

Mikhail Gorbachev talks to Supreme Soviet on market reforms

Moscow September 17 Tass – by Tass parliamentary correspondents
Andrei Orlov and Yuri Sizov:

The problem of going over to a market economy "arose during the reforms that are being carried out now. It is dictated by life and the logic of changes that have already occurred." President Mikhail Gorbachev told the morning plenary meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is discussing for the second week running urgent measures to stabilise the situation in the country and the transition to a market economy.

Gorbachev said the crisis in the country and its national economy "can be overcome only through radical economic reforms". He stressed the need of "embarking upon denationalisation and introducing a mixed economy, in which state-owned and joint-stock enterprises, co-operatives, rented enterprises and a definite proportion of private business would operate on an equal footing."

"We pin the solution of the socialist revolution's fundamental concern, the elimination of man's alienation from means of production and property," on multiple forms of ownership, Gorbachev said. "Thereby socialism will be brought in line with the private interests of people," he said.

It is impermissible to "force people into new forms of economic life in defiance of social reali-

ties, the objective course of the historical process, the people's interests and their sentiments, psychology and attitude," Gorbachev said.

Explaining his stand on the various draft programmes for the country's transition to a market economy, Gorbachev said he favoured Academician Stanislav Shatalin's plan. Nevertheless, he said the document could not be regarded as "perfect and faultless". At the same time Gorbachev rejected accusations that Shatalin's programme "leaves to capitalism". The president believes its merits is that it envisages a transition, "that is through a period when tough measures for financial rehabilitation and the restoration of disintegrating economic ties would be taken."

Gorbachev noted that "the obvious disintegration of the consumer market, the growth of the budget deficit and state debt, disorganisation of monetary circulation, rampage of black marketeering and the shadow economy have become obvious in recent months". He stressed that all this "is occurring simultaneously with declining contractual discipline, the severance of economic ties and the complete paralysis of several vitally important industries, including the production of medicines."

Gorbachev said that "we shall have to take tough measures" in the near future. He believes the economic situation "dictates the need of such measures".

"If we cope with this task," Gorbachev explai-

ned, "we shall ensure a more painless transition to a market economy. A market would be out of the question without stabilisation measures, and we would land in a very grave situation, in a state of chaos, the way out of which would be long, painful and difficult."

Speaking about the role of private property in the country's national economy, Gorbachev said it would play "a substantial role only in some domains, but a rather limited role in society as a whole." He noted that the private ownership of land was a problem of principle that "must be decided by the people through a referendum". This problem is too important "to be decided in offices or at forums, even such a high one as this," Gorbachev stressed.

Turning to the recent demands to "reshuffle the top echelons in particular", Gorbachev said they were "absolutely unacceptable". He believes such a reshuffle "would draw us into grim political battles and enhance confrontation in society at a time when we most badly need consolidation to carry out the market economy programme and draft a new federal treaty."

Rounding off his speech, Gorbachev said the country has entered into a "phase of fundamental reforms". He warned against any confrontational steps that could aggravate the political situation in society.

The floor was then given over to leading economists – the authors of the alternative market economy plans – Abel Aganbegyan, Stanislav Shatalin and deputy premier Leonid Abalkin.

Soviet-British dialogue develops

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who held talks in Moscow on September 16, noted that the Soviet-British political dialogue influences the two countries' conceptual approaches to tackling pressing international problems and issues of bilateral co-operation.

Soviet-British relations have reached a new level. Mutual suspicion and prejudice were replaced with interaction and partnership.

Joint activities to overcome the Gulf crisis can be instanced as an example of new relations between the two countries.

The unity reached between the USSR and Britain, as well as other countries, in assessing the Iraqi aggression became an important element in formulating the UN Security Council stand and helped this body take efficient resolutions which make up the basis for a just solution.

The ministers stressed the desire of the two nations to seek a way out of the explosive situation politically. They were unanimous that any armed explosion could be fraught with heavy consequences both for the Middle East and the entire world.

European politics featured prominently at the talks. The Soviet side noted that the new ideas of the Thatcher government concerning possible ways of building a just and open Europe are consonant with the Soviet vision of the European process and open new opportunities for political co-operation.

The sides discussed preparations for the Paris CSCE summit. The ministers were unanimous that this event would be an important chapter in European history.

They noted that there are prerequisites for the Paris summit to reach major understandings.

Shevardnadze said that a joint declaration of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member-countries should occupy a prominent place among the documents of the summit.

The declaration would formalise the principles of the new political thinking in European politics and pave the way for co-operation on key issues in a new Europe.

The sides confirmed their desire to complete an important agreement on cutting conventional weapons in Europe before the Paris summit.

The ministers agreed to accelerate work on these and other documents to be signed in Paris.

When discussing Soviet-British relations, they gave much attention to expanding financial and economic co-operation between the two countries.

Shevardnadze noted that the Soviet Union considered with interest the ideas expressed by the British leadership to assist the USSR in implementing economic reforms.

The Soviet side values the understanding of problems facing the Soviet economy in its transition to market relations and welcomes the British government's readiness to take them into account in improving bilateral trade and economic relations.

The ministers exchanged opinions on some projects and examined the establishment of co-operation in some priority sectors of the Soviet economy.

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Mikhail Gorbachev meets with Douglas Hurd

SOVIET president Mikhail Gorbachev praised the international significance of Soviet-British dialogue during his meeting in the Kremlin today with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

There is every reason and stimulus to step up its intensity at this moment, he said.

Gorbachev proposed thinking together about whether the time was ripe to put on record the headway made in Soviet-British relations, which have reached a certain mark on the international legal plane.

The European process, the Soviet president said, especially in connection with the emergence of a united Germany, is acquiring new aspects. The task of protecting this process from disruptions and distortions, of increasing its positive content, calls for vigorous interaction of all its participants, including, naturally, the United States.

In this respect, the interaction between the Soviet Union and Great Britain is of paramount importance, he said.

The president stressed that judging by some alarming events, certain forces in some East European countries want to minimise the significance of the transformations now under way there and treat them as no more than an ideological revenge.

This imperils not only the democratic nature of these transformations but also the movement of states and peoples towards a new Europe, the Soviet president emphasised.

Mikhail Gorbachev briefed the British foreign secretary on the dialogue with the US president and familiarised him with the ideas and arguments the Helsinki summit highlighted.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Douglas Hurd exchanged views on possible options for the development of the Persian Gulf situation and the ways to act in this situation the two sides viewed most advisable.

Boris Yeltsin meets with Douglas Hurd

BORIS YELTSIN, President of the Russian Federation, met Douglas Hurd, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, at the House of Soviets of the Russian Federation in Moscow on September 13.

After the one-hour conversation Yeltsin told journalists that it was held "in an atmosphere of mutual understanding on all issues, including those dealing with Russia's sovereignty, its independent home and foreign policy and the desire to conclude direct treaties with other countries."

"Russia is ready to sign treaties with Britain in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres without violating any union treaties," Yeltsin pointed out.

Touching upon the relationship between Russia's leadership and President Gorbachev, which was one of the topics of the conversation, Yeltsin said: "We began our co-operation and we shall continue to co-operate for the sake of the peoples of Russia."

Speaking about the concept of the transfer of Russia's economy to a market-oriented system, known as the '500 Day Programme', Yeltsin pointed out that it can be implemented only in conditions of an all-union market. "This is why we are working for the programme to be adopted by other republics," he said, recalling that it had already been approved by specialists from all republics, with the exception of Estonia.

At the end of the conversation Yeltsin stressed that Russia "intends to move more rapidly and more quickly towards reforms, but if the centre lags behind, it is their fault." □

Join Soviet-Italian communique

THERE follows the full text of the joint Soviet-Italian communique circulated in Moscow on September 15:

ITALIAN Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis paid a working visit to Moscow on September 15. He was received by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Talks were held between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Gianni de Michelis.

As a result of talks and negotiations, it was decided to begin the preparation of a new Soviet-Italian treaty, encompassing all spheres of political, economic and cultural co-operation between the two countries.

This treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual understanding, which will be signed at the summit, the communique says, is due to reflect the new quality in relations between the two countries.

The interaction of the two friendly countries should become one of the essential components of the situation in Europe and facilitate the development of the Helsinki Process, and the creation, in this context, of security and co-operation structures and of a single legal, economic, ecological and cultural space in Europe.

A mutual understanding was reached that the Italian side would take significant steps to render assistance to the Soviet Union in implementing the economic reforms in the country.

With this in mind, the Italian government will undertake steps, consistent with the scale of this task, in the financial and economic spheres to create favourable conditions for the development of Soviet-Italian trade and co-operation. Specific agreements on these matters will be worked out within a specific period of time.

The Italian side also stated that it would pro-

mote the adoption of respective measures on a multilateral basis, including within the European communities framework.

The sides were at one regarding the need to ensure the success of the forthcoming CSCE summit in Paris. In this connection, they stressed the need to work out a meaningful, full-weight final document of the Paris CSCE summit, and to quicken the pace of preparing a joint declaration by the NATO and Warsaw Pact member-countries, centred around the provision that the cold war and confrontation period is ending in Europe and a new era of good-neighbourly co-operation is beginning.

They stressed the significance of the timely completion of the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces and confidence-building in Europe.

The Soviet and Italian foreign ministers noted the importance of accelerating work to conclude an international chemical weapons convention at the disarmament conference in Geneva. Both sides will make contributions - on an individual basis and jointly with their allies - to reach these objectives.

The Soviet Union and Italy are fully determined to facilitate all steps aimed at invigorating international co-operation in the Mediterranean, including its political, economic, ecological and humanitarian dimensions.

The two sides reiterated their condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and favoured the expedient and full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the issue. They demand that the Iraqi authorities let all foreign nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait freely leave the country and stress the inadmissibility of encroachments against the status of diplomatic missions and their staffs in Kuwait.

The Soviet Union and Italy consider that the events in the Persian Gulf stress the need for large-scale measures to normalise the situation in the Middle East as a whole and to create dependable regional security structures there on the basis of agreed standards and principles.

The talks in Moscow were friendly, candid and constructive in character and reflect deep positive changes in Soviet-Italian relations of late.

It was decided to continue on a regular basis consultations between foreign ministers on all bilateral and international matters which can be of mutual interest to the Soviet Union and Italy.

Reconstruction & development bank launched

MOSCOW City Council has decided to found a Moscow joint-stock commercial bank for reconstruction and development, the Moskovskaya Pravda newspaper wrote on September 14.

The bank will promote the reconstruction and development of the municipal economy, the building of a progressive infrastructure and realisation of other major social and economic tasks on the basis of world experience in banking, business activities and partnership.

The bank will be a universal commercial bank, and, in addition to traditional credit, account and cash operations, it will attract money to deposit accounts, issue, purchase, sell and store securities and other payment documents, as well as issue guarantees and liabilities.

The bank is planning to open and run foreign currency accounts, attract foreign investments and issue currency credits, conduct other operations connected with foreign economic activities, and to cooperate with foreign banks and open offices abroad.

The registration of the bank's founders will be completed by September 18. □

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Shevardnadze, Baker discuss Gulf crisis

By Tass diplomatic correspondents Konstantin Voitikhovich and Alexander Kanishchev:

SOVIET Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker resumed discussions of the Gulf crisis on September 13 in Moscow in a bid to define more accurately the situation and international acts which can be taken in the situation that arises, a senior Soviet diplomat told Tass.

The diplomat emphasised that the ministers will discuss this problem, guided by the Helsinki agreements between the Soviet and US presidents.

The diplomat said that the talks centred on the problems of curbing conventional arms, and "difficulties that arise in their settlement". The Vienna talks are a very urgent issue because the deadline, by which the agreements must be drafted, is very close. The CSCE meeting at summit level will be held on November 19, he said. Therefore both sides are trying to find "refreshing approaches" in dealing with relevant problems. The diplomat singled out aircraft and troop levels among them, stressing that "the

point at issue is not concessions, but a reasonable combination of the interests of both sides, considering the current circumstances.

"This is not to say that positions should be abandoned. I think that both sides will take certain steps," he added.

Commenting on Shevardnadze's statement at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday that the USSR was going to make fresh proposals at the Vienna talks in the next few days, the diplomat said they were likely to concern troop levels in Europe.

Asked if the treaty on a 50-per cent cut in strategic offensive weapons should be ready for the next Soviet-US summit, the diplomat emphasised: "The question is posed in this way — the treaty should be elaborated. There is no direct linkage to the summit meeting. It is necessary to prepare and revise the document, and then the presidents will decide whether or not to link its signing to a full-scale summit. The most important thing is that it was decided to settle the outstanding problems before the end of this year."

Speaking about economic aspects of bilateral contacts, the diplomat pointed out that "the key

to the discussion of such issues was given by the two presidents in Helsinki: to discuss problems in a matter-of-fact manner, including the most significant mutually advantageous deals. "I would put it this way: we have passed over to the discussion of major projects which are taking shape, including in the sphere of action of private companies," he said.

He believes that the American side is interested in such relations. The arrival in Moscow of a US presidential trade and economic mission only two days after the Helsinki resolutions signed by the Soviet and American leaders is proof of this.

Touching upon the possible subject-matter of a conversation between Mikhail Gorbachev and US Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher and a group of American businessmen, planned for today, he said that they would discuss prospects of trade and economic relations, and not from a conceptual point of view, as before, but from a practical one. He pointed out that the American side probably had something to suggest at the meeting.

Final meeting focuses on disarmament

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, Soviet Foreign Minister and member of the Presidential Council, had a final meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker in Moscow on September 13.

As was arranged before, they discussed major, principled problems. The conversation focused on disarmament issues. Shevardnadze and Baker compared various approaches to the settlement of problems blocking further progress at the Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons and the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe. They based their arguments on confidence, expressed by the two presidents at their Helsinki meeting, that the observance of the schedule of the working out and signing of those documents is not only necessary, but also possible. Naturally, it should be understood that it is necessary to speed up work on the whole of the agenda.

Shevardnadze and Baker agreed, that the first

thing they would do at their next meeting in New York would be to discuss problems dealing with the working out of a treaty on strategic offensive armaments and an agreement on conventional armed forces. They are determined to insist on the coordination of the remaining issues. Participants in the talks have reached the time limit.

Apart from questions of disarmament, memos on Soviet-American consultative and technological co-operation and plans for economic co-operation were handed to the American side during the talks. A whole range of problems dealing with Soviet-American economic co-operation, including large-scale mutually advantageous projects, were discussed at talks between members of the US official presidential trade and economic mission who came together with the US Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, on the one hand, and Soviet chief economic executives, on the other. Shevardnadze and Baker believe that the new Soviet-American partnership calls for an adequate economic basis. □

US-Soviet trade talks

SOVIET Minister of Foreign Economic Relations K. Katushev and US Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, co-chairmen of the Joint Soviet-American Commission for Trade, had a working meeting in Moscow on September 13. They discussed the implementation of the policy aimed at the expansion of bilateral mutually advantageous trade and economic relations, that was mapped out by the governments of the two countries.

According to their joint statement, they agreed to take necessary steps to ensure the coming into force as soon as possible of the

agreement on trade relations, signed by the Soviet and American presidents in June 1990. Mosbacher stressed the need for speeding up the adoption of the law on entry and emigration from the USSR.

Both sides deemed it expedient to take some measures ensuring the development of foreign economic relations and found it useful to hold conferences on energy generation and the food industry, to develop cooperation on a regional level, to invigorate the activities of working groups of the commission on oil and gas equipment, medical technology and equipment, the food industry, building equipment and tourism, as well as to organise a seminar on investments after the adoption of a corresponding law in the Soviet Union. The sides agreed to discuss the creation of a working group on standardisation

(Continued on page 319)

Baker meets with President Gorbachev

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev and US Secretary of State James Baker met on Thursday (September 13).

Mikhail Gorbachev said that his meeting with American business people had brought closer a new stage in economic contacts between the Soviet Union and the United States, which have lagged far behind the level of political interrelations between the two countries.

He noted the significance of the arrival in Moscow at this time of a representative delegation from the United States business community, headed by two ministers.

For the Soviet Union, with its large-scale economy, economic co-operation with the mighty American economy is irreplaceable, the Soviet President noted.

"We are interested," Gorbachev said, "in the actual and businesslike presence of Americans during our country's historic turn. This fits in with our philosophy and our pragmatic calculations."

Gorbachev and Baker exchanged the latest information about the development of the situation in the Persian Gulf. They resolutely confirmed the positions declared in Helsinki.

Soviet-American interaction, they said, contributed significantly to the United Nations taking up the role intended for it at the moment of its foundation.

This offers an immense chance for creating a new world order. If the key processes, by which universal attention is now riveted, will be kept in a peaceful vein, Gorbachev said, this will ensure the beginning of a new world.

The two statesmen confirmed the two countries' determination to intensify talks on conventional arms and strategic offensive weapons with the aim of signing agreements this year. □

Soviet-West German treaty signed

THE Treaty on Good-Neighbourliness, Partnership and Co-operation between the Soviet Union and West Germany is an "historic document in its spirit and content," Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said.

The treaty was initialled in Moscow on September 13 by Shevardnadze and his West German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Later, the treaty is expected to be signed by the leaders of the Soviet Union and a united Germany.

The document will determine relations between the Soviet Union and Germany for years to come.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Shevardnadze said an historic deal had been completed, and from then on, Soviet-German co-operation would have a great future.

The document makes a firm choice in favour

of good-neighbourliness, partnership, confidence and mutual understanding, meeting the vital interests of both peoples, he said.

The treaty determines both states' security in a new way. It rules out the use of armed force against each other and armed assistance or help to an aggressor, if any of the two sides is the victim of aggression.

Genscher noted that relations between a united Germany and the Soviet Union will be "more than the mere sum of relations between the Soviet Union and each of German states." The German side believes the treaty is in traditions of fruitful co-operation. It draws conclusions from history and acts proceeding from its responsibility, Genscher said.

According to Genscher, both sides will benefit from co-operation in the political, economic, cultural, ecological and social spheres, and the co-operation will speed up changes in the Soviet Union. □

Gorbachev meets with Hans-Dietrich Genscher

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev on September 12 conferred with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who was in Moscow to sign the treaty on the final settlement with respect to Germany.

It was noted during their talk that a major step of historic importance was taken. The foreign elements of the German unification were settled on a reliable and sound foundation.

A treaty on good-neighbourliness, partnership and co-operation between the USSR and

the future united Germany was initialled on Thursday (September 13). This treaty will now give new quality to bilateral relations, the situation in Europe and the world. A host of important bilateral treaties and agreements will also be signed soon.

Both sides noted with satisfaction that the time of the cold war is past. Old pages in Soviet-German relations have been turned and new pages are being opened. Thanks to joint efforts, bilateral relations are acquiring a new quality. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's press conference on German settlement treaty

THE treaty on the final settlement around Germany signed on September 12 reliably defines all aspects of the border issue, identifies the future borders of a united Germany and records the rejection of any territorial claims, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told a news conference in Moscow on September 12.

He told the news conference, he was holding with the foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany and the German Democratic Republic, that on instructions from the six the Soviet side will officially hand the text of the treaty to the Polish Government.

The Soviet minister said that the agreements on military-political matters made up the most

important component of the treaty.

"The Treaty confirms the West and East German governments' commitment to peace, their rejection of the production, possession and disposal of weapons of mass annihilation," Shevardnadze said.

"It also envisages cutting the number of troops in the united Germany down to 370,000 within the next three to four years."

According to the Soviet Foreign Minister, the treaty stipulates that the Soviet Union and the united Germany will negotiate a treaty to identify the terms and conditions of the Soviet armed forces' presence on East Germany territory and the conditions for their withdrawal before the end of 1994.

Shevardnadze pointed to the treaty provisions relating to the military political status of the present East German territory. They envisage that prior to the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops, only German territorial defence forces, not to integrate into NATO, will be deployed there.

After the Soviet Union has withdrawn all its troops, other German troops will be allowed to deploy there, with nuclear arms carriers being excluded.

Foreign troops and nuclear weapons or their carriers will not be permitted to be deployed in this part of Germany.

Shevardnadze also pointed out that the new treaty was to replace the rights and duties of the four powers. "Naturally this will only happen following the treaty's going into effect - after its ratification," he stressed. □

Warsaw Treaty and NATO open talks in Vienna

Vienna September 14 Tass - by Tass correspondent Vladimir Smelov:

WARSAW Treaty and NATO officials began consultations in Vienna today on a declaration on relations between the two blocs' member-countries.

The first round of consultations was held at the Soviet embassy in Vienna. The Soviet delegation presented its draft declaration.

The head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Yuri Deryabin, told Tass that the new document should "seal the new quality of relations between the two military and political blocs."

"Moreover, reflecting the transformation of the alliances and the shift of the emphasis from the military sphere to the political one, the declaration should become an important step towards the renunciation of bloc approaches and stereotypes and mark a major stage in forming all-European, supra-bloc structures for security and cooperation."

Deryabin expressed the conviction that the "focal point of the future declaration should be a provision saying that Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries no longer regard one another as adversaries, but favour comprehensive close multilateral cooperation on a qualitatively new basis, further progress in disarmament, the expansion of contacts in all areas, including military and civilian, and the creation of security structures in Europe."

"If the consultations prove successful, the declaration could be signed during a European summit conference. Its all-European context could be confirmed in a final document of the summit meeting of the 35 countries of Europe, the United States and Canada," Deryabin said. □

Soviet Foreign Ministry statement on Kuwait

A statement by a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman was circulated in Moscow on September 16, saying as follows:

According to reports, Iraqi servicemen stormed into the premises of the French diplomatic mission in Kuwait on September 14 and captured several Frenchmen whose destiny is unknown.

The Soviet Union condemns this action by the Iraqi occupying authorities, since it is inadmissible from the viewpoint of international law, tramples underfoot the rules of civilised relations between states, and is aggravating even more the situation in the Gulf and around it. □

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Soviet stance on Iraq outlined at UN Security Council

United Nations September 16 TASS – by TASS correspondent Nikolai Maslov:

THE crisis caused by the occupation and then annexation of Kuwait by Iraq rivets the attention of the UN Security Council, which persistently seeks to resolve it through political and diplomatic channels, Soviet permanent representative at the UN Yuli Vorontsov said on behalf of the Soviet Union at the UN Security Council today.

Yuli Vorontsov is President of the UN Security Council for September.

The international community insists that Iraq

should observe its obligations under the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions which it should fulfil as a member of the United Nations Organisation, as well as other international legal documents signed by Iraq, Vorontsov continued.

"Meanwhile, reports from the Gulf region continue to provoke concern and anxiety among us," he noted.

The latest actions by Iraqi authorities with respect to the embassy personnel of France and other states in Kuwait show that Iraq continues ignoring the will of the international community, refusing to stop its illegal actions against diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait.

These actions are a flagrant violation of the basic principles and norms of relations between civilised states and provisions of Security Council Resolution 664, under which Iraq is obliged not to raise any obstacles in the operation of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait.

The dignity and interest of states demand that their diplomatic representatives are treated with respect.

Any wrongdoing against diplomatic missions and their staff, the more so the deprivation of their immunity and the possibility of implement-

ing their duties, is and was from times immemorial an encroachment on the honour and sovereign rights of states which these diplomats represent.

The Soviet Union supports the provisions of the present resolution, sharing indignation at Iraq's latest actions. "We expect that the Iraqi government will heed, at long last, the Security Council demands, the main part of which is the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi troops for Kuwait in order to restore the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of that state."

Iraq should understand that the Security Council sternly warns Iraq by the present resolution that a refusal to fulfil the charter will result in the council taking additional measures aimed at unconditional implementation of its resolutions, which reflect the will of the international community.

The international community resolutely declares that aggression can not and will not pay.

The Soviet Union and other countries hope that common sense and responsibility will take the upper hand in Iraq and the present crisis will be resolved, Vorontsov concluded. □

Soviet comment on 45th UN General Assembly

Moscow September 14 TASS – by TASS correspondents Yevgeny Alexandrov and Oleg Polovko:

"THE 45th session of the UN General Assembly will open on September 18 in the extraordinary situation when the strength of the new world system, now emerging on the international arena, is being put to a test," Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky told a briefing here today.

Touching on the session's schedule, he said that starting from September 24 there would be a general discussion during which the states would formulate their views on immediate tasks of world politics. The agenda of the session includes more than 150 items, covering all the aspects of international problems – military, political, ecological, economic and humanitarian. Particular attention will be devoted to the discussion and adoption of resolutions, which have a practical bent, and may produce a positive effect on the economic and social problems of the world community.

"The session is expected," Petrovsky stressed, "to continue the process of demilitarising international relations. It will help settle regional conflicts and place their solutions on a political footing, will contribute to the lowering of the level of military confrontation in various parts of the world."

"The Soviet delegation to the UN General Assembly session," Petrovsky said, "will be headed by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. He will address the session on September 25. Between October 1-2 he will attend in New York a meeting of foreign ministers of 35 states – participants of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Furthermore, the Soviet Foreign Minister will have some 40 sessions of talks with the heads of different delegations, including negotiations with US Secretary of State James Baker. Eduard Shevardnadze will also meet representatives of 12 countries – members of the European Community and the Latin American "Rio Group".

Vladimir Petrovsky noted that "the political purpose of the Soviet delegation is to perpetuate all the positive processes that have emerged in the world, to promote global co-operation within the entire system of political coordinates." □

Soviet-Saudi talks in Moscow

Moscow September 17 Tass – by Tass diplomatic correspondent Alexander Kanishchev:

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud al-Faisal al-Saud have gone on record here for normalising diplomatic relations and exchanging ambassadors between the two countries, journalists were told after the Soviet-Saudi talks at the level of foreign ministers.

The Saudi foreign minister arrived in Moscow on Sunday evening and met Shevardnadze today. They discussed bilateral relations, the Gulf

crisis and other international problems.

Shevardnadze told journalists after the talks that a preliminary agreement had been reached to restore diplomatic relations, and expressed the hope that the question would be fully settled during President Gorbachev's meeting with the prince.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were frozen after the Soviet Union recalled its diplomatic mission from al-Riyadh in 1938.

Soviet-Saudi communique

There follows the text of the Soviet-Saudi Arabian communique circulated in Moscow on September 17:

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Saudi Arabia, proceeding from the desire to develop friendly relations between them for the benefit of the peoples of the two states, decided on September 17 to resume their diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level.

The sides agreed that their bilateral relations

will be built in accordance with the UN Charter on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.

The Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia pledge to make active efforts to settle regional conflicts, develop international co-operation and strengthen universal peace and security.

Soviet-Israeli consultations

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official spoke to a Tass correspondent on September 17 about consultations between Soviet and Israeli Foreign Ministry experts in Moscow on September 14.

The consultations were held in the context of preparations for a meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers, which will be held during the 45th UN General Assembly session in New York.

Soviet and Israeli experts discussed the Middle East situation and other issues of mutual interest.

It was pointed out that the Gulf crisis had highlighted the need to find the earliest possible solution of all other conflicts in the region,

including the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

The sides stressed the urgent need to set up regional security structures and to draft measures to ease the establishment of peace and stability in all Middle East people. □

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PRAVDA COMMENT

“Rally Democracy” no solution to economic problems

A rally sponsored by several democratic movements, including the Inter-Regional Deputies' Group, was held in Moscow on Sunday, the newspaper Pravda reported on September 17.

The demonstrators, who began their march at the Central Culture and Recreation Park and ended in the Manezhnaya Square, sought to express their dissatisfaction with the present situation in the country's economy, to demand immediate and resolute measures to return the situation to normal and to advocate the alliance of all supporters of a market economy.

The newspaper notes the slogans that were proclaimed in the Manezhnaya Square on Sun-

day and were inscribed on posters: “No to Ryzhkov-Abalkin economic programme,” “we demand the 500-day programme”.

“Is it possible to resolve the country's difficult economic problems during a many-kilometre march and the following rally?” asks the newspaper. Although speeches by many demonstrators were passionate and sincere, it is next to impossible to settle the problems of property, a land code, inflation and price hikes at rallies, Pravda notes.

Can a rally decide which programme for the transition to a market economy is better, when not even all legislators are familiar with these documents, let alone housewives?

Such actions seek to put pressure on the Soviet

parliament, which is now debating concepts for economic reform, the newspaper stresses, as the demands for the government's resignation demonstrate.

It is not difficult to vote down a government. But such decisions should not be taken at rallies. It turns out that those who have more spare time speak on behalf of the entire people.

Pravda emphasises that even the most talented government cannot do anything if it works in a rally democracy, when all speak but nobody wants to work and observe law and order.

Any economic programme will fail under these conditions, even if multi-thousand strong rallies are daily held in its support. □

Moscow Scientists oppose presidential decree

Moscow September 13 Tass - by Tass correspondent Veronika Romanenkova:

THE Presidential Decree of August 23 triggered a wave of protests among the scientific public. Representatives of Moscow research institutions, who held a rally today outside the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, opposed “the turning over of the property of the academic institutions, whose cost runs into billions of roubles, to 300 academicians”.

The decree institutionalised the transfer to the exclusive ownership of the Soviet Academy of sciences of the fixed assets and other state property, which are now being used by research institutions.

“By giving the exclusive right of ownership to a narrow circle of academicians who, according to the present rules of the Academy of Sciences, are the only ones who form the academy, the Presidential Decree is turning the Academy of sciences the fixed assets and other state property over almost the whole of this country's fundamental science,” Alexander Sobenin, a research worker from the Physical Institute of the Academy of Sciences, said at the rally.

Participants in the meeting adopted a resolution insisting on the suspension of the section of the decree turning over the property of academic institutions to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and demanding that this issue be submitted to the Soviet Constitutional Compliance Committee, because the president had exceeded his powers.

The rally, attended by 200 to 300 scientists and specialists, was organised by the Electors' Club at the Academy of Sciences and the board of the Moscow Scientists' Union. Neither president of the academy Guri Marchuk, nor the vice-presidents of the academy attended the rally.

Industrial output continues to fall

ACCORDING to the information of the USSR State Committee for Statistics, the country's economic situation deteriorated in August, *Izvestia* wrote on September 13. During the eight months of the current year industrial output went down by 0.7 per cent as against the corresponding period of 1989, while the figure for August alone was 1.7 per cent.

According to deputy chairman of the State Committee for Statistics Vladimir Tolokushin, the disintegration of economic ties both on the union and republican levels, as well as direct ties between separate enterprises, is one of the reasons explaining this situation.

Industrial output did not decline only in Byelorussia, Moldavia and Tadzhikistan. In Estonia it remained at the level of 1989. In the rest of the republics the August figures showed the decline of industrial output.

According to Tolokushin, the present concluding of agreements may determine the country's economic situation in the next year. However, not much has been accomplished so far: agreements cover only 25 per cent of the industrial output that enterprises intend to include in their plans. This was half the amount for September 1, 1989.

“Unconstitutional” decree suspended

Moscow September 14 Tass - by Tass correspondent Boris Zverev:

The Soviet Constitutional Compliance Committee has ruled unconstitutional President Mikhail Gorbachev's decree removing the right to allow rallies in central Moscow from the City Council and giving it to the government.

The decree empowered the Council of Ministers to decide on whether or not to permit specific rallies within Moscow's Garden Ring Road. Previously, Soviet legislation gave the final say on such matters to the presidiums of republican parliaments and local governing councils.

The committee said in a statement issued here that the presidential decree “narrowed territorially the powers of the legislative bodies of the Russian Republic and the Moscow City Council.”

Citing the Law on Constitutional Compliance in the USSR, the committee added that the decree was at odds with the constitution and “shall be suspended pending the removal of the discrepancy.” □

Presidential spokesman on Gorbachev-Saudi meeting

THE resumption of diplomatic links between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not a mere gesture of goodwill. It is an event that throws open the way to co-operation in political, economic and cultural fields, presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on September 18.

Describing the meeting between president Mikhail Gorbachev and Prince Saud al-faisal al-Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, Ignatenko noted that “yesterday can be justly considered the official date when the agreement was finalised to resume diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level”.

During the meeting, Ignatenko said, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was discussed. The Saudi minister praised the Soviet stance and stressed the similarity of Soviet and Saudi approaches to the issue.

At the same time, the Saudi prince insisted on the desirability of preserving “a strong and powerful Iraq” and readmitting it to the “family of Arab peoples”. □

Soviet deputy foreign minister visits Teheran

SOVIET Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov who arrived in Teheran on September 18, told Tass that he would discuss the situation in the Gulf with Iranian officials.

According to Belonogov, there is an urgent need to discuss this problem with Iran, a country with considerable influence in the region.

He also noted that the sides would examine bilateral relations, their prospects and problems.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mahmud Vaezi told Tass that the views of Iran and the Soviet Union must be taken into account in any settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Therefore, he noted, the Iranian leadership welcomes this visit and hopes that the two sides will examine all urgent issues during the forthcoming talks. □

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Meeting of CPSU Central Committee Politbureau

THE Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's Central Committee held a meeting in Moscow on September 13. It was attended by politburo members, communist party chiefs from the union republics, and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee.

The first issue that was brought up by the chairman – General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev – dealt with the regular plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. It will be held in an atmosphere of intensive quest for optimal practical ways of a radical transformation of the Soviet economy, which is under way in society.

The plenary meeting should help communists work out a stand on the most acute problems connected with a new, decisive and, at the same time, extremely difficult stage of perestroika,

both from the economic and political point of view. It should also clarify some burning and topical problems connected with the development of the party and the work of party committees and organisations after the 28th Party Congress.

Speakers at the meeting suggested that the basic item – the party's work in conditions of the implementation of the programme of economic stabilisation and the transition to a market-oriented system – be put at the top of the agenda. The raising of this problem triggered a lively discussion. It was stressed that, when reorganising the economy, it is necessary to ensure maximum protection for the working people, and that party organisations should give priority to the stabilisation of the situation and the social protection of the people.

It was pointed out that the market system is not a goal, but a means of improving people's

living standards. It was pointed out that problems connected with the transition to a market-oriented system should be linked more closely with the working out of a union treaty.

The participants in the meeting suggested that General Secretary Gorbachev make a report at the plenary meeting.

The meeting found it expedient to hold the plenary meeting early in October.

It was also decided to include on the agenda of the plenary meeting items dealing with the organisation of the work of the Central Committee, the creation of CC commissions, the structure of the Central Committee apparatus, the activities of communists in the soviets and other issues.

Gorbachev summed up the results of the discussion and told the politburo members and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee about his meetings in Helsinki with President Bush and the talks held there. □

Russian parliament approves new Free Enterprise Zones

By Tass parliamentary correspondents Lev Aksenov, Yuri Kozmon and Pavel Ostrov:

ALTHOUGH the preliminary agenda of today's joint session of the Russian Federation parliament contained just one item – the discussion of the regimen of the parliament's work, deputies chose to focus on another issue – that of establishing Free Enterprise Zones.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin told members of the republican legislature that a number of Councils of People's Deputies had requested that the free enterprise status be granted to their respective territories – the Altai Territory, the Kemerovo and Novgorod regions, the Jewish Autonomous Region and the town Zelenograd (regarded as a district of Moscow).

The creation of Free Enterprise Zones is a new development in the Russian Federation and the Soviet Union as a whole. The movement was pioneered by the Russian Federation's cities of Leningrad and Vyborg, the Maritime Territory, including the town of Nakhodka, and the Kaliningrad, Sakhalin and Chita regions.

The Russian parliament decided to give the go-ahead to such Zones on the last day of its first

session – July 14, 1990. The pioneering effort proved encouraging.

However, the draft resolution on establishing five more Free Enterprise Zones in the republic caused a mixed reaction on the part of the deputies at the current session.

Some of them said haste was not advisable at this stage when the republican economy was set to switch to a market-based system.

They said they feared a sell-out of natural resources on these territories if a big number of Free Enterprise Zones was voted into reality.

However, the opposite viewpoint prevailed. Yeltsin noted, among other things, that irrespective of the number of Free Enterprise Zones, the republic was in need of amassing experience of the transfer to market relations – free enterprises in individual regions would help do this.

In addition, he said he was confident that the innovative move would help pull these territories out of a deep economic crisis.

The president's approach was backed by numerous supporters. As a result, the Russian parliament voted by a majority to create five more Free Enterprise Zones in the Russian Federation, bringing their total number to 11.

As regards the regimen of the parliament's

activity, there were no considerable differences over the issue. Having listened to 14 speakers, the parliament approved of the document at its first reading. □

(Continued from page 315)

within the framework of the commission.

The ministers discussed programmes of technical assistance to the Soviet Union in the training of managers, the expansion of ties between Soviet and American small enterprises, and the working out of a system of assessing the solvency of companies. They also analysed the state of payments to American firms for goods delivered to the Soviet Union, as well as possible measures to be taken.

They agreed that consultations at the level of deputy co-chairmen and leading experts of both parts of the commission would be held on December 17 to 22, 1990. They will discuss the implementation of measures outlined by the co-chairmen, the state of bilateral trade and economic relations, and the preparation of the next session of the commission.

CPSU faces cash crisis

THE Communist Party of the Soviet Union's income from membership fees will fall by 40 per cent, after the 28th party congress revised payment scales, deputy business-manager of the CPSU Central Committee Nikolai Kapanets said in Moscow on September 14.

In an interview published today in Pravda, Kapanets said that if the CPSU retains all its members, membership fees will amount to 950-960 million roubles, compared to 1.6 billion in 1989.

The 650 million rouble loss might even be worse if members began to leave. Revenues from publishing activities are expected to total some 200-250 million, instead of one billion roubles as in recent years, he said.

Revenues from these two sources will fall by 1.5 to 1.6 billion roubles, or 60 per cent. At the same time, in connection with the introduction of new wholesale prices and tariffs and the

growth of the amount of regular payments on state social insurance, expenses on party bodies are expected to grow by 450 to 550 million roubles. The budget deficit might reach a billion and a half roubles a year if measures are not taken to cut expenses.

The party has savings that were accumulated for a number of years as an insurance fund, amounting to 4.9 billion roubles. The congress has allocated 500 million roubles of the sum to treat children living in the Chernobyl disaster area, Kapanets said.

A considerable reduction in party staff, the improvement of the structure of party committees and other measures to economise are not enough, he said.

He said before party committees can find other sources of revenues, their activities will have to be financed by the fund.

In order to attract money, party committees should participate in business activities, Kapanets said.

Pages of History

THE TURNING POINT

by Otto Lacis

When farmers lease plots of land in abandoned villages today, the state of desolation they find there is amazing. Those villages are found in areas that were occupied by the enemy during the war and also regions that the enemy did not reach. The desolation and neglect have nothing to do with the war. They were caused by the Great Turn imposed on the nation by Stalin – the turn that crushed the peasants' initiative, diligence and desire to work.

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Short-range nuclear weapons: TASS comment

Moscow September 17 Tass – by Tass military analyst Vladimir Bogachev:

Swedish foreign minister Sten Andersson, speaking to the recent congress of the Social Democratic Workers' Party in Stockholm, has said that practical preconditions are not ripe for creating a new European peace order, and called for the withdrawal of shorter range nuclear weapons from European territory.

The nuclear arms issue, as regards weapons with a range below 500 kilometres, has for a long time served as a kind of litmus test to define, with great precision, the actual attitude of one or another country to disarmament.

After the Soviet Union and the United States signed the Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty, the Soviet Union proposed holding talks on nuclear weapons with a range below 500 kilometres.

The United States categorically turned down that initiative. In April 1989, Pentagon chief Richard Cheney described the proposal to hold negotiations on shorter range nuclear weapons as a dangerous trap, and declared himself against holding any such talks in the foreseeable future.

Moreover, Washington announced plans to modernise its land-based shorter range missiles,

in order to compensate for reductions under the INF treaty.

However, nothing lasts under the moon, as the saying goes. Under the pressure of developments in Europe, the US stance towards shorter range nuclear weapons has undergone changes.

President Bush eventually said the United States was ready to begin negotiations on the fate of these weapons, but only after signing an agreement on conventional arms in Europe.

Washington officials hurried to specify that such negotiations should not aim at the complete elimination of shorter range weapons, as the Soviet Union had proposed.

The Americans gave up some of the provisions of their flexible response concept, which envisaged the use of shorter range nuclear weapons in the early phases of any armed conflict in Europe. The United States has also renounced plans to modernise its shorter-range lance missiles and its nuclear artillery.

Nevertheless, the road towards negotiations on shorter-range nuclear weapons has not become much easier. Last June, NATO turned down the Soviet proposal to begin talks on shorter-range nuclear arms in the autumn of 1990, regardless of the time when the conventional arms accord may be signed.

While the Soviet Union withdrew 500 nuclear charges from eastern Europe, the United States

is working on a plan to deploy in western Europe another 400 nuclear missiles, born by F-15, F-16 and F-111 aircraft. Taking into account the range of these aircraft, air-to-ground missiles will be able to reach installations deep within Soviet territory.

The Soviet Union decided in 1990 to further reduce its shorter range nuclear forces in Europe unilaterally. It set no pre-conditions and its intention was to create favourable conditions for talks.

Moscow believes that a real opportunity is now offering itself for a radical reduction of shorter range nuclear forces in Europe. The realisation of Swedish foreign minister Sten Andersson's proposal to withdraw shorter range nuclear weapons from Europe would be a major step towards greater peace and stability on the continent.

Soviet General on defence ministry and diplomacy

By Tass correspondent Oleg Moskovsky:

"The Soviet Defence Minister makes no independent political decisions on international matters. This is the prerogative of top organs of state power," army general Mikhail Moiseyev, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, told Tass on September 17. "But Soviet military leaders drew up proposals and corresponding substantiations for their adoption," he added.

Expounding on this point, Moiseyev said that representatives of the Defence Ministry collaborate closely with the Foreign Ministry, the KGB and representatives of other ministries and departments in the process of elaborating proposals on various international matters. "Heated debates and clashes of views and opinions often occur at this level," Moiseyev stressed. He believes this is a natural process that contributes to the elaboration of realistic proposals.

In Moiseyev's view, a specific feature of this work is that the Defence Ministry today must tackle two, seemingly incompatible tasks. "On the one hand," he said, "we always bear direct responsibility for the country's defence and security. On the other – the present situation imperatively calls for disarmament."

According to Moiseyev, to solve these two tasks it is necessary to alter radically many concepts of security, to assess in a new light a whole line of problems linked with the country's defence. "The top leadership pays due attention to our proposals, as is shown by the political decisions adopted," Moiseyev stressed. □

Trade centre to open in Moscow

A new Soviet-US joint venture, the US Trade Centre, aims to promote the Soviet transition to a market economy and establish closer contacts with foreign business circles, participants in a news conference devoted to the opening of the centre said.

The venture was founded by the Soviet Committee for Foreign Tourism (Goskomintourist), the US American International Corporation and the Radisson Hotels International Group.

The centre has leased from Goskomintourist a modern building built by a Yugoslav firm, where the American business centre and the Radisson Slavyanskaya Hotel are located. The venture will not try to compete with the World Trade Centre, but it wants to supplement its activities, it was noted at the news conference.

The business centre can house the offices of 180 firms. It is being equipped with a computer and satellite communication network, the first in the Soviet Union owned and run by an independent proprietor. The network is intended to hold teleconferences and transmit business information to the United States and Europe. A conference hall, with 600 seats, has facilities for simultaneous translation into five languages.

The foreign founders guarantee up-to-date technology for running the hotel, which can cater for 430 people, and high quality services. The four-star hotel will have four restaurants, a health centre and several shops.

The US Trade Centre will open next year. Services will be rendered mainly for hard currency, but prices will be moderate, participants in the news conference said. The founders believe the venture will make some 60 million US dollars profit in its first year. □

Soviet Foreign Ministry statement on Cambodia

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following statement on Cambodia in Moscow on September 13:

THE Soviet Union welcomes the decision by the Cambodian sides at the Jakarta meeting to set up the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. We also hail their decision to endorse an overall agreement on the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict, elaborated by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, as the basis for settling the Cambodian problem. We regard it as an important step towards national reconciliation in that country.

Under the agreements reached, Cambodia's seat at the UN should go to the Supreme National Council, which along with other positive factors makes it possible to discuss the Cambodian issue in a new constructive spirit and without confrontation, at the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

At present the Cambodian side has every possibility of convening the first meeting of the Supreme National Council, of defining its functions and of beginning practical work to settle other aspects of a settlement. We call on the Cambodian sides to continue to act in the spirit of goodwill which they displayed at the Jakarta meeting.

In our view, the point at issue now is an immediate halt to hostilities in Cambodia, an end to foreign military aid to all the Cambodian sides and the establishment of a UN mechanism in that country.

We believe that the necessary prerequisites for preparing and convening, in the short run, the final round of the International Paris Conference on Cambodia are now emerging. The Soviet Union is prepared to work in that direction together with all interested countries. □

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