

Mikhail Gorbachev greets Moscow International Book Fair

Here follows the full text of the message of greetings from Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the participants and guests of the Sixth Moscow International Book Fair:

I CORDIALLY WELCOME the participants and guests of the Sixth Moscow International Book Fair.

The book is the source of knowledge and of intellectual and cultural enrichment. Herein is its everlasting value. At the same time, like a mirror, it reflects the struggle of good against evil, and of the new against the old, the dynamics of the development of the complex, contradictory but in many respects interconnected world in which we live.

Time does not wait. It requires vigorous actions to stop the arms race and to reverse it, and to safeguard our common home — planet Earth — against the threat of nuclear destruction.

However complex the task is, it will be accomplished if the new way of thinking, with the breadth and realism characteristic of it, prevails over political inertness, narrowmindedness and prejudice. The more obvious it is that in all ages and among all peoples only the wise and honest book, which accords with

high and truly humanistic ideals, served and continues to serve peace and progress, and gives strength in the struggle for mankind's survival and for the future of civilisation.

It is precisely these ideals that have found their reflection in the motto of the Book Fair — 'Books at the Service of Peace and Progress'. Embodied in the motto is the book publishers' and book distributors' moral responsibility to the present and future generations.

The Sixth Moscow International Book Fair is being held in the year of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Inspired by the historical experience of the Great October Revolution, the reorganisation process in all spheres of Soviet society's life is gathering momentum.

In the creative, revolutionary process of renewal, we turn to the inexhaustible intellectual and cultural wealth both of the peoples of our country and of the whole of mankind.

We are also ready generously to share all the best that has been created by us. Let the Soviet book abroad help people to get to know us better, to understand our concerns, the sincerity of our peace initiatives, and our invariable commitment to the ideas of humanism and social justice.

I wish all the participants and guests of the Moscow International Book Fair new successes in developing book exchanges for the good of peace and social progress, and in building confidence between peoples.

Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Moscow International Book Fair opened on Tuesday. Chairman of the organising committee Mikhail Nenashev, who also heads the USSR State Committee for Publishing, Printing and the Book Trade, told a press conference that it is the most representative in the Fair's ten-year history.

More than 3,000 firms from 103 countries, as well as 13 international and 3 national organisations are taking part in this biennial event, which continues till September 14.

"This year's Fair will be more commercial," Nenashev stressed. The Soviet Union for the first time has a commercial centre to buy and sell books.

The State Committee now has the right to establish direct international business ties, so Soviet and foreign publishers have broader prospects for co-operation.

An international meeting 'The Reader and the Book in Today's World' is to be held at
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Mikhail Gorbachev replies to residents of Hiroshima

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV has sent a reply to messages from Toranosuke Takeshita, Governor of the Japanese prefecture of Hiroshima, Takeshi Araki, Mayor of Hiroshima, and the Association of Victims of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima, which he received earlier.

The messages, also addressed to US President Ronald Reagan, contain calls for ending nuclear weapons tests, concluding an agreement on medium-range missiles and completely eliminating nuclear weapons.

"We fully share the ideas expressed in your messages," Mikhail Gorbachev said in his reply. "They are priority directions in the foreign policy course of the Soviet Union."

"We welcome the fact that there are strong antinuclear feelings among the population of the prefecture, and that these feelings enjoy the support of local authorities. I would like to hope that these feelings will be reflected in the activities of Japan in the international scene in the form of constructive initiatives." □

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Meeting of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting last week summed up the discussion of the Party Central Committee's draft 'Basic Guidelines for Restructuring the System of Political and Economic Education of Working People' at Party, Young Communist League and trade union organisations, at ministries and departments, and in the mass media.

The CPSU Central Committee's resolution assigns Party, economic, trade union and YCL bodies to work out and implement measures for reorganising the system of political and economic education and improving drastically the quality and results of studies.

The Politburo adopted a resolution 'On Immediate Measures for Accelerating the Solution of the Food Issue in keeping with Directives of the June 1987 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee'.

It says that the Party Central Committee regards increasing food production — substantially and within the shortest possible time — as a major political task, through drawing upon all available sources.

On the basis of the Guidelines of the June (1987) plenary meeting of the CPSU

Central Committee on restructuring the activity of ministries and departments in the field of material production in the new conditions of economic management, the decision has been taken to reorganise certain union-republican ministries — the USSR Geology Ministry, the USSR Coal Ministry and the USSR Ferrous Metallurgy Ministry — into all-union ministries.

The results have been discussed of admitting new members to the CPSU over the first six months of the current year. The Party committees and primary Party organisations have been instructed to make a deep analysis of the state of this work, and ensure observance of the demand for a strictly individual selection to the CPSU of a worthy reinforcement on the basis of broad public openness and considering the opinion of the work collectives and public organisations.

The results have been examined of the all-union socialist emulation campaign for the successful wintering of cattle, ensuring an increase in the production and purchase of stock-rearing produce. Over the period October 1986 to June 1987 a growth has been achieved in the output of the main stock-rearing produce. Milk purchases have grown five per cent and meat and egg purchases by four per cent.

Some other issues of the country's home life and its foreign policy were discussed.

Andrei Gromyko receives Speaker of Britain's House of Commons

ANDREI GROMYKO, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in the Kremlin yesterday the Speaker of the House of Commons of the British Parliament, Bernard Weatherill, who is on his first trip to the Soviet Union.

Issues of Soviet-British ties and international problems were discussed in the conversation held in a friendly and sincere spirit.

The visitor emphasised that the British people's opinion is in favour of better relations with the Soviet Union. Britons are taking great interest in the USSR at the current period of restructuring.

Gromyko said that the USSR also wants these relations to deepen. He stressed that Soviet policy is based on the aspiration to promote mutually beneficial Soviet-British co-operation.

The President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet observed at the same time that the existing restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union upheld by Britain stand in the way of trade growth.

Gromyko said that relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain can and should develop taking due account of the new forms and methods that have emerged in the USSR due to the reorganisation drive.

Discussing international problems Gromyko said that the Soviet Union needs peace and peace alone to resolve its domestic tasks.

"Our domestic and foreign policies are interrelated. The Soviet Union will welcome any steps undertaken by Britain with a view to eliminating nuclear weapons."

IN the recent past Soviet-British interparliamentary ties within the framework of bilateral political relations have become more active and are of a regular character. Frank conversations on issues of concern to both sides and the desire for achieving mutual understanding are increasingly coming to the fore. This was emphasised at a meeting in the USSR Supreme Soviet with Bernard Weatherill, Speaker of Britain's House of Commons, which took place on Monday.

The guest has come to the Soviet Union on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, set out the Soviet stand on urgent issues of international relations. The guest's attention was called to the Soviet proposals on strengthening security in Europe.

The sides emphasised the important role parliamentarians are called upon to play in saving mankind from the threat of nuclear disaster and improving inter-state relations in the interests of trust and strengthening co-operation between the Soviet and British nations.

Bernard Weatherill pointed to the interest of European and other states in the successful completion of the Soviet-American talks in Geneva. He noted that the British public is following with great attention the changes taking place in the Soviet Union, the progress of the reorganisation and the development of openness.

The guest visited Lenin's study and flat in the Kremlin.

A luncheon was given in honour of Bernard Weatherill on behalf of the chairmen of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Andrei Gromyko meets China's new Ambassador

ANDREI GROMYKO, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in the Kremlin last Friday the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China, Yu Hongliang, who presented his credentials.

The Ambassador was accompanied by members of the Chinese Embassy's Diplomatic staff.

Yu Hongliang said in his speech that the peoples of China and the Soviet Union

backed one another in the course of lengthy revolutionary struggles and socialist construction, which forms the basis of traditional friendship.

The Chinese people, he said, cherish this friendship and apply tireless efforts to strengthen and develop it.

The Ambassador took the opportunity of conveying the Chinese people's good wishes to the great Soviet people in socialist construction and the reorganisation drive.

"You may rest assured," said the Ambassador, "that while in this post I will apply maximum effort to strengthening the traditional friendship between the Chinese and the Soviet peoples and to normalising relations between the two countries."

"It is in this effort that I see the noble mission entrusted to me by my government."

In accepting the credentials, Andrei Gromyko said:

"Our two countries are pursuing a peace policy in the international arena. You may be sure that any step by the PRC directed at promoting peace and averting the threat of nuclear war will find understanding and support on our part."

"We would like to hope that the People's Republic of China will act in the same way."

Andrei Gromyko stressed the great importance of the issue of security in the vast and important area of the Pacific Ocean. "There is a very large field here for co-operation between the two countries."

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Pravda on Glasnost

THERE HAS been a lot of complaining in the West until recently about "specific difficulties" which foreign journalists encounter in the USSR, the newspaper *Pravda* writes.

It was alleged that they had no possibility of obtaining first hand information or of putting questions directly to officials, because, allegedly, there was no practice of holding regular press conferences. *Pravda* continues, in yesterday's edition. It is now not uncommon for several press conferences a day to be held at the Moscow Press Centre. But the more information on important steps in the domestic and foreign policy of the USSR that comes through this channel, the less information reaches the public in the USA.

Trying to distort and discredit the new salutary processes in Soviet society, American propa-

ganda has started a futile search for the limits of glasnost. "I say to the Soviet leadership, it is time to show some glasnost in your military affairs," the US President exclaimed in Los Angeles recently. But it turns out that the Kremlin watchers in Washington have fallen behind the times. The official position of the USSR on this problem was put forward the day before that speech from the rostrum of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in New York. It was unequivocally stated that the Soviet Union is for broader glasnost and openness regarding military affairs and spending. The Soviet Union persistently proposes to compare the military doctrines of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty. This would make it possible to move closer to a realistic comparison of military budgets.

The mass media in the United States did

not make a sensation out of the bold steps of the Soviet Union towards broader openness in military affairs. Can the reason be that the 'covert operations' of the National Security Council, exposed in connection with the Irangate affair, stood out in sharp contrast to it? That scandal reminded the Americans of the screen of disinformation over the notorious 'Tonkin incident' that allowed Washington hawks to draw the USA into the Vietnam adventure.

Attacks on glasnost in the USSR reflect fear of it, because glasnost means, primarily, the readiness to take part in a dialogue, to express one's opinion and take heed of the opinion of others. It is also fear of glasnost that kept the USA from taking part in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. □

Nikolai Ryzhkov receives representative of Iran

NIKOLAI RYZHKOV, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin yesterday an envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Larijani.

The sides had a detailed exchange of views on matters related to Soviet-Iranian relations and on international and regional problems of mutual interest.

During the discussion of the principled positions of the sides, Muhammad Larijani

emphasised that Iran, attaching great importance to developing relations with the Soviet Union, intends to take relevant practical actions in this direction.

The Soviet side reaffirmed its course toward goodneighbourly relations with Iran. In the context of such an approach the sides considered the state of and prospects for relations between the two countries and took note of the existing opportunities for promoting trade and economic co-operation on a mutually advantageous basis.

During the conversation Nikolai Ryzhkov came out in favour of the undelayed termination of the Iran-Iraq war and expressed the firm conviction that such a development will meet the interests of Iran and Iraq.

Pointing to the fact that the relevant resolution

of the United Nations Security Council lays down the foundation for a political settlement of the conflict and for stabilising the situation in the region, the Soviet side emphasised the importance of its early implementation. Attention was drawn to the need for co-operating with the United Nations Secretary-General in the exercise of his mission and his mediatory efforts to attain the goals formulated in the Security Council resolution.

Both sides expressed serious concern over the unprecedented buildup of the military presence of the US and its allies in the Persian Gulf zone which is at variance with the interests of enhancing international security and of independent development of the countries of the region.

USSR supports Indian-Sri Lankan Agreement

SOVIET diplomatic circles hold that the second round of talks between India and Sri Lanka now under way in New Delhi is called upon to give fresh impetus to the implementation of the bilateral Agreement on the settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. A question of much political importance is being discussed at the talks, namely the powers of the future body to administer districts in the northern and eastern provinces of the island, a TASS diplomatic correspondent writes.

Meanwhile the situation is gradually returning to normal in the localities that had recently been swept by war. In the period of just over a month that has passed since the signing of the Agreement, the process of normalisation has borne tangible fruit. Peace, even if at times fragile, is being established in the ancient Sri Lankan land. The overwhelming majority of Sri Lanka's population support the Agreement and are prepared to contribute to its successful implementation.

These positive facts are received with satisfaction by all who are sincerely interested in the peaceful settlement of a conflict which

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the Fair, and a special international exhibition 'Books and Technological Progress' is being organised.

In connection with the Fair, an international competition of children's drawings has been held. 30,000 children from more than 60 countries painted their favourite book characters. First prize will be presented in Moscow to six children, aged between 5 and 12, from India, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Japan. □

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"The hopes of those people abroad who would like to see the Soviet Union swerving from the path it took in October 1917 are in vain," Andrei Gromyko said. "They are in for disappointment. We are confidently following the road on which the Soviet Union embarked by carrying out the great revolution."

Gromyko said that everything that is being done in China to modernise the economy is duly assessed in the Soviet Union. □

had brought Sri Lanka to the brink of civil war and had become a source of tension in the region. The first successes in the implementation of the Agreement clearly indicate its truly historic importance.

The process of normalisation in Sri Lanka would be much more effective if it were not for the obvious and camouflaged opponents of the Agreement. Within the country these are the chauvinistic circles of the Sinhalese community, the right wing and left extremists. Some external forces also attack the Agreement. Thus the conservative American 'Heritage Foundation' organisation, which maintains close ties with the current Washington administration, has compiled a special report which presents the Indian-Sri Lankan arrangement as a potential threat to the United States' interests in the region. It follows from the report, however, that the 'Heritage Foundation' views these interests above all from the standpoint of Washington's strategic ambitions in the Indian Ocean, where a particularly large build-up in US military presence has been taking place of late.

The Indian-Sri Lankan Agreement is welcomed by the Soviet Union as new confirmation of the fact that a long-drawn out problem can be resolved at the negotiating table, in a non-violent way, by dialogue. It is held in the Soviet Union that, by signing the Agreement, the leaders of the two neighbouring non-aligned countries showed statesmanship and profound understanding of the long-term national interests of their countries. It was confirmed once again that peaceful non-aligned countries do not need confrontation, that it suits only those forces that use conflicts, national strife and suspiciousness between neighbours as a pretext for interference and attempts to impose their supremacy.

Soviet diplomatic circles express the hope that the consistent implementation of the Agreement signed in Colombo will ensure complete normalisation of the situation in Sri Lanka, will remove difficulties in relations between the two neighbouring countries, and will promote peace and stability in South Asia. □

Yasser Arafat on Middle East and Persian Gulf situation

WE HIGHLY assess the constant efforts of the Soviet Union aimed at convening the international conference on the Middle East under UN aegis with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all sides concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), on an equal basis, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, told a press conference in Tunis on Saturday.

One of the aims of the international conference, he stressed, is not only to reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people but also to implement them.

The Palestinian leader expressed grave concern over the continuing Iran-Iraq war and the rising tensions in the Persian Gulf. He said that the concentration of American naval ships in this region poses a threat to the security and sovereignty of Arab countries. He favoured the continuation of international diplomatic efforts at different levels with the aim of ending the Iran-Iraq war. Arafat urged

the earliest convocation of the summit meeting of Arab states to discuss this war and the volatile situation in the Gulf.

The Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee resolutely condemned Israel's aggressive expansionist policies. The Israeli military makes daily raids from sea and land against Lebanese territory, he reminded, and permanently shells with artillery populated localities and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

On the situation on occupied Arab territories, Arafat said that their population actively supports the PLO and wages resolute and organised struggle against the Israeli invaders. Palestinian workers are staging more and more strikes, while anti-Israeli demonstrations are involving the broadest strata of the population.

At the same time, he said, one should not forget that extreme reactionary, fascist and Zionist organisations and groups are rearing their head in Israel. Aided and abetted by the authorities, Israeli thugs are staging raids and round-ups, committing atrocities and terrorising the population of peaceful Palestinian towns and villages. However, the PLO leader emphasised, they are powerless to break the spirit of resistance of the Palestinian people.

On the Soviet-US talks in Geneva

THE situation at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva has not changed for the better so far, despite the Soviet delegation's great efforts to achieve progress, Yuri Zhukov writes in Sunday's *Pravda*.

During the Geneva talks the sides should clearly and unequivocally formulate provisions on complete elimination of all American and Soviet medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles, including, of course, liquidation of all relevant warheads. They should formulate clear and unequivocal provisions that exclude any

chance of bypassing the agreement on a complete and unconditional "double zero". This means, among other things, a clear understanding that the sides will not produce and deploy new nuclear weapons of the two classes in future either.

An agreement would lose any sense without clearing up this matter fully.

In this connection one cannot help becoming wary of the US side's stubborn refusal to examine the question of its 72 nuclear warheads assigned for launching on Pershing-1a missiles owned by the FRG. The American delegation holds this strange position even after the

statement by Chancellor Helmut Kohl that the FRG can renounce modification of these missiles and liquidate them some time later.

"Do some people in Washington really entertain illusions that an agreement can be reached under which one partner would destroy all its medium- and shorter-range nuclear weapons and the other would preserve its warheads?" the author of the article asks.

US officials will never get such a 'concession' from the Soviet Union. The sooner the White House and the State Department understand this, Yuri Zhukov points out, the better it will be for them and for the Geneva talks. □

Academician Velikhov — it is impossible to conceal nuclear tests

THE third experimental ten-ton underground 'chemical' explosion to be set off in the area of Karaganda, Soviet Kazakhstan, last week was recorded in the space of 11 seconds by the US seismic instruments in Karkaralinsk, 250 kilometres from the epicentre of the blast. Three US Congressmen and also 20 Soviet and foreign journalists were witnesses to this experiment, a TASS special correspondent reports.

A Soviet-US seismic station manned by scientists from both countries has been in operation in Karkaralinsk, among picturesque mountains covered with pine-trees, for over a year now. The two countries' scientists demonstrated to the guests clear-cut seismograms of the two earlier experimental explosions in Kazakhstan. It has been reported from two other joint seismic stations in operation around the nuclear test site near Semipalatinsk that all three explosions were also recorded there.

Commenting on the results of the experiment, Yevgeni Velikhov, Vice-President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said: "If all three stations have recorded such low-yield blasts so reliably,

it proves that given the seismic equipment existing in the world today, it is practically impossible to conceal nuclear tests. All this means that verification of a treaty on a total ban of nuclear blasts is real and possible."

In Yevgeni Velikhov's opinion, the experiment is especially significant because of the forthcoming hearings at the US Congress House of Representatives on a draft law banning funds for nuclear blasts with a yield exceeding one kiloton.

If this draft is adopted, the Soviet Union will also limit the yield of its nuclear tests down to one kiloton, as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev recently confirmed.

"This will be a major step towards the total prohibition of nuclear testing," Academician Velikhov pointed out.

"Decoding the seismograms shows that the explosions were recorded in a very wide frequency range," Igor Nersesov, head of the group of Soviet scientists at Karkaralinsk and Professor of the Institute of Earth Physics, said. "The new instruments placed in 100-metre-deep holes at the stations have clearly recorded the high-frequency part of the explosions' range. Control over nuclear tests exactly at this level makes it possible to distinguish clearly between explosions and earthquakes."

Furthermore, said Professor Nersesov, these new instruments can precisely detect nuclear blasts in cavities, a way of lessening the amplitude of an explosion, which could not be done previously. And this leaves the opponents of a nuclear test ban without their last trump card.

Jonathan Berger, head of the group of American scientists and Professor at the University of California, stressed that during the experiment the scientists succeeded in obtaining perfect readings of all the explosions. We were even surprised how fine those readings appeared to be. One can assert with confidence that our joint experiment has passed very successfully, he said.

Thomas Downey, one of the three American Congressmen, described the success of the Soviet-US experiment as a highly positive step on the way to solving the problems involved in verifying nuclear tests. The work carried out here, he said, shows the Soviet Union's sincere striving to resolve this problem and demonstrates the goodwill in its approach. □

Vienna CESC meeting — responsible stage ahead

THE Warsaw Treaty countries "are prepared for constructive work", the newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* points out, referring to the CESC talks in Vienna.

The next round in the meetings of the 35 states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation opens in the Austrian capital on September 22. Concurrently, the 23 Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries will resume consultations on working out a mandate for the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments across Europe — from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Krasnaya Zvezda writes: "A responsible stage is ahead. Tense and painstaking work is expected in comparing the positions reflected in the draft documents of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO."

"The success of this final part of the consultations will basically depend on what solutions to key problems the representatives of the NATO countries arrive in Vienna with, and on the extent to which they display in deed their readiness to bring to a successful conclusion the work on the mandate at the regular round of consultations — in order to begin in 1988 the talks themselves on reducing the armed forces and armaments across Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals." □

Yuri Izrael on need for ecological protection

THE Soviet Union has not escaped acute ecological problems, albeit much is being done in this country for nature protection and rational nature management, comments Yuri Izrael, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, in a *Pravda* interview.

Numerous nature protection laws have been adopted in the USSR and the Soviet Constitution attaches a special place to this as well. Over the past decade alone, more than 60,000 million roubles have been spent on nature protection, the Chairman of the State Committee recalls.

Today, in Yuri Izrael's opinion, a source of the greatest danger is the atmospheric pollution in cities, in many of which the concentration of harmful substances is above the hygienic standards. The aggregate discharge of harmful substances into the atmosphere from stationary

sources totals roughly 65 million tons a year, and the discharge from road transport nearly 40 million tons.

"We are not standing idly by," Izrael emphasises. "Stringent standards limiting discharges into the atmosphere from the main industrial enterprises have been fixed. Those guilty of violating such standards have to pay big fines. Even more effective and serious measures are also applied, down to a ban on the operation of plants, workshops and factories."

The Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control points out the need for strengthening the nature protection bodies. All the Soviet republics, he says, have nature protection committees, yet they are unable to take big measures on their own. A coordinating agency is to be set up on the basis of those committees, having an extensive observation network and nature protection groups. What we are creating here, Yuri Izrael stresses, is the world's first state ecological service. □

Press briefings by Gennadi Gerasimov

On US and FRG's stand on Pershing 1a's

"THE speech by FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the remarks made by the FRG's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during the debate in the Bundestag last Wednesday, during which their earlier stated stand on the problem of Pershing-1a missiles was on the whole confirmed, have been taken note of in the Soviet Union," Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the information directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told last week's Foreign Ministry press briefing in Moscow.

"It was also noted in Moscow that the Chancellor has refused to put this stand on record in an official Government statement. It appears expedient to state again that for the Soviet Union the issue centres not on the West German Pershing-1a missiles but on the American nuclear warheads for them and, in particular, on the further fate of those warheads," Gennadi Gerasimov told the Soviet and foreign journalists.

"On Wednesday the US State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley stated that the United States would withdraw its nuclear warheads if the conditions set by Chancellor Helmut Kohl were fulfilled and if the West German Pershing-1a missiles were eliminated. Phyllis Oakley used the word 'withdraw'. As a result it is not clear whether these nuclear warheads are to be withdrawn or eliminated. By the logic of things," stressed the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, "they should be eliminated."

"But we do not yet have a clear indication from the United States that these nuclear

warheads will be eliminated. In other words, we are waiting for Washington to cross the t after the West German Chancellor dots the i."

On US military buildup in Persian Gulf

One can hardly agree with the declarations by some Washington officials that the military buildup in the Persian Gulf is rather moderate. Gennadi Gerasimov said at the briefing.

He emphasised that Washington's course towards escalating its long-term military presence in the Persian Gulf remains unchanged.

"This was confirmed on September 2 by State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley. It was confirmed by the fact that the United States did not wish to respond positively to the Soviet proposal for withdrawing from the Persian Gulf the naval vessels of the countries that are not situated there, including the ships of the Soviet Union and the United States."

On the Afghan-Pakistani talks

The Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, which are conducted with the mediation of the UN Secretary-General's personal envoy, will resume on September 7, but a BBC correspondent from Islamabad is already 'commenting' on them, giving recipes as to what Moscow should do in view of this. Gennadi Gerasimov pointed out to journalists. It is suggested, in part, that a First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR should go to Islamabad and discuss the composition of Afghanistan's future government there.

One would like to ask on what grounds does the BBC interfere in affairs which do not concern it in any way, Gerasimov queried. Besides, why should a Soviet official discuss with Pakistan an issue which is the prerogative of the Afghans themselves, or discuss with Pakistan the terms for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which is the topic of the

negotiations in Geneva.

All this is nothing short of a clumsy attempt to complicate the forthcoming round of the Geneva negotiations, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Groundless reports of VoA

Gennadi Gerasimov described as absolutely groundless reports of Voice of America and Radio France International to the effect that Afghan pilots allegedly refused to fly combat missions.

These inventions are probably needed for encouraging rebels in their attempts to disrupt the national reconciliation process, he told journalists. It is probable as well that the falsehood was timed to coincide with the coming round of Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva with the mediation of a personal representative of the UN Secretary-General which are to resume on September 7.

Extradition of criminal demanded

According to reports coming from Stockholm, the Swedish authorities have granted Soviet citizen Roman Svistunov, a residence permit and a job. Gennadi Gerasimov said at the briefing.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that on May 27 Svistunov hijacked an Antonov-2 plane from the region of the Latvian town of Saldus to Sweden, and that the Soviet Union demanded the extradition of the criminal.

The extradition demand was repeated to Swedish representatives during consultations between the foreign ministries on problems of combatting international terrorism in June this year.

On July 20 the Minister of Civil Aviation of the USSR approached the President of the ICAO Council on this issue.

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On new round of Afghan-Pakistani talks

A NEW round of the Afghan-Pakistani talks, which are held through the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General, began in Geneva on Monday.

Pravda's Kabul correspondent requested Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), to talk about the stand of the Afghan delegation.

In his interview published in *Pravda* last week, the Minister recalls that during the previous stage of the seventh round of the talks, the negotiators' stands drew somewhat closer together due to the constructive approach and compromise proposals of the DRA.

"However, a number of unresolved problems remained. Among them the question of Iran's participation in a political settlement process in the region, a mechanism to verify compliance with agreements, and a timetable for the return of units of the limited contingent of Soviet troops home from Afghanistan after the imperialist forces' interference in the affairs of the DRA is discontinued."

"This interference is far from diminishing despite the fact that the Government of the DRA is consistently pursuing the policy of national reconciliation in the country," the Minister went on to say.

"The United States and some of its allies are increasing the delivery of the latest weapons

to extremist counterrevolutionary groups. Counterrevolutionary detachments are still being trained and equipped in Pakistan. The Islamabad and Tehran authorities are preventing Afghan refugees from returning home."

"So, no striving is seen on the part of our negotiating partners for creating a favourable atmosphere for the talks to be a success. But in these conditions, too, we intend to conduct the talks in Geneva flexibly and constructively so as to contribute to bringing the two sides' positions closer together and to reaching accords on unresolved problems, rather than make for disunity."

"The Afghan side has a right to expect from the negotiating partners the same striving for a compromise," Abdul Wakil emphasised. "If such striving is shown, the forthcoming round of the talks may become an important step on the way towards establishing real peace in the region." □

Pakistani politician on situation in Afghanistan

ASGHAR KHAN, chairman of the Pakistani opposition party Tehrik-I-Istiqal and retired marshal of aviation, held a press conference in Islamabad last Saturday on his recent visit to neighbouring Afghanistan and his meetings with the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. He led a delegation on a five-day visit which took in Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-I-Sharif and Balkh.

The situation in these cities and adjacent

regions is calm, the Afghan Government is effectively in control of communications and roads, he reported. The delegation was convinced yet again of the serious attitude of the Afghan Government to the national reconciliation policy and its sincere interest in settling the situation around Afghanistan, the prominent Pakistani political figure emphasised.

Asghar Khan categorically refuted daily reports in the Pakistani press about 'successful' subversive and terroristic activities on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. He said, in particular, that the so-called Afghan news agency, which is based in London, had reported an attack by counter-revolutionaries on Jalalabad Airport on August 28. The delegation from Tehrik-I-Istiqal visited that airport on the following day but failed to detect any signs of the alleged attack or the 'serious material damage'. Talking with local people, they learned that there had been no attack at all. Asghar Khan said he does not believe a single word of the Pakistani mass media on the events in Afghanistan.

Answering questions from journalists, Asghar Khan stressed that Islamabad policy vis a vis Afghanistan is subordinated to the interests of the United States. To curry favour with their overseas patrons, the Pakistani authorities prevent Afghan refugees from returning home. Many more people deceived by the enemies of the April Revolution would return to Afghanistan, if it were not for the Islamabad stand. □

Representatives of CMEA countries meet in Sofia

A MEETING of secretaries for economic questions of the central committees of the Communist and Workers' parties of the CMEA countries ended in Sofia, Bulgaria, last week.

A communique adopted by the meeting says that the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance have advanced in their economic development as a result of implementing the decisions of the congresses of their parties, the CMEA economic summit and of multilateral and bilateral accords.

The participants in the meeting stressed that the co-operation of CMEA member countries and the refinement of its mechanism should make a weightier contribution to attaining the strategic aims of their economic and social development set by the Communist and Workers' parties of the fraternal countries.

With the assistance of European CMEA member countries measures are being implemented in Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia to raise the level of their economic development by the vigorous utilisation of their internal resources. At the same time possibilities exist for perfecting the co-operation and making more effective the

participation of these three countries in socialist economic integration. This co-operation is called upon to accelerate the process of gradually raising the levels of economic development of Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia to that of the European CMEA countries.

Views were exchanged on the question of working out a collective concept of the international socialist division of labour for the period 1991-2005 with the aim of determining agreed-upon directions of further perfecting co-operation.

Note was made of the need to substantially raise the CMEA's role in organising the development of economic co-operation between CMEA member countries, improving the structure of the Council's bodies and concentrating its work on solving strategic questions of co-operation.

Undeviatingly pursuing the course of preserving and strengthening peace and security, of eliminating seats of tension in the world, the CMEA countries emphasise their firm determination to press for restraining the arms race and achieving disarmament — particularly nuclear disarmament — so that the tremendous resources made available as a result of disarmament are directed at development.

The CMEA member countries have always come out and are coming out consistently for equal and mutually advantageous co-operation with all countries of the world regardless of their socio-economic systems, and for excluding from international relations all acts of discrimination and attempts at economic diktat — embargoes, boycotts, trade, credit and technological blockades. The discriminatory measures against socialist countries and the lengthy economic blockade of the Republic of Cuba are an example of such imperialist policy.

The meeting stressed the need for a global solution of problems of underdevelopment, the external debt of developing countries and the establishment of a new international economic order.

The participants in the meeting confirmed the invariable policy of their countries of establishing official relations between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community, between the CMEA and EEC member countries. This will facilitate the strengthening of political and economic relations, the consolidation of the material base of detente, mutual trust in Europe and the improvement of the international situation as a whole. □

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In keeping with Soviet laws, Gennadi Gerasimov said, criminal proceedings have been instituted against Svistunov in the USSR. A number of civil claims have been brought against him. On completion of the investigation and the passing of a court ruling on the Svistunov case, the Swedish side will be provided with relevant materials.

On co-operation to combat AIDS

"The Soviet Union comes out for the broadest international co-operation on both a bilateral and multilateral basis to avert and combat AIDS," the briefing was told by Gennadi Gerasimov.

"We took part in the drafting and approval by the World Health Organisation in May of a programme and a strategy of preventing and coping with this disease. The Soviet Union responded with interest to Britain's initiative on holding an international conference on this problem in January 1988. We share the profound concern and striving for collective action which were expressed at the June meeting of the 'seven' in Venice," Gerasimov stated further.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that on August 25 the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet issued a Decree on measures to prevent contamination with the AIDS virus. Regulations of the USSR Ministry of Public Health on the procedure for testing for AIDS, drawn up on the basis of this Decree, have been published. "This procedure is of a humane and non-discriminatory nature and is directed at protecting the population's health in the absence at present of effective means of treating AIDS," Gennadi Gerasimov emphasised. "We took into account the fact that corresponding protective measures have been adopted or are being drawn up in other countries. Prophylaxis will be conducted in such a way as to rule out any mistrust or suspiciousness in respect of groups of citizens or foreigners."

The following press briefing was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry yesterday:

On Soviet-American relations

Much has been said and written lately about prospects for improved

Soviet-American relations as a result of the scheduled visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Washington and the progress at the Geneva talks on eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles, Gennadi Gerasimov told journalists.

"Against this good background," he observed, "certain statements are being made which sound in discord."

"For instance, US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, during a tour of several American states, called for greater military spending and bigger American arsenals, including nuclear strategic forces."

"It turns out that, on the one hand, the US stands for reductions in strategic offensive arms, a subject of discussion at Geneva, while on the other hand Weinberger calls for building them up."

"Another discord," Gerasimov said, "is a tone higher — in the President's remarks."

"He has already spoken and is going to speak again — at the session of the UN General Assembly — on the subject: precisely what the Soviet Union should do in the field of foreign and domestic policy to meet American standards."

"The Presidential 'directives' go as far as giving advice to the Soviets."

"What is obvious is a certain confusion: we think that the point at issue is the dismantling of military systems, while some people in Washington think that the matter concerns the dismantling of political systems."

"Discords of this kind," said the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, "do not contribute to efforts aimed at really improving Soviet-American relations, including disarmament measures."

On ending nuclear weapon tests

The talks between experts from the USA and the USSR on ending nuclear tests have been held in Geneva on the Soviet Union's initiative since July 1986. Six rounds have already been held but through the fault of the United States no practical results have been

achieved. Gennadi Gerasimov pointed out at yesterday's briefing.

The United States does not show readiness to seek compromises with regard to arrangements on opening full-scale talks on ending nuclear weapons. Moreover, it departs from the understanding which became tangible in April during the visit of US Secretary of State George Shultz to Moscow and which was later discussed at a meeting of experts in Geneva.

We remain in favour of the early ending of nuclear testing and are prepared any moment to start working out a treaty banning these tests on a bilateral basis with the United States, Gerasimov said. Striving to get things off the ground we are prepared to come to an understanding on a step-by-step solution of this problem. We propose to start full-scale talks on a complete ban on nuclear weapons, but we agree to discuss as initial steps at those talks the question of ratification of the 1974 and 1976 Soviet-American treaties — the so-called Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty — and the substantial lowering of the limits on the yield of nuclear explosions set by those treaties with a simultaneous reduction in the number of explosions.

We propose to reach an interim arrangement on limiting the yield of explosions to one kiloton and restricting the number of tests to the minimum as an immediate practical measure in this connection. To develop the understanding reached on perfecting measures of control over the 1974 and 1976 treaties and on conducting for this purpose an experiment on each other's ranges, the Soviet side advanced at the talks in Geneva a concrete proposal to conduct that experiment. For the purposes of calibrating national seismic means it is proposed to measure by Soviet means the yield of an explosion of a US nuclear device at a US range and, correspondingly, to measure by US means the yield of an explosion of a Soviet nuclear device at a Soviet range, in the spirit of the proposal on calibration envisaged by the 1974 Treaty.

We have also suggested an opportunity to agree on setting off a US nuclear explosion

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Lithuanian MPs reply to US congressmen

LITHUANIA's parliamentarians have branded as interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign Soviet republics an address to Soviet authorities from a group of members of the US Congress who insisted that favourable conditions be provided in the Soviet Baltic region for anti-Soviet demonstrations.

In an open reply to the US congressmen, which was published in Lithuanian newspapers on Saturday, the MPs express perplexity at the fact that the American law-makers had deemed it appropriate to lecture the Baltic nations on how to go about their affairs and on what attitude to take to anti-Soviet demonstrations.

Provocative gatherings were staged in Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn recently, following a call from foreign radio services, to besmirch the 1940 decisions by the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to restore the Soviet system of

government in their countries and join the USSR.

The Lithuanian MPs say in their letter that support for those gatherings by the US congressmen is another indication of where the ideas of organising actions hostile to Soviet society originated.

The letter recalls that when Lithuania's working people accomplished a socialist revolution in 1918, the entente countries and the United States attempted to prevent it.

During the fascist dictatorship of 1920-40, it continues, "politicians in your country did nothing for the harassment of antifascists in Lithuania to be stopped and for the regime of violence, arbitrariness and lawlessness, which was in power at the time and which trampled basic human rights underfoot, to be replaced."

"Your country did not recognise even the return of the Vilnius area to Lithuania, although it was a highly important act of national justice.

"The historical truth and life itself have proved that the path chosen by the Lithuanian people is the only correct one.

"The working people have created the Soviet system of government and the socialist system and shall never renounce them.

"The principles of public openness and democracy affirming themselves in our life ever more strongly are helping to solve the problems of economic and social progress, upgrade socialism and put its advantages to better use," the letter says.

It is signed by construction worker Petras Sileikis, Ona Sapezinskene, chairwoman of a rural co-operative, journalist Albertas Laurinciukas who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Lithuanian Parliament, Eduardas Mezelaitis, prominent Soviet poet and holder of the Lenin Prize, Anatolijus Rasteika, chairman of Lithuania's Union of Architects, and other members of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania. □

AFTERWORD TO THE RUST CASE

ADVENTURISM, a yearning for fame and self-advertising at any price are the main underlying reasons for Rust's criminal flight, *Pravda* pointed out on Sunday.

The trial of the 19-year-old West German pilot is over. The unwanted guest who invaded our skies on May 28 and landed his light plane near Red Square was sentenced to four years imprisonment.

The trial was distinguished for its thorough investigation, objectivity and democracy. *Pravda* writes. The defendant's rights were not restricted, and he had a chance of expressing his viewpoint fully on any issue. The trial reflected the spirit of our times, since it was open both to the Soviet and foreign press, the newspaper points out.

The Mathias Rust case is closed, but it is worthwhile thinking over the moral, ethical, political and social issues.

The newspaper writes that the court did not examine specially the question of why, for instance, the pilots of an interceptor fighter had not taken adequate measures to force the Cessna to land. They approached Rust so closely that he saw their white helmets and orange suits. The court was primarily interested in the

defendant's actions: he had flown with his transceiver switched off and had not responded to the fighter's overflight.

The newspaper refutes Rust's allegations that he was on a "peace mission" and that he wanted to "arouse the public" with his flight so that people would turn to Moscow, to its peace initiatives. "What kind of a peace mission is it if the form and methods of its implementation entail a mortal danger to so many people and even to Rust himself?" *Pravda* points out. "The means he chose for translating into life his proclaimed goal turn that goal into absurdity. What would have happened if Rust had been downed, for which there were ample grounds? Would it have served the cause of peace?"

The newspaper points out that Rust came at a time when a Conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states was in progress in Berlin, a Congress of the movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War was going on in Moscow and a very difficult stage of the disarmament talks was under way in Geneva. At such a time the pilot with his death would have done a good turn only to those whom — if we are to believe his words — he opposes, that is the enemies of peace, detente and disarmament.

If Rust had been a peace fighter, if he had had something to say to our people and the government, he could have flown his Cessna to our country quite officially. There are quite a number of such examples, *Pravda* writes.

The newspaper calls attention to the fact that, despite Rust's serious crime, the court was humane to him: it cut his term 50 per cent as against that demanded by the prosecutor. □

Soviet Ukraine condemns international terrorism

THE permanent mission of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic at the United Nations has sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The letter condemns international terrorism, all of its forms and manifestations and all terrorist acts, no matter where they are staged and what their motives are.

Terrorism, the letter goes on to say, is an ugly phenomenon that claims the lives of innocent people, disrupts diplomatic activities of states and their representatives, destabilises international relations, creates dangerous seats of tensions and provokes international conflicts.

The Ukrainian SSR stands for working out effective international measures to preclude terrorism and believes that this can be accomplished only if all states co-operate vigorously and purposefully to that end.

Such co-operation, the permanent mission of the Ukrainian SSR says, is one of the principal elements in the foundation for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. □

Soviet Health Ministry endorses anti-AIDS measures

THE Soviet Health Ministry has endorsed regulations for medical examinations to determine infection with the AIDS virus. The regulations were published in the newspaper *Meditsinskaya Gazeta* last week.

Under the regulations, people liable to examination include donors of blood, blood plasma and other biological fluids and tissues. Soviet citizens arriving from foreign trips of over one month, and foreigners arriving in the USSR for study, work or other purposes for a term of more than three months from a country where AIDS has spread according to information from the World Health Organisation.

Also tested will be people from the risk

group: those who have received numerous transfusions of blood and its preparations, drug addicts, homosexuals, prostitutes, Soviet citizens and foreigners who have had contact with AIDS-infected people or AIDS carriers and those who test positive during epidemiological examination, as well as other Soviet citizens and foreigners wishing to be tested.

The regulations note that the question of the possible screening of the staff of foreign diplomatic and consular missions, international intergovernmental organisations, and foreign missions accredited at Soviet ministries and departments is decided on with the participation of corresponding ministries and departments on the basis of international multilateral accords, conventions, bilateral agreements and practice. □

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at a Soviet range and, correspondingly, a Soviet nuclear explosion at a US range. The sides could exchange the information obtained as a result of the experiment.

The Soviet side would not object to the use by the US side of the 'cortex' method for measuring the yield of nuclear explosions in conducting the afore-mentioned joint calibrating experiment, Gennadi Gerasimov emphasised. □

US military's inhuman act against American peace activist

THE SOVIET Peace Committee has sent a message to the California State Governor in protest at the inhuman and cruel act against a group of peace campaigners outside the Pentagon's naval base near the town of Concord last week.

On September 1 a train loaded with ammunition for the US backed anti-Nicaraguan 'contras' cut straight into a group of people who gathered outside the gates of the base to protest against US military interference in Nicaragua's affairs. Brian Willson, a peace activist, lost both his legs in that brutal action.

The Peace Committee's message expresses the Soviet people's firm protest against the

barbarous actions of the US military and demands that those responsible for that brutal and inhuman act be made answerable.

Messages have been sent to US anti-war organisations expressing the solidarity of the Soviet peace campaigners with the American public's protest actions.

In its report on the crime at the Pentagon naval base, *Pravda* describes it as one of the many cases of action to crush people campaigning against military preparations.

"Slowly but inexorably, the locomotive made threatening progress towards people who were standing with the word 'peace' inlaid with white pebbles at their feet," *Pravda* writes. "The demonstrators on the track started back at the last moment, but their leader Brian Willson, who was confronting the train on his knees,

was run down."

"We remember the 800 American peace campaigners arrested outside the nuclear testing range in Nevada," *Pravda* continues, "and the 12 year prison sentence imposed on Helen Woodson, a mother of several children, for her part in an anti-war protest."

"We remember the trials of clergymen Dexter Lanctot and John MacGann, former officer Greg Boertje and Ms Romano, an activist in the movement for helping the needy and underprivileged, after they had made their way into the Willow Grove US base and been accused of 'trespassing on federal property'.

"People are sent to prison," *Pravda* emphasises, "because the US military-industrial complex regards campaigning for peace as practically the most heinous crime." □

The Constitution and Human Rights — Soviet-American lawyers' seminar

THE Constitution and Human Rights — this was the topic of a two-day Soviet-American seminar that took place in Moscow last week, sponsored by the Soviet Lawyers Association. It is the second meeting of lawyers from the two countries, the first being held last year in the USA.

Some 100 participants in the Moscow seminar discussed political, social and economic rights and civil liberties, procedural problems, forms and methods of the protection of citizens' rights against unlawful actions of officials, the rights of national minorities and other legal problems of interest to representatives of the USSR and the USA.

In an interview with a TASS correspondent, Vasili Vlasikhin, member of the Presidium of

the Soviet Lawyers Association, said that the exchange of opinions on questions discussed proved mutually useful, though Soviet and American lawyers often proceed from different concepts, as shown by the seminar debates. Soviet lawyers are convinced specifically that political rights cannot be exercised without the ensurance of social and economic rights, specifically the right to work. Vlasikhin noted that this right is recorded in the Soviet Constitution and ensured by the entire economic system of society. Suffice it to recall that there has been no unemployment in the USSR since 1930.

American lawyers touched upon the question of emigrants from the USSR and their rights, the question of dissidents, and said that there are allegedly persons in the USSR condemned for political views. Names of some of them, for instance Lukyanenko and Kandyba, were

mentioned.

President of the Soviet Lawyers Association Alexander Sukharev detailed the crimes for which those persons had been punished. He said that pronouncements about alleged violations of human rights in the USSR are explained most often by misinformation or ill-will. This is why meetings and conversations of representatives of the two countries are so important, he concluded. They help us learn many things and understand each other.

President of the American Bar Association Robert Maccrate also stressed to a TASS correspondent the usefulness of such meetings. He said that during the seminar the American lawyers learned much about the reorganisation taking place in the USSR, put many questions to their Soviet colleagues and gained much information about the science of law in the USSR. □

Soviet and American TV journalists win Better World award

A POLITICAL OBSERVER of Soviet state television and an American television journalist have won the annual prize of the international organisation Better World Society.

Vladimir Pozner and Phil Donahue received this award for their participation in televised space links which facilitated understanding between the Soviet and American peoples.

Among the 1987 Laureates are the Quest for Peace Organisation, which provides humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan people, and the UN peace-keeping forces.

Prominent American businessman Ted Turner who is President of the board of Better World Society said that the aim of the awards is to help people realise the global problems facing them.

He singled out the nuclear arms race as the biggest problem. □

CONSTITUTION (Fundamental Law) of the USSR

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Peace lessons in Moscow schools

THE International Peace-87 Lesson attended by Soviet school pupils and 50 of their coevals from the United States was held in Moscow in the Peace Avenue in the Hall of the Soviet Peace Committee, last week.

The traditional peace lesson opened the new academic year on September 1 in all the 13 hundred schools of the Soviet capital, but the most vivid and interesting lesson was certainly that attended by young representatives of the American organisation 'Children are the Future'. With Judith Woodruff, chairwoman and founder of the organisation, they are staying in the USSR at the invitation of Intourist and the Soviet Peace Committee. In addition to Moscow, the guests have visited over the past fortnight Yerevan and Tbilisi, the capitals of the Soviet Transcaucasian republics of Armenia and Georgia.

At the Peace-87 Lesson, Soviet and American boys and girls built a symbolic bridge of friendship for children and adults of their countries. From the nuclear balance formula they derived the equation of a nuclear-free world which is desired by all people.

The well known Soviet poetess Rimma Kazakova conducted the literary part of the lesson. The schoolchildren were given a home assignment for themselves and their friends — to write an essay on one of these topics: 'How I Visualise Myself in the Year 2000', 'My Reading', 'My Hobbies', 'My Notion of Happiness'. The 100 best essays by American school pupils and the same number by Soviet school pupils will be included in a book.

There was a break with merry games, dancing performances by young conjurers, jugglers and acrobats. Music and songs in English and Russian merged into a chorus of sincerity and friendship.

Our visit to the USSR has been an unqualified success, Judith Woodruff told a TASS correspondent. It inspires us, and gives us energy for widening and expanding contacts between the USSR and the USA. We are producing a film on Peace Lessons in the USSR, she said, and we hope to introduce such lessons in schools in the USA. □

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