

Mikhail Gorbachev receives prominent American public figures

ON February 4 Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, received the prominent American public figures and politicians Peter Peterson, Harold Brown, Cyrus Vance, David Jones, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Henry Kissinger, Michael Mandelbaum, Charles Mathias, Peter Tarnoff and William Hyland — who are staying in Moscow at the invitation of the Institute of United States and Canadian Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In an informal and frank atmosphere they discussed a wide range of problems that cause the concern of the American and world public and the Soviet people.

Mikhail Gorbachev characterised the mainstays of Soviet foreign policy noting that Soviet-American relations, too, are viewed by the Soviet side in the context of the entire world development. This policy is based on the realities of the present-day world, that is — nuclear war is a catastrophe for all without exception; the appearance of arms in outer space undermines the security of those who strive for that and makes control over nuclear arms impossible; the world is complex and diverse, it consists of scores of independent states with their own at times most acute problems and woes, with their own interests, with their right to uphold them and to take part in common affairs. Attempts to suppress these interests, to subordinate other countries and use their resources, as was done in the past, is an anachronism fraught with danger to civilisation.

That is why we uphold the need for new thinking which calls for level-headedness, for precise assessments and first of all for the understanding that no matter how strong somebody is he cannot command the present-day world. The world has approached the line when everybody must start thinking very hard.

In this situation a special responsibility rests with the great nuclear powers even though they represent only ten per cent of mankind. The positions-of-strength policy, the attempts to achieve superiority, to teach others how they should manage things in their own home have no future and are baleful to the world community. From such a policy in respect to our country we have drawn serious lessons both in the sphere of the economy and in the sphere of science, and in the field of relations with the West in general,

Mikhail Gorbachev said.

Answering a question about what future historians would have to say on Soviet-US relations, Mikhail Gorbachev said that irony and surprise are already being expressed in the world on this score. The way these relations have been shaping so far is unworthy of the great nations. The duty fallen to the lot of this generation of politicians is to put the situation right before it is too late. The Soviet Union is doing the maximum to live up to the role given to it by history. In our foreign-policy proposals we do not lay claim to the ultimate truth, and we are always open to constructive ideas. But in our proposals we never detach our own security from the security of others and we try to take account in these proposals of the others' interests. In America, by contrast, — and this cannot be denied — there are forces to which hostility is profitable, which need the USSR to have "the enemy image" and which use high-powered information media to sow hatred towards the Soviet people. This is a very serious problem which may not be sidestepped.

The most dangerous thing now is irresponsibility in policy, whereby the latter is replaced by a game of politics and is hard to tell from politicking and demagoguery.

The Soviet-US relationship is still at the crossroads and we must muster the will and strength to turn it around. There is no alternative to co-existence. This is not a question of whether we like each other or not. That is something outside politics. America will be such as is liked by the Americans. But the Soviet Union, too, will not build its society by following recipes from outside.

Mikhail Gorbachev supported the opinion that the Soviet-US relationship should be developed in many areas, including in the economy, science, culture and human contacts. This will serve political relations well also. He expressed the conviction that accords on disarmament are possible. But what was achieved in the past must not be destroyed. Reykjavik, too, was not a setback but another point reached in approaching the problems of disarmament, from which we should go forward, not back. We should work, without wasting time, on the whole gamut of these problems, move to meet each other halfway, and demonstrate readiness for give-and-take. Nobody can foist anything on anybody. And the notion that the Soviet Union is interested more than the United States in better Soviet-US relations should be given up.

Replying to questions, Mikhail Gorbachev briefly described the changes under way in the Soviet Union. Their purport is more socialism and more democracy. It is not renunciation of the socialist system — let nobody have any hopes for this — but full use of the latter's potential. The key to this is in making certain that the whole nation is involved in upgrading society which is ripe for thorough-going change. The reorganisation in the USSR does not run counter to the interests of other nations. What is now happening in this country is the most convincing and objective argument that it needs a peaceful, constructive policy and will follow it dedicatedly and consistently.

Despite the obvious and natural differences in our views on the past and the present, our conversation showed that the area of under-

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Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, at its meeting on February 5, discussed and endorsed the measures worked out by the government on the basis of the decisions of the 27th Party Congress and the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, to create co-operatives in the spheres of the manufacture of consumer goods, services and catering.

It was noted at the meeting that co-operatives are called upon to meet fuller the population's requirements for catering, services and consumer goods, supplementing the existing system of state enterprises and organisations in these spheres.

The Political Bureau meeting discussed the question of improving the conditions for the activity of creative workers' unions. The CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics adopted a resolution which outlines measures for the further intensification of the work of writers', cinematographers', composers', theatrical workers' and artists' unions, for the consolidation of the material and technical base of these unions, housing construction, construction of clubs, as well as upgrading of the

publishing business and popularisation of literature and arts.

The Political Bureau endorsed a resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, and the Central Committee of the Young Communist League on further development of amateur technical art activities.

The results of the work of the Party Control Committee (PCC) under the CPSU Central Committee in 1986 were discussed. It was pointed out that the PCC enhances control over the implementation of the decisions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU and the Central Committee on key matters concerning socio-economic development, the strengthening of Party and state discipline the assertion of Leninist norms of Party life, and work to overcome negative phenomena.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee discussed some other matters pertaining to organisational work to secure the implementation of the decisions of the January (1987) plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, Party and state development, as well as matters related to foreign policy activities aimed at ensuring peace and peoples' security. □

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Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at reception for delegation from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

Here follows the full text of the speech delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin dinner given on February 10 in honour of the party and government delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen led by Ali Salim al-Baidh, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party. The delegation is paying an official visit of friendship to the USSR at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government. Addressing the leader of the delegation, Mikhail Gorbachev said:

Esteemed Comrade Ali Salim Al-Baidh,
Friends, Comrades,

It gives us pleasure to welcome in Moscow the party and government delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. We consider your visit to be a new stage in the development of Soviet-South Yemen relations on the basis of our Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation.

The people of South Yemen have travelled an arduous path of liberation from colonialism and the establishment of their own state. We are in solidarity with them in that patriotic struggle. Then you could rely on Soviet support in making your independent choice in favour of social progress with due regard for the historical and national specific features of your people.

This year the Soviet Union and Democratic Yemen will mark the 20th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. The legal and political base of our relationships, including the above-mentioned Treaty and other agreements, protocols and joint plans to regulate Soviet-South Yemen co-operation, has been developed during these years. Naturally, we would like that co-operation to continue to serve in the best possible way the progress of your country and friendship between our peoples.

Your visit is taking place shortly after an important event in the life of our Party and country, the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. The plenary meeting gave a fresh strong impetus to the revolutionary reorganisation of Soviet society and forcefully formulated guarantees that the process of change, called upon to lead socialism to qualitatively new frontiers, is irreversible.

Reorganisation was conceived and started and is unfolding in the interests of the Soviet people. Ever greater masses of people are becoming involved in it and are viewing it with utmost seriousness and responsibility as their personal cause. They consider their creative participation in it to be their civic and patriotic duty.

Soviet people are perfectly aware of the international importance of reorganisation as well. Its success will be a decisive contribution of socialism to the cause of peace and progress at a new stage of contemporary history, on the

threshold of centuries and millennia.

Our reorganisation is another incontrovertible proof of our peaceable intentions, our choice of principle in favour of peaceful coexistence, progress and equal co-operation among states. It is our choice of life.

The course of reorganisation on the domestic scene is at the same time a programme for a nuclear weapon-free peace for the whole of mankind, proclaimed by us a year ago, a policy which is an extension of Reykjavik, the Delhi Declaration, the Budapest initiative launched jointly with European socialist countries, and our readiness to contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

The Soviet Union will do everything within its power to check the arms race and convert the resources consumed by it to constructive purposes, to the good of its own people and to necessary aid to the needy.

The Soviet Union is in solidarity with the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement in its striving to counter the policy of neo-globalism with a new world economic order.

It stands side by side with them for the right of every people to independent socio-political choice, which means that every state has sovereignty over its resources and can count on international support if its independence and vital interests are jeopardised.

Democratic Yemen is making a contribution to the normalisation of international relations.

Our countries are united by a common approach to the Middle East problem and other regional conflicts, which have been plaguing the world for many years now. Recourse to force and armed actions in attempts to impose imperialist "order" in foreign lands has become a sort of norm in the Arab East. We all remember the outrageous act of aggression against Libya and brute blackmail of Syria. The US is now

massing its naval forces in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Persian Gulf. Threats are being openly made to use them to "punish" a people and a state for the reckless and criminal actions of a handful of extremists.

Terrorism indeed is a bad evil, a scourge of our time. But to try to uproot it with state terrorism means to perpetrate an even worse crime because even larger numbers of human lives, the sovereignty of states and international law, let alone common morality and justice, fall victim to it. What we have is a vicious circle of violence and bloodshed as a result.

The Middle East conflict mirrors the causes behind tension on the international scene. They are encroachment on the inalienable lawful rights of peoples, intervention in their internal affairs, intrigues, threats, subversive actions intended to destabilise governments not to one's liking, to subordinate others to one's interests and to dominate.

We have stated on more than one occasion the Soviet Union's readiness to contribute to the settlement of the conflict between Israel and the Arabs. A proposal was made to this end for the establishment of a preparatory committee within the framework of the UN Security Council to convene an international conference on the Middle East. It has won broad support in the world community. The UN General Assembly and non-aligned and Moslem countries at representative forums in Harare and Kuwait called for such an approach.

The idea behind the preparatory committee is to work jointly, through multilateral discussions and bilateral contacts and with flexibility and a constructive approach, to involve all the parties immediately concerned in business-like and serious negotiations, that is, to do all the work necessary to convene an international conference.

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Report on Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the GDR

THE USSR and the German Democratic Republic have expressed hope that, in its approach to specific agreements on a cut in nuclear weapons and prevention of militarisation of outer space, the US Administration will be guided by joint responsibility for the preservation of peace and the perspectives which opened at Reykjavik.

This is pointed out in an announcement issued in Berlin on February 4 on the visit of Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, to the GDR. The announcement stresses the need for strict observance and strengthening of the ABM Treaty.

In the course of a discussion of the situation in Europe, attention was drawn to the joint initiatives of the Warsaw Treaty member states, which have created the prerequisites for major steps to lessen military confrontation in the continent. The package of proposals on nuclear and space weapons put forward by the Soviet Union opens real opportunities for the elimination of American and Soviet medium-range missiles in the European continent. If the US medium-range missiles in Europe are eliminated, there will be no need for a further stay of Soviet

tactical missiles of increased range in the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet side supports the initiatives put forward by the GDR and Czechoslovakia on the creation in Central Europe of a nuclear-free corridor and a zone free from chemical weapons.

The ministers declared for the advancement of the all-European process in all directions, and for the adoption at the Vienna meeting of the states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation of a decision on complementing the mandate of the Conference on Security- and Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe with other disarmament issues and questions pertaining to a broadening of co-operation in the economic, humanitarian and other fields.

The significance has again been stressed of the treaties of the socialist countries with the FRG and also of the quadripartite agreement on West Berlin sealing the inviolability of contemporary Europe's territorial-political realities and making a basis for starting and developing constructive co-operation. The sides expressed the hope that the Federal Government will be consistently guided by the spirit and letter of these treaties, show political wisdom and refrain from actions that are detrimental to the development of relations with the socialist countries, to the interests of peace and security in Europe. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Foreign Minister of Pakistan

TALKS between Eduard Shevardnadze and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Yakub Khan ended in Moscow on February 7.

In the course of the talks the sides discussed Soviet-Pakistani relations and international affairs, especially the situation around Afghanistan.

The sides expressed interest in the development of bilateral relations in the political, trade and economic fields and noted that there are opportunities for joint efforts in that area and for strengthening of good-neighbourliness and mutually beneficial co-operation with due respect for the interests of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Pakistan.

Exchanging views on international issues, the Soviet Foreign Minister stressed the importance of the Soviet foreign policy initiatives for the prevention of nuclear war and the limitation of

the arms race, and also on the development of an all-embracing system of international peace and security.

He noted specifically the importance of the proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok in July 1986 to the solution of the problems of the Asia-Pacific region.

Yakub Khan stated the closeness and identity of the positions of Pakistan and the USSR and on many international problems under discussion.

As regards the situation related to Afghanistan, the Soviet side stressed that the Soviet Union is consistently advocating its political settlement. The stand of the Soviet Union was clearly formulated at the 27th CPSU Congress and in the statements and speeches of Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Union has no intention of keeping its troop contingent in Afghanistan and is prepared to expedite its return home as soon as settlement is agreed upon.

The attention of the Pakistani side was drawn to the importance of the programme of national reconciliation put forward by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Appeal of the Revolutionary Council for a truce. It was noted that these steps offer a realistic way to the establishment of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan and contributed to the political settlement of the situation related to it.

The sides voiced support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General's personal representative, Diego Cordovez, who mediates in the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, and noted the importance of the third stage of the seventh round of these talks due to take place in late February.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Yakub Khan called for continued Soviet-Pakistani dialogue and constructive exchanges of opinion on matters of bilateral relations and the situation in the world and in the region. □

Vladimir Petrovsky's press statement

PEACE ALTERNATIVES TO THE ARMS RACE AND MILITARY PROGRAMMES

A press conference Peace Alternatives to the Arms Race and Military Programmes took place at the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR on February 5. Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, made a statement at the press conference. He said:

The recent plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee in January forcefully demonstrated the resolve of our Party to carry on and develop the policy of the 27th CPSU Congress for the accelerated socio-economic development of the USSR and the deep-going revolutionary change to renovate every aspect of the life of our society.

Relying on the fundamental values of our domestic and foreign policies, which coincide with the supreme values of the whole of humanity, the Soviet Union intends to work further for the development of a dependable security system which would guarantee peaceful efforts of construction, for the total elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass annihilation already this century and for the strictly verifiable lowering of the levels of military confrontation to sensible adequacy.

Disarmament is not an end in itself for us. We view it not only as a means of removing the war threat but also as a way of tapping additional resources to improve human life, to resolve aggravating global problems and to help developing countries. That is why the programme of security through disarmament, which we put forward on January 15, 1986, stipulates the allocation of resources for social and economic development as a concomitant to arms limitation and disarmament accords.

The Soviet Union welcomes the conference on the relationship between disarmament and development due to take place in New York this August, and intends to contribute to its success in practice. It has made a proposal at the United Nations for the establishment of an international

fund of aid to developing countries, to which part of the money saved through cuts in military spending would be contributed. We hope that this initiative will be examined comprehensively in the course of preparations for the conference and at the conference itself.

It is our profound conviction that there are no fields of the military application of science and technology to which there are no realistic peace alternatives. There is only one dependable prospect for the development of advanced technology, profit-making and employment, whether in market or planned economies, and for the introduction in all countries of scientific and technological achievements, and that prospect is the peaceful, civilian application of those achievements.

The advantage and usefulness to the entire world community of the peaceful development of science and technology through co-operation have already been demonstrated in practice. Take for instance the IAEA, which was born when mankind entered the nuclear age. Helping to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Agency is contributing to the harnessing of atomic energy by joint efforts to meet needs in a range of fields of medicine, agriculture, geology and shipping, not to mention power engineering.

The Soviet Union supports in every way the IAEA's efforts to put nuclear power within the reach of all countries while minimising the hazard of accidents at atomic power plants in the world.

International co-operation to develop a Tokamak unit for thermo-nuclear synthesis, a safe and inexhaustible energy source, is being promoted with the active participation of our country.

The Soviet Union has also put forward a practical alternative to "Star Wars". This alternative is a stage-by-stage programme for broad international co-operation in the peaceful uses of space, oriented to the employment of space technology to meet the practical needs of all peoples.

Addressing the Indian Parliament in November 1986, Mikhail Gorbachev suggested that an international space centre be established for joint research and development of space technology with the participation and in the

interest of developing countries. We have begun practical discussions on this proposal with the Indian side. We attach much importance to the establishment of a world space organisation which would concern itself with major international projects.

There are also favourable preconditions for constructive co-operation among different countries in such an advanced branch of knowledge as biology. These were provided by the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons, the first practical disarmament measure in history.

The conclusion of a convention to ban chemical weapons with strict verification — and we stand for achieving this goal already this year — will offer broad room for international co-operation in chemistry.

Peaceful alternatives to military programmes are important not only from the point of view of contributing to the solution of social and economic problems and the development of international scientific and technological co-operation but also morally and politically. Their implementation makes it possible better to learn about one another and one another's plans and goals, and therefore to build trust, do away with the "adversary" mentality and demonstrate in practice that dialogue and openness are better than confrontation and self-isolation.

Moreover, international co-operation in the peaceful application of the achievements of science and technology helps verify accords to curtail the arms race. It is symptomatic that the IAEA has the only effective system of international controls (guarantees) to ensure that the countries participating in the Non-Proliferation Treaty do not produce nuclear weapons. We share the view of IAEA Director-General Hans Blix that the experience of the Agency can be used in the process of nuclear disarmament. In our view, the world space organisation which we propose could verify agreements on preventing an arms race in outer space.

In spite of the arms race that is being imposed by the US military-industrial complex and the pointed challenge made to the world community by the nuclear weapon test in Nevada on

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Election for Party district committee secretary

TWO national newspapers — *Pravda* and *Sovetskaya Rossia* — carry reports about the election by secret ballot of the First Secretary of a Party district committee. The elections were held in the Izhmorsky District of the Kemerovo Region, Western Siberia. Two worthy candidates stood for the post of First Secretary of the District Committee: Ivan Malkov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the District Soviet, and Gennadi Sedykh, Director of a local state farm. The

participants in the plenary meeting gave preference by secret ballot to Ivan Malkov. He gained 29 votes with 20 votes cast against him.

A heated and business-like discussion took place in the run-up to the balloting. People expressed their considerations not on paper and without lengthy preparations. Each defended the candidate which he or she recommended, the report in *Pravda* says. Both Malkov and Sedykh were ready for battle and agreed to it quite consciously. Both of them reasoned in the way typical of men: we have nothing to fear. Neither of them stepped down from their candidacy.

Not only compliments were paid to them at the plenary meeting. While admitting Malkov's business-like qualities, one of the speakers drew attention, for instance, to his serious shortcomings: rudeness and arrogance. A simple, respectful and free communication with people enhances the executive's authority, the speaker said. People sometimes happen to know about us what we ourselves do not know. If we listen to them, we will do a good deal of useful things. I think that Malkov will find enough will power to remould himself, he said.

Commenting on his "defeat", Gennadi Sedykh said: "I am sincerely grateful to people for their candour, good words and truth. I do not regard the election outcome as a tragedy. It seems to me that this form of election is vital. The more trust we place in people, the greater control we exercise and this in turn makes one more responsible for the assigned work. There is nothing bad in this, is there?" □

Draft law on state enterprise

THE draft law on state enterprise was published in Moscow on February 7 for nationwide discussion. It is expected to be tabled for examination at the next session of the USSR Parliament.

The draft law says that the work collectives will be fully-fledged masters of their enterprises and will independently decide practically all matters related to the production and social development of a mill or factory. Each enterprise will independently use its profit, creating through it the fund for pay for work, social development, development of production, science and technology.

The management of the enterprise, under the draft law, will combine elements of centralised guidance and socialist self-management by the work collective. All managerial personnel are to

be elected. The director is to be elected by a general meeting or conference of the work collective for a term of five years. Shop superintendents, production bay and team leaders will be elected for a term of two or three years.

The article of the draft law devoted to the foreign economic activity of enterprises and amalgamations says that they will develop ties with firms of capitalist and developing countries on the basis of the principle of mutual benefit and equality. The main forms of such ties are production and scientific-technical co-operation on a long-term and balanced basis and the creation of joint enterprises and productions. Priority significance in the whole foreign economic co-operation is attached to the ties of Soviet enterprises with partners in the CMEA member countries. □

Mortality rate falls in the USSR

THE mortality rate among the able-bodied population in the Soviet Union registered a fall in 1986 for the first time over a long period. It dropped by 15 per cent as against 1984, the Central Statistics Board has reported. Women of ages 18 to 55 and men of ages 18 to 60 make up the workforce in the USSR.

The slump in the mortality rate is observed both in absolute figures (680,000 people) and in relative ones (432 people per 100,000 residents able for work). The statistics showed that 799,000 able-bodied people (510 per 100,000) died in 1984.

Demographers hold that the current fall in the mortality rate is the result of the anti-alcoholism drive, launched in the USSR in 1985. Thirty three per cent fewer people died of job-related injuries in 1986 as against 1984. Most of these fatalities are usually caused by the use of alcohol.

The deaths from cardio-vascular diseases, whose worsening was also frequently provoked by alcohol, have dropped. One hundred and twenty five able-bodied people per 100,000 died of these diseases (the figure for 1984 was 143). The deaths from diseases affecting respiratory organs have dropped by approximately one third.

The mortality rate among people suffering from cancer has not fallen. The number of cases involving death from oncological diseases is growing slowly but steadily. Seventy five people per 100,000 of those able for work died of malignant growths in 1970. The figure for 1980 was 93 and for 1986 — 95.

Malignant growths are rated third among the causes of death among able-bodied people, following deaths from blood-circulation diseases and accidents. □

Soyuz TM-2 spaceship in flight

THE *SOYUZ TM-2* spaceship manned by a crew consisting of Pilot Cosmonaut of the USSR Colonel Yuri Romanenko, mission commander, and Alexander Laveikin, flight engineer, was launched in the Soviet Union at 00.38, Moscow time, on February 6 in accordance with the space research programme.

The flight programme envisages the docking of the *Soyuz TM-2* spaceship with the *Mir-Progress 27* orbital complex and the carrying out by the crew of planned scientific and technological research and experiments on board the complex.

The tests and operation of the modified spacecraft of the *Soyuz TM* series in a manned flying mode will be continued during the flight.

According to telemetric data, the on-board systems of the *Soyuz TM-2* spaceship are functioning normally.

Cosmonauts Romanenko and Laveikin are feeling well.

The docking of the *Soyuz TM-2* spaceship with the *Mir-Progress 27* orbital complex is scheduled for February 8.

Here follow brief biographies of the crew members of the *Soyuz TM-2* spaceship:

Mission commander Colonel Yuri Viktorovich Romanenko.

Twice Hero of the Soviet, Pilot Cosmonaut of the USSR Yuri Romanenko was born at Koltubanovsky settlement in the Buzuluk district of Orenburg Region on August 1, 1944.

Upon graduating in 1966 from the Chernigov Higher Military Air Pilots' School named after the Leninist Komsomol, he served as an instructor pilot with the Air Force.

Yuri Romanenko is a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He was enrolled in the cosmonauts' unit in 1970.

He has made two previous space flights: The first in 1977-78 on board the *Soyuz-26* and the orbital station *Salyut-6*, and the second in September 1980 on board the *Soyuz-38* as commander of the international Soviet-Cuban space crew who conducted research and experiments on board the *Salyut-6* station.

In 1981 Yuri Romanenko completed the course of training at the Yuri Gagarin Air Force Academy, at the same time continuing his main work.

Flight Engineer Alexander Laveikin.

Alexander Laveikin was born in Moscow on April 21, 1951.

Upon graduating from Moscow's Bauman Higher School of Technology in 1974, he worked at a design bureau where he participated in the development and testing of new specimens of space technology. He showed himself to be a technically competent and an imaginative specialist.

Alexander Laveikin is a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

He was enrolled in the cosmonauts' unit in 1978. He has taken a complete course of training for a space flight on board *Soyuz TM* spaceship and *Mir* orbital station. □

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February 3, we still believe in the world's potential of common sense and goodwill and in the assertion of sensible principles in the political conduct of states.

The Soviet Government will continue to do what it can to ensure that international co-operation and arms control supplant military programmes as soon as possible and make them past history.

In this context we attach much importance to co-operation among scientists from all countries as well. □

USSR-Poland: Foreign Ministers meet

MUTUAL satisfaction with the dynamic development of relations of friendship and co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic was expressed during a conversation on February 9 by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Polish counterpart Marian Orzechowski. The Polish Minister was on a working visit to the USSR.

Dwelling on international problems, the ministers emphasised specifically that the persisting tension in the international situation stemming from the course at confrontation and building up of the nuclear and conventional armaments race, conducted by the militaristic forces of the USA and NATO bloc, and from Washington's actions to spread the arms race to outer space runs counter to the interests of all nations. Vigorous efforts taken by socialist states, by all peace forces to lower the level of military confrontation are exerting an increasingly more beneficial effect on the political climate in Europe and in the whole world, they noted in this connection.

The ministers assess the further nuclear explosion conducted by the United States on February 3 as outright defiance of the world

community. Marian Orzechowski spoke highly of the readiness of the Soviet side to resume the moratorium on nuclear explosions if the USA stops nuclear testing.

Special attention was paid to the situation in Europe, the progress of the Budapest programme of the Warsaw Treaty member states on the radical reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments, lowering of military confrontation and consolidation of security in Europe. The sides confirmed the resolve to press for undelayed discussion of practical measures to implement that programme.

The Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic will exert their efforts to the utmost towards further development of the European process on all lines, and towards the successful conclusion of the Vienna meeting of countries participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation on the basis of a constructive, non-confrontational approach to the questions discussed. The Soviet side supports Poland's proposals made in Vienna to supplement the mandate of the Stockholm Conference on Security and Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, as well as for holding in Warsaw a meeting of countries participating in the CESC on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War. The Polish side declared in support of the Soviet Union's proposal to convene in Moscow a representative conference on humanitarian

matters.

The sides confirmed the known view of the Governments of the USSR and the Polish People's Republic that the inviolability of the territorial and political realities based on the Yalta and Potsdam agreements, and recorded in the treaties between the socialist states and the FRG, as well as in the final act of the Conference on European Security and Co-operation, is the indispensable condition for safeguarding durable peace in Europe.

The ministers emphasised that any attempts by revanchist forces, above all in the Federal Republic of Germany, to call in question the international legal foundations of the existing status-quo in Europe are not to be tolerated. They called attention to dangerous tendencies of arbitrary interpretation and weakening of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, and the striving of certain circles in the FRG to enlist the support of other states for this attitude. All this runs counter to the vital interests of peace and stability. Such encroachments on the mainstays of security in Europe will always be rebuffed most resolutely.

The further strengthening of the unity and cohesion of states of the socialist community and the consolidation of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation is an important factor for preserving peace, stability and security in Europe and the whole world, the participants in the talks noted. □

NAJIB ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

NAJIB, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has stated that national reconciliation is a step of historic significance, a political initiative of the PDPA which is important not only at the national level, but also within the framework of international relations. He was speaking at a session of the Presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation held with the participation of provincial commissions last week.

The Afghan leader said that the ultimate goal of national reconciliation is to establish long-awaited peace in Afghanistan. This is why the idea of peace is our main advocate.

In accordance with the Declaration of the Revolutionary Council, Najib continued, the Armed Forces of Afghanistan suspended hostilities 21 days ago and ceased fire. However,

the enemies are trying to aggravate the situation, make it unstable, disrupt reconciliation and compromise the policy of the Afghan leadership. We declare that those who wish to talk to us using weapons as a language will suffer a crushing blow. Those who attack reconciliation will meet with retaliation.

In the course of reconciliation we are supporting and developing ever more actively our people's respect for Islam, Najib pointed out. Our enemies will not be able to pass over in silence the fact that 750 mullahs were elected to local bodies of state power and 12 clergymen were nominated as candidates to the Revolutionary Council. Our Moslem nation has seen for itself that the danger to Islam is not coming from the April Revolution.

It is international imperialism with the US at the head, the enemy of the liberation movement of the Moslem world, that is threatening Islam.

Our national reconciliation programme has met with the all-round approval of the people of the USSR and other socialist countries. The leadership of friendly India, which is playing a very important part in the world and in our region, has officially supported the Afghan initiative on national reconciliation. All peace-minded countries in the world, most of the developing countries and members of the Non-Aligned Movement, and many international organisations and conferences regard the policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan aimed at achieving national reconciliation as the only correct and effective one.

Our Pashtoon and Baluchi brothers from across the border have also approved this policy in every way, Najib said further. We are sure that our course towards national reconciliation will favourably affect the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan which will soon be resumed with the mediation of a representative of the UN Secretary-General.

At the same time, national reconciliation runs counter to the US strategic objectives in the region. The US openly urges its allies to increase military assistance and sets an example in it.

Unfortunately, the Pakistani and Iranian authorities also hamper the attaining of the national reconciliation goals.

Despite the hostile activities, we shall follow the path we have chosen. On the one hand, it will help us to achieve our sacred and humane objective, which is to establish universal civilian peace, and on the other hand it will expose the true nature of those who wish to get material and political advantages from the continued bloodshed in Afghanistan and the heightening of tension in the region, Najib said in conclusion. □

Soviet Booklets

The following Novosti Press Agency (APN) booklets are now available from 3 Rosary Gardens, London SW7 4NW (phone 01-373 8421):

FRANK DISCUSSION. APN Round Table Conference on Moratorium, Disarmament and a New Way of Political Thinking in the Nuclear Age, MOSCOW, October 28-29, 1986 40p

The Large-Scale Anti-Missile System and International Security. Report of the Committee of Soviet Scientists for Peace, against the Nuclear Threat 35p

WE ARE THE WORLD, WE ARE THE CHILDREN, WE WANT TO LIVE 40p

THE EARTH IMPERILLED, Vsevolod Avduyevsky, member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Anatoli Rudev, member of the Soviet Association of International Law ... 40p

Metropolitan David: Live for the Sake of Peace and Justice 40p

(Continued from front page)

standing is also considerable and that there is serious concern about the current international situation and the tension in the US-Soviet relationship.

No matter how difficult it is, let's move towards each other on the basis of an objective analysis of reality and common sense. Mikhail Gorbachev told the visitors in conclusion.

Alexander Yakovlev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Georgi Arbatov, Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, also took part in the conversation. □

Quality and tempo of the five-year plan

REPORT OF THE USSR STATISTICAL BOARD ON THE RESULTS OF THE FULFILMENT OF THE STATE PLAN FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE USSR FOR 1986

1. GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDICES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

POSITIVE changes took place in the national economy and its efficiency was raised in 1986 in the course of the fulfilment of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. The reconstruction in society was confidently gathering strength. The negative trend towards lowering of development rates was being overcome; they have grown in nearly all the sectors of social productions; the average annual level has been achieved in a number of the more important directions. A turn has become outlined towards a more active fulfilment of the social policy and strengthening of the material basis of socio-cultural sphere.

At the same time the year's results testify that the work on reconstruction did not everywhere correspond to the spirit of the times. In some national economic sectors it proceeded slowly and did not involve the deep-going processes. Unrhythmic production, grave shortcomings in the fulfilment of the plan for the assortment and quality of output and for contractual deliveries continued to take place. The concentration and timeliness of construction work were not secured. Production reserves were not utilized adequately and losses and overexpenditure of material resources were allowed. The population's demand for consumer goods and services was not satisfied in full.

The growth rates in the main indices of the country's economic and social development are characterised as follows:

	1986 in per cent to 1985	
	according to plan or estimates	in fact
Produced national income	103.9	104.1
Industrial output — total	104.3	104.9
including:		
production of means of production	104.3	105.2
consumer goods production	104.4	104.0
Agricultural output	105.3	105.1
Putting into operation of fixed assets	114.1	106.0
Capital investments	108.4	108.0
Volume of cargo haulage (send-off) by all transport means	101.7	102.1
Passenger traffic by all transport means	101.2	103.8
Social labour production	103.8	103.8
Number of industrial and office workers	100.4	100.6
Profit in national economy	108.9	108.8
Wage fund in national economy	102.7	103.3
Average monetary wages of industrial and office workers	102.3	102.7
Labour remuneration of collective farmers in socialised economy of collective farms	101.5	104.0
Payments and benefits to population out of social consumption funds	104.1	104.1
Real per capita incomes	102.5	102.3
Retail turnover of state and co-operative trade	105.3	106.4
without the sales of alcoholic beverages	106.0	107.1
Volume of paid-for services to the population	114.2	110.2
Commissioning of general housing area	104.5	104.5
Foreign trade turnover (in factual prices)	103.0	92.0

The national income produced totalled some 590 billion roubles (in factual prices).

Industrial output grew, as compared with the preceding year, by 39 billion roubles and totalled 840 billion roubles.

219.2 billion roubles' worth of agricultural output was obtained in 1986 which is 17.5 billion roubles, or 9 per cent, higher than the annual average in the 11th Five-Year Plan.

The USSR foreign trade turnover totalled 130 billion roubles. Due to the sharp fall in the price on fuel, raw and some other materials in the capitalist markets it went down by 8 per cent. However, in unchanged prices the foreign trade turnover went up by 2 per cent.

The socialist states took the leading place in foreign trade turnover. Their share in it has reached 67 per cent.

The USSR rendered economic and technical assistance to 70 countries. Deliveries of equipment and materials for the construction of industrial enterprises and other projects were made to 47 countries for completing 888 projects, including 619 in 13 socialist countries and 269 projects in 34 developing and other countries.

2. INTENSIFICATION OF SOCIAL PRODUCTION

Scientific and technological progress

The acceleration of scientific and technological progress was based on the qualitative transformation of engineering. The scale of renewal of its output has increased — 4 per cent against 3.1 per cent in 1985.

Output has started of personal computers for automation of administrative, research and design work and of new types of flexible production modules for application in general engineering.

However the planned rates of renewal of industrial output have not been achieved. The technological standards and the quality of many articles remain low. The share of highest quality output in overall production constituted 15 per cent. A special place, in the struggle for improving the quality of output, belongs to state quality control system which has been introduced at 1,500 enterprises, producing the most important economic output.

The use of progressive technological processes in economic sectors has been expanded.

In industry the volumes of output of oil increased with utilisation of new methods of influencing oil-bearing beds and boring of wells with use of special engines that allow to increase boring speed. The share of basic-oxygen steel in overall steel output was 33 per cent and of electrical steel — 13 per cent. The output of separate types of rolled steel vacuumized outside of furnace and processed by synthetic slags has increased.

In the agro-industrial complex the grain crops, tilled for the 1987 harvest by intensive technologies, constituted 48 per cent of the areas sown to winter crops in the country.

In railway transport container haulage of cargo increased by 5 per cent and in marine transport — 6 per cent.

In motor transport the transfer of lorries to using natural gas as fuel is being done extremely slowly.

3,500 models of machines, equipment, apparatuses, instruments and means of automation were developed. However, the results of a number of R and D works are fulfilled and introduced into operation in the course of prolonged time. A considerable share of the created models is mastered in production only on the third and the subsequent years.

The application of achievements of science and technology was done with active participation of work collectives. 24,000 inventions and over 4 million rationalisation proposals have been used in the national economy.

Technical re-equipment and reconstruction

Seventeen per cent more means than in the preceding year were allocated for the **technical re-equipment and reconstruction of operating production** with the increase of the general volume of capital investments by 8 per cent. The share of expenditures on technical re-equipment and reconstruction in the overall volume of capital investments in production construction has reached 42 per cent.

181 billion roubles' worth of fixed assets has been put into operation in the national economy, including production assets — over 130 billion roubles' worth. The share of production assets newly put into operation was 7 per cent in their total volume at the end of 1986.

Resource-saving

Manpower resources started to be used more rationally. Some 94 per cent in the increase of the national income on account of increased social labour productivity and the savings of labour of 3.8 million people was achieved.

The average annual number of factory and office workers was 118.5 million people and increased by 700,000 people during the year; of collective farmers (socialised farms) — by 12.8 million people. The number of specialists with higher and specialised secondary education, employed in the national economy, reached 35 million people. Vocational schools have trained 2.6 million skilled workers.

Some 7 million people were trained in new trades directly in production.

The per unit energy consumption by the national income has been reduced by 1.6 per cent and per unit metal consumption — by 0.6 per cent.

The trend has been outlined towards a decrease in the amount of uninstalled equipment in storage and in capital construction.

Improvement in the system of administration and management system

A third of production associations and enterprises, which produced over a half of the gross industrial output, worked in new management conditions in industry.

The number of workers in the administration system has decreased for the first time in many years as the result of the improvement in the organisational administration structures by the leading economic sectors.

Work has started on the improvement of foreign-economic activities. New forms of co-operation are developing, direct production relations with enterprises in fraternal countries are gathering strength. Joint enterprises and associations, with the participation of Soviet and foreign organisations and firms, are being set up.

The new management methods are being mastered not intensively enough and do not have adequate influence upon the achievement of qualitatively new changes in the development of the country's economy.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIAL PRODUCTION

Industry

The fulfilment of **contractual commitments on deliveries** of output has somewhat improved in industry. However, the plan for the realisation of output with account taken of deliveries has been fulfilled by 98.6 per cent. Every fourth enterprise has allowed violations of contractual discipline.

The annual plan for the **realisation of output** has been fulfilled by 101 per cent, the assignments were secured by all the Union Republics and industrial ministries, except the Moldavian SSR and the USSR Ministry of Atomic Energy.

The assignments *on the output* of the majority of the *more important goods* were overfulfilled. The annual plan for the production of gas, coal, steel, rolled stock, automobiles, metal-cutting machine tools, computers, synthetic detergents, paper, furniture and other goods was fulfilled ahead of schedule.

The main indices of effectiveness of industrial production have improved. **Labour productivity** increased by 4.6 per cent, with the planned figure of 4.1 per cent, and 96 per cent of the increment in production was obtained on its account. Its growth was faster than the growth of average wages. The plan for **lowering cost** of production has been fulfilled and **profits** increased.

The industry in territorial-production complexes — West Siberian, Sayansky, Pavlodar-Ekibastuz and the zones of Kursk Magnetic Anomaly and of BAM — developed at a priority rate.

The fulfilment of the production plan in the context of the more important industrial complexes is characterised as follows:

Fuel-energy complex

	Produced in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Electric power, billions of kilowatt-hours	1,599	99.6	104
Oil (including gas condensate), million tons	615	99.7	103
Gas, billions of cubic metres ...	686	102.0	107
Coal, millions of tons	751	102.0	103

The gas and coal industries worked stably. The state of affairs in the oil industry has improved. The formerly attained level of oil production has been restored in it.

14 billion cubic metres of gas and 17 million tons of coal have been produced above plan. At the same time some 2 million tons of oil, including gas condensate, have not been produced.

The plan for electric power generation has not been fulfilled due to the problems that were caused by the breakdown of the Chernobyl nuclear plant and shallowness of rivers in some areas of the country.

Metallurgical complex

	Produced in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Steel, millions of tons	161.0	101.0	104.0
Ferrous rolled stock (finished), millions of tons	112.0	100.5	103.0
Steel pipes, millions of tons ...	19.8	100.4	102.0
Iron ore, millions of tons	250.0	101.0	100.9

The planned level of output of the main types of metal products was exceeded: steel — by 1.9 million tons, finished ferrous rolled stock — by 606,000 tons, steel pipes — by 69,000 tons.

The measures taken to build up production of economy types of metal output made it possible to save some 1.7 million tons of metal during the year.

However, the country's needs in many types of progressive output are not being satisfied in full.

Engineering complex

	Produced in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Turbines, mln kilowatts	21.9	95.0	104.0
Generators for turbines, mln kilowatts	14.9	84.0	121.0
AC electric motors, mln kilowatts	55.7	98.0	102.0
Metal-cutting machine tools, bln roubles,	2.9	107.0	109.0
including with digital programmed control	1.3	111.0	123.0
Forging and pressing machines, mln roubles	693.0	94.0	105.0
Industrial robots, thousand units	15.1	93.0	114.0
Instruments, means of automation and spares, bln roubles	4.8	102.0	105.0
Computers and spares, bln roubles	4.8	109.0	113.0
Oil equipment, mln roubles ...	247.0	97.0	108.0
Chemical equipment and spares, mln roubles	966.0	96.0	103.0
Equipment and spares for light and food industry, bln roubles	1.8	98.0	104.0
Tractors, mln h.p.	54.5	100.2	103.0
Agricultural machines, bln roubles	4.0	99.0	109.0
Grain combine harvesters, thousand units	112.0	100.2	100.2
Machinery and equipment for livestock-breeding and fodder production, bln roubles ...	2.9	98.0	102.0
Excavators, thousand units ...	42.9	102.0	100.9

The increment of gross output in the engineering complex is 1.3 times higher than in industry on the whole.

Chemical-timber complex

	Produced in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Mineral fertilisers (reckoned in 100 per cent of nutritives), mln tons	34.7	98.0	105.0
Chemical means of plant pro- tection (reckoned in 100 per cent of active substance), thou tons	332.0	100.6	96.0
Sulphuric acid, mln tons	27.9	101.0	107.0
Caustic soda, mln tons	3.2	98.0	106.0
Chemical fibres and threads, mln tons	1.5	100.6	106.0
Synthetic resins and plastics, mln tons	5.3	97.0	106.0
Tyres for automobiles, buses, agricultural machines, motor- cycles and scooters, mln units	66.0	100.1	101.0
Synthetic detergents, mln tons	1.2	101.0	104.0
Commercial timber (without timber supplied by collective farms), mln dense cu.m.	296.0	98.0	107.0
Paper, mln tons including newsprint, bln square metres	6.2 34.5	102.0 101.0	103.0 104.0

The output of synthetic fibres and threads, progressive structural plastic materials and radial design tyres increased.

However, the associations and enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Fertilisers, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Pulp-and-Paper Industry, have allowed in the past year a considerable lag in fulfilling contractual commitments.

The plan has not been fulfilled for the output of a number of types of progressive, highly effective goods — pipes and parts of pipelines out of thermoplastics, polystyrene, PVC resin, polypropylene, polyethylene, cement-chip plates and of acetate and viscose cellulose.

Consumer goods production

	Produced in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Fabrics of all types, bln sq.m.	12.3	100.3	102.0
Garments, bln roubles	26.1	99.0	100.1
Knitted underwear and outer garments, bln pieces	1.8	100.2	103.0
Footwear, mln pairs	801.0	99.9	102.0
Recreational and household goods, bln roubles	59.4	100.0	106.0
Watches, mln pieces	69.9	99.9	104.0
China and earthenware, mln roubles	945.0	99.2	102.0
Glass and crystal tableware, bln roubles	1.1	105.0	92.0
Radio-receiving devices, mln pieces	8.9	100.2	101.0
TV sets, mln pieces	9.4	99.0	100.7
including colour	4.4	96.0	109.0
Refrigerators and freezers mln pieces	5.9	99.6	101.0
Washing machines, mln pieces	5.4	99.5	106.0
Electric vacuum cleaners, mln pieces	4.3	100.5	105.0
Furniture, bln roubles	8.3	102.0	105.0
Cars, mln pieces	1.3	100.9	99.5
Motorcycles and scooters, mln pieces	1.1	100.1	98.0
Bicycles, mln pieces	5.5	100.7	102.0
Household chemical goods, bln roubles	3.8	103.0	108.0

In 1986, 313 billion roubles' worth of consumer goods has been produced. As compared with 1985, the output of consumer goods went up by 6 per cent.

The planned assignments were exceeded for the output of majority of consumer goods, in particular, of fabrics, knitted goods, radio-receiving devices and furniture.

At the same time the plans were not fulfilled for the output of garments, chrome footwear, a number of sports and tourist goods and goods for children and young people.

The quality of consumer goods, especially of TV sets and refrigerators, remains poor.

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

The enterprises and organisations of the agro-industrial complex, which were working in new conditions of economic management, achieved some favourable results.

The gross agricultural output increased by 5.1 per cent last year as compared with 1985. It increased in all the Union Republics, except the Uzbek SSR, Azerbaijan SSR and Turkmen SSR. The commodity output of the food sectors of the agro-industrial complex increased by 4 per cent.

Labour productivity in socialised agriculture increased by 6.9 per cent, with the plan of 6.7 per cent; in the food sectors — by 5 per cent.

Profitability has been raised. The profit made by collective and state farms from all their activities in 1986 increased by 12 per cent as compared to 1985 and totalled 23 billion roubles.

PLANT GROWING

The output of the main plant-growing products in all categories of farms is characterised as follows (mln tons):

	1981-1985 (annual average)		
	1985	1986	
Grain	180.3	191.7	210.1
Raw cotton	9.10	8.75	8.23
Sugar-beet (industrial)	76.4	82.4	79.3
Sunflower	5.0	5.3	5.3
Potatoes	78.4	73.0	87.2
Vegetables	29.2	28.1	29.7

The yield of grain crops was 1.8 tons per hectare, which is 21 per cent higher than the average annual yield in the last five-year plan. 92.3 million tons of wheat was harvested, of maize for grain — 12.5 million tons and of rice — 2.6 million tons.

LIVESTOCK BREEDING

The output of produce in this sector in all categories of farms is characterised by the following data:

	1981-1985 (annual average)		
	1985	1986	
Meat (slaughter weight), mln tons	16.2	17.1	17.7
Milk, mln tons	94.6	98.6	101.1
Eggs, bln	74.4	77.3	80.3
Wool (physical weight), thou tons	457.0	447.0	465.0

Meat production in socialised farms grew by 8 per cent, milk — by 5 and eggs — 6 per cent. The average per cow yield of milk grew by 151 kg, or by 6 per cent.

The number of productive livestock in all categories of farms was (mln):

	As of January 1	
	1986	1987
Cattle, including cows	120.9	121.9
Pigs	42.9	42.5
Sheep and goats	77.8	80.0
	147.3	148.0

The collective and state farms are still suffering from great losses due to the large-scale loss of cattle. In 1986 alone the farms of the Russian Federation lost 1.8 million heads of cattle, or 2.7 per cent of herd turnover; pigs — 4.3 million heads, or 6.2 per cent; and of sheep and goats — 4.9 million, or 7.4 per cent; the loss of these types of livestock in the Republic totalled over a million tons of meat in live weight.

FOOD INDUSTRY

The output of the more important food products totalled:

	Produced in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Meat (industrial production), mln tons	11.5	103.0	107.0
Sausage, mln tons	3.5	103.0	104.0
Fish for food, including tinned fish, mln tons	5.6	106.0	101.0
Butter, mln tons	1.6	106.0	106.0
Fat cheese, thou tons	844.0	100.2	104.0
Whole milk products in terms of milk, mln tons	31.0	105.0	105.0
Margarine products, mln tons	1.5	100.2	103.0
Granulated sugar, mln tons	12.7	91.0	108.0
Vegetable oil, mln tons	2.9	96.0	114.0

Confectionery, mln tons	4.4	101.0	104.0
Tea, natural, thou tons	258.0	99.2	99.7
Tinned food, bln conventional tins, including fruit juice	19.7	105.0	110.0
Mineral waters, mln decalitres	4.0	137.0	147.0
Non-alcoholic beverages, mln decalitres	148.0	100.7	114.0
	497.0	87.0	130.0

The output of alcoholic and wine-making products decreased by 35 per cent.

The plan was not fulfilled for the output of a number of products including vegetable oil, granulated sugar, non-alcoholic beverages and tea. The quality of the products does not always satisfy the population's demand.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

In 1986, 11.1 billion roubles' worth more of **fixed assets** was made operable than in 1985. **Capital investments** in the national economy from all sources of financing totalled 193 billion roubles.

Put into operation were the first turbine at the Perm SDTES, new turbines at the Kalinin, Zaporozhye and Rovno APSs, and at a number of hydropower stations; capacities on catalytic reforming of new materials at the Moscow oil-refining plant, on coal extraction at the Vostochny open-cast mine in Pavlodar Region, Berezovsky in Krasnoyarsk Territory, Taldinsky in Kemerovo Region; a number of sections at the Yamburg-Yelets gas pipeline (first and second lines) totalling 3,600 km.

Large capacities on iron-ore extraction went into operation at the Kacharsky ore-dressing plant in Kustanai Region, on the production of ferrous rolled stock at the Oskol electro-metallurgical plant in Belgorod Region, on production of coking coal at the Nizhnetagilsky and Magnitogorsky iron-and-steel plants and in other places.

No radical changes happened in investment process in the past year. The scattering of capital investments has not been overcome and the plans for putting into operation of fixed assets in many types of important production capacities have not been fulfilled.

The transfer has started in construction to the assessment of the work done by contractor organisations according to the amount of work performed at projects ready to be put into operation and on technological stages and complexes of work done on other projects. More than 400 construction organisations are working in conditions of collective contract work.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Cargo haulage and passenger traffic of separate means of traffic are characterised by the following data:

	Performed in 1986	Per cent of fulfilment of annual plan	1986 in per cent to 1985
Cargo haulage (shipping), mln tons			
Railway transport	4,061.0	102.0	103.0
Marine transport including coastal navigation	249.0	105.0	104.0
River transport, general purpose	85.6	107.0	101.0
Motor transport, general purpose	649.0	104.0	103.0
Oil and oil products, pipeline transport	6,648.0	102.0	105.0
Passenger traffic, bln passenger-km			
Railway transport	653.0	100.3	104.0
Motor transport, general purpose (buses)	390.0	104.0	104.0
Air transport	463.0	102.0	104.0
	196.0	102.0	104.0

Freight turnover of all types of transport has increased by 4.8 per cent.

The needs of the national economy in the transportation of a number of cargoes by some types of transport were not satisfied in full.

4. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RAISING THE STANDARDS OF PEOPLE'S LIVING

The **national income** used for consumption and accumulation increased by 3.6 per cent.

Labour remuneration and population's incomes

The average monthly monetary wages of industrial and office workers in the national economy constituted 195 roubles as against 190 roubles in 1985. The average monthly labour remuneration of collective farmers went up from 153 to 159 roubles. The population's real incomes increased.

The raising of wage tariffs and salaries to teachers, pedagogues, instructors in production training, administrators and other teaching personnel at general secondary schools, specialised secondary schools and vocational schools has been completed in all the areas of the country. As a result of the fulfilment of the above-mentioned measures, the teachers' wages grew by 30 per cent.

The raising of wages started for doctors and other workers in health services and the social maintenance system.

The population received from the social consumption funds payments and benefits to the tune of 153 billion roubles, or 6 billion roubles more than in 1985. With these payments and benefits taken into account, the wages of industrial and office workers constituted 277 roubles and the incomes of the collective farmers from socialised farms — 231 roubles a month.

The state monthly grants for children of servicemen drafted into the army, pensions to pensioners living in the countryside and connected with agriculture have been raised. Other measures on increasing payments and benefits to the population from public consumption funds have been also carried out.

The redeeming of state bonds continued.

Securing goods and services to the population

The population's consumption of material wealth and services has increased by 5.5 per cent as against the previous year.

The retail trade turnover of state and co-operative trade ran into 331.9 billion roubles and grew as compared with 1985 in comparable prices, by 19.5 billion roubles.

The plan for retail trade turnover, without taking into account the sales of alcoholic beverages, has been fulfilled on the whole in the country. The fulfilment of the plan was not secured by the Georgian SSR, Azerbaijan SSR, Armenian SSR and Turkmen SSR.

The sales of consumer goods went up by 7.1 per cent. Favourable changes took place in the pattern of retail trade turnover. The share of alcoholic beverages in the overall trade turnover has substantially decreased as a result of the reduction in their sales by over a third, whereas the share of food products and non-edibles increased.

The growth of the sales of separate goods in state and co-operative trade is characterised by the following data:

	1986 in per cent to 1985
Bakery products	100
Meat and meat products	104
Fish and fish products	105
Butter	103
Vegetable oil	108
Margarine products	103
Whole-milk products	106
Cheese	105
Eggs	104
Sugar	110
Confectionery	106
Tea	112
Potatoes	107
Vegetables	108
Fruit and citrus fruit	120
Non-alcoholic beverages	127
Mineral water	122
Fruit and vegetable juices	143
Alcoholic beverages	63
Tobacco goods	105
Clothes, underwear and fabrics	103
Knitted goods	107
Hosiery	110
Footwear	107
China, earthenware and glassware	100
Soap and synthetic detergents	107
Furniture	107
Refrigerators and freezers including with a chamber of 200 cu. decimetres and bigger	108
Washing machines	113
Electric vacuum cleaners	107
Watches	105
Cameras	98
Radio-receiving devices	99
	98

TV sets	107
including colour	112
Tape recorders	111
Bicycles and mopeds	105
Motorcycles and scooters	112
Cars	94
Timber materials	128
Slate	108
Roofing sheet steel and other metal products	127

The supplies of vegetables and fruit to the population have somewhat improved. The sales of these products at urban markets by collective and state farms expanded.

The quality of vegetables and fruit brought for sale to shops does not correspond in many cases to the customers' demands. Fourteen per cent of non-standard and spoilt potatoes, 17 per cent of cabbages, 25 per cent of tomatoes and 23 per cent of grapes were delivered to trade.

The quality of cooked foods and the standard of service at public catering establishments often do not satisfy the population's demands.

The population has been provided nearly 50 billion roubles' worth of services, which is 96.5 per cent of the plan.

Housing construction

The scope of housing construction has grown. 118.2 million sq m of general floor space of dwellings have been commissioned from all sources of financing, or 2.1 million new well-appointed flats. Over 10 million people moved to new housing facilities.

The plan for housing construction has been fulfilled on the whole.

Over a million flats, totalling 61 million sq m have been overhauled. In the course of the overhaul 218,000 flats, totalling 11.8 million sq m of general floor space, were modernised, which made it possible for over 700,000 people to improve their housing conditions.

The programme for improving the living conditions of workers of the agro-industrial complex was being fulfilled consistently. Dwellings totalling 38 million sq m of floor space have been built for them.

Education and culture

Over 108 million people received various kinds of education.

In the 1986-1987 academic year 1.4 million first-grade pupils are studying according to the new curricula of the 11-year school, including a million pupils in general secondary schools and 400,000 in kindergartens. 4.3 million pupils in senior grades are studying the course on fundamentals of information theory and computer technology.

4.2 million young people received secondary education in 1986, including 1.1 million, or each fourth one — a trade (profession).

16.5 million children or every second child of the given age are brought up in permanent preschool establishments. At the same time, 1.5 million parents' applications for installing children in preschool establishments were not satisfied.

Establishments of higher learning have trained 800,000 specialists.

1.3 million people have graduated from specialised secondary schools.

By the end of last year 164 million people had higher and secondary (10-year and 8-year) education, and among the employed population there are 89 per cent of such people.

Over 2 billion copies of books and booklets were published in 1986.

There are 7,600 volumes of books in public libraries per 1,000 of population, 700 visits to museums and 500 visits to theatres. The number of visits to cinemas has exceeded 4 billion.

Clubs and Houses of Culture for 290,000 people have been put into operation from all sources of financing. The USSR Ministry of Agricultural Engineering, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of Fertilisers and other ministries failed to cope with the plans of putting them into operation. In the meanwhile each fifth building of clubs was in need of overhaul.

Health protection

The number of doctors of all specialities increased by 32,000 and the number of hospital beds — by 56,000. There are 43 doctors and 130 hospital beds per 10,000 of population. Hospitals with 75,000 beds and polyclinics for 179,000 visits per shift were built. However, the population's needs in health services have not been satisfied in full as yet. The plan for putting hospitals into operation has not been fulfilled.

Only a third of the population is going in regularly for physical culture in spite of the measures taken to develop physical culture and sports.

The number of beds at sanatoriums, holiday homes, rest homes and centres and at tourist centres has grown by 65,000 and reached nearly 2.5 million. However, the existing network of establishments for sanatorium-resort treatment and rest does not satisfy the population's need in organised rest.

Over 29 million children and teenagers spent the summer at Young Pioneer and school camps, at excursion-tourist centres or in child-care centres in the countryside.

The demographic indices have improved. The birthrate continued to grow — the number of babies born in 1986 per 1,000 of population was 19.9 as against 19.4 in 1985. Mortality rate considerably decreased — down to 9.7 against 10.6, which is the result mainly of the stepping up of the struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism. The increase in life expectation of up to 69 years has been registered for the first time in the last 10 years.

Last year the country's population increased by 2.9 million people. As of January 1, 1987, the population of the USSR was 281.7 million people.

Environmental protection

Measures were implemented for protection and rational use of water, land, forest and mineral resources, protection of air against pollution, and for the reproduction of wildlife and fish resources.

Measures have been envisaged — in connection with the stopping of the work on the transfer of a part of the flow of northern and Siberian rivers to areas in the south of the European part of the USSR, Central Asia and Kazakhstan — for the more rational use of the available water resources. The amount of sewage dumped into water bodies has become smaller.

The sum total of spending on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources (including the spending on forest economy) was about 10 billion roubles.

USSR CENTRAL STATISTICAL BOARD

(Izvestia, January 18, 1987.)

(Continued from Page 46)

The senseless, fierce war between Iraq and Iran is a serious worry. The threat of other countries and forces becoming directly involved in the conflict keeps growing. The war is deadly for both countries, it has not produced solutions to contentious problems and cannot do so. An end must be put to that war, and the sooner the better, through political negotiations. There is no alternative.

Comrades, Friends,

The people of Democratic Yemen lived through a period of difficulties and faced grim trials. The tragic events of January 1986, the great loss of life and damage to property saddened the Soviet people.

Bidden by our duty of friendship and solidarity, we have tried to help our Yemen friends to overcome the crisis and speedily put an end to the bloodshed. In so doing, we were always confident that the Yemen Socialist Party would be a match for that trial, learn its lesson, mobilise itself to rectify mistakes that had been made and preserve in the country the progressive regime so needed by its people.

Supported by friends, Democratic Yemen defended its right to decide its destiny independently, without outside intervention.

The main result of the work done to overcome the consequences of the January events is that the progressive regime in the country has stood its ground and that the Yemen Socialist Party has been given an opportunity to go ahead with the development of the country in accordance with the choice made by the South Yemen people.

Normality in the country and the consolidation and broadening of the achievements of the South Yemen Revolution are a guarantee of the restoration of the international positions and prestige of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

We wish you, Comrade Al-Baidh, and the other leaders of the Republic to leave that hard pass behind as soon as possible and to rally the party and the people together in building a progressive democratic state and in the struggle for the national interests of Democratic Yemen. Clearly, it is a very responsible task. In tackling it, the South Yemen friends are having and will always have the Soviet Union's unfailing support.

Welcome again, friends! □

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Reorganisation means self-government, enterprise and efficiency

By Gennadi Pisarevsky, Novosti Press Agency (APN) political analyst

A DRAFT LAW on the state enterprise (association) has been published in the Soviet press for nationwide discussion. To my mind, this is ample evidence that we are rightly comparing reorganisation to a revolution.

What is the essence of the draft law? It is that every enterprise — the basic element of the economy — should set its sights on effective work, which is expressed in profit. Everyone — workers, work collectives, the state, society — should live from profit, from what has been earned, from work payment. Not equal payment, as in many cases now, but from differentiated payment, depending on the quantity and quality of labour.

Under this law, if it is adopted, enterprises will in fact become state-operated firms. The reader will evidently ask a question at once: what if this is a loss-making enterprise? In the West, firms that fail to be competitive burn like candles.

Well, sad as it may be, we too will be closing non-profit-making enterprises. The work collective concerned will be informed of this two months before the closure. It is envisaged to give every factory and office worker three months in which to find a new job, with average wages paid during this period.

Will unemployment appear? No, it will not. This is a theoretical problem for us. Rather, the present employment structure, which is far from optimal, will start changing: at present more than 70 per cent of workers are in material production, and less than 30 per cent in the services and other sectors. Some part of the employed, though small, will be "lured away" by the non-state sector: the law on individual enterprise will enter into force on May 1. Besides, conversion of

enterprises to a two- or three-shift operation will create millions of additional jobs. Lastly, we can shorten the working day, increase the holidays, grant more benefits to mothers, and so on. In short, there has been no, nor will there be any, unemployment in our country, although naturally job placement will require more responsibility and attention.

The framework of the draft law, its central core, is democracy. Not on paper, but in real life. It is proposed that all managers — from team leaders to foremen to directors — should be elected. In passing I may note that this process started in the country a long time ago, but has been moving slowly. The main form in which the work collective exercises its powers is a general meeting or conference (if it is a large enterprise or an association, that is, several enterprises combined). A meeting takes place not less than twice a year. It elects a council of the work collective. The council in turn maintains close touch with the management, the local Party organisation, the trade union, and other public organisations.

The aim of everybody is one and the same: to improve the quality of work, to raise labour productivity through the introduction of achievements of scientific and technological progress and to increase profits so as to have higher wages and more social incentive funds. Part of the profit — in strict accordance with the normative — should be paid into the state budget. The enterprise will also have to pay local taxes and so on. A fixed proportion of the profit (expressed in percentage) — different for different enterprises — remains at the disposal of the work collective and is not subject to withdrawal. I will note that up till now the ministries have often abused their powers, taking part of the profits of the better enterprises and using them to pay the debts of the loss-making ones. This pernicious practice — "equal treatment" of enterprises — is to be abolished.

Many enterprises will get the right of

independent access to the world market (there are nearly 70 enterprises that have such a right already). The other part of the enterprises — not everyone can afford the luxury of maintaining a foreign trade service — will use the state-run foreign trade organisations. On the principles of equality and mutual benefit, enterprises will be able to form joint production organisations with firms from capitalist, developing and of course socialist countries.

The draft of the law has only just been published. But turbulent discussion is already in full swing. That is natural: such a decisive step and such a crucial turning point in the country's economy has not been taken since Lenin's day. A resolute step is being taken towards reviving Leninism in the economy, the chief sphere of society. It is precisely here that the future of reorganisation is being decided.

"... We constantly turn to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, his thoughts and ideas," Mikhail Gorbachev said at the January 1987 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. "This is not just a tribute of great respect, not just an acknowledgement of Lenin's authority. This reflects the pressing desire to revive in modern conditions and revive to the fullest extent possible the spirit of Leninism..."

The draft law has 24 articles. And each of them calls for a separate and detailed comment. This is what APN will be doing. Availing myself of this opportunity, I want to say that APN will also fulfil any requests and will not evade any questions, not even those which are little pleasing to us.

Without belittling our achievements, we are learning stern lessons from our mishaps and the facts of life. Departure from Lenin, from his dialectical method leads into a blind alley, produces stagnation. Nothing and no one is more ingenious than life, the fact is higher than the principle — this is the essence and immortality of Leninism. □

International welcome for Mikhail Gorbachev's Report at CPSU Central Committee plenum

THE Political Bureau of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee has stressed the great international significance of the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, due to its theoretical and ideological wealth and Leninist spirit and innovatory approach.

The Bulgarian Communist Party ardently welcomes the decisions of the plenary meeting and expresses profound conviction that their implementation will play a decisive role in achieving the historical aims pointed out by the Party of Lenin. These decisions will contribute to the fulfilment of the common tasks of the fraternal socialist countries at the present-day racial juncture.

"The decisions of the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee are a continuation of the process been launched in the Soviet Union aimed at enabling socialist society fully to cope with the great problems people encounter at the end of the twentieth century," Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the French Communist Party, has said in *Pravda* interview.

"The main idea dominates: the human being

should be at the centre of everything. Work should be done for the individual and together with him."

Camilo Valenzuela, General Secretary of Mexico's Revolutionary Patriotic Party and a Deputy of the National Congress of Mexico, has described the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee as an event of historic significance.

He said that the Report delivered at the plenum by Mikhail Gorbachev is a document of immense political and social importance imbued with criticism and self-criticism. It mapped out foundations for the development of democracy and opened up the way for broader and more active participation of the peoples of the multi-nation country in all matters of social construction.

Darbara Singh, Member of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress (I), has shown great interest in the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and Mikhail Gorbachev's Report on reorganisation and the Party's personnel policy. He said that the Report's innovatory ideas and conclusions are evoking broad interest in the friendly USSR.

Charlene Mitchell, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party USA, described the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee as an epoch-making event paving the way for the further development of socialist society.

Charlene Mitchell said in a TASS interview that the plenum marked a tremendous head start not only for the Soviet Union but also for the whole socialist world and the international communist and working-class movement.

The boldness with which Soviet society was tackling its problems and the widening of socialist democracy patently shows that the future belongs to socialism.

I read the Report by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev at the plenum with great attention, Miloslav Sladek, a foundry worker from the city of Beroun and hero of Socialist Labour, says in the Czechoslovak newspaper *Rude Pravo*.

A frank and critical talk, the ability not to duck sharp questions and not to ignore deficiencies is the most effective way of mobilising labour collectives. The plenum of the CPSU Central Committee teaches us exactly this approach to the matter, the Czechoslovak worker stresses.

Nevada: blowing up people's hopes

A comment by Novosti Press Agency

THE US leaders made February 3 this year a bleak day in US policy and in world politics as a whole. The nuclear device detonated by the Pentagon at the Nevada testing ground on that day was not the biggest American explosion registered by seismographs. Yet, it had the biggest political repercussions, shaking to the foundations the trust in the United States of millions of people who hoped against hope that the past year would be the last year in the history of nuclear testing.

The American leaders had enough time to heed the voice of reason. For 18 months there has been complete silence at the Soviet nuclear testing grounds. The aim of the unilateral Soviet freeze on all nuclear blasts, announced in August 1985, was to persuade the United States to join that first and simplest act of disarmament. No other political action of the past few decades has claimed as much public attention or received as much public approval as the Soviet test ban moratorium. It was an act of obvious simplicity and practicability.

The Soviet moratorium was an act of goodwill and goodwill is something that US policy lacks most of all.

Seven weeks ago — by that time the US Administration had responded to the Soviet move by conducting 24 nuclear tests — the Soviet Union, extending its moratorium for the fifth time, warned the other side that there was a

limit to Soviet patience and that the USSR would end its moratorium with the first US blast in Nevada in 1987.

The Soviet Union had given the United States too many odds anyway. It should be recalled that from the beginning of the nuclear era to January 1, 1986, the United States had conducted 801 nuclear tests and the Soviet Union 563, or one-third fewer. So we can no longer endanger our own security, the security of our allies and international security as a whole at a time when the United States continues to upgrade its nuclear capabilities and develop space weapons.

The 25th American nuclear blast was the drop that overfilled the cup of our patience. And now it is for the Soviet Government to decide what to do next. But whatever that decision, the Soviet freeze will come down in the history of the worldwide struggle for nuclear disarmament.

Thanks to the Soviet action, a nuclear test ban became a major issue of world politics. The leaders of the Delhi Six and the overwhelming majority of the UN member countries have repeatedly emphasised the importance of the Soviet move and urged the United States and other nuclear powers to follow suit.

The silence at the Soviet nuclear testing grounds, continuously broken by nuclear blasts in Nevada, laid bare the militarist nature of the US foreign policy dictated by the military-industrial complex. Senior members of the staff of the Los Alamos laboratories have repeatedly said that the development of new, more sophisticated weapon systems, from miniature nuclear warheads to nuclear devices to pump Star Wars lasers, would require at least 200 to 300 nuclear

tests. A nuclear test ban is a thorn in the flesh of those who are bent on escalating the arms race and spreading it into space.

The Soviet moratorium awakened the progressive public and scientific community to the need to find the most effective means of safeguarding the simplest act of disarmament — a full nuclear test ban. All the arguments Washington marshalled to justify its refusal to ban nuclear testing have lost face. Leading specialists, many international organisations and a joint Soviet-American experiment at Semipalatinsk refuted Washington's allegations that a nuclear test ban treaty could not be effectively monitored by national facilities. Moreover, the Soviet Union has agreed to various types of international verification, including those proposed by the Delhi Six.

Announcing the fifth extension of its moratorium on New Year's Eve, the Soviet Union emphasised that even if the USSR had to resume nuclear testing after a 25th US nuclear blast, it would suspend its nuclear testing programme as soon as the United States halted testing. In that statement the Soviet Union reiterated its oft-repeated proposal for convening without delay full-scale negotiations on a nuclear test ban treaty in any form and at any forum with the participation of the United States as the necessary condition. The Soviet Union has always advocated a full ban on all nuclear tests for military purposes, considering it a major step towards the ultimate goal of halting the nuclear arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons. Though the US Administration has failed to pass a new test of political maturity, it cannot escape responsibility for the future of the world and its security. □

International protests at Nevada explosion

AUSTRALIA's Foreign Minister William Hayden condemned the resumption of the nuclear test programme by the United States.

The Australian Government, he said in a recent interview, condemns "all nuclear testing, whether it's conducted by the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Britain or China. And we work for a comprehensive test ban treaty."

India has expressed deep disappointment in connection with the US nuclear weapon test in Nevada.

An official spokesman for the Republic's Ministry of External Affairs told journalists in New Delhi that the nuclear explosion carried out by the United States was in conflict with world public opinion, including public opinion in the United States itself.

The Indian Government, he said, will carry on its efforts within the framework of the initiatives of the Delhi Six and at all international forums with a view to achieving a freeze on nuclear tests and work for complete nuclear disarmament.

India hopes that the United States will give a positive response to the call by the Delhi Six for imposing a moratorium on nuclear tests, he stressed.

The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs has vigorously protested against the US's latest nuclear explosion.

In a telegram sent to President Reagan, the council condemns the US nuclear explosion and points out that it was a serious challenge to the

world public, who came out for preventing a nuclear war and eliminating nuclear weapons.

Norway's anti-war, political, trade union, and public organisations held a rally in the Norwegian capital last week to support demands for an end to nuclear tests.

The rally angrily condemned the provocative actions by the US Administration which is unwilling to heed the world public and continues nuclear testing.

"The latest nuclear explosion in Nevada shows the disregard of the White House for the interests of millions of people in the whole world and for their hopes that Washington will listen to reason and take an important step towards preventing the war threat," the West German anti-war organisation Krefeld Initiative says in a statement released in Bonn on February 10.

"The US Administration," the statement points out, "is persistently ignoring all appeals and recommendations repeatedly addressed to it by renowned international organisations and many prominent politicians supporting the Soviet moratorium on any nuclear explosions. Washington has again missed a chance to reach concrete agreements on reducing nuclear arsenals.

"In the present situation," the document says, "Washington's allies, including West Germany, also bear responsibility. The West German Government should urge the US Administration to end nuclear explosions and enter into talks with the Soviet Union on this issue without delay.

"Those who make no efforts act as accomplices

in the escalation of the arms race," the Krefeld Initiative's statement stresses.

The Indonesian newspaper *Merdeka* describes the US nuclear explosion of February 3 as an inhuman and amoral act. Washington held yet another test of an atomic weapon despite the Soviet Union's peace proposals and the USSR's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions introduced more than eighteen months ago. *Merdeka* says in an editorial article. Instead of giving a reasonable reply to the Soviet side's initiatives, approved by the whole world, the United States preferred to challenge world public opinion and spur civilisation to a further buildup of the arms race.

In protest against the latest US nuclear test in Nevada on February 11, a group of Euro-parliament members has visited the US Embassy in Brussels and handed over a letter to the Reagan Administration calling on it immediately to join the unilateral Soviet test moratorium.

The deputies, from ecological parties, stress that cessation of nuclear testing and conclusion of an international treaty on its total and final prohibition would facilitate the ending of the nuclear arms race and help establish a climate of international confidence and co-operation.

An activist of the Rocky Mountain Peace Centre (USA) said that the Reagan Administration has spurned the chance to join the Soviet moratorium, showing that it completely disregards the public's demands. The Nevada explosions, said a representative of the international organisation Greenpeace, are a challenge to all mankind. □