

Session of USSR Supreme Soviet

A SESSION of the USSR Supreme Soviet (Parliament) opened on Monday in Moscow. The first item on its agenda was the draft plan for the country's economic and social development for 1987 and the draft budget for 1987.

Nikolai Talyzin, Chairman of the State Planning Committee of USSR (Gosplan), delivered a report in which he pointed out that the highest growth of national income and industrial production in the eighties is expected this year, brought about by measures on restructuring and accelerating social and economic development.

Noting that key development indicators were higher in 1986 than planned, Talyzin emphasised that the transition to a new style in work was slow in some branches, and no qualitative breakthrough had as yet begun.

"The year 1987 will be a year of the broad application of new methods of economic management. This is reflected in the plan: the national income is to grow by 4.1 per cent (the 1986 plan provided for a 3.9 per cent increase) and industrial output is to increase by 4.4 per cent (the 1986 plan provided for 4.3 per cent).

"Labour productivity will grow by four per cent. Measures have been defined for accelerating scientific and technological progress and ensuring faster growth in the output of machinery."

The report pointed to the enhancement of the social direction of the plan: three-quarters of the national income growth will be directed at raising living standards.

Nikolai Talyzin went on to say that 1987 would see growth in wages and salaries, higher payments and allowances, greater production of consumer goods and services and better food supply.

"More houses will be built in 1987 than earlier planned. The increase will amount to about 250,000 flats compared with the average annual level in 1981-1985."

Speaking about the USSR's foreign economic ties, Talyzin emphasised that next year socialist economic integration within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) would broaden and deepen.

The Soviet Union would continue economic and technological assistance to the developing countries in strengthening key branches of their economies.

"Trade and economic relations will continue with the developed capitalist countries."

In a report on the state budget for 1987, Boris Gostev, the Soviet Finance Minister, said that revenues of 435.5 billion roubles and expenditures of 435.3 billion roubles were planned.

He emphasised that the budget had a number of specific features of principled importance. First of all, its social tendency is enhanced. Financial priority is given to speeding up scientific and technological progress and to

practical implementation of measures to improve the efficiency of social production.

Funds have been allocated for the deepening and expanding of socialist economic integration, and for co-operation with other countries.

In the 1987 budget, allocations for defence are envisaged at 20.2 billion roubles. Their share remains at the level of the current year.

Gostev said that the USSR was invariably opposed to the senseless waste of immense labour, material and financial resources on the arms race. But as long as the threat of war by the militaristic imperialist forces exists, the armed forces of the USSR would receive the necessary funds for the maintenance of reliable defence capabilities for the country.

Deputy Gury Marchuk, President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, spoke in the discussion of the draft state plan. He said that it contained a number of assignments dealing with the introduction of fundamentally new generations of equipment, materials and technologies. Approximately 300 major completed works by academic scientific establishments and 400 development projects carried out by research institutes would be put to use on the basis of direct ties with different sectors of the national economy.

"Next year may well be described as the year of machine building," he emphasised. "The pace of growth of machine building will overtake the overall growth of industrial production. It is planned to increase even faster the output in leading branches of machine building, notably in machine-tool manufacture, instrument making,

electrical engineering and electronics.

"The plan sets before the machine building ministries alone the task of increasing the share of equipment corresponding to world standards by 60 per cent in 1987. This is a very challenging task, but it can be accomplished.

"Further development of co-operation with the CMEA countries will promote the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and help production achieve leading positions in science and technology. This effort is made on the basis of the Comprehensive Programme for Scientific and Technological Progress of the CMEA Countries for the period till the year 2000. About 1,400 research, development and design institutions and establishments of the USSR are involved in its implementation," Marchuk said.

"Soviet trade unions approve the proposals for the plan and the budget for 1987," Deputy Stepan Shalayev, Chairman of the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions, said at the session. "It gives us special satisfaction to note the growing attention to social problems. The plan for next year envisages, among other things, far higher growth rates for the construction of housing and other projects than the targets for the five-year period (1986-1990). We have never before had such a large-scale programme of housing construction (the total housing floorspace is 126 million sq. m.). We have never before had the task of raising the introduction of creches and kindergartens by 30 per cent and of buildings for vocational training schools by 58 per cent in one year."

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Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting last week discussed the results of the working meeting of the leaders of the fraternal parties of the CMEA member-countries in Moscow.

It approved Mikhail Gorbachev's account of the meeting and noted that the positions presented by the CPSU at the meeting were a practical manifestation of the policy line for promoting co-operation between the ruling communist and workers' parties and of the priority attached to the development of relations with socialist countries and to the strengthening of world socialism.

The results of Mikhail Gorbachev's talks with Harilaos Florakis, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece, were approved. The Political Bureau voiced satisfaction with the high level of relations between the two parties and with their mutual understanding and unanimity on all problems of today's international relations; it stressed the importance of the vigorous influence of the communists in efforts for stronger international and European security and world peace, and against the nuclear threat.

The meeting heard Eduard Shevardnadze's account of his talks with US Secretary of State George Shultz in Vienna and noted the importance of continued efforts for the consolidation of the historic frontiers reached in

Reykjavik on the road to nuclear disarmament and the energetic involvement of the US Administration in concrete work to prepare effective accords on the entire range of questions discussed in the Icelandic capital, on the basis of the principles of equality and equal security. To this end the US should abandon its non-constructive stand and renounce its attempts to revise the basic aspects of the Reykjavik understandings. The Political Bureau reaffirmed the determination of the Soviet leadership to work without delay for radical cuts in and subsequent elimination of strategic offensive weapons of all types over a period of 10 years, in conjunction with preventing an arms race in outer space.

The Political Bureau considered a report of Geidar Aliyev's talks with the leadership of Mozambique, held during the Soviet Party and state delegation's visit to Mozambique to attend the funeral ceremony of Samora Machel, and also of his talks with the party and state leaders of Democratic Yemen in Aden. The Political Bureau stressed that the Mozambican people, protecting their national independence and their right to follow the road of social progress, could count, as before, on the firm support of the USSR. The Political Bureau also voiced its support for the efforts of the leadership of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to strengthen the progressive regime in that country, and reiterated the CPSU's policy line of promoting friendly relations between the Soviet Union and South Yemen. □

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Andrei Gromyko meets delegation from West Germany's Green Party

SOON after the end of the Second World War, as far back as 1946, the USSR suggested in the United Nations Organisation that nuclear weapons be banned once and for all and nuclear energy used only for peaceful purposes. However, at that time the Soviet Union was the only one of the great powers to vote for this proposal.

This fact, showing who started the struggle for nuclear disarmament and when, was cited by Andrei Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in a conversation with representatives of the Green Party of West Germany.

Last Wednesday he received in the Kremlin a delegation from the leadership of the Green Party group in the Bundestag, which was in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation. The delegation was led by Anne-Marie Borgmann, who is co-chair of the Greens' parliamentary group.

During the conversation, the sides discussed topical international problems in the light of the results of the Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik and Soviet-West German relations.

Andrei Gromyko emphasised that Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had set forth the Soviet position at Reykjavik in a frank and convincing manner. It included historic proposals, and took into account the interests of both countries, their allies and all countries and peoples of the

world. The Soviet viewpoint was the concrete expression of a new thinking, the need for which was being imposed by the realities of the nuclear-missile age.

Seeking to reach agreements, the Soviet Union put forward proposals which, if accepted, would lead to the reduction and, later, the complete scrapping of nuclear weapons.

"However," Andrei Gromyko went on, "the accord that was practically achieved on these Soviet proposals failed to be translated into final agreements, because the American side did not wish to create conditions for their realisation. It insisted on the notorious 'Star Wars' plan—the so-called 'Strategic Defense Initiative'—and adopted a stand of eroding the anti-ballistic missile agreement.

"And still, even today conditions continue to exist for reaching agreement. With this in view it is necessary to start from the level reached in Reykjavik, with the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. It is this level that was taken as a starting point for the Soviet proposals put on the negotiating table in Geneva."

The Soviet side pointed out that the FRG Government had unfortunately supported Washington's stand in blocking the advance towards agreement.

On behalf of the Green Party, its leadership welcomed the Soviet Government's decision to prolong for the fourth time the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. In this connection it was emphasised that the US must join this step of the USSR's, so that agreement could be reached on discontinuing all nuclear explosions.

The delegation said that the governments of West Germany and of other West European countries, if they wished, could obviously take steps to promote the attaining of this goal.

In conclusion, Anne-Marie Borgmann said that it had become more clear on what questions the Greens had common views with the Soviet Union. She expressed gratitude for the frank conversation.

On the same day the Green Party delegation was received by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR's Foreign Minister.

They had a thorough discussion of key problems of peace and disarmament, and of issues on the agenda of the Conference on Security and Co-operation meeting in Vienna.

Eduard Shevardnadze expressed the hope that, in the current difficult international situation, all political forces opposed to war and committed to human survival would press resolutely for curbing the arms race and establishing relations of trust and good-neighbourliness among states with different socio-political systems.

The leaders of the Green Party gave their support to the Soviet Union's programme for establishing a nuclear-free world, and expressed their own views on a number of aspects related to European affairs.

They denounced plans to militarise outer space, and came out in favour of ridding Europe of nuclear and chemical weapons. □

Meeting of Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet last Friday unanimously ratified the convention on prompt warning of nuclear accidents and the convention on assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or in a radiation emergency. These conventions were signed in Vienna on September 26, 1986.

A detailed description of the conventions and of their significance for the development of co-operation among states in the vitally important and promising field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy was given to the meeting.

Summing up the discussion, Andrei Gromyko laid special emphasis on the broad world-wide support for the proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev to create an international regime for the safe development of nuclear power engineering, on the basis of close co-operation between all countries involved in it.

"The fundamentals of such a regime were outlined at the special session of the IAEA General Conference in September this year," he said. "We are grateful to all the countries and international organisations for their efforts on this issue. The preparation by the IAEA of two international conventions over such a short time is convincing proof that states can together look for and find solutions to complex problems, problems in which quite often are interwoven political, economic, scientific-technical and humanitarian aspects. The Soviet Union will continue to do its utmost to implement the

programme put forward by us for the total and worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. The regime for the safe development of nuclear power engineering also can and must make a weighty contribution to the ensuring of universal security."

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet issued on November 14 a decree on the ratification of the convention on prompt warning on nuclear accidents and the convention on assistance in the eventuality of a nuclear accident or an emergency radiation situation.

The documents have been ratified with the following reservation: The USSR will not consider itself to be bound by the provisions of article 11 (point 2) of the convention on prompt warning on a nuclear accident and article 13 (point 2) of the convention on assistance in the eventuality of a nuclear accident or an emergency radiation situation, which provide for the possibility of submitting a dispute between the participating states to arbitration or international court at the request of any side, and declares that consent of all sides in each individual case is necessary for submitting any international dispute to arbitration or international court.

Reporting on the situation at Chernobyl, *Pravda* said on Saturday that stricken nuclear reactor no. 4 at the power plant had been securely isolated, entombed for centuries in reinforced concrete.

It said that the "sarcophagus" was not simply concretised metal sections laid on one another, but a complex engineering structure.

The wall was raised in giant 12-metre steps to

the planned height of 60 metres by the end of September. Pin-point precision was required at all stages of the entombment work, with the assembly being carried out without human presence on the site.

Television cameras followed the course of the assembly but there were no conventional contacts when workers had to make on-the-spot checks or repairs.

Everything depended on the skill of the crane operators, on the cohesion of their interaction with the controllers who radioed the necessary commands.

Assembly workers fitted the entombed unit with plenum-exhaust ventilation. Embedded within the concrete mass, the nuclear fuel will now be under permanent unremitting control as dosimetric gauges have been installed in the ventilation system and powerful filters provided to capture the minutest particles of radioactive dust.

The hardest period is over, but the tragedy should not be allowed to pass into oblivion. It is time to ponder on the lessons of Chernobyl. □

STATEMENT
by Mikhail Gorbachev,
General Secretary of CPSU
Central Committee
January 15, 1986.

Available from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens,
LONDON, SW7 4NW. Free.

Yegor Ligachev's news conference in Helsinki

"THE Soviet Union strongly supports the proposal for a nuclear-free north." Yegor Ligachev, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made this assurance at a news conference in Helsinki last week. "And carrying its position further," he went on, "the Soviet Union has considered it possible to take the following new steps:

"First. We have already dismantled the launchers for medium-range missiles in the Kola peninsula and the larger part of the launchers for such missiles in the rest of the territory of the Leningrad and Baltic military districts. We have moved several battalions of operational-tactical missiles out of those districts for deployment elsewhere. This is a concrete confirmation of the USSR's earlier declared readiness to consider certain measures—and substantial measures at that—to be taken in its own territory adjacent to the future nuclear-free zone.

"Second. Reaffirming our backing for the idea of giving nuclear-free status to the Baltic Sea in the framework of implementing the proposal for a nuclear-free north, we could, if the appropriate countries reach agreement on this issue, withdraw the ballistic missile submarines from the Soviet Baltic fleet.

"Third. Supporting the idea of possible confidence-building measures in Northern Europe and in the adjoining North, Norwegian, Barents and Baltic seas, the Soviet Union suggests starting to limit the intensity of major military exercises in that region. Such exercises—from the level of 25,000 officers and men upwards—oughtn't to be held more often than once or twice in one or two years.

"Fourth. We share the idea of drawing on the positive experience of the 1972 Soviet-US

Soviet strategy of peace

AN international conference on 'International Relations and Topical Issues of Ensuring Peace and Security in the Far East' opened at the Institute of the Far East of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR yesterday.

It opened with addresses of greetings from Professor Ivan Kovalenko, deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and Mikhail Kapitsa, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister.

Mikhail Titarenko, Director of the Institute of the Far East, told the conference that the Asian-Pacific region was the most troubled area in the world. It was precisely there that most hotbeds of local and international conflicts were situated.

"The Soviet Union's approach to matters of security in Asia is not governed by circumstantial considerations," he went on. "It is a long-term and principled line dictated by the Soviet Union's interest in peaceful conditions for successful socialist construction.

"We declare for the convocation of an Asian forum for joint quest of constructive solutions. This will make it possible to establish points of contact, to work out common principles of conduct and concerted interests of states in the nuclear-space age. The holding of such a forum will promote detente in Asia. At the same time it is necessary to implement a range of measures in the military, political and economic spheres which would make it possible to enhance the confidence of every state in its security. Such confidence measures must be implemented on regional and subregional levels, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis." □

agreement on measures to prevent incidents at sea and in the air space over it, with a view to enhancing confidence-building measures in the naval field. As is known, the Soviet Union signed a similar agreement with Britain, too, in July 1986.

"We proceed from the belief that these further steps we have taken will be viewed positively by all those interested in a stronger peace in the north of Europe, and, to put it bluntly, we expect reciprocity," Yegor Ligachev stressed.

At the press conference Yegor Ligachev also reiterated the principal point of departure of the Soviet Union's stand in this complicated and crucial period: "It is no longer possible to rely on weapons, let alone nuclear weapons, as a means of preserving peace and ensuring security," he stressed.

"The recent meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan in Reykjavik has demonstrated convincingly that it is possible to make progress towards disarmament, most notably nuclear disarmament. The progress in Reykjavik was achieved thanks to the bold initiatives of the Soviet Union and on the basis of its proposals.

"In the United States they now claim that the Soviet Union is being intractable and wants to make the United States drop the 'Strategic Defense Initiative' altogether. Yes, we would certainly like this initiative never to materialise—just like any other similar initiative. This is because, contrary to Washington's contentions, SDI is a sword rather than a shield. SDI is not a defensive programme but pre-eminently a programme for developing qualitatively new types of strategic offensive weapons based on new physical principles.

"Yet we agreed to continued laboratory research into SDI. This is a serious concession. Notwithstanding all this, the United States is reluctant to abandon its plans to build a full-scale SDI system whatever the circumstances."

Yegor Ligachev stated with complete certainty

that if the United States "nevertheless builds its 'Strategic Defense Initiative', we shall provide an answer to it as well, and US vulnerability will increase still further.

"We continue to stand for resolving complicated international problems by means of talks. The proposals made by the Soviet Union in Reykjavik remain on the table. The platform proposed by the Soviet Union offers an historic chance to solve the problems of war and peace in a fundamental way.

"The Soviet Union is not going to confine itself to dialogue with the United States alone. We are deeply committed to the process started by the conference of 35 countries here in Helsinki. The vitality and promise of this process has been underlined by the results of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe, with Finland itself having made a tangible contribution to its success.

"It is important to consolidate these positive results of Stockholm at the Vienna meeting which opened on November 4. It is important, without losing any time, to consider and take concrete decisions to reduce armed forces and conventional arms in Europe. Last summer the Warsaw Treaty member-countries, as is known, suggested a detailed plan for such cuts and called on the NATO member-countries to discuss them. However, to this day there has been no response to that call."

Expressing satisfaction with the results of his delegation's visit to Finland, Yegor Ligachev said that the Soviet leadership kept relations with that country in the focus of its attention at all times.

"Soviet-Finnish relations serve as an example of how successful and fruitful relations can be between countries which have different social systems, different ideologies and which are also of differing size," he pointed out.

Yegor Ligachev has been leading a CPSU delegation visiting Finland at the invitation of the Social Democratic Party. □

Eduard Shevardnadze meets head of Islamic Conference

LAST Friday Eduard Shevardnadze had a meeting with Sayed Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference, who was on a brief working visit to the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

During a discussion of the current international situation, Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that due to the Soviet side's initiatives, history-making advances had been made at the Soviet-American summit meeting on the road towards nuclear disarmament.

The task of all states, movements, public organisations and individual political figures today is to consolidate these advances and contribute towards further progress in disarmament and in strengthening peace. To that end it is necessary to overcome US ambitions to put into outer space the latest types of dangerous weapons under the pretext of creating a "defensive" system—the so-called 'Strategic Defense Initiative'.

Both sides stressed the pressing need to reach

through collective efforts a just and all-embracing Middle East settlement, at whose heart is the Palestinian problem. It was pointed out that putting an end as soon as possible to the senseless Iran-Iraq war and achieving a political settlement of the conflict would accord with the interests of both countries and contribute to an improvement of the international situation as a whole.

Examining the situation around Afghanistan, Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that the return home from that country of six Soviet regiments was a manifestation of the Soviet Union's goodwill, a constructive contribution to a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. Further steps in this direction will depend on whether or not an end is put to armed interference in the home affairs of the Afghan people. Sharifuddin Pirzada showed interest in new elements in the area of a settlement around Afghanistan.

The Secretary-General briefed Eduard Shevardnadze on his organisation's activities, expressed sincere gratitude for the warm reception accorded to him in Moscow and declared for continuing contacts. □

Geidar Aliyev's speech at Congress of Laotian Communists

GEIDAR ALIYEV, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who headed the CPSU delegation at the Fourth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) in Vientiane, addressed the Congress last week.

"Co-operation between the Soviet Union and Laos covers practically all fields of social and economic life. Our joint work finds its practical embodiment in production and social facilities being built in Laos, in the development of transport, in the expansion of the republic's export resources, and in the elaboration of economic plans," he said.

"Our common task now is to raise the effectiveness of co-operation so that it would promote to the maximum the solution of the economic and social problems of Laos, help your republic stand more firmly on its feet, and more fully accord with our common goals.

"The world is now living through a most crucial period. Mankind is faced with the choice: either to overcome the views and approaches of the past when security was viewed in the light of force, or remain the hostage of the arms race—the race in nuclear and chemical weapons and, in prospect, other no less formidable kinds.

"The realities of the nuclear space age call for a new thinking and high responsibility for the destinies of peace and of mankind.

"Our country unilaterally discontinued nuclear explosions and has repeatedly extended the moratorium which still remains in effect."

He recalled the USSR's other peace initiatives which had met with a broad response among the world public.

"The Soviet Union," he went on, "went to the meeting in Reykjavik with a whole package of large-scale and far-reaching proposals.

"Acceptance of these proposals would have been an immense stride forward in the cause of disarmament and would have put up a real barrier to the threat of nuclear war, to which imperialism's aggressive and dangerous policy pushes mankind. Acceptance of the proposals would have marked the beginning of a new, nuclear-free epoch in mankind's history.

"You know what the American side responded with. It was precisely in Reykjavik, where the Americans went empty-handed, that the deficit of new thinking vividly manifested itself on their part. Certain circles manifested an obvious unwillingness to change anything in their tenacity for the old, outdated ways, a tenacity which is worthy of better use.

"We have no illusions that the way to peace and to curbing the arms race can be a simple and easy one. However, and this was also confirmed by the Reykjavik meeting, it is undoubtedly possible to reach accords on the basic problems affecting the destiny of the whole of mankind. Our proposals in this field hold good. It is up to the American side.

"The main problem facing the peoples of the world now—the problem of survival—is equally acute and urgent for both Europe, Asia and other continents.

"As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, the Asian-Pacific direction is an integral part of its overall peaceful foreign policy."

He recalled that in Vladivostok Mikhail Gorbachev had expressed concrete considerations on what kind of process was needed to establish international security in Asia and the

Pacific Ocean region, on a reduction in the armed forces and armaments there, and on peaceful co-operation between all countries of the region.

"The efforts being made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) jointly with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea are aimed at normalising the situation in the region, striving for mutual understanding with the ASEAN countries and making South-East Asia a zone of peace, stability and co-operation; they are of great importance for the establishment of a favourable situation in the Asian-Pacific region.

"These efforts are a worthy contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in Asia. Combined with the well-known initiatives of the Soviet Union, the Mongolian People's Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and with the constructive stand of India and of a number of other countries, they promote the incorporation of the vast Asian-Pacific region into the process of establishing a comprehensive system of international security.

"The normalisation on the basis of a constructive dialogue of Laos's, Vietnam's and Kampuchea's relations with the People's Republic of China—on which as a great socialist country an improvement in the political climate in that part of the world depends in many respects—would contribute to strengthening stability in Asia and in the Pacific Ocean area.

"The holding, in Ulan Bator in summer 1987, of a consultative meeting of representatives of the communist and workers' parties of the countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean area, preparations for which are now under way, will become a contribution to the common struggle to avert the danger of war and ease tensions in the Asian-Pacific region," Geidar Aliyev pointed out. □

SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

THE development of events in Central America is assuming an increasingly dangerous character, says a Soviet Government statement issued in Moscow on November 16.

The US Administration, flagrantly violating the elementary norms of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, is stepping up its overt interference in the affairs of Nicaragua.

In so doing they in Washington do not conceal that they are aiming to overthrow the legitimate government of that sovereign, independent country.

The President of the United States has signed a law on funding the hired counter-revolutionary bands and on supplying them with various types of weapons.

Moreover, in point of fact, provision is made for the direct participation of US military personnel in the counter-revolutionaries' actions. US propaganda is busy intensively manipulating US and international public opinion for the purpose of bringing about the appropriate atmosphere for realising plans for direct military actions against Nicaragua.

Such a US line constitutes an undisguised challenge to international law and order. The US Administration did not reckon with the ruling of the International Court which demanded an end to encroachments upon the sovereignty and

independence of Nicaragua.

The US Administration ignores the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, and the explicit stand of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Neither is the US Administration willing to listen to the opinion of its Latin American neighbours. Their constructive efforts to achieve a mutually acceptable political settlement in Central America within the framework of the Contadora process are being systematically torpedoed by Washington.

Thereby Washington's great-power claims to managing affairs in Latin American countries as it sees fit—disregarding the will of their peoples and governments and their striving to decide their future themselves, proceeding from their own traditions, convictions, and notions of the worthiest way of life—are being laid bare more and more vividly.

The international community's legitimate concern over the current explosive situation in Central America and over its possible consequences to international peace is shared in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Government firmly condemns the escalation of the US aggressive policy in Central America, demands that an end be put to criminal preparations spearheaded against the Nicaraguan people and calls on the United States to show restraint, realism and responsibility.

The Soviet Union solidarises with the conviction expressed in the declaration dated

October 1, this year, by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Contadora Group and the support group that peace in Central America is possible.

The attainment of peace requires, first of all, an end to interference in the affairs of the sovereign countries of the region, respect in practice for their right to an independent choice, the establishment of good-neighbourly relations and co-operation between them, and the rendering of assistance to them in solving urgent socio-economic problems.

The USSR supports the constructive goals of the Contadora process which is aimed at achieving a Latin American solution to the regional crisis, and is ready to promote practically the creation of favourable conditions for a just political settlement in Central America.

The US Administration tries to justify its interventionist actions with regard to Nicaragua by pleading an "increase in Soviet military presence" in that country.

The Soviet Government resolutely rejects such assertions as totally unfounded. It states in all responsibility that the USSR has not set up and is not setting up any military bases whatsoever in Nicaragua.

The Soviet Union again reaffirms its firm solidarity with the just cause of the people of Nicaragua and its readiness to continue to render assistance and support to it in the struggle for freedom and independence. □

Statement by Viktor Karpov in Geneva

VIKTOR KARPOV, head of the Soviet delegation to the talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva, said in a statement on November 14 that the central event of the latest round of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons, which determined the content and character of the work of the delegations in the closing phase, was the meeting of the Soviet and US leaders in Reykjavik on October 11-12.

The results of that meeting created a new situation in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, including at the ongoing talks.

The main thing is that a realistic opportunity has appeared, if the sides agree on further compliance with and strengthening of the ABM Treaty regime, for reaching accords on deep cuts in strategic offensive weapons and on eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, thus opening the prospect for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as the Soviet programme for nuclear disarmament, announced on January 15, 1986, envisions.

The agreements practically reached in Reykjavik are directly related to the problems which are the subject of the Geneva talks. That is why the delegation should now do everything possible for the Reykjavik agreements to be translated into practice.

The Reykjavik meeting culminated in the coincidence of the positions of the Soviet and US leaders on the elimination of all nuclear weapons, with the US President agreeing to an even shorter schedule than that initially proposed in the Soviet statement of January 15, 1986. Understanding was reached on reductions at the first stage, before the end of 1991, of all the components of the sides' strategic triads. A formula for the solution of the problem of medium-range missiles was approved: there would be no Soviet or American missiles of that class in Europe. The only obstacle to the implementation of these measures leading to nuclear disarmament was the American SDI, the implementation of which would mean that a way of obtaining one-sided military superiority by one of the sides, clearly the USA, would remain open.

Why the USA departs from Reykjavik understandings

"THE door was opened a little way at Reykjavik and a view opened into a different world—one without nuclear weapons. Most people on Earth sighed with relief, it was a source of great hopes," declared Academician Georgi Arbatov, director of the Institute of the USA and Canada at the USSR Academy of Sciences, on Saturday.

Speaking in the Ninth Studio programme on Soviet television he pointed out that there are politicians who have been frightened by this, simply because of their inertia of thinking. "We are all of a sudden seeing those same people, not only in the USA but also in Europe, who seemed to advocate a non-nuclear world, suddenly beginning to turn back," he observed.

Touching on Washington's attempts at not only distorting the Reykjavik understandings, but also very substantially departing from them, Georgi Arbatov pointed out that the current administration is very close to the military-industrial complex both geographically and spiritually. Even geographically the President

in view of the positive achievements of Reykjavik and the causes which prevented the finalisation of the accords, the Soviet delegation tabled at the latest round a complex of new major proposals on the entire range of problems of nuclear and space weapons. These proposals constitute a detailed programme for reaching agreements on the basis of the Reykjavik understandings. The Soviet programme is giving a good impetus to the talks and makes it possible to reach mutually acceptable solutions in strict accord with the principle of equality and equal security within a reasonably short timeframe.

The radical character of the Soviet proposals and the fact that they are leading the sides into the phase of concrete practical decisions on deep cuts in nuclear weapons, to the point of their eventual elimination, make it necessary to take comprehensive decisions on all aspects of those proposals on cuts in strategic offensive weapons, elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, strengthening of the ABM Treaty and termination of nuclear testing. Any other approach would mean upsetting the balance of the security interests of the sides, the balance of compromises, which underlies the comprehensive solution proposed by the Soviet Union.

Regrettably, it was precisely that goal that the American side set out to achieve at the talks, as the results of the round demonstrated. Its stand, aimed at revising the Reykjavik accords, blocks the translation of those accords into the language of diplomatic documents.

The American side is still opposed to blocking the channel of the introduction of weapons into outer space and refuses to consider any proposals which would restrict its 'Star Wars' programme in one way or another. Contrary to what was agreed upon in Reykjavik, the American side talks about eliminating only ballistic missiles rather than all strategic offensive weapons, clearly hoping to secure a one-sided advantage to the prejudice of Soviet security. The American side is also pursuing the line of the continued arms race and the growing level of nuclear confrontation in problems related to medium-range missiles.

The position taken by the US delegation to the talks since Reykjavik is worrying. The natural question is what goals are the American side going to pursue. The Soviet side would like to hope that during the interval between the latest and the next round of the talks Washington will

carefully study the Soviet proposals, and that the US delegation will return to Geneva not with its old luggage but with a position which would make it possible to formulate practical measures to realise the positive assets of Reykjavik.

Foreign Ministry briefing

"THE sixth round of the Soviet-US negotiations on nuclear and space weapons ended in Geneva on November 12. The USSR's proposals tabled at them fully conform with the results of the Reykjavik meeting, with the stand formulated by Mikhail Gorbachev," Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, told Soviet and foreign journalists at a briefing in Moscow on Friday.

"The range of measures submitted by the USSR delegation represented a balance of the sides' interests, a balance of compromises, and gave ground to expect reciprocal constructive steps on the part of the United States.

"The efforts to achieve progress at the talks are hampered, however, by the US stand," he went on. "The US side at the negotiations did everything to cancel the outcome of the Reykjavik meeting. Not only the actions by the US delegation at the negotiations following the Icelandic meeting, but also the results of the meeting between the USSR Foreign Minister and the US Secretary of State in Vienna are evidence of the attempts by the US side to quit the Icelandic positions and slip down to its earlier stands.

"The US proposals tabled at the Geneva talks are an apparent attempt to gain unilateral advantages, they are inconsistent with the tasks of strengthening and developing the decisions made in Reykjavik.

"There is now a break in the negotiations in Geneva. The US delegation should thoroughly weigh up all the Soviet proposals before the next round, amend its approach with an eye to clearing the artificial obstructions on the way towards fulfilling the mutually acceptable decisions which belong to the Reykjavik meeting.

"The possibility which has emerged of solving promptly and effectively the problem of nuclear disarmament should not be allowed to slip away," Gerasimov stressed.

Soviet stand on Cyprus problem

"THE leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community has undertaken several actions lately, described by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as attempts to create additional obstacles to any efforts to achieve a solution to the Cyprus problem.

"In our view, these unilateral actions of a separatist nature, under whatever pretext they are taken, seriously undermine efforts to settle the Cyprus problem," Gennadi Gerasimov told a press conference for Soviet and foreign correspondents last Wednesday.

"We hold that the continued stalemate in the efforts for a settlement in Cyprus leads to the deepening of separatist sentiments on the island. The evolving situation makes it imperative to multiply collective efforts to ensure a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

"Proceeding from this, we favour the convocation within the United Nations framework of a representative international conference on Cyprus, the continuation of the good offices mission by the UN Secretary-General, and scrupulous compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Organisation. □

has come from a region where these interests are very strong, Arbatov said. Reagan's political base is in California, and California's arms manufacturing corporations have received 47 per cent of all arms contracts over the period 1983 to 1986. This explains in a considerable measure why in Washington they are now trying to depart from the Reykjavik understandings.

The US military-industrial complex is a very powerful part of the ruling class and is organised like the mafia. Bribery, intimidation and political blackmail are characteristic of it more than of any other section of American business, the Academician explained.

It has thus far had its own way, and made people reckon with it even when what it insists upon runs counter to the interests of the whole ruling class. It is a very powerful section, albeit it does not form a majority. And it is particularly influential under the current administration, which Mikhail Gorbachev described as a hostage to the military-industrial complex. □

TASS STATEMENT ON MICRONESIA

THE United States has staged another arbitrary act on the international scene. Micronesia, a United Nations trust territory, is being annexed in full view of the whole world.

On November 3, 1986, US President Ronald Reagan announced that three parts of that territory—the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia—were being given the status of “commonwealth” and of “association” with the United States. In doing this, the US Administration is thrusting a neo-colonialist regime on the people of Micronesia, depriving it of the opportunity to express its real free will and achieve genuine independence. All this is being done in circumvention of the Security Council which bears responsibility for that territory, and constitutes a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations, and of the 1947 trusteeship agreement and of the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

Colonial Countries and Peoples.

By means of gross economic and political pressure the US has imposed fettering agreements on the Micronesians, is now turning Micronesia into a military-strategic *place d'armes* in the western part of the Pacific Ocean and is creating a threat to the security of the entire Asian and Pacific region.

The US would not stop at extreme measures in order to make the people of Palau—the remaining part of the fractured Micronesia—submit to the American dictate, and turn that territory into a base for the deployment and storage of nuclear weapons. All this is being done despite the repeatedly expressed desire of the people of Palau to prevent nuclear death from appearing on their soil.

These actions are not an isolated phenomenon in US policy. They constitute an element in the overall line towards undermining international agreements, and law and order in the world. This kind of US policy has made itself felt clearly in

recent years in hostile actions with respect to international organisations, in the gross pressure on the United Nations, in the blackmail of UNESCO, and in the disregard for the decisions of the International Court of Justice. The United States is striving to turn the world into its fief, to cultivate “jungle law” in inter-state relations and suppress by force the will of peoples for freedom and national independence. The latest US steps with respect to Micronesia attest to that too.

The peoples of the world cannot remain indifferent in the face of these crying violations of international law and of commonly-recognised norms of the nations' conduct, the observance of which is binding on all without exclusion, the United States included.

TASS is authorised to state that the actions taken by the US with respect to the United Nations Trust Territory of Micronesia are unilateral, arbitrary and devoid of legal force. In compliance with the Charter of the United Nations no one but the Security Council has the right to pass a decision terminating a United Nations trusteeship agreement. The duty of the United Nations and of the entire international community is to reject decisively the illegal claims of the US to the role of ruler of the destinies of peoples. The United Nations Organisation continues to bear the responsibility for that territory until its people achieve genuine independence. □

(TASS, Moscow, November 12)

Attempting to depart from Moscow Treaty

USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING

“THE foreign-policy section of the recently published election manifesto of the Federal Republic of Germany's governing parties—the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU)—includes a number of planks which are incompatible with the interests of security and peaceful co-operation in Europe,” Gennadi Gerasimov said on Tuesday.

He was speaking in the ministry's press centre at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Appeal to religious workers

AN appeal to religious workers of the world “to deepen peace-making efforts and to co-operate in this with all people of goodwill” was adopted today at a meeting of the heads and representatives of the churches and religious associations in the USSR. The meeting was held in the Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, an ancient monastery. Its goal was to sum up the results of the contribution made by churches and religious associations during the Year of Peace proclaimed by the United Nations Organisation and to formulate further tasks in strengthening the cause of peace.

During the meeting, speakers highly evaluated the stand of the Soviet Union in calling for an end to the arms race and welcomed the plan of ridding Earth of deadly nuclear weapons proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev.

They expressed regret that the peoples' hopes for reaching an agreement on the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within the next 15 years had as yet failed to come true. This was caused by the US Administration's stubborn unwillingness to forgo its ‘Strategic Defense Initiative’.

The heads and representatives of the Soviet Union's churches and religious associations called upon their co-religionists to preserve a high degree of concern with the problems of preserving peace among nations and the most sacred gift of life. They also called for support for the efforts of states, public and religious quarters to stop the arms race and prevent the use of space for military purposes. □

“This programme”, he continued, “contains a thesis on the temporary nature of international borders, which contradicts the commitment made by the FRG under the Moscow Treaty of 1970 to see the borders of all states in Europe as inviolable, both now and in the future.”

“The foreign-policy section of the platform does not show a realistic approach either to European affairs or to the pressing problems of strengthening peace and achieving disarmament.

“In words, the two parties stand for cuts in nuclear arms, while in reality they support SDI, repeating claims about its allegedly defensive and non-nuclear nature.

“It is even being asserted”, Gerasimov added, “that those who renounce this missile defence system help the Soviet Union along to world ascendancy.”

The Soviet spokesman also said that the CDU-CSU programme reeked of unfriendliness towards the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and other socialist countries, and that it could only contribute to adding still more obstacles to developing constructive and stable relations between West Germany and these countries.

“A regular round of consultations between the foreign ministries of the USSR and Japan at the level of deputy foreign ministers was held in Moscow on November 13-14. Gennadi Gerasimov reported at the same briefing.

“The Soviet side was represented by Mikhail Kapitsa and the Japanese side by Shin'ichi Yanai.

“Shin'ichi Yanai was also received by Eduard Shevardnadze,” he went on.

“The sides discussed international problems and issues of mutual interest. The Soviet side stressed the importance of the interaction of all states in the interests of consolidating the foundations of international security.

“They expressed the view that there existed ample opportunities for co-operation between the USSR and Japan in the context of the broad programme to promote peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region. The Soviet side confirmed the USSR's principled line of developing relations of good-neighbourliness with Japan, and underlined the importance of both sides' efforts in this direction.

“The consultations passed in a tranquil and business-like atmosphere, aiming to look for ways to upgrade Soviet-Japanese relations,” Gerasimov said. □

Nuremberg conference Appeal

STEP UP efforts to rid the Earth of the nuclear threat and establish an international order that would create a world without wars and without weapons.

This Appeal has been made by the international scientific conference held in Moscow last week on the 40th anniversary of the end of the Nuremberg Trial of nazi war criminals. The conference was attended by representatives of over 20 countries.

The Appeal points out that the lessons of Nuremberg remain topical and timely today. Racism, anti-communism and the cult of violence and wars have not become things of the past. Contrary to the UN Charter and to basic standards of international law, the policy of apartheid and genocide continues to be pursued, acts of aggression and state terrorism continue to be staged. Neo-fascism and revanchism are becoming more active, the significance of the Nuremberg verdict of the international military tribunal and of international agreements is being falsified, and thousands of nazi war criminals are being protected from well-deserved punishment.

According to the Appeal, all this is in sharp contrast to the principles of Nuremberg and cannot but worry the world public. Speakers at the conference stated that the legal principles of the Nuremberg Trial had outlawed aggressive wars and had promoted the formation of a new legal and political thinking that corresponded to the realities of the nuclear-space age.

At the same time, the programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2000 put forward by the Soviet Union is coming up against the stubborn resistance of the ruling circles of the US and its allies. The “Star Wars” plans have already disrupted the historic chance to reach agreement in Reykjavik on a radical reduction of nuclear arsenals. The scientists stated that, nevertheless, they welcomed the Soviet-American dialogue at summit level and expected it to bring in the future the concrete results that the peoples were hoping for.

Participants in the conference emphasised that today the legal principles of Nuremberg continued to be a firm basis for joint actions for the sake of peace. □

USSR: NEW DOCUMENT ON ENTRY AND EXIT REGULATIONS

THE Soviet Government has taken a decision to supplement the existing regulations on entry into and exit from the USSR, which have been in operation since 1970. The new document concerns the examination of applications for entry and exit on private affairs. It will become effective from January 1, 1987.

The supplement lays down the procedure for filing applications, the documents required for this, time limits for the examination, reasons for possible refusal and other details connected with entry and exit applications. Formerly these details were not regulated by the government's normative acts.

Explaining the concept of "private affairs" the document places in this category reunion with family members, meetings with close relatives, entering into a marriage, settlement of affairs concerning inheritance, visits to seriously ill relatives or to their graves, and many other things. Time limits for private visits are set with due account taken of their purposes. It is stipulated that these time limits may be prolonged.

The supplement clarifies a number of questions. It specifies, for instance, that an application for exit from the USSR for a reunion with family members is examined provided there is an invitation from husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister. It is also necessary that the remaining family members should certify that there are no obligations to them left unfulfilled by the departing members of the family. All documents should be properly certified.

The document sets time limits for the examination of entry and exit applications. If it is a matter of a temporary trip on private affairs the application will be examined within the shortest possible time limit, as a rule within a month. In the event of grave illness or death of a close relative the question will be settled within three days. An application for exit from the country for permanent residence abroad will be examined within a month. If there is need for additional study of the question, the time limit may be prolonged, but not for more than six months.

The document specifies reasons that may prevent the departure of Soviet citizens from the country on private affairs. Exit is not allowed (for a definite period) if the applicant is in possession of state secrets or if there are other reasons affecting the security of the state; if the departure incurs infringement of the rights and interests of other citizens; if the applicant has obligations left unfulfilled (until they are fulfilled). Exit is not allowed for convicts (until they are released) who are subject to criminal responsibility. The applicant cannot leave the country at the invitation of a person who is staying abroad in violation of the established rules.

The results of the examination of the question of exit, and, if the application is refused, the motives for refusal, are to be immediately brought to the knowledge of the applicant.

If an application for entry to the USSR or exit from it is turned down, it can be filed again not earlier than six months afterwards. □

Meeting of Military Council of Warsaw Treaty armed forces

A SCHEDULED meeting of the Military Council of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member-states has been held in Bucharest, capital of the Socialist Republic of Romania, from November 12 to 14, 1986. The meeting was chaired by Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces.

Taking part in the meeting were members of the Military Council and senior executives of the defence ministries of the Warsaw Treaty member-states and the command agencies of the Joint Armed Forces.

The Military Council discussed the question of the results and conclusions stemming from the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Reagan in Reykjavik. The Military Council has pointed out the important contribution made by allied socialist states to ensuring peace, and stressed the need for building up joint efforts in the struggle for eliminating nuclear weapons, reducing conventional weapons and strengthening international security.

Concrete measures have been outlined to maintain the troops and naval forces assigned by the united armies to the Joint Armed Forces at a level ensuring the preservation of military parity between the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and the NATO bloc.

The meeting also summed up the results of the operational and combat training of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member-states over the past year, outlined the tasks for the next year of training and examined other questions pertaining to current activities.

In the opinion of all the participants in the meeting, the need has been reaffirmed for a further broadening and deepening of combat co-operation between the allied armies.

The Military Council has adopted agreed recommendations and proposals on the issues under discussion.

The meeting proceeded in a business-like atmosphere, in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding. □

SESSION OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET

(Continued from front page)

In the debates on Tuesday the further development of energy production was one of the main problems discussed.

This is understandable. The present year was not an easy one for this industry because of a drop in atomic power production as a result of the Chernobyl accident. The hydro-power stations in Central Asia have generated less electricity because of reduced river flows. Yet, as Nikolai Talyzin said in his report on Monday, the annual plan for power production—not a small one, 1 trillion 605 billion kilowatt hours—will be carried out thanks to thermal power stations which have taken upon themselves a greater load.

Increased assignments for thermal power stations will continue into 1987, therefore speakers in the debate pointed to the need to raise their efficiency. They burnt too much fuel, they said. True, the average figure of excessive fuel consumption was only 2.4 grams per kilowatt hour of electricity. But on a national scale this amounted to a loss of 2.5 million tons of coal or five hundred trainloads. The reasons mentioned by deputies were many and varied: obsolete equipment, inefficient technology or simply poor discipline in people. Gennadi Kisilev, a deputy from Kirghizia, blamed it on the Ministry of Power Engineering.

Other speakers believed that the ministry, while laying emphasis on power station construction, sometimes forgot about transmission lines. They explained that there is a water shortage in Central Asia now while there is plenty of water in Siberian rivers, and Siberian hydropower stations have considerable reserve capacities; but these reserves could not be put to use because of a shortage of transmission lines.

Deputies made sharp criticisms, and suggestions too. Ways to ensure the fulfilment of next year's plan, 60 billion kilowatt hours larger than the present one, were put forward, and the importance was pointed out not just of fulfilling it at any price but also of doing so with the maximum economic effect.

Tuesday's debate didn't only concern the country's social and economic development. Changes in the cultural field were discussed too.

Deputy Vladimir Karpov, who is the First Secretary of the Board of the Writer's Union, said that his organisation encouraged its members to reflect the new tendencies in Soviet society, specifically in the cultural sphere.

"Since the 27th Party Congress we have talked and written much about our shortcomings. Reading about such things often makes one bitter and sad, but we must tell the truth. It has a cleansing effect, frees the writer of his old feeling of being restricted by some 'rules' which forbid him to touch certain themes. There are no such things today," he said.

But he made the point that to write of shortcomings only is an incomplete truth. "The full truth today is that shortcomings should be given a principled assessment and that struggle is going on to overcome stagnation both in the economic and cultural fields. That is what we must write about today if we are to reflect the truth of life." □

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United States versus rest of the world

By Eduard Baskakov, *Novosti* commentator

THE latest series of public statements by Washington officials, the obstructive stance of the US delegations at the Vienna meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and at the Soviet-American space and nuclear arms talks in Geneva, and many other US moves in the international arena indicate that the US Administration has embarked on the road of outright rejection of the major agreements achieved in Reykjavik in October between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan.

As it is, in trying to cancel the earlier agreements and rejecting all the opportunities for easing the highly dangerous international situation, the US is not only challenging the Soviet Union but is also coming into growing confrontation with the overwhelming majority of states and with all nations. This has been confirmed once again by the situation at the 41st session of the UN General Assembly which is currently discussing the crucial peace initiatives of the socialist and non-aligned states.

Fully in line with the principle direction of the general political discussion at the session, the First Committee of the Assembly has passed a

resolution supporting the idea of a treaty banning all nuclear tests. Not only has the US voted against that resolution, but has responded to it with a new nuclear explosion in Nevada, the 23rd since the declaration of the unilateral Soviet moratorium.

The overwhelming majority of the participants in the discussion in New York have called for the earliest decolonisation and demilitarisation of all dependent territories. Washington has responded to this demand with an unlawful move by circumventing the Security Council and granting the puppet status of "commonwealth" and "association" with the United States to the three American trust territories in Micronesia, which actually amounts to the annexation of the islands.

The First Committee of the UN General Assembly has instructed the Conference on Disarmament to draft without any further delay a treaty on full and effective banning of the development, production and stockpiling of all types of chemical weapons and their destruction.

For his own part, President Reagan has ordered the US delegation at the UN to vote against such a treaty and at the same time signed a bill on the development for the Pentagon of a new generation of chemical weapons known as binary explosives.

Next, the news that the First Committee has urged the USSR and the US to show an example in curbing the nuclear arms race was cabled together with a report from the American state of Wyoming where the first four (out of the planned 50) MX intercontinental ballistic missiles have been placed on operational duty.

Of the 28 resolutions aimed at curbing the arms race which have already been approved by the First Committee, which consists of representatives of all UN member-states, the US has abstained four times during the voting and has voted "no" on 21 other occasions, doing so in complete solitude or with a bunch of its closest NATO allies.

This pointed sabotage of crucial decisions of the United Nations has been accompanied recently by a genuine war waged by the US Administration against the international community. How else can one qualify the US withdrawal from one of the most important UN agencies, UNESCO? Equally outrageous is the unlawful "decision" by Washington to reduce the diplomatic staff of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. In a bid to complicate the work of this international organisation, the US has refused to fulfil its financial obligations to the UN and has arbitrarily cut its annual contribution to the UN budget.

There is a story by the famous American satirist Mark Twain about a frog which participated in a jumping competition and which was fed some lead shot and thus rendered immobile. It looks like the present US Administration, overloaded with the arms build-up programmes of the military-industrial complex, is so far powerless or unwilling to take even a single step along the road of arms reduction and international cooperation in the name of peace and progress. It is also obvious that this reckless policy is leading the US to still greater isolation in the international arena. This is how one can find oneself alone in a crowd, to quote a well-known English saying. □

Soviet delegation at Vienna talks

MAJOR-GENERAL Viktor Tatarnikov, a member of the Soviet delegation at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, said last week in Vienna that in the opinion of the Soviet Union the task of the Vienna meeting was to provide the Stockholm Conference with the mandate to begin working out agreements on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

The balanced programme for European disarmament proposed in Budapest by the Warsaw Treaty member-countries was a good basis for it. It covers a vast geographic zone—from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Of course, these responsible steps require reliable control. The socialist countries propose to use for this purpose both national and international means, including on-site inspection.

The public of the European countries is

worried over the heightening of tension as a result of the policy pursued by the NATO countries. To justify the militarisation of the European continent, the US and some other NATO countries resort to various propaganda inventions. They hold forth about some non-existent 'Soviet military threat' while discussing at the same time the use of medium-range missiles for striking the first blow, the way it happened at the session of the NATO nuclear planning group held on October 21 to 22 this year.

Major-General Tatarnikov said that, in the opinion of the Soviet Union, problems of the consolidation of security and of disarmament were the concern of all Europeans. He pointed out that the USSR urged the participants in the Vienna meeting to work persistently in all spheres of the Final Act without exception. □

Pyotr Demichev on Soviet Cultural Fund

"ONE of the main objectives of the Soviet Cultural Fund is to promote an even fuller and deeper assimilation by the working people of the wealth of national and world culture, to promote their cultural enrichment," said Pyotr Demichev, chairman of the organising committee of the fund and First Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He was making a report to the constituent conference of the Soviet Cultural Fund, which opened in Moscow on November 12.

The idea to set up a fund was put forward by prominent workers in art and literature fired by the wish to draw the broadest mass of the people into participation in cultural construction.

Demichev noted that the USSR has 250,000 historical, architectural and artistic monuments. In Soviet museums and galleries there are 50 million works of art. The Cultural Fund will make an active contribution to protecting and extending this wealth. Among the most important aspects will be founding new museums, galleries, monuments and memorials,

assisting collectors and showing concern for young creative artists.

Demichev recalled that the fund is a self-governing public body. It will be run on voluntary donations from individual citizens, contributions from public organisations, donations from concerts, and from other performances, lotteries and auctions. All who wish, Soviet and foreign citizens and institutions, societies and work collectives, may participate in the work of the fund.

He went on to say that the creation of the fund gives new opportunities for further strengthening the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding among nations, enriching and developing international cultural co-operation, and making contacts with foreign public organisations and representatives of the academic and artistic communities.

The participants in the conference are expected to endorse the charter of the fund and elect its leading bodies. □

Mikhail Gorbachev

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