

Mikhail Gorbachev's televised address on the state of Soviet society

The following is the televised address by Mikhail Gorbachev to the nation on Saturday, September 9:

Good evening, comrades, I am here to talk to you about our current affairs. The situation in the country is not simple. We all know and feel this. Everything has become entangled in a tight knot: scarcity on the consumer goods market, conflicts in ethnic relations, and difficult and sometimes painful processes in public consciousness, resulting from the overcoming of distortions and from the renewal of socialism. People are trying to understand where we have found ourselves at the moment, evaluating the pluses and minuses of the path we have covered during the last four-plus years, the development of democracy and the pace of the economic and political reforms.

It is only natural that they want to know the real causes of our weaknesses and failures in carrying out specific programmes for perestroika, and in tackling urgent problems, and find out why the situation in some areas has deteriorated rather than improved.

In short, political life today is characterised by intense debate. But the main thing I want to emphasise is that the mass of the people have become involved in their movement, and they are playing an ever growing role in discussing and accomplishing social, economic and political tasks.

Comrades, this is a fact of fundamental importance, because it gives perestroika the elements of a constructive and businesslike effort and helps to overcome people's alienation from power.

Yet, one cannot fail to see a different trend. Against the background of heated debate and a rapid succession of events, things are happening that must not be ignored or left unaccounted for. Efforts are being made to discredit perestroika from conservative, leftist and sometimes un-

mistakably anti-socialist positions. One can hear in this discordant choir voices predicting imminent chaos, and speculation about the threat of a coup, and even of civil war. It is a fact that some people would like to create an atmosphere of anxiety, despair and uncertainty in society.

It is difficult to avoid the impression that someone stands to gain from the fact that certain forces would like to lead people astray and make them commit ill-conceived actions.

In effect, the conservative forces are trying to impose on us such evaluations of the situation as would provoke resistance to perestroika, and mould in peoples' minds the view that the process of change begun in society should be halted or at least slowed down, and demand that the old, command methods of government should be restored. Otherwise, they say, chaos will set in. Meanwhile, the leftist elements suggest tackling extremely difficult problems in one go, without taking into account our actual possibilities or the interests of society. Such demands are presented as concern for the people and its well-being.

Recommendations have also been made lately, from which one can assume that our only 'salvation' is renouncing the values of socialism and conducting perestroika in a capitalist manner. Such views do exist.

Needless to say that such ideas go against the grain of perestroika, which implies a socialist renewal of society.

I don't want you to understand me in the sense that diversity of opinion is now an obstacle or that no one among those with whom I take issue cares for the development of the situation in this country. This is not the point. The important thing is how this concern is transformed.

Some are ready to give up perestroika and return to the past. Others, who consider themselves 'active reformers', want to head perestroika onto the patch of rash decisions and hasty projects, prompted by ambition rather than concern for real progress.

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Comrades, this is all a very serious matter and I want to express my position on it in no uncertain terms.

True, perestroika is meeting with many difficulties. But it is a radical change, a revolution in the economy and in policy, in the ways of thinking and in people's consciousness, in the entire pattern of our life. Besides, we have not been able to avoid mistakes in our practical action in the course of perestroika.

But perestroika has opened up realistic opportunities for society's renewal, for giving society a new quality and for creating truly humane and democratic socialism. It has returned to this great nation a sense of dignity, and given Soviet people a sense of freedom. It is a powerful source of social, spiritual and, I should say, patriotic energy for decades to come.

That is why we must do everything to continue perestroika on the basis of the ideas and principles proclaimed by the Party. And we must not allow those who are using the difficulties we have met to impose on society doubts about the

correctness of the path we have chosen.

We must not stop. We must continue along the way of changes we have embarked upon.

Our community feels the crucial importance of this time. Throughout the country, work collectives are beginning to see that it's no use wasting strength on bickering, and that the attempts to create barriers in society and set people against one another are inadmissible. The demand to pool efforts and improve practical work in every sphere of perestroika is ever more urgent. In this connection, we cannot but greet the high demands which the working people are putting on economic managers, state and Party functionaries at all levels. The public expects them to be more resolute in their perestroika policy, to organise work on new lines, and to improve the situation countrywide.

The community is casting off all illusions. It no longer believes that there are simple solutions to be brought ready-made from above for all our problems.

We live the way we work, no better and no worse – this is said more and more often. I want to add only one thing, that tomorrow, too, we shall continue to live exactly the way we shall work.

I think it is very important that the community is growing to better understand the primary link between perestroika and labour – dedicated, creative, efficient work fully implementing every worker's knowledge and abilities. It is essential because until recently we concentrated not so much on labour as on the distribution of benefits. One could think that redistribution of fictitious wealth was all that perestroika was about.

We have at last begun to shed this delusion. This is a difficult process, but it's good that it has started, that the community grows to see better with each day the link between the implementation of the principles of social justice and the practical contribution of every worker – that it now has no use for the notorious egalitarian formulas.

Another indication of positive change has lately emerged: the fact that the community is debating the issues it has posed very acutely – issues of discipline, order and thrift. I support these debates in every way possible, and I want to point out that we can no longer put up with violations of state, labour and production discipline. These are rampant everywhere, and enterprises, republics, territories and regions are abusing the terms of their mutual contracts.

The national economy is in a feverish state because of inadequate transportation. We can no longer put up with this.

I also want to say a few words about strikes. If we take this road to the solution of our problems, this will bring bitter fruit to the whole community. We have to find other ways to tackle our problems – and tackle them in time, while they have not yet reached a dangerous scope. We can't put up with the tremendous waste of the fruit of our labour, the fruit which has cost us great material and financial resources.

I think that those who demand resolute improvement of discipline and higher responsibility at all levels are right.

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Perestroika can't go together with irresponsible attitudes — the two are antipodal.

As I describe the current situation in our community, I can't pass the crime situation in silence. This is one of the acutest social issues of the day. When deputies debated it at the first session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, they were unanimous on one point: that resolute action is urgent, especially to combat organised crime, bribery, profiteering, and all crimes against property and the personality.

All urban and rural settlements require order of the strictest kind. On the basis of the law, the Supreme Soviet deemed it necessary to give the militia and all other law-enforcement bodies extended rights to combat crime, improve their equipment, increase the number of troops of the interior, and improve the material situation in the law-enforcement bodies. This goes together with the increased responsibilities of all who protect socialist law and order.

All this has to be done. But we shall never reach a rapid improvement unless the whole community joins the effort. As I know from the press and other sources, workers' detachments and other units helping the law-enforcement bodies have been set up in several industrial centres. The young people are active in this drive, and this activity is especially welcome. We count on their dynamism and resolution.

In a word, we have to step up practical efforts for perestroika, and tackle all our problems in the centre, locally and in every work collective.

Within the next few months, the central bodies will have to make cardinal decisions on our urgent problems and long-term issues. This is what accounts for the epoch-making role of the Second Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR and the next session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Both are now approaching.

The government of the USSR is elaborating a programme of extraordinary measures to improve the economy and, above all, to normalise the consumer market. The programme is to be submitted to the Congress of People's Deputies. We believe that this programme will give clear answers to the questions of how and when the most urgent social and economic problems will be solved. I think society will not accept it if the

programme will not determine clear and concrete measures, stages and time limits, as well as the responsibility of the republic and local bodies and labour collectives. I presume that this package may include unpopular, probably tough and even painful measures. This will be justified, however, only if they are prompted by the need to get out of the obtaining situation.

Shortages, which arouse the sharpest criticisms and discontent of the people, are a special issue. The government is to give an explanation of this urgent social problem and come up with practical measures shortly.

The session of the USSR Supreme Soviet is to adopt major decisions on further deepening the economic and political reforms. The point at issue is, first and foremost, a fundamental law on ownership. Its adoption will make it possible to overcome the alienation of people from the means of production and encourage independent creative endeavour. Closely connected with it is a law on land, land use and lease arrangements.

Thus, a principled step is being made towards the development of the relations of production in all sectors of the economy and the assertion of a multitude of forms of socialist property.

A new law on the socialist enterprise will be passed on the basis of the experience that has been accumulated. It will open up vast possibilities for economic independence, initiative and enterprise, and create equal conditions for the activities of state-run and cooperatives enterprises.

Of major political importance will be the laws on republic and regional cost-accounting and self-government. They are an important step towards realistically strengthening the sovereignty of the republics and expanding the rights of the local soviets (councils).

We are to adopt principled decisions towards transforming the Soviet federation.

The shaping of the nationalities policy to accord with the principles and demands of perestroika will be soon discussed at a plenum of the Communist Party Central Committee. The Party's platform, we hope, will prove to be a good base for the solution of the questions of the Soviet federation and problems inter-ethnic relations.

Other questions will also be considered and solved.

In a word, we have entered a responsible period in the development of our society and the implementation of the policy of perestroika which has been worked out by the Communist Party. The changes which we have initiated and are building up and deepening will undoubtedly yield results. I am convinced of this. But for all that, we should all of us act resolutely and in concord.

Today, we need the consolidation of all progressive forces more than ever before.

The Party, which is society's consolidating and vanguard force, has a unique role to play in this process. Those who strive to use the difficulties of the transition period for certain unseemly purposes, and try to undermine the influence of the Party, should know that they will not succeed. We are sure that with all the critical sentiments concerning the activities of some or other Party committees or communists, the working people perfectly well realise the importance of the Party of Lenin for the fate of socialism, which today is inseparable from the success of perestroika. On the other hand, it is clear that the new tasks call for a deep renewal of the Party.

By restructuring itself, getting rid of all which hinders its activities, overcoming dogmatism and conservatism, mastering a new style and new methods of work, renewing its personnel, and working side by side with the working people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will be able to fulfil its role as the political vanguard of society. The Party will firmly pursue the policy of perestroika, heading the revolutionary transformation of society. We should realistically assess all processes and phenomena of the present-day situation, show restraint, see clearly where we are, and not become confused.

On this basis, we should draw conclusions for our action at the given moment and in the future. We must act responsibly and prudently, without deviating from the course of perestroika in society.

Dear comrades, I wish you success in work, determination and firm spirit.

(Pravda, September 10. In full.)

Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Soviet Georgia

DURING his brief stay in the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, familiarised himself with the state of affairs in the republic and met with representatives of work collectives, scientists, workers in the arts and education.

In the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, he had substantive conversations with its leaders, with groups of public representing the Abkhazian and Georgian population of the autonomous republic. Causes of the inter-ethnic conflict and ways of overcoming it on a basis of a dialogue, tolerance and striving for mutual understanding were discussed.

In Tbilisi, Shevardnadze took part in a meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party which discussed measures for the improvement and stabilisation of the socio-political and socio-economic situation in the republic.

Shevardnadze noted that in the opinion of Mikhail Gorbachev, and of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, the new

leadership of the republic has been able to establish in a complex crisis situation a broad constructive dialogue with the public, including representatives of informal groups and amalgamations, to reverse the negative tendencies in order to consolidate the republic's sound forces, to lay down a foundation for the restoration of confidence between the institutions of power and various sections of the population.

Shevardnadze said that the dialogue should be expanded to discuss a multitude of difficult questions which are causing painful problems for the public. People do not know the whole truth about the state of things in the economy and the financial system, which are destabilised not only by their inherent ills and natural calamities of the recent months, but also by the recent political upheavals.

Knowledge of the facts about the economic crisis is not an end in itself, Shevardnadze said. People should realise that some actions, even if expressing justifiable discontent, might lead objectively to a deterioration of a situation which is already difficult as it is, as in the present conditions such actions can set into motion irreversible destructive processes.

Shevardnadze called the attention of members of the Politburo of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee to problems of rela-

tions with youth, of work with personnel, and of the strengthening of discipline and order.

On the same day, he met with representatives of Georgian public and addressed them. Prominent scientists, masters of literature and art of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic actively participated in the discussion of the role and place of the creative intelligentsia and scientists in the depending of the processes of perestroika, in the protection of its gains, and in filling the republic's sovereignty with real content.

The participants in the meeting raised a number of important problems related to the concept of Georgia's national development and of overcoming conflicts in inter-ethnic relations.

Shevardnadze also met with the new commander of the Red-Banner Trans-Caucasian Military District Colonel-General Valeri Patrikeyev. They discussed questions of the restoration of confidence and mutual understanding, consolidation of traditional ties between the republic's working people and the soldiers of the district, which were shaken during the April events in Tbilisi.

In the republic's capital, Shevardnadze inspected a number of enterprises of municipal economy and trade and talked with the people of Tbilisi. □

Tbilisi, September 7 Tass.

Joint Soviet-Indonesian statement

THE Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Indonesia will develop actively their friendly relations and constructive cooperation on the basis of full respect for independence, freedom of choice of each nation with regard to its national development, compliance with the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and mutual benefit, says a joint Soviet-Indonesia statement adopted by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Indonesian President Suharto in Moscow on September 11.

"The two sides will endeavour to develop qualitatively new dimensions in Soviet-Indonesian relations, to intensify and deepen their political dialogue, and to broaden their interaction in international fora in the interests of universal peace and security," the statement goes on.

"They will encourage broader contacts and exchanges of visits at various levels, including at the highest level, and promote inter-parliamentary relations."

The Soviet Union and Indonesia expressed their mutual interest in developing stable and mutually advantageous trade and economic cooperation as a major component of overall Soviet-Indonesian relations.

On problems of international relations, the sides emphasised that "the use and threat of force can no longer be an instrument of foreign policy and that genuine progress cannot be attained by infringing upon the rights and interests of individual countries and peoples."

They called for an end to all nuclear weapons tests and for the conclusion of an international agreement on their total ban. They consider it crucial to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet Union and Indonesia called for the prevention of a spread of weapons to outer space. They emphasised that vigorous efforts are needed to finalise, as early as possible, a convention on a complete and effective ban on chemical weapons and their destruction.

"Being aware of their responsibility for the maintenance of a climate promoting progress and prosperity of all Asian and Pacific countries, the two sides consider it important to expand

dialogue and consultations with a view to solving problems of the region, including creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, reducing the level on military activity, and developing mutually advantageous cooperation," the statement points out.

The Soviet Union and Indonesia expressed the conviction that "a comprehensive and just settlement of the Cambodian conflict will make a positive contribution to the general improvement of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and will clear the way to the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia."

They expressed readiness to take practical steps to promote durable peace, stability and security in South-East Asia in consultation with all countries of the region.

Soviet-Indonesian documents signed

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev and Indonesian President Suharto signed on September 11 in the Moscow Kremlin a statement on the fundamentals of friendly relations and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Indonesia.

Konstantin Katushev and Radius Praviro signed a protocol of the first session of the joint Soviet-Indonesian Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation between the two countries.

Present at the signing of the documents was Eduard Shevardnadze and other Soviet and Indonesian officials.

Conference on Asia-Pacific cooperation

SOVIET Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev received participants in a session on the organising committee for the second international conference on 'the Asia-Pacific region: dialogue, peace, and cooperation', on September 6 in Moscow, to exchange views on burning issues related to the region.

Participants in the conversation stressed that ideas and proposals set out at the organising committee's session would facilitate productive preparations for the conference.

Representatives from Australia, Vietnam, India, Canada, Malaysia, China, Mongolia, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States, the Philippines and Japan took part in the meeting. □

Soviet Union is ready to join GATT

THE Soviet Union cannot agree with a recent statement of US trade representative Carla Hills, who said that the Soviet economic system does not make it possible to hold negotiations on the Soviet Union's joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and that the Soviet Union is not ready to assume the obligations necessary for this, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a news briefing in Moscow on September 11.

Gennady Gerasimov said that three years ago the Soviet Union had submitted an official application for participation in the Uruguayan Round of multilateral trade negotiations within the GATT framework.

"The Soviet economic mechanism has since seen certain changes," he said. "The govern-

ment is creating a regulated socialist market in the country, granting full economic independence to individual enterprises and production amalgamations, development wholesale trade, and taking measures towards the rouble's convertibility in the future."

Besides, he added, the Soviet Union's foreign economic relations are being reformed, too.

Gerasimov said that an inter-departmental commission had been set up in the country as part of measures to ensure the Soviet Union's rapprochement with GATT. The commission ensures that Soviet foreign economic rules and practices strictly comply with GATT standards and principles.

"The Soviet economic system, in conditions of its fundamental restructuring, is approaching GATT's criteria," Gerasimov said.

He expressed hope that the issue of rapprochement of the Soviet Union and GATT would "be gradually rid of ideological and political accretions, in favour of constructive dialogue."

Tass statement on campaign against GDR

A TENDENTIOUS campaign of some media and certain political circles of the FRG against the GDR, and attempts at interference in the GDR's internal affairs do not go together with the establishment of fruitful European cooperation, says a Tass statement issued in Moscow on September 11. Cases of illegal departure of GDR citizens to foreign countries are used as a pretext for that campaign. The Bonn authorities should appraise such phenomena in all seriousness and with a sense of responsibility, the statement says.

"For four decades now, the German Democratic Republic has been holding a worthy place in the family of European peoples", the statement says. "By its very existence and vigorous policy aimed at accord among peoples, it largely promoted and promotes the ensurance of peace, security, good-neighbourliness and stability in Europe. The GDR is an inalienable part of the Warsaw Treaty, and is our true friend and ally. This should be clear to anyone who might try to encroach on the GDR's sovereignty and independence", the statement says.

USSR offers greater help in anti-drugs drive

THE Soviet Union is prepared to step up its participation in concerted efforts to fight the illegal business in drugs on the basis of standards and principles of international law, a Soviet Foreign Ministry official told newsmen in Moscow on September 8.

Yuri Rybakov, head of the ministry's International Law Directorate, observed at a briefing that the task of preventing and curbing drug addiction has become extremely acute in recent years, because the illegal trade in narcotics is undermining the economy of several countries and posing a direct threat to the political situation in some of them, while bringing billions of dollars in profits for the criminal syndicates.

"It is perfectly obvious that the problem of fighting the drugs trade, which is closely connected with other varieties of organised crime, including the arms trade and terrorism, has grown into a political global problem that is impossible to resolve without broad international cooperation," he said.

The dimension of the problem prompts the need for a different assessment of actions in this field in the world arena, Rybakov said.

It is now important to complement multilateral cooperation with vigorous efforts aimed at establishing bilateral cooperation, he noted.

The Soviet Union recently concluded inter-governmental documents on cooperation and prompt interaction with Great Britain, the United States, France and West Germany, and is drafting similar agreements with other countries. □

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Eduard Shevardnadze's interview with *Izvestia*

THE USSR and the USA, having made a breakthrough from confrontation to dialogue, should take the subsequent step, toward constructive interaction, Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, said in an interview with *Izvestia* published on September 11, in which he appraised the development of Soviet-American relations on the eve of his meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker.

Shevardnadze said that in the period since April 1985, the Soviet and American sides had become convinced that they can and must adopt new political thinking. It is also important that fundamental statements have been confirmed in practice by arrangements and accords. It should also be added that there is a common realisation of the need to act in the spirit of constructive continuity, to sustain and increase joint efforts to expand the areas of confidence and mutual understanding, the Soviet minister said.

At the same time, if what has been achieved is compared to the objective requirements of the peoples of the two countries and entire humanity, it becomes apparent that this is not enough, Shevardnadze said. Untapped possibilities, and timidity and restraint about making progress even in areas where obstacles have already been removed, are apparent.

Among untapped possibilities, the Soviet Foreign Minister mentioned the areas of arms limitation and reduction. He expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of advance toward new arrangements in the key direction of real nuclear disarmament, above all at the talks on nuclear and space arms.

"In some aspects we are now even further away from an agreement than during the previous US Administration", Shevardnadze said. "The talks on nuclear tests have actually been frozen". The Soviet Foreign Minister is of the opinion that the main reason why a solution has not been found on any major aspects during the past round of talks on nuclear and space arms is the inflexibility of the US position. "Regretta-

bly, instead of the promised 'new ideas', our American partners have preferred to make reference to the lack of fundamental decisions in Washington", Shevardnadze said.

The time has come to take fundamental, bold decisions at the talks on nuclear and space arms, decisions which would lead to the prompt signing of agreements. The question of mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles and of air-launched cruise missiles is ripe for solution. The problem of sea-launched cruise missiles should not be an insurmountable obstacle, either. "We shall state our specific considerations to this effect", Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze noted that in the area of regional problems, the USSR and the USA have moved away from what seemed like fated confrontation to a quest for areas where their positions coincide. Such definitions as the 'new thinking', removal of East-West rivalry from regional conflicts, and other concepts now crop up ever more often in bilateral contacts, he said. Conducting a balanced and restrained policy, setting an example of constructive cooperation, the USSR and the USA can do a great deal towards scaling down the existing conflicts and preventing new ones, and for creating favourable conditions for a fair peaceful solution.

Shevardnadze said the USSR and the USA had made a considerable contribution to the efforts of the international community to end the Iran-Iraq war and to achieve a broad complex of arrangements aimed at Namibia's decolonisation and an overall settlement of the conflict in the south of Africa. Washington's new striving for serious Soviet-American interaction in the Middle East also offers promise, he said.

At the same time, Shevardnadze expressed concern over the US position regarding the settlement in Afghanistan, where Washington was gradually turning into one of the participants in pointless blood-letting. "One would like to believe that the US administration will ultimately show wisdom and pragmatism in the best sense of the word."

The minister said the US approach to the problems of Central America contains elements of diktat and threats, and noted that there is a need for effective Soviet-America dialogue regarding that region.

Asked about prospects for bilateral cooperation, Shevardnadze said contacts were expanded considerably after 1985. He said both sides, giving up over-ideologisation, were trying to take a fresh view of many matters, which were regarded as 'eternal irritants' only yesterday. Thus, as regards human rights, the two countries can now leave the old confrontational agenda behind and formulate a new, constructive one.

Some 40 intergovernmental agreements with the USA, comprising all the areas of the national economy, are functioning now. But it is too early to say that there has been a tangible leap in Soviet-American bilateral relations. There are many untapped possibilities for the development of equal cooperation in many directions.

The new quality of Soviet-American cooperation is that it surpasses bilateral affairs and is addressing global tasks, common to all humanity, Shevardnadze pointed out. "The necessary conditions have been created," he concluded, "to open new horizons in the Soviet-American dialogue. It is the task of ministers in this connection to clear the road for a new Soviet-American summit meeting".

Free economic zones a 'vital necessity'

"FREE economic zones are not an experiment but a vital necessity for the Soviet Union," economist Genrikh Dazhenov writes in the September 8 issue of the weekly *New Times*.

The creation of free economic zones as customs, tax and currency enclaves in the national economy is not an easy task, as many interior and exterior factors have to be taken into account, he points out.

A model of free economic zones has not yet been elaborated, although its major principles have been outlined. Foreign businessmen, both from Western Europe and the United States, are interested in Soviet free economic zones. For instance, Wilhelm Christians of Deutsche Bank has proposed the creation of a free economic zone in the area of Kaliningrad.

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Results of AUCCTU Congress

ON September 6, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions finished its plenary meeting, convened in Moscow to discuss the current situation and the key tasks of trade unions. It was the first trade union conference of these last years to have an agenda like this.

The conferees were sharply critical of the preceding union work and said that it needed urgent updating to fully restore the protective function of trade unions.

Recognising that strikes were instrumental in the working class cause, the gathering still called on the nation to keep cool heads and avoid precipitate action.

Trade unions will no longer close their eyes to socially explosive deformations in many collectives. From now on, they will resolutely oppose indifference to old workers and big families, and take every measure against the refusals of staffs working on cost-accounting patterns to take young people on.

Promotion of efficient social policies will now be the key trade union task. Collective agree-

ments, the cornerstones of such policies, will provide the legal basis for industrial relations.

The meeting paid major attention to regional employment patterns and the ways to combat latent unemployment.

It formed a Central Council commission to prepare amendments for the USSR Trade Union Charter.

The meeting adopted a statement, "On Deformations of the Cooperative Movement", to point out that in the current involved social and political situation, trade unions shall support only such cooperatives who sell their produce and services at state prices. We cannot afford to close our eyes to serious deformations of their activities. Many cooperatives are driven by greed to arouse public indignation and undermine the basis of the cooperative movement as they sponge on the present economic disproportions, imperfect legislation and acute commodity shortages.

The meeting demanded that central and local official bodies suspend the activities of trading and mediatory cooperatives who engage in profiteering, and public catering cooperatives who violate the accepted price-forming patterns.

The conferees requested the USSR Supreme Soviet to amend the Law on Cooperatives and guarantee equal rights to state and cooperative enterprises. Other amendments are also required to streamline the cooperative movement.

The statement "On Price Rises, Commodity Shortages and Soviet Living Standards" stresses the current inflation and deteriorating life of the nation. Trade unions demand urgent measures from the USSR and Russian Federation Councils of Ministers, in particular, to freeze staple goods prices, set up a unified price inspection network supervising both state and cooperative enterprises, and put an end to shortages of baby food, soap, detergents, medicines and school notebooks within several months.

The meeting supported the proposal to establish a Russian Trade Union Council in the Russian Federation, and ordered the Central Council Presidium to form an organising committee this September which will prepare the All-Russia Trade Union Congress to be held between January and April 1990. It will discuss the proposed establishment of the republican council.

(Pravda, September 7. In full.)

Yevgeni Primakov's address to the Inter-Parliamentary Union

"IN recent years, considerable headway has been made allowing us to state that the tendency of normalising the international climate is becoming stable," head of the Soviet delegation Yevgeny Primakov, chairman of the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said in his address to the 82nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in London on September 8.

"But we can by no means rest content with what has been achieved. The new philosophy of international relations, ruling out the use of force or threat of force, has not yet triumphed everywhere.

"The tendency of the military-industrial sector to try and make up for losses it sustained from arms reduction by introducing ever new methods of conducting warfare is acquiring threatening proportions. The flames of international regional conflicts have not yet been extinguished. The impending ecological threat has not been averted. Indeed, many people have not yet become fully aware of it," Primakov said.

The leader of the Soviet delegation stressed that "it is hard to over-estimate the role that parliaments of different countries are called upon to play in the search for solutions to these and other vital issues".

Among the tasks the parliamentarians are facing, Primakov singled out above all the need "to vigorously support efforts aimed at reducing armaments."

"The elimination of the medium-range and shorter-range missiles," he pointed out, "provided a powerful impulse that began to give up on the threshold of the 50 per cent cut in Soviet and

US strategic forces. That, perhaps, is no cause for serious anxiety, as the Soviet-US negotiations are going on, and many points have been agreed upon. Nevertheless, lengthy breaks in the continuous process of arms cuts betoken a loss of pace".

In this connection, Primakov noted, an additional impulse to cuts in strategic armaments might be provided by an appeal of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to all nuclear powers to put an end to nuclear tests.

"The USSR Supreme Soviet has addressed its proposals on this matter to the US Congress," he said. "We would like to express hope that the initiative of Soviet parliamentarians will meet with the support and understanding of the present audience".

Among the high priority steps toward ensuring international security, the speaker pointed out such possibilities as the ban on, and elimination of, chemical weapons, and an expeditious conclusion of an appropriate convention for this purpose. He drew the attention of the audience to the recent appeal of the group of Soviet parliamentarians to parliamentarians across the world to consider concrete Soviet proposals concerning forms of inter-parliamentary interaction in averting the threat of a chemical war.

Having expressed concern over the persistence of hot-beds of regional tensions across the world, the Soviet representative stressed: "Historical experience has shown that they can only be extinguished on the basis of compromise and a search for a balance of the contending parties' interests in conditions of non-intervention from outside, and the active and well-intentioned involvement of the world community, represented above all by the United Nations and inter-parliamentary organisations.

"We believe that this approach may be applied to various hot-spots of regional tensions,"

Primakov stated.

"We in the Soviet parliament are confident that the present restructuring of international relations is inseparably linked with positive changes in the Soviet Union and some other countries," the Soviet representative said.

"Our new political thinking finds expression in identical standards for our domestic and foreign policy: freedom of choice for nations, respect for the dignity of the individual, and the priority status of common human interests.

"Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev stressed in his message to our organisation that 'the Soviet government favours the enhancement of the role and efficiency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in pooling the efforts of parliamentarians of all countries, irrespective of their ideological convictions and political orientations, in the interests of confidence building and comprehensive cooperation in the world for the sake of mankind's survival and progress'," Primakov said in conclusion.

"Of course, there is a long way ahead leading to the solution of all the urgent tasks the world community faces. But it can be stated that light has appeared at the end of the tunnel. Much now depends on our activity, and our readiness to move on along the path toward the common goal and step up concerted efforts." □

Vladimir Polyakov on mid-east settlement

IT IS necessary to find a political solution for the Middle East crisis, Vladimir Polyakov, member of the Collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said in an interview printed in the newspaper *Izvestia* on September 7.

"The use of arms has not brought peace to the Middle East, but has led to many new factors which hamper the advance to peace and stability in that region", he said. The stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction there imperils the very existence of its states and peoples, and is dangerous to universal peace.

Speaking of the Soviet stand on a Middle East settlement, Polyakov said: "We hold that methods of pressure and diktat lack prospects. Therefore we place the emphasis on active diplomacy, on the consolidation of the new political thinking in regional relations".

Commenting on the Israeli prime minister's plan, the Soviet diplomat said that the plan deals mainly with elections on the occupied territories. The current opinion is that the real aim of the 'Israeli initiative' is to undermine the Palestinian uprising, remove the Palestine Liberation Organisation from participation in a settlement, and ignore the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination. It is no surprise therefore that the Shamir plan was given, mildly speaking, a cold reception in the Arab world, though the Arabs, specifically the Palestinians, do not reject the very idea of "free and democratic elections".

"We also believe that the idea of elections has rational elements in it, and might prove useful. It should organically fit into the general process of preparations for and convocation of an international conference, attaining a universal settlement and a fair solution of the Palestinian problem through the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination," Polyakov said.

Answering the question on preparations for an international conference on the Middle East,

Continued on page 308

Tass comment on upcoming Shevardnadze-Baker meeting

Moscow September 7 Tass - by Tass political analyst Yuri Kornilov:

THE Soviet-US meeting in Wyoming in September is the focus of attention of the international public and the press. This is quite understandable, because the Soviet Foreign Minister and the US Secretary of State are reported to be discussing a whole range of important issues, from disarmament and regional conflicts to human rights and bilateral relations. Much has been already done to tackle some of these problems. Others, still to be solved, are being negotiated. Noting the importance and fruitfulness of the Soviet-US dialogue, the mass media in various countries express the hope that the Wyoming meeting will pass in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere.

This is the general mood. Against this backdrop, the pronouncements by representatives of those American circles which are keen on hampering the development of Soviet-US cooperation strike a discordant note. As an example, one can cite the article by well-known

American journalists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, recently published by the *Washington Post* under the heading "No time for a Wyoming love-in".

One is apt to ask why the current autumn is no time for "love-in", by which the authors mean nothing more than serious Soviet-US talks. Neither Evans nor Novak give an articulate answer to this. Instead, they hold forth at length on the current processes in the Soviet Union and the national problems in our country. They claim that the American administration should prepare itself not for the Wyoming meeting, but for a response "if Gorbachev uses force to smother independence for the Baltic states."

So much for the advice which messrs Evans and Novak give to Washington.

Let us not guess at what kind of 'sources' the two journalists from Washington use in their prophecies, pushing the administration towards the exacerbation of relations with the USSR and not towards their improvement. The hand is well known and has been long familiar to us. This is the hand of those ultra conservative, extremist forces in the USA, which earned a far from enviable fame for using cock-and-bull stories about the Soviet Union to hamper Soviet-US relations during the time of tension and cold war.

Let bygones be bygones. But today the times are totally different. It is high time that one should realise this and relegate the confrontation stereotypes to the archives once and for all. □

Politburo meeting prepares for central committee plenum

QUESTIONS connected with the holding of a regular plenum of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee were discussed at a meeting of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Politburo in Moscow on September 9. It was decided to submit for consideration of the Central Committee plenum the question of convening a regular 28th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party and the question of the Party's nationalities policy in present-day conditions.

It was noted that the platform of the Soviet Communist Party which has been submitted for country-wide discussion had evoked a lively interest, and is being vigorously discussed in work collectives. It was supported by Party organisations and by the broad masses of the working people.

In comments addressed to the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee from various republics, the Soviet people draw special attention to

the need to uphold and consolidate the Soviet federation, which has a huge potential which makes it possible to resolve, in close coordination and with the mutual assistance of Soviet peoples, any matters of the sovereign development of the union republics, of expanding the rights of autonomous republics, autonomous regions and districts, and of enhancing their independence in every area of socio-economic and cultural life.

The Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee discussed the question of unsatisfactory supply of the population with basic non-food products. This situation is a result of miscalculations, red-tape, and the irresponsible attitude of heads of ministries, agencies and enterprises, and of the permanent bodies of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR State Planning Committee.

The Politburo instructed the Party Control Committee at the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee to discuss the question of Party responsibility for communists who are heads of USSR ministries and agencies for irregularities in the manufacture of necessities and unsatisfactory supply to the population.

The USSR Council of Ministers was instructed to tighten control over the implementation of the decisions adopted to develop the production of consumer goods and to expedite meeting the consumers' needs. Party committees and organisations were instructed to enhance their watchfulness over managerial cadres responsible for specific areas of food supplies.

The meeting discussed the implementation of the programme of construction of facilities in the social area in the Russian Federation in 1989. It was noted that the rate at which housing is opened to occupancy increased over the past three years. This made it possible to improve the housing conditions of 5.7 million families. At the same time, the scope of social construction lags behind requirements, and the number of people needing housing remains at the same level. The Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee demanded that the state of things in the construction of facilities in the social area be improved, that the responsibility of government and managerial officials for the fulfilment of the plans for housing, social and cultural construction be enhanced. □

CPSU Central Committee meeting on improving food supplies

Moscow September 7 Tass – A meeting at the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee has discussed progress with fulfilling Party and government decisions to improve food supplies.

It was attended by Politburo member Viktor Nikonov and the heads of central ministries and agencies.

First secretaries of city Party committees, chairmen of regional soviets and of agro-industrial committees at regional and republican levels were also present, reporting on practical measures to boost food production.

An analysis of this work revealed that where the urban industrial and scientific potential has been harnessed to help the agribusiness sector tackle its problems, the situation has shown substantial improvement. More and more factories are signing direct, mutually advantageous and long-term contracts with farms.

Speakers noted at the same time that many executives are too slow in organising work to fulfil Central Committee decisions on agrarian issues, are not active enough in promoting integration between town and country, and exercise poor control over the use of capital investments in the food and farm produce processing industries and the storage sector.

It was stressed that Party committees and local soviets cannot take a passive attitude to the problems of improving food supplies, or fail to match words with deeds.

Efforts were urged to step up organising work in this priority area, take extra measures to put allocated funds to efficient use, and increase the contribution of the cities to the improvement of food supplies. □

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New regulations on taking consumer goods out of USSR

MEASURES of the USSR Council of Ministers for the regulation of the taking of consumer goods out of the USSR go into effect from September 15. These measures apply to the taking out of goods by foreign citizens staying in the USSR as tourists or on private business and those travelling via the USSR territory.

In connection with the shortage of goods in the domestic market, these citizens are not allowed to take out of the USSR articles of precious metals and precious stones, household electrical appliances and radio electronic equipment, building materials and instruments, automobile spare parts, knitting machines, vacuum cleaners, all kinds of fabrics, children's clothing and footwear, clothing of real leather, rugs and carpets, fur articles, underwear and knit goods, tableware and cutlery, linen and table-linen, medicines, toiletries, perfumery and cosmetics, imported goods, as well as coffee, cocoa, tea, sturgeon and salmon caviar.

These consumer goods and food products cannot be mailed from the USSR to Soviet and foreign citizens. The total value of other goods purchased by a foreign citizen in the USSR must not surpass 100 roubles. The total value of goods mailed from the USSR in one parcel must not surpass 30 roubles.

Citizens who permanently reside abroad but work in the USSR, also at embassies, trade missions and in international organisations, and those training at educational establishments, can take out household electrical appliances, radio electronic equipment, refrigerators and freezers, stitching, knitting and washing machines, vacuum cleaners and cameras to the amount of not more than one of each of these items per family in the course of a year. These persons are not allowed to take out cocoa, coffee, tea, sturgeon and salmon caviar.

Consumer goods bought in the USSR at specialised stores and organisations in the established procedure for foreign currency are allowed to be taken out of the country without restrictions.

These are temporary measures. □

Soviet electricity exports to be licensed

THE licensing of Soviet electricity exports has been primarily caused by the need to comply with the USSR's international obligations and to improve its foreign trade balance, a representative of the ministry for external economic relations of the USSR told Tass on September 7, commenting on a report which was published in Moscow.

Electricity belongs to the fuel and energy resources which are of special significance in ensuring the USSR's foreign trade interests. The country now exports over 40,000 million kilowatt hours of electricity. Electricity production and distribution is centralised in the Soviet Union.

The authorities of the regions, which strike barter deals for electricity exports within the framework of the border trade with China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland and other countries, do not always take the mutual trade balance into account. Besides, electricity, offered by them for export, was generated, as a rule, not in these but in other regions of the country.

The decision on the licensing of electricity exports has been taken within the coordinated policy of the USSR on questions of deliveries of electricity abroad, the representative said. The measure will make it possible to respond faster and more efficiently to the changing demands of the world electricity market, the ministry's officials believe. □

Vienna talks on conventional forces resumed

Moscow September 7 – by a Tass diplomatic correspondent:

MUCH hope is pinned on a further advance toward the reduction of troops and armaments in Europe in connection with the third round of the talks of the 23 member-countries of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO on conventional armed forces in Europe that opened in the Palace Hoffburg in Vienna today. This hope is based on the positive results of the previous two rounds which passed in a constructive spirit and business-like atmosphere.

A considerable degree of accord and similarity of a number of fundamental positions of the participating countries were established during the previous rounds. The conceptual approaches of the sides have been elucidated, and the stands of the sides on certain questions have been brought closer. A range of problems on which there are still serious differences have been outlined more clearly.

Specifically, there is a difference in the approach of the sides to the reduction of the numerical strength of each of the military-political alliances (NATO countries do not visualise the reduction of British, French, Canadian, Belgian and Dutch troops deployed in Europe outside the limits of their own countries). There are also problems in the matters of the reduction of most destabilising armaments – tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery systems, aviation systems.

This is why serious work to bring closer the positions of the sides is expected during the new round. The purpose is to reach specific arrangements on the basis of the progress achieved, to

co-ordinate and resolve a multitude of technical matters, that is to work out and co-ordinate a treaty. And this needs to be achieved within an unprecedentedly brief period of time. As has already been reported, the USSR and other Warsaw Treaty countries are prepared to conclude such a treaty in 1990, even though this will be far from easy to do.

The importance of verification and control over the implementation of the arrangements reached becomes particularly apparent at this stage of the negotiations. Notice was made in the Soviet Union, for instance, of reports which recently appeared in the US media that the United States and other NATO countries will be insisting during the talks that inspectors be installed all over the territory to which the future treaty on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe will apply.

In this connection Soviet diplomatic circles note that any initiatives are thoroughly studied in the USSR, and that an opportunity for mutually-acceptable decisions is being sought. If the proposals mentioned in the US press are tabled, the USSR will consider them and state its view.

The socialist countries see their immediate goal in achieving, as a result of initial reductions, equal ceilings for collective levels of numerical strength and of the main armaments systems in Europe and its separate regions for the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries. And the new levels must be much smaller than the lowest levels of each of the sides at present, as this would ensure a radical mutual troop reduction and would solve the problem of eliminating imbalances in conventional armaments.

As to the Soviet side, representatives of the Soviet Foreign Ministry note that it will be doing its utmost to ensure constructive work and progress at the talks. □

Ban on chemical weapons possible – Soviet delegation head

THE results of the talks on banning chemical weapons point to a foundation on which it is possible to make a breakthrough in attaining a relevant convention, Sergei Batsanov, the Soviet representative to the Geneva conference on disarmament, told a briefing in Moscow on September 7.

The talks also showed that there are no unsurmountable obstacles or hardships in the way toward such a convention, he added.

Describing the course of the conference last June and August, he stressed that work was most productive at the multilateral negotiations on the convention on the total prohibition of

chemical weapons.

Substantial progress has been reached on several important technical issues, such as specification of lists of chemicals subject to control, inspection procedures, and protection of confidential information that may become known in the process of inspection.

The parties to the talks also started analysing a whole number of political issues related to issues concerning challenge inspections of 'suspect sites'.

"The majority of nations, the USSR included, favour the proposal that inspections could be conducted at the request of any party suspecting another of violating the convention – at any time and at any facility without exception and the right of refusal," Batsanov said.

"This viewpoint is winning a growing number of advocates," he remarked.

While positively assessing the course of the negotiations on banning chemical weapons over the summer, Batsanov observed that they had failed to resolve the tasks advanced by the Paris Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Speaking on other issues discussed during the Geneva conference, Batsanov pointed to the absence of noticeable advancement toward banning nuclear tests, preventing an arms race in outer space and banning radiological weapons.

Replying to a question about the conversion of a chemical weapons elimination project in Chapayevsk on the Volga, he said that this issue had arisen in connection with objections against the facility on the part of the population and administration of the Kuibyshev Region. □

Soviet general on results of tank reductions

THE West does not draw proper conclusions from the fact that the composition and structure which Soviet armed forces groups are acquiring, not just in word but in deed, is a purely defensive nature due to the unilateral cuts which the Soviet Union is carrying out as a goodwill gesture, a Soviet Colonel-General told Tass on September 8.

Dmitry Grinkevich, Chief of the Ground Forces General Staff, spoke to Tass on the eve of the traditional Tank Troops' Day, marked in this country on September 10.

The general said that the elimination of 10,000 Soviet tanks is a well-founded and well-balanced move, which will not weaken the armed forces.

The strength of the armed forces "will remain at a level that would be sufficient for accomplishing tasks under our new defensive military doctrine," he said.

Grinkevich said that, apart from tanks, the reductions also cover forces and means capable of conducting and supporting offensive actions.

The General regretted the fact that the Western mass media continues speaking about a "Soviet military threat", whereas, he said, it was NATO that "does not rush to renounce offensive doctrines and concepts. NATO'S armed forces continue with real preparations for offensive actions."

He expressed hope that the Soviet measures will help many people in the East get rid of the "tank syndrome", imposed on them by Western propaganda.

"I hope that the talk about 'tank rams', purportedly contemplated by Soviet troops, will finally be abandoned."

Speaking about the Western stand in the third round of the Warsaw Treaty – NATO talks on conventional armaments in Europe, Grinkevich denounced NATO's attempts not to include 2,000 light tanks in the number of armoured vehicles to be reduced, under the pretext that they cannot be classified as "combat tanks".

"The defensive nature of our military doctrine is based on the premise that the Soviet Union will never, under any circumstances, attack anyone or be the first to start military actions or to use nuclear weapons," the general emphasised.

"Naturally, our tank forces will never be a means of aggression, either." □

Gorbachev's message to international cultural meeting

SOVIET president Mikhail Gorbachev addressed a message of greetings on September 9 to participants in an international meeting of foundations for cultural cooperation that gathered in Leningrad on the initiative of the Soviet Culture Fund and the European Cultural Foundation. He wished them success in holding the meeting and in their entire noble work.

"The discussion of problems of cultural cooperation on the threshold of the 21st century is of great importance for asserting common human values", the message says. It also notes that public organisations, various foundations and associations of citizens are playing an ever growing role in cultural cooperation and in helping peoples to get to know and understand each other better. □

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Soviet spokesman on results of non-aligned conference

THE results of the 9th Non-Aligned Conference of heads of state and government, which just ended in Belgrade, show the desire of the Non-Aligned Movement to adapt itself to new realities by establishing a dialogue and equal partnership with all influential forces in the world, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov told a briefing in Moscow on September 11.

He noted that the Political Declaration adopted by the forum is worded in less confrontational tones in contrast to the past, with the emphasis not on confrontation with the 'superpowers'

but on their own constructive participation, along with the international community, in settling the urgent problems facing humanity.

Gerasimov pointed to the importance of the conference's decision in favour of a broader participation of the non-aligned countries in cutting conventional weapons and dismantling foreign military bases on other territories. He also called attention to new elements in the conference's decisions: tackling the ecological threat, protection of human rights, the strengthening of international law and order, and the struggle against terrorism and narcotics trafficking. They show understanding by the non-aligned countries of the world-wide character of these problems, and the need for the international community to pool their effort towards their solution.

USSR foreign ministry condemns South Africa crackdown

SOVIET Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilev has denounced the crackdown on anti-apartheid activists in South Africa during the parliamentary elections on September 6.

At a briefing in Moscow on September 8, Perfilev said that "Pretoria's readiness and ability to effect fundamental changes and set the stage for dialogue will be judged in South Africa and throughout the world by its practical actions rather than by declarations."

Perfilev noted that the South African regime's latest terror campaign came just as the new lea-

dership of the National Party made generous promises to abolish apartheid and steer the country out of its racist deadend.

The spokesman declared solid Soviet support for just demands by South African democratic forces for an immediate lifting of the state of emergency, the release of all political prisoners and the rescinding of a ban on democratic organisations as mandatory first steps in this direction.

Moscow believes it essential to continue the international search for solutions in South Africa, including concerted extra international pressure on Pretoria. □

Soviet-African consultations

SOVIET foreign ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilev hailed as useful and timely recent Soviet-African political consultations on issues included on the agenda of the forthcoming 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He was speaking at a briefing in Moscow on September 8.

The consultations, which took place early in September, involved the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi and Ghana.

The discussions focussed on the issues of disarmament, the projected system of general security, and the political settlement of conflicts.

The consultations demonstrated the African nations' interest in the General Assembly debating the pressing problems of economic development in their continent, as well as issues connected with the abolition of apartheid in South Africa, the granting of independence to Namibia, and an internal Angolan settlement, Perfilev said.

He added: "the Soviet Union readily understands the African states' concerns and their desire to resolve African problems with the extensive participation of the world community.

"The positions of the USSR and these countries are either identical or close on many general international problems, and on specific issues are related to the political and economic situation in Africa." □

Soviet call to end interference in Angola

WHILE confirming its support for the African nations' efforts to achieve a political settlement in Angola and that country's stance, the USSR believes that the success of negotiating process can only be reached by ending all fo-

reign interference in that country's internal affairs, says a statement by a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, circulated in Moscow on September 7.

The process of political settlement is being jeopardised by the provocative actions of the opposition Unita group.

The Unita leader, Jonas Savimbi, announced his intention to continue fighting against the legitimate Angolan government, contrary to decisions of the Harare summit of eight African nations on August 22.

It is perfectly obvious that Savimbi's pugnacity is being kindled by South African and US support for Unita.

All parties involved in the Angolan conflict are required more than at any time before to display political realism and render all-round assistance to the peace initiatives, the statements says. □

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British-Soviet business ties

Moscow September 11 Tass - by Tass correspondent Andrei Orlov:

TASKS set by a delegation of British businessmen which arrived in the USSR today with the assistance from the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce include a joint search for ways of diversifying exports from the USSR to Britain, contacts with Soviet enterprises granted the right for independent operations on world markets, and studies of potential of joint ventures.

Economic aspects have been growing in importance in Soviet-British relations in the recent past. The top leaders of the two countries who confirmed their desire to strive for a sharp increase in bilateral goods turnover. The Chamber, a non-governmental organisation of Soviet and British business circles, sees the organisation of fact-finding trips to establish business contacts between partners of the two countries as one of its main fields of work.

During its week-long stay in the USSR, the British delegation will conduct talks on cooperation in such spheres as medicine, chemistry and machine-building.

No diplomatic recognition of S. Korea

Moscow September 8 Tass - by Yuri Kornilov:

The South Korean Yonhap news agency has reported that South Korea and the Soviet Union allegedly plan to exchange consuls this year as a step toward diplomatic relations.

In fact, our country's position on the Korean issue remains unchanged, and the USSR is not planning the diplomatic recognition of South Korea.

This was officially confirmed the other day at the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Press Centre.

The Soviet Union and South Korea maintain trading, economic, cultural and some other contacts at non-governmental level.

The Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry opened an office in Seoul last April, and the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) opened an office in Moscow on July 7.

For these missions to be able to function normally, they need to have, it appears, the possibility of exercising limited consular functions connected with visas.

But this can by no means be seen as official consular relations between the two countries. □

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Bazhenov believes that this proposal, including the setting up of a modern technology centre, which can contribute to the development of the Soviet economy, deserves serious attention. □

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Polyakov recalled that the Soviet Union had put forward a well-known package of proposals namely: the Security Council and its five permanent members should use in full their peace-making capabilities, and multilateral and bilateral dialogue should be established between the sides directly concerned. These proposals remain valid.

The Soviet Union is ready to continue to develop the dialogue on the Middle East with the United States, considering the special place of the two powers in world affairs and the close character of their relations with these or other Middle Eastern states. But unfortunately, he concluded, one witnesses a lack of necessary balance in the American stand and its orientation to Israel. □