

Eduard Shevardnadze's speech to CSCE foreign ministers

THERE follows the full text of the speech made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the meeting of Foreign Ministers of countries participating in the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on October 1 in New York:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since our meeting is taking place during a session of the United Nations General Assembly we might call it a mini-assembly of Europe. We should also express our understanding of the problems which our hosts, the New York City authorities and municipal services, have had to face and which they have solved so effectively.

Excellent arrangements have been made for our meeting, and we must thank the Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, for making it possible.

I think there is hardly any need for us to make general statements in this forum. The Foreign Ministers or leaders of most of our countries have already addressed the General Assembly, outlining their views of world situation and setting forth their countries' positions on current problems.

This makes it possible for us to focus on the practical matters of our European agenda. It is a very broad agenda, and I would say a formidable one – in the best meaning of the word.

But before I turn to this, I would like to say that the Soviet delegation takes note of the information provided by Mr Genscher on further steps related to the completion of German unification.

I do not think we should regret that the CSCE process will now have fewer participants. It will probably be fair and appropriate to express our gratitude to the German Democratic Republic for its contribution to the development of this process. Together with all of us, it helped set it in motion.

At the same time, we can welcome with satisfaction a united Germany among us. We

believe this is a situation from which everyone stands to gain, a victory for the European cause and the CSCE process which now takes on a new dimension.

On behalf of the Soviet Union we warmly congratulate the German people and wish the united Germany the best on its long journey in the European and global family of nations.

Let me now go back to our broader agenda. We have before us the following main tasks related to the holding of a CSCE summit:

Let me now go back to our broader agenda. We have before us the following main tasks related to the holding of a CSCE summit:

– To conclude the Vienna talks on the reduction of conventional armaments and on military confidence-building measures;

– To develop the basic framework of CSCE institutions and security structures;

– To prepare a declaration on new relations between members of the two military-political alliances;

– To draw up the guidelines for future development of the Helsinki process and to prepare for the next CSCE summit in Helsinki in 1992.

As our colleagues at the "twenty-three" talks in Vienna are aware, here in New York we have been able to find solutions regarding the key elements of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement.

We can now assume that the agreement will be concluded. This opens the way to the CSCE summit meeting. I would say that the European disarmament train has made up for the delays that worried all of us. It is now on schedule and will arrive in Paris right on time.

It is our view that the preparatory committee has done a good job drawing up recommendations for the summit's agenda and for institutionalising the Helsinki process. This makes it possible at the Paris Conference to take a decision establishing the first CSCE bodies.

The Soviet Union attaches priority to setting up a centre for the prevention and resolution of conflicts. We need such a centre at a time of far-reaching and rapid changes in the politico-military situation in Europe.

We would like to point out that such a centre is needed not just for carrying out certain functions. It could become a model for future democratic security structures that will transcend alliances.

Once the centre is established to deal with matters so sensitive for each country, any state will be able, on an equal footing with all others, to receive objective information on movements of troops and military equipment, on exercises and other military activities that the crisis prevention centre will be asked by us to monitor. Until now such information has never been available outside the two alliances.

As Europe moves from the cold war to a new political era, a declaration on new, non-hostile relations between members of military-political alliances should, in our view, become a watershed between the two periods.

The rapid progress in drafting the declaration makes it clear that we shall have a major docu-

ment reflecting not only the intentions of states but also in many respects, the actual reality of the on-going transition to relations of cooperation and partnership.

The Moscow meeting of the Warsaw Treaty countries and the London session of the NATO Council gave the necessary impetus in this regard.

Let me emphasize that we are not writing an alliance-to-alliance document. It will be a document for the whole of Europe, both in spirit and in form. All states may wish to support it. And I think they will.

The Paris summit is to formulate new guidelines for the further development of the CSCE process towards what we call Helsinki-2.

In this context I would suggest that we have every reason to anticipate even more dramatic improvements in the European political climate if the Paris summit produces the expected results. Vast opportunities and prospects for practical action in all areas of the Helsinki process will undoubtedly open up after the summit.

I still have some misgivings as to whether all of us are psychologically prepared for dynamic progress on a broad agenda. The past is still with us. It still holds us back and sometimes keeps us from raising our sights. This is only natural. Adaptation to new realities is a continuing process.

I do not want to be misunderstood as favouring hasty action or movement for movement's sake. In my opinion, today we need to reassess the role of the time factor in politics. Indeed, we are now able to achieve in a matter of months or even weeks what used to take us years or seemed altogether impossible.

We have reached agreement in principle that we have to move toward a single European space in the legal, humanitarian, cultural, economic and environmental areas.

The time has come for us to get to work on specific programmes and to look for practical ways of building a peaceful, democratic and united Europe.

We can place great hopes on the emerging political structures of the CSCE process, including regular meetings of heads of state and government, conferences of ministers – not only Foreign Ministers – and other arrangements which make it possible for the CSCE countries to stay in touch and to keep pace with the events.

It is very important to link the emerging institutions and structures with those already existing in Europe, and establish close interaction among them.

Without exaggeration, we have enormous tasks ahead of us. Our first task is to make this year's CSCE summit a success.

We know from experience that good results are possible if we have an active political mechanism for preparing recommendations and decisions, if permanent channels of communication are open between our Foreign Ministries and if we, dear colleagues, regard the promotion of the Helsinki process as a matter of high priority.

Please consider this a commitment on my part to act precisely in this manner. □

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Mikhail Gorbachev's message to the children of the world

THE following is the text of the message addressed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the heads of state and governments attending the Summit for Children in New York:

I extend my cordial greetings to the heads of state and it is my firm belief that this unique forum will contribute to greater unity of world forces for the sake of a better life and a better future for succeeding generations, and will become a landmark in the efforts of states to secure the destinies of human civilisation.

Today, when we witness the positive trends in international affairs, the co-ordinated efforts of the world community can provide a political and moral basis for protecting our children from the threat of war and environmental degradation, as well as for ensuring their creative development, adequate education and decent living standards.

As we reflect on ways of building a non-violent and nuclear-free world, it is essential to ensure that from a very young age humane ideals, respect for the rights of the individual and the value of human life are ingrained in the minds of those who will inherit this planet. This

is one of the major objectives of perestroika in our country.

International awareness of children's needs is, in our view, a necessary prerequisite for the establishment of a global order based on democracy and freedom. By signing, along with the other distinguished participants in this summit, the declaration and the plan of action, the Soviet Union accepts and intends to comply with all commitments arising from these important documents.

I wish you every success in your noble and humane endeavour. M. Gorbachev. □

Gorbachev's message to leaders at the Summit for Children

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze handed a message by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev addressed to the Children of the World to the co-chairmen of the World Summit for Children, President Moussa Traore of Mali and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, at the United Nations headquarters in New York on September 29. There follows the text of the address:

Dear junior citizens of the world,

I have been given this wonderful opportunity to extend my heartfelt greetings to you. This meeting is unprecedented not only in terms of its high level. It looks into the next century and is taking place at the dawn of a new era in world development, when the first strides have been

made towards a new world order.

Many obstacles have yet to be overcome. All of us shall have to work hard to get rid of the ills inherited from the past: of the habit of resolving international and other controversies by force of arms, of the tendency to build one's own prosperity at the expense of others, of the dangerous environmental pollution, of claims to superiority and special rights in the world community or one's own country, of racial, nationalistic, religious and ideological prejudice, famine and poverty, disease, drug abuse and alcoholism, backwardness and illiteracy.

You should be ready to take over, to prepare yourselves to enter the new world with a sense of awareness and responsibility, to enhance and pass on humanity's knowledge, its culture and humanistic ideals, you are urged to learn the skills of living in harmony, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, co-operation and mutual assistance.

We must stick together if the difficulties of this period of transition are to be overcome. Our recent experience has vividly demonstrated what solidarity and active sympathy can accomplish, when our country was shaken by the earthquake in Armenia and the Chernobyl disaster. Children were among the victims, and our sincere gratitude goes to all those who have lent them a helping hand. This is something one never forgets.

Dear kids,

What the world will be like tomorrow depends on you, and we, the older generation, are confident that the world's destiny will rest in proper hands, good and skilful.

On behalf of the Soviet people let me wish the children of all nations the best of health and happiness.

M. Gorbachev. □

Soviet-Chinese talks start in Moscow

AT a briefing in Moscow on October 2, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh expressed satisfaction with the results of the first round of Sino-Soviet talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces in the area of the Soviet-Chinese border and building confidence in the military field, which was held in Moscow recently.

Gremitskikh said the sides got down to a detailed and substantive discussion of the implementation of an agreement on the principles guiding such a reduction, signed by the two countries' foreign ministers on April 24, 1990.

They managed to preserve and develop the atmosphere of co-operation, account for mutual interests and the quest for solutions acceptable to both partners, which was typical of the delegations' work at the first stage - during preparations for the agreement on the guiding principles.

According to Gremitskikh, at the new stage of the talks the sides are expected to define the components of reductions, types of armaments subject to reduction, co-ordinate the procedure of data exchange, map out the geographical zones of reductions, create a verification mechanism, and develop a range of confidence-building measures.

Getting down to the new stage of talks, the sides proceed from the importance of the provision that the agreement on the guiding principles does not affect the previously assumed commitments towards other states, and is not aimed against third countries or their interests, Gremitskikh stressed.

"The new stage of talks has just begun: the

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US President George Bush met at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel - the New York residence of the US president - on October 1.

"We considered the most topical problems. We focused, naturally, on matters which we are discussing with US Secretary of State James Baker - arms control and preparations for a CSCE summit in Paris," Shevardnadze told journalists after the meeting.

"The positive conclusion of the Vienna talks on cuts in conventional arms in Europe is indispensable for making the CSCE Paris summit possible.

"It can now be stated with satisfaction that it is quite realistic to expect positive results from the Vienna talks.

"We stated that there are favourable conditions for successfully concluding before the year is out the talks on reducing strategic offens-

ive arms. It seems to me that certain results in this respect can be achieved during my stay in New York. In that case the work on a treaty on strategic offensive arms will possibly be completed during my forthcoming visit to the United States early in November.

ive arms. It seems to me that certain results in this respect can be achieved during my stay in New York. In that case the work on a treaty on strategic offensive arms will possibly be completed during my forthcoming visit to the United States early in November.

"Such are the plans. If we implement them, we shall also be able to decide on a date for the US president's visit to Moscow.

"We also discussed some matters concerning bilateral relations, including our economic co-operation. I emphasised the importance of Bush's Monday's address at the United Nations, particularly the statement about US support for the activities and role of the United Nations.

"Of course, we discussed the Gulf crisis in detail. We made it clear to the US administration that there are still possibilities for a peaceful outcome of the crisis. We are prepared to work together to ensure a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

"We also discussed the situation in other regions, particularly in Central America. We considered in particular the problem of El Salvador. It is difficult, of course, to consider all the problems within one meeting but I believe that this was an essential and a good meeting.

"As I have already said, we discussed some aspects of economic co-operation between our two countries. I think the prospects for such co-operation are inspiring. These matters and specific projects had been discussed during US Secretary of State James Baker's recent visit to Moscow. The US president also supports the programme for the implementation of these projects. Things in this respect will be moving," Shevardnadze said. □

first steps have been taken, a vast amount of difficult work is yet to be accomplished. We regard these talks as an inalienable part of the development of relations between the USSR and China in all directions, including in this complex and sensitive area affecting the two states' national security," Gremitskikh said.

"These talks cannot be viewed outside the general context of the positive processes that are occurring in the Asia-Pacific region," Gremitskikh added. □

Eduard Shevardnadze meets George Bush in New York

Eduard Shevardnadze speaks to UN Security Council on Gulf crisis

THE Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait are a glaring violation of the rules of international relations and principles of the UN Charter, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told the United Nations Security Council on September 26.

Shevardnadze chaired a meeting of Security Council foreign ministers here on Tuesday held to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Reflecting the demand of the entire international community, the Security Council adopted a decision on the unconditional restoration of Kuwait's national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and legal power, Shevardnadze continued.

In compliance with UN resolutions, the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait should be the first step in this direction, he added.

Shevardnadze stressed that no one should have any doubts concerning the Security Council's determination to oppose the illegal actions of the Iraqi authorities and armed forces against

foreign nationals detained in Kuwait and Iraq, embassies in Kuwait and their personnel, as well as against Kuwaiti citizens and their property.

"In the face of Iraq's stubborn refusal to fulfil the Security Council decision, today's resolution by the Security Council, aimed at strict observation of sanctions against Iraq, conforms to the UN Charter and rules of international law," Shevardnadze stressed.

Shevardnadze noted that since the start of the crisis, the USSR put emphasis on collective efforts based on the full use of the United Nations' rights and possibilities, and on the need to settle the crisis by political and diplomatic methods.

This does not belittle the Soviet determination to achieve an end to the aggression, he emphasised. If the measures taken are not enough, the USSR will be ready to examine additional moves under the UN Charter.

"We are sure that the joint efforts of the world community should focus on de-escalation in the Gulf and political detente," Shevardnadze noted.

The world has not had experience of using the provisions of Chapter Seven of the UN Charter

on such a scale, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the meeting.

The United Nations has been put to an unprecedented test, he noted. It should demonstrate that the path of compulsion differs from the path of war.

The United Nations demands that the country against which measures are taken should not surrender but, instead, undo the wrong, de Cuellar noted.

All the Security Council members spoke at the meeting. The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, called the meeting "historic". He thanked the ministers of the Security Council member states for their resolute actions to make Iraq submit to the will of the international community.

The full text of Eduard Shevardnadze's speech to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly will be carried in next weeks issue of Soviet News (No. 6547).

Joint Soviet-European Community statement on Gulf crisis

United Nations September 27 Tass - THERE follows full text of a joint statement adopted at a meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his European Community counterparts:

The European Community and its member states and the Soviet Union decided to issue this statement, proceeding from concern over the fact that the unresolved conflict situations in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf pose a threat to international peace and security, give rise to new crises, whip up the regional arms race and lead to an escalation of violence and extremism.

1. The Gulf crisis should be urgently settled. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the military occupation of this sovereign and independent state were condemned by the entire community. Those actions cannot be tolerated because they violate the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and international law and create a new dangerous focus of tension in the region.

Proceeding from the principles of the inadmissibility of the use of force in the settlement of inter-state disputes and respect for the right of every state to ensure its national independence and territorial integrity, the Soviet Union and the European Community member states urge Iraq to strictly comply with UN Security Council resolutions and immediately and unconditionally withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

They expressed satisfaction with the high degree of accord among all members of the UN Security Council and the international community as a whole about the need to put an end to the invasion as soon as possible and restore international legality.

They believe that the accord should be maintained for the sake of achieving a political settlement of the crisis, a condition for which is

full observance of the embargo introduced by the UN's decisions.

The Soviet Union and EC member states are fully resolved to continue to abide by the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council, and urge all other states to act in the same way.

They are also prepared to consider additional steps consistent with the UN Charter. Time does not work for the aggressor. It will only strengthen the determination of the international community to repeal the aggression and to fully restore Kuwait's sovereignty.

The Soviet Union and EC member states urge the Iraqi authorities to allow immediately all foreign citizens who so desire to leave Iraq and Kuwait. They believe that the government of Iraq bears responsibility for their safety.

2. The Soviet Union and the European Community member states are also firmly intent on working together to help resolve other conflicts in the region, such as the Arab-Israeli one, the Palestinian problem, and the situation in Lebanon.

The USSR and EC member states emphasised

their commitment to achieving a just comprehensive and lasting peace in the region in accordance with the respective resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Seeking to promote security and well-being in the region, the Soviet Union and EC member states reaffirm their readiness to co-operate with the countries of the region in establishing a comprehensive structure in the region and in drawing up a set of rules capable of fostering peace, tolerance, stability, economic co-operation and development. They will hold consultations among themselves in the interests of attaining these ends.

The Soviet Union and EC member states believe that practical steps should be taken in parallel and in conjunction with the Middle East peace efforts in order to bring about an atmosphere of trust for the solution of the problems of the entire region, to curb the arms race and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through both accession to appropriate international agreements and the elaboration of specific regional measures.

USSR establishes consular relations with Israel

THE Soviet Union and Israel have agreed to establish consular relations, Soviet and Israeli Foreign Ministers Eduard Shevardnadze and David Levy told journalists on September 30 after their meeting at the United Nations headquarters.

"Our talk was interesting and timely. It was held in a businesslike atmosphere," Shevardnadze said, "We pointed to changes that have already taken place in our relations, including political contacts. Economic relations are developing through our Chambers of Commerce.

"There was a very important meeting between President Gorbachev and Israeli Ministers. Many Soviet political figures and members of the

general public have visited Israel, helping to improve our relations.

"We also agreed to establish consular relations between the two countries," Shevardnadze said. "We agreed that Consulates-General will open in Tel Aviv and Moscow. We shall decide in the course of our work the organisational and structural matters and those concerning the consulate staff. We shall discuss all this in a week or ten days' time.

"There is another very important issue. We have now decided to formalise consultations and create a mechanism for regular consultations between our foreign ministries, including at the Foreign Minister level; that is, the Israeli Foreign Minister and I will now meet on a regular basis.

(Continued on page 334)

Mikhail Gorbachev meets Lee Kuan Yen

IT was officially announced in Moscow on September 25 that President Gorbachev met with Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew at the Kremlin.

Meeting the prominent statesman who played an important progressive role in the destinies of Singapore, Gorbachev emphasised the importance of Soviet-Singaporean relations which, judging by the negotiations held these days, have good prospects. Gorbachev said that this is also connected with profound transformations in the political and economic system of Soviet society.

Relations between the two countries, which are so different, were assessed in the context of overall changes in Asia and the whole world under the impact of new concepts of the world's integrity, and new attitudes to the rights of every nation and state to its own way of life and socio-political choice, which presupposes respect for the national values and contribution of every people towards common progress.

Soviet-Singaporean dialogue deepening – Gerasimov

"THE Soviet Union is satisfied with the results of Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's official visit to the USSR," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a briefing in Moscow on September 26.

Gerasimov said the visit reflected the growing mutual understanding between the two countries, the deepening political dialogue and mutual desire to develop trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation. "We value the Singaporean side's readiness to help us implement

The world, including the Third World, is burdened with problems. World politics should be aimed at co-operation and mutual understanding among countries, taking into consideration the balance of interests, and regardless of the level of development of states, the nature of their systems, and other specific features.

The situation in the Persian Gulf was discussed. The views of the crisis coincided, the President and the Prime Minister deeming it possible to overcome it in a peaceful way, if the Security Council, its five permanent members and the entire United Nations show staunchness and unity in the implementation of the adopted resolutions, without abandoning the quest for a political way out.

If the United Nations, which now has an opportunity to act in accordance with its purposes, is able to find such a way out, this will be of huge principled importance for the shaping of a new world order.

Gorbachev and Lee Kuan Yew expressed satisfaction with the results of the official visit and their first meeting. □

economic reform," Gerasimov stressed.

Gerasimov noted that Lee Kuan Yew's talks and conversations with the Soviet leadership confirmed that the sides held concurrent views on many pressing international issues, including the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Gerasimov said the sides extensively discussed the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and the possibility of drawing the USSR more actively in current processes there. □

Shevardnadze meets Cuban foreign minister

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at the United Nations in New York on September 29.

Discussing the situation in the Persian Gulf, the ministers noted the coincidence of their assessments of Iraq's actions and the need to work for a peaceful political solution. However, Malmierca expressed apprehension at the hasty adoption by the UN Security Council of several resolutions which could prove counterproductive.

In a frank atmosphere, the ministers exchanged information about the socio-economic situation in their respective countries, and discussed the state of Soviet-Cuban co-operation, in which serious difficulties have emerged lately.

It was pointed out that a substantive and authoritative review of the entire range of related issues was overdue. The ministers also discussed the situation in Central America and the Caribbean. □

USSR to participate in IMF session

Moscow September 26 TASS – by TASS correspondents
Leonid Timofeyev and Mikhail Ivanov:

THE Soviet Union has accepted an invitation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to take part in the 45th IMF-World Bank Joint Session, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a briefing in Moscow on September 26.

The participation of a Soviet delegation in the above-mentioned session is viewed in the Soviet Union within the context of the continuation and expansion of official contacts with these institutions.

"We believe that in view of new international relations that are taking shape, conditions have become ripe to begin talks on the Soviet Union's accession to the IMF and the World Bank," Gerasimov emphasised.

The Soviet Union's participation in these organisations is a logical continuation of the policy of large-scale integration of the Soviet Union into the world economic process, he said.

The Soviet Union wants to join the IMF and the World Bank as the bearer of constructive principles, "recognising the rules and peculiarities of their functioning that have taken shape over the post-war decades," Gerasimov said. □

TASS on Soviet-South Korean diplomatic ties

By Tass political news analyst
Gennady Petrov:

THE decision of the Soviet Union and South Korea to establish diplomatic relations is a result of East-West détente and the establishment of a dialogue between the two Korean states.

This decision was spurred on by two important events: the Irkutsk meeting of the foreign ministers of the USSR and the US, and the first ever talks between the prime ministers of the two Koreas held in early September in Seoul.

A considerable role was played also by the rapidly developing Soviet-South Korean economic ties. The signing in New York of the document on diplomatic relations by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Korean counterpart Choi Ho Jung was not unexpected. The striving of the two countries' governments not to put off the official beginning of bilateral relations until January 1 is quite understandable.

The development of good relations between the USSR and South Korea suits the interests of the peoples of the two countries, and will not damage third countries.

Answering questions from reporters in New York, Shevardnadze said that relations between the two countries do not contradict the interests of other countries. Describing the unification of the two Koreas as natural, Shevardnadze said he would promote it.

The Soviet Union is known to favour the demilitarisation of the Korean peninsula, the creation of a united centralised democratic Korean state, as well as the proposals from North Korea towards this.

In short, the Soviet Union's partnership with both sides in the dialogue can only promote progress in achieving the important goal – interaction, the overcoming of the conflict and the wish to promote an improvement in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. □

Agreement on Soviet troops in Germany

THE USSR and West Germany initialled an agreement on measures concerning the temporary deployment of Soviet troops in East Germany on October 1.

A special fund will be set up to pay expenses for the upkeep and withdrawal of Soviet troops. The West German government will make contributions to the fund.

West Germany will help in constructing housing for troops in the European part of the Soviet Union, and in vocational re-training of troops withdrawn from Germany and demobbed in the USSR. □

Nuclear Deterrence: Past and Future

By Konstantine Nikolayev

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A 'breakthrough' to the Paris summit

By Vladimir Markov, *Novosti diplomatic commentator*

In New York Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker have managed to achieve agreement paving the way to an early signing of a treaty on conventional arms in Europe. Oleg Grinevsky, chief Soviet negotiator at the Vienna talks, told the Novosti News Agency that such a treaty would be signed at the European summit in Paris this November.

What are the main points of the agreement reached in New York?

The main stumbling-block at the Vienna talks in recent months was the question of maximum levels of tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and helicopters for both alliances and sufficiency levels of these categories of weapons for one country. Since only one country in Europe can use the sufficiency level, the Soviet Union, this parameter would apply to it only.

Therefore, a kind of "dual decision" was taken in New York — on arms levels for the alliances, and on the sufficiency level for the USSR. This agreement makes it possible to solve a number of other problems. Without the global levels for the alliances it was impossible,

for instance, to establish national arms levels in Europe. In short, a solution has now been found that will make it possible to resolve the entire conventional arms problem in Europe.

What specific figures have been agreed by Shevardnadze and Baker?

These should first be agreed with the allies. I would not want the agreement to fail at the last moment.

What is the importance of the problem of the regional division of force reductions in Europe? How was it solved?

First, this division should bring about a situation in Europe, in which it will not be possible to concentrate troops in some region, say, the centre or in the north of Europe.

Second, regional division is necessary to ensure a military balance not only from the Atlantic to the Urals, but also in each individual region. It was very difficult to reach agreement on this matter, but we have managed to do so through mutual concessions.

Four regions have been agreed as a result, two of them in Central Europe. They make it possible to move troops from the centre to the rear, but not vice versa. This ensures a lower level of military confrontation.

What about another difficult problem, that is the inclusion of aircraft in the initial agreement on conventional disarmament, on which the Soviet side insists?

Although no final agreement on this question has yet been achieved, progress has been made

in the area during the last few days in New York, which allows me to say that there is light in the end of the tunnel now.

Lately there has been a lot of speculation in political circles and the mass media about a sharp increase in the influence of the military on Soviet policy, especially in the field of disarmament. What can you say on this score in the light of the agreements achieved?

It would be wrong to deny that diplomats and the military have different views and interests. This is true of the Soviet Union, the United States and other countries. The main thing, however, is that they must find points of contact and place national interests above their departmental ones.

I think that the agreements reached in New York clearly show that there are no differences in our country that might stop us moving along the road of disarmament.

In what way will the New York agreements influence the preparation for the CSCE summit in Paris?

A short while ago many people did not believe that an agreement on conventional armaments would be ready in time for a European summit, whereas now there are no reasons for such doubts any more. The Paris meeting bids fair to end in the creation of new structures of co-operation and security, which will provide the framework for a new Europe. □

Mikhail Gorbachev meets Bulgarian Prime Minister

ON September 26 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov, who handed to Gorbachev a personal message from Bulgarian President Zhelyo Zhelev.

The message says that Bulgaria, which is implementing sweeping democratic transformations, will continue to attach exceptional importance to preserving and developing relations with the Soviet Union. These relations are viewed in the message as an integral range of economic, political, spiritual, scientific and cultural ties between the two close and friendly countries, ties that have been formed throughout history.

Gorbachev shared the positive assessments of Soviet-Bulgarian relations, and reaffirmed the Soviet Union's interest in strengthening and renewing Soviet-Bulgarian ties relying on equality, mutual benefit, taking realistic account of the sides' real interests and potentialities, and

drastic changes occurring in the world.

Gorbachev and Lukanov stated that in the present-day changing situation the two countries should remain loyal to their allied commitments, the traditions of friendship and cultural communication between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. They emphasised mutual interest in enhancing stability in Eastern Europe, in the Balkans and Mediterranean, which is a substantive condition for advancing the European process.

In discussing the accelerated transition to a market economy with social safeguards for the needy, which is vital to both countries, Gorbachev and Lukanov expressed the common conviction that the success of this transition hinged to a decisive extent on a broad and constructive civic consensus, and on overcoming the destructive tendencies that all kinds of extremist circles are out to impose on society.

Gorbachev accepted with gratitude an invitation by Zhelev to visit Bulgaria, and, in turn, invited the Bulgarian president to pay a visit to the Soviet Union. □

Soviet and Bulgarian Prime Ministers meet

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov met his Bulgarian counterpart Andrei Lukanov, who is on a working visit to Moscow, on September 25.

The two leaders agreed that the reforms in the

Soviet Union and Bulgaria require the revision and the subsequent renewal of the mechanism of bilateral economic, scientific and technical co-operation to meet the conditions of market relations.

They pointed to the importance of the inter-governmental agreement on the two countries' transition from January 1, 1991 to a new mechanism of mutual economic ties and payments in freely convertible currency at current world prices.

The meeting showed a high degree of mutual understanding between the two countries on issues the two leaders discussed, and their interest in expanding Soviet-Bulgarian co-operation. □

Soviet-US relations discussed in Washington

The Atlantic Council of the United States and the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Economics and International Relations held a discussion in Washington on September 28 on the future of Soviet-US relations.

A joint statement, adopted after the discussion, says that the changes in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe mark the end of the cold war.

It notes that political relations between the two countries have entered a new epoch of co-operation, and that the dialogue between presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush is becoming more and more regular and meaningful.

Participants in the discussion pointed to the existing prerequisites for the signing of a Soviet-US Treaty on 50 per cent cuts in strategic nuclear armaments this year, and for the conclusion of a treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe at an all-European summit, also this year. □

USSR joins Interpol

At the 59th session of the Interpol General Assembly, which opened in the Canadian capital Ottawa on September 27, the Soviet Union became a member of this organisation uniting more than 150 countries.

The session was, for the first time, attended by a Soviet delegation led by Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin, a Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman told Tass.

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Kazakh president calls for emergency measures

ALMA Ata September 28 Tass – President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has sent a telegram to Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov asking him to declare the east Kazakhstan region an ecological disaster area.

The request is due to the accident that occurred at the Ulbinsky Metallurgical Plant on September 12. Extremely harmful Beryllium compounds were released, affecting many inhabitants in the town of Ust-Kamenogorsk.

The Kazakh public and the town's population have demanded urgent measures and compensation for their damaged health. Responding to

the will of their electors, the regional and town councils have already decided to declare the east Kazakhstan region an ecological disaster zone.

Supporting these demands, the president of Kazakhstan asked the federal prime minister to urgently dispatch experts to Ust-Kamenogorsk in order to examine the situation of the spot, and to decide whether the Ulbinsky Metallurgical Plant should be shut down or not. This enterprise is among the country's major suppliers of fuel for nuclear power plants. Unfortunately, it is located in a densely populated area of Ust-Kamenogorsk.

The telegram calls for a commission to carry out an independent ecological investigation with the participation of foreign experts. □

Pravda on procedures for emigration

SOME 2.5 million Soviet people visited foreign countries after rules for private visits were streamlined last year, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department of Visas and Registration Rudolf Kuznetsov said in a Pravda interview on September 26. This is 20 times more than in 1986, he said.

Kuznetsov said that the number of Soviet citizens leaving for permanent residence abroad has also increased. Some 234,000 people left the country in the first seven months of 1990. This is 120 per cent more than in the seven months of 1989.

In 1990, the largest number of people left to Israel – 132,000. Some 73,000 people left for West Germany and 17,000 for Greece. "An interesting situation has taken shape with regard to exits to the United States," Kuznetsov said.

"In 1990, 5,300 people turned to our department for visas for permanent residence in the

United States and received permission. While the number of applications to other countries is constantly growing, the number of people who received invitations to the United States has dropped by 37.5 per cent," he said.

Speaking of a new draft on exit and entry to be discussed by the Soviet parliament, he said that, according to estimates, the number of visits abroad might reach seven to eight million in the first year after the law is adopted.

He said the number of those wishing to leave the country might amount to 1.3 million highly skilled workers. The department has already received 72,000 applications, he said.

Kuznetsov said he was worried that some Soviet people might join the army of illegal workers and be ruthlessly exploited. There are dealers wishing to "employ" Soviet citizens, he said.

He said that the Soviet State Committee for Labour and Social Issues and other bodies should sign international agreements connected with the protection of the interests of Soviet citizens who leave the country to work or for permanent residence. □

New passports for USSR citizens

"ACCORDING to the draft bill on entry into the USSR and exit from the country, Soviet citizens will henceforth have the right to travel both ways and the formalities involved will be substantially facilitated," First Deputy Chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Consular Department Igor Khalevinsky told the Rabochaya Tribuna newspaper in an interview published on September 28.

He said an application to the competent bodies would be enough to obtain a foreign passport. "There will be several categories of passports: diplomatic, service and general-purpose. The first one will be issued to diplomats and parliament members. The second is for representatives of state institutions vested with additional powers to conduct important negotiations.

"We also wish to elevate the status of the general-purpose passport, to make it a fully-fledged document containing ample information about its owner."

Khalevinsky said that "the status of a foreign passport would fully correspond to international standards. Trial copies of the said passports have already been printed. It will be possible to check the information they contain on computers."

Speaking of the expected exodus from the country, Khalevinsky noted that "this process will eventually stabilise. The exchange of people in both directions yields reciprocal benefit to all countries."

Meeting of nine union republics

The heads and representatives of the governments of the Baltic republics, Armenia, Byelorussia, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, meeting in Tallinn on September 28, discussed the establishment of direct links between republics and the creation of an inter-republican market.

A protocol was signed on the results of the meeting which envisages, among other things, the creation of an intergovernmental consultative committee. The document was not signed by representatives of Tajikistan and Byelorussia, as their representatives did not have the authority to do so.

Bilateral agreements on economic cooperation were concluded by Lithuania and Kirghizia, and by Latvia and Kirghizia.

The Baltic republics were represented at the meeting by their heads of government, while the rest of the delegations were headed by deputy government heads or ministers. The meeting was also attended by the chairman of Leningrad City Council, Anatoly Sobchak. □

Yakutia declares sovereignty

Following long debates, the Supreme Soviet of the Yakut Autonomous Republic proclaimed the state sovereignty of Yakutia on September 27. It has been transformed into the Yakut-Saha Soviet Socialist Republic within the Russian Federation.

The Yakut-Saha Republic guarantees equal legal opportunities for all citizens, political parties and public organisations operating within the framework of the republical constitution.

It was decided to keep the word Saha, which is the name of the principal ethnic group of Yakutia, with due regard for the ancient history of the Yakuts, who belong to the Turkic-language group of peoples. □

Last Ballistic missile sub in Baltic

The sixth and last ballistic missile-carrying submarine in the Baltic has been decommissioned, it was announced in Riga on September 28. Known in the West as a Golf class submarine, it was withdrawn from the Baltic Fleet and disarmed at a naval base of the Baltic Fleet. A whole submarine force has thus ceased to exist.

Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin, Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy, in a Tass interview, pointed to the importance of the event.

"I remember the day when the first submarine of this class was decommissioned," he said. "President Mikhail Gorbachev's statement, made in Helsinki in the autumn of last year, on the elimination of nuclear weapons delivery vehicles in the Baltic by the Soviet navy, is being consistently implemented."

(Continued from page 331)

"The strengthening of peace and security in the Middle East will be a major element of our consultations," Shevardnadze said. "This is not a general outline. All this must be subsequently itemised. There will be specific subjects, problems and areas that will be discussed."

Speaking of the possibility of opening a direct air service between the two countries, Shevardnadze said this subject was also discussed. "This is not an easy matter. We decided to return to it later. We will inform you of our decision," he said. □

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Pravda on the activities of 'democratic' forces

A number of democratic organisations and figures in Russia and the Ukraine are attempting to destabilise the socio-political situation in the country, the newspaper Pravda wrote on September 28.

Continuing to discuss the subject raised in the newspaper by Vladimir Petrunya, a Tass political news analyst, Pravda summarises the "Action Programme '90" issued by the Russian Democratic Forum (RDF), which the RDF is now busy circulating throughout the country.

Pravda describes the programme as a manifesto of intransigent opposition and, while stating the existence of a number of positive proposals in it, points out that on the whole this document carries disruptive overtones, and is imbued with a spirit of intolerance.

The newspaper proposes a legal expert evaluation of the document, pointing out that it has some elements of calls for the forcible overthrow of some or other socio-political, state and other structures.

Pravda also reports on the situation in the Ukraine, where calls for rallies and civil disobedience are threatening to undermine democracy and disrupt the republic's economy.

Statistics show, the newspaper writes, that this year's strikes resulted in the loss of ten million man-days in industry, and led to the failure to supply more than one billion roubles worth of industrial products.

What is particularly disquieting is that the present situation does not concern local councils, Pravda writes.

Many of them have been swept by a wave of rallies, without having time to take care of satisfying the everyday needs of people or working

out well thought-out steps for a transition to a market.

Pravda fiercely criticises the opposition Ukrainian party Narodnaya Rada and a whole number of other republican organisations, as well as figures elected to councils, who call, it says, for the overthrow of the incumbent Supreme Soviet of the republic, for withdrawal from the Soviet Union and for the elimination of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Preparing for a coup, if things are called by their proper names, are forces that style themselves as 'democratic'. This is now the way towards a confrontation, to destabilisation of the situation and, it follows, into deadlock, Pravda emphasises.

Reporting that about 50,000 people left the Ukrainian Communist Party this year, Pravda notes that new people are now joining the party's ranks. □

Defence Minister denies 'coup' rumours

"THE rumours about a military coup are spread by those who themselves go against the people, stake their future for the sake of achieving their own political goals, for the sake of power, overthrowing the existing system," Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov said in an interview with the Soviet-skaya Rossia newspaper on September 29.

Yazov believes that these rumours are fuelled "to divert people's attention from bare shelves in the shops or in order to shirk responsibility for the lack of preparations for winter."

Yazov described the 'Programme of Action - 90' as "a programme for an actual seizure of power by the 'Russian Democratic Forum,' which calls for working to achieve democratisation through rallies, demonstrations, pickets, strikes, civil disobedience campaigns, etc."

Yazov again confirmed that two airborne regiments, one from Ryazan and the other from Kostroma, arrived in Moscow to prepare for a parade. He said the paratroopers were in bullet proof jackets and carried weapons and ammuni-

tion because these airborne units might, as circumstances demand, be urgently moved to some or other area of ethnic strife to protect the population.

Yazov emphasised that the Ryazan Paratrooper Training School and the Pskov Division fulfilled their tasks under a plan of exercises.

He denied the arguments that units of the Vitebsk Airborne Division of the USSR KGB Border Troops were put on alert and were moving towards Moscow. "None of the units of this division went on alert and they made not a single step towards Moscow. The allegation that a division named after Dzershinsky was also put on a state of combat readiness does not correspond to reality," Yazov said.

Yazov stressed that allegations about any "co-ordinated operation" by the USSR Defence Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the KGB were also far from reality.

Soviet parliamentary chairman Anatoli Lukyanov emphasised in an interview with Soviet-skaya Rossia that "some stand to benefit from these rumours. They do this not only for the purpose of instigating the army, slandering it, but also to prove the authorities' inaction and as part of what is planned in the 'Programme 90'." □

Resolution on measures to gather crops

Moscow September 26 Tass - The Soviet government today adopted a resolution on urgent measures to complete the harvesting and increase purchase of grain, vegetable crops and potatoes.

The resolution points out that the harvest situation has aggravated in many areas of the country. As a result of unfavourable weather conditions, poor organisation in several places, the slackening of discipline and the lack of co-

ordination of actions by municipal and rural governing and management bodies, a considerable part of the crops grown may remain unpicked.

Work to gather potatoes and vegetables, place them in storage silos and take them to major industrial centres, especially Moscow and Leningrad, is proceeding at a slow pace.

Separate collective and state farms, which have real capacities to increase the sale of grain, do not deliver contracted supplies to state buyers. The deficiency in grain supplies complicates the formation of the all-union and republican stocks of grain, and may generate serious difficulties in the supply of population with bread and a failure to produce the planned volumes of mixed feed for stock-breeding.

Considering the situation that has formed in the harvesting and procurement of crops as absolutely inadmissible, the Soviet government has proposed that the governments of the union and autonomous republics and also local authorities take emergency measures to salvage the harvest. □

Government approves measures for kids sufferers

MOSCOW September 27 TASS - The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution "On measures to ensure the social protection of persons infected with the human immune deficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome patients".

It was decided, in particular, to establish a state allowance at the level of a minimum wage for children under 16 who are HIV-infected or ill with aids.

The resolution envisages the maintenance of one of the parent's uninterrupted length of service in the event of the breaking off of the labour contract by him or her in view of the need to look after a child infected with HIV or ill with aids, in order to estimate an allowance for temporary disability, provided he or she gets a job before the child is 16.

The USSR State Committee for Public Education, jointly with the governments of the union and autonomous republics and the USSR Health Ministry, has been instructed to organise education for children and adolescents who are in clinics, rehabilitation centres or at home, according to special programmes of the secondary general educational or vocational school course.

The Soviet Health Ministry has been directed to determine a procedure for the free provision of medicines for the treatment of HIV-infected persons or aids patients in out-patients department conditions.

The resolution establishes that a procedure to compensate expenses connected with the free passage of the above-mentioned people to the place of medical treatment and back shall be determined by the governments of union and autonomous republics.

It is also recommended that these authorities, as well as the executive committees of local Councils of People's Deputies and trade union agencies take additional measures within their competence and with due regard for regional peculiarities, to provide social assistance to HIV-infected persons or aids patients.

The USSR Ministry of Finance is instructed, together with the Soviet Health Ministry and the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, to draw up proposals concerning the compulsory state insurance of health workers who run the risk of being infected with HIV, and to submit them to the USSR Council of Ministers. □

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Gorbachev adviser comments on new presidential powers

Moscow September 25 Tass – by Tass correspondents Alexander Kanishchev and Igor Peskov:

The emergency powers granted to President Mikhail Gorbachev by the Soviet parliament "are required solely to carry out rapid economic reforms in the Soviet Union, and not for any other purposes, such as the introduction of martial law or presidential rule, a Gorbachev adviser told a briefing here today.

Nikolai Petrakov said the parliament "has shown its incapability in the past few days, and is delegating self-critically part of its powers to the president".

Petrakov said this was very important, as it was necessary to take "quick, prompt and sometimes immediate decisions, for example in price or budgetary policies, during the country's transition to a market economy, to energetic

economic reform policies."

Commenting on the parliamentary discussion of the country's transition to a market economy, Petrakov described the discussion's results as a "victory" for the president and the union government and a "defeat" for the parliament.

Asked whether any attempts were made to combine Academician Stanislav Shatalin's programme and that of the government headed by Nikolai Ryzhkov, Petrakov said the two programmes were "basically opposite in their philosophy."

He said the presidential programme, based on Shatalin's blueprint, paid special attention to stabilisation measures, including "above all, a rigid financial policy and a policy of strengthening the rouble and putting the mass of money under control."

Speaking about the position of the government, Petrakov said "they are not at all embarrassed about issuing more and more money. This is clear from their programme, in accordance with which they are ready to pay huge compensation to the population.

"This is also clear from their current practices,

when the government, motivated by its most sincere considerations, decided to pay its debts to the population on loans from the 1950s urgently."

Petrakov said the two programmes differed "in principle", but, he added, there were "a whole number of issues on which they have approached one another – privatisation, the establishment of joint-stock companies and the training of managers".

The presidential adviser said a "package of presidential decrees on the economic policy" had been prepared, but declined to specify them, explaining that "the programme itself has not been approved yet, and the decrees are very closely linked with what will be approved".

He added that the decrees would concern "stabilisation measures in monetary and financial policies".

Petrakov was asked whether or not the president was "compelled" to defend the government, even at the cost of an open confrontation with the Russian parliament and "threatening his accords with Boris Yeltsin".

He said: "I do not think anyone exerted pressure on the president, he is a very resolute man, and you should understand that there are certain fears with regard to the consequences of a governmental crisis.

"The point at issue is not changing the government. It is important who will carry out the economic policy needed in the period of reforms."

Petrakov said the Russian parliament "has only aggravated the situation by its actions". □

Meeting of USSR Presidential Council

A meeting of the Presidential Council of the USSR was held in Moscow on September 28 to discuss measures to enhance the effectiveness of the conversion of the defence industries to civilian uses.

Members of the union government, the heads of a number of research and production amalgamations, plants and institutes, designers and other experts took part in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the state programme for the defence industry's conversion for the period up to 1995. The draft plan envisages the main directions for re-orientating the defence industry and science towards the development and production of the most important consumer products.

Taking into account this conversion, the value of consumer goods production in 1991 – 1995 is intended to reach 270 billion roubles, almost double the value during the previous five-year period.

The manpower and scientific and technological potential saved will be used for a considerable increase in the output of the agro-industrial complex, the light and food industries, trade and public catering, the medical and electronic sectors, communications and broadcasting, civil ship and aircraft construction and the output of equipment for nature conservation.

Much attention is being given to ensuring the social protection of workers at enterprises subject to conversion. Measures for the retraining and employment of personnel and the social protection of workers displaced from defence production are envisaged.

During the implementation of the programme it is intended to make amendments corresponding to the reaching of agreements in the framework of the negotiations for the further reduction of weapons and armed forces.

The president of the USSR instructed the USSR Council of Ministers to supplement the conversion programme taking into account the results of the meeting and to endorse the finalised programme. □

Defence conversion plan unveiled

"A state programme for arms production conversion has been drafted and presented to the government," Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Vitaly Shabanov told the newspaper *Trud* on September 28.

"Under the programme, 422 military-oriented plants will be converted to civilian work by 1995.

Fifty-six of them will be fully retooled to produce consumer goods over the next three years, and the production of armaments and military equipment at the rest of them will be significantly reduced," Shabanov said.

He said the programme also envisaged motivating highly-qualified staff to stay at converted factories, preserving their unique equipment and the experimental base and developing their scientific-production capacities. The scientific-technical advances in the defence sector will be put to use in civilian industries.

"The remaining enterprises will continue to produce weapons and military equipment in drastically reduced volumes, but taking account of the requirements set for the development and production of armaments by the Soviet Defence Ministry," Shabanov said. □

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USSR, Honduras establish diplomatic relations

The Soviet Union and Honduras have established diplomatic relations, a joint communique issued by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Honduran counterpart Mario Carias Zapata on September 30 announced.

The signing ceremony was attended by Honduran president Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

The Honduran president and Shevardnadze discussed matters aimed at raising the role of the United Nations in the settlement of regional conflicts, and prospects for the development of relations between the two countries. □

Shevardnadze meets Albanian leader

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Albanian President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Ramiz Alia conferred for about an hour at a meeting in New York on September 28, the first in 30 years.

During the talk, which was held in a frank and friendly atmosphere, the two politicians emphasised their mutual desire to give a fresh impetus to the development of political, economic and cultural co-operation between the USSR and Albania. They gave concurrent positive assessments of the development of the situation on the European continent and in the world as a whole. The Soviet side welcomed Albania's aspiration to join the European process.

The sides reached an understanding regarding the desirability of the exchange of visits by the two countries' foreign ministers. □