

## Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at conference of social scientists

*Here follows the full text of the speech made by Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the Grand Kremlin Palace on October 1 at the All-Union Conference of Heads of Social Sciences Departments:*

Esteemed Comrades,

First of all, I would like to extend heartfelt greetings to you on behalf of the Party's Central Committee and wish successes to your conference. We attach much importance to it.

The times call for initiative, for creativity in all spheres of life. They have set forth tasks of unprecedented novelty and scope which must be fulfilled as quickly as possible, speaking in terms of history.

The Central Committee proceeds from the firm conviction that implementation of the course of acceleration, of restructuring, of attaining a qualitatively new state of Soviet society is unthinkable without an intensification of ideological-theoretical activity, without a reliable scientific backing for the practical measures to refine the social relations of developing socialism.

In their time Marx and Engels wrote that the proletariat heralds the onset of the era of its domination by a number of intellectual victories even before it wins its victory on the barricades.

As applied to our time we can say that even before we reach a qualitatively new state of our society we must score major intellectual victories, make substantial advances in the sphere of theory, in making a creative analysis of new phenomena and processes of life.

Theory is needed not only for the long-term social and political orientation. It is actually needed for our every step forward. No major practical problem can be resolved without being comprehended and explained from the theoretical point of view. The very theoretical activities are becoming one of the major motive forces of socialist and communist development, the most important instrument of the restructuring.

First of all, the theoretical thought should reveal more fully and in a more profound way the characteristic features of the present stage of socialism, as well as separate stages of achievement by it of a qualitatively new state in the period ending in 2000 and further on. It is to give a scientifically objective picture of the present-day world as a whole.

All these problems are far from simple. Take just one of them. Our ideal is the all-round development of man, which envisages the ever fuller meeting of the growing material and

intellectual requirements of people. It is important that material progress go together with intellectual and moral gains.

We know from experience that if the intellectual and moral standards of man and a society are eroded, consumerist feelings inevitably grow stronger, and the inner world becomes more insipid. As we can see, the law of the growth of demands does not operate automatically and in a simple way. This creates a problem, and an important one at that. It should be resolved with due regard for all the factors of life and the development of man.

The restructuring work, which is being unfolded, gives a responsible social order to the entire system of social sciences. Our notions about the dialectics of the productive forces and production relations, about socialist property, co-operation, people's self-government and democracy, about the development of social consciousness, the causes and ways to overcome the negative phenomena, and many of our other notions require enrichment on the material of contemporary life.

The Party hopes for the economic sciences to increase their contribution to our drive to develop the productive forces, apply advanced

technologies, qualitatively upgrade production relations, and change the forms of economic management and administration.

Acceleration and putting to use the human factor, which is the key one, is impossible without this.

In short, the CPSU Central Committee regards the intensification of the theoretical front as an all-important task. It is an integral part of our strategy, an urgent and objective social requirement. Much should be discarded on this way and much should be begun anew.

What do I mean?

The need to restructure social sciences is outlined in the programme documents of the 27th Congress and the recent resolution of the CPSU Central Committee 'On the Magazine *Kommunist*'. Its key directions, the concrete ways and methods of this work have been outlined. You will be discussing these matters here.

I would like to express my opinion on this score. First of all, I believe, we must speak about the changed role and importance of social sciences, both inside science as a whole and on the broader scale, social and human. The profound qualitative, it can be said revolutionary changes taking place in society require not just a restructuring of social sciences alone but also a number of substantial changes in the attitude to them of other sciences and also of society as a whole.

Quite obviously, a sharp, not always open but an uncompromising struggle of ideas, psycho-

## Eduard Shevardnadze meets Fidel Castro

FIDEL CASTRO and Eduard Shevardnadze, at their meeting in Havana on Sunday (October 5), stressed the importance of Mikhail Gorbachev's initiative on the organisation of the forthcoming working meeting with US President Ronald Reagan for achieving progress on central problems of security.

They had a detailed exchange of opinions on the world situation, key international problems and the efforts of the Soviet Union to secure a resolute turn-around in world affairs.

The Soviet Foreign Minister said that at the Reykjavik summit the Soviet side intended to discuss primarily ways of preventing an arms race in outer space and limiting and reducing nuclear weapons, so as to prepare the ground for concrete agreements in that field.

The Cuban Party and state leader voiced his unconditional support for the CPSU's policy and for the resolve of the Soviet Government to give impetus to the solution of the question of ending the arms race on Earth and preventing it from spreading into space. He said that a fruitful, productive meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev

and the US President would meet the interests and aspirations of all peoples.

The two sides spoke highly of the work carried out to implement the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 3rd Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, which oriented the Soviet and Cuban working people to the accelerated socio-economic development of the two countries.

Fidel Castro and Eduard Shevardnadze exchanged information on the situation in different sectors of the economies, culture and science of the USSR and Cuba and noted steady progress in every area.

Shevardnadze reiterated the Soviet Union's constant solidarity with the people of revolutionary Cuba and their just struggle against the imperialist policy of blackmail and threats. The latest anti-Cuban actions of the USA, manifest in the toughening of the US economic blockade of the island and in subversive propaganda against it, were deplored.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership, he voiced support for the constructive foreign policy of Cuba, which had been especially evident at the recent 8th conference of the heads of state and government of non-aligned countries.

(Continued on Page 431)

### IN THIS ISSUE

Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at conference of social scientists .....	p. 429
Monument to Ernst Thaelmann unveiled: Mikhail Gorbachev's speech .....	p. 431
Nikolai Ryzhkov sends greetings to 'Moslems for Peace' conference ....	p. 432
Eduard Shevardnadze's visits to Cuba, Mexico and Canada .....	pp. 429, 433
Appeal to clergy and believers of the world .....	p. 434
World expects positive results from Reykjavik meeting .....	p. 436

## MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S SPEECH AT CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

logical attitudes, mentalities and behaviour is taking place in the course of the restructuring of our life, its renovation. The old is not giving up without a fight, it is finding new forms of adjusting itself to the dynamics of life in various scholastic stratagems. Moreover, some attempts are being made already to press the concepts of 'acceleration' and 'restructuring' into the framework of obsolete dogmas and stereotypes, emasculating their novelty and revolutionary essence in the process.

Today's processes cannot be adjusted to match outdated formulas. It is necessary to work out new conclusions that would reflect the present-day dialectics of life. This can only be done in an atmosphere of creative endeavour. The search for the truth should be conducted through a comparison between various viewpoints, through debates and discussions and through the breaking of old stereotypes.

That is why we emphasise the need for courage, for initiative in advancing new ideas. That is why the Party pointedly raises today the issue of the 'moment of truth', of asserting the truth in life and in science that is called upon to study it and to find sober and effective solutions to its problems. "The prime task of those who wish to seek 'roads to human happiness', Lenin stressed, "is not to hoodwink themselves, but to have the courage openly to admit the existence of what exists."

The new mode of thinking that all ought to master is dialectic thinking, while dialectics, as Karl Marx wrote, does not revere anything and is critical and revolutionary by its own nature. And this quality belongs to Marxism "wholly and unconditionally." (Lenin).

The social scientists are facing the task of overcoming the existing remoteness from the requirements of life. What we urgently need is a resolute turn of the entire front of social sciences to face practice. This is how our Party Congress put forward the question. And I'm sure that the work of your conference will take precisely this course.

I would only like to emphasise that strengthening the relationship between theory and practice is not just a general call. It is the key to restructuring social science, the principle of the work of scientists and lecturers.

And one more thing: practice is the basis of cognition and the criterion of truth. We learnt this long ago, this is what you teach students. But is an explanation always given that the connection between theory and practice is a dialectical one? The theoretical tasks cannot be torn away from the practical tasks but theory cannot be replaced with a simple registration of facts either. Theory should overtake practice, should have a broader look into phenomena, have a deeper insight, and see what is hidden by time.

Science, theory are indispensable where and when customary methods of action do not work, where past experience and practical aptitude can no longer give the necessary piece of advice, where fundamentally new decisions and non-standard actions are needed.

Science is needed by us in order to mould, instil and cultivate youth's ability to think independently and in a creative way.

I will say forthrightly and frankly that the organisation, forms and methods of teaching in social sciences, which exist for the present, are conducive to a no small extent to what we call dogmatism and scholasticism

The disposition of looking to copy-book truths for cure-all prescriptions is born out of school-boyish attitudes, out of reliance on rote learning rather than resourceful thinking.

Lenin, as is known, stressed reasoning a problem out in contrast to memorising and cramming, but this approach is often lacking in the teaching of social sciences.

A paradoxical situation has arisen: those areas

that are the most interesting and exciting in modern scientific cognition—man and society, the laws of their development, contradictions, the class struggle, the building of a new world, mankind's aspirations for the ideal, spiritual quests and disappointments, the grasping of truth, and the heroism of creative labour—are frequently turned in lectures and text-books into something boring, cut-and-dried and stilted.

This kills the living soul and the entire appeal of the emotional intellectuality of Marxism-Leninism which is the summit and concentrated expression of anxious human thought which has absorbed all the wisdom, pain and vast experience of the working people and their hopes for a better future.

Now that the Party has called for thinking and working in a new way, it is imperative to build also the process of education and upbringing largely in a new way.

First of all, we are speaking about the creative approach, about the need for doing away with the dogmatic methods of teaching social sciences. It is necessary to revise programmes, to draw up new lectures, to write new text-books.

In short, we should again turn to dialectics, to its method of revealing the essence of this or that object or phenomenon, of developing thought and cognition through contradictions. This principle should become the fundamental one in programmes of higher educational establishments and methods of teaching social sciences, which should be imbued with the atmosphere of real life. It should become the basic principle at seminars, where the capacity for independent thinking, for conducting a scientific discussion—in which, as is known, the truth is born—should be promoted more actively. It is dialogue and not monologue which is the indispensable element in the truly creative process of the education and upbringing of the youth.

We want the Marxist-Leninist convictions of young people to be the result of deep thought, quest and happy finds, of discoveries, so to speak, at least for themselves. It is only in this way that convictions become inmost, personally recognised, something that is achieved through intense personal effort. It will make them truly durable, capable of helping young people to live and work.

Nowadays, at this time of crucial change, we are being faced with the question of the importance of teaching social sciences for shaping the scientific world outlook. Are there new problems or tasks here? I think that there are.

The growth of mankind's scientific and technological might, the aggravation of global problems and the increased threat to the existence of human civilisation and of life itself on Earth, as a consequence of the imperialist policy of militarism and aggression—all this puts forward new problems relating to world outlook and necessitates reviewing the old ones.

The ability to orient oneself in the present-day complicated, contradictory but interdependent world is not nature's gift. Neither does it come while one is mastering special subjects. This ability should be inculcated in the future specialists. For world outlook is not merely the entirety of general knowledge about the world. It also implies recognised class interests and ideals, legal and moral standards, social priorities and humanistic values—everything that determines the choice of a person's line of conduct in life, his responsible attitude to society and to himself.

Social science should under no circumstances lose sight of its main task—to form the intellectual fundamentals of the personality of Soviet people, of their civic stand, and to determine their actions.

Scientific and technological progress has infinitely increased the technical might of

humanity. Each engineer, designer and scientist is entrusted today with a fraction of this might. How will he use it? Will he make a correct choice when the situation requires it?

This is the paramount question. The answer to it depends undoubtedly on the world outlook orientation of specialists and, consequently, to a considerable degree, on your work comrades.

This is the immense responsibility that teachers of social sciences bear in the training of specialists.

The ability of future engineers, agronomists, physicians and teachers to combine knowledge on the level of the highest achievements of modern science and professional competence, on the one hand, with ideological conviction, political maturity, high moral standards and social activity, on the other hand, largely depends on your teaching and educational work with students.

Dear comrades,

Our time not only makes high, I would even say tough, demands but also offers a truly unprecedented possibility to identify aptitude and put abilities and talents to practical use.

Conditions everywhere should be made such as to enable enterprising and imaginative people marching in the vanguard of the drive for change to breathe more easily, work more productively and live better. This applies to production, science, the arts and all fields of social life

With fast scientific and technological progress, the intellectual, scientific potential becomes society's most important resource which is inexhaustible by its very nature. And the accomplishment of the historic tasks of acceleration depends in many ways on rational and efficient use of this potential. A tremendous part in mobilising it should be played by the college research sector.

Half the people with scientific degrees and titles are engaged in the system of higher education.

Can one say, however, that they are making a contribution to scientific, technological and social progress in accordance with the requirements of the time? Frankly speaking, no. The college research sector owes much as yet to society.

I want to remind you that the solution of comprehensive, large-scale and long-term programmes for our society's socio-economic development is impossible without consolidating co-operation between representatives of social, natural and technical sciences. The excessive, extremely narrow specialisation and the disregard for achievements in other fields of knowledge are now becoming a serious hindrance to the development of science itself, including social sciences. As in economics, departmental barriers should be resolutely dismantled in the sphere of science and education—barriers that exist not only between college, academic and industrial branch research sectors, but also in the sphere of higher education itself which has been diffused through dozens of 'departments'.

All these and other questions should be raised and resolved in a bolder way, with the interests of the matter at hand being the prime concern. The restructuring of social sciences will then proceed more quickly. The social sciences will become closer to the requirements of life, to practice. The instruction of social sciences will become more fruitful and effective.

The Central Committee counts on you and wishes you success in your hard work that society needs so much. But it is necessary to restructure oneself, and restructure in a thorough way in order to meet the demands of the time.

We take an optimistic look at the exclusively complex large-scale tasks facing us today: we must accomplish all this, we cannot fail to do this, we definitely will accomplish this! □

# Monument to Ernst Thaelmann unveiled

## MIKHAIL GORBACHEV ADDRESSES MEETING

*Here follows the address made by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the ceremony to unveil a monument to Ernst Thaelmann in Moscow on October 3:*

Esteemed Comrades and Friends,

Dear Comrades Irma Gabel-Thaelmann, Erich Honecker, Herbert Mies and Horst Schmitt,

Esteemed Guests,

We have gathered at this meeting to honour the fond memory of the man who gave all his life to the cause of the working class. The name of Ernst Thaelmann holds a worthy place in the ranks of the great sons of the German people and of the outstanding figures of the world communist movement.

Ernst Thaelmann embodied the best traits of a proletarian revolutionary fighter. He was an ardent, unswerving internationalist. The cause of the German working class and the interests of the international proletariat, the vital concerns of the working people and the goals of socialism were for him an integral, indivisible whole.

We knew Thaelmann as an impassioned advocate of the fraternity of the German and Soviet workers.

Soviet people hold dear the memory of that man, in whose honour streets, squares and factories in different cities of our country were named. He regarded friendship between the toilers of our countries, friendship between our peoples as the token of success of the cause of peace, democracy and socialism on German soil and in Europe.

The fate of the leader of the German working class and that of many of his Party comrades proved to be tragic. Fascism that had accumulated everything loathsome born of and nurtured by world reaction—racism and nationalism, militarism and anti-communism, the violation of the best achievements of human culture—crawled into the arena of history. Fascism plunged mankind into an abyss of a terrible calamity. A titanic strain by forces of the freedom-loving peoples was required to crush it.

The monument we are unveiling today commemorates the feat of valour by the man who was among the very first to enter a mortal battle against fascist obscurantism; the man who fell victim in a struggle he waged against tremendous odds, but who commemorated his name with his whole life and his very death, having shown an

example of selflessness in the struggle for the cause of the working people. He is one of those of whom V.I. Lenin, hailing those who accomplished the October Revolution, said: "Behind us there is a long line of revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives for the emancipation."

The world in which we are living and working today is so unlike that in which Ernst Thaelmann lived and fought. The political face of the world, the correlation and alignment of social and national forces have changed beyond recognition.

Great masses of the population have forcefully joined in the course of events on the national and world arenas. The diversity and integrity, the unity of opposites of the modern world have made themselves felt more clearly than ever before. They make new demands on world politics. The potential of progress has grown tremendously, but there has emerged a threat to the very existence of mankind.

Nonetheless, despite all these deep-running changes, Thaelmann's ideas and the lesson of his life live on, just like his warnings against the dangers of fascism and war still stand. Not only because there are still people on Earth for whom the swastika remains a symbol of revanche to this day. Hidden viruses of the militarist, aggressive nature of fascism are much more dangerous. Given a certain combination of circumstances, they are capable of causing an outbreak of a fearful epidemic.

Imperialist reaction continuously produces a favourable nutrient medium for them. We Communists must do everything to put a barrier to any manifestations of reactionary extremism and tirelessly expose its inspirers.

Ernst Thaelmann regarded the working class as the main social force which opposed reaction and war.

Nowadays millions and even billions of people come out against war and against those circles which are the bearers of the war threat.

But in this general front, the working class holds a special place nowadays as well. With all the changes which the contemporary working class has undergone, it remains the main character of mankind's progressive development. It is precisely this class whose work, intellect and skills are essential nowadays in all spheres of human life.

As is known, history is not replayed.

fair political settlement in Central America.

The sides called for a drastic restructuring of international economic relations to help resolve the problem of the foreign indebtedness of developing countries and other problems weighing on world economic contacts.

They expressed their mutual satisfaction with the condition of Soviet-Cuban relations and their continuous progress in every field, and the desire to improve fraternal co-operation between the two countries in practical areas in every way.

The talks demonstrated once more the growing co-operation and friendship between the fraternal parties and peoples, and the desire for broad and comprehensive exchanges of views on matters of the domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba that are of mutual interest.

Eduard Shevardnadze thanked Fidel Castro for the warm and cordial reception and wished the Communists and all the Cuban people success in building socialism and defending their revolutionary achievements. □

But we are simply obliged to draw lessons from it. Hitler's march to power would not have taken place if the Communists, the social democrats and all democratic forces of the Weimar Republic had jointly issued a rebuff to fascism.

The Second World War would not have broken out and the nazi occupation of Europe could have been avoided if the governments of Western powers from the very outset had combined their efforts with those of the Soviet Union in curbing the aggressor.

Nowadays our duty is to caution the world public: the arms race is making the partition-between peace and war thinner and thinner. And we do not cease to repeat: the militarisation of outer space is a step to war. We are calling for ending nuclear tests and for starting to reduce the stocks of nuclear weapons in earnest and on a large scale.

The Communists are convinced: a nuclear apocalypse is not a fatal inevitability. Mankind can avert the terrible threat which hangs over it.

Co-operation and mutual understanding in matters of war and peace is the call of the nuclear and space age. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we shall continue honestly and energetically to strive for that and to look for political ways to remove the war danger.

Our proposal to Ronald Reagan to hold a working meeting, so to speak, was prompted precisely by these considerations. We have one and the same objective here: to start, at last, the realisation of our accords reached in Geneva with the President of the United States.

I think this fully meets the interests of both the Soviet and American peoples and all the peoples in the world. Comrades, Ernst Thaelmann dreamed of socialism on German soil. Nowadays socialism has become a reality in the German Democratic Republic. This is the German working people's best tribute to Ernst Thaelmann.

The German Democratic Republic marks its birthday next week. I am availing myself of the opportunity to congratulate the working people of the Republic on the great holiday and to ask Erich Honecker to convey our best wishes to all his compatriots.

From this rostrum near the monument to Ernst Thaelmann I am asking Comrade Herbert Mies and Comrade Horst Schmitt to convey our heartfelt greetings to the Communists of the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin—the furtherers of his cause in new conditions.

The monument which is being unveiled here today in the square named after Ernst Thaelmann is a tribute of great respect by our Party and the Soviet people to one of the outstanding leaders of the international working class.

Ernst Thaelmann, who was once an honorary deputy of the Moscow City Soviet, from now on becomes a Muscovite forever. □

*(Continued from front page)*

The sides denounced acts of aggression by South Africa against Angola and the other 'front-line' states, and called for the immediate granting of true independence to Namibia on the basis of the United Nations resolutions, the early abolition of the inhuman apartheid system in South Africa and the introduction of broad and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria racist regime under the UN Charter.

Concern was voiced over the continued aggravation of the situation in Central America. They denounced the latest escalation of Washington's acts of aggression against the people of Nicaragua and the attempts of the US Administration to block the efforts of the Latin American countries to normalise the situation in that region. The USSR and Cuba believe that the people of Nicaragua have the indubitable and inalienable right independently to decide their destiny, and reaffirm their support for the constructive efforts of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group in their search for a

### Gromyko meets Kampuchean leader

Andrei Gromyko, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, met the Kampuchean leader Heng Samrin in the Kremlin on October 3.

The Soviet side specially emphasised that the USSR was a convinced advocate of a political settlement of the problems existing in South-East Asia. It solidarises with the readiness of the countries of Indochina to maintain a direct dialogue with the People's Republic of China and with ASEAN member-countries. □

# Nikolai Ryzhkov sends greetings to Moslems for Peace conference

*NIKOLAI RYZHKOV, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, addressed a message of greetings to the participants in the 'Moslems for Peace' conference, which opened in Baku, capital of Soviet Azerbaijan on October 1.*

"The Soviet Government", the message reads, "regards with understanding and profound approval the noble aim of your forum, and highly appreciates its efforts aimed at consolidating peace, mutual understanding and friendship among nations.

"Your forum is being held at a disquieting

time. The most bellicose imperialist circles have sharply deteriorated the international situation. They are building up the arms race, seeking militarisation of outer space and pushing the world to a nuclear catastrophe. Imperialism is insolently interfering in the affairs of other countries and peoples."

"Total disregard for the interests of sovereign states, US bandit actions against Libya, Israel's refusal to withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon, the threat to use force against Syria and other countries is all fraught with a direct danger to world peace. An end should be put once and for all to this policy. The principles of equality, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs should triumph in relations between states and nations. The Soviet State

steadily abides by these principles."

Nikolai Ryzhkov pointed to the importance of building up the joint efforts of both governments and public forces in the West and the East in the struggle for peace and security.

*An appeal from the conference says that the Soviet Union's extension of its moratorium on nuclear tests is evidence of its sincere striving to achieve universal and complete disarmament. It expresses the hope that this new Soviet initiative will at long last draw a constructive response from the United States and the other nuclear powers.*

*The conference was attended by about 600 representatives of Moslem communities from nearly 60 countries worldwide.* □

## Meeting of Political Bureau of CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting on October 2 examined the results of the talks which Mikhail Gorbachev, Andrei Gromyko and other Soviet leaders have had with Didier Ratsiraka, General Secretary of the Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution Party and President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

Note was taken of the two countries' common approach, reaffirmed during the talks, to the key problems of present-day international life. The policy of further developing the friendly Soviet-Malagasy relationship was approved.

The Political Bureau heard from Mikhail Solomentsev on the trip made by a delegation from the Party Control Committee under the CPSU Central Committee to the Hungarian People's Republic. Nikolai Slyunkov gave a report on the results of an official visit by a delegation from the USSR Supreme Soviet to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The Political Bureau examined the course of work to deal with the consequences of the

accident at the Chernobyl power station. It was pointed out that large-scale measures had been carried out to entomb the crippled reactor, clean up the contaminated territory, and prepare the station's power-generating sets 1 and 2 for going back on line.

Reliable protection of the water resources against radio-active substances had been ensured. All able-bodied people had received jobs. More than 8,000 houses had been built for the evacuated population, and the construction of about 6,000 well-appointed homes was under way.

After hearing the report on the results of the IAEA conference on questions of enhancing nuclear engineering safeguards, the Political Bureau pointed to the great importance of continuing the course towards developing relations between Soviet organisations and the International Atomic Energy Agency in all directions of its activity, above all on questions of establishing an international regime for the stable and safe development of nuclear engineering.

The Political Bureau pointed to the positive results of the work of the *Kuban* agro-industrial integrated works in Krasnodar Territory, and approved the proposals for setting up 14 more

works of this type in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Byelorussia. The principal tasks of these new formations would be to increase agricultural output and the production of high-quality foodstuffs on the basis of modern machinery and technology, and carry out the production, procurement, processing and marketing of produce on the basis of cost-accounting and self-funding.

Having discussed the further strengthening of socialist legality, the Political Bureau stressed that at a time of restructuring and the expansion of socialist democracy, strict observance of legislation was acquiring ever greater importance for the development of the Soviet state system, for the self-government of the people, and for ensuring social justice and the inviolability of the constitutional rights and freedoms of the working people. In this context it is necessary consistently to restructure the work of the Procurator's Office, militia, courts and other law enforcement agencies.

The Political Bureau discussed some other questions of Party life and state affairs, and also progress in the implementation of the large-scale peace initiatives put forward by the Communist Party and the Soviet State. □

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CHINESE PEOPLE

"ON this anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China, Soviet people sincerely wish the great Chinese people new accomplishments in the building of socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party of China," *Pravda* wrote on October 1. "All the conditions exist for a further consolidation of the traditional friendship between our two nations, for the development of relations between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China along the lines of good-neighbourliness and co-operation. Not only the peoples of the USSR and China, but also the whole world of socialism and all people of good will on Earth are interested in this."

"The history of the Chinese Revolution, the whole of the path travelled by the Chinese people since the day of the victory of people's power, is convincing evidence of the importance and the ever-lasting significance for the cause of socialism and peace throughout the world of the development of Soviet-Chinese relations on an equitable and principled basis and not to the detriment of

third countries. The Soviet Union has always been positive that the basic interests of the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union do not clash. Moreover, relations of friendship, comradeship and co-operation would organically fit into them."

"The present perceptible improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations is laying a good foundation for their further development in all spheres. Both Moscow and Peking believe that there are reserves, and rather considerable ones, to be used in this field. The solution of some major co-operation problems has become a really urgent matter. The joint use of the resources and the construction of water management projects in the Amur basin, assistance in the construction of a railway connecting Kazakhstan and the Xinjiang-Uygur Region, the modernisation of existing industrial enterprises and the construction of new ones, the creation of joint firms and companies, as well as other questions of bilateral co-operation, are being settled in a positive way today. However, this is not at all the limit." □

## US chemical war against Afghans

A group of bandits attempting to poison water wells with a strong toxic agent have been detained in Kabul province. They had all been specially trained in one of the Jamiat-e Islami counter-revolutionary camps near Peshawar in Pakistan, where American and Pakistani advisers train dushmans in the use of chemical weapons.

Saheer Mohammed, a member of the group, said that they had been ordered to poison drinking water sources in the city of Kabul. He admitted that the bands now had nerve-gas mines and that American-made pellet grenades are widely used. Pellets in these grenades are coated with deadly mercury salts, which kill on penetration through even a scratch in the skin.

American and Pakistani advisers teach the bandits to use the chemical weapons primarily against civilians. They are instructed that such attacks must be presented as 'the use of chemical weapons by Afghan and Soviet troops'.

US-sponsored chemical warfare is expanding against the people of Afghanistan, the majority of whom welcome the post-April Revolution reforms and reject the counter-revolution. □

# Eduard Shevardnadze gives press conference in Ottawa

**EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE**, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, held a press conference at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa on October 2.

He said that he was quite satisfied with the results of his visit to Canada and his talks and conversations with Canadian leaders. "We had a conversation with the Prime Minister Mr Mulroney and two rounds of talks with my counterpart Mr Clark," he reported.

Eduard Shevardnadze said that he had handed over to Mr Mulroney a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev. "The leaders of our two countries are conducting active correspondence. Mikhail Gorbachev appreciates the confidential character of relations established between him and the Canadian Prime Minister," he noted.

"I believe that our conversations, given the immense political load, were held in a very correct atmosphere. We found rather great proximity on questions related to nuclear and

space armaments, the importance of observing and consolidating the regime of limiting and reducing armaments, the desirability of an expert exchange of views on problems of conventional armaments, and the development of the all-European process.

"In connection with the latter, both sides expressed satisfaction with the successful completion of the Stockholm Conference, and we agreed that the USSR and Canada would continue their interaction in the future in order to ensure the dynamic holding of the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting.

"The problem of strengthening security in Asia and the Pacific region in the light of the proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok was a new subject in our discussions. There is understanding that the discussion of the problem ought to be continued."

The Soviet Foreign Minister pointed out that a positive element in all the discussions was the fact that the two sides had not lingered over what divided them, nor did they waste time on repeating what was known to each side. "I

personally welcome this new style of conducting talks, aimed at searching for constructive elements in the respective positions," he declared.

Eduard Shevardnadze then turned to the forthcoming meeting between the two top leaders of the USSR and the USA in Reykjavik on October 11 and 12.

"What did the Soviet leadership proceed from when making its proposal for this meeting? I will answer briefly: from the quite disquieting state of affairs that had developed around the question of nuclear and space arms. There had arisen a serious danger that if urgent measures were not taken to right the state of things, international security might prove to reach a point from which it would be difficult to return to the road of limiting and reducing arms.

"Broad support for our proposal indicates that it meets the interests of peace and universal security.

"We are confident that our visit to Canada will also serve these interests." □

## EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE'S VISIT TO MEXICO

ON October 3 Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, had talks with President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico.

He presented to the President a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev. General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

During their talks, special attention was given to questions connected with safeguarding international security, curbing the arms race and preventing it from spreading to outer space, and prohibiting nuclear tests.

Miguel de la Madrid welcomed the Soviet foreign policy initiatives in this field, which opened the way for eliminating nuclear, chemical and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

The Soviet Foreign Minister spoke highly of Mexico's efforts—through its active role in the 'Delhi Six'—to find ways of averting a nuclear catastrophe.

The need to establish a new international economic order and the close interconnection between the problems of disarmament and development were stressed.

The two sides declared for speedy political settlement of regional conflicts and crises. Shevardnadze positively assessed Mexico's role in the activity of the Contadora Group to find a peaceful solution to Central America's problems.

### New Zealand Trade Minister in Khabarovsk

"THE plans for the economic and social transformation of the Soviet Far East in the next few years hold great interest for New Zealand businessmen," Michael Moore, New Zealand's Minister of Overseas Trade and Marketing and Minister of Tourism, told TASS last week. He headed a delegation which was in the USSR from September 28-30.

Mr Moore stressed that during their visit they had identified areas of co-operation between New Zealand firms and Soviet organisations. The talks had been concrete and business-like. "We have already arrived at the conclusion that we can actively co-operate in the area of agriculture," he said. □

on the basis of the principles of non-interference and respect for the right of peoples and states to shape their destinies themselves.

Talks were also held on Friday between Eduard Shevardnadze and the Mexican Foreign Minister, Bernardo Sepulveda.

Comparing notes on the pressing issues of the international situation, the two ministers were agreed that the forthcoming Soviet-US summit meeting in Reykjavik was of paramount importance to improving the world situation drastically and attaining palpable results in the field of disarmament.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised that the Soviet initiatives offered a real way of destroying nuclear weapons completely by the year 2000.

and that a comprehensive nuclear test ban would be a first and most natural step along this path.

At a reception held in his honour on the same day, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the Soviet leadership was gratified that the Mexican Government welcomed the agreement to hold the Soviet-US meeting in Reykjavik and that it was in favour of achieving practical results at the Soviet-US talks.

"However hard opponents of detente try to divert attention from this event, it remains the key one in international life. The central item on the agenda is to achieve practical results in the sphere of nuclear and space arms. All states have an interest in the meeting's having a practical outcome," he said. □

## Briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry

"AS we see it, at the forthcoming Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik it would be quite possible to arrive at an agreed-upon instruction concerning the preparation of draft agreements on two or three aspects of nuclear arms, for instance on the ending of nuclear weapon tests," stated Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on October 3.

"This question is long ripe and long ready for solution. It is not difficult to reach agreement on it if political will, a sense of responsibility and desire to make a concrete step towards restricting the arms race are displayed.

"The USSR calls on the United States to join the onward movement and not to urge us to move back, to the staging of explosions. We would like to hope that in the end realism will prevail with the American side in this matter," Pyadyshev said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman described the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions as "one of the most tangible manifestations of the USSR's vigorous foreign policy" which had grown from being just a proposal into an action, a concrete action.

"There has been silence at our testing sites since July 25 last year, the day the USSR conducted its last nuclear test explosion,"

Pyadyshev went on. He stressed that in the Soviet Union's opinion a bilateral and then a multi-lateral moratorium was one of the most important steps leading to the creation of an all-embracing system of peace and international security.

"The USSR is prepared to sign a treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests at any time and any place," he stressed.

At the Foreign Ministry's press conference on October 1, too, Boris Pyadyshev emphasised that the purpose of the interim meeting in Reykjavik was to evaluate the situation and concert proposals aimed at ensuring progress on some aspects of reducing nuclear weapons.

"This interim meeting is viewed as part of the preparations for Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the USA, on which agreement was reached in Geneva in November 1985. Naturally such a visit should produce results."

"One may say that accord was reached thanks to the realism and constructive approach of both sides," Pyadyshev noted, referring to the preparation for the Reykjavik meeting. "As Armand Hammer, a man wise with years and experience, said, neither the Russians nor the Americans have lost but both have gained in this matter." □

# Appeal to clergy and believers of the world

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

On behalf of the believers of the Russian Orthodox Church within the capital Moscow Region we call upon you to do immediately, before it is too late, everything in your power to save our planet from a sinister world conflagration!

This call is an outcry of our soul, a call of our religious conscience, which we unanimously address to you from the Diocesan Congress held under the chairmanship of our Archpastor, Metropolitan Juvenali of Krutitsky and Kolomna, at the ancient Novodevichi nunnery in Moscow on September 16, 1986.

At our meeting the clergymen and believers spoke with anxiety about the increasing feverish arms race.

Scientists are convinced that if a war breaks out "even a comparatively small number of nuclear explosions will be able to change the climate of our planet so much that it will cause eventual destruction not only of the whole of Earthly civilisation but of life on Earth in general" (the message of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church 'On War and Peace in the Nuclear Age', 2, 15).

Both he against whom the nuclear weapons will be used and he who will make first use of them will inevitably die. This proves the complete senselessness of the hopes pinned on a pre-emptive nuclear strike. It is quite relevant to recall here the words of the great prophet Isaiah as applies to the current situation: "Woe to thee that spoilest and thou wast not spoiled . . . when thou shalt cease to spoil, thou shalt be spoiled . . . and when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee." (Isaiah, 33.1) Is it not clear to every advocate of the criminal arms race and to everyone

who opposes its cessation that he thereby literally "heaps coals of fire on his head" (Romans, 12. 20)?

The Soviet State has repeatedly submitted constructive proposals aimed at general and complete disarmament—the only correct and salutary way of overcoming the now existing critical situation. While introducing these proposals, the Soviet Union unilaterally assumed an obligation not to make first use of nuclear weapons. And in the statement of January 15, 1986, it proposed a programme of stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere in the world by the year 2000. The unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests, which was observed for more than a year, has been prolonged by our country for the fourth time till January 1, 1987. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stated this on August 18, 1986.

But the US Administration remains deaf to the voice of reason. Contrary to common sense and despite countless protests by the American and world public, the explosions continue to resound at the nuclear testing ground in Nevada state with planned punctuality. All this is camouflaged by the pharaical statements about an allegedly interested approach to the destinies of the peoples and of the world. Indeed, they "speak peace to their neighbours but mischief is in their hearts." (Psalms, 28.3). In this context, "we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace" (Jeremiah, 30.5) among the general anxiety.

The now existing most dangerous situation of balancing on the brink of a nuclear holocaust imperatively demands urgent adoption of measures which would completely rid mankind of this deadly threat.

The moratorium adopted by our country and the other peace proposals, which are a vivid illustration of new political thinking, show a realistic way of ending the anguishing and

seemingly inevitable deadlock.

The moratorium has left the door open and given the American side an historic chance to join the Soviet Union's unilateral actions in order to break the course of developments through joint efforts, to stop the nuclear arms race, and eventually to reverse it.

Dear Brothers and Sisters! In the face of a catastrophe and of the danger of destruction of the sacred gift of life on Earth we call upon you to demand that the US Administration give up its illusions of gaining military superiority, lend an attentive ear to the voice of reason, begin negotiations and sign already this year a treaty banning all nuclear weapon tests and on stopping the mad arms race, and respond at long last to the Soviet moratorium!

We call upon you to take united and intensive action against militarisation of outer space, against 'Star Wars', for creating Star Peace.

We forward this message to you with hope and ask you to do everything in your power, even before the term of the Soviet moratorium expires, for ridding mankind of the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. As religious people let us assert fraternity, co-operation, love, understanding and peace for the present and future generations in relations among the peoples and states, instead of enmity, mistrust, fear and hatred.

We ask for your confirmation that you have heard our call and wait for your communications so that we could bring nearer through joint effort the time of general and complete disarmament and make our religious contribution to this blessed cause.

We must be together and act jointly at this crucial moment of history.

We shall pray fervently for the success of our peace-making efforts.

"God is our refuge and strength" (Psalms, 46, 1) in this holy struggle.

September 16, Moscow. □

## SCIENCE FOR PRODUCTION IN USSR

THE powerful scientific, technical and production potential created in a historically short period of time has put the Soviet Union among the most developed industrial states, writes Boris Paton, President of the Academy of Sciences of Soviet Ukraine, in the latest issue of *Kommunist*.

However, its position in international trade both in volume and content of exports and imports far from conforms to this potential. To date, fuels and raw materials not fully processed have prevailed in Soviet exports. Our share in machine-building and other high-tech industries is small. At the same time, the academician goes on to say, we buy, and in unjustifiably great quantities, foreign technology and equipment to modernise operating facilities, as well as consumer goods and foodstuffs—although experience shows that much of above could be successfully produced within the country, both for domestic consumption and for export.

Western imperialist quarters are seeking to use

### Chernobyl: work on schedule

"AFTER restarting the first generating unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant we hope to restart the second one as well in about two weeks," Academician Valeri Legasov told TASS last week.

"As to the third unit, the problem is that it is located in the same building as the fourth. We are now thoroughly checking and evaluating all its systems. So far we have established that the assemblies and components that we have already checked are quite suitable for service and this means that the unit can be put in a working state. But the final decision will be made only after the entombment of the fourth unit." □

the situation as an instrument of foreign policy pressure on the USSR and other socialist countries. They introduce stiff limits on the delivery of high technology products with a view to containing our scientific and technical development in a state of "controlled lag". Such actions are of course futile, but we cannot shut our eyes to the damage inflicted by them.

The duty of Soviet scientists is to provide the national economy with such scientific and technical discoveries as would enable the country's products not only to conform to the highest world standards, but to exceed them by far. Mass production of such products—and in the shortest time at that—is the way to qualitatively restructure production in all industries of the national economy, and to boost considerably the export of sophisticated goods and the sale of licences.

Boris Paton underlines the great importance of interaction between science and practice as an important factor for accelerating scientific and technical progress and for stimulating the restructuring of the national economy. In this context he refers to the experience of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, which gave an impetus to establishing intersectoral scientific and technical complexes in the country. Large-scale scientific and research institutions have been used to set up 20 such complexes, which are to conduct and concert fundamental and applied research in individual fields and use their results to create new advanced technologies, sophisticated machinery and promising materials. Demands on the quality of work should be stiffer: work should be performed at top-notch level, not inferior to foreign examples and even surpassing them. □

## Soviet Cultural Foundation

THE decision to set up the Soviet Cultural Foundation has stimulated a very broad response. The draft of its charter was recently published for a nation-wide discussion.

The initiators of the foundation are creative workers' unions and other public organisations, the Tretyakov Gallery and the Hermitage, the Bolshoi Theatre and Moscow's Art Theatre, the V.I. Lenin Library, the Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Arts of the USSR.

Academician Dmitri Likhachev, a member of the organising committee, explains that this wide representation will enable the foundation to embrace all spheres of the cultural life of the country.

"The main tasks of the foundation are: to promote the spiritual advancement of the people, their aesthetic education and upbringing in the spirit of civic responsibility, and to invite the people to take part in developing culture, in preserving and multiplying works of art," Academician Likhachev said.

The draft charter of the Soviet Cultural Foundation reflects its democratic character; virtually anyone who wishes—Soviet and foreign nationals and organisations, work collectives and other societies—will be able to take part in its work.

"The establishment of new museums and galleries, theatres and libraries, monuments and memorials, assistance to young people entering creative careers, support for interesting plans and initiatives are only some of the aspects of the wide-ranging work of the foundation," says Boris Ugarov, President of the Academy of Arts of the USSR. □

# Vienna meeting and the building of detente

By Spartak Beglov, *Novosti* political analyst

IN a month's time Vienna will be hosting a third meeting of representatives of 35 countries signatory to the Helsinki Final Act (the previous two were held in Belgrade and Madrid).

It will examine the progress of the European process started in 1975 by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The overall aim is to build a durable edifice of security, peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial co-operation between countries on the territory extending from the Atlantic to the Urals, that is, within the entire European region.

The expression "laboratory of detente" can often be heard being applied to what has been happening within the framework of the European process over the past 15 years. Following the conclusion of a series of bilateral treaties (USSR-FRG, FRG-Poland, Czechoslovakia-FRG, etc.), which recorded the political realities of post-war development in Europe, the Helsinki Final Act provided impetus to a broad search for multilateral agreements. Their aim is to implement in practice co-operation in security and in economic, scientific, cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

And there are grounds for saying that the "laboratory of detente" is bearing more and more fruit and that its results are being used on the building site of a new edifice of security and co-operation in Europe. If one is to assess what has been achieved in the period between Madrid and Vienna, the highest mark is no doubt to be given to the results of the recent first stage of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, just over in Stockholm. But on the contrary, no mark will be awarded to the recent forum of representatives of 35 countries in Bern, where they discussed further human contacts.

In the first case, Europe got a document

committing the Final Act signatories to the non-use or threat of force and to confining their military activities within certain verifiable limits, which must inevitably reduce the risk of war.

In the second case, the agreement did not materialise, because the US vetoed the final document.

Clearly the Vienna meeting, to be opened probably by the foreign ministers of the 35 countries, will have to take into account the experience accumulated, both positive and negative, in order to use it in the interests of detente and co-operation in all areas. As before, political and security areas remain central.

For all the pluses of the Stockholm agreement on military confidence-building measures, its practical purport boils down to obligations and recommendations of what must not be done to avoid burning down our common home. But the combustible material that fills Europe to overflowing has remained unaffected. What is to be done next in order to move towards reduction of armaments and elimination of nuclear arsenals? This is the key to further measures on security for each and all.

The Vienna meeting will be held with due account taken of certain major initiatives that promote the solution of this problem of problems. These are the Soviet proposal to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000, including nuclear arsenals in Europe, and the concept of an all-embracing system of international security advanced by the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. The chief motivation of the latter is the following: in the nuclear age no one's security can any longer be guaranteed by military and technical means. The decisive role must be given to political methods.

The basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act fully fit in with this concept. Security in Europe will not become more durable if there is no drop in the level of military confrontation, if

there is no reduction in conventional arms and armed forces. Equally necessary is a further expansion of confidence-building measures in the military sphere. Finally, all this can and must be backed by stable co-operation in the economic and humanitarian fields, development of people-to-people contacts, and exchange of information.

Another impulse to detente and disarmament in Europe was given by the conference of leaders of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries in June in Budapest. They proposed substantial cuts in armaments and troops in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. It is six months since they advanced this initiative, yet the West keeps silent. But time is pressing. The forthcoming meeting in the Austrian capital will no doubt offer a good chance for all-round consideration of the proposals made by the Warsaw Treaty countries. A mandate will also have to be formulated for the second stage of the Stockholm Conference. It is worthwhile recalling in this connection that the conference is expected to deal not only with confidence-building but also with disarmament proper.

There is one more factor bearing on the political climate in Europe. It is tension in Soviet-American relations, which in the course of the current year became especially aggravated due to Washington's display of force in various parts of the world and the US spurts in pursuit of new weapons systems. Seen against this background, the news about the early meeting at Reykjavik between President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on the initiative of the Soviet side was legitimately received with hope that it would bring concrete results, possibly followed by radical cuts in nuclear arms in Europe and by other practical moves in the disarmament field.

The Vienna forum has every reason to contribute to bringing about the long-awaited turn for the better, both in European and world affairs. □

## PENTAGON DOCTRINE AIMS AT TOTAL SUPERIORITY

By Major-Gen. Prof. Rair Simonian, Ph.D., expert in military and political affairs

ADDRESSING the 41st UN General Assembly, the US President vaguely said that his administration was prepared to work towards limiting nuclear testing. It is highly significant that the President put the problem of ending nuclear testing in last place, even after a programme for the reduction in nuclear arms.

The President's rhetoric will be clear if we take a closer look at the Pentagon's armaments programmes. To ensure their implementation, he said in May 1986 that the US would ignore strategic arms control limits.

—The MX programme: in the next few years the United States is to deploy 100 first-strike ICBMs of this type, each carrying ten 600-kiloton warheads; an MX missile is equivalent to 20 Minuteman-3 ICBM. Work is under way on another new type of ICBM known as Midgetman.

—By the end of the 1980s the United States is to build 12 Ohio-class nuclear missile submarines, each carrying 24 Trident-1 missiles, and in the 1990s the US Navy will have 20 submarines equipped with the new Trident-2 missile, which has the same capabilities as the MX missile. The new missiles will increase almost two times the potential of each Trident submarine.

—In the near future the United States is to

build 100 B-1B strategic bombers, each with 20 cruise missiles aboard, and deploy by the early 1990s more than 130 fundamentally new strategic advanced-technology bombers (ATB) known as Stealth. Both bombers are designed to penetrate the air defence system of the other side.

When the United States carries through all these programmes, its strategic potential will increase from 12,000 nuclear warheads to 20,000 by early 1990s. By 1988 the United States is to complete the deployment in Western Europe of 572 Pershing-2 missiles and cruise missiles (300 missiles had been deployed as of July 1, 1986). In the 1980s it is to build 17,000 new nuclear warheads.

Even now the territory of the Soviet Union is a target for a dual nuclear strike—the American strategic nuclear forces and European-based medium-range nuclear forces (Pershing-2 can reach targets in Soviet territory in a matter of 8-10 minutes). High-accuracy cruise missiles, which are equipped with a 200-kiloton warhead each and are difficult to detect by land-based radars, are also a first-strike nuclear weapon.

Now Washington is trying to gain superiority through space. "If we can get a system which is effective, which we know can render their (Soviet) weapons impotent, we could be back in a situation where we were the only nation with nuclear weapons," Caspar Weinberger has said. SDI is a part of the US nuclear first-strike strategy. Though Washington says SDI is defensive, its aim is to make the Soviet nuclear potential use-

less as a deterrent. This is the reason why nuclear testing continues in Nevada.

The Soviet Union is against the deployment of any weapons in space, but not because it is afraid of being outrun by the United States. Our resources and scientific potential are big enough to counter the new American effort to gain superiority. Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet answer to the US large-scale space based missile defence system would be effective and less costly and it would be given faster and in a different way than the United States believes. The Soviet Union is a consistent advocate of the destruction of nuclear weapons. It is against the arms race, especially in space. The Soviet Union well realises the consequences which an arms race in space may have and this realisation prompted it to submit to the United Nations a proposal calling for Star Peace as an alternative to 'Star Wars'.

The Soviet Union has not conducted any nuclear explosions for more than a year, while the United States, ignoring the security interests of all nations, continues nuclear testing in Nevada. Frank J. Gaffney, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, recently said that the United States would not agree to a full nuclear test ban even if the verification problem were resolved. This statement only serves to confirm the fact that some circles in the United States are still bent on upsetting Soviet-American strategic balance and gaining unchallenged superiority. The price of this policy is just one more step closer to nuclear catastrophe. □

# World expects positive results from Reykjavik meeting

ICELAND'S Prime Minister Steingrímur Hermannsson has welcomed the forthcoming Soviet-American working meeting in Reykjavik, the country's capital.

In an interview on Monday, he expressed the hope that it would result in a concrete step towards disarmament, no matter how small.

"This meeting", he said, "should contribute to building a world in which there would be no need for military might."

Describing the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and US President Ronald Reagan as "a very important event", the mayor of Reykjavik David Oddson told TASS last week that it could "produce important decisions to promote detente". He, too, wanted concrete results from it.

And in an interview with *Moscow News* yesterday, Iceland's Ambassador to the USSR, Páll Asgeir Tryggvason, emphasised: "the results of the recent Stockholm Conference showed that, given political will, it is possible to remove the obstacles to concluding accords aimed at preserving world peace."

Trade and cultural links between the Soviet Union and Iceland—whose capital Reykjavik is the northernmost capital in the world—are well established.

The distinctive silhouette of the Soviet Lada is a common sight in the streets of the capital—and has been for a long time. Ladas now account for ten per cent of all cars owned in Iceland, and this figure is set to rise.

And in the cultural field, one of the regular festivals of the Soviet Union opened in Reykjavik last week. This year the USSR is represented by Soviet Uzbekistan.

At the opening ceremony, Ivar Jonsson, Chairman of the Iceland-USSR Friendship Society, said: "The people of Iceland welcome the forthcoming meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, and express the hope that this great political event will become an important step along the path of curbing the arms race and removing the threat of nuclear war."

The Archbishop of Iceland, Petur Sigurgeirsson, has called for divine services to be held in all churches in the country with the hope that the meeting between the two leaders will be successful and that peace will set in on Earth.

In Britain Denis Healey MP, the Labour Party's shadow foreign minister, has said that the talks provide another real opportunity for a positive shift in East-West relations: progress might be reached in a number of spheres, such as the reduction of medium-range missiles in Europe, a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons, and the creating of conditions to bring down the level of conventional arms in Europe. Speaking at a meeting in Blackpool (venue of the party's annual conference), he pointed out, however, that without a stable freezing of nuclear test programmes, a reduction in existing nuclear arsenals was senseless because the sides would still be able to develop more lethal weapon systems.

Mr Healey also said that the 'Star Wars' programme stubbornly upheld by Washington continued to be a major stumbling block to reaching agreements.

Joan Ruddock, vice-president of CND, the most broadly-based anti-war organisation in Britain, said last week that the issue of the United

States halting its nuclear testing should occupy an important place at the talks.

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In a lecture at the UN headquarters in New York last week, Rear-Admiral (rtd) Gene Larocque, director of the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information, pointed out that the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing, in effect for more than a year now, had provided the favourable conditions for the Reykjavik meeting.

Larocque slammed as dangerous and absurd the position of the warlike quarters in the United States, which were insisting on continued nuclear testing and on using testing as a "bargaining chip" in talks with the Soviet Union.

He said that this kind of "bargaining chip" was of no use now that the Soviet Union had terminated its nuclear testing completely: joining the Soviet moratorium would benefit both a successful dialogue between the two countries and US national interests.

In a TASS interview last week, John Finlayson, president of the Louis Dreyfus Corporation and a prominent US businessman, said that the Soviet-American meeting was "very encouraging and might help find a peaceful solution to major international problems and reach an arms control agreement."

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"The West German Government welcomes the Soviet-American summit in Reykjavik," Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher announced in the Bundestag last week.

He emphasised that the government welcomed the successful completion of the Stockholm Conference and the improvement in East-West relations that was becoming apparent. It favoured dialogue and co-operation with the Warsaw Treaty member-countries and stood for the elimination of tension and for genuine detente. "It is time to adopt joint decisions in the field of arms control," he added.

In an interview on Sunday, Bishop Longin of Dusseldorf, FRG, said the previous meeting between the leaders of the two great powers in Geneva had raised radiant hopes. But not all of them, unfortunately, had come true.

"The Soviet Union has remained true to its traditional peaceful policy by extending the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. We can rightfully expect a similar goodwill gesture from the United States as well," he emphasised. Bishop Longin was visiting Voronezh, in the Soviet Union.

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"All people of good will can only welcome the decision to hold a Soviet-American top-level meeting in Reykjavik," Pierre Mauroy, deputy to the National Assembly and Mayor of the French city of Lille, told TASS on Monday.

The former French prime minister expressed the hope that the forthcoming talks between the two leaders would be a success.

On the Soviet Union's position on the disarmament problem, Mauroy emphasised that Mikhail Gorbachev had recently advanced numerous proposals directed at reaching agreements.

These proposals were of a positive character and attested to the Soviet Union's desire to achieve the solution of disarmament problems, he pointed out.

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"We Italian businessmen are pinning great hopes

on the meeting of the Soviet and American leaders in Reykjavik. It is to be hoped that accord will be reached there on agreements to curb the arms race, primarily the nuclear arms race," Salvatore Pepitoni, a senior manager of the Restital import-export firm and a member of the Italian Co-operative League, said in an interview on Monday.

"The world as a whole has an interest in positive results from the Reykjavik summit," he said. "It expects this meeting to open prospects for more favourable international developments and for the elimination of nuclear weapons on Earth. These are the hopes of the whole of mankind."

"International detente is very important to businessmen as well. It means for us closer trade and economic contacts and prospects for the development of world trade. That is why we stand for broader mutual understanding among the peoples and stronger contacts between them."

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A meeting of foreign ministers and heads of delegations of the non-aligned countries at the 41st General Assembly session was held at the United Nations headquarters last Saturday.

The meeting adopted a communique saying that the Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the forthcoming meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan in Reykjavik, and expressed the hope that it would lead to the attainment of significant results especially in the nuclear field.

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President Zail Singh of India last week welcomed the forthcoming Reykjavik meeting.

The President expressed the conviction that the Soviet-American summit meeting would produce positive results and would help to avert the threat of a nuclear war.

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"The Republic of Cyprus welcomes the forthcoming Reykjavik meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan," a spokesman for its government said at a briefing last week.

"Together with all peace-loving mankind we would like to hope that the talks between the two leaders will prepare the ground for another summit meeting later in the United States."

"Mankind expects much from the forthcoming meeting in the field of arms control, relaxation of international tension and the strengthening of peace," he said.

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Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias described the news of the forthcoming Soviet-American summit in Reykjavik as a "ray of hope".

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"The world has welcomed the report on the forthcoming meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan in Iceland," William Hayden, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said last week. Speaking from the rostrum of the 41st UN General Assembly session, he said that the Australian Government hoped that this meeting would give considerable impetus to the process of arms control, and would contribute to a reduction of nuclear arsenals and to a treaty on a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. "The Australian Government considers this to be the most urgent practical step on the way towards establishing control over nuclear weapons," he said. □