

Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at World Women's Congress

Here follow the remarks made by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, at the opening on June 23 of the World Women's Congress:

Esteemed Guests,
Dear Friends and Comrades,

I am very grateful to you for the invitation to address the Congress. You have probably had time to notice the kind of attention, sympathetic feelings and well-wishing with which Soviet people are treating you — delegates to the Congress. This is only natural, for your aspirations, your hopes and concerns are akin to our own. The fact that you have chosen Moscow as the venue of your Congress is regarded by Soviet people as a sign of trust in the peaceful policy of our state.

The aims of your Congress are lofty and noble — to preserve life on this planet and make it more just. Today it is also a vital task of world politics.

Preserve life

Approaching the third millennium, mankind should fearlessly and soberly appraise a great number of problems that are by no means simple. These include the depletion of energy resources, the hunger and poverty of scores, even hundreds of millions of people, ecological difficulties which affect nearly all countries, and old and, lately, new deadly diseases. But all these and other problems of international scope are linked in some way or another with the task of averting the threat of a nuclear war. There are no roads to mankind's progress outside the movement towards a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world. Herein lies the key to coping with the challenges hurled at us by our difficult, dramatic and promising time.

None of us is given to re-write history with its savage wars, rivalry between states, classes and people, with ups and downs of the human spirit, with all its tragedies and triumphs. But it is the history of a divided mankind — mankind which was unaware of its unity.

Now the time has come when, given the entire diversity of the modern world and the unconditional right of each nation to an independent choice, everyone must reckon with the integrity of the international community and come to realise that it depends on us, on the living generation whether life on Earth will continue or not.

Your Congress is an impressive manifestation

IN THIS ISSUE

Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at World Women's Congress	p. 213
Mikhail Gorbachev's remarks at polling station	p. 215
Soviet Draft Treaty on nuclear weapon tests	p. 216
Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at Budapest reception	p. 217
Conference in the CPSU Central Committee	p. 219

of the growing awareness by the people in various countries of their personal involvement in what is taking place in the world.

People are tired of an overbearing expectancy of a holocaust. The awareness is growing that the threat can be averted only by stretching out hands towards each other across the inevitable ideological, economic and political partitions separating states. And I must say that precisely women feel to a fuller degree and in a more emotional and keen fashion the absolute priority of preserving peace over everything else.

Ideal of peace

An old parable has it that there are three chief values on Earth. Daily bread which gives one vitality and health. Wisdom of the books that ensures the link between times. And woman who does not allow the thread of life to break. The best intellects at all times emphasised the peacemaking role of the woman, her ability to cool off hot heads and ennoble embittered hearts. Not surprisingly, precisely women whom nature chose to preserve and continue the human race are becoming the most unselfish, selfless and numerous defenders of the ideal of peace. Energetic and impassioned anti-war initiatives and actions by women's organisations and movements have become a distinctive feature of the socio-political climate.

The international women's movement has notably strengthened the potential of peace and goodwill. It made itself heard. And this is a realistic factor of politics.

What women give a society and are capable of giving also depends on the ability of that society to give women genuine rights, social protection and ensure their due social self-awareness. The degree of emancipation of women is a natural indicator of the emancipation of the whole of society. "There is no 'equality', nor can there be, so long as women are handicapped by men's legal privileges" — these are the words of V.I. Lenin. I would add to them that the status of women is a barometer of democratism of any state and an indicator of the respect for human rights in it.

Women the world over are demanding rightfully that their voice be heard and taken into consideration when the most important state decisions are taken. They want to see and feel that the society values their work, their abilities and needs their life wisdom, the warmth of their hearts and magnanimity. They want to be sure that their families will never be left in trouble and that they will be guaranteed the essential conditions for a normal life, that their children will be educated and that a sick child will receive medical assistance.

You must be interested to know how we are approaching all these problems in our country and what we are doing to tackle them.

Soviet people will soon observe the 70th anniversary of their great Revolution. It has been the first in human history to accomplish many things. It has opened up the road to a civilisation in which there is no exploitation, in which there are no hungry and underprivileged people, no unemployment or

illiteracy. For the first time the people who work have received the opportunity to build a society in their own interests. For the first time all nations and nationalities have become equal and have created a unique internationalist community. For the first time ever there has appeared a state that is interested in the intellectual advancement of each of its citizens and his conscious political activity. Not a single state, no single democratic legislation before 1917 has accomplished at least half of what the Soviet Government did right in the first months of its existence.

Women in the USSR really have equal rights with men and in some areas even vaster rights. There is no discrimination of any kind in the pay for one's work. Conditions are equal for getting education, for a professional career and for the participation in the activities of the Party, government and local bodies of authority. Women are working in all sectors of the national economy and they dominate such spheres as public health, education and culture. Let me say more — women make up 60 per cent of the specialists with a higher and secondary specialised education in this country.

Women's authority

Can we, proceeding from what I said, make the conclusion that everything here is in good order? Let me tell you frankly — no.

Some shortcomings, as is the case with individuals sometimes, are an extension of the advantages of our society. The active and equal participation of women in social production, in the political, scientific and cultural activities has boosted women's authority, their self-respect, and sense of dignity and independence from men. But this has not always been accompanied by changes making the performance of their inherent functions — those of a mother, wife and the person who brings up children — easier. Certain problems have become more acute because of shortcomings in the consumer services sector and retail trade. Thus, the social load on women has increased.

Generally speaking, making the family healthier and improving its moral potential seems to me to be a very timely and important social task.

You must know that our society is living at a very exciting and very complicated period of deep-running changes. We refer to it as perestroika (restructuring).

Perestroika will make it possible genuinely to reveal the potential of socialism. We are harnessing in it all the energies of the people. We are giving full scope to initiative, creative endeavour, talents and abilities. Each will have a job and a place in that great undertaking. And we continue learning and teaching each other how to work in conditions of perestroika. The task is to give a qualitatively new image to the socialist system, to develop humanism and respect for human dignity organically inherent in its very foundation and to elevate to a new level the title of a citizen of the socialist fatherland. We are doing so through a wide-scale democratisation. Openness and glasnost, justice and

trust in people, attention to their opinion and reliance on it, an irreconcilable attitude to breaches of law and of moral norms, laying bare in public instances of dishonesty, deception, meanness and parasitism — this alone has notably changed the entire atmosphere of public life, although very little time has passed.

We want to release and intensify the initiative of Soviet women for the benefit of perestroika. Not so long ago we took a major step for that purpose. We have established a network of women's councils throughout the country, uniting them into an integral system with the Soviet Women's Committee at the head.

We expect much to come from the work of the women's councils. The women's councils are a kind of accumulator of women's energy and initiative. They have been entrusted with an exceptionally important mission. Working in the midst of life, in each city, village, plant and residential neighbourhood, each apartment block, the women's council may know better than any one else problems of women and their families, offer timely assistance by approaching bodies of authority, if necessary.

I would like to emphasise one point specially — the upbringing of the rising generation. A new generation is growing up. It should accept the relay baton of socialism from the older people and carry it further, it should be ready to build in a new manner mutual relations in the world that is becoming increasingly interdependent.

New thinking

And women bear — in the family, at school, everywhere — immense responsibility for ensuring that a future citizen will be brought up in the traditions of respect for his people and its culture, for people of other nations and races, in the spirit of respect for their culture and their mode of life. Today's boys and girls will have to live and work on one planet in even greater contact than we have now.

We believe in the success of the started undertaking. Our society which has traversed a heroic and difficult path of struggle for survival in hostile surroundings, for a revolutionary transformation of a vast and backward country, is capable of coping with that task too. Although it is of course very complicated — we are aware of that — it is making us reconsider much in our past and present, it requires bold solutions that are by no means routine, it requires the highest responsibility and truly selfless efforts. Much has to be overcome in ourselves, because, as I've already had to say more than once, we are people of our day and age.

Our road to the new thinking was not a simple one. It was born not only out of the need for addressing our domestic problems in a modern manner and really solving them. It is a search for a response to the challenge hurled by our time at all mankind. It is a severe challenge which we have not had to come across as yet.

The end of the 20th century has become a turning point in the history of civilisation. Unheard-of progress of science and technology has brought about a qualitative change in the military sphere — people have acquired weapons which can, even if only a fraction of their stockpiles explodes, reduce this planet to cinders. Preventing that has become a high-priority task.

But there is one more aspect to it. It is immoral to marvel at scientific and technological progress, closing one's eyes at the fact that only an insignificant part of the Earth's population is enjoying its fruits. Hundreds of millions subsist on a near-starvation diet, cannot either read or write and sometimes are even homeless. And the most awful of all this — it is children who are dying daily of malnutrition, diseases and a lack of basic necessities. And this is happening at the end of the 20th century — the age of electronics and "green revolutions", space flights and truly

unlimited opportunities for feeding, clothing and educating billions of people.

But these opportunities are not simply used insufficiently and poorly. Imperialism is directing them against man. And that is why, because of the arms race imposed on mankind by it, scientific and technological progress still costs the people too dearly. The gap between a small number of industrialised states and scores of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America is growing wider. Their financial debt has reached catastrophic proportions and it is nothing else than the consequence of the self-serving, truly predatory operation of banks and corporations based in the capitalist "North".

As a result the dangers to all mankind resulting from inequitable exchange and the exploitation of the backward part of the world can already be compared to the universal nuclear and ecological threat.

In other words, disarmament for development, trust and co-operation — these are the "three whales" which can carry mankind into the future. No alternative exists any longer.

Realistic policy

This realisation is making its way into the masses and politically influential spheres. And what is most important, it is transforming itself into active positions, into organised actions directed against the arms race and in support of concrete initiatives which make it possible to reach agreement on lessening the military threat. Reminders to the governments of their responsibility are developing into a demonstration of no confidence in those who are walking away from their responsibility, who are still unwilling to reckon with the realities.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to scare people with a "Soviet threat", to use it for justifying the arms race and dragging out talks. There are forces in the world — and you know about them — whom such changes do not suit.

And these forces are already at work in a bid to put a barrier in the road of the process of confidence-building in international relations.

Over the past two years the Soviet Union has put forward proposals on virtually all disarmament issues. In reply we have heard only too often: Well, but let the Soviets confirm their words with deeds.

Let me say this — not only we need a realistic policy. All states and all peoples including the American people need it. And it presupposes as a minimum a serious attitude to the proposals of the other side — to what extent they are constructive, whether they take account of the interests of the partner, public opinion and scientific conclusions. Alas, in reply to our initiatives we usually receive either an instantaneous refusal or a dogmatic confirmation of the old positions. This means that in such cases far from everything is well with realism in politics. But the world needs and demands a policy of real undertakings.

If we take an unbiased look at how words and deeds combine in East-West relations, what will the picture be like?

Guided by the new thinking, the Soviet Union is building its foreign policy in such a way as to stop the arms race, remove the nuclear threat and improve the atmosphere. And the United States continues banking on the force of arms and on expanding the sphere of military competition, including outer space.

The Soviet Union maintained a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests for 18 months. This is business, not mere words. The US also responded with practical deeds — by increasing the number of test explosions in Nevada.

On January 15, 1986 the Soviet Union advanced the programme for a stage-by-stage abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by the end of the century.

What did we hear in reply? Peace without nuclear weapons is impossible, it is a utopia, and then once again we heard an oath of allegiance to the doctrine of "nuclear deterrence".

We have stopped the manufacture of chemical weapons and are building a facility to destroy them. This is business, not mere words. And how is NATO responding? With plans for the production and deployment of binary weapons.

It is precisely due to the fact that the Soviet Union has proved with deeds its readiness to take into consideration feelings of concern of its partners that it has become possible to achieve a positive result at the Stockholm Conference on confidence-building measures.

The meeting in Reykjavik which we proposed could have signified a historic breakthrough in the disarmament sphere. But a dramatic dialogue has not culminated in an agreement. The decisive step has not been made. Because it would have meant for the US the renunciation of "Star Wars" preparations and of the policy of achieving strategic military superiority over the Soviet Union.

There has been so much noise — and it still continues — concerning verification. The Soviet Union has come out in public and at the negotiating table in favour of strictest verification measures, including international ones and on-site inspection.

And how has the West reacted? Once again with words about the importance of verification. But these are already accompanied by reservations the meaning of which is to protect from it private arms business and bases on the territory of other countries.

Nuclear disarmament

When the public, political figures and scientists have asked us to single out medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik "package" we have responded with a practical deed — we have agreed to such a step. Moreover, we have agreed to eliminate shorter-range missiles in Europe as well. After many months of delays and "coordination efforts" NATO figures seem to be responding positively.

But clarifications that have followed — in statements and through diplomatic channels — are giving us grounds for concern. Once again, as on many occasions in the past, we are witnessing attempts at retracting from what has been agreed by Moscow and Washington at the political level. Once again demands are being made which are at variance with the principle of equal security. Bows towards hardened militarists who are unwilling to put up with the possibility of concluding the first agreement on nuclear disarmament attest to a high degree of dependence of the American Administration on militarist groups.

The current month has marked one year since the time of the Budapest initiative of the Warsaw Treaty countries. They have offered NATO to deal with issues of conventional weapons and armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals, sit down at the negotiating table and reach agreement on reducing both by one-fourth in the early 1990s and by an even wider margin later. In response NATO countries have begun speaking of the need for investing more of their money into the manufacture and modernisation of conventional weapons.

One month ago the Warsaw Treaty member-countries, attending the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Berlin, set forth in no uncertain terms their military doctrine which is subordinated to the task of preventing war, both nuclear and conventional; which is oriented towards reasonable sufficiency in the amounts and character of armaments and armed forces and is designed exclusively for defence purposes. They invited NATO to discuss and compare at a high level the doctrines of both alliances and agree on excluding the very military and technical

(Continued on back page)

Mikhail Gorbachev's remarks at polling station

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV cast his ballot in the local government elections on June 21 at the polling station of the electoral precinct No. Five in Moscow's Krasnaya Presnya district.

After voting he had a meeting with other constituents, which was marked by warmth and trust. The conversation was about the reorganisation, its first results, about the difficulties, outstanding problems, tasks for the future, about the qualities that man, the main motive force of the acceleration, should have.

Question: Haven't we been talking too much about problems of late?

Mikhail Gorbachev: Yes, a lot of problems have piled up. We make no secret of this. We speak openly about the things we are not pleased with. But speaking of difficulties we know what strength, what might, what a huge economic, social and cultural potential our socialist state has. We have a vast country. It is difficult to get our flywheel started. When this is done, there is no stopping it. The task now is to give it maximum revolutions, to make it revolve faster and faster.

Among the tasks posed by the reorganisation there are many long-term tasks, for 5 and 10-15 years ahead. For instance, we plan to resolve the housing question by the year 2000. And some persons hold that since there are long-term, difficult, complex tasks, there is no need to be in a hurry, that one can sit it out doing nothing. But this will not happen.

There are problems which must be decided today. These are problems of upgrading the state of affairs in agriculture, of improving the supply of food products to the population.

There is marked progress already now, we have really started advancing in these matters. And this trend will continue. Good order, organisation and discipline are needed for the reorganisation to yield concrete results in all areas sooner. There will be a serious discussion of this at a plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee to be held soon.

Question: A lot of acute, controversial materials on the path of the reorganisation now appear in the press. But dubious recipes for overcoming difficulties are sometimes given. Such is, for instance, an article by the economist Shmelyov published in the sixth issue of the journal *Novy Mir*.

Mikhail Gorbachev: I would divide that publication into two parts. The first concerns itself with the analysis of the state of affairs in the economy and it gives a picture close to the real one. We shall speak about this at the plenary meeting. The second part is what the author proposes. It is for instance suggested that there should be unemployment. This is unacceptable to us.

We are well aware of our weaknesses, of outstanding problems. But we should not lose sight of what socialism gave to everyone. The right to work, to education, free medical services, housing — these are real values of our society in which man is socially protected, today and for the future, and this is the main thing.

A measure of consumption is another matter. Socialism is not a system encouraging parasitic attitudes. Requirements are growing, and they must be controlled. And the main instrument in this is the implementation of the fundamental principle of socialism: to each according to his work.

Then Mikhail Gorbachev answered questions from Soviet and foreign reporters.

"Tomorrow will be June 22, a special day for our people," Mikhail Gorbachev said. "In this connection I would like to say once more: whatever task we might be undertaking, we must first of all remember that preserving peace is a priority for all of us and for all nations. And I would also like to tell you: the Soviet leadership is concerned with the following thing. They are calling on us in the Soviet Union to take some further steps. The Soviet Union will continue taking real steps to meet our partners in the West halfway and look for solutions to the major issues, so as to improve the situation and ease tension. The main thing is to clear the path to disarmament. In order to achieve these aims, words need to be matched by deeds — both in politics and in the press which serves politics."

Realistic policy

There are quite a few words in the West, but few specific reciprocal steps adequately responding to our proposals. Politicians in leading capitalist countries are concerned lest they lose out in the eyes of public opinion. Well, if one thinks about this rather than how to turn the world away from confrontation, from tension and from the arms race to a different direction, to the path of setting international relations right and starting disarmament — no words, no assurances can replace realistic policy. We believe that there is a dearth of realistic policy in the West today. And this is the most important thing. I would like this idea of mine to reach all public opinion in the world. This

Elections in the USSR

ELECTIONS of deputies of local Soviets and judges were held on June 21 in the Soviet Union, in all its union republics. The election campaign which lasted for two and a half months has ended. These elections are the first major political action on a state scale after the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee which, developing the directives of the 27th Party Congress, raised firmly and unambiguously matters of democratisation of all aspects in the life of Soviet-society.

For the first time, as an experiment, elections in some local Soviets were held in electoral districts where the number of candidates was greater than the number of mandates. The voters on June 21 determined their attitude to each candidate. Those for whom fewer votes were cast will remain in reserve. They will be issued appropriate certificates, and will be able to take part in the work of the Soviet and its bodies, having a deliberative vote.

The elections show the high political activity of Soviet people. Some 73 per cent of voters in the Russian Federation cast their ballots by midday. A large part of voters had already cast their ballots by that time in other republics, too.

On election day Soviet people expressed support for the processes of renewal of all aspects of the country's life. They voted in favour of more and more people moving to new flats with every year, of a faster resolution of vital problems of every-day services and trade, of smoother functioning of transportation, in favour of deputies of the new convocation fulfilling their mandates more actively and with greater precision. □

is the most important thing we are concerned about. Just think how many specific steps we have taken over the past two years. And, you know, this has played its role.

The situation has changed. And the main change, to my mind, is that the people all over the world have joined in the struggle for peace for they are concerned about the present situation. They know that if another war breaks out, it will first of all affect peoples. This is why people do not want to sit on their hands and just look on. The Soviet leadership welcomes this attitude.

As far as detente and the curtailing of the arms race are concerned, we are prepared to co-operate with all forces. But there is a deficit of realistic policy in the West. There they are only concerned with saving face. What we need, however, are specific steps to a healthier international situation, to a nuclear-free world without violence, and to co-operation. □

AMNESTY DECREE

A DECREE by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on amnesty on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution has been published in Moscow.

Guided by the principles of socialist humanism, the Soviet State releases convicts of the following categories from penalty in the form of deprivation of freedom irrespective of term of confinement, as well as from penalty not connected with deprivation of freedom:

Persons who took part in combat operations to defend the motherland, those who were awarded with the orders and medals of the USSR, men over 60 years of age, and women older than 55, as well as invalids (with the first and second degree of gravity of disablement).

At the same time all investigatory actions with regard to all these persons shall be discontinued, and cases which are connected with crimes committed before this decree entered into force and which have not yet been examined by courts shall be dismissed.

The decree on amnesty releases women who were convicted for a term of up to five years if they have already served not less than a third of the term, as well as women sentenced to penalty which is not connected with deprivation of freedom.

Convicted minors shall be granted amnesty if they have served not less than a year of the entire term.

Besides, a large category of convicts shall be released from penalty conditionally but with compulsory employment.

Many shall be exempted from additional penalty in the form of exile and banishment.

Some convicts who do not fall under the action of above-mentioned articles of the decree shall have their penalty terms reduced.

The release from penalty does not apply to those convicted for particularly dangerous crimes against the state, for wilful murder, and to particularly dangerous habitual criminals and to persons tried for intentional crimes more than twice and who were already granted amnesty earlier, and to some others.

The decree enters into force on the day of publication and shall be subject to implementation in the course of six months. □

Soviet Draft Treaty on nuclear weapon tests

Here follows the full text of the Soviet draft treaty "Basic Provisions of a Treaty on the Complete and General Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon Tests":

A. General provisions

1. The complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests is in itself an important measure facilitating progress toward the limitation, reduction and complete elimination of nuclear arms.

2. The prohibition of nuclear weapon tests by the Soviet Union and the United States of America, the states which possess the greatest nuclear potentials, is an important step toward general and complete prohibition of such tests. They must be joined by the other nuclear powers if the main objective of the treaty is to be attained and its universal nature genuinely ensured.

3. The states parties to the treaty are guided by a desire to complement and develop the regime established by the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water of August 5, 1963, which would be consistent with the determination expressed in that treaty to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, and to that end to prohibit such explosions in the only remaining environment, i.e. underground.

4. When all nuclear weapons have been completely eliminated the treaty will serve as a safeguard against the reappearance of this kind of weapon in the future and an important element in the comprehensive system of international security.

B. Scope of the prohibition

1. Each state party to this treaty shall undertake to prohibit, to prevent, and not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosions at any place under its jurisdiction or control, in all environments — in the atmosphere, in outer space, under water or underground.

2. No party shall cause, encourage or in any way participate in the conduct of any nuclear weapon test explosions anywhere.

3. Provision should be made for the formulation of a provision preventing the ban on nuclear weapon test explosions from being circumvented by means of peaceful nuclear explosions.

C. Termination of activities at nuclear weapon test ranges

I. Declarations

Thirty days after the entry into force of the treaty, the states parties shall declare the locations of the test ranges for nuclear weapon test explosions in their territory or under their control, including the geographical coordinates of nuclear weapon test sites.

Reykjavik, the ABM Treaty and SDI

Colonel Vladimir Chernyshev,
Soviet disarmament expert

The above Novosti booklet is available from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW (01-373 7350).
Price 40p.

II. Termination of activities at nuclear weapon test ranges

On the day of the entry into force of the treaty, each state party to this treaty shall terminate all activities related to nuclear weapon test explosions at its test ranges.

D. Ensuring compliance with the treaty

I. General provisions on verification

Effective comprehensive verification of strict and unflinching fulfilment by the parties of their obligations under the treaty shall be carried out using national technical means of verification, international verification measures and on-site inspection.

II. National technical means of verification

1. For the purpose of verifying the implementation of this treaty, each state party to this treaty shall use the national technical means of verification which it has at its disposal in a manner consistent with the generally recognised norms of international law, and undertakes not to interfere with such means of verification of other states parties to this treaty.

2. States parties to this treaty which possess national technical means of verification shall place the information which they obtain through these means, and which is important for the purpose of this treaty, at the disposal of the appropriate organ established under the treaty, and may, where necessary, place it at the disposal of other parties.

III. International verification measures

International system of seismic verification

1. For the purpose of better assuring compliance with obligations under this treaty, the states parties shall establish an international system of seismic verification.

2. To this end, a network of seismic stations with standard specifications shall be established on the territory under the jurisdiction or control of the states parties to the treaty, to ensure the continuous international exchanges of level II seismic data in accordance with agreed guidelines which will form an integral part of the treaty.

3. These stations shall operate with the participation of observers from among the members of an international inspectorate.

The number, location, main performance characteristics and general principles of operation of such stations shall be subject to agreement.

International exchange of data on atmospheric radioactivity

1. For the purpose of better assuring compliance with obligations under the treaty, each state party to this treaty undertakes to co-operate in good faith in an international exchange of data on atmospheric radioactivity.

2. To this end, the states parties to this treaty shall establish, on the territory under their jurisdiction or control, aerosol monitoring stations to ensure the international exchange of data on atmospheric radioactivity in accordance with agreed guidelines which will form an integral part of this treaty.

IV. Ensuring the non-functioning of nuclear weapon test ranges

Verification that no nuclear explosions are conducted at test ranges shall be carried out by

national personnel with the participation of international inspectors in accordance with agreed procedures.

V. On-site inspection

1. For the purpose of clarifying and resolving questions which give rise to doubt as to compliance with the treaty and which cannot be eliminated by means of the other verification measures provided for in the treaty, each state party shall have the right to request an on-site inspection in the territory of another state party, citing appropriate grounds for the request.

2. The state so requested will be obliged to grant access to the locations specified in the request for the purpose of an inspection at the site of the event whose status is unclear, in order to clarify whether it was related to a nuclear explosion carried out in circumvention of the provisions of this treaty.

3. Criteria and procedures for requesting such inspections, and rules for conducting them, shall be elaborated, including a list of the rights and functions of the inspecting personnel.

VI. Treaty organs

1. For the purpose of effective implementation of this treaty, there shall be established appropriate organs, including an international inspectorate, whose functions will be specified in the annex to this treaty.

2. A method of decision-making in the treaty organs is to be agreed upon which will ensure that decisions are taken on a mutually acceptable basis and within a short time where necessary.

E. Concluding provisions of the treaty

1. The treaty shall be of unlimited duration. It shall enter into force upon ratification by . . . states, including the USSR and the United States of America.

Five years after the entry into force of the treaty, a conference of the states parties to the treaty shall be convened to review the operation of the treaty and to consider whether it should remain in effect if other nuclear powers have not acceded thereto over the five-year period.

2. Provision should be made for a procedure for the signing and ratification of the treaty, for the depositary, for accession by states to, and withdrawal from, the treaty, for amendment and for review conferences. □

(Geneva, June 18, TASS)

Mikhail Gorbachev

THE RESULTS AND LESSONS OF REYKJAVIK. Summit meeting in the Icelandic capital October 11-12, 1986: includes press conference on October 12 and speech on Soviet Television on October 14. 20p
Once More on Reykjavik: People are Entitled to Know the Truth. Statement on Soviet Television on October 22 35p
Reykjavik. Documents and Materials . 30p

The above booklets from Novosti Press Agency Moscow are available now from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW (01-373 7350).

Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at Budapest reception

"A DIVIDED Europe is a result of an irreconcilable attitude to a differing system on the part of those who are speculating today on the consequences of their own policy," said Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

He was speaking in Budapest on June 17 at a dinner given in his honour by Peter Varkonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The Soviet Foreign Minister noted that unfortunately there existed people who were pleased with the very fact of the existence of partitions as an illustration to their own views.

"Neighbours, as is known, can be different. Sometimes no fence is needed, as for example, in the case of Hungary and Austria. There isn't a single fence on all the roads linking them. In other cases precisely a fence makes it possible to live normally — without aggravations and crises.

"Partitions can be surmounted not by inciting

speeches and melodramatic stage shows at the Brandenburg Gate, but by concrete demonstrations of the desire to live in peace, to live as good neighbours do, by manifestations of responsibility in one's approaches and restraint in one's actions." Eduard Shevardnadze went on to say.

"The most direct and realistic way for removing the various barriers which now separate European nations passes through the main road built by the Helsinki Final Act. Notable headway in this direction can be made at the Vienna meeting of the states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation.

"We believe that the cause of rapprochement between European countries will be promoted by Hungary's proposals for the establishment of an international folk art centre in Budapest and for an increase in the number of translations of works of literature published in the languages of smaller European nations," Shevardnadze said.

"It is here, in Budapest, that many steps have been taken across the dividing lines in Europe. Let us recall the 1969 Budapest message by the Warsaw Treaty Organisation member-states which became an important milestone on the

road to the 1975 Helsinki meeting. Let us also recall the 1986 programme, also put forward here, for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

"The problem of destroying and overcoming the walls of mistrust is, in the final analysis, a problem of real disarmament," the Soviet Minister said.

Eduard Shevardnadze recalled the recently published document on the military doctrine of the Warsaw Treaty. "We are waiting for NATO's reply to our proposal to compare it with the doctrine of the Atlantic Alliance and to the proposal for the elimination of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe," he said.

"Won't the wall of suspicion be breached in yet another place by our readiness to discuss issues of tactical nuclear weapons as well, of course, given the understanding that such a discussion will result in one more, third, 'zero'?

"It will be a very good combination of figures — three zeroes in favour of a united Europe. This is also the view of our Hungarian friends who are making an immense contribution to the case of promoting European co-operation," Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's Belgrade speech

"HISTORY has left no slight mark on our country and on your country. For how many times had the peoples of your country to enter an unequal struggle with foreign invaders and how great was the vital strength of the people that succeeded in upholding the right to life of its flesh and its spirit. We know this well and this brings us closer," Eduard Shevardnadze said in his speech at a dinner given in his honour in Belgrade on June 19.

"Soviet people have a special attitude to Yugoslavia, and not only for the reason that Russia and the peoples of Yugoslavia are linked with long-standing bonds of historic and cultural kinship. We bow to the memory of the thirty thousand Yugoslav patriot-internationalists, who fought at the fronts of the civil war. People in the USSR know well and remember the fact that on the day when the Hitlerites made the treacherous attack on our country, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia urged the peoples of Yugoslavia to rise to the struggle against fascists and to support the Soviet Union with all their might. On the eve of the commemoration of those days we mourn millions of heroes who gave their lives for our common victory.

"Our recourse to history is not at all selective," Eduard Shevardnadze said. "We do not forget also the events contradicting our mutual historic attraction. Remembering them, we treasure and increase the traditions and capital of joint experience and trust. Embodied in the documents of 1955 and 1956, in the recent

arrangements, they promote constructive co-operation in every area. And we are glad that the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia co-operate intensively in the international arena precisely as socialist countries.

"We highly appreciate the contribution of your country to the consolidation of international peace and security. It is with great satisfaction that we received Yugoslavia's support for the Soviet approach to matters of disarmament, for the elimination of medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles from Europe. Both our countries attach much importance to the solution of the problems connected with working out non-military guarantees of ensuring security in a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world.

"The Soviet Union regards Yugoslavia as one of the recognised leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement and has respect for its activity in that movement," Eduard Shevardnadze went on to say. "The Soviet Union welcomes the fact that the foreign policy tradition of the Non-Aligned Movement — the tradition of tireless activity for the benefit of lowering tension, implementing measures of military detente, consolidating confidence and co-operation, is manifested ever clearer in the Mediterranean affairs in which Yugoslavia is active for quite understandable reasons."

"The Soviet Union shares the resolve of many Mediterranean countries to assure for their region a worthy place in the geography of stable peace and good-neighbourliness. We are prepared to support any practical steps in this direction. The situation shaping in the Mediterranean must be wholly in keeping with the lofty notion which is attached to it by right when it is described as the cradle of many civilisations.

"Every socialist country has accumulated its own, largely unique experience of social and economic development," the Soviet minister said. "And this is our common asset, our common boon. Relations among socialist countries are versatile and multiform, just as the world of socialism is varied and multiform. Its nature predetermined the adherence to the great

ideals of equality and brotherhood of nations, the struggle for a durable, equitable and fair world. And this imposes on us the loftiest responsibility to entire humanity. I am confident that the Soviet Union and socialist Yugoslavia will continue advancing together in all undertakings." □

Foreign Ministry spokesman on Gulf situation

MANY countries that use the sea lanes of the Persian Gulf and receive their petroleum from the area feel concerned over the tense situation in the region, a spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists on June 18.

Serious concern on that score is expressed by Kuwait and by other countries of the region. There have been no attacks on vessels in that zone in recent days. But there is no certainty that such attacks will not be repeated. We believe the matter is that clearcut agreements that would guarantee the safety of shipping in the area are lacking, the spokesman said. The Iran-Iraq conflict continues and assumes at times the different forms of "tanker war" and "war of cities".

Certain states continue their attempts to build up their military presence under the pretext of ensuring security in the area, and this only complicates the situation.

Sharing the concern of the world public and the Persian Gulf states which in a resolution of the recent conference of the foreign ministers of the participating countries of the Co-operation Council proclaimed their concern once again, the Soviet Union declares for pooling efforts towards an early settlement of the situation in the area. We not only suggest, but also strive in practice to promote the ending of the war and the settlement of the crisis situation in the Persian Gulf, the Soviet spokesman said.

These goals were also promoted during the trip made by Yuli Vorontsov, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, to Teheran and Baghdad. □

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Nikolai Ryzhkov addresses GDR delegation

"THE relations of friendship, unbreakable alliance and fraternal co-operation between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany are highly appreciated in the Soviet Union," emphasised Nikolai Ryzhkov, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

He was speaking at a luncheon given in honour of the Party and government delegation of the GDR in the Kremlin on June 23.

Nikolai Ryzhkov pointed out that "there are, perhaps, not so many countries whose co-operation is so deep, versatile and dynamic in character as that between the Soviet Union and the GDR".

"This co-operation is based on the two countries' common affiliation with the community of states whose political course and practical activities are determined by the ideals of socialism and peace.

"Today's exchange of views dealt with practical activities both everyday and long-term which are vitally important for the development of economic relations between the two countries," he said.

"Those are matters aimed at developing trade the high level of which is illustrative of its importance to the two countries. Those are matters of scientific and technical co-operation, first and foremost in priority fields which determine the future development of industry, science and culture.

"Now that the process of revolutionary renewal has intensified in the Soviet Union under the impact of the decisions of the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Com-

mittee, now that a new atmosphere favouring full development of the creative potential of socialist society has been established during the reorganisation, acceleration and democratisation processes, fresh opportunities are also opening up for co-operation between our two countries," Nikolai Ryzhkov went on to say.

"Their implementation calls for intensive joint work and for a search for non-standard, innovatory solutions, a high degree of organisation and persistence."

Nikolai Ryzhkov said that achieving a new qualitative level of co-operation between the two countries was directly connected with a radical restructuring of Soviet economic management.

This cardinal issue will be considered at the forthcoming plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, the decisions of which are to ensure the transition of the entire national economy of the Soviet Union to a new integrated system of management. □

PLO delegation received in Moscow

ON June 22 Eduard Shevardnadze received a delegation of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, led by Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO Political Department.

A thorough exchange of opinions on a wide range of topical problems of the present-day international situation was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The sides noted the coincidence of the viewpoints on the questions discussed, underlined the need for

pooling the efforts of all peoples to make a breakthrough in the course of affairs in the international scene and to channel it towards creating a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world, disarmament, and establishing such a system of international relations which will be dominated by the principles of respect for the legitimate rights of all states and peoples to the independent choice of ways of development without foreign interference.

Special attention was paid to a detailed discussion of the situation in the Middle East and the prospects for establishing durable peace in

that region.

The whole course of events in the Middle East convincingly shows that banking on force of arms, on confrontation is untenable, said Eduard Shevardnadze. It plays only into the hands of the forces which would like to keep the Middle East ever in tension.

It is necessary to make a firm and daring turn to a collective quest for an honest and fair peace. It calls for soberly taking into account the existing realities and giving up customary stereotypes, for boldness and a creative approach, in brief, what we now call a new mode of political thinking.

The interlocutors expressed confidence that the way to a comprehensive and fair settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its key, the Palestinian problem, lies through the convocation of a competent international conference on the Middle East under UN aegis with equal participation in it of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, states in the region and permanent Security Council members.

The sides discussed the attempts to emasculate the content of the conference now, before its convocation, to reduce its role to covering up separate negotiations, to deprive the Palestine Liberation Organisation of the legitimate right to represent the Palestinian people at it, to defend its national interests.

The Soviet side underlined the importance of overcoming inter-Arab differences which complicate co-ordination of Arab actions, attainment of their efficient solidarity. A special need of establishing close co-operation and interaction between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Syria, and other Arab anti-imperialist and national patriotic forces has been noted. □

Priorities in CMEA activities

VYACHESLAV SYCHEV, Secretary of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), has referred to the implementation of the comprehensive programme for the scientific and technological progress of the CMEA countries for the period ending in the year 2000 as "priority number one" in CMEA activities.

Speaking at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on June 17, he described the course of implementation of the programme which had been adopted a year and a half ago.

"The comprehensive programme," he recalled, "envisages the concentration of the efforts of the socialist countries on five priorities: the electronisation of the national economies, comprehensive automation, accelerated development of the nuclear power industry, new structural materials and new technology for their production and treatment, and accelerated development of biotechnology."

"The concentration of efforts precisely on these priorities will enable the CMEA countries to secure a 'breakthrough' not only in the above-mentioned areas but also to make progress in the entire economic complex."

"In our day these five priorities determine the technical level of the economy as a whole. In implementing the comprehensive programme, the CMEA countries are setting themselves the task at least to double labour productivity

in CMEA countries by the year 2000 and to reduce substantially by dozens of per cent the power- and materials-intensity of the unit of produced national income.

"By the year 2000, as a result of the implementation of the comprehensive programme, we are to have such a technological basis for our economies which would make them adequate to the requirements of the 21st century," Vyacheslav Sychev said.

"A good deal has been done over the year and a half that has passed since the programme was adopted. But the CMEA countries have encountered big difficulties. And this is understandable: there had not been a programme of such a scope in CMEA history before. Neither had there been experience in organising such large-scale development efforts.

"The CMEA countries had to tackle a multitude of problems: the organisation and financing of this kind of work, the organisation of the distribution of labour, coordination, and interaction between more than 1,500 institutes, enterprises and organisations of the various countries which took part in the work.

"This called for the solution of a number of questions which are connected with the peculiarities of the economic and legal mechanisms of each CMEA country and which have not yet been resolved completely.

"Questions of the radical refinement of CMEA activities and of the mechanism of socialist economic integration emerge as co-operation develops and deepens," Vyacheslav Sychev emphasised. □

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Conference in the CPSU Central Committee

THE implementation of Party and Government resolutions on developing the processing branches and storage facilities of the agro-industrial complex (AIC) and the tasks of Party, government and economic bodies on this question were examined at a conference of the CPSU Central Committee held recently.

The conference was opened by Yegor Ligachev, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He said that efforts to fulfil the Food Programme figure prominently among the many issues in which the restructuring drive in the country should lead to sweeping changes.

The measures being taken to strengthen the agrarian sector of the economy together with the reorganisation and democratisation taking place in the centre and locally are already yielding certain results. There is a growth in farm production, especially in livestock-raising. However, there is still no marked improvement in supplying the population in many parts of the country with foodstuffs. The main point here is that from 15 to 20 per cent of foodstuffs continues to spoil on the way from the fields and facilities to the shop counters, and does not reach the consumer.

For a long time the processing branches and storage facilities did not receive due attention. Their production assets were renewed at a much slower rate than in other spheres of social production. A large part of the labour funds is registered as active, although in reality it has not been used in production for a long time. Underestimation of these branches has led to a substantial lag in the capacity for the processing of farm produce behind the possibilities for its production.

This is why the CPSU Central Committee and the government are making the development of the AIC processing branches and storage facilities a priority. Expenditure to eliminate losses here are two to three times lower than additional production of the same type of output.

The country has extensively outlined ways to accomplish this vital task. Plan targets for large-scale retooling, renovation and capital construction of storage and processing facilities have been incorporated into the plan for the 12th five-year period. Fifty per cent more funds are being allocated for the purpose than over the previous five years.

However, efforts to accelerate the development of the AIC processing branches and storage facilities are still moving along slowly and not in the dimensions envisaged.

Not all personnel in the centre and locally are concerned over the state of affairs in the processing and storing of farm produce, and over the losses which the economy has been sustaining. Many managers do not take timely practical measures to rectify the situation and fail to comply with the decisions taken on the issue.

Vsevolod Murakhovsky, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the USSR State Agro-industrial Committee, delivered a report. He noted the important role the agro-industrial complex is playing in implementing the Party's strategic course for accelerating socio-economic development and for boosting the people's well-being. The AIC accounts for about one-third of the gross national product. Farm produce and goods produced from agricultural raw materials comprise approximately 70 per cent of the personal consumption fund. For this reason shortcomings in the performance of any level of the agro-industrial complex have an immediate effect on consumer supply and on the mood of people overall.

It was stressed that a huge production and scientific and technological potential has been created in the country's agrarian sector. The main thing here is to utilise it to the full, to enhance efficiency and return and steadily boost output production on this basis.

The growth rate for agricultural output production is to be doubled during the current five-year period. Extensive efforts are being taken to intensify farming. The growing resources of farm produce and raw materials will have to be timely received and reliably stored, processed and delivered to the consumer.

The speaker outlined the state of the AIC processing industry and the positive and negative tendencies that have taken shape here in recent years. Despite the ramified network of enterprises and their relatively high concentration and specialisation, the technical condition of many of them is not up to present-day standards. At the same time there are insufficient processing capacities in a number of branches. The development of storage facilities is particularly lagging. These factors make for formidable losses of harvested crops, which is having a serious effect on the country's economy, specifically in consumer foodstuff supply. The speaker underscored the importance of the measures drafted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers to speed up the development of the material and technical base of the processing industry of the agro-industrial complex up to the year 1990, and the introduction of substantial financial and material and technical resources allocated for the purpose.

Progress has been made in accomplishing the tasks posed. Last year there was a substantial increase in capacities in the meat and dairy industry, at sugar plants, and in the canning industry. Large enterprises have been commissioned, and the construction volume for

(Continued on next page)

State aid to families in the USSR

THE Soviet Constitution envisages legal protection and material and moral support for motherhood and infancy, says a press release of the Soviet Women's Committee.

The family's basic needs, connected with health protection of mother and child, educating and bringing up children, pensions, grants, allowances, and so on, are met from the social consumption funds: deductions from the State Budget and the profits of enterprises.

Aid to families and mothers is constantly expanding in the USSR. Quite a lot has been done in this respect during the 11th five-year plan period (1981-1985).

The All-Union Research Centre for Mother-and-Child Health Care has been commissioned, and the All-Union Intensive Care Centre for New Born Babies was created.

The number of women's consultation centres has increased by more than a 1,000, and children's health centres and outpatients clinics by over 2,000 (bringing the total number of special child-care facilities to 30,000).

In drafting plans for the country's socio-economic development provision is made for gradually increasing the duration of maternity leave. For example, in the 11th five-year plan period in addition to fully-paid 4-month maternity leave, the country introduced

partially-paid leave for mothers to look after their children until they are a year old and extended unpaid leave to 18 months. Lump sums paid by the state at the birth of a child and monthly allowances to single mothers were increased.

Women with two and more children under 12 years were given an additional three-day paid leave. They are also entitled to an additional two-week unpaid leave to look after their children. More than nine billion roubles were laid out in the 11th five-year plan period for these and other measures aimed at ensuring the welfare of mothers and children, as well as on material aid to families.

In the current, 12th, five-year plan period (1986-1990), paid leave granted to bring up children at home will be extended to 18 months. Prenatal leaves will also increase (women will have their jobs kept open for them and their work record will be considered uninterrupted which is important for the size of a pension). Leave given to look after sick children will also be extended.

Preschool child-care centres with an enrolment of some 17 million children prove a great help to families. The demand on them is still high as about 2 million applications from parents are left unsatisfied every year. The situation is gradually improving: in 1986 alone preschool child-care centres with 616,000

places were built, and child-care centres for more than 850,000 will be built in 1987. Overall, preschool establishments for three million places will be built in the 12th five-year plan period to fully satisfy the requirements in creche and kindergarten accommodation. The state meets 80 per cent of the child's upkeep costs, while low-income families are exempt from payment.

Pioneer camps where children spend their summer holidays are one of the many forms of state aid to families. Half of vouchers to pioneer camps are given free, and one fifth of the real cost is paid for the remaining half. Priority in receiving free accommodation belongs to children from large families, of single mothers and disabled parents. Accommodation is also free for foster children, children at boarding schools and those who are left without parental care.

By 1990, the number of children and youngsters at pioneer camps is to grow to 22.7 million, or half of all schoolchildren in the country.

Aid to young families is being increased constantly. Newlyweds who need housing are entitled to a room if they first married before 30, and to a one-room flat if their first-born comes within the first three years of marriage. The birth of a child qualifies a young family for a 1,500 rouble interest-free loan to be used for setting up a house or improving living conditions, to be repaid within eight years. □

Economic security: how to ensure it?

By Yuri Gvozdev, *Novosti* political analyst

THE 7th UNCTAD session will be held in Geneva in July. Heated debates are expected there. This is no surprise: the acute problems connected with the tremendous debt of the Third World, poor development, and unequal trade still remain outstanding. The documents of the April conference of the Group 77 in Havana and the results of the recent non-aligned forum on South-South co-operation in Pyongyang testify to the growing concern of Asian, African and Latin American countries over their economic security.

The Big Seven meeting in Venice dispelled hopes that the West would facilitate the debt burden of the Third World, reconsider the unfair trade practice and step up the North-South dialogue. It is reported the meeting will lead to more co-ordinated economic activities of the Western powers in the world arena. Doesn't this imply a tougher approach to the developing nations? And if the answer is "Yes" what effective measures might these nations and their allies take in response?

I'll discuss just two points here. First of all, it would be logical for these nations to enhance co-operation and mutual aid within the framework of the Third World. Certain steps in this direction were taken in Pyongyang. But this is just the beginning. For its part, the socialist community sincerely supports this process of co-

ordination which may be expressed in most different forms — from a common front of the debtors to a common system of trade preference for the Third World.

In this context it would be opportune to quote a document on overcoming poor development and establishing a new international economic order, which was adopted by the Warsaw Treaty countries: "Co-ordination of efforts by the developing nations is becoming increasingly important for overcoming poor development and consolidating their economic self-sufficiency." I would also add that it is important for them to pool efforts so as to repel the advance of transnationals and usurious banks.

The second point is expansion of co-operation between the Third World and the socialist community as an alternative to neo-colonialist dependence on the West. Its importance for economic security is being increasingly realised in the Third World. Socialist countries are helping the developing nations to build thousands of plants, ports, electric power stations and many other economic facilities which are so vital for their national economies. Thus, by the end of the 1970s the enterprises built with Soviet participation in young Asian and African countries produced 40 per cent of their cast iron and 25 per cent of their steel.

Co-operation with the USSR and its allies acquires exceptional importance for developing nations when they have to neutralise such neo-colonialist measures as a trade embargo, blockade or withdrawal of credits. Not infrequently these steps by the US and its partners are being accompanied by aggressive

military-political actions. Examples are many. The latest of them is Nicaragua, against which an undeclared war has been launched in addition to economic sanctions. The material damage inflicted by this war has already topped 2 billion dollars. In these extreme conditions the socialist countries granted substantial aid to Nicaragua. Their share in the overall foreign economic aid to Nicaragua reached 56 per cent in the 1979-1986 period, and 85 per cent in 1985-1986. It is clear, therefore, why the United States is so nervous about the development of co-operation between Latin America and other regions with the socialist community: it effectively counters trade, economic and other sanctions, and makes developing countries less vulnerable to imperialist intrigues.

The said document of the Warsaw Treaty demands that arbitrary actions and unlawful embargoes, boycotts, trade, credit and technological blockades be completely removed from international economic relations in the interests of the developing nations, that discriminatory measures, protectionist barriers, and limitations should not be used as levers of political pressure.

Needless to say, economic security should not be isolated from a comprehensive system of security. It is just an inalienable part of the latter. Hence it is clear that the implementation of ambitious development projects is inseparably linked with disarmament, with the triumph of the principles of peaceful coexistence all over the world. □

(from previous page)

storages for potatoes and other vegetables, and fruit has been increased. On the whole, however, work to develop the material and technical base of the processing branches cannot be considered satisfactory.

The speaker observed that processing enterprises and storage facilities for farm produce are being built at an extremely slow rate in a number of republics and regions.

In the current year the construction programme is more intensive than last year, and the nation has to work much better and faster. The stand of the planning bodies of a number of republics, which reduced in 1987 and planned to lower for 1988 targets for republican construction ministries regarding facilities of the agro-industrial complex in cities and industrial centres, is absolutely wrong. The volumes of contract operations endorsed in the five-year plans for construction ministries for agro-industrial committees should not be decreased.

The speaker dwelt on serious omissions in planning, design and especially retooling. He stressed that the weakest point is the work being done to develop the base of the processing branches and retool them with highly productive equipment, and to broadly utilise energy-saving and closed-cycle technologies here.

Officials of the USSR Ministry of Engineering for the Light and Food Industries and Household Appliances came in for sharp criticism for delaying the production of modern machinery, as did the agro-industrial committees of the republics for insufficient research and for miscalculations in determining the base requirements for the technical equipment planned for production and for delaying tests on it.

The conference was addressed by heads of ministries and agencies and Party and economic bodies. Specific measures were outlined to develop the processing industry and storage facilities. □

(Novosti)

(N.B. The cross-heads in this bulletin were inserted by Soviet News—Ed.)

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S SPEECH AT WORLD WOMEN'S CONGRESS

(continued from page 214)

possibility of attacking one another. We have no clear answer. But speculations concerning the Soviet Union's alleged superiority in conventional arms have intensified.

The day before yesterday, during a conversation with journalists at a polling station, I said that the USSR would continue taking effective steps to find solutions along the road to disarmament. But it is important that our

Kola peninsula: joint venture started

A DEAL completed by Soviet agencies with the Finnish firm Outokumpu has become the first practical step towards the realisation of a large-scale project the purpose of which is the comprehensive development of minerals in the Kola peninsula in the north of the Soviet Union — a project in which several foreign companies are to be involved.

On June 17 a group of Outokumpu experts completed a detailed study of the facilities covered by the project. The assembly of equipment to be supplied by the Finnish company is scheduled to begin in July.

The "Kola project" opens up new prospects for expanding economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and Finland. Moreover, business quarters in other countries are interested in it as well.

Executives from a number of Swedish and Norwegian firms have already visited the site to determine prospects for their possible participation in carrying out that mutually beneficial project. □

partners in the West do something as well, not only keep inventing ever new demands on us and testing our patience.

Such is the situation. Such are the words and deeds. I felt obliged to tell you about it because any campaign for peace at present cannot be distracted from the concrete issue of the military menace at each given moment. This is why, incidentally, organisations of professionals — scientists, physicians and former servicemen — have gained such weight on the scale of war and peace. Their competence has enabled them to become a factor in the current alignment of forces — the factor that can no longer be removed.

One can say that world politics is also undergoing the test of perestroika. That perestroika, like our own, has many adherents and sincere supporters. It has caused many people to do some serious thinking.

Dear friends, the unprecedentedly wide-scale and authoritative composition of your Congress confirms that women are dealing with the cause of peace in real earnest. And women are a great and inspiring force, a constructive and magnificent force.

This is strengthening the belief that peace is not a utopia. If we men and women of the Earth act energetically and in a concerted manner we shall safeguard it by all means!

Esteemed Mrs Frieda Brown,

Esteemed participants in the Congress,

You can be absolutely sure of one thing — that Soviet peoples are deeply committed to the cause of peace and friendship among nations. I would like you to leave Moscow with that feeling and never abandon it afterwards, ever.

I wish you, your movement and your Congress every success. □