

Mikhail Gorbachev's message to the Non-Aligned summit conference

Moscow September 3, Tass — The following is the full text of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Janez Drnovsek, chairman of the 9th Non-Aligned summit conference in Belgrade:

LET me sincerely greet the heads of the Non-Aligned states, who have met in the Yugoslav capital for a summit forum of one of the most representative and authoritative political movements of the times.

In our contradictory, but single and inter-related world, the constructive potential of the Non-Aligned Movement promotes understanding and the establishment of common human values in the practice of inter-state relations, and helps to restrain attempts to resort to diktat and violence and whip up strife and alienation.

The Non-Aligned states have largely contributed to the strengthened confidence and optimism with which mankind is entering the last

decade of the 20th century.

The Soviet Union is open for dialogue and interaction with each Non-Aligned state and with the movement as a whole.

We share the adherence of the Non-Aligned countries to the idea of building a new international order which would be based on the primacy of law and unconditional respect for sovereignty and freedom of choice, and would ensure a worthy place in the world community for all nations.

There is, perhaps, no task more topical than making irreversible the nascent process of real disarmament, strengthening confidence and mutual understanding between countries, and searching for solutions to international disputes through negotiations on the basis of balance of interests.

The political settlement of dangerous regional conflicts, in which the Non-Aligned Movement plays an important role and can play an even more constructive role, is of much importance for increasing the scale and pace of this process.

We are ready for co-operation with all in building a world that would be free from nuclear

weapons, from foreign military bases and confronting military blocs, a world in which the use of armed or any other violence in international relations would be ruled out.

The Soviet Union is deeply aware of the intolerance of a situation in which, in conditions of under-development, millions of people are doomed to suffering, and to eke out a living that is undeserving of man.

The solution to this explosive problem must become a concern of the whole of mankind. We are convinced that the gap between the rich and the poor can only be overcome by joint North-South and East-West efforts.

In the Soviet Union, the Non-Aligned movement has a reliable partner in the campaign against the environmental threat which is looming large over our civilisation.

The Soviet Union is convinced that our joint support for the United Nations, and the further strengthening of its role as a universal instrument of peace, confidence and international co-operation, will help achieve these noble tasks.

Let me wish success to your conference. □

Eduard Shevardnadze on Soviet-Indonesian relations

UNDER the headline "For the Full-Blooded Political Dialogue Between the Soviet Union and Indonesia", the newspaper *Izvestia* published on August 30 an interview with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in connection with the official visit to the USSR in the first half of September by Indonesian President Suharto. Follows the full text of the interview:

Question: In connection with the official visit to the USSR by Indonesian President Suharto in the first half of September, we would like to ask a few questions. As is known, the first Congress of USSR People's Deputies passed a resolution on the guidelines for Soviet domestic and foreign policies, in which it instructed the Soviet

government to follow the Vladivostok initiatives in relations with the countries of Asia and the Pacific. Could you say a few words about how this line is being implemented and how the forthcoming visit by the Indonesian leader to our country fits into it?

Answer: The Vladivostok programme and subsequent Soviet initiatives, set forth in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Krasnoyarsk and his interview with the Indonesian newspaper *Merdeka*, are well known in and outside the country. Apparently, there is no need to repeat in detail the proposals contained in them. I will only remind that they aim to strengthen peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region by lowering the level of military, including naval, confrontation and extending confidence-building measures, as well as to develop wide international co-operation in this major region.

The events of the past three years show that the Vladivostok programme works and works quite well. Naturally one cannot but see the continuing negative phenomena in the Asia-Pacific region, feel concern over the inflammable material which is still available in abundance in the region: the continuing militarisation process, the deployment of nuclear missile weapons, the expansion of military programmes by a number of countries, etc. At the same time, and this has been especially noticeable in recent time, the trend towards renewal, a certain warming up of the political climate have been gaining momentum in Asia and the Pacific like in other regions of the world. A search for the balance of interests and ways of developing equal partnership began. The outlines of solving old regional conflicts and disputes are shaping.

Undoubtedly, this positive development benefited from the practical measures which the

Soviet Union takes to match its political line. These are the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the destruction of missiles in the Asian part of the USSR under the Soviet-US INF treaty, the decision to significantly cut down the numerical strength of Soviet troops and armaments in the Far East, the 75 per cent reduction of the Soviet military contingent in Mongolia, etc.

Our country confirms by concrete deeds the readiness, proclaimed in Vladivostok, to dynamically develop contacts with all those involved in the political life of the region. In the first place, note should be taken of the normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations this year, an event of world rather than regional significance.

Significant progress has been recently achieved in bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). There has been brisk political dialogue with the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore.

And, of course, we receive with satisfaction the current upsurge in Soviet-Indonesian relations which fits perfectly well into our Vladivostok programme and the general trends of improving the situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Next February it will be exactly 40 years since the Soviet Union and Indonesia established diplomatic relations. However, the relations between our two countries and peoples go back into far more remote past. In our country people always followed with interest and sympathy the struggle of the Indonesian people for national independence, which started in the beginning of this century and became one of the components of the historically important process which Lenin called the "awakening of Asia". In 1945 this

(continued on page 294)

IN THIS ISSUE

Gorbachev's message to president Jaruzelski	p294
Gorbachev's message to Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference	p294
Shevardnadze's interview with Government Herald	p296
Pravda editorial: The Lessons of WWII	p297
On the CPSU's draft platform on inter-ethnic relations	p298

(continued from page 293)

struggle was capped with the proclamation of the country's independence.

The Soviet Union invariably sided with Indonesia when it had to uphold its independence, rendered the newly free state all-round assistance and support, as was the case, for example, in the period of the struggle for the liberation of West Irian. It was at that time that the foundation of Soviet-Indonesian friendship was laid down, that the two major nations of the Asia-Pacific region developed sympathy for each other, which helped our states to overcome the outbursts of estrangement that arose in their relations in the past years for different, mainly ideological, reasons.

Indonesia today is a large state in South-East Asia with a rapidly developing economy, with a population of nearly 180 million, ranking fifth in the world for the number of population. This is a land of great, original culture.

Indonesia plays a remarkable role in contemporary international life. Its voice is heard in the United Nations Organisation, where it decisively declares for disarmament, for the creation of a new international economic order, for the development of mutually advantageous co-operation among states. The stands of the USSR and Indonesia are close or coincide on these and many other topical questions of world politics.

Indonesia is among the countries that founded the non-aligned movement and is by right among its leaders. It vigorously participates in regional affairs. Indonesia's positive contribution to the process of the settlement of the Cambodian problems which is described by politicians as the Jakarta process, should be noted in this connection. This is precisely why Indonesia

became a co-chairman of the international conference on Cambodia under way in Paris.

All this offers a solid basis for broad, full-blooded political dialogue between the USSR and Indonesia. This dialogue has now assumed a permanent basis, which is manifested, specifically, in regular meetings between the foreign ministers.

Our two countries have accumulated considerable experience in commercial and economic co-operation. The first session of the Soviet-Indonesian inter-governmental commission on trade and economic co-operation ended in Moscow recently. Both sides agreed that they can count on the mutually advantageous widening of ties in many directions, above all in the power industry and the light industry. Mutual interest in the exchange of materialised engineering ideas was manifested.

Specific arrangements have been achieved on a number of large projects. I think our two countries have sufficient potential and, what is important, a desire to further develop their relations.

The Soviet Union and Indonesia are now taking another step, bringing their contacts to the summit level. This development is natural, and the forthcoming official visit of the Indonesian President and the meeting of the top leaders of our countries is obviously the demand of the times, the consequence of favourable changes taking place in the world and also the logical development of creative potentialities, a positive impulse in Soviet-Indonesian relations. I am convinced that the visit of the head of the Indonesian state to the Soviet Union, the first such visit over the last quarter of a century, will not only become a landmark in our bilateral relations and open a new page in these relations but

will also be an event of international importance, a considerable contribution to the improvement of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Question: You made an official visit to Indonesia in March 1987. What were your personal impressions about that country?

Answer: These impressions are fresh in my memory, even though two and a half years have passed since my visit to Indonesia. The impressions are most pleasant ones. Indonesia is a truly great country, impressing one by its scope, variety of national cultures, richness and originality of customs and traditions. Regrettably, I did not have time to visit different regions of the country, each one of them has a character all its own and is at the same time part of one nation, one state. We did not have very many meetings with ordinary Indonesians, but we felt their hospitality and friendliness wherever we went.

The conversation with President Suhartok was most interesting and useful. He outlined contours of future Soviet-Indonesian relations, declared for the development of a political dialogue between the two countries, for the deepening of their interaction on international and regional levels.

I also remember meetings with other Indonesian leaders, with prominent politicians, and scientists, specifically from the Jakarta Centre for Strategic Studies.

The conversations we had in Jakarta convinced us that our countries, our peoples can benefit by each other's experience and co-operate successfully in various areas.

With regard to President Suharto's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union, I would like to say that the distinguished Indonesian guest will be most warmly and hospitably welcomed. □

Gorbachev's message to Polish president on WWII Anniversary

IN a message to President Wojciech Jaruzelski of Poland on September 1, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has stated that "the Polish people and their army were the first to bear the brunt of Germany's powerful military machine."

Gorbachev emphasised, in the message sent in connection with the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second World War, that "these tragic events were actually prompted by the inability of the states threatened by fascism and militarism to rally together and set up a collective security system."

He called for lessons to be learnt from that tragic period, the most important of which is the

need to exclude war from the life of mankind.

"It is neither confrontation nor settling of accounts, but good-neighbourliness, mutual respect and a balance of interests of all states and peoples, free choice on the basis of generally recognised standards of international law, the reduction of military potentials down to levels of defence sufficiency, stronger trust and diverse international cooperation, that form the only foundation on which it is possible to build a common European home and secure the stable development of a peaceful and safe future for Europe and the entire international community," the message read.

Gorbachev expressed confidence that the USSR and Poland would continue to act together as befits allies and friends.

Gorbachev's message to Inter-Parliamentary Union conference

SOVIET Leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent a greeting to Dauda Sow, president of the Interparliamentary Union, and the union's Secretary-General Pierre Cornillon, on the occasion of the union's 82nd conference which opened in London on September 4.

The telegram said that the multilateral inter-parliamentary dialogue on urgent international problems was assuming a special importance now that the new political thinking is beginning to establish itself in international affairs.

Joint parliamentary efforts of different countries, Gorbachev said, could contribute to a more dynamic renewal of international relations, to their democratisation and humanisation, and to the establishment of the priority of

universal human values in the foreign policy of all countries.

The Soviet leader emphasised that the Soviet government favoured an increase in the role and efficiency of the Interparliamentary Union in uniting the efforts of parliamentarians in different countries, irrespective of their ideological convictions and political orientation.

Shevardnadze to meet with James Baker

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will meet US Secretary of State James Baker in Wyoming, on September 22-23, a Soviet spokesman

Soviet call for urgent settlement in Lebanon

THERE is an urgent need to enlist international efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis, Gennady Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, told a briefing in Moscow on August 29.

He said the Soviet side regards as the surest and most effective way of reaching this aim the resumption of the work of the tripartite committee formed by decision of the Arab summit conference in Casablanca. At the same time it is apparent that the Tripartite Committee must get constant and effective support from the international community. In this context the Soviet union maintains contacts with all parties that can promote a Lebanese settlement.

The United Nations Secretary-General can play an important role in the resumption of the mission of the Tripartite Committee, and the USSR urges him to take the most vigorous efforts in this respect, Gerasimov said.

Informing journalists of Soviet efforts to ensure a settlement of the Lebanese crisis, Gerasimov said the USSR intends to continue working in this direction. □

said at a briefing in Moscow on September 5.

"This will be a new, large-scale meeting which will cover the whole range of Soviet-American relations, including disarmament, regional, bilateral, transnational and humanitarian problems, as well as some aspects of economic cooperation," Vadim Perfiliev, first deputy head of the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate, said.

The Soviet Foreign minister and James Baker will also discuss questions related to a future Soviet-American summit, Perfiliev said.

Yevgeni Primakov meets with British officials

THE chairman of the Council of the Union of the Supreme Soviet, Yevgeny Primakov, who was heading a Soviet delegation to the jubilee session of the Inter-Parliamentary union in London, met on September 5 with British Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Howe, who is also leader of the House of Commons of the British parliament.

During the meeting a lively talk centred on the influence of perestroika in the Soviet Union on international relations. Primakov and Howe also discussed a number of questions concerning East-West relations and disarmament.

Later in the day, Primakov met the director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, James Eberlie. Their conversation touched upon the course and perspectives of reforms in the Soviet Union, some aspects of the complex disarmament issue and the development of political and economic tendencies in Europe.

Primakov and Eberlie agreed that the expansion of East-West dialogue and the substantial enrichment of the various on-going international negotiations are important positive signs that the principles of the new political thinking are taking firm root in international practice.

At a news conference held by the Soviet delegation on Tuesday at the Soviet embassy in London, Primakov, replied to correspondents' numerous questions covering an extensive range of problems: What perspectives are there for contacts between Soviet and British parliamentarians? What hampers further arms reductions? What is the significance of nationalist developments in some Soviet republics?

However, reporters mostly pressed for comments on the forthcoming working meeting between President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during the latter's brief stop-over in Moscow on September 23 en-route from Tokyo to London.

Primakov noted that summit meetings have proved a positive influence not only on bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain, but also on world developments.

Speaking about Soviet-British inter-parliamentary links, Primakov stressed that Soviet legislators favoured the development of contacts at all levels – between committees, commissions and parliamentary groups.

He told reporters that, at the invitation of

British parliamentarians, a delegation of the Supreme Soviet would visit London at the end of 1989.

Primakov pointed out two of the many obstacles on the road towards disarmament. One is the on-going attempts in the West to fill the so-called vacuum, formed as a result of the reduction of armaments, by other upgraded weapons, which stimulates a qualitative arms race even when conventional arms are being reduced.

The second obstacle is rooted in the United States' stance on excluding naval forces from the process of arms reduction. "I do not think that naval forces should be viewed as a holy cow," the head of the Soviet delegation said. "This could slow down the disarmament process."

Primakov noted that the developments in the Baltic republics, and the situations in Moldavia and Nagorno-Karabakh, were used by those who often sought to present problems arising in the Soviet Union as the effects of the perestroika reforms underway in the country.

Primakov rejected these allegations. Ethnic problems, he stressed, are very profound. "We are naturally concerned about them," he said.

But the issues in question have not been generated by perestroika, he said. They have been accumulated or suppressed over a long period of time and have only surfaced in the conditions of glasnost and perestroika.

"We are for liquidating past deformations," Primakov stated. But this process must not lead to the infringement of the rights of ethnic minorities in the republics," he said.

USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman on Panama situation

PANAMA is now living through a complex stage of internal political evolution. Interference from the outside would not hasten a solution to existing problems but would only complicate it, Gennady Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing in Moscow on August 30.

The situation in Panama is attracting public attention due to the fact that the term of the incumbent cabinet expires on September 1, he said.

The increase in the US military presence and unceasing large-scale exercises of US troops in the Panama Canal Zone are serving to artificially heighten tensions.

Arguments that the normal functioning of the inter-ocean waterway and its neutral status are being put in jeopardy are not convincing either.

That the situation in the country is far from simple is also illustrated by the fact that neither the Organisation of American States (OAS) nor its mediatory mission have been able so far to work out recommendations in the interests of national reconciliation.

Many Latin American countries are aware of the delicate nature of the situation in Panama and emphasise the need for a weighed approach and for the ensurance of the Panamanians' right to settle their internal affairs themselves, the spokesman said.

A statement, adopted after the Panamanian issue was discussed within the OAS framework, emphasises that a solution to the crisis should be ensured through the observance of the sove-

Gorbachev and Thatcher to have working meeting this month

SOVIET president Mikhail Gorbachev and British prime minister Margaret Thatcher will have a working meeting here on September 23 when she stops over in Moscow en-route from Tokyo to London, it was announced in Moscow on September 5.

"The Soviet side is prepared for a serious and constructive dialogue with Great Britain and is convinced that the new summit meeting will be just as productive as all the previous ones", Vadim Perfiliev, first deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said at a briefing on the visit. "Although less than five months have passed since Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to London last April, this period has been packed with major events both of European and world dimension. In view of this, the leaders of the two countries wish to synchronise their political watches, to compare their evaluations."

Speaking of the forthcoming Soviet-British summit meeting's agenda, the foreign ministry spokesman pointed out that it will not "sidestep such major questions as East-West relations, disarmament problems, European and regional security, and Europe's development".

reignty and self-determination of the Panamanian people.

Threats of foreign armed intervention clearly give rise to concern in this connection. Civilised political thinking and the development of democratic principles of contacts between nations imperatively dictate the need to refrain from steps which could entail consequences that are hard to predict, Gerasimov said.

Only the Panamanian people, with a sense of responsibility, can decide their future and determine the form of their future government without any interference from outside. All countries should contribute to strengthening peace and security in the region. □

Voice of America claims denied

SOVIET war planes do not make raids into Afghan airspace and Soviet forces do not fire artillery shells across the border, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters in Moscow on August 30.

Gerasimov was responding to Voice of America allegations that Soviet forces had bombed rebels in north-eastern Afghanistan. The Voice of America radio station broadcast its report on August 30, citing an Afghan resistance rebel representative.

"The report has no grounds whatsoever," said Gerasimov, urging the Voice of America to be more scrupulous in selecting its information sources.

Military actions in Afghanistan are being conducted by government forces which have both artillery and aviation, he said. □

**Mikhail
GORBACHEV**
ADDRESS
at the
UN

New York, December 7, 1988

price 30p, obtainable from:
Soviet Booklets (SN)
3 Rosary Gardens
London SW7 4NW

Ways to achieve a nuclear test ban

By Konstantine Mikhailov, Deputy Head of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, USSR Foreign Ministry.

THE ISSUE of the radical limiting, and eventual prohibition, of nuclear tests has been in the forefront of public opinion throughout the world. It is becoming more important in conditions of the nascent nuclear disarmament.

The major problems of nuclear disarmament call for a great deal of thought and effort. Meanwhile, the prohibition of nuclear tests could considerably accelerate the solution of these problems.

The cessation of nuclear testing will stop the modernisation of nuclear weapons, which is especially important now that some classes of nuclear weapons are being discussed, and others reduced.

The adoption of military doctrines based on defence sufficiency calls for a review of the issue of nuclear explosions which are a part of nuclear modernisation programmes.

But the United States is creating weapons, such as penetration warheads, for a pre-emptive strike. They also ponder the launching of nuclear weapons into space

for activating nuclear pump-up lasers, and testing is an indispensable part of these programmes.

Nuclear testing cannot help maintain and promote global stability. On the contrary, it is fraught with a serious threat to peace. Why?

The characteristics of nuclear weapons can be improved though weapons themselves are reduced. There will be less weapons, but they can be more dangerous. This would contradict the main goal of global security.

The prohibition of all kinds of nuclear testing will stop this unnatural competition between disarmament and rearmament and bend the choice in favour of the first option – general and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The link between the prohibition of nuclear testing and the strengthening of the non-proliferation treaty has been growing.

Many non-nuclear countries who want to block nuclear proliferation link the issue of complete and general prohibition of nuclear testing with the continued action of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The session on the expediency of prolonging the treaty will be held in 1995. By that time we must take resolute action to stop nuclear testing.

The nuclear arms race eats up a mind-

boggling amount of money. This is compounded by the cost of testing more sophisticated warheads for SSBN ICBMs, cruise missiles and other modern carriers, to say nothing of other third-generation weapons.

Another problem concerns the ecology. Even the strictest safety regulations cannot rule out the possibility of nuclear fall-out or other dangerous consequences.

There are different ways towards the prohibition of nuclear testing. The Soviet Union abided by a self-imposed nuclear moratorium for eighteen months, from 1985 to 1987, and was prepared to resume it if the US agreed to join.

It would have been the quickest and simplest way to the prohibition of nuclear testing.

Another possibility is an agreement on spreading the 1963 treaty on the prohibition of nuclear tests, or a new multilateral agreement.

The Soviet Union is prepared to energetically work both for the noble goals set before the ongoing Soviet-US talks and for a complete prohibition of nuclear testing.

The numerous political and technical problems must not overshadow the main goal. The diversity of possible ways must not be reduced to talks on which way to choose. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's interview with *Government Herald*

“THE progress of perestroika will open up new prospects for Soviet foreign policy, since it is most directly linked with the country's domestic policy”, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo and Foreign Minister of the USSR, said in an interview with the weekly *Government Herald* on September 6.

“Internal difficulties affect, without doubt, our foreign policy, too. We even feel this physically during negotiations. And, on the contrary, our work becomes much easier when the situation improves”, the minister noted. “Doubts still persist in the West concerning perestroika's suc-

cess, its irreversibility. Some people say there should be no haste in replying to these or other steps taken by the Soviet side, since who knows how things may eventually turn out . . . This, of course, hinders the opportunities, which, in our opinion, exist today in the international arena”.

Speaking of the tasks of Soviet diplomacy, Shevardnadze stressed that creation of favourable external conditions for internal perestroika was the main one among them. “Diplomacy works for the sake of perestroika, while the latter, and its prestige, contributes to diplomacy. The processes of renovation going on in our country make our counterparts in the international dialogue more susceptible to the new thinking, to Soviet foreign policy initiatives.”

Foreign policy too has a positive influence on domestic affairs, the Soviet foreign minister believes. “The affirmation of such principles as the primacy of law, the conformity of internal and international laws, the development of a law-governed state in general, and integration into the world economic system are all in the interests of the people and of perestroika”, Shevardnadze said. “This also holds true of international cooperation in the sphere of human rights, ecology, and the establishment of a safety regime for the operation of atomic power plants. By promoting new international relations, we create a comfortable climate for positive internal changes”.

Commenting on the motion expressed at the latest session of the Supreme Soviet to transfer the so-called ‘political’ ministries, above all the foreign ministry, from the government to the direct subordination of the Supreme Soviet, Eduard Shevardnadze expressed the conviction that this “division of the Council of Ministers, no matter how it is motivated, would not serve our purposes”. “Many questions pertaining to our country's foreign policy are solved jointly with other ministries and departments. What we need is closer coordination and dovetailing of our actions”, the minister said.

Meeting of Warsaw Treaty Disarmament Commission

A WARSAW Treaty Commission on Disarmament met in Moscow on August 29 and August 30. The delegations comprised special representatives of member countries, heads of delegations of these countries at the Vienna talks, and senior officials of their foreign and defence ministries.

The session was devoted to issues connected with the next round of the Vienna talks on conventional arms and security and confidence-building measures in Europe. An exchange of views was also held on the problems of nuclear arms in Europe and some other urgent issues of disarmament.

The session passed in a businesslike, constructive atmosphere, in a spirit of comradely interaction. □

Soviet spokesman on Bulgarian-Turkish relations

THE aggravation of relations between Bulgaria and Turkey is viewed with serious concern by the Soviet Union, which is seeking to promote constructive dialogue between the countries and a settlement of disputes by political means, first deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate Vadim Perfiliev told a briefing in Moscow on September 1.

At the same time, the Foreign Ministry spokesman noted, the Soviet Union believes that attempts to internationalise the question of Bulgarian Muslims and to raise the issue at various international forums, with the aim of bringing pressure to bear on one of the parties, can only hamper a just and mutually acceptable settlement.

“Bulgaria has repeatedly expressed readiness to start a dialogue with Turkey with the aim of normalising and developing bilateral relations, and we fully support Sofia's intentions,” Vadim Perfiliev said.

“In the Soviet Union, confidence exists that a return of Bulgarian-Turkish relations to a course of good-neighbourliness and cooperation will serve the interests of both nations, improve the political climate and promote cooperation in the Balkans and Europe as a whole”.

SOVIET VIEWPOINT Regional Conflicts — Universal DANGER by Vyacheslav Katamidze

price 60p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN)
3 Rosary Gardens
London SW7 4NW

Peace must be treasured: The lessons of WWII

FIFTY years ago, the storm of the most destructive war, which took more than 50 million human lives, swept across Europe and other parts of the world. To this day it makes people look back in an attempt to find an answer to the question: How could that horrible crime be committed, and most important, what should be done to do away with all wars and never let nuclear war break out?

There are lots of books and papers dealing with the causes of World War II, among them quite unbiased ones. But a lot more research works give a distorted picture of pre-war interstate relations. Some authors go the whole hog to lift the responsibility from the chief initiator of that war – Nazi Germany, while others are trying to justify those Western quarters which pursued a dual policy in the face of the mounting fascist, aggression. Concurrently, some are making energetic efforts to present the Soviet-German treaty of August 23, 1939 as the chief cause of the war.

Of course, our analysis of those events should never be prompted by momentary interests. Neither should it colour the truth, or pass any episode in silence, or distort the actual state of things. In that complicated situation the Soviet leadership did commit certain errors while concluding the 1939 treaties with Germany, especially the treaty of September 28. But it would be equally wrong to detach oneself from the specific historical context in which the Soviet Union acted.

History cannot be changed, and it shows that in the 1930s the centre of Europe was the chief and swelling hotbed of aggression. The flames of war also flared up in Asia, where the Japanese militarists were fostering plans of attacking the Soviet Union from the East. The Soviet government warned other nations about the looming danger of war and made efforts to form up an anti-fascist front encompassing those states which had a real opportunity to save the world – The USSR, Britain and France. A system of collective security could have provided a real alternative to the oncoming global conflict.

It was not the USSR that attacked Germany in 1941, but Germany that attacked the Soviet Union, and that immediately rendered the 1939 agreements invalid. It would therefore be extremely far-fetched to seek any connections between the current situation in the three Baltic republics and the Treaty of August 23. Besides that, one should keep in mind that the peoples of the Baltic republics, as well as of the Western

Ukraine, Western Byelorussia and Moldavia could have fallen under the Hitler yoke back in 1939.

Fascism failed to reverse history. The states and nations which cherished freedom and democracy, united their efforts in the face of the global danger. The anti-Hitler coalition showed the entire beneficial power of cooperation and collective peace efforts. Hence the conclusion that, united, the defenders of freedom and progress can curb the forces of evil and violence.

This conclusion is particularly important today. Never before have we been so deeply aware of the world's integrity and inter-dependence. Nuclear war is the gravest danger threatening the world. The Soviet programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 has aroused a broad response because it meets the vital interests of all people living on our planet. Indeed, can the nations deal with the grave ecological problems if isolated from one another?

The foreign policies of the period of restructuring are characterised by intensive search for new approaches to building international relations. The nations are ridding themselves of the old dogmas and stereotypes, all of which clears the way to the new political thinking which is leading the world out of the labyrinth of complex problems to the most reasonable solutions.

The prevention of nuclear war and the efforts to safeguard and strengthen global peace has become the chief concern of the world community.

The socialist countries consider it their chief and lofty goal to consistently build a new international order, to ward off the danger of nuclear catastrophe, to develop international cooperation and to ensure universal and equal security. The Warsaw Pact members-states are for ensuring security by political and not military means, and for the assertion of the supremacy of the international law, and they demonstrate their commitment to broaden the dialogue with all countries.

The governments and nations of Europe, Asia, America and Africa are becoming more and more aware that military rivalry is dangerous and meaningless. A dynamic coalition of the forces of peace and reason has formed up in the world.

Joint efforts of all the world community's advancement to a new stage of development in the conditions of peace and cooperation.

The direct threat of nuclear war is diminishing. The implementation of the Soviet-US INF Treaty shows that the elimination of nuclear weapons has got underway. Military confrontation in Europe, the most dangerous in the world, is lessening. Today, the conditions for cutting down

conventional armed forces in Europe, for the reduction and subsequent elimination of factual nuclear weapons, and for building up trust in Europe are more favourable than ever. The idea of building a common European home is winning more and more supporters.

But there are no grounds for complacency. The disarmament tendency has not yet become irreversible and the practice of maintaining international relations on the basis of dialogue and cooperation is not yet stable. The military quarters in the US and in some other NATO states are escalating the production of new types of weapons.

A due lesson should be taken from World War II. This is the demand of our time. All nations, all peace-loving and realistically-minded forces should redouble their efforts for easing international tensions still further. The door to a nuclear-free and non-violent world should be opened wide before humanity. □

PRAVDA, SEPTEMBER 1, IN FULL

Pavlov outlines new financial strategy

"When drafting the new budget, we will draw on the experience of other countries and will probably break the budget into two parts – the running and development budgets." Soviet Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov said in an interview in *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* on September 7.

"The budget deficit can be eliminated, without worsening people's living conditions, by 1990. Such a programme has already been developed, and includes items of expenditure we can't avoid," he said.

"As for the development budget, the committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet should discuss all programmes and projects, and there are some 2,000 of these requiring new investment, and decide which of these programmes can be abandoned and which can be slashed."

Commenting on the disrupted cash market, Pavlov said there are more than 100 billion roubles currently in use, including those hoarded, plus another 300 billion in savings banks plus 30 billion in the 'shadow economy'. But only 35-50 billion roubles are needed for normal cash turnover.

"To normalise the situation, we must stop the credit expansion, and seal off channels through which the economy is flooded with money."

Soviet banks must learn to control the money market, and their employees must become real financial experts, Pavlov said. □

CPSU Central Committee Armenian and Azerbaijan leaders meet

A MEETING of members and alternate members of the bureaux of the central committees of the Azerbaijanian and the Armenian Communist Parties was held at the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee on August 31.

The situation in the region was discussed. Profound anxiety was expressed over the state of relations between the two republics, which had assumed a dangerous character and threatened the aggravation of the inter-ethnic conflict. Economic ties of the republics are being disrupted, roads are being blocked. Special concern is being caused by the problems of refugees, by the

fact that tens of thousands of people became uprooted and are suffering privations. The fact that a dialogue between the two republics has been lacking over a long time does no good to the peoples and does not promote the solution of problems.

During a broad exchange of opinions, an arrangement was reached that both republics, above all Party and government bodies and public organisations, will be doing everything toward the solution of accumulated problems and will conduct a dialogue at every level, from the central committees of the communist parties of the republics to work collectives, to restore traditional ties in every direction of the socio-political, economic and cultural life, and what is the main thing, to ensure the safety of every

family, of every person.

The Participants in the meeting gave much attention to the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, which they believe can be resolved only on a constitutional, democratic basis.

Members of the bureaux of the central committees of the communist parties of both republics were unanimous in the view that despite all the complexity of inter-ethnic relations in the region, there is no question that could not be resolved, given mutual tolerance and profound interest in the destinies of the two fraternal peoples.

Members of the politburo and secretaries of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Nikolai Slyunkov and Viktor Chebrikov took part in the meeting. □

The CPSU's draft platform on inter-ethnic relations: An analysis

S. Yagudin, PhD (Law)

TO begin with, I want to remind my readers: more than 100 nations and nationalities live in the USSR; the union comprises 53 national stages, 38 of which belong to various types of autonomy: autonomous republics, autonomous regions and autonomous areas. Simple arithmetic shows that many smaller people still lack a statehood.

Perestroika and democratisation, the development of self-government glasnost and rapid growth of national self-awareness imperatively demand new approaches to the solution of problems of Soviet federalism and autonomy. It is gratifying that these questions from separate sections in the platform of the Soviet Communist Party on its nationalities policy.

Political, social, economic and intellectual progress of peoples makes it objectively possible consecutively to replace one form of autonomy with another right up to the formation of a sovereign national state. For instance, the Tuva Autonomous Region was reorganised into the Tuva Autonomous Republic. True, that happened 30 years ago; in recent years that process has been held back.

In view of all that it is essential to approach the study of autonomy as an integral and indivisible phenomenon which is in a constant process of self-development, work out substantiated criteria and a political mechanism for the transition of some of its types into others and record constitutionally the obligation of the Union Republics and of the USSR to promote a consistent exercise of the inalienable, inviolable and sacred right of peoples to self-determination.

It is essential to adopt such an approach and carry through the necessary preparatory work. The Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR (and prior to it members of the academic community and various citizen groups) discussed the possibility of forming new autonomous entities, for instance, that of the Gagauz in Moldavia and the Adygheis in the Far East, restoring the autonomy of the Crimean Tatars and the Germans of the Volga region, etc. People's Deputies of the USSR by Y. A. Gayer, M. I. Mongo and many others told the Congress about the plight of smaller peoples of the North. And so, the Communist Party platform suggested the establishment of an Association of the Peoples of the North – a special public organisation which would promote political consolidation of all Northern peoples. In future, after they have achieved political, social, economic and intellectual progress, it would evidently be possible to raise the question of their self-determination, say, via the formation of a Soviet Socialist Republic of such peoples.

The draft Communist Party platform mentions the need to broaden substantially the rights of the Union and Autonomous Republics as well as other national entities. Steps which will be made in this direction will undoubtedly iron out no few differences in the sphere of autonomy as well. However, it seems that they will not be able to resolve all the problems related to it. Nor will individual social and economic infusions produce the desired effect unless burning questions are solved politically. It would be advisable that the entire spectrum of questions in that delicate sphere be expounded in a special law on autonomy in the USSR. Naturally enough, both legislative and practical steps should be made with due account for the will and interests of such peoples, they should be voluntary rather than imposed by someone from outside.

The Congress of People's Deputies of the

USSR raised the question of making the status of all national republics equal without dividing them into "first- and second-grade" ones, that is, into Union and Autonomous Republics. It seems that it is inappropriate to formulate the question in this way. First, it practically erases differences between absolutely different forms of federalism. Second, it leads to centralism and Stalin's notorious "autonomisation".

The problem of upgrading the status of autonomous republics should, in my opinion, be tackled in a different way. Perhaps, we should recognise that an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (as a state and a part of one or other Union Republic) has autonomous sovereignty, that is, the right to decide (being the highest, independent and autonomous authority and acting in compliance with the legislation of the USSR and the Union Republic) matters related to the exercise of national and popular sovereignty. It is also advisable that the mechanism for harmonising the interests of Union and Autonomous Republics be recorded constitutionally: if a law of an Autonomous Republic does not agree with the corresponding federal law, the law of the Union Republic applies. The task is to make the competence of a Union Republic congruous with its political and legal nature as a state possessing autonomous sovereignty.

For that purpose it is essential to revise the effective constitutional and current legislation in what applies to the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics. For example, it is desirable that matters related to the national state organisation of the RSFSR form a separate section of the RSFSR Constitution and that the Autonomous Republics be recognised as a subject of the federation. It is advisable that the number of articles which excessively regiment questions coming within the competence of an Autonomous Republic (for instance, powers of the Council of Ministers of an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic) be reduced.

The concept of autonomous sovereignty organically combines the principles of political and economic self-government. In view of this it would be advisable that in conditions of republican self-financing Autonomous Republics be given the right of final say in deciding many matters of social and economic life. For instance, according to expert estimates, the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic may take over control of some 160 enterprises subordinated to Union and Union-Republican ministries and departments (more than a half of all products turned out by these enterprises are marketed in the Republic).

Why should not Autonomous Republics get the right to resolve independently all issues pertaining to the administrative and territorial structure, naturally enough, in compliance with the federal legislation (it would be obliged only to notify the Union Republic concerned of the changes made)? At present the procedure is as follows: the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet endorses decisions of Autonomous Republics (even if the case in point is the naming and renaming of settlements). Of course, this kind of anachronism encroaches on the sovereign rights of an Autonomous Republic.

Matters related to the state-sponsored development of the national language and national culture should also be placed within the exclusive competence of Autonomous Republics; Union Republics should not be copied blindly in this respect, but at the same time one should not ignore the development of the language of inter-ethnic communication and the development of the languages of other peoples which live on its territory.

It is advisable that the Constitutions of the

Union Republics make provisions for the right of an Autonomous Republic to the establishment of relations with other Union and Autonomous Republics and with the knowledge of the Union Republic concerned with foreign countries too. In future such relations established by an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic will be developing more and more.

Of course the matters considered above do not cover all the problems pertaining to the political development of Soviet autonomy. Many of them will undoubtedly be resolved during the second stage of the political reform. They must not be postponed any longer, for today it is becoming more obvious than ever before that without political progress it is impossible to make progress in any other sphere.

(Sovetskaya Rossia, August 30. Abridged.)

Pravda on Soviet legal reforms

MOSCOW September 7, TASS – a major goal of perestroika is to create a socialist state, ruled by law, in which law dominates power, Pravda writes today in its leading article.

In such a state, justice is administered on the principles of all citizens' equality before the court, regardless of their social and official position, and human rights, interests and personal freedom are guaranteed on the basis of presumption of innocence.

A law and court reform has begun in the Soviet Union to restore the high position of law in society and its prestige.

The first steps have already been made, Pravda noted. For the first time in the Soviet Union, a law on the status of judges was adopted to help raise the presentation of judges and guarantee their independence and immunity.

The Soviet Union must have such a judge corps that would administer justice with conviction and responsibility in a ruled-by-law state, Pravda writes.

The courts, being loyal only to the law, are to have nothing in common with political campaigns, which brought so much suffering to the people. The campaigns themselves, caused by the situation of the day or personal ambitions, are incompatible with a ruled-by-law state.

The new status concerns not only judges, but every Soviet citizen as well. Non-interference in court decisions by Party and government bodies, departments and the press should become a norm in accordance with the law.

It is the task of all Soviet people to strengthen the law enforcement system, its independence and prestige, Pravda writes in conclusion. The more efficient it is, the more quickly law enforcement will satisfy the demands of a ruled-by-law socialist state, the newspaper notes. □

CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S
DEPUTIES
OF THE USSR

Documents
and
Materials

Moscow Kremlin

May 25 – June 9, 1989

price 70p including p/p from:

Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW

Trades Union plenum debates new issues

THE issues that are being raised at the plenary meeting of the leading body of the Soviet trade unions, currently under way in Moscow, are unusual, a trade union official told newsmen in Moscow on September 5.

"The issues discussed go well beyond the conventional practice of Soviet trade unions," trade union secretary Igor Klochkov noted at a briefing for press representatives covering the 6th Plenum of the All-Union Central Trade Union Council.

The debate on the report made by Soviet trade union leader Stepan Shalayev focussed on the role of trade unions in the current complicated social and economic situation.

"In several regions, trade union bodies are balancing on the brink of losing their prestige," Vasily Romanov, chairman of the Kemerovo Regional Council of Trade Unions, said in his statement.

He disclosed that trade union bodies are being re-elected in the Western Siberian Region at the demand of the local strike committee.

In the opinion of a representative of another mining region, the recent strikes were sparked off by the heightening of social tensions and the worsening of working conditions.

Draft law to combat Aids

THE Soviet government daily newspaper *Izvestia* published comments by a senior medical official on the new draft anti-aids legislation in its September 4 issue.

The draft law regulates when a person can be subject to an obligatory aids test and out-patient treatment for infection with the deadly acquired immune deficiency virus, Mikhail Markevich, head of the main epidemiological department of the Soviet Health Ministry, explains.

If the law is passed, forced aids tests will require a procurator's warrant, as a guarantee of personal immunity.

Current legislation did not require such a warrant, which has sometimes led to abuse on the part of medical workers and law-enforcement officials.

The new legislation grants aids patients the right to medical and social help, and introduces criminal proceedings against medical and phar-

New USSR-China air link inaugurated

THE crew of the Chinese Chengyang Territorial Civil Aviation Directorate made the first flight from Harbin to Khabarovsk on September 1. A regular air link will be inaugurated between Harbin and Khabarovsk in September.

Under an agreement, Soviet and Chinese crews will make weekly flights between Harbin and Khabarovsk. The new air line is necessary to cope with the growing trade, economic and cultural co-operation between north eastern China and the Soviet Far East.

"The line will cater for Soviet and Chinese citizens, foreign tourists, and businessmen from Japan, the United States and countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The new air link will promote friendship between the Soviet Union and China," Xuanwen said.

Khabarovsk airport already has regular air links with Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Khabarovsk will soon fly to the north western zone of the United States. □

The official, Fyodor Zderzhikov, who is chairman of the Donetsk Regional Council of Trade Unions in the Ukraine, said that 26,000 miners were working in pits at temperatures that were considerably higher than the norm.

The Donetsk trade union leader demanded that the government set up groups to find prompt solution to outstanding social problems and help improve working conditions.

Railway workers were in a striking mood as well, said Ivan Shinkevich, chairman of the Central Committee of the Trade Unions of Railway Transport Workers and Transport Construction.

Shop-floor trade union committees, however, succeeded in dissuading the workers of this key industry from going on strike, he said.

Shinkevich expressed amazement over the fact that the government has not as yet responded to the railwaymen's demands, advanced one month ago.

Many speakers at the plenary meeting sharply criticised the state of affairs in the cooperative sector. They stressed that workers supported coops that helped strengthen the national economy, but rejected those that were engaged in resale dealings bordering on speculation.

The plenum raised the question of instituting an independent trade union organisation in the Russian Federation. □

maceutical workers who fail to fulfil their professional duty.

Medical workers will be obliged to keep secret all data obtained during check-ups and treatment, or face prosecution for divulging medical secrets. A proposal has also been made not to write any aids diagnosis on sick leave certificates.

The new law will be obligatory both for Soviet and foreign citizens living in the Soviet Union, according to Markevich. Only those with diplomatic immunity will be exempt. □

Pravda on situation in Moldavia

"NATIONAL intolerance has made another appearance here, stepping up bitterness, mutual enmity and suspicion among people of various nationalities," Pravda has said of the latest events in Moldavia in its August 29 edition.

Reporting the Sunday rally in Kishinev sponsored by the Moldavian Popular Front, the newspaper says: "it turns out it was not a rally at all. Mircha Snegur, President of the Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet, who was present at the gathering, specified that it was 'a grand national assembly'. These are two different things of course. In this connection some questions arise. Why didn't the Supreme Soviet sponsor the 'grand national assembly' where speakers called on people to express their opinion on the new laws? Are 1.5 million non-Moldavians who regard Moldavia their homeland, not part of the people? The rally was held without representatives of numerous Bulgarian, Gagauz and Russian villages which are part and parcel of Moldavia. Why did those present in the square decide the destinies of non-Moldavians and determine the future of their children and grandchildren?"

"It is terrible," the newspaper writes, "when a mother hugs her child with one hand and aggressively raises the other with a clenched fist. It is a sacrilege to put the Soviet coat of arms on a poster next to a nazi swastika. It is dangerous when sacred words and notions are turned into instruments of gambling on national feelings." □

On the events in the Western Soviet Republics

By Tass commentator Vladimir Valentinov:

IN the three western republics of the Soviet Union – Byelorussia, Moldavia and the Ukraine – the readings of the political barometer did not indicate calm weather in the past week.

The situation in Moldavia was more acute than in the other two republics. Moldavia's Supreme Soviet adopted a package of laws on the republic's languages. Some of the provisions of these documents were the cause of strikes by the republic's non-native population, which regards these proposals as discriminatory. The strikes continue to this day.

The session of Moldavia's parliament, which lasted for four days instead of the planned two, ended on Friday with the adoption of a law regulating the functions of languages in the republic. While there were no differences among deputies on the laws on the resumption of the use of latin script in the Moldavian language, there have been acute debates on the status of Moldavian as an official language of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Deputies from Tiraspol, where non-Moldavians form a considerable part of the population, walked out of the meeting at one point, and it was with difficulty that the presidium persuaded them to return and take part in the debate on the law. Several thousand people gathered in front of the building where the session was being held. It is absolutely obvious that this demonstration was aimed at bringing pressure on the deputies.

The situation in Moldavia remains tense. On the demand of the republic's strike committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet announced, on September 2, the formation of a commission to study the socio-political situation in the republic.

The legislative process is also proceeding stormily in the Ukraine. Draft laws on the election of People's Deputies of the republic, and on elections to local Soviets, are in the focus of attention. Members of the 'inter-regional' group of USSR People's Deputies from the Ukraine opposed the documents of the presidium of the Ukraine's supreme Soviet with their own alternative draft.

The authors of the alternative draft documents regard the draft laws proposed by the presidium as undemocratic. They specifically suggest direct elections to the parliament and president of the Ukraine, and the ending of elections of deputies by public organisations.

A meeting was held in the Ukrainian capital Kiev on September 2 to discuss these documents. Many thousands participated in this meeting, where calls were made for soberly assessing the situation, for restraint and a constructive dialogue.

In Byelorussia, public attention focused on problems of the development of the republic's economic independence, and the solution of ecological problems, which have been considerably aggravated by the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. But all this has not eclipsed the most important problem for the entire humanity, that of safeguarding peace. In Byelorussia which lost almost a quarter of its population during the Second World War, September 1, the day of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, saw numerous actions in which calls were made to prevent the repetition of horrors of war. □

The Costs of the Arms Race

price 50p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.

Washington's position on the Geneva talks

V. Chernyshov, TASS correspondent
for military affairs

THE United States must undertake steps that would lead to real progress at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons. This opinion was expressed recently by The New York Times in its editorial. I think that this is a timely suggestion.

At the eleventh round of the talks which ended recently and which was the first one for the Bush administration the American side announced that it would stick to the positions which were co-ordinated between the USSR and the US under the Reagan administration. Beyond any doubt, continuity in the fields which can serve as a springboard for the approximation of the sides' positions must only be welcomed. But what new elements of its own were introduced by the present US leadership at the latest round of the talks to remove the remaining obstacles in the way of agreements?

It must be stated frankly that the "additions" to the position of the previous administration evoke controversial feelings. For example, the proposition by the US side on preparing and implementing on a trial basis verification and stability measures still before the signing of the agreement on strategic offensive weapons is definitely worthy of attention. Apparently, new joint experiments in the field of verification will eventually contribute to an earlier ratification of such an agreement by the Senate of the US Congress. So this proposition definitely has something rational about it. The important thing is that the proposed measures should be implemented parallel with the elaboration of the main text of the treaty instead of replacing or interfering with that process.

However, the new proposals by the Bush administration on which the implementation of the accords dealing with the future of the ABM Treaty, achieved by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, now seems to be hinged can hardly contribute to progress. The US representatives at the talks announced that the US would agree not to walk out of the ABM Treaty for a co-ordinated period only if the following three conditions are codified: recognition of the right to each side to the deployment of space defence systems after the expiry of the period of non-withdrawal from the ABM Treaty; preservation

of the ordinary rights to withdrawal from the treaty and discontinuation of the effect of that treaty; and specification of the rights to research, development and testing of ABM systems. It is absolutely obvious that the third condition, "verification", is aimed at changing the very essence of the ABM Treaty which expressly prohibits the development, testing and deployment of space-based ABM systems or components.

Although setting its own terms, the US refuses to accept the Soviet proposal on the inclusion in the text of the treaty on strategic offensive weapons a provision on the discontinuation of its effect in case of violation of the ABM Treaty or of the agreement on its observance within a co-ordinated term.

There are other alarming circumstances, too. First, the Pentagon is intensively implementing practical tests under the SDI programme. In the course of just six months the world public has learned about the holding of experiments and tests of elements of a future large-scale missile defence system on the ground, in the air and in space. In particular, on April 7, at a testing ground in California, the Americans tried out an Alfa chemical laser which is to be based in space, and then, a week later at the Edwards air base, a new killer missile to be deployed on low-orbit platforms. In July, within the framework of the Star Wars programme, the US carried out the first test in space of a beam weapon: a 7-metre accelerator of neutral particles. In the beginning of August, also at the Edwards base, a homing sensor for killer missiles was launched into the atmosphere. Such missiles are planned to be deployed on ABM satellites.

Second, the persistence with which the present US administration is trying to secure from Congress big allocations on SDI is very alarming indeed. During his meeting with Senators in the White House on July 24, President Bush said that in his opinion SDI was a programme of decisive importance and that it was essential that the programme should be implemented.

Third, the tests staged under the SDI programme serve as a material confirmation of the statements by members of the present US administration about the future of the ABM Treaty. In particular, addressing the American Defense Preparedness Association on June 29, Vice-President Dan Quale directly spoke of US readiness to implement the development and deployment of strategic defence systems when they were ready. For his own part, Defense Secretary

Cheney was just as outspoken when he said that he would stand for renunciation of the ABM Treaty as soon as the United States approached the possibility to deploy SDI. Speaking in one of the Senate sub-committees, the Director of the SDI Organization, Lt.-Gen. G. Monahan insisted that in the course of tests within the framework of the Strategic Defense Initiative a US deviation from the ABM Treaty was possible and that in the long run it would be necessary to annul that document. Finally the head of the US delegation at the Geneva talks, Richard Burt, says that the Bush administration will seek such a treaty with the USSR on strategic offensive weapons, which will leave to the United States "all possible variants of deployment" of SDI. In his words, the Soviet position linking the agreement on strategic offensive weapons with the settlement of the problem of preservation of the ABM Treaty is "unacceptable" for the US administration.

How can one possibly think, proceeding from this position and stepping up the practical work under the Star Wars programme, that the Soviet Union will sign an agreement on 50 per cent cuts in strategic offensive weapons? The deployment of SDI or even the threat of such deployment would lead to a sharp destabilization of the international situation. If, when there is a parity between the two powers, one of the sides adds a new component to the strategic equation, can one possibly speak of a continued balance and stronger stability? It is absolutely obvious that one can't: in the absence of parity, uncertainty increases.

What then has Washington done to resolve other problems at the latest round of the Geneva talks? Unfortunately, in all the other fundamental directions the American side has not budged either. It is hard not to wonder, for example, why the US administration, parallel with persuading Congress to allocate funds on two types of land-based mobile ballistic missiles, left untouched on the negotiating table in Geneva its own proposal on banning the deployment of such missiles.

Anyhow, all that one can do now is hope that the situation will clarify after all the forthcoming meeting on September 19-20 between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker. There is an opportunity for the two sides at that meeting to exchange views at the political level and to resolve fundamental problems which are holding back the Geneva talks. □

Chemical weapons talks end in Geneva

THE 12th round of Soviet-American consultations on banning chemical weapons ended in Geneva on August 29. The consultations are in addition to multilateral talks on an international convention on banning all chemical weapons.

The delegates continued a search for mutually acceptable solutions to several issues concerning the content of a future convention and bilateral confidence-building measures connected with its elaboration.

The Soviet and American delegations finished the drawing up of a joint proposal on eliminating chemical weapons and their production facilities, which will now go before the multilateral talks, and sent them for approval to their capitals.

The date for the next round of bilateral consultations is yet to be agreed. □

USSR prepared to join Berne Convention

"THE Soviet union is preparing to join the Berne Convention on the protection of literary and artistic works," Nikolai Chetverikov, chairman of the board of the All-Union Copyright Agency, told Tass on August 30.

"This document, in a generalised form, seals the highest level of the protection of copyright in their civilised work as of today," he added.

"Together with several Soviet departments, our agency is now examining the changes which will be needed to introduce them to Soviet copyright legislation.

"In full conformity with the Berne Convention's requirements, these changes envisage the lifting of all copyright restrictions which are inadmissible from the viewpoint of current international accords," Chetverikov said.

It is intended in particular to cancel free utili-

sation (without the author's consent and without the payment of royalties) of published works, television and radio broadcasts, and in films and newspapers.

The term for the protection of copyright following the death of an author will be extended to 50 years instead of 25, as now is the case.

The changes will take into account the protection of new types of works which have emerged as a result of scientific and technological progress. This includes the protection of copyright on programmes for computers, satellite and cable television, and video-recordings.

Experts of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) visited the Soviet Union recently and were informed of the changes being prepared in Soviet copyright legislation.

The WIPO experts' opinion is that the changes will create the necessary conditions for the Soviet Union's accession to the Berne Convention.