

Mikhail Gorbachyov's reply to leaders of the 'Delhi Six'

MOSCOW, May 2, TASS: Here follows the full text of the reply of Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to a message from the leaders of Argentina, India, Tanzania, Sweden, Mexico and Greece:

Mr Raul Alfonsin,
President of Argentina,
Mr Rajiv Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India,
Mr Miguel de la Madrid,
President of Mexico,
Mr Julius Nyerere,
Tanzania,
Mr Ingvar Carlsson,
Prime Minister of Sweden,
Mr Andreas Papandreou,
Prime Minister of Greece,

Dear Sirs,

I thank you for the message of April 8, 1986 and for the support you expressed in it for our efforts to terminate nuclear testing. I share the concern expressed by you over the dangerous development of events in the world and share your considerations concerning concrete steps and actions that could be taken, primarily by the USSR and the USA, with a view to removing the nuclear threat looming dark over mankind. I believe that you are absolutely right in the assessment of the importance of the termination of nuclear testing as a measure that would hold back the further modernisation of nuclear arms and would promote the lessening of the nuclear threat.

The message was received at the time when the United States, in spite of the demands of broad sections of the world public, in defiance of appeals made by statesmen in countries on different continents, staged nuclear tests on April 10 and then on April 22, 1986, too. You certainly understand that this challenging act substantially changed the situation.

We made repeated warnings, both publicly and in our correspondence with President Reagan, that the Soviet Union cannot extend its unilateral moratorium into perpetuity. By not conducting either test or peaceful explosions over a long period of time our country took a certain risk. In the duration of our moratorium the USA carried on with the implementation of large-scale military programmes, including within the framework of the so-called 'Strategic Defense Initiative'. Nuclear explosions at the Nevada test range are a component part of these programmes.

IN THIS ISSUE

Mikhail Gorbachyov's reply to leaders of the 'Delhi Six'	p. 221
Nikolai Ryzhkov and Yegor Ligachyov visit Chernobyl power station	p. 222
Statement by Boris Shcherbina on Chernobyl accident	p. 223
Mikhail Gorbachyov's meeting with José Eduardo dos Santos	p. 224
Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at luncheon in honour of Foreign Minister of Cyprus	p. 225
Viktor Karpov's Geneva statement	p. 228

In such conditions we were compelled to lift the unilateral commitment taken by us voluntarily not to conduct any nuclear explosions, because we cannot waive our own security and the security of our allies and friends. I repeat, the actions of the USA compelled us to take this decision.

However, even in this new situation the Soviet Union is firmly determined to continue working, perseveringly and consistently, towards resolving the acute problem of the complete termination of nuclear testing—a problem that allows of no delay. And we continue to count on your valuable support in this cause.

I would like to emphasise that the Soviet Union is doing everything necessary to make a bilateral Soviet-American moratorium a reality. We are prepared to return any moment to the question of a mutual moratorium if the USA does not conduct nuclear tests. We supported the idea expressed by you earlier that the USSR and the USA refrain from nuclear testing for the period till another summit meeting. Even now, following an eight-month interval in nuclear tests in the USSR, we are in no hurry to resume them. However, Washington's reaction to all this remains negative.

I can add to this that we cannot regard the broadly advertised "reply" of Washington to our calls for ending nuclear explosions—that is, the invitation for our experts to be present during the explosions in Nevada—in any other way than as an outrage upon common sense. In this way they want to put us in the delusive position of 'co-operation' in the arms race, not in its termination.

The prohibition of nuclear weapon tests by signing international legal documents remains the principal task. It can be accomplished as a result of negotiations. In order to set this process in motion it is necessary to try out all the existing opportunities on that score. As you know, we proposed to the USA to open bilateral talks on the termination of nuclear testing. The USSR also stands for resuming tripartite talks on that matter and recently raised this question with Mrs Thatcher.

The Conference on Disarmament presents good opportunities for multipartite talks. Finally, we are prepared to reach agreement on the application of the terms of the Moscow Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater to underground nuclear tests as well.

The Soviet Union reaffirms its readiness to consider and use such verification measures, including those suggested by you, that would ensure absolute certainty that an accord on the termination of nuclear testing which should be reached is strictly observed by all.

In your message you justly link the question about a Soviet-American summit meeting with progress in the sphere of arms limitation, with the solution of the question of nuclear testing.

At the meeting in Geneva we agreed with the US President to carry on with the started dialogue which, as we believe, should lead to practical results, above all on matters of security.

At the same time the current actions of the United States are at variance with the task of seeking ways for improving international relations and intensifying the positive tendencies that emerged as a result of the Geneva meeting. These actions, let me put it frankly, caused direct damage to the dialogue between the USSR and the USA.

However, considering the urgent character of the question of terminating nuclear tests, we proposed to hold a meeting in Europe in the immediate future specially on that matter. This meeting would not replace that on which we agreed in Geneva. At the meeting in Europe we could reach agreement in principle on the termination of nuclear testing. And then relevant talks could follow for drafting the text of an agreement on that matter. These proposals of ours remain in force.

The Soviet Union regards the termination and prohibition of nuclear testing as a very important component part of the movement toward implementing the concept of a nuclear-free world. You can rest assured that in striving for its realisation we are prepared to take the boldest steps, on condition that the principle of equal security is observed. We hope that you, too, will continue to promote, by making joint efforts, the establishment of constructive and business-like co-operation between all peace-loving states in their efforts to ensure international security in the conditions of a nuclear-free world. The main thing now is to stop the slide of mankind toward a nuclear abyss. This is a cause of all and everyone.

Respectfully,
M Gorbachyov.

Mikhail Gorbachyov's message is a reply to the April 8, 1986 message of the leaders of six countries—Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden and Greece—in which they came out again in favour of the immediate termination of all nuclear weapon tests. □

Mikhail Gorbachyov congratulates Najibullah

MOSCOW, May 5, TASS:

Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has cordially congratulated Najibullah on his election to the post of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"A steadfast fighter for the interests of the Afghan people and active participant in the implementation of Afghanistan's domestic and foreign policy," the message said, "you have won deserved authority in the Party and among the people, directing all your strength to the struggle for the vital social and economic changes of your country, for the consolidation of its sovereignty."

The message pointed to Najibullah's personal contribution to strengthening the Soviet-Afghan friendship, and to developing and expanding all-round fruitful co-operation between the USSR and the DRA. □

Nikolai Ryzhkov and Yegor Ligachyov visit Chernobyl power station area

MOSCOW, May 3, TASS:

ON May 2 Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Yegor Ligachyov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the area of the Chernobyl atomic power station.

They familiarised themselves with the situation in the area of the atomic power station. Together with the government-appointed commission and the leaders of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and of Party and local-government bodies from Kiev Region and the city of Chernobyl, they considered the measures being taken to eliminate the focus of the breakdown at the fourth power unit at the station, to normalise the situation in the adjacent area and to render assistance to the local population.

It was pointed out that the work to eliminate the breakdown and its consequences was being conducted in an organised way, with the use of the necessary means. Decisions were taken on additional measures to expedite the work.

Nikolai Ryzhkov and Yegor Ligachyov visited populated localities where they met people who

From the USSR Council of Ministers

MOSCOW, April 30, TASS:

WORK to eliminate the consequences of the accident continues at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

As a result of the measures taken in the past 24 hours, the emanation of radioactive substances has decreased, the radiation levels in the area of the atomic power station and in the settlement at the station have lowered.

Measurements taken by specialists by means of control equipment show that the chain reaction of fission of nuclear fuel is not taking place, the reactor is shut down.

Work is under way to clean polluted sections of the adjoining locality. Specialised units supplied with the necessary up-to-date equipment and effective means are employed in this work.

Some news agencies in the West are spreading rumours that thousands of people, allegedly, perished during the accident at the atomic power station. It has already been reported that in reality two persons died, that only 197 people were hospitalised. Forty-nine of them were discharged from the hospital after a medical examination. Enterprises, collective farms and state farms and institutions are functioning normally.

The Council of Ministers of the Ukraine reported that according to the governmental commission the radiation situation at the Chernobyl atomic power station and in the adjoining locality is improving. The state of the air basin over the remaining territory of the Kiev Region and the city of Kiev evokes no concern. The quality of drinking water, as well as of the water in rivers and water reservoirs, is in keeping with the standards. Constant observations are conducted over the state of the environment. □

have been temporarily evacuated from the area of the atomic power station and inquired about arrangements for their life, trade and medical services, provision of employment, and the functioning of schools and pre-school institutions.

Taking part in the trip were Vladimir Shcherbitsky, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, Boris Shcherbina, chairman of the government-appointed commission and Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Alexander Lyashko, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Grigori Revenko, First Secretary of the Kiev Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine. □

TASS REPORT

MOSCOW, May 4, TASS:

Expressions of sympathy and proposals for extending aid are being made to the Soviet Government from foreign states, various organisations, private companies and individual citizens in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

TASS is authorised to report that the Soviet Government expresses sincere gratitude to all those who have expressed their sympathy and appropriate understanding of what has happened, and offered aid and assistance. At

present, the main requirements arising in eliminating the consequences of the accident are being met through our own means. Certainly, when assistance offered with good intentions can prove useful, it will be accepted with gratitude. Thus, in particular, Robert Gale, a well-known US expert in radiology, has already arrived in the Soviet Union for consultations. Hans Blix, general director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), arrives in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

One has to regret, however, that against this wide background of sympathy and understanding, attempts are being made by definite circles to use what has happened for unseemly political ends. Rumours and fabrications which are at conflict with fundamental norms of morality were put to use for propaganda purposes. For instance, faked reports are spread about a death toll running into thousands, panic among the population, and so on. Engaged in this sort of activity are those who do not accept the very spirit of confidence and detente, to whom it is customary to kindle strife among nations. It is understandable to every normal person that maliciously delighting in other people's trouble is an unseemly occupation.

As for the Chernobyl accident, work to eliminate its consequences and extend aid to those affected by the accident is going on at the station and in the surrounding area.

The service personnel at the station maintain reliable control over the state of the other three reactor units, whose operation was halted, and the cooling systems of the reactors. □

Statement by USSR permanent mission at United Nations

NEW YORK, May 1, TASS:

YURI DUBININ, USSR Ambassador at the UN, has expressed gratitude to the chairman of the 40th session of the UN General Assembly and to the delegations who expressed their sympathy at the sittings of the resumed session to the government and people of the Soviet Union, in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant.

Speaking today at a plenary meeting of the session, he informed delegates of the accident and of the measures taken with the aim to eliminate its after-effects. He said that the radioactivity in the territory of the power plant and in the township nearby had been reduced by 1.5-2 times.

Measurements taken by specialists with the help of test equipment showed that there was no chain reaction of the fission of nuclear fuel, and the reactor was shut down.

Work is under way to deactivate the contaminated areas adjacent to the territory of the nuclear power plant. It is being done by specialised units which have at their disposal the necessary up-to-date equipment and effective means.

Medical assistance is being administered to the people affected by the accident. There are no foreign citizens among them. Competent Soviet organisations did not receive any applications from foreign citizens staying in the Soviet Union (specifically, specialists or tourists) in connection with the accident.

The Soviet Union has at its disposal enough materials, sufficient scientific and technical potential to eliminate the after-effects of the accident. At the present stage there is no need for

assistance from other countries.

Yuri Dubinin refuted rumours spread by some Western news agencies to the effect that thousands of people had allegedly died in the accident. Actually two people died and a total of 197 were hospitalised of whom 49 left the hospital after a medical check-up. Mills and factories, collective and state farms, as well as organisations are working normally.

Yuri Dubinin said that he had visited today the UN Secretary-General and informed him of the state of affairs in eliminating the after-effects of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. □

Situation on May 4

DURING May 4 a complex of measures continued at Chernobyl nuclear power station in order to remove the effects of the accident. The cleaning-up of the territory of the 4th unit of the nuclear power station is under way. The emission of radioactive substances continues to decrease.

Work has been started to bank up the River Pripyat in the area of the nuclear power station to prevent its possible contamination.

The radiation situation on the territory of the Ukraine and Byelorussia is stabilising with a tendency toward its improvement. The necessary sanitation, hygienic, treatment and preventive measures are being carried out.

Temporary employment at other enterprises, construction sites, collective and state farms is being arranged for the population evacuated from the 30-kilometre zone around the nuclear power station. □

(TASS.)

Statement by Boris Shcherbina on Chernobyl accident

MOSCOW, May 6, TASS:

"THE radiation situation is being normalised in the area of Chernobyl as a result of the measures which were taken. Its level has declined still more in the past 24 hours," Boris Shcherbina, the chairman of the governmental commission on taking measures to overcome the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and determine its causes and a Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, told a press conference here today for Soviet and foreign journalists.

He said results of the systematic monitoring of radioactive contamination of terrain on the territory of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Moldavia showed that the radiation level had not exceeded the norms of radiation safety established by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the USSR Health Ministry. Increased levels were recorded on the territory in the immediate proximity of the site of the accident where maximum radiation levels now reached 10-15 milliroentgens per hour. As of May 5, the radiation levels in these areas dropped two to three times, including in the settlement where power engineering specialists live. The highest radiation was recorded there on April 27. The chairman of the commission said that water facilities and the Kiev water reservoir were kept under regular control.

Helicopters, and the necessary amount of various equipment and materials have been brought into the Chernobyl area. Repair work is now being conducted at the station. The first, second and third generating sets were operating after the accident. They have been switched to operational reserve. Their state is controlled around the clock. The third generating set situated next to the one at which the accident happened will certainly require a thorough technical check before launching. The first two generating sets can be put back into operation any time.

Dwelling on the causes of the accident, Boris Shcherbina said that the likeliest one was a chemical explosion in the reactor. In view of the fact that the design was in keeping with both Soviet and international standards and that there was strict control over the assembly and commissioning of the equipment, it can be said that the accident has been the result of the coincidence of several highly improbable and therefore unforeseen failures.

The Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers reported that two persons had died as a result of the accident. More than 100 others had sustained radiation injury. On the night of April 27 all of them were brought to Moscow where they are given the necessary medical aid.

For purposes of the safety of residents, they have been evacuated from areas adjoining the station. The necessary aid—medical and material—is given them at the new places of residence.

Agricultural work is conducted in the districts of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, except for places

adjoining the locality of the accident, and enterprises and offices are functioning.

Boris Shcherbina noted that the commission had not yet ended its work. "Careful calculations are needed for that and they take time. There must be no mistakes. We have nothing to hide," Boris Shcherbina said. "The IAEA director-general Mr. Hans Blix has arrived in the USSR. The results of all the work on the strength of which the final conclusions can be drawn will be submitted by us according to the established procedure."

Shcherbina drew attention to the fact that the Western propaganda media were grossly ignoring the information provided by the Soviet side. Attempts were observed to use the accident at the Chernobyl power station for political ends, which was against the interests of co-operation in the most important area of using atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The following question emerged: weren't certain quarters in the West, using the Chernobyl mishap, seeking to consolidate the positions of the advocates of the nuclear arms race, and divert peoples' attention from the vitally important issues of the threat of nuclear war and from the Soviet Union's proposals for a total elimination of nuclear armaments by the year 2000?

Gratitude was expressed for sympathy and understanding of the accident, expressed by the leaders and other officials of foreign states, organisations and individuals, as well as for aid which was being offered with good intentions and might be found useful.

The participants in the press conference then answered numerous questions from journalists. □

Boris Yeltsin's speech to German communists

HAMBURG, May 2, TASS:

BORIS YELTSIN, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, who is heading a CPSU delegation, today addressed the 13th Congress of the German Communist Party.

In describing the decisions defining the course towards the accelerated social and economic development of the USSR advanced at the 27th CPSU Congress, Yeltsin stressed that peace was necessary for the implementation of the programme.

He said that the situation remained tense. It was no accident that it was giving rise to particular concern among the population in the Federal Republic of Germany. Two world wars had started on German soil.

He pointed out that it was well known where the policy of the unrestricted arms race and sabre-rattling was leading to. Europe should never again become an arena of wars; it was the duty of the Europeans, each and everyone, to prevent this.

"Profoundly mindful of our responsibility for the survival of mankind, and of the need for urgent actions, we have offered a programme for ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the turn of the century," the head of the CPSU delegation said.

"We stand for deep cuts in conventional armaments as well. On behalf of the CPSU leadership, we declare here: the Soviet Union is

prepared to implement this programme wholly and to the end, point by point."

"We demonstrated our good will to the entire world by introducing a unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons testing. But our proposals did not find a proper response from the other side."

He said that the Soviet proposals for turning Europe into a zone free from chemical weapons had also been rejected. The reason was clear since the United States was now working on binary weapons.

The implementation of the US programme was threatening to turn the world's densely-populated areas into a potential theatre of a devastating chemical war. Europe's civilian population would be the chief victim.

"Our ideological opponents", Yeltsin pointed out, "do not miss a single opportunity to launch yet one more campaign against the USSR. Here is the latest example. The bourgeois propaganda media are concocting many hoaxes around the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant.

One cannot but be indignant at the brazen lie about thousands of dead in West German newspapers, for instance in today's *Bild*. And the purpose of all this is to step up even more the anti-Soviet hysteria, in the hope of driving a wedge into the Soviet Union's relations with other countries.

I can state with responsibility that the government is doing everything to eliminate the consequences of the breakdown and, in implementing the energy programme, to continue using the atom for peaceful purposes in the interests of man."

Yeltsin said that the United States wanted to turn Western Europe into its "dual hostage"—both nuclear and chemical. "As far as the Pershing-II and long-range Cruise missiles are concerned, the United States is clearly engaged in an unfair game in a bid to divert a retaliatory strike away from its own territory at

(Continued on Page 227)

Anatoli Kovalyov's statement

MOSCOW, May 6, TASS:

"SINCERE gratitude is expressed in the Soviet Union to governments, public organisations and individuals who have manifested or expressed sympathies in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station," said USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoli Kovalyov.

Addressing a press conference here today, he stated: "We gratefully accept the assistance which is offered with good intentions and which might prove useful."

"On the other hand, inventions, falsehoods that are heaped up around the Chernobyl accident have a clearly hostile attitude underlying them," the First Deputy Minister said. "From the viewpoints of generally accepted morality, these are the manifestations of anti-morality,

(Continued on Page 228)

Soviet-Cypriot talks in the Kremlin

MOSCOW, April 29, TASS:

"FIRST, we have always considered and still consider the question of Cyprus to be important and, second, we have always had sympathy for the people of Cyprus and for the united state of Cyprus," Andrei Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said today at the start of his conversation with Georgios Iacovou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus. The Cyprus Foreign Minister and officials accompanying him are paying an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In the course of their conversation, the sides expressed their mutual satisfaction with the success of the first-ever official visit of a minister of foreign affairs of Cyprus to the Soviet Union as a manifestation of relations of friendship between the two countries.

Andrei Gromyko said that the Soviet Union would continue to stand for the independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. Soviet policy is directed against outside intervention in the internal affairs of the Cypriot people. The USSR is for a truly fair settlement of the problem of Cyprus within the UN framework, a settlement which would respect the lawful interests of both communities on the island. To this end the Soviet Union put forward a proposal last January on the principles of settlement on Cyprus and ways to achieve it. The Soviet proposals have evoked broad positive responses in the world.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the entire region of the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East is a scene of growing rather than diminishing tensions. Is there any guarantee that the attack on Libya launched by Washington will not recur? There is no such guarantee. And this means that the forces of aggression are pushing mankind towards the abyss.

Georgios Iacovou voiced gratitude for the assistance given by the Soviet Union in the solution of the problem of Cyprus. His country thinks highly of the Soviet initiative on settlement on Cyprus and stresses its importance and timeliness. At the same time the problem of Cyprus is an international problem and it cannot be resolved without an international conference. At such a conference, the Republic of Cyprus believes, international aspects of the problem could be examined, which would have an effect on the solution of domestic aspects.

Andrei Gromyko said that the Soviet Union shared this view and that, of course, that question could not be resolved anywhere under a small, narrow roof. It should be settled precisely at an international conference. There independent Cyprus could find allies both among those who participate in the Non-Aligned Movement, of which the Republic of Cyprus is a member, among socialist countries, which always take the side of peoples standing up for their freedom, and even among some other countries.

"As friends, we back your idea of such an international conference," it was said from the Soviet side. "In seeking a fair settlement of the problem of Cyprus, you will always have our support and the support of our friends in the Warsaw Treaty Organisation."

The guest's attention was drawn to the Guidelines for the socio-economic development of the USSR and to the foreign policy strategy of the Soviet State, formulated by the 27th CPSU

Congress. Emphasis was laid on the importance of the concept of a non-nuclear world, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and of the idea of establishing foundations for a comprehensive international security system.

Little Cyprus, which has no grand ambitions, will jointly with its friends contribute in every way towards stronger peace and security, Georgios Iacovou noted.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus conveyed to Andrei Gromyko friendly greetings and good wishes from President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus.

The sides expressed their mutual satisfaction with the present level of traditionally friendly Soviet-Cyprus relations. Co-operation between the two countries in different fields is constantly expanding. Emphasis was laid on the readiness further to broaden ties between the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus, including parliamentary contacts.

The Soviet side was represented at the conversation by Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, T. N. Menteshashvili, Secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, B. I. Poklad, acting head of the fifth European department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and S. T. Astavin, the Soviet Union's Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus; the Cypriot side was also represented by Michael Sherifis, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the USSR. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Georgios Iacovou

Talks also took place in Moscow on April 29 between Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and Georgios Iacovou.

In the course of the talks, which passed in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere that is characteristic of relations between the two countries, the sides examined the conditions of and prospects for co-operation in different fields, and stressed their mutual desire to expand it further on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs.

Having discussed the urgent problems of the world situation, the participants in the talks voiced worry over the aggravation of the international situation and stated that the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus had identical or close positions on major international issues. They noted that the priority task of our time was the limitation and ending of the arms race and the prevention of nuclear war. According to the sides' conviction, joint efforts by all states, regardless of their size or social systems, and effective measures are needed to lessen tension in the world and to restore the climate of trust and co-operation among nations.

Eduard Shevardnadze informed his counterpart of the international activities of the Soviet State and drew his attention to the Soviet concept of a non-nuclear world, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement on January 15, 1986, and the foundations of a comprehensive international security system, approved by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Georgios Iacovou spoke highly of the Soviet Union's initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race, promoting disarmament, achieving the total and complete prohibition of nuclear tests and preventing the militarisation of space. □

The ministers reiterated their resolve to contribute to the continuation of the common European process initiated in Helsinki and spoke in favour of positive results at the Stockholm Conference and of the convocation of a meeting in Vienna of representatives of states participating in the European Conference on Security and Co-operation in a business-like and constructive atmosphere.

The Soviet side noted the constructive contribution of non-aligned countries to the normalisation of the international situation and the role of Cyprus in the Non-Aligned Movement and its efforts for peace, detente and co-operation.

The sides denounced the US act of aggression against Libya as a factor in the escalation of international tension. In this context they stressed the timeliness and importance of the Soviet proposals on strengthening security in the Mediterranean and on establishing a zone of stable peace and co-operation in that region.

Georgios Iacovou spoke about the situation around the Cyprus question. Having voiced profound gratitude to the Soviet Government for its support for the just struggle of the people of Cyprus, he noted the importance of the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union last January on the principles of a settlement on Cyprus and ways to achieve it, proposals which constitute a constructive basis for the collective efforts of all the interested parties towards a comprehensive and viable settlement on the island.

Eduard Shevardnadze stated that the Soviet Union stood firmly and consistently for the independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, for its status as a non-aligned state, and for the truly lasting and fair settlement of the problems of Cyprus by peaceful political means, through negotiations, without any outside intervention and with proper respect for the lawful interests of both communities of Cyprus. The convocation of a representative UN-sponsored international conference on Cyprus would help resolve such aspects of the problem as the establishment of a system of effective international guarantees, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the island and the dismantling of foreign military bases and facilities.

It was stated that the USSR and the Republic of Cyprus supported the mission of 'good offices' conducted by the UN Secretary-General under a mandate from the UN Security Council, with a view to resuming inter-communal dialogue and breaking the deadlock over settlement on Cyprus.

Both sides noted the usefulness of the talks between them for strengthening friendship and extending co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cyprus.

Georgios Iacovou extended to Eduard Shevardnadze an invitation on behalf of the Government of Cyprus to pay an official visit to the Republic of Cyprus. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

On the same day Georgios Iacovou visited the Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath. A wreath was also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall.

In the afternoon Georgios Iacovou and his wife left Moscow for Tbilisi.

Georgios Iacovou was accompanied to Tbilisi by S. T. Astavin, the Soviet Union's Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, and Michael Sherifis, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the USSR. □

PRAVDA EDITORIAL:

'From Imperial Positions'

MOSCOW, May 3, TASS: The newspaper Pravda today published the following editorial entitled 'From Imperial Positions'. It said:

THE less time remains before the opening of the Tokyo meeting of the leaders of the seven most industrially developed capitalist states the more obvious it becomes that Washington regards it not as talks of equal partners, but as an inspection of sorts. This is shown even by the tone of official statements coming from the overseas 'suzerain' of the capitalist world.

It is known that the meeting of 'the Seven' is beginning amid conditions of a dramatic aggravation of the entire complex of contradictions in relations between the three main capitalist centres and the simultaneous aggravation of the contradictions between imperialism and the developing countries and peoples. On what basis is the USA trying to 'smooth over' these contradictions? The foreign press provides the answer to this question. The case in point, it turns out, is the problem of international terrorism. It is precisely on this foundation that Washington hopes to turn the meeting of 'the Seven' into an induction station of sorts for a total mobilisation of the West against "the common danger threatening the free world".

It cannot but attract attention that persistent anti-Soviet notes can be discerned in the way that problem is 'presented' to the public. In accordance with the inertia of thinking characteristic of the present political circles in Washington, habitual allegations concerning "Soviet expansionism", "the Soviet Union's support for international terrorism", and so on, have been coming time and again from aboard the presidential plane en route to Tokyo.

Such a presentation of the issue has nothing in common with the true state of affairs or with the policy of our country, and constitutes nothing less than an attempt to blacken it in the eyes of international public opinion, specifically Western European public opinion. All such calumnious remarks should be decisively discarded. Let us recall that the political report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th CPSU Congress said in no uncertain terms: "The USSR rejects terrorism in principle and is prepared to cooperate actively with other states in order to uproot it."

At the same time the report reveals the causes of that ugly phenomenon. "Crises and conflicts are fertile soil also for international terrorism," the document said. "Undeclared wars, the export of counter-revolution in all forms, political assassination, the taking of hostages, the hijacking of aircraft, and bomb explosions in streets, at airports and railway stations—such is the hideous face of terrorism, which its instigators try to mask with all sorts of cynical inventions."

It is known that instead of invigorating a collective search for ways of defusing conflict situations in the Near and Middle East, in Central America, in the south of Africa and other fomenting spots of the planet, as the interests of universal security imperatively demand, the USA is doing everything in order to aggravate these conflicts.

These facts are well known, and if they are being distorted yet again today it is done with the sole aim of finding at least some 'fulcrum' for reining in the allies, and making them fall in step with Washington. In doing so it is obviously planned to evade a serious discussion of those problems that are truly burning ones as far as other members of 'the Seven' are concerned—the

time, they say, is not proper now that such a "threat" looms dark over the "free world". And certainly, "the time is not proper" to discuss the Soviet peace initiatives dealing with Western Europe, or problems of disarmament and of the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security. Washington's 'scenario' would not be described in full if mention is not made of the fact that it provides, in addition to everything else, for thrusting on 'the Seven' a power-politics approach to the developing countries over all the parameters of relations, from politics to economics.

Judging from foreign press reports, the matter at hand now is not only to mend the divisions that have appeared between the USA and Western European countries following the American attack on Libya, but also to try and create a united front against that country, and maybe against Syria and Iran as well. In other words, to fasten the allies to the Washington-announced policy of 'neo-globalism'.

But can all this meet the interests of Western Europe and Japan? Judging from the reaction to the bombing of Libyan cities, the answer will be negative. The reaction of the public and the ruling circles of a majority of countries to the bandit attack on Libya demonstrated that the capitals of Western Europe and Japan far from always equate the present American policy with their understanding of their own security. They fear that the USA is going too far in its claims to 'leadership'. It is not by chance that President François Mitterrand of France said: "We do not want France to be drawn, under the pretext of combating terrorism, into international actions which it could not freely consider beforehand." Similar fears are voiced in other countries of 'the Seven'.

Moreover, the reaction to the attack on Libya intensified two-fold because of Washington's reluctance to reckon not only with the advice of its partners, but also with their economic interests. It is no secret that Arab countries, Libya among them, are an important source of raw materials and a traditional market for European and Japanese goods. It is especially hard to lose it in the conditions of the 'trade war' waged by the USA on the Common Market and on Japan, too.

"Punitive measures" announced by the US President in his speech in Santa Barbara on March 31 by way of a reaction to the accession of Spain and Portugal to the EEC dealt a blow at the export of agricultural products from the Common Market countries. New restrictions clamped on the import of steel and science-intensive technology from there, as the London-

(Continued from Page 223)

the expense of the population of its allies, including the FRG.

"This is a direct deception of the peoples of Western Europe. You and we cannot place the destinies of peace in the hands of American imperialism, with the FRG Government obediently following in its wake."

Yeltsin recalled the recent proposal by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to start reducing conventional armaments and tactical nuclear weapons over the entire territory of Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals—under international verification.

"The implementation of our proposals", Yeltsin said, "presupposes the reciprocal wish of the other side to act likewise. So far, we see no

based *Financial Times* said, were accompanied by rhetoric from both sides, abusive remarks and the escalation of threats. Threats coming from across the ocean, to be sure. The USA, in the words of the Paris-based *Revolution*, even renounces the commitments given to the Common Market earlier "using its status of strength".

This strength, if it is measured in currency, is making itself felt in the permanent pressure the USA brings to bear on the world capitalist economy. And not only there. "There is no sense in continuing to pretend", the magazine *Stern* said not so long ago, "that there exist those famous 'common values' which are permanently referred to in solemn speeches when calls are made for the cohesion of the North Atlantic Alliance. In Tripoli and Benghazi not only innocent people died under American bombs and missiles, the loyalty of the USA to NATO also perished. He who, like an ordinary terrorist, kills children, too, when a chance presents itself, is not in a position to lead the alliance."

The term "intoxication with strength" appears more and more often in the European press in articles dealing with US policy. Yes, it makes itself felt everywhere. In Washington's economic pressure on its partners with the sole aim of resolving its own problems, including the problem of a 150-billion dollar trade deficit, at their expense. And in political pressure, including over all the parameters of West-East dialogue. And in the approach to the developing countries and the national-liberation movements. In the latter case 'aircraft-carrier diplomacy' is being used ever more often, which only deepens regional conflicts and hinders their settlement.

This in essence is where the Washington-proclaimed "doctrine of neo-globalism" is directed. Its architects unequivocally claim the "right" to decide the destinies of entire countries and peoples at their own discretion. It is a dangerous doctrine and, as events of the recent past demonstrate, a criminal one. Yesterday it was little Grenada. Today it is Libya, and what will come tomorrow?

What effect will all this have on the talks in Tokyo? It is not a simple question. At the present critical phase in world history the partners of the USA at the talks of 'the Seven' have to make a choice that will largely predetermine the character of their future relations with Washington. If the mechanism of the "allied solidarity" snaps into action it threatens to become a mousetrap for Western Europe and Japan, from which it will be too difficult to get out. And this is precisely what Washington is pressing for. □

wish of this kind in Washington, nor in several European capitals, including Bonn.

"We regard the FRG as an important political partner. But one should understand that partnership presupposes a loyal, peace-loving policy with regard to each other. But Bonn's political course is deviating ever further from this policy. And this hinders the development of our relations which could be rather fruitful under other circumstances."

The head of the CPSU delegation expressed confidence that it was possible to achieve progress and a turn in international affairs. "Wars are intrinsically alien to socialism. It is not by force of arms, but by the force of example that socialism is proving and will prove its advantages over the society built on the exploitation of man by man." □

Viktor Karpov's Geneva statement

GENEVA, May 6, TASS:

"THE fifth round of the USSR-US negotiations on nuclear and space arms will open on May 8. Whether or not it will be possible to arrest the dangerous trend towards a continued and intensified arms race, to reduce tensions and diminish the threat of nuclear war largely depends on the resolution of the issues which make up the agenda for the Soviet-American negotiations," Viktor Karpov, the head of the Soviet delegation to the negotiations, said upon arrival here today.

"From the very outset of the talks," Viktor Karpov said, "the Soviet Union has sought to negotiate and conclude, on a mutually acceptable basis, effective agreements that would result in preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on Earth. The programme for phased elimination of nuclear weapons set forth by Mikhail

Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement of January 15, 1986, constitutes the basis of the Soviet position at the negotiations.

"The Soviet side has tabled detailed and concrete proposals at the talks in all three negotiating areas—space, strategic offensive arms and medium-range arms in Europe. These proposals are fully consistent with the objective of implementing the mandate for the negotiations agreed upon earlier with the United States.

"Given the other side's goodwill and willingness to search for mutually acceptable solutions, the Soviet position opens up real opportunities for reaching agreement. There is no escaping the fact that no real progress has thus far been made at the talks. Despite the positive accords on fundamental issues and the agreement to accelerate the Geneva negotiations, reached at the Soviet-US summit meeting, the US side so far has been doing virtually nothing to translate these decisions into reality.

"Indeed, most recently—this time outside the

negotiations—the United States has taken actions openly aimed at escalating tensions and heightening the military threat. This cannot but alarm everybody.

"We are in no way advocating a linkage between the solution to the questions discussed in Geneva and the problems not directly related to it. The objective of curbing and stopping the arms race is our long-term policy of principle, recently reaffirmed and further elaborated at the 27th CPSU Congress. It is precisely this position that the USSR delegation has been instructed to proceed from in the negotiations on nuclear and space arms. This delegation is under clear instruction to see concrete solutions to the questions under negotiation on the basis of equality and equal security and in the interests of strengthening world peace. Obviously, getting results requires reciprocity from our partners—the US side," Viktor Karpov said.

In conclusion, Viktor Karpov on behalf of the USSR delegation expressed appreciation to the people and authorities of the canton and the city of Geneva for their invariable hospitality. □

ANATOLI KOVALYOV'S STATEMENT

(Continued from Page 223)
anti-humanism."

"The entire developments connected with the accident, the measures for the elimination of its consequences," he said, "bring out with particular clarity such a quality of the Soviet State and political system as the feeling of responsibility. Responsibility for the life, for the health of both Soviet citizens and foreign citizens staying in the USSR."

"Many foreigners work and study next to Soviet people, are manifesting the feeling of solidarity. They do not become emotional and are not influenced, specifically, by speculative assertions of some Western news agencies," Kovalyov said.

"What has happened at Chernobyl is, certainly, a misfortune. But lessons can be learned not only from achievements, but also from tragedies," Kovalyov said. "We are not the first to suffer from an accident at an atomic power station. Such cases have happened in other countries. What took place at Chernobyl confirms once again what caution should be shown in dealing with nuclear energy."

"It is peaceful use of atomic energy, a controlled nuclear plant that we have in this case. But the energy of the atom is also inherent in nuclear weapons. It is meant expressly for mass destruction. When launched, it would become impossible to control."

Touching upon the statement of the leaders of seven major industrial nations in Tokyo on problems of nuclear safety, Kovalyov said that while making statements that have an objective and on the whole positive nature, they also make a reproach about the information granted by the Soviet side. "But this reproach cannot be accepted," the Deputy Minister said.

"As soon as reliable information appeared, this was immediately reported," Kovalyov said. "As soon as we came to know particulars of the situation in the area of the accident, we started issuing information and do so almost every day."

In this connection the speaker noted that when an accident took place in the USA in 1979 it was not at once that the US side realised what were its causes. It supplied the information to the US Senate ten days after the accident, and to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) almost eight weeks after the accident.

The Deputy Minister pointed out that a fresh hysteria is being launched and masterminded from the same centre, the USA, and is clearly

based on the same script. Certain militaristic circles feel that under the pressure of the world public opinion the ground is slipping from under their feet. It is slipping from under their feet for the reason that world public opinion demands resolutely that an end be put to nuclear testing, that nuclear weapons be eliminated. That is, world public opinion demands precisely what the Soviet Union declares for.

The lessons of what happened confirmed again the chief conclusion that the governments, peoples, all of mankind should not forget the immense dangers of nuclear weapons.

That explained why it was so important to multiply the efforts of all countries and peoples to achieve without delay the cessation of all nuclear tests, and start finally the reduction, down to total elimination, of nuclear weapons.

The First Deputy Minister pointed out that the Soviet initiatives advanced in Mikhail Gorbachyov's January 15, 1986, statement and confirmed and developed at the 27th CPSU Congress were directed precisely at that. The same aims were served by the proposals for deep and extensive international control, including on-site inspection.

Naturally, serious efforts were required to strengthen the international regime, to ensure a safe development of civilian nuclear power engineering and enhance the IAEA's role on these questions.

Kovalyov said that today's conversations with Mr. Blix, IAEA director-general, showed that "our ideas follow the same direction". The safe use of atomic energy exclusively for peaceful constructive purposes called for extensive international co-operation, pooling of efforts of all states, international organisations and public forces interested in establishing a comprehensive reliable system of international security.

The Soviet Union was prepared for such co-operation, the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR pointed out.

Answering questions from journalists, Yevgeni Vorobyov, First Deputy Health Minister of the USSR, said that all the accident victims had been taken promptly to the USSR's best clinics. Necessary aid was being given to them, including the use of bone marrow and antibiotics.

"I would like to point out with satisfaction", Vorobyov said, "that Professor Robert Gale, a well known American authority on transplants,

has arrived in the USSR to provide consultation. He is being accompanied by his compatriot, well-known immunologist Professor Paul Terasaki. We thank them for their assistance in treating the victims."

Journalists asked whether the accident would affect the environment in neighbouring countries. Yuri Sedunov, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Hydrometeorology and Control of the Environment, said that the main rise in the level of radioactivity was observed only in the area of the nuclear power station.

As to the spread of radioactive substances beyond Soviet territory, there was no direct threat, in our opinion, to the population of foreign countries.

True, a rise in natural background radiation had been registered. Due to the meteorological conditions on the first days following the accident, this had been detected in the northern and then other directions.

That was why the waves of somewhat enhanced natural radiation were observed in several countries. Before May 1, for instance, an enhanced level of radiation was detected in Poland, and after May 2, on the territory of Romania. The effect was short-lived and insignificant.

A question was raised as to the safety of Soviet atomic power stations. "The scientific and technical level of work connected with nuclear power engineering in the USSR and of the designs of atomic power stations and nuclear reactors is very good," said Andranik Petrosyants, Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for the Use of Atomic Energy. "A number of individual units and items are superior to Western makes," he said.

"Forty-one atomic power-generating units are operating in the USSR. Nuclear power engineering has become reliable and meets all safety norms. The accident at the Chernobyl station confirms again that there might be certain moments leading to such unfortunate consequences. But it is incorrect, to say the least, to claim that atomic power engineering in the USSR is worse than abroad."

Petrosyants recalled numerous accidents at atomic power stations abroad. An accident occurred in Britain in October 1957 at an industrial reactor producing weapons-grade plutonium. A radioactive cloud generated by the reactor was detected in West Germany and Norway. □