

Eduard Shevardnadze on Germany's unification

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, made the following address to the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Foreign Affairs on September 20:

I find it necessary to inform the USSR Supreme Soviet of the nature and significance of the Treaty on the Final Settlement of the German Problem, signed by the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and the GDR on September 12.

All documents that were signed in this connection on a multilateral and bilateral basis will be submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet for ratification.

My task is to precede this presentation and voice the opinion of the Foreign Ministry on what this Treaty gives to our country, how much it meets our state and political interests.

In less than two weeks the creation of united Germany will become an accomplished fact. The political map of Europe is changing dramatically. I should like to stress that the Moscow Treaty is settling at the proper time two problems, which are of strategic importance for our policy. It defines new Germany's situation in Europe with due account for the interests of all parties concerned, including, of course, our interests. It paves the way for most active co-operation between our country and this major European power for the foreseeable future.

The united Germany has emerged almost under our very eyes as a result of stormy and rapid processes. These developments continue to look strange to many people, they require additional consideration and the reassessment of many old notions. However, it is getting more and more clear, that the developments could not have taken a different course.

Now it is more timely than ever to recall that the division of Germany was not a natural state. It is not accidental that in the 40s, 50s and later, including the recent period, we did not block the way to German unity, although we had different ideas at different periods of how it can be achieved. This is why from the very beginning, when the developments of the autumn of 1989 surged up, we firmly assumed the stand of the recognition of the right of Germans to the choice of their own way. It was not easy to take this decision. However, it was the only correct and far-sighted decision we could take.

Throughout all post-war decades the "German problem" and the need for its final settlement has been the central issue of world politics.

Under the conditions of the cold war and the confrontation era, it was impossible to resolve the issue. Moreover, Germany was the focus of the cold war and confrontation. The two major armed groups confronted, and are still confronting, each other here.

The situation here has been exacerbated more than once, placing the world on the brink of war. This could not and should not last. Did the Soviet people pay the incredibly high price for the victory in the last war to continue living under the permanent danger of having to withstand yet another military threat coming from German soil? One must look the truth in the face: this was a real major threat as long as a split Germany existed, as long as a mass-scale military confrontation persisted in Central Europe.

I can say quite responsibly that this threat is ceasing to exist, beginning from September 12, 1990, when the line was drawn in Moscow under World War II, and the foreign political aspects of German unification were finally settled.

This is the substance of the Treaty on German unification.

I can be rebuked for being naive. But there is no sense in arguing against me, one can only argue for or against the provisions of the Treaty and the realities which it creates.

They are as follows:

- The sides draw back their armed forces from immediate contact. In three or four years there will be none of our soldiers left in Germany.

- Germany has pledged to cut her armed forces down to the level of 370,000 men.

- Germany renounced the possession of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons.

- The Eastern part of Germany is granted a special military-political status. No foreign armed forces and foreign nuclear arms will be deployed there, and the German troops will have no nuclear carriers.

- The German boundaries, comprising the present external boundaries of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, are recognised as final. Germany

shall have no territorial claims with respect to anyone.

- Preparations for the conduct of an offensive war will be regarded as an unconstitutional and punishable deed.

Guarantees have been received that the united Germany will not permit the revival of nazism and its ideology. It will not subject to doubt the rightfulness of the decisions made by the four great powers in 1945-1949 concerning property and land.

It will ensure the preservation of memorials and other monuments erected on German soil in honour of sacrifices made by the peoples to rout fascism, as well as the military burials of our citizens and proper care of them.

The new Germany also reiterates the protection of confidence with regard to the treaties and agreements concluded by the GDR and West Germany before, i.e., the problem of the succession of rights is being resolved.

I believe that these elements alone give a clear answer to the question whether the guarantees that we received are sufficient.

I am stressing it, because the question was asked recently on more than one occasion in this or that form: to what degree the documents on Germany that we signed guarantee the interests, and primarily security, of the Soviet Union?

I repeat with a full sense of responsibility that the documents that we signed fully meet the interests of the Soviet Union, of all nations and all republics. They are in line with the consolidation of European and international security.

At the same time, I should like to point out that no agreements, no matter how good they are, can guarantee the security of a state, if this security is not strengthened from inside. If negative, destructive trends remain in this country, if the division of economic, financial and other state structures goes on, no international agreements will ensure our reliable security and peaceful life. Foreign policy is the continuation of domestic policy, and we should always bear it in mind.

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President Gorbachev granted sweeping new powers

THE Soviet parliament has enacted a bill on extra measures to stabilise the economy and the social and political situation in the country.

The new law, published in Moscow on September 25 grants the president the right, until March 31, 1992, to issue, in keeping with the constitution, norm-setting decrees and instructions on property relations, the management of the national economy, the budget and finances, pay, pricing, and public order.

The president will enjoy these powers unless the Supreme Soviet rules otherwise or recommends the president either to change or to cancel his decision, the law says.

It also empowers the president to set up various state structures to expedite the creation of a

market system, and ensure the relevant interaction of union and autonomous republics and autonomous regions.

The parliament urged all local councils, political parties, trade unions, and mass organisations and movements to support efforts by the Supreme Soviet, president and government to maintain civil peace and calm, restore public order and state discipline, strengthen economic relations, ensure normal work at enterprises, prevent strikes and other social conflicts, and enhance co-operation between all ethnic groups.

The parliament explained the law by the complex social and political situation and the need for emergency measures to pull society out of crisis, ensure a transition to a market-driven economy, and strengthen the system of running the country and maintaining law and order. □

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What made it possible for us to reach the level, at which we can make sure such major principled decisions, in such a short period of time and in a comparatively painless way? It is a whole set of factors, and, in the first place, a stable and deepening improvement of Soviet-American relations. This creates the basis, the background that influences directly or indirectly all the affairs and that enables us to move further and further away from a period of rivalry and enter a period of more and more objective and intensive co-operation in all spheres of international life.

The German reunification and the working out of multilateral and bilateral agreements connected with it took place not in vacuum, but in close political and logical connection with a whole number of major developments, that changed dramatically the situation in Europe and the character of relations between the existing blocs, that created a different attitude to present-day processes and prospects for the future. In the course of the talks our position quickly changed in response to the changing situation, took it into account and adapted itself to new conditions.

You can judge by yourselves. The working out of an agreement on major reductions of conventional armaments – tanks, armoured vehicles, armoured infantry carriers, artillery pieces and so on – is nearing completion at the Vienna talks in which 23 countries are taking part. Other Vienna talks, held with the participation of 35 countries, are drawing up new confidence-building measures in the military sphere, that will increase significantly the transparency of all military activities.

The reduction of the personnel of the army and the air force of all European countries, the US and Canadian troops in Europe will be discussed at the next stage of the Vienna talks.

The new Germany is emerging in an entirely new system of European political and military co-ordinates. It would be difficult for us to change our attitude to Germany's membership to NATO, if the West had not expressed readiness for the establishment of new relations between the two military-political alliances.

A declaration is being prepared, in which member states of the alliances will state that they do not regard each other as opponents and will not be the first to resort to force.

A profound transformation of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation is under way. NATO is revising its doctrine and strategy, including the concepts of "frontline defences" and the "flexible response strategy." Combat preparedness of troops of the bloc will be brought down, the number and scope of military exercises will be reduced.

In the future NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Pact will become component parts of all-European security structures and later will probably be dissolved in them. Political institutions of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe will be taking upon themselves in ever greater degree the solution of problems connected with the consolidation of stability and predictability, the prevention and settlement of crisis situations and conflicts. These functions will be exercised by a special all-European centre. A decision on its creation is expected to be taken at a meeting of leaders of European countries in Paris this autumn.

One should not disregard the fact that extensive inspection and verification activities are permitted over the entire European territory. It will be impossible to carry out any covert military activities on a large scale either in Germany or any other place in Europe.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this factor. Joint efforts have created grounds for mutual trust and partnership in ensuring security and reliable peace.

In the new conditions it is impossible to apply an old yardstick to the German question, including its military aspects. Circumstances have

changed. The Germans have also changed.

They deserve other attitude and trust after what happened during all the post-war years. It is possible that there will be critics of the treaty with Germany.

I don't doubt this. When great changes are in the making, they are connected with great anxieties and concerns. However, I'm convinced that we have achieved on optimum result.

Besides, if we are to speak about the general balance of interests achieved in connection with German unification, it is not fully reflected in the decisions of the final document adopted by the Six.

Many substantial elements of this balance are outside of this document. However, they form the package of understandings which was formed during the negotiations between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Chancellor Helmut Kohl during the meetings in Moscow and the Northern Caucasus in July.

This is, above all, the comprehensive treaty of good-neighbourly relations, partnership and co-operation between the Soviet Union and a united Germany, which was recently initialled in Moscow.

This treaty brings us to a new level of relations and interaction with this second largest and important European state after the USSR.

In addition to provisions on regular political consultations, comprehensive co-operation in the economy, science, culture, ecology, humanitarian and other spheres, the treaty includes vital provisions of a military-political nature: non-aggression, refusal to use first armed forces against each other or against third states and refusal to support an aggressor if one of the sides becomes the object of an attack.

These provisions will be a substantial supplement to understandings on the military and political status of a united Germany.

The restoration of historical justice with respect to Germany permits us to put our relations with Germany on a long-term basis which is not affected by transient changes. In future we have more than the sum total of relations between the USSR and West Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

A new category of inter-state relations in Europe will emerge. They will rest on a more perfect contractual basis, above all in the political and economic spheres.

Not only the nature and the scale of mutual exchanges and co-operation will change. The number of participants will also sharply increase. It will include virtually the entire range of Soviet and German political and social forces, beginning with increased inter-parliamentary contacts.

The aim is to draw every political, public, trade union, ecological or women's organisation into this process.

The mass media, bodies of public health and social services as well as church representatives will also be involved in this co-operation.

The sides devote a special role to deeper understanding, contacts and co-operation between the young people of the two countries, schoolchildren and students who will be directly responsible in the near future for the viability of achieved understandings and for advance towards Europe's unification.

Co-operation with Germany is rapidly gaining momentum. It is not confined to the treaty on good-neighbourliness, partnership and co-operation.

A new weighty treaty on the development of large-scale co-operation in the economic, industrial, scientific and technological fields is upcoming – its practical terms have already been agreed to.

The future united Germany, with its estimated social product totalling 1.5 trillion dollars, will make a mighty and dependable partner for this country.

Both sides are ready to do everything to reach a new level and quality of interaction in these matters.

An agreement is now being finalised to identify the conditions of stay and measured withdrawal of our troops. Linked with it is the regulation for some transitional measures.

I think it is worth nothing the readiness – displayed by the German side, including Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher – to make efforts to provide normal conditions, including in the material and financial sense, for our men as long as they stay there, so that they eventually leave German territory with good feelings as friends of the German people.

The German side will contribute to the implementation of a special programme, under which housing, with a total floor space of four million square meters, will be built in the Soviet Union's European part for troops withdrawn from Germany.

It is planned to build four housing construction complexes to produce up to 100,000 square meters of housing a year.

Additional measures will be taken to provide technical assistance, including the provision of transportation services and retraining in order to integrate our servicemen into civilian labour activity.

I believe that the German side's approach to matters relating to our troops means much. It deserves praise not only from the inter-state, but also from the moral viewpoint.

Generally speaking, we are entering a period of truly new relations with Germany. And we must learn to use fully and bravely the new opportunities of co-operation with this great European nation.

There were dark pages in our history. But now the time has come to resolutely turn to the life-giving and powerful sources of peaceful and mutually beneficial co-operation that had nourished our relations throughout many centuries in the past. I am sure that our future and the future of Europe as a whole will be determined along these traditional lines.

Soviet-German co-operation is not directed against anyone. The time of alliance games, of scheming against each other must go. Our aim is a confident, united and co-operative Europe.

The Soviet-German treaties will be followed by significant and weighty treaties on mutual understanding and co-operation with France, on friendship and co-operation with Italy and new documents specifying the nature of Anglo-Soviet relations.

A package of major agreements with Spain and other West European countries will soon be ready.

Perestroika is beginning to bear not just a few isolated fruits in our foreign policy. A general shift is likely to occur soon, almost tectonic in nature, figuratively speaking.

The experience of solving one of the most complicated and acute problems of the postwar period – the German problem – has shown graphically the plausibility of creating a new Europe, in which the Soviet Union will take a worthy place as one of the architects of a common European home and an active participant in co-operation among peaceful, democratic countries. □

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Shevardnadze meets British Foreign Secretary

"Our meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd followed the recent highly fruitful dialogue in Moscow," Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told Tass in New York on September 25 after meeting Mr Hurd.

"This is why we focused on the consideration of prospects for the further development of Anglo-Soviet relations," he said.

Shevardnadze emphasised that the two sides agreed to work out a bilateral document which would determine principles for the development of Anglo-Soviet relations.

Douglas Hurd pointed to the opportunities for further strengthening relations between the two countries. The two sides had agreed to maintain regular contacts at various levels.

"The sides also dwelt on preparations for the forthcoming all-European summit in Paris in the middle of November, draft documents to be discussed at the summit, an agenda, and other matters," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman

told Tass.

"The two sides believe that the Paris summit can and must be held within the planned time framework," the spokesman said. They also considered a package of matters connected with finalising work towards signing a conventional arms reduction treaty and the course of the Vienna talks on the subject.

"The sides emphasised the need for compromise solutions in Vienna so that the treaty could be prepared for signing by the time the Paris summit takes place," the spokesman said.

Shevardnadze and Hurd also discussed the Gulf situation. They voiced confidence that the world community as a whole and the United Nations Security Council had adopted a correct course towards countering the aggression.

Shevardnadze and Hurd pointed out the importance of the compliance by all countries with UN Security Council decisions and resolutions which envisage in particular the application of sanctions against Iraq.

Hurd invited Shevardnadze to visit Britain in the first half of next year. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. □

Ryzhkov and Lee Kuan Yen meet in Kremlin

SOVIET Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and his Singaporean counterpart Lee Kuan Yew, on an official visit here, held talks in the Kremlin on September 24.

The sides discussed the interrelationship between social and economic development within the framework of individual national states, and the general complex of international economic relations.

Lee Kuan Yew said the international community could already render support to the Soviet Union in its transition to a market economy.

The discussion of international problems showed that the Soviet Union and Singapore hold similar views and positions on a wide range of issues.

The sides agreed that the international community should focus efforts on the consolidation of the department from confrontational trends in governments' foreign policies and on the search for a balance of different states' interests.

They pointed to the importance of the growth of the United Nations' role in efforts to solve major international problems and settle conflicts.

The prime ministers expressed their profound concern over the situation in the Persian Gulf. They said Kuwait's occupation by Iraq runs counter to general world tendencies, seriously threatens peace and security in the region, and is fraught with dangerous consequences for the international situation.

Lee Kuan Yew welcomed the Soviet Union's stand on the Gulf crisis and Soviet-US joint steps to overcome it. Both sides called for the early solution of the entire range of problems in the Middle East.

During the discussion of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, Ryzhkov pointed to the development of positive processes there, which he said helped improve inter-state relations and the general political atmosphere in the world's largest region, and to the beginning of a search for ways to strengthen regional security and co-operation.

The two leaders called for the early political solution of the Afghan problems with the active participation of the United Nations, and expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in the comprehensive political settlement in Cambodia. □

Soviet, West German foreign ministers meet

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who arrived here on Saturday to attend the 45th United Nations General Assembly, met his West German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher on September 24.

Greeting the Soviet minister at West Germany's UN mission, Genscher expressed his

satisfaction with results of the recent "two-plus-four" Moscow talks of foreign ministers on the external aspects of German unification.

He expressed gratitude to President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders for their great personal contribution to the successful solution of this problem.

Commenting on problems to be discussed at the current session of the General Assembly, Shevardnadze told reporters that the session would focus on the Persian Gulf crisis which, he said, had "cast a gloom over the general situation in the world".

Shevardnadze said he expected the session to welcome the resolution of the German issue, which for a long time had been a "stumbling block" and an "apple of discord" in the international community.

The session will also discuss issues related to economic development and efforts to ensure security, peace and stability in the world, the Soviet minister said. □

Gorbachev in economy project talks

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the Kazakh Republic Nursultan Nazarbayev, and chairman of the Kazakh Council of Ministers U. Karamanov met in the Kremlin on September 24 with president of the American Trading Consortium James Giffin, chairman of Archer Daniels Midland Co. Dwayne Andreas, chairman of Johnson and Johnson Corporation William Dearstayne, and vice-president of Chevron Overseas, E. Scott.

A large project in Kazakhstan in co-operation with the American Trading Consortium was discussed. Representatives of the firms visited Kazakhstan to study the creation of joint ventures to develop oil deposits, co-operation in agriculture, processing of raw materials, and agricultural machine building. Agreements and a plan for the drafting of a joint programme for Kazakhstan's economic development were signed in Alma-Ata.

President Gorbachev requested details of all the aspects of the programme and emphasised particularly the fact that the development of oil and gas resources presupposes the use of the latest technologies. Gorbachev was particularly interested in the connection between oil and gas part of the project with co-operation for improving the standards of farm production and of quality of products, as well as other social characteristics of co-operation and its results tangible for the population.

With duly taking into account these components in the programme, the Soviet president promised support and assistance in securing the necessary legislative guarantees for the stability of conditions for fulfilling agreements.

This is a long-term project which envisages the participation of neighbouring republics. □

Gorbachev meets Jaques Attali

MIKHAIL Gorbachev received president of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development Jacques Attali in the Kremlin on September 19.

They discussed issues dealing with the role and significance of the bank in the development of economic co-operation among European countries. It was pointed out that the participation of the Soviet Union as a fully-fledged member of this international bank opens up entirely new opportunities for mutually advantageous partnership, the implementation of joint projects and the drawing of foreign investments into the Soviet economy.

Attali stressed that the programme of transition to a market-oriented system, which is being discussed at the USSR Supreme Soviet and the supreme Soviets of the union republics, evokes lively interest among Western business circles and experts from international economic organisations.

Gorbachev described in detail the main characteristic features of the draft programme and the mechanisms for its implementation in the setting of a real socio-economic situation in the country. □

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Shevardnadze on 45th UN General Assembly

United Nations September 24 Tass – “The current, 45th session of the United Nations general assembly is not merely a meeting of representatives of the world community,” Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told Tass.

“In my opinion, and I will address the General Assembly for the sixth time, it will mark a turning point in the entire system of international relations, will put an end to the ‘cold war’ era. It will usher in a stage in which we must implement all the great ideas and ideals contained in the UN Charter.

“The work of the session is proceeding at a time when the world has agreed on the priority of universal values, when confrontation and mutual threats are being replaced by interaction and partnership in settling the most acute global issues.

“This creates, and I wish to stress this, absolutely new conditions for the world’s forum’s work. A concrete manifestation of such world relations is the community’s reaction to the Gulf crisis. Iraq’s unprovoked aggression against Kuwait dealt a blow at everything we have achieved in reshaping international relations as a result of new political thinking in the effort to establish democratic norms in the life of different states.

“The United Nations is unquestionably undergoing a test today. This session’s decisions will reflect the will of the world community, its resolutions to restore peace and justice in keeping with the principles laid down by the United Nations’ Charter.”

Shevardnadze arrived in New York on September 22. He will take part in the session’s general political debate and preside over the September 25 Security Council meeting to discuss the Gulf crisis. He is also expected to attend a meeting on October 1-2 in New York of the foreign ministers of the 35 states participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Its purpose is to prepare an all-European summit conference to meet in Paris this November.

The Soviet foreign minister had his first working meetings on Sunday. He talked with the foreign ministers of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan. “The conversations were marked by a friendly and businesslike atmosphere, typical of the Soviet delegation’s preparatory work at such United Nations forums,” the minister told Soviet journalists.

“This year,” Shevardnadze noted, “we invited all the union republics to the session. In addition, delegations of the Supreme Soviets of many republics will also come to the session. Our purpose is to help the republics decide how to implement their constitutional rights to sovereignty in the international arena, to study and make the utmost use of UN General Assembly recommendations in the process of building a law-governed state. Representatives of the Soviet republics will be able to acquaint themselves with the mechanisms of the United Nations.

“The process of our interaction with the republics is developing,” Shevardnadze noted. “We have mapped out a whole line of measures in this direction, which will be implemented in Moscow after the delegation’s return from New York.” □

Deputy Foreign Minister in Teheran

Teheran September 20 Tass – Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister A. Belonogov visited Teheran from September 18-20.

He held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister

Ali Akbar Velayati and his deputies Mahmud Vaezi and A. Borujeri, as well as Economics and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh.

The Soviet and Iranian diplomats exchanged views on the Persian Gulf situation, the Iran-Iraq settlement and the development of bilateral Soviet-Iranian relations.

The consultations focused on the Gulf crisis. Belonogov set out the Soviet position and stressed the Soviet Union’s determination to work towards a peaceful solution of the crisis.

He stressed the Soviet Union’s conviction that all peaceful countries should join forces to prevent the escalation of the crisis into a major armed conflict fraught with dangerous consequences.

He said the basis for preventing this perilous development was provided by the strict adherence to the UN Charter and the fulfilment of the UN Security Council resolutions adopted in connection with Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait.

The Iranian side also favoured a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, and stressed the need to fully and unconditionally withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait and its commitment to respective resolutions to the United Nations Security Council.

Condemning Iraq’s annexation of Kuwait for provoking a mass foreign military presence in the region, Iran advocates the stepping up of efforts by the countries of the region in order to restore peace and stability.

Both sides confirmed their interest in further mutual contacts and co-operation for purposes of a prompt resolution of the Gulf crisis.

The sides expressed satisfaction with large-scale bilateral Soviet-Iranian co-operation in the economic and other spheres, and stressed the good prospects for their further development. □

Head of KGB meets US journalists

THE Chairman of the Soviet State Security Committee (KGB) met the Associated Press board of directors and executives at the KGB headquarters in central Moscow on September 19.

In the interview Vladimir A. Kryuchkov briefed the Americans on the activity of his agency under perestroika and replied to their numerous questions.

Answering a question by Associated Press board of directors chairman Charles Kitting about possible information exchanges between the KGB and the Central Intelligence Agency about the Gulf crisis and Iraq, Kryuchkov said: “we have not exchanged information with the CIA on that issue”, and added that “we could really tell each other something valuable, especially about ensuring the security of Soviet and American citizens” in the region.

He said that the situation of Soviet specialists still in Iraq had worsened lately. “We hold the Iraqi authorities responsible for their lives and their state of health,” he pointed out.

Asked if any restrictions were imposed on Soviet citizens by the Iraqi military, Kryuchkov said that “some such cases have been reported”.

Speaking about the principles of the KGB’s work under perestroika in the Soviet Union, the KGB chief said that the committee he heads has prepared a bill on the Soviet State Security Committee. It is on the agenda of the 4th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet and is expected to be considered soon.

He noted that this will be the first “open” law on KGB activity, which, however, will have some secret clauses. These clauses, Kryuchkov stressed, will be consistent with the spirit of the law.

He described the bill as “a fine document” but joked that it will hardly be adopted in the very first reading.

According to Kryuchkov, the Soviet side always gives “signals about being ready to work together in this or that field” with the CIA.

“The signals reach the right address,” he said, but the answers are always something along the lines “don’t let us make haste”.

According to Kryuchkov, the American and Soviet special services “may fruitfully co-operate in combating terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, contraband and other kinds of organised crime”.

Kryuchkov was sceptical about recent proposals to split the KGB into several separate departments. He stressed that “this will undermine efficiency”, and under Soviet conditions would increase costs as compared with the present level. □

Soviet Swedish defence ministers meet

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov met with his Swedish counterpart Roine Carlsson who arrived here on an official visit September 24.

They discussed the development of co-operation between the two countries, including in the military field, in the context of efforts to build a common European home and strengthen security and peace, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual understanding. □

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TASS COMMENT

Joint declaration a step towards new security system

Moscow September 19 Tass – by Tass military analyst Vladimir Bogachev:

THE call of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation member-countries for adjusting the constructive interaction between the two military alliances in Europe in the interests of creating a new security system has met with a favourable reception in the West.

During the NATO session in London, a proposal was put forward to work out a joint declaration, stating that the two alliances were not enemies.

The initiatives advanced by the two sides are beginning to bear their first concrete fruits – in Vienna, consultations have begun between representatives of NATO and WTO member-countries on matters relating to the joint declaration.

The Soviet side hopes that the new forum in Vienna will open channels for a new constructive dialogue, strengthen mutual trust, and contribute to bridging the post-war rift in Europe.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation (WTO) bear joint responsibility for solving global problems in Europe and the world.

In their work, they should proceed from the fact that the stability of the situation in Europe can be secured only by political means.

Participants in the joint declaration, which is now being worked out, must confirm their intention to abstain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country, and from any other actions incompatible with the aims and principles of the UN Charter and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

It is not ruled out that NATO and the WTO will continue to exist for some time to come, perhaps even for a longer period than can now be foreseen.

The declaration being prepared should lay down in a legal form the transition from military confrontation to co-operation between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation in maintaining stability.

During the Moscow conference of the Political Consultative Committee, the WTO member-countries stated that the conditions were right for overcoming the bloc security system.

In this connection, they decided to begin the

revision of the functions and activity of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation with the aim of turning the alliance into a political union par excellence.

The NATO ministers, in contrast, stressed at their meeting in Turnbury “the immutability of the alliance’s basic traits”. They stressed that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would remain “the cornerstone” in maintaining a new order in Europe.

As regards the bodies created by the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), they are expected to perform the functions transferred to them by NATO.

The Soviet side favours a more intensive, more effective character for the work of the 35 CSCE member-countries. There are no differences over the prospects for the development of the two alliances. However, both WTO and NATO member-countries have already arrived at the conclusion that the confrontational tendencies of the past are no longer consistent with the spirit of the times.

A joint declaration by NATO and WTO on these matters will facilitate taking joint practical steps towards the full normalisation of the situation in Europe. □

Soviet analyst on Gulf crisis policy

Moscow September 19 Tass – by Tass correspondent Alexander Kanishchev:

DESPITE the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States firmly stated their support for a peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis, the military option remains the most probable way of solving the issue, said Nadar Simonia, Deputy Head of the Soviet National Institute of World Economic and International Relations.

This prominent Soviet political scientist told Tass that there now existed an 80 per cent probability of a military solution to the crisis caused by Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait.

He said that he places at 20 per cent the chances of a peaceful solution, to which members of the international community, including the Soviet Union and the United States, had pledged their commitment.

Nadar Simonia did not rule out the second option completely. He said there was a chance of a peaceful solution but stressed that it would involve “major concessions” on the part of Saddam Hussein, including Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and additional commitments involving

considerable cuts in Iraq’s military potential. All this threatens Saddam Hussein with the loss of prestige in the Arab world, even among his present supporters.

Simonia described the Iraqi leader’s policy as adventurist and divorced from the realities of life. According to him, if Baghdad persists in pursuing its present strategy, things may go as far as to compel the great powers and world community members to favour new United Nations resolutions, on the basis of an accord, to encourage much tougher actions, up to and including military.

Asked if he believes in the possibility of Soviet participation in such actions, Simonia replied “if this should occur, the Soviet Union is hardly likely to participate directly, but it will not stay on the sidelines”.

Speaking about justifications for the activity of a world community member who retain diplomatic relations with Iraq but agree to tough measures against it, Simonia said that “this was a rare case when not only the Soviet Union but also the United States acted correctly”.

Speaking about the role played by the United Nations in connection with the Gulf crisis, Simonia stressed that the United Nations “is at last becoming the kind of international organisation it should be and which it failed to become because of ideological controversies”.

Nadar Simonia said Iraq’s attempts to link the settlement of the crisis caused by its aggression against Kuwait with the solution of the Palestinian problem had failed.

According to the Soviet political scientist, Iraq counts on anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist trends in the Arab world. By involving Israel, Saddam Hussein hoped to compel Arabs to occupy a neutral stand or rally around Baghdad.

However, Simonia said, these plans have largely failed because Israel would not be provoked. He said Israel’s subdued reaction was “a correct, sensible and very talented policy” which robbed Saddam Hussein of an additional “trump card”. □

Soviet spokesman on Albania

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov said at a briefing in Moscow on September 19 that an Albanian delegation had circulated a statement in Vienna, at the preparatory committee of the all-European forum of member states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), about Albania’s participation in the CSCE process.

The Albanian government expressed in the statement its “readiness to recognise the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and abide by the decisions taken within the CSCE framework”. The statement requested that Albania be granted the status of a fully-fledged participant in all forthcoming conferences and meetings, beginning with the meeting of foreign ministers in New York early in October.

Gerasimov said that the Soviet Union welcomed Albania’s statement and regarded it as “new evidence of its desire to again become a member of the European process”. □

KGB on Soviet specialists in Iraq

The situation of Soviet specialists in Iraq has worsened lately, chairman of the State Security Committee (KGB) Vladimir Kryuchkov said during a meeting with the leaders of the Associated Press news agency in Moscow on September 19.

“Conditions under which Soviet specialists are operating in Iraq have worsened lately,” he said. “We hold the Iraqi authorities responsible for their lives and the state of health,” he said.

Asked if any restrictions were imposed on Soviet specialists by the Iraqi military, Kryuchkov said that “some such cases” had been reported. □

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Russian parliament sets up Chernobyl committee

THE Russian parliament decided on September 19 to set up a republican state committee under the government of the Russian Federation to combat the aftermaths of the Chernobyl disaster. It will be based not in Moscow, but in Bryansk, Central Russia, a region most affected by the explosion.

Although more than four years have elapsed since the tragic events in Chernobyl, their consequences are still present. As noted in the report by Fyodor Gasparyan, chairman of the Subcommittee for Radiation Security of the Parliamentary Committee on Ecology and Rational use of Natural Resources, more than one billion roubles have already been spent to deactivate contaminated territories in Russia. But careful radiation checks have still to be carried out in many districts of the Russian Federation. "Particularly dangerous," he stressed, "is the fact that many children are sick in those areas and

that agricultural foodstuffs, grown on contaminated soil, are being shipped to other regions of Russia".

Gasparyan believes that the programme to liquidate the Chernobyl consequences should call to answer the officials that did not take the necessary measures.

In addition to the bill to set up the new committee, the Russian parliament adopted a decision "On the state programme to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe on the territory of the Russian Federation for 1990-1995". The document says that "a very tense socio-political situation has arisen in the contaminated areas, due to slow measures and a part of the population's mistrust of the local and central authorities due to this".

The Supreme Soviet has authorised the Russian Procurator's Office to consider the question of calling to answer officials guilty of concealing data on the radioactive contamination of territories caused by the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant. □

UN mission to Chernobyl region

A UN mission will visit the districts in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Russian Federation affected by the Chernobyl disaster at the end of September, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on September 19 in New York.

The mission, led by executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe Gerald Hinteregger, will visit the Soviet Union in accordance with the recent decision of the session of the UN Economic and Social Council on international co-operation in cleaning up the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster.

The delegation will comprise representatives from the office of the UN Disaster Relief Coordinator, the UN Environment Programme, the UN Commission on Human Settlements, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Department in Vienna and the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

The results of the mission's work and the information gathered on the measures taken by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organisation and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, will be included in a report the UN Secretary-General will submit to the 45th UN General Assembly session. □

Russian trade unions debate legal status

Moscow September 20 Tass - On the last day of its work, the Constituent Congress of Russian Trade Unions discussed legal guarantees for trade union activities.

A document adopted by the congress confirms the trade unions' independence from state and economic bodies and political parties, and their right to take legislative initiatives.

The move was in response to efforts by conservative forces to diminish the role of the mass

workers organisation in the republic's social and political life, and equate them with minor public organisations, the document notes.

A new bill which is to be submitted to the Russian parliament allows trade unions to use their right for legislative initiative, gives them the possibility to suggest amendments to legislative acts adopted by the parliament, and, if necessary, alternative variants.

At the last session of the congress, delegates adopted the principles of mutual relations of Russian trade unions with the republican government, envisaging a constructive dialogue on social protection, ecology and labour protection, the revival of rural areas and solution of housing and other acute problems.

Participants in the congress approved a draft declaration "On the rights of working people in the Russian federation". The draft guarantees personal, civil and cultural rights to the citizens of Russia.

Russian parliament on economic reform

THE following statement of the presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet was circulated in Moscow on September 22. It says:

"The Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, acting within the framework of the authority granted to them by the peoples of the Russian Federation, have begun the implementation of a programme to stabilise the economy and the transition to market relations. With this in view very important laws of the Russian Federation have been worked out and are to be adopted in the forthcoming days.

"At the same time, the Soviet president suggested at the sitting of the USSR Supreme Soviet on September 21 that emergency powers be granted to him, including the rights to impose presidential rule on sovereign republics and dissolve their supreme authorities.

"The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation states that, in the existing situation.

1. The granting to the Soviet president of emergency powers requested by him is impermissible.

2. If the USSR Supreme Soviet grants such powers to the president, the Russian Supreme, Soviet, the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet and the president of the Russian parliament will take all necessary measures to protect the sovereignty and the constitutional system of the Russian Federation.

The presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet suggests that the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet president and the supreme authorities of the sovereign republics should urgently work out and adopt co-ordinated measures for the stabilisation of the economic and political situation in the country, based on a mutual recognition of the sovereignty and constitutional system existing in each of the republics."

The statement has been signed by President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin. □

Russia to set up own KGB

THE Russian Federation is considering setting up its own State Security Committee (KGB).

Russian president Boris Yeltsin told a plenary session of the Russian parliament today that he had discussed the issue with Soviet KGB chief and member of the Presidential Council Vladimir Kryuchkov, who consented, in principle, to support the creation of a Russian KGB.

By the decision of the First Congress of Russian Deputies, the issues of defence and state security were devolved onto the union. However, Yeltsin said today that if the deputies adopt a respective decision, a bill to form a republican KGB could be drafted by the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, scheduled for November. He said this KGB would be subordinate to the Russian government or parliament.

Once the bill is passed, the relevant Russian and union bodies could sign an agreement to delineate the functions of the union and republican committees. □

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KGB on events in Georgia

The Soviet State Security Committee (KGB) issued a statement in Moscow on September 19 on the incident that occurred in Tbilisi on the night of September 16-17 after an unsanctioned meeting, when a furious crowd attacked the building of the Georgian State Security Committee.

As earlier reported, some attackers broke into the investigation department and captured several documents, video equipment and personal belongings of KGB officials. The attackers demanded the self-dissolution of the Georgian State Security Committee and also the release of a man suspected of having killed the deputy chief of the Adigen District Internal Affairs office. Though the attackers left the building shortly afterwards, the tension around the Geor-

gian State Security Committee still persists.

The Collegium of the USSR State Security Committee declares in this light that "the attack on the KGB building in Georgia is an extremist manifestation of a frantic campaign against state security bodies". The statement says that its purpose is to "reduce, split and even abolish the KGB. It, objectively speaking, harps on the propaganda, inspired by certain Western special services and vigorously foisted upon public opinion by forces that are, allegedly, hampered by the State Security Committee in their illegal activities.

"It is not without reason," the statement says, "that attacks on the KGB increased after it joined the struggle against organised crime and achieved the first tangible results."

The statement also stresses that "the security system of the country as a whole is being damaged by attempts, and now already actions to discredit the USSR State Security Committee behind the smokescreen of democratisation and glasnost.

"Those who attack the KGB at a time when foreign intelligence services are becoming increasingly active and organised crime is mounting do not contribute to the stabilisation of the situation in the country," the statement notes.

restrictions earlier imposed on Vladivostok by ministries and ratify the decision adopted by the City Council session. □

Vladivostok becomes open city

The first session of the Vladivostok City Council in this maritime territorial centre in the south of the Soviet Far East has unanimously voted in favour of proclaiming Vladivostok an open city.

The decision envisages free access and residence in the city for citizens and subjects of any country, as well as free admission to Vladivostok port by foreign ships.

The city's territory is proclaimed open to free enterprise in keeping with the laws of the Russian Federation and region's Free Economic Zone status.

The Russian Federation parliament and government are expected to lift various

European group visits prisons

Moscow September 20 Tass - A representative delegation of the Council of Europe that includes the heads of the prison systems of Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, has come to the USSR to see Soviet prison institutions.

The Soviet Union is now joining various international human rights conventions, which means that the situation of prisoners in Soviet correctional institutions need to be changed dramatically, the newspaper *Izvestia* writes in this connection. In order to be admitted to the Council of Europe, the USSR should bring its prison system into line with generally recognised norms.

"It took several decades to build the gulag. Enormous resources and much time are needed to dismantle it. We do not wish our guests to get a distorted impression of the life of prisoners in the USSR. This is why we are showing to them various correctional institutions, including those where no changes have been made so far. Sooner or later the Soviet prison system will join all similar systems," said Vladimir Gulyaev, head of the department of correctional institutions under the Soviet Interior Ministry.

A working meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe was held today. The guests were told about the concept of a reform of the Soviet prison system and made some recommendations. Such meetings, at which the restructuring of the Soviet prison system will be discussed, will be held regularly. □

New 'hard currency' law takes shape

By Maxim Roshchin, Ph. D. (Economics)

The Soviet government has now put draft legislation on hard currency before the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. This is part of a package of measures designed to ease the way to a regulated market economy. This is the first legislation of its kind in Soviet history. Previously, the hard currency sphere was governed exclusively by instructions from government departments.

The proposed legislation sets a regime for operations involving hard currency in and outside the Soviet Union. It proceeds from the assumption that the USSR has a single currency, a single monetary system and one territory, although that system is managed on a federative, rather than unitary, basis.

Making the rouble the monetary unit of the USSR to be used in payments by Soviet economic institutions, the draft law allows it to be used on the territory of the Soviet Union in specified spheres and by juridical persons and citizens of other countries. The intention is further to open up the Soviet market to foreign competitors and to develop new patterns of co-operation, including investments and joint-stock companies. More settlements between Soviet producers will be in hard currency. Moves are afoot to create a domestic market for them to trade in foreign currency at market value and to open hard currency retailers - the conditions for producers' greater self-sufficiency in hard currency. Eventually, private citizens will also be allowed into such markets.

The exchange rate policy will be streamlined to prepare for the conversion of the rouble. Among other things, the new legislation seeks a floating exchange rate for the rouble against other currencies. To protect some areas of the economy and the specific interests of Union and

autonomous republics, variations in the current exchange rate will be allowed in the case of some payments. Rouble devaluation will make it possible for realistic rates of exchange to be regulated by the USSR State Bank (Gosbank) and the state banks of union republics.

The main plank of the legislation concerns the demarcation of functions and powers with respect to hard currency between the centre and the republics.

Given the country's peculiarities and relevant international experience, the centre will continue to lay down the general principles of state monetary policy, to manage the balance of payments, federal currency reserves, the foreign debt and the currency market, to pass federal laws, to set accounting rules in this area, and to put together international agreements on behalf of the Union.

The centre and the republics will make joint decisions on such matters as routine adjustments of the rate of exchange of the rouble against other currencies, the establishment of rebates and increases of same, the setting up of federal and republican currency reserves, and the rules for currency operations by authorised banks.

As far as the republics are concerned, they will be free to formulate their own policy on monetary matters, managing their own currency reserves, operating in the world credit market, and setting rules for regulation of currency circulation within republics and distribution of currency circulation within republics and distribution of currency among autonomous institutions and local authorities. Republics will also be allowed to conclude international agreements in this area, with due regard to the Soviet Union's general commitments.

The legislation determines the functions of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the USSR Council of Ministers, and Gosbank in the management of hard currency resources.

Gosbank will play the central role, taking over many of the functions of the Soviet Ministry of Finance and the Vneshekonombank, which is to be given commercial bank status. Gosbank will issue licences for banks to deal in hard currency and will manage the USSR's currency reserve and market and set the rules of banking. In these activities, it will work closely with the state banks of the republics, all of which have their own areas of jurisdiction. The second, working tier of the system will form commercial banks allowed to conduct operations involving hard currency and representing various types of property, joint-stock and foreign included.

The draft sets out detailed regulations regarding sources and target areas for the use of the hard currency funds of the USSR (to meet the needs of the USSR as a whole), of the Union and autonomous republics and local authorities (to promote regional development), and of producers (economic activity).

Furthermore, the rules regarding the possession and use of hard currency by private citizens have been adjusted.

The final section of the draft seeks measures with respect to supervision and accountability, and specifies central and republican bodies responsible for their implementation. Violation of the law, depending on the nature of a particular infraction, will entail administrative, civil or criminal responsibility. Watchdog bodies will likewise be held responsible for wrongful actions with respect to individuals and economic entities.

It is stipulated that if an international agreement signed by the USSR sets rules different from those laid down in this legislation, the rules of the international agreement shall be applied.

Generally the draft provides a systematised framework for the monetary system appropriate to a regulated market economy of an open type. □

TASS COMMENT

The Gulf crisis and Europe's defence

By Tass political analyst Alexander Antsiferov:

Is there anything positive in the Gulf crisis? The French newspaper "Le Parisien" says there is at least one positive aspect: "it is now possible to state that Europe cannot exist without a common defence system".

Developing the idea in a commentary, devoted to a meeting of ministers of the West European Union the newspaper proposes to create a European Mediterranean navy with respective structures and a single command.

In addition, it suggests that there is nothing to hinder the creation of European rapid deployment forces – land and air-based.

The newspaper Le Quotidien de Paris would not be satisfied with so little, however. It views the issue in a broader context. It believes the common European home should begin with "concluding a military union, which is an easier task to accomplish than to create a political

union embracing all spheres."

Analysing developments in the Gulf region, another French newspaper, Liberation, laments that "when the question arose as to who would police the situation, it turned out that only the Americans were able to do it."

In order to rectify this situation – which is inappropriate, according to Liberation, from the European viewpoint – "the only West European organisation competent in defence matters – the West European Union – had to be retrieved from oblivion".

Admitting that the authors of the above-mentioned newspaper comments are rightfully concerned over the volatile Persian Gulf situation, one should not forget the simple truth that there are no easy solutions to such complex problems.

Quite probably, it is easier to create a military alliance than a political union. But will this contribute to the normalisation of the political climate and the building of a common European

home? Will these purposes be well served by piling up new militarist structures in Europe, even if, as Le Parisien points out, there is nothing to hinder this process?

And finally, how will all this fit in with the process of politicising NATO and the Warsaw Treaty?

Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the world community's reaction to the outrage have made crystal clear the entire complexity of the system of interdependence of individual countries and whole regions.

The hidden potential for constructive dialogue, partnership and co-operation has been revealed, which was illustrated by the results of the Soviet-American summit in Helsinki.

The new realities now emerging in Europe, are incompatible with the galvanisation and consolidation of rigid bloc structures, or claims to the function of policing the world, whatever the pretext. □

Briefing at Foreign Ministry Press Centre

SOVIET Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov has denied reports that the Soviet government had been approached with a request to help airlift Syrian troops to the Gulf conflict zone.

He was speaking at a briefing for foreign and Soviet journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Centre in Moscow on September 19. He said that a report by Reuters saying the Soviet Union had agreed to transport American armaments on a large ship were at variance with facts.

Replying to a question, Gerasimov said the Soviet Union had no intention of sending its troops to the Gulf. He stressed that the Soviet Union was acting strictly within the framework of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

On the possible air blockade of Iraq, Gerasimov noted that when working on additional sanctions it was important to bear in mind that more than 5,000 Soviet citizens were now in Iraq. They will leave the country upon the expiry of their contract terms by Aeroflot flights. So it was necessary to define precisely what was covered by the notion "air blockade" and whether

passenger flights will be included.

Gerasimov said that on September 17, the Soviet Union and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia decided to resume diplomatic exchanges at ambassadorial level. The two countries agreed to finalise preparations and open embassies in Moscow and Jiddah.

The Soviet Union expects that the 45th UN General Assembly session, which opened today, would facilitate a radical turn of the United Nations to practical matters, and raise its contribution to restructuring international relations on a post-confrontational basis, the Soviet spokesman said.

For its part, the Soviet Union will do all in its power to co-ordinate the session's efforts to reach decisions of substance, orientated towards the achievement of practical results.

"We are grateful to the leaders of France and West Germany for their desire to make constructive contributions to the solution of economic problems confronting the Soviet Union," Gerasimov said commenting on the Franco-West German talks that ended in Munich.

The USSR, the Soviet spokesman said, welcomes Albania's statement, circulated in the preparatory committee of the CSCE forum in Vienna, in which Albania expresses readiness to recognise principles of the Helsinki Final Act and implement decisions taken within the CSCE framework and request to be granted the status of a fully-fledged member of all forthcoming conferences and meetings.

The Soviet spokesman expressed the Soviet public's gratitude to its Korean friends and the leadership of the Korean Democratic People's Republic for their decision to receive 100 Soviet children, who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster, for a month-long rest and recreation.

"We would like to hope that changes in the Japanese assessments of the situation in the Far East and the world will receive further development, which would meet the interests of Soviet-Japanese relations and serve the further normalisation of the situation in the Asian-Pacific region", he said.

Gerasimov was commenting on the approval by the Japanese cabinet of the annual "white book on defence matters". He said that the latest issue differed from the previous ones by its omission of the Soviet military threat clause. □

Cambodian settlement discussed in Moscow

SOVIET parliament chairman Anatoly Lukyanov and President of the Cambodian Council of State Heng Samrin, meeting in Moscow on September 20, have expressed satisfaction with the state of Soviet-Cambodian co-operation.

Lukyanov and Heng Samrin informed each other of the situation in their countries. They paid much attention to a Cambodian settlement, noting that the formation of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, and the adoption of the framework agreement elaborated by permanent members of the UN Security Council as a basis for a comprehensive settlement, have promoted the search for a Cambodian settlement to its final stage.

They agreed that it is necessary to make further practical steps towards national reconciliation, ensure a ceasefire as soon as possible and create necessary conditions for holding general elections in Cambodia under UN supervision. The elections will determine Cambodia's political future.

Lukyanov and Heng Samrin confirmed the readiness of the Soviet Union and Cambodia to co-ordinate their efforts and work for a peaceful settlement in the interest of Cambodian people, peace, stability and co-operation in Southeast Asia. □

PLO leaders in Moscow

DEPUTY Foreign Minister of the USSR Alexander Belonogov received members of the PLO Executive Committee M. Abbas and Yasser Abh ar-Rabbuh on September 21. They were visiting Moscow to attend a regular meeting of the Soviet-Palestinian Middle East Committee.

The sides exchanged views on ways to settle the Gulf crisis politically and noted that the Arab nations should take more vigorous steps towards this end. They went on record for practical measures to achieve an early settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of corresponding UN resolutions. □

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