

Mikhail Gorbachyov's speech at reception for José Eduardo dos Santos

MOSCOW, May 6, TASS:

THE Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Government gave a dinner in the Grand Kremlin Palace today in honour of José Eduardo dos Santos, Chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola.

Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made a speech at the dinner. He said:

Esteemed Comrade dos Santos,
Esteemed Angolan Friends,
Comrades,

We are glad to see in Moscow again the Party and state leader of People's Angola, President dos Santos. I greet all the Angolan friends accompanying Comrade dos Santos on this visit. You are always our welcome guests. Effective solidarity with the struggle waged by the Angolan people under the leadership of the MPLA-Workers' Party is our constant policy.

Your visit, Comrade President, is taking place during a special and, I will say, very responsible and crucial period in the development of the international situation. The Soviet leadership is not dramatising the situation. But we cannot help realising that mankind has reached a point where its future and the fate of our planet, our home in which we all live, is to be decided. The stocks of weapons of mass destruction have already reached critical dimensions. Meanwhile, the arms race is going on and spreading into more and more areas. Imperialism is now trying to use virtually every scientific discovery first and foremost to produce new tools of death. Confrontation, which makes the arms race doubly dangerous, is going on.

We have just lived through another acute crisis, which was caused by the US attack on Libya, a sovereign state and a full-fledged member of the international community. The US Administration again showed itself to the world in the unseemly role of the strangler of the freedom and independence of the peoples.

The aggressor sustained a moral and political defeat in Libya. Virtually the entire international community condemned, in one form or another, the actions of the United States. But the White House would not calm down. It is bristling with new threats, now not only to Libya but also to Syria and Iran. This means that another crisis, caused by a striving for hegemony, can break out at any moment.

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|--------|
| Mikhail Gorbachyov's speech at reception for José Eduardo dos Santos | p. 229 |
| Soviet-Angolan communique | p. 230 |
| Eduard Shevardnadze meets Chedli Klibi | p. 231 |
| Communique on Hans Blix' visit to USSR | p. 232 |
| USSR Defence Minister's Order of the Day | p. 234 |
| Conference of solidarity with Libya and Syria | p. 236 |

No pretexts about "international terrorism", to every form of which the Soviet Union has always been opposed in principle, can justify the actions of the USA. These actions themselves are the worst manifestation of terrorism, state terrorism, when a strong power claims the licence of "lynching" countries it does not like.

An end must be put to all this. It is our profound conviction that the conveyor belt of the arms race must be stopped without delay and confrontation denounced. This must be done by all of us jointly, so to speak. Collective security alone can help preserve civilisation on Earth. It is becoming more and more obvious, too, that security must embrace all the spheres, military, political, economic and humanitarian alike.

It was proceeding from these realities that we formulated at the 27th Party Congress a programme for the establishment of a comprehensive international security system. What it amounts to actually is a qualitatively new approach to this problem. The task is to eliminate the very physical possibility of the threat of war. This prospect is obviously not to the liking of the military-industrial complex of the United States. That is why the struggle for a world without wars or weapons will be long and hard. But it is worth it. The very existence of humanity is at stake.

An important role is being played in that struggle by the peoples of the newly-free countries. This is no chance, as current confrontation and the arms race are putting an unbearable burden on their shoulders. Imperialism is seeking to sustain its truly appalling military spending at their expense. Parasitising on the body of peoples, it is bleeding them white, as the saying goes, and shedding crocodile tears, moreover, over the economic difficulties of its victims.

The machinery of indebtedness, now a component of the sophisticated system of neo-colonialist enslavement, is being used by imperialism in its attempts to rule the destinies of whole states and nations which have got into the snare of debts. They hope to buy, with new loans and credits, the emergent states' political independence, won in uphill battles with the colonialists.

Many African countries have found themselves in dire straits in the past few years. Their plight means tragedy for millions of people. It is leading to the further aggravation of the problems of backwardness, poverty, hunger, disease and appalling infant mortality, acute as they are. This also is terrorism of a sort, economic terrorism, on the part of imperialism.

(Continued on back page)

Andrei Gromyko holds Soviet-Argentinian talks

MOSCOW, May 13, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today received in the Kremlin Juan Carlos Pugliese, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of the Republic of Argentina, and the officials accompanying him on his tour of the USSR.

In the course of the talks, Andrei Gromyko stressed that the Soviet Union advocated and advocates the Leninist policy of peace. "We extend a hand of friendship to all states—both near and distant—in whatever part of the world they are located. We call upon all the peoples to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

"It is no wonder therefore that it is precisely in Moscow, the capital of our state, that the call was made by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, that the utmost should be done in order to have nuclear weapons completely eliminated before the end of the current century. The peoples received the statement as an expression of their own aspirations.

"All these thoughts were most vividly expressed at the 27th CPSU Congress.

"We are deeply convinced", said Andrei Gromyko, "that the Latin American countries, just as other peaceable states, do not want a sliding over the nuclear precipice. We call upon

the state leadership, the Parliament of Argentina, to continue vigorous struggle, along with other countries, for elimination of nuclear weapons and termination of all nuclear weapon tests. The resistance being put up by militaristic circles to these proposals can be broken only through joint efforts of all peace forces.

"The Soviet Union believes that no state has the right to impose on other countries a will and order from outside. It is the people themselves who determine the state system. Therefore the Soviet people denounce with indignation imperialist circles' attempts to dictate to other countries—be it in Latin America or any other region of the world—their canons of internal life. Any state which stands for truth and justice cannot but support Nicaragua's legitimate efforts to resolve its internal questions in accordance with the wish of its people."

Andrei Gromyko highly appreciated the efforts of Argentina, which along with other parties of the 'Delhi Six'—Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden—is making its constructive contribution to the struggle against the nuclear arms race and militarisation of outer space.

Juan Carlos Pugliese noted that the Soviet Union was in the vanguard of the struggle in defence of the principles of peace which Argentina was also upholding.

The sides expressed their intention to work for upgrading Soviet-Argentinian relations and noted in this connection the importance of the visit to be paid to the USSR by the President of Argentina Raul Alfonsín. □

Andrei Gromyko meets Angolan President

MOSCOW, May 7, TASS:

"HISTORY has not given us the right not to win in the struggle for peace, for national independence of the peoples of African states."

Although these words were said by Andrei Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, almost at the end of his conversation with José Eduardo dos Santos, the Chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola, they nevertheless reflect the substance of everything that was said during their meeting in the Kremlin today.

Studied first of all during the conversation were the problems of state development in

Angola and also the situation on the African continent as a whole.

"We know well that Angola has squared its shoulders as an independent state and is following the course of socialist orientation," said Andrei Gromyko. He assured the Angolan friends that the Soviet Union would always be on the side of those who come out for the national independence of peoples, and for strengthening state sovereignty. "The USSR is always prepared to share its rich experience of state development," Andrei Gromyko said.

The situation in Africa was analysed in detail. Andrei Gromyko said that this continent was one of the biggest arenas in which the forces of progress and reaction, war and peace, racism and the equality of races, apartheid and friendship of peoples clashed. "As to the actions of the United

States in respect of Africa, and in particular Angola, they are a manifestation of the Washington Administration's general line of whipping up international tension, increasing confrontation and fanning up regional conflicts," he continued.

In the struggle of the African states for freedom and independence the USSR had given and would further give them resolute support. In this connection mutual satisfaction was expressed with the steady growth of Soviet-Angolan co-operation in the political, trade, economic, scientific-technical, cultural and other fields. Both sides will work for the further development of co-operation between the supreme bodies of state power of the two countries—the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the People's Assembly of Angola. □

SOVIET-ANGOLAN COMMUNIQUE

MOSCOW, May 10, TASS:

THE Soviet Union and Angola expressed satisfaction with the fruitful development of mutually-advantageous relations on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation of October 8, 1976, says the joint Soviet-Angolan communique published on the results of the visit to the USSR by José Eduardo dos Santos, Chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola.

It was stressed that the treaty, whose tenth anniversary will be marked in the current year, was a reliable foundation for the further deepening of friendly Soviet-Angolan ties, and promoted the cause of ensuring the security of the People's Republic of Angola, its social and economic development.

During the exchange of opinions on topical

problems of the present-day international situation, the sides were united in assessing the sources of its present serious aggravation, the communique says. It was stressed that the militaristic course of the United States, its imperial policy and attempts to dictate its will to sovereign states underlay the heightening of international tension.

The Soviet Union and Angola condemned resolutely the United States' aggressive actions against Libya and assessed them as a gross violation of the United Nations Charter and of the norms of international law.

José Eduardo dos Santos stressed that the Soviet peace initiatives comprising every aspect of international security—the military, political, economic and humanitarian—met the vital interests of newly-free states and proclaimed that the People's Republic of Angola supported them.

The sides noted that an end to all nuclear testing and the holding of talks to work out an agreement on their complete ban in all the media should become an important step towards

curbing the nuclear arms race. The sides declared resolutely for preventing the spread of the arms race to space.

During the talks concern was voiced over the tension persisting in many areas of the world. The sides condemned the attempts of the forces of imperialism led by the USA to take advantage of regional conflicts for the purpose of interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Having thoroughly analysed the situation in southern Africa, the participants in the talks described it as explosive, as posing a threat to international peace, and expressed the conviction that this crisis situation could and must be settled by political means.

The sides attach much importance to the efforts of the Organisation of African Unity in the struggle against imperialist expansion, for complete elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid, for the consolidation of the political and economic independence of African countries, for peace and disarmament, the communique says. The Soviet Union and Angola declared in favour of vigorous practical steps aimed at turning Africa into a zone free from nuclear weapons and foreign military bases.

The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Angola condemned the United States' encroachments on Nicaragua's sovereignty and declared in favour of the achievement of an equitable and all-embracing settlement of the situation in the Middle East, on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the exercise of the Palestinian people's lawful right to the creation of their own state.

The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Angola expressed solidarity with the fighting people of Afghanistan, and confirmed their invariable stand in favour of the solution of the problems of South-East Asia by political means, through establishing a constructive dialogue between states of the area, as is suggested by Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

The participants in the talks pointed to the increased positive role of the Non-Aligned Movement in present-day international relations.

Both sides pointed to the importance of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, to be convened in May, 1986. They firmly believe that the coming session must work out effective measures of a comprehensive and long-term nature, with the aim of eradicating the root causes of the economic crisis in Africa and of ridding international economic relations of discrimination and arbitrariness. □

Soviet-Angolan talks

MOSCOW, May 6, TASS:

SOVIET-ANGOLAN talks were held in the Kremlin today.

Taking part in the talks from the Soviet side were: Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Eduard Shevardnadze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, both members of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee; Sergei Sokolov, Minister of Defence of the USSR, Nikolai Talyzin, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, both alternate members of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee; Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials. Taking part from the Angolan side were José Eduardo dos Santos, Chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA), and other party officials and statesmen of the PRA. The talks passed in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

The sides held a detailed exchange of views on key problems of the international situation. It was stressed that the CPSU and the Soviet State had been and remained actively committed to returning to detente in world affairs, maintaining a constructive East-West dialogue, and intended

firmly to follow the road of Geneva.

José Eduardo dos Santos confirmed Angola's unreserved support for the Soviet programme to create a nuclear-free world contained in Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement dated January 15, 1986, and for the concept of the foundations of a comprehensive system of international security, and stressed that the Soviet Union's peace proposals, if implemented, would become a turning point in the struggle to remove the threat of nuclear war, bridle the arms race, achieve disarmament and strengthen international security.

The sides expressed deep concern over the emergence of crisis situations in various parts of the world, which are used by imperialist circles to escalate international tensions and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

The Soviet side stated anew its invariable solidarity with the selfless struggle of the Angolan people in defence of their revolutionary gains, and its commitment to the obligations under the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between the USSR and the People's Republic of Angola.

In a business-like and comradesly atmosphere the sides examined in-depth questions of bilateral Soviet-Angolan relations. □

Eduard Shevardnadze meets Chedli Klibi

MOSCOW, May 13, TASS:

A CONVERSATION took place here today between Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, and Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, who is staying in the USSR on a working visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

The conversation covered the issues of work to improve the international situation. Chedli Klibi's attention was called to Soviet initiatives for ridding mankind of the nuclear threat and creating a comprehensive system of international security, set forth in Mikhail Gorbachyov's statement of January 15, 1986, and in the political

report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

The sides paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, which has deteriorated as a result of the US bandit-style attack on the Libyan Jamahiriya and the campaign of threats against Syria.

Eduard Shevardnadze declared solidarity with Arab nations in the face of the US-Israeli "positions-of-strength" policy. It was stressed that the piratic action against Libya and the anti-Syrian campaign of military pressure have made the situation in the Middle East very dangerous and fraught with the gravest consequences, going beyond the bounds of that region.

Chedli Klibi expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its solid support for Arab nations, including the Palestinian people, fighting for their national rights and against attempts by

imperialists and Zionists to thrust their will on them.

The sides stressed the urgent need for achieving through collective efforts an early, just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised that convening an international conference on the Middle East with the equal participation in it of all sides concerned, including the PLO, was the only right way to such a settlement.

Chedli Klibi said that this approach, which was identical with the decisions taken at pan-Arab forums, was supported in the Arab world.

During an exchange of opinions on the Iran-Iraq war, it was pointed out that putting an early end to it and settling contentious issues by political means would meet the interests of both countries and the cause of strengthening international security. □

Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, May 8, TASS:

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee reviewed at its meeting on May 8 the report of the governmental commission on the progress of work to remove the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

The Political Bureau noted that the commission and the local Party and government bodies were promptly taking the necessary measures to remove the consequences of the accident. In a difficult situation the Soviet people are displaying a high civic spirit, self-control and bravery. The personnel of the station, scientists, engineers, technicians, health care personnel, transport workers and army servicemen, all those who are taking part in the current activities, are working efficiently and dedicatedly. All the evacuees have been provided with housing, meals and health care in a short period of time. The population of nearby districts display cordiality and care for them.

The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium

of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions have passed a resolution on pay and provision of material benefits to the workers of enterprises and organisations in the zone of the Chernobyl atomic power station. It envisages additional measures for the job placement of the temporarily evacuated people, reparation for damages caused to them, and pay rates for the jobs involved in the removal of the consequences of the accident. In particular, additional incentive funds have been set up for the work collectives of enterprises and organisations operating in the zone of the atomic power station. Money has been provided to make lump-sum payments and to buy clothes and other basic necessities for the resettled population, to meet the costs of their meals and to cover their travel expenses. It has been ruled that disability benefits in cases connected with the accident or with the removal of its consequences will be paid at the rate of average earnings regardless of the work record or job. Free accommodation at health resorts will be provided for those who need it. A number of other measures have been formulated to improve working and living conditions for the evacuees and for the workers

of enterprises and organisations in the zone of the Chernobyl atomic power station.

The Political Bureau discussed measures to improve drastically the quality of output. A resolution passed by the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on this question envisages a complex of organisational, economic and legal measures to improve the technical standards and quality of output in the light of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress. The task is formulated to work for a situation in which newly developed machinery, equipment, materials and instruments should be on a par with or superior to the world's best models.

The meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee passed resolutions on a number of other questions related to further improvements in the economic mechanism and the development of the productive forces of the country, and related also to the implementation of the foreign policy course of the Communist Party and the Soviet State, aimed at ensuring peace and developing good-neighbourly mutually beneficial relations with all states. □

USSR-People's Republic of Angola: joint statement on southern Africa

MOSCOW, May 10, TASS:

THE Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Angola, guided by the interests of the consolidation of peace and universal security, deem it necessary to call the attention of the international community to the situation in southern Africa.

The explosive situation in southern Africa harbours a serious threat to universal peace. This situation is due to Pretoria's aggressive foreign policy and the unprecedented wave of repressions launched by the racists against the majority of the South African population and Namibia, illegally occupied by the racists. The US Administration, obsessed by imperial ambitions, acts at one with the racists. Just as in other areas

of the world, it tries in southern Africa to take political revenge, to prevent the victory of the forces of national and social liberation.

Having taken the side of the terroristic apartheid regime, Washington, in order to save that regime, connives with the attempts of the Pretoria racists to destabilise 'frontline' states, encourages the undeclared war the racists unleashed against the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique. The United States has passed on to direct anti-Angolan actions, by agreeing to supply the most up-to-date equipment to UNITA puppet gangs.

The racists and the imperialists hope to give a fight in the south to all of free Africa, reverse the process of national liberation and launch a counter-offensive with a view to asserting neo-colonialist domination throughout the African continent. This policy is directed against the

lawful rights of the peoples of African countries, also against the interests of the white population of South Africa for whom it will entail nothing but sacrifices and suffering.

Taking into account Washington's and Pretoria's growing aggressiveness with regard to the democratic system established by the Angolan people, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Angola reaffirm their principled position agreed upon at the tripartite Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations in Moscow in January 1986, that is, the readiness to undertake concerted actions in defence of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Angola.

The Soviet Union, adhering to the Soviet-Angolan Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation of October 8, 1976, reaffirms complete solidarity with the selfless struggle of the Angolan people

(Continued on Page 235)

Communique on Hans Blix' visit to USSR

MOSCOW, May 9, TASS:

ON the invitation of the USSR Government, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, visited the Soviet Union from 5 to 9 May 1986.

He was accompanied by the deputy director-general L. V. Konstantinov and the director of the nuclear safety division M. Rosen.

Hans Blix and the IAEA specialists accompanying him were received by Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Boris Shcherbina, and at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy.

In the course of the visit Hans Blix and the specialists were provided with information pertaining to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (NPS). Ways of further enhancing nuclear power safety by strengthening international co-operation and increasing the IAEA role in this area were discussed.

The Soviet experts gave the IAEA represent-

atives detailed information about the accident at unit 4 of the Chernobyl NPS and about the measures taken for the elimination of the consequences of the accident.

Hans Blix was informed that necessary operational personnel were present at the three undamaged Chernobyl NPS units, which are shut down.

He and his colleagues accepted an invitation to visit the Chernobyl NPS area, where they received additional information as to on-site conditions and measures being taken for the elimination of the consequences of the accident.

In response to a request from the director-general of the IAEA, the Soviet side expressed its willingness to provide, as soon as it is available, information on the accident, to be discussed at a meeting of nuclear safety experts in order to assist IAEA member-states to learn from this accident and thus further improve nuclear power safety.

The Soviet side is ready to provide the IAEA with information on the level of radiation from a station located at a distance of 60km from the NPS and from several other stations located

along the western border of the USSR; the agency will be distributing this information to national radiation protection authorities concerned.

The Soviet side stated that the accident would not affect the implementation of nuclear power development plans in the Soviet Union.

Ways of further improving nuclear power safety were discussed, as well as international measures which may be usefully developed within the framework of the IAEA in order to minimise possible consequences of nuclear power accidents. Both parties noted that such measures may include the development of a timely warning mechanism on radioactivity releases which could affect areas beyond national boundaries, the provision of information on background levels of radioactivity and the introduction of possible additional technical measures in nuclear facilities for the prevention of accidents and reducing their consequences.

Both parties stressed the importance of the IAEA's activities, those directed at nuclear safety as well as those directed at ensuring a totally peaceful utilisation of nuclear power. □

PRAVDA:

Press conference on situation at Chernobyl

MOSCOW, May 11, TASS: The following is the full text of Pravda's transcript of the press conference in Moscow on the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, held on May 9, 1986:

THE scientists and experts who are working to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station are providing ever more encouraging news.

With each day, the temperature of its damaged unit is dropping, and a gradual fall in the radiation level is being recorded. As a result, a possible threat to the health of the people in the zone directly adjoining the station is diminishing.

The state of the water and air environment in the NPS township, in Kiev, Minsk and other neighbouring cities does not give rise to alarm.

This in brief is the summary made by the

heads of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who visited our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

IAEA director-general Hans Blix (Sweden), his deputy L. V. Konstantinov (USSR) and director of the agency's nuclear safety department Morris Rosen (USA) addressed a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre on May 9.

The IAEA director-general described meetings with the heads of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy, the USSR Health Ministry, the USSR State Hydrometeorology Committee, and the USSR State Committee for Nuclear Power Supervision.

On May 8, the IAEA representatives flew by helicopter over the city of Chernobyl which is situated 18 kilometres from the NPS, and over the area of the station, and saw the damaged unit from a distance of 800 metres.

Blix said that in the course of the rather frank

talks and visual observations on the scene of the incident they succeeded in forming a sufficiently full, albeit preliminary notion of the accident and its consequences.

A detailed and authoritative description of the accident, its causes and consequences, said the IAEA leaders, would be provided by Soviet experts after necessary analysis.

Even at present, they pointed out, they were quite satisfied with the preliminary information and the positive development of events. The chain reaction had automatically stopped at the time of the accident.

This was indirectly confirmed by the fact that medical examinations of persons affected showed no evidence of high neutron flux exposure.

A large part of the radioactive releases consisted of the emission of short-lived radionuclides. Up to 50 per cent of the emissions were in the form of iodine 131.

(Continued on next page)

TASS ANNOUNCEMENT

MOSCOW, May 8, TASS:

Allegations that Soviet export goods and means of transportation are hazardous because of their "radioactive contamination" have been launched in the West in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station. A number of West European countries have taken measures to restrict the import of food products and other goods from the USSR and some European CMEA countries.

Such actions undermine the purposes of international agreements on trade, on economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation concluded between those countries and the USSR and are not in keeping with the generally-accepted practice of solving problems arising in international trade.

Competent state bodies of the USSR have taken and continue taking the necessary effective measures. Soviet goods and means of transportation do not pose radiation hazards either to the population of our country, or to citizens of other countries. □

Academician Velikhov on events at Chernobyl

KIEV, May 11, TASS:

"THE situation at the Chernobyl atomic power station no longer poses a major threat," the Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Academician Yevgeni Velikhov, told Soviet reporters today. He said today marked a turning point in the situation.

"Theoretically until today, there existed the possibility of a catastrophe since a large amount of fuel and reactor graphite remained in an overheated condition. Now that possibility is no more," Yevgeni Velikhov said.

"A new stage in the work is setting in now," the academician said. "It is necessary to take a whole number of measurements, carry out research, determine the spots that are contaminated the most. All this is already being done. Work is

being conducted to deactivate and encapsulate radioactive substances, as a guarantee against their getting into ground waters.

"Special work is being conducted in most difficult conditions of high radioactivity within the generating set. Much is being done by builders now. They are freezing the soil, and supplying large amounts of concrete with the aim of 'burying' the damaged reactor.

"When these measures are implemented, when the results of the research are summed up, the decision will be taken to resume the operation of the Chernobyl atomic power station," Academician Velikhov said. He said that within a definite period, whose duration would be determined by safety norms, the station would be put into operation again and would be generating electricity. □

Meeting at USSR Council of Ministers

MOSCOW, May 12, TASS:

A meeting of the Council of Ministers of the USSR was held today. It studied the draft state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1986-1990.

It was noted at the meeting that the draft five-year plan has been drawn up in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the directives of the Political Report of the Central Committee to the Party Congress and the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1986-1990 and in the Period to the Year 2000. With the aim of implementing in practice the Party's general line of accelerating the country's social and economic development, the draft includes assignments and measures

designed to achieve in the 12th five-year-plan period a fundamental change along all directions of economic activity, to place the national economy on the path of intensive development on the basis of scientific and technological progress, and to ensure a steady growth of the material and cultural standard of the Soviet people's life, and the strengthening of the country's economic and defensive might.

The Council of Ministers of the USSR approved in the main the draft five-year plan. It instructed the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the USSR to study, with the participation of the chairmen of the councils of ministers of the union republics, ministers and heads of agencies of the USSR, the draft plan provisions concerning the union republics, ministries and agencies of the USSR, with a view to establishing plan indicators generally on the level of the upper limit

of the targets set by the guidelines, improving the input-output ratios of the sections of the plan and ensuring a more even distribution of yearly assignments within the five-year-plan period.

It is of special importance, as was pointed out at the meeting, to intensify the work to perfect management and the economic mechanism, to switch all branches of the economy to new methods of management, to increase the initiative and vigour of the work collectives of amalgamations, enterprises and organisations, to further strengthen discipline and organisation, to fundamentally improve the training and re-training of personnel in accordance with modern demands.

The meeting was addressed by Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. □

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Professor Rosen positively assessed the method used by the Soviet experts of absorbing radiation with the help of a shield made up of sand, boron, clay, dolomite and lead.

As a result, the radioactivity level had dropped in the 30-kilometre zone within a short time, and the necessary shift personnel could continue work at the other three reactors to keep them in safe shut-down condition.

The third reactor, adjacent to the fourth, was not damaged, and its cooling and safety systems were functioning normally.

Work was continuing under the damaged unit, its aim being to neutralise the source of radiation and "entomb" it in concrete, using the parlance of the physicists.

That the radiation situation was improving in the 30-km zone was clear from the following information. On the border of the zone, radiation dropped from the peak of 10-15 milliroentgen per hour at the time of the accident to two to three milliroentgen per hour on May 5, and to 0.15 milliroentgen per hour on May 8.

Novosti report

WITH reference to authoritative Soviet sources Novosti Press Agency reports that, meeting the IAEA's request to be constantly and exhaustively informed of the situation in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant region, the Soviet Union is going to install a permanently-working station in the zone of the accident to keep control over the atmosphere.

This station will start working 50 kilometres away from the Chernobyl nuclear plant. According to Soviet norms, it will be taking around-the-clock measurements. Daily aggregate data on the ecological situation and the level of radioactivity in the region will be delivered to the IAEA for further circulation in the states concerned.

Definite circles in the West keep on complaining about the USSR's "news restraint" and "concealment of truth". The event is deliberately described in the most dramatic colours. This unseemly and malicious practice has not been abandoned even after the press conference given by the chairman of the government commission, Boris Shcherbina. He laid down the details of the Chernobyl accident and specified the measures which are being taken to deal with the aftermath.

By its decision to build a control station the Soviet Union has cut the ground from under the feet of those who have got accustomed to profiting from concoctions and turning their backs on truthful information, people who are eager to hamper progress toward a better international situation by building up fear and distrust. □

The level of radioactivity in the water reservoirs of Kiev and the region was normal at all times, the director-general pointed out.

The meetings in Moscow and the Ukraine had been rather fruitful, and their results were reflected in the communique on their visit. He said he would like to add the following remarks.

Nuclear power engineering was a complex and important sphere of mankind's activity where there was an extreme need for consultations with each other.

The IAEA constituted simultaneously a forum and a mechanism for such co-operation. Blix said that in response to his invitations, his Soviet colleagues had agreed to come to Vienna to discuss the results of the measures that were being undertaken to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

Of no less importance was the fact that Soviet experts would promptly inform the IAEA on the radiation situation. That channel of information for the IAEA was opening up today, on the day of their departure from Moscow.

Blix described this agreement as the beginning of the establishment of a new international mechanism that would ensure that all incidents at nuclear power stations which might have transboundary consequences were promptly reported.

Of the questions asked by the journalists, the majority, and this was understandable, dealt with the health of the people living in the zone adjacent to the station and outside this zone. For example: How soon would the source of radiation be completely buried and how soon could people return to their homes?

The IAEA representatives said that they had visited Kiev yesterday (May 8). The city life had been normal, usual. There had been large crowds outdoors, and even more people on the day of the opening of the international cycling race.

They had toured the monument devoted to Victory in the Second World War. They had seen many foreign tourists there. In brief, life was following its usual course. Schools were working.

Medical examination of Kiev residents, including children, convincingly showed that there were no grounds whatsoever to talk about a danger to human health.

American journalists were interested whether the emission of radiation from the fourth unit had been stopped and what damage had been caused to the Ukraine's agriculture.

The situation at the damaged unit was stabilising, the experts stressed. Dosimetric measurements conducted during their helicopter flight around the station confirmed the fact that the amount of radioactive materials being released into the atmosphere had been sharply reduced.

As to damage to agriculture, that depended on the distance of the locality from the focus and on the passage of time.

They reiterated that the radioactive isotopes released as a result of the accident were short-lived. That meant that work would be resumed in the future on the nearby fields, and the NPS township would be safe for habitation.

Some foreign correspondents asked whether the Soviet Union would stop the country's other operating reactors of the Chernobyl type.

Blix said, that the Soviet authorities had not found anything during the in-depth analysis of the accident that would necessitate the shut-down of the other reactors.

He said they were told that measures were being undertaken to enhance safety at the other units.

* * *

Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) left Moscow on May 9.

He had been visiting our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government. □

Boris Shcherbina meets diplomats

MOSCOW, May 13, TASS:

BORIS SHCHERBINA, a Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had a meeting today with the ambassadors of Britain, Spain, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Turkey and the Federal Republic of Germany, the *chargés d'affaires* ad interim of Austria, Denmark, Luxemburg and France and representatives of the US Embassy accredited in the Soviet Union.

Taking part in the meeting were Andranik Petrosyants, Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for the Use of Atomic Energy, Yevgeni Vorobyov, a First Deputy Minister of Public Health of the USSR, Yuri Sedunov, a First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Hydrometeorology and Monitoring the Environment, and Vladimir Petrovsky, a member of the collegium of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR.

The ambassadors were given detailed explanations on issues connected with the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. They were informed of measures being taken to nullify the consequences of the accident and the radiation situation in the territory of the Ukraine and Byelorussia and on the western borders of the USSR.

The diplomats were briefed on measures to decontaminate the zone of the station and transport communications. They received answers to all their questions. □

USSR Defence Minister's Order of the Day

ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY DAY

MOSCOW, May 9, TASS:

FORTY-ONE years ago the Soviet people won a historic victory, dealt a crushing defeat to the shock force of world imperialist reaction—Hitler fascism, and then to Japanese militarism, upheld the freedom and independence of the socialist motherland, and made the decisive contribution to ridding humanity of the threat of fascist enslavement.

The Order of the Day of the USSR Defence Minister, issued on the occasion of the anniversary, stresses that the Victory in the Great Patriotic War showed convincingly to the whole world the invincibility of the Soviet social and state system, the advantage of socialist economy, the vital force of Marxist-Leninist ideology, Soviet patriotism and proletarian internationalism, the moral and political cohesion of Soviet society, and the friendship and brother-

hood of the peoples of the Soviet Union. It had a great impact on the further course of world history, and promoted an upsurge in the revolutionary and national liberation movements, and the creation in a number of countries of favourable conditions for people's democratic revolutions, for the formation of the world socialist system.

In close interaction with the fraternal socialist countries, the USSR is conducting firmly and consistently its peaceful foreign policy: it wages a persistent struggle for peace and security of peoples, for ridding humanity of the threat of war, advances new ideas and constructive peaceful proposals, and suggests the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the creation of an all-embracing system of international security, the Order of the Day stresses.

Meanwhile, the reactionary imperialist circles, above all the USA, ignore the lessons of history and refuse to take into consideration the political realities of today's world. They continue conducting nuclear tests, develop new types of weapons, intensively deploy strategic offensive

forces, and are striving for military superiority, for the use of outer space in these purposes. The US military, flouting the will of sovereign peoples, by its piratic attack on Libya defied the entire world public, and revealed once again the imperial, piratic essence of its 'neo-globalist' policy. The United States continues pressure on Nicaragua, whose people chose the road of free and independent development.

All this demands from soldiers of the army and navy, from all Soviet people high vigilance and constant care for the strengthening of the country's defences and of the combat might of the Soviet armed forces, and this has been emphasised by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Soviet soldiers, true to Lenin's behests and to their glorious heroic traditions, in close unity with the armies of the Warsaw Treaty member-states, are vigilantly standing guard over the historic gains of socialism and the security of peoples. They are always ready to fulfil their patriotic and internationalist duty, says the Order of the Day of the USSR Defence Minister. □

IZVESTIA:

Article by Marshal Akhromeyev

MOSCOW, May 8, TASS:

"PLANS for peaceful construction and the production achievements of the Soviet people today are their thanks to their 20 million sons and daughters who laid down their lives in the battle against fascism and for the happy future of our socialist homeland, and a tribute of profound respect for their memory," Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Chief of Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, says in an *Izvestia* article today.

The article, devoted to the anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, celebrated on May 9, notes that the Soviet-German front was throughout the war the main and decisive front of armed struggle with the fascist aggressors. That front saw the key battles and the more important military results.

"The victory over Hitler Germany and its satellites was won by the joint efforts of the peoples of many countries," the Marshal says.

"The troops and guerrilla armies and units of Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania, Hungarian and Albanian patriots, resistance and anti-fascist underground fighters were waging a dedicated struggle against the fascist invaders. The peoples and armies of the USA, Britain, France, China, and the other countries of the anti-Hitler coalition made a great contribution to the Victory in the Second World War.

"The threat of nuclear war has never been as formidable as it is today," Akhromeyev says. "It is the reactionary forces of the USA that are behind the arms race and the suppression of progress and freedom. Cynically taking cover behind 'peaceable' rhetoric, they are subverting 'the spirit of Geneva' and working to upset strategic parity between the USSR and the USA, between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, and to achieve military superiority.

"Having institutionalised the cult of strength as

its official policy, Washington has launched the aggressive doctrine of 'neo-globalism'. It is inciting a war in Angola and organising, paying for and inspiring aggression against Nicaragua. The US armed attack on sovereign Libya has become fresh confirmation of this fact.

"Washington is now trying to upstage the USSR through outer space. But the USA will never exhaust us with the arms race or achieve superiority over us by deploying space-strike weapons," the Marshal stresses.

"The course of peace and disarmament, energetically pursued by the CPSU and the Soviet State, is not supported by the US Administration," the article says. "Doing everything possible to strengthen peace, the CPSU and the Soviet Government are attaching unflagging attention to the maintenance at a proper level of the defence potential of the country and to improving the combat readiness and combat potential of the Soviet armed forces." □

PRAVDA:

Aden News Agency commentary

MOSCOW, May 7, TASS:

THE newspaper Pravda published today the following report:

With reference to a number of its own sources the ANA news agency has distributed a commentary concerning the April 5 explosion at the La Belle disco in West Berlin.

The commentary points to the direct involvement of the American CIA and the Israeli Mossad secret service in organising the explosion. This is evidenced by a whole number of facts, in particular, by the circumstance that the Americans were preparing for this explosion in advance and already on April 4 had sent to West Berlin airport three Red Cross planes that were used after the explosion to evacuate the wounded.

Several minutes before the action, the commentary said, several members of the underground narcotics syndicate who had dealings with American soldiers learned about the imminent explosion and left the discotheque building in haste.

The police, investigating the circumstances of

the explosion, found out that the bomb was manufactured from an American-made explosive and brought into the disco by an American soldier who was a member of a drug-dealing ring.

Such rings, ANA pointed out, were set up and financed by the Central Intelligence Agency and Israeli special services for carrying out terrorist actions.

As to the dispatch allegedly intercepted by the Americans and ascribed by them to the Libyans, that was a hoax. According to the same source, the "coded message" was in fact transmitted by American Sergeant Hower known as "colonel". To transmit the message he used a special automobile sent for this purpose to the capital of the German Democratic Republic.

The commentary says that the West German political circles do not rule out the possibility of new US military provocations against Libya. The secret services of the United States and the West might mastermind more provocative terrorist acts in Europe in order to "justify" further aggressive actions. Already now Washington is engaged in psychological conditioning of public

opinion for new actions against Libya. It spreads obvious misinformation about an alleged secret agreement between the USSR and the USA on "the division of spheres of influence" between them and alleges that Moscow was informed in advance about the United States preparations for armed aggression against Libya.

Such assertions by the US propaganda mouthpieces hold no water and are false through and through, the news agency writes. They have been officially rejected by the Soviet Union. This "information" has been concocted by the CIA and its aim is to isolate Libya on the international arena, and to sow distrust in the Soviet Union. □

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PRAVDA:

Tricks of disarmament opponents

MOSCOW, May 13, TASS:

"OPPONENTS of disarmament, who pursue the policy of confrontation and power pressure against other countries, have to resort to various tricks so as to conceal their unwillingness to take measures limiting armaments and eventually thwart such measures altogether," writes *Pravda* today.

"More often than not, the so-called verification problem is employed for this purpose," the paper points out. "In fact, the post-war history of issues of arms limitation and disarmament is rich in disputes around this problem. There would have been no disputes if they had not been deliberately spawned by opponents of disarmament.

"Verification questions were solved in those individual cases when the USA and other Western powers agreed to some arms limitation measures. However, as soon as the international situation deteriorated through the fault of imperialist quarters and, consequently, possibilities for reaching understandings on arms limitation were shrinking, the so-called difficulties of control immediately grew. Arms race advocates create these difficulties with the use of

various tricks, depending on the situation."

"Some people often try to replace disarmament control with arms control. Very typical in this respect are those previous US proposals known as the 'Baruch Plan', the 'Open Skies Plan' and others. These plans suggested no measures of arms limitation, but in fact put forth demands for total control—not only over armaments but over a considerable part of peaceful activities.

"Another ruse. Some allege that the USSR, due to the very nature of its social system, can secretly violate agreements on arms limitation and disarmament and that therefore it is better not to conclude with it such agreements. What kind of nature is it, that can preclude any verification? It turns out, according to the authors of this 'argument' that Soviet society is 'closed'. The USA, Britain and other Western countries with their 'open societies' are quite another matter. They allegedly publish appropriate data and, in general, wear their hearts upon their sleeves.

"This allegation is completely false," the newspaper writes. "There is no country that reveals its secrets. The so-called openness of Western countries is an illusion, a myth. Any person familiar with 'hearings' at US Congress committees and subcommittees knows pretty well that the most important part of their

materials is not made public, and many 'hearings' are held behind closed doors. The same goes for other Western countries. Every sovereign state decides for itself in what cases and what data should be published. As for the USSR, it always strictly abides by an agreement after concluding it and supplies the data called for under its provisions.

"Western, especially American, diplomats resort to the following trick to delay the start of or to prevent negotiations: they say that it is necessary before starting to tackle technical questions of verification, and to determine available (again technical) possibilities for monitoring any measure which is to be examined. Then these technical aspects are literally bogged down with endless discussions on some insignificant questions.

"Here is one more trick. It is said that some or other measure of arms limitation cannot be implemented, since it is allegedly impossible to verify that it is being observed. The USA has employed this trick for a long time to block, for instance, an agreement on banning all nuclear arms tests.

"The substance of the Soviet position", underlines *Pravda*, "is as follows: disarmament without control is impossible but control without disarmament is senseless. This position is as clear as it is just and honest." □

(Continued from Page 231)

upholding their revolutionary gains.

The situation in southern Africa calls for an immediate political settlement. To achieve it, it is necessary first of all to put an end to the policy of aggression by Pretoria's racist regime against 'frontline' countries, and stop interference in their internal affairs and the use of gangs of terrorists and mercenaries.

The US Administration should immediately stop providing military and any other aid to the puppet UNITA forces, stop attempts at political and economic pressure on sovereign states—Angola and Mozambique.

The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Angola are convinced that the immediate granting of independence to Namibia would contribute to improving and stabilising the situation in southern Africa. They express solidarity with the heroic liberation struggle of the Namibian people which they are waging under the guidance of their sole lawful representative—the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

The Soviet Union and Angola condemn the efforts of the United States and the Republic of South Africa to block an equitable solution of the Namibian problem, their attempts to resolve that problem on a neo-colonialist basis, bypassing the United Nations Organisation.

They declare that the relevant decisions of the United Nations Organisation, including the Security Council's resolution 435, constitute the only internationally recognised basis for ensuring Namibia's independence by political means. The implementation of these decisions in full volume cannot and must not be made conditional upon unrelated matters.

The USSR and Angola resolutely reject Pretoria's latest attempt to link the granting of independence to Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban internationalists from the People's Republic of Angola.

Angola's sovereignty and independence, its independent home and foreign policy cannot be a bargaining chip.

The Soviet Union and Angola maintain that, in resolving the Namibian issue, it is urgently

necessary to enhance the role of the United Nations Organisation, first of all its Security Council which is directly responsible for the decolonisation of Namibia.

They declare for a constructive quest for the ways and means of an early practical implementation of the United Nations decisions on Namibia. The Soviet Union holds that the provisions of the proposals of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola (September 1984) and appropriate supplements to them, aimed at ensurance of Namibia's independence, security and peace in south west Africa serve precisely this aim.

The Soviet Union and Angola are convinced that it is only with the eradication of the disgraceful apartheid system in the Republic of South Africa that durable peace will triumph in the region and relations of co-operation and good-neighbourliness will be established.

The Soviet Union and Angola reaffirm their invariable solidarity with the courageous fighters against apartheid led by the African National Congress, who declare for the creation in South Africa of a united and democratic state based on the principle of majority rule. They resolutely demand the release of Nelson Mandela and of all

other political prisoners from racist jails.

The crimes of the racists, made possible in conditions of the policy of "constructive engagement" conducted by the United States with regard to the Republic of South Africa, and connivance with the racists by the governments of some other Western countries, mean defiance to the entire civilised world. The USSR and Angola urge those states to withdraw without delay any support for the Pretoria regime and join in international actions, including the introduction of comprehensive mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Angola urge the governments and public of all countries, international organisations, all people of good will, to mobilise their efforts in support of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, and of the 'frontline' states, to promote an early and equitable settlement of the problems of the south of Africa in the interests of stability and durable peace.

Such a settlement would be a substantial contribution to the overall improvement of the international climate and to the consolidation of universal peace and security of peoples. □

Tolkunov and Voss meet Pugliese

MOSCOW, May 13, TASS:

"THE Soviet Union thinks highly of Argentina's efforts for the prevention of nuclear war and for disarmament," Lev Tolkunov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union, one of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said as he and Avgust Voss, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, welcomed in the Kremlin today Juan Carlos Pugliese, Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of Argentina. Juan Carlos Pugliese arrived in Moscow last night as a guest of the chairmen of the chambers of the Soviet Parliament.

During the conversation that followed, Lev Tolkunov noted with satisfaction that the positions of the USSR and Argentina coincided on the key issues of our time and pointed out the

effective progress of ties between the USSR and Argentina in the economy, science, technology and culture.

Juan Carlos Pugliese expressed his profound thanks for the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union, to see Soviet reality and to exchange opinions on outstanding international problems and bilateral relations. "This visit, I am certain, will make a substantial contribution to the further expansion of contacts between the National Congress of Argentina and the USSR Supreme Soviet in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and the cause of peace and co-operation," he said.

The visit of the Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of Argentina will end on Saturday. □

Conference of solidarity with Libya and Syria

DAMASCUS, May 13, TASS:

"OUR MEETING in Damascus is taking place at a difficult and crucial time, when the international climate has been poisoned with mistrust and hostility," said Ivan Laptev, a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper *Izvestia*.

He is attending a scientific and political conference on the dangerous ramifications of the US act of aggression against Libya and US threats against Syria for the situation in the Middle East, in the Mediterranean and in the world as a whole. He represents the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at the conference, which is being attended by representatives of 54 progressive workers' and communist parties from countries of Asia, Africa and Europe.

"The arms race is going on and gaining momentum, threatening to spread into outer space," he continued. "Those guilty of such a situation are well-known. They are imperialism and world reaction, which are trying hard to turn back the clock of history, to dominate the peoples and to push mankind to the brink of nuclear annihilation.

"The central task of the Soviet Union's foreign policy course", the Soviet delegate continued, "is struggle for the implementation of the idea of establishing a comprehensive international

security system. Putting forward innovative plans and proposals, we do not indulge in wishful thinking or close our eyes to obstacles in the way of those plans and proposals. One of the obstacles is Washington's doctrine of 'neo-globalism', through which the American strategists are seeking to arrogate to themselves the right to meddle in the internal affairs of other countries and peoples and to dictate to them. The US actions against Libya are graphic proof of how international law is grossly violated to further the selfish interests and imperial ambitions of the US militarist forces.

"The barbarous bombings of peaceful Libyan cities cannot be covered by any 'pretexts' or 'justifications' made up by the White House, or by any talk about 'international terrorism'. The Soviet Union is opposed in principle to terrorism in any form. At the same time we object to attempts to label as 'terrorists' fighters for national and social liberation.

"The US attack on Libya showed that from now on any state which is not to the liking of the USA, for one reason or another, can become a target for outright armed provocation or open aggression by the USA. The American Administration is also trying to involve its NATO allies in its own 'neo-globalist' strategy and to influence public opinion by promoting patent misinformation on the Soviet stand during the US attack on Libya, so as to discredit the role played by the USSR in the Arab world.

"The American imperialists' course of esca-

lating tension and the war danger in the Mediterranean is being countered by the Soviet Union with a programme of establishing a zone of peace and security in that region.

"Security in the Mediterranean is inseparable from the settlement of the Middle East problem," Laptev said. "However, that settlement is being blocked by the same forces, US imperialism and its allies, primarily Israel, which continues to occupy Arab lands and to pursue a policy of state terrorism towards Arab countries.

"The American-Israeli 'strategic alliance' is becoming increasingly aggressive. It is directed today against Syria, the key element of the Arabs' resistance to the hegemonistic neo-colonialist plans of Washington and Tel Aviv. The White House's open threats against the Syrian Arab Republic are intended to scare the Syrian people with a military strike. The imperialists and Zionists would like to make the Syrian leadership give up its principled course of frustrating the American-Israeli conspiracy and defending the lawful national rights of the Arab peoples, including the Palestinian Arabs, and for this purpose they are escalating military and political pressure and encouraging acts of terrorism perpetrated by the extremist gangs of 'Moslem Brothers' and other reactionary forces.

"The Soviet Union has consistently supported and will continue to support the just struggle of the Syrian and other Arab peoples against American-Israeli expansion." Laptev said in conclusion. □

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV'S SPEECH AT RECEPTION FOR EDUARDO DOS SANTOS

(Continued from Page 229)

We are convinced that it is vitally necessary to put an end to neo-colonialist plunder. A special session of the UN General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa will be convened at the end of May. The Soviet Union would like it to produce an effective comprehensive programme for the solution of the economic problems of the continent. The crisis besetting African countries cannot be resolved with new injections of financial aid. It is no cure for this disease. Radical measures are needed to uproot its deep-seated causes, inherited from colonialism and bred by neo-colonialism. These measures must be closely related to the solution of the problem of disarmament. Every step on the road to disarmament could not only ensure more security for all but also release resources for overcoming backwardness, inter alia in African countries, of course. Our slogan is "Disarmament for Development". I think you agree with this approach.

CORRECTION

Issue Number 6323, Page 223:

'Statement by Boris Shcherbina on the Chernobyl accident':

In the 2nd paragraph delete the 8th to 18th lines and substitute:

"Increased levels of radiation were recorded on the territory in the immediate proximity of the site of the accident where maximum radiation levels reached 10-15 milliroentgens per hour. As of May 5, the radiation levels in these areas dropped two- to three-times. Water bodies and the Kiev water reservoir are kept under regular control. The concentration of radioactive substances there does not present a hazard either."

(TASS) □

Comrades,

Angola has for ten years now been a target of the policy of intervention and aggression pursued by the racist Republic of South Africa with the support and, of late, direct participation of the USA. Washington and Pretoria would not recognise the Angolan people's right to decide their destiny independently. As the American Administration has gone over to openly giving military aid to the UNITA puppet gangs, which have left a bloody trail behind them on Angolan soil, this step has been justly viewed everywhere as another step in the escalation of that criminal policy.

The Soviet Union is in solidarity with the dedicated struggle of the Angolan people, defending their sovereignty and their progressive social system. We are standing and will continue to stand firmly and unswervingly by our commitments under the clauses of the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation with the People's Republic of Angola. No one should have any doubts on this score.

It is very important that the entire international community should come out even more energetically in support of Angola and for a resolute end to aggressive encroachments on its independence and territorial integrity. Our readiness to step up collective efforts for the settlement of conflict situations in different parts of the world, mentioned at the 27th CPSU Congress, applies to the south African region as well. There is a sensible and realistic alternative to bloodshed, tension and confrontation in the south of Africa. It presupposes the termination of the act of aggression against Angola and other newly-free states, the immediate granting of independence to Namibia—but genuine independence, not the fiction which the USA and South Africa want—and the elimination at long last of the inhuman apartheid system.

It is more than time to realise that further

support for the racist regime of South Africa and any "constructive engagement" with it is an absolutely hopeless policy. It is directed against the lawful rights and interests of the peoples of African countries, including the interests of the white population of South Africa, and cannot bring anything except new mass victims and suffering.

The recent steps taken by People's Angola, including your message, Comrade President, to the UN Secretary-General, are viewed by us as another manifestation of the goodwill of your country and its readiness energetically to contribute to the settlement of the problems of southern Africa by political means. The Soviet Union is supporting these important initiatives and will continue to co-operate with the Angolan friends to assert freedom, peace and stability in the south of the African continent.

Comrades,

Friends,

We have sufficient reason to express satisfaction with the fruitful onward development of Soviet-Angolan relations in every respect, at state, Party and other levels. A good deal of constructive experience has been accumulated in our friendly co-operation. Naturally, we also see untapped reserves. We share the firm intention of improving the forms and methods of this co-operation, especially in such areas as the economy, trade, education, health care and personnel training. We will work jointly to make this co-operation closer and more efficient. In short, Soviet-Angolan relations have a good future.

I wish you, dear Comrade dos Santos, all the Party and state leaders of People's Angola and the Angolan working people success in fulfilling the major resolutions of the Second Congress of the MPLA-Workers' Party in the interest of building a new society and promoting the cause of peace and progress. □