

Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with West German President

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met the Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Richard von Weizsaecker, at the Catherine Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace on July 7.

Greeting the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the FRG, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is accompanying the President, Mikhail Gorbachev recalled that during the latest visit to Moscow last year the sides seemed to have agreed "to open a new page" in relations between the two countries.

It still remains to be filled and at one time there was a threat that it might be closed. Fortunately, that did not happen. It is in this context that we are viewing the current visit of the President of the FRG, Mikhail Gorbachev said.

In its attitude to the FRG the Soviet Union takes into consideration its potential and possibilities, its place in Europe and the world, and proceeds from the fact that the history of relations between the two countries rich both in dramatic and positive episodes binds both to treat each other in a befitting manner.

Mikhail Gorbachev recalled that even at the hardest times of the past war the sense of reality had not failed us. We had not mixed the German people and the Nazi regime. And we do not blame the German people for the suffering inflicted on us by Hitler's aggression.

We are building our current policy on a realistic appraisal of the possibilities of the FRG's participation in bringing about a change for the better in the entire situation in the world and in Europe. And quite naturally hope for a realistic appraisal by the leadership of the FRG of the Soviet Union's role and possibilities.

Renewing our domestic policy and carrying out the reorganisation, we believe that already at its first stage there emerge possibilities for elevating relations with the FRG, as with other countries, to a new level and for making them dynamic.

We can see in many strata of West German society a reciprocal striving for developing relations with us in various fields. Unpredictable things may occur. No one is guaranteed against them. But all issues can be resolved if the sides are committed to what is important and if they are following the line of principle.

The sides agreed that relations between such countries as the FRG and the Soviet Union

should be built on a solid and long-term basis with prospects extending as far as the year 2000 and beyond.

Mikhail Gorbachev welcomed Richard von Weizsaecker's statement about the Treaty of Moscow and other treaties of the FRG with socialist countries as the basis of the FRG's policy with regard to Eastern Europe. But when we hear it said again and again that the "German question" remains open, that not everything is clear about "the eastern lands", and that Yalta and Potsdam are not valid, this gives rise to doubt as to whether the FRG leadership intends to adhere to that treaty consistently, Mikhail Gorbachev said.

A solid nature of relations between our countries at present and in future will be met with an adequate response from the Soviet leadership, Mikhail Gorbachev said. But what is needed for such relations is a policy that would not be subjected to vacillations, circumstantial reactions to events and which would reflect the interests of the sides, and not of somebody else. There is an opportunity to review relations between the two countries. We are prepared for this, but it is necessary to get rid of complexes, of political myths, of viewing the Soviet Union as the enemy image.

Solid relations between the FRG and the USSR would be of truly historic importance. Remaining what they are within their systems and alliances, both states can play a very large role in world development. The stability of relations between them means European stability, suits their own interests, the interests of the European states and the world community of states.

Here was an animated exchange of opinion about the notion of the "common European home", about the role played in this by the Helsinki process with its "three baskets". European construction is unthinkable without the vigorous participation of the USSR and the FRG. The Soviet Union is interested in the FRG

having reliable security. It is prepared to be filling jointly the "second basket", that is consolidating the material basis of European development, expanding and upgrading economic ties. It is prepared for a broad exchange on the "third basket". This is also quite possible, if it is not used for interference in internal affairs in future. Despite definite accents and nuances in the approach to the construction of a peaceful Europe, the similarity on this matter has manifested itself in the main things.

Pondering on the concept of the common European home, the interlocutors touched upon the problem of integrational processes in the East and West of Europe, and agreed it is time to start thinking of a common European process which could serve Europe as a whole. Mikhail Gorbachev in this connection pointed to serious damage that such elements of integration in Western Europe as those oriented at the creation of new kinds of up-to-date weapons, instead of nuclear weapons, can do to everyone. And this at a time when the question of the reduction of armed forces and all kinds of armaments in Europe, including conventional ones, acquires special importance.

The greatest problems: of survival, ecology, the scientific and technological revolution and its social consequences, information exchange, energetics and population face humanity. These problems can be resolved if the new thinking is used as a guide and the psychology of dinosaurs is abandoned, Mikhail Gorbachev said.

Richard von Weizsaecker dwelt on the issue of the German nation. Mikhail Gorbachev replied that he did not intend to theorise on this notion in this connection. What is important now is the political aspect. There are two German states with differing socio-political systems. They have their own values. Both of them had learnt lessons from history and each can make its contribution to European and world affairs. And what will be in one hundred years will be decided by history.

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Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to participants in Soviet-America 'Peace Walk'

A GROUP of participants in the American-Soviet "Peace Walk" from Leningrad to Moscow via Novgorod and Kalinin, from June 14 to July 8, addressed a message to Mikhail Gorbachev. A number of American marchers also sent their own individual letters to him.

"The Soviet leadership", Mikhail Gorbachev wrote, referring to the Soviet-American 'Peace Walk', "backs such initiatives, as they are bound to establish good-neighbourly relations between ordinary people in various countries, break down old stereotypes and help the creation of an image of a partner and friend instead of the image of an enemy."

"I share the feeling of profound concern",

the Soviet leader wrote, "expressed in your messages, over the threat of a nuclear holocaust that looms dark over mankind and which can destroy everything living on this planet. From all standpoints, including, of course, from the standpoint of morality, the time has come to part with nuclear thinking, to beat swords into ploughshares and devote the funds thus released to social needs and creative purposes. It is our conviction that the sole alternative to the policy of nuclear suicide and a guarantee of mankind's survival is the creation of a non-violent world, a world free from nuclear weapons."

"For everyone who treasures peace the Soviet Union is a firm and staunch ally in the effort to attain these truly sacred goals of mankind. This is the substance of our entire policy," Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised. "We will continue intensifying our efforts to make existing opportunities for progress along the lines of the abolition of nuclear weapons a reality." □

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Nikolai Ryzhkov's Vienna speech

THE Soviet Union's course of good-neighbourliness with Austria is a principled part of the Soviet Union's foreign policy and is not subject to time-serving change, said Nikolai Ryzhkov, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Addressing a dinner in Vienna on July 8 given in his honour by Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, Nikolai Ryzhkov said that the decades since the signing of the 1955 state treaty on the restoration of an independent and democratic Austria have become a period of favourable development of good relations between the Soviet Union and Austria, the shaping and strengthening of bilateral co-operation resting on the solid foundation of growing mutual trust, respect and mutual benefit.

"We are convinced," the Soviet Prime Minister said, "that in the present-day situation there are no small resources for further deepening and developing Soviet-Austrian co-operation, enriching it with numerous new aspects. The results of the first day of our visit are

good reason to believe that it is proceeding fully in the spirit of the traditional Soviet-Austrian good-neighbourliness and, as we hope, will contribute towards its further deepening and strengthening the fundamentals of European peace.

"In the course of the current Soviet-American talks in Geneva, the contours of an agreement on ridding Europe of medium-range nuclear missiles and theatre missiles of both sides seem to have become visible. The conclusion of such an agreement would be the first effective step on the path towards scrapping nuclear weapons, therefore it would be of an historic significance.

Specific proposals

"And we will perseveringly press ahead so that the drafting of an agreement be successfully completed on a basis acceptable to both sides. The main thing now is for NATO to stop piling up obstacles in the way towards an agreement.

"In connection with the prospect for the elimination of medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles in Europe, they in the West have ever more frequently told us about the need to settle also the problem of a fair cut in conventional armaments. But the door to that is wide open on our side. Together with its allies,

the Soviet Union put forward in Budapest a year ago specific proposals on a radical reduction of conventional arms and armed forces in Europe. We are ready to reach agreement on a cut that will not be detrimental to anybody's security and from which everybody will stand to gain. We are perseveringly pressing ahead for the start of business-like talks on the heart of that matter. But we have not yet heard a clear, positive response from the Western nations.

"The recent communiqué of the NATO Council can, in our view, be hardly regarded as such a response."

In that connection the Soviet Prime Minister stressed that although the USSR is not against discussing that problem between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member countries, it is also firmly convinced of the expediency of the participation in its settlement of other participants in the all-European Conference — neutral and non-aligned countries — including Austria. "We," he said, "raise this question certainly not because we consider a cut in the arms of these countries themselves to be such an urgent matter, but because we believe in the serious interest of their peoples and governments in ensuring lasting peace and security in Europe." □

TASS Statement on Soviet-US relations

Here follows the full text of the July 8 TASS statement

THE attention of the international public is now riveted on Soviet-US relations.

In many respects, it is precisely this context that will decide the question of whether the historic chance to overcome the confrontational development of the situation in the world, and to take the first step, and therefore a particularly difficult and necessary one, in the cause of ridding mankind of the nuclear danger will be utilised.

There are now prerequisites for the implementation of the accords reached in Reykjavik, first and foremost those on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, and, possibly, on other cardinal issues of nuclear disarmament.

The conclusion of such an agreement would

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No other approach is acceptable. If someone took another road, the consequences would have been very serious. There should be absolute clarity in this. He recalled the plans of Churchill and the Americans at the end of the war. The fact that it was not the Soviet Union that was to blame for the division of Germany. And today two German states are a reality. So, one should proceed from this.

Parting with the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mikhail Gorbachev praised the talk held for its substantiveness and openness. He expressed the hope that as a result of this visit and a further development of the top-level dialogue the new page in relations between the USSR and West Germany would be filled with positive content — political, economic, scientific and technical, sporting ties and contacts between the two countries citizens.

Eduard Shevardnadze, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Ambassadors Yuli Kvitsinsky and Andreas Meyer-Landrut attended the meeting. □

not only signify a breakthrough in the decisive field of security but would also promote a substantial improvement of Soviet-US relations, and international ones as well.

It is understandable that such a critical moment requires a particularly responsible approach and a well-considered policy in big and small things. Any ill-considered hostility, or, the more so, a deliberately fomented one, supported at the level of state leadership, is capable of preventing headway towards reaching agreement.

This is also understood by US ultra-rightist political circles which have set themselves as an objective to slam at the last moment and at all costs the slightly open door to agreement.

Those influential forces, as has already been the case in the past, have chosen virtually the periphery of bilateral relations as a springboard for their counter-offensive.

This time an anti-Soviet campaign, into which the Congress, some politicians who, in pursuit of popularity on the eve of elections, and, regrettably, individual representatives of the administration have been drawn, has been launched in connection with the construction of new embassy compounds of the Soviet Union and the United States in Washington and Moscow.

Pleading that the new US Embassy in Moscow has been ostensibly built almost on marshy ground and, besides, is "stuffed with Soviet listening devices", it is being demanded in the United States that Soviet diplomats be not admitted to the new building of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, that all that has been built in the two capitals be pulled down, and, besides, that the Soviet side make up for the cost of the work which has already been done. In other words, an ultimatum is being delivered.

One need not be particularly sharp to realise why it was decided to launch this anti-Soviet campaign at the construction sites in Moscow and Washington with an obvious intention to

disorganise the diplomatic work of the embassies at such an important moment.

It is precisely over there that US secret services are now trying to operate so unceremoniously. Quite recently they were again caught in the act. Vivid proofs of the mass planting of listening devices in the office rooms and living quarters of Soviet missions in the United States were shown to journalists simultaneously in Washington and Moscow.

The purpose of numerous antennas and other devices which the US Embassy in Moscow bristles with is no secret to anyone either.

Mentioning the location of the new Embassy of the USA, the site for it was selected by the Americans themselves and was included in the intergovernmental agreement signed by the United States in 1969.

The embassy site, as is known, is located practically in downtown Moscow. As far as the so-called technical penetration is concerned, the American side does not give concrete proofs. The attention of the US side has been repeatedly drawn to this circumstance.

Endeavours to conceal the unseemly demands of the US's own secret services by means of such an overt slander won't work. Any attempts at provoking, and at putting pressure on the Soviet Union are doomed to failure, of course.

As for the main thing, which the opponents of any improvement in international and Soviet-US affairs are trying to undermine, much in this respect will depend on a decision by the US leadership itself: whether it will have enough political will and boldness to resist the onslaught from the right or it will yield to the temptation to bolster up its positions through habitual anti-Soviet rhetoric and will roll back to the positions of confrontation.

One would like to believe that the US Administration is fully aware of possible consequences and will make the right choice. □

Andrei Gromyko's interview with American television company

THE five billion mark now reached on humanity's demographic scale is a kind of a toll of the bell in the clock of history. It is a warning that there is no time to waste and there is no putting off the resolution by common efforts of long-ripe problems, said Soviet President Andrei Gromyko. In connection with the announcement by the UN on July 11 of the "Day of the Birth of the 5,000 Millionth Man", he received Peter Arnett, Moscow correspondent of the US CNN television company and answered his questions.

Touching upon the problem of the population and its role in humanity's future, Andrei Gromyko pointed out that it is not the growth of the population which brought about problems of social inequality, poverty, unemployment, shortage of natural resources, pollution of the environment and, finally, military confrontation. These problems have existed for a long time in many countries with a very moderate rate of population growth.

Today, tremendous economic and social inequality remains, especially in the developing countries. It is by no means an outcome of the rapid population growth. In the developing countries, life expectancy is by far shorter than in the developed ones. But even in the developed countries man does not feel himself reliably protected against premature death. In many of them, the economic, social and ecological conditions are not always favourable to health and longevity.

However, the most dangerous threat looming over the 5,000 million human lives is posed by the constantly growing nuclear arsenals.

Andrei Gromyko declared for accepting a new

political thinking.

The realisation of the principle "Disarmament for Development" put forward by the Soviet Union, the use of the funds thus released to create and introduce effective industrial and agricultural technologies, which do not threaten the natural environment, elimination of inequality in international economic relations and transition from confrontation to co-operation in world politics are the outlines of the only sensible path of development left by history to us. If the world embarks on that path, the population problem will also be resolved.

Speaking on the role of the developed countries in world population matters, Andrei Gromyko noted that the global population problem cannot be resolved without the co-operation of all countries — both developed and developing ones, capitalist and socialist ones. It cannot be resolved without overcoming the economic and social backwardness of the developing countries. This takes the creation of a new international economic order, the elimination of non-equivalent exchanges of goods between the developed Western nations and the developing Asian, African and Latin American nations. It is necessary to free the developing nations from the yoke of debts which threatens to hamper their economic development, and open for them free access to the achievements of science and technology which are the property of the whole of humanity.

These provisions taking into account the interests of the developing countries themselves are spelled out in detail in the programme document on overcoming underdevelopment and establishing a new international economic order, which was adopted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states.

The implementation of almost each of the global programmes drawn up by the UN experts

takes the years remaining before the end of our century and such expenditure which is not greater than the annual expenditure on arms worldwide. The "Star Wars" programme alone can absorb more funds than are needed to eliminate hunger and malnutrition all over the world. The annual military spendings worldwide have reached a trillion dollars, i.e. are now equal to the aggregate foreign debt of the developing countries accumulated over a quarter of a century.

That is why putting an end to the weapons race and the switching of even a part of the military spendings on effective aid to the developing countries would contribute towards a radical resolution of the global problems, including the population problem, stressed the President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. □

Soviet parliamentary delegation in China

THE delegation from the Legislative Proposals Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, led by Georgi Razumovsky, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Legislative Proposals Commission of the Soviet of the Union, which is on a visit to China, visited the city of Dalian.

The deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet laid a wreath at the memorial to Soviet soldiers who died in battles against the Japanese aggressor.

During a warm and friendly meeting the leaders of the City People's Congress told the Soviet MPs about Dalian's economic development, the improvement of the living standards of its people as well as the implementation of the policy of extending ties with the outside world, in which a big role has been assigned to Dalian.

The sides expressed confidence that the Soviet delegation's visit to China would contribute to a further strengthening of co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in the interests of the people of both countries.

The Soviet MPs noted that during their visits to Beijing, Shanghai, Changzhou, Shenyang and Dalian they saw how the Chinese people, led by the Chinese Communist Party, were achieving positive results in social and economic development by finding new ways of raising efficiency.

They stressed that it was important to share mutual experience. The necessity for good-neighbourly relations between the two great nations is especially visible in Dalian which has many symbols of the common struggle for freedom and independence and provides considerable evidence of fruitful Sino-Soviet co-operation.

The Soviet MPs visited the sea port of Dalian, a number of industrial plants and construction sites.

The same day the Soviet delegation ended its visit to China and left Beijing for home.

At Beijing Airport the delegation was seen off by Sung Rufen, Vice-Chairman of the Judicial Commission of the National People's Congress, and other Chinese officials. □

(Beijing, July 11, TASS)

New Times: Interview with Soviet visa official

IN compliance with the Constitution of the USSR and the Soviet Union's international commitments, the letter and spirit of the Conference on European Security and Co-operation and last year's meeting in Berne, the Soviet Government is working to make human contacts and reunification of families simpler to arrange, said Rudolf Kuznetsov, head of the Soviet Visa and Registration Office at the Ministry of the Interior of the USSR. He granted an interview to the Soviet foreign-language weekly *New Times*.

The document on the procedure for entering and leaving the USSR, which came into force on January 1, 1987, notably broadened the list of persons who are permitted to leave the country and take permanent residence abroad — it is now sufficient to receive an invitation from not only husband, wife, mother, father, son or daughter as was the case previously, but also from natural sisters and brothers. As a result, in the first five months of this year 8,000 people received permission to leave the country. This is 50 per cent more than in the entire duration of 1986.

Rudolf Kuznetsov emphasised.

Rudolf Kuznetsov said that after the publication of the document — this happened in the Soviet Union for the first time — "we have received many letters expressing the views and suggestions of citizens. Some of the suggestions have already been taken into account in everyday work. For instance, mutual trips can now be arranged not only for meeting one's close relatives, but other relatives as well, and also with one's acquaintances."

There are other changes that were introduced into the rules after their publication. For instance, the provision which lists whose consent a person is obliged to receive when applying for permission to leave the Soviet Union. It was made more specific. Now it is sufficient to have the consent of one's father, mother and former spouse (if minor children are involved). The consent of one's son, daughter, brother or sister is needed only in cases when they are living together and have a common household. In principle, the need for that raised no objections — it is only fair that the rights of those who are going to leave the country and those who are staying should be equally ensured, said Kuznetsov.

Answering the question about other

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M E S S A G E

To the Parliaments and Parliamentarians of the Countries participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation

Here follows the full text of the message from the Warsaw Treaty member-states to the parliaments and parliamentarians of the countries participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation

WE, presidents of the parliaments of the Warsaw Treaty member-states, having discussed at our meeting in Warsaw vitally important issues related to the development of the situation on the European continent and the world as a whole, deemed it to be our duty to address this message to you.

At present mankind is faced with the choice: either the fruits of its genius and labours will ensure the scaling of new heights in the development of civilisation or increasingly effective and destructive types of weapons will call into question the further existence of the very life on Earth. There is only one reasonable choice and it should be made without delay.

All who bear the responsibility for the destinies of nations should discard prejudices and stereotypes which have struck roots in international relations. Today when there exist enormous arsenals of nuclear weapons posing a threat to the very survival of mankind new approaches to problems of peace and war are vitally needed. A new political thinking in line with the stern realities of our epoch is needed. It is underlain, as we believe, by the recognition of the fact that war is unthinkable and should be banished from the life of society and that security — whether that of individual countries or entire continents — can be only mutual.

The senseless arms race has been going on for many decades and it has not only failed to enhance the security of either side, but, on the contrary, is putting up ever new obstacles on the road to it. Genuine security for all and for everyone does not depend on nuclear deterrence or on the might of the military potentials, but on common actions in the name of creating a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world for the benefit of the living and succeeding generations.

We are sure that the creation of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, the realisation of the programme for a stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons and of other weapons of mass destruction by the end of the century, the establishment of mutually beneficial co-operation in the various fields and in tackling global problems of the present time would come in line with the vital interests of countries and peoples. This is precisely what millions of people are waiting for. These are the aims of the initiatives set forth by the Soviet Union, all Warsaw Treaty member-states, and of the constructive proposals of other countries directed at enhancing security in Europe and the world as a whole.

The parliaments as supreme bodies of state authority which are fully responsible to their nations have sufficient powers and political authority to make a tangible contribution toward resolving such key problems of disarmament, as:

— The elimination of all American and Soviet medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe and an undelayed conclusion of an agreement on that matter;

— a radical reduction of strategic offensive arms with the simultaneous strengthening of the regime of the ABM Treaty;

— the prevention of the emplacement of weapons in space, the prohibition of anti-satellite systems and of "space-to-Earth" weapons, the use of space exclusively for peaceful purposes;

— a complete ban on nuclear tests;

— an early prohibition of chemical weapons and their elimination the world over;

— a radical reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments on the entire territory of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, ensuring lower intensity of military confrontation with the simultaneous maintenance of the military balance at an ever lower level and the corresponding reduction in the military spending of states;

— the establishment of an effective system of verification — national and international — to monitor the process of disarmament.

The development of the international situation has of late been creating prerequisites for reversing the dangerous course of events. The Reykjavik meeting between the leaders of the USSR and the US, gave a tangible impetus to the disarmament talks, laid down the foundation for an agreement between the USSR and the US on the elimination of entire classes of nuclear weapons in Europe and demonstrated that it is possible to rid the world of the burden of nuclear weapons.

The task now is to realise those hopes and give them a legally binding form of concrete agreements. We are increasingly aware that the parliaments of all states, primarily those in the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries, bear special responsibility for making practical steps toward the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. It is in the best interests of nations to give full support for progress at the Soviet-American talks.

In this context efforts to put US nuclear warheads for West German Pershing-1A missiles beyond the framework of an agreement between the USSR and the US on medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe appear to be unacceptable.

The nations of our continent and the entire world want creative and constructive co-operation. And it is our duty to pave the way for it.

So let us pool our efforts for this end and put up a stout barrier in the way of the military threat!

All of us — in the West and the East — regardless of the ideological positions and political views are aware that mutual trust is one of the fundamental factors of detente and peaceful co-operation. Proceeding from this, the Warsaw Treaty member-states at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Berlin proposed to the member-countries of the North Atlantic Alliance to expound the intentions by which both military-political alliances are guided in relation to each other and jointly analyse the

character of their military doctrines. The Warsaw Treaty member-states set forth the fundamental provisions revealing the defensive essence of their doctrine, emphasising at the same time that they would never be the first to use nuclear weapons. We are sure that constructive joint work to compare the doctrines would largely assist in dispelling the atmosphere of mistrust in Europe.

Considering the military political situation that is taking shape in Europe, we attach great significance to steps designed to lessen military confrontation and enhance security in individual regions of Europe, to the establishment of zones free from nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans, in central and northern Europe. We are urging the parliaments and parliamentarians of the countries participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation to consider carefully the plan advanced by the Polish People's Republic for reducing armaments and building up trust in central Europe and the well known proposals put forward by the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

For our part we give due credit to all reasonable initiatives and are ready to study most carefully the relevant proposals made by NATO, neutral and non-aligned European states — proposals aimed at improving the international political climate — to seek jointly and back mutually acceptable solutions to the existing problems.

The parliaments of the countries participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation are playing an ever more important role in actively promoting processes developing on the basis of the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. We attach great significance to the strict observance by all participants in the CESC process of the principle of inviolability of frontiers and of the territorial and political realities that took shape in consequence of the Second World War as a necessary condition for safeguarding peace on the continent — the common home of the European nations. It is our firm conviction that strict respect for national independence and sovereignty of states, non-intervention in their internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of force, renunciation of hostile propaganda that kindles hatred to other peoples and countries, respect for human rights and basic liberties, primarily, the right to life and peace, come in line with the fundamental vital interests of the European community.

Guided by the will of our electors we are bringing into the fore support for practical efforts aimed at lowering the level of confrontation and developing widescale mutually beneficial co-operation in Europe. We believe that it is the duty of all states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation to promote in every way the successful completion of the Vienna meeting and

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Communique on visit of Mexican MPs to Soviet Union

A DELEGATION of the National Congress of Mexico led by Chairman of the Senate Grand Commission and the Standing Commission of the Congress Senator Antonio Riva Palacio paid an official visit to the Soviet Union from July 2 to 9 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The delegation was received by Andrei Gromyko, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The delegation met and talked with the Avugust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, chairmen and members of the permanent commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The communique issued in Moscow on July 10 on the visit says that in an exchange of views on key international issues the MPs of the two countries pointed out with satisfaction the concurrence or closeness of the stands of the USSR and Mexico on the key issues of war and peace.

The Mexican MPs pointed out that the Soviet proposals on the elimination of nuclear weapons

are received with approval. In that connection the sides stressed the special significance for strengthening peace of the Soviet proposals on the elimination of medium-range missiles and other nuclear weapons in Europe; the signing of an agreement on medium-range missiles would be a practical step on the way towards the common aim — total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The participants in the meeting declared in favour of concluding at the earliest date a treaty on a total ban on nuclear weapons tests, for strengthening the international mechanisms for the prohibition and elimination of chemical and biological weapons and the creation of an international regime directed at developing nuclear power engineering for peace.

The MPs of the two countries have expressed serious concern about the existence of seats of tension and conflicts in various parts of the world and strongly declared in support of the constructive efforts of the Contadora Group and the group for its support directed at a just, balanced and durable political settlement of conflicts in Central America through negotiations, since this is the demand of all the Latin Americans supported by the Central American countries and based on the principles of non-interference in the home affairs of states, self-determination of peoples, peaceful settlement of disputable issues and co-operation for development. Both sides pointed out that the

present-day situation in Central America is a consequence of the serious economic backwardness of the countries of the region, which is a source of injustice and a crying inequality, and rejected the attempts to present it as the result of a so-called "East-West confrontation".

They stressed the great significance of a collective quest for ways for a peaceful settlement of crises in the world such as the seats of tension in the Middle East, in some Asian and African countries.

The Soviet and Mexican MPs have condemned the use of force for the attainment of political aims and any forms of terrorism.

The deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet have declared in support of the striving of the Latin American nations to press ahead for the strengthening of the nuclear-free status of Latin America (the Treaty of Tlatelolco). Both sides have expressed support for the idea to declare the South Atlantic to be a zone of peace and co-operation.

The MPs of the two countries, the communique says, believe that disarmament and development are in an organic interconnection with progress and mankind's survival and declare for the convocation of an international conference on that problem in autumn this year under the aegis of the United Nations Organisation.

Mutual satisfaction was expressed with the state of Soviet-Mexican relations. □

New foreign policy philosophy

THE Soviet Union's new foreign policy philosophy evolved not at an empty place, says Academician Yevgeni Primakov in an article entitled "New Foreign Policy Philosophy", published in *Pravda* on July 10.

The growing inter-dependency of the modern world is epitomised not only in the problem of survival common to all its parts, but also in the existence and development of the world economy, in the presence and sharpening of the interests of the whole of mankind related to preserving the natural environment, stamping out the backwardness of the so-called Third World, overcoming diseases, developing new sources of energy, and using space and the world's oceans for mankind's progress. The realisation of all this underlies the new foreign policy philosophy.

The new foreign policy philosophy should, first and foremost, be realised in new conceptual approaches to the problem of security, the article says.

First, political measures are moved to the fore in ensuring states' security. Their function are understandings and agreements between the USSR and the United States, the Warsaw Treaty and NATO on arms reduction, confidence-building measures and the development and introduction of a comprehensive system of international security.

Second, definite changes should cover the military component. While nuclear weapons exist in the world, the strategic parity between the USSR and the United States will retain a stabilising significance. At the same time, in this period adequacy is realised in scaling down the level of parity. This tendency should

become a mainstream one. It is served by the Soviet proposals of January 15, 1986 providing for stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons and other mass annihilation systems.

Third, the security of some states cannot be ensured at the expense of the security of others. The quest for a military edge inevitably bodes ill for those who pursue it, since the other side will necessarily look for and find counter measures. The new foreign policy philosophy takes into account the need to recognise the objective nature of the national interests of various countries.

Fourth, the new foreign policy philosophy should comprise renunciation of the horizontal spread of confrontation between the USSR and the United States, the Warsaw Treaty and NATO. In this connection, the renunciation of considering regional conflicts through the prism of Soviet-US rivalry assumes particular importance, the article emphasises.

Is the new philosophical approach on the part of the USSR to foreign policy issues productive?

Sometimes, this is perceived as concessions on the part of the USSR. And, indeed, one should say most definitely that in a number of cases they are really present and are meant to bring the matter to a common denominator on the arms reduction issue. But these are concessions to common sense rather than retreat under US pressure.

We proceed from the premise that the new approaches to world affairs by which the Soviet policy is guided are not only the solely possible in current conditions but are also absolutely realistic, the author concludes. □

USSR ceases whaling

THE complete cessation by the Soviet Union of whale fishery is an important step showing the USSR's constructive approach to the solution of global problems of environmental protection, Nikolai Kudryavtsev, a First Deputy Minister of Fisheries of the USSR, said in the newspaper *Pravda* on July 13.

Nikolai Kudryavtsev emphasised that the Soviet Union fully shared the desire of the international community to restore and preserve, as soon as possible, the stocks of whales, undermined by rapacious whaling, chiefly by the United States, Norway and Britain, in the last century and at the beginning of this century.

The Soviet Union's proposal to revise the international convention on regulating whale fishery and lend largely a research and nature-protecting character to it was also prompted by the desire to restore whale stocks.

"Despite the termination of whaling, we support principles that combine measures to protect animals and the rational limited hunting of species whose amount allows to do so", Kudryavtsev said.

"This is why resumption by the Soviet Union of this or that kind of hunting or fishery can be considered, with other factors also taken into account, only if scientists come to a decision on the possibility to do it on a strictly scientific basis." □

The Bondage of Debt

A booklet prepared by the Institute of Latin America, USSR Academy of Sciences

Price 30p

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REFORM: NO WALK-OVER

By Alexander Guber, Novosti correspondent

WHAT is holding up the economic reform started in the Soviet Union? Of all the reasons, objective and subjective, there is one that appears to stand out: this is a really sweeping reform. It does not mean just reorganising managerial bodies, replacing some of them by different ones or reshuffling managerial staff: it means changing the very approach to management.

The basic ideas of reform were formulated back in April, 1985. The modalities for putting

them into effect were produced two years later — at the full meeting of the CPSU Central Committee last month. These mean translating the ideas into practice and starting an enterprise that nobody can shrug off.

Indeed, how did it all happen before? There was many an attempt at reforming the machinery of economic management in our country. We had some good, forward-looking concepts, yet they all produced nothing beyond a surrogate reform, with new ideas being gradually reduced to old substance. That happened because those reforms never reached the shop floor, never engaged the worker at the point of production. It was like a

wind in a forest, whistling through the tops of the trees, yet breaking no silence at their foot.

This time it is at the foot that the whole thing has been started. Basic to the reform is the Law on the State Enterprise (Amalgamation). It means, just as the whole of the restructuring effort does, going over from management by injunction to management by cost-benefit methods at all levels.

Everybody has still to get used to it. There has to be a real overhaul of long-established stereotypes and a reappraisal of values and men.

At one time factory managers were all believed to want independence, holding the lack of it to account for output shortfalls and failure to keep pace with technological advance. And, of course, the workers were thought to be unquestionably in favour of the cost-benefit methods of management. So it was only ministerial and State Planning Committee officials that were clinging on to the "do as you are told" tactics.

In actual fact, everything has turned out to be far more complex. To begin with, the primitive division into the "pro" and "con" groups burst like a soap-bubble in the face of reality.

Far from all managers like their "independence and the responsibility it has brought them. Many still prefer to report back to their superiors in the hope of getting away with it, rather than facing their own staff.

The workers' reaction is not black-and-white either. Everybody liked the opportunity to earn more under the new system. But you have to work hard, indeed, for it, lest your earnings should fall — not everybody welcomes that part of the deal. The habit of having a guaranteed minimum wage (whether you do your job well or you shirk it) dies hard.

Of course, you can't put all ministerial officials down as bureaucrats. They have for years been doing what they were required to do and applied the instruments they had (let me remind you that cost-benefit methods have just been brought in). Many of them are earnestly anxious to learn to work in a new way, with interest, not injunction, to rely on.

But to learn it is not a walk-over for anybody. Suppose you are a factory manager. You are accustomed to getting instructions for whatever you do and to reporting back on how you've carried them out. What's more, quite often this report of yours turned out to be more important than actual performance. But now you are told to decide everything on your own, your workers' earnings depend on you, and there is nobody to take care of them but you. So you, the manager, begin to figure out what you will do if your business partners let you down or the items you produce to meet your plan targets remain unsold? In earlier times you would have cabled to the ministry, which would most likely have come to your rescue. But now that doesn't work. You have to find a way out all by yourself, above all, to learn to think in economic terms: profit, normative standard, order, credit, market . . . with the new machinery of economic management in full operation at full capacity, no factory will get anything for nothing or give anything for nothing. So it will have to produce only the things that others will buy with their own hard-earned cash. It becomes economically impossible to work for the benefit of the stock-keeper, i.e. produce goods that are not in demand.

We have long prided ourselves on having nobody who would fear ruin, that is, a loss of job. Evidently, not everybody has come to realise that this social guarantee does not exempt one from the necessity to work to the best of one's ability. Now this assurance becomes doubly sure for a good worker and just marginally so for a loafer:

(Continued on next page)

At the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee has considered as a control the issue of the fulfilment of the decisions on supplying the population with building materials and meeting more fully the requirements in repair and building services, which were previously passed by the Party and the government.

The Political Bureau noted that this major socio-political task was still being accomplished unsatisfactorily. The tasks projected are not being fulfilled in their entirety, severe shortages of many building materials is still felt. The attention of central planning and supply bodies, a number of ministries and trade organisations was drawn to the inadmissible tardiness and irresponsibility in carrying through the decisions made on these issues. The Political Bureau strictly warned the persons who are held responsible for thwarting plans to supply the population with building materials, build cottages, advance the services for the repair and building of housing, outhouses and garages.

Ministries, departments and local bodies were entrusted with enhancing their personnel's responsibility for meeting scrupulously the

assignments fixed, head off acts of indiscipline in accomplishing the decisions by the Party and the government. The issue of satisfying citizens' vital requirements should constantly be in the focus of attention of ministries and departments, Party and Soviet bodies at local levels, the people's control and the mass media.

The Political Bureau adopted a resolution on the use of uninhabited houses and subsidiary plots in a number of rural areas of the country. It allows the sale of unoccupied houses to citizens permanently residing in cities and urban-type villages on conditions of concluding an agreement with a state farm, a collective farm or other enterprise for growing farm output on personal plots or on other lands leased for these purposes and for the sale of surplus farm produce.

It is envisaged that such houses will be sold with the consent of rural soviets (councils) of people's deputies, collective farms and other enterprises on whose lands they stand. It is meant that they will be sold on applications from work collectives of enterprises, organisations, institutions or executive councils of district (city) soviets of people's deputies. Applications for the purchase of houses filed by participants in the Great Patriotic War, labour veterans and families with many children will be met in the first place. □

(Continued from Page 256)

the adoption by it of tangible and balanced solutions on the issues discussed.

We believe that Europe which was the trail-blazer of detente is now capable, more than ever before, of adding new impulses to the constructive and creative interaction in the name of security and co-operation and to positive changes on our continent and the world as a whole.

Proceeding from the objective necessity of imparting proper dynamism to the CESC process, we are setting forth the proposal for closer interaction between the parliaments of the countries belonging to both military-political alliances and of all states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, including within the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Along with joint moves by the parliaments in the domain of disarmament we are prepared to develop far-reaching ties and contacts on all issues of vital interest to nations, including the

coordination of measures aimed at promoting co-operation in the economic field, science, technology, culture and environment, in social and humanitarian spheres and in creating treaty and legal foundations for such co-operation.

Being confident that direct contacts and exchanges of views between the parliaments and parliamentarians who express the aspirations of our nations are an effective measure for building mutual confidence, we are unanimously backing the proposal of the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic to hold in Warsaw a meeting of the presidents of the parliaments of the states participating in the Conference on European Security and Co-operation and are urging you to accept it.

An historic chance for making headway jointly toward a durable and stable peace must not be missed. There is no time to be wasted.

So let us act and act vigorously in the name of preserving the human race and peace on Earth!

Presidents of the parliaments of the Warsaw Treaty member-states □
(Warsaw, July 9, TASS)

Disarmament: the Soviet Union's invariable goal

By Leonid Ponomaryov, TASS political observer

TWENTY-FIVE years ago the World Congress for Universal Disarmament and Peace that ended in Moscow on July 14, 1962 sent a message to peoples of the world which expressed confidence that disarmament was both vitally needed and possible.

Participants in the congress urged the governments of all the nuclear powers to reach agreements without delay on the termination of nuclear weapons tests and to conclude a treaty on the banning forever of all those tests in all the spheres.

The Soviet Union has invariably striven for this goal, because it realises that a universal nuclear test ban could serve as a major step forward on the way to the curbing of the arms race and to general disarmament. Guided by these considerations, a group of socialist countries put forward for the consideration of the disarmament conference last month in Geneva the draft

document "Main Provisions of a Treaty on General and Complete Nuclear Weapons Test Ban".

Disarmament programme

It provides for a settlement of a number of problems, such as the implementation of control and verification measures. Today, when the new Soviet proposals are opening up real prospects of a radical reduction of nuclear armaments, the problem of a general and complete nuclear weapons test ban is becoming especially topical.

It is worth recalling that on January 15, 1986 the Soviet Union published a broad programme for ensuring security through disarmament. It deals with a stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons till their complete elimination everywhere by the end of the current century, as well as with the elimination of other mass destruction weapons.

The Soviet Union has pledged never to be the

first to use nuclear weapons. For a year and a half the USSR refrained from staging any nuclear explosions. By these and other actions it demonstrated flexibility and readiness to get the disarmament problem out of an impasse.

The problem of the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe is being considered at the Soviet-American talks in Geneva. If NATO removes the obstacles put up by it, an agreement on this issue would be the first effective step on the way to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The appeal made from the rostrum of the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace continues to be topical today, because the arms race is intensifying tension and mistrust in interstate relations. This, in its turn, speeds up the arms race. These two factors form a vicious circle. The Soviet Union is demonstrating by concrete actions how it is possible to get out of this circle through consolidating peace and confidence among nations. □

Vneshtorgbank: credit agreement with Midland Bank

Midland Bank plc will take part in financing large Soviet-British projects, in particular a polyester complex in Budennovsk, the northern Caucasus, to be built by John Brown, and a textile mill in Saratov, the Russian Federation, to be modernised by Courtaulds. This is envisaged by a six-year credit agreement signed in Moscow on July 8 by the USSR Bank of Foreign Trade (Vneshtorgbank) and Midland Bank PLC. The agreement involves 50 million US dollars.

Midland Bank plc has been financing bilateral commercial operations and economic projects between organisations and firms of the two countries for 80 years, the bank's director and chief executive Herve de Carmoy told a TASS correspondent. Soviet organisations have received credits worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The bank is satisfied with the development of co-operation with the USSR and expects a significant increase in its future operations, Herve de Carmoy stressed. The restructuring of

the Soviet economy would open up new possibilities, he noted. Bank representatives came to the Soviet Union also to get first-hand information about major changes under way in the country and determine new ways and forms of business co-operation.

At present Soviet organisations and British firms are discussing joint projects valued at some 500 million pounds. Midland Bank PLC is interested in financing some of these projects, the director said. □

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JOINT VENTURE

THE joint Soviet-West German venture Homatek is to start production of machine-tools in less than six months. The papers on the setting up of that machine-building firm were signed on July 7 by senior officials of Moscow's Ordzhonikidze Production Organisation Stankostroitelny Zavod (machine building

works) and the West German firm Heinemann Maschinen and Anlagenbau GMBH.

Homatek is to manufacture metal-processing equipment, including lathes, machining centres and flexible production systems. The machine-tools will be built with the use of the parts, assemblies and plant items manufactured by the Moscow works, the Heinemann firm and other Soviet and foreign manufacturers.

The Ordzhonikidze Stankostroitelny Zavod provides among its contributions to the founding of the enterprise a plot of land, buildings, some types of equipment and funds, the Heinemann firm — precision equipment, automatic design systems, other equipment and funds.

The products of Homatek are to be supplied to the Soviet market and also abroad through the commercial network of Heinemann. The founders are planning to increase the output of machine-tools in five years to reach 160 units annually. □

(Continued from previous page)

he won't be left out of work altogether, but he may lose the particular job he has at the moment.

Thousands of problems crop up every day. They all have to be resolved. But the main thing already is this: people are coming to drop the idea of getting instructions from those at the top only. Another one is gripping the minds of the masses. It is that this process of reform is a way to a fuller and prosperous life and everyone has to go the whole hog. □

The Prospects for our Co-operation Are Good

Vyacheslav Sychev,
Secretary of the CMEA

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A new Novosti booklet from APN Moscow available from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW (01-373 7350).

Inefficient producers will close

By Gennadi Pisarevski, Novosti political analyst

LAST year 13 per cent of Soviet industrial operators failed to return costs. How do inefficient operators manage to keep afloat?

In my country, such operators fared well for decades with subsidies they receive from the profits of more efficient producers. This is an example of egalitarianism or more and less successful producers getting equal pay. Such altruism at public expense is an insult to social justice.

Levelling is probably the most neglected Soviet economic ill. Now that the nation is retuning its efforts in all fields, we are tackling this issue in earnest. Beginning from 1988, inefficient enterprises will be reorganised or closed. They will be liquidated if all efforts to make them pay have failed.

Some enterprises are sure to go broke. Unemployment? Yes, allege Western newspapers. This is logical, since if an enterprise

closes, workers will have to look for jobs elsewhere.

This, however, does not apply to the USSR, which has over five million vacancies in industry alone. It is the planners' fault that we have always had more jobs than hands.

We must change the employment pattern. We now have 73 per cent of the labour force in the production sector and the rest is in services. It should be the other way round.

Too many workers are doing manual jobs. Retraining or advanced training will soon extend to at least 20 million workers. Skilled workers, too, will have to be up to date vocationally. Ongoing education and training is a must in this age of high technology. For us, it is more difficult to organise this ongoing process than to give people work.

Let's face it. Some will have to say good-bye to their current trades and employers and maybe even move elsewhere. However, there will be no unemployment. □

Soviet trade unions: opening moves of reform

Here is a glimpse of the changes in the Soviet trade unions since their 18th Congress (Moscow, February, 1987). It is presented by Stepan Shalayev, Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU), the largest Soviet mass organisation (with a membership of some 140 million) in this interview granted to *Novosti* correspondent Yuri Katsnelson.

Novosti: There was some sharp criticism of the trade unions both before and at the congress. What was that due to? A "crisis situation" in the unions, perhaps?

Shalayev: No, there was no crisis whatsoever in the trade unions. When we talk of a radical reshaping of their work today, we do not mean a change of tack at all, but a substantial, in many cases, radical, enhancement of the role of the unions as a school of administration and management. That is, we want them to be more effective in fulfilling their fundamental and traditional functions and using their organising potential.

With a consistent effort in progress to promote greater democracy in Soviet society, the trade unions are obliged to help working people not just share in running production but run their enterprises and social and public affairs. In other words, to contribute towards passing over from democracy in general to direct democracy using, notably, the opportunities created for the factory and office workers by the enlargement of the economic autonomy of the enterprises. It is just because many of the trade union councils and committees were too slow in this sense that they were criticised.

Novosti: What about the unions' reaction to it?

Shalayev: Even at this point, we can speak of some real opening moves in this direction by the trade union system at various levels. For example, many factory unions have been taking the initiative in organising special schools of management, industrial economics seminars and

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innovations, Rudolf Kuznetsov said that all restrictions on the number of visits by Soviet citizens living abroad and trips of Soviet people abroad at their invitations had been cancelled. Previously, they were usually limited to one a year.

There is one more innovation. In the past Soviet citizens who lived abroad on a permanent basis were obliged, during their visits to the Soviet Union, to inform the Ministry of the Interior about their planned trips inside the country. That rule is no longer valid: a citizen of the USSR can go anywhere without any prior notifications. Further: former Soviet citizens who left for Israel but then settled in some other country and became its citizens can now invite their relatives to visit them.

Some other adjustments were introduced making it easier to come to the Soviet Union and leave the country, Rudolf Kuznetsov said. □

CONSTITUTION (Fundamental Law) of the USSR

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(Cheque, PO).

technological know-how universities. They proceed from the principle that economic training of working people is a point of concern not only to business executives but to the unions as well. For, indeed, the workers' material condition and wider opportunities for social development, i.e., matters that come within the scope of trade union activity, directly depend on overall enterprise performance.

The regional, territorial and republican committees of the sectoral unions, inter-sectoral trade union councils and the AUCCTU are restyling their work. To put it in a nutshell, the main thing for them is to lend practical assistance to the primary organisations and adopt more vigorous measures than ever before towards improving the workers' living and working conditions.

Novosti: What is the role of the trade unions in upgrading labour legislation? This point was raised at the congress also.

Shalayev: In 1982-1986, the AUCCTU submitted over a hundred proposals to the Government to improve the organisation of work, pay, the bonus scheme, and so on and so forth. All of those proposals won support, and many gave rise to joint decisions by the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the AUCCTU. We, for instance, have been the co-sponsors of such legal instruments as the Collective Labour Relations and Self-Employment Acts, and of the decision for setting up boarding-houses for labour veterans, improving the provision of protective outer garments, footwear and other things for individual protection, to mention just a few. But, as stated at the congress, those are by no means all of the matters in which the unions' legislative initiative can and must make itself felt.

Novosti: So how are those recommendations being met?

Shalayev: During the past few months, the AUCCTU has submitted to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the nation's top law-making body, some quite definite proposals formulated by delegates to the trade union congress. They

refer, in particular, to a revision of the factory and office holiday scheme and an extension of the minimum paid leave, or, for example, greater union involvement in fixing economic normative standards and prices, as well as in upgrading the legislation pertaining to the work and leisure of working women with young children.

All of these proposals are being examined by government departments in conjunction with the AUCCTU. The trade unions were most active also in drafting the State (Amalgamated) Enterprises Act, just passed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. They were its co-sponsors, too.

Novosti: In fulfilling their protective function, the trade unions have always cared about improving distribution according to work and getting wages and salaries increased. What is new in this respect?

Shalayev: Under the current five-year plan (1986-1990) pay rises will be particularly tangible. The pay rates for 75 million industrial workers will go up by 20-25 per cent, on average. And so will, accordingly, all of the pay ingredients — bonus, surplus and extra payments.

There is already some initial positive experience in introducing new pay rates and salaries, but it is too slow in gaining ground, in our view. Working people themselves and their union committees are not everywhere involved in this important drive. We have, for example, taken to task the Central Committee of the Medical Workers' Union for failing to use their rights in arranging for stage-by-stage salary increases in the health and social security services in good time. Unfortunately, there are many shortcomings — notably, through the fault of trade union committees — in the new bonus-awarding system, too. We are pressing for a real breakthrough towards producing a definition of the performance ratings and terms of bonus awarding tied to every worker's particular contribution to the overall performance, as stipulated in the Guidelines for the Fundamental Restructuring of Economic Management, approved by the June Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. □

Soviet public health system

THE Soviet Central Statistical Board has reported that there were 668,000 doctors in the Soviet Union in 1970, 997,000 in 1980 and 1,202,000 in 1986. The number of hospital beds were 2,663,000, 3,324,000 and 3,660,000 and first-aid stations 3,300, 4,400 and 5,100, respectively. Some 83 medical colleges, medical faculties at universities and 661 medical schools train doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. In 1986 225,000 medical students graduated.

The main thrust in Soviet medicine is to prevent diseases. More and more people are provided with accommodation at health resorts and holiday hotels every year. In 1987 over 15 million workers and office employees will receive free or discount vouchers to attend health centres run by their trade unions, and 16 million children will spend their holidays at Young Pioneer camps. The Soviet Union has drawn up an unprecedented comprehensive programme for the period ending in 1990, designed to prevent diseases and build up people's health.

In 1987 it will build hospitals with 72,900 beds and out-patient clinics for 182,100 patients

per shift. This is much more than the plan targets for this year.

The country's public health system is being restructured. Local medical bodies have become more independent in planning and management and the system of education in medical colleges has been revised. Additional financial sources have been found and entirely new structural subdivisions established — research and production associations, diagnostic centres, etc. Emphasis is being laid on the quality of work rather than quantity and a special medical certificate has been introduced to raise the doctors' responsibility for their patients. □

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance: its aims and activities

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