



Soviet Government statement on SALT-2 Treaty

MOSCOW, May 31, TASS:

HERE follows the full text of the Soviet Government statement:

The Government of the United States has taken a step which again in all obviousness reveals the essence of the current US foreign-policy course aimed at spiralling up the arms race in every way, at militarising outer space and at heightening international tension.

On May 27 this year, President Reagan announced the virtual refusal of the United States to subsequently observe the Soviet-US legal treaty documents on the limitation of strategic offensive arms—the 1972 Interim Agreement and the 1979 SALT-2 Treaty. He stated that the United States would not be bound by strategic arms limitation agreements in future decisions concerning the development of US strategic forces.

Thus, what the Soviet Union warned about has happened. The US Administration, of all versions of its possible actions as regards the strategic arms limitation treaties and agreements, adopted precisely the one which undermines the foundation of the process of limiting and reducing such arms. Confronted with the choice of whether it should moderate its own arms programmes or open the floodgates for an uncontrolled arms race, Washington preferred the latter. The President's decision signifies that the present US leadership has resorted to an exceptionally dangerous measure in the cause of destroying the treaty system which curbs the nuclear arms race and thereby creates conditions for the conclusion of new agreements.

Concretely, a US withdrawal from the SALT-2 Treaty is programmed for the end of the current year, when in the process of deploying new arms—heavy bombers with cruise missiles, in particular—the USA will overstep the limit of 1,320 MIRVed strategic delivery vehicles. The President directly stated that the USA would not dismantle an appropriate number of existing arms to keep within the SALT-2 limits.

The US Administration has virtually taken a course towards fully implementing an all-embracing strategic nuclear build-up programme which was adopted by it and which to a certain extent is restrained by the SALT agreements. In particular, the USA intends, along with the deployment of B-52 and B-1B bombers with long-range cruise missiles, to develop the second new type of ICBM Midgetman, to deploy another 50 MX ICBM's and to speed up the development of an "advanced cruise missile".

It has been announced that work will be continued to develop space strike weapons within the framework of the "Star Wars" programme.

The dismantling of two Poseidon missile-carrying submarines, scheduled for the nearest period in view of the commissioning of the eighth Trident submarine, is officially explained by budget funds saving considerations, and not by a desire to observe the SALT-2 Treaty provisions.

Attempts are being made to justify all this by certain "violations" of the agreements on the part of the Soviet Union. But such assertions are unfounded from beginning to end. There have not been and are no such violations. The US Government knows that well. The Soviet side has repeatedly exposed on the strength of facts Washington's attempts at levelling far-fetched accusations at the Soviet Union on the introduction of each new US military programme which does not fit into the existing treaty limits.

The principled approach of the USSR to the existing agreements in the arms limitation field is known. The Soviet side observed and observes, strictly and in full volume, all the commitments taken by it. In doing so, it proceeds from the premise that the continued observance, on a mutual basis, of the obligations formulated by the SALT-2 Treaty would have considerable importance for the maintenance of the strategic balance and the enhancement of security.

However, the US Administration is guided by different considerations. Earlier, too, it did much to undermine the SALT-2 Treaty, which was a result of many years of co-operation between the USSR and the USA in the 70s in the cause of terminating the race in nuclear-missile weapons and of promoting strategic stability. First, the non-ratification of the treaty, then the circumvention of its provisions through the deployment of first strike missiles in Western Europe—the ballistic Pershing-II missiles and Cruise missiles—, then the departure from its individual

provisions, and now an outright renunciation of the treaty.

All this is making more obvious still why the American Administration holds such an unconstructive stand in the Geneva negotiations on nuclear and space arms, just as on the question of what a new Soviet-American summit meeting should be like. At the same time this confirms the well-grounded character of the Soviet view to the effect that such a meeting requires the readiness of the American side to achieve concrete results on at least one or two questions in the sphere of security, and also the existence of a relevant political atmosphere. It is clear that the challenging move made by the United States in no way attests to either one or the other.

It should also be clear that the Soviet Government will not watch impartially how the United States is breaking down the agreements reached in the sphere of the limitation of strategic offensive arms. The American side should have no illusions that it will manage to get military advantages for itself at the expense of the security of others.

As soon as the USA goes beyond the established levels of arms, or otherwise violates the other main provisions of the mentioned agreements observed by the sides until now, the Soviet Union will consider itself free from the relevant commitments under the 1972 Interim Agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty and will take the necessary practical steps to prevent the military-strategic parity from being upset. These measures will rule out the possibility of the United States acquiring advantages in the main types of new strategic arms which it is developing now and which it intends to phase into service.

The Soviet Union will continue to take all measures in order to ensure reliably the security of the socialist community and will continue to do everything necessary to enhance international security. □

Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, May 30, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its latest meeting approved the results of the negotiations which Mikhail Gorbachyov and Nikolai Ryzhkov had with Abdel Salam Jalloud, member of the revolutionary leadership of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

It noted the significance of the correct conclusions which follow from the US aggression against Libya, for peace, national liberation forces and for all Arab states in particular. The principled Soviet stand in support of Libya's independence and sovereignty, the USSR's readiness to develop long-term political and economic co-operation with Libya and to assist in the consolidation of its defence potential was reaffirmed.

The Political Bureau heard a report on the results of the negotiations which the Soviet leadership had with Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic Abdel Halim Khaddam. The mutual striving for development of friendly Soviet-Syrian co-operation was noted, and the

campaign of imperialist threats and pressure against Syria was firmly condemned. The Soviet Union's stand in favour of a just Middle East settlement, which meets the interests and security of all peoples and states of that region, was reaffirmed.

The Political Bureau heard a report from the governmental commission on continued work on eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, gradually normalising the situation at the power station itself and in the adjacent locality, arranging daily life and providing food, medical, trade and cultural services for the people who were temporarily evacuated from the area of the accident. The necessary decisions were taken on all these questions.

A decision was taken on the measures planned for the current five-year period on further improving the work of rail transport and consolidating its material-technical basis.

The Political Bureau discussed and took decisions on some other questions of the socio-economic development of the USSR and its peaceful course on the international scene. □

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Andrei Gromyko receives British parliamentary delegation

MOSCOW, June 2, TASS:

BRITISH Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Privy Council, member of the Conservative Party and leader of the British parliamentary delegation Viscount Whitelaw said that the British MPs had been strongly impressed by the great attention paid in the Soviet Union to the younger generation and to cultural development.

This was said at the opening of the conversation in the Kremlin between Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the British parliamentary delegation that is concluding its official visit to the Soviet Union.

Andrei Gromyko said that ever since the time Lenin was at the helm of the state, Soviet power had been paying the closest of attention to the education of youth. This had always been so, and this state of affairs continued. For instance, the latest meeting of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet had discussed the work in the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic to observe the demands of the legislation for the consolidation of the family and enhancement of its responsibility for the upbringing of children.

At the same time the state was doing everything to ensure that the masses of the people should have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the cultural heritage of mankind. This helped educate the man who believed in the victory of reason over ignorance. All the measures aimed at the moulding of such a man were imbued with the ideas of peace and friendship among nations and of the need for

averting the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

In reply to a statement by the British parliamentarians that they declared for mutual understanding between the two countries, Andrei Gromyko said that this was a very valuable remark, and that the Soviet side went along with it.

During the conversation, the attention of the British parliamentarians was called to the Soviet peace initiatives of historic importance: the programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons before the end of the 20th century, advanced in Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement of January 15, 1986 and confirmed by the 27th CPSU Congress, the concept of universal security set out in the political report to the Congress, the moratorium on nuclear testing that the Soviet Union announced unilaterally and that will be operating till August 6 of this year, and the Soviet Union's readiness to start without delay any talks on a complete ban on nuclear weapon tests. These proposals meet the aspirations of peoples in questions of war and peace.

"Those who heap up nuclear arms are generating danger, not security," Andrei Gromyko said. "Moreover, they aggravate this danger to the utmost. This must not be forgotten by anyone, ever."

"The Soviet Union is guided by deeply humane considerations when proclaiming the need for the elimination of nuclear arms," Andrei Gromyko said. "The main thing for which we call is to realise the tremendousness of this task, for without solving it all of us, that is, all countries large and small, all peoples, will be as if looking down an abyss, facing the threat of falling into it."

Denis Healey, one of the leaders of the opposition in the British Parliament and member of

the Labour Party, said that a few days had passed since the delegation's conversation with Mikhail Gorbachyov. Prospects for a Soviet-US summit had been discussed during that conversation. But two important events had taken place since that time. The first of those events was that the United States had opposed the entire international community in Berne at a conference on human contacts and thus frustrated the adoption of a final document. The second event was that President Reagan had proclaimed the intention this year to give up the observance of the provisions of the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT-2). In the opinion of the British MP, the prospects for a Soviet-US dialogue could not be viewed as promising in these conditions.

Andrei Gromyko noted that such actions by the US Administration resembled the planting of a high-explosive bomb under the SALT-2 Treaty. Only those who were not interested in averting a nuclear war, who feverishly pursued a dangerous policy aimed at continued production of nuclear armaments and the militarisation of outer space, acted in this way. But the British Parliament could say its influential word in support of the treaty. But it had not said it as yet.

The Soviet side furthermore stressed the importance of those proposals on nuclear disarmament which had been put forward by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, in his talks with the British MPs and which were addressed to the British Government. In reply to this, the members of the delegation said what great interest those proposals evoked among them. They believed that the important proposals of the Soviet leader should be discussed in London.

The President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet said that the peoples throughout the world were awaiting practical steps on the part of governments, first and foremost the governments of major countries. It was necessary that agreed decisions aimed at consolidating peace and reducing the level of military confrontation in Europe be put into effect. The Soviet Union would patiently and purposefully pursue the course of stepping up international co-operation and reaching agreements on important and acute international problems.

Alan Beith, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, said that he was greatly impressed by the fact that the 27th CPSU Congress had paid much attention to youth as an important force in developing society. Members of the British Parliament, including David Crouch, Renee Short and Kenneth Warren, put a number of questions pertaining to the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policies, and to the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet and its Presidium.

Andrei Gromyko answered all questions, told the British MPs about the activity of the higher bodies of state authority of our country, and in answering the respective questions, touched upon some other foreign policy problems. He underlined the role of the Soviet and British MPs who can and, in our view, should make a tangible contribution towards building confidence and developing mutually beneficial relations between the Soviet Union and Britain.

On behalf of the entire delegation, Viscount Whitelaw thanked the Soviet leadership and Soviet people for their cordial reception in the USSR.

Taking part in the conversation from the Soviet side were: Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Tengiz Menteshashvili, Secretary of the Presidium

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SOVIET AND FINNISH MPS MEET

MOSCOW, May 28. TASS:

A MEETING with a delegation of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Finnish Parliament led by Erkki Liikanen, Secretary-General of the Social Democratic Party of Finland and chairman of the commission, was held today in the foreign relations commissions of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the USSR.

During the conversation, which passed in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding which characterises Soviet-Finnish relations, the sides expressed mutual satisfaction at the dynamic development of good-neighbourly contacts between the Soviet Union and Finland.

It was emphasised that in the conditions of the continuing aggravation of the situation in the world the experience of fruitful Soviet-Finnish co-operation convincingly confirmed the viability of the policy of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. The sides also took note of the need for implementing the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

That document, the sides noted, plays an important role in the development of the situation in Europe and the world as a whole, despite the fact that the situation in general was aggravating.

The Finnish parliamentarians stated their readiness to follow unswervingly the tested

foreign policy course of their country—the line of Paasikivi-Kekkonen—the main element of which was an all-round development of friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

During the discussion of international problems the MPs reiterated the desire of both countries to promote stronger peace and to work toward averting the threat of war and curbing the arms race. The Finnish MPs spoke with appreciation of the new constructive steps made by the Soviet Union, aiming for the elimination of nuclear and other weapons before the end of the current century and for the prevention of the militarisation of outer space. The decision of the USSR to extend the term of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions till August 6, 1986 affords a concrete opportunity to begin advancing along the road of nuclear disarmament.

All those who are interested in terminating the nuclear arms race, Erkki Liikanen emphasised, should come out in favour of the complete termination of all nuclear tests. This is the most important step toward disarmament. The parliament and all political parties of Finland are pursuing a common policy in that field.

The participants in the meeting emphasised that during the present decisive period the parliamentarians could and should play a valuable role in bringing together all those forces that wish to preserve and develop the spirit of Helsinki, reduce the level of military confrontation in Europe and the world as a whole, and create an atmosphere of trust and constructive co-operation. □

Mikhail Gorbachyov receives Japan's Foreign Minister

MOSCOW, May 30, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received in the Kremlin Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shintaro Abe, who presented a message from Japan's Prime Minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone.

A wide range of problems of the international situation and bilateral relations were discussed. Shintaro Abe pointed to "the great role of the Soviet leadership in ensuring peace and international stability". Mikhail Gorbachyov pointed to Japan's vast potential in resolving present-day world problems and set out the foundations of the Soviet Union's home and foreign policy; this policy was oriented at giving an adequate answer to the demands of the nuclear age and of the scientific and technological revolution, and to questions that stemmed from the complex nature, versatility, contradictoriness and inter-relationship of the world of today which no one could evade any longer. Civilised attitudes, new political thinking and respect for legitimate interests of various states were needed for their solution.

When discussing the question of medium-range nuclear missiles, on which Shintaro Abe spoke in the spirit of the 'global approach' characteristic of the United States and NATO, perplexity was expressed that it was insistently

suggested that the Soviet Union eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles in the eastern part of the country, while the destruction of corresponding nuclear weapons targeted on the USSR from the territory of Japan and its littoral waters was not required of the Americans. Mikhail Gorbachyov, nevertheless, suggested to the visitor that they look jointly for a solution to this problem, too.

In answer to Shintaro Abe's request, Mikhail Gorbachyov set out the known Soviet stand on a new meeting with the President of the United States. It was said in this connection that the Soviet leadership was prepared to consider compromise solutions, but never would it make unilateral concessions: "We shall not yield either to political, economic or military pressure. Any agreement can only be a result of constructive talks."

The meeting could be productive if the approach to it, and to the creation of the necessary atmosphere for its holding, were rid of illusions about the motives for the Soviet interest in the meeting.

Much attention was paid to bilateral relations. Mikhail Gorbachyov said: "History has shown more than once that Japan and the USSR can get along without each other. But such a stand does not benefit neighbours. We have adopted a principled political decision to use every opportunity for the development and improvement of relations with Japan in all directions, regardless of its ties with other countries."

But these relations could, naturally, be built successfully only on the basis of reciprocity, given the understanding that no one would encroach on the results of the Second World War and on the inviolability of frontiers. Mikhail Gorbachyov promised to pay the necessary attention to the requests concerning fishery, and to approach them not only from the viewpoint of economy.

He expressed the readiness to take steps toward fulfilling requests for visits by relatives to Japanese burial places on Soviet territory—in the spirit of humaneness and respect for the customs of the people.

Serious concern was expressed over the intentions of the Japanese leadership to switch Japan's potential to the US 'Star Wars' plans, which cannot but affect the assessment of Japan's foreign policy intentions and Soviet-Japanese relations.

Points of contact and aspects of differences and disagreement were established as a result of a candid and benevolent conversation.

Mikhail Gorbachyov asked Shintaro Abe to convey to the Japanese leadership and to the Japanese people the fact that Soviet people were sincerely interested in good relations with them, and wished the Japanese to view the land of Soviets as a true neighbour, who had no perfidious designs and was prepared, honestly and by joint efforts, to seek ways for a greater mutual understanding and interaction for the benefit of peace and in the mutual interest. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at reception for Shintaro Abe

MOSCOW, May 30, TASS:

THE Soviet-Japanese political dialogue is assuming a stable character. This was noted by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister. He was speaking here today at a luncheon in honour of Japan's Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who is on an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

"The road for our countries for changing from simply being neighbours to being good neighbours passes through the improvement of the international situation, the lowering of tension in it, and the consolidation of the mainstays of peace and international security," Eduard Shevardnadze said. "We are firmly convinced that today's Japan could bring into play its considerable weight and its prestige to ensure that the realities of the present do not push us in opposite directions, but quite the contrary, promote the development of mutual understanding, confidence and co-operation."

The USSR Foreign Minister expressed the hope for interaction with Japan in the implementation of the programme for the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons, set out in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, on January 15, 1986.

Touching upon the problem of terminating nuclear explosions, Eduard Shevardnadze noted that the USSR was not only consistently conducting a course aimed at achieving international agreement on a comprehensive ban on

nuclear weapon tests, but had also imposed unilaterally a moratorium on all nuclear explosions. Mikhail Gorbachyov had declared the other day that the moratorium would be operative till August 6 of this year and had proposed to President Reagan the holding of a special meeting.

"Regrettably, this initiative runs up against a blank wall which is Washington's stand," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

Touching upon the US 'Star Wars' programme, the minister emphasised the offensive nature of the space armaments being developed as a more dangerous equivalent of nuclear arms. With the emergence of these armaments the level

of security of all states would be lowered, while it would become virtually impossible to continue the process of arms limitation and reduction.

"Going by the latest statements of the US Administration, it is striving to drop as soon as possible any restrictions in the way of the build-up of nuclear and other arms," Eduard Shevardnadze said. "We see this, for example, from Washington's attitude to the SALT-2 Treaty. And it is not the alleged violations of its provisions by the other side that is the point of the matter. The latest US nuclear missiles simply reached the ceilings set by the treaty and went beyond them. The limits established by the treaty

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SOVIET-JAPANESE COMMUNIQUE

MOSCOW, June 1, TASS:

A JOINT Soviet-Japanese communique was published here today. The communique says that questions of bilateral relations and also international problems of mutual interest were discussed during the talks held at the regular consultative meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and Shintaro Abe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Shintaro Abe was in the Soviet Union on an official visit from May 29-31 at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

The ministers noted the sides' efforts to improve Soviet-Japanese relations, and confirmed their interest in their further onward development on the basis of the principles of mutual benefit, equality and non-interference in internal affairs. They stressed that this development of relations was in the interests of both countries and would be a major contribution to the cause of consolidating peace and stability in Asia and the world over.

In keeping with the accord recorded in the joint Soviet-Japanese statement dated October 10, 1973, the ministers continued the talks held in Tokyo last January, relating to the conclusion of a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty, including questions regarding its content. They agreed to continue the talks during the next consultative meeting in Tokyo in 1987.

The ministers held a candid exchange of views

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Mikhail Gorbachyov receives Syrian Vice-President

MOSCOW, May 28, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received in the Kremlin today Abdel Halim Khaddam, a member of the leadership of the Baath Party and Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Satisfaction was expressed with the development of friendly Soviet-Syrian relations whose solid foundation is the proximity of their international political interests, mutual understanding and trust between the leadership of the two countries, which have passed the test of strength in the course of complicated developments in the Middle East. The latest aggravation of the situation in that region calls for even more energetic and prompt contacts.

Mikhail Gorbachyov pointed out the firm position of principle held by the Syrian leadership, which excludes the resolution of the Middle East problem under a US-Israeli scenario at the expense of the fundamental interests and inde-

pendence of Arab nations.

He reaffirmed the Soviet Union's invariable solidarity with and resolute support for the efforts of Syria and other progressive forces for a just settlement in the Middle East, the inalienable part of which is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the establishing of a state of their own.

In the light of the lessons of American aggression against Libya a detailed discussion took place on the problems of inter-Arab solidarity and the unity of the Palestinian resistance movement, the relationships with the West and the negative effects of the Iran-Iraq war.

The doctrine of 'neo-globalism' and the state terrorism practised by the United States were evaluated in the broad context of present-day world developments as a reactionary course aimed at stopping and suppressing liberation processes and going against the positive trends that have emerged in international relations. This adventurist imperial policy is fraught with extremely dangerous consequences for the world community of states and peoples, and deserves the most decisive counter-action.

Prime attention was paid at the meeting to the situation shaping around Syria. Mikhail Gorbachyov and Abdel Halim Khaddam reaffirmed the desire of their countries to settle all contentious international issues by political means.

In view of the escalating threats from US imperialism and Israel against Syria, concrete issues of increasing assistance to it in strengthening its defence capability, in keeping with the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between the USSR and Syria, were examined alongside the political issues. Taking part in the discussion of these issues, having regard for what has come to light in the course of the armed attack on Libya, were Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, and General Hikmat al-Shehabi, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Syria.

Mikhail Gorbachyov asked Abdel Halim Khaddam to convey his friendly greetings to President Hafiz al-Assad and wished the Syrian people success in their active and courageous struggle for the just cause of their country and the entire Arab world. □

Andrei Gromyko's speech at reception for Abdel Halim Khaddam

MOSCOW, May 28, TASS:

THE conversation Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had today with Abdel Halim Khaddam and the talks held between the two delegations "have borne out once again that friendly relations between the USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic have wide and clear prospects meeting the interests of our nations and the interests of peace in the Middle East and the world as a whole," Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, said today.

He was speaking in the Kremlin at a dinner given by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of

the USSR for Abdel Halim Khaddam, a member of the leadership of the Baath Party and Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Andrei Gromyko said that the Soviet-Syrian talks were taking place amid a very complicated international situation. The culprits responsible for the tension were well known. They were those who had adopted the imperial doctrine of 'neo-globalism'.

"To call a spade a spade, the substance of this doctrine is international illegality and state-sponsored terrorism," he said. "Washington is out to crush the nations' will for progress and independent development and force its hegemony on them."

Andrei Gromyko said Washington treated the fundamental interests of nations with contempt.

"The nuclear blasts in Nevada, just like the aggression against Libya and the undeclared wars on Nicaragua and Afghanistan, are links in the same chain which they want to use to fetter everything positive that there is in international affairs and that has started to appear after the

summit meeting in Geneva," he went on.

"Another link in this chain," he added, "is undisguised threats against Syria. The Soviet Union strongly condemns this policy."

"Alongside pressure on Arab countries, attempts are also being made to eliminate the Palestinian problem through separate deals with the aggressor and by rejecting the PLO's right to represent the Arab people of Palestine independently," Andrei Gromyko said.

"All these actions are certainly making the situation in the region even more explosive. The Middle East needs not another confrontation but the collective efforts of all interested sides for a comprehensive settlement in the region," he remarked.

Andrei Gromyko stressed that Arab nations were not alone. He declared that in keeping with the Soviet-Syrian treaty of 1980 the Soviet Union's help to Syria, including assistance in developing its national economy and strengthening its defence capability, "has been given and will continue to be given". □

SOVIET-SYRIAN TALKS

MOSCOW, May 28, TASS:

TALKS were held in the Kremlin today between Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Abdel Halim Khaddam, member of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Renaissance (Baath) Party and Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic.

When analysing the situation in the world, the sides expressed serious concern over its sharp deterioration brought about by the irresponsible policy of the more aggressive imperialist circles headed by the US.

In defiance of common sense, these circles seek

to upset the existing military-strategic parity and are pushing mankind to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe. It was emphasised in this connection that the implementation of the complex of peace initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union, primarily the concept of the creation of an all-embracing system of international security approved by the 27th CPSU Congress and the programme for eliminating mass destruction weapons by the end of the current century, acquired special importance for ensuring a radical change for the better and a dramatic improvement in the international climate. The programme for eliminating weapons of mass destruction was set forth in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, of January 15, 1986.

The participants in the talks paid special attention to questions of the situation in the

Middle East and the Mediterranean. The consensus was that it is the United States and Israel that are completely responsible for the aggravation of the situation in those areas. The United States and Israel try to impose their military-political *diktat* on the Arabs, to involve them in humiliating separate deals, to block the achievement of an equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The sides strongly condemned Israel's involvement in the US 'Star Wars' programme, which it is sought to camouflage with the name 'Strategic Defense Initiative'. This reckless action of the Israeli Government, the decision to link Israel with the plans of the militarisation of outer space, is directed not only against the Arab peoples but is also a clear manifestation of joining in the US policy aimed at disrupting the military-strategic parity in the world, at sliding into the abyss of a

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Mikhail Gorbachyov's talks with Abdel Salam Jalloud

MOSCOW, May 27, TASS:

A MEETING between Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Abdel Salam Jalloud, member of the revolutionary leadership of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, was held here today.

Abdel Salam Jalloud delivered a message to Mikhail Gorbachyov from Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

"The US aggression against Libya", Mikhail Gorbachyov stated, "again showed to the whole world what imperialism is. The US action confirmed the topicality of the joint analysis and evaluations which were given during Muammar Gaddafi's visit to the Soviet Union in October

last year. The doctrine of 'neo-globalism', which is designed to cover up state-backed terrorism against peoples that have made their choice in favour of independence and radical social transformations, aggravates the already tense and dangerous situation in the world."

The Soviet Union's invariable stand in support of the just cause of the Libyan Revolution and of the determination of the leadership of Libya to uphold the gains of the revolution against any encroachments was reaffirmed.

Mikhail Gorbachyov and Abdel Salam Jalloud focussed their attention on conclusions which arise from the US armed raid on Libya for the peace-loving, national-liberation forces, and for all Arab countries in particular.

The moral-and-political setback suffered by the United States does not rule out new ventures. Therefore, there is a need for vigilance, stead-

fastness and a high level of defence capacity for countries which may become the target of an imperialist attack, and a need for adherence to principle and consistency in the condemnation of those pretexts which imperialists use and, first of all, of terrorism in any of its forms.

The Soviet Union's readiness to develop mutually beneficial, equal economic co-operation with Libya on a long-term basis, to render assistance to it in strengthening its defence potential, and to co-operate with it in the international arena in favour of peace and security of peoples on the basis of agreed-upon principles was stressed at the meeting.

Mikhail Gorbachyov asked Abdel Salam Jalloud to convey Soviet people's sentiments of solidarity to the friendly Libyan people and wished them courage and endurance in the struggle for their just cause. □

Nikolai Ryzhkov meets Abdel Salam Jalloud

MOSCOW, May 27, TASS:

FRIENDLY co-operation between the USSR and Libya "is based on the community of their stands in opposing the imperialist policy of aggression and violence, of interference in the affairs of others, and their deep interest in averting nuclear war, in safeguarding and consolidating peace, ensuring freedom, independence and equality for all peoples."

Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said this at a dinner that the USSR Government gave in the Kremlin today in honour of Abdel Salam Jalloud, member of the revolutionary leadership of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The head of the Soviet Government said that Libya had now caught special attention in the world. People who treasured the ideals of national and social liberation viewed Libya as "the country that has not wavered when faced with outright imperialist aggression from the

United States and has shown again its resolve to take the road of the construction of new life in accordance with the goals of the 1969 September Revolution."

"Others, who have no wish to abandon the hegemonistic approach to relations among nations, try to blame Libya for everything in order to justify their policy of state terrorism, their contempt for the norms of international law, and to whitewash themselves," Nikolai Ryzhkov said.

"But the times when the order of the world was dictated by crude force are gone never to return," he said. "These times will not return for the reason that history cannot be reversed, for the reason that imperialism and world reaction are opposed by powerful forces of progress—socialist countries, the overwhelming majority of developing countries, the entire growing potential of the peace forces. Their solidarity, vigorous interaction and co-operation are a reliable guarantee that imperialism's attempts to take social revenge will remain futile. Any problems in inter-state relations must be resolved by political means in the nuclear age. There is no other way."

MOSCOW, May 28, TASS:

TALKS between Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Abdel Salam Jalloud, member of the revolutionary leadership of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, ended in the Kremlin today.

Exchanging opinions on key problems of the international situation, the sides expressed profound concern over the fact that crisis situations were persisting in various areas of the globe. They were used by the imperialist circles for the escalation of international tension and interference in internal affairs of sovereign states. Abdel Salam Jalloud expressed Libya's support for the Soviet Union's large-scale foreign policy initiatives.

The talks were held in a business-like, comradely atmosphere.

On the same day, Sergei Sokolov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Defence Minister, met Abdel Salam Jalloud. □

SOVIET-LIBYAN COMMUNIQUE

MOSCOW, May 30, TASS:

MAJOR Abdel Salam Jalloud, member of the revolutionary leadership of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, was on a friendly working visit to the Soviet Union from May 26 to May 30 this year at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and of the Soviet Government.

He was received by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Abdel Salam Jalloud delivered to Mikhail Gorbachyov a message from Muammar Gaddafi, the leader of the Libyan Revolution, says the joint Soviet-Libyan communique issued here today.

The sides pointed out that at the root of the growth of international tensions was the militaristic policy of the USA, the imperialist policy of 'neo-globalism' pursued by it. Mikhail Gorbachyov resolutely condemned the aggressive actions of the USA against Libya and evaluated

them as a manifestation of the policy of state terrorism.

During the talks the Soviet Union's effective solidarity and resolute support for the Libyan people in giving a rebuff to the incessant threats of the US against Libya was reaffirmed. The Soviet Union expressed readiness to develop co-operation on a long-term basis, along the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

Abdel Salam Jalloud stressed that the implementation of the programme to ensure all-embracing security, the constructive Soviet proposals directed at eliminating nuclear weapons and ending the weapons race, and the new extension by the Soviet Union of its moratorium on nuclear weapons testing till August 6, 1986 accorded with the vital interests of the newly-liberated states. He declared the support of the Libyan Jamahiriya for them.

He spoke highly of the efforts made by the Soviet leadership to remove the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and declared in support of the Soviet proposals that an international regime for the

safe development of nuclear power engineering be created.

The member of the Libyan leadership touched upon the US criminal aggression against Libya, whose victims were innocent people, and said that United States imperialism and its allies would not be able to sidetrack the Jamahiriya from the path of independent development, or make her give up support for the just struggle waged by the Arab peoples, including the Arab people of Palestine.

Talks were held between the Libyan and the Soviet delegations. The Soviet side was led by Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The sides expressed satisfaction with the achieved level of mutually beneficial relations and reaffirmed their wish to develop and deepen them further.

The USSR and Libya, the communique continues, strongly condemned the attempts of imperialism, in the first place of United States

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Statement by Soviet Government on chemical weapons

MOSCOW, May 30, TASS:

IN recent days the NATO military bodies, namely the Military Planning Committee at defence minister level, took decisions sanctioning the launching of new-generation chemical weapons, binary agents, into production in the USA. NATO's actions thus impart utmost acuteness to the question of whether chemical disarmament will ever take place.

The answer to this question has always been unequivocal for the Soviet Union: chemical weapons, a barbarous means of mass annihilation of people, must be totally banned and unconditionally eliminated. The only way to reach this goal is to take political decisions and achieve verifiable international accords. This means first and foremost that efforts must be intensified to draw up a multilateral convention to this effect, a step which has been urged by the UN General Assembly on more than one occasion and which was agreed by the leaders of the USSR and the USA in Geneva last November.

This is precisely what the Soviet Union is doing. The latest Soviet proposals on this question, formulated by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement of January 15, 1986, and subsequently presented in a detailed form at the Conference on Disarmament, make it possible to achieve by the end of this century the complete

elimination of the chemical arms arsenals and the very industrial base for their production. Strict international control, including international on-site inspections, could be instituted to verify the process of chemical disarmament. These proposals take account of the positions of many other states, including the USA, and, in the opinion of virtually all the participants in the talks on drafting an international convention to ban chemical weapons, make it possible to avert a number of situations which seemed deadlocked, including those related to verification.

The Soviet Union supports the proposals on the establishment of chemical weapon-free zones in Central Europe and in the Balkans as an intermediate step and is prepared to guarantee their status if the USA does the same. The USSR jointly with its allies called for completely ridding Europe of chemical weapons. It has always strictly followed in its practical policy the principle of non-transfer of chemical weapons to any state and their non-deployment in the territories of other countries.

But what is Washington's response? Advocating chemical disarmament in words, the USA, assisted by some other NATO countries, such as West Germany, is doing very differently in practice. The decisions taken by NATO in favour of binary weapons are actually to programme for years ahead not only the preservation but the escalation of the chemical threat to the whole of mankind. They are contrary to the task of eliminating chemical weapons, contradict the Soviet-American accords at the summit level in

Geneva and cannot help doing grave damage to the work that is being done by the Conference on Disarmament to agree a convention to ban such weapons.

These decisions are causing grave doubts about the sincerity of the statements of those who are supporting them in favour of arms reductions, disarmament and stronger international trust.

NATO's chemical rearmament programme in Europe, which is oversaturated with deadly weapons of every type and variety as it is, is fraught with especially pernicious consequences. There is just one step from the launching of the production of binary weapons in the USA to their deployment in the territories of West European NATO members. Those who think that it will all end with the stockpiling of new chemical munitions in the USA itself, that is, where the Pentagon is not planning to employ them, are badly deluding themselves.

The Soviet Government strongly denounces NATO's chemical rearmament plans. It considers it to be its duty to draw anew the attention of the Government of the USA, other members of the North Atlantic Alliance and all the other European countries to the exceptional danger posed by these plans to the cause of peace in Europe and all over the world. The peoples must say no to binary or any other chemical weapons.

If the USA and its allies really have an interest in chemical disarmament, they should back it with practical deeds, at the negotiating table, instead of starting another round of the chemical arms race. Now is just the time to do so.

The Soviet Union for its part is prepared to do everything necessary to achieve mutually acceptable and effectively verifiable agreements. Reason must triumph over chemical madness. □

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE'S SPEECH

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have become a hindrance, so the treaty is being removed."

"Such actions evoke serious concern all over the world," said the USSR Foreign Minister.

Touching upon questions of the situation in the Asian-Pacific region, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union proposed to start as soon as possible an exchange of opinions between all countries concerned in that part of the world. The most important thing was joint steps by Asian-Pacific states for the strengthening of the mainstays of peace in the region and the consolidation of security. "We see these steps as the broadest democratic discussion of all questions of interest to Pacific countries. Such a discussion can be organised in various forms—in a collective form or on a bilateral basis. We are prepared to exchange opinions with those who support our idea and with those who propose other solutions," Eduard Shevardnadze said. He emphasised that the Soviet Union and Japan could set the example and do much on practical lines. Other states would gain, too, from the interaction of the two countries.

"Much can also be done for the strengthening of the foundations of good-neighbourliness between the Soviet Union and Japan," the minister said. "The planned signing of an agreement on cultural ties must be an important contribution to the further widening of our relations, and to the more profound mutual familiarisation of the peoples of the two countries with each other's spiritual life and national culture," Eduard Shevardnadze said. He pointed out that there existed a number of areas in which broader interaction and co-operation between the USSR and Japan was possible.

Speaking in reply, Shintaro Abe highly assessed regular consultations between the

foreign ministers of the USSR and Japan. He emphasised particularly that the solution of questions that remained unsolved since the Second World War and the conclusion of a peace treaty constituted the most important task. Shintaro Abe expressed confidence that this precisely would enable the two countries to develop friendly co-operation on a durable basis.

He noted that in the present complex international situation, the active holding of a political dialogue on a high level between states with different social systems was greatly needed for overcoming mutual distrust and solution of existing problems. In the past four months Japan and the Soviet Union had twice had an opportunity to hold a direct political dialogue and have a sincere and useful exchange of opinions on the most important problems of the present-day international situation.

Shintaro Abe pointed out the fact that all peoples of the world were pinning great hopes on the implementation of a political dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States, which were greatly responsible for resolving such international tasks of utmost importance as disarmament and arms limitation. "The peoples of the world, specifically, wish an earlier holding of a second US-Soviet summit," Shintaro Abe said.

Present at the luncheon were: Pyotr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee; Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Alexei Antonov and Guri Marchuk, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; ministers, chairmen of the USSR state committees and other officials.

Present at the luncheon from the Japanese side were: Yasue Katori, Japan's Ambassador to the USSR, and persons accompanying Shintaro Abe. □

SOVIET-JAPANESE COMMUNIQUE

(Continued from Page 255)

on urgent questions of the present-day international situation. They stressed the need for efforts to maintain and consolidate peace, and declared for reaching within the shortest possible time accords at different negotiations on arms limitations and disarmament in the field of nuclear and conventional armaments, having in mind the need to reduce to the maximum degree the level of military confrontation.

The sides declared for the need to continue efforts to defuse tensions in the Asian-Pacific region.

The ministers came to a unanimous view on the need to contribute in the future as well towards fostering the positive tendencies in the development of the situation in the world, through broadening bilateral dialogue on international problems.

The sides noted the immense importance of stepping up international co-operation in the use of thermonuclear fusion for peaceful purposes to the benefit of the whole of mankind.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with progress in the work based on the accord between the USSR, the United States and Japan on a number of measures to enhance the safety of flights in the North Pacific and to devise actions to put them into effect.

The sides noted the business-like and substantive nature of the meetings and talks held during the visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and confirmed their usefulness for both countries. □

Vitali Vorotnikov's speech at Mongolian Party Congress

ULAN BATOR, May 28, TASS:

"UNDER the guidance of communists, with the support of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the working people of Mongolia have taken the country out of the impasse of feudal backwardness, successfully followed an untrodden path to the heights of progress, and translated into reality Lenin's idea of transition to socialism bypassing capitalism," it was stated by Vitali Vorotnikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

The head of the CPSU delegation to the 19th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party was speaking today at the forum of the Mongolian Communists.

"A social system based on principles of social justice, rapid growth of productive forces, steady growth in the population's living standards, and access of the broad masses to the treasures of modern culture and science—this is what determines the make-up of present-day Mongolia, its prestige as a worthy member of the community of socialist states," the speaker said. "A reliable basis has been created for confident advance to new milestones in socialist development."

"The experience of Mongolia's development is very valuable for the theory and practice of world socialism and the liberation movement," Vitali Vorotnikov said further. "This experience, however specific its concrete features might be, is attractive and instructive for the once enslaved peoples who reject capitalism and are building a society without exploiters, in the interests of the working people. It is especially topical in the present conditions, when the possibility of development along the road of socialist orientation has expanded thanks to the alignment of forces that has formed in the world."

Speaking about the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress Vitali Vorotnikov said that the Soviet Union would further struggle with unabating energy for the implementation of the comprehensive programme for eliminating weapons of mass annihilation. On recalling the new concrete proposals made recently by the Soviet Union and concerning arms limitation and disarmament, Vitali Vorotnikov said that all of the Soviet Union's actions were imbued with a striving for mutually acceptable and honest accords taking into account the interests of both sides.

"Unfortunately," Vitali Vorotnikov continued, "the United States Administration and its NATO allies do not respond with reciprocity. Whatever proposals we make, they are immediately rejected on any invented pretext. Instead of a constructive attitude to our initiatives they make such counter-proposals that are directed at achieving unilateral advantages in the military-strategic sphere and that complicate the search for accords."

"In other words, the United States Administration does not want serious talks, does not want an easing of tension, does not want disarmament," the speaker stressed. "This is patently confirmed also by the recent defiant, provocative actions of the United States military in various parts of the world, by the build-up of efforts to militarise outer space, the aggressive action against Libya, the unceasing provocations against Central American countries and the fanning up of tension in the Near and Middle

East."

"But no matter how we are provoked," Vitali Vorotnikov stated, "we will not renounce our principled foreign policy course. We are convinced that the future belongs to the policy of peace and co-operation between peoples. We are convinced that all the disputable issues arising in international life can and must be solved by peaceful means, at the negotiating table. Only such an approach accords with the interests of the peoples of all continents."

Then the head of the CPSU delegation dwelt in detail on the situation in the Asian-Pacific region, noting that political will was growing in Asian countries to solve the long ripe problems and that it would be natural to search for their solution not alone or within the framework of isolated groups of countries but on the road of pooling the constructive efforts of all countries in the region in the name of the common good. The Soviet Union, he said, suggests a comprehensive, stage-by-stage approach to the solution of the region's problems. "We regard the programme for

eliminating nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of the present century as a contribution to the working out of a common approach to forming a system of secure and lasting peace in Asia."

Vitali Vorotnikov pointed to the broadening response that was being evoked in the region by Mongolia's peace efforts. He described the idea of concluding a convention on mutual non-attack and non-use of force in relations between the states of Asia and the Pacific, advanced by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, as profoundly concordant with the spirit of the time and the interests of the peoples.

"The still topical principles of Bandung, the initiatives advanced by Vietnam and other states of Indochina, and India, and the Soviet proposals for confidence-building measures in the Far East could become elements of an extensive and constructive concept of security in Asia," Vorotnikov said.

"Of great importance is the initiative of the
(Continued on next page)

Yuri Kashlev's speech at Berne conference

BERNE, May 27, TASS:

TASS correspondents Yevgeni Korzhev and Yuri Vykhodtsev report:

YURI KASHLEV, leader of the USSR delegation, made a speech here today at the concluding meeting of the conference of experts on contacts between people, institutions and organisations, held within the framework of the Helsinki process.

He emphasised that the Soviet delegation throughout the conference had consistently come out in favour of a detailed, business-like and balanced discussion, in a constructive, non-confrontational spirit, of all aspects of the item on the development of contacts between people, institutions and organisations, the way they are recorded in the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference and in the final document of the Madrid follow-up meeting.

Seeking the attainment of concrete results, and not propagandistic competition, the Soviet delegation had consistently pursued this line, not yielding to the vociferous and at times overtly provocative speeches by some Western representatives. The socialist countries had submitted a whole number of concrete proposals covering practically the entire spectrum of mass contacts between millions of people, between institutions and organisations. The USSR delegation, in particular, had suggested a recommendation of fundamental importance: on refinement of administrative rules and practice concerning matters of entry and exit for reasons of reunification of families and meetings on the basis of family ties, with due regard for appropriate international agreements.

"The Soviet Union", Yuri Kashlev pointed out further, "shows in its actions a new philosophy and a new thinking which correspond to the realities of the present-day and have an eye on the future, which is necessary for all the peoples to ensure security, co-operation and mutual understanding and to move on to a new stage of international relations."

Yuri Kashlev expressed satisfaction with the realistic approach by many other delegations and, first of all, by neutral and non-aligned countries, which had made it possible for the first time collectively to work out a unique document on people-to-people contacts.

The actions of Washington in frustrating the adoption of a final document were described by the Soviet representative as "political striptease" which convincingly showed for the whole world to see the US hypocrisy and US disregard for the

interests of other peoples, including European ones. This was a continuation of the philosophy which manifested itself in the bombardment of other countries, in the killing of innocent ordinary people, in nuclear tests which were continued in defiance of the demands of the whole world, in the deployment of more and more Pershing-II missiles, and in 'Star Wars' preparations.

"The Soviet delegation holds that the final negative chord struck at the Berne conference cannot cancel out the entire amount of useful work done and the fact that the conference succeeded in working out a big and important document and in coordinating it unanimously—with only one exception. This cannot but inspire optimism with regard to the Helsinki process which goes on and develops."

After the closing of the conference, Yuri Kashlev gave a press conference. He said that the Soviet delegation had arrived in Berne deeply convinced of the possibility of and the need for interstate co-operation on questions of people-to-people contacts. "In its approach to the Berne conference the USSR was guided by the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act."

"The Soviet Union regards co-operation in the humanitarian field as a foundation of an all-embracing system of international security," Kashlev stressed. "It aspires to the closest economic interaction, the broadest exchange in cultural treasures, and direct and free communication among citizens of all countries."

Responding to questions put by journalists, he said that Washington's double-dealing and hypocrisy, its bid to frustrate the Helsinki process, were clearly visible behind the United States' refusal to approve a draft final document hammered out by virtually all participants. The Berne conference showed the European states' readiness and interest in continuing the dialogue and co-operation within the framework of the Helsinki process. □

Yuli Vorontsov's address to UN General Assembly

NEW YORK, May 28, TASS:

YULI VORONTSOV, USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister and head of the Soviet delegation, addressed the special session of the UN General Assembly which opened on May 27 to examine the critical economic situation in Africa.

"The deplorable situation of many developing countries has turned into a major world-wide problem, which was underlined in the documents of the 27th CPSU Congress," he said. "Yesterday's colonialists would like to exchange their loans and credits for the political independence of African countries which they won in the stubborn struggle against imperialism.

"Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, recently pointed out: 'On the part of imperialism this is also a variety of terrorism—economic terrorism.'

"The so-called contribution of imperialism, above all American, to African affairs is not limited to economic *diktat*. It manifests itself in acts of aggression, in armed interference in the home affairs of sovereign African states, in plots to overthrow progressive regimes, in fanning regional conflicts and seats of tension and in crimes of terrorists and mercenaries. These are bombs and missiles blasting schools and nurseries in Tripoli and Benghazi, these are hundreds of killed and wounded women and children, these are also attacks by trigger-happy South African racists on Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. These are millions of dollars for the upkeep of UNITA and other anti-government terrorist units bringing suffering and death to innocent Africans.

"A comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the economic difficulties experienced by Africa demonstrates that their true causes are rooted in the grave legacy of colonialism, in the merciless plunder and egoistic policy of the former colonial

Mikhail Gorbachyov congratulates Jambyn Batmunkh

MOSCOW, May 31, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has sent congratulations from himself personally and on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee to Jambyn Batmunkh, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), on his re-election to the high post of General Secretary of the MPRP Central Committee.

"People in the Soviet Union were watching with close attention and friendly interest the work of the 19th Congress of your Party, which is leading the country unswervingly and consistently along the road of socialist construction. The decisions of the Congress open up vast new prospects for the development of the economy and culture, and for ensuring a further improvement in the well-being of the Mongolian people who are in the front ranks of the fighters for peace and social progress," the message of congratulations said.

"Soviet people welcomed with satisfaction the determination of Mongolian Communists reiterated by the Congress to continue strengthening the traditional friendship and all-round co-operation between the CPSU and the MPRP, and between the Soviet Union and the Mongolian People's Republic, on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism," the message emphasised. □

powers with respect to African countries.

"The termination of neo-colonialist plunder is a vital necessity, an imperative of the time. The crisis experienced by the African countries cannot be surmounted with the help of new infusions of financial aid. The ailment cannot be cured by this means. What is needed is radical measures to root out its deep-lying causes inherited from colonialism and born of neo-colonialism," the head of the Soviet delegation said.

"Africa has to pay dearly for the so-called aid from Western countries, their monopolies and banks. They intend it to curtail the state sector and give predatory transnational corporations uncontrolled access to the economic life of the African countries. Efforts are being made in the West to put the blame for the existing disastrous situation on the African countries themselves, to explain the crisis exclusively by mistakes in their national development plans, by an 'excessive' emphasis on the state sector in their economies which allegedly hinders the 'healthy' unregulated market force.

"We categorically protest against any efforts to exploit the critical status of the African countries for intervening in their domestic and foreign policies and, in the final analysis, for blocking off the process of economic liberation of the continent, for undermining its economic security.

"We fully support the just demands made by the African countries to the industrialised Western nations for compensation for the damage done by their selfish, self-seeking policy towards that continent's economic and social development.

"The immediate cause of the critical economic situation in a whole number of African states is the policy of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa," the Soviet delegate continued. "This policy is conducive to economic, political and military destabilisation in southern Africa.

"As a result of the policy pursued by the USA and the RSA in Africa, many African states find themselves drawn into the arms race, which absorbs enormous financial and material resources, and which painfully affects their economy. If the funds which are squandered on the arms race—and this is an astronomical figure of almost 1,000,000 million dollars a year—were spent on peaceful purposes it would be thus possible to end within the shortest possible time hunger, stamp out epidemics, and eliminate illiteracy and economic backwardness.

"The Soviet Union consistently and steadfastly pursues the principled policy of curbing the arms race, of preventing its spreading into outer space, of ensuring international security, and implementing as soon as possible the principle of 'Disarmament for Development'. Yet now the USA has declined to participate in a conference on disarmament and development. The Soviet Union insists that it be held within the time set for it.

"The Soviet Union has put forward the important initiative of creating a comprehensive international security system in the military, political, economic and humanitarian fields. An organic part of such a system is international economic security, which envisages the elimination of unlawful discrimination from international practice, a just settlement of the foreign debt problem, establishment of a new international economic order, and the resolution of other most acute economic problems vital to the destiny of the whole of civilisation.

"The concept of security in Africa is not confined to military aspects and should include objectives of socio-economic development. As

the recent bandit acts of imperialism against the African states have shown, it takes only one step from economic pressure to direct military aggression," the Soviet representative said.

"We are in solidarity with the stand of the countries participating in the 21st session of the OAU Assembly that a reliable resolution of that continent's problems cannot be ensured only by means of short-term, emergency measures . . . these measures should be, in our opinion, linked with an improvement of the general international political and economic situation, with persistent efforts to curb the arms race. These measures should be directly linked with the struggle for creating a healthier and more democratic international economic order, ensuring international economic security on the basis of such programme documents of the United Nations Organisation as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the declaration and programme for actions to establish a new international economic order, and other important decisions of the UN General Assembly in that field.

"We are in solidarity with the struggle waged by the African nations for strengthening their sovereignty over the natural resources and the whole economic activity, limiting the negative consequences of the activity of foreign capital, in the first place the transnational corporations. It is not a curtailment, as the West insists, but on the contrary a strengthening of the role of the state sector, a broadening of the planned methods of economic management, increasing the effectiveness of national economic management and implementing progressive socio-economic reforms, including democratic agrarian reforms—this is the way towards a radical resolution of the task of overcoming backwardness at an accelerated rate.

"We have always categorically opposed forcing on the developing countries, the more so through UN documents, economic development 'models' alien to them. The choice of socio-economic system and economic policy is the indisputable sovereign right of the peoples of every country.

"In Africa, as all over the world, our policy is an open and fair one. We look upon the peoples who have thrown off the fetters of colonialism and embarked on the path of independent development as friends and equal partners. Within the framework of equitable co-operation, to the extent of its potentialities and in the forms which correspond to our social system and which have been recognised by the developing countries themselves, the Soviet Union has rendered and will continue rendering political support and economic aid to the African peoples in their striving for genuine economic independence.

"The Soviet Union favours that the UN should draw up an effective comprehensive programme to resolve Africa's economic problems," the head of the Soviet delegation said. □

(Continued from previous page)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea on improving the situation in the Korean peninsula and turning it into a zone free from nuclear weapons.

"The Afghan Government's steps on the political settlement of the situation around its country organically blend with the uniform concept of peace in the Asian continent.

"The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that socialist China could also play its weighty role in establishing good-neighbourly relations in the region," the head of the CPSU delegation pointed out. □

Anatoli Dobrynin's report to conference of Soviet scientists

MOSCOW, May 27, TASS:

"THE leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State highly values the scientists' contribution not only to unravelling the mysteries of nature, but also to the concerted efforts designed to guard mankind against the unwise use of scientific achievements," Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has declared.

He made a report at the second conference of Soviet scientists on problems of peace and prevention of nuclear war here today.

One hundred and fifty nine scientists from 47 countries are taking part. Dobrynin conveyed to the delegates of the conference a message from Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his wish of fruitful work.

Noting that it was the USSR that initiated a far-reaching programme of ridding mankind of nuclear armaments by the turn of the century, the speaker said, "this plan gives an opportunity for a total elimination of nuclear weapons world-wide to be carried out under strict international control.

"This applies equally to the elimination of chemical weapons, their stockpiles and industrial production base, and a ban on the development of non-nuclear weapons based on new physical principles, whose destructive powers are comparable to those of other weapons of mass annihilation. Now this programme has been supplemented with a proposal to reduce conventional arms and armed forces in the entire European zone from the Atlantic to the Urals.

"The historic importance of the latest Soviet proposals is clear. These proposals are realistic because they do not pursue the aims of gaining any unilateral advantages for the Soviet Union, and meet the vital interests not only of our country, our allies and friends, but also of the United States, NATO countries and the peoples of the entire world."

Dobrynin said that peace and military-strategic balance were threatened by the implementation of the Reagan Administration's 'Strategic Defense Initiative', a graphic example of yet another reckless "escape into technology" in the hope of regaining erstwhile American superiority.

The Soviet response to the development by the US of a large-scale partially space-based anti-missile system would be, as Gorbachyov had put it, referring to works by Soviet scientists, effective and less costly and could be implemented within a shorter period.

Besides, that in no way implied that the response would necessarily take place in outer space. "We are consistently opposed, however, to the arms race in outer space," the speaker said, "primarily because we realise full well what dangerous consequences it may lead to."

The SDI advocates were using arguments with an eye to the scientific community, in particular, claiming that the programme would ensure another breakthrough in technology and stimulate scientific thought.

"But is it possible to achieve progress in science and technology by subordinating them only to military objectives? On the contrary, only peaceful objectives open up the broadest vistas for scientific endeavours and the application of their results, all for the benefit of man."

On the results of the meeting between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central

Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, and US President Ronald Reagan in Geneva, Dobrynin emphasised that the USSR had done and would continue to do everything within its power so that the "spirit of Geneva" be embodied in concrete accords. As to the Reagan Administration, "it has not made a single gesture of good will, however symbolic."

"Fortunately," the speaker went on, "far from all questions of world politics are being handled at the White House alone. We are witnessing the emergence and consolidation of a new mode of thinking, a new approach to peace problems.

"A great international response is evoked, for instance, by the results of concerted activity by Soviet scientists and their foreign colleagues within the organisation International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Pugwash Movement of scientists."

"A new mode of political thinking presupposes a new, qualitatively higher level of flexibility in foreign policy and a readiness for reciprocal compromises with one's partners in talks. Many political leaders in the West, above all in the United States, regrettably often lack this readiness."

"The unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, recently extended once more by the Soviet leadership till August 6 this year, is another demonstration of this new thinking. We repeat our appeal to the American state leaders to agree on a ban on nuclear testing."

On new trends in the military-political sphere, currently in the making, Dobrynin said: "Our attention should be concentrated on an all-round solution of problems stemming from the task of blocking all channels along which military conflicts are developing."

"This is, firstly, the problem of the norms of conduct of states, including their military activity. Secondly, these are the problems of reducing the military potential, limiting and destroying means of warfare and dismantling the material apparatus of war.

"Thirdly, this is the problem of settling local

conflicts fraught with the threat of growing into a world war."

The Soviet concept of a comprehensive system of international security organically comprised the economic sphere, the speaker pointed out. Study of the diverse problems related to this issue was of great value.

"An answer to the following question is important: how do we see the ways of settling the foreign indebtedness of the developing countries? Yet another problem, important in the long run, is what are the top-priority needs where it would be advisable to direct the means released as a result of disarmament?"

"The most effective solution and, probably, any solution in general of the global economic problems can be achieved only by way of combining the national efforts on an international scale, by way of collective actions by all members of the world community of nations," the Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee emphasised.

"This co-operation, naturally, calls for the elimination of the elements of discrimination and *diktat* in economic relations, normalisation of the international situation and a reduction in the level of military confrontation."

The speaker said that the Soviet side attached most serious importance to the problem of human rights as an essential factor of peace and international co-operation in this field.

This problem needed only to be made free of hypocrisy and speculation. Anti-Soviet slander campaigns around the issue of human rights in the USSR had become one of the most favourite means employed by world reaction to whip up international tension.

"We attach immense importance", Dobrynin concluded, "to the co-operation that has been growing in recent years between scientists of various countries in the struggle against the nuclear threat.

"We believe that by multiplying their efforts, the scientists will continue to be in the vanguard of the struggle for human survival, for the happiness of man and for his future." □

Appeal by IPPNW congress

COLOGNE, June 1, TASS:

TASS correspondent Gennadi Kulbitsky reports:

THE sixth international congress of the movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War ended here today. The congress brought together more than 3,000 delegates and guests from over 50 countries.

The participants in the congress adopted an appeal to the Soviet and the US leaderships, emphasising the imperative need for the United States to join the moratorium on all nuclear explosions announced by the Soviet Union, and also for conducting without delay talks on banning tests. The moratorium on nuclear blasts will bridle the driving force of the arms race, block the development of more and more sophisticated, accurate, compact and destabilising first strike weapons, which it is becoming increasingly more difficult to control.

The governments of the USSR and the United States, two powerful countries of the world, bear special responsibility to all of mankind in the cause of banning nuclear tests—the first step on the road of eliminating nuclear weapons from

arsenals, the appeal says. To give concrete expression to your responsibility to the future generations and protect the health of the present generations, above all children, we call upon you to take the following steps:

—to guarantee the allocation of resources for the immunisation of all children on Earth by the year 1990, which is the objective of the World Health Organisation and the UN Children's Fund.

—to earmark part of the funds released in the process of disarmament for health protection programmes in the interests of the children in the developing countries.

—to exclude the development of space arms and to invest funds instead in the medical communication programme so as to make the achievements of medicine accessible to the whole of mankind.

The appeal says that it is within the capabilities of the Soviet Union and the United States to effect these measures. In the International Year of Peace these two countries can demonstrate that science, and the technology which follows it, serve one goal solely, namely to improve life on Earth rather than threaten it with extinction.

A message to the six leaders who participated in the five continents initiative supports their point of view as regards banning nuclear ex-

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The negotiating positions at Geneva

THE US Administration has been recently trying to distort the Soviet position at the talks on nuclear and space weapons. In this connection Soviet military expert Colonel-General Nikolai Chervov replies to some questions put by Novosti analyst Vasili Morozov:

QUESTION: US Administration officials—Paul Nitze, Caspar Weinberger and others—are trying to accuse the USSR of failure to honour the top-level agreements on the talks on nuclear and space weapons. What can you say on this score?

ANSWER: Statements by these officials about the state of affairs at these talks are pure disinformation, an attempt to distort the Soviet position. Their assertions are completely false and hypocritical if only because they are utterly proofless and are not based on a single fact. Since US officials have chosen such an unseemly road, the public should know the truth.

Firstly about space. In a joint communique on the Geneva summit last November the sides pledged to work for preventing an arms race in space. Preventing means nipping in the bud. This word has no other meaning either in Russian or English.

The Soviet Union is advocating in Geneva complete prohibition of strike space weapons. It is ready to conclude separate agreements banning ASAT systems and all space-based weapons which can hit targets in space and from space.

And what is the US position? Strange as it may seem, during the past four rounds the USA did not have any position on space. It did not make any proposals on preventing an arms race in space. The 'Star Wars' programme was proclaimed to be a "sacred cow" outside the scope of the talks. Instead of banning an arms race in space the US side offers us to work out "rules" for its conduct, this is, to define what strike weapons, in what numbers and when to deploy them in space. We hope that at the fifth round of the talks the US side will fill this gap in its position on space and honour its pledge under the joint statement of November 21, 1985 on the results of the Geneva summit.

Secondly, strategic offensive weapons. Mr. Nitze declared that the Soviet proposal on the issue was just a repetition of the Soviet position in the SALT framework. This is totally untrue.

Everyone knows about the Soviet programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. At the first stage (beginning in 1986 and lasting from 5 to 8 years) the USSR suggests reducing by half the Soviet and US weapons capable of reaching each other's territory. After the cuts, each side is supposed to have no more than 6,000 nuclear

charges. The USSR is ready for this since rough strategic parity would thus be ensured and preserved. Let's stress that this Soviet proposal may be implemented only if agreement is reached on a total ban on space strike weapons. It is fair and ensures equal security for the USSR and the USA. Soviet territory is under a dual threat from US strategic nuclear and medium-range FBSS. It is only natural that the USSR cannot be indifferent to this fact.

And what does the USA suggest? It rejects the link between cuts in strategic offensive weapons and a ban on space strike arms, and objects to its FBSS being covered by 50 per cent reductions. It proposes separate limitations on ballistic missiles and strategic aviation. This is an old American trick, based on the desire to reduce only such weapons in which the USSR has an edge, and the reluctance to cut such systems in which the US itself is superior.

If the US proposals were implemented, Washington would increase the nuclear warhead total of its strategic arms to 15,000 while the USSR would remain with just 6,000. All US military programmes would be kept intact while the USSR would have to break the structure of its strategic nuclear forces and build it anew on the American pattern.

The main drawback of the US proposals is that they ignore the key question of a ban on the development and deployment of space strike weapons. Without this ban it would be unrealistic to hope for strategic arms cuts. Such cuts would be pointless and dangerous in a situation where the US is trying to achieve military superiority over the USSR through space and gain a capability of launching a disarming first strike against it.

Dragging out the solution of the space issue, the USA is obstructing strategic arms agreements. There are no strike weapons in space now, and there must not be any. As Mikhail Gorbachyov has said, the USSR will never be the first to take weapons into space. It urges the USA to follow suit. It is to be hoped that the USA will understand that the Soviet position is reasonable.

Thirdly, Europe-based medium-range missiles. The USSR suggested eliminating all Soviet and US missiles of this kind at the first stage of the proposed programme, and concluding

join the USSR and announce a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests. The positive aspects of this prescription for averting a nuclear war are obvious.

Addressing the concluding session, Academician Yevgeni Chazov of the USSR, who is co-chairman of the IPPNW, said: "The USSR and the United States, and other western and eastern countries, could use satellites to develop not a military system but a system which would enable any doctor in any country in the world to receive any information or consultation for the sake of saving human life. And, which is the main thing, this would be an example of what the countries across the world can do if they pool their efforts in combatting disease, hunger and illiteracy. This would be our best answer to those who are keen on sowing enmity and hatred amongst us and going ahead in these conditions with the nuclear arms race. We cannot sit on our hands, we do not have the right to be silent."

The next international congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War will be held in Moscow next year. □

a separate agreement to this effect, without a link with space and strategic nuclear arms. The USA is supposed to take a pledge not to deliver its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries, and Britain and France are not to build up their respective nuclear arms. The USSR made a big compromise when it agreed not to take into account the missiles of Britain and France in the overall balance.

And what about the USA? Mr. Nitze said that the USA had responded with a new proposal on intermediate-range nuclear forces with a view to easing progress to agreement in this field. But this is not true to the facts. The USA merely advanced its "zero option" which the USSR had rejected way back in 1982. The only difference is that this time the "option" is to be realised in three years. But this doesn't change anything. The proposed "zero" has remained unbalanced and unjust. The proposed global elimination of the Soviet and US medium-range missiles does not concern other American nuclear systems capable of reaching Soviet territory, and does not foresee any limitations of British and French nuclear weapons. It would clearly give unilateral military advantages to the USA and NATO as a whole.

Such are the facts. They show that in accordance with the agreement reached at the Geneva summit, the USSR has made a whole package of constructive measures taking due account of the security interests of the USA and Western Europe. Its aim is to ensure the best possible conditions for progress at the Geneva talks, for transition to agreements. The implementation of these proposals would be a turning point in international relations, promoting peace, security and co-operation. It would be a major step towards complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

If now, at the ongoing fifth round, the US side is as ready for compromise and mutual concessions as the USSR, progress at the talks will be guaranteed.

QUESTION: Could you assess in general terms the US line at the talks on nuclear and space weapons?

ANSWER: Facts show that US policy at the talks on nuclear and space weapons is aimed at launching rather than preventing an arms race in space, at actively carrying it out rather than halting it on Earth, and at building up rather than limiting and reducing nuclear arms.

The deeds of the US Administration do not testify to its readiness to be serious about nuclear disarmament. Public statements by US officials are not aimed at a search for agreements, either. They are just inventing new misleading "arguments" to justify the reluctance to reach agreements.

Judge for yourself. US chief negotiator at the talks on nuclear and space weapons Mr. Kampelman declared on his arrival in Geneva on May 6 that at the next round the USA was ready to move ahead with greater energy and zeal than before. But speaking in Washington on the same day, Paul Nitze made it clear that the US Administration was not going to introduce any changes into its position.

Director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Kenneth Adelman has frankly admitted the negative stance on disarmament. Speaking on May 15 in Stanford University, he declared that the Reagan Administration gave priority to achieving stability rather than ensuring disarmament. The process of arms control should not necessarily lead to the signing of an agreement, he specified. How should stability be achieved then? Adelman suggests US arms build-up. This kind of mentality is at the core of the US line at the Geneva talks. □

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positions. A mutual Soviet-US moratorium, to which you called in your joint messages to US President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachyov, is the measure of limiting armaments on which the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War focussed all its attention last year, the message says.

The concluding session of the international congress approved one more document—the medical prescription of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. It says that on July 1, 1985, the members of this movement came up with a prescription which makes it possible to do away with the most awesome threat to human health. They urgently called for announcing immediately a moratorium on all nuclear blasts as a first indispensable step towards reversing the nuclear arms race. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War comes up once again with this prescription and urges the governments of the United States and all the other nuclear powers to

Blackmail to promote a 'noble' cause

By V. Kunin, *Novosti* analyst

ETHIOPIA continues its efforts to make good the ravages of the disastrous 1984 drought in an atmosphere of unending attacks by imperialist states and insinuations by the Western media. A particularly nasty barrage of insinuations has been rained upon the Ethiopian Government's resettlement programme.

What is the essence of that programme which has met with so nervous a reaction in some Western capitals? It is the salvation of hundreds of thousands of people who would otherwise be doomed to starvation. Peasants are being evacuated from the northern and north-eastern areas, where the effects of drought are irreparable and preclude the resumption of farming and animal husbandry for decades to come, to the fertile southern and western areas. That programme was launched, by the way, not in 1984, as it is alleged in the West, but nine years ago, and by mid-1984 about 200,000 people had been resettled. The drought just urged drastic acceleration of that process, and the task has been successfully fulfilled. By March 1986 over 600 thousand people had been resettled. The plans are to have a total of 1,200,000 people resettled, and 300,000 hectares of virgin land reclaimed.

The government has sent to the resettlement areas volunteer teams from the towns to build dwellings, wells, schools, health centres, warehouses and workshops. The resettlers have been

getting aid in food, seeds, tools and machines. For instance, in the October 1984-March 1985 period alone they received over 500 tractors.

The Western press allegations on the resettlement being 'forced' and the living conditions in the new areas 'pathetic' are absolutely false. This was stated recently by the deputy head of the relief and rehabilitation commission, Berhanu Deressa. He stressed that the resettlement was one hundred per cent voluntary.

The successful implementation of the resettlement programme is a fact, and it has been admitted by many unbiased Western observers. For instance, the participants in an Addis Ababa seminar attended by representatives of religious organisations from a number of countries, including the US, Britain, France and West Germany, and also representatives of some international organisations noted in their statement that the resettlement has yielded good results, and that there is currently no other way to ensure the salvation of the starving people. Similar opinions have been voiced by Michael Priestly, the special envoy of the UN Secretary-General, and Michael McGowan, Labour Member of the European Parliament, who have visited Ethiopia.

The Washington folk are hardly ignorant of these facts. Yet, the subcommittee on Africa of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has endorsed a bill demanding rigid economic sanctions against Ethiopia unless that country gives up its resettlement programme.

Seeking to justify this brazen blackmail against a sovereign state, the congressmen who voted for

that bill told the press they had been guided by a "noble" cause", the desire to protect the Ethiopian peasants against "arbitrary actions on the part of the government".

The true reason of their manoeuvre is quite different, though. The thing is that the resettlement programme is no isolated action, it is, as Mengistu Haile Mariam has noted, part and parcel of the socio-economic programme of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, which provides for the extensive development of agriculture and the boosting of farming efficiency, the reduction in every possible way of its exposure to natural calamities, and doing away with dependence upon the West's food "aid". Successful implementation of these plans, in whose realisation the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have been rendering Ethiopia extensive and diverse assistance, will, quite naturally, put an end to Washington's and its allies' use of their "food charity" for self-advertisement, for making political capital on the disaster the Ethiopian people has suffered. This is the true mainspring of that clamorous anti-Ethiopian propaganda campaign which has been underway in the US, Britain and some other Western countries.

Another goal pursued by the masterminds of that campaign is to divert the world community's attention from their close co-operation with the apartheid regime, from the crime perpetrated by the racists against South Africa's indigenous population, and Pretoria's acts of terrorism against the frontline states. The scheme is most dubious, though. □

SOVIET-LIBYAN COMMUNIQUE

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imperialism, to ensure military superiority through building up the arms race, and spreading it into outer space, and through the policy of *diktat* and open interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, pursued under the pretext of combating "international terrorism".

The sides also condemned the policy of the imperialist circles, above all of the USA, in arbitrarily declaring some or other areas of the world to be a sphere of their "vital interests" and bringing military, political and economic pressure to bear on the independent states of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The sides pointed out the unlawfulness of the discriminatory and restrictive measures imposed by the EEC against the diplomatic representations of the other Libyan institutions abroad, which was in conflict with the spirit of peaceful co-operation and friendly relations among nations.

It was announced that putting an end to the weapons race would make it possible to release enormous resources for the purpose of socio-economic progress of peoples and the struggle for the development of the liberated countries and peoples. The sides stressed that the initiatives directed at a political settlement of the conflict situations in various parts of the world were in organic harmony with the Soviet programme for strengthening peace and creating an international security system. The USSR and Libya strongly condemned the strategic US-Israeli alliance and the expansionist policy of Israel which has the support of United States imperialism.

It was pointed out that Israel's participation in the United States 'Strategic Defense Initiative'

programme was fraught with an enormous threat both to the peoples of the Middle East and to mankind as a whole.

The Soviet Union and the Libyan Jamahiriya reaffirmed their support for the struggle waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine, for ensuring their national rights, including the right to self-determination and the creation of an independent state.

The sides condemned the incessant provocative military exercises held by the US Sixth Fleet in the Gulf of Sidra and in close proximity to Libya's shores. The Libyan side expressed support for the Soviet proposal providing for a simultaneous withdrawal from the Mediterranean of the Soviet and American naval fleets, which would contribute to ensuring peace and security for peoples in the region, one of the cradles of human civilisation.

The delegations stressed that the solidarity and unity of action of the Arab countries was one of the most important prerequisites for successfully countering Israeli expansionism, which was backed by United States imperialism.

The sides strongly condemned the aggressive actions of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa against sovereign African states and, in particular, the recent brutal attack on Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. They highly appraised the positive role of the Organisation of African Unity in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, racism and apartheid, and for strengthening the political and economic independence of the African countries. They declared for invigorating efforts to dismantle foreign military bases in Africa and to turn it into

a nuclear-free zone.

The USSR and Libya declared for democratising world economic relations and establishing a new international economic order on a just basis. In the opinion of the USSR and Libya, these aims would be best served by the convocation of a world congress on problems of economic security. The firm conviction was expressed of the need to work for pooling the efforts of all states concerned with the aim of strengthening peace and ensuring security in Asia and in the Pacific.

The sides stressed the important role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the fight for universal peace, against the forces of aggression and neo-colonialism, for settling all the arising disputes and conflicts through political talks.

It was pointed out that the forthcoming conference in Harare (Zimbabwe) of heads of state and government of the member-countries of the Non-Aligned Movement could play an important role in the attainment of these goals.

The sides examined issues connected with the implementation of the long-term programme for the development of economic, scientific-technological and trade co-operation between the USSR and Libya and outlined a number of concrete measures for its further broadening and deepening. They reaffirmed their principled understanding on the further development of friendship and political co-operation and on the search for new forms of co-operation meeting the interests of both countries.

The Soviet Union and Libya expressed satisfaction with the high level of diverse relations between the two countries and peoples, and reaffirmed their striving for their further development, the communique says in conclusion. □

'Unanimously' does not mean without a debate

MOSCOW, June 2, TASS:

"THERE have perhaps never been such fervent and highly concerned speeches, such heated debates and disputes at the commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet as in recent days, when the deputies have been discussing the details of the draft five-year plan for the economic and social development of the USSR for 1986-1990," Yuri Korolev, head of department at the Secretariat of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has told a TASS correspondent.

"The draft plan will be tabled for discussion at the coming session of the Supreme Soviet, which is scheduled to open in the Kremlin on June 18. The commissions of the Soviet Parliament, both the standing ones and the preparatory commissions specially formed for the purpose, have discussed comprehensively and in detail every line of the draft.

"This is the usual procedure for parliamentary discussions of major draft laws in our country. The USSR is known not to have professional parliamentarians, who could sit for months. The deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet are workers and peasants, scientists and engineers, physicians and servicemen. They come for the sessions twice a year, and each of the sessions lasts, as a rule, not more than two or three days.

"Yet, naturally, this time is not enough to discuss in detail an important draft law, for

example the proposals on the five-year plan for the country's development. Therefore practices have formed in the USSR, according to which the centre of gravity of the parliamentary work to examine the documents tabled by the government has been transferred to the commissions of both chambers of the Supreme Soviet—the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. This preliminary stage of discussion practically bears the brunt of the work done. Thus figures, wording and proposals, which have already been agreed upon and elaborated in the course of discussions and disputes, are tabled at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"Ignorance of this procedure, as it seems to me, explains in a considerable measure the delusions of those Western observers who claim that the sessions of the Soviet Parliament do not give the deputies enough time for a serious discussion there of the most important issues of state administration," Yuri Korolev continued.

"It is precisely such a serious, business-like and even over-particular discussion of the draft five-year plan of the USSR that has been going on at the sessions of the commissions of both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Sixteen preparatory commissions have been in session. They include a total of 250 members. The USSR Supreme Soviet has a total of fifteen hundred deputies (750 deputies in each chamber). Yet many deputies had worked on the five year plan as part of their routine official duties on their regular job. The results of the work done by the preparatory commissions will be endorsed by all members of 28 branch standing commissions of the chambers. Thus, a total of nearly four-fifths

of all of our parliamentarians will take part in a detailed discussion of the draft plan for the country's economic and social development."

"Experts are also invited to participate in the work of the commissions," Yuri Korolev said in conclusion. "Such are the routine practices. The deputies cannot always be experts on the issue under discussion at the commission, albeit in forming it the professions of deputies are certainly taken into account. Therefore prominent specialists and scientists are always invited as experts to participate in the committee sessions. And this is another argument proving that the commissions of deputies will accept recommendations which both serve the interests of the people and are professionally right.

"These recommendations, set forth in special conclusions of the commissions, will be tabled at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet by the chairmen of the standing plan and budgetary commissions of the chambers. It can be expected that with some corrections, which will inevitably crop up in the course of the debate at the session itself, they will be endorsed by the Supreme Soviet, and the plan for 1986-1990 will become state law of the USSR." □

Prices in the USSR

MOSCOW, May 23, TASS:

"TODAY'S retail prices for all bakery products, sugar, vegetable oil and other foodstuffs in our country were established in 1955. They are the most stable and, in many cases, the lowest prices in the world," Nikolai Glushkov, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Prices, told a *Moscow News* correspondent.

"Prices of meat and dairy products were raised by 30 per cent in 1962, and haven't changed for 24 years now.

"After 1955 we 'froze' the prices and went over to a planned raising of wages, taking account of the quantity and quality of work performed, of all categories of industrial and office workers. In the past 25 years, wages in the USSR have grown by 160 per cent and the price index by only ten per cent.

"When a socialist state establishes a price for a commodity it takes the social factor into account. This means that all the food and manufactured staples, housing, services, transport and communications must be accessible to all strata of the population. It is important that a person who gets below-average wages, let's say 150 roubles a month, would be able to purchase the goods and services needed for leading a normal life."

The Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Prices said that the state footed the bill for the construction of 85 per cent of all housing, the apartments in which were then distributed among the population free of charge. □

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of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Vasili Kazakov, Sergei Losev and Vladimir Terebilov, deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Anatoli Kovalyov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR; Nikolai Rubtsov, head of the Secretariat of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Vladimir Suslov, head of the Second European Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry. Also taking part from the British side was Bryan George Cartledge, British Ambassador to the USSR.

The British MPs visited V. I. Lenin's study and living rooms in the Kremlin, now a Museum.

In the evening, the delegation left for home.

It had been staying in the Soviet Union on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. □

Supreme Soviet delegation in Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, June 3, TASS:

"WE appreciate the friendly feelings

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nuclear missile war.

The Soviet Union and Syria condemn resolutely the aggressive actions and the hostile campaign against sovereign Arab countries, and demand that an immediate end be put to the policy of state terrorism implemented by the United States and its allies. Both sides declared that a truly equitable and durable peace in the Middle East can be achieved only on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab lands occupied since 1967, and the exercise of the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and creation of an independent state.

The Soviet side highly assessed the anti-imperialist course of the Syrian Arab Republic, its staunch opposition to the military-political pressure of the United States and Israel. The Soviet Union will continue giving all-round assistance and support to Syria and other Arab peoples in the struggle against the forces of imperialism and Zionism, for the independence, lawful rights and interests of Arabs and for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The sides noted the importance of the Soviet-Syrian talks for the deepening of relations between the two countries and their political interaction in the Middle East and in international affairs.

The talks passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere. □

that Soviet people have for us and respond in kind," stated the Chairman of Luxembourg's Chamber of Deputies, Leon Bollendorff.

Speaking at a reception held in honour of a visiting delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by the Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Lev Tolkunov, he stressed the shared interests of the peoples of the two countries. Leon Bollendorff noted the importance of personal contacts at all levels, including at the interparliamentary level, for further developing friendly relations between Luxembourg and the USSR.

Speaking in reply, Lev Tolkunov said that the USSR wanted to develop friendly relations with both big and small countries. This policy accorded with the aims of the foreign policy programme approved at the 27th CPSU Congress, and the Soviet Union would consistently implement it. The head of the Soviet delegation expressed confidence that the parliamentary ties of the two countries would further expand and deepen for the good of the cause of universal peace and in the interests of fruitful co-operation between the USSR and Luxembourg.

The Soviet members of parliament today visited a number of industrial enterprises. In particular, the delegation went to a metallurgical plant of the 'Arbede' concern in the town of Differdange and an agri-industrial centre in the town of Mersch. Prospects for developing trade and economic ties with the Soviet Union were discussed with senior officials of these companies. □