

## Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Patriarch Pimen

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV received in the Kremlin on April 29 Patriarch Pimen and members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church at their request in connection with the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in Russia.

"Our meeting is taking place ahead of the 1,000th anniversary of the baptism of Russia which received not only religious, but also social and political significance, for this was an important milestone along the centuries-long path of the development of national history, culture and Russian statehood," Gorbachev said.

"This was a long and complicated path, rich in dramatic events and keen political collisions. I would single out a period of seven decades that became for the Russian Church one of the most important stages in its history.

"These are the seven decades of Soviet Government when the church has been living and operating in social conditions that have no analogues in history.

"The decree on the separation of church from state and of school from church, proclaimed by the young Soviet Republic, marked a sharp turn in relations between church and state in Russia.

"The Lenin Decree, the 70th anniversary of which was recently observed, enabled the church to carry out its activity without any outside interference.

"To use a figure of speech, the liberation spirit of the Great October Socialist Revolution reached all religious organisations in our multi-ethnic society.

"Not everything was easy and simple in the sphere of state-church relations. Not all hierarchs were able to perceive the essence of the decree. It took time to comprehend the ideas contained therein.

"Religious organisations were also affected by the tragic developments that occurred in the period of the cult of personality. This period was unequivocally assessed as departure from socialist principles that have now been restored in their rights.

"Mistakes made with regard to the church and believers in the 1930s and the years that followed are being rectified. Our newspapers and magazines write about this with candour and objectivity. From their pages we hear the voice of the church, the voice of those present here.

"The constitution of the USSR guarantees equality for all citizens. In the name of real equality and real freedom, the religious and non-religious working people carried out history's first socialist revolution, worked side by

side building the edifice of socialism and fought in the Great Patriotic War and heroically worked on the home front.

"The common destiny, the hardest trials rallied together all Soviet people defending socialism in a life-or-death fight against fascism.

"Designed to perform purely religious functions, the church cannot keep away from complicated problems that worry mankind, from the processes taking place in society.

"The peace-making efforts by the country's religious organisations, their contribution to the campaign for nuclear disarmament deserve the highest praise. The movement of the clergy for humanism, for fair relations between peoples deserves as much appreciation."

"The overwhelming majority of the believers accepted the policy of perestroika (or restructuring), making a considerable contribution to implementing the plans of the country's social and economic acceleration, to promoting democracy and openness," Gorbachev went on.

### Jubilee celebrations

"A new law on the freedom of conscience, now being drafted, will reflect the interests of religious organisations as well. These are all tangible results of new approaches to state-church relations in the conditions of perestroika and democratisation of Soviet society.

"We are restoring in full measure now the Leninist principles of attitude to religion, church and believers. The attitude to the church, to the believers should be determined by the interests of strengthening the unity of all working people, of the entire nation.

"We clearly see the entire depth of our differences in world outlook, but at the same time we realistically assess the existing situation. The believers are Soviet people, workers, patriots, and they have the full right to express their conviction with dignity. Perestroika, democratisation concern them as well — in full measure and without any restrictions.

"A little more than one month is left before the jubilee celebrations. On the eve of this event I would like to express the desire that it is marked by the consolidation of our country's believers, all working people for the sake of

our common great cause of perestroika, of the renewal of socialism and complete unfolding of its humanistic ethical potential. This is also inseparable today from active participation in the struggle against the nuclear threat and for the survival of mankind."

*Then Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and all Russia addressed Mikhail Gorbachev. He said, in particular:*

"The millennium of the baptism of Russia falls due this year. Ever since those times, our church has been spiritually fostering its children, confirming them in evangelical principles, and inculcating civic virtues in them. The church has always combined its service with concern for the integrity of our Motherland and its defence from foreign encroachments, for the strengthening of justice in society, and for the development of spiritual culture.

"There will be an official celebration of the memorable jubilee in June this year. We are now finalising preparation for it so as worthily to mark the great event in the history of Christianity and of our Motherland.

"We church people ardently pray for the success of the restructuring process, and strive to do everything possible for its development. The church devotes its efforts to moral education of believers, to the assertion of the dignity of human personality in them, to the strengthening of the sacredness of the family hearth, and conscientious attitude to labour for the good of one's neighbours and our entire society.

"However, not all problems of church life receive their resolution so far. We hope that in the atmosphere of the development of the democratic principles of the life of our society, they will find a solution favourable to the church and beneficial to our state."

In the ensuing conversation the members of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church expressed their full support for measures being taken in our country towards restructuring and moral renewal in society. They raised a number of specific matters connected with ensuring the normal activity of the orthodox church.

Mikhail Gorbachev said he would refer the requests and considerations to the government which would attentively examine them and take the necessary decisions. □

### May day festivities in Moscow

A demonstration of Muscovites devoted to May Day, the day of international solidarity of the working people, was held in Red Square in the Soviet capital. On the rostrum of the Lenin Mausoleum were Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, other Soviet leaders and prominent military commanders. In the stands on Red Square were veterans of the Party and labour veterans, participants in the 1917 October Revolution, advanced workers, workers in literature and the arts and cosmonauts.

Delegations of trade unions and working-class movements from more than 100 countries of the world, delegates from the World Federation of Trade Unions in Moscow for the May Day

festivities, heads of more than 110 diplomatic missions of foreign countries accredited to the USSR were also in the stands.

May Day celebrations were held in all Soviet cities.

In the evening bright, multi-coloured clusters of fireworks blossomed out in Moscow's evening sky. The Soviet capital saluted the day of the international solidarity of the working people.

At 10 o'clock flat intricate patterns flashed above the avenues and squares which are in festive attire these days. Thousands of man-made stars illuminated the sky, leaving it dark only for an instant. The sparkling flood of fireworks soared into the sky 20 times. Each salvo was inimitable in its beauty. □

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# Mikhail Gorbachev receives leader of Uruguayan communists

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met at the CPSU Central Committee on April 29 a delegation of the Communist Party of Uruguay headed by Rodney Arismendi, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the party. Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Jaime Perez, Deputy General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uruguay, Leon Lev and Jorge Mazzarovich, members of the Executive and the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uruguay, Anatoli Chernyayev, Member of the CPSU Central Committee and Karen Brutents, alternate Member of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the meeting.

Mikhail Gorbachev regarded with profound interest Rodney Arismendi's all-round analysis of the processes going on in Latin America that assume world importance. The strengthening of the positions of democracy in many Latin American countries and their ever growing independence in the solution of their own Latin American problems and in relations with the rest of the world is the source of the increasing international role played by Latin America.

Rodney Arismendi emphasised how important it is now to see the novelty and extraordinary character of the changes which resulted in the fall of dictatorships and the consolidation also of democratic regimes in a number of large Latin American countries. He emphasised how dangerous it is for the Communist Party and how disadvantageous it is for the consolidation of all national progressive forces to gauge these phenomena by old yardsticks. He spoke about the activity of his party which had learned well the lessons of history and is building theoretical and political activity taking into account the traditions of the country, on the basis of the present-day realities and not from quotations from books.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the essence of the party's vanguard role at the present stage both under socialism and under capitalism. Decisive and common with all the inevitable difference are the democratisation of the life of the parties themselves, the standard of guidance, the knack of renewing theory and policies, the art of introducing them to practice, and the ability of not only to be together with the working class but also finding a common language with the most diverse sections of one's society. The role of the intelligentsia was emphasised during the conversation.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Rodney Arismendi shared their evaluations of the state of the international communist movement. There are many problems which require a courageous self-critical analysis. The known weaknesses of the movement are in many respects connected with slowness in grasping theoretically and politically the fundamental changes which have taken place in the world and in individual countries in recent decades.

The quest for answers worthy of present-day socialism and the communist movement brooks no dogmatism and no attachment to old schemes. Answers can be found only through voluntary joint efforts.

The interlocutors were unanimous that creative free discussions were required for the renewal of the movement with a respectful attitude to each party, its history and contribution to the common cause. A dynamic dialogue, participation of the scientific forces of parties, contacts and exchanges of views with other democratic parties are essential. Perestroika in the Soviet Union, in the opinion of Rodney Arismendi, creates the necessary atmosphere and impulse to such work.

The meaning of perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised, is in realising the

potential of socialism and in recreating its Leninist aspect. This is not only our internal affair. It is of internationalist importance.

The new way of thinking presupposes that all complex interrelations and interdependences in the modern world, all contradictoriness of the interests of different countries and nations are taken account of. At the same time, it has to do with a single human civilisation. Even given the presence of directly opposing socio-economic forms in it, the main protagonist in any of them is the working people, i.e. the social force to the struggle for whose interests the communists devoted themselves.

Mikhail Gorbachev shared experience in working out the theory and policy of restructuring and of the new way of thinking. He took note of the importance of understanding correctly the essence and goals of the domestic and foreign policies of the CPSU. This is a very important aspect of the ideological struggle which is already unfolding over these issues.

Mikhail Gorbachev shared his thoughts with the Uruguayan comrades on preparations for the 19th Party Conference, which will be crucial for the entire further course of the drive for restructuring. Serious changes are to be made, he said, and far-reaching decisions taken. The drive for restructuring will receive fresh powerful impetus and new guarantees of irreversibility. The conference is called upon to make an important contribution to the theory of socialism as well.

Rodney Arismendi said that there was unprecedented interest among different sections of Latin American society to restructuring in the Soviet Union, that Latin Americans were looking forward to Mikhail Gorbachev's visit.

Concluding the conversation, Mikhail Gorbachev said that we highly value relations with the fraternal Communist Party of Uruguay, are interested in developing them and highly assess the theoretical potential of the party's leadership. Each contact with it gives rich food for thinking over the most complex problems of our day. □

## Eduard Shevardnadze's speech in honour of Kim Yong Nam

"OUR friendship is a constant and invariable value", Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said on April 29 at a luncheon given in honour of Kim Yong Nam, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), who is currently in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit.

The USSR and the DPRK, Shevardnadze pointed out, act side by side for the sake of peace and security in Asia, the Pacific Ocean area and in the whole world. The Soviet Union is for the Pacific Ocean to justify its name politically, and for a climate of peaceful and

equal co-operation to become established in the region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR voiced the hope that the current positive changes in Soviet-US relations and the forthcoming summit meeting in Moscow would have a favourable effect on the state of affairs in Asia as well. "We", he said, "are in favour of further developing relations with China. A Soviet-Chinese summit meeting could open up a new prospect in this respect. An immense potential is inherent in the establishment of versatile co-operation between the Soviet Union and Japan."

"We", Eduard Shevardnadze went on, "proceed from the assumption that a peaceful solution to problems, a transition from confrontation to dialogue and talks, and the inadmissibility of the use of military force — be it in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, the Laos-Thailand border dispute, the Kampuchean problem or the situation around Spratly Islands — are the imperative of the times, the requirement of the new political thinking in world affairs. The signing of the Geneva agreements on

Afghanistan convinces us that regional conflicts are politically surmountable."

Touching upon the situation on the Korean Peninsula where the seat of tension continues, Shevardnadze said the prime cause of tension was the conversion of the peninsula's south into a large military base, and a nuclear staging area of the United States. The militarisation process in South Korea itself becomes increasingly intensive. It is essential in general to do away with the show of force throughout the Korean Peninsula as the DPRK suggests, the minister emphasised.

"Just like our Korean friends, we consider it the principal aim for the Korean Peninsula to eliminate military and political confrontation. This would be precisely the result of the implementation of the idea of making the peninsula a nuclear-free zone. The DPRK has already virtually declared its territory to be a nuclear-free zone. Next step is now up to Seoul and Washington, i.e. to remove the US nuclear arsenal from South Korea. If this happens — and we persistently suggest that the

(Continued on next page)



# Soviet Defence Minister's Statement on Soviet military doctrine

GENERAL of the Army Dmitri Yazov, alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Defence Minister of the USSR, met in Moscow on April 29 with the heads of foreign diplomatic missions and military attachés at the embassies in the USSR.

In his statement, General Yazov set out the current Soviet military doctrine.

The very fact of the meeting, he observed, reflected new approaches to all-round co-operation that characterised the Soviet Union's foreign policy.

"We hope that it will promote better understanding and the strengthening of confidence between our countries with a view to safeguarding universal security and peace.

"The Soviet Union's international policy rests on new political thinking based on the concept of the inadmissibility of war. In its fuller form, it is reflected in the concept of a comprehensive system of international security that gains growing recognition in the international community.

"In relations between states with different social systems, our policy is that confrontation and an unrestricted arms race be replaced with stronger trust and mutual understanding, so that co-operation between nations broaden while their arsenals are cut.

"The new political thinking, which proceeds from the all-round appraisal of the present-day realities, the existence of huge arsenals of weapons and the threat of their use, urgently demands that outdated views on problems of national and international security be discarded, the dogmas of 'nuclear deterrence' be dropped and reciprocal suspicion and mistrust that have

*(continued from previous page)*

Americans do so — the Soviet Union would be ready together with the other nuclear powers to guarantee the nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula", Shevardnadze stated.

It is believed in the Soviet Union, he said, that it is necessary to establish a constructive inter-Korean dialogue the aim of which would be to achieve Korea's unity on a peaceful democratic basis without any interference from the outside. □

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been accumulating for many decades be done away with.

"The practical implementation of new political thinking is exerting substantial influence on the shaping of the military doctrine of states or their coalitions. It demands both revision of the very notion of this important military-political category and the specification of its content.

"In the past, the military doctrine was regarded as a system of views on the preparation and waging of a possible war. This interpretation and understanding no longer meet the present-day realities. War as a means of attaining political objectives has become unacceptable.

"At the same time, the need for concern about security is dictated by the fact that many contradictions between states with different social systems which possess formidable armed forces remain unresolved, that attempts are made time and again to resolve complex international problems by force and that the arms race around the world is still continuing.

"Taking this into account, the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty adopted at the Berlin meeting in May 1987 a document 'On the Military Doctrine of the Warsaw Treaty Member States', a defensive doctrine of which the Soviet military doctrine is part. It is being thoroughly studied by political figures, ideologists and military experts in the West.

## Preventing war

"Some of them do not abandon attempts at distorting the essence of our doctrine and at imputing an offensive and even aggressive character to it. Others recognise the defensive character of the Soviet military doctrine but only with reference to its political part. As far as the military-and-technical field is concerned, they allege that it still characterises our doctrine as an offensive one.

"One should say that neither the one, nor the other assessment reflects the real essence of the Soviet military doctrine. Consequently, such an assessment does not promote mutual understanding, or a search for ways to reduce the existing tension, to achieve disarmament and to build up confidence."

Then the Minister of Defence described the character and content of the Soviet military doctrine, and showed that it is aimed at preventing war and at ensuring universal and reliable peace.

"The socio-economic system of the Soviet Union — socialism and a peaceful policy being pursued by it — is the basis of the Soviet military doctrine," he said. "The Soviet Union has never associated and does not associate its future with a military solution to international problems, and unreservedly rejects wars as a means for resolving inter-state contradictions. In our society, there are no forces, classes, sections or groups of population interested in war."

"The main content and character of our military doctrine are determined by the priority goal of the Soviet foreign policy: to enable our people to work under conditions of lasting peace and freedom. This is reflected in the respective provisions of the Party and state documents — the programme of the CPSU, the decisions of the 27th Congress of the Party, the Constitution of the USSR, and other legislative acts as well as in the orders of the top military leadership, and is being implemented strictly in accordance with them.

"The contemporary Soviet military doctrine is a system of officially accepted and basic views on the prevention of war, military development, the preparedness of the state and of its armed forces to repulse an aggression, and on ways of conducting an armed struggle in defence of the socialist state.

"It follows already from the very definition of our doctrine that it is aimed at preventing war, and not at preparing for it, at strengthening international security, and not at unleashing wars. Naturally, it envisages effective political and defence measures aimed at preventing the aggressor from unleashing a war and at depriving it of an illusory hope to win a victory in it.

"It should be emphasised that it is for the first time that provisions concerning the prevention of war have been included in our military doctrine in such a direct way. Of course, previously, too, the military activity of the Soviet Union envisaged a struggle against war. But now that war is tantamount to suicide, to a global catastrophe, the task of struggling against war has been put to the fore in our doctrine.

"Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has repeatedly said that the old notions about war as a means to attain political ends became obsolete. He pointed out that in the nuclear age the outdated dogmas nourish a policy which may lead to an all-out conflagration."

Dwelling on the structure of the Soviet military doctrine, Dmitri Yazov showed the defensive character of its political and military-technical aspects. The political aspect reflects the attitude of the Soviet Union to war, the military and political tasks to prevent it, to strengthen the country's defences and security. The military-technical aspect is subjugated to the political one and comprises the working out of military, organisational, technical, strategic and military-economic measures to prevent war and repulse a possible aggression.

The most important specific feature of the present Soviet military doctrine, just as

## CONSULTATIONS

A scheduled meeting was held in Vienna on May 2 within the framework of the consultations between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member countries to draw up a mandate for talks on a cut in the armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. The question was discussed of the rules of procedure and organisation of the work of the forthcoming talks.

### Mikhail Gorbachev

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of doctrines of other Warsaw Treaty member countries, is its exclusively defensive nature. It is manifested above all in the defensive essence of the military-political tasks posed by the Soviet State — internal and foreign policy ones, in the nature and contents of military planning and military development, in the demands put to the development of the art of war.

Then the USSR Defence Minister touched upon the key provisions of the military doctrine which most patently show its defensive nature, pointed to the Soviet programme aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction before the end of this century, to reduce to the minimum conventional arms, limit the military potentials of the sides to the levels of sufficiency, ensuring the solution of defensive tasks only. "We are in favour of deciding all disputes arising between states or alliances of states in a political way only, at peaceful negotiations, without the use of force or reliance on force," he said. "Such an approach is indispensable in the nuclear space age, when the globe has become too fragile for power politics. Proceeding from this, the Soviet military doctrine envisages a broad range of measures aimed at the prevention of war, at the ensurance of security not only for its own country but also for allies."

The existing military-strategic parity is, as is known, an important factor for the prevention of war in present-day conditions. Its most patent indicator is the balance of the strategic nuclear forces of the USSR and the USA, which was verified more than once and confirmed during the drafting of the Salt-2 Treaty and during the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms and the summit meetings in Geneva, Reykjavik and Washington.

The recognition of this balance by both sides and of the need to lower its level plays a positive role, attests to the possibility of arriving at mutual understanding and taking joint actions toward the solution of the most acute problems of the present, given goodwill. The evidence of this is the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.

"The very fact of its conclusion says that prospects for creating a nuclear-free, non-violent world are being materialised."

The Soviet Defence Minister named specific practical measures advanced by the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty countries directed at averting war.

"While recognising the existing military-strategic parity as a decisive factor to preventing war, the Soviet Union believes that the continued growth of its level will not result in greater security.

"That is why our state jointly with other Warsaw Treaty member countries propose substantially cutting the armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

"The Warsaw Treaty member states are ready for consultations about the numerical strength and armaments of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO in Europe and for consultations on this basis with the NATO countries with a view to finding ways of eliminating the existing imbalances and asymmetries."

Pointing to the need for transition from individual measures to a policy of trust, the speaker enumerated specific initiatives advanced by the Warsaw Treaty member countries.

"The Soviet Union, in full agreement with other Warsaw Treaty member countries," he said, "regards as abnormal the remaining division of Europe into opposing military blocs."

"We favour the simultaneous disbanding of the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Treaty and, as a first step, the elimination of their military organisations and establishment in the long run of a comprehensive system of international security."

Revealing the content of the principle of sufficiency for defence, General Yazov stressed the need for reciprocal actions by the sides to diminish military confrontation. He emphasised the importance of comparing the military doctrines of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, of the USSR and the United States. This would help achieve mutual understanding with regard to the need for sticking to defensive strategy.

"The practical road towards implementing the concept of defensive strategy and the principle of sufficiency lies through mutual — with the United States and other NATO countries — restraint in the military field, through talks and agreements, coordinated actions, through maintaining equilibrium at lower levels without damaging anyone's security.

"The vital issues of war and peace can and should be resolved, no matter how difficult they are, if all states realise their historic responsibility for the survival of mankind and look in the spirit of goodwill for measures to safeguard their and international security along lines of co-operation, rather than confrontation, in keeping with the demands of the time."

*The Soviet Defence Minister then replied to diplomats' questions.* □

## On the Pentagon's new publication NEW ISSUE — OLD LIES

*By Vladimir Chernyshov, TASS military writer*

The Pentagon have brought out another annual publication purportedly to analyse the correlation of forces between the USSR and the USA, the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO. This is the seventh such issue, but this year's publication differs somewhat from the previous six. Proceeding from the view that new thinking is gaining ground everywhere in the world, in the military area also, and taking into consideration the fact that the Pentagon now has a new chief, one could expect realistic tendencies in the new publication of the US Department of Defense. Have these expectations come true? Regrettably, one has to give a negative answer.

The very title of the annual issue *Soviet Military Power* now has a subtitle *An Assessment of the Threat*. This is indicative of the tendency of the "survey". It is clear that it seeks to convince the reader at once of the existence of such a "threat". The title thus gives one an impression that it is only a matter of assessing the scope of the threat. As to the contents of the annual issue, it is impossible to sum up in a brief commentary all the absurdities, half-truths and distortions heaped up in it. Therefore we shall thus far limit ourselves to one area: we shall trace how the Pentagon's writings distort Soviet military doctrine.

"Soviet military doctrine views war as an

extension of politics and emphasises offensive operations. . .", the authors write. They declare that the aim of Soviet military doctrine is victory in a whole spectrum of conflicts — from limited conventional conflicts to strategic nuclear war. Apparently in order to impart some semblance of truthfulness to these groundless assertions, the authors of the "research" say that in the eighties the USSR started including defensive operations in its strategy while the entire strategy, allegedly, still remains an offensive one. And the authors make reference to the recent book by the USSR Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov *On Guard for Socialism and Peace*. But it is apparent that they do not quote from it accurately.

They do not even mention the real provisions of the Soviet military doctrine set out in the book: the doctrine's being aimed at preventing war — both nuclear and conventional, the relationship of the two tasks reflected in the defensive character of the doctrine — efforts to prevent war and readiness to repulse an aggressor. It follows from the definition of the Soviet doctrine that it is aimed at preventing war, not at preparation for war, at consolidating international security, not at unleashing wars. The doctrine, naturally, provides for effective political and defensive measures aimed at preventing an aggressor from launching a war and at dispelling his illusory hope of winning the war.

Can the assertions of the American strategists about the "offensive character" of the Soviet doctrine be regarded as objective ones, if Soviet official documents state outright that the Soviet military doctrine views defence as its main form of military operations in repulsing aggression? It is only after an attack is repulsed that troops and navy are to launch a counteroffensive. The

Pentagon researchers have also failed to notice the most patent confirmations of the defensive character of the Soviet military doctrine: the Soviet Union's obligation not to start military operations against any country or alliance of countries under any circumstances unless the Soviet Union or its allies are attacked and the Soviet Union's official statement that it will never be the first to use nuclear arms. And these obligations are essential to Soviet military development and apply to the training of staffs and troops.

As to the statement that the USSR holds that war is an extension of politics, it would be good if the Pentagon theorists claiming to be knowledgeable of the Soviet Union's military policy familiarise themselves with Mikhail Gorbachev's works in which it is stated clearly that the formula of Clausewitz which was classical for his time, that war is an extension of politics by different means, has become outdated, and that military solution of international contradictions is impossible, that nuclear war cannot be the means of achieving political, economic, ideological or any other aims.

All this shows that the Soviet military doctrine has nothing in common with its interpretation by the Pentagon. The attempt to present the USSR to the American public in a wrong light, as an "enemy image", to create an impression of a "danger" allegedly posed by the USSR is a familiar method. It is only strange that on the Potomac they continue these exercises in misinformation, rigging of facts and outright lies even now that the prospects of advancement to a nuclear weapons free, secure and stable world have opened. □



# Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its regular meeting on April 28 considered a number of organisational issues connected with the preparations for and holding of the 19th All-Union Party Conference.

The Political Bureau discussed the government's proposals for speeding up the development of the electronics industry. It approved a package of measures to broaden and strengthen the scientific and production facilities in Soviet electronics.

It envisaged increasing the capacities of the electronics industry, retooling operating plant and building new factories in various parts of the country and creating scientific centres to deal with problems of micro-electronics in the years of the 12th and 13th five-year periods and through to the year 2000.

A comprehensive programme of applied and basic research was adopted with a view to upgrading substantially technical standards in electronics. Organisations of the USSR Academy of Sciences and higher educational establishments are to be involved in this work.

The Political Bureau approved master plans for running the national economics of Lithuania and Estonia, elaborated by the central committees of ministers with the broad participation of local Party and economic managers.

The meeting discussed and approved the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's discussion and Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with US Secretary of State George Shultz during his visit to Moscow on April 21-22.

It stressed that understanding had been reached on the basis of the exchange of views on issues of security, regional problems and bilateral relations with regard to the concept of another Soviet-American summit and major functions connected with the meeting had been agreed upon.

The Soviet leadership is prepared to undertake the necessary efforts so that the Moscow summit be marked by definite and major results. This required, naturally, a corresponding desire on the American side, its readiness to reckon with political realities, take into account the partner's interests, thoroughly to weigh out the measure of its responsibility and abandon attempts to impose its views and values on others.

The Political Bureau approved the results of the official friendly visit to Hungary by Nikolai Ryzhkov. The specific discussion of major issues of Soviet-Hungarian relations and the agreements reached pave the way for the further consolidation of fraternal ties and all-round co-operation between the Soviet Union and Hungary.

It was stated that the community of goals and proximity of the directions of the processes

of renewal in the USSR and Hungary are of key importance for enhancing the efficiency of interaction between the two countries in the economic, scientific and technological, cultural and other spheres and the broad use of modern forms of co-operation.

Confidence was expressed that all that and the common approach to all basic international problems would help strengthen friendship between the Soviet and Hungarian peoples.

The Political Bureau heard Anatoli Dobrynin's report on the results of the conference on the journal *World Marxist Review* (Problems of Peace and Socialism) held in Prague on April 12-15, and approved the activity of the CPSU delegation.

Satisfaction was expressed with the fact that it became possible, thanks to the frank exchange of views in an atmosphere of openness and respect for one another's views, to collectively work out a constructive approach to the solution of the important issue of reshaping the activity of *World Marxist Review* and the adoption of the corresponding measures.

This approach, in the opinion of the CPSU Central Committee, meets the spirit of the time and the needs of the communist, workers' and left democratic movements.

The Political Bureau discussed some other state issues and the country's social and political life. □

## South African communists visit USSR

YEGOR LIGACHEV, Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on April 27 met at the CPSU Central Committee a delegation from the South African Communist Party (SACP) led by SACP General Secretary Joe Slovo.

It was pointed out during the meeting that as a result of a hard-pressing liberation movement, the apartheid regime in South Africa has found itself in a profound and irreversible crisis.

In these conditions Pretoria rulers should realise the futility of their attempts to save apartheid, and agree to a political solution to the problem, by accepting the just demand of the ANC and other patriotic forces for making South Africa an integral democratic non-racial state.

The SACP and the CPSU are convinced that this solution would be in the interests of all the inhabitants of South Africa, both white and black, and facilitate peace in the country and the region, and an improvement in the international situation in general.

The SACP General Secretary expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the CPSU and the Soviet people for their all-round assistance and support for South African patriots.

The Soviet side reiterated its invariable solidarity with the freedom fighters in South Africa.

The participants in the meeting declared for internationalising the anti-apartheid movement to the maximum and creating an atmosphere of general condemnation and intolerance of that criminal system in the world.

They called for an international campaign to

save the Sharpeville Six and secure the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners in South Africa.

The SACP delegation pointed to the wholesome influence of changes in Soviet society on the world situation and expressed its full backing for the efforts of the CPSU and the Soviet State to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, forge a comprehensive system of international security and achieve a fair political settlement of

regional conflicts.

On behalf of the South African communists Slovo hailed the signature of the Geneva Accords on an Afghanistan settlement.

Solidarity was expressed with the people of Namibia fighting under the guidance of SWAPO for their independence, and with Angola and other "frontline" nations in Africa upholding their sovereignty in the face of aggressive actions on the part of South Africa. □

## Valentin Falin on People's Diplomacy

TODAY'S meeting in Moscow of public figures from the USSR and the FRG to discuss "Stability in Europe" is not only an indication of the qualitatively new processes now at work in the world and in Europe, Valentin Falin, Chairman of the Board of Novosti Press Agency who was taking part in the meeting, said in an interview with a TASS correspondent on April 28. It attests to a great concern by the broadest segments of the public and the peoples to make a general conflict impossible and to urge governments to take a fuller account of the basic interests of the peoples and of the interests of civilisation. Today's exchange of opinions can be said to pursue this goal.

From 1917 the problem of war and peace has ceased to be a matter only for governments, he went on to say. For already many decades the peoples are actively trying to influence the discussion of ways to solve the problem. But it is precisely today that this possibility may be actually becoming a reality. Today we are witness to the peoples directly influencing the adoption of political decisions, and to the voice of the peoples and their interests and their most cherished aspirations being reflected directly

or indirectly in the decisions adopted by the leaders of states. If this is the sense one reads into the notion of "people's diplomacy", then we can only welcome this.

The fact is — and we have seen this on many occasions — that "popular participation" has been used to disguise demagoguery, mere rhetoric, half-hearted initiatives, and attempts to butter up the people and to mislead them with empty promises in the name of goals often not quite clear to the people.

I think that the new thinking which the Soviet Union has proposed for itself in the first place and for the world at large, gives all of us and all mankind a new chance. This chance should not be missed. To miss it today would be a crime before both the present and future generations. For the question today is not to convince or convert somebody.

At issue is something much more important, namely the creation of conditions in order that the present chapter in the history of civilisation is not the last one. And this depends on us. The future will be what we are making it today, Valentin Falin said. It is we who are shaping the future and nobody will do that for us. □



# Soviet Foreign Ministry briefings

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Following the talks in Moscow, US Secretary of State George Shultz said the United States would continue to raise human rights questions before us, the questions which, in the opinion of the Americans, 'create problems', Vadim Perflyev, deputy head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a briefing in Moscow on April 28.

With such a presentation of the subject, Perflyev went on to say, one may get the wrong idea that the problems are raised only from one side. "It is overlooked that the discussion of human rights issues at bilateral meetings, to quote Mr Shultz himself, is a street with two-way traffic."

"The Soviet public is concerned over the state of affairs regarding the observance of human rights in the United States. Appropriate materials are often published in the Soviet press."

Reflecting this concern, Vadim Perflyev pointed out, our representatives at the talks raise specific instances of violations of human rights in the United States. Attention is being drawn, for example, to discrepancy between US legal practice and the universally accepted international standards in the field of human rights. The United States has not ratified the international covenants on human rights.

"Apparently," Vadim Perflyev emphasised, "we shall raise appropriate questions at the forthcoming meeting in Moscow, too."

At the same time, he said, our approach is notable for its readiness to consider mutual anxieties in a constructive spirit and to find solutions to specific questions without interference in the internal affairs of each other.

"We are guided by the assumption that a humanitarian dialogue should serve rather than impede a positive development of Soviet-American relations."

## US MILITARY AIRLIFT TO MUJAHEDDIN

The Associated Press (AP) news agency with reference to a US official spokesman has reported that the United States urgently airlifted military aid to the Afghan mujaheddin to make up for the arms and ammunition which had been destroyed as a result of the explosion in the arms depot in Pakistan, Vadim Perflyev said.

If the report is true, he went on, the airlifting of arms to the mujaheddin by the United States cannot be viewed otherwise than a violation of the US commitments assumed under the Geneva agreements as one of the guarantors of the settlement. The US-signed declaration on international guarantees stipulated that the US should refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Arms deliveries to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries completely contradict the provisions of the Afghan-Pakistani non-interference agreement under which Pakistan

undertook, in particular, to prevent groups, which engage in subversive activity against Afghanistan, from being equipped and armed on Pakistani territory.

## KABUL EXPLOSION

An explosion detonated in the centre of Kabul on Wednesday, April 27 killed seven people and wounded 29.

Vadim Perflyev specified that explosives had been planted in a lorry from Pakistan. The driver was detained. The Afghan authorities were conducting an inquiry.

The terrorist action carried out by opposition forces could not but cause wrath and indignation of all honest people favouring a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, Perflyev said.

## DISINFORMATION

The African service of the British Broadcasting Corporation in a dispatch by its correspondent from Paris on April 26 claimed that the Soviet Union had been burying radioactive waste in Benin for several years.

"These claims are utterly absurd, this is a typical example of disinformation," Vadim Perflyev said.

Vadim Perflyev told Soviet and foreign journalists that the Soviet Union had never dumped radioactive waste in Benin or other countries.

"We categorically reject these insinuations," he said.

## SOVIET-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

"Soviet-Pakistan relations have witnessed their ups and downs, as well as complex periods. However, a wealth of experience in political contacts, mutually advantageous technical and economic co-operation and contacts in other areas has been accumulated by now," Vadim Perflyev, said at a briefing on April 28. The briefing was devoted to the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan.

"It is an open secret," he continued, "that in the past few years the failure to settle the situation around Afghanistan was a serious obstacle in the way of the development of relations between our countries. Today when the Geneva Accords on the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan have been signed, it is the duty of all states, Pakistan in the first place, to help and not to prevent the Afghan people from living in peace. What is needed for this purpose is strict compliance by all signatories to the Geneva Accords with the commitments formulated in the agreements. In particular, Pakistan put its signature under the obligation to prevent within its territory the presence, harbouring, in camps and bases or otherwise, organising, training, financing, equipping and arming of political and any other groups for the purpose of subversion against Afghanistan."

Implementing the Geneva Accords in full, Vadim Perflyev said, will help create favourable prospects for opening a new chapter in relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan. "We are close neighbours, and we only stand to benefit from constructive co-operation."

## CONFIDENCE BUILDING AS REGARDS CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The Soviet Union is consistently for greater trust and openness in the field of chemical weapons, Vadim Perflyev told a briefing.

Perflyev said all the activities of the Soviet delegation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that concern chemical weapons have

been subordinate to fostering such an atmosphere of trust among chemical weapons states as would set the stage for concluding a convention to ban chemical warfare agents.

The Soviet Union, the spokesman continued, regards as valuable the joint statement of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Social Democratic Party of Germany, which has been published in the newspaper *Rude Pravo* as a followup to the three parties' May 21, 1986 document *The Principles and Guidelines for Future Talks Between the GDR, Czechoslovakia and the FRG on Creating a Zone Free from Chemical Weapons in Central Europe*.

The proposals made in the statement for immediately opening talks between the GDR, Czechoslovakia and the FRG to rid their territories of chemical weapons or bar such weapons from their territories and for other countries' assistance to these goals blend in with efforts to secure a complete ban on chemical warfare agents, Perflyev said.

The implementation of these proposals would have significance far transcending the frameworks of bilateral relations between the three countries, he added, noting that the Soviet side has repeatedly voiced support for the efforts of the GDR and Czechoslovakia along these lines.

## MIDDLE EAST

The Soviet Union has welcomed the news of the recent talks in Damascus between the Palestinian and Syrian leaders, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Vadim Perflyev told a briefing here that "it is important that the trend towards rallying the Arabs continued gaining strength lately.

"The meeting in Damascus has made a weighty contribution to that process.

"The turn in Syrian-Palestinian relations created a fair groundwork to collective efforts by Arab countries to find a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"An all-Arab summit, for which preparations have been launched, could become an important milestone along that path."

All these new factors in the inter-Arab scene, said the spokesman, could and should play a key part in the efforts to build a lasting peace in the Middle East and convene an international conference with the participation of all sides concerned, including the PLO, and five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The Soviet Union, Perflyev said, would continue to consistently support the unity of action of the Arab patriotic forces and constructive co-operation of all who were interested in establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East, in the fair solution of the Palestinian problem.

He said that Soviet public organisations had handed over to the UN Diplomatic Mission in Cyprus another batch of material aid to be distributed among the Palestinian population in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The first batch, sent to Cyprus on April 15, had already been delivered by sea to the Gaza Strip with assistance from the UN Relief and Works Agency. □

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## Afghan President holds press conference

NAJIBULLAH, President of Afghanistan, held a press conference for foreign journalists on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

Our current priorities, Najibullah noted, consist in creating relevant conditions for the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops, for the return of refugees and for ensuring guarantees to carry out the political settlement of the Afghan problem. In the nearest future the mechanism for verifying compliance with the Geneva Accords will start operating. We hope that with the help of the UN and other international organisations movement towards peace on Afghan soil will be effective.

Najibullah stressed the importance of all-round and effective aid for the economic development of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community.

All these years, he said, we worked to strengthen our armed forces. They remain to be the guarantee of freedom and independence of Afghanistan today, especially after the pull-out of the limited contingent of Soviet troops.

Answering a question about Soviet military advisers, the President said:

Co-operation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the military sphere started 23 years before the April Revolution. Afghanistan

has no intentions of forgoing Soviet aid in this area, at least while the situation on the borders of our homeland makes it incumbent on us to look after our security interests. The defence ministries of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR are specifying the number of advisers, which might remain in future. I know this will be a minimum number in the upper echelon and several score Soviet instructors at the military training establishments.

Under the bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Najibullah continued, Islamabad must by May 15, the day of ratification of the agreement, eliminate the bases and centres for training the Afghan opposition on its territory, not arm and harbour on its territory terroristic and subversive elements or any political and ethnic groups for carrying out terroristic and subversive actions against Afghanistan, not resort to or allow any other action that could be considered as interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

We would like, Najibullah continued, the entire opposition, including all leaders of the "Seven", to embark on the road of national reconciliation. Our government and I personally as President are ready for talks with the leaders of the opposition at any time and at any venue. We have declared this on many occasions and are doing so now. There is one condition attached — stop the attempts to solve political issues,

connected with the fate of Afghanistan, through military means. It is necessary to heed our proposal on a cease-fire, to enter into talks with us on all contentious issues and to agree on the make-up and political platform of a coalition government.

As for creating a demilitarised zone along the border, these are our ideas and proposals, and we think that they will be noticed by our neighbours, Najibullah said. At the same time, the President noted, the creation of demilitarised regions does not mean at all that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan cannot keep these areas under control. The idea behind such regions is to facilitate the return home of Afghan refugees.

We regard China's approval of the signing of the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan as a positive and constructive step, the President stressed. We will welcome the normalisation of Afghan-Chinese relations, he noted. He expressed the hope that the position of Iran, which is not a participant in the peaceful Geneva process, has not been final. We also hope that Iran's non-participation in this process does not mean that the centre of interference in the affairs of Afghanistan will move from Pakistan to Iran.

Najibullah highly assessed the role of the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General, Diego Cordovez, and stressed that Afghanistan, as before, will maintain serious and constructive co-operation with the UN. □

## Joint experiment by Soviet and US seismologists

A GROUP of Soviet and US scientists set about conducting an important joint experiment in the state of Nevada where there is a proving ground for nuclear tests belonging to the US Department of Energy. The first non-nuclear underground blast of a 10-ton TNT charge was set off recently. It was detonated at a depth of some 50 metres in the area of the Black Rock Desert, reports TASS correspondent Andrei Sidorin from San Francisco.

It is planned to trigger off soon the second such explosion in the area of Lathrop Wells 80 kilometres south of the Nevada test site. American and Soviet seismometers which are to register the forces of signals and to determine the yield of charges, have been set up at various distances from the epicentre. It is intended to carry out the third 15-ton blast in the near future in the area of Broken Hills.

The main aim of the experiments, staged in the USA for the first time, is to prove even now US and Soviet scientists have reliable seismic instrumentation which can monitor even the smallest underground tests and that practically it is impossible to conceal them. The yield of underground nuclear tests is usually measured by hundreds of thousands of tons, Dr Thomas Cochran, scientific head of the project on the American side, noted. In his words, instrumentation used for the present experiment is sensitive enough to determine the difference between nuclear blasts and those made for commercial purposes as well as to register the

slightest earthquakes.

Similar experiments were successfully staged by specialists from the two countries in Kazakhstan in the area of Semipalatinsk last year. They are being carried on in line with agreements signed by the US Natural Resources Defense Council and the USSR Academy of Sciences in May 1986 and June 1987.

These initiatives of Soviet and American experts can largely promote progress at inter-government talks between the USSR and the

USA on banning nuclear tests, which started last November. Participants in the talks should agree, as the first step, efficient measures of monitoring which will enable them to ratify, at long last, the Soviet-American treaties of 1974 on limiting underground tests of nuclear weapons and of 1976 on underground nuclear tests for peaceful purposes. It is also planned to start agreeing further interim limitations on nuclear tests for the purpose of their subsequent complete discontinuation, which would put an end to the nuclear arms race. □

## Lawyers against nuclear arms

LEGAL experts seeking to outlaw nuclear weapons have founded the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) at its constituent meeting which took place in Stockholm on April 8 and 9, IALANA Co-President Alexander Sukharev said in Moscow on April 28.

Sukharev, First Deputy Procurator-General of the USSR, told a briefing that while being similar to other international anti-war organisations, IALANA has its own professional distinctive features.

Its statute adopted at the conference sets the aim of publicising international legislation that regulates the issues of reducing and eliminating weapons of mass destruction, including international agreements, treaties and commitments, he said.

The people should know that to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons is to commit a crime against humanity and a gross violation of international law, Sukharev continued.

IALANA, he said, plans to work out a supplementary mechanism in international law that would help to consolidate the nascent

process of reducing nuclear weapons and eventually eliminating them altogether and a supplementary mechanism for monitoring the process.

Speaking of different interpretations of international agreements, the UN Charter and international legislation, Sukharev said "the pace in this respect is often set by forces which interpret international laws and accords according to their wishes".

"An international, pluralist movement of lawyers free from biased influences can provide the world's public opinion with competent, independent and objective information pinpointing those responsible for violations of international legality, accords and the norms and principles of international law," he added.

Being aware of their special responsibility for using their expertise in the campaign against nuclear arms, the IALANA members, Sukharev said, undertake to make international efforts to mobilise lawyers, law teachers and judges to secure the destruction of these arms.

On behalf of IALANA he hailed the signature of the INF Treaty and urged its speediest ratification. The IALANA co-president expressed the hope that the forthcoming summit meeting in Moscow will lead to an agreement on 50 per cent cuts in Soviet and US strategic offensive weapons. □

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# A timely warning

By B. Spolnikov

THE Soviet Government Statement of April 26, 1988, can be viewed as an important and timely warning to those forces which are trying to turn the Geneva Accords on a political settlement around Afghanistan into a scrap of paper and to prevent them being put into effect.

On April 14 this year, the Geneva package of agreements was signed as a result of the bold and constructive steps taken by the USSR and Afghanistan and thanks to the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his personal envoy Diego Cordovez, following protracted negotiations for nearly six years. The Soviet Union and the United States agreed to be guarantors for their observance.

The USSR, the Soviet Government Statement says, "intends to act fully in keeping with the Geneva Accords, firmly adhering to their provisions". The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan adheres to a similar position. The Afghan President Najibullah said that the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan will firmly meet the commitments under the Geneva Accords and that it counts on a similar attitude to them by the other parties to the settlement.

Against the background of the readiness of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan to fully observe the understandings recorded in the Geneva documents, however, one can increasingly clearly see an obstructionist stand taken by some political forces, a stand that cannot but cause one's concern about the destiny of the Geneva Accords.

Rightist circles in the United States and Pakistan were opposed to the conclusion of the

Afghan-Pakistani agreements. Such forces in the United States made themselves felt once again at the crucial moment of making the agreements ready for signature. On February 23, 1988, the US Senate in its resolution No. 386 "recommended", and, in fact, urged President Reagan to make such demands on the Soviet Union and Afghanistan that would actually mean torpedoing the Geneva negotiations. The US President seemed to have accepted some of the "recommendations". Precisely in keeping with those recommendations, Reagan, even after the signing of the Geneva Accords, announced the US Administration's intention to continue aiding the Afghan extremists, who have entrenched themselves on Pakistani territory, by supplying them with arms and munitions. According to Western news agencies, this means the shipment of the latest arms, including the notorious Stinger missiles, large-calibre mortars and sophisticated anti-tank guns which the US has not supplied even to its allies, worth 300 million dollars.

The question arises: How can these deliveries be effected? Only via Pakistani territory, as there is no other route. Therefore, it is perfectly obvious that this would be a direct violation of paragraphs 3, 5, 6 and 7 of article II of the bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations, in particular on non-interference and non-intervention.

Encouraged by the support of their protectors, leaders of the alliance of the seven opposition parties announced that they refused to accept the Geneva Accords, rejected the appeal of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to participate in a coalition government and proclaimed the readiness to go ahead with the armed struggle against the country's lawful

government. It is reported that by orders from them caches of arms, ammunition and equipment are being urgently set up on Afghan territory for use in the continued struggle to seize power.

Carrying out their patrons' orders, the Afghan extremists are nurturing an idea of proclaiming in some inaccessible area in Afghanistan a so-called "Afghan government" that could seek official recognition by Western powers.

Many in Pakistan believe that the enormous explosion at an ammunition depot near the Pakistani capital on April 10, as a result of which 98 people died and more than 1,100 were injured, was the handiwork of the Afghan opposition-members, who thus expressed their disagreement with the Geneva Accords and hoped to put pressure on Islamabad on the eve of their signing.

Though the ink of the signatures on the Geneva Accords has not yet dried and they have not yet taken effect (the agreements are to come into force on May 15, 1988), certain circles in Pakistan and the United States are making ready for torpedoing them.

The Soviet Government, viewing the conclusion of the Geneva process as an important breakthrough in settling one of the most complicated regional conflicts and equating the Geneva Accords in their significance with the signing of the Soviet-US Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, warns that "any deviation from the registered accords could harm the cause of the Afghan settlement and impair the prestige of the state that broke obligations assumed before the whole world". □

(Novosti)

## International trade union conference in Moscow

THE international trade union conference on the subject Perestroika, New Thinking, and Trade Unions has shown the topicality and necessity of frank and equal partnership of all currents in the world working-class and trade-union movement in solving specific problems which are of vital importance to everyone.

The conference which ended in Moscow on April 30 was attended by delegates from 109 countries and by representatives of international and regional trade union organisations. Apart from plenary sessions, panel meetings and round-table discussions were held within the framework of the conference.

Representatives of the trade union associations of France, Angola, Norway, Iraq, Algeria, and Finland pointed out in their speeches that the revolutionary restructuring process taking place in the Soviet Union and its social and economic aspects evinced a sustained interest of the working people of the whole world and their trade unions.

New approaches to the solution to problems of raising the wellbeing, cultural and spiritual level of Soviet people, and the renunciation of stereotypes in foreign policy, the "more democracy, more socialism" principle which has become a basic one — all that, as was emphasised at

the conference, is of immense importance not only to the Soviet Union but to the entire international community as well.

The establishment of the new political thinking in international practice contributes to eroding the "enemy image" and enables the peoples to get to know and understand one another better and to coordinate efforts to attain common goals.

The reality of the contemporary world is such that mankind has ceased to be immortal. Either the peoples would learn how to resolve common problems or would die together. This idea was voiced in speeches by the participants in the round-table meetings on issues concerning employment, foreign debt, the environment, and peaceful coexistence. At present it is no longer possible to regard the world development only from the viewpoint of struggle between the two opposite systems. Their interaction and co-operation acquire increasing importance. An immense role in this respect belongs to trade unions which bring together about 500 million people.

Speaking at the concluding plenary session, Gennadi Yanayev, Secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions (AUCCTU), emphasised that the spectrum of problems of the present-day world was so wide that the trade unions would no longer be able to act effectively without analysing them and working out their own approach to them. This is why such meetings are of exceptional

importance, for they make it possible to exchange views and to see similarity or divergence of evaluations, to find points of contact which are so essential for joint and parallel actions.

On the occasion of May 1, the day of internationalist solidarity of the working people, the AUCCTU secretary on behalf of the participants in the conference expressed solidarity with the peoples and workers struggling for national independence, social progress, against imperialism and neocolonialism. □

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