soviet Union since the beginning of the 1970s," he continued.

"Previously most contacts were established in Moscow whereas now we are discovering the 'hinterland' for ourselves. This year contacts have been established with scientific institutes in Kharkov, Krasnodar and Gomel. We foresee good prospects for co-operation between KWS-Gruppe enterprises and agricultural science specialists in the Baltic republics and Moldavia."

In Moldavia, representatives of KWS-Gruppe visited the Dniester and Hybrid scientific and production associations, and familiarised themselves with the development of vegetable-growing, viticulture and wine-making.

The West German specialists took interest in the work being done by the Dniester firm in tomato selection.

Their opinion is that the new varieties the Moldavian scientists are working to evolve can be competitive on the West European market.

The West German firm will test legumes in Moldavia. The Republic's legume growing holds a leading place in world plant cultivation science and practice. □

Soviet firm offers space photo-information

THE Soviet foreign trade organisation Soyuzkarta has offered its services in the field of aerial photography and space photo-information to 70 countries, *Moscow News* reports in its issue last week.

Soviet space photos are in increasing demand in the world.

Soyuzkarta recently signed a long-term

agreement on scientific, technological and economic co-operation with a Finnish firm. Through this firm Soyuzkarta will sell photos taken from outer space to Western Europe.

The Soviet Union has been rendering similar services to CMEA countries for a long period.

Space photo-information will be exported observing UN principles. □

Gennadi Yagodin speaks at United Nations environmental congress

GLOBAL problems relating to hunger and diseases, pollution of the environment and depletion of natural resources are realities that are facing mankind, Soviet Minister for Higher and Specialised Secondary Education Gennadi Yagodin said on Monday.

He was speaking at the International Congress on Education and Personnel-Training in the Field of Environmental Protection which opened in Moscow this week.

The forum is sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

"The future of human civilisation acquires tragic features against the background of the global problem of war and peace. No human being can remain indifferent to this situation," Gennadi Yagodin emphasised.

"The point at issue is the survival of mankind, the fate of the civilisation which might be the only civilisation in the universe."

"We are sincerely glad," he said, "that the UNESCO-UNEP Congress is being held in our country again, ten years after the Tbilisi Conference.

"The Soviet Government gives much attention to issues of environmental protection. We have achieved certain successes over the past decade. But there are still very many hardships and problems.

"That is why we welcome a broad exchange of views and experience and the elaboration of new approaches to the handling of these major problems," the Minister said.

He read a message of greetings to the Congress from the USSR Council of Ministers.

Education and training of environment personnel should be started with the correct coverage of ecological problems in the mass media, UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow said in his speech.

World public opinion should receive fuller information on questions of environmental protection, he said. Ecology should be introduced into curricula of elementary, secondary and higher educational establishments in all countries.

The Congress is called upon to work out a strategy for international organisations, including UNESCO and UNEP, in training skilled personnel in the field of environmental protection, the UNESCO Director-General pointed out.

M'Bow wished the forum's delegates success in their work and emphasised that international co-operation and exchange of experience are major components in the common struggle for environmental protection.

Ecological problems cannot be resolved within state boundaries, he observed.

At a briefing on the opening of the Congress, Semyon Tanyan (USSR), UNESCO Deputy Director-General for Education, pointed out that UNESCO's and UNEP's joint activity in the field of ecology is meeting with the approval and support of the overwhelming majority of nations.

In protecting the environment, he said, both organisations, governments and experts from all countries should give special attention to ecological education.

"This Congress can play an outstanding part in attaining this objective, for this is an area where all global problems of our times merge."

There exists, regrettably, a great difference between the notions of economics and ecology, observed William Mansfield (USA), UNEP Deputy Executive Director.

This has brought about tragedies around the world. The task of experts on environmental protection and education is to combine these two notions together, he said.

UNEP is one of the organisations assigned this crucial task. It is trying to show people that technological progress often inflicts irreparable damage on the environment and, therefore, on people.

The time when the activity of the human civilisation had no effect on the environment is over, Mansfield pointed out. Environmental protection is the cause of each and everyone.

It was announced at the briefing that the Congress is being attended by more than 200 delegates from 80 countries and observers from various international organisations.

In an interview in Pravda, Soviet Deputy Minister for Higher and Secondary Education Professor Nikolai Yegorov stresses that the future of ecology depends on solving the tasks of defusing international tension.

Professor Yegorov heads the Soviet organising committee for the UNESCO-UNEP Congress.

Nuclear weapons and the arms race are having a detrimental effect on the environment by exhausting natural resources, he points out.

"Use of nuclear weapons would bring about the death of civilisation."

Professor Yegorov attaches great importance to information about the ecological consequences of the arms race in environmental protection programmes. □

New element synthesised for Mendeleev Periodic Table

THE 110th element of the Mendeleev Periodic Table in which all elements are placed in the order of growth of their atomic weights has been synthesised at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna (Moscow Region). The two-year research project carried out by an international staff of scientists, engineers and workers led by Professor Yuri Oganesyan ended in success. Specialists from the USSR, France, the German Democratic Republic and Romania took part in the project.

Researchers at the Institute told a TASS correspondent that the new element has been obtained as a result of the bombardment of thorium and of uranium isotopes by a heavy-duty beam of accelerated calcium and argon nuclei. This non-traditional technique of synthesising a new element was proposed by Academician Georgi Flerov, although physicists in the US and

West Germany regarded it as not very promising.

The work was conducted on the U-400 cyclotron, which can produce nuclei beams of an intensity exceeding several times the total intensity of all other similar accelerators existing in the world.

During the experiment the researchers had to remove a host of complicated scientific and engineering problems. For instance, they found efficient means for removing the background formed by the nuclei of lighter elements produced in side reactions and which made it difficult to detect the 110th element.

In order to register the formation and disintegration of its individual atoms the researchers used extremely sensitive equipment, and fine physical, chemical and radiochemical methods. A total of 40 nuclei of the 110th element were obtained. They exist for about one-hundredth of a second. Physicists are of the opinion that this is a very long life for an element that heavy.

"The findings provide fresh evidence in favour of the existence of a so-called island of super-heavy elements possessing high stability to radioactive decay," Academician Flerov said. "According to the current theories, such an 'island' exists in the area of elements with atomic numbers from 110 to 114. The results discovered in the search for the 110th element are especially important inasmuch as they open a way towards the synthesis of even heavier elements. Experiments related to the synthesis of the 111th element have already started at Dubna." □

Europe's physicists meet in Finland

THE seventh General Conference of the European Physical Society (EPS) drew to an end in Espo, Finland, last week. It brought together representatives of 40 countries, who discussed, among other things, the question of the after-effects of the use of nuclear weapons for life on Earth, reports a TASS correspondent.

The analysis of new mathematical models of a "nuclear winter" confirmed that large-scale use of nuclear weapons will cause land temperatures to drop dramatically and the death of every living thing. The Conference paid much attention also to the US 'Star Wars' programme, which is sparking off wide protests among the peace-minded public.

A press conference devoted to the feasibility of Reagan's "Strategic Defence Initiative" was arranged on Friday. It was addressed by Nikolaas Blomberg, Professor of Harvard University, USA. For three years a group of American scientists and engineers from various US establishments have been studying the feasibility of SDI, within the framework of the US Physical Society and in close co-operation with the US Government. In a report compiled by the working group led by Blomberg the realisation of the 'Star Wars' programme is called into question.

The physicists discussed the use of optics in computer engineering, the issues of superconductivity and also further avenues for advancing physics. □

CONSTITUTION (Fundamental Law) of the USSR

Price 50p.

Available from Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW.
(Cheque, PO).

Restructuring Soviet medical services — Guidelines published for discussion

A DRAFT DECISION by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers published for nationwide discussion offers an answer to the question of what Soviet medical services will be like in the future.

Titled 'Guidelines for Developing Public Health Protection and Restructuring Medical Services in the USSR in the 12th Five-Year Plan Period and until the Year 2000', it notes that a truly nationwide health protection system has been created in the USSR, based on the principle that medical services, including preventive treatment, should be free and readily available to everyone.

Over the 70 years of Soviet power, the general mortality rate has dropped by more than 67% and the child mortality rate by 91%. Average life expectancy has doubled and many dangerous infectious diseases have been eradicated. The incidence of injuries at work, occupational diseases and disablement has been steadily decreasing.

A persistent trend of social homogeneity in public health should also be listed among the indisputable gains of socialism. Improvements in physical development indices, declining mortality rates and growing creative life-spans are characteristic of different sections of the population and of all ethnic groups in the Soviet Union. Many ethnic groups that before the 1917 October Revolution were doomed to extinction have now reached high indices as regards public health.

Medical services in the USSR have become a major branch of the social welfare sphere. Tens of thousands of polyclinics, hospitals, first-aid stations and child care centres and hundreds of research institutions and educational establishments have been built. A maternity and child protection system, a sanitary and epidemiological service and an extensive network of sanatoriums and rest homes have been set up. There are 1.3 million doctors and 3.3 million middle-echelon medical personnel working in the field.

The achievements of the Soviet health protection system have won general recognition. Its principles and the way it has organised primary health care have been recommended by the World Health Organisation as a model of how similar national services should be established.

These successes attest to the tremendous advantages and possibilities of socialist society in resolving the problems of public health protection, the draft says. These possibilities, however, have not been tapped to the full.

For many years, for instance, efforts to promote a healthy way of life have not been given proper attention. More than two-thirds of the population are not regularly involved in physical exercise and sport, up to 30% are overweight and some 70 million people smoke. There are also other drawbacks in public health protection.

The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have set the task of "overhauling the health protection system,

removing the shortcomings, putting the existing potential to efficient use, and drastically improving the quality of medical assistance."

With this aim, it is proposed to effect a package of measures to step up preventive work, introduce health screening for the entire population step-by-step, update medical workers' professional skills, and improve the quality and standard of work by medical institutions.

The draft emphasises prophylaxis as the principal concern of Soviet medical services. It is planned to introduce mandatory annual medical checks for the population. The prime aim of the scheme is to create a unified system for appraising, and exercising dynamic control over, the state of health of every Soviet citizen and of society as a whole.

The scheme will be introduced in two phases: children, teenagers, students, expectant mothers, war veterans and factory and office workers in individual industries and agriculture are to be covered by such screening arrangements by 1991 and the rest of the population by 1995.

Defining all-round improvements in maternity and child protection services as a priority, the draft pays much attention to respective prophylactic measures and ways of improving the standard of women's dispensaries.

Outlays for building hospitals and polyclinics over the next 15 years will grow between two and two-and-a-half times. It is planned over this period to open hospitals with a total of 1.5 million beds and polyclinics capable of handling three million visits a shift. Maternity hospitals, women's dispensaries and children's hospitals and polyclinics will be built at a priority rate.

"Improving the health of every Soviet citizen is a cause of paramount importance, a humane and noble goal of the economic and social development of our society," the draft says in conclusion. □

British peace campaigner urges wider contacts with Soviet people

Sandra Rowan is a senior lecturer in the Department of Health Sciences, Birmingham Polytechnic. She is a veteran member of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and one of the sponsors of the People-to-People (UK-USSR) Movement.

"As a young person just beginning my career in the health care profession," Sandra Rowan recalled, ". . . I took part in the 1959 Aldermaston March. The siting of Polaris submarines in the Holy Loch in the sixties provoked a strong reaction among the people of Scotland and I was part of the anti-Polaris campaign that followed this event. With unassailable logic we used to sing: 'Ye canna spend a dollar when ye're dead'.

"However, the concept of the 'enemy image' is a serious matter," she went on. "It is the basis on which governments can convince the population of the justification for spending vast sums of money on arms. It is only by actively maintaining this image that credibility can be given to rigid and aggressive postures taken up in disarmament discussions. . . . For this reason, in addition to membership of CND at both local and national levels, I have joined with a friend in Birmingham, where I now live, to form a new British organisation — People to People (UK-USSR). . . . The new organisation hopes to complete the circle by setting up a data base which can act as a resource for individuals and groups who wish to develop and maintain contacts."

Sandra Rowan and several other members of

British anti-war organisations recently took part in an international cruise along the Dnieper River dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. The cruise, sponsored by the Soviet and Ukrainian peace committees, drew about 300 peace campaigners from 18 Western European countries, the United States, Canada and the USSR.

The peace campaigners sailed 2,000 km on the ship *General Vatutin* from Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, to the Black Sea port of Odessa and back. During their cruise they met with Soviet people, took part in seminars and open discussions, and talked to peace activists from other countries.

"A good opportunity has been provided . . . for clarification of such concepts as 'perestroika' and 'glasnost' and consideration of the effect of these exciting developments on the peace movement . . ." Ms Rowan told a Novosti correspondent.

"There is a need for us to re-examine the structures through which we are trying to achieve our mutual aims," she noted. ". . . We must work together to develop approaches which will be flexible and responsive. . . . Applied to the 'enemy image' problem, we need to explore all possible ways of facilitating and improving communication between Soviet and British people. . . . Let us do our utmost to develop a 'co-operative technology' for action. I can think of no greater motivation for this than the smiling faces and warm hearts of the thousands of ordinary Soviet people who turned out to welcome us and to wish us well in our Peace Cruise." □

Non-nuclear policy for New Zealand

THE leader of New Zealand's Labour Party, Prime Minister David Lange reaffirmed his party's allegiance to its non-nuclear policy, in a speech on national television last week.

Carrying out a non-nuclear policy, Lange said, our country has already found itself benefiting, it has added to its weight in the international arena. The Prime Minister described the policy as honest and reasonable.

Sixty-nine per cent of New Zealanders, according to a recent opinion poll, are against the entry of nuclear-capable ships into New Zealand's ports. □

THE FREEDOM TO BE HOMELESS

The story of a man from Fifth Avenue (New York) by Joseph MAURI

A Novosti booklet available from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW (01-373 7350).

Price 50p.

Pravda on Afghanistan's national reconciliation policy

"THE main political result of the past several months is getting more and more prominent in Kabul now. It consists in the fact that the idea of a political compromise for the sake of terminating fratricide has ceased to be a slogan and has become a practical task," writes Vadim Okulov, Pravda's correspondent in Kabul, in Monday's issue.

Okulov, who has been travelling around Afghanistan during the past several months, has seen for himself that "the national reconciliation policy has further clarified the situation and has drawn a clear line between those who support this policy and those who are against it. The more aggressive part of the counterrevolutionary forces succeeded in aggravating the situation in some areas of the country. In full conformity with the terms of the armistice, the Afghan troops

and the limited contingent of Soviet troops have responded to any firing started by the counter-revolutionaries with even heavier fire and are resolutely blocking attempts to smuggle arms for the bandits from abroad. The keenness of the struggle is shown by the fact that in the past six months 24,000 missiles have been captured from the counter-revolutionaries and the same number of missiles were destroyed during the routing of their bases.

"However, this does not mean that the policy of national reconciliation is not a success. These facts only make it clear that its implementation has turned out to be a more difficult undertaking than one could have supposed."

"Leaders of the extremist wing of the opposition demonstrate unwillingness to sit down at the negotiating table. Moreover, they use the bluff tactics of poker players, trying to show that they are capable of influencing the

situation in the area of the Afghan-Soviet border. It is obvious that fierce attacks by this section of the counterrevolutionary forces — who are actually mercenaries — permits Washington to count on expanding the scope of the undeclared war. Stinger and Blowpipe missiles have long ceased to be a rarity at the displays of weapons captured in action. The large-scale equipping and training of Afghan counterrevolutionaries is going on in Pakistan," Pravda continues.

"Peacemaking activities are giving rise to the elements of coalition rule," Okulov writes. "In Afghanistan this process is moving ahead. Fourteen districts and four provinces are headed by former insurgents who have voiced their loyalty to people's power. About 6,000 representatives of the opposition are co-operating with government supporters in villages, districts and a number of provincial Commissions for National Reconciliation." □

Najib addresses Afghans on Independence Restoration Day

NAJIB, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), addressed his compatriots yesterday over radio and television on the occasion of the Independence Restoration Day and the Army Day of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

"The independence of Afghanistan was gained and the flag of a free fatherland was raised sixty-eight years ago," Najib said. "Soviet Russia headed by great Lenin was the first state to recognise Afghanistan's independence."

"The heroic army of the country played a decisive role in the gaining of independence," the Afghan leader went on to say.

"Last year the PDPA Central Committee and the Government of the DRA decided to mark Afghanistan's Independence Restoration Day as

the day of the DRA's Army as well. Our Armed Forces were and are a decisive factor in the triumph of the April Revolution and in the national reconciliation policy."

"In the conditions of the national reconciliation policy, the role and tasks of the Army are growing immeasurably, and we are confident that the Armed Forces will cope with these tasks," emphasised the General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

"We have announced a ceasefire till January 15, 1988, in order to put an end to the fratricidal war and to restore peace in our land. The reconciliation policy has become a reality of our history over a comparatively short period, and is acquiring a nationwide character."

"Since the new policy was proclaimed in the country, more than 3,350 local Extraordinary Commissions for National Reconciliation have been set up in the country, with more than six thousand representatives of the opposing side co-operating within them."

"More than 70,000 refugees have returned home. About 30,000 people have downed arms and taken up peaceful labour. A Law on Political Parties has been adopted with a view

to democratising our life. The people are enthusiastically participating in discussing the draft new constitution," Najib pointed out.

"Positive changes are taking place in the country's economic life: along with the consolidation of the state sector, much attention is being devoted to the development of the private sector."

"For as long as our independence has been in existence, we have had to defend it against external and internal enemies," Najib said. "Imperialist, reactionary and counter-revolutionary forces want to deprive the Afghans of this sacred right, and want to draw our people into protracted fratricidal war."

"Over eight years they have not built a single school, mosque, canal, or factory on our ancient land. But they have destroyed thousands of civilian facilities," stated the General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

"Fighting for peace, we strive for progressive transformations in the country. As far as concessions are concerned, we have got one concession — the concession to peace, and not to war." □

Najib addresses Constitution Commission

THE Commission on drafting Afghanistan's Constitution held a meeting in Kabul on Sunday. The meeting was addressed by Najib, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

A month has passed since the draft constitution was put to nationwide discussion, Najib said. The fact that the document takes account of all main theoretical and practical aspects of national reconciliation explains people's close attention and interest.

The people of the Republic, the General Secretary went on to say, highly assessed the decision of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council to make public the draft constitution in the mass media, because this is evidence of the development and strengthening of the democratic foundations of the life of society. The draft fully and objectively reflects the current situation in the country, and this has become the main factor in its truly nationwide appeal. □

UN representative in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS Human Rights Commission spokesman Felix Ermacora and his delegation left Kabul for New Delhi last week. Before departing, Professor Ermacora met Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, who is a Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Felix Ermacora made a statement on the completion of his visit. He said that he was in Afghanistan from July 30 to August 8 in accordance with Resolution 580 (1987) of the UN Human Rights Commission and at the invitation of the Afghan Foreign Minister.

Professor Ermacora thanked the Afghan Government and all the organisations and

individuals he met for their all-round assistance. He noted that the Afghan authorities did their best for the visit to proceed according to plan and that all his wishes were complied with.

In line with his duty on the UN Human Rights Commission, Professor Ermacora said he will present his report to the UN General Assembly and later to the Human Rights Commission. He said he believes that the policy of national reconciliation is a positive step towards stabilising the situation in the sphere of human rights in Afghanistan. He attended several functions sponsored by the Afghan Government and hopes that similar functions will be held in the near future. In conclusion Felix Ermacora expressed the hope that his visit will lay the groundwork for talks which could help the Afghan people in their work for their right to self-determination. □