

Mikhail Gorbachev's message on 30th Anniversary of Soviet-U.S. Exchanges Agreement

HERE follows the full text of the message of greeting from Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the Soviet and American participants in activities marking the 30th anniversary of the first agreement between the USSR and the United States on exchanges in the field of culture, technology and education —

"I greet the participants in the activities marking 30 years since the signature of the first Soviet-American agreement on exchanges in the field of culture, technology and education.

"This important date in the history of rela-

tions between the USSR and the U.S. makes it possible to take a look at the accumulated experience of cooperation and, drawing lessons from the past, to march forward along the path of further developing cultural, scientific and technological ties between our countries and the most diverse contacts and exchanges between the Soviet and American people.

"Time has confronted mankind with multiple challenges, often of a global nature. And the principal among them is the survival of world civilisation and the removal of the nuclear threat.

"The fulfilment of this task is certainly facilitated by the intellectual and cultural interaction of nations, most notably through extensive contacts between people — politicians, scientists, writers, people in the arts and representatives of different walks of life and generations.

"This is why President Reagan and I during our meeting in Washington expressed satis-

faction that such contacts have come to involve over the past two years tens of thousands of Soviet and American citizens, and reiterated our resolve to continue promoting this process in every way.

"The mutual interest of our nations in each other's culture is rooted deeply. And this interest has traditionally been mutual. The great thinkers, authors and scientists of Russia have valued all the best in the culture of the American people.

"I am positive that the natural mutual enrichment of the two great nations meets the interests of the continued progress of world civilisation and the cause of mutual understanding and peace.

"I sincerely wish all the participants in the anniversary activities success in their noble efforts to improve Soviet-American relations and consolidate the atmosphere of trust and cooperation."

Andrei Gromyko receives American financier

ANDREI GROMYKO, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in the Kremlin last Wednesday George Soros, one of the biggest American financiers, who was in Moscow in connection with a meeting of the joint committee of the Soviet Cultural Foundation and the Soros Foundation.

Questions of developing business and cultural relations between the USSR and the United States and also their interconnection with foreign policy matters were discussed during the conversation.

Andrei Gromyko said that the political line pursued by the United States was the main obstacle to developing economic and trade relations. Under its influence the business community scaled down trade and economic ties with the Soviet Union. If the obstacle to the development of trade, which is not of our making, is removed both countries will have new possibilities for developing such trade.

The hope was expressed that on his return to New York George Soros will tell representatives of American business circles about the Soviet

Union's readiness to develop extensive trade and economic ties with the Soviet Union.

Gromyko pointed out that now that the Treaty has been signed between the USSR and the United States on liquidating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, dawn has appeared on the political horizon. The further development of the international situation will depend in many ways on our two countries. The Soviet Union believes that this Treaty should be ratified while the talks in Geneva on the 50% cut in strategic offensive arms should also lead to a positive outcome.

This will also promote greater business ties between our countries, Andrei Gromyko continued. It will probably open up new possibilities also for the activity of the foundation set up by you in the name of developing contacts between the Soviet and American peoples.

It is good that you are making a practical contribution to developing Soviet-American relations. It can be said now that holes have appeared in the political dam separating our countries and we hope that this dam will be increasingly undermined.

At the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee

AT its meeting on Thursday the Political Bureau of the CPSU's Central Committee approved the results of Nikolai Ryzhkov's talks with Prime Minister of Sweden Ingvar Carlsson and Prime Minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland, as well as the conversations he held with other Swedish and Norwegian politicians, public figures and representatives of business circles during his official visits to these countries. A considerable extent of mutual understanding on fundamental international questions and in the assessment of new favourable tendencies in the world has been achieved both with Norway and Sweden.

Note was made of the importance of actively developing political dialogue and contacts at all

levels with both these countries in the interests of translating into practical deeds the military-political and civilian aspects of the initiatives set out in Mikhail Gorbachev's Murmansk speech in October 1987 and concretised during the visit by the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers to Sweden and Norway.

The Politburo stressed the expedience of expanding trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation with these countries, including in cooperation with other nordic countries, with the aim of carrying out large-scale projects to work the mineral resources of the Kola peninsula, extract oil and gas on the sea shelf and also in other fields.

At its meeting the Politburo studied questions connected with increasing the effectiveness of the USSR's participation in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It was noted that the USSR's vigorous activities within the framework of UNESCO are called upon to create a new

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Andrei Gromyko receives Oscar Fischer

ANDREI GROMYKO received Oscar Fischer, Member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, in the Kremlin on Tuesday.

Gromyko observed during their conversation that the USSR regards the forthcoming ratification of the Soviet-American INF Treaty as an act of exceptional importance.

"We hope that the United States as well will adopt a responsible attitude towards this legislative procedure," he said. "We also hope for a positive outcome of the Soviet-American talks in Geneva on the 50% reduction of strategic offensive weapons."

In the opinion of the Soviet Union, elements of moderation and some softening of relations have been imparted to the USSR's bilateral ties with a number of Western European nations, Gromyko said.

He dwelt on the Middle East problem. "The United States and Israel are the principal forces standing in the way of detente there. The Arab countries correctly understand the position of the USSR and other socialist countries on the question of the Middle East settlement.

"This position is aimed at convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties directly interested in resolving the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

Gromyko said that the USSR stands for a peaceful settlement in Central America and wholly supports the Republic of Nicaragua and the entire Contadora process.

Positive trends in Soviet-Chinese relations have emerged, Gromyko pointed out. The Soviet

Union will do everything in its power to develop and deepen these relations.

Gromyko said that the process of positive development in Soviet-American ties, now in the making, is influencing other countries as well.

Dwelling on the problem of eliminating chemical weapons and reducing conventional arms, Gromyko recalled that the USSR, backed by the other socialist countries, has put forward a number of proposals, including on establishing a comprehensive system of international security and strengthening security in northern Europe.

Gromyko considered the domestic policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state — perestroika, or restructuring in the deepest sense of this word. The Soviet people have wholeheartedly approved this policy.

"We are pleased with the development of fraternal ties with the GDR," Gromyko stressed.

Yegor Ligachev's talks with Oscar Fischer

YEGOR LIGACHEV, Member of the Politburo and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Oscar Fischer, Member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the GDR, on Wednesday. Oscar Fischer was on an official friendly visit to the USSR.

During a comradely discussion there was an exchange of information on implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 11th SUPG Congress.

The sides emphasised the constructiveness of the peace initiatives of the allied socialist states that meet the vital needs of the peoples for a secure world and fruitful cooperation. These aims are served by the implementation of the Soviet-American Agreement on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles signed in Washington.

The sides touched upon questions of further strengthening of the interaction of the CPSU and the SUPG, the USSR and the GDR in the struggle for disarmament and a nuclear-weapon-free world and for consolidating the positions of socialism.

AFTER a period of confrontation the world is embarking on the road of arresting the arms race and building confidence, said Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, at a dinner in honour of Oscar Fischer in Moscow last Tuesday.

Eduard Shevardnadze noted that the talks with Oscar Fischer, discussed concrete aspects of implementing the arrangement reached at the Berlin Conference of the Warsaw Treaty member states Political Consultative Committee, that the Soviet missiles deployed on the GDR territory for opposing the threat posed by U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe are to be removed after the Soviet-American Treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles is signed. The removal of these missiles from the GDR will be started shortly. We have a similar understanding with Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet Foreign Minister confirmed the view of the USSR and the GDR on the danger of all sorts of compensatory arms build-ups in Europe. "It is in vain that they in London try, as Mrs. Thatcher did yesterday, to substitute notions in order to justify such compensations," he said. "No one is depriving

the British government of the right to self-defence."

Eduard Shevardnadze said that the USSR and the GDR reaffirm their readiness to press for the early conclusion of an international convention on banning of chemical weapons and completely destroying their stockpiles. He pointed to the need to intensify the work of the Vienna meeting of states participating in the Helsinki process and to work out there a mandate for the talks on reducing conventional armaments and armed forces and achieving arrangements on other aspects.

The conclusion of the Vienna meeting with positive results will strengthen the foundation of the common European home built with joint efforts, Eduard Shevardnadze pointed out. It is only on the basis of respect for postwar realities that this house can be built really strong and durable. It is only on this foundation that our relations with the FRG can develop harmoniously.

Another factor deserves to be mentioned, Eduard Shevardnadze continued. The states situated in northern Europe are seriously concerned over growing concentration of naval forces and armaments in adjoining seas. The time has come to arrest that process, to start talks on the limitation of naval activity. This is precisely the aim of Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals set out in his speech in Murmansk last autumn.

SOVIET-GDR COMMUNIQUE

THE ministers of foreign affairs of the USSR and the GDR have voiced support for the drafting of a Soviet-American treaty on a 50% reduction of strategic offensive arms given that the parties to the treaty obey the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and do not withdraw from it for an agreed-upon period.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Oscar Fischer exchanged views on questions of bilateral relations and a wide range of international problems, notes the communique on the results of the GDR Foreign Minister's official friendly visit to Moscow on January 26-28.

The agreement that the USSR reached with the GDR and Czechoslovakia on the withdrawal from those countries in the near future of

Soviet missiles deployed on their territory, without waiting for the INF Treaty to enter into force was qualified by the foreign ministers as an effective initiative on the road of nuclear disarmament.

The ministers declared for the speediest successful conclusion of the talks on the general and complete prohibition of chemical weapons and the conclusion of an international convention providing for reliable verification and control. They declared for holding in the first half of 1988 a multilateral exchange of data on chemical weapons. The USSR and the GDR stated their concern over the commencement of binary weapons manufacture in the United States.

The ministers discussed questions concerning security in Europe. They stressed the importance of the adoption of a mandate that will serve as the basis for commencing talks on reducing

armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, including the question of dual-use means. The nuclear component of these means can be made the subject of appropriate negotiations in the near future. It was noted that strengthening trust in the military field can be facilitated by implementing the Warsaw Treaty member states' proposal on holding consultations between representatives of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries with the aim of ensuring that the military doctrines of both alliances be based on defensive principles.

The ministers stressed the striving of the USSR and the GDR to create a "common European home" in which there is an atmosphere of trust and cooperation between all countries on the basis of observing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states within their present borders.

Andrei Gromyko's talks with Saud al-Faisal

ANDREI GROMYKO received Prince Saud al-Faisal, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, in the Kremlin on Friday.

Al-Faisal was in Moscow as the special representative of the Chairman of the Arab states' Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdel Aziz.

Al-Faisal handed over to Gromyko two messages to the Soviet leadership from the Head of the Saudi Kingdom. Presenting the messages, the minister said that one of them dealt with the problem of ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Gromyko said that the Soviet Union on many occasions informed Iran and Iraq of its clear-cut view — the war between these countries is one of the greatest anomalies in today's world. The concern of Arab states and their striving to see the Iran-Iraq war ended meets with the Soviet Union's full understanding.

The Soviet Union is prepared to facilitate the elaboration of decisions that can help bring about the cessation of the war. "We stress the USSR's invariable stance with regard to the need for a political settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict and the solution of all outstanding issues at the negotiating table."

"As to your message on the Palestinian issue," Gromyko said, "the Soviet Union's position is known to you and the entire world. The USSR

believes that convening an international conference is the most realistic way to resolve the Middle East conflict.

"We believe that it is time to set up a preparatory committee for such a conference. This idea meets with the understanding of the overwhelming majority of countries. The Soviet people strongly denounce the campaign of terror against the Palestinian population on the Jordan West Bank and Gaza Strip that has been launched by Israel.

"Use of force against civilians, unlawful arrests and violation of human dignity are nothing but a rude challenge on the part of Israel to the U.N. decisions."

Gromyko noted that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze recently sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council setting out the Soviet Union's position on the issue of the international Middle East conference.

Al-Faisal said that the League of Arab States Council adopted a document backing the ideas expressed in that letter.

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Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, had a meeting with Saud al-Faisal on Friday.

During a substantive exchange of opinions,

Shevardnadze set out the Soviet leadership's view of the world situation and the prospects for its development, and stressed the Soviet Union's readiness to press for drastic change for the better in world affairs and for rebuilding international relations on the basis of affirming the principles of a nuclear-free and non-violent world.

The Soviet and Saudi foreign ministers made an all-round analysis of the situation concerning the Iran-Iraq war and expressed profound concern about the absence of real shifts towards its early end. They said that the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 598 remains the basis for reaching a political solution to the conflict.

The Saudi Foreign Minister spoke highly of the Soviet Union's principled position on the Palestinian issue, which is the pivot of the Middle East settlement.

The Soviet Foreign Minister also spoke about new developments in the situation in Afghanistan and around it and pointed to the importance of steps undertaken by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan towards national reconciliation there. Al-Faisal expressed understanding for the efforts aimed at settling the situation regarding Afghanistan and welcomed the Soviet Government's decision to withdraw the limited Soviet troop contingent from that country.

The Soviet and Saudi foreign ministers were satisfied to note the proximity of their countries' positions on key international problems.

USSR Foreign Ministry briefing

USSR for ratifying INF Treaty

"WE appraise the Treaty on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles as a very important document and will be striving for its approval, ratification and complete fulfilment in all its aspects," emphasised Vadim Zagladin, Secretary of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet of the Union, one of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Speaking at a briefing in the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry yesterday, he noted that the USSR Council of Ministers, having discussed the Treaty, referred it for consideration to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Presidium referred the Treaty for the judgement of the commissions for foreign affairs of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Answering questions from reporters, Vadim Zagladin said that there will hardly be any amendments to the Treaty. He said that, to his mind, questions of the reliability of control over the observance of the terms of the Treaty, as well as its impact on ensuring the USSR's security will attract special attention in the process of ratification.

Vadim Zagladin said that Soviet missiles will be withdrawn from the GDR and Czechoslovakia before the Treaty on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles goes into effect. This is a gesture of goodwill by the USSR, the GDR and Czechoslovakia who wish by this act to confirm the absolute seriousness of their attitude to the Treaty and utter resolve to fully comply

with all its conditions.

He noted that the debates in the committees of the U.S. Senate are closely followed in the USSR and that their course will be taken into consideration. But the commissions of the Supreme Soviet will be proceeding above all from the Soviet Union's own interests and requirements.

Geneva Disarmament Conference

"It is important to advance consistently the multilateral process of disarmament in all areas," Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told the briefing in connection with the start of the session of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament yesterday.

"The signing of the Treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles marks the beginning of real nuclear disarmament," stressed the Soviet spokesman.

"The Disarmament Conference is to play an essential independent role in promoting the process of disarmament. It is called upon to become a forum which will internationalise the efforts to building a nuclear-weapon-free non-violent world."

Banning chemical weapons is especially topical among issues on the session's agenda, Gerasimov observed. The drafting of the text of a corresponding convention is nearing completion. The Soviet Union will apply maximum effort so that the convention is signed as soon as possible.

"The nonconstructive stand of the United States which has resumed the production of chemical weapons hinders and complicates the talks. One can also draw attention to the stance taken by France which still insists that the convention not ban the development of chemical weapons.

"France is opposed to declaring all places of storing chemical weapons and establishing full international control over them immediately on the entry into force of the convention."

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that "the biggest part of the session will be held prior to the opening of the 3rd Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament."

"The successful work of the Conference may effectively facilitate constructive discussion at the Special Session of the entire complex of disarmament issues."

Representation to Thai Ambassador

A verbal representation was made on Monday at the USSR Foreign Ministry to the Thai Ambassador Prajit Rojanaphruk, the briefing was told by Gennadi Gerasimov.

"Serious concern is being expressed in the Soviet Union in connection with the growth of tension as a result of the unceasing incidents on the Thai-Lao border," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "A further escalation of hostilities can bring about not only a drastic worsening of relations between Thailand and Laos but is also fraught with an aggravation of the situation in the whole of Southeast Asia."

The present border incident is the more regrettable since it is happening at a time when a real prospect has appeared for a settlement of the existing problems in that area by political means, he continued. "We are convinced that this situation, which is largely a vestige of the colonial division of Indochina, should be resolved exclusively by political means at the negotiating table," he pointed out. "The Soviet Union is confident that both countries will display political realism and good will and will be able to resolve the incident peacefully."

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Nikolai Ryzhkov's greetings to Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet committees for economic cooperation

HERE follows the full text of the message of greetings sent by Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, to the 11th joint meeting of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet committees for economic cooperation.

I warmly greet the participants in the regular, eleventh, joint meeting of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet committees for economic cooperation.

The Soviet Union in its relations with Japan consistently pursues a policy of building confidence and goodneighbourliness and giving greater scope to mutually beneficial cooperation free from discrimination and restrictions in all fields, including in the economic sphere. In this connection we positively evaluate the activities of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet committees for economic cooperation, which make a marked contribution to the development

of trade-and-economic relations between our two countries.

Joint meetings of the committees have become important forums at which topical problems of Soviet-Japanese economic relations are considered. In the process of years-long cooperation the committees have gained considerable positive experience in widening business contacts, including realisation of a whole number of large-scale projects. This convincingly shows that the sides can achieve practical results in developing mutually beneficial cooperation provided there is goodwill and mutual efforts.

The present meeting in Tokyo is being held at a time when reassuring prospects for an improvement of the international situation have emerged and when real opportunities to remove the threat of a nuclear catastrophe are opening up before mankind for the first time. The recently signed Soviet-U.S. Treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles raises the level of security and moulds a more favourable political climate in the world. This also creates good prerequisites for further expansion of trade-and-economic, scientific and technical cooperation between countries.

including the Soviet Union and Japan.

We are in favour of using to the full the existing big potential of Soviet-Japanese trade-and-economic relations, and utilising their new forms more actively. In our view the development of production coordination, the establishment of joint-venture enterprises and wider cooperation in the scientific and technical field will accord with these goals. The Soviet side will welcome the Japanese business community actively participating in realising the long-term state programme adopted in the Soviet Union for development of the productive forces of the Soviet Far Eastern economic region in the period up to the year 2000.

I wish successful work to the participants in the 11th Soviet-Japanese economic meeting. I am confident that further development of economic contacts will serve the cause of strengthening mutual understanding and goodneighbourliness between the peoples of our two countries.

USSR Foreign Ministry briefing

ACCORDING to reports reaching here, at the political conference of the countries grouped in the COCOM committee, currently under way in Versailles, Washington would like to include further goods and technologies on the lists of products banned for export to socialist countries and legalise U.S. claims to the right to punish firms and nations defying those lists. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov told a press briefing in Moscow on Thursday.

"Regrettably this is happening at a time when there have appeared signs of far-reaching positive changes in the development of trade, economic, scientific and technological ties between East and West," he went on to say.

"Business quarters in Western Europe have been showing a desire and readiness to pursue cooperative manufacture arrangements with socialist countries and set up more joint ventures, and recognise the need to put an end to the COCOM practices.

"But those objecting to normal East-West trade have decided to push in the opposite direction."

"In our opinion," the Soviet spokesman emphasised, "the COCOM activities contradict the universally recognised norms of international cooperation in trade and economic fields, in particular the GATT rules and are effectively an attempt to misuse commercial, scientific and technological ties as a lever for political and economic pressure."

"Such activities," he continued, "run counter also to the U.N. Charter and to the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and are not conducive to East-West trust."

Gerasimov stated that plans to raise further obstacles between East and West "do not square with the nascent atmosphere of international cooperation and are in stark contrast to the spirit of the recent Soviet-American accords intended to facilitate economic interaction in our inter-dependent world in every way."

USSR-Western countries trade January-September 1987

TRADE between the USSR and industrial capitalist countries stood at almost 20,700 million roubles in January-September 1987. This is a drop of one thousand million roubles as compared with the same period the previous year, caused by a reduction in Soviet purchases. Trade developed on the whole on a balanced basis — the USSR's exports to Western countries increased by 550 million roubles to exceed 10,200 million roubles, while Soviet imports stood at about 10,500 million roubles.

West Germany is the USSR's biggest Western partner in the above-mentioned period. Bilateral exchange, although reduced by 600 million roubles as compared with the previous year, amounted to almost 3,700 million roubles. Soviet imports from the FRG amounted to about 2,000 million roubles.

Finland is second in the results of trade in the first nine months of the past year. Soviet-Finnish trade exchange exceeded 2,800 million roubles, remaining practically at the previous level. Soviet imports stood at 1,500 million roubles.

Trade between the USSR and Italy increased by almost 300 million roubles in January-September, to exceed 2,500 million roubles, the share of Soviet purchases accounting for over 1,200 million roubles.

The USSR's trade with France amounted to 1,900 million roubles (the USSR's imports from that country stood at 851,200,000 roubles), with Japan 1,900 million roubles (Soviet purchases — 1,200 million roubles) and with Britain almost 1,600 million roubles (Soviet purchases — about 400 million roubles). The USSR's trade with

Japan reduced by 550 million roubles through a reduction in Soviet imports, and with Britain trade exchange increased by 200 million roubles owing to a rise in Soviet exports to the British market.

Trade between the USSR and the USA witnessed a substantial cut — 300 million roubles, amounting to only 943,600,000 roubles (the USSR's imports were 747,100,000 roubles).

The USSR's trade with Belgium stood at 843 million roubles (the USSR's imports — 274,400,000 roubles), with the Netherlands — 775,300,000 roubles (imports 184,600,000 roubles), with Austria — 696,700,000 roubles (imports 428,300,000), Switzerland — 643,600,000 roubles (imports 404,300,000 roubles), Sweden — 471,300,000 roubles (imports 170,700,000 roubles), Spain — 455,600,000 roubles (imports 122 million roubles), Canada — 338,300,000 roubles (imports 327,100,000 roubles), Australia — 262,900,000 roubles (imports 253,100,000 roubles), Greece — 207,900,000 roubles (imports 32,400,000 roubles), West Berlin — 151,400,000 (imports 39,900,000 roubles) and with Denmark — 150,600,000 roubles (Soviet imports — 59,200,000 roubles).

The Soviet Union's trade relations with other industrial capitalist countries were also developing. In nine months of the past year the USSR's trade with Norway was 99 million roubles (Soviet imports — 48 million roubles), with New Zealand — 61,700,000 roubles (the USSR's imports — 57,900,000 roubles), with Iceland — 49,400,000 roubles (imports 22 million roubles), with Portugal — 43,800,000 roubles (imports 29,900,000 roubles), Ireland — 19,100,000 roubles (imports 6,900,000 roubles), Luxembourg — 15,100,000 roubles (imports 7,500,000 roubles), Malta — 14,500,000 roubles (imports 6,500,000 roubles) and with Liechtenstein — 6,900,000 roubles (Soviet purchases in that country amounted to 4,200,000 roubles).

Nikolai Ryzhkov receives Sweden's Minister of Environment and Energy

NIKOLAI RYZHKOV received Sweden's Minister of the Environment and Energy Birgitta Dahl on a visit to the Soviet Union last Tuesday.

Discussing questions of Soviet-Swedish relations, it was noted that as a result of the exchange of visits between the two countries at the level of heads of government and the talks held, bilateral relations in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other areas are being enriched with useful experience and new content.

Broad opportunities for the deepening of goodneighbourly ties between the USSR and

Sweden on a bilateral basis and in the framework of regional north European cooperation will be opened with the implementation of Mikhail Gorbachev's Murmansk initiatives of October 1, 1987. Prospects for cooperation of the two countries in the areas of energy and environmental protection were discussed from this viewpoint.

Birgitta Dahl gave serious attention to these and other matters concerning strengthening mutually-advantageous ties between the two countries, including deliveries of natural gas by the Soviet Union to Sweden and development of resource conservation technologies.

It was stressed during the conversation that the Declaration of the Group of Six adopted on the results of its meeting in Stockholm on 21 January 1988 is met with approval in the Soviet Union. It

was noted that the ideas set out in the Declaration are largely consonant with the views of the Soviet side on the roads of achieving durable peace and greater security on the globe.

Nikolai Ryzhkov noted that the Soviet Union supports the opinion of the authors of the Stockholm Declaration that the planned treaty on a 50% cut in Soviet and U.S. strategic arsenals will be a decisive step toward eliminating all nuclear weapons. Of much importance are the firm statements of the leaders of the six countries for preventing an arms race in space and strict compliance with the ABM Treaty, in favour of an end to nuclear testing everywhere, banning and destruction of chemical weapons, and reductions in conventional armaments. On its part the Soviet Union will steadily and persistently press for real results in all these directions.

Anatoli Adamishin receives delegation of Helsinki watch committee

MEMBERS of the delegation from the International Federation of Helsinki Watch Committees from Europe, the United States and Canada have visited the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation. They have been given wide opportunities for familiarising themselves with the human rights situation in the USSR.

Meetings and discussions held by the watch committees' delegation with officials, representatives of public organisations and scientists and all those whom the visitors wanted to see attested to the Soviet side's readiness to discuss any issues related to the 'third basket'.

It would be naive to believe that mistrust and bias accumulated for many years could be done away with in one go and all differences in approaches to such an important problem as human rights be removed.

Still, despite the character of polemics, at times acute, and differences on individual issues, the sides recognised the need for a concerted search for solutions. Karl von Schwarzenberg, Chairman of the International Federation, assessed the visit and discussions in Moscow as a "long mile"

Vladimir Petrovsky's meeting

A MEETING between a delegation of the Communist Group in the European Parliament and USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry last week.

The attention of the delegation was drawn to the qualitatively new situation that was forming in international affairs in connection with the beginning of the process of real nuclear disarmament, with the strengthening conviction of the need for a comprehensive approach to ensuring security for all. New thinking with regard to Europe is manifested in the concept of the common European home, which is gaining increasing support both in the east and the west of the continent. The participants in the meeting were unanimous in the view that consolidating the foundations of the common European home is the common task of parliaments and governments.

It was noted with satisfaction that the construction of this common European home is being implemented in all directions on the firm foundation of the Helsinki Final Act.

and pointed to the "spirit of openness and glasnost".

The difference in views is mainly due to the fact that, in discussing the human rights problem, one of the sides moves to the foreground socio-economic rights, while the other laid chief emphasis on rights of the individual.

"For 99% of the Soviet population, the right to emigration is not the principal right. It is important to secure daily observance of rights and legal guarantees in all spheres of society," said Professor Mikhail Krutogolov of the Institute of State and Law at the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The need for perfecting legal standards and laws is dictated by the new stage in the life of Soviet society. Much is yet to be done to ensure advancement of the process of democratisation and perfect Soviet legislation that will guard people's rights in the social, political and economic spheres.

Receiving the delegation, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoli Adamishin stressed the importance of humanitarian cooperation as an important integral part of the Helsinki process. The proposal advanced by the socialist countries, including the USSR, for establishing a comprehensive system of international security — approved by the 42nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly — rests on the recognition of the importance of military, political, economic and humanitarian aspects. The suggestion to hold a humanitarian conference in Moscow is advanced precisely in this spirit.

"What will be the conditions for determining the composition of the conference?" asked Max Van der Stoel, former foreign minister of the Netherlands and member of the Dutch Helsinki Committee.

"Our position is simple — we invite you to Moscow to a conference that will be held in full accordance with the Helsinki process. You may be sure that we will abide by all provisions of the mandate to be worked out on the basis of consensus in Vienna," Adamishin replied.

"We have the right to ask that demands put on us will not be higher than those with regard to other participants," the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister added.

"When we talk about humanitarian cooperation, we mean gradual renunciation of the practice of recriminations and turning to the search for areas where we could cooperate for mutual benefit."

Phobos international project prepared

PREPARATIONS for the international multi-purpose project Phobos were discussed at a meeting of the project's international scientific council held on Friday at the Institute of Space Exploration of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The meeting was attended by scientists and specialists from Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Great Britain, GDR, Ireland, USSR, France, Finland, FRG, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Sweden, as well as representatives of the European Space Agency.

Less than six months remain before the launching of two Soviet spacecraft of a new modification towards Mars. In mid-July 1988, two interplanetary stations will be launched one after the other, with an interval of several days, from the Baikonur cosmodrome. The Phobos project will be implemented in 1988-1989. The programme envisages exploration of Mars and its satellite Phobos, as well as of the Sun and interplanetary space.

It was noted at the meeting that one of the interesting aspects of the programme will be putting landing craft on Phobos. By the way, a landing probe will be left on Phobos that will be able to move over its surface. Scientific measurements will be taken and the information will be relayed by radio to the orbiting apparatus. In this way information on the structure of surface layers and on the chemical and mineralogical composition of Phobos will be obtained for the first time with the use of landing probes.

(from front page)

atmosphere for cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, asserting moral principles in world politics and solving problems of concern for the whole of mankind.

The Politburo supported the proposal based on the opinion of broad sections of the public to set up a Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies of the USSR.

The Politburo studied and approved the government's proposals on drastically restructuring external economic advertising. It studied the course of fulfilling the Party's and government's decisions on saving raw materials and fuel and energy resources.

The meeting also studied other questions of economic and social policy and also of the foreign policy activity of the Party and state.

Yuri Kashlev speaks at Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

SPEAKING on Friday at the Vienna meeting of representatives of participating countries in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, head of the USSR delegation Yuri Kashlev analysed the state of affairs in the military area of the European process. He noted that after the Soviet-American summit and the signing of the Treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, questions of the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals are coming to the fore.

In these conditions the task of the Vienna meeting is not to lag behind the nascent positive dynamics in international affairs, above all in the area of disarmament. For this purpose it is necessary to decide on the resumption of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, and also start the talks on conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, the mandate of which is now being worked out in Vienna by representatives of 23 countries from the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries propose to work out at the second stage of the Stockholm Conference new far-reaching measures of confidence-building that will comprise the entire military activity in Europe, including exercises of airforces and navies.

In this connection the USSR delegation called attention to the broad programme of measures advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev in October 1987

in Murmansk and further specified by the Soviet leadership — the programme of measures aimed at reducing military activity of navies and airforces in the northern seas and spreading confidence-building measures to them. The Soviet Union proposes corresponding steps also for the Mediterranean area.

It was also emphasised that it is necessary to switch to the area of practical talks the proposals of other countries, specifically those related to the implementation of the Jaruzelski Plan, creation of nuclear- and chemical-weapons-free zones in the centre of Europe and in the Balkans, mutual withdrawal of the most dangerous offensive armaments, etc. But NATO countries avoid concrete discussion on all these matters.

Vienna meeting on armed forces and armaments reductions

A REGULAR meeting was held in Vienna on Monday in the framework of consultations between Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries to work out the mandate of the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. The meeting studied the key question — the subject of the talks.

The delegations of the USSR and other socialist countries stressed that armed forces, conventional armaments and equipment, including dual-purpose hardware, should be subject to future reductions. It was stressed that the attempts by NATO countries to keep this hardware out of the framework of the talks contradict the task of establishing a balance of forces at reduced levels. The dual-purpose

hardware is a component part of the potential intended for sneak attack and the conduct of large-scale offensive actions. The proportion of these types of armaments — tactical strike aviation, tactical missiles, artillery — in the military arsenals is constantly growing. To withdraw this dual-purpose hardware from the subject of the talks is tantamount to opening the floodgates for an uncontrolled arms race in Europe.

The Soviet delegation drew attention to the proposal made by the Soviet Foreign Minister during his recent visit to the FRG. The crux of this proposal is to study the question of dual-purpose delivery vehicles at the forthcoming talks while making the nuclear component as such the subject of relevant talks in the future. The delegations of the socialist countries said that this proposal offers a real chance to reach agreement on the most complex question of the mandate of the talks.

Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals

“EUROPE from the Atlantic to the Urals” was the title of a round-table discussion held by Novosti Press Agency, in Moscow recently. Among its participants were prominent Soviet experts in international relations, a representative of the Soviet General Staff, and specialists from the leading political research centres of Poland, Britain, France, West Germany and Italy.

The discussion focused on the key problems of European affairs, among them the “historical capital” accumulated by the European nations in the work for strengthening European security and its significance; the Soviet proposal for building a nuclear-free world and ridding Europe of nuclear weapons; the prospects opening before Europe following the signing of the INF Treaty; the danger of ‘nuclear deterrence’; the principle of “reasonable sufficiency of armaments” and the current military-political situation; and, finally, the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces as one of the most important tasks.

“Thinking back I come to the conclusion that Europe and East-West relations in general are entering an era of intellectual politics,” said Soviet historian Daniil Proektor. “It is intellect and not strength that will pattern international

relations. All this is closely linked with the problem which we call the humanisation of politics, that is our desire to overcome the ‘image of the enemy’ which both East and West are so tired of.”

The leitmotif of the discussion could be formulated as follows — Europe is the common home for all Europeans and the historic chance of making it a safe place must not be missed. It must be saved from nuclear annihilation. Perhaps the first thing we can do here is to surmount the stereotypes of ‘bloc identities’, analyse European reality soberly and objectively and start an open dialogue.

Some speakers, especially the French participants, among them secretary-general of the National Fund of Defence Studies Dominique David and deputy director of the Institute of the International Relations Pierre Lellouche, and also editor-in-chief of the West German magazine *Europa-Archiv* Jochen Thies, defended the ‘nuclear deterrence’ doctrine. Can we agree, however, that ‘nuclear deterrence’ is a blessing and a guarantee of security if the military conflicts that have flared up in the post-war period — a time of nuclear weapons — have taken in some estimates about 20 million lives, and if the question of using such weapons has been repeatedly raised in these conflicts?

“If Europe does not join the processes of nuclear and other types of disarmament it is easy to foresee the time when all this will come

to a deadlock and the movement will stop.” emphasised Novosti Chairman Valentin Falin. “Perhaps the whole thing will come to a few more agreements with the U.S. But on the whole the world will not become any better or, if it does, the improvement will not be meaningful enough to speak about a new quality.

“The question of whether or not Western Europe should be nuclear-free, and whether we should deal with disarmament in earnest or just think about it sounds strange, especially to the Europeans,” Valentin Falin continued. “There is no time to be lost. Ecologically, Europe is extremely vulnerable. The continent has long been living in a way it cannot afford, and very soon the polluted atmosphere will devour the European forests the way the goats have devoured the forests of Italy. We have very little time for taking resolute decisions, but we shall take them if we have enough resources at our disposal. And we shall have them if we stop investing the money where we shouldn’t, because we must not fight. It is asserted that Europe has 40 times more weapons per square kilometre than any other continent. Old mentality dims the vision of many, perhaps all. The burden of tradition makes it difficult for us to review what we once accepted and to become free enough to call in question the long-established doctrines and concepts. If we do not do this there will be no peace in our national ‘homes’ in which we are so far living safely.”

Novosti Press Agency 28.1.88

Geneva talks a watershed

Ruslan Budrin

AFTER Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the U.N. Secretary-General, visits Pakistan and Afghanistan, they will start the last round of the peace talks in Geneva (February 15-29).

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan hope that the talks, which started in 1982, will at long last produce results because Afghanistan and Pakistan have harmonised their positions.

Pakistan stated that the only item on the agenda is the schedule for the pull-out of the Soviet contingent. The Soviet Union announced that this could be done in 12 months or less. The newspaper *Pravda* reported that the pull-out could begin on May 1, two months after the sides reach agreement in Geneva.

But there is one condition — guarantees against interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. In the two months before the pull-out, Pakistan should eliminate all dushman training camps in its territory. The U.S. agreed to be a guarantor of noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and to stop military and financial aid to dushmans.

Normalisation in Afghanistan will promote a political settlement of the issue. It began last

January when the Government formulated the national reconciliation policy. Since then, more than 40,000 dushmans have laid down arms and another 114,000 signed armistice.

A total of 150,000 refugees have returned home, and half of all villages recognised government control. Another 1,150 villages (165 districts and two provinces), inhabited by about three million people, proclaimed their territory a zone of peace. Six thousand former dushmans are members of local coalition governments.

Last year the revolutionary government persistently tried to democratise the country. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan suggested a coalition government. The new Constitution, adopted last November, legally sealed the multi-party system for Afghanistan. Four parties were formed — two left-democratic, an Islamic and a peasant. Twenty-three ministerial posts, including those of Prime Minister and Vice-President, were offered to the opposition.

But the leaders of the opposition alliance of seven parties turned this offer down. The militants of the Islamic parties in Afghanistan were ordered not to come to compromise with the Afghan Government.

The Peshawar headquarters of the main forces of the Islamic opposition misunderstood the reason for the new policy. They thought that the Afghan Government could no longer repel

the dushmans. But later, major defeats of the counterrevolution in Herat, Zhawar, Kandahar and recent developments in Khost proved that Kabul's call for peace is not a sign of weakness.

The Soviet Union has been working to promote settlement in Afghanistan. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said to the Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez in Madrid that the Soviet Union will continue doing everything in its power to promote the Afghan settlement, and pull out its troops. Moscow believes that Afghans themselves should say what government they want. But the Soviet Union supports the idea of a coalition government. We would like Afghanistan to be independent, neutral and nonaligned.

But the U.S. and Pakistan have been opposing the just settlement of the Afghan issue. In word supporting a political settlement, the U.S. and Pakistani presidents have been erecting more and more roadblocks to peace.

President Reagan wrote in his letter to Congress that the U.S. intended to continue aid to dushmans. This would hardly promote the Geneva talks.

Pakistan has been calling for a provisional government in Afghanistan. This is an attempt to dictate. Or is it another condition meant to thwart the Geneva talks?

Kabul clearly stated its readiness for a coalition government. Coalition governments are established in provinces, districts and villages.

But the alliance of the seven is shutting its eyes to reason. They do not accept the compromise proposals of the People's Democratic Party.

The leaders of the Peshawar alliance can miss the train of history if they continue to stall. Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran are coming to realise that the alliance of the seven has no constructive ideas to offer.

Much depends on the Geneva talks, and success there depends on the U.S. and Pakistani leaders.

Novosti Press Agency

Soviet Friendship Societies' concern

THE Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Laotian Friendship Society have issued a statement in which they express deep concern on behalf of the Soviet people about the situation on the border between Laos and Thailand.

The territory of sovereign Laos has been subjected to bombings and shellings by regular units of the Thai army since the middle of last December. There are casualties as a result of the military activities.

The situation on the border jeopardises the process of making Southeast Asia a region of

peace, security, stability and cooperation and does serious damage to favourable trends in world politics, the statement emphasises.

It adds that the Soviet public wholly supports the Statement by the Government of Laos calling on Thailand to give a specific reply to the Laotian proposals for a peaceful solution to the border dispute.

The statement by the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies and the Soviet-Laotian Friendship Society expresses solidarity with the people of Laos demanding an immediate end to the senseless bloodletting, a settlement of the armed conflict and a relationship of real friendship and goodneighbourliness between the two countries in the interests of the Laotian and Thai people.

Soviet Solidarity Committee's support for Nicaragua

THE Soviet Committee of Solidarity with Latin American Peoples has issued a statement to condemn the decision of the U.S. administration to press for more appropriations of billions of dollars for counter-revolutionary bands. The Committee proclaimed its support for the just cause of the Nicaraguan people, for the process of political settlement in the Central American region.

The statement says that the United States administration asked the Congress to allocate within the next four months over 36 million dollars for the continuation of a bloody war against the Nicaraguan people which is fought with the use of mercenaries. Washington undertook this action at a moment when Central American countries, relying on the assistance of

the Contadora Group, the Support Group and the prestige of the United Nations Organisation, approached to the utmost the implementation of their plan for establishing a secure and lasting peace in the region, signed in Guatemala on August 7 last year. Guided by the striving to achieve peace in Central America, the Nicaraguan Government took versatile measures in the interests of implementing the Guatemalan Agreement.

It is emphasised in the statement of the Soviet Committee that the decision of the U.S. Government to continue its line at backing the mercenaries, at undermining the process of peaceful settlement in the Central American region is evoking sharp criticism in Latin America, in the United States itself and in other countries. The public of the whole world expresses serious concern that the United States actions will be an insurmountable obstacle to the process of peaceful settlement in the region.

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In the USSR's opinion the recent proposal by the Lao Government to solve the existing problems between Thailand and Laos by way of talks in accordance with the principles of equality and without preliminary conditions creates a good basis for resuming the dialogue between the two countries.

"The hope is expressed in the Soviet Union that the Government of Thailand, acting in the spirit of the long-standing traditions of friendship and goodneighbourliness between the two countries, will take steps that facilitate the solution of the existing problems between Thailand and Laos by way of talks. This is what the Ambassador was told. He replied that he will immediately inform the Government of Thailand of the views expressed by the Soviet side and assured that his Government will take steps to resolve this conflict peacefully."

Mikhail Gorbachev

**The Speech in
Murmansk**

1 October 1987

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USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit to Washington

THE delegation of the USSR Parliamentary Group led by Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Deputy Chairman of the USSR Parliamentary Group, that was in Washington last week held a press conference at the USSR Embassy there on Friday.

Summing up the results of the delegation's visit to Washington at the invitation of the U.S. Congress, Avgust Voss noted that the Soviet parliamentarians had useful talks with James Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives, as well as Senate leaders and other prominent members of the U.S. Congress. "The key purpose of our visit was to discuss jointly with members of the U.S. Congress the way relations between our two countries are developing and what it is necessary to do to impart a stable and promising nature to them," he said. "Considerable attention was paid to links at parliamentary level, identifying real steps and means to promote normal and consequently positive and productive relations between the USA and the USSR in a variety of areas."

"The Washington top-level meeting was a signal event in world politics," Voss continued. "The Treaty on eliminating Soviet and U.S.

Eduard Shevardnadze and George Shultz to meet

IT has been agreed that the next meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State of the United States George Shultz will be held in Moscow on February 21-23. This was officially announced in Moscow on Monday.

"The forthcoming visit will be the first of a series of exchange visits by the foreign ministers of our countries after the signing in Washington of the Soviet-American Treaty on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles," a TASS diplomatic correspondent was told by Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate. "The purpose of this visit is to facilitate the fulfilment of the accords that were put on record in the joint Soviet-American Statement in Washington, to conduct the necessary preparation of the draft treaty on the 50% reduction of the strategic offensive arms of the sides, and to create conditions for President Reagan's forthcoming visit to Moscow to end with as concrete a result as has Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington. Of course, the foreign ministers of the USSR and the United States will also study other questions that will be topical at the time of the visit."

intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles signed during the meeting set a good beginning to specific measures to build a nuclear-free world. This Treaty should be viewed as a shift away from the stereotypes of confrontation and as an embodiment of the concept of equality and reciprocity."

"It is our firm conviction that the course of abolishing nuclear missiles meets the vital interests and aspirations of all peoples and all countries and adds to the world community's faith in a secure future, in the triumph of reason and humanism."

Avgust Voss noted that thorough and serious preparations are currently in progress at the USSR Supreme Soviet for the process of ratifying the INF Treaty. Detailed hearings on this issue will take place within the framework of the foreign affairs commissions of both chambers — the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. "We see our task as to convince those who have doubts, and there are such people in our country, and respond to questions put by Soviet people in respect of the Treaty."

It was noted at the press conference that there is growing mutual interest in each other among the peoples of the USSR and the United States. "Our task as parliamentarians is to make the atmosphere more auspicious for us to be able to meet more frequently," the Soviet Deputy explained. "to know and understand each other better, to move ahead along the road of building normal relations and conditions for coming to grips with problems by joint efforts.

To put it shortly, to make our contribution to promoting mutual understanding and co-operation between our countries and peoples."

Avgust Voss reported that letters were handed over on behalf of the chairman of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet to James Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the leadership of the Senate with proposals for creating a mechanism for a regular consideration at parliamentary level of issues pertaining to cooperation in the humanitarian field and observance of human rights in the USSR and the United States.

It was noted at the press conference that boosting trade, scientific and technical co-operation, strengthening contacts among various organisations, among ordinary Soviet and American people could become an important element of the normalisation of relations between the United States and the USSR.

The Soviet delegation answered numerous questions. The possibility of attaining an accord on reducing strategic offensive armaments evoked particular interest. "This possibility is not an abstract notion," pointed out Georgi Kornienko, USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy. "It depends on the political will, the energy put into the effort by one or other side. From our point of view, it is possible to build on the accords reached during the summit meeting in Washington to draft an agreement on cutting strategic offensive arms. This is difficult but it is possible. It requires common vigorous and energetic efforts."

USSR Foreign Ministry press briefing

Reagan's State-of-the-Union Address

THE Soviet Union fully shares the goal of building a safer world and reducing the danger of nuclear war proclaimed by President Reagan in his State-of-the-Union Address, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov said at a briefing in Moscow on Thursday.

Gerasimov added:

"We agree also with the view that the INF Treaty is an 'unprecedented achievement in arms reduction'. We agree that the Treaty is 'historic'."

The U.S. Administration sent the Treaty to Senate for ratification on the day the President was delivering the address to Congress.

He stressed an "even more significant" agreement on strategic offensive arms reduction as a priority for his Administration and said his Government's efforts will be to give future generations a future free of nuclear weapons.

"We welcome this clear-cut commitment by the American leadership.

"And the path to this goal has been specified in the joint Statement of the leaders of our countries — radical cuts in strategic nuclear arsenals along with abidance by the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972."

"Regrettably, along with these positive remarks," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman added, "the address contained the usual set of stereotypes in the spirit of earlier White House statements about a 'need' for America to step up its military preparations.

"This goes to show that in practice the administration's stand has not yet been brought

into line with its publicly expressed intentions and the understandings reached in Washington between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the U.S. President."

Helsinki groups in Moscow

"A delegation from the International Federation of Helsinki Human Rights Groups, invited by the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, is having an opportunity to conduct discussions with representatives of the Soviet public and officials on issues of interest to the delegation," Gerasimov told the briefing.

He said that delegation members had meetings with Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation and Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Boris Kravets, USSR Minister of Justice; Leonid Sizov, USSR First Deputy Minister of the Interior; and Oleg Shchepin, USSR First Deputy Health Minister.

The delegation was received on Thursday by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoli Adamishin. Meetings have been planned with Konstantin Kharchev, Chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs at the USSR Council of Ministers, and Valentin Falin, Chairman of the Board of the Novosti Press Agency.

"The discussions in Moscow show the possibility of transition from confrontation to cooperation in the field of human rights," the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasised.

"And this is despite the fact that the discussions also revealed a difference in the assessment of individual facts and phenomena.

"Our partners expressed the desire to receive a corresponding Soviet delegation in Vienna and other capitals."

USSR-U.S. SUMMIT

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