

Mikhail Gorbachev greets peace meetings in Moscow

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has addressed a message of greetings to those participating in the official opening ceremony of the exhibition 'Masters of Culture for Peace' and to the welcoming meeting for the international peace 'Earth Run'. It says:

I heartily welcome you on the occasion of the official opening ceremony of the exhibition 'Masters of Culture for Peace' and the meeting in the capital of our homeland of representatives of the international peace 'Earth Run'.

The participants in the exhibition are workers in culture and the arts from many countries, followers of different creative trends. The peace torch lit at the walls of the UN headquarters is an exciting symbol of the lofty ideals of friendship and co-operation among nations. It is carried in

GORBACHEV'S STATEMENT ON STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on September 24 made the following statement on the results of the Stockholm Conference:

The Soviet leadership positively assesses the results of the conference in Stockholm on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe. A major step has been made towards easing tension and improving the international political climate, which is so necessary for solving the vital problems of our nuclear age.

This is a victory for common sense, a gain for all the thirty five countries attending the conference. They managed to rise above differences and reach accords which are important not just in themselves but which also improve the prospects for creating a stable situation in Europe. The success in Stockholm can help to expand the atmosphere of trust on the international scale as well.

The Soviet Union sees in this agreement shoots of new thinking in world politics which are germinating on European soil. Stockholm has proved that even in a complex situation it is possible to reach agreement on questions of security, if there is the political will and desire for this. It is an example of how one can and must conduct the new construction of detente, and develop new relations among states. □

(TASS)

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their hands by representatives of different nations, supporters of different political views. But all of them are united by goodwill, the noble wish to make their contribution to the cause of mankind's peaceful future.

'Give the planet a chance—children need peace': this watchword of the peace 'Earth Run' being held under the aegis of the UN Children's Fund is close and understandable to the Soviet people, in common with all people of our planet. Since it is precisely in the name of the future, in the name of preserving life on Earth that an active struggle is being waged today against the threat of death-dealing war, and for the eradication of hunger, poverty, disease and economic backwardness.

The children of today will live in the coming 21st century. It depends not only on politicians and diplomats what it is going to be like—an age of peace and progress, or an age of mankind's self-destruction. Millions of people on all continents including masters of culture and of the arts, scientists, athletes, public and religious figures are raising their voices in defence of life, against the insane arms race, which is fraught with the danger of a nuclear conflict.

The Soviet Union is profoundly aware of its share of responsibility for the destiny of the present and future generations. We have proposed that the new age be entered without mass destruction weapons, and the USSR's unilateral moratorium on new explosions is best proof of the sincerity of our statements. The world community knows of many other peace initiatives by the Soviet State. We believe that these proposals will be supported by all sensible people on Earth.

The Soviet people cordially welcome those who fight for peace all over the world with courage and self-sacrifice. May the torchlight they are carrying across the planet stir enthusiasm in the hearts of new fighters for a happy future for our children, and strengthen the spirit of trust and mutual understanding among nations.

* * *
The 'Earth Run' will cross 45 countries and 65 cities in all continents. Having rounded the world, the peace torch will return to the United Nations headquarters in New York on December 11, and an eternal flame will be lit at a formal ceremony there. □

(TASS)

Mikhail Gorbachev to meet President Reagan

IT has been agreed that the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev, and President Ronald Reagan of the United States will meet in Reykjavik (Iceland) on October 11-12.

The meeting was proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev and accepted by Ronald Reagan. It is to be conducted within the framework of preparations for Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the United States, on which the sides had agreed in Geneva in November 1985.

The USSR and the USA are grateful to the Government of Iceland for its readiness to provide the possibility to hold the meeting in Reykjavik. □

(Eduard Shevardnadze's press conference: P.424)

Western journalists visit Soviet nuclear test site

A GROUP of foreign journalists at the weekend visited the Soviet nuclear test site near Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. The visit was arranged by the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

At the test site, massive iron doors were flung open. The silo was opened. A chain of lamps illuminated the rocky vaults. Rails ran into the distance, cables and pipes stretched out. The gates were being opened to outsiders for the first time. American journalists Eileen O'Connor and Robert Turner focused their television cameras to record this historic moment: the Soviet nuclear test range was revealing its secrets before them. No reporter had ever set foot there before. And now there was a whole group of journalists: representatives of the press of socialist countries and of such large world news agencies as Reuters, Agence France Presse and Kyodo Tsushin were being given the opportunity of visiting the test range—where, in compliance with the moratorium, silence has been reigning for over a year now. And they not only visited, they were shown all around below ground, filming and photographing the tunnels and galleries which, until 14 months ago, were nuclear test sites.

Above ground, American seismic instruments

are in position also, in an experiment—conducted jointly by Soviet and US scientists—to verify the test ban. They, too, monitor the test range silence. But as the saying goes, it is better to see once than to hear a hundred times. Seeing with one's own eyes is no less important than studies, scientific data and seismograms. So the journalists were able to see for themselves that the silos at the Soviet test site are mothballed.

TASS asked foreign colleagues to share their impressions of their visit to an open military facility.

K. Ezawa, of Kyodo Tsushin, Japan, said that he greatly appreciated the trip as it meant the USSR Government had decided to show foreign journalists what had so far been a military secret. He said that when he looked at places where nuclear explosions had been conducted it seemed that what were in front of him were archaeological exhibits, so unnecessary did it all seem now. He expressed the hope that the United States would join the Soviet moratorium.

Kate Clark, from the newspaper *Morning Star*, Britain, said that the trip to the place where explosions used to be carried out had been unusually interesting. "When one thinks how much money could be spent for peaceful pur-

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Mikhail Gorbachev receives President of Madagascar

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Didier Ratsiraka, General Secretary of the Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution (AREMA) Party and President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, in the Kremlin on September 26.

It was unanimously noted during the meeting that no task was more urgent in the world today than the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the removal of the threat of a global catastrophe and the termination of the arms race which has a pernicious effect on all mankind.

The General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee emphasised the importance of the termination of nuclear tests as a first real step towards eliminating the nuclear threat.

The President of Madagascar welcomed the

extension by the USSR of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, and noted that the accession to it of the US and other nuclear powers would play an important role in lessening tensions in the world, this being in the interests of all countries and peoples.

Mikhail Gorbachev highly assessed the results of the 8th Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Harare and of the increased role of the Non-Aligned Movement in world affairs.

He confirmed the Soviet Union's intention to continue supporting in every way the efforts of the emergent states to counter the neo-colonialist policy of imperialism and enhance their political and economic security.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Didier Ratsiraka agreed that the new realities of the present epoch imperatively demanded a new thinking from all countries and political leaders—a thinking that would banish from international relations the stake on force and nuclear blackmail, as well as

attempts at dictating one's will to sovereign states.

The two leaders reiterated the undiminishing solidarity of the USSR and DRM with the 'front-line' states, and with the liberation struggles of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia under the guidance of the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organisation.

They came out in favour of an early proclamation of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

They took note of the favourable prospects for the further development of bilateral relations between the USSR and the DRM on a long-term and mutually beneficial basis.

Didier Ratsiraka invited Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Madagascar. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The timing of the visit is to be agreed through diplomatic channels. □

(TASS)

Nikolai Ryzhkov on restructuring in USSR

INTERVIEW WITH WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE

THE course of the restructuring that has been taking place in the Soviet Union since the 27th Congress of the CPSU is the main subject of an interview given by Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, to the West German magazine Neue Gesellschaft-Frankfurter Hefte.

The interview was published in the Soviet journal New Times for September 26.

No great period has elapsed since the Congress (February-March 1986), whereas the measures it announced are intended for more than one year ahead. Consequently one can speak so far "only of the initial move towards restructuring," the head of the Soviet Government emphasised.

Among the most important moves that he mentioned were a series of major decisions on key problems of scientific and technological progress, the improvement and modernisation of the economic machinery, an accelerated development of the material base in the social sphere, and a stepped-up campaign against unearned incomes.

Nikolai Ryzhkov also said that local government bodies were now playing a greater role in deciding matters concerning socio-economic progress. A project to reform higher education institutions has been drafted. "The purpose of these and other measures is to renew every aspect of life in our society," he pointed out.

The first beneficial results had already been recorded, the head of government went on to say. "In the first six months of 1986, industrial output was 5.6 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year, though an increment of 4.3 per cent had been planned."

The decisions taken by the Congress and the prevailing atmosphere of high standards, veracity, creative quest and intolerance of stagnation have had a huge mobilising impact on the Soviet people.

"The wide publicity and openness have served not only to pinpoint difficulties and shortcomings, but also to indicate reserves and effective ways and means of forging ahead. In fact, this is what should be considered the basic change," Nikolai Ryzhkov said.

The Chairman of the USSR's Council of

Ministers said that what had been achieved was far from being overestimated in the Soviet Union. He referred, in particular, to the recent speech made in the Far East by Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who had pointed out that qualitative changes had not yet been achieved in the country and that the work in this respect was only beginning.

"However, we will certainly achieve what we have planned," Nikolai Ryzhkov emphasised. "For this we need one indispensable condition which does not depend on us alone. That condition is peace." □

In the interview the head of the Soviet Government gave answers to questions about the role of the CPSU at the present stage, about the role of culture in the development of Soviet society, and about what is being done in the USSR in the area of improving environmental protection.

Nikolai Ryzhkov spoke out in favour of broader economic co-operation between East and West.

Touching upon a new Soviet-US summit meeting, he said that the matter of a new summit could be raised "if some questions are found on which positive results could be achieved." □

(TASS)

(Continued from front page)

poses, one sees what cumulative work had to be done because the United States conducts tests," Kate Clarke said. "This confirms the idea that there is no sense whatsoever in all this from the point of view of preserving peace, or from the financial or any other point of view." She spoke of the impression made by the words of the head of the test site, who had said that although he was a military man, he hoped that there would be no more explosions.

Kate Clark spoke about the indignation over the fact that nuclear blasts were still being carried out in Nevada while the USSR was imposing a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. An end to nuclear testing would be a giant step towards peace. The journalist said that the moratorium deeply impressed those people in Britain who knew about it. The peace movement supported it and it helped the peace campaigners in their struggle. The longer the Soviet moratorium was in effect, the clearer it would be in Britain and in the West generally that the US stand was and

remained war-like.

Before returning to Moscow, TASS asked Major-General Yuri Lebedev, representative of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, who accompanied the journalists, to assess the results of the trip.

"The trip by Soviet and foreign journalists to the nuclear test site", he said, "is a graphic example of the USSR's genuine striving to exert every effort to bring about the United States' joining the Soviet moratorium. In the West they sometimes are known simply to cover up the USSR's steps designed to stabilise the international situation and strengthen peace. The foreign journalists' visit to the Soviet nuclear test site will allow wider circles of the international public to learn about the Soviet Union's peace actions. On the other hand, the trip will also help give the lie to the fabrications that the USSR is preparing to conduct new nuclear explosions." □

Death of Academician Semyonov

SOVIET science has suffered a heavy loss. Academician Nikolai Semyonov, an outstanding scientist, one of the founders of modern chemistry and a prominent organiser of Soviet science, died on September 25 at the age of 90.

A whole epoch in Soviet and world science is associated with Semyonov's name, says an obituary notice signed by Mikhail Gorbachev, other Soviet Party and state figures, and by scientists.

The scientific activities of Nikolai Semyonov have won broad international recognition. He was a Nobel Prize winner, and a member of many foreign academies, universities and scientific societies. Semyonov's social and journalistic works on the philosophical and social problems of science are of great importance. □

(TASS)

Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee had a regular meeting on September 25.

Mikhail Gorbachev chaired the sitting, and reported on his meetings with working people, Party leaders and senior economic executives in the Krasnodar and Stavropol regions.

The Political Bureau stressed the political significance of the issues related to the speed-up strategy and the need to further the process of change, issues which had been raised during those meetings.

After discussing information on the 8th Non-Aligned Summit in Harare, the meeting pointed out that the results of that conference were seen in the Soviet Union as a major success for the Non-Aligned Movement.

The forum in Harare had borne out once again that this movement was an influential international force, which served as an important instrument for consolidating the political and economic independence of developing countries and was making a big contribution to efforts for peace and an end to the arms race and against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

It was stressed that the Soviet Union was prepared to continue active co-operation with the

non-aligned countries in solving the pressing problems of the times.

The meeting examined a proposed concept for Moscow's all-round social and economic development to the year 2000, including guidelines covering the period up to the year 2010, and approved it in principle. The relevant draft plan is to be published for extensive discussion by work collectives and the population at large.

Extra measures were outlined to provide assistance to low-income single parent families with three or more children. Starting from next year, these children will receive school and Young Pioneer uniforms and sports clothing free of charge. They will not be charged for school lunches or for accommodation and board at Young Pioneer camps and sanatoriums.

At the same time the responsibility of the parent living separately from the family for the material security of the children will be increased.

The Party and local government agencies and trade unions were recommended to tighten control over the production and sale of goods for children, and over strict compliance with state policy on the prices of such products.

The Political Bureau supported proposals coming in connected with plans—drafted by the 27th Congress of the Party—to form a national organisation of war and labour veterans. It is proposed that this organisation will unite, on a voluntary basis, both working pensioners and retired workers.

Its prime mission will be to make this category of people closely involved in socially useful activities, show concern for their requirements to be met more fully, and draw veterans into educating the rising generation in traditions of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism.

The Political Bureau also examined and took decisions on other issues concerned with quickening the country's social and economic advancement, upgrading Soviet democracy, and strengthening the fraternal alliance of socialist countries and their close co-operation in efforts for social progress and a peaceful future for mankind. □

(TASS)

(TASS)

SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

THE Soviet Government issued the following statement on September 29:

The results of a special session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has ended in Vienna, have been welcomed with a feeling of deep satisfaction in the Soviet Union. The problems of safety in the nuclear power industry have been examined there in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and responsibility.

The elaboration by collective effort and in such a short time of conventions on notification and assistance in case of nuclear accidents, their approval by the IAEA General Conference and their signing by a large number of states is a striking example of a joint and effective resolution of pressing problems of the times.

This is what guides the Soviet Union when it proposes moving further along the path of creating an international safety regime for the nuclear power industry. The essence of a programme it has submitted on this score for consideration by the community of states is in

guaranteeing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes from mistakes and fortuities fraught with grave consequences for the life and health of people.

The conventions signed in Vienna and the Stockholm accords disprove the views, which are still much in currency, that any agreements on security issues are impossible.

A new approach to achieving mutual understanding, trust and openness in state-to-state relations has again triumphed in Vienna. This has been reflected, in particular, in the recognition of the need to notify all cases of nuclear accidents, including those involving nuclear weapons and nuclear testing.

The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that, given political will and political realism, it is possible to reach practical accords to end nuclear testing and finally to deliver the planet from nuclear weapons completely. It counters confrontation and the nuclear arms race with proposals for broad international co-operation among states in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, in the peaceful nuclear power industry, in effective environmental protection, and in improvements to people's living standards the world over. □

Petrosyants on development of nuclear energy

"NUCLEAR power, given proper use, is an important source for meeting mankind's energy needs," said Andranik Petrosyants, Chairman of the USSR Committee for Atomic Energy.

He was speaking at the session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that opened in Vienna on September 29.

The speaker noted with satisfaction the results of the recent special session of the IAEA General Conference which passed decisions designed to ensure, through the collective efforts of nations, further development of the nuclear power industry in conditions providing a maximum of safety to people and to the environment.

The Soviet-proposed programme for creating an international regime for the safe development of the nuclear power industry received broad backing from the delegates to the special session.

"Only the very first steps have been made in creating such a regime," said Andranik Petrosyants.

He emphasised that the USSR was prepared to continue making the necessary efforts to achieve this aim.

"The task of ensuring the safe and peaceful use of atomic energy is inseparably linked with the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in the world," Petrosyants said.

He pointed to the need for putting an immediate end to the nuclear arms race and averting the threat of nuclear war looming dark over mankind.

He noted that broad international co-operation and pooled efforts by states, international organisations and the public were required if that task were to be accomplished.

"The large-scale Soviet foreign policy initiatives in the disarmament field and the Soviet-advanced programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons on Earth before the end of the 20th century", Andranik Petrosyants went on to say, "give mankind realistic opportunities for ensuring a world without nuclear weapons, and peace based on genuine security for all countries and peoples." □

"The first and most effective step in the direction of nuclear disarmament is the complete ending of nuclear tests," he said.

"Efficient international co-operation in the sphere of peaceful uses of atomic energy can develop only if a nuclear war is averted, if the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, is limited and trust among nations restored," he emphasised.

The Soviet representative said that the IAEA could help accomplish those tasks in a constructive manner.

"The agency deals with matters that have paramount importance for nations—ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy in the member-countries."

Andranik Petrosyants expressed the conviction that the IAEA would remain in the future a dependable instrument for developing international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy—in conditions of consistently ensured non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. □

(TASS)

Eduard Shevardnadze's press conference in New York

A press conference addressed by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, was held in New York on September 30. The Soviet Foreign Minister said:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wholeheartedly welcome you. Allow me to thank you for your active participation in our press conference.

Over the past few days we have met quite frequently. I think that we have grown used to each other. Therefore let me get to the point straightaway.

By mutual arrangement the Soviet and the US sides are simultaneously making the following agreed announcement:

"On the forthcoming meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan.

"President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev have agreed to meet in Reykjavik, Iceland, on October 11-12, 1986. The meeting was proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev and agreed to by Ronald Reagan. The meeting is in preparation for Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the United States, as agreed at Geneva in November, 1985.

"The USSR and the USA appreciate the Government of Iceland's willingness to make this meeting in Reykjavik possible."

Before you start asking questions I would like to make a few remarks.

We came to New York to attend the 41st session of the UN General Assembly. We believe this session is not an ordinary one. Most of the statements we have heard show a new trend in the making. The value of words has fallen sharply while the stock price of concrete practical measures has soared. Weariness from rhetoric has given way to an upsurge of new energy.

Some genuinely positive developments are behind this trend. Among them is the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions, the success of the Stockholm Conference, the signing in Vienna of the convention on the safe development of nuclear power, progress towards banning chemical weapons, and the documents adopted by the Non-Aligned Summit in Harare. Efforts have begun to explore ways of strengthening security in Asia and the Pacific. The ideas outlined by Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok have accelerated this process. Fresh approaches have emerged to the settlement of regional conflicts.

There is an increased awareness of the importance of strengthening international co-operation in the economic and humanitarian fields.

Those are the factors that give us hope.

At the same time we cannot afford to indulge in illusions. There has been no movement at all towards resolving the central problem of our time—the problem of security for all. This is profoundly disturbing to an absolute majority of the world's nations, as was clearly seen in statements by delegates.

We are pleased to note that the proposal for a comprehensive system of peace and international security put forward by the socialist countries has met with lively interest in the United Nations and has turned out to be in harmony with the demands of our time.

We have met representatives of over 40 states. Almost all of them questioned us about prospects for Soviet-US relations and the possibility of a second summit, while strongly favouring positive steps in that direction. We understand that. Not everything in the world depends on the state of Soviet-American relations, but a great deal does.

As for nuclear and space arms, the whole question in fact comes down to our two countries.

The world will live in a state of recurrent fever if the temperature of Soviet-US relations remains for a long time at a critically dangerous level. That temperature cannot be brought down if the arms race is not effectively stopped—which, of course, implies preventing its spreading to outer space—and if movement is not begun towards disarmament and confidence-building.

Under these circumstances the Soviet leadership believes that what is required is extra-powerful stimuli, a start on the most direct and shortest road leading to results.

As instructed by Mikhail Gorbachev, I have conveyed to President Reagan a proposal for an urgent meeting between the top leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States. The President accepted Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal and the meeting will take place in Iceland on October 11 and 12.

The meeting does not replace Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the United States agreed upon earlier in Geneva. The General Secretary will visit the United States at a date that will be agreed between him and President Reagan.

As for the "interim" meeting, the objective is to make a direct assessment of the situation and work out some clear instructions designed to achieve progress in some questions relating to nuclear arms—progress sufficient for attaining substantial results.

And, of course, it is not ruled out that matters of bilateral Soviet-American relations, as well as those connected with regional conflicts and all other problems of mutual interest, will be also discussed at the meeting.

Frankly, our contacts with the US Administration in Washington and New York have taken place in a complicated and sometimes dramatic atmosphere. As we see it, however, it was so complicated not because of tensions concerning the events of the past few weeks. The real cause was the deadlock on the issues of nuclear and space arms.

Now that a breach in the wall has been made through joint efforts, one can state that the agreement on a special summit has been reached thanks to the realism and constructive approach displayed by both sides. It is not in vain that we have spent more than 20 hours negotiating with Secretary Shultz. To be more precise—25 hours.

The outcome of those negotiations gives us reason to hope that in the near future we shall be able to achieve more significant results and a turn for the better in Soviet-US relations and in world affairs generally.

We have come to an understanding also with respect to the settlement of several cases which have been described here in such nervous and gloomy terms. I am referring to the questions regarding the Soviet citizen Gennadi Zakharov, the illegal decision of the US Government concerning Soviet UN Mission staff, and also the American citizen Nicholas Daniloff.

I want to be completely frank with you. It is, of course, deplorable that this has given rise here to competitions in confrontational rhetoric.

Although one should say there are also many objective, correct speeches and commentaries. But something else remains a fact, too. There is speculation as to who blinked first and who outsmarted the other side and who was forced to his knees. I shall put it this way: the American

people cannot be forced to their knees. The Russian, Soviet, people are not people who can be forced to their knees. This is needless talk.

Some would like to engage us in a debate on matters of prestige. Points are being counted as if this were a baseball or football match.

We have a different idea of prestige. The crucial task for our countries is to find solutions to problems that concern mankind. Herein is the crux of the matter. This is what is most important.

By the same token, it is a matter of prestige and responsibility for each side to work for an atmosphere conducive to the success of the forthcoming summit. In this respect a decisive role can be played by journalists—Soviet and American—who can create a good working atmosphere for the successful holding of the summit meeting.

We are optimistic. In the past days we have heard clearly the voice of the America which strongly favours a serious and business-like dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States. And I feel that we have given a worthy response to that wish.

It remains for me to thank you too. You have been ubiquitous and patient, and we, respecting your very demanding job, have tried to meet you halfway.

I know that many of you and your colleagues stayed overnight near our mission. I often walked up to you but, unfortunately, could not say much at that time because serious negotiations were under way. The main thing now is that we have achieved results.

Still, to some of you I would like to say this last word: mutual understanding and accord between countries and nations is worth more than short-lived sensations.

Thank you for your attention.

Journalists then put questions to the Soviet Foreign Minister.

"Despite all the difficulties we are optimistic. It is possible to achieve progress in Soviet-American relations. A summit meeting is needed for that," Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists at the press conference.

Answering their questions, he pointed out that the leaders of the USSR and the USA would now be able to give appropriate impulses and necessary directives to the delegations at the current talks in order to find the most reasonable solutions.

Touching upon the nuclear test ban problem, the Soviet Minister recalled that the Soviet Union and China were not conducting nuclear tests.

If the United States agreed to the Soviet Union's proposal, then, in his view, the British and French would not object to concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Many questions were asked about the fate of Soviet citizen Gennadi Zakharov and American citizen Nicholas Daniloff.

"Is there a need to argue whether this is an exchange or not an exchange?" Mr Shevardnadze asked.

The Soviet Foreign Minister said that the necessary solution had been found. Daniloff was

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PRAVDA:

Soviet scientists on nuclear test moratorium

PRAVDA for September 27 carries a dialogue between two prominent Soviet scientists—Academician Roald Sagdeyev, Director of the Space Research Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Academician Vitali Goldansky, head of a department at the Institute of Chemical Physics of the USSR Academy of Sciences—on the nuclear test ban question.

Declaring for a nuclear test ban, the scientists emphasise that all the other questions connected with balanced disarmament are much more complex and each of them may entail a host of additional questions.

But the question of cessation of nuclear tests is a pure and unproblematic one.

On the one hand, it would be a step which may put an end to the sophistication of the most terrible weapons. On the other hand, it would be a reliable verified measure. The sensitivity and reliability of equipment—and accordingly of verification—have immensely increased. Doubts about on-site inspections have now been fully eliminated as well. This has been vividly confirmed by the experiment conducted by seismologists from the USSR and the United States near to the Soviet nuclear proving ground.

The two scientists point out that explosions are no longer needed to test the reliability of already-developed weapons. They can be replaced by tests of individual components and of the mechanism as a whole, without detonating a nuclear device, as well as by a computer-aided mathematical experiment. Explosions are only

necessary in the development of fundamentally new weapon systems.

The destiny of the 'Star Wars' programme of the 'Strategic Defense Initiative' (SDI) is the main reason why the US Administration does not discontinue tests, the Soviet academicians maintain.

They emphasise that intermediate steps in the test ban field leave rather wide scope for research into sophisticating compact and aimed weapons and, hence, for the possibility of a continuation of the arms race.

The development of special warheads having super-high precision guidance to hit an enemy's missile silos is one of the most destabilising trends in the sophistication of nuclear weapons.

The development of warheads with a low energy output is being justified in the Pentagon's strategy by assertions that no 'nuclear winter' effect would allegedly arise during an exchange of missile strikes using such warheads. This, the scientists maintain, is a reversion to the concept of local nuclear war and neutron tactical weapons, and an attempt to lull an anxious public opinion.

Soviet specialists have disproved assertions by opponents of the moratorium about a possibility of conducting nuclear tests in deep space.

Having noted that these days even the wealthiest country will not venture to incur the expenses connected with this, they point out the non-practicality of control over such tests as well.

Sagdeyev and Goldansky recall that beginning from 1963, that is, from the moment of the entering into force of the Moscow Treaty on

Banning Nuclear Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater, the United States conducted 470 underground explosions before the end of 1985 whereas the USSR carried out 399 such explosions.

Sixteen British explosions should be added to this amount because all British tests since then have been conducted in Nevada and all data on them are, of course, accessible to the Americans.

The scientists' opinion is that such statistics render untenable statements by the advocates of nuclear tests about the USA's allegedly "lagging behind" in this field. If there is something that the United States has not had time to accomplish, the scientists emphasise, it can only be next-generation weapons intended to upset the parity.

Touching upon the problem of utilising the scientific potential released in the event of a nuclear test ban, and in the event of disarmament, the Soviet academicians hold that the realm of peaceful nuclear research is so vast and that there is so much still unknown about it that those who now have to engage in military research will devote themselves to peaceful work with great enthusiasm. For example, when the problems of dismantling warheads arise, who better to cope with such tasks than these very specialists?

The manufacturers of weapons are a powerful lobby in the camp of the nuclear test ban opponents. Their guilt lies not only in the fact that mountains of weapons continue to pile up, but also in the fact that a very dangerous process of moral corruption of people—people who could accomplish a great deal for the benefit of mankind—is now taking place, the Soviet scientists emphasise. □

Nuremberg Trial and the nuclear test ban

THE main lesson of World War II is that another war, especially a nuclear war, must never be allowed to break out, and the main lesson of the Nuremberg Trial calls not only for condemning but also preventing preparations for a nuclear war, a crime against humanity.

This idea was the keynote of an international commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Nuremberg judgement, held this weekend in New York by the United Nations. The meeting was sponsored by a number of non-governmental organisations affiliated to the UN, and was attended by representatives of the international public, and political and business circles.

Speaking at it, Siegfried Zachmann of the German Democratic Republic, who has been elected chairman of the 41st UN General Assembly session's first committee, said the Nuremberg Trial was important not only because it had drawn the line under the heinous crimes of Hitlerite nazism.

It was also important because nowadays it called for reliable guarantees against the appalling danger that practical action might arise from a way of thinking which allowed the nuclear arms race and which attempted to justify the doctrines of a first nuclear strike and 'limited' nuclear war, he said.

It was easy to imagine what scale the nazis' monstrous crimes might have reached had they possessed nuclear weapons, Zachmann said.

That was why, he added, it was vital to remove the very roots of the threat of nuclear annihilation that loomed large over mankind.

TBS President Ted Turner, a well-known US

businessman and public figure, denounced preparations for a nuclear war and continued nuclear testing aimed at developing more and more deadly weapons of mass destruction as a crime against humanity.

At the meeting he was awarded the first International Co-operation, Peace and Security of Mankind award.

In a TASS interview, Ted Turner said that the world now had a feeling of greater confidence thanks to the policy of the Soviet leadership in paving the way to a life that would be free from the fear of nuclear extermination.

Turner added it was concern for the future of mankind that had prompted the Soviet Union's programme for complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and its unilateral, repeatedly extended moratorium on nuclear testing.

The United States, he said, should have joined it a year ago, but it was not yet too late and he hoped the US Government would display enough reason to do so now. □

New Zealand delegation in Leningrad

MIKE MOORE, New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Trade, at the weekend expressed gratitude to Leningraders for their valour and staunchness in the fight against fascism.

The minister heads a delegation of representatives of the New Zealand business community which is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade.

He told TASS that New Zealand supported the Soviet Union's efforts to reduce armaments and relax international tensions. □

(Continued from previous page)

returning home and Zakharov had also flown home. "We have removed the obstacle which prevented us from solving the main task: to arrange a summit meeting," Mr Shevardnadze stated.

"In politics it is important to see the main task which is to normalise Soviet-American relations, a task which can be accomplished only by arranging a summit meeting."

The Soviet Foreign Minister described the US decision to reduce the staff of the Soviet mission at the United Nations as an unlawful action.

"The taking of such a decision one day before our arrival signifies that some people very much wanted to frustrate a meeting between the foreign ministers of the USSR and the USA and, consequently, a summit meeting. Such was the idea behind the provocative action," Mr Shevardnadze stated.

When answering a question about so-called dissidents, the Soviet Minister pointed out that certain problems connected with contacts between people did arise between countries.

"In ordinary conditions they are considered without dramatisation, with due regard for the laws and rules existing in our countries," Mr Shevardnadze said.

"I think we must promote the creation of such an atmosphere which would make it possible to solve such problems calmly without looking for any political advantages. This is the only correct approach."

Mr Shevardnadze said that a US citizen named Lakshin, a prominent scientist, had applied to the USSR for political asylum. He voiced confidence that the request would be granted. □

(TASS)

Soviet delegation in Afghanistan

VSEVOLOD MURAKHOVSKY MEETS NAJIB

THERE was a meeting in Kabul at the weekend between Mohammed Najib, General Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) Central Committee, and Vsevolod Murakhovsky, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Agri-Industrial Committee of the USSR.

The progress in fulfilling the accords reached between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) in the field of economic co-operation and trade was positively assessed.

The Soviet delegation led by Murakhovsky had arrived in Kabul to attend the sixth session of the standing Soviet-Afghan intergovernmental commission on economic co-operation. At the meeting the sides noted an appreciable boost in Soviet-Afghan ties and expressed interest in further extending and deepening them in the areas of trade, economy, science, technology and culture.

Najib spoke about the measures taken by the PDPA Central Committee to normalise the situation in the country and consolidate various branches of the economy, and also about the conclusion of the elections to the bodies of people's power and about work on the draft constitution of the DRA. He supported the Soviet peace initiatives, which lead to disarmament, reduced tension and peace all over the world.

"The return from Afghanistan, by mutual

agreement of the governments of the DRA and the USSR, of six regiments from the limited contingent of Soviet soldiers-internationalists is a substantial mutual Soviet-Afghan contribution to the relaxation of international tensions," Najib said.

* * *

On Monday Najib addressed a conference on science and practice in Kabul entitled 'The Plans of the Party are the Plans of the People'.

He reported that a draft of the Constitution, the Fundamental Law of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, would be published in the Afghan press shortly for a nation-wide discussion.

Najib spoke of the PDPA's policy aimed at bringing about national reconciliation in Afghanistan and expanding the social base of the April Revolution.

He told the audience that up to the present time elections to local bodies of state authority and government had been completed in all the provinces of Afghanistan. Taking part in the elections had been 85.4 per cent of the citizens entitled to vote.

Najib then dealt with the problems of the social and economic development of the country.

He said that the recently adopted Five-Year Plan, the first since the revolution, had been drawn up with due regard for the objective possibilities of the Afghan economy and provided for a considerable amount of assistance from socialist countries, primarily the Soviet Union, in fulfilling the plan's tasks.

According to the plan, national income will grow by 26 per cent, the volume of industrial output by 38 per cent and agricultural production by 13 to 14 per cent in the coming five years.

At a press conference in Kabul on September 28 Western journalists were shown numerous specimens of chemical weapons used by counter-revolutionaries—grenades, mines and powder for poisoning water wells.

Spokesmen from several ministries were present and answered questions. They said that six years ago the first batch of US-made chemical grenades had been intercepted in Herat Province. Since then numerous cases of inhuman actions by the counter-revolutionaries had become known. They use chemical weapons, obtained from imperialist states, against civilians.

Sahi Mohammad, a former member of a counter-revolutionary band, who was captured by the DRA's security forces during an attempt to use chemical-filled rockets in Kabul Province, also spoke at the press conference.

He related that he had been trained how to use these weapons in Pakistan by US and Pakistani instructors. Then he had been infiltrated into Afghanistan with a group of 20 counter-revolutionaries. Two US instructors had accompanied the band, giving practical advice as to how to affect as wide an area as possible.

The journalists were shown not only the chemical weapons but also French- and US-made gas masks and instruments for measuring contaminated terrain.

According to reliable data, a large part of this equipment is supplied to Pakistan for the bandits by aircraft of the US Air Force. □

(TASS)

Viktor Israelyan on germ warfare conference

THE second review conference on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on their Destruction ended in Geneva last week.

Its final declaration stressed the great significance of the convention, the first-ever measure of real disarmament in the history of international relations.

Speaking at the final session, Viktor Israelyan, leader of the Soviet delegation, said that his delegation had taken a number of important steps associated with verification and confidence-building. It had suggested drafting and adopting an extra protocol to the convention to provide for measures to improve verification.

Along with this, it had backed a whole number of confidence-building measures, including exchanges of data on research centres involved in biological studies and on all outbreaks of infectious diseases, and the forming of expert groups to discuss new advances in biology with a bearing on compliance with the convention.

In an interview published in *Izvestia* on Sunday, Israelyan said that the vast majority of delegations had demonstrated their interest in strengthening the convention.

"The Soviet delegation", he went on, "did everything in its power towards achieving the prime goal of the conference, which we see as enhancing the germ warfare ban convention in every way."

Referring to the Soviet delegation's suggestion of an extra protocol on improving verification, Israelyan added: "With this aim it has also been

proposed to hold, after appropriate preparation, a special conference of the states party to the convention; readiness has been expressed to do this without delay, for instance next year."

"In our conviction", he went on, "broad state-to-state co-operation in the peaceful development of biological science and uses of its achievements in the interests of social, economic, scientific and technological progress is one of the most effective ways of strengthening the convention."

"Many proposals have been made at the conference on this score. We are convinced that this approach will provide an added fillip in the interests of advancing biological science and for the benefit of peace and progress," Israelyan added.

"We consider the results of the conference to be positive, too, because the convention is part of the existing machinery for limiting the arms race and promoting disarmament. The Soviet Union is prepared for constructive co-operation with all countries which are interested in it in fact rather than in word." □

Pravda comments:

Pravda on September 29 characterised as "business-like and constructive" the second international conference to review compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on their Destruction. More than 100 countries are now parties to the convention.

"All the more discordant, therefore, was the speech by the US delegate. He attempted to raise at the conference new charges against the Soviet Union that have been debunked on more than

one occasion even in the United States itself. His mention of the problem of 'yellow rain' clearly disappointed many delegates. The hue and cry over that phenomenon has long since been exposed."

The 'Soviet toxins' allegedly used in Asia were found by authoritative specialists to be the excreta of bees."

"Moreover, the USA should be the last to make charges", the newspaper continued. "During the work of the forum the American press reported that the Pentagon had not discontinued development work on bacteriological weapons. Altogether 42 million dollars will be spent in the USA this year alone on 57 projects to develop bacteriological weapons of different types.

The USSR's constructive approach, supported by most of the delegations, made it possible to close the conference with the adoption of a resolution reflecting the strong interest of the world community in the preservation of a ban on biological weapons and progress towards subsequent stages of disarmament. This, as the effectiveness and viability of the germ warfare convention shows, is not utopia but a realistic goal, provided statesmen display political will and a way of thinking that is in accordance with the realities of our age." □

Stop Nuclear Explosions

A summary of the Soviet Union's persistent efforts to achieve a complete nuclear test ban, so far not matched by the USA.

Price 30p
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Soviet-US nuclear and space arms talks

By Colonel Vladimir Chernyshev, M.Sc (Engineering)

SOVIET and American representatives at the Geneva negotiations on nuclear and space weapons are meeting for the sixth round of the talks.

The most important problem is that of preventing an arms race in space. If this problem is not solved, the arms race will escalate, spread into new areas and assume even more dangerous dimensions.

The Soviet delegation said last week that the USSR was waiting for a positive response to its nuclear test ban proposal. An absolute majority of people in the world favour a nuclear test ban, considering it an effective way of halting the further upgrading of nuclear weapons and curbing the arms race.

The Soviet Union is prepared to do everything to break the deadlock at the talks and ensure progress on the basis of the provisions of the joint Soviet-American statement of November 21, 1985.

The American side is behaving differently. A statement made by the White House on the beginning of the new round of the talks contains a biased exposé of the American position. It says that Washington is determined to work towards agreements that would lead to deep, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear arsenals. It has demonstrated in Geneva that the American position provides a firm basis for agreement and progress towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

All these statements are misleading. The first question that must be asked is whether the US Administration really wants any reductions in nuclear weapons. Or if it does, why is it escalating the nuclear arms race, undermining Soviet-American arms control agreements and acting throughout the world in a way that can only further aggravate international tension? The United States is speeding up research and development under its 'Star Wars' programme, which includes the development of nuclear weapons, and continues to conduct nuclear explosions, test anti-satellite weapons and develop 'third generation' nuclear armaments.

It has started deployment of MX (a new ICBM), launched the eighth Trident-class nuclear-missile submarine, is to launch a ninth one this November and is building another five submarines of this class.

The US Air Force has begun work to modify its 131st B-52 bomber to equip it with cruise missiles in contravention of the provisions of the SALT-2 Treaty.

US warships are being equipped with nuclear-tipped Tomahawk cruise missiles. By the end of this year cruise missiles will have been installed on eight surface ships and 15 submarines and by the mid-1990s cruise missiles will have been stationed on a total of 198 warships.

According to the *Washington Post*, the Reagan Administration is carrying out the biggest nuclear arms programme in 20 years. In the last year of Jimmy Carter's presidency allocations for the production of nuclear weapons totalled 3,700 million dollars, whereas the sum earmarked for the 1987 fiscal year is 8,200 million dollars. Within the next 10 years the United States is to produce at least 23,000 new nuclear warheads. "The weapons we are now buying will be the basis of the US armed forces for many years to come after the beginning of the next century," US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said.

It's hard to understand how the USA is going to reconcile its statements about its determination to seek nuclear arms reduction agreements with

these frenzied efforts to build up American nuclear arsenals.

In its latest statement the White House had nothing to say about non-militarisation of space either, though the sides had earlier agreed that this would be one of the subjects of the negotiations in Geneva. The representatives of the US Administration, including President Reagan, constantly emphasised that the American SDI programme is not negotiable and that the United States is determined to develop a space-based missile defence system and deploy it in any case. The American proposals on strategic armaments serve to ensure the United States unilateral military advantage. Their aim is not to reduce nuclear arsenals but to allow the United States to build up those types of nuclear weapons which it considers more advantageous for itself. As regards medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, the United States has been dodging the issue from the start.

While praising its own position, Washington distorts the position of the other side or, at best, keeps mum about it.

The Soviet Union proposes a total ban on space strike weapons and broader co-operation in the peaceful utilisation of outer space. If space weapons are banned, the Soviet Union and the United States may cut by 50 per cent their nuclear weapons capable of reaching each other's territory.

At the same time, the Soviet position is not 'all or nothing'. It is trying to use every opportunity to make dialogue productive and lead to arms limitation and reduction.

Realising that Washington's refusal to ban space strike weapons would make further discussions fruitless and that the American space arms race projects begin to acquire more and more definite outlines, the Soviet Union proposed at the previous round of the talks three partial measures to help prevent militarisation of space. It proposed strengthening the ABM

Treaty regime, including the sides' obligation to stay within the limits of that treaty during the next 15 years, banning anti-satellite systems and prohibiting 'space-to-Earth' weapons.

At the strategic arms talks, the Soviet Union proposed an interim plan envisaging the setting of equal ceilings on the number of strategic delivery vehicles (1,600 on each side) and nuclear warheads on them (8,000 on each side). This proposal implies that the American medium-range nuclear weapons, which are deployed near the Soviet border and can therefore reach targets on Soviet territory, and long-range land-based cruise missiles could be discussed at separate negotiations.

At the previous round of the talks, the Soviet Union tabled a draft agreement on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. Taking into account the Europeans' concern about the American medium-range missiles and the Soviet tactical missiles, the Soviet Union proposed the following compromise: the Soviet Union and the United States would withdraw all medium-range missiles from Europe, while Britain and France would have as many nuclear missiles deployed as they now have. The Soviet Union also said that it would not increase the number of its medium-range missiles in Asia.

So, the ball is in the United States court. Those who distort or hush up the constructive position of their negotiating partner are doing so in order to be able, should the negotiations fail, to blame their partner for this.

In the nuclear and space age negotiating partners must work together with a sense of responsibility. I hope Washington will eventually comply with the exigencies of reality, heed the demands of the world's nations and give an adequate and constructive answer to the Soviet initiatives. □

(Novosti Press Agency)

Briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry

THE press in other countries has recently been speculating on "new American proposals" on medium-range missiles. Addressing a briefing at the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry on September 26, Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, described it as another deliberate leakage of information aimed at influencing world public opinion and winning its support for the US stand.

This was being done in violation of the confidential character of the Geneva talks. "We are for a strict observance of the understanding on the strictly working character of the Geneva discussions," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "As far as the state of things with the problem of medium-range missiles is concerned, the Soviet proposals on that score constitute a good basis for a mutually acceptable compromise."

The USSR insists on the total elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in the European zone. Yet, considering the unpreparedness of the USA to take such a step now, the USSR proposed that the possibility of an intermediate solution be examined. This is a

highly promising trend. There is a possibility of drawing the positions closer. The Soviet side will do everything in its power, the rest is up to the US side."

As regards the Soviet SS20 missiles deployed in Asia, Boris Pyadyshev said that they had no relation whatsoever to Europe but were a counter to the American forward-based systems in Asia. "The Soviet Union is prepared not to increase the number of its medium-range missiles deployed in the east of the country on the understanding that no American nuclear systems reaching Soviet territory will be additionally deployed in Asia," he continued.

The question of the work of the 41st session of the UN General Assembly was raised at the briefing. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Soviet Union was gratified by the very favourable responses to the address by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the session. He noted that the Soviet Union did not at all believe that its relations with the USA held no promise. Encouraging outlines of serious agreements had been taking shape in the recent period. The question of another summit was quite realistic. "Good progress can be made in bilateral relations if the American side wishes it," Pyadyshev said. "It is clear from reactions and responses that this stand of the USSR has been welcomed by the international community." □

(TASS)

Stockholm: managing to rise above differences

By E. Ryabtsev, *Novosti political correspondent*

"WE are living in an unstable world fraught with dangers," Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid said, addressing the UN General Assembly. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, said from the same rostrum that the dangers threatening mankind were common to all. He added that what is needed is to reach common agreement on how to answer that threat.

The Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe has shown that the only answer is political will. Indeed, without political will the process of East-West confidence-building is unthinkable. The Stockholm Document, which was passed by 33 European states, the USA and Canada, is precisely an expression of their political will. It enabled the 35 nations to rise above many differences and prejudices for the sake of lessening the danger of military confrontation in Europe.

That is why, welcoming the results of the conference, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev described it as a "victory for common sense". The consensus of opinion in Stockholm was that the use or threat of force in the international arena is inadmissible. The 104 paragraphs of the document, with addenda, are called upon to help build confidence and security in an exceedingly sensitive military sphere.

Its provisions cover notification of military manoeuvres, troop movements, lifts and concentrations, exchanges of annual plans of military activity, and invitations to observers. The sides also managed to agree on some elements of

limiting military exercises and on on-site inspections. The measures taken are of an obligatory character and are directed towards allaying the danger of military confrontation and helping fulfil the tasks of disarmament in Europe.

As we can see, the political will of the 35 nations shown in the Swedish capital leads to lessening the accumulated fear and suspicions, and helps promote stability, because it places the development of events on the continent under joint control. The outcome of the work of the conference was decisively influenced by the bold approach of the Soviet leadership, which proposed that accord should be sought on those questions on which agreement was perfectly feasible. A considerable contribution to reaching agreement was made by delegations from neutral and non-aligned countries. It was also facilitated at the crucial stage by a feeling of realism and responsibility shown by most delegates from NATO countries.

Confidence is not an abstract notion. Its fulfilment calls for concrete actions. The extension by the Soviet Union of the moratorium on nuclear explosions, its proposals on the stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and reduction of conventional armaments in Europe, and its readiness to accept an international, supra-national network of verification of the termination of nuclear testing have, undoubtedly, helped to create an atmosphere of trust in the world arena.

The Stockholm Conference has confirmed once again that an East-West dialogue in general and a dialogue between Moscow and Washington in particular—which would lead to agreement in the interests of all sides—is possible on the most intricate of questions. The impulses given in the Swedish capital enabled the Canadian Foreign Minister, Joe Clark, to speak at the 41st session

of the UN General Assembly about the possibility of progress at the Geneva Soviet-US talks on nuclear and space arms.

That's indeed realistic, if the US Administration shows political will. The absence of it worries many people. This is evidenced by, among other things, a communique on the meeting of representatives of the European socialist and social-democratic parties of NATO countries, held in Oslo in the middle of September.

The meeting's participants urged the USSR and the USA to meet their obligations under the SALT-1 and SALT-2 treaties and to reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. They believe that the two powers should refrain from testing and developing anti-missile and anti-satellite weapons, and also from preparing for an arms race in space. They are convinced that it is possible to agree on a freeze on nuclear weapons tests and to conclude a treaty banning such tests even in 1986.

The Soviet Union shares those convictions. As Mikhail Gorbachev said in his recent interview with the Czechoslovak newspaper *Rude Pravo*: "By our actions and initiatives we are striving to strengthen the hope of the nations that the situation can be altered, that there is an acceptable alternative to confrontation."

The alternative lies in a desire for mutual understanding. The Stockholm Conference has shown that this is realistic. That is why everyone expects from the United States, at a possible Soviet-US summit meeting, constructive co-operation with the USSR that would make it possible through the efforts of the two countries to rid mankind of the threat of nuclear catastrophe. □

STOP NUCLEAR TESTS — STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN SECURITY

By Dmitri Ardamatsky

WASHINGTON is blocking Moscow's attempts to attain a compromise on nuclear arms reduction. Vigorous actions should be taken by all those who wish to end the deadlock in this field.

The USSR could count on assistance from Western European countries who are seriously alarmed over the consequences of a nuclear conflict on their territory. More and more people on the continent are coming to realise that the United States is the real source of war danger.

For more than 400 days now the USSR has been observing its unilateral moratorium on nuclear blasts and urging the United States to sign an agreement on banning all nuclear tests as a first step towards nuclear disarmament. But Washington is going to continue perfecting its first-strike weapons and developing attack space systems.

Moscow is ready for an immediate agreement on withdrawing and dismantling the American and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe. But Washington is impeding such a solution and is reluctant to remove its first-strike missiles stationed in Europe close to Soviet territory. Coupled with SDI, these missiles are intended to form a united strike system.

The USSR is resolutely against military rivalry in space and, hence, is against SDI. In Moscow's view, this programme would undermine the ABM Treaty which is of major significance for

arms limitation. Besides, it would rule out any serious arms control and become a cover for a first strike. But Washington continues to carry into life its 'Star Wars' programme.

Major shifts in arms reduction primarily depend on the USSR and the United States. But their allies can also tangibly influence their stands. While advancing initiatives on nuclear arms limitation, Moscow takes due account of its Warsaw Treaty allies' opinion whether it concerns European, strategic or space problems. Warsaw Treaty countries have put forward a number of joint proposals, in particular on radical cuts in conventional armaments and armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The build-up of American medium-range missiles in Europe is being blessed either voluntarily or through NATO levers. It takes Pershing-11s five to six minutes to reach Soviet territory. So any malfunction, the possibility of which has been evidenced by the *Challenger* tragedy and the Chernobyl accident, could bring the entire nuclear arsenal into action.

Willy Brandt, leader of the West German Social Democrats and the Socialist International, said in his recent interview with the Soviet national daily *Pravda* that the Europeans could do much to considerably lessen tensions in the continent. He pointed out that Western Europe could make a contribution to a withdrawal of medium-range missiles and tactical nuclear weapons from Europe.

A similar contribution could be made to

prevent the arms race in space. But Britain, West Germany and even Italy have joined in the SDI research and development, although SDI's implementation would mark a new qualitative stage in the arms race and increase the danger of accidental exchange of nuclear strikes.

By involving its European allies in the space arms race, Washington is defending its own rather than NATO's interests. In an attempt to develop a European variant of SDI, the United States hopes to bypass the ABM Treaty's bans on the establishment of a large-scale ABM system on its territory as well as the development and deployment of space armaments.

Nuclear tests have to be viewed in the context of preparations for 'Star Wars' and development of new strategic nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, the West European leaders, not counting the Thatcher government, still hold an indefinite stand on whether Washington should join the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests. But the Soviet initiatives make it possible to conclude practical agreements for the benefit of European security.

Many in Western Europe today wish every success to the new Soviet-American summit. As Mikhail Gorbachev put it, these problems concern all countries and the entire world community, though the USSR and the United States certainly bear special responsibility.

Not only good wishes but practical steps and efficient assistance are needed today. □

(*Novosti Press Agency*)