

Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Egyptian President

THE following is the full text of a message Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev sent to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on August 10:

His Excellency,
Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Mr President,

I consider it necessary to address you and my other colleagues – leaders of friendly Arab states, attending the emergency summit in Cairo – with the current message, because developments in the Persian Gulf are taking on an extremely dangerous and increasingly unpredictable character.

Numerous examples show that a crisis in interstate relations, unless it is immediately localised and settled, gathers momentum like a stone falling from a rocky cliff. We believe that this is how events on the eastern flank of the Arab world are developing.

As you know, from the very beginning the

Soviet Union took a clear and consistent position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We have repeatedly presented it publicly and through diplomatic channels. There is nothing anti-Iraqi in it. On the contrary, we strived to help Iraq find a way out of the situation it found itself in with minimum losses. We believe that the implementation of Security Council resolution 660 would make it possible to do this without humiliating Iraq.

Unfortunately, this path was not taken, the crisis has worsened, prompting the Saudi Arabian leadership to request the US Government to deploy US Army and aviation units in Saudi Arabia.

We, as well as, apparently, our Arab friends, are increasingly alarmed by the situation that is taking shape in the Persian Gulf. We are doing everything possible to reverse the course of events and put out the fire in the region, which is vital to many states. I believe that efforts by Arab countries could play a major role in this

common cause. Perhaps, it is the most preferable path to take. We believe that the League of Arab States, as an influential regional organisation, with considerable experience in settling inter-Arab differences, should begin active work to settle the conflict.

This is why we welcome the holding of the emergency Arab summit and hope that Arab leaders will do all they can to settle a situation that threatens order and stability in the Persian Gulf, relations between Arabs, and, without exaggeration, international peace and security.

I wish success to your summit and I am prepared to maintain constant contact with you, Mr President, and other colleagues – leaders of the Arab states – to jointly seek a chance to put out the fire in the Persian Gulf and restore peace and stability here.

Yours sincerely,

Mikhail Gorbachev
President of the USSR

USSR Foreign Ministry Statement on Gulf crisis

SOVIET Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh on August 9 read out the following statement by the USSR Foreign Ministry:

The situation in the Gulf is becoming more dramatic.

After the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops on August 2, serious events took place in the area, including the so-called 'merger' of Iraq and Kuwait, announced on August 8, and the deployment of US naval and air forces in Saudi Arabia, which Washington claims, are to protect Saudi Arabia's interests.

The tendency towards an escalation of confrontation and passions is unfortunately gathering strength.

The course of events generates concern and worry in Moscow, inasmuch as it takes place in a region where there is already a surfeit of 'explosive material' – old conflicts, long-standing resentments and mutual territorial claims.

At the same time the region is a centre of important political and economic interests of many states, including the Soviet Union.

As a result, from the very beginning of the Gulf crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion of Ku-

wait, we firmly and clearly said that the spreading fire should be extinguished as soon as possible, the situation which existed before August 2 be restored and the sides sit at the negotiating table to settle outstanding issues peacefully.

In addition to efforts within the Security Council, we were engaged in contacts with the Iraqi leadership, including the exchange of messages at the level of the Soviet and Iraqi presidents to channel events in this direction.

This exchange of views with the Iraqi side prompted hopes that matters would move towards implementing resolution 660 of the Security Council and thereby quickly defuse the crisis.

On Soviet participation in Gulf multi-national force

"AT this stage we are not considering taking part in the multinational force, the naval blockade or any other measures outside the framework of Security Council decisions," a Soviet spokesman told a news briefing in Moscow on August 9.

Asked about Soviet participation in the multinational force in the Persian Gulf, Yuri Gremitskikh said "the Soviet position is that the settlement of the situation related to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait must follow coordinated actions within the framework of the UN Security Council."

"If this organisation takes any decisions regarding the use of multinational forces, the Soviet Union will elaborate its own line of conduct, proceeding from this."

Unfortunately, we are obliged to recognise that our hopes have not been justified. Iraq has not only failed to withdraw its forces from Kuwait but yesterday declared what amounted to its annexation of the country.

It is difficult and painful to us to thus assess the latest actions by Iraq, a country with which

we are linked by long-standing and friendly relations. We would like to preserve this friendship.

But in the present situation we cannot remain silent, let alone tell lies. Our approach to this question of principle remains firm: sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity of the state of Kuwait should be fully restored and protected.

The relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council demand the same actions.

Current events in the Gulf graphically show how important it is to display wisdom and circumspection under such circumstances and to prevent actions that may pour oil on the flames.

We would like to note again that the Soviet Union opposes force and unilateral decisions. The experience of many years shows that the most correct and sensible way of acting in conflict situations is through collective efforts and the utmost use of UN mechanisms.

On a specific plane, we are for the Security Council to tackle this most urgent issue now, on a permanent basis. We are also prepared for immediate consultations within the framework of the UN Security Council's Military Staff Committee, which according to the UN Charter can perform very important functions.

Efforts by Arab countries themselves, as we see it, can play a special role to prevent the current situation in the Persian Gulf from developing into a larger-scale military conflict.

We are attentively studying reports on the Arab emergency summit meeting in Cairo. We hope that its results will become an important element of common action in view of the situation concerning Kuwait.

We would like to emphasise once again that the acuteness and the unpredictability of the current situation in the Persian Gulf area urgently require that all those directly involved in the dangerous confrontation unfolding there should show respect for the will of the international community and a sense of high responsibility for the destiny of peace. □

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Soviet President's statement on Estonia

Here follows the full text of the statement made by President Gorbachev on August 12, 1990:

THE Estonian Supreme Soviet has adopted the resolution 'On Relationship between the Estonian Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics', which affects the vital interests of the republic and the union in general. Ignoring the will of the whole of the Estonian population, the republican Supreme Soviet again made an attempt to declare invalid the Soviet Constitution, Soviet laws and the Constitution of the Estonian Republic, and announced its refusal to hold talks with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the basis of these basic legal documents.

Such anti-constitutional actions and ultimatum demands are unsound and hopeless. They mean nothing but the return to the stand that the Estonian Supreme Soviet assumed, when it adopted the resolution 'On the Statehood of Estonia' on March 30, 1990. By the presidential decree of May 14, 1990 it was declared invalid since the moment of its adoption. This decree remains in force.

In accordance with the USSR Constitution, the USSR sovereignty extends to the whole of its territory. In accordance with the law 'On the Division of Authority between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Subjects of the Federation', the defence of the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of the USSR, the protection of the whole of its state border and issues dealing with the organisation of defence fall within the exclusive competence of the union. This is why the statement of the Estonian Supreme Soviet to the effect that the presence of the Soviet troops on the territory of the republic violates its sovereignty cannot be regarded as lawful.

The main purpose of the resolution of the Estonian Supreme Soviet of August 7 is to legalise Estonia's withdrawal from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by-passing the people of the republic and the existing laws. It violates not only the constitutional foundations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but also the generally recognised international standards, specifically, the UN Charter, the Final Act of the All-European Conference and others, which reject arbitrariness in the solution of problems dealing with the territorial integrity of states and the inviolability of borders.

As is known, working groups of the USSR Supreme Soviet, of the Soviet Council of Ministers and representatives of republican supreme soviets now hold intensive consultations in Moscow. They are jointly working out a concept of the union treaty and looking for ways to create an entirely new union — a union of sovereign states. Within the framework of this process real possibilities are opening up for resolving the problem of the sovereignty of one's state on a truly democratic basis. This is a reasonable way that meets the interests of the whole of the Estonian population, and a proper way to follow.

President
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mikhail Gorbachev

Resolution on measures to establish and develop small businesses

THE transition to regulated market relations and support for the enterprising spirit call for an accelerated establishment of a network of small businesses capable of stimulating economic restructuring and contributing to the rapid saturation of the market with goods and services.

In accordance with the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution, dated June 13, 1990, "On the Concept for the Transition to a Regulated Market Economy in the USSR", the Soviet Government adopted a resolution on measures to establish and develop small businesses.

It is suggested that the USSR ministries and departments, the councils of ministers of the union and autonomous republics, render assistance to small businesses in getting established, in material and technical support, transfer, sale

Gorbachev decree on rights

A DECREE by President Mikhail Gorbachev was issued in Moscow on August 13, restoring the rights of all victims of political repressions in the 1920s-1950s.

Although the special commission to study the repressions has already rehabilitated thousands of innocent victims, many cases have not been studied.

Expressing a general condemnation of mass repressions, Gorbachev ruled to recognise, as illegal and contradicting to basic human civil,

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and leasing out free production facilities, unused machinery and equipment, mothballed or unfinished construction projects and facilities.

Small businesses are enterprises that employ up to 200 people in industry and construction, up to 100 people in science and scientific service sector, up to 50 people in other branches of the production sphere, up to 25 people in sectors of the non-productive sphere, and up to 15 people in retail trade.

Such businesses may be established in all branches of the economy on the basis of any forms of ownership including mixed ones, by citizens, family members and other persons engaged in joint work.

By state, lease-holding, collective and joint-venture enterprises, public organisations and their enterprises, co-operatives, joint-stock societies and other enterprises and organisations that are legal persons; and by state bodies authorised to manage state property.

Small joint ventures established on Soviet territory with the participation of Soviet and foreign legal persons and citizens shall be guided by legislation on joint ventures.

It is planned to elaborate and endorse before December 1, 1990, measures to render assistance to small business in the development of foreign economic activities.

It was also decided to set up a committee for supporting small-scale enterprises within the framework of the Soviet Government's state commission for economic reform.

Simultaneously with adopting this resolution, the government submitted a draft resolution "On Common Principles for the Activities of Small Businesses" to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Soviet President sets up Soviet state property fund

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev's decree "On the Establishment of the State Property Fund of the USSR" was published in Moscow on August 9.

The document notes that the transition to a market economy and the mounting process of transformation of state property into other forms poses the question of state functions in disposing of and managing state property in a new way.

The state, the document says, must create conditions for the rational utilisation and preservation of its property, and find modern forms of utilising it in the economy.

For the swift establishment of state bodies, called upon to speed up the transition to the regulated market economy, the President has decreed that a state property fund should be established. One of the primary goals of the fund is to elaborate and implement the programme of transforming state enterprise into joint-stock societies and enterprises based on other forms of ownership, while simultaneously breaking up monopolies in production.

The President entrusted the fund with protecting property rights and interests of the state, controlling its safety and effective utilisation, conducting the functions of holder of the state share of stock in joint-stock societies, carrying out measures to privatise property, evaluating the cost of state property during its leasing, selling or transforming into other forms of property, and other functions.

If need be, the fund can temporarily delegate rights to manage property, held in nationwide ownership, to other state management bodies, to set up sectoral and territorial property funds on a joint-stock basis. The USSR Council of Ministers was entrusted to draft an ordinance on the state property fund. □

Currency market

THE Soviet Government decided on August 4 to establish a currency market. The decision was prompted by preparations for the transition to a regulated market economy open for co-operation with foreign countries.

From January 1, 1991, all enterprises and organisations that are legal entities under Soviet legislation are granted the right to sell and buy foreign currency in exchange for Soviet roubles at exchange rates based on currency deals in the Soviet Union in the form of inter-bank operations, operations at currency exchanges, auctions and other forms permitted by legislation.

The decision provides for establishing an all-union currency exchange in Moscow as well as republican and regional exchanges. They will be centres for deals in foreign currency to be concluded at market exchange rates.

The USSR State Bank is charged with controlling inter-bank currency operations and operations at currency exchanges.

Together with the Finance Ministry, Vneshekonombank will also take measures to support the rouble's rate against foreign currencies.

For this purpose, the above institutions will use currency resources of the Soviet Government and the government of union republics as well as funds drawn from foreign banks.

Operations at an all-union currency exchange are to begin from January 1, 1991.

(Tass, Moscow, August 7)

Secretariat of the CPSU meets in regular session

AS perestroika develops, new problems and the politicisation of society has raised as a matter of urgency the issue of a new role for the Soviet Communist Party and its renewal, speakers at a regular meeting of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party emphasised.

They said this renewal should bring out to the maximum its potential and its ability to meet accurately and adequately the challenge of the times and to perestroika itself.

Efforts to take in the harvest were central to the meeting. Report on this issue was made by Politburo member Yegor Stroyev.

The meeting adopted a resolution, saying that Party committees should help the soviets of people's deputies, economic managers and specialists bridge the gaps in the operation of the harvesting conveyor and implement grain producer's economic interests.

The meeting also focused on the situation in the subscription to the national Party press. How it is operating today and will operate starting next year in totally new conditions, new to it, in conditions of the multi-party system, political struggle and real competition with other publications.

The meeting put emphasis on humanising Party publications. This humanisation should be effected by impartially reflecting day-to-day problems of ordinary people as well as by helping them, as Party funds permit, subscribe to newspapers and journals.

Speakers pointed out that questions of subscription should be solved democratically, with account taken of the interests of the less socially protected categories of subscribers. They advised that subscription payments be acceptable in the instalments and by credit arrangements.

IAEA mission opens office in Byelorussia

AN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission has begun its work in the city of Gomel, a regional centre in Soviet Byelorussia, just 150 kilometres from the crippled Chernobyl nuclear power station, TASS reports from Minsk on August 10.

The main task of the mission is to carry out an independent analysis of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and their impact on the population of the affected regions in Byelorussia, the Ukraine, and the Russian Federation.

"At the invitation of the Soviet Government, the tragedy's aftermath is being analysed by experts and scientists from 17 countries," Jiri Beranek, co-director of the IAEA mission, said.

"They are examining houses, farms, hospitals and facilities throughout the contaminated territory, taking soil and air samples and recording comparative data."

The mission's work is being done in five main directions, which include verifying the decisions taken by the Soviet side in eliminating the aftermath of the disaster and making a comprehensive evaluation of the medical situation.

Physicians will pay attention primarily to malignant tumours, thyroid gland disorders, anaemia, and such psychological effects as neurosis and stress.

The results of expert examination will be published at the end of the year. □

It was also decided to ask the USSR Council of Ministers to preserve the arrangement of paper distribution, in effect now, for the year 1991.

The Secretariat considered the tasks of Party committees in connection with the preparation of a new union treaty. Central Committee Secretary Andrei Girenko noted that concern over the integrity of the Soviet multi-ethnic state was heightening in society and was directly linked to the destiny of our country's peoples as well as the stability of the international situation.

It is important to secure the understanding that the rights of freedoms, the equality and welfare of the people, irrespective of their nationality, should form the basis of a new system of union relations, speakers stressed.

As a commission to prepare the draft of a new CPSU programme was formed, it was decided to start work to collect, analyse and summarise proposals received from communists, Party organisations and social scientists. This document should become the fruit of the Party's collective thought.

The meeting recognised it important to trim the apparatus of the CPSU Central Committee and also to renew it. For this purpose, it was decided to re-evaluate the qualifications of all officials in the Party Central Committee apparatus.

(Tass, Moscow, August 9)



Secretariat on international affairs

"GIVEN the current conditions in our society, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) should offer a broad vision of the contemporary

Nikolai Ryzhkov's interview with Soviet television

AS of August 7, Soviet farmers have threshed 90 million tonnes of grain, selling one third to the state, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said in an interview with Soviet television on August 10.

Commenting on President Gorbachev's decision to set up a commission to prepare a programme for the transition to a market economy, Ryzhkov said the document will not replace the government programme.

The commission will develop "the guidelines", whereas the government programme is a "detailed plan of action", he said.

Commenting on the Soviet guns-to-butter effort, the Prime Minister said that up until 1988, the country's military industrial complex produced 65 per cent military hardware and 35 per cent civil goods.

At present military plants produce equal amounts of military and civilian goods, he said.

By 1995 35 per cent of the industry's potential will be spent on military production and 65 on consumer goods, he said.

In the first seven months of this year consumer goods production in the defence industry grew by 25 per cent, according to Ryzhkov.

The Soviet Government has instituted measures to protect workers in the industry from the social consequences of conversion. The measures will be published within the next few days, Ryzhkov said. □

world, and understanding of long-term guidelines for activities by states in the world arena, and ways to solve the most important, principled problems," Gennadi Yanayev, Politburo member, in charge of international affairs, said in an interview published in *Pravda* on August 13.

Under political pluralism, the Party should be prepared to face the fact that issues of international politics will become the subject of ideological discussions and political struggle, he said.

Describing the present day international situation, Yanayev recalled that the extremely dangerous path towards a global military catastrophe had been redressed over the past few years.

At the same time, he said, "the end of the cold war does not mean that such elements as 'nuclear deterrence', the threat of force or use of force, of the arms race as an instrument of political and economic pressure have been irrevocably pushed out of international relations. During the transitional period, in which we are now, any kink of relapse is still possible and one must be prepared for them."

Yanayev also touched upon the situation in various regions of the world. He pointed out in particular that the Soviet Union and East European countries have a solid basis to develop and consistently deepen equitable and mutually beneficial contacts in diverse fields.

Speaking about German reunification, Yanayev emphasised that the integration of a reunited Germany into all-European structures, the establishment of which should be expedited, may become the most reliable guarantee of the "predictability of a unite Germany's conduct."

Yanayev resolutely rejected the American leadership's attempts to link the development of economic ties with the Soviet Union with the USSR's renunciation of the established relations with Cuba.

"The improvement of Soviet-American relations cannot occur at the expense of our relations with third countries," Yanayev said.

Soviet Deputy Prime Minister on Soviet state property fund

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev's decree on the establishment of the State Property Fund of the USSR is an important step to the creation of a real market structure and multiple forms of property, Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin said.

Speaking on the Soviet television news programme *Vremya* on August 9, Abalkin noted that the decree envisages the solution of a wide range of problems, including the elaboration and realisation of a programme of wide-scale denationalisation of property, sale of property to individuals and families and the launching of co-operatives, joint-stock companies and lease enterprises.

Abalkin said the establishment of the fund will stimulate the formation of master attitude to property, do away with the state when there is no real owner of property and allow to evaluate the cost of state property during the transition to other forms of property.

The government will work out proposals to the Soviet President on the fund's powers and will concentrate its efforts to implement the decree, he said. □

Crisis in the Gulf and the fate of small nations

By Professor Viktor Kremenyuk, Deputy Director of the Institute for US and Canadian Studies at the USSR Academy of Sciences

SO-CALLED independent "smaller countries" make up the overwhelming majority of the 160 current members of the United Nations. These are countries with a small territory, small population and modest gross national product, although sometimes their income is quite decent. As a rule, they cannot (nor do they have any intention to) maintain large armed forces, because they are not going to attack anyone. In case of aggression they pin their hopes on the support of the international community rather than their own armies.

Come to think of it, who can protect a small and militarily weak country if it does not want to become a client of a more potent nation? International law? The trouble is that it has been breached so many times by great powers and less powerful countries that one simply cannot speak of its efficiency. International organisations including the UN? But they do not have their own armed forces, their members achieve unanimity very rarely: more often than not they are paralysed by debates and discussions.

Nonetheless, there exists a "code of conduct" of sorts in international relations. Although it has no written rules, it advises members of the international community with a good measure of effectiveness to refrain from using force against smaller nations. It is widely believed that a breach of that code cannot bring success to the transgressor, at least in the foreseeable future.

Last week Iraq invaded Kuwait and occupied its territory. The government fled. A puppet

regime was installed in the country. What we see is unconcern not only for international law or the UN Charter, but also of that unwritten code which managed in some way to restrain aggressive neighbours from attacking their weaker brothers.

The Iraqi President hoped by robbing Kuwait to be able the remedy his country's fiscal standing, undermined by the long war against Iran. He also wanted to demonstrate his country's military might, sending a signal to his neighbours that they should think twice when dealing with Iraq. He makes it clear that all the conventionalities of our fragile and interconnected world mean nothing to him, he takes notice of them only when he sees that Iraq can benefit from them.

Such conduct is not surprising. What strikes one is the blithe way with which Iraq opted for a serious violation of stability in the Persian Gulf without fear of either condemnation or the future consequences of its move.

So what are smaller countries supposed to do in such a situation? What can they hope for, if their stronger neighbour decides to put his affairs in good order at their expense?

To speak of the need to give more substance to international law means to make an empty declaration. To begin with, one should evidently never watch with indifference the emergence of regional or subregional military machines, such as the one possessed by Iraq. Perhaps in the 1950s such policy was justified by the stark realities of that time. However, 30 years later it is plain that the stockpiling of weapons in individual regions (particularly, explosive regions) is counterproductive and short-sighted. It is equally plain that such a policy generates tensions and instability.

Then it is essential to give serious thought to effective ways of punishing an aggressor. The international community cannot and should not remain impartial when the very fundamentals of international peace are challenged in such a callous and demonstrative manner. However, it has to devise a means for doing so: a mechanism of sanctions, rather severe ones at that, should imminently punish the one who opts for adventuresome behaviour. Suspending arms deliveries, freezing assets and announcing a trade blockade is not all that can be done. One should think of other sanctions (right down to the expulsion from international agreements) which would deal a painful blow at an aggressor-nation and its economy.

Finally, it is essential to develop a set of guarantees of integrity and independence of smaller countries. A nation which opts for aggression should not regard their size and military weakness as an invitation to improve its own affairs at the expense of its weaker neighbours. The matter at hand is a delicate aspect: the international community (its atmosphere and spirit is determined by the great powers) simply must take care of its weaker members.

Everyone agrees that the time for reckless aggression in international affairs is past and will never return. The great powers had the greatest difficulty becoming reconciled with that idea. But they, too, seem to have learnt the lesson that, while force can accomplish many things, it cannot ensure order, it is always counterproductive to use force, no matter what benefits there seem to be at first sight, force should be used only for self-defence. It is time to demonstrate that this lesson has not been lost on the international community and that it can communicate this lesson to all of its members. □

The 20th anniversary of the USSR-FRG Treaty

By Vladimir Rodin, TASS news analyst:

THE treaty between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany was concluded 20 years ago, on August 12, 1970. It went down in history as the Moscow Treaty.

The treaty was signed at the height of the cold war between the East and West. The conclusion of the treaty signified a decisive turn from confrontation to peaceful, mutually beneficial co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic.

It marked the beginning of the settlement of major issues – the legacy of the Second World War – at the negotiating table, in many respects promoted the normalisation of the situation in Europe, and opened the way for the development of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) process which has substantially changed our continent.

At the same time the Moscow Treaty contributed to strengthening the Federal Republic's international prestige and enabled the country's government to start normalising relations with the German Democratic Republic.

Millions of Germans on both sides of the border between the FRG and the GDR had an opportunity to see one another for the first time after decades of separation.

The Moscow Treaty, the treaty on the basic

principles of relations between the FRG and the GDR, and the four-power agreement on West Berlin added a touch of humaneness to foreign policy.

The West did not conceal its surprise at the high degree of mutual understanding reached between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic on issues of German reunification within a relatively short period of time.

The recent accords reached in Moscow and Arkhyz crowned the 20-years-long advance of the peoples of our two countries towards each other. This was not a smooth ride along a modern autobahn. There were ups and downs and crises in our relations with the Federal Republic. But there was no alternative. The Soviet people covered half the distance, the Germans the other half.

The current phase of rapprochement between the Soviet Union and the two German states is arousing concern in Europe. The argument is that when Russia and Germany warm toward each other, their neighbours begin to feel cold.

I think the misgivings are unwarranted. First, the Soviet Union and its German partners are not acting in isolation. They are coordinating their steps in the West and East.

Second, co-operation between the Soviet Union and a reunited Germany pursues lofty,

humane goals. This is not a division of the spheres of influence on the European continent. Efforts are aimed at overcoming the division of Europe and building a common European home and new European security structures.

Third, the Soviet Union and the two German states are drafting treaties and agreements, to be signed with a reunited Germany, openly, in the atmosphere of glasnost. There are no secret protocols to these treaties.

Fourthly, the Soviet Union and a reunited Germany will adhere to the idea of parliamentary democracy. In line with new political thinking, the foreign policy of the Soviet Union has been placed under the people's scrutiny. This is a guarantee of the predictability of our foreign policy course towards peace and co-operation.

The Moscow Treaty and the ideas inherent in it retain their importance and topicality today. □

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American SDI and the ABM Treaty

By Vladimir Chernyushov, TASS military writer:

STRATEGIC Defence Initiative organisation director Henry Cooper has called for modernising and actually revising the Soviet-US Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM).

Why did Cooper need to make statements in this vein?

In its work on SDI, which envisages building a large-scale anti-missile system, the Pentagon seems to have approached the point when the planned tests of weapons will constitute a direct violation of the ABM Treaty. This treaty begins seriously to stand in the way of the US Defense Department.

At the same time, it is obvious that the SDI programme found itself on the threshold. Disputes about the programme in the United States have assumed a political nature.

Recent events such as sweeping changes in the Soviet Union and in the Warsaw Treaty Organisation as a whole, the erosion of the enemy image and the reality of reaching an agreement on drastic reductions in strategic offensive armaments at the Soviet-US talks in Geneva are crossing out any reasons for building strategic defence systems.

The popularity of SDI among Americans has nosedived. The attitude to this programme at the US Congress has also become more critical. It is increasingly difficult for the Pentagon to push through appropriations for the project.

The KGB is under presidential control, says chief

THE Soviet KGB security service is now controlled by the President, his council and the parliament, KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov told Soviet television on August 10.

The Communist Party has given up its grip on the KGB following the repudiation of article 6 of the Soviet Constitution, Kryuchkov said.

The KGB has not abolished Communist Party organisations, he said. "However, things are developing, and I do not want to look too far into the future."

The Soviet Union plans to increase the num-

ber of its border guards, he said. Small wonder, in these conditions Cooper is out to find some new reasons for keeping work within the SDI framework going and for revising the ABM Treaty. But they look, to put it mildly, unconvincing.

Take, for instance, the argument that technical advances made during the development of the SDI systems will give the United States an extra trump card at talks with the USSR. But talks from the position of strength can hardly be productive today. This approach can only hamper the elaboration of mutually acceptable solutions.

Another argument by Cooper sounds even more surprising. According to him, changing the ABM Treaty is allegedly one area of the common interests of the United States and the USSR in the context of the talks. The head of the American programme is sure to know well the Soviet Union's stance.

The USSR firmly believes that the understandings regarding the role of the ABM Treaty, elaborated by Washington and Moscow in 1972, remain in force.

This treaty continues to preserve its importance as the basis of maintaining strategic stability, the mandatory condition for implementing accords to reduce strategic offensive armaments.

Preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty rather than revising it is in the interests of both the USSR and the United States. If one of the sides moves to violate the treaty, this could jeopardise the supreme interests of the other side and would give it the right to withdraw from a treaty on strategic offensive armaments. □

Slowdown in strategic arms reduction talks

IS IT possible to finalise the elaboration of a Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the Soviet Union and the United States by the end of this year?

After the Soviet-US summit in Washington it seemed that a solid foundation for the treaty had been laid. A number of complex problems that hindered the attainment of accord were resolved during the summit. At the time all that seemed to remain was the co-ordination of technicalities, a situation delegations in Geneva could easily resolve.

However, developments at the Geneva talks over recent weeks do not confirm this point of view. Work has practically ground to a halt due to differences on more than ten points.

The US side demands larger cuts in Soviet heavy missiles than was agreed upon previously and on limitations on Soviet Backfire bombers.

In addition, Washington's attempts to sever the connection between strategic offensive arms reduction and the observance of the ABM Treaty may become a serious hindrance at the talks.

The sides failed to agree on such issues as the possible use of nuclear warheads from dismantled strategic weapons, the transfer of US armaments and military technologies to Britain, and measures to verify the observance of a future agreement.

Why did the decade-old debate suddenly gain new life at a time when the basic outlines of a new treaty have been formulated and virtually endorsed by President Gorbachev and President Bush?

Perhaps Washington's position has been influenced by those American circles that are interested in dragging out the finalisation of the treaty or "burying" it altogether.

There are more and more frequent calls in the United States, urging the administration "to raise the stakes" and seek changes in the already defined accord, changes that would set greater limitations on Soviet missiles.

To follow this "advice" would mean to begin everything anew and to lose everything positive that has been achieved over many years through the efforts of the two sides.

The talks will not end upon the signing of the first treaty. The United States has already agreed with the Soviet proposals to begin to discuss the possibility of elaborating a second treaty in order to give continuity to the nuclear arms reduction process.

The first treaty should be completed as soon as possible. Let it be a modest step, but it should make it possible to curb unlimited rivalry in the strategic field.

If Washington displays genuine interest in further cuts, it will have the opportunity to suggest them at subsequent talks. Moscow would fully support such an approach. □

Pages of History

THE TURNING POINT

by Otto Laciš

When farmers lease plots of land in abandoned villages today, the state of desolation they find there is amazing. Those villages are found in areas that were occupied by the enemy during the war and also regions that the enemy did not reach. The desolation and neglect have nothing to do with the war. They were caused by the Great Turn imposed on the nation by Stalin - the turn that crushed the peasants' initiative, diligence and desire to work.

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er of its border guards, he said.

The number of KGB officers can only be revealed after a corresponding political decision, Kryuchkov said.

"We do not plan a reduction, but rather a redistribution of our forces in order to pay more attention to organised crime," he said.

Commenting on the drug problem, Kryuchkov revealed that Soviet drug operations amount to 15 billion roubles.

Currently, there are 90,000 informal organisations in the Soviet Union, compared to just 60,000 last year. Ninety-eight per cent are "constructive", and only a few dozen are malicious, he said.

He admitted that there are several Zionist groups in the country, but they are "not hostile".

Asked about Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB general who was stripped of his rank and pension after lashing out at his former employers in public, Kryuchkov said: "We were guided more by his breach of the law than official KGB regulations."

The television programme Who is Who also included an interview with Presidential Council member Stanislav Shatalin, a convinced social-democrat, appointed five days previously by President Gorbachev to a team of Soviet economists who will prepare measures for the transition to a market economy.

Shatalin called for the restoration of private property and a shift to a free market, saying that without this "our philosophy for social plunder and levelling will lead us all into a mass grave."

The market will "hit the shadow economy and all perversions prompted by the absence of a real economic system" rather than the ordinary man, Shatalin said. □

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The Soviet public's attitude to planned changes in price policy

THE USSR State Committee for Statistics polled around 30,000 Soviet citizens from different walks of life in June and July to find out their attitude to expected changes in the prices of commodities and services in connection with the transition to regulated market relations.

The results of the poll are commented by V. Kirichenko, Chairman of the Committee.

The poll has shown that the majority of Soviet citizens are against proposed changes in retail state prices. It is expected that under market conditions the prices of most of the commodities and services will be conditioned by demand. A mere 10 per cent of the respondents came out for this, 40 per cent against and more than 30 per cent partially for and partially against such a policy. Seventeen per cent were undecided. The regional distribution of the answers is rather interesting. A negative attitude was displayed by only 11 per cent in Estonia, between 44 and 57 per cent in Azerbaijan, Turkmenia and Tajikistan and 36 per cent in Uzbekistan, with the latter percentage being below the country's average.

Why such a generally negative reaction? I think that is explained, first and foremost, by the dissatisfaction of people with their material situation, the growing uncertainty about the future and the fear that the transition to a market economy may worsen the material situation of their families. Seven out of ten respondents set forth these considerations. This, in turn, is explained by the fact that the number of people who are poorly protected socially is quite big. According to the estimates of the State Committee for Statistics, 41 million people have incomes below subsistence level at the prices of state and co-operative trade (81 roubles in 1989). Taking into account the prices of the collective farm market, the number of people with incomes below subsistence level was 52 million in 1988 and 50.5 in 1989.

Most of the low-income groups of the population are families with many children. Their percentage increased from 46 in 1980 to 63 in 1989. The second largest section of the low-income groups of the population are old-age and disability pensioners, followed by a considerable number of young families. The share of low-income couples in the category of young families is 1.5 times higher than the country's average. Most of the low-income earners live in Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan – around 60 per cent of the population with a monthly income of up to 75 roubles per persons.

A delay in the implementation of the price reform contributes to such a sharp negative reaction of the public to the proposed increases in state retail prices. However, a more specific posing of questions on the attitude to prices reveals that many people do not flatly reject the idea of increasing prices. But they set forth certain conditions for price increases. More than half of the respondents believe that it is necessary to change the prices of some food products. Six in ten respondents gave a positive and only 31 per cent a negative answer to the question whether they would agree to pay more for food products on condition that quality products were always available in a great variety. True, the majority of the respondents would accept only a moderate rise in food prices. In Uzbekistan, Estonia and Latvia, seven in ten respondents did not object to a moderate price increase.

The price of bread is a special question. A considerable, though not predominant, part of the respondents – 40 per cent across the Soviet Union – came out for the preservation of stable low prices. Corresponding percentages were: 36 in the Russian Federation; something close to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan; and between 56 and 60 per cent in Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Kirghizia and Azerbaijan.

Upwards of a third of the respondents expressed the opinion that the retail prices of some non-food commodities and services need adjustments, while 60 per cent were against price increases. Thus, a bigger number of people are prepared to accept an increase in food prices than non-food products and services. Fifty-three per cent of the respondents are for the coupon based rationing system in the supply of a limited number of food products and commodities that are sold on low state prices.

So, in spite of the general apprehension of possible changes, a considerable part of the public does not exclude the need to increase the prices of some food products, commodities and services, provided the price rise is quite moderate and products and commodities are available.

The results of other sociological studies give ground to assume that for many moderation in increasing prices also means a gradual implementation of the reform. A one-off large-scale price increase is seen as an excessive economic burden on the family.

Many are also shocked by the behind-closed-doors method of elaborating such tangible changes in the economic policy and the economic method, as well as the absence of alternative solutions to the price problem. For the public not to reject the proposed reform, there should be openness in the elaboration and adoption of decisions complete with the consideration of different options. This is all the more important when variants of social protection for different groups of the population are considered. When public sentiments are stirred up as now, a one variant solution can be seen as an attempt to corner the people, which only makes them even more suspicious of the authorities and their activities. It would be far more preferable to offer a gamut of variants of the price policy, showing the plus and minus of each and explaining the meaning of social protection measures.

There is one factor of an economic nature which is understood by people, helping them to realise the need for a price reform. It is the need to improve the situation on the consumer market, overcome shortages and guarantee the supply of necessary commodities.

It should be borne in mind that the results of this opinion poll reflect the very first reaction to a price reform as a component of transition to a

regulated market. Judging by everything, the public has not yet been able to appreciate the measures for the social protection of the population proposed by the government and the possibility of improving labour efficiency and thereby getting higher wages.

A comprehensive elaboration of measures for the social protection of the public, the broad explanation of their meaning and their consistent implementation can influence the attitude of the public to questions of pricing. It is necessary to elaborate more thoroughly economic, rather than merely administrative, methods that would check the striving of enterprises and businessmen from increasing prices and stimulate them to make bigger profits by boosting output, improving the quality of products and enlarging their variety. A special temporary tax on profit obtained in excess of a certain average norm of profitability could be helpful in this respect. I think that the "braking systems" in the field of economic, rather than administrative pricing for the transition period to the market have not been sufficiently elaborated thus far.

By and large, the Soviet public recognises the need for the further deepening of the economic reform by creating a regulated national market. But the majority of people do not yet understand that such a market is impossible with the present structure and correlation of prices. The present prices were formed under the command-style bureaucratic system, when commodity-money relations manifested themselves only formally, the cost proportions of exchanges between individual links of the economy were upset, and an arbitrary distribution of financial resources and a complicated system of subsidies and individual economic normatives prevailed. The disruption of economic ties between wholesale and retail prices is one of the most serious faults of this system. Such ties are restored through subsidies. The food subsidies are estimated at 96,000 million roubles, which is a very heavy burden on the state budget (a fifth of all expenditures). It is impossible to recognise the market and turn a blind eye to such disproportions – these are mutually dependent problems.

It is impossible to transfer republics and regions to self-financing, implement the principle of equitable exchanges between the town and the countryside and demand that there should be an equilibrium between cash incomes and spending without a price reform and a regulated market mechanism of pricing.

Streamlining the pricing policy is essential for normalising the economy and converting to a new economic system. But in so doing, it is necessary to consider various options concerning the essence of the price reform, its stages and deadline as well as ways of linking measures taken in the field of pricing with the entire package of measures and conditions that are needed to create a regulated market economy.

(Pravitelstvenny Vestnik (Government Herald) No. 29. In full.)

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Chemical weapons: destruction formula

Colonel-General Petrov, USSR Defence Ministry Chemical Troops Commander, looks at the issue of chemical weapons destruction:

MODERN chemical weapons rely on the latest scientific and technical achievements. Considering the high toxicity of the substances, destruction of such weapons is no less problematic than their development. This problem cannot possibly be resolved without preliminary technological research and thorough designing.

In our country, the USSR defence and chemical-industry ministries as long ago as the early 70s carried out the required R&D work to devise the destruction technologies for chemical weapons and on its basis to create commercial environmentally-friendly plants. At the first stage, it was only possible to destroy individual unserviceable charges, preventing to a great extent possible chemical weapon-storing emergencies.

As a result of this effort in the 70s-80s, a mobile war-gas destruction complex was created. The USSR Defence Ministry has the necessary number of such complexes for safe keeping of war-gas stocks. But, for both ecological and technical reasons, they cannot be used for large-scale destruction of chemical weapons. Besides, ten such plants working for 100 days annually would not be able to dispose of all the war-gas reserves in 150 years. As many as 500 such plants would be needed to do the job in the acceptable seven to eight years. Purchasing them would cost nearly as much as the full-scale stationary equipment.

The study carried out in the 70s and the later-acquired practical experience made it possible in the mid-80s to design and build in the shortest possible time our first chemical weapon-destruction plant in the vicinity of Chapayevsk in Kuibyshev Region. It embodies the latest per-

(continued from page 270)

social and economic rights, repressions against peasants in the period of collectivisation, as well as against all other citizens for political, social, ethnic, religious and other reasons in the 1920s-1950s, and to fully restore the rights of these citizens.

The decree instructs the governments of the USSR and republics to submit, before October 1, 1990, proposals to legislatures on restoring the rights of repressed citizens.

The decree does not cover those who were convicted for crimes against the homeland and Soviet people during the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945, in the pre-war and post-war years.

Supervision over the restoration of the rights of citizens illegally subjected to repressions in the 1920s-1950s is vested with the USSR Presidential Council. □

EVGENI CHAZOV
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sonnel – and environmental-safety technological achievements. In 1989, its construction was completed and comprehensive equipment tests staged with the use of inert atmosphere. But, regional social tensions, owing not so much to this project as to the years of neglect for environmental protection on the part of local industries, prevented thorough equipment tests involving the real medium. On public insistence, the USSR Council of Ministers decided to convert this project into a training centre. All conversion work had been projected for completion in 1992. Of course, this decision has created major problems for implementing the plans of chemical weapons destruction.

Simultaneously, considering the positive foreign-policy developments and successes at the Geneva talks on chemical weapon ban, the government took the decision to scientifically substantiate the programme of action in the field of disarmament – development of the draft State Programme for Chemical Weapon Destruction in the USSR. The study has been completed and last March the draft was submitted for discussion by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The site-finding methods for chemical weapon-destruction plants, developed in the process of this study, is based on the following principles.

Siting of such projects and implementation of the entire destruction process must not trigger socio-political complications in the region. Chemical weapon-destruction process must be safe for both the population and environment. Choice of the routes for chemical weapons transportation and its control and monitoring, as well as the technological and organisational steps must be aimed towards lowering the emergency risks in transportation to the minimum.

An emergency system must be developed and put to use for containing and rapid elimination of possible accident effects, including the unexpected.

In the development of proposals on priority siting of chemical weapon-destruction plants, full account was taken of the IAEA demands for the siting of nuclear power plants, as well as of Soviet and world experience of siting super dangerous facilities.

The national territory was comprehensively studied for siting. This work was done with the involvement of experts, including specialists in the field of economy, ecology, law, sociology, transport, technology, chemical weapons and capital construction, as well as Party and public figures and statesmen. The study has shown that, with the present level of science and technology, such projects may in principle be built very close to populated places, provided all steps for protecting people and the environment are taken. Meanwhile, the Chapayevsk experience and this study show that there exists so-called "radius of psychological safety" determined by the population's negative reaction to a potentially dangerous neighbour.

Expert polls show that it is inadmissible to site chemical weapon-destruction facilities in areas of high social and political tension and ecological disasters, of intensive farming, dense population, those prone to natural disasters and with a harsh climate. Besides, experts determined the "psychological-safety radius" of the population's reaction. The study showed that this radius is appreciably broader than that of ecological and emergency safety. Bearing this in mind, optimal siting relies on not only on the economic factors, but above all on the demands of population and environmental security, psychological and socio-political factors.

This does not mean technical and economic

indices were neglected. They certainly must be taken into account, but priority in siting obviously should go to the ensurance of weapon-destruction safety. Moreover, in siting the risk of unexpected accidents (as a result of subversion or an aircraft crashing on the facility, and so on) was a factor. Safe distances from populated places were fixed proceeding from the possible toxic substances spread depths in unexpected accidents.

Such a comprehensive approach made it possible to pick out siting possibilities on this country's territory. The draft state programme envisages several versions. In the opinion of the USSR Defence Ministry, it is most expedient to create one or two chemical weapon-destruction facilities in sparsely populated areas to ensure clean operation and safety for the population and environment. Actually, the USSR Supreme Soviet will have the final say in this matter. The draft state programme also envisages holding state and ecological examinations at the end of the designing stage before construction starts.

It must also be remembered that before they are destroyed the chemical weapons have to be transported. To ensure transportation safety the railways have to be overhauled and strengthened, special containers created and special trains formed. In the process of transportation, other precautions are to be taken too. For example, the proposed routes shall not pass through major populated areas.

At the Malta meeting presidents Gorbachev and Bush agreed in principle to develop bilateral Soviet-US treaty on the destruction and non-production of chemical weapons and on steps to promote multilateral convention banning chemical weapons.

Such an agreement was signed in Washington on June 1. The signatories will begin to destroy their toxic agents not later than December 31, 1992 and at least 50 per cent of their reserves will be eliminated before December 31, 1999. After December 31, 2002, the remaining war-gas stocks will not be more than 5,000 tons.

Thus, a specific political decision has been taken. It is aimed at large-scale destruction of chemical-weapon reserves in the USSR, which will require above all appropriate production capacities. This is provided for in the state programme, submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet. This programme implies building special projects to meet the rate of and deadlines special projects to meet the rate of and deadlines for destroying chemical weapons.

*(Pravitelstvenny Vestnik
 (Government Herald),
 No. 29. In full.)*

**"THE WORLD
 HAS BECOME
 A SAFER PLACE"**

by
Eduard Shevardnadze

"The foreign policy initiatives of the Soviet Union are dictated by the interests of the people and conform to the ideals and principles of a socialist society," declared member of the Politbureau of the CC CPSU, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

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Russia declares control over its natural resources

THE concluding by union institution of foreign economic deals without their co-ordination with Russia will be regarded as actions encroaching upon the economic basis of the republic's sovereignty and will be considered a crime against the state, Sergei Shakh-ray, Chairman of the Legislation Committee of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has said in an *Izvestia* interview.

Responding to the question about the significance of the resolution "On Protecting the Economic Basis of the Sovereignty of the Russian Federation", adopted recently by the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, he pointed out that the main reason for its adoption was the actions of union institutions which do not seem to have noticed the adoption of the declaration on Russia's sovereignty at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies.

"Major deals were concluded recently with foreign partners for selling to them goods and natural resources, which actually constitute the economic basis of Russia's sovereignty. It is especially important that the deals were concluded without consulting the relevant republican authorities," he said.

Ryzhkov meets coal industry managers

SOVIET Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov on August 13 met managers of production associations, plants, factories and institutes of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, representing the majority of coal-mining regions of the country.

Speakers pointed out that economic democratisation and transition to market relations should not destroy the integrity of one of the country's mainstays – the coal industry.

Given its specifics, coal mining practically throughout the world is supported by the state. The attainment of scientific, technological, production and social goals depends to a large extent on the pooling of efforts of enterprises of the branch, on the capable combination of their

Shakh-ray recalled in this connection a major deal for the export of diamonds and the selling within a few weeks by the Soviet Union of one billion dollars worth of gold, platinum and precious stones.

According to Shakh-ray, such actions undermine the economic basis of Russia's sovereignty. This is why the resolution of the Presidium says that foreign economic and union-republican deals for the exports of diamonds, gold, platinum, precious stones, oil, gas, coal, uranium, rare minerals, non-ferrous and ferrous metals, furs, timber, grain and other strategic resources, concluded after the adoption of the sovereignty declaration without consulting the Russian Federation, will be considered invalid.

The republican government has been assigned the task of reviewing all deals involving the above-mentioned goods and inform foreign missions and organisations that all such deals, concluded without the participation of the Russian Federation, are invalid.

"This does not mean that we wish to block all foreign trade deals," Shakh-ray stressed. "The deals should be mutually advantageous and should be co-ordinated with our republic, the rightful owner of its resources."

In order to become law, the resolution must be approved by the next session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which opens on September 3. □ (Moscow, August 12)

economic independence with the interests of relevant regions and the economy on the whole.

Changes in price formation in the coal industry, crucial for further development of the industry and its transition to the market, were discussed in detail.

It was stressed that the preservation of unity of the fuel and energy complex, including the coal industry, which enjoys the support of the state, meets the interests of mining labour collectives in the conditions of transition to the market and must be closely geared to the social and economic requirements of the country.

In conclusion Ryzhkov stressed the need to pay much attention to all issues of the development of the coal industry as the basic branch of the economy and gradual solution of social problems that cause tensions in labour collectives. □

Soviet Interior Minister on President's decree

SOVIET Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin said on August 13 that the extension of the implementation of the President Mikhail Gorbachev's decree ordering the disbanding of illegal armed units and the turning in of illegally possessed arms, should not be assessed as a concession or a sign of weakness.

In an interview broadcast by Soviet television, Bakatin said the decree "was welcomed in the majority of republics." At the same time, republics asked to extend the decree's action because of its very issue, he said.

The extension of the decree "does not mean that there should be some recession in the realisation of the decree, that remains in force," Bakatin said.

The minister said it is necessary to resolve several important problems, including the need

to invigorate the activities of the criminal investigation department, intensify control over all enterprises, possessing, producing or having opportunities to produce arms, in order to eliminate their theft.

Bakatin said another important task was to establish control over multiple public formations that have been instituted to render assistance to law-enforcement bodies, and ensure that they do not obtain arms.

It is important that those forces "that are interested in increasing tension" get no opportunity to misuse the President's move. The task remains to disband illegal armed units, but at the same time, the authorities are trying to do this by peaceful means, with the hope of avoiding any further bloodshed, Bakatin said. □

Foreign Ministry briefing on situation in the Gulf

A SOVIET Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed scepticism that the terms for the Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait, laid out in President Saddam Hussein's recent statement, will soon be met.

Hussein is known to have tied his troop withdrawal to the pull-out of Syrian troops from Lebanon and the Israelis from the occupied territories.

At a briefing in Moscow on August 14, Yuri Gremitskikh said: "In any case, it is obvious that these terms cannot be implemented at one go."

He said that a special interdepartmental working group has been established here to deal with the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Kuwait and Iraq. The group was set up on the instruction of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Gremitskikh told journalists that "the Soviet Union continues its contacts with Iraq to convince it at various levels, including at top level, that the actions taken by Iraq are futile and that it should pull out its troops."

Asked about the alleged co-operation between the USSR and the United States in exchanging information about weapons in service with the Iraqi Army and facilities in Iraq, Gremitskikh said: "Our contacts with Americans have not gone this far."

On the growing US military presence in the area, Gremitskikh said: "The United States takes a responsible decision by sending some or other contingents or some or other consignments of armaments. It is important that it does not overstep the sensible limit which is necessary to ensure Saudi Arabia's adequate defence."

Gremitskikh denied reports in the Western mass media that Colonel-General Albert Makashev had been appointed head of Soviet military advisers in Iraq.

General Makashev, head of the Privolzhsko-Uralsky military district, gained notoriety after his speech at the constituent Congress of the Russian Communist Party. The speech was described as a forthright attack on perestroika by the conservative wing of the Party.

On progress at the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe, Gremitskikh said that the parties to the talks have already reached agreement on more than one third of the future treaty, over half of the protocol on inspections and many parts of other documents. The delegations had also reached an important accord on tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

Gremitskikh informed journalists that West German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will arrive in Moscow on Thursday, August 16.

On August 17, Genscher will hold talks with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze. □

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