

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Willy Brandt

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV and Willy Brandt, President of the Socialist International and Honorary Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, met in Moscow on October 17.

They agreed that the continued dialogue is of importance for the countries, parties and movements they represent. All of Europe needs the dialogue.

They briefly exchanged opinions about Mikhail Gorbachev's recent visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and about the state of relations between the Soviet Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party of Germany. They specifically discussed the activity of the mission of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Moscow.

They called for the deepening of the contacts between the Socialist International and the Soviet Communist Party.

Next year the Soviet Union hopes to receive a delegation from the Socialist International to discuss the format of future regular meetings and topics of discussions. The topics will not be limited to peace and disarmament.

Meetings will possibly focus on the world economy and ecology, the scientific and technological revolution, information processes, problems of the North and the South, and prospects for socialism and civilisation in general.

Regarding the destinies of the socialist idea, Gorbachev said that certain circles in the West try to present the events in socialist countries as the fiasco of socialism and of the very idea of socialism.

Meanwhile, we are striving to find socialism's optimum response to the challenge of times, Gorbachev said. In this connection, Brandt said that what is taking place now is a fresh beginning from the historic point of view.

Gorbachev emphasised that the further development of socialism should be visualised in the context of the overall development of contemporary civilisation. It should pool together all the benefits that can be found in the experience of other societies and public movements. Vast theoretical, political and cultural work lies ahead.

Lately the Soviet Communist Party's communication with socialist democratic parties has shown that a substantive and sincere dialogue is in progress, in which everyone adheres to their values. This dialogue may offer the world important ideas that are essential to a vision of the

transition into the 21st Century.

Gorbachev agreed with Brandt that far from everything has been elucidated in the experience of the social-democratic and communist movements, We are prepared to take a broad, unbiased and fearless look at the past, present and future. We are prepared for a most serious talk, Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev touched upon the West's attitude to perestroika at its present, very difficult stage. "We know of those who are inclined to think and act in accordance with the old principle: the worse for the USSR, the better," he said.

But most people in the world apparently realise the positive importance of perestroika for the entire world. The social democratic movement is among this majority. We appreciate its solidarity and its striving to understand our problems, Gorbachev said.

The interest in the success of perestroika should be combined with special attentiveness and caution in matters connected with the complex processes in socialist countries, Gorbachev noted.

When Brandt asked how the West can help perestroika, Gorbachev said: "The main thing is to ensure that at the present critical time, nothing happens that is similar to what happened at sharp turns during previous decades. The world is living through too crucial a period. If a breakdown is provoked, there will be dire consequences."

"We are justified in saying that there is new confidence in inter-state relations. It emerged on the basis of the rigorous imperatives of our time. If someone tries to take advantage of these difficult quests into the new and to disrupt the natural process, everything will be jeopardised," Gorbachev said.

"As to the domestic tasks of perestroika, we shall be tackling them ourselves. We will no longer rely on others in our domestic affairs, much less rely on others in foreign relations. What we need is normal co-operation in econo-

my, ecology and culture. To put it in a nutshell, we need a normal external environment for our domestic work," Gorbachev said.

At Brandt's request, Gorbachev summed up the main aspects of the situation in the country and spoke candidly of some measures that have not achieved the expected results. A systematic approach was not used when they were worked out.

In certain cases, policy lags behind the pace of society's activity. Problems are very complex and must be thoroughly analysed. "We do not want to palm off on people unripe fruit, although some are prodding us to do this," Gorbachev said.

"We are living through a period when society finally has come to realise that constructive work is the main thing. Gradually and with difficulty we are leaving the stage of rallies behind us. It was the necessary stage. Nothing would have been achieved without it.

"The rallies enabled people to understand themselves and their society, appreciate the need for perestroika and the policy required for perestroika. They shook up society to such an extent, brought so much up to the surface, that we still continue to feel the reverberations of that shock," Gorbachev said.

"We are now more confident of success for we know more about our potentials and have made the most important decisions on fundamental matters in our life," he went on.

"Laws are being drafted that will alter the very basis of society. Work is under way in the Party and in the Supreme Soviet.

"Now we must ease the tension in social and economic affairs that causes the people's dissatisfaction. We must break through to the open air, where all the fundamental ideas of perestroika will start to function.

"Our society is not easily accessible to profound change. It is heavily burdened by its past,

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Presidium of the Supreme Soviet examine constitutional changes

AT A meeting chaired by President Mikhail Gorbachev on October 20, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet examined issues related to the second session of the national parliament.

Following a report by First Vice-President Anatoli Lukyanov, the Presidium considered a bill "On Changes and Amendments to the Constitution (fundamental law) of the USSR Concerning Issues of the Electoral System".

The bill, drafted by a commission of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, will be submitted to Parliament.

Yevgeni Primakov, Chairman of the Council of the Union, presented bills on the status of people's deputies, on the procedure for recalling people's deputies, on rules of the Congress of People's Deputies and of the Supreme Soviet, and on a proposed procedure for the annual renewal of the Parliament's composition.

These bills have been submitted for consideration to the nation's Parliament.

The Presidium discussed amending legislation on inter-ethnic relations.

It approved a model charter of the provisional committee assigned to combat crime.

Georgi Tarazevich, Chairman of the Standing Commission for Nationalities Policy and Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Council of Nationalities, informed the Presidium about the conclusions of a deputies' commission for the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region.

The commission thoroughly analysed the situation in the region and submitted several proposals aimed at settling the conflict.

In the discussion that followed, the Presidium worked out suggestions for a political settlement of the problem, which were handed over to the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet and to the people's deputies from Nagorno-Karabakh.

The suggestions will then be submitted to the Supreme Soviet. □

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Mikhail Gorbachev receives Vatican envoy

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev received Archbishop Angelo Sodano in the Kremlin on October 20. The Archbishop came to Moscow on the instructions of Pope John Paul II.

The Archbishop conveyed to Gorbachev the Pope's message on the situation in Lebanon.

Gorbachev informed the Vatican envoy of the Soviet leadership's latest bilateral and multilateral attempts to attain a political settlement of the conflict that brings suffering to the Lebanese people and leads to the country's ruination.

He reaffirmed the Soviet Union's continuous support for Lebanon's revival as an independent, sovereign, integral and prosperous state.

Gorbachev asked the Archbishop to tell the Pope that the wishes expressed in his message will be taken into account in subsequent efforts to assist in the search for the solution to the Lebanese problem.

The two briefly discussed the earlier exchange of messages of a conceptual character between Gorbachev and the Pope.

They noted with satisfaction the growing mutual understanding that has already been reflected in the practical field.

Acting on the Pope's instructions, the Ar-

chbishop spoke about specific forms with which to intensify contacts between the Vatican and the Soviet Union. He also noted certain problems connected with the exercise of religious needs of Soviet Catholics.

Gorbachev showed interest in the issues raised on behalf of the Holy See. He shared his judgements about the religious situation in the country, stressing the rapid invigoration of public awareness at the current, crucial stage of perestroika.

The Soviet State wants believers, non-believers, and the various churches and religions existing in the country to develop good, respectful relations, he stated.

Much depends on the wisdom and responsibility of religious leaders, Gorbachev remarked.

Gorbachev drew attention to the importance of enhanced and improved relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Catholic churches.

"As I understand it, his Holiness the Pope and the President of the USSR Supreme Soviet are going to meet," Gorbachev said. "You may convey that, for my part, I have this intention and hope to talk about peace, about the common home in which we live, about our common responsibility for its destiny, and about the most essential specific issues." □

Kalevi Sorsa on Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Finland

"THE process of co-operation is continuing in Europe, especially after the impetus from the Helsinki Process, started in 1975," Kalevi Sorsa, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, told the newspaper *Izvestia* on October 23.

Replying to the newspaper's questions on prospects for building a common European home, he stressed that "the continent, for a long time a centre of world politics, is being transformed economically and spiritually. This is evidenced by the creation of 'an integrated Europe' in the West, the perestroika programme in the USSR, radical changes in Poland and Hungary. Everybody, including small nations, can see now that Europe's future is definitely becoming our common cause."

In this connection Sorsa noted that Europeans display a readiness to think in a new way, to cast aside prejudice. "There is much less doubt and mistrust, especially after practical shifts in disarmament issues. Trust is growing. All this happened and happens on both sides of Europe, still divided by military alliances. In other words, the atmosphere is so favourable that it is inadmis-

sible to miss the chance," the Speaker stressed.

Asked for his vision of a future Europe, Sorsa stressed the need to preserve its invaluable cultural traditions, economic prosperity. "It will be also a more secure Europe," he said.

On the forthcoming visit to Finland by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Sorsa said "the visit evokes much interest not only in Finland but also in all Nordic countries. The initiatives proposed by the Soviet President on European issues were always considered in the region in terms of their effect on Nordic countries. Briefly speaking, we are all preoccupied with one question: what place in the future European home does the Soviet Union assign to the Nordic countries? I would like to stress that these countries have enjoyed many years of close historical ties with the Soviet Union and its peoples."

Sorsa then went on to say that the construction of the European home should be started with the problem of the environment.

"In his Murmansk speech Gorbachev made proposals on the protection of the environment in the Arctic. For our part we have done a lot to implement these proposals. The preparatory meeting in Rovaniemi will be shortly followed by an international conference of all states concerned. We hope that an agreement, determining the future of the Arctic for years to come, will be signed," he said.

"Second, all countries and peoples should agree on the necessary measures to strengthen security on the continent. Helsinki supported the idea expressed in Murmansk on turning the north into a zone of peace and co-operation," the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament stressed.

Speaking in conclusion about Finnish-Soviet relations, Sorsa described them as "very good" and said "there are problems only in the economic field due to international factors rather than processes in the two countries." He stressed that as perestroika develops in the USSR, activity in the trade and economic field will also increase.

"As for our political relations, they are marked by dynamism today as well. This will be undoubtedly confirmed during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit," Sorsa said. □

Survey shows Gorbachev as most authoritative politician

DESPITE the serious difficulties which the Soviet Union is currently facing the absolute majority of the population still link their hopes for a better life with Mikhail Gorbachev, according to a sociological survey held in the country on October 13-14. Its results are published in the October 21 issue of the weekly *Agrumenty i Fakty* (Arguments and Facts).

The survey, which was carried out by authoritative specialists, covered some 2,500 people who represented a cross-section of society in terms of social position, place of residence, age, and so on.

Sixty-six per cent of those polled consider Mikhail Gorbachev to be the country's most authoritative politician. The rating of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov is also very high.

The survey, conducted by the sociological survey centre of the CPSU Central Committee, showed that the share of positive assessments of Mikhail Gorbachev, Nikolai Ryzhkov, Central Committee secretaries Vadim Medvedev and Alexander Yakovlev is higher among Party members than on average in the sample. Party members are more critical of Boris Yeltsin compared with non-party members. Academician Andrei Sakharov turned out to enjoy most popularity among students.

The survey also disproved the long-held view that writers and scientists were most popular among USSR people's deputies. Nearly half of the respondents did not have any definitive views about historian Yuri Afanasyev and writer Yuri Vlasov, while roughly a third could not say anything about economists Pavel Bunich and Alexei Yemelyanov.

The newspaper says that many readers disagreed with its recent publication regarding the popularity of politicians. This is why the results of this scientific survey, reflecting the picture of the present day, are published. □

Earthquake Gorbachev sends condolences to President Bush

IN a message to US President George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed his sincere sympathy in connection with the earthquake in the San Francisco area that caused heavy casualties and damage.

The message asks the President to convey the Soviet people's condolences to the relatives of the victims.

The Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Yuri Dubinin, was instructed to get in touch with US Administration officials to find out what assistance the Soviet Union could provide through state and public channels to redress the quake damage. □

Plenary meeting of the CPSU Central committee

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Eduard Shevardnadze speaks at Supreme Soviet session

THE Soviet Union attaches much importance to Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visits to Finland and Italy, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told the Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament, on October 23.

He said people in the USSR expect these visits to impart new quality to relations with these countries, give a fresh impetus to the development of the Helsinki Process, promote further work on the project of a common European home and progress at the Vienna talks on the reduction of conventional armed forces and confidence-building.

Addressing a plenary meeting of both chambers of Parliament, the minister reviewed the Soviet foreign policy for 1985-1989.

Shevardnadze summed up his recent talks in the United States, Nicaragua and Cuba. He noted that Soviet-American dialogue achieved a new level of openness, business intensity, scope of the questions raised, degree of mutual understanding and certain benevolence.

The Foreign Minister said that the Soviet-American summit to be held next year will be a major event in world politics.

The situation around Nicaragua has altered, Shevardnadze said. The flexible policy of the Sandinist leadership, the activity of the Institute of Presidents of five countries of the region has yielded results. And Washington, too, shows realism, giving preference to a political settlement.

The USSR attaches much importance to a statement of the US Secretary of State that the USA will accept any results of the elections in Nicaragua if the elections are 'clean'.

Shevardnadze said that his talks with the Nicaraguan leaders were held in a spirit of comradeliness and complete mutual understanding.

Shevardnadze said that the priority task in Soviet-Cuban relations is upgrading the mechanism of economic co-operation and a sharp enhancement of its effectiveness and mutual advantage.

He noted that the United States policy with regard to Cuba does not blend with the present situation, now that the international climate has improved.

Seeing the need to speak on domestic aspects of perestroika, the minister emphasised that it is extremely dangerous and even impossible to separate domestic and foreign policy. The Soviet people and socialism paid dearly for the past beliefs that the outside world can be ignored and the interests of others disregarded, Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze emphasised that perestroika presupposes the need for a fundamentally new foreign policy. At the same time, the processes taking place in the territory that makes up one-sixth of the globe cannot but have an impact on the situation in the world and be a subject of interest and attention of other countries. These processes have a direct bearing on the destiny of humanity and its chances of survival in conditions when it encounters unprecedented challenges and menaces — nuclear, ecological, demographic, economic.

Discussing the national leadership's view of the dispatch of Soviet forces to Afghanistan, Shevardnadze noted gross violations of Soviet legislation, intra-Party and civic norms, and ethical standards at that time.

The decision which had difficult consequences for the country had been taken behind the backs of the Party and the people, Shevardnadze said.

The United Nations Charter recognises the right to individual and collective defence, per-

mits military aid to another state. But the charter sets strict limits to such actions and requires that non-military methods, the possibilities of the United Nations and other means of political solution be used to the utmost.

Shevardnadze emphasised that the developments following the Soviet troop withdrawal demonstrates the capability of national Afghan forces to bear the responsibility for the country's destiny.

Shevardnadze commended the role of President Najibullah, who, as befits a true patriot, was the first among the country's leaders to declare for the solution of Afghanistan's problems by the Afghan people itself, to declare for Soviet troop withdrawal.

Najibullah proposed the policy of national reconciliation. His boldness and political maturity proved to be the decisive factors that made it possible to work out an agreement on political settlement in Geneva, the Soviet minister said.

At the same time he added that Soviet society is still indebted to the fallen and the wounded — physically and morally, indebted to their families and to all who have been singled by that war.

The question of aid to Afghanistan should also be viewed in this context, Shevardnadze went on. However difficult this might be for the Soviet Union, it has no moral right to deny support to the Afghan people.

Shevardnadze expressed the confidence that the Afghan people will achieve accord regarding representation of all political forces in the government, and that peace will be established in Afghanistan.

Questions related to the Soviet Union's international obligations held a special place in the report. Changing much in the approach to international relations, one should not disregard the existing system of mutual obligations, Shevardnadze said.

The USSR's relations with a number of countries are determined by the existence of allied obligations under treaty, also of military-political nature. It also has obligations of a different kind, moral obligations to friends.

Shevardnadze said that in its practical activity the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gives priority attention to relations with Warsaw Treaty countries, with socialist countries.

Historic, qualitative changes have taken place in socialist countries, Shevardnadze said. The USSR builds relations with them on the basis of sovereign equality, when any interference is impermissible and the right of each country to absolute freedom of choice is recognised. But it is precisely in this area that the Soviet diplomacy should undergo profound restructuring in essence, in methods and style.

New alternative forces are emerging on the political arena in some of these countries for the reason that the people wish so. And these countries remain the USSR's neighbours, allies and friends.

All the obligations of the USSR remain valid. One thing is clear: one cannot act on the basis of old structures that formed in the past. Economic, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation should be put on a new basis.

There are problems and complexities in relations with fraternal countries, but there is no crisis, the Soviet Foreign Minister said. He pointed to the stable progress in relations with the People's Republic of China following their complete normalisation, to close, trusting and broad relations with India.

Shevardnadze noted a higher level of confidence in Europe and encouraging prospects for the solution of security problems and for broadening of co-operation in Europe.

The USSR is heartened by positive changes in relations with Indonesia, Iran, Egypt, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and many other countries on all continents.

The minister emphasised the importance of positive tendencies in political relations with Japan.

Shevardnadze highly appraised the Soviet-American Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, and the principle of on-site inspections adopted at the Stockholm Conference on confidence-building.

The Soviet side declared for global measures of confidence in all the environments. The minister noted that the striving of the United States and its allies in NATO to keep naval forces outside talks on disarmament suggests that they have not abandoned the idea of achieving supremacy.

Noting that perestroika's prestige is not a guarantee against miscalculations, the minister dwelt on the background to the construction of the Krasnoyarsk radar station. The station had been built in the wrong place, the minister said. Its construction was a violation of the ABM Treaty.

By the decision to dismantle the station, the Soviet Union saves the treaty, and opens the road to an agreement on strategic arms. The USSR thus gets a legal and moral right to demand clarity on the questions of US stations in Greenland and in Britain.

Shevardnadze emphasised that drastic cuts are made for the first time in the numerical strength of Soviet servicemen beyond national boundaries, and noted the USSR's readiness to work on a basis of reciprocity towards the disbandment of military and political alliances in Europe. □

Soviet spokesman on Soviet policy towards Israel

THE Soviet policy towards Israel remains unchanged, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov told a briefing in Moscow on October 20. This is in connection with the UN vote on October 16 when the Soviet delegation obtained from voting on the Israeli delegation's credentials.

The present stage in the development of international relations is characterised by deeper problems, Gerasimov said. This demands that the international community expand the dialogue, draw into it all interested parties and look for a balance of interests in each specific case.

The broad political discussion at the UN offers ideal opportunities in this sense.

"Our attitude to the Israeli policy is quite another thing," the spokesman noted. Stressing that the USSR stands for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and against Israel's flouting the legitimate rights of Arab Palestinian people and condemns repression against the peaceful Palestinian population, he said: "The present Israeli policy towards a Middle East settlement does not give us sufficient grounds to make a serious reappraisal of this policy."

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Council of Ministers assesses course of perestroika

PERESTROIKA processes in the national economy proceed on the whole with difficulty. This was noted by the USSR Supreme Soviet which discussed on October 20 the question of the country's social and economic development in the current year.

The rates of growth of the national income and industrial output from January through September of the current year dropped almost by 50 per cent as compared with the same period last year.

The Council of Ministers noted that the functioning of the fuel and energy, metallurgical and chemical-forestry complexes has been unsatisfactory. There was a sharp drop in the rates of growth of the industrial output in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Lithuania.

There was a particularly acute discussion of the state of the consumer market. Tension persists in the population's supply with food. Although the agricultural output this year was lar-

ger than last year, food products worth 3.7 billion roubles have not been put on the market this year.

Production and supply of non-food products is improving very slowly. Non-food products worth 5.6 billion roubles have not been put on sale in the USSR in the current year.

It was again emphasised at the meeting that one of the main causes of the aggravated situation in the consumer market is that monetary incomes of the population grow much faster than the output of goods.

The volume of industrial output over the period from January through September increased by 2.2 per cent, while monetary incomes of the population went up by 12.2 per cent.

The USSR Council of Ministers emphasised that speeding-up the construction of housing and other facilities in the social sphere remains a task of extreme importance. There has been a lag in this area. Six per cent less housing was open to tenancy in January through September of this year as compared with the same period last year. Nine per cent less facilities for polyclinics and 13 per cent less facilities for hospitals have been

completed.

The government also pointed to extreme irregularity in implementing the programme of putting production facilities into operation. There are indications that the programme for 1989 may not be completed. Over 80 per cent of industrial facilities under construction should be put into operation in the last quarter of the year.

The Council of Ministers deemed it necessary strictly to reprimand some officials for major drawbacks in their work.

The government outlined constructive measures for the invigoration of the economy and decisive improvement of labour and executive discipline at enterprises and in organisations of the national economy.

The meeting was presided over by Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Russian Federation development

RELATIONS between union republics should be built so as to ensure the harmonious development of the whole country, including the Russian Federation, Vitali Vorotnikov, Presidents of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation (Parliament), said on Soviet television on October 22.

He categorically denied the allegations which are sometimes heard in some union republics that the plans for Russia's development will be financed from the union budget, in other words at the expense of other republics.

Problems facing Russia are similar to those in other Soviet republics, Vorotnikov emphasised. They call for a comprehensive solution. The most important thing is to strengthen the economy, raise the efficiency of social production and introduce republican cost-accounting based on a firm legal foundation.

Vorotnikov spoke for expanding Russia's sovereign rights to all levels: political, social and managerial. He also stressed the need to create special radio and television programmes for Russia and publish new magazines as well as supplements to the existing publications.

Vorotnikov said that the forthcoming session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation would consider draft laws on changes and amendments to the republic's constitution and elections of people's deputies of the Russian Federation and local soviets. The draft laws take into account that such a big republic as the Russian Federation should have broad representation. Therefore, it is suggested that Russia have the Supreme Soviet as a permanent body and also the Congress of People's deputies of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Parliament will have two chambers. This composition reflects the multi-ethnic nature of the Russian Federation which has 31 autonomous republics.

Unlike elections to the Congress of People's of the USSR, the drafts do not provide for elections of deputies from public organisations. □

Ukrainian Communist Party holds plenary meeting

THE Politburo of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party has proposed convening the 28th Congress of the Republic's Party in September 1990, Ukrainian Party chief Vladimir Ivashko announced in Kiev on October 18.

He was speaking at a plenary meeting convened in Kiev to discuss the fulfilment of decisions by the September, 1989 plenum of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee

Ivashko stressed the move towards democratisation in Party life, which involves overcoming the ossified hierarchy and establishing a free exchange of views, constructive criticism and informal leadership.

"New people and new ideas are required," he

Lenigrad united front

ABOUT three thousand people took part in a conference of the United Front of the Working People of Leningrad and the Region in Leningrad on October 21, reports TASS correspondent Irina Zolotareva, to discuss the economic platform of the front. This socio-political organisation came into being in Leningrad four months ago.

In their speeches at the conference, scientists, specialists and workers voiced concern over the economic situation in the country and their dissatisfaction with the course of perestroika.

The participants in the conference sent their proposals for a solution to the economic problems, specifically regarding monetary reform, the activities of state-run enterprises and co-operatives to the USSR Supreme Soviet and local government bodies.

Members of the United Front of the Working People censured the strike movement in principle. Having emphasised the workers' responsibility for the destiny of socialism, they called for the strengthening of society's unity on the basis of communist ideals.

Among the guests of the conference were representatives of the Intermovement of the Baltic republics and the recently instituted United Front of the Working People of Russia. □

said. "The principle of choice between constructive programmes, intentions and plans of action must prevail."

The Party chief revealed that 6,200 people left the Ukrainian Communist Party this year. "This is a new phenomenon in Party life, but it should not be overdramatised," he said.

The process of self-purification is natural and necessary, Ivashko observed. Among those who left the Party are careerists and time-servers, as well as politically immature people.

Over the same period 42,800 people became Party candidate members. They joined the Party at a difficult time despite attacks against the Party and attempts by certain forces to set people against the Party and keep it away from political leadership.

Democratisation envisages the greater initiative and independence of each Party organisation and Party committee, Ivashko said. One has to give up the habit of always waiting for instructions from above.

Republican communists will continue to cooperate with all forces committed to socialism, perestroika and friendship of peoples inhabiting the USSR, he assured.

They will resolutely expose those who reject the socialist choice, seek to discredit the Party and propagate separatism and national isolation.

In his report Ivashko concentrated on perfecting the Soviet federation and inter-ethnic relations.

In the Ukraine, inhabited by people of nearly 90 nationalities, language problems are a top priority, he said.

Party, government and public organisations are rectifying mistakes that occurred in the past. National cultural societies of Poles, Hungarians, Jews, Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians, Germans and Turkic peoples have been set up in the republic.

The republican Supreme Soviet will consider a bill on languages at a session next week.

Ivashko supported action taken by the September plenum of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. It rejected the idea of federalism in the Party structure. The division of communists along ethnic principles would lead to a considerable weakening of the Party's role in society, he emphasised. □

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Pravda's new editor describes paper's credo

"THE credo of the Party Central Committee and its main publication is one: revolutionary changes that are to be deepened and spread to all spheres of our life," said *Pravda's* new Chief Editor Ivan Frolov, as quoted in *Izvestia* of October 23.

In an interview with *Izvestia*, Frolov singled out "democracy, glasnost, economic and political reforms. The establishment of rule by law, some principles of which have been emerging despite all hardships in the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet."

He also named "spiritual, cultural and moral renewal, the new thinking that comprises the dialectics of universal human and class principles, and new humanism."

"These are all conceptual principles of the Communist Party," Frolov stated. "And the way in which they are combined with practice will determine the real, rather than proclaimed, authority of the Soviet Communist Party."

"This authority can be enhanced only through

active restructuring within the Party," he was quoted as saying.

"*Pravda* should not be just a mass-circulation paper, but a publication for the entire nation, reflecting the thoughts, soul and concern of the people," Frolov said.

Frolov was confirmed in the post of *Pravda* Chief Editor at a Politburo meeting a few days ago.

"All materials in *Pravda* should concentrate on the individual and on humanistic values of socialism. Truth and glasnost are close terms. Blending the name *Pravda*, which means 'truth' in Russian, with the contents of each issue is the principal task.

"There can be no other credo for the central organ of the Party, founded by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin," Frolov pointed out.

"This is especially important for us during the next year when the paper's work will be marked by preparations for the Party Congress.

"I am sure that by the time the congress is held, the Soviet Communist Party will be strong, renewed and capable of marching at the lead of the revolutionary perestroika it started," Frolov stated. □

Pravda on Yuri Afanasyev's statement in Japan

THE newspaper *Pravda* published on October 20 the comments of its Tokyo correspondent Igor Latshev on the statement made in Tokyo by Yuri Afanasyev, People's Deputy of the USSR and Rector of the Moscow History and Archives Institute.

Having arrived in Japan a few days previously to attend a symposium on perestroika problems in the Soviet Union, the commentary says, Yuri Afanasyev made a "sensational" statement pre-

Moscow paper reprints article on Afanasyev

THE newspaper *Moskovskaya Pravda* on October 21 reprinted an article from a Noginsk paper criticising Moscow historian Yuri Afanasyev's view of the role of the Soviet Communist Party. Afanasyev is a USSR People's Deputy elected by the residents of this town near Moscow.

Forces which steer matters towards discrediting and breaking up the Party as a ruling one by virtually throwing it out of the country's political life are now actively forming, the article says. Such a stand was taken up in particular by Party member Yuri Afanasyev, a People's Deputy of the USSR.

The article draws attention to Afanasyev's striving to remove the CPSU by any means, including discrediting it, from administering the country.

Touching upon Afanasyev's calls for a return to the capitalist way of development, the article emphasises that perestroika, contemplated as a revolution, may degenerate into counterrevolution if it is carried out according to a Western model by forcing the people to give up the socialist way of development. □

Martin Luther King Patriot, fighter, humanist

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dicting that "perestroika as a historical reality heralds the end of the last empire called the Soviet Union." Proceeding from this, Afanasyev said it was necessary to scrap the system of international relations developed in the post-war years on the basis of the Yalta Agreements.

The Japanese advocates of territorial claims to the USSR, Latshev says, were most delighted by Afanasyev's statement that the Soviet Government's "unconstructive approach", rejecting Japanese territorial claims, was allegedly an obstacle to the development of Japanese-Soviet relations. He spoke out unequivocally for the "return to Japan of four Kurile islands."

In this way, the commentary says, Yuri Afanasyev has slashed at one stroke the knot created by Japan's unlawful claims to the Soviet Union, has graciously "handed over" to Japanese politicians the four Kurile islands usually mentioned in official Japanese notes. He did this without asking the consent of many thousands of Soviet people living in Yuzhno-Kurilsk and other Soviet towns and settlements in the archipelago, most of whom were born and grew up there, who regard the islands as their homeland. He did it without reckoning with the history of these islands explored and settled in the mid-eighteenth century by Russians.

Afanasyev disregarded the fact that the Kuriles were used by the Japanese militarists for aggressive purposes, that Japanese territorial claims are not an end in itself, but a pretext for keeping the Japanese-Soviet relations 'frozen'. He overlooked the fact, which is clear to specialists, that such claims have no limits. Besides claims to the four islands, several Japanese political organisations have gone further — they are now demanding the 'return' of the entire Kurile Archipelago, while the rightists even lay claim to South Sakhalin.

The *Pravda* correspondent notes in this context that other Soviet symposium participants, better versed in the problem, made it clear to the Japanese side that Yuri Afanasyev's pronouncements did not reflect in the least the views of the Soviet people. The majority of them, as shown by recently carried out extensive public opinion polls, reject the unlawful Japanese territorial claims. □

Ivan Frolov: *Pravda's* new Editor-in-Chief

IVAN FROLOV was appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Pravda* on October 19 by the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, he leaves the post of Assistant General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Frolov, at 60, is no newcomer to press work.

After graduating from Moscow State University in 1952, he embarked on his career as a publishing house editor and worked on magazines. Frolov was Assistant Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee between 1965-1968.

He then headed the journal *Voprosy Filosofii*, was executive secretary and member of the editorial board of the journal *World Marxist Review* (Problems of Peace and Socialism) in Prague.

Frolov went in for scientific work a decade ago at the System Research Institute and then at the Philosophy Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences. He wrote, together with Vadim Zagladim, the book *Global Problems of our Times: Scientific and Social Aspects*.

He is a Doctor of Philosophy and a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Since 1986 he has been editor-in-chief of the journal *Kommunist* before his appointment as assistant to the Party leader. Frolov, now a Soviet legislator, was elected a member of the CPSU Central Committee at the last Party congress.

He heads the Soviet Philosophic Society, the All-Union Intersectoral Centre on the Sciences of Man and is Vice President of the International Federation of Societies of Philosophy.

Viktor Afanasyev who until now was the editor of *Pravda*, was released of his duties due to his wish to continue his scientific pursuits. He is also a Doctor of Philosophy and a member of the Academy of Sciences. □

Gorbachev meets *Pravda's* editorial staff

ON October 23 President Mikhail Gorbachev met members of the editorial board of the newspaper *Pravda* and leaders of public organisations of the newspaper's staff.

He introduced the new chief editor, Ivan Frolov, appointed to this position by the Party Central Committee's Politburo.

Gorbachev thanked the former chief editor, Viktor Afanasyev, for his great contribution to the development of the Party press and for *Pravda* staff's active participation in the processes of renewal.

A frank exchange of views was held on the role of the Party press at the current, crucial stage of perestroika. The discussion concentrated on enhancing the constructive element in the activity of the mass media.

Gorbachev addressed the meeting. □

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Foreign Ministry spokesman on Pakistani position on Afghan settlement

SOVIET Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfileyev blamed the continuing armed conflict in Afghanistan on the extremist opposition and its patrons eager to see the lawful Afghan Government toppled. Aided and abetted by its patrons, the opposition have been waging vigorous offensive operations over the past eight months.

Speaking at a news briefing on October 23, Perfileyev commented on Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's statement that the Soviet Union ought to withdraw part of its arms from Afghanistan as this would allegedly help a political settlement there.

Perfileyev noted that following the Soviet troop withdrawal the Afghan Armed Forces have limited themselves to defensive activities. The opposition, however, has regularly attacked cities and other populated localities.

This, he continued, was made possible by the more and more sophisticated and powerful weapons supplied by the opposition's patrons.

Although calling for a political settlement and the withdrawal of arms from Afghanistan, Pakistani authorities are encouraging the Afghan opposition to escalate military activities, the spokesman said.

The way to accords lies not through an increase in combat but through a cease-fire, he stressed adding that a real political settlement could be aided by a constructive plan recently suggested by President Najibullah.

The plan envisages a cease-fire, broad-based inter-Afghan dialogue, and an international conference on the cessation of arms shipments to all Afghan sides.

"In the context of this plan, based on existing realities, it is possible to put an end to weapons supplies to Afghanistan from both sides and to the war, and to achieve long-awaited peace for the Afghans," Perfileyev said. □

Pravda on reforms in European socialist countries

ANY attempts to knock the cornerstones from under the building of European security are likely to boomerang against those who would try to put into effect such extravagant plans, *Pravda* says in its issue of October 21.

Its political news analyst Vitali Korionov comments on the attempts by some Western politicians to take advantage of the processes in Poland and Hungary in order to "change the face of Europe".

Naturally the current processes in Poland, Hungary and some other countries are the internal affair of their people. But it is also indisputable that in the modern interrelated world serious political events in one country or another have repercussions elsewhere in the world. This is especially true of much-suffering Europe, where stability of one state or another often becomes a sensitive seismograph of the international situation.

The coming century will put even greater demands to Europeans and other peoples. The effective answer to this challenge largely depends on the unity and purposefulness of the joint efforts of nations and states. Peaceful and democratic Europe has more reasons to fulfil its role successfully, since the process that opened a new, promising page in international relations — perestroika in the Soviet Union, deep reforms in other countries of the community — originated on its soil.

(Continued from page 361)

by customs and notions that were formed in other times.

"But despite the troubles and difficulties, we are not losing our main direction. With all the diversity of ideas and views about the situation in the country, nobody can offer an alternative to the platform of perestroika that has been worked out by the Party.

"The choice has been correct, the strategy is correct, and as to the tactic, it is a matter of daily work and struggle." □

Naturally there are quite a few politicians in Western countries who would like to use this "historic chance" in an opposite direction. It would be short-sightedness not to see that forces are still at work in the United States, which believe that they have never been so close to implementing their anti-socialist plans before. However there are realities which do not depend on their wishes. Those who try to rock the socialist boat also risk to rock and even overturn the common European boat, the analyst writes. □

Krasnaya Zvezda reports speeches at Army conference

THE Soviet Union will never be the first to start combat operations and to use nuclear weapons. It has no territorial claims to anyone and does not treat any state as its enemy. The newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) quoted Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov as telling a meeting of Army ideological workers.

Yazov stressed the importance of understanding the purely defensive nature of the Soviet Military Doctrine. It is subordinated to the task of preventing war, proceeds from the need to lower the level of military confrontation, to stop the arms race and to implement measures of real disarmament, to realise the principle of reasonable defence sufficiency, the minister stressed. As the Soviet Union carries out unilateral large-scale cuts, the emphasis in defence construction should be shifted from quantity to quality.

Under these conditions, said Alexei Lizichev, chief of the main political directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, the ideological cadres should be able to answer the most poignant questions, not to lose political initiative. A new political and moral atmosphere has been asserted in the Army and the Navy under perestroika, he pointed out. There are no anti-socialist feelings in the Soviet Armed Forces. □

Soviet Academician on free economic zones

"THE Soviet economy should be more open and more integrated with the world economy," Academician Oleg Bogomolov, Director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System said in an interview published by *Pravda* on October 22.

He said that free economic zones would create more opportunities for the Soviet Union than for China, because the Soviet Union was more developed technologically, and more skilled personnel and large scientific potentialities.

Free zones in the Far East — near Posiet, Nakhodka, Sovetskaya Gavan and Sakhalin — could use Western and Soviet technologies to extract and process natural resources. These zones will call for huge investments to create the infrastructure.

"Free economic zones in the Western part of the Soviet Union, which have industry, cities and transport, will be technologically orientated and will require less resources for development. Of course, these zones will also differ one from another," Bogomolov said.

Free economic zones near Leningrad, Kaliningrad and the Soviet Baltic republics will, apparently, market the best Soviet scientific and technological developments.

Zones in Odessa and some other Soviet southern ports could be industrial, transport-forwarding and health-improvement simultaneously. Local conditions should be taken into consideration.

Bogomolov believes that such zones should be self-governed and should establish their own territorial government based on democratic principles under the supervision of the local authorities with the minimum of bureaucratic influence from the centre.

Along with hard Western currencies, free economic zones should have some new Soviet currency, different from that in other parts of the Soviet Union, which will circulate together with the ordinary internal Soviet rouble, but which will gradually become convertible.

"It is necessary to pass a special law on free economic zones and adopt new legal forms which will make things clear for our Western partners and will guarantee the seriousness and irreversibility of our intentions," Bogomolov said. □

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Spirit of Wyoming at Vienna talks

By Vladimir Chernyshev, TASS
military writer.

THE third round of the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe, which ended on October 19, showed that the spirit of Wyoming pervaded this forum as well, which is important for the stability and security of Europe.

The positions of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty countries have moved closer, and work has been started on the wording of a text acceptable to both parties.

As is known, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed with US President George Bush in Washington possibilities for removing obstacles on the road to the prompt conclusion of a treaty on substantial cuts in conventional forces and armaments in Europe.

There has been considerable progress in this area. The US President made constructive proposals at the NATO jubilee session in Brussels, envisaging the reduction of aviation systems.

The Soviet Union agreed in Wyoming that all tactical aviation, not only strike aviation, should be discussed at the Vienna talks.

Both proposals have already been submitted at the Vienna talks, and this cleared the way for progress. The specific definition of the arms to be reduced was started at the talks.

It should be noted that the sides have already agreed on the definition of artillery systems to be reduced. It will become part of a future agreement.

Cuts will be made in artillery systems with a calibre of over 100 mm, and capable of hitting targets on the ground mainly from covered positions. The list includes more than 40 such artillery systems on both sides. The definition has been arrived at as a result of a compromise that was reached when anti-tank artillery systems were left aside.

The positions of the sides moved much closer on the question of verification of the observance of the future agreement on forces and armaments reduction.

In Wyoming, the Soviet side roughly defined the approach of the Warsaw Treaty to the problem. In Vienna, the Warsaw Treaty countries proposed two new working documents which

will undoubtedly help step up the pace of the forum.

The documents contain proposals concerning information exchange and verification, as well as stabilisation. In accordance with them, the parties would verify initial data of the agreement signed, the limits and sublimits of troops and armaments that will remain after reductions, as well as the very process of the reduction and elimination of armaments and disbandment of army units.

In addition to national technical means, on-site inspections will be the primary instrument of verification. Many things in the Warsaw Treaty document are parallel to NATO proposals that were advanced late in September. This makes prompt and effective co-ordination of these matters possible.

The readiness of the sides for an early drafting of the agreement is thus confirmed. President George Bush stated that it is desirable to conclude this work within six to 12 months. Shevardnadze said in Wyoming that the East has accepted the challenge. And now both sides confirm these statements by their actions in Vienna. □

Perspectives for Soviet-Finnish co-operation in medicine

SOVIET and Finnish scientists will start working on a new scientific medicoecological programme next year. The influence of large industrial enterprises on people's health will be one of its main themes.

The scientists will conduct large-scale epidemiologic research in the north-west and control the environmental situation there. The Soviet and Finnish specialists hope to find factors that negatively influence organisms.

Alexander Baranov, Deputy Health Minister of the Soviet Union, told TASS that it will be a long-term programme. It will be carried out by bilateral joint laboratories and temporary scien-

tific groups.

Baranov heads the Soviet members of the Soviet-Finnish Joint Commission on Co-operation in Medicine. Its session ended on October 20.

Baranov emphasised that the joint investigation will focus on disease-prevention — a traditional area for co-operation. Seventeen large-scale projects on urgent medical problems will be conducted. Areas of concern include: paediatrics, rheumatology, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, cardiology and hygiene in industrial environment.

The results of cardiological investigations were summed up during the session. Over a period of several years thousands of people in Moscow, Kaunas, Tallinn, Northern Karelia,

Kuopio province and Turku were studied. The study helped to identify the factors influencing the occurrence and development of cardiovascular diseases and to give practical advice on their treatment. Finland has launched an effective anti-smoking campaign.

More than 250 scientists from both countries took part in joint fundamental and applied research projects. "We have established a tradition of exchanging the achievements of our medical schools, sharing ideas about health protection and social security," Baranov said.

"This bilateral co-operation has another important side," Baranov went on. "Personal meetings and joint projects contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between the USSR and Finland." □

New Soviet-Finnish venture, North-South Steel

By Yuri Goldman, TASS

A JOINT Soviet-Finnish venture, North-South Steel, has been established in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, a Soviet Trans-Caucasian republic. It was founded by the Finnish joint stock company Namar and the Ministry of Housing Facilities and Public Utilities of Georgia.

Registered at the USSR Finance Ministry as number 891, it has become the 40th joint venture with Finland and possibly the most perspective of all: the Finnish partner's contribution amounted to nine million dollars. Investments of other 39 Soviet-Finnish ventures amount to one million dollars, each.

The North-South Steel joint venture will be become Europe's largest enterprise manufacturing module buildings — prefabricated buildings made from light-weight steel structures: factories, plants, garages, schools and warehouses.

According to the agreement, concluded for a period of 30 years, 40 per cent of the output is intended for markets in third countries. A thousand of the civil and industrial module type structures are to be built in the first stage. It is planned to have erected 4,800 square metres of assembled areas before the end of this year.

"At the second stage the joint enterprise will put on the market permanent dwellings and weekend cottage type housing facilities, public utilities and consumer goods," Arvi Kivioja, Chairman of Namar, said. "We plan to draw other foreign firms and companies into the marketing of these and other products," he said.

"Finland pins great hopes on a visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is very popular in that country," Kivioja said.

"I am confident that the Soviet President's visit will help strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between our peoples," Kivioja said. "We, businessmen, are most interested in that, since good relations between our countries guarantee further development of economic and trade relations, conclusion of new mutually beneficial deals and establishment of new joint ventures." □

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The strength of democracy and the democracy of strength

By Sergei Alexeyev,
Corresponding Member, USSR Academy of Sciences

AS GOVERNMENT by the people, democracy has at least three aspects as forms of personal freedom, way of social management and criterion of social activity. These three indivisible aspects make us accept democracy as a whole – with all the contradictory features typical of the values which emerged with civilisation.

Democracy responds to the basic and initial human demands and the essential human drive for freedom. So it is able to release the energy of every human and the entire community. Herein lies its strength and unique value as a force counteracting coercion and totalitarianism. This belongs to the pivotal aspects of democracy.

Yet its weak points go hand-in-hand with strength. The vast expanses that democracy opens to free conduct give enough room to clannishness and political violence which often comes with it – partly because, by the intrinsic logic of policy, democratic activity often expresses itself in the contention for power.

Now, with the mighty democratic drive underway in the Soviet Union, dire trends are rampant, and no wonder. On the one hand, strong economic units, state-run and co-operative, and ethnic and other public movements are using democratic patterns to promote their interests. On the other, violence and the cult of strength are coming into the foreground, threatening the sway of the jungle law.

This dangerous strength poses as Democracy of Strength: it manifests itself in the framework of democratic institutions, prettified by democratic mottos, and claims to embody the government "for the people and by the people". Alas, this does not make it any milder. Cruel and relentless, it tramples on the proponents of different opinions.

The spirit of strength imbues too many speeches we hear at non-formal organisations' meetings. Many of their leaders and topical writers openly propound brutality. The Iron Heel nostalgia underlies too many strikes, especially political. In inter-ethnic tensions, the Democracy of Strength unleashes Stone Age passions and brings bloodshed.

True, democracy is a great and noble thing – yet one of a protean nature, with dark and gory sides to it. Naturally, the past offers us ways of neutralising these gory forces: the law as the main way.

Yet, as reality shows, no laws can civilise unbridled processes. The economy, on the other hand, proves the decisive factor of all.

True, perestroika should run along its strategic lines, but its development has a spontaneous logic of stages.

The barriers on the economic reform road pushed the nation to a major political reform. If we are to solve our economic problems, we need certain political conditions: there are obsolete political structures to be demolished. Otherwise, we shall never arrive at an efficient economy. There are state structures to establish and legal positions to win, if we are to make economic progress.

Why, then, is perestroika marking time in this logical movement? As I see it, our nation has stuck at the stage of political reform. Carried

away by it, we see political change as self-sufficient. With the ethnic drive and its dark lining, i.e., the inter-ethnic tensions, our political activity has borne dramatic results, especially in the race for power.

Political change is necessary – but now, I think, we need a dynamic and efficient socialist economy even more: an economy resting on commodity, market relations.

Two factors account for this opinion. First, the social tensions will ease as economic difficulties recede. A market full of quality consumer goods is bound to improve the social situation so that the democratic progress will flow on in the legal channel.

National efforts

Second, and even more important, the strong centralised power will persist until the Soviet Union gives up its centralised economy, with the iron sway of bureaucracy, for a self-ruling, independent economy. With the bureaucratic economic monopoly surviving, the democratic drive is doomed to a freakish, one-sided development.

Don't think I want the nation to stop the revolutionary change even in a single of its aspects. This change shall go on ever quicker. But there are destructive processes, going from bad to worse, and these have to be stopped. The available political structures and the present correlation of forces give us every chance for cardinal economic change and the establishment of a true democratic socialism with a human face.

We need an economic breakthrough here and now, unless we want the Democracy of Strength to throw us back.

Paradoxically, the state power has to become authoritarian to switch all national efforts to the economy, in its current critical state.

With every political prerequisite for genuine democracy, it takes a strong authoritarian power to combat bureaucracy and build a law-based cost-accounting economy. This power shall rest on representative democratic bodies and rely on the law. Reciprocally, it shall ensure the implementation of the law – a strong political force to buttress democracy, the essence and foundation of this force.

At its new level, the authoritarian power is expressed in the Presidential authority receiving the content, competences and functions to which it is essentially entitled. As the acting Constitution has it, the competences of the President of the Supreme Soviet boil down to foreign-political duties and appointing high officials – with no domestic power and no law-implementing competences. It would be logical to grant the President the right to issue resolutions endowed with an obligatory force, if we want our legislation to be implemented promptly and resolutely.

Last but not least, the entire law-enforcement system shall acquire genuine force under the Presidential aegis. A National Council under the President may prove instrumental. It can, in particular, stop strikes promising disastrous national results or impose a state of emergency in the transportation services by its own acts or Presidential resolutions.

This level of authoritarianism is now a dire necessity for the state power. Our economy needs it to be promptly and thoroughly streamlined to provide the basis for implementing a humane and democratic socialist model, with all the precious achievements it offers. □

(*Literaturnaya Gazeta*, No. 40, 1989. Digest.)

USSR's first commercial bank

A COMMERCIAL foreign trade bank is being established in the Soviet Union as a joint-stock company with the attraction of foreign capital.

The International Moscow Bank will provide not only such traditional services as lending, accounting and settlement operations but also assist Soviet organisations and their potential foreign partners to find one another and elaborate feasibility studies and cost analyses of projects, the *Government Herald* newspaper reported.

The bank will carry out its operations and render services in Soviet roubles and foreign currency. Its capital amounts to 100 million roubles, with foreign shareholders contributing 60 per cent of the entire amount of capital in foreign currency.

Pointing out the need for such bank, the newspaper says that the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activities (Vnesheconombank) which now caters for foreign trade no longer copes with its tasks.

There is now a ramified network of many thousands of Soviet enterprises and organisations which have been granted the right to independently operate on external markets but which cannot perform their foreign economic

functions without a bank lending service. The increasing scope of operations reveal that it is not always economically justified to perform them only within the framework of Vnesheconombank.

One of the main tasks of the new bank at the first stage will be to gain clientele. Large foreign banks and firms, Soviet enterprises and organisations are expected to be interested in the services of the new bank.

Members of the Board of the International Moscow Bank expect that they will be assisted in this by the experience gained by such foreign stock holding banks as the Bayerische Vereinsbank (West Germany), the Banca Commerciale Italiana (Italy), the Kansallis-Osake-Pankki (Finland), the Credit Lyonnais (France) and the Creditanstalt-Bankverein (Austria). The Soviet side is represented by Vnesheconombank, the USSR Building Industry Bank and the USSR Savings Bank.

The personnel of the bank will consist of Soviet and foreign citizens. Foreign staff members, who will account for up to ten per cent of the personnel, will be invited to fill some leading specialist and managerial positions, with the supreme executive power retained by the Soviet representative.

(*Government Herald* No. 20, 1989. Summary.)