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Mikhail Gorbachyov receive Hans-Dietrich Genscher

MOSCOW, July 21, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Deputy Federal Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, in the Kremlin today. Hans-Dietrich Genscher handed over to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee a message from Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The sides discussed a broad range of questions concerning the international situation, above all the European situation, as well as bilateral

A goodwill exchange of views and frank discussion revealed the shared understanding that the world situation remained disquieting, that no changes had occurred so far at the talks on nuclear armaments that would allow one to speak of a reduction in the threat of war, that it was necessary to maintain a truly constructive, effective dialogue between West and East, that the existing treaties, above all SALT and ABM. should be observed, and that the forthcoming all-European forums and other talks were called upon to help establish the structure of stable inter-state interaction and co-operation.

The sides reaffirmed their states' commitment to the 1970 Moscow Treaty and the Helsinki Final Act, which were put at the basis of Soviet-West German relations and their participation in the all-European process.

Continuing that process called for equal attention to all aspects: political, military, economic, cultural and humanitarian.

Mikhail Gorbachyov observed that in the current situation in the world, in Europe and in bilateral relations between the FRG and the USSR, this meeting and Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit exceeded the conventional framework. The world was at the crossroads now, and what path it would take largely depended on Europe's political stance.

Mikhail Gorbachyov stressed the mutual responsibility of such states as the USSR and the FRG for building a "European home"—taking due account of the lessons of history, their position and real weight in Europe and the world at large, while preserving, naturally, loyalty to their military-political alliances.

"In advancing to the foreground the question of co-operation among the Europeans, we proceed from the premise that disrupting the existing political and territorial set-up in Europe

the situation.

"Remaining what it is, however, Europe can and should make its contribution to shaping new political thinking, to resolving problems of importance for all of mankind, and to improving the overall situation.

That contribution is especially valuable since it would be an outcome of the concerted efforts by states of different systems, would be based on the vast political experience, the economic, scientific, technical and other potentialities of the Europeans."

Taking note of the peaceful statements by the representatives of the FRG, Gorbachyov pointed to manifestations of inconsistency in its policy.

Declarations in favour of a responsible attitude to the present-day world and the FRG's role did not tally with the practical support for the US Administration's bellicose course, for the American "intermediate" option that provided for the preservation of part of the medium-range missiles in Europe, with participation in the SDI programme and the passive attitude to the potentialities of disarmament that were opened by the far-reaching Soviet initiatives.

It was in the interests of the FRG itself to

conduct an active policy on disarmament issues, and if it was translated into practical steps, the FRG would find in the person of the USSR a reliable partner.

The most convincing evidence of the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions was offered by its plans for domestic transformation directed at tapping the entire huge potential of Soviet society.

The USSR was prepared to co-operate at this very important stage of its development with the FRG in the economic sphere as well, including in new forms of interaction that could be jointly discussed.

The material base of political dialogue, mutual interest and trust would thus be strengthened, and the establishment of civilised relations beneficial for the whole of Europe would be more successful.

The meeting was attended by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, Yuli Kvitsinsky, the USSR's Ambassador to the FRG, Gerold von Braunmuehl, head of the political department of the FRG's Foreign Ministry, and Hans Joerg Kastl, the FRG's Ambassador to the USSR.

Eduard Shevardnadze's London press conference

LONDON, July 16, TASS:

SHEVARDNADZE. EDUARD member of the Political Bureau of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, has held a press conference here today. He made the following statement:

"On the whole, we are satisfied with the results of the talks.

"We have handed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher a message from the General Secretary the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, and we are pleased that she has accepted the invitation to visit Moscow. We have extended a similar invitation to Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, who has also given his consent.

"So, as you can see, the Soviet-British dialogue is to continue. This is an encouraging fact. As regards our two-day talks, I would like to speak of the practical results achieved.

'For the first time in 10 years we have signed three major agreements, including an agreement in the military field. I hope the agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea will presage other fundamental agreements between our two countries and between the other countries of the East and the West to preclude a nuclear conflict, the most horrible incident that could end all life on Earth. To prevent this, we must create effective guarantees of international security.

"This is the main goal in our dialogue with Britain, in the talks that have been held already and in the negotiations that will be held in the future. Spelling out our positions on this crucial problem of our time, we took into consideration that we were dealing with a big power which has a nuclear arsenal and substantial armed forces in Europe. We consider Britain an equal partner and believe that it is difficult to solve in a radical way the problem of limiting and reducing armaments without co-operating with it.

"That is why negotiating here, we devoted much time to explaining the Soviet concept of ensuring international security in the nuclear and space age. Formulated in the policy report presented by Mikhail Gorbachyov to the 27th Soviet Communist Party Congress, this concept reflects the fundamental principles of the philosophy of peace, which proclaims political efforts as the only possible means of warding off the threat of war. We believe that a comprehensive system of international security can and must work through ever growing emphasis on political, economic and humanitarian measures and the complete renunciation of the use of force and the prohibition and physical destruction of nuclear, chemical and space weapons.

"Naturally, the differences of approach and assessment that exist between our two countries were bound to make themselves felt in the talks. But there is nothing surprising about this, and we are not overdramatising it. Moreover, we see the exchange of opinions on problems in dispute as most useful. No less important has been the very tone of the discussions, which was most tactful and indicating a desire to get a clear idea of the partner's position and to be quite frank with him.

"We note the realism and sensible approach of the British side which has declared itself in no uncertain terms for the observance of the existing Soviet-American SALT-1, SALT-2 and ABM Treaties and for progress at the Geneva nuclear

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Mikhail Gorbachyov receives Edward Turner

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received today Robert Edward Turner, one of the initiators of the Goodwill Games that are now taking place in Moscow and owner of the American TBS television company.

At crucial, responsible moments for the world, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Robert Edward Turner noted, various initiatives promoting mutual understanding and trust, helping to lessen and remove suspicion in relations between nations and states, are important. And the Goodwill Games are exactly such an initiative.

Mikhail Gorbachyov replied to Mr Turner's questions about the state of Soviet-American relations and the international situation as a whole. "In the nuclear age, in conditions of the mounting ecological and other threats," he said, "only that approach to international problems can be considered acceptable and realistic that recognises the right of every country to solve its

internal affairs itself, rules out the use of force and displays patience, tolerance and respect for everybody's lawful interests."

Taking part in the conversation, which passed in a lively and well-wishing atmosphere, were Academician Georgi Arbatov and Marat Gramov, the Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport.

Mikhail Gorbachyov meets sportsmen

MOSCOW, July 21, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting with Soviet's portsmen, who included the winners and other medallists of the Goodwill Games, in the Kremlin today.

In his statement of greeting there he said that the Goodwill Games had become a major event in the socio-political life of the USSR and the world sports movement. They would occupy a special place in the international sporting calendar, since the birth of the games had epitomised the call of the times and the goodwill of nations wishing to live in peace and accord. The initiatives of sports organisations, business circles and the public of the USSR and the United States to hold the Goodwill Games had fully justified itself and won solid backing in many countries.

Mikhail Gorbachyov pointed out that the games marked another step towards stronger trust and better mutual understanding among nations, and provided an example of cooperation and international unity among the young on a peaceful democratic basis.

Mikhail Gorbachyov congratulated the Soviet sportsmen on their successful performances at the games, wished them further sporting successes and thanked them for the hospitality and warmth shown towards the foreign sportsmen.

Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting on July 17 heard Nikolai Ryzhkov's account of the visit of a Soviet Party and Government delegation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to attend the funeral of Le Duan, and of the delegation's conversations with the Party and state leadership of Vietnam and the leaders of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The Political Bureau reiterated the CPSU's continuous strategic course of developing and expanding in every way co-operation with the fraternal parties and further strengthening friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

The Political Bureau considered Yuri Solovyov's account of the visit of a Soviet Party and Government delegation to the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to attend the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and People's Korea, and his account of their conversations with Kim I Sung and other Korean leaders, in the course of which the striving of both parties and countries for the further strengthening of friendly contacts and co-operation had been reiterated.

Also discussed by the Political Bureau was Eduard Shevardnadze's account of the results of his official visit to Britain. It noted that the talks of the Soviet Foreign Minister with the British Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, his conversations with the leaders of political parties

Mikhail Gorbachyov receives Richard Nixon

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

Today Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received the former president of the United States Richard Nixon at the latter's request.

Matters of Soviet-US relations were discussed in a detailed and frank conversation.

Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was present during the meeting.

and also the Soviet-British agreements that had been signed constituted an important step in the continuation of the political dialogue between the two countries; and they were an important step in developing their mutually beneficial relations and co-operation in the areas in which the sides had points of contacts and a common interest in lowering international tension and strengthening peace.

The Political Bureau heard a report from Vladimir Kabaidze, general director of the joint Soviet-Bulgarian research and production amalgamation engaged in developing and producing manufacturing centres and flexible production modules and systems, on the practice of work of that amalgamation. The Political Bureau stressed that direct contacts, a bold transition to extensive co-production and close scientific and technological co-operation between the industries of fraternal countries, and socialist enterprise were providing broad opportunities for cutting development schedules and introducing advanced equipment.

The relevant Soviet ministries and departments were instructed to take proper measures to expand further that advanced form of co-operation, which meets the interests of the Soviet Union and Bulgaria and the other CMEA member-countries, and helps accelerate socialist economic integration.

The meeting considered and in the main

YCL Central Committee plenum

MOSCOW, July 19, TASS:

A PLENARY meeting of the Central Committee of the USSR Young Communist League (YCL) held today discussed the results of the June 1986 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee and the tasks facing the YCL in connection with the realisation of the socioeconomic policy of the Party.

The plenary meeting discussed the following organising problem: in connection with the election of Viktor Mishin to the post of Secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions he was relieved of the duties of First Secretary of the YCL Central Committee.

Viktor Mironenko, formerly First Secretary of the YCL of the Ukraine, was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the USSR YCL.

The plenary meeting decided to convene the 20th YCL Congress on April 15, 1987, in Moscow.

approved proposals on the conversion, beginning in 1987, of all the amalgamations and plants of the Ministry of Machine-Building for the Chemical and Oil Industry and of a number of the amalgamations and plants of other industrial ministries to full self-accounting.

A resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on improving planning, economic incentive and management in the governmental trade system and consumer co-operation was approved.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee considered some other questions of domestic and foreign politics and took decisions on them.

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Press conference on Soviet-American talks

MOSCOW, July 21, TASS:

"THE Soviet-American talks on the question of ending nuclear tests open on July 25," the head of the information department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, Gennadi Gerasimov, said at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

He said that in order to resolve the problem of nuclear weapon tests, it was necessary to work out an arrangement that would ban such tests in the context of international law. The USSR had proposed more than once to embark without delay on the working out of such an arrangement. As far back as March of this year it had been proposed to the United States to start bilateral talks on the matter. Gennadi Gerasimov said that Andranik Petrosyants, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy, had been appointed head of the Soviet delegation to the talks.

"As is known, the United States until recently has been seeking to limit matters on the question of nuclear tests only to verification of nuclear explosions. During bilateral diplomatic contacts it has been agreed that starting from July 25, the sides will hold in Geneva talks by experts on the entire range of questions, including verification and of determining ways of complete abandonment of nuclear tests.

"This wording takes into account the stands of both sides and is orienting the talks at achieving effective agreement on ending and banning all nuclear tests," the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry said.

Mikhail Gorbachyov meets Moussa Traore

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met in the Kremlin today Moussa Traore, General Secretary of the Democratic Union of the Mali People (UDPM) and President of the Republic of Mali.

Gorbachyov and Traore reaffirmed that inter-party links constituted an important component of the entire complex of Soviet-Mali relations. They agreed to implement several practical measures in the interests of the further development and deepening of co-operation between the CPSU and the UDPM, and between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Mali.

During the conversation, the sides discussed the most important problems of the present-day international situation. Gorbachyov confirmed that the Soviet Union would continue pursuing its line directed at achieving a breakthrough in the development of the international situation, ridding mankind of the burden of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass annihilation, and establishing a comprehensive system of international security.

"In this," Gorbachyov pointed out, "the Soviet Union will continue, as before, to co-operate closely with the newly free countries, with all peace-loving forces."

Traore highly assessed the Soviet Union's

latest peace initiatives, noting their constructiveness and importance for the destinies of all countries on Earth.

The leaders of the two countries gave special attention to questions of the critical economic situation in Africa. In this connection, they stressed the need for effective measures to establish a new fair international economic order and to ensure economic security for each state.

The conversation was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Joint Soviet-Mali communique

MOSCOW, July 19, TASS:

THE USSR supports African countries' efforts aimed at making Africa a zone free from nuclear weapons and fòreign military bases. The USSR and Mali reaffirm the need for African countries to struggle to keep their national independence and unity.

This is stated in a joint Soviet-Malian communique which has been signed at the close of the official friendly visit to the USSR by General of the Army Moussa Traore, General Secretary of the Democratic Union of the Malian People (UDPM) and President of the Republic of

Mali. He has been in the USSR from July 14 to 19, 1986, at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government.

The sides stated the growing contribution by African countries to the struggle for the strengthening of peace and for a just solution to the urgent problems of world politics.

The USSR and Mali demanded that the system of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa be eliminated as soon as possible. They called on the international community to take urgent measures to secure unconditional ensurance of Namibia's independence on the basis of the accurate implementation of the resolutions of the OAU and the UNO.

They declared in favour of increasing support for the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia headed by the ANC and SWAPO against the South African racists.

The sides condemned those countries which continue to hinder the application of effective measures of international influence against the Republic of South Africa, and called for the application of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

The USSR and Mali emphasised the need for large-scale international actions with a view to overcoming the African countries' economic difficulties on the basis of fundamental democratisation of international economic relations.

Andrei Gromyko's talks with President of Mali

MOSCOW, July 15, TASS:

TALKS were continued in the Kremlin today between Andrei Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Moussa Traore, General Secretary of the Democratic Union of the Mali People and President of the Republic of Mali.

The results of and prospects for bilateral cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Mali in various areas were positively assessed. Concrete matters concerning its further deepening were discussed. The sides confirmed their mutual striving to look for new areas of co-operation, to establish its possibilities in order to strengthen mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

The Soviet side emphasised that no task in the international arena was of greater importance than safeguarding peace. Therefore the proposals advanced in the speeches of Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress on foreign policy matters were aimed precisely at the consolidation of peace and prevention of nuclear war.

The Soviet side declared that African countries could not have any stronger support in matters of the struggle for national independence than that given by the socialist states.

For its part the Mali delegation declared that the stand of the Republic of Mali on international matters, including on regional African matters, was identical with the Soviet Union's stand. An exchange of views on a number of other topical international problems was continued. The sides, specifically, emphasised the successes and increased prestige of the non-aligned countries in the international arena. A consensus was expressed that the positive solution of international problems largely depended on the stand of those countries.

The sides also exchanged opinions on questions of the present-day economic situation in the world, specifically in Africa.

Soviet-Malian documents signed

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

JOINT Soviet-Malian documents were signed at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow today.

A declaration on the further development of the relationship of friendship and co-operation between the USSR and the Republic of Mali was signed by Andrei Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and Moussa Traore, General Secretary of the Democratic Union of Malian People (UDPM) and President of the Republic of Mali.

An agreement on co-operation between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Democratic Union of Malian People was signed by Anatoli Dobrynin, a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Sekou Minandiou Traore, Secretary for External Relations of the UDPM Central Executive Bureau.

Moussa Traore arrived in Moscow on July 14 on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government.

Soviet-Vietnamese communique

HANOI, July 15, TASS:

THE strategic course of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Vietnam of developing and deepening Soviet-Vietnamese relations, and strengthening the cohesion of the entire socialist community was confirmed during conversations here between the Soviet Party and Government delegation headed by Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Truong Chinh, the newly elected General Secretary of the CPV Central Committee and Chairman of the State Council, and other Vietnamese leaders.

As is said in a Soviet-Vietnamese communique distributed here, the Soviet delegation confirmed support for the efforts of the CPV, the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos and the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea to strengthen the cohesion of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea in the struggle to build socialism and defend their national independence. It stated support for the peace initiatives of the SRV, LPDR and PRK directed at turning South-East Asia into a zone of peace, stability and co-operation.

The sides noted that the situation in the world remained tense and that no task was more important now than that of averting the nuclear catastrophe with which the policy of imperialism's aggressive forces, head:d by the United States, was fraught. Concern is caused also by the situation in the Asian and Pacific region. The peoples of this region wish to live in conditions of stability, good-neighbourliness, peace and security. In this situation the USSR, the SRV and the other fraternal countries, the communique says, come out for preserving and deepening political dialogue, for continuing the search for possibilities of limiting arms, improving the international situation and developing constructive co-operation between states.

The confidence was expressed that friendly relations between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam would further steadily strengthen and develop in the interests of the peoples of both countries, the cause of peace and socialism. The meetings and conversations passed in an atmosphere of cordiality and comradeship, full mutual understanding and unity, the communique stresses.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee discusses Chernobyl accident

MOSCOW, July 19, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee discussed at a special meeting the report of the governmental commission on the results of an enquiry into the causes of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station on April 26, 1986, and on measures to eliminate its consequences and to ensure safety in atomic power engineering.

It was established that the accident had been caused by a series of gross breaches of the reactor operational regulations by workers of the atomic power station. Experiments with turbogenerator operation regimes were conducted at the fourth generating unit when it was sidelined for planned repairs at night. The managers and specialists of the atomic power station themselves had not prepared for that experiment, nor agreed it with appropriate organisations, although it had been their duty to do so. Finally, proper supervision was not organised when those experiments were carried out, nor proper safety measures taken.

The Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification of the USSR and the State Atomic Power Inspection were guilty of lack of control over the situation at the Chernobyl APS and did not take efficient measures to secure compliance with safety regulations and to prevent breaches of discipline and operational regulations at the station.

Irresponsibility, negligence and indiscipline led to grave consequences. Altogether 28 people died as a result of the accident and the health of many others was impaired.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee expressed deep condolences to the families and friends of the deceased. The state is rendering comprehensive assistance to bereaved families. Large-scale prophylactic work has been organised. Several hundred thousand people have undergone medical checkups. Radiation sickness has now been found in 203 persons, of whom 30 are being treated in hospital conditions.

The destruction of the reactor has caused the radioactive contamination of the territory around the station on an area of about 1,000 square kilometres. Farm land has been taken out of agricultural production and work at plants, construction projects and other organisations has been suspended. The direct losses caused by the accident amount to about two billion roubles. There are difficulties with power supply to the national economy.

The Political Bureau took account of the fact that the Procurator's Office of the USSR had initiated criminal proceedings against the persons guilty of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station and is conducting an investigation, upon the completion of which court proceedings will be initiated.

The Chairman of the State Atomic Power Inspection, Kulov, a Deputy Minister of Power Engineering and Electrification of the USSR, Shasharin, a First Deputy Minister of Medium Machine Building, Meshkov, and a deputy director of a research and design institute, Yemelyanov, were relieved of their duties for bad errors and shortcomings in their work, which had led to an accident with grave consequences, and were simultaneously subjected to rigorous Party penalties. The former director of the Chernobyl atomic power plant, Bryukhanov, was expelled from the Party.

It was noted that the Minister of Power Engineering and Electrification of the USSR, Mayorets, deserved being relieved of his duties for serious shortcomings in supervision of the Chernobyl atomic power station but, in view of his short tenure of office, the Political Bureau strictly reprimanded him as a Party member and warned him that he would be subjected to a harsher punishment if he failed to heed the lesson.

The Party Control Committee at the CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and the Moscow City Party Committee were instructed to consider the responsibility of other workers.

The Political Bureau noted that large-scale and energetic measures to remove the consequences of the accident had made it possible to alter promptly and drastically the situation at the power station and in the surrounding territory. Housing and cultural and everyday facilities are being built for the population evacuated from the dangerous zone around the Chernobyl atomic power station and they are being compensated for their losses. Proper measures are being taken for the job placement of the population.

The condition of the damaged reactor is under dependable control and causes no worry. Sophisticated engineering measures are being taken to bury the damaged reactor.

The site of the power station is being cleaned of radiation and the surrounding territory, buildings, structures and equipment decontaminated on a large scale. A good deal of work has been done to remove and bury topsoil and to treat the terrain with special chemicals. As a consequence, the radiation level in the areas where it was above normal has been drastically reduced and today it is only at Chernobyl and a few nearby localities that it is above the admissible.

A system of facilities dependably to shield the water basin is being built in addition to the building of 20-km-long embankments along the Pripyat River in order to protect the water resources.

The Political Bureau noted that the decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on urgent measures to remove the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl APS had met with profound understanding by the Soviet people. This was manifest in the striving of the work collectives and every Soviet man and woman to make a contribution to the accomplishment of the formulated tasks. Thousands of volunteers stated their desire personally to participate in the rehabilitation work.

The Soviet people donated more than 400 million roubles to the relief fund to remove the consequences of the accident. The members of many work collectives contributed one-shift earnings.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee demanded from ministries and departments urgently to draw up and carry out additional measures to ensure the safe operation of the existing atomic power stations, to tighten operational discipline at every level and to demand more rigorously the strict observance of the operational regimes of the reactors and other equipment. It is planned to retrain and rate the servicing personnel and to expand the system of training centres with special simulators. The state inspection bodies are instructed to supervise strictly the operation of all atomic power stations.

The special attention of the governmental commission, ministries and departments of the USSR, and the Party and government bodies of the Ukraine and Byelorussia was drawn to the importance of completing on schedule all work to encase the damaged reactor and reliably to bury it. They were requested unflaggingly to supervise the meeting of targets for the supplying of

machinery, decontamination facilities and materials needed for the removal of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl APS. The primary task is the provision of housing and social and communal facilities for the evacuated population. Housing totalling about 700,000 square metres must be built for the rural population alone.

A national Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering has been formed to raise the standards of management and responsibility in the development of nuclear power engineering.

The Soviet Union is profoundly thankful to the socialist states which showed solidarity with the Soviet people in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station. It is grateful to many other countries and their citizens for moral support and practical assistance.

The Political Bureau stressed the need for large-scale international co-operation and joint efforts of many countries to ensure nuclear safety. The USSR offers other countries to work together to ensure that the risk of accidents at atomic plants in the world is reduced to zero. Much importance in this context is attached to a special session of the IAEA General Conference scheduled for September. Our country is prepared to participate constructively in its work and considers it an urgent task to develop, through the efforts of scientists from different countries, a new-generation reactor. At the same time impetus should be given to co-operation in achieving controlled thermonuclear fusion, which could become a source of boundless energy.

Another aspect of the problem of safety at nuclear power projects is the prevention of their deliberate destruction as a result of hostilities or acts of terrorism. A dependable system of measures to prevent any manifestation of nuclear terrorism ought to be developed.

Nuclear safety in the world is unthinkable without an end to material preparations for atomic war and the complete elimination of means of nuclear warfare. The Soviet Union is determined to work, contrary to the fierce resistance of the military-industrial complex in the West, for the fulfilment of the proposed programme for ridding the world of nuclear weapons already by the end of the current century.

Since that programme was put forward on January 15, 1986, our country has made at all the arms limitation and disarmament talks concrete proposals making it possible to achieve a real accord.

The curbing of the nuclear arms race and transition to real measures to reduce nuclear weapons and to stop nuclear weapon tests should become the turning point in ensuring international security. The world public is expecting from the American Administration a positive response to the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. The effective limitation of armaments is the best contribution towards stronger peace and dependable nuclear safety.

Co-operation for Peace and Progress (on USSR's policy of broad international co-operation in industry, science, culture and education)

Price 40p (Cheque/PO) Available from Soviet Booklets (SN), 3 Rosary Gardens, London SW7 4NW.

Andrei Gromyko receives Nigerian guests

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

TODAY Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received a Nigerian Government delegation led by Commodore Okoh Ebitu Ukiwe, member of the Ruling Council of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chief of the General Staff.

During the conversation the sides discussed matters pertaining to the development of Soviet-Nigerian relations and key problems of the international situation, including the situation in the African continent, in the south of Africa in particular.

The development of contacts between the two countries in various fields was pointed out with satisfaction. The current talks in Moscow about the continuation and expansion of co-operation in building a metallurgical works in Ajaokuta are part of these contacts. It was admitted that there were reserves for the development of bilateral relations both in the economic sphere and in other spheres.

Andrei Gromyko emphasised that, in the present complex international situation, there was no task more important on Earth than to prevent a nuclear catastrophe and to preserve peace. This task could be accomplished only through the joint efforts of all countries and peoples, including African ones, if they struggled side by side for the attainment of this goal.

The accomplishment of this historic task is served by the programme put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov for complete elimination of puclear

weapons before the turn of the century, by the concept of an all-embracing system of international security formulated at the 27th Congress of the CPSU, and by other foreign policy initiatives proposed by the Soviet Union of late.

Okoh Ebitu Ukiwe stated that Nigeria fully approved of and supported the foreign policy initiatives of the Soviet Union and its consistent struggle for peace, and also expressed its commitment to the cause of preventing war.

The two sides strongly condemned South Africa's aggressive actions which posed a threat to peace and international security.

Okoh Ebitu Ukiwe pointed out the great contribution made by the Soviet Union to the cause of the national liberation struggle in Africa, and highly appreciated the Soviet Union's efforts in assistance to African countries which were striving to assert their economic independence.

Nikolai Ryzhkov's meeting with Okoh Ebitu Ukiwe

MOSCOW, July 16, TASS:

NIKOLAI RYZHKOV, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin today Okoh Ebitu Ukiwe, member of the Ruling Council of the Nigerian Armed Forces and Chief of the General Staff, who is heading a Nigerian Government delegation.

During the conversation, held in a friendly atmosphere, the sides discussed questions of bilateral co-operation and the present-day international situation.

The sides stated with satisfaction that relations between the Soviet Union and Nigeria were stable and mutually beneficial, meeting the interests of the Soviet and the Nigerian peoples and serving the cause of peace and progress.

It was noted that good conditions were being created through concerted efforts for developing

fruitful co-operation in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres.

In exchanging opinions on the most topical international problems, the sides stressed the need for invigorating the struggle conducted by all peace-loving forces and nations to prevent nuclear war and end the arms race, to achieve a radical turn in international affairs from confrontation to peaceful co-operation and co-existence.

Ebitu Ukiwe said that the efforts of the Soviet leadership, of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, in defence of universal peace were highly appreciated in Nigeria. Nigeria would continue to support the Soviet initiatives directed at improving the international situation and ending the arms race.

Nigeria was thankful to the Soviet Union, he said, for its support for the national liberation movement in Africa and the African peoples'

struggle against racism and apartheid, for freedom and independent development.

The sides pointed to the usefulness and fruitfulness of the current Moscow talks on questions of continuing co-operation in building the iron and steel works in Ajaokuta, and expressed the view that they would promote bilateral economic ties, friendship and all-round co-operation between the peoples of the two countries

Soviet-Nigerian talks

MOSCOW, July 16, TASS:

Talks were held today between Ivan Arkhipov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Okoh Ebitu Ukiwe, member of the Ruling Council of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and Chief of the General Staff.

During the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, there was a detailed exchange of views on matters pertaining to the development of bilateral relations and some topical international problems.

Focussing attention on matters of Soviet-Nigerian economic and technical co-operation, the sides expressed satisfaction with its present level, pointing out at the same time the existing possibilities for broadening and deepening mutually beneficial ties in various fields.

It was emphasised that the construction of a steel mill in Ajaokuta with the technical assistance of the USSR would promote the growth of Nigeria's industrial potential and the strengthening of its economy.

The sides pointed out that positive development of relations and contacts between the Soviet Union and Nigeria in various spheres made it possible to appraise with optimism the future of bilateral relations, and to search for and consider jointly new areas for mutually beneficial co-operation.

USSR-BRAZIL COMMUNIQUE

MOSCOW, July 16, TASS:

THE communique on the official visit to the USSR by a delegation from Brazil's National Congress, led by its chairman José Fragelli, points to the need for ending the arms race, above all the nuclear arms race, and looking for mutually acceptable solutions to other universal problems in the present-day world.

The delegation stayed in the Soviet Union from July 7 to 15 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

During talks with Soviet parliamentarians, held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the sides stressed the need for a new approach to the solution of global problems in the nuclear age.

The Soviet and the Brazilian parliamentarians pointed to the prime importance of the immediate termination of nuclear weapon tests, and favoured the development of international co-operation in preventing an arms race in outer space and in exploring space for peaceful purposes, and establishing international safeguards in nuclear engineering.

Expressing concern over the existence of tension and conflicts in various parts of the world,

the parliamentarians from the two countries came out in support of the constructive efforts applied by Latin American countries to reach a fair political settlement in Central America, on the basis of full respect for peoples' right to independent development and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

They attached great importance to collective efforts to settle by political means the existing conflict situations in southern Africa and in the Near and Middle East, and strongly denounced all forms of terrorism, including state-sponsored terrorism.

The parliamentarians from the Soviet Union and Brazil observed that normalising international economic relations, establishing equitable trade, economic, scientific and technical ties between countries, ties that are free from discrimination, and ensuring economic security of nations were acquiring special significance in the present-day international situation.

They came out in favour of establishing a new world economic order and starting global talks on the most important international financial and economic problems, including the debt problem.

The deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the members of the Brazilian National Congress favoured further development of Soviet-Brazilian co-operation in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Diplomatic relations restored

MOSCOW, July 21, TASS:

THE governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the Republic of Liberia, guided by the mutual desire to develop and consolidate the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries, have decided to restore diplomatic relations and to exchange ambassadors.

Nikolai Ryzhkov's greetings to international symposium

MOSCOW, July 21, TASS:

The following is the full text of the message of greetings from Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to an international scientific symposium:

To the participants in the international symposium 'Science, Technology and Peace' and in the 14th General Assembly of the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

I greet the members of the international scientific community who have gathered in Moscow to attend the symposium 'Science, Technology and Peace' and the 14th General Assembly of the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

Your symposium and assembly are taking place at a time which is complex for the world. The condition in which mankind enters the third millennium will depend in many respects on the solution of the existing global problems, among which the issues of war and peace have been placed at the centre of international life by the very course of history.

The current disquieting situation calls for a resolute intensification of the struggle for the

prevention of a new world war. The arms race, which is threatening to run out of control, erodes stability, undermines universal and national security, and raises the problem of civilisation's survival with utmost urgency.

In the interests of fundamentally improving the international situation and ridding mankind of the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, the USSR has undertaken major steps so that the positive line which began to appear at the Soviet-US meeting in Geneva may be embodied in concrete actions. Our peace initiatives are aimed at implementing a comprehensive programme of international security which reflects the vital interests of the international community.

Scientists' special responsibility for the destiny of mankind and for the preservation of peace and very life on Earth has been mentioned more than once. I would like to emphasise again that today as never before it is required that scientists multiply their contribution to the common efforts, efforts which are called upon to keep mankind from perishing in a nuclear conflagration. What will the human intellect be directed to—to the release of the great forces of creation or to the development of new, still more dangerous systems of destruction? An answer to this question depends to a large extent on scientists

The World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW), which was founded on the initiative of the outstanding scientists Frederic Joliot-Curie and John Bernal, makes a substantial contribution to the efforts to assert the lofty ideals of peace and mutual understanding. It has done a good deal for the intellectual potential of science to be used for the benefit of peace, progress and development, with a view to solving the global problems mankind is faced with.

The active anti-war stand of the WFSW and its valuable research into the problems of disarmament serve as a platform for uniting broad sections of scientific workers in mankind's struggle against the nuclear threat.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wholeheartedly congratulate the World Federation of Scientific Workers on its 40th jubilee.

I wish the WFSW fruitful work and new successes in the development of international cooperation between scientists in the name of solving the acutest problems of our time and, first of all, in the name of establishing on Earth a secure world without wars and weapons.

Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Resolution of the CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, July 16, TASS:

THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) has considered the question 'On the Results of the Development of the Economy of the USSR in the First Half of 1986', and adopted a resolution on the matter.

The resolution points out, in particular, that the volume of industrial production grew by 5.6 per cent, with the annual target being 4.3 per cent. The planned targets were attained by all union republics and ministries (except for the Ministry of the Oil Industry). Seven thousand million roubles' worth of products was marketed additionally. Certain changes for the better occurred in the basic branches of industry—metallurgy, machine building, the coal and gas industries.

The machine-building sector is developing at a priority rate. The manufacture of technology which determines the acceleration of scientific and technological progress is growing.

The restructuring of management and the transition to new management conditions have begun to tell on the state of affairs in the agrindustrial sector. The amounts of the purchases of cattle and poultry went up by 7.3 per cent in the first half of this year as against the corresponding period of last year, and those of milk by 5.7 per cent

The process of utilising intensive factors of development is gathering momentum in the country's economy. The targets for rises in labour productivity, profits and cuts in prime costs were exceeded. The contractual deliveries of products improved. The standard of attaining the planned targets for listed products rose.

All this indicates that a good beginning has been set for the implementation of the decisions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

The CPSU Central Committee, while

favourably appraising the positive tendencies in economic development, at the same time drew attention to the inadmissibility of any complacency and euphoria. It is pointed out that restructuring in many ministries, departments, amalgamations and industrial plants so far is slow. Acceleration has been achieved in by no means all sectors. The smooth functioning of all branches of the economy is not ensured, and a proper fundamental change in raising the quality of output has not yet been achieved. Planned targets for new technology have not been attained in some sectors.

Statistical report

MOSCOW, July 19, TASS:

THE USSR's national income used for consumption and accumulation increased by almost 10,000 million roubles as compared with the first half of 1985, says a report of the Central Statistical Board of the USSR on the results of the fulfilment of the State Economic and Social Development Plan of the USSR for the first half of 1986.

The report, circulated here today, points out that foreign trade turnover amounted to 67,000 million roubles, with exports running at 34,000 million roubles.

The increment in gross industrial output was 5.6 per cent as compared with the corresponding period of last year, with the annual plan being 4.3 per cent.

Machine-building developed at a priority rate. The state of affairs in the coal industry, ferrous metallurgy, timber, wood-working and pulp-and-paper industries improved.

Labour productivity in industry went up by 5.2 per cent, 93 per cent of the production increase being obtained as a result of this.

Agricultural enterprises fulfilled the spring sowing plan in an organised manner. Areas under crops for the 1986 harvest amounted to 209.8 million hectares, the report of the Central Statistical Board of the USSR points out.

APPOINTMENTS

MOSCOW, July 20, TASS:

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Oleg Anfimov Minister of the USSR's Electrotechnical Industry.

Oleg Anfimov was born in 1937.

In 1981, he was made general director of the production combine Rizhsky Elektromashinostroitelny Zavod (Riga electric machinebuilding plant). Anfimov was elected Secretary of the Riga City Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia in 1983, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia in 1985.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet relieved Gennadi Voronovsky of the duties of Minister of the Electrotechnical Industry in connection with his retirement.

MOSCOW, July 21, TASS:

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has formed the all-union Ministry of Atomic Power Industry of the USSR, and appointed Nikolai Lukonin to the post of Minister of Atomic Power Industry of the USSR.

Nikolai Lukonin, born in 1928, was appointed director of the Leningrad V I Lenin atomic electric power plant in 1976 and director of the Ignalina atomic power plant in 1983.

Nikolai Lukonin is a Lenin prize laureate.

Presidium

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has released Yevgeni Kulov from his post as Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Supervision over Safe Performance of Work in the Nuclear Power Industry.

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EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE'S LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 329)

and space arms talks. We also concur in the view that another meeting of the top leaders of the USSR and the US must produce substantial practical results, above all with regard to the problems of security. We have discovered, furthermore, a possibility for a joint effort in thrashing out such issues as the prohibition of chemical weapons and reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe.

"Both sides stressed the importance of a successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference and proper preparation for the Vienna meeting of the participating nations of the European Conference. Agreement on confidence-building measures in Stockholm could serve, it is our firm conviction, as a good base for mutual understanding in resolving the problem of reducing conventional armaments.

"I would like to note, in particular, the position of the British side on the ABM Treaty. The British leadership unequivocally suggested that this fundamental agreement in the area of strategic arms limitation must be unfailingly honoured. We are likewise emphatically in favour of that.

"Promoting a more effective enforcement of the ABM Treaty assumes added significance now that there is a rising danger of an arms race in space. You can well see what serves the purpose of strengthening strategic stability: elimination of nuclear and other means of mass destruction on Earth, or the deployment in space of so-called 'defence systems' with unpredictable consequences for humanity and for the environment in the context of the continued existence and even build-up of nuclear arms.

"The scientific and technological dishonesty of the proponents of the 'Star Wars' programme is surprising indeed. If you think about it, its supporters are calling for the patrimony of all humanity to be thrown to the space winds.

"The Soviet Union is suggesting a different, more realistic, dependable and more practicable way: to ban the entire class of space strike arms once and for all. We are not leaving responsibility for this decision for succeeding generations to shoulder. We assume it as our own.

"We know that the British Government attaches great importance to the problem of control. And we also agree that all accords must be reliably verifiable. But let us look, from the standpoint of control, at the problems that the 'Star Wars' programme creates. We have still not heard the American partners say anything about how one can control the so-called 'defence armaments' they have set out to create.

"Where is the boundary line between the defensive and offensive space arms? Is there one at all? How can you be sure that a space platform with missiles, lasers and other technical facilities

USSR ready to co-operate in space exploration

THE USSR is prepared to grant its services to other countries in the peaceful uses of outer space. The readiness to develop co-operation in this field, which was voiced by the Soviet Government, is acquiring specific organisational forms.

A Novosti correspondent was told at the Soviet foreign trade association *Litsenzintorg* that a special group called Cosmos has been set up. It receives orders for launching foreign satellites with Soviet rockets as well as tracking and guiding them.

Another variant is also possible. To foreign firms' orders, Soviet organisations are ready to launch satellites and grant on lease their technological systems. If need be, foreign equipment can be installed on Soviet satellites to carry out tests and scientific experiments.

(Novosti Press Agency, July 9, 1986)

on it will not be used for a first strike? Perhaps our partners are ready, in this case too, for on-site inspection, that is, inspection up in space?

"There is, for example, the matter of control over authorised and unauthorised activity, as it is defined in the ABM Treaty. We have declared for open familiarisation with the activities of respective laboratories.

"Given agreement in any field, whether it be nuclear, space or conventional weapons, control procedures would concern Britain directly. And we hope that the British leadership, the British Government, which lays such emphasis on the importance of control, would set an example of openness.

"In the course of the negotiations we raised the question of co-operation, including with Britain, in the peaceful uses of outer space in the interests of all states.

"We believe that the talks we have had with the British representatives will establish some foothold for the future and create good pre-requisites for continuing the fruitful dialogue promoting peace and universal security as well as trust and co-operation between East and West.

"Our talks have shown, and I would especially like to stress it, that there exist good opportunities for the development of bilateral Soviet-British relations to the mutual benefit of the sides. This applies to political dialogue, to commercial, economic, scientific and technological ties, to cultural exchange, and other forms of bilateral relations.

"Allow me to express our gratitude to the British Government, to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, to political and public leaders for the attention they showed, for their interested conduct of the talks and for the hospitality accorded us here."

Then Eduard Shevardnadze answered numerous questions put to him by correspondents. Touching upon the prospects for a Soviet-American summit meeting, he said:

"This subject has been discussed at the London negotiations. We agreed that such a summit should produce concrete results, especially in the sphere of security and disarmament. The British side has expressed understanding that concrete accords are needed at such a meeting.

"The Soviet side has of late tabled concrete proposals at the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva on all three aspects of the talks. They offer a basis for agreement on a substantial cut in strategic offensive arms in conditions of the strengthening of the regime of the ABM Treaty. As for medium-range missiles, the Soviet Union has submitted the draft of a possible accord on that is score too. In short, it is our conviction that it is possible to find acceptable variants of solutions to all these problems, but I find it hard to add anything more to what I said, having no answer from the American side."

In reply to a question of whether the Soviet side had urged the British side to use its channels for influencing Washington, Eduard Shevardnadze said: "We do not think that the British side should stay aloof from the process of solving problems relating to the strengthening of security, the ending of the arms race, non-stationing of weapons in space and other key issues. We are under the impression that the British side is prepared more actively to join in this process."

A number of questions asked by journalists concerned the role and place of the British nuclear potential in the solution of the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe. Eduard Shevardnadze noted, among other things, that the stand of the Soviet Union on this score was well-known. "The Soviet leadership is for conducting a dialogue between the USSR and Britain on the question of the British nuclear forces in the overall complex of nuclear

problems. In conditions of cutting Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe we regard as legitimate the raising of the question about quantitative non-buildup of the British nuclear arsenal. Besides, the US should not pass its nuclear armaments on to other countries."

Replying to respective questions, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the invitation to Margaret Thatcher to visit Moscow at an agreed date meant that the dialogue between the leaders of the two countries, which began in 1984, during the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachyov and Margaret Thatcher, would be continued. "It was a good beginning, and a visit by the Prime Minister to the USSR would be its useful continuation, enabling the Prime Minister of Great Britain to learn more about the life of the Soviet people and the Soviet State," he declared.

Eduard Shevardnadze also answered other questions from journalists.

(Pravda, July 17. In full.)

Lev Tolkunov meets American journalists

MOSCOW, July 18, TASS:

LEV TOLKUNOV, President of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, met today a delegation of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Much attention was paid to the explanation of the large-scale Soviet initiatives which show the Soviet Union's sincere striving to impart a dynamic and effective nature to the Soviet-American dialogue, and show the Soviet Union's adherence to the cause of peace and disarmament.

It was emphasised during the conversation that the tension persisting in the world, and the present state of Soviet-American relations, impose great responsibility on all representatives of the press. It was noted that an objective analysis of the Soviet Union's concrete steps towards ending the nuclear arms race, towards lessening the threat of confrontation could improve mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries and remove mutual distrust.

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Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at reception for Hans-Dietrich Genscher

MOSCOW, July 22, TASS:

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a luncheon today in honour of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Speaking at the luncheon, Eduard Shevardnadze said, in part, that the European summer at this time was very hot, but not dry. "At any rate this is so for us, and, one would like to believe, for our European partners. During the recent talks with the leaders of France and Britain we have discovered new interesting sprouts of the understanding that all of us European countries can work in the same direction, toward the establishment of a climate of confidence and co-operation on the continent."

"Today, completing the talks with you, the Federal Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of a major and authoritative state, I can say that they, too, positively contributed to that important process."

"Acting like partners in dialogue, we are fully aware of the importance of good relations between our states for the present and future of our peoples, for the situation in Europe and not only in Europe, too. This can be achieved only if we regard each other as sovereign and equal coarchitects of European politics inspired by the vital interests of the nations living on the continent. The formula 'from the Atlantic to the Urals' in our understanding means not only the area where certain measures are to be taken, but also the realisation of a particular integrity of the European continent, the community of the destinies of its peoples," Eduard Shevardnadze went on.

"These words do not at all imply the striving to cut the 'European wedge' from the North Atlantic alliance. We are of the opinion that, given all the alliances that have taken shape, it is essential to strengthen those threads whose severance is fraught with the danger of severance of the world fabric.

"For both of us these threads are in Europe, this unique concentration of the achievements of human civilisation and, to our common trouble, the site where troops and armaments are amassed. Next to the great creations of culture one can see there sinister contours of other structures; and if the former symbolise the triumph of the human spirit, the latter threaten its immortality.

"An end should be put to this unnatural situation. This is precisely the aim of the Soviet proposals on ridding Europe of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical. Let me remind you that it is only part of our plan for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Atone with other Warsaw Treaty member-states we are in favour of deep cuts in armaments and armed forces on the European continent, combined with measures that would preclude the possibility of a surprise attack.

"We hope for a most active participation by the Government of the FRG in resolving these important issues," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

"It is understandable that there exist considerable differences between the East and the West, and it would be unwise to pretend that they do not exist or that we can overcome them as if by magic. But the areas of differences can never be narrowed unless we learn to respect each other's lawful interests."

"It is precisely with such an approach that a successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference and a dynamic and constructive holding of the Vienna meeting of countries participating in the European conference is possible."

"The contacts with the French leadership, the talks in London, the conversations with representatives of other countries confirmed that this is realistic, and that there is a common interest in this."

"I wish to assure you that the Soviet Union is prepared to co-operate honestly and sincerely with all states, including, naturally, the Federal Republic of Germany, in order to consolidate confidence and mutual understanding," Eduard Shevardnadze said. "We have concrete compromise versions and we hope for a positive response from our partners in Stockholm and at other forums."

"The solution of a truly historic task, that of the complete banning and elimination of one of the most horrible types of weapons of destruction, chemical weapons, seems a reality too. If in this sphere the Western side also showed the readiness for a compromise, the drafting of an appropriate convention could be completed and the convention could be signed."

"Humanity is tired of rhetoric and no longer sees in it a way out of the impasse. What is needed are deeds, broad in scope and serious, capable of removing roadblocks. Any meetings, including summit meetings, must be crowned with practical results. Such is precisely our approach to a Soviet-US summit. I must say that on our initiative an arrangement was reached with the US side on the holding of a meeting of experts on questions of banning nuclear weapon tests. The Soviet Union also suggested to convene a special session of the standing consultative Soviet-US commission which will discuss questions connected with the SALT-2 Treaty. In this connection we note with satisfaction the statements of the FRG Government about the necessity to observe

"Regrettably, this stand is contradicted by the Federal Republic's involvement in the US 'Star Wars' programme which devalues the positive pronouncements."

"The Soviet Union holds that the creation of a security system which would be increasingly based on political, economic, legal and moral guarantees would suit the interests of all peoples."

"I would like to hope that we shall not only meet in this sufficient understanding from our Western partners, but shall be acting vigorously and promptly: in parallel in some directions, and possibly jointly in others."

"It is necessary to start working seriously, in a business-like way, for peace, for tomorrow," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

Andrei Gromyko receives participants in international forum

MOSCOW, July 22, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, received in the Kremlin today a big group of Soviet and foreign scientists at the request of the participants in the international forum of scientists on 'Science, Technology and Peace'.

The group comprised Jean-Marie Legay (France), President of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, vice-presidents of the federation Narendra Gupta (India), Kirill Bratanov (Bulgaria), Tokutaro Hirone (Japan), Abdul-Razzak Kaddoura, UNESCO Assistant Director-General, and Maurice Wilkins (Great Britain), a Nobel Prize winner, scientists from the German Democratic Republic, Finland, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Morocco, Portugal, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Federal Republic of Germany, and a number of prominent Soviet scientists.

On behalf of the participants in the international forum of scientists Jean-Marie Legay handed over to Andrei Gromyko a message to heads of state and government.

He emphasised that the document was addressed to the leaders of states which possessed nuclear weapons. He said that leading scientists the world over were seriously concerned over the continuing nuclear arms race, and their representatives, gathered for the international forum in Moscow, demanded the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

The Soviet moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons should not end without consequence, and the scientists urge the US Administration to join in that initiative without delay.

Accepting the message, Andrei Gromyko emphasised that the policy of the USSR was a policy of peace. No problem was more important and acute for all people than the problem of what path should be chosen and what policy pursued—the one that makes the world slide into a nuclear holocaust or the one that would eliminate the threat of war.

"If someone said", Andrei Gromyko went on, "that there was only one chance in 100, perhaps even in 1,000, that such a holocaust indeed might occur, that still would be too much. Vigorous efforts should be made to eliminate that chance. We have no other alternative, our choice is only the policy of peace."

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