

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with leaders of the Baltic Republics

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and President of the USSR Supreme Soviet, met with leaders from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia at the CPSU Central Committee on September 13. The meeting was attended by party heads of the republics Algirdas-Mikolas Brazauskas, Jan Vagris and Vaino Vialias; Presidents of the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of the republics Vitautas Astrauskas, Anatoly Gorbunov and Arnold Ruutel; and Prime Ministers of the republics Vitautas Sakalauskas, Vilnis-Edvins Bresis and Indrek Toome.

The First Secretaries of the CPSU Central Committees briefed Mikhail Gorbachev on the situation in their republics, reactions to the CPSU Central Committee statement, and set forth their attitude to solving problems that had arisen. It was noted that the republics' economies develop normally, plans of production and realisation are fulfilled successfully.

However, the political situation remains tense. This causes legitimate concern, which found reflection in the statement of the CPSU Central Committee. Each Baltic republic has its peculiarities, which should be taken into account both when evaluating the alignment of political forces, their action programmes and when seeking optimum ways of advancing perestroika and tackling inter-ethnic problems.

It was stated during the meeting that the Central Committees of the communist parties and party organisations do not always find true orientation points in the complex interlacing of contradictory feelings and a search for ways of development, in the conditions of sharply mounting political activity. A shortage of experience in organisational and ideological work in non-standard situations and the level of training also pose problems. Resolve is often found wanting in the political evaluations of openly extremist views, various proposals and specific steps in the field of legislation.

A dialogue from principled positions, openness in setting out the party line, integration of all healthy perestroika forces and clear-out tasks offer the only way of overcoming tension and removing misunderstandings in inter-ethnic relations. Such was the general conclusion made by

the participants in the meeting.

The need was stressed to enhance the role of communist parties of the republics and their independence as well as to enable them, within the framework of the single CPSU Programme and Rules, to solve themselves organisational, financial, personnel and other issues, to work out actions in conformity with the specific peculiarities of the republics and their traditions.

A number of considerations were expressed on ways of developing the Soviet federation, strengthening sovereignty and widening the republics' economic independence. It was noted that these problems are the focus of the most acute debates. The working people of the Soviet Baltic republics, seeing their future as part of the Soviet Union, speak out in favour of giving a real political and economic dimension to the republics' sovereignty, effecting a speedy transition to economic cost-accounting. Therefore any delay and departmental approach to this matter is received negatively in the periphery.

Concern was voiced over the work of the mass media. It was stressed that press articles were not always geared to the creative goals of perestroika, and often led into the mire of old land fresh grudges, mutual claims and concerns, far removed from the true interests of Soviet people. A wish was expressed for the central mass media to display more flexibility and penetration into the essence of processes in the Baltic republics, their unequivocal nature, to cover events with more tact.

Addressing the meeting, Gorbachev said that the perestroika process has entered the stage of real transformations and that work collectives, union republics, the party, all political and public institutions are involved in it. The masses of the working people ever more actively discuss and tackle socio-economic and political tasks. It is increasingly realised that the work that has been started now determines the destiny of the country for decades ahead.

People had begun to get rid of illusions, of faith in the miraculous effects of simple and easy solutions and no longer expect that somebody from above will solve all their problems for them.

People everywhere come to realise that perestroika is linked above all with creative, intensive and highly productive work, with discipline, order and effort to check mismanagement. The specific feature and, perhaps, the most difficult aspect of the present period is that long-range

tasks that are being tackled now that will impart new quality to the country, accompanied by glaring problems reflecting the current needs of people.

These are the shortage of goods and the state of the environment. There is a need to act vigorously, without losing one's bearing, without panicking and slackening initiative. The party has called forth processes which are now taking place in society and has a real right to vigorous action.

There is a need for consolidation and reciprocal efforts, for a quest of reasonable compromise. But there are three provisions of fundamental importance from which, in the interests of the Soviet people and the Baltic peoples, we have no right to deviate.

First. All our problems should be tackled by joint effort, in the framework of the federation.

Second. Unity of our party. The party is the main guarantor of perestroika and of the process of national revival. No one but the party can carry through this work in a planned and purposeful way.

Third. Equal rights of citizens of all nationalities.

All these are basic principles of the nationalities policy of the party, conditions for harmonising inter-ethnic relations.

Each republic and every region has thousands of economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological and sheer human ties with each other, with the whole country. We have become close-knit. If we now allowed the situation to deteriorate to the point where these ties would start to break up, the republics and the whole country would be rolled back by decades, Gorbachev said. Take just one example: the Latvian plant RAF relies on hundreds of suppliers all over the country.

The draft platform of the CPSU is progressive. It indicates the right direction in the main thing: a practical solution to the entire complex of political and economic problems, the introduction of cost-accounting and, in this way, the strengthening of economic self-reliance and responsibility, filling sovereignty with real content.

We must forge ahead along this road persistently. We should not limit ourselves to generalised deliberations and declarations, but should concentrate on specific actions to prepare enterprises' adoption of full cost-accounting, concentrate on detailed calculation of taxes and other

Continued on page 310

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister visits Ireland

SOVIET Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky paid a working visit to the Irish capital on September 12 and 13. He was received by Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins.

During the meeting, both sides emphasised the importance of the Soviet-Irish summit at Shannon, which they described as a landmark in the development of relations between the two countries.

The sides discussed concrete issues related to Soviet-Irish interaction in European and world affairs, and matters of bilateral cooperation.

Petrovsky held political consultations at Ire-

land's Foreign Ministry, during which he exchanged views with Irish officials on disarmament issues, ways to settle conflict and crisis situations in the world, enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations and the entire system of international organisations, and developing the all-European process.

The consultations revealed the coincidence of the sides' views on the majority of the issues discussed.

The meeting and consultations were attended by Soviet ambassador to Ireland G. Uranov.

IN THIS ISSUE

Eduard Shevardnadze on meeting with US Secretary of State.....	p310
Mikhail Gorbachev's remarks to CPSU Central Committee Plenum	p313
Vladimir Petrovsky on 44th Session of UN General Assembly.....	p313
Soviet Nicaraguan Communique	p316

Eduard Shevardnadze on forthcoming meeting with US Secretary of State

This is an interview given to Izvestia on September 11 by Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze in connection with his forthcoming meeting with the US Secretary of State.

It has been announced that on September 22 and 23 you will meet with the US Secretary of State. What is the state of Soviet-American relations?

Absolute answers are hardly appropriate in evaluating relations between states, especially such as the Soviet Union and the United States. Their relations are too complex and involved. Many factors, sometimes contradictory, influence them.

I shall try to single out what I consider the most important element in our relations with the United States. It is the trend that began in April 1985. It was a time when we began to take a more realistic view of each other's interests and abandon reliance on military superiority, agreed that war must never be fought, realised the importance of intense dialogue and started to give up confrontation in favour of co-operation. Over the past years both sides have become convinced that they can and must adopt a new political thinking.

It is highly significant that in the course of this process our major mutual statements were backed up by specific treaties and agreements.

I should also say that both sides have realised

the need to act in the spirit of constructive continuity and continue to step up joint efforts towards broadening the areas of contact and mutual understanding.

Summit meetings are a key factor. Mikhail Gorbachev met several times with George Bush, last time in New York in December last year. After the US President took office, the two heads of state spoke on the telephone. They are also in correspondence with each other.

As you know, we agree with the (US) Administration about the need to maintain continuity in our relations.

It would be unwise not to use the established tradition of summit-level contacts and meetings, broad political dialogue, talks between the Foreign Ministers and other contacts.

Experience has shown that personal compatibility is also important. It would be no exaggeration to say that we had a unique relationship with George Shultz and that helped us a great deal.

It will be my fourth meeting with Mr James Baker. I think we have made a good start. We have a feeling that we understand, respect and trust each other. And I am convinced that we shall be able to work in a constructive atmosphere and discuss and resolve the most difficult issues.

Naturally, Soviet-America relations cannot be unaffected by the impact of the processes taking place in this country and the rest of the world. Perestroika in the Soviet Union has entered a decisive phase, when we are building the foundations of a new future for our country and,

at the same time, the foundation of our new approach to the outside world.

We have made a breakthrough from confrontation to dialogue and now we must take a new step towards constructive co-operation which would allow us to attain a higher level of stability, security and trust.

President George Bush has spoken about "a new rapprochement" between our two countries. I think it is not a bad definition of the goal we must seek to attain.

We see in this prospect great advantage for ourselves and we openly say so. This would allow us to progress more boldly and faster in the current process of renewal in all spheres of our life. Wouldn't this meet the interests of the United States? Joint or parallel, coordinated actions by states such as ours can only benefit our two countries and the rest of the world.

If we are to measure the progress we have made by the yardstick of the objective need of our peoples and all humanity, we shall realise that what we have done is not enough. One cannot fail to see unused possibilities and constraint and timidity even in areas where obstacles no longer exist.

I think both sides should now think about ways to explore the territory we have won from enmity and suspicion. We can grow a good harvest on it.

In fact, we shall discuss this with the US President and Secretary of State. We hope both sides will put forward some new ideas on this score.

The American leaders say they support per-

Continued on page 311

Continued from page 309

economic indices and on the working out of the entire system of complex horizontal ties between enterprises and forms of organisation.

What is meant is not just subjugating enterprises to other agencies, not replacing one bureaucracy with another, but using the advantages of profound division of labour, removing departmental barriers and encourage initiative. It is necessary to ensure that the existing ties are not broken, to see the realities of integration and press for making it more effective.

An optimum combination of republican and all-union economic complexes should be found, the stages of the advance to economic independence in the framework of the integral all-union national economic complex should be determined.

There are objective difficulties as regards theory: the lack of scientific analysis of such an important problem as the problem of property. We are breaking fresh ground, laying down the foundations of the economic policy which will make it possible to base new relations on regional and republican independence, Gorbachev said.

Giving the maximum of rights to republics, regional cost-accounting should not, however, upset the advantages resulting from the federation, should not destroy the opportunities of conducting state (federal) policy in the area of finance, crediting and money. It is important to replace the administrative-command foundations of this policy with economic ones.

It is necessary to look together for the solution to complex problems, to form competent federal-republican working groups of specialists and scientists to analyse questions of legislative and methodological ensurance of cost-accounting relations at every level. Inter-republican division of labour will then get a second wind, will be rid of deformations so it will be possible to gain in specialisation and integration.

People link their feelings and hopes with cost-accounting and, consequently, greater initiative at enterprises. It is important to justify them. This is a matter of great priority, of putting into action the incentive mechanism at all levels, of using the whole of the scientific, production and workforce potential. Any hindrance is impermissible here.

Speaking about the political and legal contents of the republics' sovereignty, Gorbachev stressed that this is a large and complex issue, with its own history. Both theory and practice should embrace all cause-and-effect links. Otherwise illusions will arise with regard to ways of developing the federation, based on emotions.

While setting forth the principles of perfecting the federation, the party's platform takes into account all these circumstances. The whole of the federation's potential should be revealed. Within its framework, the republics' sovereignty can receive broad possibilities in all areas.

Gorbachev paid great attention to ways of further democratising party life, glasnost and perfecting the methods of party guidance. He said that perestroika can succeed only if the party's ranks are united and all healthy forces of society are consolidated, in which the party should play an integrating role.

This is especially important, Mikhail Gorbachev said, today, when the country's economy is being revamped and drastic changes are taking place in different spheres of social and political life, and when the problems of national development and inter-ethnic relations have worsened. It would be a grave historical mistake to weaken such a powerful political organism as the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In this respect, the idea of federalism in building the party is pernicious for its unity.

At the same time, there is no doubt that the communist parties in the union republics should be more independent in tackling urgent matters of their inner-party life. Programmes of action, developed on a collective basis, could play a major role in enhancing the authority of the

communist parties in the Soviet Baltic republics. These programmes should take account of both real requirements in solving the pressing problems of national development, and contain clearly defined positions on the principled issues of strengthening the USSR as a federal socialist state and enhancing the consolidating role of the CPSU.

A most important task, Mikhail Gorbachev said, is to strengthen the cooperation of the Soviet republics by consistently implementing the constitutional principle of equality of nations and individuals, no matter where they live. Any attempt to infringe on citizens' rights on an ethnic basis should be regarded as contradicting the principles of Soviet statehood and humanism.

Speaking about the important role of the mass media, Gorbachev said that it is necessary to bring the issue of work back to newspaper pages, and write about working people, driving it home that the fruits of perestroika in the end depend on the creative, intensive and motivated work of every individual. A measured approach, truthfulness, critical analysis and constructiveness, are required today from editorial boards of newspapers and magazines, radio and TV. They shall upgrade the personal role of a journalist and the responsibility of his civic stand.

Party committees will have a system of daily contacts and work with journalists and managers in the mass media. It cannot be delegated to someone else — this is the responsibility of the party and state leadership. Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that republics' leadership will continue to get support from and enjoy the confidence of the CPSU Central Committee in those of their actions which are consonant with perestroika and the aspirations and needs of the working people in these republics and the entire country.

The meeting was attended by Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Vadim Medvedev and Alternate Politburo member and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Georgy Razumovsky.

Continued from page 310 (Shevardnadze)

stroika in the USSR. Is this reflected in the practical policy of the United States?

Yes. The President and Secretary of State have repeatedly expressed their support for perestroika. It is an encouraging fact and we value this support.

We have no reason to question the sincerity of the Americans' assurances of support for the policy of perestroika in the Soviet Union. A different position would be senseless. For perestroika does not pose any threat to other countries. On the contrary, its failure may have unpredictable consequences. Besides, it contains unique historical possibilities for creating a new atmosphere in international relations and for co-operation between all countries on the basis of new political thinking free from antiquated stereotypes and on the basis of generally accepted moral standards and universal human values.

At the same time, I cannot say that the statements made by the US administration are being translated into practical policies. Unfortunately, Washington does not seem to be ready yet to go the pace we could go.

To support perestroika means, above all, to use the opportunities it has opened and get things done. It is a mutually beneficial affair, meeting the interests of both the Soviet Union and the United States.

It's wrong to think that perestroika needs charity. It does not need any philanthropy.

Results are needed – in the questions of security, in humanitarian cooperation, regional affairs, trade, and scientific and technological relations.

Very impressive and far-reaching results can be attained, and it is possible to reach an altogether new level of relations.

I think that the USA, the USSR and the entire world community will lose much because of the restrained and irresolute stance of the US Administration.

Apparently, there are forces in the USA which possess great possibilities and influence and which would prefer to hamper our perestroika in the hope that this will strengthen the American positions throughout the world.

There are also people who are tempted to interfere in the processes taking place in this country, and even plan to restore capitalism in the USSR and to undermine the Soviet federation. The futility of such hopes does not make such actions and staking on destabilisation less dangerous.

In this context, we have many topics for discussion in Washington and Wyoming with a view to clarity each other's intentions.

On the whole, I hope that the level of maturity of the main participants in international communication, including the USA, is a prerequisite for serious and responsible attitude to the processes taking place in our country.

You spoke about the hitherto unused possibilities in the development of Soviet-US relations. What are these major untapped fields?

I would say this concerns above all the sphere of limitation and reduction of armaments, where a kind of recess is being observed after the past several fruitful years. We are dissatisfied with the pace of the advancement towards new accords, at least, in the key direction of real disarmament started by the INF Treaty. I mean primarily the talks on nuclear and space weapons at which almost no progress has been made. In some respects we are now even farther from an agreement than we were under the previous American Administration.

The talks on nuclear tests are also, in effect, "frozen", though it seems to be rather easy, given the political will, to accomplish the task set to the delegations – to prepare protocols on control to the "threshold" Treaties of 1974 and 1976, especially because one of these protocols is, in effect, ready.

A truly good start was taken – and we wel-

come this – only at the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe. Reassuring vistas are now beginning to open also in the field of chemical weapons.

What is the crux of the matter here? You know that after a somewhat protracted pause made by the Washington Administration to carry out a "strategic survey" the talks recommenced on the relatively good foundation built by last autumn.

But any foundation is laid in order to erect a building on it – in this case the building of an accord on a radical arms reduction – but not to walk around it without any visible purpose.

That is why we came to the negotiating table in Geneva with a whole package of specific proposals aimed at achieving quick progress. We awaited positive impulses from the American side, too. Regrettably, instead of the promised "new ideas" our American partners more often preferred to plead the absence of principled decisions in Washington. During the past round of the talks on nuclear and space weapons not a single crucial issue was resolved because of the immobility of the US position.

Such are facts. In this connection, some statements, which are made at a high level in Washington and produce the impression that the "USSR's words discord with its deeds", sound rather strange.

The state of affairs at the talks on disarmament, especially on nuclear and space weapons, will be the subject of profound discussions with Mr Baker. In our view, in this field it is high time to adopt fundamental and bold decisions which would quickly lead to signing agreements aimed at strengthening international stability and security.

Serious reflections and deep analysis of the sides' stands at the talks led us to the conclusion that there are possibilities to achieve solutions which would take due account of the sides' interests.

The question of mobile ICBMs, as well as air-based Cruise missiles, is ripe for resolution. The problem of sea-based Cruise missiles should not be an insurmountable obstacle. We will submit specific considerations on this issue.

If the efforts to draw the sides' stands on these issues closer together succeed, the question of outer space and of preserving the ABM Treaty will acquire even greater importance. Without guaranteeing security in this sphere, without assuring strategic stability, an accord on a radical reduction of strategic offensive arms is impossible. I hope that the American side will display understanding of this fact. This would make it possible to find specific formulations to be included in the future treaty.

We hold the view that at the forthcoming talks it is possible to give major political impetuses to resolving the problems of chemical weapons and nuclear tests. We have a good deal to propose at the meeting with the Secretary of State. Of course, it's not only on us that the implementation of this programme depends, but if we succeed in doing this the door to an agreement will be open.

What has changed in Soviet-American relations in the field of regional problems? How does co-operation between the USSR and the USA in this sphere proceed?

Though paradoxical enough, your question testifies to the changes in our relations with the USA on regional policies. A mere couple of years ago no one would have thought of speaking of Soviet-American cooperation as applied to regional conflicts. It was believed that sharp rivalry was the sole factor which connected us – or to be more exact – divided us in this area. There was talk also of the fatal predetermination of confrontation between the two powers in regions, which allegedly stems from the diametrically opposite national interests and ultimate aims which, they claimed, boil down to "forcing" the other side out of the strategically important regions.

I want to say right away that our policy in the

early 1980s contained quite a few elements which contributed to such stereotypes as well. But, of course, in its global strategy the USA was also bent on confrontation. Different theoretical concepts, from the doctrine of "neoglobalism" to the concept of "low-intensity conflicts", designed to bind and weaken the Soviet Union, were used for this purpose.

I'm glad that life, and with it mentality and diplomacy reflected in the Soviet-American dialogue, were not at a standstill, but demanded a re-evaluation of the old and ideology-tinged approaches to regional problems. During our current contacts, including my talks with the US Secretary of State, one can hear more and more often such words as "new mentality", "the removal of the element of rivalry from East-West relations" and other uncommon terms. They emerged with great difficulty, following deep changes in individual regions and as a result of painful re-evaluation of the habitual notions. But change is there. And it was caused, among other things, by the vitality important idea, formulated at the summit level, that the natural differences in our countries' interests should not perpetuate rivalry. On the contrary, with due account taken of our nuclear reality, they should stimulate additional search for common views.

I think we have realised one more important thing. The USSR and the US are not omnipotent. They have neither the possibility, nor the moral right to impose their own recipes of political settlement or national reconciliation on the conflicting parties. But we can do a great deal if we pursue a balanced and restrained policy and show an example of constructive co-operation for settling and preventing conflicts, and for creating favourable conditions for just and peaceful solutions.

We have achieved quite a lot. I wouldn't like to overestimate the Soviet-American contribution, but that was strongly felt in the international efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, to reach a wide range of agreements on Namibia's decolonisation and to ensure general settlement in the south of Africa.

This contribution will become still more evident if one takes into account that many changes (for instance, the well-known agreement between the Central American states) wouldn't have occurred in the conditions of sharp confrontation between the Soviet Union and the US.

Or take the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, of which the USSR and the US are the guarantors. Their implementation is vitally important for the regional policy and for Soviet-American relations. Therefore, we are deeply concerned about what I would call defiant position of the US which is gradually turning into a participant in this meaningless bloodshed. This is a serious problem and we are going to discuss it with the US leaders. I do believe that the US administration will ultimately show common sense and pragmatism in the best sense of the word.

Central America is another region where active Soviet-American dialogue is needed. The position of the Soviet Union and of our friends is not targeted against the interests of any state, including the US, and envisages political and not military ways of settling conflicts. By contrast, the American approach still has elements of diktat and threat, which hamper the advancement to agreement.

We welcome Washington's eagerness to start a serious Soviet-American dialogue on the Middle East problems, which is quite new for the US.

Lately, we've been witnessing broadening bilateral contacts between the USSR and the US. Today, Soviet and American citizens have more opportunities for realising their natural wish to learn more about each other and establish mutually-advantageous cooperation. What would you say about prospects in this field?

Following the 1985 Geneva summit, the US

Continued page 312

PRAVDA on US vice-president's comments

"US Vice President Dan Quayle spoke twice on our domestic affairs recently. These pronouncements arose serious questions concerning the essence of American policy," Gennady Vasilyev, *Pravda* political analyst, wrote on September 14.

Quayle's "directions" expressed in his New York speech before members of the Council on International Radio Broadcasting and leaders of the US mass media were tantamount to pouring cold water on advocates of improving East-West relations, the author notes. The essence of Quayle's call on the West is to deny the USSR any financial aid and any subsidies until the West is convinced of the reform's aims. What does Quayle want to convince us of? Nothing less than the Soviet Union's renunciation of "the centralised and totalitarian system".

Quayle was even more "radical" in his interview with the CNN TV company. Touching on the events in the Soviet Baltic republics, he expressed the hope that the Baltic states would continue advancing in the desired direction, that is to a declaration of independence. If they meet with interference, Quayle threatened a negative US response.

The author points out that such statements by a high-ranking US official cannot but produce anxiety, the more so since "important changes for the better have taken place in Soviet-

American relations in the past few years. The roadblocks of enmity and confrontation which were piling up for decades, are being cleared away. The two countries are laying down foundations for a constructive interaction between the East and the West on a broad range of questions: security, humanitarian cooperation, regional affairs, trade and scientific and technical contacts. The two countries have now entered an important stage when the dialogue which was somewhat hampered by the change in the Washington administration, is expanding again.

"It is regrettable that political actions which do not conform either to the interests of the Soviet and American peoples or to the interests of strengthening peace and security in the world, are being taken at this responsible moment," the analyst notes.

Gerasimov on US response to Shevardnadze interview

FOREIGN Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov has expressed a mixed reaction to the early US response to his chief Eduard Shevardnadze's interview with the newspaper *Izvestia* on September 11.

Gerasimov said that one's impression was both positive, as the interview had found itself the focus of attention of American analysts, and negative, as the first comments were unbalanced, describing the Soviet foreign minister's remarks as sharply critical of the US negotiating posture on arms control.

The spokesman called reporters' attention to the fact that Shevardnadze in his interview had analysed the entire package of Soviet-US relations, mentioning latent reserves and untapped possibilities, as well as positive achievements.

Commenting on the US State Department's claim that the Americans had seized the initiative in arms control, Gerasimov stressed the undesirability of spreading "football terminology" to arms control.

"We would be very glad at any initiatives that could lead the USSR and the United States to accords, including those on nuclear and space arms," he said.

economic sphere. I hope in this area, too, realism will triumph over fear and prejudice.

What I mean is things which will benefit both sides. We are for a complete cost-accounting approach to our contacts with the US.

The new quality of Soviet-American cooperation can be seen from the fact that it has gone beyond the limits of purely bilateral relations and is becoming more and more oriented to global problems central to all nations: environmental protection, peaceful space exploration and utilisation and the fight against terrorism, drugs and diseases threatening the whole of mankind. Do not these problems deserve priority attention of our two powers on the threshold of the 21st century? Really, it's difficult to foresee what will constitute a greater danger for mankind—nuclear weapons, ecological catastrophe or a virus?

Conditions are available for raising the Soviet-American dialogue to a new height. It is the duty of the ministers in this connection to clear the road for a new Soviet-American summit.

This is what I'm thinking about on the eve of my visit to the US. I hope the talks I'll have there will not fail my expectations.

USSR foreign minister's meeting with visiting diplomats

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Saad Al-Faisal said they were satisfied with the high level and dynamic development of Soviet-Iraqi relations, Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing in Moscow on September 13. The Soviet minister received Al-Faisal, who arrived in the USSR as a personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Hussain. The Iraqi envoy conveyed a message from Saddam Hussain to Mikhail Gorbachov.

Shevardnadze and Saad Al-Faisal took note of the favourable conditions for moving ahead and strengthening relations between the two countries. It was stressed that the intensive and fruitful Soviet-Iraqi political dialogue, which especially benefits from regular contacts between the two countries' leaders, has great importance.

In the course of the meeting, views were also exchanged on some aspects of the Iran-Iraq peace settlement, and on the situation in the Lebanon. The sides, in particular, stressed the importance of building up the efforts of the Arab states in organising a Lebanese dialogue to restore national accord, primarily by resuming the mission of the Committee on Lebanon, set up by the Arab League.



EDUARD Shevardnadze, USSR Foreign Minister, received Hisashi Owada in Moscow September 13, Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister, who was in Moscow for consultations between deputy foreign ministers of the USSR and Japan in connection with a planned meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries, to be held during the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Japanese representative handed over to Shevardnadze a message from Japan's foreign minister. Some aspects of bilateral relations were discussed during the conversation.

Hisashi Owada said the Japanese government attaches much importance to relations with the Soviet Union and will continue efforts for their balanced widening in various directions.

Shevardnadze noted certain progress now achieved in exchanges between the USSR and Japan in every area and confirmed the intention of the Soviet side to adhere consistently to the arrangements on the further improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations to open a fresh chapter of these relations.



Writing on
Perestroika

Nikita
KHRUSHCHEV;
Life
and Destiny

Historians, writers and members of the late Soviet leader's family reminisce about this remarkable personality and look back on "Khrushchev's Decade", which has now come to be seen as a sort of prelude to perestroika.

price 50p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN)
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.

POLITICS AND POWER

Military and Political Questions of International Security

By Daniil Proektor

obtainable at 50p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.

Continued from page 311 (Shevardnadze)

and the USSR have considerably broadened bilateral contacts which now involve dozens of ministries and public organisations, and thousands of citizens.

We are trying to brush away ideological differences and cast a new look on many questions which used to cause frictions. For instance, in the human rights sphere we are departing from the old confrontational agenda and are formulating a new and creative one.

We approach contacts with the US with a good share of "reasonable egoism" and are trying to fit them to the best advantage to the rising edifice of perestroika.

I'm not particularly fond of dry statistics, but let me quote just one figure: the Soviet Union and the US have concluded about 40 inter-governmental agreements.

And yet, it is early to speak about a qualitative change in Soviet-American bilateral relations. I have a feeling that we haven't yet used all opportunities for broadening equitable cooperation vital for both of us, first of all in the

Mikhail Gorbachev's remarks to the CPSU Central Committee Plenum (Summary)

SOVIET Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev has suggested, on behalf of the Politburo, moving up the date of the party's regular 28th congress to the second half of October 1990.

The great interest shown in society concerning the forthcoming congress is convincing proof that the Soviet people realise the party's significance to the nation's fate, he told a CPSU Central Committee plenum, which opened in Moscow on September 19, with the issue of the congress topping the agenda.

After noting that the Soviet Union has come a long way since the start of perestroika and is now quite different from what it was in the early 1980s, Gorbachev said:

"Real life and perestroika have been proceeding at such a pace that we have often lagged behind.

"Much of what previously seemed correct no longer satisfies us. However innovative decisions taken by the 27th Party Congress and the 19th Party Conference a little over a year ago have been, we now need to go even further and look for new approaches and solutions."

Substantiating the need to start a creative discussion in the party is no longer necessary: the debate is already in full swing, the General Secretary said.

"What is necessary is making sure that it will be as constructive as possible, helping to consolidate both the Party itself and all other public forces supporting perestroika, and overcome confusion and sometimes panicky sentiments," he added.

The decision to convene the congress at an earlier date is dictated by the need to thoroughly update the Party itself, Gorbachev went on.

"Where the Party is ahead and where it lags

behind is a wide-ranging and complex question. I would not oversimplify it, as some people tend to.

"Some are trying to create the impression that the revolutionary changes that have marked these years occurred without the Party's participation, and to portray it as a conservative force.

"Others regard our self-criticism as a sign of the Party relinquishing its political and ideological positions and evading performing its political role.

"I think we ought to make a definite statement on this account. The Communist Party initiated the revolutionary restructuring and democratisation of society, and it intends to stick firmly to this path.

"It is precisely the Party's responsibility to the working class and all our people that obliges it to be most exacting towards itself and confirm by deeds its right to be the vanguard of society," Gorbachev said.

He suggested the following agenda for the congress:

1. On the progress of perestroika and tasks of the Party. Report by the Party central committee.

2. Report by the Party's central auditing commission.

3. On Party rules.

4. Election of the Party's central bodies.

This agenda, Gorbachev said, will make it possible to sum up the pre-congress discussion and adopt a programme of action for the near future.

He also suggested preparing a Central Committee political platform and publishing it in spring 1990, saying that after being debated at the congress, the platform could become such a programme.

Speaking of the Party's long-term programme, Gorbachev said that "to draft a new document of such scope and importance, we need to accumulate theoretical knowledge and practical experience in the course of implementing the perestroika policy".

As for the Party rules, it is "necessary to legalise measures, outlined by the 19th Party Conference, on the Party's overall democratisation, to formalise a lot of what is now being practised by Party organisations".

"We need essentially new rules that will reflect the spirit of our revolutionary times," Gorbachev said.

In conclusion, he stressed that there is no point in waiting for the 28th Congress in order to bring about a turn for the better in the country, first of all improvements in the standard of living.

"We should act now, immediately and decisively," he said.

The full text of Gorbachev's remarks at the opening of the CPSU Central Committee plenum will appear in the next issue of Soviet News (No 6494).

Soviet-Japanese agreement on economic research

Tokyo September 14 - by Tass correspondents Anatoly Krasnov and Andrei Nesterov:

A COOPERATION agreement signed today by the Soviet Research Institute of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Social Research Institute of the Japanese Society of Trade with the Socialist Countries, will promote the development of economic, scientific and technological relations between the two countries.

The agreement points out that research in 1989-1990 will be devoted to dividing forms of bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation between the countries of the Sea of Japan basin.

It is also planned to search for new forms of cooperation between the Soviet Union, Japan, China, DPRK and South Korea.

The agreement will help involve Soviet and Japanese enterprises, amalgamations, foreign trade and other organisations in foreign economic activities and boost the establishment of direct business ties between them.

Vladimir Petrovsky on 44th Session of UN General Assembly

THE SOVIET Union sees the main task of the 44th UN General Assembly, which will open in New York on September 19, in "stimulating a stable and, at the same time dynamic, advance towards restructuring international relations with the most active participation of the United Nations," Vladimir Petrovsky, deputy head of the Soviet delegation and Deputy Foreign Minister, said in an interview published by *Pravda* on September 16.

The Soviet delegation at the session will promote in every way the further fruitful development of the dialogue on an all-embracing approach to strengthening international peace and security, Petrovsky pointed out.

He expressed hope that the 44th session would noticeably promote, through a thorough

search for a balance of states' interests, a higher UN contribution to defusing regional conflicts, in particular "will consolidate a broad international consensus in favour of the earliest political solution of the Afghan problem, relying on possibilities of the United Nations and its Secretary-General. It will give an impetus to the advance towards national reconciliation in Afghanistan. A new resolution on this question at the coming session should reflect, naturally, new realities which have emerged in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and should call on all sides to strictly implement the Geneva Accords."

"In our opinion, the session's decisions should promote an all-embracing settlement in the Middle East, termination of the civil war and achievement of concord in Lebanon, consolidation of positive processes in south-western Africa, Central America and other regions. Participants in the session will need to display both competence and high political responsibility, readiness to look for non-conventional, de-

ideologised approaches, and to take into account the imperatives of our times. The UN's support for peace-making efforts in some conflict situations, including the Cambodian question, depends on the General Assembly's ability to abandon former confrontational decisions," the Deputy Minister went on to say.

"We believe," the Soviet diplomat pointed out, "that it is necessary to be more active in abandoning the narrow framework of localisation of conflicts and rising to a qualitatively new level of their prevention, and the ensurance of a stable world order maintained at the level of high reliability."

Petrovsky noted that the UN is now experiencing active renovating processes which are raising its prestige and influence in the international arena, and this is "directly linked with the improvement in the international climate, realism and responsibility displayed by a growing number of states in their foreign policy thinking and actions".

Soviet economic official on steps towards convertible rouble

ONLY by making the rouble freely convertible can the Soviet Union create an open economy, fully integrated into the world economy, a Soviet economist said in Moscow on September 15.

Ivan Ivanov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers' State Foreign Economic Commission, was addressing the final meeting of a Soviet-Swedish roundtable meeting which discussed economic and social development in the two countries.

Ivanov singled out four major stages on the way toward a convertible rouble. He said the immediate task was to stabilise the financial situation in the country.

This would require elimination of the state budget deficit and the gradual removal of 'redundant' money, now at the disposal of the population and enterprises, from domestic circulation.

Ivanov said the problem of 'redundant' money cannot be solved by merely increasing the production of foodstuffs and consumer goods, and called for the creation of a real estate market which would allow enterprises and individuals to

invest part of their savings in real estate.

He said a reform of domestic prices is another important step toward a convertible rouble. Without such reform, "it would be impossible to analyse the rouble's purchasing power as compared with foreign currencies," he pointed out.

The third stage would be the achievement of the rouble's real domestic convertibility, the economist went on.

"Rouble holders should be given the possibility of buying anything they want on the domestic market," he said, adding that this could be promoted by a large-scale introduction of wholesale trade which "should become a prevailing form of commercial turnover on the Soviet market."

Making the rouble freely convertible is impossible without a powerful and competitive export sector in Soviet industry, Ivanov said.

"The programme for the development of the Soviet export base is aimed at bringing the share of machinery, equipment and finished products of the chemical-and-timber complex in the general structure of Soviet exports to 60 per cent by the year 2000," he pointed out.

The economist expressed hope that the rouble could become convertible by 2000 if the Soviet economy successfully solves its tasks.

USSR Supreme Soviet resumes work

Moscow, September 15 Tass.

THE parliamentary recess in the Soviet Union ended on September 18 as the Supreme Soviet resumed its session in Moscow.

Committee and commission members are the first to start work. The full parliament's second session will begin on September 25.

There is a great deal of hard work for the Supreme Soviet's members. The content and significance of this work are determined by the acuteness of the problems facing the country and by the urgent character of the tasks that are to be resolved in the near future.

The autumn session is to examine the draft state plan and budget for 1990, already submitted for consideration to the legislature by the Soviet government.

The drafts are extraordinary in their character as they are designed to stop the economic situation from deteriorating further and secure first steps toward financial improvement and the continuation of the economy's social re-orientation.

In addition to this, the deputies are to discuss a package of draft laws that will make up the legal basis for a new stage in the radical economic reform.

Among these are bills on property ownership, on land and land tenure, on leasing and lease relations, on a uniform tax system as well as on general principles of economic management and the social sphere in the constituent republics.

A separate item on the agenda deals with documents designed to enhance the efficiency of the parliamentarians' own work, including draft rules of the Congress of People's Deputies and the USSR Supreme Soviet, and a draft law on the status of People's Deputies.

The autumn session will also be a kind of preparatory stage for the second Congress of People's Deputies. Top priority is being given to constitutional issues. Overdue changes and amendments to the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the country are to be discussed by the Supreme Soviet and then handed over for final approval to the Congress.

In implementing the programme of the second session, the deputies will draw on the unique experience which they accumulated in the first session, which has enabled the Supreme Soviet to become an authoritative link in the Soviet political system now in the making.

Leonid Abalkin on Soviet financial reforms

IMPROVING the country's finances is crucial to elaborating a broad government programme to develop Soviet economy, Leonid Abalkin, Chairman of the State Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers for Economic Reform, said at a meeting in the Kremlin on September 13 with a Swedish delegation taking part in the second round of a Soviet-Swedish 'Round Table' discussion.

Stressing that a version of the price formation system is a major factor for the successful progress of the economic reform in the USSR, Academician Abalkin said that the change-over to the market mechanism of price regulation presupposes a number of successive steps.

Abalkin described the passage over to the new profit taxation system as a major element of the reforms, stressing that this would eliminate the current practice of ministries and departments

setting their own norms for profit distribution in individual enterprises and organisations.

It is assumed that the 1991 to 1995 period will see the creation of the price formation system, the change-over to unobstructed wholesale trade in capital goods and the evolution of a pluralistic model of a plan-regulated market economy, including different forms of ownership and experienced specialists trained to work in the new economic conditions.

The draft law already submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet for discussion is expected to recognise the plurality of forms of ownership, ruling out the exploitation of others' labour, to legislatively enshrine the difference between the property of the Soviet Union as a federation, republican property and community or municipal property belonging to local authorities. These changes will make it possible to lay the economic foundation for the development of the reform, a delegation of responsibilities will take place, and there will be an extension of rights by the government to local authorities, according to Academician Abalkin.

120,000 foreign students in USSR

THERE are 120,000 students from 149 countries in 110 cities of the Soviet Union, the newspaper *Moscow News* reported on September 13.

"This year we started admitting applicants who partially pay for their tuition themselves," Alexei Golubev, head of a department of the

Soviet State Committee for Public Education, said in a *Moscow News* interview.

"The approximate cost of the full course is 10-15,000 dollars, much less than in Western and even in other socialist countries, which have long been using such a system. It so far covers no more than 10 per cent of the total number of foreign students, postgraduate students and trainees at Soviet educational establishments," he said.

The Soviet diploma is recognised in all states which have relevant agreements with the USSR, Golubev said. The USSR has such agreements with 53 countries.

"The assessment of the graduates' knowledge will be more strict this year: the best will get a diploma and a master's degree, just as in other countries, while others - a diploma and a bachelor's degree," Golubev said.

PERESTROIKA

as seen by an Economist

Nikolai Shmelyov

price 30p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW

Perestroika Press Club

SURMOUNTING THE PAST

*The restructuring of Soviet
agriculture as seen by
Bulgarian journalist
Plamen Iliev*

Price 50p from:

Soviet Booklets (SN)
3 Rosary Gardens
London SW7 4NW

THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT Heading for the Belgrade summit

By Yuri Lapanov and
Vladimir Tarabrin

Price 40p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN)
3 Rosary Gardens
London SW7 4NW

The USSR nuclear risk reduction centre: Two years on

By Tass military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

THE Soviet-American agreement to establish nuclear risk reduction centres was signed in Washington two years ago, on September 15, 1987. Without doubt, it was one of the results of new political thinking, evidence of the fact that both sides are aware of the need of practical steps to avert the danger of an outbreak of nuclear war as a result of misconstruction of each other's intentions or some accidents, for instance, breakages and faults in weapons systems.

It is also apparent that the practical activity of the centres established as a result of the agreement holds a definite place in the overall process of confidence-building between the USSR and the USA.

Asked how the Nuclear Risk Reduction

Centre of the USSR is functioning, Colonel Nikolai Shabalin, Deputy Chief of the Centre, said: "at first the centre's functions were relatively modest, the sides were informing each other of the launchings of intercontinental ballistic missiles beyond the limits of their national territories.

"Later, the USSR and the USA started informing each other of all launchings of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Then a fundamentally new and considerable task was assumed by the centre: to relay information about the state of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles to which the INF Treaty applies.

"This information includes the data as to which missiles are stationed at specific bases, the coordinates of these bases, the number and types of missiles stationed there, information on covers and means of transportation at the bases, etc.

"The sides inform each other of the slightest changes in these parameters. The centres also

relay information about the intentions to carry out inspections, the number of group of inspections, and the time for their arrival. The personnel of the centres is directly involved in the holding of inspections: its duties include bringing inspectors to the sites, their accommodation, and providing work for them."

It follows from Colonel Shabalin's explanations that the functions of the centre are numerous and varied, and that the workload of its staffers is quite large. Nevertheless, the functions of the centre and the volume of the tasks it handles will considerably increase in future.

With the conclusion of the Soviet-American treaty on strategic offensive arms reduction, the nuclear risk reduction centres will undoubtedly be involved in its implementation. If the tasks of the staffers of the nuclear risk reduction centres increase, as the arms race is stopped, they will only be pleased to make a personal contribution to the process of disarmament and confidence-building.

Programme to clean up Chernobyl endorsed

WAYS of overcoming the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Russian Federation were examined at a session of the State Commission on Emergencies of the USSR Council of Ministers, Tass reported from Bryansk on September 14. The commission, led by Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Doguzhiyev, visited the Krasnogorsky and Novozybkovsky districts of the Bryansk Region and acquainted themselves with the pace of decontamination work in the Strict Control Zone.

The commission took part in the meeting of party activists and senior managers of the region. Speakers stressed that three years after the

accident, measures were being taken to ensure safe living conditions. A great amount of decontamination work has been carried out. All residents of the region are being provided with clean foodstuffs. Doguzhiyev drew attention to failings in organising medical services to the population, and demanded that the local authorities speed up preparations for resettling the population from the Strict Control Zone to clean territories.

The meeting endorsed a draft programme for eliminating the consequences of the accident at the nuclear power station in the Bryansk region in 1991-95. The draft programme will be put to public discussion.

Nikonov urges faster conversion to farm equipment production

WAYS of perfecting and organising the batch production of advanced equipment for family farms and leaseholders were discussed by Viktor Nikonov, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, during a visit to the Vladimir Region of central Russia on September 14.

At the Vladimir Tractor Plant, Nikonov drew special attention to the fact that practically all the main shops of the plant were working at full capacity. The machine tools, which have been operating for the past 25-30 years, often broke down. At the same time, the spacious shops of a defence plant nearby, behind a high fence, were standing idle. The advanced numerically-controlled machine tools do not operate at full capacity, and are used extremely inefficiently.

Unfortunately, conversion is only making its first timid steps at the plant. The defence plant has started production of only a small amount of spare parts for the T-30 tractor. There are neither funds nor materials resources to modernise the older plants. As a result, the modern T-30 tractor and a fodder distributor, based on it, can be seen only at exhibitions.

Major Soviet-French contract threatened by COCOM

Paris September 13 Tass -

A PROJECTED large-scale Soviet-French contract on the development of modern telephone systems is under threat from the Coordinating Committee on Export Controls (Cocom).

This organisation, which has its headquarters in Paris, includes all NATO countries except Iceland, and also Australia and Japan. It was set up at the height of the 'cold war' and is still a brake on the development of East-West commercial and economic relations.

According to Paris press reports, Cocom is now blocking this contract between the Soviet Union and the French Alcatel company. The contract provides for the delivery to the USSR of 250 thousand telephone lines, and the establishment there of a joint-stock enterprise to assemble new-generation electronic telephone exchanges of the 'System-12' type. Such exchanges are turned out by Alcatel's Belgian subsidiary. Talks on this contract, worth one billion francs, have continued for about two years.

Extremist elements within Cocom, thinking in

'cold war' categories, are trying to whitewash their decision by claiming that modern telephone facilities will enhance the Soviet army's combat potential. The French firm hopes, however, that the contract will nevertheless be carried out fully. An Alcatel spokesman said that the negotiations were being continued. They are focused as before on the question of setting up a joint-stock enterprise to turn out 'System-12' stations.

Attempts are being continued in Cocom to persuade "some members of the organisation" to withdraw their objections against this Soviet-French contract, the newspaper *Liberation* says today. "European industrial quarters, affected by Cocom's restrictions, do not conceal their irritation, since the latter always prove softer when dealing with American financial interests," the paper points out, adding that rivalry between Alcatel and US telephone companies is a commonly-known reality. This case confirms once more that the Americans sometimes try to use Cocom bans to the detriment of their commercial rivals, something West Europe has long complained against.

Perestroika is the Concern of All Soviet Peoples

Soviet Booklets (SN)
Soviet Booklets
3 Rosary Gardens
London SW7 4NW

THE EVENTS OF 1939: LOOKING BACK AFTER FIFTY YEARS

Alexander Yakovlev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, interviewed in Pravda

Price 30p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN)
3 Rosary Gardens
London SW7 4NW

Nicaraguan delegation to USSR

Soviet-Nicaraguan communiqué

A DELEGATION of the National Assembly of the republic of Nicaragua was staying in the Soviet Union on an official visit from September 10 to September 14 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The delegation was led by Carlos Nunez Tellez, President of the National Assembly and a member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Conversations were held at the USSR Supreme Soviet, at the Committee for International Affairs of the Supreme Soviet, at the Central Election Commission for Elections of USSR People's Deputies, at the Soviet Peace Foundation and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Latin American Peoples.

The Soviet side emphasised that the USSR welcomes steps of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and other Nicaraguan political forces toward achieving national accord in Nicaragua and holding democratic elections.

When the world situation was discussed, the sides expressed the opinion that the present-day international situation is characterised by the consolidation of positive tendencies, the turn from confrontation to cooperation, the establishment and intensification of versatile contacts between different countries, political and social forces.

The sides emphasised the existence of progress toward the settlement of a number of regional conflicts. At the same time, the common opinion was expressed that the tension persisting in some areas of the world is a serious destabilising factor in international politics.

Much attention was given to the discussion of the present situation in Central America. The sides emphasised that due to the efforts made by Central American countries specific arrangements have been reached outlining practical ways of settling the crisis in the region.

The Nicaraguan delegation described the steps of the country's leadership taken in the framework of the Guatemalan Process. Special attention was given to the further democratisation of the life in the country, the widening of the opposition's rights during the election campaign and in the use of the mass media, and the

creation of conditions to reintegrate former contras into the peaceful political affairs.

Deputies from both countries emphasised the importance of political settlement of the conflict in Central America by peoples of the region themselves on the basis of giving up power methods of resolving the crisis, finding mutually-acceptable solutions to existing problems, establishing good-neighbourliness and equal cooperation among countries of the region, and respect for the choice made by their peoples.

When the problems of the world economy were discussed, the sides declared in favour of restructuring international economic relations on an equitable democratic basis, for ensuring international economic security, for developing commercial, economic, scientific and technological ties between states without any discrimination.

They emphasised that it is impermissible to use financial and economic levers for interference in internal affairs of sovereign countries, for bringing political pressure on them. Members of the USSR Supreme Soviet and deputies of the National Assembly of Nicaragua expressed satisfaction with the development of the traditionally friendly Soviet-Nicaraguan relations.

Indonesian foreign minister on Moscow summit

THE official visit to the Soviet Union by Indonesia's President Suharto was a landmark in the history of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Indonesia, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told journalists at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre on September 12.

The visit, Ali Alatas said, turns a new page in Soviet-Indonesian bilateral relations, which have always been good but need considerable improvements in some fields, especially economic.

Noting that the Indonesian people were showing great interest in Soviet perestroika, the minister said that transformations and processes underway in Indonesia itself could lead to a considerable improvement in Soviet-Indonesian cooperation.

Ali Alatas noted the important part played by the Soviet Union and the United States in the resolution of problems confronting the Asian-Pacific region.

Speaking about foreign military bases in Asia

and the Pacific, he stressed that Indonesia, as well as the Association of South-East Asian nations, considered "foreign military bases a temporary phenomenon which must eventually cease to exist".

In reply to a question about a settlement in Cambodia, Ali Alatas stated that in Indonesia's opinion, the Paris Conference on Cambodia had failed to reach the comprehensive settlement it had been expected to attain, but did manage to make headway in working out the components of a settlement.

He expressed the hope that all the parties in Cambodia would display restraint and would not permit major flare-ups.

In conclusion, the Indonesian foreign minister noted the need to take practical steps to ensure durable peace, stability and security, as well as mutually beneficial economic co-operation in South East Asia. He said that the Soviet Union and Indonesia had a common stance in this respect. It is in this context, the minister said, that the parties agreed to take practical steps, along with other countries of the region, to reach this goal.

Supreme Soviet delegation meets Chinese leaders

Beijing September 14 Tass -

A DELEGATION of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament) led by Anatoli Lukyanov, First Vice President of the USSR Supreme Soviet, had a meeting today with Tian Jiyun, Vice Premier of the Chinese State Council.

During the meeting, Tian Jiyun told the Soviet guests (who are staying here on an official visit) about the current economic reforms in China, the policy of expanding relations with the outside world, and of translating into life the course for streamlining the economy.

Lukyanov dwelt at length on the role of elected organs of state authority in realising the tasks of perestroika in the Soviet Union.

Both sides emphasised that the normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations as a result of the May summit in Beijing has opened up new possibilities for cooperation between the two countries in various spheres. Impressive progress has been made in the trade, economic, cultural and other spheres in the past few years.

At the same time, there are great prospects for strengthening Soviet-Chinese relations on a long-term basis. This is also promoted by the fact that both countries are currently implementing sweeping changes. Therefore, the exchange of experience on perestroika and economic reforms acquires growing practical importance.

The sides pointed to the importance of developing new forms of cooperation, including co-production based on modern technology, the establishment of joint ventures, and increased cross-border contacts.

Soviet Foreign Ministry on priorities for Cambodia

"THE most serious task to be resolved in order to achieve a political settlement of the Cambodian issue is to prevent the Pol Pot men from rekindling the civil war and seizing power," Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov stressed at a briefing in Moscow on September 12.

Ending outside military aid to all Cambodian parties and foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs constitute one of the means to reach that objective, Gerasimov said.

Assessing recent developments in Cambodia, the spokesman pointed to Phnom Penh's and Hanoi's aspirations towards the earliest political

solution of the Cambodian issue.

Commenting on assertions that have been made in some countries, for instance the United States and Thailand, about "increased Soviet arms deliveries to Cambodia," the spokesman emphasised that "these have been carried out in accordance with the agreements between the two countries for several years, and are routine in character.

"Naturally, these deliveries are not, nor can they become a 'threat to the security' of any third country."

"At the same time, the USSR is ready, as before, to discuss in the most serious way with all parties concerned the question of ending military deliveries by all states to all the Cambodian forces," Gerasimov said.

USSR CENSUS 1989

Detailed statistics on the USSR's population and economy from this year's nationwide census

Price 20p from:

Soviet Booklets (SN)

3 Rosary Gardens

London SW7 4NW