

## Andrei Gromyko receives Cyrus Vance

MOSCOW, February 3, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today received in the Kremlin Cyrus Vance, a noted American public figure and politician, and former US Secretary of State. Vance is paying a visit to the Soviet Union in connection with the sittings of the working group on Soviet-American relations of the Dartmouth Conference.

Exchanging opinions, the sides touched upon various aspects of the present-day international situation and Soviet-American relations.

Andrei Gromyko drew the visitor's attention to the Soviet programme for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons, formulated by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement of January 15. If the USA agrees to the Soviet proposals, their implementation could rid mankind forever of the nuclear threat, prevent the spread of the arms race into outer space and strengthen trust among countries and peoples.

It was stressed by the Soviet side that the ending of nuclear weapons tests could become the first and efficient step towards restricting the arms race. The Soviet Union halted testing unilaterally as far back as last August and appealed to the USA and the other nuclear powers to follow its example. At the outset of this year the Soviet State, again unilaterally, extended its moratorium till March 31. People all over the world are expecting the USA to make a positive response to the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union. Nuclear testing must be resolutely prohibited, from the point of view of both the security of the peoples and human morality.

The USSR Supreme Soviet supported the latest peace initiatives and explained them in an address to the US Congress, Cyrus Vance was

### Mikhail Gorbachyov's telegram of condolences

MOSCOW, January 29, TASS:

"WE partake of your grief at the tragic death of the crew of the space shuttle Challenger," says Mikhail Gorbachyov's telegram to President Ronald Reagan of the United States.

Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, presented his condolences to the people of the United States and to the families of those who were killed in the accident. □

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told. It is necessary to do everything possible to achieve substantial and effective decisions leading to the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons, and parliaments can contribute to the formulation of such decisions. Their words carry much weight in foreign politics as well. The international public, including the Dartmouth Conference, which continues to contribute constructively to the discussion of international politics, is playing a positive role in promoting practical results on the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space, terminating it on Earth, and of the reduction and eventual complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

This means that if we speak of prospects for the development of mankind the common political denominator for the actions of all countries on the international scene—and this is a firmly held opinion of the Soviet leadership—should be disarmament, and above all nuclear disarmament.

The Soviet programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons, given the ban on space strike arms, fully accords with these lofty goals, with the subject of the current Soviet-US negotiations in Geneva and the results of the Geneva summit meeting between the USSR and the United States.

"The Soviet peace initiatives," Andrei Gromyko stressed, "have been met with approval by the governments of many countries and by the broad masses. They strike the imagination both with their determination and scale. A positive reaction abroad, including from famous statesmen in Western countries, testifies

that these initiatives should be reckoned with.

"The nations of the world expect the American leadership to show political will along the lines of constructive co-operation on these problems of paramount importance. The administration in Washington has more than once declared its allegiance to the idea of eliminating nuclear weapons. And now the Soviet Union has given it a chance to engage in that process in actual fact, not merely in words. We live in an age when the leaders of states, should and must take decisions that would prevent a nuclear holocaust."

Both sides expressed the conviction that the negotiations on the limitation and elimination of nuclear arms, and on the prevention of the spread of the arms race to outer space could be a success if both powers—the USSR and the United States—worked consistently toward the said goal. This is confirmed by the experience that was accumulated by the Soviet Union and the United States of America in the course of previous negotiations which ended in the conclusion of relevant agreements between the two.

Cyrus Vance spoke with appreciation of the new Soviet peace initiative and noted that it had impressed him favourably. He came out in favour of an early search for accords along the road to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and said that from his point of view the US Administration should come up with a detailed point-by-point reply with a view to opening concrete and business-like negotiations.

Academician Georgi Arbatov, Director of the Institute of the USA and Canada under the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, took part in the conversation. □

## At the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, January 30, TASS:

AT its regular meeting the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee approved the results of Mikhail Gorbachyov's talks with the General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, Alessandro Natta.

It was noted with satisfaction that the talks had confirmed the readiness of both parties to come out vigorously for stopping the arms race, for the non-militarisation of outer space, for averting the threat of nuclear war, for completely liquidating nuclear arms, for a general improvement of the international situation and for the development of co-operation between the USSR and Italy. The readiness of the CPSU to develop with the ICP equal, comradely relations in the interests of the cause of peace and socialism was confirmed.

The Political Bureau heard and approved Eduard Shevardnadze's report on his visit to Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Mongolian People's Republic. It was noted that the results of his conversations and talks with Japanese politicians and public figures created favourable conditions for bettering Soviet-Japanese ties. The Soviet Union's principled line of developing relations of good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous co-operation with Japan in various fields and of further expanding the political dialogue was confirmed.

The talks in Pyongyang with Kim Il Sung, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the DPRK, and also with other DPRK leaders, were qualified as an important contribution to the cause of strengthening Soviet-Korean friendship, to further perfecting the USSR's and DPRK's interaction in the international arena. The Soviet Union expresses invariable solidarity with the course of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government directed at the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and at the country's unification on a peaceful democratic basis without outside interference.

Satisfaction was expressed with the exchanges of views in Ulan Bator with Jambyn Batmunkh, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic, and other leaders of that fraternal country. The relations of friendship and all-round co-operation between the USSR and the MPR, based on principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, have acquired an all-embracing nature and are developing stably for the good of the peoples of the two countries and in the interests of peace and socialism, it was noted at the meeting of the Political Bureau.

The Political Bureau studied the results of the work of the 26th Conference of the Moscow City

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## Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at luncheon in honour of Argentinian Foreign Minister

MOSCOW, January 29, TASS:

"THE Soviet Union and Argentina can serve as a good example of the practical implementation of the policy of peaceful coexistence of states and equal and mutually beneficial co-operation in every field on the basis of respect for the interests, positions and viewpoints of each other." Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, made this point at the luncheon he gave today in honour of Dante Mario Caputo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of Argentina.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that relations between the two countries had good prospects and offered broad scope for the development of contacts and for expanding co-operation in international affairs. He spoke highly of Argentina's attitude to the latest initiative of the Soviet Union, formulated by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15 this year. "The programme for the complete ridding of the Earth of nuclear weapons, for preventing the militarisation of space, for eliminating chemical weapons and other means of mass destruction and for the implementation of measures aimed at lessening the war danger and strengthening peace is supported by the Argentinian Government. This attitude is expressed in Raul Alfonsin's reply to the message of Mikhail Gorbachyov," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

"Argentina's readiness—jointly with the other countries which signed the New Delhi Declaration a year ago—to contribute in practice to the establishment of a mutual Soviet-American moratorium on nuclear explosions as a first step, and the understanding by the Argentinian side of the importance of the Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on such explosions, reiterates the responsible and mature approach of the Argentinian Government to the task of transition to a truly lasting and dependable peace," he continued.

Touching upon the situation in Central America, the Soviet Foreign Minister pointed out violations there of the norms of international law sanctified by the Charter of the United

Nations. "The case in point is the policy of pressure and threats against the sovereign state of Nicaragua and attempts to interfere in its affairs, to impose on the people of that country structures that are alien to them and to deny them the possibility of deciding their destiny independently," he said.

"The Soviet Union, which has always stood in defence of the sovereign rights of the Nicaraguan and other peoples and advocated a fair political settlement in Central America, pays tribute to the efforts of Latin American countries in that direction," Eduard Shevardnadze said. He expressed the confidence that, given the interaction of all the peaceable states and political forces, it would be possible to avert the threat of conflict in Central America and to enable the peoples of that region to follow their own roads and tackle the urgent tasks of economic and social development without fearing any outside intervention.

The Soviet Foreign Minister voiced worry over tension in the southern Atlantic. "The Soviet Union strongly denounces the course of militarising that region. That policy poses a direct threat to all Latin American states, and not to them alone, because a dangerous seat of conflict is being perpetuated there in this way."

### Nuclear disarmament

Touching upon the problem of the Malvinas, Eduard Shevardnadze spoke in support of Argentina's line for a peaceful settlement through talks with Britain on the basis of the existing decisions of the United Nations.

Turning to problems of international economic relations, the Soviet Foreign Minister emphasised that "the serious difficulties and obstacles created by the policy of major capitalist powers to the development of these relations on a healthy and fair basis are hitting hard at the interests of developing countries. The huge and ever-growing foreign debt is becoming an impregnable barrier to the socio-economic progress of the peoples of those countries." He stressed that "the Soviet Union's programme of nuclear disarmament and of preventing an arms race in space points to ways for the solution of the most complex problems of our time, including economic problems."

Eduard Shevardnadze said in conclusion that the forthcoming visit of Raul Alfonsin, President of the Argentinian Republic, to the USSR would

become a major event in relations between the two countries and raise them to a new, even higher level.

Talks took place between the two foreign ministers on January 28-29, during which Eduard Shevardnadze set out in detail the Soviet concept of a world without nuclear arms, as advanced in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov. He stressed that the implementation of the programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere including prevention of the emergence of space strike arms would lead to a radical improvement in the international situation on a long term and stable basis.

Dante Caputo described the new Soviet initiative as the most important proposal advanced in the sphere so far and noted that it was consonant with the stand of the Government of Argentina. He spoke highly of the Soviet Union's decision to extend the operation of its unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions, and the Soviet stand on matters of effective control to ensure that there is no nuclear testing.

The Soviet side noted Argentina's vigorous activity on the international arena, its contribution to the lowering of international tension, and to the struggle for nuclear disarmament and the ending of nuclear tests.

The situation in different areas of the world was also discussed. The Soviet side condemned resolutely the United States' actions in Central America, its policy with regard to Nicaragua. The Soviet Union's principled stand in favour of a political settlement of the problems of the region, on the basis of the strict observance of sovereignty, independence of states and the right of peoples to independent development without outside interference, was confirmed.

Both sides declared in support of constructive efforts aimed at the normalisation of the situation in the area, and at unconditionally ensuring for the peoples of Central America the right to decide their own internal affairs.

Concern was expressed over steps being taken towards militarisation of the South Atlantic; it was stressed that such actions threatened Latin American states, and led to the preservation of a dangerous seat of tension there.

The sides agree about the need for a radical restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable democratic basis. They emphasised the interrelation between disarmament and the problem of economic development.

The ministers reviewed in detail questions of Soviet-Argentinian relations and prospects for their development. They expressed satisfaction with the fruitful and constantly growing co-operation between the USSR and Argentina and reiterated their mutual interest in the further expansion of bilateral contacts on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit.

Agreement was reached on the text of a joint Soviet-Argentinian communique on Dante Caputo's visit to the USSR, which will be released in due course.

On January 29 Dante Caputo handed to Eduard Shevardnadze a message from Raul Alfonsin, President of the Republic of Argentina, to Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. It was a reply to Mikhail Gorbachyov's message presenting the latest Soviet initiatives on arms limitation and disarmament.

The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere. □

## Eduard Shevardnadze receives Pierre Beregovoy

MOSCOW, January 31, TASS:

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, today received Pierre Beregovoy, the French Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget.

The French minister presented a reply message from French President François Mitterrand to the message from the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, in connection with the new Soviet foreign policy initiatives. He noted that the Soviet proposals were perceived in France as bold and far reaching, and were being studied with positive interest.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that the initiatives contained in Mikhail Gorbachyov's

January 15 statement most seriously took into account the security interests of all states, nuclear and non-nuclear. The Soviet Union was not only suggesting a programme for a stage-by-stage reduction and liquidation of nuclear and all other weapons of mass annihilation but were also taking practical steps leading to the attainment of this aim.

The conversation was of a constructive nature.

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On the same day Pierre Beregovoy was received by the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Ivan Arkhipov. They discussed questions of the state and prospects of development of trade and economic co-operation between the two countries. □

# Soviet-Argentinian joint communique

MOSCOW, February 1, TASS:

THE Soviet Union and Argentina expressed their firm intention to advance along the road of deepening bilateral co-operation in various fields on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect and non-interference. This is said in a joint Soviet-Argentinian communique on the results of the official visit to the USSR by Dante Mario Caputo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of the Republic of Argentina, and his talks with Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

During the exchange of views on a wide range of international problems the ministers expressed the firm conviction that responsible and vigorous actions by all states—big, medium and small—with the aim of a real improvement in the international situation and averting nuclear war were necessary in the present complex period of international life.

The ministers were unanimous that the meeting in Geneva between Mikhail Gorbachyov, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President Ronald Reagan of the United States offered a promising perspective for

positive changes in international life. They stressed the principled importance of the joint accords of the leaders of the USSR and the USA on the impermissibility of nuclear war, on the renunciation by the sides of the intention to press for military superiority and also on other important issues, with the aim of achieving positive shifts in relations between the USSR and the United States and in the world as a whole. They believe that it would be in the interests of all people to preserve and develop the mutual understanding that was attained at the Geneva meeting.

The Soviet side drew the Argentinian side's attention to the complex of new Soviet foreign policy initiatives set forth in the January 15, 1986 statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov. It was stressed that the Soviet Union has suggested a concrete programme of measures and that their implementation would signify a practical solution of the task of saving mankind from nuclear war, of putting an end to nuclear arms on Earth completely and for ever, of preventing the arms race from spreading into outer space, of achieving real disarmament and radically improving the international situation.

A positive attitude to this initiative of the Soviet Union, consonant with the aspirations of all peace-loving peoples and states, was expressed from the Argentinian side.

Attaching special attention to the prevention of an arms race in outer space both sides stressed the importance of the resolution on this matter by the 40th session of the United Nations General

Assembly, which expresses the international community's collective will to prevent the appearance of arms in outer space and to make it a sphere of exclusively peaceful co-operation for the good of the whole of mankind.

The sides expressed serious concern over the preservation and aggravation of regional conflicts, this most negatively affecting the political, economic and social development in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and the overall situation in the world.

The Soviet Union and Argentina condemned the regime of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa and declared for the speediest attainment of independence by Namibia. The sides voiced support for the use of sanctions against the Republic of South Africa in conformity with the United Nations Charter.

The sides declared for the need of the speediest attainment of a just and all-embracing settlement in the Middle East. They expressed confidence that the convocation of a special international conference under the auspices of the United Nations Organisation and with the participation of all the interested sides was the most expedient road to such a settlement.

In conclusion the communique notes that the visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of Argentina to the USSR will serve the further development of friendly relations between the USSR and Argentina for the good of their peoples and in the interests of international co-operation and the strengthening of peace. □

## Andrei Gromyko's conversation with Argentinian minister

MOSCOW, January 29, TASS:

SOME problems of the present day international situation and questions of Soviet-Argentinian relations were in the focus of attention during a conversation in the Kremlin today between Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Dante Mario Caputo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of the Republic of Argentina.

Andrei Gromyko stressed that the Soviet Union was consistently continuing the struggle for universal peace. The new historic initiatives set out in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, pursued a clear aim: to achieve the

complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere within the shortest period of time, only 15 years.

"Our state has taken an important step towards disarmament," Andrei Gromyko said. "The fundamental newness and significance of the Soviet programme for the complete elimination of nuclear arms is that it is concrete in content and in the schedules for its implementation.

"It is important also that the Soviet Union has decided to extend for three months, that is till March 31, 1986, its earlier announced unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions. The ball is now in the US court. The Soviet Union stresses again that drastic reduction of nuclear arms is possible only when the USSR and the USA refuse to create, test and deploy space strike arms."

Dante Mario Caputo pointed to the positive attitude of the Argentinian Government towards the Soviet peace initiatives. And he stressed that the Soviet proposals of January 15, as an important political document, created a good foundation for practical solution of the questions of arms limitation and disarmament.

When the situation in Central America was discussed, the Soviet side confirmed its support for a peaceful political settlement in the area with steady observance of the sovereignty and right of peoples to decide how they should live and what course they should conduct. Dante Mario Caputo expressed concern over tension in Central America and proclaimed the wish of Argentina and other Latin American countries to promote the easing of that tension.

Discussing bilateral ties between the Soviet Union and Argentina, the sides noted their development with satisfaction. □

## Protocol signed

MOSCOW, January 29, TASS:

AN AGREEMENT between the Governments of the USSR and Argentina on cultural and scientific co-operation, a Soviet-Argentine protocol on consultations, and a protocol between the Governments of the USSR and Argentina on preparing a collection of diplomatic documents on relations between the USSR (Russia) and Argentina in the period 1885-1985 were signed here today.

The documents were signed by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, and Dante Mario Caputo, Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion.

Also on January 29 the USSR and Argentina signed an agreement under whose terms Argentina will deliver 4.5 million tons of fodder grain and soybeans per year to the Soviet Union in 1986-1990. The two countries also exchanged notes on the supply of Soviet-manufactured machines and equipment to Argentina in the current five-year period. The documents were signed for the Soviet Union by Boris Aristov, Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR, and for Argentina by Dante Caputo.

MOSCOW, January 30, TASS:

Konstantin Katushev, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and Dante Caputo held talks here today to discuss ways of developing economic co-operation between the two countries.

The Soviet side expressed its readiness to co-operate with Argentina in carrying out joint economic projects in such fields as machine-building, including agricultural machine-building, the power and mining industries, and transport, primarily rail transport.

Joint manufacture of different equipment and other products, it was noted at the talks, could become one of the forms of development of bilateral business relations. □

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Party Organisation. It noted that the conference had been held on a high organisational and political level, that it had passed in the spirit of the demands of the April 1985 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, had been distinguished for its business-like approach to the matters in hand and had displayed a keen attitude to shortcomings and flaws in work.

The Political Bureau also discussed questions connected with the course of preparations for the forthcoming spring field work.

Some questions of Party building and of developing the Soviet Union's co-operation with socialist and developing countries were also discussed. □

# Geidar Aliyev sums up the results of International Youth Year

MOSCOW, January 31, TASS:

"THE Soviet Union's young people support in practice the policy worked out by the April 1985 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee of accelerating the country's social and economic development and the wholesome changes taking place in all spheres of life, and link their future solidly with them."

This point was made today by Geidar Aliyev, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the commission for observing International Youth Year in the USSR, while summing up the results of the International Youth Year in this country.

"Soviet youth are taking an active part in efforts to intensify production and carry out the national energy and food programmes, they are involved in 72 construction projects of national importance and are developing the area of the Baikal-Amur railway and tapping oil and gas fields in western Siberia," Geidar Aliyev said. "The professional and social prestige of the Soviet young people is on the increase," he noted. "Last year thousands of young men and women were appointed to head production collectives and enterprises and elected to Party and local government office."

"Thirty per cent of the members of the local soviets, the supreme soviets of the constituent republics and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (national parliament) are people under 30. Quite a few young people were elected to public and production commissions. Many attended Party

conferences at district, regional and territorial levels and the congresses of the Communist Parties of constituent republics. A large group of young people were also elected delegates to the forthcoming 27th Congress of the CPSU."

Geidar Aliyev said the main event of International Youth Year had been the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, which had been the most representative in the history of the festival movement and which drew together representatives of young people in 157 countries. He said that thanks to having been to the forum, many young people abroad now realised much better where the threat to peace stemmed from and were much more clearly aware that efforts for peace were inconceivable without opposition to the forces of imperialism, militarism and reaction. □

## Valerian Mikhailov's speech at Vienna talks

VIENNA, January 30, TASS:

AMBASSADOR Valerian Mikhailov, who leads the Soviet delegation to the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, spoke here today at the opening of the 38th round of the talks.

The ambassador stressed that the new round began under special circumstances. He called the attention of the delegates to the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15, 1986, which extended a bold and realistic alternative to the current dangerous development of the international situation.

Touching on the situation at the talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, the head of the Soviet delegation described as a positive phenomenon the fact that Western partners were taking into consideration in general the proposals made by socialist countries on February 14, 1985; these proposals were about making initial reductions of Soviet and American troops in Central Europe, in combination with a subsequent non-increase, for a definite period of time, in the levels of the armed forces of the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries in that region. It is actually the first time that a general framework for further discussions and certain contours of a possible accord have emerged.

"However, the proposals made by the NATO countries in reply," the Soviet representative said, "still retain a lop-sided and unrealistic character in many respects. Their chief shortcoming is that they replace efforts to bring about a real lowering of the level of military confrontation in Central Europe with arbitrarily bloated verification proposals."

"A possible agreement in Vienna will naturally enough require, alongside other things, the adoption of the necessary verification measures which would give both sides a reasonable amount of confidence that the commitments to reduce and not to build up armed forces and armaments are indeed being honoured and that there is no threat to either side. But these measures should come in line with sober realism as well as the substance and character of the agreement, and not cultivate a new source of suspicion and mistrust," Valerian Mikhailov said.

The ambassador expressed the hope that accord would be reached in Vienna both on the substance of the initial agreement and on measures of adequate verification of compliance with it. □

## Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations

MOSCOW, January 30, TASS:

SOVIET-ANGOLAN-CUBAN consultations were held in Moscow on January 27. Some topical international problems, above all the situation in the south of Africa, were discussed.

In appraising the international situation it was noted that materialisation of the Soviet peace programme, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, would ensure a turn from confrontation to international detente and consolidation of peace, and would help create conditions for eliminating seats of tension in different parts of the world.

The parties to the consultations firmly declared against measures in the sphere of disarmament being made dependent on the so-called regional conflicts, and against the latter being used, in accordance with the American 'new globalism' concept, as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states and heightening East-West confrontation. It was emphasised that conflicts appearing in different parts of the world might grow into a full-scale war and therefore it was important to exert efforts to iron them out through joint efforts on the basis of fair principles, through negotiations with full respect for independence and right of the peoples to self-determination.

An official report on the consultations says that the South African racists, aided by the United States, through unending acts of aggression against sovereign Angola and through directly siding with the puppet UNITA grouping, seek in the final account to liquidate the progressive system in Angola, to impose upon that country vassal dependence on the Republic of South Africa and on world capital. The United States conducts the policy of 'constructive engagement' with the apartheid regime, which is denounced not only by the international community but also by broad circles of the progressive public in the United States itself.

The parties to the consultations considered a possible development of the situation around Angola in connection with open support and growing aid to UNITA from the American Administration, which is a pointer to direct interference in sovereign Angola's internal affairs. Honouring their treaty-based obligations, in line with the well-known resolutions which were adopted by the UN Security Council in September-October 1985, the Soviet Union and Cuba come out for resolutely stopping aggressive encroachments on the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola. They reaffirmed their solidarity with the continuing selfless struggle waged by the Angolan people in defence of their independent political choice.

The parties to the consultations reaffirmed that the seat of tension existing in the south of Africa should be ironed out through political means, in conditions of full renunciation of the policy of state terrorism and interference in the internal affairs of states of that region. It was emphasised that the situation could only be really improved, and peace attained in the south of Africa, provided readiness was displayed by the Republic of South Africa and the states supporting it, primarily the United States, to heed the interests of Angola and of the Namibian people whose sole and legitimate representative is SWAPO. The USSR, Angola and Cuba believe that it is urgently necessary to continue exerting efforts to promote real progress towards the solution of the Namibian question through unconditional compliance with the relevant UN decisions, including the UN Security Council's Resolution 435, which are the only internationally-recognised foundation for its settlement.

The sides expressed their invariable support for the rightful struggle waged by the South African people under the direction of the African National Congress for elimination of the hateful apartheid regime.

The platform put forward by the Angolan Government in September 1984, and the subsequent supplements, which have won universal support, remain the just foundation for attaining a comprehensive agreement that would ensure independence for Namibia and security and peace in the south-western part of Africa. The good will of the Angolan Government and its readiness for a settlement of the conflicts in the region, for a dialogue on a constructive and honest basis with a view to ensuring peace and stability in the south of Africa have once again been confirmed in the January 8 and January 23, 1986, statements by the President of the People's Republic of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos. As long as the apartheid regime exists in the Republic of South Africa there exists the danger to Angola and other independent states in the south of Africa, these statements say. □

# Vasili Kuznetsov's speech in Delhi

NEW DELHI, January 28, TASS:

VASILI KUZNETSOV, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today had a meeting with India's External Relations Minister Bali Ram Bhagat. Vasili Kuznetsov is heading a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet on an official friendly visit to India.

The sides had a friendly conversation and exchanged opinions on bilateral relations between the USSR and India and on some outstanding international problems.

A dinner in honour of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet was given at the Soviet Embassy in India in the evening. It was attended by: India's Vice-President Ramaswamy Venkataraman; Speaker of the House of the People of the Indian Parliament, Balram Jakhar; External Relations Minister Bali Ram Bhagat; Indian Members of Parliament and notable politicians and public figures of the republic.

Delivering a speech at the dinner, the leader of the Soviet delegation said:

"We are profoundly satisfied with the results of this visit and with the contents and character of our numerous meetings and conversations here. They forcefully reiterated anew that the positions of the Soviet Union and India coincide or are sufficiently close on most of the questions under discussion. This is one of the main results of the visit of our delegation. Our meetings and conversations also reaffirmed that both sides view with optimism prospects for the development of Soviet-Indian relations and are worried by dangerous international developments that have arisen through the fault of imperialism. We are unanimous that it is necessary to remove the threat of nuclear war, to return the world to the road of detente and to secure a drastic move from confrontation to disarmament and equal co-operation."

Ramaswamy Venkataraman said in a reply speech that the visit of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet was a major contribution towards stronger contacts between the parliamentarians of the two countries. "The conversations that have taken place have enabled us to learn even more about each other. We have identical views on major international problems. Just like the Soviet Union, India is opposed to the nuclear arms race and stands for the elimination of nuclear weapons, for a lasting world peace and for peaceful coexistence among states. India has welcomed the extensive new proposals of the Soviet Union aimed at the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons," he said. Venkataraman expressed his confidence that contacts between parliamentarians would contribute to the further expansion of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries and to the strengthening of their ties of friendship and co-operation.

The dinner passed in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

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NEW DELHI, January 29, TASS:

THE USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Vasili Kuznetsov, which has been in India on an official visit since January 23 at the invitation of the Indian Parliament, has today left for Moscow.

As already reported, Vasili Kuznetsov had a meeting with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India and handed to him a message from Mikhail Gorbachyov, the General Secretary of the

Central Committee of the CPSU.

The delegation was received by President Zail Singh of India and Vice-President Ramaswamy Venkataraman.

The head of the Soviet delegation also met Bali Ram Bhagat, Minister of External Affairs of India, with H K I Bhagat, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, and with Romesh Bhandari, Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and had conversations with them.

Soviet parliamentarians had meetings and conversations with Balram Jakhar, Speaker of the House of the People of the Indian Parliament, and with Indian MPs.

The delegation honoured the memory of the prominent political leaders of India, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, by laying wreaths at their memorials at Rajghat, Shantivan and Shakti Sthale.

The Soviet parliamentarians took part in the celebrations of the National Holiday of India—the 36th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic.

Apart from New Delhi the delegation visited Agra and Bangalore, made sight-seeing tours of the cities and visited a number of industrial facilities.

The meetings and conversations the Soviet delegation had in India passed in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. The sides informed each other about the activities of the supreme legislative bodies of the two countries and their contribution to the cause of strengthening friendship and co-operation between the Soviet and Indian peoples. Both sides noted with satisfaction that many-sided mutually beneficial Soviet-Indian ties, resting on the dependable foundation of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between the USSR and India, were steadily developing and growing deeper.

The sides stressed the important role of personal contacts between the Soviet and Indian leaders in the development of friendly Soviet-Indian relations. Of special importance in this context are the meetings between Mikhail Gorbachyov and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, which gave a powerful new impetus to the diverse co-operation between the USSR and India and to interaction of the two countries on the international scene.

The representatives of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Indian Parliament expressed the conviction that the further strengthening of Soviet-Indian friendship and co-operation accorded with the vital interests of the peoples of both countries and promoted the cause of peace and security in Asia and the world over.

During the discussion of international problems both sides noted that the main task facing mankind today was to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, to safeguard and strengthen peace. The solution of that task required consistent and continuous efforts by all states.

The sides stressed the special responsibility resting with the deputies to the parliaments and other legislative bodies of the states of the world for preserving and consolidating peace.

During the meetings and conversations the Supreme Soviet delegation drew the attention of the Indian side to the new important foreign policy initiatives formulated in the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachyov on January 15, 1986. It was noted that the Soviet-proposed programme of concrete and radical measures opened up a realistic road toward the complete elimination of nuclear and other mass annihilation weapons everywhere by the year 2000.

The Indian side highly praised the initiatives

formulated in Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement. It was stressed that their realisation would meet the interests of all countries and peoples, and would promote a decisive turn in the development of world processes away from confrontation toward detente and broad-scale equal international co-operation.

The Soviet side reiterated the high appraisal of the initiatives advanced by India and five other states with a view to preventing an arms race in space and concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty. Note was made of the positive impact of the Non-Aligned Movement on the international situation and of India's active role in that movement.

The representatives of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and of the Indian Parliament spoke of the need for strict observance of the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, respect for their sovereignty and their right to follow their chosen path of development.

The sides noted with satisfaction the growing interaction of the representatives of the USSR and India at international forums, primarily at the United Nations. In this context they spoke with appreciation of the resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in space and the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests passed by the recent 40th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR expressed its sincere gratitude to the Indian hosts for the cordial welcome, attention and hospitality accorded to it.

On behalf of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Vasili Kuznetsov conveyed to the Parliament of India an invitation to send a delegation to the Soviet Union. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. A date for the visit acceptable to both sides is to be agreed upon later.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the results of the visit of the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to India. They are of the opinion that it made a positive contribution to the process of strengthening and further developing friendly Soviet-Indian relations. □

## Message to UN

KABUL, January 30, TASS:

THE Committee of Afghan Patriots, which operates in Pakistan, has addressed a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, dealing with the aggression continuing in Khyber. The message stresses that the Pashtoon tribes and the Afghan people have similar historical and cultural roots. In order to uphold their freedom and independence the free Pashtoon tribes have decided to expel from their territory gangs of Afghan counter-revolutionaries, which are engaged in subversive activity both against the DRA and the tribes. A statement to this effect was made at the Supreme Jirga of the border tribes in Kabul.

The implementation of these decisions has angered the Pakistani militarists. Acting on the order of their American bosses, they have launched an act of aggression against the tribes in Khyber, by sending against them hundreds of tanks and armoured personnel vehicles, and up to 30 thousand servicemen. Innocent people, including women and children, are being killed in the course of the aggression, houses and villages of Pashtoons are being destroyed.

The message from the Committee of Afghan Patriots requests immediate application of political and economic sanctions by the UN against the regime of Zia Ul-Haq for an immediate end to aggression and withdrawal of troops from Khyber. □

**PRAVDA EDITORIAL:**

# Essential Precondition

*MOSCOW, January 30, TASS: The newspaper Pravda today carried an editorial under the heading 'Essential Precondition'. It reads:*

THE WORLD continues actively to discuss the latest large-scale Soviet peace initiative put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15. The latest Soviet proposals have touched the innermost sentiments of the peoples. Millions of people wonder if there can be anything more encouraging and inspiring than the real prospect of coming to the year 2000 without nuclear weapons.

What characterises the Soviet programme for a nuclear weapon-free world is its being concrete and realistic. It has not only submitted for consideration by the governments and peoples certain proposals, broken down in detail by stages with a timeframe, on ways to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It also identifies obstacles in the way of the accomplishment of that extremely urgent task. The main one of these obstacles is the intention of the Washington Administration to deploy space strike weapons in near-Earth space.

Mankind must see clearly two basically different approaches to the question of using outer space.

The Soviet Union, aware of its responsibility for safeguarding and strengthening peace, has perseveringly advocated from the onset of the nuclear and space age a ban on the use of space for military purposes and suggested concrete plans for the development of broad international co-operation in the study and use of outer space for the good of all the peoples. This position is an organic component of the consistent foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet State that is characterised by a striving to concentrate on constructive ways to avert the war danger.

The Soviet Union calls upon all the states, primarily the USA, to take a sober and objective look at the world situation. It is a reality of our time that, given the existing level of development of science and technology, the spread of the arms race is fraught with the emergence of an extremely dangerous state of affairs, namely the destabilisation of the military-political situation and the escalation of the arms race, which is bound to get out of hand and face mankind with an irreversible process. Hence our efforts to prevent outer space from becoming a potential theatre of military operations.

"The prevention of the spread of the arms race into space is considered by the USSR a basic condition for the survival of mankind," Mikhail Gorbachyov said.

This humane course is being countered with a basically different course of the USA, prompted by its desire to turn space into a military staging area from which it would be possible to attain dominance on Earth and to dictate to mankind by using space strike weapons.

Assurances that the 'Star Wars' programme, camouflaged as a 'Strategic Defense Initiative' for propaganda purposes, is just an innocuous research project cannot conceal its militarist nature, which is intrinsically hostile to the peace aspirations of mankind. What is really taking place under the cover of this rhetoric is an extensive process of the development of space strike systems, which are not at all intended for defence. As a matter of fact, it is impossible to develop an all-purpose space defence system—at best it is an illusion from the technological, economic and political point of view alike. But any 'space shield' can easily be converted into a 'space sword'. And the party possessing such a sword can yield to the temptation of using it. This is the crux of the matter and the reason behind the Soviet position, prompted exclusively by the interests of safeguarding peace.

The 'Star Wars' programme has given flesh to the erstwhile ambitions of the US to attain military

superiority. The militarist forces do not want to reconcile themselves to the idea of military-strategic parity which has been achieved by socialism. They are still nurturing the illusion that this parity is temporary and that the 'Star Wars' programme will help turn the clock back. The striving to achieve decisive military superiority through space and to make it possible to deliver the first nuclear strike with impunity is the true purpose of the infamous SDI.

It amounts to an open and dangerous attempt on the cause of world peace. One of the conditions of the safeguarding of peace in the nuclear age is continued strategic stability. The USSR and the other peace-loving states advocate respect for the principle of equality and equal security and are perseveringly trying to lower the level of armaments. The danger of the 'Star Wars' programme lies precisely in that its implementation would lead to the destruction of the very basis of strategic stability. It is naive to try to resolve the problem of security through improving the shield and the sword. Today there can be no US security without Soviet security, no security for the NATO countries without security for the Warsaw Treaty members, and therefore no universal security.

Peaceful coexistence, relaxation of tension, the lowering of the level of armed confrontation and the build-up of trust in relations among states constitute the highway to peace nowadays. And what trust among states and what tranquility for mankind can be spoken of if the development of space weapon systems leads to important and irreversible decisions being taken by machines rather than by people?

The stubborn desire of the US Administration to carry through the 'Star Wars' programme at all costs is becoming the main obstacle on the way to the goal desired by the whole of mankind, namely the elimination of nuclear weapons. Claims that the implementation of SDI can lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons will not deceive anyone. Space strike weapons are being conceived and developed not to replace but to complement the US offensive nuclear potential.

Washington makes no secret of the fact that the primary reason of the US refusal to accept the Soviet-proposed moratorium on nuclear weapon tests lies precisely in that these tests are needed to develop one of the space strike weapons, an X-ray nuclear-pumped laser. That is why certain forces in the USA would like to derail the 1972 Soviet-American ABM Treaty, which is one of the constraints on the runaway nuclear arms race.

The proclamation of the 'Star Wars' programme sent alarming repercussions throughout the world. More and more peace forces, including in the USA, are rising in struggle against the danger. Justice undoubtedly is on the side of those sensible people in America who say that the question now is: either 'Star Wars' or Star Peace, either peaceful coexistence or no existence at all. The desire of states and peoples was graphically illustrated by a recent vote at the 40th session of the UN General Assembly, when virtually all the members of the international community—151 countries—supported a resolution urging the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The USA refused to

vote for that resolution.

The US Administration has stated on more than one occasion that it is committed to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons totally and everywhere. Washington has now been given a practical opportunity to come to grips with the task. It is obvious to every sensible person that it is far more sensible to set about eliminating nuclear weapons and eventually to wipe them away completely than to spend the next 10-15 years on the development of new, extremely dangerous and costly space weapons, allegedly intended to make nuclear weapons obsolete.

Our country has put on the table at the Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons the proposal on halving the Soviet and American nuclear weapons capable of reaching each other's territories. The acceptance of this proposal would constitute an important step towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Those who would like to block a solution to the problem of non-militarisation of space are indicating that they do not want the arms race on Earth to be stopped either. It is no chance occurrence that the proponents of the nuclear arms race, the bigwigs of the US military-industrial complex, are also enthusiastic supporters of the 'Star Wars' programme. These are two sides of the same ill-conceived policy, which is at odds with the striving of millions for a lasting peace.

There are no tactical calculations behind the Soviet Union's proposal on the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and it is free from national selfishness. Our paramount goal is the safeguarding of world peace. It was the USSR that suggested as soon as nuclear weapons appeared in the arsenals of states that they should be banned in perpetuity. Atomic energy should only serve peace and the good of mankind—this is the invariable stand of the CPSU and the Soviet State.

The Soviet Union has offered the countries and peoples to make sure that the world enters the third millennium not with a 'Star Wars' platform but with plans for the peaceful exploration of space by mankind as a whole. Its programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons is realistic and feasible. But to repeat, a serious obstacle here is the 'Star Wars' concept. The Soviet Union has warned on more than one occasion that the development of space strike weapons will kill the hope for the reduction of nuclear armaments on Earth. The ambitions of a handful of US military industrial complex bosses and their stooges must not be allowed to prevail over the vital interests of mankind.

Of course, if the United States embarks on the road of developing space weapons, we will have to come up with an adequate and efficient response. The Soviet Union is not afraid of falling behind in the space race if it is imposed on us. But this is not our choice and we do not want it.

Space must be kept peaceful. The doors to it must be shut to weapons. There must be no room there for space strike weapons and they must not be developed at all. Peace can be preserved on Earth and the skies over it must remain clear. This is the imperative command of the times. This is the onus of historical responsibility for the decisions and actions of states and governments in the period till the third millennium.

Today it is no longer enough merely to wish to avert nuclear war or merely to understand whence the threat of that war comes. It is necessary to act, to act immediately and together at the level of governments, political parties and peoples, in order to put an end to the arms race once and for all and to switch international developments onto the course of peaceful progress. □

## PRAVDA EDITORIAL:

# European aspect of the nuclear problem

MOSCOW, February 4, TASS:

"THE PROGRAMME for a stage-by-stage universal elimination of nuclear weapons on Earth to be completed by the year 2000 with a simultaneous ban on space strike weapons, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement on January 15, has been received and is being discussed in Europe with exceptional interest," *Pravda* says today in its editorial analysing the European aspect of the nuclear problem.

"Hundreds of new US medium-range missiles have been deployed in several West European countries. Contrary to common sense and the national interests of the European peoples, the process of the deployment of these first-strike weapons continues even today. Naturally, these developments are causing much worry to the peace-loving public and the sensible political forces in the European continent."

"It is time to cut this Gordian knot and to find a way out of the deadlock," the newspaper says. "The European aspect of the Soviet plan for nuclear disarmament suggests precisely such a radical solution."

"The point is to achieve and implement the decision on the complete elimination of both ballistic and cruise medium-range missiles of the USSR and the USA in Europe already at the first stage of the implementation of that plan. It should be done as a first step towards ridding Europe of nuclear weapons."

"The first step on this road," the newspaper continues, "has a definite time frame. The Soviet and US medium-range missiles in Europe are to be removed within a period stipulated by the first stage of the Soviet plan. Moreover, these medium-range systems are not merely to be taken out but to be eliminated. This could be a real and cardinal measure of nuclear disarmament in Europe as a result of which there would remain several hundred fewer missiles and over one thousand fewer munitions in the continent and in the world as a whole!"

"It is an important aspect of the Soviet plan

that its first stage is oriented primarily on the USSR and the USA. Neither French nor British nuclear forces are to be entered in the 'Soviet-American ledger'.

"It is logical, however, that as the question of the elimination of medium-range missiles is decided, the USA should assume the commitment not to supply strategic or medium-range missiles to other countries, while Britain and France should pledge not to build up their relevant nuclear arms."

"There are commonly-known official statements to the effect that France and Britain would be prepared to join in the process of nuclear disarmament only after the Soviet Union and the United States have substantially reduced their nuclear arms arsenals."

"In view of this, it is suggested that other countries begin to reduce their nuclear armaments only at the second stage, after the USSR and the USA have reduced not merely substantially but radically—by half—their nuclear armaments reaching each other's territories. Moreover, according to the Soviet proposal, the other countries should begin to reduce their nuclear arsenals from the elimination of tactical weapons at the second stage, while those nuclear armaments which they themselves call strategic would be eliminated only at the third stage, along with the completion of the dismantling by the USSR and the USA of their nuclear arms arsenals."

In this connection *Pravda* recalls that, guided by good will, the Soviet Union unilaterally took the SS-20 missiles additionally deployed in the European zone from combat alert and dismantled the corresponding stationary installations for these missiles.

Touching on the Soviet Union's readiness to start a direct conversation with France and Britain on nuclear matters, *Pravda* notes "that

the idea of an interim agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe was discussed at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva and the sides managed to detect points of contact in that sphere."

"There is no doubt, however, that the proposal on the elimination of the Soviet and US medium-range missiles in the European zone acquires special importance now. It is easy to implement in practice given the corresponding will of the sides. Having nothing in common with the US 'zero option' it does not damage the security interests of the sides and takes into consideration the wishes expressed first and foremost by Western European countries that a possible accord should include all of the SS-20 missiles capable of hitting targets in the territory of Western Europe. Thus, practically, the road towards accord is open. The first step toward ridding the European continent of nuclear weapons now depends solely on the position and political will of the other side." *Pravda* writes.

"The European aspect of the Soviet plan has stirred the minds on our continent," *Pravda* emphasises.

However, efforts are afoot to undermine that honest and clearly-formulated idea. In this connection *Pravda* writes that the newspaper *Newsday*, quoting what it called "US officials" announces, for example, that the motive behind the Soviet plan is the desire to drive a wedge between the United States and its principal allies.

"Every condition exists on the European continent now to overcome the disunity of the East and the West, especially on matters related to security and mutually advantageous co-operation," the article says in conclusion. "Europe is perfectly capable of giving its 'European reply' to the challenge of our time."

It is to be hoped that Washington will study objectively and weigh up the proposal on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles as a first step towards ridding Europe of nuclear weapons. A serious and business-like reply is needed so as to begin the drafting of a relevant accord in practice. The nations of Europe are waiting for it and it would benefit the security of all on this planet. □

## MESSAGE TO CPI CONGRESS

MOSCOW, January 30, TASS:

*THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has sent a message to the 19th Congress of the fraternal Communist Party of Ireland. The message reads, in part:*

The Communist Party of Ireland is known in the world communist and working class movement for its loyalty to the ideals of Marxism-Leninism, its uncompromising struggle against anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. Soviet

Communists know and highly value this.

Your congress has assembled in the situation when the world is passing through a critical moment. The peoples with growing insistence demand that the threat of nuclear war be eliminated. For this end even more consistent and vigorous efforts of all anti-war and democratic forces are required—efforts to prevent the transfer of the arms race to outer space, and promote the elimination of nuclear weapons and the revival of international detente.

Advocating genuine neutrality and independence of the country, opposing its involvement in military alliances, the Communist Party of Ireland makes an important contribution to the common cause of safeguarding peace on Earth.

"We wish the Irish Communists success in the struggle to translate into life the aspirations of the Irish people, for the interests of the Irish working people, for a peaceful life, democracy and social progress."

Let friendship between the Communists of Ireland and the Soviet Union develop and grow stronger for the benefit of the peoples of both countries!

Long live the Communist Party of Ireland!

Let there be peace all over the world! □

## NEW APPOINTMENT

MOSCOW, January 30, TASS:

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Sergei Bashilov as USSR Minister of Heavy Industry Construction.

Sergei Bashilov was born in 1923. He is by profession a railway construction engineer. After graduating from the Moscow Railway Transport Engineering Institute, he worked from 1950 at construction organisations in Siberia. From 1954 to 1958 he was manager of a construction trust, then chief of the administration of construction and construction industry materials in Tyumen. From 1963 to 1976 he held an important post at the USSR Ministry of Heavy Industry Construction. From 1976 to 1979 he worked as chief of the department of construction and construction industry at the USSR State Planning Committee. In 1979, he was appointed Minister of Construction in the areas of the Far East and beyond the Baikal, and in 1983 appointed as Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Construction.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet relieved Nikolai Goldin of the post of USSR Minister of Heavy Industry Construction in connection with his retirement on pension. □

## AGREEMENT SIGNED

LONDON, January 28, TASS:

AN agreement on making available TASS information through the data bank of the British firm Datasolve was signed in London today. With the help of electronic equipment several thousands of foreign subscribers have gained access to the full texts of TASS reports. The data bank already has materials about the Soviet-American Geneva summit, new Soviet initiatives on arms race limitation and disarmament, and other documents. The information is disseminated to Western Europe, Australia and other countries. □

# International responses to Soviet peace proposals

*BONN, February 1, TASS:*

THE Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany has welcomed the major proposals made by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, directed at ending the arms race.

This evaluation made by the governing body of West German Social Democracy was again outlined by the Party's Chairman Willy Brandt in an interview with the Bonn correspondent of the Novosti news agency.

"We hope that serious talks will be conducted between the two great powers and that the Soviet side's proposals will be seriously studied. We call on the government of our country to support this process," he said.

"I agree with Mikhail Gorbachyov's thesis about the need for resolutely dismantling the 'logic' of the arms race," Willy Brandt went on.

The Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany confirmed the position of the West German Social Democrats against the plans of militarising outer space. "It is necessary to avert the danger of nuclear catastrophe by way of directly reducing nuclear weapons, instead of taking the road of creating extremely costly means of counter-action that destabilise the situation and which nobody can vouch will work," Willy Brandt said he preferred political means of safeguarding peace.

In his interview he devoted much attention to questions of diverting to peaceful use sums that could be made available as a result of disarmament.

Mikhail Gorbachyov's January 15 statement was also the subject of a recent interview given to *Pravda's* London correspondent by Tony Benn MP, prominent British political figure and member of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee.

Tony Benn said that the programme of peace and disarmament contained in the statement was a highly constructive document. In calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons, the Soviet leader speaks on behalf of an overwhelming majority of the world's population, he pointed out.

A decisive element of the disarmament process outlined in the Soviet programme, he stressed, is the Soviet Union's unilaterally declared moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which has been extended by another three months, as well as the readiness expressed by it to start immediately talks on a general ban on nuclear weapons testing. This measure, Tony Benn said.

## Soviet Foreign Ministry Protest

*MOSCOW, February 4, TASS:*

A RESOLUTE protest was expressed to the French Embassy at the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow on February 1 over an unfriendly action by the French authorities with regard to four Soviet employees in Paris, who were groundlessly accused of 'illicit activity'.

Such actions by the French side do not correspond to its declarations about the aspiration to maintain and develop good relations with the USSR. Responsibility for the consequences of the action rests with the French authorities.

It was noted that the Embassy's attention was repeatedly drawn to the fact that several French employees in Moscow do not observe rules of conduct of foreign representatives in the USSR and are engaged in illicit activity. In this connection, some French employees were asked to leave the USSR. □

is indisputably a step in the right direction. The Soviet proposal on a moratorium makes it possible to break the vicious circle of the steadily accelerating weapons race, including the plans for militarising outer space put forward by advocates of 'Star Wars' which threaten us all.

*ROME February 5, TASS:*

George McGovern, American Democratic Senator, has strongly criticised the US 'Star Wars' Plans. Addressing a press conference in Rome, he stressed that the plans of the US Administration to militarise outer space are a serious impediment in the way of the development of American-Soviet relations.

McGovern positively evaluated the new Soviet proposals in the field of disarmament contained in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov. He pointed out that the Soviet peace initiatives had met with a broad positive response in various circles of the United States.

The Senator urged the West European countries to contribute to the development of the East-West dialogue.

*PARIS, January 30, TASS:*

Broad sections of the French working people display interest in and enthusiasm over the latest Soviet peace initiatives advanced by Mikhail Gorbachyov, a well-known physicist and Secretary of France's biggest trade union organisation, the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), has stressed.

Guy Dupré, interviewed by a TASS correspondent, stressed that the Soviet plan for a complete elimination of nuclear weapons was a weighty contribution to strengthening peace and international security, showing a real path towards ridding mankind of the threat of total elimination.

The governments of all countries should thoroughly study the Soviet initiatives, Dupré pointed out. "We believe that France should contribute to curbing the arms race which rests as a heavy burden on the shoulders of the French working people," he stressed.

*NEW DELHI, January 27, TASS:*

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou has highly appraised the proposals contained in Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement. Speaking at a press conference here today, he noted that "the new initiatives of the USSR constitute one of the most positive steps that could be taken in this situation." The head of the Greek Government, on an official visit to India, said that the problems of war and peace had been in the focus of attention during his talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

*MOSCOW, February 4, TASS:*

An act of lofty statesmanship, this is how Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement was summed up by prominent West German scientist Karl Bonhoeffer, Director of the Institute of Anaesthesiology in Koeln. "The Soviet leader's proposals for the complete elimination of nuclear arms on Earth by the year 2000 inspire the hope in all people on Earth for getting rid of the danger whose equal humanity has never known," he said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

Karl Bonhoeffer has been staying in the USSR as a member of a delegation of West German activists of the organisation International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, at the invitation of the Soviet committee of that movement.

It was a very timely step, the scientist said in connection with Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement.

The 'Strategic Defense Initiative' advanced by the US Administration means transfer of weapons of mass destruction to space, the growth of tension and mistrust among states, he said. "It kills millions of people even now, for huge funds

squandered on it could be used for combatting famine, poverty and diseases."

This question is of such great importance that it will be discussed separately at a regular congress of the movement, he said.

In an interview last week on Soviet television, well-known American public figure Paul Warnke, formerly Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and head of the US delegation to the SALT-2 talks, and now leader of the Public Committee for National Security, said the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachyov on disarmament issues was very encouraging. The concrete proposals it contained were most constructive, for example those for halving strategic offensive missiles and warheads in the next five years. The statement also suggested taking decisive steps to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe, which, Warnke said, also appeared a very concrete and quite feasible initiative.

He said another encouraging element in the statement were the proposals for broader mutual verification. He said he had been glad to learn of this gesture of good will and now hoped for a constructive response from the United States.

Warnke added he would also like to see an end to all nuclear testing.

Both sides, he said, should agree to comply unconditionally with the provisions of the ABM Treaty. If they did that, they would have the mutual confidence that would enable them to achieve the most serious cuts in strategic offensive arms.

*COPENHAGEN, January 30, TASS:*

Participants in a congress being held here of the anti-war organisation 'Teachers For Peace' have stressed the importance of the latest peace initiatives of the USSR, set out in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov.

A complete termination of nuclear weapon tests will remove the base of the nuclear arms race and hinder the implementation of the plans to militarise outer space, says the statement adopted at the congress.

The Soviet Union's extension of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, stress documents of the congress, opens up a possibility for reaching a joint Soviet-American accord on a total termination of nuclear tests.

The delegates of the congress appealed to the Parliament and Government of Denmark to use all means at their disposal to press the US Administration into following the Soviet example and stopping nuclear blasts.

*MOSCOW, February 4, TASS:*

Swedish women participants in the peace movement welcome the comprehensive and realistic statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov. If other nuclear powers respond to the proposals of the Soviet leader, the sky over the heads of our children will never be crossed by missile trajectories, Astrid Einarsson, deputy chairman of the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, told TASS. She has been visiting the USSR together with a delegation from that organisation at the invitation of the Soviet Women's Committee.

She said that the statement by the Soviet leader contained ways to resolve as early as at the first stage the European aspect of the nuclear problem. Swedish peace campaigners share this view since security conditions in Europe are becoming increasingly fragile since US first-strike missiles were deployed in the region, said Astrid Einarsson. □

(N.B. The cross-heads in this bulletin were inserted by Soviet News—Ed.)