



## Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement on Soviet television

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MOSCOW, August 19, TASS: Here follows the full text of the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on Soviet television on August 18. The text is published in today's press:

Good Evening, Dear Comrades,

At our meeting today I would like to make a statement on one of the key problems of international politics.

The Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, which the Soviet Union strictly observed for one year, expired several days ago, on August 6.

On what did it rest, what prompted that no simple, extremely important, and I would say difficult for us, decision?

In brief, it was based on the realities of the nuclear space age.

What are they? How do we regard them?

Firstly, Mountains of nuclear and various other types of weaponry have been piled up, but the arms race, nonetheless, is not abating but is gaining speed. There has emerged the threat of its transfer into outer space. The militarisation of the United States and the entire NATO bloc is being carried out at high speed.

It is important to stress that the pace of the development of military technology is so high that it leaves ever less time for peoples, states and politicians to become aware of the real threat, and limits mankind's possibilities in stopping the sliding towards the nuclear abyss. No delay is permissible. Otherwise, there will emerge such sophisticated arms systems that will make agreement on their control altogether impossible.

The situation is becoming ever more intolerable. Today, it is not enough to preserve the existing treaties. Major practical steps are required, that would be capable of curbing militarism and reversing the course of developments for the better. The 'equilibrium of fear' is ceasing to be a factor of restraint.

This is not only because fear in general is no adviser to reason and may bring about actions that would be unpredictable in their consequences.

This fear is a direct participant in the arms race: by enhancing mistrust and suspicion, it forms a vicious circle of heightened tension. There are many examples.

It is now clear as clear can be that the old notions of war as a means of attaining political objectives have become outdated. In the nuclear age, these obsolete tenets feed the policy that may result in an all-out conflagration.

Secondly. Our moratorium decision rested on the adherence of socialism as a social system to the cause of peace, and on the profound understanding of its responsibility for the destinies of civilisation. The Soviet Union, as a socialist state and nuclear power, regards it as its supreme duty to do everything possible to save the peaceful future of the planet.

Our striving to transfer the course of international development to the tracks of detente meets our philosophy, our socialist morality. In the nuclear age, saving the Earth from atomic annihilation is a universal human task, the cause of all peoples.

Thirdly. The present-day world is complicated, diverse and controversial. At the same time, it is becoming objectively ever more interdependent and integral. This peculiarity of the human community at the end of the 20th century cannot be disregarded in external policy if it rests on a realistic basis. Otherwise there will be no normal international relations, they will be doomed to feverishness and, ultimately, to catastrophic confrontation.

Pre-nuclear thinking in fact lost its significance on August 6, 1945. Today, it is impossible to ensure one's own security without taking into account the security of other states and peoples.

There can be no genuine security unless it is equal for all and comprehensive. Thinking otherwise means living in the world of illusions, in the world of self-deception.

The new way of thinking, required by the present-day world, is incompatible with the notion of it as someone's domain, or with the attempts to 'confer a benefit' on others by one's patronage and instructions on how to conduct oneself and what path to choose—socialist, capitalist or another.

The Soviet Union believes that each people, each country has the right to be master of its own destiny, its resources, sovereignly to determine its social development, uphold its own security and participate in the organisation of a comprehensive system of international security.

The aggravation of global problems is also characteristic of today's world. But they cannot be resolved without pooling the efforts of all states and peoples. The exploration of outer space and ocean depths, ecology and epidemics, poverty and backwardness are the realities of the age, which demand international attention, international responsibility and international co-operation.

Many new world processes have thus been tied into a tight knot. Disarmament could play an immense role in that by releasing considerable funds, intellectual and technical potential for constructive purposes.

Our foreign policy draws inspiration from the fact that the conviction is asserting itself in the consciousness of people, of political and public forces of various orientations and world outlook around the world that the very existence of the human race is at stake, and the time of resolute and responsible actions has come.

It calls for utmost mobilisation of reason and common sense.

Two tragedies, involving nuclear-space age technology, happened lately: the death of the Challenger crew and the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant. They enhanced the threat, and were a brutal reminder of the fact that people are just beginning to master the fantastically potent forces they have themselves brought about, are only learning to make them serve progress. These events gave a subject lesson of what would happen should nuclear weapons be used.

All, above all statesmen, should draw concrete and clear lessons from that. The principal lesson, probably, is that weapons devised by man should never be used and that it is today simply suicidal to build inter-state relations on the illusion of attaining superiority through terrible means of destruction.

Completely eliminating them is the only way towards genuine peace. Embarking on this way means to pass an historic maturity exam. This applies to all political leaders who have happened to be entrusted with the lofty humane mission.

One has to learn to face the facts with courage: experts have estimated that the explosion of the smallest nuclear warhead is equal in radioactivity to three Chernobyls. Most likely this is true. If that is so, the explosion of even a small part of the existing nuclear arsenal will become a catastrophe, an irreversible catastrophe. And if someone still dares make a first nuclear strike, he will doom himself to agonising death—not even from a retaliatory strike, but from the consequences of the explosions of his own warheads.

This is neither propaganda, nor political improvisation, nor the heightening of 'fears'. This is a reality. It is simply irresponsible to reject it, and criminal to disregard it.

An objective and honest analysis of all these realities prompts other approaches to world politics. They underlie the principled conclusions we have drawn recently, especially at the 27th CPSU Congress.

Soviet foreign policy, including disarmament issues, is based on the understanding of the profound changes in the world.

We believe that the Soviet January 15, 1986 proposals for eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide by the year 2000 fully meet the demands of the time.

We have displayed readiness for the search for a compromise solution to the problems that are causing debate and suspicions.

The Soviet Union has placed a package of constructive proposals on the table at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space armaments.

Jointly with our Warsaw Treaty allies, we have submitted a package of measures for reducing the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. In this sphere, too, we want advancement—mutual and consistent—towards lower and less dangerous levels of military confrontation.

New proposals have been made relating to chemical weapons, which, in our view, makes it possible to sign before the year's end, or next year, a convention on banning chemical weapons and eliminating their stockpiles, as well as the

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industrial base for their production.

At the Stockholm Conference, the socialist countries, constructively co-operating with its other participants, did a great deal to find solutions to such key issues as non-use of force, notification about military exercises and troop movement, exchange of annual plans of military activity, invitation of observers and inspection.

We have advanced a broad platform of ensuring security and co-operation in the Asian-Pacific region, and we invite all to participate in this process.

We have displayed initiative in co-operation with all states concerned in what applies to the establishment of international safeguards for the development of nuclear power engineering.

Recently, we have submitted to the United Nations, as an alternative to the 'Star Wars' programme, a programme of building 'Star Peace', of establishing a world space organisation.

The 27th CPSU Congress formulated the foundations of a comprehensive system of international security which is the most generalised expression of our new approaches to foreign policy. The other day, the group of socialist countries submitted the issue of establishing such a system for consideration to the regular session of the UN General Assembly.

At the same time, I want to stress that we understand that, no matter how important and significant our proposals might be and how committed we are to them, we will not be able to achieve all that on our own. The problem of international security is a common problem and, therefore, a common concern and a common responsibility.

When working out our proposals, we study and take into account points of view and initiatives of other governments, public and political movements. We are very careful about envisaging security for all at each stage of the implementation of the proposals. And still, we by no means regard them as final, not subject to discussion. The way out of the deadlocks of confrontation goes through dialogues and contacts, discussions and talks. This is the only method to thaw the ice of mutual mistrust and to achieve practical results.

This is what we are guided by in our attitude to the problem of control during the solution of all the disarmament problems. For example, when we put forward our proposal on the discontinuation of any nuclear explosions we said that we had no objections to international control. Our consent to the installation of American monitoring devices in the area of Semipalatinsk is convincing proof of it. It would seem that the problem of control has ceased to be an obstacle on the way to reaching agreements. However, it continues to be persistently used with a view to concealing the true stance—the unwillingness to disarm.

People of good will welcomed our decision concerning the moratorium on nuclear explosions. We heard words of approval and support from all parts of the world. Politicians and parliamentarians, public figures and mass organisations regarded this step as an example of the correct approach to the present-day problems and as hope of ridding themselves of the fear of a nuclear catastrophe. The Soviet moratorium was approved by the UN General Assembly which is the world's most representative assembly of countries.

We were supported by outstanding scientists—physicists and medics—who understand the nuclear threat better than anyone else. I saw for myself at the recent meeting with scientists in Moscow that our moratorium had inspired scientific workers from various countries to vigorous actions.

However, all these obvious and encouraging manifestations of new thinking are coming up against the militarisation of political thinking, primarily in the United States. The political

thinking of the Western ruling circles is lagging dangerously behind the process of profound transformations in international life, while the progress of science and technology is rapidly overtaking social and moral progress.

The right-wing militaristic group in the US which represents the powerful military-industrial complex is just crazy about the arms race. Their interest in it seems to be three-fold: they seek to prevent the flow of profits coming from arms manufacturing from being depleted, to secure military superiority for the US, to try to exhaust the Soviet Union economically and to weaken it politically, and, in the long run, to ensure for the US key positions in the world, to put into life long-sought imperial ambitions and to further pursue a policy of plunder with regard to developing countries.

Hence the foreign policy which with all its intricacies and verbal camouflage continues to be based on the following dangerous delusions: the underestimation of the Soviet Union, of other socialist countries and newly-free states, as well as the overestimation of its own potentialities which nourishes technological self-confidence and political permissiveness.

Some American politicians regard the fact of our participation in the talks as the result of the growth of US military might and the development of the 'Strategic Defense Initiative'.

Basing its policy on such erroneous premises, the US Administration cannot embark on the road of honest agreements, of the improvement of the international climate. And yet it will have to consider the realities. They cannot be avoided.

As to our proposals, I repeat that they stem from the realities of the world of today, are prompted by the awareness of the lofty responsibility for the destinies of humanity, not by weakness.

Such is the situation at the present moment.

On the one hand, our moratorium is operating. Our compromise, wide-ranging proposals have been announced and placed on the negotiating table at various forums. The onslaught of the peace forces has increased considerably. Attention to the problems of international security given by political circles, including official circles, concerned over the seriousness of the situation, has enhanced.

On the other hand, we are faced with the refusal to stop nuclear testing, with a stubborn resistance to peace initiatives, ostentatious disregard of the demands of the public, of the opinion of many authoritative parties and organisations. They even ignore the concern of their own allies and their own people.

With this state of affairs, we, Soviet leaders, are faced at the time of our moratorium's expiry.

What is to be done? What choice is to be made? What decision will be the most correct one, best suiting the situation? What decision will promote the most positive processes, the lowering of the threat of military confrontation?

Our people support resolutely the foreign policy of the CPSU, of the Soviet State, demand insistently that the foreign policy course of the 27th Party Congress be continued. At the same time, a troubled note justifiably sounds in the letters and pronouncements of Soviet people: is it expedient to preserve the moratorium when nuclear explosions reverberate through the Nevada desert one after another? Is not the risk too great? Is not the security of our country lessening with time?

Indeed, the United States has been the champion for the number of explosions over 40 years. It exploded another 18 nuclear devices within a year of the Soviet moratorium. I repeat: 18, and three of them were not announced. Moreover, as a rule, this was done demonstratively. The explosions were timed now to another Soviet statement of the extension of the moratorium, now to some or other new Soviet initiative. And we were even invited to Nevada to

see how all this happens. It should be added hence that the present US Administration is implementing the broadest of military programmes.

In a word, the Soviet Union has sufficient reasons for resuming its nuclear testing. And yet we are convinced even now that the ending of nuclear testing not only by the Soviet Union but also by the United States would be a real breakthrough to arresting the nuclear arms race, would speed up the elimination of nuclear arms. The logic of this is simple: if there are no tests, the nuclear weapons which both sides have stockpiled in abundance will not be upgraded.

The same is shown by the calls to the United States and the Soviet Union by a considerable and authoritative part of the world community. It includes the 'Delhi Six', the permanently operating forum of leaders of countries of four continents—Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden.

In Ixtapa the other day they adopted the Mexico Declaration which calls again for an end to all nuclear explosions. Such is also the demand of the majority of the countries participating in the Non-Aligned Movement.

We have received messages from politicians and public figures, from individuals and organisations of many countries, including the United States and other NATO countries. They, too, ask us not to resume nuclear testing, to give those who insist on nuclear explosions one more chance to come to reason.

We are certainly aware, and I have spoken about this already, that the forces which have no wish to disarm themselves are acting vigorously in the USA. Moreover, they are doing everything to involve us in ever new spirals of the arms race, to provoke us so that we should slam the door at the talks.

But we would like to hope that realism, the awareness of the need for joint quests of the ways to improve the international situation, to end the senseless arms race, to eliminate nuclear weapons will prevail in the US assessments and actions.

At the same time, we know with whom we are dealing. Therefore the security of our country is sacred to us. This must be clear to all. This is a matter of principle.

We proceed from this, answering any challenge of the United States, including the notorious SDI. In this, too, it would be wrong to hope to intimidate us or prompt us to needless expenditures. If need be, we shall promptly come up with the answer, and it will not be what the United States expects. But it will be an answer that will devalue the 'Star Wars' programme.

I am saying that with one aim: let them in the US Administration again and again weigh the real value of the new military programmes, and of the arms race as a whole, from the viewpoint of the interests of the USA and its security. Since, as a matter of fact, the main harm done by the SDI is that it undermines the prospects of talks, broadens the zone of inconfidence. Herein lies the whole problem. It is no less a political than a military one. Therefore we again call for advancing from a world packed with weapons to a limit—to a world without weapons.

Thus, comrades, the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the Government of the Soviet Union have comprehensively and scrupulously weighed all the pros and cons, and, guided by responsibility for the destiny of the world, have decided to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions till January 1, 1987.

In taking this step, we believe that people in all countries of the world, political circles and the international public will correctly evaluate the long silence in the Soviet nuclear test ranges.

On behalf of the Soviet people I am appealing to the wisdom and dignity of the Americans not to

*(Continued on next page)*



# Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, August 15, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at its regular meeting has discussed a report by Mikhail Gorbachyov on the results of his tour of the Far East.

Fully approving these results, it found necessary to draw up a long-term state programme for the all-round development of productive forces in the Far Eastern economic region up to the year 2000. Prime attention is to be paid to solving social problems, ensuring housing construction at priority rates, improving supplies and services provided to the population, extending the network of pre-school child-care establishments, schools and health centres, establishing more facilities to develop culture, sports and tourism, and meeting consumer demand for foodstuffs to the maximum degree by advancing local agricultural production in every way.

The meeting gave special attention to practical measures to carry out the initiatives advanced in Vladivostok to ensure peace and security, consolidate co-operation with the socialist countries of the Asian continent and with India, settle the situation in Afghanistan, and develop mutually beneficial relations with states in the Asian-Pacific region.

After examining the issues of design and other work connected with diverting part of the flow of northern and Siberian rivers to the country's southern regions, the Political Bureau deemed it expedient, in view of the need for an additional study of the ecological and economic aspects of this problem, a need stressed also by the broad public circles, to halt that work.

The Political Bureau endorsed measures to improve foreign economic activities in a fundamental way. It decided to broaden markedly the rights of ministries, individual and amalgamated enterprises, and organisations in the field of foreign economic activities. Overriding significance will be attached to ensuring dynamic co-operation with socialist countries and creating the economic and organisational conditions needed for all-round expansion of direct production links between individual and amalgamated enterprises in the frameworks of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and to setting up joint production facilities.

The Political Bureau approved the results of Mikhail Gorbachyov's meeting with Truong

Chinh, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Chairman of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It expressed satisfaction with the consistent strengthening and development of fraternal friendship and fruitful co-operation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam, and the identity of the stands held by the two parties and countries on the issues of further enhancing Soviet-Vietnamese relations and improving the situation in the Asian-Pacific region.

The Political Bureau approved the results of a conversation between Mikhail Gorbachyov and Jambyn Batmunkh, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and Chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic. The all-round co-operation between the USSR and Mongolia was spoken of highly and stress was laid on the importance of steadily increasing the efficiency of bilateral economic relations and maintaining vigorous interaction in the interests of a lasting peace and good-neighbourliness in Asia.

The Political Bureau approved the results of talks between a CPSU delegation and a delegation from the Communist Party of Japan led by Tetsuzo Fuwa, Chairman of the Presidium of the Party's Central Committee. These talks have marked another important step in implementing a joint statement made by the CPSU and the CPJ in December 1984, and testified to the continued development of contacts and co-operation between the two parties, most notably in efforts to remove the threat of a nuclear war and ban and scrap all nuclear weapons.

A report from Nikolai Ryzhkov on his talks in Moscow with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of the Republic of Turkey was heard. The Political Bureau pointed out that these talks had broadened prospects for further development of mutually advantageous co-operation between the USSR and Turkey in trade, economic, cultural and other fields and for continued dialogue with the aim of strengthening good-neighbourly relations and improving mutual understanding between the two countries in the interests of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

The Political Bureau considered a report from Ivan Kapitonov on visits by a CPSU delegation to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Socialist Ethiopia and the Yemen Arab Republic. Satisfaction was expressed with the development of traditional friendly relations

between the Soviet Union and these countries and with the close co-operation between CPSU and the Yemen Socialist Party and the Workers' Party of Ethiopia. It was stressed that the Soviet Union had invariably stood and was standing for a stronger independence and sovereignty for the states situated in the area of the Arabian peninsula and the Horn of Africa and for good-neighbourly relations between them, while opposing outside interference in their domestic affairs.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee discussed also some other issues concerning social and economic advancement and relations with foreign countries. □

## Mikhail Gorbachyov meets Ambassador of India

MOSCOW, August 15, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received today Triloki Nath Kaul, India's Ambassador to the USSR, who handed him a personal message from Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

A profound exchange of views took place between the two sides on topical problems connected with friendly Soviet-Indian contacts and ties, and on other major problems of present-day world politics, including problems connected with the termination of the arms race and with security and co-operation in the Pacific region. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and heartfelt respect which are typical of Soviet-Indian relations. □

## Yegor Ligachyov on USSR's nuclear test moratorium

MOSCOW, August 19, TASS:

'IN taking the decision to extend its unilateral moratorium, the Soviet Union proceeded from the premise that this measure, should it have the support of the other nuclear powers, will contribute to improving the international climate and build up confidence in relations between states,' said Yegor Ligachyov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He was addressing a meeting of senior officials of the mass media, the central ideological departments and public organisations at the CPSU Central Committee today.

The extension by the Soviet Union of the unilateral moratorium gives the US Administration another chance to weigh seriously all the dangerous consequences involved in the continuation of nuclear tests. It takes political will and statesmanship from Washington to give up the policy of the nuclear weapons race, of ensuring unilateral military advantages, it was stressed at the meeting. □

## MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV'S STATEMENT

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miss another historical chance on the way towards ending the weapons race.

I am addressing US President Ronald Reagan that he evaluate once again without bias the situation which has taken shape, discard everything extraneous, overcome delusions about the Soviet Union and its foreign policy.

The Soviet Union is confident that agreements on ending nuclear tests can be reached speedily and signed already this year at the Soviet-American summit meeting. That event would, undoubtedly, become the main real outcome of the meeting, a considerable step on the way towards ending the arms race.

It would be some kind of a prologue to further progress at the talks on nuclear weapons and on their elimination, on a radical improvement of the whole situation in the world.

Being a move, and not only a proposal, the

Soviet Union's moratorium on nuclear blasts proves in action the seriousness and sincerity of our nuclear disarmament programme, of our calls for a new policy—that of realism, peace and co-operation.

More than half of 1986, which was announced by the United Nations Organisation to be a Year of Peace, has passed. By extending its unilateral moratorium, the Soviet Union is making another weighty contribution to the common striving to ensure that this year should remain worthy of its name in history.

This is the essence of the Soviet Union's new political initiative.

This is the message which our country is sending to the governments and peoples of all countries, above all to the Government of the United States of America and the American people.

Thank you. Goodbye. □

### STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE —Stellar Delusions

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# Briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry

## USSR EXTENDS NUCLEAR TEST MORATORIUM

MOSCOW, August 19, TASS:

"THE ending of nuclear tests is the link in the chain by pulling which we can resolve the problem of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons," Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said today in his comments on the Soviet Union's extension of its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear testing to January 1, 1987.

He was addressing Soviet and foreign journalists at a briefing in the Press Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

"The reaction to the latest peace initiative of the Soviet Union on the other side of the ocean is one of clear disappointment with Moscow's refusal to 'play Washington's game' and resume nuclear testing.

"American officials characterised the Soviet Union's decision as 'propaganda'. Yet it is a manifestation of both common sense and new thinking. The Soviet side will sustain some military and economic losses as a result," Gerasimov said, "but we believe that ways should be looked for to terminate the arms race—he who raises the nuclear sword will die by it, and it is a crime not to reckon with this fact.

"Soviet foreign policy is based on awareness of deepgoing change in the world. The American side clearly lacks such awareness. It is coming up with far-fetched arguments against ending nuclear tests, in particular difficulties of verification. It is clear that there is nothing vague in that area, especially after the Soviet Union has not only agreed to on-site inspection technically, but taken a practical step and allowed American scientists to bring their seismic equipment to the area of Semipalatinsk. The point is not verification but the unwillingness of the USA to stop the arms race.

"The Soviet side agreed to extend the moratorium in the hope that Washington will again evaluate the situation without bias, cast aside everything irrelevant and join the Soviet moratorium, which will eventually make it possible to reach an agreement on a nuclear test ban.

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Gennadi Gerasimov reported on the meeting of consular officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Israel, which was held in Helsinki on Monday.

"The meeting was of a preliminary nature. Its purpose was to reach agreement on how to discuss in future two consular problems: the question of Soviet property in Israel and consular assistance to Soviet citizens in Israel.

"But the head of the Israeli group made at the meeting a statement of a political nature about methods of resolving the Middle East crisis. The question of Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality was also raised. All this was clearly beyond the framework of the consular nature of the talks.

"Outside the Helsinki meeting Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Yitzhak Shamir, speaking publicly, declared that Israel, allegedly, has 'valuable property' in the Soviet Union, 'two million entrapped Jews'. To pose the matter in such a way means a crude interference in the Soviet Union's affairs since the aforementioned two million Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality have not authorised Shamir to speak on their behalf. Israel has no right to speak on behalf of Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality.

"A trip of Soviet consular officials to Tel Aviv, and technical details were discussed at the meeting in Helsinki. Tel Aviv's representatives, however, posed the question of a trip to Moscow of an Israeli group for similar purposes. But the point of the matter is that there is no Israeli property nor Israeli citizens permanently residing on Soviet territory.

"Since a common language has not been

found, the question of the trip of Soviet consular officials to Tel Aviv was dropped and there were no talks on further contacts," Gennadi Gerasimov said.

"A meeting of government experts on drafting conventions on prompt notification about nuclear accidents, and assistance in the event of such accidents, has closed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna," Gennadi Gerasimov told journalists.

He stressed that agreement on the texts of these important documents had been achieved at the meeting. They are to become the fundamental elements of the international regime for the safe development of nuclear power engineering.

"The notification system will be used in cases of nuclear accidents as a result of which a transfer of radioactive substances may happen, and in nuclear accidents at all nuclear plants, including defence plants. It will also apply to nuclear plants on surface ships and in submarines, and nuclear energy sources in space vehicles.

"In accordance with the provisions of the convention on prompt notification," Gennadi Gerasimov went on, "states are obliged to notify everybody about nuclear accidents, with the exception of accidents involving nuclear weapons and in the case of nuclear tests, about which the nuclear powers should, if they wish, notify other countries (that is, in the latter case a commitment on notification is not made). For its part, the Soviet Union was prepared to agree to mandatory notification in cases involving accidents with nuclear weapons and in nuclear blasts, yet the USA opposed it."

The spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry stressed that draft conventions were to be tabled at the special session of the IAEA general conference on questions of the safe development of nuclear power engineering. This session is scheduled to be held in Vienna on September 24-26 this year. □

## Yevgeni Chazov calls for end to nuclear weapon testing

MOSCOW, August 16, TASS:

"PHYSICIANS are sure that the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere is a realistic goal," Academician Yevgeni Chazov, co-chairman of the movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, wrote in *Pravda* today.

"The existence of nuclear weapons is not a necessary stage of development of human civilisation. The USSR has come up with a programme for the destruction of such weapons by the year 2000."

Yevgeni Chazov reminded the readers that at present more than 50,000 nuclear warheads were targetted on all inhabitants of Earth. The use of even a fraction of the existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons would lead to the instantaneous death of millions of people, to the tremendous destruction of productive forces, and medicine would not be in a position to offer even a minimum of aid to the millions of victims.

"It is obvious that new thinking is needed in this nuclear age," he emphasised, "as well as the awareness that dependable security in the present-day inter-connected world can be

ensured only by means of reducing armaments, scaling down confrontation, promoting trust and co-operation, and defusing regional conflicts."

"This new thinking," Yevgeni Chazov went on, "is the recognition of the inter-dependence of states, especially in what concerns security matters, and it is the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. It manifested itself especially clearly in the fact that the moratorium was prolonged more than once in the hope that the United States would take a similar step.

"The physicians' movement has now put the issue of terminating nuclear weapon tests at the centre of its activities. Testing is a very important and at the same time the weakest link in the vicious circle of the nuclear arms race. An end to testing will stop the process of modernisation of nuclear weapons and the development of new, even more destabilising systems. It will put up an obstacle blocking off the road of nuclear weapons to outer space. A mutual and verifiable moratorium on all nuclear explosions will make it possible to start moving back from the brink of an abyss.

"Instead of a space strategic defence system physicians have proposed establishing a system of space medical communication that would serve the cause of safeguarding life on Earth. The

USSR, the United States, WHO (World Health Organisation), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), countries in the West and the East, medical centres and universities the world over could establish a system of satellites for providing consultations to any physician in any country for the benefit of saving an imperilled human life.

"The lessening of political and military tensions could make it possible to solve many crucial medical problems jointly," Yevgeni Chazov emphasised. □

### Soviet-British talks

LONDON, August 12, TASS:

CONSULTATIONS on questions concerning the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe have been held in London between the USSR Foreign Ministry and the British Foreign Office.

Participating in the consultations were, from the Soviet side, Oleg Grinevsky, head of the Soviet delegation at the conference, and, from the British side, Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. □



# Meeting at CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, August 12, TASS:

TALKS have been held at the CPSU Central Committee between representatives of the Communist Party of Japan (CPJ) and of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Taking part from the Japanese side were: Tetsuzo Fuwa, Chairman of the Presidium of the CPJ Central Committee; Hiroshi Tachiki, a member of the Standing Bureau of the Presidium of the CPJ Central Committee and chairman of the CPJ Central Committee's committee for international affairs; Shoji Niihara, a member of the Presidium of the CPJ Central Committee and a deputy chairman of the CPJ Central Committee's committee for international affairs; Hiroshi Kikunani, a member of the CPJ Central Committee; H Nishiguchi, a ranking staff member of the CPJ Central Committee.

Taking part from the Soviet side were: Yegor Ligachyov, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Alexander Yakovlev, a Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Vadim Zagladin, a member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department; Ivan Kovalenko, a deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's International

Department; Alexei Senatorov, a section head at the CPSU Central Committee's International Department.

Yegor Ligachyov spoke about the extensive work in the Soviet Union to fulfil the programme of change adopted by the 27th Congress of the CPSU and accelerate the country's social and economic development. The Party's innovative approach to the economic, social and political tasks facing Soviet society had won the full backing of the people, which was one of the most important guarantees that the processes under way were irreversible and that the desired speed-up would be achieved in fact rather than in words.

An exchange of opinions was continued, based on the results of a meeting between Mikhail Gorbachyov and Tetsuzo Fuwa, on problems of eliminating nuclear weapons and on individual steps leading to this goal.

In the common opinion, the termination of nuclear weapons testing by all nuclear powers and the drafting and signing of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty would be of major significance.

It is imperative, through the joint efforts of all peace forces, to make certain that 1986—the International Year of Peace—also becomes the year of a breakthrough in the worldwide campaign against the nuclear threat, the year which opens up a real way to reducing nuclear

arms and abolishing them altogether.

Opinions were exchanged on ways of strengthening peace and security in Asia and the Pacific. The sides agreed that the interests of the nations would be met by the development and strengthening of mutually beneficial and many-sided co-operation among the states located in the region rather than by the opposition of some of them to others.

Reaffirming their desire to see the existing military blocs disbanded, the representatives of the CPJ and the CPSU expressed themselves vigorously against the formation of new closed groupings, whether economic or military-political, in Asia or in any other part of the world.

The CPSU and the CPJ spoke out for further developing Soviet-Japanese relations in political, economic, scientific, cultural and other fields, in the interests of the peoples of both countries and stronger world peace.

The representatives of the CPSU and the CPJ expressed a desire to develop relations between the two parties on the basis of independence, equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and solidarity in performing common tasks.

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On the same day the CPSU delegation gave a dinner for the delegation of the Communist Party of Japan. □

## SOVIET-SUDANESE COMMUNIQUE

MOSCOW, August 17, TASS:

THE Soviet Union and Sudan have expressed satisfaction with the steps recently taken to restore the friendly character of relations between the two countries.

This is said in a communique published today on the results of an official visit paid to the USSR from August 11 to 15 by Saadiq el-Mahdi, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Sudan. The document stresses the mutual interest in broadening and deepening ties between the two countries.

Pointing out that the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe remains the top priority objective of the present, the sides expressed firm conviction of the need for a total prohibition of nuclear tests. They called on all the peace forces for effective co-operation in the name of strengthening peace and international security, and building up a climate of confidence and constructive co-operation.

The communique stresses the need to divert the resources which are now being spent on military purposes towards peaceful applications, including the socio-economic development of the peoples of the world, in the first place of the developing countries.

The sides examined the Middle East situation and expressed the firm conviction that a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement was possible only on the basis of withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, and the exercise of the legitimate right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and creation of their own state. They reaffirmed their stand in favour of holding an international conference with the participation of all sides concerned, including the PLO, and adoption of the speediest practical steps for its convocation.

The sides again expressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO—their sole legitimate representative—for securing their national rights. They pointed out the need for the consolidation and unity of the PLO in its courageous anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle.

The Soviet Union and Sudan expressed their

support for efforts directed at ensuring the complete and immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon in conformity with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The sides expressed deep concern about the dangerous situation taking shape in connection with the continuing Iran-Iraq conflict, called for the speediest end to the war and for a just settlement of that conflict through peace talks.

Pointing out the great significance of the activity of the Organisation of African Unity, the sides declared for the creation between the African states of an atmosphere of mutual understanding and good-neighbourliness. They condemned the aggressive nuclear ambitions of the Pretoria regime and demanded the speediest abolition of the disgraceful apartheid system in South Africa.

The USSR and Sudan declare for growing

support for the struggle waged by the peoples of South Africa and Namibia led by the ANC and SWAPO against the South African racists, who are backed by international imperialism. The sides expressed solidarity with the 'frontline' states who are giving a rebuff to the aggressive sorties of the racist Pretoria regime.

The Soviet Union and Sudan consider it necessary that large-scale actions be taken on an international scale to overcome the economic difficulties facing the African nations, on the basis of a radical democratisation of world economic relations and establishment of a just international economic order.

The sides noted the dangerous developments in the Mediterranean area and reaffirmed their commitment to the idea of turning it into a zone of peace and co-operation.

Both sides noted the positive and effective role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the struggle for safeguarding peace and lessening international tensions, for eliminating racism, neo-colonialism and all forms of discrimination. □

## Statement by USSR Embassy in FRG

MOSCOW, August 13, TASS:

*THE Soviet Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Yuli Kvitsinsky, today visited the Federal Chancellor's department to make the following statement there in accordance with his instructions:*

"A wide-ranging provocative campaign has been mounted in West Berlin of late, with an immediate involvement of officials from the Federal Republic and some revanchist-type organisations, which clearly aims to aggravate the situation around that city and kindle enmity to other states.

"In an atmosphere fomented by irresponsible and instigatory statements things have gone as far as direct acts of terrorism on the border between West Berlin and the German Democratic Republic.

"It has become known that further mass activities are planned by the West German side to

be staged in that city, which is not part of the FRG and is not administered by it, in the next few days, intended to further heighten tension in the area.

"There are plans for statements by statesmen and politicians of the FRG to be made at these events.

"Such actions are incompatible with the goal, formalised in the quadripartite agreement of September 3, 1971, of avoiding complications around West Berlin, as well as with the Federal Government's official declarations of a desire to ensure peace and security in Europe and maintain good-neighbourly relations with all European states.

"The Soviet side expects that the Government of the FRG will take the necessary measures to put an end to participation by the West German side in the provocative campaign launched in West Berlin, which can have serious consequences." □



# SDI: so is it deployment after all?

By Viktor Martynov, *Novosti Press Agency*

"YES, we are going to proceed to deployment," said President Reagan in his speech on August 6 in connection with the 41st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

True, he made the reservation that this will be done "when the moment comes and when the research is completed", but this does not change anything. It is clear to anyone that it simply could not be otherwise: the system could not possibly be deployed before the end of all research. As for the first part of that reservation—"when the moment comes"—it can certainly bear various interpretations, especially since according to specialists the research and development part of the SDI programme will take at least ten years.

And yet one cannot discard the thought that the "moment" for the declaration of the intention to deploy a missile defence system with space elements was not chosen at random. One may recall here that there are large-scale Soviet proposals on the table in Geneva, which embrace practically the whole range of issues related to the cessation of the arms race and the transition to reductions and subsequent elimination of all nuclear weapons. On August 6 it was exactly a year since the Soviet Union declared its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests. Mikhail Gorbachyov has sent a letter to President Reagan and got a reply from him. The very fact of this exchange, together with the increased activity in the field of bilateral contacts and the announcement about the coming meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze,

indicate that rays of hope for the amelioration of the international climate have appeared.

In a display of good will the Soviet Union has decided to meet the West half-way on many issues which have been a stumbling block at the arms control talks. This primarily refers to the procedure for the verification of observance of treaties, to the problem of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe and Asia, and also to SDI.

The Soviet side has announced that it is prepared for mutual strategic nuclear arms reductions with the US on condition that the work on SDI will not go beyond lab research. After all, so far this has been precisely the point on which the emphasis has been laid in the disputes about the compatibility or incompatibility of SDI with the ABM Treaty of 1972. Prime Minister Thatcher of Britain, for example, has repeatedly emphasised, explaining Britain's support for the SDI, that the programme is confined to research. This has also been confirmed by President Reagan.

And now, when light has appeared at the end of the tunnel due to the constructive position of the USSR, President Reagan has made his statement about the deployment of SDI. Was it a mere coincidence or a carefully premeditated move? In effect, the President's statement confirms the suspicions often voiced by the Soviet side that, having spent tens of billions of dollars on research, the US will not stop short of deploying the completed missile defence system in space.

If so, the arms race will be transferred into space. This immediately creates doubts about the advisability of substantial strategic nuclear arms reductions and generally makes the foundations for the achievement of any arms control agree-

ments highly insecure. It also raises a whole number of questions.

For example, how is one to combine the statement by President Reagan of August 6 with the written consent of the US Administration not to extend the arms race into space which was confirmed at least twice? This refers to the statement by George Shultz and Andrei Gromyko with respect to the Geneva talks and also to the communique on the results of the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva.

Or what is the real position of the US President on the issue of arms control? What is the source of President Reagan's optimism regarding the conclusion with the Soviet Union of a "just and verifiable agreement" on the reduction of strategic, chemical and non-nuclear armaments? President Reagan must surely realise that such agreements can only be signed on the basis of equal security of the sides.

Equally important is the issue of the fate of the ABM Treaty of 1972—the only surviving obstacle in the way of the arms race. The statement by President Reagan can be interpreted as the intention of the US Administration to stop honouring that treaty.

There are many questions, and all of them invariably lead to one principal conclusion that the 'Star Wars' project, if it is brought into effect, will result in a new and possibly fatal stage of the arms race. According to a vast majority of specialists, a "space shield" will by no means replace the "balance of fear" with security. To quote American physicists Amberth Latter and Ernest Martinelli, "having spent hundreds of billions of dollars on SDI, we will once again find ourselves where we started from, or will return to the principle of deterrence based on the threat of a retaliatory strike. This time, though, our cities will be hostages not of nuclear but of laser weapons."

So one can only wonder why President Reagan decided to mark the 41st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with such a strange statement. □

## NEW GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

*MOSCOW, August 16, TASS:*

THE Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has appointed Vasil Zakharov Minister of Culture of the USSR.

Vasil Zakharov was born in 1934. In 1957 he graduated from Leningrad State University. He holds the academic degree of Doctor of Science (Economics) and is a professor.

After graduating Vasil Zakharov taught at the Tomsk Polytechnical Institute and then at the Leningrad Institute of Technology where he had a Chair. He is the author of a series of scientific works.

In 1973 Vasil Zakharov began to work as a Party functionary. He headed a group of

lecturers, headed the department of propaganda and agitation and worked as a Secretary of the Leningrad Regional CPSU Committee.

In 1983 he was appointed first deputy head of the Department of Propaganda of the CPSU Central Committee.

In January 1986 he was elected Second Secretary of the Moscow City CPSU Committee.

Vasil Zakharov was elected a member of the CPSU Central Committee at the 27th CPSU Congress.

Vasil Zakharov is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

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*MOSCOW, August 17, TASS:*

YURI BESPALOV, Doctor of Sciences (Technology), has been appointed Minister of the Chemical Industry of the USSR by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Yuri Bespalov, born in 1939, graduated from the Kazan Institute of Chemistry and Technology, and from the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee. Since 1961 he has worked at enterprises of the Chemical Industry Ministry. He has held senior posts in the apparatus of the CPSU Central Committee since 1979: instructor, consultant of the Chemical Industry Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and adviser of a CPSU Central Committee Secretary. Since 1984 he has been deputy head of the Chemical Industry Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet relieved Vladimir Listov of the duties of Minister of the Chemical Industry of the USSR in conjunction with another appointment. □

## Soviet-US talks

*STOCKHOLM, August 15, TASS:*

SOVIET-AMERICAN consultations on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, under review at the Stockholm Conference, were held in the Swedish capital on August 14-15.

The Soviet side was led by Oleg Grinevsky, head of the Soviet delegation to the conference, and the American side by Robert Barry, head of the American delegation.

The consultations were held within the framework of preparations for meetings between Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet Foreign Minister, and George Shultz, US Secretary of State.

The exchange of views enabled the sides to consider in a frank atmosphere the development of the situation at the conference, as it entered the final stage of its work. □

## Soviet Peace Committee statement

*MOSCOW, August 19, TASS:*

"SOVIET peace champions warmly welcome the statement made by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, on Soviet television on August 18," says a statement issued by the Soviet Peace Committee. "The decision by the Soviet leadership to prolong the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions till January 1, 1987", the statement says, "is a historic move, prompted by a deep sense of responsibility for the destinies of the world. This decision is fresh confirmation of the importance of the Soviet programme for nuclear disarmament by the year 2000.

"The Soviet peace movement, which invariably comes out for complete and universal termination of nuclear tests and for the elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere on Earth, points out proudly that the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions, which has been in force since August 6, 1985, is acclaimed by people of good will in all countries, by political and public forces, by broad circles of the world anti-war movement."

"We call for the earliest conclusion of an agreement ending nuclear tests and fully support Mikhail Gorbachyov's proposal for signing such an agreement already this year, at the Soviet-American summit meeting," the statement says. □



# The Earth must be saved

NOVOSTI special correspondents Vladimir Dunayev and Karen Khachaturov attended the recent summit meeting of the 'Delhi Six' in Ixtapa, Mexico. They invited the leaders of the six countries to give their reply to this question: "The Soviet Union greatly appreciates the peace and disarmament initiatives made by the leaders of the 'Delhi Six'. Could you say what steps should be taken in the first place to ease international tension and save our planet from a disaster?"

President **Raul Alfonsin** of Argentina replied by emphasising that the arms race had created a vicious circle "involving not only the nuclear powers, but also all of mankind". "Due to the growing sophistication of weapons, the arms race is eating up more and more funds which could help ease the situation in the developing nations," he went on.

"This vicious circle should be broken to pave the road to peace. The 'Delhi Six' demand cessation of nuclear tests and prevention of space militarisation as a first step.

"We insist on the implementation of these demands because they are the most important practical steps towards curbing the arms race.

"For our part, we offer our help in creating a mechanism for relevant verification, which could speed up the solution of these tasks.

"The 'Delhi Six' call on the public in their own countries and the rest of the world to unite in the drive for peace and disarmament."

"Nuclear weapons are a crime against humanity and must be so branded," responded Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** of India. "Our declaration has called for a binding international agreement which would outlaw all use of nuclear weapons. With the United States of America and the Soviet Union having jointly stated that their objective is the elimination of nuclear weapons, we look forward to their subscribing to such a binding obligation. A moratorium on nuclear testing, followed by a comprehensive ban, will be a far-reaching step in the right direction.

"In response to our call, the Soviet Union unilaterally accepted a moratorium on nuclear tests and twice extended it. We commend them and deeply appreciate the earnestness they have shown.

"Unfortunately, nuclear testing continues. It is contended that a ban on tests is not feasible in the absence of a mechanism for verification which would inspire confidence. This is why our six nations have put forward a proposal to undertake the verification of the moratorium. Our geographic reach, technological competence and independence of bloc rivalries should command

acceptance.

"While the nuclear dragons on the ground multiply, there are attempts to lodge them in outer space. Outer space is the common heritage of all humankind. We cannot acquiesce in its privatisation, certainly not for the purpose of destroying the Earth. Weapons in space would be an irreversible extension of the danger."

President **Miguel de la Madrid** of Mexico declared: "As was noted in the statement of May 22, 1984 and in the Delhi Declaration of January 28, 1985 we heads of state and government of the six countries, participants in the meeting for peace and disarmament, believe that constructive dialogue and contacts between the two biggest nuclear powers are a major step towards easing international tensions and preventing a nuclear catastrophe on our planet. We are deeply convinced that only dialogue will help reach agreement on curbing the arms race, and eventually eliminating all nuclear weapons.

"We also stress that it is exactly the absence of contacts that breeds misunderstanding, developing into international tensions which affect the interests of all nations. Proceeding from that premise we call upon both nuclear powers to display firm political will at the Geneva negotiating table and make a step forward in the efforts to remove the threat of an all-out disaster.

"We declare in this connection that cessation of all nuclear weapon tests is a major condition of success at disarmament negotiations. This is exactly why we urge the USSR and the USA to announce a moratorium on all nuclear explosions with a view to reaching agreement on their complete termination.

"On the other hand, we participants in the meeting also deem it necessary to draw the attention of the world public to the work for peace and disarmament. At present these two problems have become most urgent for all nations and for each resident on Earth. After all, the attainment of peace and security—our main goal—will depend entirely on mankind's ability to perceive the danger of the arms race and the need for disarmament."

"The problem of nuclear disarmament concerns all of us." This was the opening remark of **Julius Nyerere**, the first President of Tanzania. "We know that nuclear war is a disaster for all mankind, and we have come here because we have the right to live. We cannot allow the problem of peace to be the monopoly of just a couple of countries. We should all concern ourselves with this problem. One of the major goals of our group is to attract the attention of the public at large to the problem of preserving peace, because if a war breaks out we shall all become its victims, no one on Earth will be safe.

"It is much more difficult to make the public active in the Third World, first because our mass media are not effective enough, and, second, because some of our compatriots are illiterate. But we should try and do this using all opportunities at our disposal, all mass media, as well as the activities of groups, individuals, political parties, organisations of women, youth and working people.

"And one more point.

"I have attended a conference of prominent public figures in Ixtapa. Our friends from the US told us that few people in their country know that the USSR has imposed a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. I think the White House knows this. Policy-makers understand well the overriding role of the mass media, but they do not use the media to inform the American people about what is taking place. We draw the attention of our friends to this fact and tell them—you should do something in this direction, you should help activate the public in the US because the main decision on disarmament, so I think, should now be taken in the United States. And this decision will become valid only when the US Administration—this one or another—understands that it cannot ignore public opinion in any way."

"The first step to be carried out to relax international tension", pointed out Prime Minister **Ingvar Carlsson** of Sweden, "must be to overcome the barrier of distrust between the major powers in East and West, and to get down to serious negotiations on far-reaching and speedy disarmament measures, as decided at the summit meeting in Geneva last November. I would therefore like to see a new summit meeting soon between General Secretary Gorbachyov and President Reagan, leading to substantial results in this field.

"As to immediate concrete measures that should be taken, the six members involved in the Five Continents Initiative have, as you know, repeatedly asked for a halt to all nuclear testing at least for the period up to the next summit meeting.

"Such a step would be the easiest and quickest way for the nuclear weapon states to show the world that they are serious when they say that they want to halt the nuclear arms race. It would also create a positive climate for serious negotiations in Geneva. It could pave the way for a comprehensive test ban."

Prime Minister **Andreas Papandreu** of Greece emphasised: "At this moment, the most important step is the halting of nuclear tests along with a proper verification system." □

(Izvestia/Novosti Press Agency, August 13, 1986)

## Stockholm Conference enters final session

STOCKHOLM, August 19, TASS:

By TASS special correspondents Vladimir Bogachyov and Nikolai Vukolov:

THE Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe opened its final first-stage session in the Swedish capital today, focussing on yesterday's statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Soviet delegation for the forum called the conferees' attention to the wide-ranging programme for achieving disarmament and ensuring international security suggested in that statement, and to the Soviet Union's decision to extend its moratorium on nuclear blasts till January 1, 1987.

Soviet delegation leader Oleg Grinevsky said the Stockholm Conference should also play a role of its own in bringing down the level of military

confrontation in Europe.

The socialist countries, constructively co-operating with the other participants in the talks, he said, had done much to tackle unresolved problems at the conference. One could not but be concerned, however, that with time running out before the end of the conference, solutions to many important issues—including the verification problem—had still not been found.

Carrying forward the verification concept set forth in the Budapest statement by the Warsaw Treaty countries, the socialist states, Grinevsky said, were prepared to agree to on-site inspections over confidence-building measures on a limited scale, namely to one or two such inspections a year in the territory of each country.

The socialist countries' latest initiative in Stockholm is vivid evidence of their readiness to press for a successful outcome of the conference. □

### Academician Arbatov on

#### Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement

MOSCOW, August 19, TASS:

In *Izvestia* on Tuesday Academician Georgi Arbatov remarked on the official comments of the US State Department and representatives of the White House, dismissing the USSR's extended moratorium as a fresh "Soviet propaganda ploy".

"If putting an end to nuclear blasts as a prologue to reduction and total elimination of nuclear weapons is propaganda, what is so bad about that?" he asked. "Why shouldn't the USA respond with the same propaganda, making a real weighty step towards limiting and reducing weapons? But the point at issue is not propaganda, not scoring an extra point in the current polemics. At stake are very many things, in the final analysis the destiny, the very future of mankind." □



# Responsibility for protection of our planet: a cause for all nations

By Enver Mamedov, *Novosti political analyst*

IN THE Mexican city of Ixtapa the leaders of six countries, Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden and Greece, adopted a declaration which has received wide-spread acclaim in the world. The warmest reception was given to the document known in the Soviet Union as the Mexico Declaration.

The consistent and purposeful efforts of the six aimed at curbing the arms race and averting nuclear catastrophe are highly appreciated in our country. In the joint initiatives of those six states representing various continents we see a manifestation of that new way of thinking which is growing all over the world.

The Soviet leaders and all people in our country are united with the leaders of the six on all the fundamental issues. We are united with the authors of the Mexico Declaration in that the 'balance of fear' cannot serve as a justification for the arms race. Only complete and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons can save mankind from self-destruction.

The Soviet Union, just like the authors of the declaration signed in Ixtapa, is convinced that no task is more important and urgent today than putting an end to all nuclear tests which are whipping up the arms race. This is precisely the conviction which the Soviet Union was guided by when, on January 15 of this year, it put forward its concrete and perfectly feasible programme of eliminating all nuclear weapons before the end of this century. The very first stage of this programme provides for the cessation of all nuclear explosions by the Soviet Union and the United States, and for an appeal to other states to join in with that moratorium as early as possible.

The Soviet Union did impose such a unilateral moratorium on August 6, 1985 and has since prolonged it several times—notably at the request of the six. The moratorium has been in

effect for more than a year now. The United States, though, has not joined in. Instead, it has stepped up its programme of nuclear tests, continuing to modernise its lethal arsenal and seeking to develop even more types of weapons.

Both in the Mexico Declaration and in the speeches by the leaders of the six states, credit is given to the bold steps of the Soviet leaders, while Washington is once again urged to turn the unilateral moratorium "into at least a bilateral one".

The Soviet Union assigns great importance to the cessation and prohibition of all nuclear weapons tests and sees the ban on nuclear explosions as a crucial step on the way to the principal goal, which is the termination of the nuclear arms race and the scrapping of all nuclear weapons on the planet.

The Soviet Union is in favour of signing an international treaty banning any use of nuclear weapons. Such a treaty, which is proposed in the declaration, as well as a no-first-use pledge by all nuclear powers, would fundamentally improve the international situation and promote an earlier liberation of mankind from the nuclear sword looming over it.

Our views also coincide with those of the authors of the Mexico Declaration as regards the need for balanced reductions in conventional armaments. Our country, together with the other members of the Warsaw Treaty, has made concrete proposals for troops and conventional arms reductions from the Atlantic to the Urals. What's more, we are not confining this broad initiative of ours to Europe alone. In his speech in Vladivostok on July 28, Mikhail Gorbachyov, outlining one of the many large-scale initiatives aimed at safeguarding peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region, said: "The Soviet Union attaches much importance to radical reductions of armed forces and conventional armaments in Asia to the limits of reasonable sufficiency. We realise that this problem should be tackled gradually, stage by stage, by starting from some

one district, say the Far East."

The fact that the Mexico Declaration speaks of the need for conventional arms reductions along with other things attests to the use of perceptive thinking by its authors. And indeed the progress of science allows conventional arms to approximate nuclear weapons in their destructive potential.

We also hold a common position with the six leaders on such a crucial issue as the prevention of the militarisation of space. How very proper are the words in the declaration that "space belongs to mankind" and that it is inadmissible to misuse "the outer space of our planet for the purposes of destruction". The whole world is aware of the Soviet position against the deployment of weapons in space. Also known are our warnings about the detrimental consequences of such a step for mankind. As for the modernisation or new tests of anti-satellite weapons which the authors of the Mexico Declaration are strongly against, here, too, the Soviet Union fully agrees with them and has confirmed this with practical actions.

The Soviet Union has also highly appreciated the resolve of the six above states to make a practical contribution to the verification of the cessation of nuclear tests. We are invariably in favour of strict control over the observance of international treaties, and in this case the Soviet Union has announced that if agreement is reached on the cessation of nuclear explosions, we would be prepared both for international verification and, where necessary, for on-site inspections.

The Mexico Declaration is yet another confirmation of the truth by which the Soviet Union is invariably guided in its actions: the liberation of our planet from the threat of nuclear catastrophe is a cause for all nations living on that planet. It is also the cause of all states, all public organisations and people.

The appeal from Mexico has come at a proper time and has been heard all over the world. □

## Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement welcomed

**BERLIN, August 19, TASS:**

"THE German Democratic Republic welcomes the decision of the Soviet Union to prolong its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions until January 1, 1987, declared on Soviet TV by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

"This is a significant step in the interests of peace," Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the GDR's Council of State, declared today.

**WARSAW, August 19, TASS:**

"The Government of the Polish People's Republic fully supports the Soviet peace proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachyov in his Soviet television statement. They express the common peace strategy of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation," said the Polish Government's spokesman at press conference here today.

"The Government of the Polish People's Republic stresses that the Soviet Union's new initiative—its decision to prolong the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions up to January 1, 1987, is a measure aimed at preventing the

threat of war, an act of good will meeting the interests of all nations."

**STOCKHOLM, August 19, TASS:**

"The Swedish Government received with satisfaction the Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions," says a statement by Sweden's Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson circulated here today. The Prime Minister positively assessed the Soviet Union's new important initiative aimed at curbing the nuclear arms race.

"In the United Nations and at other forums, Sweden supported the calls addressed above all to the USSR and the USA to adopt unilaterally or jointly a moratorium on nuclear explosions as a temporary measure, till a multilateral treaty on banning nuclear testing is concluded. The Mexico Declaration is the latest example of this," the statement says. "The Swedish Government hopes that further contacts between the USSR and the USA in the sphere of disarmament might lead, specifically, to the conclusion of a multilateral treaty on a complete ban on nuclear testing," Ingvar Carlsson noted.

**BONN, August 19, TASS:**

"The speech by Mikhail Gorbachyov over the Soviet TV network has shown again the Soviet interest in disarmament negotiations," said Hans

Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister of the FRG, here today.

"The decision announced by Mikhail Gorbachyov to extend the Soviet nuclear test moratorium to January 1, 1987 is of great importance for reaching all-embracing prohibition of nuclear tests," he stressed.

Touching on the question of a Soviet-US summit meeting, the Federal Minister voiced support for reaching understanding at it on complete prohibition of nuclear arms tests. "The West German Government acclaims the fact that Mikhail Gorbachyov attaches great importance to co-operation in all spheres which are important for mankind's future," said Hans Dietrich Genscher.

**WASHINGTON, August 20, TASS:**

Senator Edward Kennedy has spoken highly of the USSR's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. The Senator stressed that this "decision offers one more chance for both nations to turn away from newer and more deadly nuclear weapons and towards a halt in the arms race". "I urge the President to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity and move forward, without delay, towards negotiating a verifiable treaty banning nuclear weapons tests for all time," Kennedy said. □