

Mikhail Gorbachev meets Todor Zhivkov

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had a meeting on May 11 with Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of Bulgaria, who visited Moscow on his way home from the People's Republic of China.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Todor Zhivkov analysed some important problems connected with the consolidation of the positions of world socialism. They reiterated the resolve of both parties and countries to further co-operate with other socialist countries and with all progressively-minded and peace-minded forces for the sake of warding off the menace of nuclear war, especially in Europe, and for the sake of disarmament and the creation of a comprehensive system of international security.

During the discussion of prospects of bilateral relations, they pointed out the special importance

of a consistent implementation of agreements on the establishment of direct ties between Soviet and Bulgarian industrial enterprises and amalgamations and of the removal of all that is still hampering their effective work. Gorbachev and Zhivkov touched upon the problems connected with the introduction of new integration forms of co-operation within the CMEA framework.

Socio-economic transformations

They exchanged views in a comradely manner on the tasks which the CPSU and the Bulgarian Communist Party are tackling, when putting into practice the guidelines of their respective congresses that provide for major socio-economic transformations.

Mikhail Gorbachev made special mention of the fact that the main motive force, the popular masses, are joining more and more actively the process of qualitative renovation of all spheres of public life that is going on under the leadership of the Party. The completion of the creation of a single economic mechanism ensuring the maximum development of initiative

and independent action of working people is of key importance today. A regular plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee will analyse a package of questions connected with it.

Todor Zhivkov told Mikhail Gorbachev about the implementation of the course outlined by the 13th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party. He pointed out the identity of the objectives and principles of dramatic transformation in the USSR and Bulgaria. Specifically, he dwelt on the political significance of measures for turning over socialist property to labour collectives that have been taken recently in Bulgaria.

Todor Zhivkov emphasised that the Bulgarian Communist Party and the working people of the country wholeheartedly welcome and approve the policy of acceleration of socio-economic development mapped out by the 27th CPSU Congress, as well as the ideas of the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee that are of much importance for the Soviet Union and for the destinies of socialism and the world.

The conversation was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete mutual understanding. □

VICTORY IN THE NAME OF PEACE

THE brunt of the struggle against German fascism fell to our country, to the Soviet Armed Forces. Their contribution to the defeat of the aggressor was decisive, says Sergei Sokolov, Minister of Defence and Marshal of the USSR. He contributed an article to the newspaper *Pravda* on May 9, the day of the 42nd anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The reactionary propaganda machine in the West makes every attempt to downgrade the magnitude of the Soviet people's patriotic and internationalist exploit, the Soviet military commander notes. However, it is beyond its power to refute the fact that none of the attacked European states was able to put up a befitting resistance to the fascist aggression before our country entered the war.

The myth of the Hitler Wehrmacht's invincibility was shattered exactly on the Soviet-German Front. It was there that 607 divisions, over three times as many as on all other fronts, were crushed. And it is precisely the Soviet troops that captured Berlin, the headquarters

of the Hitlerite supreme command, and took prisoner the largest enemy groupings.

The Soviet people, the article says, pay a tribute of respect and gratitude to the peoples and armies of the United States, Britain, France, China and other states of the anti-Hitler coalition, guerrillas, the resistance movement fighters, anti-fascists and democrats and patriots, and the millions of freedom fighters.

The current international situation is alarming and dangerous through the fault of imperialism. Marshal Sokolov points out. In implementing increasingly new militarist programmes, the United States banks especially on the "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI), with whose realisation it links its hopes for acquiring military superiority over the USSR.

Peaceful course by the USSR

Aggressive military doctrines and concepts are under development, which provide for launching and conducting global and "limited", nuclear and "conventional" wars against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Imperialism's adventurist policy, which harbours the threat of a nuclear holocaust to mankind, is countered by the peaceful course steered by the USSR and the entire socialist community. It takes into account the lessons of the past war, of which the crucial one is that war should be fought against before it is launched.

A world war in the nuclear-space age has outlived itself, ceased to be the means of attaining political goals, the article stresses. The disputable issues, even the acutest and most difficult ones, can and should be solved at the negotiating table.

The realisation of this, the awareness of the need to renounce wars and power politics in international affairs make up the essence of new

political thinking, new approaches to the issues of war and peace.

The mode of thinking and actions based on the concept of "nuclear deterrence" is unacceptable today. The moves to keep the arms race going are senseless and highly dangerous. By boosting its military preparations the United States hopes to attain supremacy over the Soviet Union. It is clear that the USSR will not allow this to happen.

Any attempt to upset the existing military balance will be nullified. The necessary response will likewise be found in case a threat emerges to the USSR and the socialist community from space, Marshal Sokolov emphasises.

But this is not a choice of ours, he writes. We oppose competition in armaments, oppose the expenditure of strength and funds leading to the undermining of international security, to an increasingly unpredictable balancing on the brink of war.

The USSR regards the efforts to remove the threat of a nuclear armageddon as the all-important task, the USSR Defence Minister says. The Soviet initiatives are an expression of the goodwill of the USSR, its firm resolve to preserve the most valuable thing that Victory gave — world peace. □

DECREES RATIFIED

BY its decree of May 7, 1987, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has taken the decision on the USSR's joining the international convention against taking hostages dated December 18, 1979.

By its decree of May 7, 1987, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has ratified the international convention against apartheid in sports, signed on behalf of the USSR in New York on May 16, 1986. □

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Mikhail Gorbachev receives Mexican Foreign Minister

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV received Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda in the Kremlin last week.

Greeting the visitor, Gorbachev said that his trip is more than confirmation of the normality of Soviet-Mexican relations. "We treasure their development and want them to improve further."

Taking into account the fact that specific issues were discussed by Sepulveda and Eduard Shevardnadze during their four meetings on previous days, Gorbachev suggested exchanging views on conceptual problems of international bilateral relations.

"It seems to us," he observed, "that we have offered the world not a time-serving concept, not an egoistic programme of action but a long-term and rational policy inviting all to look for a way towards normal international relations based on new thinking.

"We have already received some lessons in the school of implementing this new way of thinking and have accumulated certain experience."

"In the past two years we have met leaders and other officials from Western Europe, Asia and America, from developed and developing nations and, of course, from socialist countries in the first place. About a hundred conversations all in all.

"An interesting array of views and approaches is apparent."

"Summing them up, one can say that there is understanding of the complexity of the situation. There is concern over the threat of nuclear war. All see that economic relations in the world are not normal and that there is immense

indebtedness.

"The danger of regional conflicts is recognised and there is agreement that political settlement offers the only acceptable path.

"There is concern over the ecological situation.

"Some even do not argue that not everything is in order as far as the information system is concerned.

"When the point at issue is how to cope with the problems and dangers, however, there is keen disagreement in discussions with Western representatives.

"It turns out that although the threat of nuclear war is bad, nuclear weapons should be kept.

"In economic relations between developed and developing countries, there is a trend to preserve the situation of non-equivalent exchange in order to continue neocolonialist exploitation, and to settle regional conflicts to the detriment of the interests of the countries where they take place.

"As to the role of the mass media, 'freedom' is to be upheld, but in such a way that the monopoly in this sphere, which makes it possible to manipulate public opinion, remains in the hands of narrow groups.

"Herein is the root of all difficulties. They can be overcome only by way of new thinking which demands recognition of the realities and the balance of interests, and the renunciation of doctrines formulated by Western leaders forty years ago.

"It is now impossible to build international relations only with regard for the interests of highly developed nations of the West."

"We are not in favour of offering some ultra-radical methods," Gorbachev said. "For

example, we do not suggest breaking historically established economic ties between the developed West and the developing South, between the United States and Latin America.

"But they are to be restructured in order to overcome the situation engendered by neocolonialism and enable all to dispose of their material and human resources in the interests of their own peoples."

Gorbachev fully backed his interlocutor's ideas about the need for a new world economic order.

"The international community is passing through the most complicated period in its development. Responsibility and realism are required.

"There are two basic principles distinguishing the realistic stand — consideration for one's own, national interests and respect for the interests of others.

"This is a strong, fair stand, and we shall uphold it. It is not suitable only to those who have not abandoned imperial ambitions and draw 'zones of vital interests', forgetting the fact that everyone has the right to real independence and to independent foreign policy."

Sepulveda handed over to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee a personal message from President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico.

Having read the message, Gorbachev said that he was glad to receive it. Despite the fact that the USSR and Mexico are far from each other, are on different continents and belong to different social systems, it appears they have much in common in the assessment of the present-day situation and in views on solving acute problems of security, international co-operation, disarmament and development.

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JOINT SOVIET-MEXICAN COMMUNIQUE

THE Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Mexico have taken a positive view of the fact that the political dialogue between the two countries is becoming increasingly more dynamic and diversified, creating conditions for exchanging views on bilateral relations and a wide range of international problems.

This is said in a joint Soviet-Mexican Communique on the results of the official visit to the USSR by the Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and his talks with his Soviet opposite number Eduard Shevardnadze.

The sides agreed to continue their efforts with the aim of strengthening Soviet-Mexican relations, facilitating the development and expansion of the co-operation of the two countries on the basis of principles of mutual advantage, peaceful coexistence, juridical equality of states, mutual respect, free self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs.

The ministers confirmed the coincidence or closeness of the two countries' positions on the most important questions of the international situation. They expressed the deep concern of their governments in connection with the serious threat posed to mankind by the continuation and intensification of the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race and its spreading to outer space.

Both sides are convinced, the communique says, that the coordination and implementation in practice of real measures directed at fully eliminating all types of weapons of mass destruction is the only reliable means of averting war, first of all nuclear war.

The ministers noted the need for the speediest conclusion of a treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. They expressed their governments' confidence that progress in this field will have a favourable impact on other directions of disarmament talks, including on strategic and space arms.

The participants in the talks stressed the pressing need for the USSR and the United States to reach an accord on a radical reduction of strategic offensive arms and on averting an arms race in outer space.

They hold that observance of the ABM Treaty should be the first and foremost step along this direction. Both ministers agree that outer space should become an arena not of military rivalry but of extensive international co-operation for peaceful purposes.

Both sides noted the importance of concrete measures to reduce conventional armaments as a supplement to the efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament.

When discussing regional conflicts the ministers expressed concern about their continuation and aggravation, this having a negative impact on the situation in the world. They confirmed the readiness of their countries to

facilitate the search for political solutions of these conflicts on the basis of generally recognised standards of international law and acceptable to all sides.

The ministers confirmed their serious concern over the explosive situation in the south of Africa and noted that it called for a fair political solution. They condemned the policy of repressions inside the country and of using force against neighbouring states, this being the main source of tension in the region. They called on the international community to take vigorous measures to liquidate the system of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa and ensure the speediest granting of independence to Namibia in strict accordance with decisions of the United Nations Organisation and the Organisation of African Unity without any invented linkages whatsoever.

The ministers expressed anxiety in connection with the continuing tension in the Middle East. They stressed the need for attaining a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict on the basis of collective efforts with the equal participation of all interested sides, including the PLO.

Both sides, the document says, expressed satisfaction with the results of the Mexican Foreign Minister's visit to the USSR and regard it as a new useful contribution to strengthening relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries, to consolidating peace and international security. □

(Moscow, May 7, 1987)

Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at luncheon for Thai Foreign Minister

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, has expressed deep satisfaction with the development of Soviet-Thai relations.

He spoke at a luncheon given in Moscow on May 11 in honour of Chief Air Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, who is currently in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

Eduard Shevardnadze described as inspiring the fact that the Soviet Union and Thailand adhere to a similar view on the need for nuclear disarmament, for preventing the militarisation of outer space, for resolving regional conflicts, for bringing about an end to hostility between countries and for developing relations of co-operation between them.

The Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs stated the Soviet Union's readiness to continue closely co-operating with Thailand in the cause of reducing and eliminating the nuclear threat.

He highly appreciated Thailand's support for the Soviet-US accord on medium-range nuclear

missiles and shorter-range missiles and for broader agreements on radical cuts in nuclear arsenals.

Touching upon the problems of the Asian-Pacific region, Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised that it is precisely the example of this region that shows most vividly the interconnection between global and regional security.

"Nuclear-free zones in various parts of the Pacific and Indian oceans are important steps to a world free from nuclear weapons."

"Reducing military confrontation in the region and eliminating foreign military presence there are steps towards the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security," the Soviet Foreign Minister stated. "The development of an all-Asia dialogue is an integral part of the process of building confidence on a world scale."

"It is of fundamental importance," Eduard Shevardnadze said, "that during the present talks mutual conviction was expressed that it is now urgent and essential to intensify the search for a just political solution to the problems which persist in the region."

"We take different views of the Kampuchea situation but we by no means hold that the

situation is in deadlock or that there are no possibilities for settling the conflict. The Soviet Union will continue to promote the establishment and successful development of a dialogue in that direction."

"Any proposals on practical steps leading to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region will find complete understanding and support on the part of the Soviet Union in future as well," stated the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He emphasised the Soviet Union's firm intention to carry on the policy aimed at developing stable and mutually beneficial relations with Thailand in all fields and at strengthening mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

Eduard Shevardnadze receives Libyan Foreign Minister

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE met **Jadallah Azuz Talhi**, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison (Foreign Minister) of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, last week.

The sides discussed the situation around Libya in the context of the situation in the Middle East region and in the African continent. They condemned the heightening of the anti-Libyan campaign in connection with the events in Chad which the imperialist forces try to use for destabilising the progressive regime in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, eroding its international positions and for consolidating their military-political presence in Africa. The sides emphasised the need to press for a political settlement to the Chadian conflict through ending all foreign interference in that African country and achieving national reconciliation among Chadians.

The sides pointed to the importance of strengthening inter-Arab solidarity, enabling the Arabs to uphold effectively their lawful rights and interests. The results of the recent unifying session of the Palestine National Council are to restore the role of the PLO as the key political factor in Middle East affairs. The USSR and Libya attach much importance to strengthening the interaction of advanced Arab countries and the PLO on an anti-imperialist basis.

Touching on global international themes, the leaders of the foreign policy departments of the USSR and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya noted the community of approach of their countries to the problems of curbing the nuclear arms race and improving the situation in the world. **Jadallah Azuz Talhi** said that the Soviet Union's peace initiatives, including the recent proposals for eliminating medium-range missiles in the European continent, meet with the complete approval and support of the Libyan side.

The conversation passed in a friendly atmosphere and showed the usefulness of exchanges of opinion between the leaders of the USSR Foreign Ministry and the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. It was decided to continue political dialogue. □

Pravda: Jaruzelski Plan

THE "Jaruzelski Plan" will undoubtedly be a subject of broad social and inter-state discussion, since it is a substantial part of the all-European process, the newspaper *Pravda* says commenting on the comprehensive plan for reducing armaments and building up confidence in the centre of Europe, which was put forward on the eve of Victory Day by the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and President of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic, **Wojciech Jaruzelski**.

The Polish initiative, *Pravda* stresses, lends a useful impetus to developing the all-European process, building up confidence and attaining disarmament.

The Jaruzelski Plan, the commentary says, is acquiring a very great significance in many aspects: the times which call upon every country to take constructive efforts in favour of

disarmament; the noble humane goals underlying the document which has been submitted; the novelty of the approach and the proposed actions; and the geography, since what is at issue is a gradual reduction of nuclear and conventional armaments in the region, with military-political alliances confronting each other in the most concentrated and dangerous way. In other words — a key European section of the road towards disarmament.

The comprehensive plan is not the sum total of previous proposals. An original document has been submitted for European politics. The initial zone outlined in it, embracing the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic and also the Federal Republic of Germany, the Benelux countries and Denmark, differs from the territorial limits of other military detente measures under discussion. It is proposed to shift the centre of gravity in the sphere of conventional armaments primarily to reduction of such types which have the maximum strength and precision and can be used for sudden attack. Being put on the order of the day for the first time is the question of changing the character of military doctrines in a way that they could be mutually recognised as exclusively defensive.

The comprehensive plan is in tune with the nuclear-free Europe idea and promotes its realisation.

And what about Western Europe? Where is the NATO countries' mutual constructive approach in the sphere of disarmament, instead of certain circles' persistent efforts to raise obstacles on the road to a nuclear-free world? One should like to hope that this will come and in the final account that reason will triumph.

The peace initiatives, the consistent efforts to put them into life provide evidence of the socialist countries' lofty responsibility in the struggle for the survival of humanity, security and co-operation in Europe, for a nuclear-free world that all the peoples are dreaming of. *Pravda* said in conclusion. □

Mikhail Gorbachev

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Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee approved at its latest sitting the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the French Communist Party. That meeting has been an important stage in the development of co-operation between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the French Communist Party, an expression of the new approach of both parties in the fight for peace, democracy and socialism. The common interest was noted of the two parties in the development of Soviet-French co-operation as an important part of European and world politics. Despite all obstacles, the Soviet and French Communists will further work for normal and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries, contribute to mutual understanding and friendship between the Soviet and

French peoples.

The Political Bureau has approved the results of the talks and conversations of Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze with Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda, which strengthened mutual understanding with that major country of the Western hemisphere on matters of international security, disarmament and development, elimination of dangerous seats of tension, and brought to light new opportunities for mutually beneficial and diverse bilateral co-operation.

The Political Bureau discussed the question of letters from working people coming to the CPSU Central Committee and the measures for the implementation of the proposals contained in them in the course of practical work to fulfil the decisions of the 27th Congress and the January (1987) plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Political Bureau examined the question of implementation of the comprehensive programme for the development of the production of consumer goods and consumer services for 1986-2000.

The Political Bureau also examined the question of further improving work with young people in connection with the results of the

20th Congress of the Young Communist League (YCL).

Within the framework of control over the decisions taken earlier, the state of work was examined for the development of direct ties between plants and amalgamations, setting up joint ventures, international associations and organisations of the Soviet Union with the CMEA member-countries. It was pointed out that the introduction of new forms of interaction is of great significance for broadening the scale and enhancing the dynamism of economic and scientific-technical co-operation with the states of the socialist community along the lines of all-round development of specialisation and co-operation of production.

Measures were outlined to intensify work for perfecting the mechanism of co-operation within the framework of new integration forms, above all the questions of planning, price formation and material and technical supply. The significance was stressed of training and advancing the professional standards of specialists, and increasing Party influence on improving the effectiveness of foreign economic activities.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee also examined some other foreign and home policy issues. □

Denis Healey received at CPSU Central Committee

ANATOLI DOBRYNIN, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Vadim Zagladin, Member of the CPSU Central Committee, received on Monday Denis Healey, prominent figure in Britain's Labour Party and 'shadow' foreign secretary, who is currently in Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

There was an exchange of views on a wide range of disarmament issues, primarily those concerning the Soviet-US talks on nuclear and space arms and, first of all, the issue of eliminating medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe.

The two sides attach much importance to achieving the zero option for the missiles of both types.

The question of prospects for cut-downs in troops and conventional arms in Europe — from the Atlantic to the Urals — was specially touched upon.

The Soviet side emphasised that as far back as June 1986 the countries of the socialist community had submitted proposals on reducing land forces and tactical strike aviation by 25 per cent by the beginning of the nineties.

It was suggested that tactical nuclear arms be reduced at the same time.

Later on, considerations were discussed concerning the possibility and necessity of reducing tactical strike aviation at the very beginning, of diminishing the concentration of troops and first of all of the most dangerous offensive types of weapons along the line of contact between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. It is a question of measures which would rule out the possibility of a sudden attack.

The asymmetry which exists in the armed forces of European countries and which is conditioned by historical, geographical and other factors, should be eliminated through cut-backs by the one who has got ahead, and not through build-ups among those lagging behind.

The military balance should be maintained at as low a level as possible. The level of arms should be lowered to the limit of reasonable sufficiency, i.e. to the limit necessary for the accomplishment of only defensive tasks.

Denis Healey spoke out in favour of starting practical talks as soon as possible with a view to really reducing troops and conventional arms in Europe.

The Soviet side expressed readiness for that. At the same time it was emphasised that the West

is limiting the current discussions to problems of procedure so that matters never get to the root of the issue.

The opinion of the sides is that the Vienna meeting should work out guidelines as soon as possible for the discussion of all these issues at the second stage of the Stockholm Conference.

Matters concerning bilateral Soviet-British relations were also touched upon, with both sides declaring for improving relations in every way. □

Eduard Shevardnadze receives Denis Healey

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE received Denis Healey yesterday. They had a thorough and spirited discussion of the key international problems of the times.

Denis Healey was briefed in detail about the recent Soviet initiatives for an early accord on the issue of medium-range and theatre missiles in Europe. He hailed the Soviet Union's readiness to come to terms on the complete elimination of these classes of weapons from Europe.

Common understanding was expressed that in the nuclear and space age lasting security, both general and for each nation in particular, can only be ensured through all-round co-operation among countries with different social systems, scaling down military confrontation and taking radical steps towards complete nuclear disarmament, and by preventing the arms race from spilling over into outer space.

In discussing a Middle East settlement, they called for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. □

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Soviet Foreign Ministry briefing

RADIOACTIVE LEAK IN USA

COMPETENT Soviet bodies have thoroughly checked the results of the analysis of samples of atmospheric aerosols taken outside US territory in the period from February 20 to 25.

Radioactive isotopes have been detected in the samples. Their existence in the atmosphere can only be attributed to a nuclear explosion. Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, told a briefing for journalists on May 7.

The composition of isotopes in the samples showed that their emergence had not been due to an accident at an atomic power plant.

Besides, no country except the United States had conducted nuclear explosions in the period before the sample-taking.

The available data make it unequivocally clear that radioactive substances outside the United States were a result of nuclear explosions detonated at the Nevada test site on February 3 and 11, 1987.

Radioactive isotopes were detected in the atmosphere close to the United States late in March. Analysis of the composition of these isotopes and the route of the movement of air masses in which they had been found showed that their source, as in the previous instance, was the March 18 nuclear blast at the American Nevada test site.

The instances when radioactive substances crossed US territorial boundaries as a result of nuclear tests violated *clause 1(B) of Article 1* of the 1963 Moscow Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, Outer Space and Underwater.

The Soviet Government resolutely denounced the violation by the US of its international treaty commitments, said the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman.

These violations were a cause of special concern to the USSR due to the systematic character which they were acquiring.

The above-mentioned violations of the 1963 Treaty were not the only instances. The American

side's attention was repeatedly drawn in the past to similar cases of radioactive fallout carried beyond US national territory.

The Soviet Government called on the United States to do everything necessary to strictly observe the provisions of this important treaty.

"The reasons why the US Government, shortly after the detection of radioactivity in the atmosphere as a result of the February, 1987 American nuclear explosions, blamed the Soviet Union for the violations are becoming obvious," Gerasimov said.

"Taking advantage of the occasion, the Soviet Union reaffirms its readiness to resolve in a fundamental way the problem of nuclear testing by banning it once and for all.

"This step would preclude similar incidents in the future.

"The US stubborn unwillingness to agree to the termination of nuclear blasts conducted with a view to testing new types of nuclear weapons, including tests under the SDI programme, is blocking advancement along this major direction of restricting the arms race."

Dangerous strategy of the US in Asia

THE US is assigning a special role to Pakistan in its military-strategic plans and is using its territory as a *place d'armes* for exerting military pressure on countries of Southern and South-West Asia, as well as for waging an undeclared war against Democratic Afghanistan. This was stated at a briefing on May 7 by Gennadi Gerasimov.

Pakistan receives modern weapons from the US, specifically F-16 planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons, Stinger missiles and radio-electronic devices. Pakistan can create an atomic bomb today, not without outside assistance of course, and the Pakistani president has openly spoken about this possibility. Reports began to appear recently on talks between Washington and Islamabad about the delivery to Pakistan of AWACS planes which would be operated by US military personnel, Gerasimov said.

The point at issue is the deployment on

Pakistani soil, on terms of property or lease, of modern surveillance and control facilities. In any case it will lead to a permanent presence of US servicemen and the appearance of new types of US military hardware on the territory of that country.

Initiators of the deployment of the AWACS system in Pakistan would like to ensure control and surveillance of the areas and air space adjacent to that country and at the same time to be given an opportunity to engage in dangerous military activities against neighbouring countries. It would be an unfriendly step with regard to neighbouring countries showing that Pakistan is being drawn even further into the dangerous strategy of the US in Asia and that it is undermining by itself its status of a non-aligned country.

The recent developments constitute a new attempt to heighten tension in Southern and South-West Asia which, as a matter of fact, affects the security of many countries, including India, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. These developments show the intention to further undermine relations between Pakistan and its neighbours, to strengthen mistrust in their relations.

All this is taking place at a time when the programme of national reconciliation announced by the Afghan Government, in combination with perceptible progress made at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva (held with the mediation of Diego Cordovez, the special representative of the UN Secretary General), create a real possibility for achieving a settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan in the near future and of bringing the overall situation in the region back to normal.

The intention announced by Washington to satisfy Pakistan's request on delivering AWACS planes to it is nothing but another manifestation of US neoglobalist intentions in that region. It should be very well understood that the escalation of unfriendly actions against Pakistan's neighbours, including the Soviet Union, cannot remain unnoticed. □

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Gorbachev was especially satisfied to hear information about the unfolding process of consolidation in Latin America, a process that is enhancing its ability to handle in its own Latin American way national and continental problems, problems in relations with other parts of the world and with other countries.

"We appreciate the independence and vigour of Mexico's foreign policy," he said. "We realise that objective circumstances do not allow it to fully unfold its peaceable and progressive potential.

"Nevertheless, its contribution to the Latin American process, to the normalisation of international relations as a whole, including within the framework of the Delhi Six and Contadora Group, is noticeable and considerable.

"It serves Mexico's national interests and demonstrates its sense of responsibility for the overall course of world events."

Gorbachev attached immense importance to the outcome of the endeavour to resolve the dangerous conflict in Central America and fully supported efforts aimed at precluding intervention and aggression in handling problems relating to Nicaragua.

In explaining the Soviet Union's interest in Latin America and the desire to maintain good relations with it, Gorbachev denounced the attempts to impose the distorted view that the USSR wanted to stage there a series of "socialist revolutions".

Such claims, he said, are "at odds with what we are really doing. This runs counter to our theory, our principles, the new mode of thinking and the entire foreign policy concept to which we adhere."

The world is complex and diverse, Gorbachev said, summing up the discussion. "But this diversity, after all, is not a fault, but a positive factor.

"Let everyone prove that his choice is better, and if he wants and can, let him take into account the experience of others. The more so for this is becoming ever more necessary since the world's interdependence is growing."

As far as Soviet-Mexican relations are concerned, they are, as Sepulveda observed, really mature. They rest on respect for each other. This is one of the basic principles of their lengthy development that has produced a big tree of tradition, which calls however for constant attention and good care.

Before saying good-bye to the visitor, Gorbachev expressed support for the broadest and most diverse co-operation in all directions of Soviet-Mexican relations. "It is based on Soviet people's sympathy towards the Mexican people, and interest in their history, arts, culture and customs."

Both Mexico and the Soviet Union, he said, need this co-operation. The world at large also needs it.

Eduard Shevardnadze took part in the conversation.

Statement by USSR delegation in Geneva

THE Soviet-US talks on nuclear and space arms continue in Geneva.

The Soviet delegation is conducting a consistent line at concluding successfully the preparation for a joint draft treaty on medium-range missiles, to ensure advance at the talks and in other directions. There exist for this the necessary objective conditions created by important arrangements reached by the leaders of the USSR and USA in Reykjavik as well as by the latest Soviet initiatives in all areas discussed at the talks in Geneva.

On May 5 of this year, the USSR delegation took another constructive step: it tabled a proposal to co-ordinate "key provisions of agreement" on a number of major problems of disarmament, including strategic offensive arms and the consolidation of the regime of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The Soviet side submitted the corresponding draft document. Alongside agreement on medium-range missiles, this document could become the subject and the main result of a political arrangement at summit

level between the USSR and the USA and the basis on which full-scale juridically binding agreement could be drafted.

The Soviet delegation also proposed to co-ordinate during the talks the principles of restraint in the area of strategic offensive arms, including long-range sea-based cruise missiles. The point of the matter is that the sides should refrain from surpassing their present levels of strategic offensive arms. The meaning and importance of such a step are understandable. It would create a favourable climate for the work of the delegations, for the drafting of agreements on arms limitation and reduction.

The United States delegation has now submitted the US draft treaty on strategic offensive arms. It will be studied. A number of its provisions take into account the arrangement on radical reduction of strategic offensive arms of both sides reached in Reykjavik. But the most important element, the taking into consideration of the objectively existing relationship between cuts in strategic offensive arms and prevention of

an arms race in space and the consolidation of the ABM Treaty regime, is lacking in the US draft.

The Soviet delegation firmly stated in this connection that prevention of the transfer of the arms race to space and keeping of the ABM Treaty are crucial to effecting 50 per cent cuts in strategic offensive arms. Therefore it is necessary to stipulate the provision that if, in conditions of the arrangement on the reduction of strategic offensive arms, any of the sides should adopt a decision to embark on the practical creation of an ABM space system, the other side would have the right to regard itself free from the obligation on the reduction of strategic offensive arms.

The USSR delegation intends to continue pressing in Geneva for such solutions as would be fully in accord with the agreed-upon aim of the talks — prevention of an arms race in space, limitation and reduction of nuclear arms on Earth, consolidation of strategic stability, and, finally, elimination of nuclear arms everywhere. □

(Geneva, May 8, TASS)

The problem of banning nuclear tests

COMMENTARY

By Vladimir Bogachev, TASS military news analyst

THIRTY years ago, on May 10, 1957, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR proposed to the United States Congress and the British Parliament to adopt agreed-upon measures leading to a termination of nuclear weapon tests.

The discussion of the problem of banning nuclear tests has a long history and abounds in examples of most diverse and often contradictory arguments set forth by Washington against the Soviet proposals to stop tests. Very often the United States went back on its own proposals and frustrated a mutually acceptable solution of the problem.

Take for example May 1957. With the knowledge of President Eisenhower the United States representative in the disarmament sub-committee, Harold Stassen, presented to the Soviet representative a memorandum containing some proposals which could have turned out to be mutually acceptable. But representatives of the Pentagon and also the British Government, which was preparing to develop its own hydrogen bomb, opposed an agreement on banning nuclear

explosions. So as a result Harold Stassen was asked by the United States President to resign. And by July 1957 the then Secretary of State of the United States, John Foster Dulles, announced Washington's intentions to continue nuclear tests.

The signing in 1963 of the Treaty on Prohibiting Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, Underwater and in Outer Space was a major success of the peace forces. But even after that the opponents of lowering the level of major confrontation continued their vicious campaign against stopping underground tests, against a general and complete prohibition of nuclear explosions.

In the course of more than eighteen months, from August 6, 1985, the Soviet Union observed its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests, striving to set a good example to other countries and giving Washington a chance to ponder the consequences of a drastic destabilisation of the military-political situation as a result of an intensification of the arms race. But even in that period the United States continued intensive nuclear weapon tests at the range in Nevada, thus challenging world public opinion.

Now Washington says that the prohibition of nuclear tests is its "long-term" aim and that it can be attained "only after the elimination of all nuclear arms", that is only when nothing needing testing is left. If we are to believe Washington it appears that to make nuclear arms obsolete it is necessary first to modernise them, and that to make them "impotent" it is necessary to increase the yield and accuracy of American nuclear warheads.

The Soviet Union is deeply convinced that a termination of nuclear explosions would sharply slow down the nuclear arms race and make it possible to embark in practice on the road of eliminating these weapons of mass annihilation. The USSR is ready for any form of negotiations with the United States on the question of ending nuclear tests, for any variant of accord — if only this will bring closer the attainment of agreement on the banning of nuclear explosions. □

Theological conference in Moscow

THE second international theological conference devoted to the 1,000th anniversary — to be observed in 1988 — of Russia's adoption of Christianity will open in Moscow early next week.

Its theme will be "The Divinity and Spirituality of the Russian Orthodox Church", a TASS correspondent was told at the Moscow Patriarchy.

The first conference, which was also part of the anniversary activities, was held in Kiev last summer. It studied the evolution of Christianity in Russia.

Next week's meeting will be attended by Russian theologians and religious experts from the Christian churches of other countries. Along with history, they will also discuss the principles of peace-making in Russian theology.

The conference will be conducted by Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and Galich, a member of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. □

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Jacques Chirac's meeting with Soviet journalists

IN the run-up to his visit to the Soviet Union, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of France received accredited Soviet journalists in the Matignon Palace, his residence, last week, report *Pravda* correspondent Vladimir Bolshakov and TASS correspondent Yuri Lopatin.

The meeting was unofficial and we therefore cannot quote the French Prime Minister directly, they continue. But with his permission we share our impressions of the meeting with our readers.

Jacques Chirac will pay an official visit to our country after a long interval. What does he expect from his meeting with the Soviet leaders?

Judging from his words, the Matignon Palace is watching the changes taking place in the USSR with big interest.

It is believed here that the policies — both foreign and domestic — pursued by the new Soviet leadership create new possibilities for the East-West dialogue.

Develop Soviet-French ties

In the opinion of the Prime Minister, France can continue playing a positive role not only in the development of Soviet-French ties, but also in relations between the West and the socialist countries as a whole. It would seem that there is every possibility for that. On a number of matters the USSR and France have no small number of points of contact. For instance, the head of the French Government believes that the Helsinki process that has already given Europe many positive developments should be continued.

Jacques Chirac came out in favour of the expansion of all-round exchanges between the states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation.

He also attached much importance to the development of Soviet-French trade.

And although, from his point of view, there now exists an imbalance in that sphere which is not in France's favour — let us note in passing that this happened through no fault of the Soviet Union — Chirac advocates in principle economic co-operation between our countries, because he believes that it promotes greater mutual trust and security.

The positions of the USSR and France on certain regional problems are close, too.

For instance, the government headed by Jacques Chirac is in favour, although with reservations, of the convocation of an international conference for the Middle East,

and in favour of an early termination of the war between Iran and Iraq.

He expresses concern over the growing debt of the developing countries and the enormous scope of poverty, diseases and hunger there.

The Prime Minister believes it is important to find as soon as possible the means for giving more efficient assistance to those countries.

And there indeed exists such a possibility. It has been for long proposed by the developing countries themselves, by the "Delhi Six" and by the Non-Aligned Movement.

The socialist countries have put forward a whole complex of concrete proposals taking account of the wishes of those countries.

Disarmament

First of all, the proposals for an immediate termination of the arms race and the elimination of the weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, before the end of the current century.

During the conversation with us Jacques Chirac admitted that the funds currently spent on armaments could be channelled with great usefulness into relieving the plight of the developing countries.

As to the concrete positions of France on disarmament issues, in recent times they have come to differ substantially from the approach of the USSR and those of a number of Western European countries, too.

Of course, one can only welcome that France — and the Prime Minister reaffirmed this during the conversation with us — is in favour of the observance of the Soviet-US ABM Treaty in full and against the militarisation of outer space, and that it has no intention of developing a French version of the SDI.

With certain reservations France does not object to the conclusion of a Soviet-US agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. But when these "reservations" are expressed it turns out that neither such an agreement nor prospects for the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe and the world over suit France — although the government of Jacques Chirac says that such an agreement does not concern their country.

On the issue of the elimination of shorter-range missiles in Europe the stand of Paris is negative.

Speaking of some fatal predisposition of people to settle their conflicts by means of war, the French Prime Minister gives nuclear weapons

the role of a certain guardian of law and order in the world, even something of a guarantor of peace and security on this planet.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that France intended to bank on "nuclear deterrence" in the future as well, that it had no desire to renounce either the modernisation or the build-up of its nuclear arsenal and that it was preparing for chemical weapon production.

The Prime Minister did not reply to the question as to why France needed that precisely at the moment when the Soviet Union and the US are very close to an agreement on the elimination of their medium-range missiles in Europe, when the USSR has stopped the production of chemical weapons and has embarked on their elimination.

Jacques Chirac came out in favour of an improvement in Soviet-French relations and their all-round development.

He is confident that the USSR and France can do much together to strengthen peace in the world.

Strengthen peace

The Soviet Union is prepared for that. Long-standing traditions of friendship and co-operation between the Soviet Union and France are valued in our country. We remember the contribution made to their development by President Charles de Gaulle.

One would like to hope that Jacques Chirac's party which proclaims itself a political heir to de Gaulle will reciprocate our intentions.

The visit of the French Prime Minister to the USSR creates every possibility for this. □

Soviet spokesman on the Rarotonga Treaty

"THREE out of five nuclear powers — the United States, Britain, and France — did not sign Protocols 2 and 3 to the Rarotonga Treaty on declaring the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone and, judging by their statements, do not intend to do so in future either," a spokesman for the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated at a briefing on May 12.

"Moreover," he said, "those countries are conducting a coordinated campaign in an attempt to sow distrust of the Soviet Union's goals in the region. They chose as a target the interpreting statement which the Soviet Union had made when signing appropriate protocols".

In this connection the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry emphasised that when ratifying the protocols to the Rarotonga Treaty the Soviet Union would proceed from such an interpretation of its provisions which would promote the consolidation of the nuclear-free zone status of the South Pacific.

"So, the Soviet Union is ready fully to fulfil the obligations which it has taken upon itself by signing the protocols". □

Pravda news analyst on new thinking

"HUMANITY'S security at the turn of the 21st century is indivisible," Yuri Zhukov, political observer of the newspaper *Pravda*, points out in the newspaper. "Guided by this indisputable provision, our Party has put forward its programme of struggle for humanity's survival based on the principle that one cannot build one's own security at the expense of other people's security."

"In the course of the meetings with the leaders of the capitalist states, which are held in an atmosphere of a frank dialogue, views are as a rule briskly exchanged. A quest is under way for possible mutually acceptable decisions, it is being sorted out what can already be achieved at the

present stage and for what it will be necessary to work in the future

"Today, it is important as never before, to learn to hear and understand one another," the author stresses. "The Soviet side is prepared for that. Let there be disputes, let there be polemics, but provided the dialogue enables its participants in the long run to understand each other's stands and intentions, the way to mutual understanding and then to taking mutually acceptable decisions will be open."

"Contrary to all propaganda tricks of the US politicians and generals, new thinking is gradually winning the minds of people and ousting the old thinking." □

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Commentary on world economic relations

By Ivan Ablamov, TASS news analyst

THE *New York Times* newspaper is of the opinion that unprecedented tensions and crisis in economic relations may lead to disruptive international consequences.

These apprehensions are not groundless. It is not without reason that trade sanctions, embargoes, discriminatory restrictions, monetary battles and the use of economic contacts as an instrument of political pressure are referred to as "economic war" which is fraught with a threat of armed conflicts.

Such actions, the pace of which is being set by the United States and which involve other leading capitalist countries, bring about tension in international economic relations and disorganise the world economy and trade.

One can say with confidence that the international economic climate has sharply deteriorated in recent years as a result of the course being pursued by the leading capitalist countries. Crisis phenomena in world economic relations have intensified, and destabilisation of trade-and-economic, monetary, scientific and technical relations between countries is evident.

Washington's external economic policy is a striking example of attempts at cultivating arbitrariness and diktat in international economic relations, which plays a big role in particular in the sharpening of contradictions in

the USA-Japan-Western Europe triangle, too.

The problem of the colossal indebtedness of the developing countries has acquired an explosive character. It dooms the regions which account for the bulk of the world's population, resources and future markets, to slipping down to an economic disaster.

The imperialism-imposed arms race and militarism have put up a powerful obstacle to economic and social progress.

Every day brings increasingly new evidence that the policies of the leading capitalist countries headed by the United States, policies which proceed only from their own interests, have resulted in abnormal economic relations.

New international economic order

How should these explosive tangles in the world be undone? Where is the way out of the current difficulties?

The Soviet Union indicates a real way out: only along the road of the new thinking which requires recognition of realities and a balance of interests.

It is precisely these goals that are served by the system of international economic security which the Soviet Union has suggested as an integral part of a comprehensive system of international security.

This concept envisages the exclusion of all

forms of discrimination from international practice, a fair settlement of the debts problem, and the pooling of the efforts of all countries in resolving global issues, including development.

This system is aimed at establishing a new international economic order. It would equally protect each state from discrimination, sanctions and other attributes of the imperialist neo-colonialist policy, which lead to undermining the economic security of countries.

The militarism-imposed principle — armament instead of development — should be countered by an opposite order of things — disarmament for development. Such a system could become a reliable pillar of international security in general.

The Soviet Union specifically suggests convening a world congress on economic security issues, at which everything that aggravates world economic relations could be comprehensively discussed.

Perhaps nobody, not even people in the West, now disputes the urgency of normalising international economic relations following exhausting "economic wars".

The question is on what principles it should be done. It is perfectly evident that it is precisely the Soviet proposals — which are balanced ones and take into account the interests of all countries — that work for the benefit of socio-economic progress for all countries and peoples. □

Soviet-US business co-operation

"THE development of trade-and-economic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is still hampered by the existence of various kinds of restrictions and bans," Boris Aristov, Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR, has stated.

He met Dwayne Andreas, co-chairman of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC), and James Giffen, ASTEC president, in Moscow on May 11.

"Some of these measures have been taken in the United States in recent months under far-fetched pretexts."

"The Soviet Union," Boris Aristov recalled, "fulfils its obligations in the field of trade. Thus, yet another contract for the purchase of American wheat was signed recently. The Soviet Union expects the same approach from the US side, which should take measures aimed at making trade between the Soviet Union and the United States more balanced."

"Way back at the ninth session of the Soviet-American Commission for Trade in December 1986, the Soviet participants handed over to the US side a list of goods which the Soviet Union could export to the United States. But they have not received a clear answer up to now."

A number of topics were touched upon during the conversation, in particular the possibility of establishing joint-venture enterprises on Soviet territory with the participation of foreign firms.

"This is generating lively interest among businessmen in the West," Boris Aristov emphasised. "However, we should like to know the US Administration's attitude towards the possibility of participation by US corporations in this form of co-operation."

Dwayne Andreas and James Giffen voiced hope that joint-venture enterprises with the participation of US companies will be able to

operate successfully. The negotiators considered the course of preparation for the establishment of such enterprises.

During the talks the sides also considered matters connected with the holding of the regular annual meeting of ASTEC, which is to be held in Moscow in December 1987, as well as other matters concerning Soviet-US trade-and-economic co-operation. □

Urals direct trade with Scandinavia

THE newspaper *Izvestia* says in its May 10 issue that South Urals industry was successfully presented to its potential foreign partners. The presentation took place during last month at the premises of the Soviet-Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Leningrad. Acquiring for the first time the right to coastal trade with firms from the Nordic countries, above all with Finland, industrial enterprises of the Chelyabinsk region put on show their most diverse wares.

They included the famous Kasli metal casting, Zlatoust steel-engraving, decorative Ural stones and grinding tools.

After examining a model of the Olimpik children's bike manufactured by the Ustyukatsky vehicle factory, representatives of the Finnish firm Ikabelt asked whether it was possible to ship the bikes to the Finnish market. Factory representatives honestly replied: they could, and in large consignments too, but they had difficulties with the back brake sleeve. The Finns made a prompt proposal: Ikabelt will find these sleeves and will supply them to the factory on a pay-back basis and the

Olimpik will be the best children's bike in Europe.

Another Finnish firm Karelia Trade was interested in wastes from aluminium casting, wire of various diameters and timber. It also made a proposal: it would buy what it wanted, but besides that the firm was ready to supply a line for briquetting wastes from timber-processing, hoping for their deliveries to Finland. The South Ural representatives liked the proposal, because for the time being they are unable to handle properly timber wastes.

The production amalgamation Chelyabinsk Tractor Factory named after Lenin received a proposal for a big order from the Finnish firm Huurre for the joint manufacture of sanitary articles from stainless steel. Huurre, one of the biggest producers of such equipment, took an obligation to deliver to Chelyabinsk a line to produce multifunctional sinks so that a definite share of manufactured goods would be sold on the Finnish market.

South Urals executives plan to allocate slightly more than 50 per cent of future profits in currency for purchasing new technologies and equipment. The rest will be used for purchasing import goods and meeting the requirements of the region's population. □

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

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