

Mikhail Gorbachyov's meeting with Alessandro Natta

MOSCOW, January 28, TASS:

ON JANUARY 27 and 28 Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, met Alessandro Natta, General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), who is staying in Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Gian Carlo Pajetta, a member of the leadership and the Secretariat of the PCI Central Committee, and Antonio Rubbi, a member of the PCI Central Committee, took part in the conversation which passed in a frank and cordial atmosphere.

During the conversation the sides had a wide-scale exchange of opinions on most important issues of the contemporary international situation, which is positively influenced by the atmosphere of the Geneva summit meeting and those hopes for peace and disarmament which that meeting evoked the world over.

It was stressed that a large-scale complex of peace initiatives put forward in the January 15 statement of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU embraced all major areas and spheres of activity pertaining to arms reduction, disarmament and to consolidating prospects for a peaceful future and progress of all nations.

To deliver mankind from the threat of nuclear war, to radically improve the international situation, to ensure reliable security to the peoples are the aims that should be worked for.

In this connection both sides stressed the need for exerting every effort to turn back the arms

TOWARDS 27th CONGRESS

TASS Report

EXACTLY a month is left before the opening of the 27th CPSU Congress, which is to endorse the new edition of the Party Programme, the changes in the CPSU Rules and the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and the Period up to the Year 2000.

The pre-congress report and election campaign is entering its closing stage. Congresses of the Communist Parties of the union republics are taking place. Their participants are discussing the draft documents tabled for examination at the all-union forum.

The current report and election meetings are a major political event in the life of the Party and the people, an important stage in the preparations for the Congress. A total of 11.5 million members addressed the meetings and conferences at the level of the primary Party organisations alone. More than three million specific remarks and proposals have been expressed. The Communists unanimously support the CPSU's home and foreign policy, the course for accelerating socio-economic progress in the USSR.

Among the union Party congresses which have now completed their work are those in the union republics of Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia, Tadzhikistan and Kirghizia.

Party conferences have also been held in Moscow and Leningrad. □

race, to prevent militarisation of outer space, to get concrete results in having balanced and verified reduction of nuclear and conventional armaments. The freezing by both sides of the existing nuclear armaments and an end to nuclear tests would be of great significance as the first step in this direction.

It is necessary to work for attaining the balance of military forces in Europe at a lower level, without unilateral advantages, provided the guarantee of mutual security of the parties. The main aim here is termination of further deployment and phasing-out of the deployed nuclear systems on both sides and establishment in West and East European countries of zones free from nuclear and chemical weapons.

The CPSU and the Italian Communist Party declare for a vigorous development of co-operation among all European countries, for emerging from the present period of confrontation on the continent. In this context both parties hold that it would be useful to establish constructive relations in different areas between the CMEA and the EEC which would promote mutual benefit and would mean a considerable contribution to the development of the policy of co-operation in Europe.

It was emphasised that the further intensification and development of relations and exchange between Italy and the Soviet Union in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and social spheres met the interests of both countries and the interests of friendship between the two

peoples. The CPSU and the Italian Communist Party will be promoting such a development of relations between the two countries.

Having examined the situation in different regions of the world, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Alessandro Natta stressed the significance which a political settlement of the conflicts existing in these regions could have for lessening international tensions and creating an atmosphere of detente, confidence and co-operation in international relations. A peaceful settlement of these conflicts is possible along the lines of negotiations, the termination of any form of intervention and pressure from outside, and guarantees of the full sovereignty and respect for the rights of every country and every people to decide its destiny itself.

During this period of deep-running transformations and immense scientific and technological progress many peoples still live in poverty, hunger and backwardness. In these conditions the establishment of a new world economic order based on the principles of equality and fairness becomes one of the most important questions. Of great importance for ensuring progress of the economies of the developing countries and resolving problems that are a continuing concern of a considerable part of mankind, now would be the use for these purposes of at least part of the huge resources spent on armament.

(Continued on Page 41)

SOVIET-BRITISH CONSULTATIONS

SOVIET-BRITISH political consultations were held in London on 20-21 January. Participating from the Soviet side were N. S. Ryzhov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and V. P. Suslov, member of the Collegium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR; from the British side: The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Mr. D. M. D. Thomas, Deputy Under-Secretary, Political Director of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

N. S. Ryzhov had meetings with The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and The Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, Minister for Trade.

In the course of the consultations the Soviet side drew attention to the Statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, of 15 January which outlines a detailed plan of purposeful actions aimed at eliminating the most serious threat looming over mankind, that of nuclear war.

It was pointed out that the concrete programme put forward in the Statement opened up a realistic way towards complete elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world by the year 2000 providing there was agreement on the prohibition of the development, testing and deployment of space strike weapons. □

From the Soviet side attention was also drawn to the important decision taken by the Soviet Union on extending by three months its unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions which expired on December 31, 1985. The Soviet Union is strongly in favour of the moratorium becoming a bilateral (Soviet-American), and later on a multilateral action. It is also in favour of resuming the trilateral negotiations—involving the USSR, and the USA and Great Britain—on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons tests.

During an exchange of views on bilateral relations between the two countries the Soviet side came out for their progressive development in the political, trade and economic, cultural and other fields on a stable and mutually advantageous basis for the benefit of the Soviet and British peoples. It was pointed out that the Soviet side wished to develop with Great Britain co-operation in solving the questions of disarmament and regional problems.

The Soviet side stressed that, providing there is mutual readiness, significant progress could be achieved in various areas of Soviet-British relations. The Soviet Union is ready for this. It is important to remove artificial obstacles to more fruitful bilateral relations.

The consultations were held in a business-like atmosphere and will contribute to the further development of Soviet-British relations in various fields.

What is important is that constructive relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain could positively influence the political climate in Europe and the entire world. □

Mikhail Gorbachyov's speech at dinner in honour of Alessandro Natta

MOSCOW, January 28, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee gave a dinner today in honour of the General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, Alessandro Natta, and comrades accompanying him. Present at the dinner were Mikhail Gorbachyov, Geidar Aliyev, Vitaly Vorotnikov, Andrei Gromyko, Yegor Ligachyov, Mikhail Solomentsev, Viktor Chebrikov, Boris Ponomaryov and other comrades.

Mikhail Gorbachyov and Alessandro Natta exchanged speeches during the dinner.

Here follows Mikhail Gorbachyov's speech:

Dear Comrade Natta,

Dear Comrades,

Allow me on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee to welcome cordially again the General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party and members of the leadership and Central Committee of this fraternal Party, who arrived with him. We have just concluded our meeting, to be more precise, our conversations that on the whole lasted for nearly two days. They were thorough and rich in content. I believe that every one of us learnt from them a lot that was instructive, useful for oneself and for our parties, for our common communist cause.

The conversations have confirmed a friendly, open nature of relations between the CPSU and the Italian Communist Party, their striving and readiness to widen and consolidate co-operation in the struggle for the common goals—peace and socialism. The CPSU views such comradely co-operation of communists from different countries, co-operation that is free from anything that is petty and superficial, as an important element of interaction of all left, democratic, anti-war forces in present-day conditions.

Such interaction is important from many viewpoints. First of all, there is an insistent necessity for it dictated by the times in which we are living. The wish alone to avert nuclear war or the awareness where its threat comes from are no longer enough. Everybody—governments, political parties, peoples—should act without delay to arrest the arms race once and for all, to switch the course of international events onto the lines of peaceful development.

The CPSU has been guided by this in advancing a fortnight ago a concrete plan for the complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons within the next 15 years.

The new Soviet proposals already live an independent life of their own. They have become an object of scrutiny, analysis and comments of politicians and the press of all orientations, and of the broad public in actually all countries. In general, we are satisfied at how they were met in the world—both by our friends and allies and those who bear the responsibility for the policy of imperialist powers. Of course, not all, but many people have already managed to see the core, the very substance of the Soviet plan—a serious effort to approach international security problems closely, to concentrate attention on the main task, to take the bull by the horns, as they say here.

Of course, we never hoped and do not hope that the implementation of the proposals advanced by the Soviet Union will be an easy and simple job. There is no small number of opponents of disarmament, determined and stubborn opponents at that. These are primarily the forces of monopoly capital which get immense profits from the production of ever new

types of weapons. These are the short-sighted politicians who would want, by whipping up the arms race, to turn it into a means for wearing out socialism economically, into a lever for applying military power pressure on those forces on the international scene which do not suit them, and by doing so, to ensure world dominance for themselves.

To put it briefly, these are the forces in the world of imperialism which, even when it comes to questions of war and peace, pursue their egoistic, self-serving aims, which make little of either the genuine national interests of their own countries or of the destinies of the human race.

There is one more real obstacle on the road toward radical disarmament. I refer to a certain inertia of thinking, its lagging behind a world rapidly changing before our very eyes. Many habitual persuasions and traditionally held views that were possibly correct 30, 20 or even ten years ago are now hopelessly outdated. In a nuclear age the world armed to its teeth and continuing to arm itself is fraught with a possibility of an outbreak of nuclear war, even provided that no one wants it. Such a world is shaky, unstable. Unfortunately, this is not rhetoric. This is the reality which one has to reckon with.

This is how the CPSU assesses the situation that has taken shape in the present-day world. This is what determines the orientation, the content and the meaning of the new Soviet initiatives. There is no need to repeat them. The more so because the CPSU and the Italian Communist Party, as it seems to us, view these matters practically in an identical way. I would like to touch upon only two points.

First, the European aspect of the Soviet plan. From the point of view of the CPSU and the Soviet State, it is exceptionally important, both for Europe itself and for the entire world.

If we managed to eliminate the Soviet and American medium-range missiles on our continent without delaying or burdening the matter with other problems, we would unravel what is perhaps one of the complicated tangles in the present-day world politics and would significantly clear the way toward a radical reduction of nuclear weapons and then—their complete elimination.

On that basis, it is possible—and essential—to further rapidly the construction of the edifice of European security, while developing, enriching and consolidating the process of detente in the spirit and on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act.

The split of the world today is felt in Europe, probably, more painfully than anywhere else. But, we believe, it is precisely in this continent that there exists now every condition for overcoming the disconnection between the East and West, particularly in matters of security and mutually advantageous co-operation. In a word, we hold that Europe is quite capable of meeting the challenge of the times.

The CPSU is prepared to take the most vigorous part in the quest for the essence and the forms of meeting this challenge. We hope that our proposals will be appraised by the left, democratic and anti-war forces of Europe as the contribution of the Soviet Communists to this important cause.

And second, a space aspect of the Soviet proposals, so to say. Certain persons assert that by its plan the USSR pursues one aim only, to undermine the 'Star Wars' programme and thus to get the upper hand on the United States and its President.

Let us make this matter clear. The Soviet Union regards the prevention of the transfer of the arms race to space as the main condition for

saving humanity. And we have no intention to excel the United States in the unsavoury undertaking of the militarisation of space. This is not the point of the matter at all.

I shall put it this way: we have no fear that we shall lag behind in the space race if it is imposed on us. There is no need to test our military and technological potentialities one more time. This might cost not only us and the United States but the whole of humanity much too dearly.

The Soviet Union is on principle strongly against the 'Star Wars' project, and not at all for the reason that it is an American one. We in Moscow view this matter as follows. It is impossible to create a universal space defence.

This is, at best, an illusion—from the technical, economic and political points of view. But any 'space shield' can easily be turned into a 'space sword' and the one who will hold it might be unable to resist the temptation to use it. This is the essence of the matter, and this is the source of our stand motivated by the interests of safeguarding peace and that alone.

Comrades, in our opinion, if we go by facts, the left-wing, democratic forces, of which the Communists have always been and remain an integral part, could act in a better organised way in the struggle against the war menace. On some matters, including political ones, different trends of the left-wing forces have much wider areas on which they differ, than those on which they agree. This is true, but the CPSU is convinced that these differences, no matter how profound they might seem, are much less important than the task, the striving, to avert the threat of war.

I believe what is needed is not to accumulate, not to cultivate the existing differences, but, taking them into consideration, to look for a common political denominator for interaction and co-operation on the cardinal problem of the present. But then, this refers not only to the European left-wing forces, but to the democratic, anti-war movement altogether, to all peace forces.

Our conversations with Comrade Natta naturally focussed on the role of the CPSU and the Italian Communist Party in the struggle against the nuclear threat and for peace and socialism, generally speaking, on the role of the Communists in today's world. That role is far from easy and very responsible. We are convinced that the problems, difficulties and differences on individual issues that exist in our movement can be overcome.

We Soviet Communists were and remain loyal to the immortal teaching of Marx and Lenin, which emerged and took shape as a revolutionary doctrine and as a tool of the deep-going transformation of the world in the interests of the working class and all working people, in the interests of meeting their vital needs and translating into life their social and moral ideals. This means that we Communists should master the art of applying this doctrine efficiently and creatively everywhere and at all times to the specific circumstance of our work, to the real world around us.

The CPSU makes this demand primarily upon itself as it advances towards its 27th Congress. The preparatory work which has already been done, its seriousness and business-like character and its orientation to the acceleration of social development in every field testify to the importance of the forthcoming congress for our Party.

We know that our Italian comrades, too, are preparing for their 17th Congress. And if the conversations we have had with Comrade Natta will help the two parties in any way—and it is my conviction that they will—they can be considered

(Continued on Page 42)

Eduard Shevardnadze's letter to UN Secretary-General

NEW YORK, January 27, TASS: A MEMORANDUM of the Soviet Government on 'International Economic Security of States: An Important Condition for the Improvement of International Economic Relations' has been submitted to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a letter from Eduard Shevardnadze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. The text of the memorandum below (unofficial translation) is released as an official document of the United Nations.

International Economic Security of States: An Important Condition for the Improvement of International Economic Relations (Memorandum of the USSR Government)

The tasks of normalising international economic relations, of establishing equal trade, economic, scientific and technological contacts among countries that would have no room for any discrimination, and of ensuring the economic security of states are becoming more and more important and urgent in the present-day international situation.

The approval by the 40th session of the UN General Assembly of the Soviet-sponsored resolution on international economic security was a manifestation of the recognition by the world community of the importance and urgency of these tasks, and of the striving of the overwhelming majority of the UN member states for the improvement and democratisation of international economic relations. This UN resolution has formalised one of the cornerstone

principles of international intercourse and is opening up a new important area for the activities of that organisation in the economic field.

In this connection the Soviet Government, guided by its consistent course at the implementation of the aims of the United Nations Charter, at enhancing the role of the United Nations Organisation in the consolidation of peace, ensurance of international security and development of economic co-operation among states, deems it necessary to draw attention to the following:

1. As a result of the course conducted by leading capitalist states in international economic relations, the recent years have seen a sharp worsening of the international economic climate, the further increase of the crisis phenomena in world economic ties, the destabilisation of commercial, economic, financial, scientific and technical relations among states, the worsening of the economic position of developing countries. The process of the improvement of international economic relations, their restructuring on an equitable, democratic basis is blocked, the economic security of states is threatened.

The line at the aggravation of tension, at the solution of international problems by military power is the main obstacle to normal development of the world economy and international economic co-operation. Vast resources are squandered on the spiralling of the arms race, above all that of nuclear arms, and on the dangerous plans for the militarisation of outer space, at the expense of the requirements of social and economic development.

The use of mankind's achievements in science and technology for military purposes complicates the socio-economic development of states, results in the deformation of international scientific and technological contacts and has an adverse effect on the entire complex of international relations, including those in the economic field.

A line of subverting equal and mutually beneficial economic co-operation, of exploiting international economic contacts to exert pressure on and to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states, of holding back the independent economic and social development of emergent

countries and of encouraging their exploitation by transnational monopolies and banks is being pursued. Such methods as unilateral scrapping of existing economic treaties and agreements, instigation of trade, crediting and technological blockades and discriminatory measures in trade, science and technology—methods which are at odds with UN principles—are being openly asserted in economic relations among states.

Such actions create an atmosphere of tension and mistrust in international economic relations, disorganise world economy and trade, undermine its legal basis, and are obstacles to the establishment of a new international economic order on an equitable and democratic basis.

2. The problem of external indebtedness of developing countries to the West has assumed unprecedented acuteness in recent years. The payment of the interest on the debts leads to a speedier pumping of financial resources from developing countries, is rendering lifeless the economies of newly-independent states. These resources are enriching monopolies, are spent on financing budgetary deficits and military programmes of Western countries.

The problem of external indebtedness is part of the relations of developing countries with the West and its genuine solution is impossible without the restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable, equal and democratic basis. The necessary conditions for the solving of the problem of foreign debt is the lowering of interest rates on loans and credits, stabilisation of currency rates, refusing of protectionism in trade, restructuring of the international financial system taking into account the interest of all states, and democratisation of financial institutions functioning within its framework. An end must be put to using financial difficulties of separate countries for bringing political pressure to bear on them and for interference in internal affairs of sovereign states.

(Continued on Page 39)

Mikhail Gorbachyov writes to 'Delhi Six'

MOSCOW, January 24, TASS:

THE GENERAL SECRETARY of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, has sent messages to Raul Alfonsin, President of Argentina, Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece, Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of Tanzania, and Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, in which he informed them of the new Soviet initiatives in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The messages lay out the essence of the concrete stage-by-stage programme of complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, advanced by the Soviet Union, given an agreement on banning the development, testing and deployment of space strike arms.

The messages lay emphasis on the question of terminating nuclear weapon tests. Mikhail Gorbachyov laid down the motives behind the Soviet Union's action to extend its unilateral moratorium on any nuclear blasts to March 31, 1986. The messages also point out that the USSR's unilateral moratorium cannot, certainly, be extended ad infinitum. It is vital that all opportunities be tapped to get the imposition of a bilateral Soviet-US moratorium and, building on that, to move forward—towards complete and universal prohibition of nuclear tests.

Andrei Gromyko meets Jamsrangiyn Yondon

MOSCOW, January 22, TASS:

SOVIET-MONGOLIAN co-operation makes a tangible contribution to the cause of socialist and communist construction and to the strengthening of the unity of fraternal socialist countries. This unanimous opinion was expressed today during a conversation in Moscow by Andrei Gromyko, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Colonel-General Jamsrangiyn Yondon, Mongolian Minister of Defence.

It was specially stated that it was precisely this co-operation that had become an important factor in the maintenance of security in the Asian continent. Lasting peace in Asia could and must most effectively influence the normalisation of the international political climate as a whole.

Andrei Gromyko pointed out that Mongolia's constructive measures aimed at promoting an improvement of the situation in the Asian

continent were finding full support in the Soviet Union.

At a time when certain forces in the NATO bloc continue to whip up the arms race, the USSR seeks to ease international tensions as much as possible and to prevent slipping down into the abyss of a nuclear war. This is precisely the goal of its recent large-scale initiatives set out in the statement of Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Their central feature is a concrete and clear-cut programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world in the course of the coming 15 years. It reflects the highly humane aims of the Soviet State and the concern for the destiny of the whole of mankind.

"The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the government of the country," Jamsrangiyn Yondon stated, "are expressing deep satisfaction with co-operation with their great northern neighbour. The Mongolian People's Republic also ardently supports the new Soviet peace initiatives, including the address of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the US Congress on the question of how to put an end to the frenzy of the nuclear arms race." □

Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, January 24, TASS:

"THE SOVIET UNION and Mongolia have always consistently and actively come out for ensuring peace and security in Asia, for equitable good-neighbourly co-operation between states of that big continent," said Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR. He was making a speech here today at a dinner which was held in his honour by the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the Presidium of the People's Great Hural and the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic.

"The Soviet initiative on a comprehensive approach to safeguarding peace and security in Asia is a follow-up to a number of constructive proposals put forward by the Soviet Union in recent years," said the Foreign Minister of the USSR. "The proposal of the Mongolian People's Republic that the Asian and Pacific countries should conclude a convention on non-aggression and mutual non-use of force fits organically into the comprehensive approach to the solution of the problem of peace in the Asian and Pacific regions. We believe that the conclusion of such a convention by countries which account for about two thirds of the world's population would considerably improve the situation not only in the region itself, but also in the world as a whole."

"We are confident," said Eduard Shevardnadze, "that further joint efforts of our two countries on the international scene, combined with the concrete contribution of other Asian states, will bring new results, strengthen the people's belief that it is possible to get rid of the threat of a nuclear catastrophe for all time, and prompt their mass anti-war, anti-nuclear actions."

"In ancient times when sword and spear were the principal weapons, the people were wise enough to say: 'As long as it is possible to agree on peace, don't knock at the door of war.' In our nuclear age when any conflict is fraught with an all-out catastrophe, it is only madmen, irresponsible people that knock at the door of war."

"The doors should be wide open for one thing: liquidation of nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of this century, in accordance with the programme set forth by Mikhail Gorbachyov in his January 15 statement."

Touching upon his recent visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan, the Minister said that he had been greatly impressed by the successes of the fraternal Korean people in socialist advancement, and in their struggle for relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula. "We reaffirm our solidarity with the DPRK leadership who are pressing for withdrawal of the American troops from South Korea and unification of the country on a peaceful democratic foundation without interference from outside."

"A serious exchange of opinions, both on questions of bilateral relations and international problems, was held in the course of negotiations in Japan," said the Minister. "We noted a number of dangerous tendencies in the development of the situation in the Asian-Pacific region. It was emphasised that the role of Japan, its international prestige, would be still greater the

more active were its actions towards good-neighbourliness and co-operation, rather than towards confrontation."

"The period of tense relations with China is over, and this benefits the cause of peace in the region," said the Minister. "The Soviet Union stands for normalisation and improvement of relations with the People's Republic of China, with observation of the principle of not damaging the interests of third countries. It should be stated that we abide by the same principle in the development of relations with the United States, Japan and any other state."

"We treat with respect the Chinese leadership's stand on questions of non-militarisation of outer space and renunciation of the first nuclear strike, which coincides with the stance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. We hold that attainment of strong security in the region and in the world as a whole is unthinkable without active participation of the great Chinese people in that process."

"We certainly realise that there are difficulties, and huge difficulties at that, on the way to consolidation of peace in the Asian-Pacific region. But one believes that the striving of the peoples for peace and good-neighbourliness, the political will and common sense of government leaders will help find a solution to the existing conflict situations and make a start on the Asian process of security and co-operation. Popular wisdom says: strength lies in the truth, not in the sword. The truth is with those who quest for peace," stressed Eduard Shevardnadze.

* * *

ULAN BATOR, January 24, TASS:

There was a meeting here today between Jambyn Batmunkh, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic, and Eduard Shevardnadze.

The sides informed each other of the course of preparations for the 27th Congress of the CPSU and the 19th Congress of the MPRP and the implementation of the course of the two parties aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of their countries, along with the associated political, economic and organisational work. The two sides believe that the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and the Mongolian People's Republic reliably serves the interests of the Soviet and the Mongolian peoples and of the whole of the socialist community, and is a major factor in ensuring peace and security in the Far East and in Asia as a whole. The steadfast striving of the USSR and the MPR to continue broadening and deepening bilateral relations and to enhance the efficiency of co-operation in all spheres was reaffirmed.

It was stressed during the conversation that in conditions of the existing dangerous tension worldwide—a consequence of the aggressive course of imperialist circles which were seeking military superiority—the Soviet Union and Mongolia, jointly with other socialist countries, would continue to pursue their principled line in international affairs directed at averting the nuclear threat and developing inter-state relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and detente.

Jambyn Batmunkh said that the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the Mongolian Government wholeheartedly welcomed and supported the package of new concrete proposals

put forward in the recent statement by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachyov; these proposals were directed at ensuring a turn for the better in the international situation and at saving mankind from the nuclear war menace. The statement was yet another manifestation of the political will and tireless striving of the Soviet Union to resolve radically the cardinal problem of our time—the problem of disarmament, ending the arms race and preventing its spread into outer space, and ridding the planet of nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass annihilation.

Talks were also held on Friday between Eduard Shevardnadze and Mangalyn Dugersuren, member of the Central Committee of the MPRP and Foreign Minister of Mongolia.

The participants in the talks expressed the conviction that the relations of fraternal friendship and unity between the USSR and Mongolia made an important contribution to strengthening world socialism and to stepping up efforts by all peace-loving states in defence of peace. The situation in Asia was discussed thoroughly. The Soviet Union and Mongolia, located in the Asian continent, are deeply concerned over present-day developments here.

The Soviet Union, Mongolia and other socialist and non-aligned nations counterpose their line towards detente and co-operation, embodied in the Soviet idea of a comprehensive approach to Asia's security problems and in other initiatives advanced by peace-loving Asian states, to the dangerous tension in the region.

The sides expressed the firm support of the Soviet Union and Mongolia for the struggle of the peoples of Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Libya, Angola and other countries against interference by imperialist forces in their internal affairs, for free development along the road of independence and social progress.

The sides stressed the need for more vigorous efforts and closer coordination of actions by all peace-loving and democratic forces in the interests of the search for ways to secure lasting peace and stability in Asia and throughout the world.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised the active foreign policy activity of fraternal Mongolia. "Our countries," he said, "act on the world scene as comrades-in-arms in the struggle against the aggressive policies of imperialism, for the triumph of the ideals of socialism and peace." □

Eduard Shevardnadze meets Dante Caputo

MOSCOW, January 28, TASS:

Talks between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, and Dante Mario Caputo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of the Argentine Republic, opened here today.

Topical problems of world politics have been discussed in a constructive spirit. It has been noted that the USSR and Argentina, holding coinciding or close stands on important international matters, declare for the consolidation of peace, for the curbing of the nuclear arms race and effective measures in the sphere of disarmament.

Eduard Shevardnadze's interview with Mongolian news agency

ULAN BATOR, January 26, TASS-Montsame:

DURING his official visit to the Mongolian People's Republic, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, gave an interview to the Mongolian news agency Montsame. Here follows its full text:

QUESTION: Comrade Minister, what is your view of the prospects for Soviet-American relations in the light of last year's Geneva summit and the Soviet Union's new initiatives, advanced in the statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachyov?

ANSWER: It stands to reason that the prospects for our relations with the United States depend on the intentions and readiness of both sides to implement the arrangements reached at summit level between the USSR and the USA in Geneva. As to our intentions, we welcome the pre-conditions created for a turn for the better and are determined to overcome what Mikhail Gorbachyov described as a "period of estrangement" between the Soviet Union and the United States.

As is known, we have held and hold that questions of security must be central to the talks of the top leaders of the USSR and the USA. Precisely those questions were the main subject of the discussions, though no concrete agreements related to this sphere have been worked out in Geneva.

But it has been agreed there that the sides will accelerate the work at their negotiations on nuclear and space arms and, which is very important, the arrangement of January 8, 1985, has been confirmed: that is, that their objective will be to terminate the arms race on Earth and prevent it in space, and the efforts of the sides in the sphere of arms limitation and reduction must ultimately be aimed at the complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere.

The proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachyov mean in their significance a programme of a truly historic scope; they set essentially in a new way the very task of ensuring security in the nuclear age. In this sense Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement, naturally, goes far beyond the framework of the present stage of Soviet-US contacts and negotiations.

It was addressed to all states and all governments, and we would like all countries, nuclear and non-nuclear, large and small, to promote the establishment of a world without nuclear arms, without mass destruction weapons entirely.

At the same time it is clear that a practical implementation of the idea of a world without nuclear arms depends, particularly in the initial stage, above all on the achievement of an appropriate mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States. These two countries, having the biggest arsenals of nuclear arms, must set the example by their radical reduction.

Proceeding from this, we offered as an initial step the implementation of 50 per cent cuts in nuclear arms of the USSR and USA capable of reaching each other's territory, combined with a ban on the creation of space arms, and other steps for the limitation of military activity and for coordination of efforts at international forums on disarmament.

If we agreed that within five years the USSR and the USA would eliminate half of their nuclear arms, which are the crux of the matter, then, I am sure, not a single nuclear country

could stand apart from the solution of the problem of the complete elimination of nuclear arms.

Proposing now a detailed, realistic concept of the advance to a future without nuclear arms, the Soviet side is implementing in practice the understanding that was reached in Geneva.

We believe the working out of concrete arrangements on the initial volumes and deadlines of the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction must become the main, central item of the coming Soviet-US summit meeting.

The Soviet Union now suggests a direct way out of the present hopeless nuclear impasse, and it confirms this by its own tangible actions. The USSR has put a new solid advance on the balance of peace—it has extended for three months its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions.

If the US Administration takes this new opportunity offered to it and stops nuclear weapon tests, this will, naturally, create a more favourable background for a meeting of the top leaders of the two countries. If it does not do so, the atmosphere in our relations will look different, and specifically in the aspect of the summit dialogue.

I believe it is not we alone but also people everywhere who expect from the US side deeds not words. They wait for a clear-cut answer. Termination of nuclear explosions is precisely such an answer. If one side does not hold such explosions, then why shouldn't the other side do likewise?

Those who wish nuclear arms to be destroyed cannot be upgrading and building them up, in the way the United States is doing. Washington must show honestly to the whole world what its stand is. And this is easy to do: suffice it to stop testing nuclear weapons. No nuclear explosions would be held in Nevada, they would not be shaking the Earth and there would be no need to waste thousands of words to prove good intentions.

What is it that prevents the US Administration from sending to the world the signal of peace, rather than the new convulsion of a nuclear explosion?

The US side invoked the problem of verification. But this problem is non-existent now. The statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov clearly says that the Soviet Union is prepared to use any form of verification—national technical means, international mechanisms and on-site inspections.

The situation that has taken shape now is crystal clear: either the US side is for ridding mankind of the nuclear threat and in this case it should display readiness for discussing and drafting a concrete programme for clearing the Earth of this deadly weapon, or it is looking for ways to pile up nuclear arms and make a nuclear war possible.

A constructive and business-like stand is also expected from the United States at the talks on nuclear and space arms. I repeat: these are talks on nuclear and space arms. The US Administration and ourselves have agreed not only on their title but also on the fact that the afore-mentioned issues will be examined and solved in their inter-relationship. So far we only see in Geneva a readiness to speak about one part of the integral formula which was adopted by both sides. In other words, the USSR has already taken enormous steps towards solving the task of eliminating nuclear and other mass destruction armaments. Only words and nothing else are heard from the US side. The ball is now in the US court.

QUESTION: What is your impression of the impact of the Soviet Union's new initiative on the

situation in Asia, as seen during your visits to Japan and the DPRK?

ANSWER: It is absolutely obvious to me that the proposals contained in the statement of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachyov, proposals that by their nature are of interest to the whole of humanity, meet directly the aspirations of all peoples.

This is confirmed also by comments on the statement in different countries. Statesmen and politicians, prominent scientists, specialists in the sphere of military policy, come out in support of the peace programme, atoms for peace.

I believe that the special statement adopted by the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic in support of the new Soviet initiative expresses the feeling not only of the Mongolian people but also of the millions of people everywhere in the world. They realise that the Soviet Union has offered an innovatory programme for ensuring international security for the 21st century, a programme suiting the realities and needs of the times.

During our visits to Japan and the DPRK, in conversations with leaders of the Mongolian People's Republic, it was noted that the idea of ridding the Earth of nuclear and chemical weapons and of other mass destruction weapons, advanced by Mikhail Gorbachyov, coincided with the long-term national interests of each one of these countries. This cannot be otherwise, for a world without mass destruction weapons means a more tranquil and confident life for everyone, a guarantee of preserving life itself.

Certainly, the assessments of Mikhail Gorbachyov's initiatives are affected by differences brought about by the political system and political orientation of, for instance, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the one hand and Japan on the other. But common to all is also the idea that the realisation of the new Soviet initiative would contribute towards bringing a fundamental change in the world situation, and would enable those countries to start implementing long-term peaceful socio-economic programmes. It would become possible to pool the efforts of states in tackling problems that are faced by the whole of mankind.

This thinking is quite natural. To realise the entire significance of Mikhail Gorbachyov's initiative, it is sufficient to compare two possible variants of developments.

One is based on the premise that nuclear, chemical and other types of weapons will be preserved, perfected and built-up. In this case a question at once arises: to what limits can this be done with impunity, thoughtlessly and all but automatically?

The other is the non-nuclear variant under which mass destruction weapons will be eliminated. In this case a totally different prospect, a prospect holding out hope, is opened up: that of peaceful endeavour, of channelling the huge funds now spent on armaments into the goals of peaceful construction, the tackling of economic and financial problems that are a heavy burden for peoples, particularly in developing countries.

The following reality should also by all means be taken into consideration in comparing these two forecasts: if it is not so easy to agree on measures to limit and cut armaments, as is shown by practice, then to build armaments and create new ones is by far easier. We slide towards the nuclear threat as if down an icy slope. One has to ascend an arduous road to achieve disarmament.

(Continued on next page)

SOVIET-MONGOLIAN STATEMENT

ULAN BATOR, January 25, TASS:

THE Soviet Union and the Mongolian People's Republic have stressed the urgent need to end the arms race on Earth and prevent its spreading into outer space. This is pointed out in the joint Soviet-Mongolian statement on the results of the official friendly visit to the Mongolian People's Republic by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister.

The unanimous opinion was expressed that the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva was a major international political event. The Soviet Union and Mongolia believe to be of fundamental significance the understanding contained in the joint statement by the participants in the meeting that a nuclear war must never be fought, that it is necessary to do the utmost to prevent war between the USSR and the USA, whether nuclear or conventional, and that the sides will not seek to achieve military superiority.

The unanimous conviction was expressed that the practical implementation of the agreements reached at the Geneva meeting was one of the main ways towards improving the international situation.

The Mongolian People's Republic ardently welcomes and supports the package of new specific proposals contained in the recent statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The implementation of these large-scale initiatives and other disarmament measures proposed by the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, the statement stresses, would rid mankind of the threat of war for ever.

Both sides expressed deep concern over the remaining dangerous conflict situations in a number of areas of the world. They reiterated their firm intention to work for a further consolidation of the peace forces, for giving a rebuff to the imperialist policy of state terrorism and 'new globalism' aimed at undermining the security and independence of states. The pressing need was pointed out for the speediest elimination of regional seats of tensions through talks. They resolutely condemned the apartheid regime in the Republic of South Africa and its aggressive actions against neighbouring states, as well as the continuing attempts of the imperialist and other reactionary forces at building up tensions in the Middle East and in Central America, especially around Nicaragua.

The USSR and the Mongolian People's Republic, supporting the Libyan people, have most resolutely condemned the hostile actions of the USA and Israel against the Libyan Jamahiriya.

The situation in Asia was the subject of a detailed discussion. The sides are convinced that the dangerous tensions in various parts of that vast continent necessitate the development of a broad dialogue and the pooling of efforts by the states situated there to ensure reliable peace and security for all peoples of the Asian-Pacific region to prevent the prevalence of the forces of militarism and aggression, which are trying to kindle mutual distrust and military confrontation between countries.

It was stressed that a sensible alternative to the build-up of tensions in Asia was represented by the specific and constructive proposals of the USSR, the Mongolian People's Republic, and the other socialist and non-aligned states.

Unanimous support was expressed for the constructive proposals of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, providing for a full and unconditional end to and guaranteed non-resumption of armed and any other interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, which would open the way to normalising relations between that country and its neighbours.

The Soviet Union and Mongolia reaffirmed their striving for normalising and improving relations with China on the basis of the principles of equality and good-neighbourliness without detriment to the interests of third countries, which would contribute to the cause of improving the situation in the Asian-Pacific region. □

(Continued from previous page)

It can hardly be that any sensible person will prefer an insecure world of fear to a secure non-nuclear future.

If one is to talk specifically about Asia, I do not see any country here that could lose anything from the realisation of the programme proposed by Mikhail Gorbachyov. I am sure that the absolute majority of states in this region do not want to have nuclear and chemical weapons even near their borders.

Session of CMEA Executive Committee

MOSCOW, January 23, TASS:

THE 118th session of the Executive Committee of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) was held in Moscow on January 21-23.

A communique adopted at the session expresses support for the new major foreign policy initiative of the Soviet Union set out in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov—a programme for the complete elimination of nuclear arms all over the world with a ban on space strike arms, prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons and a substantial improvement of the international situation. The implementation of this programme will make it possible to channel vast funds for the benefit of peoples.

First-priority measures have been determined for a practical implementation of the Comprehensive Programme for Scientific and Technological Progress of the CMEA Member Countries until the Year 2000, adopted by the 41st (special) meeting of the CMEA session.

The Executive Committee discussed the implementation of general agreements to create a unified base of electronic engineering products, microprocessor equipment and industrial robotics.

The Executive Committee endorsed its plan of work for 1986-1987, the plan of measures to implement CMEA contacts with international economic, scientific and technical organisations for 1986 and the CMEA budget for the current year. □

Look how strong sentiments in favour of ridding the world completely of nuclear weapons are growing in Asia.

The proposals of the Mongolian People's Republic to work out a convention on non-aggression and non-use of force among the Asian and Pacific states, the United Nations resolution 'On the Right of Peoples to Peace', adopted on its initiative, and other steps taken by the republic to improve the international situation, are consonant with the statements of Asian and other peoples. These proposals are fully in keeping with what is offered by Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement.

One can put it in this way: the Earth is a single whole and there must be no nuclear weapons anywhere—either in Europe, or in Asia or in Latin America, or anywhere else. I shall emphasise that we do not wish to have them in our country either. Mikhail Gorbachyov stated this quite definitely.

QUESTION: Comrade Minister, what are your impressions about the results of your visit and your stay in this country?

ANSWER: I have the best of impressions. We held mutually useful talks, talks that were very rich and profound in content, with Comrade Jambyn Batmunkh and other leaders of the Mongolian People's Republic. I wish to express satisfaction with the conversation with my Mongolian counterpart Mangalyn Dugersuren. The conversation with our Mongolian friends was comradely, sincere and proceeded in the most benevolent atmosphere.

I believe the unique experience of mutual relations between our countries has been enriched still more. Their state and prospects are excellent. We noted that the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, whose 40th anniversary was just celebrated by our peoples, is a firm and reliable foundation for Soviet-Mongolian relations. It has proved its effectiveness as an instrument of peace and continues promoting peace.

We have been taking the same road with you, the road of socialism, for the seventh decade now. The invaluable experience which I mentioned earlier encourages us to strive for new, qualitatively higher goals.

The leaders of our states, Mikhail Gorbachyov and Jambyn Batmunkh, during their meeting in August last have arrived at the conclusion that larger tasks, tasks of a greater scope, should be set for our co-operation; large undertakings, oriented for the morrow, should be planned.

We are now concentrating our efforts on enhancing the effectiveness of Soviet-Mongolian interaction in the political, economic, scientific, technical, social, cultural and other spheres.

I do not wish to limit my impressions to those I received from our talks here. When meeting with brothers one strives to learn as much as possible about their lives.

We have seen that the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party is conducting huge creative work to consolidate and replenish the successes achieved. Comrade Jambyn Batmunkh told us about the preparations for the 19th Congress of your Party, and meetings with working people supplemented the information he gave with an impressive picture of the support of the whole people for the intentions and plans of the Mongolian Communists.

And here is just one fragment of that picture—the Ulan Bator Knitted-Goods Factory No. 2. Built with the assistance of socialist countries, this exemplary enterprise represents the reality of the morrow. Looking at handsome, inspired faces of workers of that enterprise, we clearly envision the country's future.

And it is wonderful when a country has such people. We were deeply impressed with our familiarisation with folk art. In the language of song and dance, choir and variety music, Mongolia's masters of arts told us a lot about the spiritual life of the people.

All this is unforgettable. We take with us the image of a young, vigorous inspired republic of the working people.

I take this occasion to express gratitude to the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic for the invitation to visit your country, for the cordial and hospitable welcome accorded us here. We leave your country having received vivid impressions about the life, work and art of the fraternal Mongolian people. □

Vasili Kuznetsov's visit to India

NEW DELHI, January 23, TASS:

TODAY Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India received Vasili Kuznetsov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who is here at the head of a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation. The delegation is on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Indian Parliament.

Vasili Kuznetsov delivered a message to Rajiv Gandhi from Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

They had a friendly conversation during which matters of Soviet-Indian relations as well as a number of topical international problems of mutual interest were discussed.

In the evening Ramaswamy Venkataraman, India's Vice-President and Chairman of the Upper Chamber of the National Parliament,

gave a dinner for the delegation.

In his speech at the dinner Vasili Kuznetsov said: "We have come to your wonderful country, dear friends, to make a contribution of our own to strengthening friendship and deepening mutual understanding between our states."

"The state of affairs in the world cannot but arouse serious anxiety," he went on to say. "Mankind has been confronted with the need to overcome the negative trends which had been growing over recent years and clear the way to fostering trust as an indispensable ingredient of state-to-state relations. The peoples are awaiting and justly demanding a radical turn for the better on the international scene.

"With a view to breaking the existing trend towards confrontation and directing the development of world processes towards detente and disarmament, the Soviet Union several days ago made a far-reaching step, putting forward a number of major foreign policy initiatives. It has proposed a programme for completely eliminating nuclear weapons everywhere by the year 2000 and ensuring reliable security for the present and succeeding generations."

"The implementation of the Soviet proposals would make it possible to fold up the nuclear arms race on Earth and prevent it from spreading to outer space. It would make for general lessening of the war danger and for stronger mutual trust and international co-operation. Every measure to limit and reduce arms would be accompanied by a switch-over of resources to serve the needs of social and economic development."

The delegation was also received at the Indian Parliament by Balram Jakhar, Speaker of the House of the People (Lower House) of the country's top legislative body.

On January 24 the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation was warmly welcomed at the Presidential Palace by President Zail Singh. The President said that the recent statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, setting out ways for nuclear disarmament, had been welcomed in India. "The Indian people fully back the Soviet proposals," he said. □

(Continued from Page 35)

3. The stabilisation of the overall economic and monetary-financial situation and the implementation of the UN resolutions on restructuring international economic relations on a fair and democratic basis, first and foremost the charter of the economic rights and duties of states and the declaration on the establishment of a new international economic order, constitute the most important prerequisites for the improvement of international economic relations and for ensuring international economic security. However, these programme resolutions have not yet been implemented in practice because of a destructive course pursued by well-known circles in international affairs. Attempts are being made to call in question their practical importance and to commit them to oblivion.

Such initiatives of developing and non-aligned states as proposals on holding UN-sponsored 'global talks' on the more acute world economic problems and on the convocation of an international monetary-financial conference, and talks to work out a code of conduct for transnational corporations and to regulate technology transfers, are directed at providing conditions for ensuring the international economic security of states. However, these initiatives have also been stalemated.

The blocking of the solution of the problems of improving and developing international co-operation is being camouflaged by allegations about "a crisis of multilateralism", and by claims that the United Nations and its agencies are incapable of conducting effective multilateral talks and achieving results on a broad spectrum of social and economic problems, and that there is no political homogeneity of states.

All this cannot be assessed otherwise than as a manoeuvre employed for avoiding the solution of ripe problems, for keeping the United Nations Organisation apart from resolving principled economic and social tasks of the present.

4. The Soviet Government, viewing the United Nations Organisation as an effective instrument for solving vital problems of humanity, including economic problems, expresses profound concern over the lack of real progress in the United Nations' activity for the improvement and restructuring of international economic relations. The Soviet Union urges all countries to demonstrate political will in creating the necessary conditions for ensuring international economic security.

The very notion of international economic security, which is part of international security as a whole, presupposes above all the renunciation

of the use or threat of use of power methods, the protection of lawful rights and interests of states, and the creation of reliable guarantees that they will not be violated.

Economic security of states is linked directly with the ensurance of peace, the ending of the arms race on Earth and prevention of its transfer to space, a resolute improvement of the entire international situation, a return to the policy of detente.

The Soviet Union offered the world in a statement made by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on January 15, 1986, a concrete programme for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, for ridding mankind of the threat of self-annihilation, and for ensuring dependable security for the present and succeeding generations. The implementation of the complex of new initiatives embracing all the important aspects and areas of activity in the interests of disarmament, the restoration of trust and the promotion of prospects for a peaceful future and for the progress of all the peoples, formulated in the statement, not only offers mankind more security but also makes it possible to allocate more resources for improving the living standards of the population.

The principle of armaments before development, imposed by militarism, should be supplemented by a reverse formula, disarmament for development.

The ending of the arms race, the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons and drastic reductions in the military spending of states constitute the most realistic and effective source of funds which are so needed to meet the economic and social needs of the developing countries, and to resolve such global problems of mankind as the overcoming of economic backwardness, the eradication of hunger, poverty, epidemic disease and illiteracy in vast areas, the meeting of the growing needs of mankind in energy, raw materials, food resources and environmental protection, and the peaceful exploration of the world oceans and outer space.

Respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, equality, renunciation of discrimination and the unflinching observance of the inalienable sovereign rights of states to choose their economic systems independently are fundamentally important to ensuring international economic security. State-to-state intercourse must be free from arbitrariness, from unlawful embargoes, from

boycotts, from trade, crediting and technological blockades, and from the exploitation of economic contacts for political pressure.

The need to ensure international economic security was stressed in a programme of action for improving international economic relations that was put forward by the summit economic conference of the CMEA member countries in Moscow in June 1984. The implementation of that programme objectively meets the aspirations and interests of all countries and contributes to the achievement of genuine economic independence by the developing states.

The Soviet Union considers it necessary to initiate practical steps to rid international economic contacts of discriminatory restrictions of every sort and of all other artificial obstacles creating a threat to the economic security of states.

This must be promoted by the implementation in practice of the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly condemning economic coercion as a means of political pressure on developing countries, on measures of confidence-building in international economic relations, on the United Nations' role in promoting international economic, scientific and technical co-operation. The interests of economic security of states requires effective control over the activity of transnational corporations that continue neo-colonialist exploitation of newly-independent states, that are disorganising world trade and scientific and technical co-operation among states. The main thing in these matters is that all states should adhere to the principles of co-operation approved by the majority of the United Nations members.

The Soviet Government condemns resolutely any forms of discrimination and *diktat* in international economic relations undermining economic security of the states.

The time has come when the United Nations Organisation should raise its voice against these negative phenomena and work out concrete measures to eradicate them.

The USSR urges all countries to take steps to ensure international economic security, which is an important condition for the improvement and development of international economic relations to the benefit of the social and economic relations of all countries and peoples, and is prepared to co-operate constructively with all states concerned, both in the United Nations Organisation and outside it, in the implementation of this pressing task of the present. □

Lev Tolkunov heads delegation to France

PARIS, January 22, TASS:

A VISITING delegation of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR led by Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR, had meetings and conversations with French parliamentarians today. The delegation had arrived on January 21, at the invitation of the Franco-Soviet Friendship Group of the French Senate.

During the meeting with Louis Mermaz, President of the National Assembly of France, Lev Tolkunov touched upon the new Soviet peace initiatives which were set out in the recent statement of Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and which are aimed at eliminating nuclear arms. Louis Mermaz positively appraised the Soviet Union's proposals put forward in the statement.

The sides also exchanged views on matters concerning bilateral interparliamentary contacts and Franco-Soviet relations. It was pointed out this connection that the official visit to France by Mikhail Gorbachyov had given a new impulse to the development of relations between the two countries.

In a conversation with the Soviet delegation, Alain Poher, President of the Senate, stressed that the parliamentarians of the two countries could contribute substantially to the cause of developing Franco-Soviet relations. He expressed the view that all countries must participate in the solution of such important international problems as the prevention of nuclear war which could lead to mankind's annihilation.

Alain Poher gave a dinner in honour of the Soviet parliamentary delegation.

Speaking at the dinner, Lev Tolkunov pointed out that meetings between the parliamentarians of the two countries were an integral and useful part of the broad political dialogue between France and the USSR.

Touching upon the international situation, Lev Tolkunov pointed out the need to overcome negative, confrontational trends in the world, trends which had been increasing in recent years, and to clear the way for the curtailment of the nuclear arms race on Earth, for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, for lessening the war danger in general and for the formation of trust as an integral component of relations between states.

MEETING AT CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MOSCOW, January 24, TASS:

YEGOR LIGACHYOV, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Boris Ponomarev, an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting on January 23 at the CPSU Central Committee with Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party and Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and Abdul Aziz al-Dali, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party and Foreign Minister of the PDRY.

An exchange of opinions took place on the present situation in South Yemen. It was stated that the priority tasks continued to be a complete termination of the armed clashes, an early normalisation of life in the country, and

"Herein is the meaning of the Soviet Union's latest peace initiatives," he went on to say. "The statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, setting out a Soviet peace programme and calling on mankind to rid the Earth of nuclear weapons by the end of the 20th century, is a logical continuation and development of the latest Soviet peace initiatives."

"But, of course," Lev Tolkunov said, "a special role in finally ridding the peoples of the nuclear threat belongs to the states possessing nuclear weapons. We expect that France, guided by the broad interests of strengthening peace and international security, will make its contribution to the attainment of this great and humane goal."

"We want 1986 to become not just a Year of Peace but a year which would make it possible to approach the end of the 20th century under the watchword of peace and nuclear disarmament," Lev Tolkunov pointed out. "The Soviet parliamentarians see the task in steering matters, jointly with the parliamentarians of other countries and of France in particular, to the attainment of these goals."

Touching upon Franco-Soviet relations, he said that the Soviet parliamentarians, just like all Soviet people, and the Soviet leadership came out in favour of all-round development and strengthening of Soviet-French co-operation in various fields. "We would like the political dialogue between the USSR and France to be a constant factor in the strengthening of European security and in the stabilisation of international relations as a whole," Lev Tolkunov declared.

Meeting with Roland Dumas

PARIS, January 23, TASS:

Lev Tolkunov today met French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas.

During the talk, Lev Tolkunov drew attention to the new Soviet peace initiatives laid out in the recent statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov. In this connection, Roland Dumas on the whole assessed the Soviet proposals positively.

The sides also exchanged views on questions pertaining to Franco-Soviet relations. Roland Dumas said, in part, that bilateral relations were developing positively.

On Friday (January 24) the Soviet delegation, led by Lev Tolkunov, met Helene Luc, chairwoman of the French Communist Party group in the Senate, and members of the group.

In the course of the meeting it was noted that bilateral inter-parliamentary relations had

emergency aid to the population. A special point was made of stressing the purely internal nature of developments in the PDRY and the need to prevent any outside interference in its affairs in future, too.

The South Yemeni comrades pointed out the overriding importance of restoring unity in the party and voiced the conviction that this should be on the basis of loyalty to its programme documents, its policy of building a new society and the progressive choice made by the people of the PDRY.

The Soviet side expressed their understanding of these considerations. It was declared that the Soviet Union too would continue the policy of friendly co-operation with the Yemen Socialist Party and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The meeting took place in a warm, comradely atmosphere. □

become an important component part of the political dialogue between France and the Soviet Union. The participants in the meeting also considered the state of Soviet-French relations, and questions linked with ensuring security on the European continent, solving the disarmament problem and preventing the threat of a nuclear war.

The head of the Soviet delegation also had a meeting on Friday with French journalists. He dwelt on the main provisions of the recent statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, which sets out a programme for complete liquidation of nuclear weapons, and answered questions pertaining to new Soviet peace initiatives.

MOSCOW, January 28, TASS:

In an interview on Soviet television after having met the Soviet deputies, Alain Poher, President of the French Senate, said: "Contacts between parliamentarians are extremely important. When there are no such meetings there may be incorrect interpretations of the positions of one or other side. When a direct and frank dialogue is going on between parliamentarians and a whole range of problems, even the most complicated, is being discussed, people get to know each other better and this leads to mutual understanding."

"It should be said," Alain Poher stressed, "that Mr Gorbachyov puts forward very interesting ideas. He is trying to change the situation in the world for the better. We may have differences on one or other problem, but it is absolutely clear—and we talked with Soviet deputies about this—that humankind is a single family on the Earth. We should live together and we should do everything to prevent our planet from being destroyed." □

Greetings on India's National Holiday

MOSCOW, January 25, TASS:

"THE SOVIET PEOPLE are rejoicing in the successes of the Republic of India and regard with respect its policy of non-alignment. They wish the Indian people every success in the economic and social development of the country and in the strengthening of the international positions of peace-loving and independent India," says a telegram sent by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government to Indian leaders Zail Singh and Rajiv Gandhi.

The telegram on the occasion of India's National Holiday (January 26), the 36th anniversary of the Republic of India, says that during these years the Republic of India has made impressive progress in strengthening its national independence and in the development of its economy, science and culture. India's advocacy of ending the arms race on Earth and preventing it in space and of strengthening peace and security for the peoples is resounding strongly and authoritatively.

The Soviet Union values highly the ties of close friendship and diversified and large-scale achievements in every field of co-operation between our countries. The Soviet-Indian relations of friendship, which keep growing, are exerting an beneficial influence on world developments and playing an important role in the improvement of the international situation and in the struggle for peace and against the threat of war.

The telegram expresses the confidence that relations between the USSR and India, resting on the firm foundations of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation, will continue to develop and grow stronger for the good of the peoples of our countries and in the interests of universal peace and security. □

Meeting of Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, January 23, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its regular meeting has considered the question of the results of the all-union socialist emulation campaign in the country. The campaign aimed at successfully fulfilling the state economic and social development plan of the USSR for 1985, at attaining the targets of the 11th five-year-plan period and at greeting the 27th Congress of the CPSU with worthy accomplishments.

A resolution on this matter by the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions and the Central Committee

of the Young Communist League of the Soviet Union expresses confidence that the country's working people, developing socialist emulation, will ensure high productivity and smooth pace of work and will do everything to attain and exceed the planned targets for 1986 and the 12th five-year plan period and to further strengthen the economic might of the Soviet Union.

Having discussed the course of implementation of the Party's and government's decisions on strengthening labour discipline, on overcoming drunkenness and alcoholism, the Political Bureau pointed out that the local Party, state and economic bodies, law-enforcement agencies and public organisations had begun to work actively in this direction. The measures which are being taken are approved and supported by Soviet people.

Matters aimed at organising the production of personal electronic computers and at developing

a material and technical basis for the manufacture of household recording and playback video equipment were considered at the meeting of the Political Bureau.

The Bureau adopted the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on measures to further develop the city economy of Tbilisi in 1986-1990. This will promote a substantial improvement in the living conditions of the working people of the capital of Georgia.

Decisions connected with the preparation of the 27th Congress of the CPSU were taken at the meeting of the Political Bureau, and some other matters of economic and social policy and of the pursuance of the Communist Party's and the Soviet State's foreign-policy course aimed at ensuring peace and peoples' security were considered. □

Report of Central Statistical Board

MOSCOW, January 25, TASS:

THE Soviet national income used for consumption and accumulation grew by 3.1 per cent in 1985 over the previous year, to reach the value of 567,000 million roubles. The rate of growth of the productivity of social labour also improved, ensuring 96 per cent of the increment in the national income, the Central Statistical Board of the USSR says in a report released today.

As in previous years, the country employed 100 per cent of the able-bodied population.

The overall volume of industrial output rose by 3.9 per cent, in accordance with the plan. The growth of production in the second half of the year was 4.6 per cent, or a 50 per cent improvement on the first six months.

While the overall results of the national economic growth were positive, the report says,

some of the sectors fell badly behind plan targets, mostly because of the slow introduction of intensive methods of economic management and an inadequate level of organisational work.

The engineering industry made especially fast progress; as for the fuel and energy complex, here atomic power engineering and the gas industry were the pace setters. The output of cultural, recreational and household goods grew by 6 per cent over the previous year.

Grain procurement

In 1985 the USSR generated altogether 1,545,000 million kilowatt hours of electricity and produced 595 million tons of oil (including gas condensate) and 155 million tons of steel. Plan targets for the extraction of natural gas, coal, metallic ores and for the production of non-ferrous metals, metal-cutting machine-tools, industrial robots, instruments, automation and computer technology, motor vehicles, tractors,

grain harvester combines, cotton harvesters and other farm machines were met.

The Central Statistical Board further reports that the agri-industry expanded the production of a number of farm products and the output of food. Grain procurement by the state in 1985 made it possible adequately to supply the population of the country with bread and bakery products. The production of basic livestock-breeding products increased: meat to 17.1 million tons, milk to 98.2 million tons and eggs to 77,000 million.

The foreign trade turnover of the USSR, according to the report, was worth 141,000 million roubles. Specialisation and co-production programmes of the USSR and the other CMEA member countries were being consistently implemented. Mutually beneficial economic and technical co-operation with other countries was expanded. The USSR gave assistance in the construction of more than 770 industrial plants and other projects in other countries in 1985.

The Statistical Board also reported that the population of the Soviet Union was 278.7 million as of January 1 this year.

Within a year the number of people in the country has increased by 2.4 million. □

Geidar Aliyev meets Deputy Prime Minister of Yemen Arab Republic

MOSCOW, January 28, TASS:

GEIDAR ALIYEV, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received in the Kremlin Muhammad Saeed al-Attar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development of the Yemen Arab Republic, who is now in Moscow in connection with the holding of the first meeting of the standing inter-governmental commission

for economic and technical co-operation and trade between the USSR and the Yemen Arab Republic. Muhammad Saeed al-Attar handed over a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh of the Yemen Arab Republic to Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The sides expressed satisfaction with the state of Soviet-Yemeni co-operation in different areas and declared for its further expansion and deepening.

In exchanging opinions on questions linked with the situation in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen it was emphasised that the situation in that country should return to normality as soon as possible and that any interference from outside into its internal affairs was inadmissible.

Taking part in the meeting, which was held in a business-like and friendly atmosphere, were: from the Soviet side, Georgi Kornienko, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, and Karen Brutents, deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department; and from the North Yemeni side, Ambassador Mohamed Abdo Othman. □

Moscow City CPSU Conference

MOSCOW, January 25, TASS:

EVERYTHING that has been planned is connected above all with solicitude for people, an effort to improve further the living standards of the Muscovites. This was stressed at the Moscow City Report and Election Conference, which closed here today. In conformity with these aims the delegates have outlined ways for improving the organisational, mass-political and ideological activity of the Party organisations.

The conference has elected the leading bodies of the Moscow City Party Organisation and delegates to the 27th Congress scheduled to open in February.

Today at the plenary meeting of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, Boris Yeltsin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was elected First Secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU.

Taking part in the conference were Mikhail Gorbachyov and other leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet State. □

(Continued from Page 33)

Dwelling on the preparation for the 27th Congress of the CPSU and the documents submitted to the congress for consideration—the draft new edition of the CPSU Programme, the changes in the Party's Rules, the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and to the Year 2000—the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee stressed that the pivot of the policy of the CPSU was the speeding up of the social and economic development of Soviet society and further improvement of the well-being of the Soviet people. □

SOVIET-KOREAN COMMUNIQUE

PYONGYANG, January 23, TASS:

A SOVIET-KOREAN communique has been adopted on the results of an official visit of friendship by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on January 19-23 and has been released here today. It stresses the importance of the complex of new concrete initiatives put forward in the latest statement of Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and aimed at ensuring a radical turn for the better in the development of the international situation and at reversing dangerous confrontation tendencies that have been growing in it over the past few years.

The statement by the General Secretary is characterised in the communique as a concrete programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 with an accord on the prohibition of the development, testing and deployment of space nuclear weapons, on the extension of a moratorium on all nuclear explosions, on the elimination of chemical weapons during this century and on setting into motion the entire system of talks and ensuring the high efficiency of the entire mechanism of disarmament.

The sides paid special attention during their talks to discussing the situation in the Far East and in Asia as a whole, the communique says. They noted the growing danger flowing from the aggressive course of the United States, aimed at turning the Asian and Pacific region into another scene of military and political confrontation with

socialist countries.

The sides strongly condemn the build-up of US military preparations in that region, the growth of militarist trends in Japan, the use of South Korea as a nuclear staging area, and attempts to forge a new military-political alliance of the NATO type to include the United States, Japan and South Korea.

The Soviet side expressed full support for the recent decision of the Government of the DPRK not to hold any major military manoeuvres in the North from February 1, 1986, and to discontinue any military exercises altogether during talks between North and South. In its opinion, the US intention to start 'Team Spirit 86' manoeuvres jointly with South Korea in February is an open challenge to the Korean people and to all peace-loving peoples and is fraught with serious complications in the Korean peninsula and in Asia.

Both sides are unanimous in condemning the policy, conducted by imperialist quarters, of consolidating the division of Korea and the continuing US occupation of South Korea, which not only contradicts the national aspirations of the Korean people but also poses a threat to peace in the Far East.

The Soviet Foreign Minister reiterated the USSR's invariable solidarity with the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK, directed at securing the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and the reunification of the country on a peaceful democratic basis without interference from outside. Support was expressed for the DPRK's proposals for establishing a Democratic Confederative Republic of Korea by means of dialogue and talks between the sides concerned, replacing the agreement on a truce in Korea with a peace agreement and working out a declaration on non-aggression between North and South, as well as constructive steps to develop an extensive peaceful dialogue between them.

The Soviet side once again stressed the

importance of the proposals of the Government of the DPRK on the withdrawal of US nuclear weapons of all kinds and US troops from South Korea and on the establishment of a zone of peace, a zone free from nuclear arms in the Korean peninsula, proceeding from the conviction that their implementation would be in the spirit of the accords reached at the Soviet-US meeting in Geneva and make a substantial contribution to stronger security in the Asian and Pacific region.

The Korean side considers the Soviet Union's idea of working out a general, comprehensive approach to the solution of the problem of security in Asia to be important and supports it.

The sides noted the importance of carrying on the process of normalising Soviet-Chinese relations on an equal and mutually acceptable basis in the interests of strengthening the positions of world socialism, the communique says.

The USSR and the DPRK voiced concern about tension persisting in many parts of the world, strongly denounced the escalation of the imperialist policy of armed blackmail and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, a policy leading to the emergence of dangerous regional conflicts, and reaffirmed that their sympathies rested entirely with the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America fighting for freedom, independence and territorial integrity. Note was taken of the growing role of the Non-Aligned Movement as a major factor of the times. The USSR and the DPRK declared their solidarity with the people and Government of Afghanistan in their struggle to defend the gains of the April Revolution. □

(Continued from Page 34)

timely, necessary and successful.

Our Leninist Party and the Party of Antonio Gramsci and Palmiro Togliatti are bound by long-standing ties of friendship and co-operation. Our relations are sealed by historical years of joint struggle against fascism and nazism and by decades of fruitful joint work for peace and social progress.

Using this opportunity, I would like to express most friendly sentiments for the entire Italian people and our respect for the Italian Republic, with which we have established and are effectively developing contacts in various fields. We think that the Soviet Union and Italy have a mutual desire for opening constructive dialogue, for developing and expanding mutually beneficial co-operation, for invigorating political contacts and for a joint search for ways to lessen the war danger and to stamp out seats of crises and tension, first and foremost in the southern and eastern Mediterranean.

The past must not be forgotten because it always contains the roots of the present. But we should look ahead, into the future, taking along into it only what has stood the test of the times and leaving behind without regret what stands in the way of more concerted and efficient work. It is from this assumption that the CPSU proceeds. There remain differences between our parties in the evaluation of various problems, events and facts. This is natural. And this makes fraternal dialogue between the CPSU and the Italian Communist Party, between communist parties in general all the more valuable and necessary. Our Party stands for that dialogue growing and assuming forms which meet the spirit and requirements of the present day.

Dear Comrade Natta,

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee and all the Soviet Communists, we wish you, the Party leadership and the whole of the fraternal Italian Party every success in the struggle for the democratic rejuvenation of Italy, for peace and socialism. □

Briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW, January 21, TASS:

"LIKE MOST UN member states, the Soviet Union believes it imperative to take urgent action to improve the situation in the world, first of all to exclude the use of force from state-to-state relations," said Vladimir Morozov, deputy head of the Press Department of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR.

He was making a statement at a briefing at the ministry's press centre here today in connection with the 9th session of the special committee on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in international relations, which opened in New York on January 20.

"We proceed from the inadmissibility of a power-politics approach to international affairs, which is based on purely egoistic interests," the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said. "Making a ban on the use of force effective to the maximum degree is a most important prerequisite for ensuring reliable security in the nuclear-space age. The only right way to lasting peace is through renouncing the use or threat of use of force as a means of resolving international disputes."

The special committee's work has confirmed that the vast majority of states are unanimously in favour of effective measures to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force, even if they suggest different forms that these

measures can take. A number of non-aligned countries and some Western states have said it would be desirable to adopt a declaration of non-use of force.

"Taking their position into account, the Soviet Union has agreed to the committee's starting to work out a declaration on non-use of force in international relations as an intermediate stage on the way to drafting a world treaty on non-use of force," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said. This instruction is set forth in Resolution 40/70 passed by the 40th session of the UN General Assembly. "In our opinion, hammering out and adopting a declaration which would reaffirm and amplify the principle of non-use of force and point out the need for an unconditional ban on any use of weapons, nuclear or conventional, could become a tangible contribution to improving the international situation."

"We are convinced," Vladimir Morozov said, "that in the present international situation the problems that the special committee is dealing with are vitally important to all states, big or small, without exception, regardless of whether they have or do not have nuclear arms."

"By working out a declaration on non-use of force, the special committee would make headway in discharging the task, entrusted to it by the General Assembly, of completing work to draw up a world treaty on non-use of force in international relations, thereby creating barriers to the use of force and improving conditions for achieving accords on arms limitation and reduction," the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said in conclusion. □

PRAVDA EDITORIAL

'The Programme for Nuclear Disarmament'

The following is a summary of the editorial which appeared in the newspaper Pravda on January 25, under the above headline:

MOSCOW, January 25, TASS:

THE Soviet programme for complete elimination of nuclear weapons around the world, unlike the good intentions which are pronounced by official figures of Western states from time to time but which are quite often designed to mislead public opinion, is concrete in both procedure and the period of time for its implementation.

Herein is its fundamental novelty and significance. It includes three organically connected stages, which arise from one another and are as if mutually penetrating in a number of their elements.

It is suggested that a reduction of the nuclear arms of the USSR and the USA be started at the first stage, thereby setting an example to other states possessing such weapons. In the course of 5-8 years both states should reduce by half their nuclear weapons capable of reaching each other's territories, after which not more than 6,000 warheads shall be kept on appropriate delivery vehicles remaining on each side.

An extremely important point is specially stipulated: the emergence of space strike weapons would dash the hope for ridding

mankind of nuclear weapons. A radical reduction in nuclear weapons is possible only provided the USSR and the USA give up the creation, testing and deployment of space strike weapons.

As far as the Soviet and US medium-range missiles, both ballistic and cruise missiles, deployed in the European zone are concerned, their complete elimination is envisaged as early as the first stage. That would be a big step along the lines of freeing the European continent from nuclear weapons.

At the same time the United States should undertake not to supply its missiles, either strategic or medium-range ones, to other countries, while Britain and France should undertake not to build up their respective nuclear arms.

It is also necessary that the USSR and the USA from the very outset agree to end any nuclear explosions and call on other states to join the moratorium as soon as possible.

The second stage, according to the Soviet programme, beginning not later than 1990 and continuing for 5-7 years, would be characterised by drawing the other nuclear powers into the nuclear disarmament process. For them, the process begins with the assumption of an obligation to freeze their nuclear arms and not to have them in the territories of other countries.

In the meantime the USSR and the USA, going ahead with cut-downs which were agreed upon at the first stage and taking further measures to eliminate medium-range nuclear arms, shall freeze their tactical nuclear systems.

At the second stage the USSR's and the USA's agreement on banning space strike weapons should become multilateral, with the leading industrial powers acceding to it without fail. At the same stage all nuclear powers would stop tests of nuclear weapons.

Finally, at the third stage, beginning not later than 1995 and being completed by the end of 1999, provision is made for the elimination of all the remaining nuclear arms and the elaboration of a universal agreement that they never be revived again.

Pravda says that the Soviet programme accords with the goals and subject of the Soviet-US talks in Geneva, which were reaffirmed as a result of the summit meeting. Instead of creating new, extremely dangerous space weapons which are ostensibly intended to render nuclear arms unnecessary, the programme suggests setting about eliminating the weapons. The Washington Administration, which has repeatedly stated its commitment to the idea of eliminating nuclear weapons, is thereby being given an opportunity to tackle this in practice. □

SOVIET PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS

MOSCOW, January 21, TASS:

THE Soviet Union has put forward proposals on the principles of a Cyprus settlement and ways to achieve it. The document published here today says:

The Soviet Union, being seriously concerned by the fact that the unsettled Cyprus problem creates a threat to the existence of the Republic of Cyprus as an independent, sovereign, territorially integral, united and non-aligned state, is convinced that the interests of general security, just as the vital interests of the Cypriot people, dictate the need to resolve the seat of tension in Cyprus by achieving an all-embracing, just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem.

I.

The USSR proceeds from the belief that such a settlement will be viable only provided it is achieved by the collective efforts of all sides concerned and rests on the following principles:

1. The Republic of Cyprus must remain an independent, territorially integral and united state, and its sovereignty must extend over the entire territory of the island without exception. Any form of dismemberment of Cyprus or absorption of Cyprus, fully or partially, by any country or countries is inadmissible.

2. Questions of the state system of Cyprus, including the possibility of establishing a federation, must be decided by the Cypriots—Greeks and Turks—themselves by peaceful means, through constructive talks with due account taken of the interests of the two communities and without any interference from outside or attempts to impose decisions alien to them. Cyprus's future state system must ensure the peaceful existence of the communities under conditions of complete security.

II.

Calling, under UN auspices, a representative international conference on Cyprus is a realistic way to ensure a fundamental settlement of the international aspects of the Cyprus problem.

1. Such a conference could result in signing a treaty or some other document providing for the following organically inter-connected components of settlement: demilitarisation of the island, including withdrawal of all foreign troops, removal of all foreign military bases and installations; a system of effective international guarantees for the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus; respect by all states for its status as a non-aligned state.

2. International guarantees for the independence of Cyprus must rule out the possibility of any foreign interference in the republic's affairs in the future. Permanent members of the UN Security Council, or the entire Security Council, Greece and Turkey, as well as certain non-aligned countries could become guarantors.

Measures for effecting guarantees will be used with the general consent of all guarantor-countries. Cyprus must not be an object of the use of force or threat of force.

3. The conference could be attended by the Republic of Cyprus (with both communities represented), Greece, Turkey and all member states of the UN Security Council. The invitation of other states to the conference, specifically from among the non-aligned states, is also possible.

It is at such a representative international conference that decisions meeting the interests of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and peace and general security, could be worked out jointly, with the participation of all sides concerned.

* * *

The Soviet Union, being guided by the aim of a lasting and just settlement in Cyprus and resolving this seat of tension in the eastern Mediterranean, urges all countries to facilitate in every way the search for an all-embracing and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the above principles. □

NEW APPOINTMENT

MOSCOW, January 25, TASS:

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Alexander Vlasov as USSR Minister of the Interior.

Alexander Vlasov was born in 1932. He first took up work as a mining face deputy, then worked at Young Communist League, Soviet and Party bodies. He then worked for three years as an inspector at the CPSU Central Committee, and for nearly nine years as First Secretary of the Chechen-Ingush Regional Committee of the CPSU. From 1984 he was First Secretary of the Rostov Regional Party Committee.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet relieved Vitali Fedorchuk of the duties of USSR Minister of the Interior in connection with a new appointment. □

Facilitating progress at the Stockholm Conference

By K Yurin

THE PROGRAMME for halting the arms race on Earth by the year 2000 and preventing militarisation of space, which was formulated in a statement made by the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, on January 15, accords great significance to the problem of ensuring European security, especially facilitating progress at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. A crucial stage in the work of this meeting will begin on January 28.

The aim of the Stockholm forum is to prevent the use of force and secret war preparations on land, at sea and in the air. Realistic opportunities for success have appeared now that the main groups of countries—socialist, neutral and non-aligned, and Western—have tabled their proposals and itemised them in working documents.

The socialist countries proposed concrete obligations on non-use of force and military confidence-building measures. Their proposals became the basis for the general work of the Stockholm Conference. They were laid at the base of an understanding reached between the

participants in the middle of last October on a range of problems that could form the framework of a future agreement.

The Soviet Union is prepared to look for understanding with all negotiating partners—the NATO countries and the non-aligned and neutral states. Mikhail Gorbachyov emphasised in his statement that it was particularly important in the present situation to lower the level of troops participating in the large-scale military exercises about which the sides, in accordance with the Final Act, were to notify each other. The socialist countries' proposals also pursue the same goal. It should be recalled that the Final Act pledges the participating states to notify each other 21 days or more in advance of the start of major military manoeuvres exceeding a total of 25,000 ground troops; it says that the participating states may also notify each other of other military exercises and major troop movements.

Now the conference has entered a crucial phase, which requires the concerted efforts of all sides to translate existing possibilities into concrete agreements. It is high time to buckle down and resolve the problems discussed at the conference.

The problem of prior notification of major land, air and naval manoeuvres is now becoming a stumbling block at the conference. The kernel of the matter is that this problem is not only complicated in itself. Other confidence-building measures, such as exchange of annual plans of

military activities which should be notified and the invitation of observers, depend on it. The Soviet Union demands that a radical solution should be found to the problem of notification so that this solution really serves the cause of strengthening trust and security in Europe.

The socialist countries propose that the participating states should notify each other 30 days in advance not only of ground troop manoeuvres exceeding a total of 20,000 troops but also air force manoeuvres that would involve the simultaneous lifting into the air of more than 200 warplanes, and naval manoeuvres involving more than 30 warships and 100 combat aircraft. The previous sessions showed that the NATO countries were not prepared to conclude a comprehensive agreement on this matter.

Mikhail Gorbachyov said that since this problem could not be solved as a whole, it might be solved in parts. The participants may agree, for example, to notify each other of major land and air force manoeuvres and discuss naval activities at the next stage of the conference. In other words, our aim is to pave the way to an agreement. This does not mean, of course, that we want to sacrifice a comprehensive accord.

The Soviet Union has once again demonstrated its determination to work towards substantial agreements in Stockholm. It is no accident that many of the new proposals formulated in Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement concern Europe. Europe might perform a special mission if a radical turn is made towards a policy of peace. What is needed now is new thinking in dealing with problems of peace and international confidence and co-operation.

(Novosti Press Agency)

PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW, January 27, TASS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE was held today at the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Moscow. It was devoted to the results of the 12th Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

Taking part in the press conference were Dinh Nho Liem, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the USSR, Senten Sukhasem, Chargée d' Affaires Ad Interim of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and En Mai, Press Attaché of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Soviet and foreign correspondents were briefed on the communique of the 12th conference of the foreign ministers of the three Indochinese countries, which was held in Vientiane on January 23-24.

Senten Sukhasem made a speech on behalf of the embassies of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea. "The participants in the Vientiane conference," she said, "were of the unanimous opinion that the political settlement of the 'Kampuchean issue' should be considered in two aspects—internal and international.

The internal affairs of Kampuchea must be settled by the Kampuchean people themselves without external interference. The People's Republic of Kampuchea declares itself prepared to enter talks with opposition Khmer individuals or groups to achieve national reconciliation on the basis of the removal of the Pol Pot clique and the holding of free general elections following the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea.

The settlement of the international aspect of the Kampuchea question would imply an

agreement on the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces along with the cessation of all material and military aid to the Pol Pot clique and other reactionary Khmer forces, cessation of the utilisation by the latter of Thai territory as sanctuary, and cessation of all intervention from outside in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. Concurrently with the peaceful solution of the Kampuchean question an agreement should be reached on the setting up of a zone of peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The three Indochinese states wish and are prepared to negotiate with Thailand, stressing that restoration and consolidation of good-neighbourly relations between the three Indochinese states and Thailand would constitute an extremely important factor for peace and stability in South-East Asia.

Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, it was noted at the press conference, invariably treasure their time-honoured friendship with the Chinese people and look forward to its early restoration. They are confident that differences should be resolved through negotiations, without any preliminary strings attached. As is noted in the communique of the conference and as was emphasised at the press conference, the three Indochinese states are prepared to co-operate with the United States in the humanitarian problem of looking for missing Americans. But from the American side there should be no attempts at interference in the internal affairs of these countries.

The foreign ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea expressed full support for the Soviet Union's major initiatives which were set out in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, a statement which, as is noted in the communique, is of historic significance. □

Pashtoons unite against attacks

KABUL, January 27, TASS:

THE *Jamiat-ul-Ulema* (Association of Religious Scholars) of Khyber area has issued a statement demanding that the Pakistani authorities withdraw without delay their troops from Khyber, and put a stop to bloodshed and demolition of Pashtoon villages, Bakhtar News Agency reports. *Jamiat-ul-Ulema* urged all Pashtoons to rally their ranks still closer in face of aggression, underlining that the earnest of victory lies in the tribes' unity.

The Pakistani authorities are escalating combat operations in the area of Khyber at the bidding of their US masters who pursue aggressive objectives in the region, said prominent Pakistani opposition figure Fazil Khan. He demanded that gangs of Afghan counter-revolutionaries immediately pull out from Pakistani territory. Afghans in Pakistan, deluded by hostile propaganda, lead a life of misery, Fazil Khan stressed. Many die of disease and hunger. But the Pakistani authorities hinder their return to their homeland.

The Council of the Ulems of the Momand area has also made a statement which stresses that the tribes of the Momand area are prepared to join battle against the Pakistani troops and to fight side by side with their Afridi and Shinwar brothers in the Khyber valley. A similar stand has been pledged by the chiefs and elders of a number of tribes at a *jirgah* in Chatral. The *jirgah* of the Mamiyat Khel and Razmak tribes in Waziristan has also ruled that, if necessary, effective assistance will be given to the embattled tribes. □

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