

Mikhail Gorbachev addresses Russian Federation Party Conference

(Summary)

Moscow June 19 Tass – by Tass special correspondents reporting from the Kremlin:

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made a report at the Communist Party Conference of Russia which opened today in Moscow. He focused on the present moment and the creation of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the draft platform of the CPSU Central Committee, and the CPSU rules for the 28th Party Congress.

The mounting processes of perestroika, the novelty of the problems before us, and the politicisation of society, added urgency to the question of the new role of the CPSU and its radical renewal, so that the potential, inherent in this political organisation, should meet more accurately and adequately the challenges of time and perestroika itself, Gorbachev said.

Having stressed that the formation of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation is expedient and necessary, he warned against any counterposing of the Russian Federation to the USSR, and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation to that of the Soviet Union.

It is important for the party to make sober assessments and to take the practical steps in order to take society out of the crisis as early as possible.

Having condemned attempts to take advantage of the current situation to deliver a blow to perestroika and its supporters, the party leader pointed to the need for consolidation and national accord on a healthy basis.

Gorbachev gave a detailed analysis of current processes in the party and the country over the past five years. Thus, within these years we have fully achieved everything which has been debated and experimented with over 30 odd years.

The party has decided not to assume the functions of the state any longer. The separation of authority is now actual fact. Elections have become truly free.

Profound transformations in international relations are quite apparent and widely known. The epoch of exhaustive and pointless confrontation is over. As a result, the entire world situation has improved considerably. Our security strengthened and conditions for the cutting of defence spending were created, Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out.

Many things in the present perestroika processes are hampered by the fact that the public's consciousness is unprepared and is marked by conservatism and narrow-minded attitudes, which formed over decades within a totalitarian ideology. Nevertheless, profound and, perhaps, most encouraging processes are taking place also in this sphere, the speaker said.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the party had owned up to the mistakes of the past decade. At the same time he branded as provocation and instigation attempts to disparage indiscriminately everything that it has done and is doing, and to convince society that the CPSU should be liquidated.

The Soviet leader held up an accelerated transition to a regulated market economy as a way out of the crisis in society. He specifically emphasised that the transition should be carried out without harming the people's standard of living.

Dwelling on the draft platform of the CPSU Central Committee and party rules, Gorbachev said that they were substantially revised during the pre-congress discussion, and contained quite a few new provisions, which enable the radical restructuring of the party, the change in the CPSU's role in society, and the democratisation of intra-party relations.

Considering the views of the Russian communists, Gorbachev proposed on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee and its Russian Bureau to transform the conference into the founding congress of the Russian Federation Communist Party, to elect its leader and governing bodies.

The speaker expressed disagreement with

those who seek the salvation of the Russian Federation in isolation, seclusion, and even withdrawal from the USSR. He said that would inevitably weaken the Russian Federation itself. The Soviet leader expressed the conviction that the Russian Communist Party could offset those processes and, being part of the CPSU, serve as one of the mainstays of the union.

Gorbachev also spoke out against attempts to organise a Communist Party of Russia on the amorphous beginnings of a parliamentary party. The ultimate goal of such proposals is to destroy the party from within and to remove it from the political arena.

He spoke out in favour of the ideological, political and organisational unity of the Russian Communist Party on the basis of policy documents. Gorbachev also proposed considering at the 28th Party Congress the question of organisational guarantees for the equal position of communist parties of constituent republics inside a single CPSU.

Speaking about the forthcoming 28th Party Congress, Gorbachev said that it would adopt policy documents which would form the basis for the genuine consolidation of all healthy forces of the working class, peasantry and intelligentsia. The main goal of the CPSU at the modern stage, the speaker said, is to persistently seek ways to achieve civil accord and pool the country's creative forces in order to renew society.

The CPSU, Gorbachev stressed, rejects the ideology and practice of Stalinism, which has trampled underfoot the intellectual and moral ideal of socialism.

The party, the speaker stressed, resolutely advocates giving full power to the Soviets, power by the people, and renounces its claim to monopoly or to any attempts at ideological coercion. The CPSU is open for dialogue with democratic public movements, for compromises in the interests of political stability and civil peace.

After Gorbachev's report the delegates will hear several reports by representatives of the preparatory Committee of the conference and the most prominent alternative platforms.

Russian Federation Prime Minister elected

Moscow June 15 Tass – By Tass parliamentary correspondents Lev Akse-
nov and Dmitry Polunin:

Russia has a new prime minister. In a second round of voting here today, the first round proving inconclusive, Ivan Silayev, 60, scored a 70 per cent majority in both chambers of the Russian parliament and was appointed prime minister of the Russian Federation.

He beat Mikhail Bocharov, a leader of the radical Inter-Regional group of deputies. Neither of the two candidates for prime

minister of the Russian Federation – Mikhail Bocharov and Ivan Silayev, won the necessary majority during the first round in today's elections.

President Boris Yeltsin took 15 minutes off for consultations and repeated the nomination of Silayev, who had won more votes in the first round than Mikhail Bocharov.

Yeltsin explained the move by citing positive features in Silayev's programme presented to the Russian parliament earlier in the day. He stressed that this programme, when finalised, could provide the basis for the activity of the republican government.

This time Silayev was supported by a majority of 163 out of the 220 deputies.

(continued on back page)

IN THIS ISSUE

Mikhail Gorbachev's report on visits to Canada, US.....	p198
Shevardnadze, Genscher joint press conference.....	p199
Dmitri Yazov on Warsaw Treaty meeting.....	p201
Mikhail Gorbachev on new union structure.....	p202
Marshal Akhromeyev on Soviet-US summit.....	p203
Supreme Soviet on market reforms proposals.....	p204

Mikhail Gorbachev's report to Supreme Soviet on visits to Canada, United States

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev highly appraised the results of his visit to the United States and Canada. Speaking in the Soviet Parliament on June 12, he stressed that despite speculations and gloomy forecasts, the talks were candid, meaningful and equitable.

Certain steps had to be taken to meet each other half-way. But this ensured the success of the summit and a considerable addition to the credit of trust, which began to accumulate intensively after the Malta meeting.

It is very important, the Soviet President said, that the US Administration and President Bush above all did not succumb to pressure from all sides and managed to preserve, on the whole, a balanced, responsible approach to the profound revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet President said that the Soviet-American talks helped finalise the coordination, first begun in Reykjavik, of future treaty provisions for cutting strategic nuclear arms by fifty per cent.

A practical possibility was created for finalising the preparations and signing the treaty by this year.

Gorbachev stressed that the forthcoming reduction of strategic arms by the United States and the Soviet Union would undoubtedly be equitable.

An important agreement was signed in Washington concerning the 80 per cent cuts in chemical weapons, with a prospect for reaching an agreement on their complete ban, the Soviet leader said. Protocols to the treaties on the reduction of underground nuclear weapon testing and underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes were also signed. In this way, ratification was made possible of the treaties, which had been signed in the middle of the seventies.

This was a step along the path leading towards the aim we shall never abandon — a complete ban on nuclear testing, Gorbachev said.

An agreement was reached on measures to counteract the proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons, combat carriers of such weapons and respective technologies, Gorbachev said.

When the problem of reducing armed forces in Europe was discussed at the talks with Presi-

dent Bush, Gorbachev said, prerequisites were created for preparing a treaty on this question for signing at the European-scale summit at the end of this year.

Gorbachev described as a hindrance the US stance regarding NATO membership for a united Germany, which can substantially tilt the balance and disrupt the present security structure.

"We view with full understanding the desire of Germans to live in a single state," Gorbachev said, "but German unification has external aspects — the border question, the status of a united Germany and the rights of the four victorious powers."

It is clear that the transition period is unavoidable, Gorbachev noted. Germany could make a statement pledging to honour all commitments it has taken over from the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, with the Bundeswehr subordinated to NATO and the GDR troops — to the government of the new Germany. At the same time, Soviet troops will remain on East German territory. If the United States decides that the Soviet Union infringes on its interests, it can withdraw from the agreement.

The Soviet Union, Gorbachev stressed, could agree to NATO membership for the new Germany, if the United States agreed to its associated participation in both blocs, the principle of rapprochement of the blocs in combination with the process of German unification, in the course of which present commitments of Federal Germany and the German Democratic Republic undergo no changes and if the blocs themselves reform in an organic linkage with the Vienna and the European-scale processes.

He noted that the Soviet Union's stance consists in a joint search for solutions, which would fit the general positive tendency of changes in Europe and the world, strengthening security, not undermining it.

The search for solutions is going on. At forthcoming meetings and fora, the Soviet side, while displaying required flexibility and taking into account the interests of all states concerned, will resolutely stand for the security of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev said.

He said that during the circumstantial discussion of all aspects of the Middle East conflict, the participants of the summit in Washington found important points of contact concerning the assessment of what caused regular

exacerbation of the situation and the sluggishness of advance towards the settlement.

Gorbachev noted the Soviet and American leaders' common concern over the settlement of immigrants on Israeli occupied Palestinian territories. He called on Tel Aviv to heed the persistent advice by the two presidents and act wisely.

Appraising the results of the summit for the development of economic, scientific and technical links between the Soviet Union and the United States, Gorbachev called them a notable step towards the Soviet Union's rapprochement with the world economy, because the United States is its powerful and most influential component.

The Soviet President described the results of his trip to Canada as another important step in the development of friendly relations with that major country. The visit to Canada, Gorbachev said, was useful for the general atmosphere of the European process.

Gorbachev said that participants in the June 7 conference of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee in Moscow had praised the Soviet-American summit. He stressed that the Political Consultative Committee's meeting was highlighted by an atmosphere of candid discussion of the processes underway in the Warsaw Treaty member-countries, Europe and the world.

Mikhail Gorbachev responded to numerous questions from Supreme Soviet members.

Asked about problems relating to the developments in the Soviet Baltic republics, he said that the United States did not regard the entire complex of relations with the Soviet Union as dependent on those developments.

As regards the Soviet leadership's plans with respect to the Baltic republics, Gorbachev stressed that he as President, the government and the Supreme Soviet have the common mandate from the Third Congress of the USSR People's Deputies, which proclaimed the decisions by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet invalid and unlawful.

At the same time, Gorbachev said that if the state independence act, adopted by the Lithuanian Republic were suspended, talks could begin. He expressed hope that this would be understood by society.

The Soviet President said the correct way was the way of search for political solutions, although he did not rule out the possibility of using any measurers in accordance with the Soviet Constitution if the need arises. □

Soviet troop withdrawals from Czechoslovakia, Hungary

The following is the text of an official report of the Soviet Defence Ministry issued on June 14 in Moscow:

"THE Soviet Union is consistently putting into practice its unilateral decision to reduce its armed forces. Their strength has already been reduced by 296,600. The 13th Guard Division withdrawn by the Soviet Union from Hungary, the 32nd Guard Division and the 25th Armoured Division withdrawn from the GDR were disbanded. Aside from this, a number

of airborne assault units and assault crossing units, together with armaments and military hardware assigned to them, were withdrawn from army groups.

"Agreements were reached at bilateral Soviet-Czechoslovak and Soviet-Hungarian talks on the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Seven divisions, including three armoured ones, will be withdrawn in 1991. The troop withdrawal from Czechoslovakia and Hungary expands considerably the scope of the unilateral reduction of the Soviet armed forces.

"At the same time, one should bear in mind

that a new military-strategic situation has formed in Europe after the Soviet Union made its statement about the unilateral withdrawal of six armoured divisions from the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and their subsequent disbandment. However, despite this fact, the Soviet Union, which is acting in line with Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations Organisation on December 7, 1988, disbanded another three divisions in its European part.

"Thus, six armoured divisions were withdrawn from the ground forces and disbanded, in accordance with the plan.

"Under agreement with the government of the Mongolian People's Republic, Soviet troops deployed there are also to return home."

Shevardnadze, Genscher hold joint news conference

Munster, June 19 – by Tass correspondents Vladimir Serov and Mikhail Stepovik:

WEST German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher described his working meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, which ended here on June 18, as very constructive and useful.

He was speaking at a joint news conference devoted to the results of the meeting. Genscher stressed that the talks had enabled them to move forward in solving a number of important issues.

Genscher said that he and Shevardnadze had arrived at the conclusion that there were many essential components that exercised their influence on the solution of the external aspects of German unification.

He said that these included, first of all, the institutionalisation of the CSCE process, secondly, the acceleration of progress at the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe, thirdly, the solution of the Polish border issue, and fourthly the settlement of the problem concerning the united Germany's military-political status.

The two sides, Genscher went on, agreed on the need to overcome ideological differences and identify the new nature of relations between the two countries. All this will lead to boosting cooperation in Europe.

The talks also focussed on aspects of inter-

action between the united Germany and the Soviet Union. The sides viewed in a positive light the prospects for the development of cooperation in all spheres.

Eduard Shevardnadze agreed with Genscher's assessment of the meeting, and stressed that it had been useful and necessary and had been held "in a good, humanly warm atmosphere". He said much work had been done.

Shevardnadze dwelt on a number of problems which had arisen. He said that it would be appropriate to bring to the fore the problems associated with building European-scale structures and the development of the CSCE process, because this met the interests of all the peoples of the continent.

The settlement of the external aspects of German unification, he said, depended on the development of the CSCE process. During his talks with Genscher, an almost complete identity of views was reached.

Shevardnadze said that the idea of establishing qualitatively new relations between the two alliances – the Warsaw Treaty and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisations – was a relatively new element in the talks. He added that the sides presented their views on the matter in a special message addressed to the foreign ministers of the European nations. New relations between the two alliances will be built on the

basis of their profound transformation, in response to the call of the times, Shevardnadze stressed.

The Soviet foreign minister noted that during the talks the viewpoints of the two countries on a number of issues coincided or had become closer to each other. At the same time, he pointed out, there remained a number of major problems requiring solution. Intensive work was continuing at the level of experts.

The ministers responded to some questions from journalists. Asked about the prospects for the development of cooperation with the Soviet Union, Genscher expressed West Germany's interest in developing links in the economic, scientific and cultural fields. Shevardnadze in turn stressed the Soviet Union's desire to develop relations with the East and West Germanies and the future united Germany. This cooperation, he pointed out, must be built on the basis of mutual benefit and equality.

Asked about cuts in the Bundeswehr, the Soviet foreign minister said that this question would be discussed not only in Vienna, but also within the framework of the 'two-plus four' negotiations, because it related to the external aspects of German reunification.

Both ministers noted the importance of rapid progress at the Vienna talks for a successful CSCE summit later this year.

Trust and mutual benefit

N. Drozdov, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Soviet-British Intergovernmental Commission for Cooperation in the Fields of Applied Science, Technology, Trade and Economic Relations

A stable, on the whole, tendency to a growth in goods turnover, to expansion of the spheres of cooperation, and to introduction of its new forms has been the characteristic of trade and economic relations between the USSR and Great Britain in the past few years.

John Brown firm; the chemical enterprises in Saratov and Klin which are being modernised by the Courtaulds company; the clothes factories in Minsk, Riga and Tallinn which are being retooled with the participation of the Taylor Woodrow firm and some other enterprises. In April 1988 Teknopromimport All-Union Foreign-Trade Association, on the one hand, and Simon Carves company and GEC, on the other, signed a contract on building a master

However, new business thinking, based on trust and mutual benefit considerations, gradually takes the upper hand. Evidence of this are the approximately 100 Soviet-British joint ventures registered on the USSR's territory, though it would be wrong to claim that they operate without any problems. For all that, intensive work on mutually acceptable and mutually advantageous schemes for the establishment and operation of joint ventures is going on.

The Permanent Soviet-British Intergovernmental Commission for Cooperation in the Fields of Applied Science, Technology, Trade and Economic Relations pays great attention to these and other questions of bilateral economic relations. Its experts have prepared a draft of a programme for the development of economic and industrial cooperation between the governments of the USSR and Great Britain for 1991-2000. Trade organisations and firms will be informed of this programme, as recommendations on carrying out cooperation.

(*Ekonomika i Zhizn*, No. 24. In full.)

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
	'000,000 roubles				
Turnover	1,903	1,789	2,110	2,417	3,218
Export	1,218	1,274	1,586	1,794	2,209
Import	685	515	524	623	1,009

In the past few years the improvement of the quality and assortment of Soviet exports goods and due account of the British firms' requests have made it possible to increase the export of Soviet Lada cars, tractors, bearings, spare parts, metal concentrates, ores and non-ore minerals, timber, pulp and paper products, foodstuffs, and raw materials for their production. The contracts concluded this year reaffirm the tendency to an increase in bilateral trade.

In the current five-year-plan the total import of British machines and equipment for Soviet projects has exceeded 500 million roubles. The list of the largest industrial plants for which equipment is supplied includes: the second section of the polyester-fibre plant in Budennovsk which is being built with the participation of

controllers plant in Yerevan, the largest contract in the history of Soviet-British relations.

The amount of equipment bought in Great Britain could have been much larger if the British companies had not lost a number of contracts to their competitors in the struggle for Soviet orders.

But it would be fair to note that in the work with their British partners Soviet organisations and enterprises do not always operate strictly in accordance with the rules adopted in international practice. I mean the cases when Soviet partners failed to comply with the time limits for payments on the existing contracts, inaccuracy in conducting commercial correspondence, and delays in resolving production and other questions.

GENNADI LISICHKIN

**SOCIALISM:
An Appraisal
of Prospects**

price 60p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.

Eduard Shevardnadze's letter on a nuclear free Baltic

Moscow June 15 Tass – Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a letter sent on April 28, 1990 to the foreign ministers of Britain, France, the United States, West Germany, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, dwelt on the issue of denuclearising the Baltic sea.

The contents of the letter were revealed by Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov at a briefing here today.

The letter was motivated by the Soviet Union's quest to step up joint efforts in this area, in view of northern Europe's immense stabilising importance for the entire European process, and the popular desire to turn these countries into a firm element of the all-European and worldwide security system.

The letter also said that the transformation of the Baltic into a nuclear-free zone is possible "only through multilateral talks with states in the Baltic as well as with states possessing nuclear weapons using its waters."

The Soviet Union believes that the aim of

such talks should be the complete removal of all nuclear weapons from the Baltic Sea.

this would mean a ban on the deployment of such weapons on ships and aircraft, a total ban on the passage of ships carrying nuclear weapons from non-littoral states and the flights of their planes with such weapons above the sea, and non-deployment of nuclear weapons on board their ships entering the Baltic.

Shevardnadze recalled that the USSR had unilaterally begun the elimination of certain categories of sea-based nuclear weapons in the Baltic.

As a first step, the Soviet Union withdrew from its Baltic fleet four Golf-class submarines, and will eliminate two remaining vessels of this type before the year's end.

The minister's letter said that the USSR intends to announce its unilateral decision not to deploy nuclear weapons on its ships and aircraft within the Baltic Sea area and airspace in peacetime, and not to deploy nuclear weapons on or under its sea-bed within its territorial and internal waters.

Foreign Ministry spokesman tactical weapons cuts

SOVIET Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov explained the Soviet Union's unilateral decision to reduce tactical nuclear weapons in Europe at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry Press Centre in Moscow on June 13.

He recalled that the Soviet Union had taken major unilateral steps in this field last year by withdrawing 500 nuclear warheads from the territories of its allies. In addition, the Soviet Union had not modernised its tactical nuclear missiles in the years 1989-1990.

"In July 1989, Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev declared in Strasbourg the Soviet Union's intention to undertake further cuts in tactical nuclear missiles in Europe, if it was obvious that NATO countries were ready to negotiate this issue. At the recent Soviet-American summit the Soviet Union suggested that such talks should begin this autumn," Gerasimov said.

In order to create favourable conditions for such talks, the Soviet Union decided to further reduce its tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. The decision should be regarded as practical implementation of Gorbachev's Strasbourg statement (the Soviet Union's intentions were declared by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the opening of the second meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension in Copenhagen).

"Specifically," Gerasimov went on to say, "the Soviet Union is planning to reduce 60 launchers of tactical missiles (whose range is shorter than that of missiles being eliminated under the INF Treaty) in Central Europe – the Germany Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland – before the end of this year," Gerasimov said.

"Besides," he went on to say, "more than 250 units of artillery weapons capable of using nuclear ammunition will be removed from Central Europe. In the Soviet Union such weapons include heavy artillery guns with a calibre of 152 millimetres and more. Finally, 1,500 nuclear warheads, including the warheads of the missiles being cut, nuclear artillery shells and nuclear aerial bombs, will be withdrawn from this zone.

Gerasimov emphasised that the Soviet Union was planning to extend its unilateral reductions beyond the boundaries of Central Europe: a total of 140 tactical missile launchers and 3,200 artillery weapons, capable of using nuclear ammunition, will be eliminated in Europe by the end of this year.

These measures will be taken by the Soviet Union unilaterally without any preliminary conditions. "We believe that they create favourable conditions for the forthcoming talks on tactical nuclear missiles," Gerasimov said.

He also recalled that the Soviet Union also suggested eliminating tactical nuclear weapons, including a nuclear component for dual purpose means, as well as planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons. □

Dmitri Yazov on Warsaw Treaty Defence Ministers' meeting

THE Warsaw Treaty Defence Ministers' Committee ended its session in Berlin on June 15. The participants adopted a joint communique. Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov described some of the session's results in a Tass interview.

"The Defence Ministers' Committee session was aimed at implementing the Political Consultative Committee's Declaration which was adopted in Moscow on June 7," he said.

"Political processes taking place in the Warsaw Treaty countries in many respects predetermine the current situation in Europe and the world as a whole. The positive trend in the processes is indisputable. At the same time changes in domestic and international life are so radical that they are often not smooth and are at times painful.

"Resolving the contradictions that have built up requires special responsibility from state, political and military leaders and circumspection in determining reliable reference points to keep the work on track.

"It is needless to speak of the immense and truly historical role that the Warsaw Treaty Organisation has played and continues to play in ensuring national and collective security.

"Our defence alliance still remains a real and effective factor in European security and the coordinator of the allied countries' efforts in the field of defence, arms reduction and disarmament.

"The founding of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation was prompted by the objective course of world development and by the specific historical conditions of the late forties and early fifties.

"One should not forget that the North Atlantic bloc, set up by the Western powers, did not conceal its aggressive intentions and intensively prepared to implement them.

"Nowadays, decades later, we have no right to shut our eyes to the fact that NATO still exists and maintains all the attributes of its military might.

"The formation of a new European security structure has only begun. Many unforeseen obstacles and dangers lie ahead. The NATO strategy remains the same and declarations about the need to tailor it to current changes have yet to be backed up by practical moves. Moreover, the provision of NATO armies with the latest armaments is being speeded up, and its combat might is being built up.

"Under these conditions we cannot slacken our allied ties. Such a policy would be short-sighted and would have a negative effect on the balance of forces in Europe and on the stability of the situation on the continent.

"We are deeply convinced that the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, reorganised and adapted to new realities, can be an instrument for a smoother and calmer transition to a new system of European security.

"The Warsaw Treaty Organisation's self-removal and self-withdrawal from the European scene would complicate the current European process, rather than facilitate it," Yazov said. □

ALAMANAC SOVIET LITERATURE AND ART

price £1.00 from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens, London SW7 4NW.

Nuclear Deterrence: Past and Future By Konstantine Nikolayev

price 50p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW

Meeting of the Federation Council

Gorbachev sets out new union structure

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev addressed a session of the Federation Council on June 12 and put forward a concept for creating a union of free socialist states, the President's Press Secretary Arkadi Maslennikov said at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on June 13.

He stressed that the concept envisages various forms of ties between republics and central authorities, ranging from the federal, to which we are accustomed, to confederal. In other words, the strength of the ties and the degree of freedom can be different, depending on how relations of this or that republic or nation with the central authorities are developing.

According to Maslennikov, Gorbachev pointed out, when explaining the concept, that perestroika processes in the formation of a national and state system are developing from below and are being established in various forms, sometimes rather unorthodox and even painful. The task consists in giving them a planned character and working out by joint efforts the forms of coexistence of nations and republics which, on the one hand, would preserve statehood and, on the other hand, would fully take into account historic, cultural and political characteristic features, as well as the traditions of nations.

Maslennikov said that all participants in the session stressed the urgent need for concluding a new union treaty as soon as possible. It was pointed out that the creation of a "free" union of sovereign states would not mean the disintegration of the Soviet Union. One of the reasons for it is that the process will develop along with the transfer to a market economy.

All participants in the session, including leaders of the Baltic republics, were unanimous in their opinion that a single all-union market will be advantageous to all, Maslennikov stressed. This economic factor will be the best cement, which will bring union republics closer together and will make them keep together, participants in the session pointed out.

They agreed, more or less, with the assumption that republics should delegate some of the functions to the centre, including foreign policy, defence, diplomacy and some spheres of economic activities, primarily finance.

Maslennikov said that it was planned to create a working organ for drawing up a new union treaty, in which representatives of all republics would participate. When the draft document is ready, it will be submitted to the Federation Council and then to the USSR Supreme Soviet and republican parliaments.

Speaking about Gorbachev's and Ryzhkov's meetings with leaders of the Baltic republics held on June 12, Maslennikov stressed that the conversation was "rather positive" and frank. "They analysed the situation with inter-ethnic relations taking shape in the Soviet Union in general and in the Baltic region in particular, and tried to find a way to lessening tension and removing elements of the crisis situation that emerged in relations between the central authorities and, especially, the leadership of the Lithuanian Republic," Maslennikov said.

He told journalists that Gorbachev had proposed a broad interpretation of the notion of cancelling or dropping the independence declaration. Although the resolution of the Third Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR envisages the cancellation of those illegal constitutional acts, Gorbachev suggested a flexible formula - either to declare a moratorium or to freeze those acts, and on this basis to begin a negotiating process within the framework of the existing legislation, which provides for a mechanism of settling such problems.

"The President and political leaders of the country have no intention to press on, to insist on some specific formula. The task is to find political solutions acceptable for both sides, not impairing the dignity of the Baltic nations and the Congress of People's Deputies," he pointed out.

According to Maslennikov, the Baltic leaders "did not look gloomy," when they were leaving the conference hall. They did not disclose any details, only noted that the conversation was

"calm and business-like, and they discussed exactly how to find some ways to resolve the problem, acceptable to all." During the session of the Federation Council the chairmen of the Supreme Soviets of the Baltic republics submitted proposals and expressed their views of the national and state system of the Soviet Union, and the discussion at the session "developed not as a confrontation, but as a quest for common approaches to the solution of problems."

Commenting on the President's attitude to the declaration of Russia's sovereignty, Maslennikov said that Gorbachev "does not regard it as a constitutional, or a legal act," but rather as "a political declaration." Such declarations are being worked out by many republics, and the very idea of real political and economic sovereignty is a component part of the renewal of the state system. The President proceeds from the assumption that the fuller the aspirations of nations are met - the less resentment will remain, the easier it will be to build normal union relations.

According to Maslennikov, Boris Yeltsin said at the session of the Federation Council that he favoured the preservation of the state's unity, that the point at issue was only the distribution of authority. Yeltsin approached the President, and they had a "quite normal, constructive conversation."

Speaking about the provision of the declaration proclaiming the supremacy of Russia's laws over legal acts of the union, Maslennikov stressed that Russia's Congress of People's Deputies had not adopted any laws so far. "The declaration adopted by the Congress is not a law either, it is a declaration of intentions, this is why it cannot abrogate union legal acts," Maslennikov pointed out. "If we regarded the declaration as the abrogation of all union laws, this would mean that a zone of lawlessness has been created on the territory of the Russian Federation. This is meaningless from the legal point of view. As for the future correlation between union and republican laws, it will be determined as a result of working out a new union treaty. □

Ryzhkov, Baltic leaders assess Moscow talks

"DURING our meeting with the leaders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on June 12 we said that their independence decisions could be frozen for the duration of the talks," Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov told the Soviet news agency Interfax.

The interview was published in the newspaper *Izvestia* on June 13.

"A freeze will leave these decisions in force, on the one hand, and will make it possible to begin discussing the accumulated problems, on the other. Now, it is up to the Baltic states how to act and what decisions to take. But, if they choose in favour of a freeze, this will open up broad opportunities for further negotiations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia."

Ryzhkov emphasised that the suggestions had been met with understanding. "Although Lithuania is in a difficult situation, it has already passed certain decisions which now should be frozen, I think that the Lithuanian leaders understood our position."

"We told Landsbergis that if Lithuania accepts our proposal, we will sit down to talks and will then be able to settle our economic relations," Ryzhkov said.

According to Ryzhkov, there has been some shift in the Lithuanian issue. People are coming to understand that they have made the wrong choice. They have found themselves in deadlock

and do not know how to get out of it now.

Ryzhkov said that it would be wrong to accuse the central authorities of an ultimatum approach. Had it been an ultimatum, they would have stuck to the position worked out by the Third Congress of the People's Deputies of the USSR which demanded that Lithuanian Supreme Soviet cancels its decision.

"We have taken a compromise step towards resolving this issue," Ryzhkov emphasised.



"WHEN the Soviet president and prime minister met the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian presidents on Tuesday, we said that their decisions on independence should be frozen for the period of negotiations," Soviet prime minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said in an interview with the Interfax news agency, published by *Izvestia* on June 14.

"If this is done, there will be no need to abrogate these decisions, while it will be possible to start discussing the accumulated problems. It is up to them to make decisions. If they take this road, vast opportunities will open for further negotiations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia," Ryzhkov said.

Ryzhkov noted that these proposals were met with understanding.

Lithuanian president Vytautas Landsbergis, speaking at a session of the republic's parliament on June 13 to announce this meeting, said that "on the whole the conversation was specific and constructive, I would even say, friendly."

"Our side should think how to act without detriment to Lithuania and to the chosen political road so that the president of the USSR could start negotiations with us as a partner."

"The conversation held was quite sincere and constructive, and this gives hope," said Landsbergis, asking for parliament's consent "to continue this political work," and "to establish contacts" in order to offer possible variants of the solution to the Supreme Soviet.

Latvian president Anatoly Gorbunov told Latvian parliamentarians on June 13 about the meeting in Moscow.

He said that an element of equality manifested itself in the conversations, and pointed to the need for official negotiations to conclude a treaty determining the republic's status in the period of transition.

"All the contradictions arising between laws of the USSR and Latvia's Supreme Soviet should be resolved through talks on an equal, mutually advantageous basis," he said. Gorbunov expressed readiness, on these conditions, to submit to Latvia's Supreme Soviet the question

(Continued on page 202)

Marshal Akhromeyev on military aspects of Soviet-American summit

Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, the Soviet President's military adviser, accompanied Mikhail Gorbachev during his summit meetings in Washington. He talks here to Vladimir Ostrovsky of Novosti Press Agency:

How do you account for the difference of 900 units in nuclear weapons?

Indeed the US can deploy about 8,300 and the Soviet Union about 7,400 warheads on all types of strategic weapons systems. I would describe the difference in 900 warheads on air-launched cruise missiles (ALCM's) as an example of mutual concessions, to which the sides have been moving in the course of the four years of drafting a treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms (the START treaty).

I will attempt to explain the thing as it relates to air-launched cruise missiles, and their counting rules as agreed upon by the sides. The Americans are now in a position to deploy 800 to 900 more units than the Soviet Union. But in exchange the US also made a concession.

First, it accepted the Soviet proposal that the range of ALCM's should be set at 600 kilometres. In order to understand how important this is, you may recall that the Americans had pressed for a longer minimum range of 1,500 kilometres, then 1,000 and 800 kilometres. Agreement that long-range equal to 600 kilometres is very important for us in organising our air defences.

Secondly, the US gained the right to have more ALCM's deployed on heavy bombers, each such US bomber is accounted as carrying 10 missiles, while actually it can carry 20 missiles (the Soviet bomber accounts for 8 missiles, but can deploy 12).

Instead, the Soviet Union got the right to deploy 40 per cent more heavy bombers than the US. Why this figure? Because according to ALCM counting rules, every such Soviet bomber can carry 8 but is accounted as carrying 12 missiles. The difference (12 and 20) makes up 40 per cent. We can accordingly exploit this difference in our favour by deploying more bombers.

(Continued from page 201)

of freezing talks on the declaration of the republic's independence.

Relations between Moscow and the Baltic republics have definitely improved, believes Estonian president Arnold Ruutel. Noting that there has been an advance to mutual understanding between the Baltic republics and the centre as regards the granting of independence to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, he said that the word "negotiations" is now being used by both sides.

In an interview to Estonian radio, Ruutel asserted that Moscow's recognition for the so-called period of transition announced in Estonia on March 30 is an indispensable condition for the beginning of the talks. As is known, the Soviet president's decree stated that the resolution of the Estonian Supreme Soviet proclaiming this period of transition is invalid, since it contradicts the constitution of the USSR.

Writing on Perestroika on the Road to Renewal

price 40p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.

I would say, that the sum of accords is fairly large, giving each side safeguards that its security will not be diminished. That became possible because the USSR and the US made mutual compromises on a number of issues, finding mutually acceptable solutions in the interests of mutual reductions of strategic offensive arms.

It is important to stress that while the Salt-2 Treaty only set ceilings on strategic arms, thus limiting their build-up, the future START Treaty will make a much greater step-forward – it will determine actual cuts, or elimination, of thousands of warheads and many hundreds of their delivery systems. That is a very substantial difference essential for the security of each country and the world as a whole.

How will the sides act on their statement on the reduction of the number of sea-launched cruise missiles have been left out of the treaty?

The sides adopted a joint statement undertaking to deploy 880 such weapons on submarines and surface ships of specific types. This is a quantitative limitation already. At these talks, however, sea-launched cruise missiles have been left out of the treaty.

The Americans did not agree to include the limitation of this kind of weapon in the text of the treaty. A relevant statement by the sides is appended to the main document. As regards future talks, which will taken up upon signing and ratification of the START Treaty, I think that the USSR will press for SLCMs to be included in the agenda, along with other strategic arms.

A new quality of relationship between the USSR and the US was typical of the past summit and manifested itself in the course of the dialogue. Both sides were cooperative in discussing problems. The Presidents managed to find areas in which they were able to adopt specific joint decisions. Earlier, our relations were marked by confrontation and rivalry, while now that is not so, though I cannot say that rivalry is a thing of the past. An end to that is unlikely to come soon, I think. Anyway, there is now much more mutual understanding and confidence and less rivalry than before.

The military and political aspect of the summit concerned key and fundamental issues negotiated for many years. I am not going to name all agreements on military-political decisions achieved has opened up before the USSR and the US the possibility of moving ahead in many areas.

Please would you detail the ratio of strategic offensive arms to be reduced by each side.

The USSR and the US will cut down their various arms by between 30 and 50 per cent. We will probably reduce ground-based ICBM's (inter-continental ballistic missiles), including heavy SS-18 missiles, by half. The US, I believe,

Enquiry into Kirghiz clashes

The USSR Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings in connection with inter-ethnic clashes in Kirghizia's Osh region, which claimed numerous casualties and had other grave consequences, it was officially announced in Moscow on June 15.

A task force has been set up to investigate offences and expose the culprits. The group includes workers of the Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Ministry and the State Security Committee (KGB).

Beside law enforcement officers from Uzbekistan and Kirghizia, the group has more than a hundred investigators from the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and other union republics.

Soviet Deputy Prosecutor-General V.I. Kravtsev is coordinating the group's activities. □

will have to cut down its SLBM's (submarine-launched ballistic missiles) by no less than 50 per cent. It will also reduce a considerable part of its heavy bombers.

As a result, the number of delivery vehicles will be reduced to 1,600 on each side. The total number of warheads is known, I mentioned it earlier. Thus, either side will reduce some or other kind of strategic weapons by a more or less similar amount, cumulatively leading to a similar ceiling on the total number of delivery vehicles.

I would like to explain, that START concerns not only the quantitative aspect of weapons. It also deals with a calculation of the important tactical characteristics of each weapons system covered by these talks. These characteristics include the range of missiles, the number of warheads carried, the number of missiles aboard one aircraft, and so on. In that way, the search for mutually acceptable solutions led both sides to totals that will really lower the armament levels of each power.

Gysi in Moscow consultations

Moscow June 15 Tass – by Tass correspondent Andrei Ivanovsky:

"THE German reunification process can and must stimulate the all-European unifying process," Gregor Gysi, chairman of East Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), told a news conference today, following "intensive talks" in the CPSU Central Committee.

At the same time, he said, participants in the talks stated that granting NATO membership to a reunited Germany without any limitations would inevitably upset the military balance and, as a consequence, would destabilise the situation.

Gysi believes that consultations within the framework of the "two plus four" formula should prioritise work on a peace treaty.

In Moscow the two sides discussed the results of the recent Soviet-American summit and of the latest meeting of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee, and relations between the CPSU and the PDS, Gysi said.

In response to journalists' questions, Gysi pointed out that the historically established close relations between the PDS and the CPSU do not rule out the possibility of the PDS developing contacts with communist parties in the Baltic republics, which have declared their independence.

THE SOVIET ECONOMY At the Crossroads of Perestroika

by Leonid Korenev

price 60p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.

Transition to market economy

Supreme Soviet demands changes to government economic package

THE USSR Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution on June 13, committing the Soviet Council of Ministers to submit by September 1 a concrete programme for the formation of the structure and mechanism of a regulated market. The resolution described the transfer to the regulated market economy as "the main essence of the economic reform."

From May 24 to 29, 89 deputies took part in discussions on the government report, and some 100 legislators submitted proposals on the draft resolution. Many speakers strongly criticised the government's concept. They said that it actually boiled down to a price increase and did not envisage any real measures to form a market. Doubts were expressed over the possibility of transfer to a market economy while preserving branch ministries and without reducing military

spending and assistance to third countries, as well as other budget expenditure.

Those critical observations were taken into account in a resolution adopted on June 13. The Supreme Soviet committed the government to supplement and amend its concept with due account for the results of the discussion at the session and recommendations worked out by the parliaments of union and autonomous republics. Special attention should be paid to setting deadlines for the formation of the market and specifying approaches to the reform of retail prices.

The government was also committed to consider the reduction of the state budget deficit by reducing allocations for unfinished capital construction projects, defence and upkeep of the state apparatus, and selling out the surplus of material resources. The parliament committed the government to prepare proposals on changing the system of state management authorities and to work out forecasts of socio-economic

consequences of the transfer to market relations.

The USSR Supreme Soviet recommended the Supreme Soviets of union and autonomous republics to discuss the government's concept at their sessions, paying special attention to guarantees of the social protection for the population. Presenting the draft resolution to the deputies, Alexei Boiko from Donetsk, a member of the Parliamentary Committee for the Economic Reform, said that Supreme Soviet committees did not deem it expedient to hold a referendum on the problem of the price increase and social guarantees for the population, as proposed by the government. A law on referendums has not been worked out yet, and besides, it is only the Congress of People's Deputies that can announce a referendum. The next session of the Congress will be held late this year, while a package of measures to pass over to the market

(Continued on page 204)

Supreme Soviet rejects bread price increase

ON JUNE 14, the closing day of its third session, the Soviet Parliament rejected the government's proposal to treble the price of bread.

The Council of Ministers was charged with the task of studying the issue together with the supreme soviets and governments of union and autonomous republics and submit it for consideration to the national parliament's autumn session.

Speaking during debates, Alexander Kraiko, a Moscow scientist, called on deputies to adopt "the unpopular but necessary" proposal, stressing that price increases are inevitable under market conditions.

The results of the vote showed, however, that most deputies have a different viewpoint. The decision to postpone the matter till autumn was adopted by 319 votes in favour, 33 against and 12 abstentions.

After nearly two months of deliberation, the Supreme Soviet adopted a law on taxing enterprises, which is considered one of the basic laws of economic reform. The law fixes the basic tax

rate at 45 per cent.

Parliament approved changes in the composition of its committees and commissions. The Committee for Construction and Architecture will be headed by Yuri Komarov, replacing Boris Yeltsin who was elected President of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Vladimir Lapygin, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Defence and State Security, asked Parliament to relieve him of his duties for health reasons. Leonid Sharin (Amur region) was elected chairman.

Deputies decided to form an independent parliamentary committee for public education and upbringing. Vladimir Belyayev, Dean of the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, became its chairman.

Changes were made in the composition of some other committees and commissions.

At the end of the sitting, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, made a statement on the state of the country's armed forces. Failure to resolve social problems in the armed forces and the campaign to "discredit" the Army which the Marshal said was launched by the mass media "made the

officer, the general and the admiral feel destitute."

The situation in the Army "is disquieting, and discontent is brewing," he said.

Major Vladimir Lopatin did not agree with Akhromeyev's analysis of the causes of the difficult situation in the Army.

He said that the causes are in the uselessness of the current system of managing the armed forces and suggested accelerating a military reform.

Representatives of the Committee for Defence and State Security said that hearings on the subject will take place shortly.

Parliament adopted an address to the supreme bodies of authority in union and autonomous republics, urging them "to pool efforts for constructive activity."

The address says about the need to coordinate the elaboration of principles of a free and equitable market that "is to become the basis for a new union treaty".

Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoli Lukyanov proclaimed the third session of the national parliament closed. □

New law on taxation of enterprises

Moscow, June 14 - by Tass parliamentary correspondents Kirill Dibrova and Vladimir Isachenkov:

THE Soviet parliament today adopted a bill on taxation of enterprises, amalgamations and organisations.

The new law envisages a common taxation system for enterprises, irrespective of who owns them, and removes all payments to ministries' funds.

The law sets the following kinds of all-union taxes - on profits, turnover, exports and imports, income, growth in means allocated for consumption and collective farms wage funds.

The law determines that the basic profits tax rate amounts to 45 per cent. Twenty-two per cent of this goes to the union budget, and up to 23 per cent to the republican and local budgets.

Other tax rates are determined for some categories of enterprises. State specialised banks, commercial and cooperative banks, insurance organisations will pay 55 per cent, and joint

enterprises with a foreign share over 30 per cent (only ten per cent for such enterprises in the Far Eastern Economic Region).

In addition, the law envisages that joint ventures in the material production sphere are exempt from paying profits taxes in the first two years of profitability (and for joint ventures in the Far Eastern Economic Region for three years). An exception is made for mining and fishing enterprises.

The law determines preferential taxation of profits allocated for scientific, research, experimental and design work, the mastering of progressive technologies, nature protection and organisations with social, cultural and charity aims.

A 30 per cent tax rate has been determined for foreign enterprises. Preferential terms are granted to them on the part of profits allocated to nature protection measures on Soviet territory and to charity.

The law goes into effect on January 1, 1991. □

NEW BOOKLETS

The following are available at the prices shown:

- To Find Oneself..... 60p
- Our Way to Victory..... 50p
- Europe on the Eve of the
Second World War 50p
- Man and Politics..... 50p
- May Day:
a Hundred-year History 70p
- USSR Yearbook '90 £1.50
- USSR: Perestroika £1.00

*Please tick the appropriate box(es) and send cheque/PO to:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.*

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Yegor Ligachev on market, Agrarian reforms

"Let's ask the people what direction restructuring should take – to socialism or capitalism. Let's hold a national referendum," Politburo member and head of the Agrarian Policy Commission of the CPSU Central Committee Yegor Ligachev said in an interview published in Pravda on June 10.

Ligachev said he favoured a planned market economy based on public ownership of the means of production in the most diverse forms. "I am for a market where stable prices for basic consumer goods would be ensured and where there would be real guarantees against unemployment. I believe a socialist reform of our society should be conducted consistently, gradually and unswervingly."

Ligachev said private ownership of the means of production, irrespective of forms, leads to the division of people and to the differentiation of their interests. "There is nothing new in the proposal to restore private property. All this had happened in the past too. Those who advocate a free market are pushing us back to private appropriation of the results of the labour of other people and to their exploitation."

"The principle of freedom to the detriment of others is most dangerous. It has already brought mankind to the brink of a catastrophe in the

past, which, if we look at things unbiasedly was prevented by socialism, no matter how deformed," Ligachev said.

"We have already realised the destructiveness of such 'freedom' at the macro-economic level, when large units and republics try to secede from an integrated community, thereby harming other republics and peoples. This is why we are developing a mechanism for secession, which would reckon with the interests of all parties concerned. But we refuse to realise this at the micro-economic level, where this process is directed either towards destruction or creation. It is not without reason that delegates of the farmers' union have called for the economic substantiation of innovations."

Commenting on the recently formed Soviet farmers' union, Ligachev said: "A basically new socio-political organisation was set up in the country. It unites a whole class – the peasantry, as well as a part of the working class and intellectuals employed in the agro-industrial complex. This organisation will grow stronger and develop. If we had such an agrarian union before, we would have made, I am sure, much less mistakes affecting the peasantry, the countryside and agriculture in general."

Speaking about his recent trip to Sweden, Ligachev said: "We have studied the development of the cooperative movement in that country and methods of regulating socio-economic processes in society." □

Refusniks' problem outdated – Gerasimov

"THE 'refusniks' problem, which for many years was a pretext for accusing the USSR of human rights violations, is now practically non-existent," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Genadi Gerasimov said at a briefing in Moscow on June 13.

According to Gerasimov, 108,000 Soviet citizens left the USSR permanently in 1988. Only 0.7 per cent of them were refused permission to leave, mostly because of their knowledge of state secrets.

In 1989, 235,400 people were given permission to take up permanent residence abroad, Gerasimov said.

Speaking about the summer session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, he expressed hope that the agreement, signed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush in Washington on June 1, committing both sides to stopping the production of chemical weapons and reducing their stocks by more than 80 per cent, would give additional impetus to multi-sided talks on chemical disarmament.

(Continued from page 203)

system should be worked out immediately, Boiko stressed.

With a view to ensuring legal and economic conditions for the transfer to a market economy, the parliament instructed the government to work out a number of bills regulating new relations in economy by August.

The parliament also discussed a draft resolution on increasing retail prices of bread and bread products, suggested by the government. However, it evoked an especially sharp argument, and the discussion was postponed. □

Gerasimov commented on the resolution of the UN Security Council on extending until June 29 the functions of the UN team which monitors the cease-fire and disengagement of forces in Nicaragua, as well as demobilisation of the Nicaraguan resistance. The Soviet Union, he stressed, believes that this step by the Security Council would promote the final solution of one of the most entangled problems of political settlement in Central America.

After that Gerasimov said that agreement had been reached at a meeting of the Soviet and Dutch Foreign Ministers in Copenhagen on June 5, that Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek would pay a short working visit to the Soviet Union.

At present practical aspects of making the visit in late June are being coordinated, Gerasimov added.

The Soviet spokesman said that in accordance with an earlier arrangement, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would visit Japan early in September. Gerasimov said that the planned visit of the Soviet Foreign Minister to Tokyo would promote the widening of a political dialogue between the USSR and Japan.

Gerasimov then spoke about the regular round of the Soviet-US talks on nuclear and space weapons which began in Geneva on June 5. The delegations of the two countries, Gerasimov said, face intensive work in seeking solutions to outstanding questions in order to prepare the treaty for signing this year, in keeping with the instructions of their presidents.

From June 13-27 a group of Soviet People's Deputies, led by Alexander Orlov, Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Planning, Budget and Finance Commission, will visit the US. The Soviet spokesman said that the Soviet MPs will attend a seminar on problems of the modern economy at Princeton University. □

New Russian federation PM sets out goals

Moscow June 18 Tass – by Tass parliamentary correspondents Lev Aksenov and Dmitry Polunin:

The Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation today confirmed Ivan Silayev as the new head of the Russian government.

"The government's main aim will be to activate the economic mechanism that should ensure Russia's real economic independence as a sovereign state in the fold of the Soviet Union," Silayev said.

Delivering a report at the congress today, Silayev said that the unbalanced inter-republican goods turnover has led to the covert financing of other union republics from Russia's budget.

The Russian Federation's annual payments to the union fund exceed 100 billion roubles. At the same time, it receives some 30 billion roubles from the union budget, Silayev said. He said the government planned to take measures to fill the gap in mutual payments later this year.

Silayev described "full economic freedom of all producers on its territory" as an important condition for strengthening the Russian Federation's sovereignty.

He said the government planned to sell to private owners small enterprises in the sphere of services, consumer goods and domestic construction materials production and agricultural products' processing. The Russian market will be opened up to foreign firms.

Silayev paid considerable attention to his programme to revive Russian villages, and to plans in the social field. He stressed the need to safeguard the interests of the population, especially low-income groups. □

(Continued from front page)

In a brief address to the parliament, Silayev thanked the deputies for their confidence and promised to prove that he was not a conservative by his deeds. "All ideas and proposals by the champions of radical reform will be supported," he said.

Silayev expressed confidence that he would work in full accord with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The new Russian prime minister specialised in mechanical engineering. He worked at the Gorky aircraft building plant, and was promoted to deputy minister and Minister of the Aviation Industry of the Russian Federation. He then headed the USSR Ministry of Machine-Tool and Instrument Building.

During the past five years, he has headed the Council of Ministers' Bureau for Maching-Building, which coordinates the activity of four industrial ministries. He is also deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union and a member of the CPSU Central Committee. □

LENIN Mikhail GORBACHEV ON LENIN

Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the USSR and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a meeting to mark the 120th anniversary of Lenin's birth April 20, 1990.

price 30p from:
Soviet Booklets (SN),
3 Rosary Gardens,
London SW7 4NW.