

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Geoffrey Howe

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in the Kremlin yesterday.

The British Minister's visit is being regarded in the Soviet Union within the context of political dialogue with the West. Soviet-British regular contacts hold an important place in that dialogue. They have already played and can play a still greater role in the European and international process.

It is important, however, Mikhail Gorbachev observed (and Geoffrey Howe agreed with him), that these contacts help the sides to move onward, so that the dialogue is not diluted and filled with phraseology which would be followed by no practical steps.

Its constructive development provides for due account of changes currently under way in the world. Real accomplishments should be assessed not only with words, but should stimulate onward movement.

It is unacceptable in this connection, along with recognising certain shifts in East-West relations, to appeal again to outmoded stereotypes regarding the 'unchanged communist' intentions on the part of the Soviet Union with regard to Europe and the entire world, to create the impression, and make direct statements, that nothing has virtually changed in the USSR's foreign policy over the past three years.

"We are pursuing an open international policy, and are especially sensitive to European affairs.

"We are acting in a way to be always understood correctly."

"It is only natural therefore that we count on our partners, including Britain, to act as well in such a way as to make it possible for us to see their logic and the meaning of their policies. Otherwise, trust cannot be built."

As was the case after Reykjavik, Britain seemed to have once again assumed the role of a tocsin ringer — just as the first glimmers of hope have appeared in disarmament issues.

While generally approving the INF Treaty, the leaders of NATO countries have been acting as though the situation in Europe since its signature had only worsened. Otherwise it is impossible to explain the latest wave of praise for the 'nuclear deterrence' strategy, plans for so-called 'compensation', all manner of projects for the joint manufacture of latest weapons, the Franco-West German military rapprochement, and so forth.

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Britain had grown visibly cool to the signing of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. There was foot-dragging in work to hammer out a mandate at the Vienna Conference, confirming assumptions that when it comes to cuts in conventional arms and armed forces in Europe emphasis in the generally acceptable formula "festina lente" (make haste slowly) was made on the last word.

Mikhail Gorbachev reiterated the genuine readiness of the Soviet Union and all the other Warsaw Treaty nations to sit down at the negotiating table, show all their cards, and get down to the asymmetries and all the other problems with a view to bringing the military potentials down to the level only needed for defence.

"New thinking is seen by some merely as an intellectual exercise. But when we take quite definite steps on its basis, they beat a retreat and evade cooperation."

One of the causes of that inconsistency, Gorbachev pointed out, was that Western politicians had been obsessed by an 'enemy image' contemplating attack and looking for a victim.

The fears formed in the cold war period should be discarded. Otherwise the processes of building the "European home" and normalising international relations on the whole would run into obstacles.

The world needs a policy adequate to the times. "This is what we count on, especially when dealing with such political entities of worldwide dimension as Great Britain."

Some regional conflicts were considered.

The Iran-Iraq war. The two sides stressed the importance of interaction within the framework of the U.N. Security Council which made it possible to draft Resolution 598 and jointly look for further approaches to the common goal — that of restricting and eliminating altogether the dangerous seat of tension.

With regard to southern Africa where Britain wielded recognised authority, Mikhail Gorbachev favoured a realistic policy that takes into account the interests of all sides involved, preclude the provocation of explosion and chaos but not indulge the apartheid regime. On this issue, Britain remains so far deaf even to the voice of its own community.

Mikhail Gorbachev set out the Soviet leadership's principled views on the Afghan issue, stressing the determination to act consistently and without delays in keeping with its February 8 Statement.

In Western and other capitals, however, as had

happened in the past, they started manoeuvring rather than taking advantage of the Soviet Union's determination and facilitating the earliest settlement of the conflict.

They abandoned even their own positions which had been taken into account in the Statement. This set one thinking.

The attitude to the Afghan settlement will be a touchstone by which the world can judge what is the worth of calls for political settlement of various regional crises, Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised. Let us compete as to who will contribute the most to this undertaking which is of extreme importance for the entire world community, he stressed.

The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the state of bilateral economic ties. Mikhail Gorbachev noted that British firms as compared to firms of other countries avail themselves less of the new opportunities which are opened by perestroika in the USSR. Meanwhile we started developing relations with Britain earlier than with other countries and we wish to have truly mutually advantageous relations with it, he pointed out. Attempts to put us in a tight spot with the use of COCOM and other restrictions on trade in up-to-date equipment have led to a boom in development in this area in our country. Those who invent bans in the area of economic ties stand to gain nothing from them. Such bans are also the legacy of the cold war which should be got rid of.

Geoffrey Howe, as is characteristic of Western figures, manifested a striving to get into details of the question of departures from the USSR. Mikhail Gorbachev answered this with the proposal to remove such topics from high level talks, especially in view of what has already been done in this area of late. There are other channels for discussing such topics and there are corresponding governmental bodies which act in accordance with the laws of the country.

Mikhail Gorbachev said in conclusion — "We are interested in continuing dialogue with Britain. We appreciate very much the candid, straightforward and energetic discussions with Mrs. Thatcher and hope for broader constructive cooperation on the major issues of international significance."

He asked Geoffrey Howe to convey heartfelt greetings to the British Prime Minister.

The interlocutors were satisfied to note that their thorough, frank and friendly conversation was interesting and useful for both sides and agreed to think it over and see which of the views expressed during it should serve a further rapprochement and which were indeed divisive.

Soviet industry's performance in January

INDUSTRIAL production in the Soviet Union grew in January by 4.7% as compared with January 1987, the newspaper *Trud* reported on Friday.

The number of enterprises that have switched over to full cost-accounting and self-financing has markedly grown. Now they involve 55% of Soviet industrial workers.

State quality control bodies have noticeably expanded the scope of their work.

On January 1, the Law on State Enterprise entered into force.

Things are worse with product quality. Quality control bodies examined the output of 2,200 enterprises in January and instructed that 1.3 billion roubles' worth of low-quality products be
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Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Geoffrey Howe

NEGOTIATIONS were held at the Soviet Foreign Ministry on Monday between Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, on an official visit in the Soviet Union.

The ministers exchanged views in a constructive and frank spirit concordant with the general mood of Soviet-British relations on the present-day situation around the world and the possibilities of strengthening international peace and security.

They discussed thoroughly and in an interested way questions of deepening political dialogue between the two countries and expanding diverse bilateral cooperation.

The negotiations confirmed that the two sides assessed the Treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as an historic landmark along the path of reducing the level of nuclear confrontation and strengthening strategic stability and favoured its earliest ratification.

The Soviet side emphasised that the Treaty, having shown the entire world the realistic character of the task of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2000, not only paves the way for radical cuts in strategic offensive armaments, but also creates a qualitatively new psychological atmosphere in East-West relations and facilitates conditions for transition from military rivalry to peaceful cooperation.

The conclusion of the INF Treaty thus became a first major step in the cause of real disarmament, a basis for subsequent agreements and a point of reference on the road towards a safe nuclear-weapon-free world.

Howe highly assessed the Treaty but, at the same time, repeated London's well-known arguments in favour of retaining and modernising part of nuclear arsenals as a 'guarantor' of peace and security.

Howe's attention was drawn to dangerous consequences of the plans of the so-called compensatory buildup of arms in Europe, which was fraught with a new spiral of the arms race and destabilisation of the situation.

It is extremely important now to press for continuity and irreversibility of the process of disarmament and prevent pauses between agreements reached and those yet to be attained.

With regard to possible further steps in the field of disarmament, the ministers stated that the foreign policy priorities determined by the two sides for themselves largely coincide:

Reduction by half of the strategic offensive arms of the United States and the Soviet Union while observing the ABM Treaty for an agreed-upon period in the form it was signed in 1972.

Elimination of chemical weapons.

Reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe.

The sides analysed the state of affairs at the talks on the prohibition and total elimination of chemical weapons. The ministers positively assessed the experience of cooperation between the USSR and Great Britain in that important area.

The present-day situation, however, called for resolute efforts in order to overcome the remaining difficulties. The Soviet side emphasised that the task of banning chemical

weapons and eliminating all their stockpiles facing the negotiations in Geneva did not go along with the production of a new, more refined variety of such weapons, binary munitions, and the talk of retaining a 'safety margin'.

The Soviet stance is clear and consistent — there shall be no place on Earth for these barbaric weapons.

The sides discussed the problems of reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe and working out a mandate for relevant talks. Mutual interest was confirmed in achieving a balance at a lower level.

The Soviet Union is prepared for an early solution to the issue by removing the existing imbalances and asymmetries on the basis of reciprocity, most stringent verification, and exchanges of essential data.

Stronger trust and greater openness and predictability in the military field will be facilitated by the Warsaw Treaty and NATO comparing their military doctrines.

The ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their countries to the goals of cooperation in Europe and their interest in furthering it, which will be helped by a productive outcome of the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna.

The issues of human rights were discussed in a principled manner. Howe's attention was called to a proposal for a humanitarian conference in Moscow.

The forum could be used to thoroughly examine all humanitarian aspects of the Helsinki Final Act and reveal the strong and weak points in its fulfilment by all the participating countries, with a view to reaching practical decisions that would lead to improvements in this field.

In this connection Shevardnadze expressed concern over the fact, which is widely admitted by the West European public, that there are a considerable number of political prisoners in Ulster's jails, who are kept behind bars under the pretext of the need to fight terrorism.

The sides agreed to continue their discussions of issues related to cooperation in the humanitarian field.

The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that the international situation now is more conducive than ever before to dynamically advancing the Helsinki process in every area, and is prepared to continue working constructively to achieve practical solutions to the problems that have piled up in the common European home. Their resolution calls for joint efforts by European countries which can set a good example to nations in other continents as well.

While opinions on ways of settling regional conflicts were exchanged, note was taken of the shared understanding that the search for solutions to these problems should be conducted collectively and by political means. The advisability of this is indicated by the experience of interaction in the U.N. Security Council on the Iran-Iraq conflict and by growing support in the world for the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East.

A straightforward and candid exchange of views was held on the Afghan problem. Shevardnadze called the British Foreign Secretary's attention to the fact that the ever stronger process of national reconciliation, the progress made at Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, and the announcement by the Soviet Union of a specific time-frame for the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan have created all the necessary conditions for the settlement agreements to be signed at the earliest date. It is important that the sides display maximum

responsibility and good will. Those who really are for a peaceful settlement should confirm this by deed rather than by word.

The ministers noted with satisfaction that political dialogue, whose key directions and tone have been set at the meetings of the leaders of the two countries, has become the most important factor in Soviet-British relations.

Exchanges of opinions over recent years have acquired the nature of a constructive search and been frank, intense and straightforward. A solid infrastructure has been laid down for working contacts which not only help to identify common or similar positions, but also lead to interaction and bring practical results.

The ministers approved a comprehensive plan for Soviet-British political consultations in 1988, which has been prepared by the foreign ministries of the two countries and aims to lend these consultations a more systematic and regular nature.

Shevardnadze and Howe examined a number of issues connected with bilateral Soviet-British contacts. It was pointed out that over a comparatively short period since the Soviet-British summit in Moscow it has proved possible together to do much for the benefit of relations between the two countries.

The memorandum on new areas of cooperation in the fields of information, culture and education, which was signed in Moscow in March 1987, has begun to yield the first desired results.

In conclusion Shevardnadze and Howe expressed mutual satisfaction with their talks, which contributed to better mutual understanding between Britain and the Soviet Union on both the more important problems of the present-day world and the practical matters of bilateral relations.

The British Foreign Secretary invited Shevardnadze to pay an official visit to Britain. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

After the talks a memorandum of understanding between the Soviet and British governments was signed on cooperation in preventing the illegal production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic preparations.

USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry reformed

THE Reform of the Soviet Union's foreign economic relations system modifies fundamentally the role and functions of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladislav Malkevich, President of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told TASS last week.

The reform, which is an integral part of the drive for restructuring in the USSR, brings the producer of goods closer to the foreign market, and presupposes the deeper involvement of Soviet enterprises and whole branches of industry in the international division of labour, Vladislav Malkevich pointed out.

In conditions of decentralisation of foreign economic relations, the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry is intended actually to become an exponent of the interests of enterprises and amalgamations and of the entire national economy in businesslike ties with foreign partners. It is to vigorously assist their operation on foreign markets, the development of such new forms of cooperation as direct links,

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Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at reception for Geoffrey Howe

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE gave a luncheon in honour of Geoffrey Howe on Monday.

Addressing the guest, Eduard Shevardnadze said:

I am glad to see you in Moscow and I recall our latest meeting at Brize Norton where the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher were held.

We all have a feeling that Brize Norton was not just a stopover on the road but the beginning of an important stage in Soviet-British relations.

It has registered our political dialogue reaching the height at which it should be because of the imperatives of history and the present. The scope of the vision that you and we have of world problems, of the role and place of Soviet-British contacts in the general state of things today naturally increased.

The question of nuclear weapons is the priority issue. We have differences of both a philosophic and practical nature. But we do not think at all that they can be removed by debates. This is not a discussion of recipes of health foods. The problem of national security is involved in this for you and for us. Any aspects of disarmament, the more so naturally nuclear disarmament, should be decided in the context of the security of each country and universal security.

The British Government's support for the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and for a goal of 50% cuts in strategic offensive arms under the conditions of compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems is indicative of its stand in favour of nuclear disarmament.

The British side holds a specific view of ways to ensure European security and of the role being played in this by nuclear arms in general and by British nuclear forces in particular. As we see, the British view is based not on fetishising nuclear arms but on a definite interpretation of the existing realities and idea of the nature and degree of potential threat.

The purpose of the Soviet-British dialogue should be, in our view, precisely to gain, as far as possible, an objective understanding of both the realities of the situation and of each other's intentions.

Widely known is the ancient Greek myth about the carrying away of Europa who was believed to be the personification of the continent of Europe. We are against any such acts. The more so as we are part of Europe. In the language of politics this means that the Soviet Union is far from being an advocate of upsetting Europe's traditional cross-Atlantic ties, and does not encroach upon the traditional Anglo-Saxon component of relations between Britain and the United States. Our efforts are aimed at overcoming the split of Europe, and at furnishing and strengthening the all-European home. In this connection we would like to emphasise that the Soviet Union does not suggest eliminating nuclear arms in isolation from cuts in other weapons of destruction.

Chemical weapons, say, are on a par with nuclear weapons in our priorities. From any point of view, we oppose chemical weapons in a no lesser degree than nuclear ones. From the viewpoint of the Europeans, chemical weapons look particularly unacceptable. It is justifiable to

speaking of all-European solidarity in this respect. For these weapons are, perhaps, the only weapon of mass destruction which is most probably intended for use in the area from the Atlantic to the Urals. It will not be used across the ocean. There is no military meaning in that.

Incidentally, both binary artillery shells and 'bigeye' air bombs are in store for the Europeans. If one may speak of the disengagement of Europe from the United States, then binary weapons, in our judgement, precisely mark the boundary line between the interests of the United States and its European allies. Not an imaginable boundary line but the one inherent in the capabilities of these weapons and their delivery vehicles.

We welcome the fact that our two countries closely cooperate in matters concerning the elaboration of an international convention banning chemical weapons, and act at the Conference on Disarmament from close and politically and technically compatible positions.

In the spirit of this cooperation we would like frankly to tell you, Mr. Secretary of State, that the U.S. decision on the production of binary weapons looks like a deliberate attempt at provoking the Soviet Union to counter steps in the field of chemical weapons.

Such actions of the U.S. side are directed towards undermining what was done in Geneva through joint efforts. Very much was done there. We are virtually standing half a step away from agreeing upon a convention on chemical weapons. The binary sabotage, and it cannot be described in any other way, may push us away from the convention and to a new spiral of the chemical arms race.

A unique situation has also taken shape now from the viewpoint of possibilities to solve the issue concerning conventional arms and the armed forces in Europe. Literally everyone comes out in favour of lowering the levels of confrontation in this sphere.

Everybody agrees, likewise, that asymmetries and imbalances giving rise to anxiety should be eliminated in the process of reduction and movement to lower levels.

Honestly speaking, we are amazed at the ability of our partners to consider our stand on conventional forces in Europe, listen to our explanations and even analyse every aspect of what we propose and then arrive at the conclusion that there exists some gap. We suggest a clear-cut and simple formula — let us talk about every kind of arms, every weapon system that can function as conventional armaments. This, naturally, applies also to so-called dual-use systems. We do not suggest discussing their nuclear components now. We propose that this be done separately and at a later stage.

Even tanks can serve as a dual-use system. The Western side does not think, however, that they should remain outside the framework of the talks. If so, what prevents us from working out a mandate in Vienna and starting the talks on conventional forces on its basis?

We cannot but get the impression that somebody needs an impasse in working out this mandate in order to implement another mandate, an invented one, on so-called compensations, in other words on conventional arms build-up. If this is so, there is no need to pretend that the reduction of conventional forces is being sought. Then there would be more confidence in each other.

I would like to mention another thing. Britain as, perhaps, no other country knows the value of naval armaments and also the transient nature of the rule on high seas. In view of this, we would expect the British side to be aware

of the importance of arms race limitation on high seas.

Bearing all this in mind, we would like to urge you to take an unbiased view of Mikhail Gorbachev's Murmansk initiative. The north of Europe is the area where you and we live, and the situation there, the prospects for its transformation are naturally of interest for both our countries.

It goes without saying that our dialogue has never been limited to security problems and European affairs. Problems of worldwide humanitarian cooperation and care for the settlement of regional conflicts have always been present in it. We regard as a positive aspect for our relations, too, the fact that the importance of Mikhail Gorbachev's recent statement on Afghanistan is realised in London. It is not accidental that this theme is among the most important items on the agenda of our talks, Mr. Secretary of State.

We deem it necessary to note the substantial improvement in the nature and essence of the Soviet-British dialogue on all aspects of humanitarian cooperation and human rights.

The atmosphere in Soviet-British relations is gradually changing for the better.

In the history of our relations, there was quite a prolonged period when the 'weather' in them was determined by business people who were the first to establish contacts and cooperation between our two countries. But we welcome the fact that at present scientists, cultural personalities, and creative intellectuals increasingly often act as plenipotentiary delegates of our two countries.

This has also been confirmed by the memorandum, which was signed during the Soviet-British summit meeting in spring last year, on new directions of cooperation in the fields of information, culture and education. It is called upon to give a qualitatively new dimension to this cooperation and to give scope to mutual trust.

In conclusion I would like to emphasise — the history of Soviet-British relations invariably confirmed that when we pooled our efforts during the war years and in peace time we succeeded in achieving much. We are confident that nowadays, at the time of changes, this is the only right course for the development of relations between our two countries and among the peoples around the world.

In conclusion Eduard Shevardnadze wished peace and prosperity to Geoffrey Howe, the other British guests and all British people, and called for the development of mutual understanding between the two countries and for expansion of versatile cooperation.

(from front page)

returned for improvement. This makes up 9% of overall output.

Of these, products worth five million roubles were unconditionally rejected as defective.

The fulfilment of one's obligations for deliveries is now one of the main economic indices. January saw some improvement in this field as the index grew to 98.5%.

Sectors of the fuel-and-energy complex showed a stable performance last month. They produced 595,000 tons of oil and two million tons of coal above plan targets.

Machine-building enterprises considerably increased the output of their products as compared with January last year.

However, the targets for many key items ordered by the state were not met.

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Marian Orzechowski

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV had a meeting on Wednesday with Marian Orzechowski. Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was staying in the USSR on an official visit.

Marian Orzechowski conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev sincere wishes for success from Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski in the many-sided work for putting into practice resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee. On his part, Gorbachev wished Jaruzelski, who is First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and President of the State Council of Poland, the Polish Communists and the fraternal Polish people success in solving the problems facing them, as well as further progress in building socialism.

Gorbachev expressed high appreciation of the development of all-round Soviet-Polish relations and said that the transfer of political decisions

on the consolidation of friendship between the CPSU and the PUWP, between the Soviet Union and Poland, to the practical field of developing cooperation in the political, economic, ideological, diplomatic and other spheres in society's life is of much importance today.

During the conversation its participants pointed out with satisfaction the deepening cooperation between the peoples of the two fraternal countries. The declaration of Soviet-Polish cooperation in the sphere of ideology, science and culture signed by the leaders of the CPSU and the PUWP on 21 April 1987 in Moscow opens up favourable opportunities for this. In this connection Gorbachev emphasised the importance of profound scientific analysis of problems connected with the history of relations between our two countries and nations in which there are many episodes of mutual assistance of revolutionary and democratic forces in the struggle against fascism and in socialist development. There were negative moments in our history as well. During the study of this or that problem it is important not to remove it from the overall context of the developments of that

time in order not to replace one half-truth with another.

Gorbachev dwelt on the work of the CPSU for democratisation and the implementation of the radical economic reform. We have examined thoroughly and objectively the house we live in and proposed a reorganisation in the sphere of home policy. We have studied the world in which we live and have come up with new political thinking in the sphere of foreign policy.

The reorganisation (perestroika), which directly affects millions of Soviet people, is gaining in scope and is revealing their enormous creative potential.

During the discussion of international problems the sides emphasised their mutual resolve to step up efforts aimed at warding off the nuclear threat and consolidating peace and security in Europe and the world in general, in close cooperation with other fraternal socialist countries and all the peace-minded forces in the world.

Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Poland was also discussed during the conversation.

It was held in a cordial and comradesly atmosphere.

Communiqué on Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Marian Orzechowski

THE ministers of foreign affairs of the USSR and Poland have expressed satisfaction with the fruitful development of Soviet-Polish cooperation. The communiqué issued on Friday on the results of the official friendly visit of Marian Orzechowski, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and Foreign Affairs Minister of the Polish People's Republic, notes that much attention was devoted in the course of the talks to questions pertaining to the further perfection of mutual cooperation within the Warsaw Treaty framework.

The history-making significance was stressed of signing the Treaty between the USSR and the USA on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. It was stressed that the plans being drawn up in NATO for a 'compensation' for the U.S. nuclear missiles to be eliminated through a modernisation and build-up of nuclear and conventional weapons in Europe and the areas adjoining it are incompatible with the interests of European and universal security.

The ministers noted the considerable progress made at the Geneva talks on prohibiting and eliminating chemical weapons and expressed deep concern about the lack of progress recently. Hope was expressed that the USA and France will take a constructive stand at these talks.

The ministers had an extensive exchange of views on questions of security and cooperation in Europe. It was stressed that respect for the territorial-political realities which took shape as a result of the Second World War and the postwar development, strict observance of the generally-recognised norms of international law are a prerequisite for lasting peace and security in Europe. The sides declared for invigorating the dialogue with all the West European nations on reductions in the level of military confrontation and on disarmament in Europe, and developing

all-round cooperation in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

The importance was stressed of the positive completion of the consultations in Vienna between the Warsaw Treaty member states and NATO in order to draw up the mandate for talks on a cut in the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The Soviet Union and Poland declare for the elimination of the imbalances and asymmetries which have historically taken shape and propose that the military potentials of the two military-political alliances be reduced to the levels that will serve purely defensive aims. A positive role in this can be played by consultations between representatives of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO on questions of comparing the military doctrines of the two alliances and the states participating in them. The importance was stressed of the proposal

contained in the 'Jaruzelski Plan', whose implementation will serve towards improving the military-political situation in Europe and contribute towards the disarmament process. The sides favour the convocation in Moscow of an all-European Conference on humanitarian issues.

In their foreign policy efforts, the USSR and Poland traditionally devote much attention to security issues in the north of Europe. The ministers noted that now favourable conditions have developed for turning the Baltic Sea into a peace and cooperation zone.

On behalf of the Polish leadership Marian Orzechowski declared his full support for the new important initiative — the accord between the governments of the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan on fixing a specific time-frame for starting the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and its completion within a period of ten months as a major step directed at the political settlement of the Afghan issue.

Pravda on incident in the Black Sea

IN a dispatch about the crossing of the state border of the USSR in the area of the southern coast of the Crimea by U.S. warships, Sunday's *Pravda* describes the U.S. warships' actions as inadmissible.

Reporting the details of the incident in the Black Sea, the newspaper writes that the U.S. warships were warned that they were approaching the state border, and later on they were told that they had already crossed it. Upon finding out that apart from 'Okay' one could get nothing else in reply, the frigates *Bezzavetny* and *SKR-6* began to 'shoulder' the Americans out of Soviet territorial waters.

By a lucky coincidence, the newspaper writes, there were no casualties or injuries among personnel on either side.

Information on the incident reached the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the

USSR several minutes after the ships collided. The author of the article points out that when at the General Staff he was told with concern that such crossings of the Soviet border are acquiring "a systematic character."

One can suppose that the Pentagon's comments will again boil down to the warships' 'right of innocent passage', *Pravda* writes.

"Yes", *Pravda* goes on, "warships may cross territorial waters along the shortest routes which do not lead to inland waters and ports. The routes, however, may be designated by the littoral state. Who else should regulate traffic in one's own waters?"

What is behind all that? The author of the article answers that as follows: "The international community's latest gains, in the form of, say, the INF Treaty are not to someone's liking. There is an apparent desire to complicate inter-state relations and to hamper the disarmament process."

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with India's Defence Minister

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV received in the Kremlin on Thursday Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant who conveyed a personal message from India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Having familiarised himself with the message and greeting the visitor, Mikhail Gorbachev asked him to tell the Prime Minister that the Soviet leadership is fully committed to the accords reached at the summit meeting and the principles and spirit of the Delhi Declaration.

The Soviet Union is interested in the further consolidation of the international role of the independent, progressive and dynamically developing India which is making an indispensable contribution to world affairs.

The choice in favour of friendship and priority cooperation with India is deepening and enriching the decades-old tradition. It is the steadier because it affects the souls of millions of people in the two countries and rests on essential mutual political interests.

Mikhail Gorbachev highly assessed the significance of the Soviet-Indian Festival which drew the two peoples much closer to each other.

It is very important that the two states, belonging to different social systems and having long and original history, should set an example of such unprecedented cooperation.

There is benefit both for our two great peoples and for all peoples, for the entire international community. Only those who are influenced by selfish motives, who do not want India to occupy a place in world processes worthy of her weight and prestige, can be uninterested in this or opposed to it.

Regular contacts and exchanges of messages

with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have become a key element in friendly Soviet-Indian cooperation. There is hardly a topical issue of international significance on which the sides would not like to exchange information, views and considerations.

Mikhail Gorbachev asked to tell Rajiv Gandhi that he greatly appreciates this steady friendly dialogue with him.

This level and scope of Soviet-Indian interaction are especially important today when reactionary militarist circles are consolidating their forces in a bid to thwart the beginning of positive processes in the sphere of disarmament and international security.

They do not stop at the most base methods in their efforts to discredit the policy and the leaders of peace-loving nations.

But they are confronted by an impressive reality — the line towards disarmament, equality and normalisation of international relations enjoys the ever growing support of the world public, of realistic circles in most countries. And this instils optimism.

The Minister agreed with this and noted the fact of the growth of those forces which are brought to life by the imaginative and wide-ranging policy of the USSR and other peace-loving states. He spoke highly of the Soviet leadership's activity. He said it is distinguished by harmony in words and deeds, and firmness in implementing ideas worked out on the basis of a difficult analysis. This is especially important for the young generations. Before, too, they saw the imperatives of the nuclear age, the scientific and technological revolution. But thanks to the new policy of the Soviet Union they received so to say a charter of values and an integral concept paving the common direction for scattered wishes, sentiments and strivings.

Krishna Chandra Pant stressed the fundamental importance of the INF Treaty and expressed the

hope that it will be ratified despite the resistance of certain forces and wished success to the talks on reducing strategic nuclear arms.

The Afghan problem was discussed, the possible development of events in connection with Mikhail Gorbachev's and Najibullah's statements was studied and the mutual interest in Afghanistan being an independent, nonaligned and neutral state friendly to the Soviet Union and India was confirmed.

Mutual concern caused by the buildup of American military assistance to Pakistan and the dangerous aspects of the nuclear programme implemented in that country was expressed.

Mikhail Gorbachev expressed his positive attitude to the responsible actions of the Indian Government in the matter of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

The interlocutors noted with satisfaction that cooperation between the USSR and India in military matters continues to develop successfully. The related questions are solved in a heartfelt, fruitful and friendly atmosphere. They agreed to study the new ideas that have appeared at the talks between the defence ministers of the two countries in the course of the present visit.

Ambassador T. N. Kaul, who took part in the conversation, conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev a letter from the Vice-President of India, Sh. D. Sharma. As head of the international jury for awarding the Indira Gandhi International Peace Prize he informed Mikhail Gorbachev that he was awarded this Prize last year and invited the Soviet leader to the presentation ceremony. Mikhail Gorbachev expressed deep gratitude and stressed the Prize's importance in symbolising the contribution made by the great daughter of the Indian people to the elevation of her country and the strengthening of relations of friendship and trust between India and the USSR.

Nikolai Ryzhkov's message to international conference of lawyers

"STRENGTHENING security in this region is one of the priority directions in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union as an Asian and Pacific nation," Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said in a message sent on Friday to the participants in the International Conference of Lawyers in New Delhi, India. It is devoted to issues of safeguarding peace, development and human rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The Soviet Union does not seek any special rights or privileges for itself in this or any other region. As Mikhail Gorbachev has put it, we do not strive for other than building jointly with all states in the Asia-Pacific region new international relations which will meet the realities of today's world," the Soviet leader pointed out.

Nikolai Ryzhkov said that the international community has the right to expect from lawyers "greater contribution to elaborating legal aspects of the comprehensive system of international peace and security and safeguarding the natural right of every individual and all peoples to life and free development."

Yuli Vorontsov's visit to Pakistan

SOVIET First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov met in Islamabad on February 10 and 11 with Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani.

The conversations focussed on the Afghan issue in the light of the recent statement by

Mikhail Gorbachev which paves the way for the earliest political settlement of this problem.

It was noted that at this moment much depends on what line is chosen — towards the earliest conclusion of the Geneva accords under which the Afghan people will be able to decide independently on their future, or towards the continuation of senseless confrontation.

The answer to this question based on the sober assessment of the situation will for long determine the entire course of events in this part of the Asian continent.

Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Nicaraguan Ambassador

THE present state and prospects of Soviet-Nicaraguan relations which are successfully developing in the spirit of mutual respect and fruitful cooperation were examined on Friday by Eduard Shevardnadze and Ernesto Castillo, Nicaragua's Ambassador to the USSR.

They discussed also issues related to the situation in Central America, above all in view of the mounting trend towards settlement by peaceful political means.

Shevardnadze welcomed the determination to continue the peace process in the region expressed during the recent meeting by the presidents of five Central American countries.

He highly assessed the role that Nicaragua's constructive policy played and continued to play in this field.

The Ambassador's attention was drawn to Mikhail Gorbachev's Statement on Afghanistan which graphically reveals the Soviet Union's principled course towards assistance in eliminating all regional conflicts within the next several years.

The two sides expressed a common view on the importance of stepped-up international efforts in support of the Central American settlement.

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV had a meeting with Lothar Spaeth, Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg and deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Union of West Germany, in the Kremlin last Tuesday. They had a detailed conversation whose main subject was the place of the USSR and West Germany in world development and the role their relations play in European and world politics.

Mikhail Gorbachev started with saying that one should bear in mind what had happened between our two nations in order to draw lessons and look ahead to the future, even more so because it is getting clearer and clearer that a period of hostility and alienation is going down into the past. Ages-long ties between our peoples, between our cultures, are being gradually restored.

Lothar Spaeth's visit is part of an ever more active dialogue between the leaders, the public and the working people of the two countries. Understanding of the political significance of relations between the two countries is being formed in the process of the dialogue. Straight-forwardness is a characteristic feature of the German nation, Mikhail Gorbachev continued. This is why sluggishness and hesitation in West Germany in response to our proposals to deepen cooperation are especially noticeable.

The conclusion to the effect that our relations with West Germany should be different was drawn as a result of serious consideration of the present-day role of West Germany, in line with the new thinking on which the whole of our European and world politics are based.

International relations cannot be dramatically changed and military-strategic notions of security cannot be removed from them without Europe's independent contribution. It possesses the greatest historic experience and the biggest economic and intellectual potential. However, this role of Europe is unthinkable without West Germany and the improvement of its relations with the Soviet Union.

It is natural that our analysis is based on taking into account all the realities — including different social systems, the existence of military-political alliances and economic associations, bilateral obligations of states, and so on. We are

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shared production and cooperation in science and technology, and the setting up of joint ventures.

The Chamber is to have the role of a coordinator which can overcome problems involved in shifting to the new system of foreign economic relations. Gaining the right to enter world markets by numerous Soviet enterprises and ministries has set representatives of foreign business communities the problem of choosing suitable partners for businesslike cooperation. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry is ready to help in tackling the inevitable "growth problems" and selecting the right trade partner on the Soviet market.

Setting up associations of business cooperation with foreign countries is another new form of work. The goal of such associations is not so much export-import operations as the development of new forms of economic interaction, first and foremost shared production and joint business enterprises. The USSR has vast scientific and technical potential, Vladislav Malkevich emphasised.

very scrupulous about Europe and are not going to put anybody in a difficult position. We want our policy to be predictable and clear to everyone.

We are also taking into account the fact that Western Europe is not ready so far to understand us the way we really are. People there continue to be afraid of the Soviet Union. This is deep-rooted. This affects the evaluation of the consequences for Europe of the INF Treaty, especially by those who stubbornly stick to the nuclear deterrence concept in relations with countries having the opposite system. This concept is brought about by certain interests which still get an upper hand over the realisation of the fact that this approach will eventually lead to a disaster.

The attempts to undermine the INF Treaty with the help of 'compensation' can lead to a very grave political mistake. In this connection the realistic and active stand of West Germany which is a non-nuclear power can play a positive and stabilising part. This is in line with the interests both of West Germany itself and of the whole of Europe, the whole world.

We are sure that the West will change its attitude towards the Soviet Union. Objective processes are working in this direction. On our part we shall work for convincing the governments and nations that our peace policy is serious and principled, oriented towards a long perspective and based on the principles of the balance of interests and the understanding of the fact that we all depend on each other in the present-day world.

Gorbachev and Spaeth pointed out the similarity or identity of their views on a number of key disarmament problems, such as the ratification of the INF Treaty, the reduction of strategic offensive armaments, the observance of the ABM Treaty, the banning of chemical weapons and the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces. In this connection, Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised that it will be in line with the interests of both countries and all Europe to resolve as soon as possible the problem of the mandate for the Vienna Conference and start the negotiating process. This will remove the sources of concern. But instead of this we see that fears are again being kindled over some non-existent intentions of the USSR to get the upper hand over somebody in conditions of the reduction of nuclear weapons.

Gorbachev and Spaeth were in full agreement

in their assessment of the principled importance of international economic relations in the present-day situation. In this connection they pointed out the indispensability of Europe's own contribution. However, a militaristic accent in the integration processes can seriously hamper it and distort its meaning.

Mikhail Gorbachev welcomed Lothar Spaeth's realistic and businesslike approach to developing bilateral economic relations, which is characterised by broad perspective, orientation to the up-to-date level of science and technology, the intention to use new original forms and to restore traditions of goodneighbourly cooperation between our two nations.

West German businessmen are coming to realise the potentialities existing in the development of relations with the Soviet Union which has embarked on the path of profound economic transformations, and are drawing appropriate conclusions. Although one should not underestimate the importance of politics which can spoil everything, the creation of a stable structure of long-term economic and cultural relations is undoubtedly introducing elements of irreversibility to the two countries' relations, to say nothing of direct mutual benefit, Mikhail Gorbachev continued. He expressed high appreciation of the practical ideas and proposals that Spaeth came to the USSR with and that he and the businessmen accompanying him intend to analyse thoroughly with their Soviet colleagues.

Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised that if we really opt for cooperation and even rapprochement it is very important to be careful with the emerging positive processes. One should take into consideration that both your and our societies are very touchy about all that is connected with rather complicated relations between our two countries and nations. One should always bear it in mind.

As a result of the talks and taking into account the profound, meaningful and open nature of the dialogue going on lately between the two countries, Gorbachev and Spaeth stated that judging from numerous indications Soviet-West German relations have started to move to a new higher level. We have made our choice, Gorbachev said. If the stand of the West German leadership is the same, the time has come to start thorough preparations for consolidating our joint resolve and recording it in documents at the coming summit.

Pravda on opponents of nuclear disarmament

THE leading political forces in the military-political Paris-Bonn-London triangle are still thinking in 'nuclear deterrence' categories and in the foreseeable future they do not intend to join the process of nuclear disarmament in Europe. This conclusion was drawn in Monday's *Pravda* by its Paris correspondent Vladimir Bolshakov when analysing the positions of France, West Germany and Britain on problems of nuclear disarmament.

"What role are the current manoeuvres around the Bonn-Paris military cooperation going to play in the sphere of reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe?" the article queries. "Is this extended European

military integration, now speeded up, aimed at promoting this process after implementation of the Treaty on eliminating the Soviet and American intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, or is it intended to hamper it?"

France and West Germany, having undertaken to establish joint defence structures, as if taken out of the NATO framework, the author writes, obviously want now to draw Britain into these structures so as to ensure closer integration of the nuclear forces of Britain and France.

London and Bonn are seeking to influence their Paris partner, by trying to convince him to return to the NATO military wing in a form acceptable to France.

The opponents of the Soviet-American INF Treaty, the *Pravda* correspondent says, are hurriedly preparing to patch up the 'holes' in the 'nuclear umbrella' over Europe which are allegedly to appear after putting the Washington Agreement into life.

USSR Supreme Soviet appeals to Parliaments and Parliamentarians of nordic Europe, the U.S. and Canada

HERE follows the full text of the Appeal to Parliaments and Parliamentarians of the Nations of Nordic Europe, the United States and Canada —

The foreign affairs commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet appeal to the corresponding commissions of the parliaments of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, the United States and Canada and to all members of parliament in these countries in connection with a question that is, in their view, of extremely topical importance.

Positive trends are being manifested with increasing clarity in the present-day international situation. Their development can lead to the reduction and ultimately elimination of the nuclear threat looming large over mankind and to the establishment of lasting security around the world.

Of special significance is the signing on 8 December 1987 by Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan of the Soviet-American Treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles — the first real step along the road towards nuclear disarmament.

Against this background, some unfavourable trends observed in northern Europe and in the Arctic, however, cannot but give rise to concern.

At a time when processes leading to greater mutual confidence and creating prerequisites for even further-going measures in the field of disarmament are gaining strength in the European continent, an arms race is continuing over the sea expanses of this region, remaining so far outside all diplomatic processes directed at diminishing the threat of war and military confrontation.

A formidable destructive potential of nuclear arms has been concentrated on submarines and surface vessels. This not only creates an atmosphere of military-political tension that threatens the security of northern European countries and Arctic nations, but also has a negative effect on the political climate all over the world.

The continuing extension of military preparations and growing naval activity of the United States and NATO, above all in the North Atlantic, which have not been caused by any actions on the part of the USSR, are having a destabilising effect on the strategic situation in the north.

We are sure that drastic reduction in military confrontation in the north of our planet will meet the supreme interests of all countries in this region and all mankind.

Mikhail Gorbachev advanced on behalf of the Soviet Union in his speech in Murmansk on 1 October 1987 a diverse programme of action which can, given political will on the part of all sides concerned, lead to the transformation of areas inside and near the Arctic circle of our

planet into a genuine peace zone and replace mistrust and suspicion by confidence, and confrontation with fruitful cooperation and interaction.

The northern countries can and should play their weighty part in the historic process of advancement towards a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world.

The Murmansk initiatives have put forward the Soviet Union's opinion on specific measures that can start being carried out together both in the military-political field and in the area of civilian cooperation, and outlined ways of launching broad-based dialogue with this aim through diplomatic and political channels, directly between governments, representatives of political parties, scientists, environmental experts, and social organisations.

The basis for such dialogue was further specified and concretised during the recent official visit of Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to Sweden and Norway.

We believe that the time has come for our countries to sit down at the negotiating table and start joint and constructive work to find viable and stable formulas to ensure mutual security as well as mutual interests in other fields, such as the economy, ecology, science, etc.

We urge the parliaments and parliamentarians of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, the United States and Canada, to use all the levers and possibilities at their disposal to achieve practical solutions to the issues of making the north of the planet into a real zone of peace and fruitful cooperation.

The deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet are prepared for active and intense dialogue in various forms and at various forums on the entire range of related issues.

In our opinion, it will be useful towards this end in the immediate future to hold working meetings, seminars or colloquiums as well as television hook-ups with the participation of representatives of the foreign affairs commissions and other corresponding bodies of the parliaments in the nordic countries, the United States and Canada to discuss possible ways of activating their interaction.

For our part, we suggest that representatives of the parliaments of all interested nations hold a meeting in Moscow in 1988 to discuss measures essential to the ecological protection of the region, including specific recommendations for the governments of the corresponding countries.

The same meeting could also discuss further steps to strengthen security and trust and develop peaceful cooperation in the Arctic and in the north as a whole.

We are prepared also to invite a delegation from the Anker Jorgensen Committee to discuss the problem of establishing a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe.

We are prepared to discuss any other ideas and proposals aimed at launching either bilateral or multilateral interaction. The main thing, as has been pointed out in Murmansk, is to act so that the climate in the region be determined by the warm gulf stream of the CSCE process rather than the polar breath of accumulated suspicion and prejudice.

The foreign affairs commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet hope for a positive response from the corresponding commissions

and parliaments of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, the United States and Canada to the issues raised in this Appeal.

The Appeal to the Parliaments and Members of Parliament of Countries of Northern Europe, the United States and Canada was adopted at the joint meeting of the foreign affairs commissions of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet held in the Kremlin on 9 February 1988. The meeting was chaired by Yegor Ligachev, Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR's Supreme Soviet.

Presenting the draft appeal to the deputies Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR's Supreme Soviet, stressed that this document is a concrete measure to promote and implement the large-scale initiatives that Mikhail Gorbachev put forward in his speech in Murmansk on 1 October 1987.

The urgency and importance of this concrete action by the foreign affairs commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Dobrynin continued, are determined by the fact that in the north, in the Arctic there continues to be clearly felt, as was said in Murmansk, the chilling breath of the Pentagon's 'polar strategy'. NATO and first of all the United States are continuing to build up their naval and air power in the North Atlantic. Also attracting attention are the stepped-up activities of the naval and air forces of the United States and NATO in the Baltic, North, Norwegian and Greenland seas, the intensive utilisation of the Arctic area by U.S. submarines, and other military measures.

It is natural that the intensification of U.S. and NATO military activity in these regions cannot but cause our grave concern, Anatoli Dobrynin said further. This mounting militarisation of the region also worries other countries in the European north whose security, naturally, it threatens likewise. A discussion of the ways of strengthening military-political stability in the region is also being conducted in the countries of northern Europe which are making a certain contribution to the development of positive processes in international life. Some constructive initiatives directed at lessening the level of military confrontation in the north are being born, including among members of parliament. Concern is being shown over NATO plans to compensate for the consequences of the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe by stepping up military activity in the North Atlantic. At the same time a constant strong pressure by the United States and the NATO leadership is having a negative influence on the policy of the governments of most of these countries, including on the nature of their practical reaction to the USSR's Murmansk initiatives.

Thereby the obtaining situation makes still more urgent and weighty the Soviet Union's proposals to discuss with the states of this region measures for lessening and removing the threat that has originated there.

In their Appeal to the parliaments and members of parliament of northern countries Soviet deputies so to say propose to them to build a sort of additional track to advance the positive processes of disarmament, detente and

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At the CPSU Central Committee's Political Bureau

THE Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting on Thursday dealt with the issues of promoting the construction of one-family cottages in town and country.

It was pointed out that this kind of building is important to fulfilling the task set by the 27th Party Congress of providing each Soviet family with a separate apartment or cottage by the year 2000. In the meantime, attention to the construction of one-family houses has slackened in many constituent republics and regions.

An adopted decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers specifies measures to increase economic incentives for enterprises and local agencies to build, modernise and renovate one-family houses for working people and determines easier credit terms for such construction projects.

The Politburo supported government proposals for the training, re-training and advanced training of personnel for foreign economic activities. It is provided to organise such training and refresher courses with regard for the new mechanism for managing the nation's foreign economic relations, present-day conditions in the world economy, and advanced foreign experience in the field.

The meeting heard Andrei Gromyko on the results of work by the USSR Supreme Soviet in 1987. The Politburo said that efforts to implement the Party's strategic policy of perestroika (restructuring) and socio-economic speedup, effect broad democratisation in state and public affairs and promote glasnost

(openness) are the main aspect of the activities of the supreme agency of state authority, its Presidium and the standing commissions of its two houses. Consistent work was done to update legislation and strengthen law and order. The USSR Supreme Soviet also maintained purposeful foreign policy activities

The Politburo reviewed information on preparations for the fourth congress of collective farm workers which is due to be held on 23-25 March 1988.

Practical measures outlined by the government for preparing the nationwide census of the population in January 1989 were supported.

The Politburo discussed and endorsed the results of the work of the Party Control Committee of the CPSU Central Committee in 1987. It was noted that at the new stage of perestroika the organs of Party control are called upon further to perfect their work in checking the fulfilment of Party decisions, to help extend the process of democratisation and openness, and vigorously work for elimination of command and administrative methods and the assertion of the true Leninist principles of leadership in the work of the cadres.

The results of Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting and Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja were approved. The importance was noted of deepening the Soviet-Indonesian dialogue in strengthening peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and improving the political climate in this part of the world. The Soviet Union's readiness was reiterated to further promote the development of relations

between the USSR and Indonesia in all areas, including the extension of trade and the establishment of economic cooperation on a mutually advantageous basis.

The meeting also discussed and approved the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's and Eduard Shevardnadze's talks with Marian Orzechowski, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland. The sides stated with satisfaction that Soviet-Polish political, economic and ideological cooperation is developing dynamically and advancing, and is being enriched with new content while its forms are improving. The unity of views between the CPSU and the PUWP on international issues was stressed.

The Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee approved the results of the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Lothar Spaeth, Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg and deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Unity Party of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was noted that the Soviet-West German relations had started to rise to a new level. The creation of a stable structure of long-term economic and cultural ties will help build up positive processes in Soviet-West German relations and, consequently, improve the general political atmosphere in Europe as a whole.

The Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee also reviewed other issues related to the implementation of the decisions of the 27th Party Congress in the field of domestic and foreign policy.

Soviet Baltic republics — Novosti conference

"WE Latvians and Estonians are in a dual capacity here as we are guests with regard to our Estonian colleagues and we are hosts with regard to you, as we all represent a single union of sovereign states — the Soviet Union," Janis Peters, Chairman of the Latvian Writers Union, told foreign journalists participating in a round table conference sponsored by the Novosti Press Agency in Tallinn last week.

A lively debate in which representatives of the media of 12 countries, their Soviet colleagues and experts took part focussed on the economic,

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peaceful cooperation in the region in the spirit of the Murmansk initiatives.

The participants in the meeting unanimously approved the draft appeal. Yegor Ligachev spoke at the end of the meeting and expressed confidence that the adoption of the Appeal to the Parliaments and Members of Parliament of Countries of Northern Europe, the United States and Canada by the foreign affairs commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet will play its positive role in strengthening security and trust and developing peaceful cooperation in the north, and also in the cause of ensuring military-political stability in the world as a whole.

The text of the Appeal is being forwarded to the foreign affairs commissions and other respective bodies of the parliaments of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, the United States and Canada through the USSR embassies in these countries.

political and social development of the Soviet Baltic republics from the end of past century to the present, about the dynamics of national processes in the Soviet republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Novosti Press Agency invited economists, historians, ecologists, philosophers and writers to the conference in Tallinn.

Analysing the historic path covered by the Baltic peoples, Estonian historian Toomas Kariahiarm emphasised that it was "precisely the 1917 October Revolution in Russia that opened the road to state sovereignty for the Baltic peoples." Even though the nations formed by the end of the century, the Baltic peoples could not even dream of forming their national states in the framework of tsarist Russia and had to put up with the status of national rimlands of the empire. The very emergence of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian states is the consequence of the principle of the right of nations to self-determination proclaimed by Lenin, the historian emphasised.

The similarity of the historic roads of the peoples of the three Baltic republics, Latvian jurist Nikolai Neilands said, stems from their geographic position and similar conditions of economic and social development. This precisely led to the victory of Soviet power in Latvia and Estonia in October-November 1917 and in Lithuania in December 1918, to its fall under the strikes of joint forces of national bourgeoisie and foreign intervention and to the restoration of Soviet power in 1940.

The restoration of Soviet power and the conclusion of the Baltic republics in the USSR gave a strong impetus to the speeding up of their economic development, stressed Lithuanian economist Vitautas Kinduris. The volume of

their industrial output now surpasses the 1940 level tens of times. Experts pointed out the high level of development of national literature and art.

The discussion of the processes of perestroika now taking place in the USSR was of much interest to those present. Estonian sociologist Clara Hallik emphasised that broad democratisation of public life in the USSR creates the conditions for overcoming negative tendencies in the economic and social life in the region. Decisions adopted by the Government of the USSR on the initiative of the public and governments of Latvia and Estonia to give up the construction of the Daugavpils electric power station and halt the development of phosphorites in order to ensure the ecological balance and measures for developing actual bilingualism were cited as examples.

Mikhail Gorbachev

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