

## Meeting of the USSR Council of Ministers

A MEETING of the USSR Council of Ministers was held in Moscow on Friday. It discussed the fulfilment of the State Plan of the USSR's Economic and Social Development and the State Budget in 1987, studied the economic situation in the country and defined the tasks of fulfilling the Plan and Budget for 1988.

Changes for the better have begun in the economic situation in the country, it was noted at the meeting. In the first two years of the current five-year plan the increment of industrial output, as provided for by the Plan, amounted to 8.9%. The development of agriculture is acquiring a stable nature. The annual gross grain harvest exceeded 210 million tons, this being 17% more than in the years of the 11th Five-Year-Plan period. The average annual volume of meat production went up by 13% and of milk by 8.7%. All branches of the national economy exceeded the Plan assignments

to increase labour productivity. The share of capital investment in the retooling and reconstruction of operating enterprises went up to 46% as against 39% in 1985.

As compared with 1985 the construction of housing increased in 1987 by 15%, childcare centres by 16%, hospitals by 17%, general educational schools by 27% and outpatient clinics by 34%. The average monthly earnings of industrial and office workers during the two years went up by 5.9% and the remuneration of the work of collective farmers by 8.9%. The population's real incomes have grown.

As compared with 1985 the gross national product went up by 8%. In 1987 the rates of increment of industrial output were 3.8%, this being in accordance with the Plan assignment.

But no substantial advance has been yet attained along a whole number of directions of socio-economic development. The assignment for increasing produced national income was not fulfilled. During the past two years it increased by 6.5% whereas the figure set by the Plan was

8.2%. The shortfall of 13 billion roubles in fulfilling the 1987 Plan assignment to increase national income limited possibilities to accelerate industrial and social development in the country. The situation in the field of finance remains strained mostly because of the existence of a large number of enterprises operating at a loss, and the still considerable non-productive expenditures and losses in the national economy.

The USSR Government particularly pointed out that the positive changes in the economy have not yet become stable.

The Council of Ministers of the USSR outlined concrete directions of improving the work of the key elements of the machinebuilding, chemical-timber, construction and agro-industrial complexes, and the various types of transport. It also outlined measures to enhance reliability of work in the power, oil, gas and coal industries.

The members of the Soviet Government devoted much attention to questions of implementing the social policy formulated by the 27th CPSU Congress.

## Report of the USSR State Committee on Statistics

THE USSR State Committee on Statistics has reported that in 1987 the Soviet Union's Gross National Product grew 3.3% as compared with the previous year. The figure is calculated according to U.N. methodology and represents the aggregate sum of revenues of all enterprises, organisations and the population both in the productive and non-productive spheres and depreciation deductions.

Summing up the results of the implementation of the 1987 State Plan for Economic and Social Development of the USSR, the Committee said the produced national income was approximately 600 billion roubles (in actual prices).

It grew at a lower rate than planned, specifically due to failure to accomplish tasks for saving financial resources, lagging agricultural production, and a decline in foreign trade revenues.

Foreign trade turnover in 1987 stood at 128 billion roubles, of which exports accounted for 67 billion and imports for 61 billion roubles. The volume of foreign trade last year exceeded that of 1986 by 1%.

The continued decline in world prices had a negative effect on its dynamics. As a result this volume, estimated in current prices, reduced over the year by 2.2%.

In 1987, 23 joint ventures and 14 international associations and organisations in partnership with enterprises and organisations of foreign countries were registered on Soviet territory.

**Soviet industrial output increased** 32 billion roubles in 1987 as against 1986, topping 870 billion roubles.

Basic assets worth 190.9 billion roubles were put into operation, including production assets of 134.7 billion roubles. The country appropriated 43.5 billion roubles of capital investments, or 7% more than in the previous year, for technical retooling and reconstruction of operating enterprises. The percentage of absorption of investments for these purposes stands at 103. Allocations from the funds of enterprises and organisations make up more than 50% of the total.

The output of highly efficient engineering products went up more than 10%.

Industry fulfilled 98.3% of the plan for marketing goods, taking into account deliveries. Production of industrial goods rose 3.8%. Labour productivity increased 4.1%. Revenues rose and industrial production costs were cut.

Set targets for saving fuel and energy resources were reached. 43% of the increment of the national economy's requirements in them was met thanks to these savings.

The process of democratisation in running industry is on the rise. Work collectives elected over 30,000 workers to executive posts in industry and some 6,000 in construction.

The overall volume of the output of the **Soviet agri-industrial complex** amounted to 460 billion roubles in 1987 — 1.8% up against the previous year.

The value of the output of the agricultural sector was 220.1 billion roubles last year — 9.3% more than the average annual level of the 11th

Five-Year-Plan period (1981-1985).

The figures of the output of the main agricultural crops are as follows — grain 211.3 million tons, raw cotton 8.1 million tons, sugar beet 90 million tons, sunflower seeds 6.1 million tons. The output of potatoes, vegetables, fruit, berries and grapes was smaller in 1987 than in the previous year.

The growth of the output of stock-breeding products permitted bringing the 1987 average consumption per capita of dairy products to 343 kg and eggs to 270 kg, in other words to reach the level planned for 1990.

Capital investments in the development of the agri-industrial complex, including the industries supplying agriculture with the means of production, amounted to 63 billion roubles or 101% of the set level.

The USSR State Committee for Statistics reports as well that 49 agri-industrial complexes, 14 agricultural firms and 19 agri-industrial associations have been created for the purpose of raising the efficiency of production, developing the creative initiative of working people and upgrading the democratic character of economic management of enterprises and organisations.

The country reached or topped targets set by the Five-Year-Plan for 1987 for the **growth in wages and salaries of factory and office workers, labour remuneration of farmers, social consumption funds and housing construction.**

Pay rises to teachers and other workers of the public education system were made throughout the country. Workers of the public health and social maintenance systems are also getting pay rises. The population received payments and allowances from social consumption funds worth 162.5 billion roubles or 7.5 billion more than in 1986.

Grants to invalids from childhood were raised, and additional benefits were introduced for participants in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) and for families of fallen servicemen.

(Continues on Page 33)

### IN THIS ISSUE

Meeting of the USSR Council of Ministers	p. 29
Report of the USSR State Committee on Statistics	p. 29
Yegor Ligachev's meeting with Walid Joublatt and George Hawi	p. 30
Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Spain	p. 31
Eduard Shevardnadze's meeting with Hun Sen	p. 32
Ensuring security in northern Europe	p. 34
USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium discusses ratification of INF treaty	p. 36



# Yegor Ligachev's meeting with Walid Joumblatt and George Hawi

A MEETING took place at the CPSU Central Committee on Friday between Yegor Ligachev, Member of the Politburo and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Karen Brutents, deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, on the one hand, and Walid Joumblatt, Chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Lebanon, and George Hawi, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party (LCP), on the other.

The Soviet representatives described the main

areas of the CPSU's activities under conditions of the restructuring of all spheres of life of Soviet society, and the Soviet Union's foreign policy activities which (backed by all peace-loving and sober-minded forces) are resulting in radical changes in the international climate.

Walid Joumblatt and George Hawi pointed to the importance of the results of the Soviet-American summit, appraising it as a great success of the peaceful forces of the entire world and declared their solidarity with the Soviet foreign policy initiatives.

The meeting participants pointed out that the broadest recognition of the fact that an international conference is the only realistic way towards a just settlement is now a characteristic feature in the development of the situation around the Middle East conflict. Since the Palestinian question is basic in this case, the PLO should naturally participate in the work of

the conference as an equal party. The meeting participants expressed solidarity with the Palestinian population of the Jordan West Bank and the Gaza Strip who are courageously protecting their legitimate rights and protesting against the occupation.

The sides favoured the earliest end to the Iran-Iraq war on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, withdrawal of foreign flotillas from the Persian Gulf and formation of naval forces under the U.N. flag.

The representatives of the CPSU, PSP and LCP expressed confidence that an end to imperialist and Israeli interference, renunciation of armed confrontation, a constructive political dialogue leading to nation-wide concord and the preservation of Lebanon as an independent and territorially integral Arab state are needed for a real solution of the long-standing Lebanese crisis.

The meeting participants favoured further development of cooperation between the CPSU and LCP, the CPSU and PSP in the interests of strengthening Lebanese-Soviet friendship and exchanged opinions concerning specific steps in this area.

The talk was held in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

## Eduard Shevardnadze's letter to U.N. Secretary-General

PERMANENT representative of the USSR to the United Nations Alexander Belonogov on Thursday handed U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar a letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The letter contains concrete proposals for enhancing the role of the United Nations in preparing the international conference on the Middle East.

In Shevardnadze's view "the Security Council as the principal U.N. agency responsible for maintaining universal peace should at once join in practical activities to establish and start up a mechanism for the international conference on the Middle East, which is called upon through multilateral efforts to find a reasonable balance

of interests of all sides concerned and ensure lasting peace and security in the region.

The USSR Foreign Minister suggested that "the Security Council members enter upon consultations to examine related matters. The initiative in this respect could be assumed by the permanent members of the Council. Conclusions and recommendations resulting from these consultations could be considered at an official meeting of the Security Council, which we propose to be held at foreign minister level considering the special importance of the issue for maintaining international security."

The letter notes that the large-scale popular uprising on Israeli-occupied territories has once again put the situation in the Middle East in the focus of international attention. The Soviet Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction with the fact that "the international community has become increasingly aware of the need to achieve a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict without delay."

## USSR Foreign Ministry press briefing

"THE question of the need for un-delayed actions to banish the explosive situation in the Middle East by political means and collective efforts is raised as a matter of urgency today," Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, said at a press briefing in Moscow yesterday.

The proposal for drawing the Security Council into the moves to set in motion the mechanism of an international conference on the Middle East contained in the letter from Eduard Shevardnadze to U.N. Secretary-General on January 20 was prompted exactly by this. "We proceed from the assumption that the Security Council members should conduct intensive consultations whose results could be considered at its special session involving foreign ministers."

"The contacts which we have already had with a wide range of states, including those involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, show the international community's undisputable interest

in a fundamental turn for the better in the Middle East and in convening to this end an international peace conference as the U.N. General Assembly has recommended."

"Considering that a generally auspicious situation is being formed in the Security Council, we intend to intensify consultations and set out to look for practical ways to defuse the problems which hamper the convocation of the international conference," Vladimir Petrovsky noted. "Certainly we have our own considerations on this score, but we are prepared also to discuss proposals from other members of the Security Council. We hope that the consultations in the Council will lend dynamism to the process of the Middle East settlement and will make it possible to hold a meeting of the Security Council at foreign minister level."

"The duty of states stemming from the decisions of the 42nd General Assembly Session is to assure the earliest convocation of an authoritative international conference for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East."

## Muammar Gaddafi receives Soviet representative

VLADIMIR POLYAKOV, Member of the Collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry and head of the Department for Countries of the Middle East and North Africa, was received in Tripoli by Muammar Gaddafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, at the weekend.

Muammar Gaddafi highly appreciated the Treaty on eliminating the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and underlined the importance of attaining a 50% reduction in strategic offensive armaments. He expressed support for the course of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The leader of the Libyan Revolution said that the uprising of the Palestinian people on the occupied lands reaffirms the need for stepping up international efforts in favour of the solution of the Middle East problem, based on the Palestinian people exercising their right to self-determination.

Muammar Gaddafi declared for further developing the friendly Soviet-Libyan relations. He spoke highly of the perestroika process under way in the Soviet Union and said that this process is of great significance to many countries of the world.

### USSR-U.S. SUMMIT

Washington December 7-10 1987

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# Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Spain

## Meeting with King of Spain

**EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE**, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, was received by Spain's Head of State King Juan Carlos I in Madrid on Thursday.

Eduard Shevardnadze conveyed to Juan Carlos greetings and good wishes from Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrei Gromyko, and expressed gratitude for the attention accorded to Soviet representatives in Madrid.

The visit of Juan Carlos to the Soviet Union in May 1984, which became an important event in the history of Soviet-Spanish relations and gave them the necessary impetus, is remembered well in Moscow.

Spain's Head of State wished Mikhail Gorbachev success in the important and interesting undertakings embarked upon in the Soviet Union and conveyed the best of wishes to Andrei Gromyko.

During the ensuing conversation Juan Carlos welcomed the nascent changes for the better in the international situation and noted in this connection the special importance of the Soviet-American Treaty on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. The King of

Spain is of the opinion that Europe, acting above all in the framework of the Helsinki process, should play an important role in consolidating peace and cooperation among states. He said that Spain is conducting a peaceful foreign policy course and that its line in international affairs remains responsible and constructive.

Eduard Shevardnadze set out the Soviet leadership's appraisals of the present-day situation in the world and prospects for its development. He emphasised the Soviet Union's resolve to press for a breakthrough in world affairs and carry matters to the assertion of the principles of a nuclear-weapon-free, non-violent and demilitarised world. The Soviet Union hopes for close interaction with Spain with which it has durable friendly relations.

## Meeting with Felipe Gonzales

**EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE**, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, and Foreign Minister of the USSR, was on an official visit to Spain on 20-22 January. He was received by Felipe Gonzales, Chairman of the Government of Spain, in Madrid on Wednesday.

Eduard Shevardnadze handed over to Felipe Gonzales a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev.

During their exchange of opinions, both sides reaffirmed that the Soviet-American summit meeting in Washington is undoubtedly a major event in the world's political life. It opens up prospects for consolidating strategic stability, reducing the level of nuclear confrontation and

lessening the danger of appearance of conflicts.

It will be no exaggeration to say that the signing of the Treaty on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles is of an historic significance far exceeding the framework of Soviet-American relations.

In both sides' opinion, the problem of radically reducing strategic offensive armaments in conditions of compliance with the ABM Treaty holds the main place in the process of real disarmament. The Chairman of the Spanish Government came out in support of the efforts aimed at signing the relevant treaty during the U.S. President's visit to the USSR in the first half of 1988.

Setting forth the Soviet concept of further steps in the sphere of disarmament, the Soviet Foreign Minister underlined that there must not be a big gap in time between the two stages of nuclear disarmament — the elimination of intermediate-

and shorter-range missiles and a 50% reduction in strategic offensive armaments provided there is compliance with the ABM Treaty as it was in 1972 when adopted.

This is of fundamental significance, since reducing strategic offensive armaments should be carried out in conditions where a possibility of violation of strategic stability is ruled out. The ABM Treaty is exactly the cornerstone, the guarantee of preserving such stability.

Following the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, the problem of reducing conventional armaments in Europe is coming to the foreground. Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised that the Soviet approach is as follows — Let us sit down at the negotiating table and exchange all the data on the correlation of forces between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO not only in central Europe but also in the whole of the European continent. We are confident that this is an honest approach.

The Soviet Union has also put forward proposals for comparing the military doctrines so as to make them purely defensive.

Of priority significance is the concluding of a convention on complete prohibition and destruction of all chemical weapons.

## Talks with Felix Pons and Jose Federico de Carvajal

**EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE** had talks with Felix Pons, President of the Congress of Deputies of the Cortes Generales, on Wednesday. During the conversation their attention focused on the role of parliaments in consolidating confidence and mutual understanding among nations.

Shevardnadze pointed out that qualitative change is taking place in international affairs as a result of the Soviet-American summit. To what an extent will the positive potential laid down in Washington be used, and will it be possible to consolidate the prospects for lowering of the level of nuclear confrontation and for improving the international situation that opened up as a result of the summit? This is how the question is posed. Much in this respect depends on parliaments — where the policy of every country, the public opinion of peoples is shaped to a large extent.

Felix Pons agreed that for confident advance along the road of detente and disarmament, above all in Europe, it is necessary to rely on collective efforts and joint actions of diverse political forces, including parliaments and parliamentarians.

*(continues on page 34)*

## Talks with Francisco Ordonez

**TALKS** between **Eduard Shevardnadze** and **Francisco Fernandez Ordonez**, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, took place on January 20-21.

At Thursday's meeting the sides concluded their exchange of opinions on international problems and concentrated attention on the state of and prospects for bilateral Soviet-Spanish relations. They noted with satisfaction that political contacts between the two countries have developed markedly in the past years. The wish was expressed for the further widening of the topics of political consultations and for them to be held on a more regular basis.

The ministers assessed positively the state of cultural ties, and declared for broader use of such forms of cultural cooperation as exchanging arts festivals and art exhibitions between the two countries and holding guest performances of groups and individual performers. They emphasised the importance of developing contacts in the mass media and stepping up the dialogue between the public of the two countries, their trade unions, women's and youth organisations and sister cities.

The state of affairs in the commercial and economic area was discussed in detail. Shevardnadze and Ordonez pointed out that the level of relations achieved in this area is not in keeping with the economic potential of the

two countries. The structure of bilateral trade is behind the requirements of the times. There is a need to take a fresh and broader look at Soviet-Spanish trade and give up stereotypes of the past. This should be promoted also by the newly concluded agreement on economic and industrial cooperation.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised in this connection that the USSR has the experience of such cooperation with a whole number of West European countries. Life shows that given political will and real economic interest, it is possible to cooperate successfully despite differences in the socio-political systems and economic structures.

The ministers expressed satisfaction over the doubling of the volume of trade turnover between the USSR and Spain in 1987 and emphasised the intention of the sides to create Soviet-Spanish joint ventures and develop industrial cooperation.

Eduard Shevardnadze confirmed his invitation for Francisco Ordonez to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The talks proceeded in the open, businesslike and friendly atmosphere characteristic of Soviet-Spanish relations.

Concluding the talks, the ministers signed a long-term programme for developing economic and industrial cooperation between the USSR and Spain and a programme of cultural and scientific cooperation for 1988-1989.



# Eduard Shevardnadze's meeting with Hun Sen

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE had a conversation with Hun Sen, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, who made a stopover in Moscow yesterday on his way home from France.

Hun Sen told Shevardnadze about the results of the second meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk held in Paris on January 20-21. He described the talks as fruitful and as another step forward in the quest for ways towards a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem. Hun Sen said that the People's Republic of Kampuchea was doing and will continue to do all that depends on it for putting into life its

national reconciliation policy. He pointed out the growing understanding in the international arena of the need for settling the Kampuchean problem by peaceful means, and positively assessed the support rendered by India, Indonesia, France and other countries to the dialogue that has been started.

Hun Sen welcomed the improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China and the readiness of Vietnam to start talks with China on the improvement of Vietnamese-Chinese relations, which will promote the improvement of the situation in South-East Asia and, in the long run, the settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

Shevardnadze said that, in the opinion of the Soviet Union, there is no alternative to political dialogue between the Kampuchean sides. It welcomes the accord reached by Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk on a number of problems, as well as their agreement to continue

the talks. The reconciliation of all the national patriotic forces of Kampuchea is the only right key to settling the situation around Kampuchea and to establishing relations of peace, good neighbourliness and cooperation in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union positively assesses the idea of holding an international conference on Kampuchea and reaffirms its readiness to cooperate with other parties concerned in working for achieving a just Kampuchean settlement that will meet the supreme interests of the Khmer nation and promote the improvement of the political climate in the region.

The conversation was held in an atmosphere of friendship and fraternal understanding on all the problems discussed.

## Viktor Komplektov meets Colombian President

PRESIDENT of Colombia Virgilio Barco Vargas on Wednesday received Viktor Komplektov, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister. A broad range of questions of interest to both countries was discussed in a substantive talk that was held in the spirit of friendliness and mutual understanding.

The President treated with profound attention and interest the Soviet side's assessment of the international situation and its considerations as to the build-up of efforts for nuclear disarmament, preventing the arms race from spreading to outer space, building up confidence between countries and solving acute problems of a universal character.

The President of Colombia spoke highly of the Soviet Union's innovative approach to international questions and underlined the significance of the Soviet-American Treaty on eliminating intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles.

Both sides reaffirmed their intention to broaden the areas of political interaction and take practical steps aimed at developing Soviet-Colombian relations in different areas.

## Soviet Government approves protocols to Rarotonga Treaty

THE USSR Council of Ministers has studied and approved Protocols 2 and 3 to the Treaty on the Nuclear-Free Zone in the South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty) that were submitted to it by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The USSR signed the protocols on 15 December 1986 and they have now been forwarded to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet for ratification.

Protocol no. 2 contains commitments not to use nuclear weapons and not to threaten the use of nuclear weapons against member countries of the Treaty. Protocol no. 3 obliges them not to test any nuclear explosive devices whatsoever

in the zone of the Treaty's operation.

The Soviet Union was the first nuclear power to accede to the Rarotonga Treaty. When doing so the Soviet Government stated that the creation of such a zone in the south of the Pacific serves as an important contribution to the forming of a reliable system of security in the Asia-Pacific region, will strengthen the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation, and facilitate the attainment of the task of abolishing nuclear weapons fully and for ever. The Soviet Union expressed the hope that the other nuclear powers will show a serious attitude to this initiative from the region's countries and for their part will do everything to reliably ensure and guarantee the genuinely nuclear-free status of the declared zone.

## USSR Foreign Ministry press briefings

### Group of Six peace initiative

SOVIET Academician Georgi Arbatov has welcomed the results of the summit meeting of the Five Continents' Peace Initiative, which has just ended in Stockholm.

Arbatov, who is the Director of the Institute of U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said at yesterday's briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press centre that "the Stockholm meeting was marked by definite signs of optimism, connected with the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty in December."

The Academician pointed out that the Stockholm summit considered some specific issues in connection with further steps toward nuclear disarmament, criticised the concept of an 'antinuclear impenetrable shield' and emphasised the need to observe the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and prevent an arms race in outer space.

Arbatov supported what he described as a promising idea, voiced at the Stockholm

meeting, of setting up an integrated multinational verification system within the U.N. framework that will supervise the observance of all existing disarmament agreements.

"Behind this idea one can see something bigger — the striving of all nations standing for a nuclear-free world to have at their disposal a mechanism of obtaining information on what is going on in the military field in the world," he said.

"The idea will be submitted for consideration at the forthcoming Special Disarmament Session of the U.N."

### Visits to Bonn and Madrid

"The favourable climate in which Eduard Shevardnadze's visits to Bonn and Madrid were made shows that in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Spain there is strong belief in substantial changes as a result of the accords reached between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan to eliminate the INF missiles, and hope for further steps to eliminate nuclear arms and reduce conventional ones," Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the information directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at the briefing.

"The FRG and Spain expressed readiness to promote the success of nuclear disarmament, and practically agreed to the need to eliminate

chemical weapons. There was also a community of approach to cutbacks in conventional arms," Gerasimov pointed out.

"Much time was also devoted to the search for ways to give greater scope to peaceful cooperation in the new conditions," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman continued. "Trade is one of the major instruments of such cooperation. Both in the FRG and in Spain, particularly among their business communities, there is growing awareness that the development of our trade contacts is hindered by various kinds of restrictions imposed through COCOM or in connection with Common Market regulations."

"The visits confirmed that humanitarian issues are gradually moving out of the sphere of confrontation and approaching constructive cooperation. The meetings and talks showed that the Soviet Union in the eyes of the West Europeans increasingly becomes a country with which hopes for lasting and long-term cooperation are associated."

### Follow spirit of the Washington accords.

The Soviet Union holds that one should display the utmost respect both for the spirit and letter of the joint Soviet-American Statement adopted in

(continues on page 34)



# USSR — Resolution on ensuring employment

THE CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers and All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions have adopted a resolution on ensuring effective employment for the population, updating the system of job placement, and enhancing social guarantees for the working people.

The accelerating scientific and technological progress, emphasis on intensive economic growth, radical reform in economic management and improvements in the organisational structure of ministries, agencies, amalgamations and factories are making increased demands on ensuring the effective employment of the population and upgrading the system of finding jobs for personnel released as a result of cuts

in staff positions at their former workplaces. The resolution points out.

It stresses that all working people should be confident that they are really guaranteed the right to work. Every factory and office employee and specialist at the same time should work in real earnest and with utter dedication, conscientiously and efficiently, upgrade qualifications and skills, and value the social guarantees offered by the state.

Party, local government, economic, trade union and Young Communist League organisations and agencies have been instructed to carry out a package of specific organisational, social, economic and legal measures to improve the use of labour resources fundamentally and create an integral nationwide system for job placement, retraining and occupational

guidance.

The resolution says that the issues involved in staff reductions, retraining and job relocation should be solved strictly in keeping with the labour legislation and the Law on the State Enterprise on a democratic basis, in an atmosphere of public openness and with the direct and active participation of work collectives.

The document emphasises the need to take a considerate attitude to workers affected by staff cuts, especially women and young people, and the importance of taking the interests of different categories of workers into account without fail.

The resolution specifies a range of practical measures to be taken in connection with staff reductions, retraining and job placement.

## Alexander Dunayev on perestroika in Soviet cosmonautics

“PERESTROIKA in the USSR takes in also such a specific area as cosmonautics. We are striving to ensure that work in near-Earth space be based on self-funding,” said Alexander Dunayev, head of the USSR Glavkosmos, the Chief Administration for the Development and Use of Space Engineering for the Economy and Research. He spoke at a press conference on Wednesday on the recently concluded space flight of cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko, Alexander Alexandrov and other cosmonauts.

“It is still difficult to assess in roubles the potential economic effect of all the work carried out during the longest ever space flight,” Dunayev said. “But there have been quite specific and substantial results of some kinds of work of the crew in space on a commercial basis.”

The cosmonauts spoke about their varied research and experiments in the interests of the country's economy. For instance, at the request

of geologists they photographed the structure of the Sikhote-Alin range in the Caucasus and identified gas-bearing structures in the area of the Caspian. In the interests of agriculture, they conducted observation of the ripening of crops in the Ukraine, in the Volga reaches and in Central Asia.

Information received from orbit makes it possible to get a more specific picture of the ecological situation in the area of Siberian Lake Baikal, close to large industrial cities. Biotechnological experiments promise particular economic effect. Experiments carried out on the “Korund” unit will be used for industrial production of materials in weightless conditions.

The foreign trade association Soyuzkarta of the Chief Geodesy and Cartography Department at the USSR Council of Ministers has signed a contract with Australia's Geodesy Service for photographing from space the entire territory of that country.

We succeeded in breaking the U.S. and French monopoly on the international market in this field, Viktor Yashchenko, head of the department, said in an interview with the newspaper *Trud* last week. The point is that Soviet scientists developed a unique photo equipment with the resolving power of five metres. U.S.-made equipment has the resolving power of 30 metres and French-made equipment ten metres.

Our present clients include firms of West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and a dozen other countries.

## Soviet-British joint enterprise

THE Soviet-British joint enterprise Dynamics has acquired the right of a legal entity. It is now registered at the USSR Finance Ministry. Dynamics intends to create computer programmes and sell them both in the world market and the USSR.

“We have good chances for success,” Dynamics General Director Nina Makhrova says. “The high class of Soviet programmers is recognised all over the world, and making special programmes for customers is much cheaper than in the West. The demand for programmes in Western countries differs from those accepted in the USSR. In the West they prefer programmes to be fully ready to be used both by scientists

## New Soviet Law protects human rights

PEOPLE's Courts — as trial courts are called in the Soviet Union — have begun examining the first civil suits filed in keeping with the Law on the procedure of appeal against illegitimate actions by officials infringing upon citizens' rights.

The Law is designed to increase protection for people against bureaucratic and administrative wrongdoing and went into force on January 1.

It is a product of perestroika, without any exaggeration. It is only in the atmosphere of glasnost, or public openness and extended democracy that such a law could have made its appearance.

It entitles a citizen to go to court to protest against any actions by officials as a result of which he or she has been illegally deprived of the possibility to exercise his or her rights.

The bill was finally drafted and submitted to the summer session of the USSR Supreme Soviet (national parliament) in 1987 and passed there, but some speakers at that session and in the press pointed out imperfections.

This is why the subsequent parliamentary session last autumn made significant changes.

The development is noteworthy as it is clearly new to the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet and attests to the fact that perestroika has also reached such an important field of activity as law-making.

and businessmen, and housewives. The firm Gerald Computers, our partner in the joint enterprise, will market our products.

Gerald Computers is a small British firm. It is known that the majority of innovations and long-term developments come from laboratories of small firms. And prices of products made by small firms are lower, as a rule.

Dynamics, in which the Soviet side holds 70% of the capital, intends to render services to clients in the Soviet Union as well. These will be primarily services in creating programmes and maintaining computers for representative offices of foreign companies, and also for Soviet organisations — publishing houses, scientific research institutions, newspaper editorial offices.

(from front page)

Tax was repealed for newlyweds during the first year of their marriage. The state has raised pensions to waged and salaried workers and their families which were fixed ten or more years ago.

Working people increased their savings by 24 billion roubles at savings banks.

Marketing of foodstuffs and non-food products increased 3.1%. Measures to implement the Food Programme enabled the country to normalise trade in many foodstuffs. However, their range does not always meet the requirements of the population.

The demand of the population for many types of clothing and knitted goods is not fully satisfied, and there is a continued and acute shortage of footwear.

Over 11 million people improved their housing conditions. The housing plan was overfulfilled as a whole.

Four million young men and women received secondary education in 1987. 0.8 million specialists graduated from higher educational establishments and 1.3 million from specialised secondary educational establishments.



# Ensuring security in northern Europe

"THERE is only one way of solving the problem of mankind's survival and it applies equally to the area of the North Atlantic and the Arctic. There must be a peaceful alternative to military and political confrontation," Nikolai Uspensky, head of the 2nd European Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasised in Moscow on Friday at a press conference titled "Ways to Ensure Security and Stability in the North of Europe."

"It was precisely this road of development in the north that the Soviet Union proposed when Mikhail Gorbachev put forward the multifaceted action programme in his speech in Murmansk on 1 October 1987. Given the political will of all interested sides these actions can bring about a radical reduction of military confrontation in the north of the planet and the turning of the world's polar and near-polar areas into a genuine zone of peace and fruitful cooperation."

"The meaning of the Murmansk initiatives," the Soviet Foreign Ministry representative said, "is being increasingly realised by politicians and the public. They have become the subject of widespread discussion and of diplomatic work. On making a thorough analysis of the reaction in the nordic and other countries to the Murmansk initiatives the Soviet leadership has again returned to these issues and given them more serious thought. It considered what could be done additionally in order to start translating the Murmansk proposals into concrete deeds. The USSR's new proposals were discussed during the official visits to Sweden and Norway by the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolai Ryzhkov. The public at large has been informed of them. In these new proposals the USSR has tried to take into account the remarks, including critical ones, made both in the nordic and other countries."

"Difficult and painstaking work on all aspects of the Murmansk initiatives lies ahead, and this is realised in the Soviet Union," Nikolai Uspensky

(from Page 31)

On Friday Eduard Shevardnadze had a meeting with the President of the Senate of Spain's Cortes Generales Jose Federico de Carvajal.

The topic of Europe and reduction in the level of military confrontation in the continent prevailed during the friendly conversation.

It was noted that Europe, the cradle of developed civilisation and the source of detente, could and should play a key part in strengthening the positive trends that emerged in the world following the Soviet-American agreements reached in Washington last December and other positive changes in world politics.

Shevardnadze stressed the important role of legislative bodies and parliaments in various countries and public forces in shaping and consolidating the movement towards peace and universal security.

Satisfaction was expressed with the successful development of Soviet-Spanish parliamentary ties that have become lately an important integral part of the political dialogue between the USSR and Spain.

The sides came out in favour of their further development with a view to better reciprocal familiarisation and rapprochement between the peoples of the two countries, and strengthening the climate of confidence and cooperation between the USSR and Spain and in Europe as a whole.

concluded. "The USSR is prepared for this and will press hard for progress and will constructively search for common denominators on all questions. The main thing is to start the diplomatic process leading to the strengthening of security and trust in the north of Europe."

"During Nikolai Ryzhkov's official visit to Sweden and Norway the sides were unanimous that both Soviet-Swedish and Soviet-Norwegian trade-and-economic contacts did not yet correspond to the level of current political relations and that there exist considerable potentialities for their development," Vladislav Malkevich, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the press conference.

The restructuring being effected in the Soviet Union as well as the Murmansk initiatives concerning cooperation in Europe's north are giving impetus to further development of economic cooperation with Sweden and Norway. Vladislav Malkevich pointed out that "the Soviet Union's cooperation with Sweden and Norway in the field of energy has been limited so far to the deliveries of Soviet energy carriers, primarily crude oil, oil products, power station coal and a small amount of electric power to Norway." Services were also rendered to enrich raw uranium for Swedish nuclear power stations.

Vladislav Malkevich emphasised that years-long talks were concluded during Nikolai Ryzhkov's visit to Sweden and letters of intent were signed on the delivery of Soviet natural gas to Sweden.

(from Page 32)

Washington last December, Gennadi Gerasimov stressed, commenting on a draft treaty submitted recently by the U.S. delegation at the Geneva negotiations.

This American draft actually envisages the right to carry out any activity with regard to systems and components banned under the ABM Treaty right up to their deployment, he pointed out.

According to the joint Soviet-American summit Statement of December 10 last year, the delegations in Geneva are instructed to work out an accord that will make it incumbent upon the parties to comply with the ABM Treaty as it was signed in 1972, in the process of carrying out studies, developments and, if need be, tests which are allowed under the ABM Treaty and not to break away from the ABM Treaty within the agreed-upon period of time. The ABM Treaty in no uncertain terms prohibits the development of space-based anti-missile components.

The American draft has been made in a way that the formally declared obligation not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty within the agreed-upon period of time is brought to nought, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasised. "It by no means fits into the framework of mutual understanding attained in Washington."

## *U.S. missiles tested in Canada*

The tests of advanced U.S. weapon systems which have started in Canada recently contribute to Canada taking an active part in a new spiral of the nuclear missile race, Gennadi Gerasimov pointed out at Thursday's press briefing. He reminded that according to statements of Canadian officials, the aim of the tests was to check the guidance systems of Cruise missiles over territory resembling regions in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"Such acts by Canadian authorities," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "run counter to their own statements about the concern of the people of their country over the

"It was suggested that the Swedish side consider the question of elaborating a programme for cooperation in the field of the power industry," he pointed out. "To begin with, it could be a question of the Soviet Union's joining the nordic countries' power system 'Norde!'. Electric power can become an item of export to Sweden."

Special attention during meetings with representatives of the business communities of Sweden and Norway was devoted to projects for cooperation in comprehensive processing of mineral resources on the Kola peninsula. Long-term cooperation is meant.

Touching upon the development of the shelf of the Barents Sea, the Soviet Union suggested that the Norwegian leadership consider the question of establishing a special zone of Soviet-Norwegian partnership in the area.

"Partnership in such a zone," the Soviet spokesman pointed out, "can include joint activities in the spirit of full equality and mutual benefit." Vladislav Malkevich said that talks are under way on the establishment of a number of Soviet-Swedish joint-venture enterprises together with Swedish and Norwegian firms in various branches of the economy.

"The realisation of the projects put forward within the Murmansk initiatives framework will help bring trade-and-economic relations with Sweden and Norway to the level worthy of neighbouring peoples," the Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in conclusion.

arms race, on the need to continue the nascent process of real nuclear disarmament and on the importance of fostering the climate of trust between East and West in the field of security."

## *U.S. aid to Contras*

The Soviet spokesman noted that the U.S. administration's stated decision to resume operations to supply contra gangs in Nicaraguan territory and ask Congress for further funding with this aim was in sharp contrast to the San Jose Summit which decided to continue the process of a peace settlement in Central America on the basis of the Guatemala Agreement.

Gerasimov told the briefing "the U.S. administration claims that if it does not do that, it will make one of its most tragic mistakes. But to our mind it will be one of the most tragic mistakes to try to quench a fire with kerosene."

"After the San Jose meeting it has become clearer than ever before that U.S. aid to contras is the main stumbling block in the way of an enduring peace in Central America.

"If the United States really wants to promote a settlement, aid to the contras must be cut off."

## *Israel's illegitimate actions*

The United States set itself in opposition to the will of the international community once again when on January 19 it used its right of veto in the Security Council to frustrate the resolution on Israel's aggressive actions, Gennadi Gerasimov said.

"As far as the Soviet Union is concerned we strongly condemn Israel for its illegitimate actions against Lebanese and Palestinians who have found shelter in Lebanon, as well as against the population in the West Bank of the River Jordan and Gaza."

"It is only a fair and comprehensive settlement through collective effort within the framework of an international conference that can ensure peace and security for all countries and peoples in the region, including Israel," Gerasimov emphasised.



# USSR-USA

## — successes of people's diplomacy

A "New Vision of Each Other" is the motto of the forthcoming meeting of the U.S. and Soviet public sponsored by the Centre for Soviet-American Dialogue. The Soviet delegation — the most representative in the history of bilateral relations (it comprises a hundred people) — is led by Genrikh Borovik, Chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, and departed for Washington on Sunday.

"What is taking place today between our countries' public can boldly be described as

a breakthrough in the sphere of people's diplomacy," Genrikh Borovik said before leaving. "Stereotypes of the 'cold war' have collapsed under the influence of our meetings, the enemy image in our notion of each other is being replaced by the image of partner, confrontation gives way to the wish to cooperate. There is no doubt that this new meeting of citizens at 'top level' will serve the development of these positive processes."

On the Soviet delegation are renowned public figures, scientists, writers, cinematographers, musicians, actors, clergymen and national education workers. They will take part in discussions and common-interest meetings.

"At previous meetings in Moscow with Rama

Vernon and other activists of the U.S. Centre there was literally a wave of initiatives and proposals for joint activity aimed at overcoming mutual mistrust and animosity." Genrikh Borovik emphasised. "The number keeps growing. If only a part of the hundred-odd projects planned is implemented, we will make a giant spurt towards each other."

"The meetings of 'people's diplomats' show that we have immeasurably more common ground than differences," the head of the Soviet delegation stressed. "One and the same dreams and hopes underlie our lives. These are the hopes for our peoples' peaceful future and happiness of our children, so we should work in cooperation in the name of these lofty goals."

## NATO plans of rearmament

REPORTS in the Western press say that a number of leaders of NATO countries now insist on a 'pause' in the process of disarmament. They demand the slowing down of the pace of the Geneva talks, writes a TASS military correspondent, a 'respite' after the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

Deplorably the point of the matter is not that those NATO leaders got tired out by the effort to achieve arms reduction and wish to have a breather after intensive talks, so as then to resume the effort at disarmament with increased vigour.

They want the 'respite' to give time to the North Atlantic Alliance to deploy in Europe twice as many nuclear warheads as will be eliminated under the INF Treaty. The openly proclaimed purpose of that plan is to replace the land-based intermediate- and shorter-range missiles that are to be destroyed with other nuclear armaments, no less dangerous and destabilising.

It is intended to deploy by the mid-1990's in Western Europe 1,300 air-launched Cruise missiles which would enable NATO to hit the same targets in Eastern Europe on which the U.S. Pershing-2 missiles were trained, to deploy 600 land-based ballistic missiles with a range of up to 500 km, and other nuclear weapon systems.

British and French officials declare that the programme for 'compensatory build up' of NATO nuclear armaments is aimed against the plans of the Russians who want to 'seduce West Germans and make them quit NATO'. The old fables about driving wedges between West European allies are repeated. Meanwhile Paris and London make no secret of the fact that in this case they are concerned not over the problems of European security, but over the 'menace' to their nuclear ambitions as a result of the continued disarmament process.

It should be noted that a number of representatives of the United States, one of the two countries that signed the INF Treaty, declare for the 'modernisation' of NATO nuclear armaments in Europe. The United States believes it has a right to modernise nuclear weapon systems to which the Soviet-American Treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles does not apply, assistant to the President for press relations Marlin Fitzwater said in Washington recently. Commander of the NATO forces American general John Galvin

also declared for 'compensation' for nuclear armaments in Europe that are to be destroyed under the Treaty.

Such pronouncements by U.S. officials attest to their distorted logic. They want to act contrary to the wise English saying that one cannot "have one's cake and eat it". The replacement of the systems of nuclear armaments with other ones, more numerous and no less dangerous, is not disarmament. It is a mockery of nuclear arms reduction.

Unless NATO nuclear arming in answer to the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles is prevented, this can lead to a new spiral in the arms race, and undermine the nascent positive process in Soviet-American relations.

## Franco-West German military cooperation

The documents signed in Paris by French President François Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) on the setting up of a joint defence council and of a mixed Franco-West German brigade run counter to the process of disarmament and the establishment of new, truly peaceful relationships between states. This conclusion is drawn in yesterday's *Pravda* by Nikolai Prozhogin in a commentary on military cooperation between the FRG and France.

The planned expansion of military cooperation between the two countries is at variance with the tendency — which has become marked in the world arena of late and which concerns Europe in the first place — towards cutbacks in arms and the armed forces. *Pravda* points out. This has already led to such an important step as the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and opens up prospects for a radical 50 per cent cut in the strategic offensive arms of the Soviet Union and the United States and for accords on a ban on chemical weapons and reduction in conventional arms and armed forces in the European continent.

The already achieved and contemplated measures of disarmament have found widespread approval and support both in Europe and throughout the world. But at the same time it is also known that they gave rise to disappointment and at times overt hostility on the part of some influential circles in various Western countries. Their motives may be different: desire to retain lucrative military orders, apprehension over losing 'national

## Georgi Arbatov on Soviet-U.S. scientific cooperation

WHAT will joint Soviet-American industrial enterprises be like? This question can be answered by lawyers and economists from the two countries who included this theme into the Protocol on the programme of scientific contacts in social and humanitarian sciences signed in Princeton, United States a few days ago.

Soviet Academician Georgi Arbatov and President of the American Council of Learned Societies Stanley Katz put their signatures to this historic document that the Washington summit meeting paved the way for.

Commenting in Moscow on the results of his trip to the United States, Georgi Arbatov highly appreciated the very fact of the Protocol having been signed. He said that it was signed for two years (1988-1989) and provides for appreciable expansion of cooperation between historians, philosophers, sociologists, economists, psychologists and ethnographers.

This is the second Soviet-American joint document on science signed this year. An agreement on scientific-technological cooperation between the academies of sciences of the United States and the Soviet Union was signed in Moscow early in January. "Both documents provide for about 120 joint projects and also the exchange of scientists and information. There were only 9 joint projects in 1975, Georgi Arbatov said.

"The expansion of scientific contacts became possible owing to the change in the political climate in the relations between the USSR and the USA. It is not casual that the Protocol signed in Princeton includes such areas as contractual and international law, questions of preservation of world peace, problems of disarmament, and publication of books on the history of relations between the two states in the 18th and 19th centuries."

greatness' allegedly associated with the possession of nuclear weapons and losing the possibility of pursuing their policy of 'nuclear deterrence'. There are attempts by militarist forces in the FRG to get closer to the nuclear missiles' control panel, in this case French, and finally, desire to find 'compensation' for the U.S. nuclear weapons which are subject to elimination under the INF Treaty.



# USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium discusses INF treaty ratification

THE Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the USSR has begun discussing the issue of ratifying the treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States on eliminating their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, which was signed during the Washington summit on 8 December 1987.

In keeping with this country's Constitution its international treaties are ratified by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

It examines the international treaties signed by the Soviet Union and submitted for ratification by the Council of Ministers of the USSR and takes appropriate decisions.

In the more important cases the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet first sends the treaties to the foreign affairs commissions of both

parliamentary chambers (the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities), which consider them and draw relevant conclusions.

The Presidium passed a resolution on Monday connected with the Soviet-U.S. INF treaty submitted for ratification by the government.

The resolution says that thanks to persistent efforts by the Soviet Union and other socialist nations, with active support from other peace-loving forces and as a result of intensive dialogue between the leaders of the USSR and the United States, including their three summit meetings, and exhaustive international negotiations mankind has reached a watershed between the mounting nuclear threat and the demilitarisation of this planet.

The INF treaty, the resolution points out, is called upon to mark the practical start of work to build a nuclear-free world. It adds that the real destruction of two classes of Soviet and U.S. nuclear missiles for the first time in history under stringent verification

arrangements will meet the interests of all nations and raise the global security level.

Guided by its awareness of lofty responsibility to the world and looking forward to these and further practical steps of disarmament, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the resolution continues, will give the INF treaty the most careful consideration.

The Presidium has decided to refer the treaty to the foreign affairs commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities for advance consideration of all aspects of both the treaty and the accompanying documents, taking account of the views expressed on it including expert judgements and opinions of the Soviet public, and drawing a pertinent conclusion.

After that the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet will give all-round consideration to the issue of ratifying the treaty with regard for the commissions' conclusions, at a meeting whose date will be set later.

## A realistic opportunity

### Deep cuts in strategic offensive arms and continuing compliance with the ABM Treaty

THE Soviet-American nuclear and space weapons talks are continuing in Geneva. Their current ninth round is of special significance, *Pravda* emphasises in its editorial in Monday's issue. Hard-fought diplomatic battles around medium- and shorter-range missiles are well behind us now. Signing the INF Treaty in Washington, the leaders of the two powers proved that eliminating the most advanced nuclear-missile weapons is a feasible task. It is also important that they decided to get down to the issue of radically reducing the most dangerous and destructive type of these weapons, strategic nuclear weapons.

It is a difficult problem. No wonder the draft of the treaty that the delegations in Geneva are now working out is hundreds of pages thick. But their job is made easier by the fact that in Washington the two leaders thoroughly discussed the matter and announced progress in tackling it. Building upon the Reykjavik Agreement on a 50% reduction in strategic offensive arms, the Soviet and American leaders confirmed the major provisions of the future agreement and broke some new ground.

They agreed that the number of strategic delivery vehicles should not exceed 1,600 and the number of warheads 6,000. The sides also agreed to limit the number of ICBM warheads to 4,900 and SLBM warheads to 6,000. They have also reached agreement on the aggregate throw-weight of ballistic missiles and on major verification measures.

These and other fundamental agreements endorsed by the two countries' leaders serve as points of reference for the negotiators in Geneva. Along with the experience gained in discussing the issue of eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles these guidelines provide a realistic opportunity for achieving mutually

acceptable agreement.

However, one should not shut one's eyes to substantial problems and difficulties. The sides are still to negotiate specific verification procedures, the question of limiting the deployment of long-range SLCM's and some other issues.

A most controversial and urgent problem is perhaps the problem of interrelationship between strategic offensive and defensive weapons. The existence of such interrelationship has been confirmed by century-old experience. The development of offensive armaments has always stimulated the upgrading of defensive ones. At the same time, limitation of defensive weapons restrains the development of offensive arms. This interrelationship is confirmed in the ABM Treaty which says that "effective measures to limit anti-ballistic missile systems will be a substantial factor in curbing the race in strategic offensive arms and will lead to the decrease in risk of outbreak of war involving nuclear weapons."

Ignoring this interrelationship, the advocates of SDI in the United States insist that de jure compliance with the ABM Treaty throughout the agreed period should not block the development and testing of all necessary elements of a space-based missile defence system. They obviously hope that when SDI research and development is completed, the ABM Treaty will be scrapped. No wonder that on the eve of the resumption of the Geneva talks, right-wing circles in the United States demanded that agreement on a 50% reduction in strategic offensive arms should not in any way interfere with the SDI programme.

However, it is clear that discussing an agreement on strategic offensive weapons, the sides must be guided by the instructions which their leaders gave them at the meeting in Washington. Specifically "to work out an agreement that will commit the sides to observe the ABM Treaty as signed in 1972 while conducting their research, development and testing as required, which is permitted by the ABM Treaty, and not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty for a specified period of time."

Guided by this provision of the joint Soviet-American Statement, the Soviet Union tabled in Geneva a few days ago the draft of a Protocol to the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union considers a 50% reduction of strategic offensive weapons a realistic task. However, it is categorically against any attempts to launch an arms race in other areas now that the process of disarmament is acquiring definite outlines. These include the attempt to spread the arms race into space. If such attempts are not cut short the general strategic situation will be destabilised and this will have very serious consequences.

In Washington the Soviet and American leaders instructed their negotiators in Geneva to accelerate the solution of the questions contained in the text of the joint draft treaty on reducing strategic offensive arms. Their task now is to prepare the treaty on a 50% reduction in the strategic offensive arms of the sides for signing at the next Soviet-American summit in the first half of this year. This major assignment can be fulfilled only if the negotiators demonstrate maximum flexibility and constructive approach in discussing the problem of vital importance for the world's future and refrain from any attempts to further their own interests at the expense of the other side.

A 50% reduction in U.S. and Soviet strategic offensive arms will be more than a next step forward after the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles. Such an agreement will be a breakthrough in building a nuclear-weapon-free world. Its implementation will bring about a radical improvement in the international situation and help control confrontation tendencies that have been growing during the past few years, strengthen trust in relations between states and in the long run release vast resources for peaceful development and the advancement of peoples' welfare.

So the main task of the current historic round of the Geneva talks is to assist the attainment of this goal.