

Mikhail Gorbachyov receives British parliamentary delegation

MOSCOW, May 26, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received in the Kremlin today a British parliamentary delegation led by Lord Whitelaw and including representatives of all the parliamentary parties, among them the Labour shadow foreign secretary, Denis Healey.

Lord Whitelaw handed Mikhail Gorbachyov a personal message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In the course of a frank and friendly conversation, the sides presented their positions on a broad range of outstanding problems of the international situation and relations between the USSR and Britain.

Both sides agreed that it was necessary to stop the arms race and to look for mutually acceptable solutions to other problems of common concern to mankind in today's complex, diverse, controversial but interrelated world. "This calls for new thinking, which respects the realities of the nuclear and space age," Mikhail Gorbachyov said. "One cannot build international security only proceeding from one's own interests while ignoring the security interests of others. No serious talks are possible with such an approach."

Mikhail Gorbachyov noted that there were great opportunities for expanding fruitful political dialogue with Britain, for economic and cultural contacts, for parliamentary exchanges and for human contacts. The hopes which arose a year and a half ago in that field were yet to come true.

The sides considered various aspects of ending nuclear tests, to which Britain could contribute substantially. Thought could be given jointly to a Soviet-British initiative on resuming the tripartite talks, broken off in 1980, especially since at that time the USSR, the USA and Britain agreed that nuclear weapons tests should be banned. Opinions were exchanged on a chemical weapons ban. Well-argued replies, consonant with the well-known Soviet position, were given to all the questions of disarmament and verification. "As for a reduction in conventional armaments," Mikhail Gorbachyov said, "the Warsaw Treaty countries will shortly propose a detailed draft agenda for the talks."

The sides also touched upon the situation around Afghanistan and in the Middle East and upon humanitarian problems.

Discussing nuclear missiles in Europe, Mikhail Gorbachyov put to Britain a new proposal: if

Britain officially decides to scrap its nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union will be prepared to reduce its nuclear potential accordingly. And if it simultaneously removes foreign nuclear weapons from its territory, the Soviet Union will guarantee that its nuclear weapons will not be targeted at British territory and will never be used against Britain. The entire complex of questions arising in this context could become a subject for discussion and formulation of concerted decisions by the two countries.

Answering a question, Mikhail Gorbachyov outlined the Soviet Union's approach to a new meeting with the US President. "We are for such a meeting," Mikhail Gorbachyov said, "and do not make any preconditions. We think that the new meeting should tackle the problems of concern to the whole world. We should take major questions to this meeting and take decisions which would, strengthen international security, create trust and lead to the curbing of the arms race."

"The meeting should take place in a situation which would be consonant with the character of the accords reached in Geneva rather than contradict them. Indeed, it is hardly possible to continue a dialogue without deciding anything, to build up armaments and use the meeting as a cover for this race. We do not agree. This approach of ours is related to what practice itself prompts us and to what the peoples expect from us."

"When they in the West present Soviet disarmament initiatives and the Soviet Union's persevering efforts for detente as 'Moscow's intrigues', propaganda or utopia, or a manifestation of weakness, we view all this as a sign of limitations and inability to understand the real state of affairs in today's world," Mikhail Gorbachyov said. "The point is that the Soviet Union is aware of its high responsibility for the fate of human civilisation."

Mikhail Gorbachyov thanked the parliamentarians and through them many Britons for their sympathy and assistance in connection with the Chernobyl accident and asked the visitors to convey his best wishes to the British people.

Lord Whitelaw spoke highly of the character and content of the conversation, thanked the host for his hospitality and noted that such discussions and other contacts should lead to greater mutual respect and broader co-operation.

The British parliamentary delegation headed by Viscount Whitelaw, Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Privy Council, paid a visit to the USSR Supreme Soviet on May 26.

Welcoming the guests, Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, expressed the conviction that their visit to the USSR would promote the further development and intensification of parliamentary ties between the two countries. Parliamentarians could and must make a real positive contribution to inter-state British-Soviet relations in the interests of peace and international security.

Viscount Whitelaw and other members of the delegation said that they highly appreciated contacts with the USSR Supreme Soviet, and attached great importance to their consolidation. The head of the delegation emphasised that

members of the British Council wished such meetings to promote a better mutual understanding between the two countries.

Talks were held between Boris Aristov, Foreign Trade Minister of the USSR, and the British parliamentary delegation. There was an exchange of views on questions of trade and economic co-operation between the two countries and the possibilities for its development.

During the course of their stay in the USSR the British parliamentary delegation visited Leonid Brezhnev Star City and the Yuri Gagarin cosmonaut training centre. The delegation also laid a wreath on the grave of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin wall.

MOSCOW, May 27, TASS:

THE conversation with the British parliamentary delegation led by Lord Whitelaw continued in the USSR Supreme Soviet today.

Avzug Voss informed the guests of the main directions of the socio-economic and socio-political life of Soviet society at the present stage, and described the activities of the country's top state power body and its structure.

The leader of the delegation stated that the delegation members highly appreciated the opportunity to meet Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and were profoundly grateful to him for finding time to converse with the delegation members and to exchange views with them.

Delegation members David Crouch, Renee Short, Robert Jackson, Tom Clarke and Alan Beith spoke of various aspects of the British Parliament's activities.

During the conversation much attention was given to the subject of international security and disarmament. With the non-similarity of approaches to a number of matters concerning this problem which is paramount to mankind, the two sides were unanimous in their opinion about the need to end the arms race.

The members of the British Parliament set out the various points of view of the parties which they represent on matters of home and foreign policies. It was stated, in particular, that the Labour Party came out against Britain's participation in the US SDI programme, including in the programme's research part, and was against the deployment of US Cruise missiles in the country. Denis Healey described as a new useful initiative the proposal expressed by Mikhail Gorbachyov during the meeting with the delegation that if Britain officially takes a decision to eliminate its nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union would be ready to reduce its nuclear potential in an equivalent manner.

The participants in the conversation pointed out that the exchange of views made a positive contribution to the development of Soviet-British parliamentary contacts.

Taking part in the conversation were deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet Georgi Arbatov, Vadim Zagladin, Yuri Izrael, Sergei Losev and Vladimir Terebilov.

Vsevolod Murakhovsky, a First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and

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Mikhail Gorbachyov meets Spanish Prime Minister

MOSCOW, May 20, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting in the Kremlin today with Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister of Spain and Secretary-General of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party.

During their detailed conversation, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Felipe Gonzalez outlined to each other the principles and methods of solving pressing problems of the economic and political development of their countries in accordance with their historic choice and in conditions of belonging to different social systems. Views were exchanged on the specificities of the scientific-technical modernisation of production, its social consequences in the Soviet Union and Spain.

"The crux of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress is to utilise the deep-rooted possibilities of socialism, to make fuller use of its potential by pursuing the strategy of acceleration," Mikhail Gorbachyov stressed.

When discussing international problems Mikhail Gorbachyov and Felipe Gonzalez agreed that the interconnection and interdependence of states was growing rapidly, despite the entire diversity and contradictory nature of the present-day world, and pressingly dictating the need for a new mentality, of new approaches in world politics.

On the main question—ending the arms race and liquidating the danger of nuclear war—they

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Chairman of the State Agri-Industrial Committee of the USSR (Gosagroprom), today received the British parliamentary delegation.

The guests were briefed on the work done by Gosagroprom to fulfil the national Food Programme and streamline the economic mechanism of the country's agri-industrial sector.

An exchange of opinions took place on scientific, technological and economic co-operation between the two countries in agriculture and related industries, and on the possibilities of developing it.

The British parliamentary delegation was headed by Viscount Whitelaw, Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Privy Council, and consisted of the following:

Denis Healey, Labour shadow foreign minister; David Crouch (Conservative), chairman of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Lord Underhill (Labour), deputy leader of the opposition in the House of Lords; Renee Short (Labour), deputy chairman of the British-Soviet group of the House of Commons and Chairman of the Select Committee on Social Services; Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Party and the party's spokesman on foreign affairs; Peter Temple-Morris (Conservative); Kenneth Warren (Conservative), chairman of the British-Soviet group of the House of Commons and Chairman of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry; James Lamond (Labour), secretary of the British-Soviet group of the House of Commons; Martin Flannery (Labour); Roger Sims (Conservative), member of the executive committee of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Tom Clarke (Labour), Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Foreign and Commonwealth Committee; Robert Jackson (Conservative); Tony Baldry (Conservative), Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. □

agreed that understanding of the entire danger of the line that has been approached by the world is decisive. This calls for prompt collective efforts to strengthen the principles of peaceful coexistence, political interaction, dialogue and talks between various states. On confirming his consent to a new meeting with the American President, Mikhail Gorbachyov stressed that when assessing the prospects of this meeting one could not depart from the real policy that was being pursued after the first meeting in Geneva. There was much in the behaviour of the United States Administration that was incompatible with political morals, worsened the international atmosphere, increased tension in Soviet-American relations and testified to the intention to continue the policy of achieving military superiority and intensifying the arms race. There was no sign of steps being taken in response to the Soviet initiatives after Geneva, and there were no serious proposals concerning the possible practical results of a new summit meeting.

The problem of trust, which also cannot be isolated from readiness to do something concrete to lower the level of armaments, was discussed. If the arms race were spread to new spheres, if the ABM and SALT-2 treaties were undermined, the degree of mistrust would grow in geometrical progression and undermine to a still greater extent the stability of international relations.

"The situation must be improved. To achieve this it is time to start somewhere, to start moving, to set an example. That is why we are proposing to start with the most understandable and possible steps that could be taken, out of the overall context, without disrupting the balance

and violating anybody's security: that is, to start with the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and stopping nuclear tests.

"The Soviet Union is prepared to search for mutually acceptable forms of control, but control over disarmament and not over the build-up and perfection of armaments. When it puts its signature to an agreement the Soviet Union keeps its word firmly.

"We are in a serious mood," Mikhail Gorbachyov went on. "In connection with the Chernobyl accident we looked into the eyes of the danger posed by the atom when it escapes control. We shall not be found wanting in solving jointly with other countries the vital questions raised by the nuclear-space age."

As a result of their serious discussion and a frank and wellwishing comparison of positions, displaying mutual respect for opinions and differences of conditions, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Felipe Gonzalez arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to deepen interaction between the USSR and Spain in their mutual interests, in the interests of the whole of Europe and of improving the situation in the world, and expressed confidence that this visit would give a new impetus to the development of political dialogue, economic and cultural relations, and to the expansion of friendly intercourse between the peoples of the two countries.

Mikhail Gorbachyov wished the Spanish people progress and prosperity.

Felipe Gonzalez wished the Soviet people success in fulfilling the plans outlined by the 27th CPSU Congress. □

Gromyko meets Gonzalez

MOSCOW, May 20, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, today received in the Kremlin the Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, and the personages accompanying him.

Felipe Gonzalez noted that he was greatly impressed by his frank and substantive conversation with Mikhail Gorbachyov.

By mutual agreement Andrei Gromyko and Felipe Gonzalez concentrated their attention on international problems: state terrorism, the situation in Central America and the Mediterranean area.

It was stated from the Soviet side that the USSR was emphatically against any countries imposing on other countries norms and standards related to their internal affairs.

"Who can deny that the struggle against Nicaragua is being conducted by forces that are trained, armed and paid by the United States?"—Andrei Gromyko queried. "True, Nicaragua is a small country but is this reason enough for Washington to dictate to it its will in matters concerning its internal social arrangement?"

"The Soviet Union wants countries to find a common tongue and not to reach for their weapons whenever they feel like it. The organisers and instigators of state terrorism are those who have turned terror into a part of their foreign policy. And this is exactly how the United States conducts itself in the international arena.

"Nicaragua wants a political solution to the problems of Central America. This is promoted

also by the activity of the Contadora Group of countries. The Soviet Union supports the striving to find a diplomatic way out of the existing situation but in such a way that Nicaragua's independence would be preserved."

Andrei Gromyko stressed that the Mediterranean area was an important and dangerous one. Figuratively speaking, its waters had a nuclear filling. The Soviet Union had come out for a radical solution of the problem in that area—to turn the Mediterranean into a sea of peace.

The United States' aggression against Libya was being portrayed in Washington as if the whole world was almost jubilant on the occasion of this action. The Soviet Union, just as the overwhelming majority of other countries in the world, sternly condemned it and contended that not one country had the right to be a judge, a prosecutor or the more so an executioner.

The Spanish side also stated the need to solve the process of settlement in Central America with the help of the Contadora Group and supported the Soviet proposals concerning the Mediterranean Sea.

The problem of European security was also discussed. Andrei Gromyko said that here the USSR had the clear-cut proposals of the 27th CPSU Congress, but that the course of the talks on the European subject-matter bore the imprint of the overall dangerous situation which had now deteriorated in the world through the fault of the United States.

Felipe Gonzalez declared Spain's striving to achieve a positive solution in questions of European security. He also declared for the ending of the arms race, restoration of trust and expansion of East-West dialogue and co-operation, in particular between the Soviet Union and Spain. □

Andrei Gromyko meets Oskar Lafontaine

MOSCOW, May 21, TASS:

Oskar Lafontaine: "We believe that all efforts made by governments in the economic, cultural and other fields should aim at bringing about detente."

Andrei Gromyko: "A good cause indeed!"

THESE REMARKS opened a meeting in the Kremlin today between Andrei Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and Oskar Lafontaine, Prime Minister of Saar State (Federal Republic of Germany) and member of the board of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

Andrei Gromyko expounded in detail the Soviet viewpoint on the problem of terminating nuclear weapon tests. This problem was understood by everyone, even laymen. Despite the fact that the USSR had extended its moratorium on nuclear explosions till August 6, 1986, the US Administration with strange fanaticism insisted on conducting nuclear weapon tests and carried them out.

The Soviet Union believed that a test ban would become an important element of a series of measures which would facilitate more radical decisions. If the West German Government put its weight behind the idea of ending nuclear tests, it would make a great contribution to the relaxation of tension and to progress towards the

elimination of nuclear weapons. But it was not doing so.

The sides agreed that the ending of nuclear tests was a priority goal today. At the same time Oskar Lafontaine stressed that he was opposed to any use of nuclear energy.

Andrei Gromyko replied that the Soviet Union was consistently opposed to the military uses of nuclear energy, as was shown by the large-scale programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov in his statement of January 15, 1986 and reiterated by the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress. As for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we should reckon with realities: the 'peaceful atom' had already become a sizeable industrial sector in many countries.

Both sides expressed the common view that it was necessary to work out international agreements with the aim of ensuring safety in the development of nuclear, power engineering and drawing into the process as many countries as possible. The Chernobyl accident called for it and

it was demanded by broad public circles the world over. This view was understandable to millions of people.

Andrei Gromyko emphasised that the response to the present-day demand of nations consisted in a combined implementation of two tasks—on the one hand, international co-operation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and, on the other hand, the successful struggle for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

"Unfortunately, a handful of politicians who oppose this approach are a stumbling block on this path. Should we risk the lives of millions of people in order to satisfy the ambitions of this handful of politicians who are possessed by the idea of achieving military superiority and are imposing their 'Star Wars' plans on other countries?"

Oskar Lafontaine described the USSR's proposals for ending nuclear testing as good. "We will always support them," he said. The negative stand of the SPD on the US SDI programme and on plans for the chemical weapons race was reaffirmed.

A mutual wish and striving was expressed to broaden relations between the Soviet Union and the FRG on the basis of the Moscow Treaty of 1970. The fruitfulness of such co-operation has been demonstrated in the past, is felt at present and can manifest itself with fresh force in future, if both countries strive for it. □

Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, May 22, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee considered at its regular meeting on May 22 the results of Mikhail Gorbachyov's talks with Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The Political Bureau noted the importance of the documents signed by the sides in Moscow, including a long-term programme for the development of economic, scientific and technological co-operation between the USSR and Romania to the year 2000 and a programme of cultural and scientific co-operation for 1986-1990. It expressed satisfaction with the exchanges of opinion on bilateral relations and on outstanding international problems of mutual interest, and stressed the desire further to promote friendship and broaden comprehensive co-operation between the CPSU and the Romanian Communist Party and between the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The meeting heard an account of Mikhail Gorbachyov's meeting with Alvaro Cunhal, General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, and approved the conclusions stemming from its results, which are related to the further extension of relations between the two parties in the struggle for peace and social progress.

The Political Bureau examined the results of the meetings between the Soviet leadership and Felipe Gonzalez, President of the Government of Spain, and noted that the constructive character of these talks made it possible to further promote

understanding and broaden co-operation between the Soviet Union and Spain in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for stronger peace, trust and security in Europe and elsewhere.

The meeting discussed the launching of a nation-wide socialist competition drive for effectively meeting the targets of the 12th five-year plan period. It was noted that, responding to the resolutions of the 27th Party Congress, the Soviet people everywhere were displaying enthusiasm in work and creative initiative as they tried to fulfil in practice the Party's programme for intensifying production.

The Political Bureau approved proposals on the establishment of a national informatics and

electronics centre to carry out research into the fundamental areas of computer technology, and to resolve comprehensively the questions of developing advanced computers and other electronic products, equipment and materials for the national economy. The centre will closely co-operate in this with relevant organisations in the fraternal socialist countries which are participating in the fulfilment of the Comprehensive Programme for the Scientific and Technological Progress of the CMEA Member-Countries up to the Year 2000.

Also discussed at the meeting were a number of other questions of the development of the national economy and the implementation of Soviet foreign policy. □

CONFERENCE AT USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY

MOSCOW, May 23, TASS:

A CONFERENCE 'On Tasks of the Central Apparatus and the Institutions of the USSR Foreign Ministry Abroad in Implementing the Decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress in the Field of Foreign Policy' began at the Soviet Foreign Ministry today.

A report by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, was submitted to the conference.

Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a major speech. It described in detail the conditions of the activity of the Soviet diplomacy at the present stage, analysed its main directions and forms in organic connection with the domestic tasks now being handled by the Party—economic, social, political, defence, ideological and moral—and which are connected with major changes in socialist society and the world at large.

The achievements were assessed in the light of the new situation. And, what is important, the experience of Soviet diplomacy in recent years was examined critically and with Party-style exactingness. Measures were determined to perfect its entire practice of implementing the strategic line of the 27th CPSU Congress.

Taking part in the conference are: secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoli Dobrynin, Vadim Medvedev and Alexander Yakovlev; CPSU Central Committee department head Stepan Chervonenko; the Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Guri Marchuk; ministers of the USSR Boris Aristov and Boris Gostev; the Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Konstantin Katushev; senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee; deputy ministers for foreign affairs and other ministries and departments; ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the USSR, consuls-general and secretaries of Party organisations. □

Yegor Ligachyov's speech in Almetyevsk

ALMETYEVS, May 21, TASS:

THE restructuring of the Soviet economy, the need for which was stressed from the podium of the 27th Congress of the CPSU, is under way, and in the first third of this year industrial production in the country grew by 6.3 per cent as against the planned increase of 4.3 per cent.

These figures were cited today by Yegor Ligachyov, a member of the Political Bureau and a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech to the staff of the oil production amalgamation of Tataria, a Soviet autonomous republic in the Volga region.

He said that the correlation between the growth rates of labour productivity and wages was improving. As compared with the same period last year, nearly two million more square metres of housing had been built.

Yegor Ligachyov said that in the West they were not stinting words to make the plans drawn up by the CPSU appear unrealistic.

"They are claiming that the funds will not be enough and that we shall not be able to re-organise our work in the framework of socialism. But history has more than once given the answer to similar predictions and doubts," he said.

Yegor Ligachyov said that after the triumph of the October Revolution in Russia the imperialists had predicted that the Soviet system of government would not last for even a month, "but we are going to mark the 70th anniversary of the country of Soviets."

"In the 1930s the bourgeois press", he continued, "dismissed the first five-year plans as a 'chimera', but those five-year plan periods made the country a mighty industrial power."

"Immediately after the war with nazism they claimed in the West, not without gloating: Russia will remain an economically vulnerable and in a certain sense impotent nation. In reality,

however, in the past 25 years alone the country's national income has quadrupled, labour productivity trebled and overall housing stock more than doubled.

"If one is to sum up the general meaning of the ideas, decisions and goals of the 27th Party Congress, it boils down to the need to launch all forces to reveal the vast possibilities of socialism," Yegor Ligachyov said.

While pointing out the accomplishments made at the start of the year, he also spoke about the shortcomings. He said, for instance, that many enterprises had not as yet been meeting their targets to cut net production costs.

Yegor Ligachyov spoke in detail about the tasks facing Tataria's oilmen.

He also dwelt upon the foreign policy activities of the Communist Party and the Soviet State. He stressed that the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress had defined clearly the course the USSR would unswervingly follow in international affairs. □

Soviet statement to Israeli Government

MOSCOW, May 24, TASS:

THE Soviet Union has made a statement to the Government of Israel in connection with the signing in Washington on May 6, 1986 of the agreement on Israel's joining the US 'Strategic Defense Initiative'.

The statement stresses that the Israeli Government cannot but know that the whole of that programme is designed to spread the weapons race into outer space and turn it into a zone of military rivalries and confrontation. The plans to create a qualitatively new class of strike weapons and deploy them in outer space are a component part of the global strategy of the USA aimed at upsetting the military strategic equilibrium which has developed, and at elevating the arms race to a qualitatively new level.

It is absolutely obvious that if outer space is packed with weapons, this will be a serious blow to mankind's hopes for creating an all-embracing international security system and delivering the world from nuclear weapons before the end of the current millennium. Instead, it will be faced with a disastrous threat, about which the Soviet Union has warned more than once.

Complicity in the implementation of the US plans for the militarisation of outer space runs counter, as the Soviet Union is convinced, to the aspirations of all peoples, including the people of Israel.

By making its 'contribution' to turning near-Earth space into an arena of confrontation, the Israeli leadership thus contributes to an aggravation of general tensions in the world and consequently in the Middle East. There is no doubt that along with a growth of tensions, prospects for the attainment of a just Middle East

settlement in the interests of all states and peoples situated there will become even more remote.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly expressed its clear evaluation of the SDI programme as one fraught with an enormous threat to mankind, as it is directed against a turn for the better in international affairs. Those who join in its implementation should realise the whole measure of their responsibility.

The Soviet side, the statement says, hopes that the Government of Israel will draw proper conclusions in favour of preventing the spread of the arms race into outer space and strengthening universal security.

The statement to the Israeli Government was handed over through the Foreign Ministry of Finland, which represents the USSR's interests in Israel. □

Speech by Lev Tolkunov in FRG

BONN, May 26, TASS:

"OBJECTIVE conditions for a fundamental turn in the destiny of Europe exist. They have deep roots. In order to translate them into reality, the efforts of all Europeans are essential," Lev Tolkunov, the leader of the Soviet delegation, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR, said today at the sixth Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Co-operation and Security in Europe.

The conference opened here today in the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). "What is necessary, first of all," he said, "is the firm political will to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and force in general, to renounce the concept of military superiority and endeavours to resolve contentious issues by means of force. There is a need for the political will to take measures of disarmament on the basis of the principle of parity and equal security."

"This is precisely the goal of the Soviet peace initiatives," the Soviet parliamentarian said. "We call for the elimination of nuclear weapons around the world before the end of the century. It has been already suggested that at the first stage a

decision should be taken on the complete elimination of the medium-range missiles of the USSR and the USA in the European zone—both ballistic and cruise missiles—as the first step on the path to freeing the European continent from nuclear weapons.

"The United States should undertake not to supply its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries. Britain and France should not build up their nuclear arms. It goes without saying that such a cutback is possible only provided the USSR and the USA mutually renounce the development, testing and deployment of space strike arms," Tolkunov pointed out.

Touching upon the USSR's and other socialist countries' proposals on a considerable reduction in conventional arms, on a total nuclear test ban, on the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy, and on the ban on chemical weapons, Lev Tolkunov emphasised that the North Atlantic bloc had turned down the initiatives on various pretexts. "The Soviet Union", the speaker stated in this connection, "put forward a number of proposals, striving to slow down and then stop the slide to a nuclear catastrophe. At the same time we are ready, in real earnest and sincerity, to consider any constructive proposal, whoever it comes from, aimed at curbing the arms race and at strengthening peace. Goodwill, propriety and honest striving for a compromise should be an indispensable condition in this matter." □

USSR Foreign Ministry Note

MOSCOW, May 22, TASS:

The Foreign Ministry of the USSR today presented the following Note to the Embassy of the United States of America in Moscow:

The Foreign Ministry of the USSR, referring to its May 7, 1976, Note to the Embassy of the United States of America, considers it necessary to state the following:

The American authorities still evade meeting the legitimate demand for the extradition of war criminal S. D. Kovalchuk, and continue harbouring him in the United States.

It is well known to the US authorities that Kovalchuk took a direct part in the extermination of Soviet civilians on the territory of the Volyn region that was temporarily occupied by the Nazi invaders. The materials on Kovalchuk's heinous crimes were handed over to the US justice bodies as long ago as 1980.

It is perfectly clear that harbouring Kovalchuk is incompatible with the international legal provisions according to which war criminals should be extradited for trial and punishment to the countries on whose territories they committed their crimes.

The Soviet side insists that the US at last adopt measures for the immediate extradition of Kovalchuk to the Soviet authorities for him to be put on trial for his grave crimes against humanity. □

Anatoli Dobrynin's speech in Alma Ata

MOSCOW, May 21, TASS:

"THE 27th CPSU Congress has shown an example of a constructive, bold and profound approach to the most pressing problems of the struggle for socialism and peace in the conditions of the nuclear age," Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has declared in Alma Ata. His speech at a heavy machine-building factory in the capital of Soviet Kazakhstan was published in the newspaper *Pravda* today.

"The history of inter-state relations", he said, "has taught the people what is laconically expressed in the old Russian saying 'a bad peace is better than a good quarrel'."

"What is the 'bad peace' today? It is a peace in which the world is filled with weapons of mass annihilation capable of annihilating the planet in the literal meaning of the word. The peace which is on the brink of an abyss is, of course, better than the 'quarrel' that is war. But for how long can one balance on the brink?"

"Hence the conclusion: in the nuclear age, on questions of war and peace, what is required is a new mode of thinking, a new approach to the problems raised which call for profound revision."

"The 27th Party Congress and statements by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee gave clear answers to these and several other problems of the same scope and character. They formed a reliable theoretical and practical foundation for the Party's present-day foreign policy strategy."

"During the Congress and after it, Mikhail Gorbachyov reiterated the idea that was of importance for understanding the very essence of Soviet foreign policy. He stressed that some

Message from Andrei Gromyko

MOSCOW, May 26, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has sent a message of greetings to the participants in a Soviet-Finnish journalists' seminar. It says, in part:

"I wholeheartedly welcome representatives of the mass media of the USSR and Finland who are attending the seminar in Kiev, capital of the Soviet republic of the Ukraine. The regular holding of such meetings for a broad and frank exchange of views on questions connected with the development of co-operation for the sake of the ideals of peace and friendship among nations is becoming another good tradition that has emerged in the process of the implementation of the interstate Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance."

"Expressing the will of the Soviet and Finnish peoples, Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Mauno Koivisto, President of Finland, reiterated at their meeting in 1985 in Moscow the intention to further invariably follow the course of friendship and trust in any international conditions."

"In the present-day explosive international situation the role of co-operation between journalists in the prompt and truthful covering of the struggle of peoples for the preservation of peace, for the curbing of the arms race and the removal of the nuclear war threat, as well as in their mutually beneficial co-operation in all spheres of life, is further growing," the message said. □

people in the West seemed to be deliberately seeking to drive the Soviet Union to distraction, to infuriate it and make it hit the table with a fist, giving everything up as hopeless."

"Why is this needed? It is needed so that we help the West, so to speak, in maintaining and building up international tension and the cold war, with the aid of which certain quarters hope to put an end to the shoots and roots of detente," Dobrynin said.

"That is not our policy," said the Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. "The Soviet Union will not, of course, allow anyone to speak to it in the language of force. We shall most resolutely and firmly frustrate any of imperialism's provocations against our country, and our people. At the same time we shall steadfastly pursue the policy of strengthening peace and international security."

"Being a nuclear power, our country clearly realises its responsibility for the destinies of mankind. This was evidenced again by the Soviet Government's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing till August 6 this year, which was announced by Gorbachyov in his May 14 televised address."

On Soviet-American relations, Dobrynin pointed out that they remained tense. But if Washington has the political will, relations could be seriously improved. In Geneva in autumn last year, the leaders of the USSR and the US agreed to expedite the Geneva talks, confirmed their subject and objective, and recorded in the joint statement that the two countries emphasised the importance of preventing any war between them, nuclear or conventional.

"That is not too little if, of course, the US Administration backed up the statement by concrete deeds. But that has not been the case."

"The USSR's peace initiatives are cold-shouldered in Washington: despite the Soviet moratorium, new nuclear explosions are conducted, a space militarisation programme is being unfolded, the imperial policy of 'neo-

globalism' which heats up regional conflicts is being intensified, and the anti-Soviet propaganda hysteria is being drummed up," Anatoli Dobrynin said.

"The USSR is for the development of normal, good relations with the United States, naturally on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. It is very important, in our opinion, that a dialogue be maintained and developed between our two countries at all levels in the present not easy situation."

"But the state of and prospects for Soviet-American relations should be determined first of all by progress in the main thing: headway along the lines of curbing the arms race, along the lines of reviving detente and establishing and asserting trust between countries on that basis."

"It is from this point of view that the Soviet leadership also regards the question of a new Soviet-US summit meeting. The USSR is for such a meeting. But, as was again stated by Mikhail Gorbachyov recently, at least two things are essential for the holding of a summit: an appropriate political atmosphere and willingness to achieve a tangible practical result, if only in one or two matters which are uppermost in people's minds around the world. Otherwise, a summit would be senseless."

"Of course," Dobrynin said, "it is a matter of extreme difficulty to stop preparations for nuclear war and achieve a drastic turn in international relations towards detente and normalisation of the overall situation."

"But it cannot be left unresolved. And it is possible to resolve it."

"The Soviet Union is not alone in the historical battle against nuclear war. It is together with the socialist community. Hundreds of millions of people subscribing to various political views and living in countries with different social systems are also struggling for that today."

"The potential of peace, reason and good will is growing throughout the world," the Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out. □

CONGRATULATIONS ON AFRICA LIBERATION DAY

MOSCOW, May 24, TASS:

THE solution to the development problems of all newly-free countries lies in the democratisation of international economic relations and in the establishment of a new international economic order. The accomplishment of this urgent task is now inseparable from a general improvement of the political climate in the world, from termination of the arms race and from the struggle against imperialism's attempts at shifting the burden of the arms race on to emergent countries.

This is stressed in the message of congratulation of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR to heads of state and government and the peoples of African countries on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day.

It is important to press jointly for the creation of an all-embracing system of international security, for the elimination of nuclear weapons and of other types of weapons of mass destruction, and for non-proliferation of the arms race to outer space, the message notes.

The Soviet Union, as was emphasised by the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), consistently pursues a policy of broadening friendly ties with the newly-free countries, and regards with profound sympathies the aspirations of their peoples, the message of congratulation points out.

"This year's Africa Liberation Day is being marked at a time when international tension has sharply increased through the fault of the most

aggressive forces of imperialism. The US attack on the sovereign African state of Libya was not only an outrage on human morality and on international law but also a brazen challenge to the entire international community, a challenge which laid bare the aggressive essence of Washington's imperial, expansionist foreign-policy course." □

South Africa—Soviet position

MOSCOW, May 22, TASS:

Allegations that the Soviet Union maintains some links with South Africa as a state exporting gold, diamonds and uranium ore are absolutely groundless, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said today.

Answering a question from a West German correspondent at a news conference here, which was devoted to Africa Liberation Day, he said: "There are no links, let alone co-operation, between the USSR and the Republic of South Africa."

"The Soviet Union", he added, "has stood and stands on the position of effective condemnation of the racist regime and has been waging active struggle against Pretoria's policy. The USSR is wholly for political, economic and other mandatory sanctions against the South African regime."

The spokesman said that provocative rumours about the Soviet Union's "co-operation" with South Africa were meant to blacken the USSR's clear-cut position of principle. □

PRAVDA EDITORIAL:**'The Cause of Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests Concerns all Peoples'**

MOSCOW, May 24, TASS: The newspaper Pravda today published an editorial entitled 'The Cause of Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests Concerns All Peoples'. The following is the full text:

THE PRESENT-DAY situation in the world demands, as never before, that state and public figures, every individual on Earth realises what a dangerous mark the world has now approached.

The unprecedented arms race on Earth, instigated by Washington and its NATO allies, and the US intention to spread it into outer space, the accumulation of heaps of nuclear and missile weapons, and the Pentagon's plans to fill up the European continent with yet another type of barbaric chemical, binary, weapon—all this has placed before mankind a drastic choice.

What is to be done to stop the further sliding towards thermonuclear catastrophe? For the nuclear weapons—the creation of imperialism—harbour forces capable of destroying all the accomplishments of civilisation.

The realisation of the scope of the danger posed by these weapons has started to manifest itself especially broadly now when people all over the world are pondering over the consequences brought about by nuclear energy breaking out of control, as happened as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

One is compelled to ponder over that also by the numerous facts of accidents and radioactive emissions at American and Western European nuclear power plants, of which the world public learned in detail recently.

Hard as the mouthpieces of Western propaganda sought to exaggerate in their shameless hoaxes the dimensions of the misfortune caused by the Chernobyl accident, they are unable to conceal the fact that these dimensions are incomparable with the threat posed to mankind by nuclear war.

The nuclear arsenals accumulated world-wide harbour thousands upon thousands of disasters far more terrible than that at Chernobyl.

That is the main thing now. This conclusion is invariably drawn by all who, rather than paying lip-service, are really concerned over the destinies of mankind, its present and future.

Universal keen attention to nuclear issues, and first of all to the problems of ending tests, and limiting and reducing one of the most dangerous means of mass annihilation and totally eliminating it subsequently, is convincing evidence of that.

The Soviet State, guided by the interests of the security of its people and all of mankind, has offered a large-scale programme of preventing thermonuclear war and eliminating weapons of mass annihilation as early as before the end of the 20th century.

It was set forth in the January 15, 1986 statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and was fully approved by the 27th CPSU Congress.

In connection with the unwillingness of the US ruling circles to embark on the path of extensive revision of its policy of nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union and other socialist nations, our country believes that it is time to make a beginning, to start moving and to show an example in the interests of improving the international situation.

Guided by these considerations, the Soviet Union proposed first making the simplest and most reasonable steps that can be singled out from the overall context without affecting the balance in the correlation of forces and anyone's security, namely the elimination of medium-

range missiles in Europe and the termination of nuclear testing.

The world-wide response to these steps shows how timely and far-sighted they are.

The Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing, in effect since August last year, has evoked support from all peace-loving forces in the world arena. Dozens of nations in Europe, Asia, Africa and America have demanded that the US follow the Soviet Union's example.

More than two thirds of American citizens have come out in favour of the moratorium. The demand for an end to nuclear tests was reflected in the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly where 120 nations voted for the corresponding resolution.

The will of hundreds upon hundreds of millions of people is expressed in the appeals by the leaders of six nations—Argentina, Greece, Mexico, India, Tanzania and Sweden—to the leaders of the USSR and the US.

The struggle for banning nuclear testing has acquired such broad dimensions that it can aptly be described as the immediate concern of all peoples. This infuriates those who reject the moratorium idea, who would like to continue keeping the world in the nuclear gun-sights.

That explains why anti-nuclear campaigners in the US, Britain and several other NATO countries are subjected to brutal repression. Police charge them with batons. They are thrown behind bars and find themselves in the dock for their anti-war convictions, for commitment to the ideals of peace and freedom.

The special services and bourgeois propaganda media are conducting an unbridled 'psychological war' against the advocates of nuclear disarmament.

Nonetheless, the forces of reaction and war are unable to contain those who have realised the formidable threat looming over the world through the fault of the nuclear maniacs.

Many prominent scientists and Nobel Prize winners have called recently in their statements for halting the arms race, ending nuclear explosions and paving the way for an agreement banning all nuclear tests.

Weeks of action in defence of peace are held in various countries on all continents. Participants in mass rallies adopt petitions urging the governments to give active support to the Soviet Union's peace initiatives and other proposals directed at curbing the forces of aggression and war.

Major international and national anti-war organisations hold conferences and meetings at which they adopt declarations calling on the masses to make their contribution to resolving the most burning problem of our time—the task of ending the nuclear arms race on Earth and preventing it in outer space.

In the profound conviction of these organisations, the total termination of all nuclear tests in the near future, and the reaching of an accord between all powers concerned on a comprehensive ban on this testing, would become a major condition for turning 1986 into the true Year of Peace.

Our country is fully resolved to do everything

it can to attain this noble objective and back up its foreign policy guidelines by deeds.

This is evidenced by our government's decision, adopted this month, to extend the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing till August 6 this year. The decision was announced by Mikhail Gorbachyov during his appearance on Soviet television on May 14.

This act of goodwill was welcomed with immense enthusiasm by millions of people in all countries.

Banning nuclear tests today means to stop the further perfection of various types of nuclear weapons and put a roadblock in the way of developing strike space-based weapons.

All see that the planet can be freed of nuclear tests. It is only up to the American side to reciprocate. Mindful of this, the peoples demand that the US follow the Soviet example, that the White House Administration consider with all responsibility the measure of the threat looming over the world and listen to the voices of the international community which is insisting on the termination of nuclear testing.

The Soviet Union calls on the US to go further than the termination of blasts, and resolve in a positive way the concrete question of banning nuclear tests which concerns all.

With this aim in view the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee proposed holding without delay a meeting with the US President in the capital of any European state or in Hiroshima.

Such a meeting, once it is held and crowned with a positive result, would clear the way for concluding an international treaty on a comprehensive and total ban on nuclear weapon tests.

Much is being spoken and written in the US about the USSR's alleged nuclear superiority, this being used to justify the continuation of nuclear blasts in the US.

It has long since been proved that such allegations are totally groundless. We do not seek military superiority, nor shall we forgo our security. Ending nuclear tests would not give advantages to either side. This is an axiom. Continuing tests is directed at disrupting the existing balance of forces.

That is precisely what the opponents of the moratorium and agreement on banning nuclear weapons tests strive to achieve. On May 21, they staged yet another nuclear explosion at the Nevada test site—the 11th since the Soviet Union introduced its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear blasts on August 6, 1985.

It is not difficult to imagine what benefit the cause of peace throughout the world would enjoy if the agreement on an end to nuclear testing were concluded. The nuclear weapons test ban meets the vital interests of all peoples.

In our nuclear age, the interdependence of the security of all nations has become so close that its breach in the event of nuclear conflict in one region will inevitably pose a mortal threat to the entire world.

That is why we believe, and this viewpoint is shared today by ever more nations in the world arena, that the US side should display a new, realistic approach to the Soviet proposals and initiatives.

At a time when the world is sliding towards nuclear war, other approaches and criteria are

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Communique on 119th session of CMEA executive

MOSCOW, May 22, TASS:

THE Council for Mutual Economic Assistance held the 119th session of its executive committee in Moscow on May 20-22.

The executive committee focused on issues connected with the preparation for the next sitting of the CMEA session.

The session discussed the council's performance in implementing the decisions of the economic summit meeting of the CMEA member-countries held in Moscow in 1984. It stressed the importance of drafting further measures to radically improve organisation of multilateral co-operation of the CMEA member-countries and the council's activities.

Endorsed for submission to the session were a report on the results of coordinating economic plans for 1986-1990 and a draft programme for the construction of atomic power stations and atomic heat power stations in the CMEA member-countries through to the year 2000.

Special attention was paid to creating favourable economic, organisational and legal conditions for large-scale co-operation, to setting up joint amalgamations and enterprises on the profit-loss basis and establishing direct links between production, scientific and technological organisations, primarily to tackle problems and targets envisaged by the comprehensive programme of scientific and technological progress.

Guidelines have been defined to improve co-operation in developing the standardisation and performance of the international centre of scientific and technological information.

The session took note of the great significance of new initiatives of fraternal parties and states aimed at strengthening peace, ending the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, and creating a comprehensive system of international security, including in the economic sphere. Also reaffirmed was the invariable line towards developing mutually beneficial common European co-operation, including official relations between the CMEA and individual CMEA

member-countries and the EEC.

During the course of the meeting representatives of the CMEA member-countries were briefed in detail by the Soviet side on the situation and measures taken to eliminate the results of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The participants in the meeting expressed sympathy with the Soviet people over the accident and satisfaction with the effective measures being carried out by the Soviet Government to eliminate its consequences. They expressed unanimous support for the proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the creation of an international regime for safe development of nuclear power engineering on the basis of close co-operation of all states developing that industry.

The inadmissibility was stressed of the actions of countries and organisations which are using far-fetched pretexts to put obstacles in the way of a normal development of East-West trade and economic co-operation. □

Socialist countries table document at United Nations

NEW YORK, May 20, TASS:

THE delegations of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union have called for an early opening of talks and consultations on planning specific steps to limit the operations of naval fleets, reduce naval arms and spread confidence measures to the seas and oceans.

The three delegations submitted a working document for consideration to the current session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission here. The document took note of the need for reversing the continuing escalation of the race in naval arms.

The document said in part that the delegations of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union welcomed the beginning of consultations on this matter in the United Nations Disarmament Commission. By way of an urgent measure, agreement could be reached on the non-expansion of naval operations of the states in the regions through which the busiest shipping routes pass and where the possibility of conflict situations is greatest—the Indian, Atlantic or the Pacific oceans, the Mediterranean Sea or the Persian Gulf.

With regard to one of such regions—the Mediterranean, where dangerous developments are taking place—the sides could come to terms on the application of agreed confidence measures, on the reduction of armed forces, on the withdrawal of ships carrying nuclear weapons, on renouncing the deployment of such weapons on the territory of the non-nuclear Mediterranean countries and on the nuclear powers' pledging not to use such weapons against any Mediterranean country which does not permit their deployment on its territory.

At the first phase, the document emphasised, no limitations of any kind would be imposed on the naval operations and naval arms of the Mediterranean states. As to further steps to enhance security in that region, they could be defined taking due account of the Soviet proposals set forth in the January 15 statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and aiming for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the GDR and the USSR believe that the realisation of the Soviet formulated nuclear disarmament programme and the proposal on working out fundamental elements of a comprehensive system of international security would undoubtedly block off ways of the race in any type of arms, including naval arms.

The working document emphasised that if the United States withdrew its fleet from the Mediterranean Sea the same would be done simultaneously by the Soviet Union, which was prepared to open talks on that matter without delay.

Such regional measures as the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of stable peace and co-operation, the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and the implementation of measures to strengthen peace and security in the Persian Gulf would be of positive importance, the document said. □

Exchange of views

MOSCOW, May 21, TASS:

A Soviet-American exchange of views has been held in Moscow today at the level of experts on questions relating to the situation in Central America. Earlier such discussions had been held in Washington in the autumn of 1985. Taking part in the meeting were: from the Soviet side—Vladimir Kazimirov, head of the First Latin American Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry; and from the American side—Elliott Abrams, US Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

The leader of the American delegation was received by Viktor Komplektov, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister.

In the course of the exchange of views, the Soviet side stressed the need for intensifying the search for ways to end the conflict situation in Central America and the aggressive actions of the USA against Nicaragua.

Yet the American side shows, as before, no signs of a real wish to contribute to a just settlement with due regard for the legitimate rights and interests of the countries of that region, or readiness to appraise the situation realistically and put an end to the policy of power pressure on Nicaragua and interference in its internal affairs.

The Soviet side strongly condemned this approach. Solidarity was again declared with the just struggle of the Nicaraguan people upholding their country's sovereignty and independence. Support was also expressed for the efforts of Latin American states directed at a political settlement in Central America without interference and pressure from outside. □

Pravda on explosion in Nevada

MOSCOW, May 23, TASS:

THE new nuclear explosion at the Nevada test site has literally shocked world public opinion with its defiant and provocative character, Nikolai Bragin, *Pravda's* news analyst writes. The blast was carried out just a week after mankind's hope had revived that a real step would at long last be taken towards containing the nuclear weapons race.

Touching upon the USSR's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, the news analyst writes: The demand that the United States should support the idea of the moratorium and cease its nuclear explosions began to ring out more forcefully throughout the world.

But Washington has proved to be deaf this time also to the demands of the US and international public. The new blast in Nevada, the 11th since the Soviet Union announced the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests in 1985, cannot be assessed otherwise than as a flagrant challenge to mankind's most cherished aspirations.

It is apparent, Bragin emphasises, that reliance on a continued arms race on Earth and deployment of nuclear weapons in space remains invariable in the policy of the present US Administration.

Demonstrating contempt for the opinion of peoples demanding an end to nuclear madness, Washington places itself in still greater isolation on the international scene. □

Academician Velikhov on situation at Chernobyl

MOSCOW, May 26, TASS:

"THE MAIN thing now, a month after the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station, is to make the damaged reactor absolutely safe as soon as possible and to create normal living and working conditions for the population of nearby localities," said the Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Yevgeni Velikhov.

He was speaking here today at a press conference for Soviet and foreign reporters.

"The damaged fourth power generating set cannot present any unpleasant surprises now," the scientist said. "True, one can still come across assertions in newspapers that the nuclear giant

has not yet lost its power. The nuclear reaction, as such ended once, and it did not resume. The point of the matter now is only a residual and extremely slight heat emission of nuclear fuel," Velikhov said. "Specialists now control the reactor from above and from below. A very important section of the work is radioactive decontamination," he went on.

Academician Velikhov noted that as a result of the measures taken, all radioactive discharges had virtually been localised. "With the use of infra-red sensors, specialists constantly take the temperature within the reactor. Besides that, a firm radiation and gas control in the area of the station has been established."

The scientist pointed out that certain persons in the West remained too emotional in the evaluation of what had taken place, and were trying to gain a political advantage from the

accident. "We will all be aware that atomic power is indispensable for decades ahead. This means that it is necessary to concentrate collective efforts on ensuring its safety, on the development of international co-operation."

"The same applies to research into the problem of controlled thermonuclear fusion," Velikhov said. "As is known, the Soviet Union has suggested the stepping up of international co-operation in this sphere and the joint building of the first such reactor."

"Having come virtually in touch with the danger latent in the atom, I have realised more acutely the need for stepping up the struggle for the elimination of nuclear weapons," Velikhov emphasised. "The Chernobyl accident is a warning that we have lived through what is the minutest incident, as compared to thermonuclear catastrophe." □

Appeal by foreign nationals studying in the USSR to the world governments and peoples

MOSCOW, May 26, TASS:

The following is the full text of an appeal by foreign nationals:

We, citizens of foreign countries studying at educational establishments in the Soviet Union, express our sincere sympathy with the victims of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, their families, work collectives and all Soviet people. The accident painfully affected all of mankind.

The Soviet Government immediately and openly acknowledged that a complicated but controllable situation had developed in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant area. We daily receive objective information on the situation at the atomic power plant and in neighbouring cities. The Soviet Government immediately undertook measures for a total elimination of the consequences of the accident, and continues to take care of the health of the people in regions of the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

We, foreign students, are seeking to contribute within our powers to this noble cause by raising money for the relief fund and extending our material and moral support to the population of the affected regions.

The fact that some states use the misfortune as a political instrument cannot but give rise to indignation. The mass media in the United States and other Western countries are waging a full-blown hostile anti-Soviet campaign.

The campaign of hatred, slander and disinformation is aimed at diverting world public attention from the US aggressive foreign policy, and at weakening the USSR's prestige and the

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necessary than those which are so far guiding the White House Administration and the US military-industrial complex that is behind it in shaping its foreign policy and military-strategic course.

The time commandingly demands: it is necessary to abandon groundless, illusory hopes to gain US nuclear-missile superiority, and the chauvinistic frenzy of the great-power policy of 'neo-globalism' and its repulsive manifestation—state-sponsored terrorism. This would benefit the United States and the cause of maintaining peace world-wide.

It is time, high time, that Washington should heed the clearly expressed will of all of mankind calling for an end to and prohibition of nuclear testing. □

impact of Soviet proposals for ending nuclear testing.

The bourgeois states also used the grievous accident as a pretext for economic pressure on the socialist community.

Some countries sought to influence their students in the USSR and recall them home. Many of us refused to leave our educational establishments, while those who gave in to persuasion are already returning to the Soviet Union.

Medical examination of the students studying in Kiev and other cities showed that the radiation level is not dangerous to the human organism. At present, students at higher educational establishments in Kiev and other cities are preparing for examinations. After that we will leave for practicals and then holidays, to return on September 1 to our educational establishments which are training us as they have trained many other specialists for our countries.

The accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant compels governments and peoples to draw the only correct conclusion: Before it is too late, it is necessary to put an end, once and for all, to confrontation, to stop all nuclear testing, not merely in words but in deeds, and start the

reduction of nuclear arsenals and their subsequent destruction.

Before it is too late, we appeal to all to join the Soviet peace initiatives and resolve all problems at the negotiating table. The world is looking forward to that.

The National Union of Syrian Students in the USSR, the Federation of Tunisian Students in the USSR, the All-Union Association of Iranian Students, the Organisation of the Association of Polish Students in the USSR, the National Union of Sierra Leone Students in the USSR, the Section of the Congolese Socialist Youth League in the USSR, the Federation of the National Union of Moroccan Students in the USSR, the Association of Venezuelan Students in the USSR, the Association of Mexican Students in the USSR, the League of Iraqi Students in the USSR, the Union of Ugandan Students in the USSR, the National Union of Ghanaian Students in the USSR, the Union of Nigerian Students in the USSR, the Association of Indian Students in the USSR, the Association of Bangladeshi Students in the USSR, the Confederation of Palestinian Students in the USSR and the Union of YAR (Yemen Arab Republic) Students in the USSR. □

PRAVDA:

Lev Voronin on Chernobyl

MOSCOW, May 26, TASS:

"HERE is how I would define the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant: activities are entering an even course, the effects of the accident are being confidently dealt with," Lev Voronin, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, told *Pravda* correspondents. The paper published an interview with him today.

Answering a question about the No. 4 unit, he said that residual thermal reactions were abating. However, the level of radiation near the unit itself was high, necessitating the use of special equipment.

"The task now is to build a foundation under the reactor, not only to 'enclose' the heap of rubble from the blast in a shield, but to build a foundation under it, too. Two concrete walls are to be delivered to the site shortly, transported to the rubble and installed there. This will make it possible to scale up operations: a biological shielding will be created," Lev Voronin explained.

"In essence this is the beginning of the

construction of a 'burial mound' to cover the damaged part of the plant. The situation inside the mound will be constantly monitored. This goes, above all, for the temperature regime," he said.

Commenting on the level of radiation at the plant, Lev Voronin said that it was dropping, but was still far above the normal level. "We have worked out a schedule for the plant's deactivation. We are removing the sources of radiation—clearing away the debris—and also working throughout the territory inside the plant," he went on to say. "At the same time we are beginning preparations for the normal operation of units No. 1 and No. 2. Several months will be required for this purpose, but we will certainly put them on line this year."

"A major operation has been launched to deactivate the 30-kilometre zone. It was divided into three sectors. Several times a day we take measurements from the air and at ground level at 240 points within the zone. Each day the level of radiation is dropping by five per cent," Lev Voronin said. □