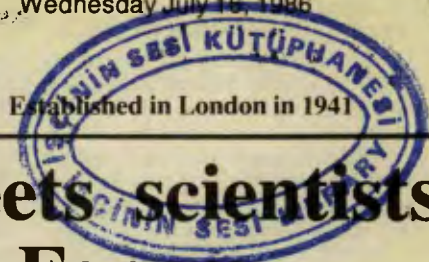


Wednesday, July 16, 1986



Mikhail Gorbachyov meets scientists from International Forum

MOSCOW, July 14, TASS:

THE General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, met today a group of organisers of the International Forum of Scientists for an End to Nuclear Testing, at their request. The forum took place in Moscow on July 11-13.

Professor Giovanni Marini-Betolla presented to Mikhail Gorbachyov a declaration addressed to leaders of all nuclear powers, above all the USSR and the USA. The declaration was unanimously adopted by the forum.

Speaking at the meeting Professor Frank von Hippel of Princeton University, USA said that the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions was of extreme importance and was making a great impact on world public opinion. It showed the Soviet Union's growing confidence in a new way of thinking. The moratorium proved again the Soviet awareness that no new nuclear weapons could alter the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States were capable of destroying each other many times over.

Joseph Rotblatt, Professor at the University of London, spoke about the public opinion polls in Great Britain on the Soviet initiative. He said the following question had been put: "Should Great Britain reciprocate the Soviet Union's unilateral nuclear moratorium?" Eighty-four per cent of the answers had been "Yes". The most interesting thing was that this question had been answered in the affirmative by 60 per cent of Conservatives, that is, Margaret Thatcher's supporters.

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "This is interesting, interesting also from the political viewpoint: for presidents and prime ministers secure their posts as a result of getting the majority of votes in elections."

Thomas Cochran, Professor and chief geophysicist for seismographs of the US National Resources Defense Council, said at the meeting that due to the assistance of Soviet scientists from the Terrestrial Physics Institute, American scientists had already installed equipment to make sure that no nuclear explosions were carried out. The first seismograms had already been received from Karakalinsk, Kazakhstan, which was situated some 200 kilometres to the west of a nuclear range.

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "They in the White House do not believe that the USSR agrees to the broadest forms of verification, any form—

national and international, including even on-site inspections and the installation of equipment.

"And it turns out that this work has already been done, and without any red-tape, moreover without political leadership—well, not exactly without, it never is. There is one principled question from your side: verification of the ending of tests, of non-holding of tests, and not the monitoring of their continuation and upgrading of nuclear weapons."

Thomas Cochran: "I believe we have completely demolished the arguments advanced by the White House that a comprehensive treaty on banning nuclear tests is impossible and does not lend itself to complete verification."

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "We are of the same opinion. I believe no one—neither the Soviet Union nor the United States—can hope to outwit each other. They must not be striving to damage somehow the security of the other side. This approach is impermissible. I believe that this is also a sign of new thinking nowadays. Security must be equal. Otherwise suspicion and uncertainty appear, stability is lacking, it is disrupted as a result of suspicion and distrust. Hence the whipping up of the arms race in search of one's own security, just in case. This is the kind of psychological situation that develops. This is why new thinking is so much needed."

Sune Bergstroem, Professor of the Karolinska Institute of Sweden: "I was chairman of the committee on medical consequences of a nuclear war set up by the World Health Organisation. Two years ago we submitted a report on the results of our work. The unique co-operation between Soviet and American scientists pro-

duced a great positive impact on world public opinion."

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "I welcome the substantial contribution made by medical scientists. I am speaking, in the first place, about Academician Chazov and Professor Lown. It was very important that the whole world heard the competent statement of the outstanding representatives of the world's medical science on the possible consequences of nuclear conflict, and also on the ability of medicine to perform its functions if some madman unleashed it."

Academician Anatoli Alexandrov: "I have been present at many international forums, but I should like to point out that this is the first time that I have witnessed such a community of views as this. All of us, representatives of various countries, could have different views on separate questions, but we were unanimous in our opinion that a nuclear war must be prevented, that a war like this would be tantamount to the destruction and degradation of mankind."

Mikhail Gorbachyov: "As a minimum, it will be degradation, but the most real possibility is destruction."

Addressing participants in the forum, Mikhail Gorbachyov said further:

"First of all, I should like to greet in your person all the participants in the Moscow forum of scientists. It discussed the most burning problem of today which is connected with the preservation of human civilisation.

"The initiative which was realised at this forum of scientists from more than 30 countries is extremely important, just as everything which is

Eduard Shevardnadze arrives in London

LONDON, July 13, TASS:

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, has arrived here today at the invitation of the Government of Great Britain. He was welcomed at the airport by Timothy Renton, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Michael John Llewellyn Smith, chief of the Soviet Department at the Foreign Office, and Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Union's Ambassador to Britain.

Eduard Shevardnadze made the following statement upon arrival:

We are grateful to Her Majesty's Government for the invitation. During our short stay in the United Kingdom, we hope to conduct mutually beneficial substantial talks. We consider them a continuation of a new stage of the Soviet-British dialogue, started by the visit of Mikhail Gorbachyov to your country in December 1984.

During the talks with Prime Minister Thatcher, with my colleague Sir Geoffrey and other British politicians we intend to have an exchange of views on the main problems of world politics, first of all on the issues of security, lowering inter-

national tension and reducing the military threat. For us it would be important to get a clear idea of the British position regarding the complex of proposals put forward by the Soviet Union in this field, and to try to lay a foundation for constructive co-operation in the future. Of course we are aware of the obstacles on the way to mutual understanding, but we believe that common good-will of our two countries, governments and peoples is capable of overcoming them.

We also have points to be discussed in the field of bilateral ties, which are extremely important in the context of East-West relations. I believe that the British people are as much sincere in wishing their improvement as are the peoples of the Soviet Union. The experience of history shows that the peoples of our countries gained a lot whenever a climate of confidence and co-operation existed between Russia and England, between the Soviet Union and Great Britain.

We are looking forward to seeing the native land of Shakespeare and Newton, Dickens and Shaw, Gainsborough and Britten, the country which has made such a great contribution to human civilisation.

I would like on this occasion to convey our wishes of happiness, peace and well-being to the residents of London, indeed to all British people. □

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being done today for putting an end to the arms race and for starting a real disarmament process.

"I have said it already and I am taking advantage of the present meeting to repeat it again: even today there are people who ask why we are in such a hurry, and maintain that it would be better perhaps to extend the struggle against the arms race for many years and even decades. This opinion is erroneous. We have reached the stage of the scientific and technological revolution when new discoveries can whip up the arms race even further and create a situation in which it will be far more difficult even to start talks.

"Let us imagine that the arms race has spread to outer space. Who can say for certain what will happen then? There are dozens of satellites and spaceships in space so far, but all kinds of emergencies happen with them time and again. And what if echelons of military systems are moved there? Computers control them and issue information, but they do not analyse the reasons why this or that thing is taking place there. As a result of this, the 'decisions' on which the destiny and lives of millions of people depend will be taken not on the political but on the technical level. The whole of civilisation will become a hostage of technology.

"Or take the sphere of conventional armaments. In this sphere as well scientific discoveries create the basis for the appearance of weapons which by their destructive capacity are no inferior to nuclear weapons. Apart from this, there exist chemical and biological weapons. The consequences of their use are no less disastrous.

"This is why we have all come up to the line beyond which unpredictable processes can begin. Everybody must act today—politicians, scientists and nations.

"In the morning I received the Russian-language text of your declaration. I want to state my attitude to this document right away: it is a responsible document, which meets the interests of all countries regardless of which political system they belong to, and of all people regardless of what political organisations they consider themselves members of. This document has a special significance because it was drawn up and approved by competent people, and approved by consensus, which lends it even more weight.

"The results of your forum show that there have arisen in the world preconditions for the formulation of new approaches and a new thinking for the solution of the main questions, those of stopping the nuclear arms race and setting about disarmament. And this should be started, as you rightly point out, with ending nuclear tests.

"You tell the entire world public in your declaration that we are all facing the simple and merciless reality: human civilisation will not survive nuclear war. This warning is timely, convincing and demanding high responsibility.

"You raise the question of lessening the risk of nuclear war and the need for energetic measures. The Soviet leadership will support this call, it agrees with your view that the ending of nuclear tests should be the first step in this direction.

"Convincing arguments have sounded both in the declaration and at our meeting here in favour of the possibility of the verification of compliance with a ban on nuclear tests. This is of immense importance because it reflects the opinion of people who know what they talk about.

"We are assisting and will assist Soviet and American scientists so that they should implement their initiative on the use of special equipment to make sure that no nuclear explosions are carried out. I have no objection to any single line of your document.

"You ask the Soviet Government to re-examine the possibility of extending the moratorium. Well, first, it is in effect. And it is the main thing, so there is still time and it should not be wasted. Naturally, your request will be considered most closely.

"The Soviet Government will take a decision, and it will be conveyed to you. But, frankly speaking, what it will be like depends to a large extent on whether the United States of America is going at long last to set about disarmament.

"After the meeting with the US President in Geneva, where we agreed to advance towards filling our accord with real, concrete content, we were acting in precisely such a manner. We extended the moratorium, extended it twice. We put forward a programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons over 15 years. We came up with new, far-reaching proposals on the elimination of chemical weapons, including control over the dismantling of the industries producing them.

"We put forward an immense programme for the reduction of conventional armaments in order to alleviate the fears of the peoples of the Western countries. Finally, we recently tabled compromise proposals at the Geneva talks. I presented them in a letter to President Reagan—they cover both medium-range missiles and reductions in strategic nuclear weapons.

"We naturally hope for an adequate reaction from the American side and from the West in general. So far we are not satisfied with the position of either the American Administration or the other Western governments. The stand of the administration on ending nuclear tests is negative. At one time the problem of verification was used as an argument.

"Now that this problem, as we see, is finding a convincing solution, by virtue of the well-known position of the Soviet Union and by virtue of your arguments, that is, the arguments of scientists, we are awaiting to see what new arguments in favour of the continuation of testing will turn up. We are already hearing talk that, generally speaking, the idea of the Soviet leadership to eliminate nuclear weapons is a utopia because in such a world as ours one can hardly do without these weapons.

"We have not yet received satisfactory replies to our proposals on medium-range missiles and on strategic arms either. The only thing we have received is the declaration that SALT-2 is dead. In this way, not only are efforts not being made to find and work out new international mechanisms to halt the arms race and subsequently to set about disarmament, but the last brakes on that race are being dismantled. The SDI, it turns out, is needed also because many countries today are capable of developing a nuclear bomb of their own and, allegedly, a counterbalance is needed if any madman launches a nuclear attack or attempts nuclear blackmail.

"Absolutely paradoxical arguments are invoked to defend the SDI. This, alas, draws a response from scientists and politicians. It is said that the SDI is a way to the development of science, to new heights of scientific and technological progress. But I will tell you that it is perverse thinking, with everything turned upside down. Cannot we advance science, technology, every component of scientific knowledge, including the development of new materials, radio electronics, computer technology, mathematics and so on, by implementing peaceful projects? The *Vega* programme is a fresh and convincing example. It is a most interesting project. I listened to Academician Sagdeyev and other Soviet scientists who carried it out with the participation of their foreign colleagues. They needed new decisions, new materials. They were found. They needed new solutions to control the manoeuvres of a sophisticated craft over vast distances. They were made. They needed a stable radio and TV communication link—it was achieved. They needed new mathematical discoveries and computations for the solution of such a complex task. They were accomplished. They needed accurate information about the situation on Venus and near Halley's Comet. And it was ensured.

"Many countries, including Western ones, participated in the project. Especially fruitful co-

operation in that field took place with French scientists.

"Now we have come to grips with the problem of developing a dependable energy source. The problems of energy, like those of food and ecology, are the central, global problems of the future. If there were no projects in the military field, this peaceful project would be making far faster progress. Recently the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Nikolai Ryzhkov, submitted on behalf of the Soviet Government to the United Nations our proposals on the development of international scientific co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

"Science can thus be advanced through peaceful endeavour. The argument that science and technology can be developed only with the help of an arms race is an absurd argument. The question to ask then is what is the matter? Who—perhaps God?—has withdrawn the ability to grasp the realities of today's world, of the nuclear-missile, space age?

"These two men (*Mikhail Gorbachyov pointed to portraits of Karl Marx and V I Lenin*) taught us that in order to get down to the substance of anything, we should brush all rubbish off the surface and lay bare the motives and interests which underlie one position or another.

"So whose interests are met by the proposals of the political forces, scientists and the public who are insisting on the scaling down of the arms race, on progress towards disarmament and on the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons? I think that they meet the interests of all the peoples, and there are no higher interests.

"We understand that there can be interests of a group of countries which would like to use their superior arms arsenals for political pressure. There are other interests, I would say, of a lower order. There are the interests of the military-industrial complex and they also are a reality. But, first, they are not the interests of any nation, let alone human civilisation, and second, neither peaceful research nor research into energy problems nor anything else would suffer if military research and war production were stopped. The forces which are involved in the development of weapons today could work fruitfully in peaceful areas. Neither science nor industries involved in war production nowadays would be left idle. But all would stand to gain.

"So, a new thinking is needed. It is impossible to give an answer to burning questions of the present or moreover of the coming century, if one guides oneself by views characteristic of the past centuries, even decades—at any event, of the time before the emergence of nuclear weapons and such an upsurge of the scientific and technological revolution as is observed of late.

"I do not wish to impose my views. I do not expect you to accept them without thinking them over. We have set out our views at the Congress. Their essence, putting it in brief, is that we all live in the nuclear-space epoch, in a complex, inter-related and contradictory world. And we must learn to live together, no matter how different we are. Other countries have their own type of democracy, so let them enjoy it. But they should not encroach on our right to our democratic values. But then, all these are subordinate matters.

"The main thing now is this: either we survive, co-operating and preserving the Earth, the ocean, the skies, the entire environment, or we shall carry civilisation to disastrous consequences. It is necessary to get rid of the views, whose time has gone, that the world is someone's domain. The world of today means coexistence of nations and states. This is a multitude of countries, each with a history of its own, at its own stage of development. But everyone must admit that each country has a right to choose its own type of state structure, to conduct its affairs independently.

"We recognise this and we shall be acting

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SOVIET-FRENCH TALKS

MOSCOW, July 9, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and **François Mitterrand**, President of France, held final talks in the Kremlin today.

Taking part in the talks were:

From the Soviet side: Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR; Ivan Arkhipov, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Guri Marchuk, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Boris Aristov, Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR; Anatoli Kovalyov, First Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister; Yakov Ryabov, the USSR Ambassador to France;

From the French side: Jean-Bernard Raimond, Foreign Minister; Michel Noir, Minister Delegate on Foreign Trade Issues; Alain Devaquet, Minister Delegate on Scientific Research and Higher Education Issues; Yves Pagniez, the French Ambassador in the USSR; Jean Teillac, the High Commissioner of the French Atomic Energy Commissariat; Jacques-Louis Lions, President of the French National Space Research Centre.

Mikhail Gorbachyov stressed the importance of continuing and intensifying the Soviet-French dialogue at the present crucial stage in the development of international relations, "when we are all faced with the main question—in what direction will the world move: in the direction of normalisation and development of extensive co-operation or, if the existing chance is missed, will the situation aggravate still further and it become much more difficult to stop the arms race?"

It was declared that a clear-cut stand by the Soviet Union and France in favour of talks, for ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, for detente, was extremely important. The sides agreed that accords which restrain the arms race, restrain it from spreading to other spheres, should not be destroyed. The coincidence of the principled approaches of the sides to this problem does not preclude the existence of a number of concrete differences.

Interaction between the Soviet Union and France makes it easier to direct international relations into a sound channel which requires new thinking, and understanding of the interdependence of states in the contemporary epoch, taking into consideration the interests of everyone.

The Soviet leadership proceeds from the view that such is the common task now, and highly assesses France's possibilities and contribution on this road.

Special attention was devoted at the talks to the role of Europe in world development. This role could be innovatory and positive. In this sphere the Soviet Union and France could do a great deal in the interests of the whole continent,

acting jointly or in parallel. With this in view, a fruitful conclusion to the Stockholm Conference and the activation of the all-European process in general, ahead of and in connection with the coming meeting in Vienna, are of much importance.

A useful and frank exchange of views took place on ways of overcoming conflict situations and crises in various parts of the world.

The sides approved the idea of interaction in such a topical sphere as the consolidation of the safety regime of nuclear power engineering.

Questions of bilateral economic, scientific and technological ties between the Soviet Union and France were discussed at the talks. There will be a need for vigorous, reciprocal efforts to give an additional impetus to economic ties and to find solutions to existing problems, specifically by searching for new forms of co-operation, by use of industrial co-operation and organisation of joint production.

Possibilities for co-operation in computerising education, in joint space research and nuclear energetics were discussed. The agreement was confirmed to hold in 1988 the second joint manned space flight on board a Soviet orbital station, this time a flight of long duration.

The conversations and talks passed in an atmosphere of goodwill, mutual understanding and high responsibility. The results of the visit confirmed that an intensive and productive political dialogue between such states as the USSR and France has a great, irreplaceable potential of positive influence on the entire course of European and international relations. □

Gorbachyov and Mitterrand visit Star City

MOSCOW, July 9, TASS:

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and **François Mitterrand**, President of the French Republic, today visited Star City.

Nikolai Ryzhkov meets French President

MOSCOW, July 9, TASS:

A MEETING between Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and President François Mitterrand of France took place in the Kremlin today.

It was pointed out during the conversation that the current talks in Moscow between Mikhail Gorbachyov and François Mitterrand, just as the Soviet-French summit meeting in Paris in October 1985, provided a good basis for bringing the sides' stands on a number of important problems closer together and contributed to strengthening European security, to broadening European co-operation and to improving the international situation as a whole.

The results of and prospects for bilateral Soviet-French co-operation in the fields of the economy, science and technology were positively appraised. Nikolai Ryzhkov emphasised that the tackling of the large-scale tasks set to the Soviet economy by the 27th Congress of the CPSU created conditions for a more effective and rational utilisation of the Soviet Union's foreign economic relations, including those with France.

Both sides expressed interest in using advanced forms of business contacts and co-operation, including industrial and commercial coordination, co-operation in the reconstruction

and technical re-equipment of enterprises, and joint realisation of big projects. The existence of possibilities for more active mutually beneficial contacts in a number of concrete fields, including nuclear power engineering and the agri-industrial complex, was pointed out.

Co-operation between Soviet and French scientists and specialists in space exploration

started exactly 20 years ago and has become one of the main trends of joint research. French scientists were enabled to use Soviet sputniks, manned ships, orbital and interplanetary stations for holding unique astrophysical, geophysical and technological experiments. A large research programme was implemented four years ago during the first Soviet-French manned space flight. Scientists and specialists from the two countries continue processing the unique results obtained last spring, during the international expedition towards Halley's Comet by two Soviet Vega stations.

Mikhail Gorbachyov noted that scientists and engineers of the USSR and France co-operated well in the sphere of space science and technology.

The Soviet and the French leaders were told about the organisation of the training of the crews for space flights. In the main building of the training centre they saw simulators of orbital stations. One of the simulators, which stretched almost the entire length of the hall, had the word *Mir* (peace) written on it. "This is an orbital station of the third generation," the supervisor of the cosmonauts' training, Vladimir Shatalov, explained. Equipped with six link-up joints, it makes it possible to assemble intricate complexes in orbit. Specialised modules of the same volume as the station can be linked up with the *Mir* station. This opens good prospects for international co-operation in space. Each of the modules can carry a large volume of scientific equipment developed by scientists of different countries. It is also important that such stations can operate in space for a long time and ensure the virtually permanent presence of crews on board.

Then the Soviet and the French leaders inspected the pool. When training for flights, cosmonauts try out there the most complex details of the programme—work in open space.

From the Soviet side: Guri Marchuk, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology; Boris Aristov, USSR Foreign Trade Minister; Anatoli Kovalyov, USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister; Yakov Ryabov, USSR Ambassador to France;

From the French side: Jean-Bernard Raimond, French Foreign Minister; Michel Noir, Minister Delegate on Foreign Trade Issues to the French Economics, Finance and Denationalisation Ministry; Alain Devaquet, Minister Delegate on Scientific Research and Higher Education Issues to the French National Education Ministry; Yves Pagniez, the French Ambassador to the USSR. □

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Eduard Shevardnadze's talk with Margaret Thatcher

LONDON, July 14, TASS:

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is staying here on an official visit, today met Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Eduard Shevardnadze presented to the head of the British Government a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the conversation they exchanged opinions on a wide range of pressing international problems, as well as on bilateral relations.

The attention of the British side was drawn to the large-scale Soviet foreign policy initiatives and, in the first place, to the concept of creating an all-embracing system of international security put forward in the political report of Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the 27th CPSU Congress, and to the programme for the complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons set forth in his statement of January 15 this year. It was emphasised that the realisation of the Soviet proposals would permit an end to be put to the arms race and would radically improve the world political climate.

The proposals for the reduction of armed

forces and conventional armaments, contained in the address of the Warsaw Treaty member-states adopted at a meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Budapest, were also aimed at achieving a radical improvement of the situation in Europe. All this created a real basis for lowering substantially the level of military confrontation on the European continent.

It was noted that the creation of an all-embracing system of international security met the interests of every country and of humanity as a whole. The time had come to prove by deeds, not by words, one's adherence to the cause of averting the war menace.

Eduard Shevardnadze pointed to the need for getting all countries involved in this process. "Britain, which carries considerable weight in European and world affairs, can significantly contribute towards that," he said. This also applied to prohibiting nuclear tests, setting up an international code of safe development of nuclear energy, a convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and a number of other issues.

The British Prime Minister spoke highly about the established practice of direct dialogue between the leadership of Britain and the USSR on the key problems of the present-day world, and pointed to the importance of her personal meetings and frank conversations with Mikhail Gorbachyov.

The sides went on record in favour of the continuation and development of the European

process, which was making a positive impact on the expansion of political, trade, economic and humanitarian co-operation on the continent. In line with this goal would be the successful completion of the first stage of the Stockholm Conference, that is, the working out there of concrete confidence-building agreements, and the constructive holding next autumn of the Vienna meeting of the countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The mutual opinion was expressed in favour of reaching agreements aimed at the consolidation of international security, the limitation and reduction of armaments and the strengthening of strategic stability.

The Prime Minister of Britain accepted with gratitude the invitation of the Soviet leadership to pay an official visit to the USSR. The exact date of the visit is to be agreed later.

The meeting was held in a constructive atmosphere, in a spirit of openness and mutual respect.

Talks between Eduard Shevardnadze and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe were started on the same day. At the first meeting the ministers discussed a number of aspects of the world situation and a complex of questions of Soviet-British relations in the political, trade, economic and other spheres, from the viewpoint of their further intensification and development. □

Eduard Shevardnadze's speech at Embassy reception

LONDON, July 15, TASS:

"THE concept of a comprehensive international security system, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachyov at the 27th CPSU Congress, has been constructed on the basis of categories of new political thinking. It suggests a qualitatively new formula of security," Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said today in his speech at a luncheon at the USSR Embassy in London. The luncheon was given in honour of British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

"It should be stressed that what this concept amounts to is not merely the substitution of lower values in the security 'equation' which has existed up to now, but to a radical revision of the contents of this equation. In our view, such suicidal components as nuclear, space and chemical weapons should be excluded from it for ever.

"We called for drafting, agreeing and building in practice a fundamentally new system of security for all, its main component being non-military means of safeguarding peace," Eduard Shevardnadze said. "In other words, we offer guarantees of a technological, political, economic and humanitarian nature which elevate trust and peaceful coexistence to the level of fundamental principles of international relations.

"This concept contains a philosophical model of ensuring security, a model which, we are convinced, can be translated into reality. Readiness to act in this manner has been stated by us with sufficient clarity. It has been backed by our practical steps. We have been refraining from all nuclear tests for almost a year now, and it is not merely an argument in favour of our resolve to act but substantive material evidence of this resolve.

"We are offering and are prepared to offer other arguments and pieces of evidence. In the past they gave rise to debates but, regrettably, all of these boiled down to selective and biased criticism and nit-picking over procedures and technicalities, which belied the unwillingness to face the realities of the nuclear age.

"I hope that our partners will take a tolerant view of the supposition that this path is non-productive. Those who are following it show inexplicable scepticism towards the sensible and realistic alternative and glowing optimism over military-space fantasies, the senselessness of which is obvious," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

"What I mean is the 'Star Wars' programme. Mankind is going to the stars through thorns but in this case the thorns are such that they can bleed mankind white. Any new path, regardless of the intentions of the trailblazers, does not always mean progress. And this is what we see here. The replacement of some weapons with other more sophisticated ones is regress rather than progress. Sometimes it is far more progressive to stop in good time and give some thought to the consequences of one option or another. In the final analysis, this is what we offer all our partners, including the British Government," Eduard Shevardnadze said. □

Anglo-Soviet agreements signed

LONDON, July 15, TASS:

By TASS correspondents Alexander Yevstigneyev and Vitali Chukseyev:

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the USSR, and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe had a final conversation here today, during which they continued discussing issues of mutual interest.

Their discussion, which was of a concrete nature, covered a range of problems related to European security. Stress was laid on the joint desire of the Soviet Union and Britain to further the process started by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and to strengthen co-operation among the states which are parties to the Helsinki Final Act.

Both sides pointed to the importance of reaching an accord to reduce military confrontation in the European continent.

After the talks Eduard Shevardnadze and Sir Geoffrey Howe signed an intergovernmental Soviet-British agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea outside territorial waters, a programme for promoting economic and industrial co-operation between the USSR and Britain from 1986 to 1990, and an intergovernmental Soviet-British agreement on settling mutual financial and property claims which originated before 1939. □

GENEVA
The Soviet-US Summit
November 1985
Documents and Materials

Available from Soviet Booklets, 3 Rosary Gardens,
LONDON, SW7 4NW. Price 35p.

Andrei Gromyko's speech at reception for President of Mali

MOSCOW, July 14, TASS:

THE CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR gave a dinner in honour of Moussa Traore, President of the Republic of Mali, at the Kremlin on July 14.

Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Geidar Aliyev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Pyotr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Mali statesmen accompanying the President and other officials were present.

Andrei Gromyko and Moussa Traore exchanged speeches.

Here follows the text of the speech by Andrei Gromyko:

Esteemed Comrade President,

Esteemed Mariam Traore,

Comrades,

Friends,

It gives us much satisfaction to receive in Moscow distinguished guests from a friendly African country. We extend our welcome to the delegation of the Republic of Mali led by a notable statesman of independent Africa, Comrade Moussa Traore.

It is your first official visit to the Soviet Union, though you have already travelled to our country in the past. I think that this time, too, you will see for yourself the friendly feelings everyone in the Soviet Union has for the people of Mali and for their rich and ancient culture.

As the old Russian saying has it, "if you don't have a friend, look for one, and once you have found him, cherish him." The Soviet Union has many friends all over the world, including Africa, and the Republic of Mali is one of them. And what can be more important in relations between states than friendship and good relations, especially if they reflect the innermost sentiments and thoughts of the peoples?

We treasure the fact that these relations were born and grew strong in the joint struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Our state as well as Mali participated in the 15th session of the UN General Assembly in 1960, which took the decision to dismantle the system of colonialism. That decision became known to the world as the Declaration on Granting Independence to the Colonial Countries and Peoples.

That was how, on the Soviet Union's proposal, a verdict was passed on the hated system of colonialism. That verdict was well deserved because the troubles and privations brought by the colonialists to many nations were countless. Today these nations have straightened their backs and are breathing the air of national freedom and independence. The Republic of Mali has a place of honour among them.

There is every reason today to express satisfaction with the state of our relations. Contacts between the CPSU and the Democratic Union of the Mali People are making progress. Good results have been achieved in training national personnel, in economic co-operation and in cultural contacts. You rightly believe that this is not the limit. We are carrying on our joint search for new promising areas in which our co-operation can be even more effective.

The current Soviet-Mali talks will undoubtedly become a landmark on the road of the further development of relations between the Soviet Union and Mali. They will help to further consolidate co-operation between our countries on the international scene in the interests of peace.

I want to lay special emphasis on this idea. Mankind is now living through a crucial phase in its history. It is very important in this situation to reverse the unfavourable trend in international developments and to check the slide towards a nuclear catastrophe.

SOVIET-MALI TALKS

MOSCOW, July 14, TASS:

TALKS were held in the Kremlin today between Andrei Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Moussa Traore, General Secretary of the Democratic Union of the Mali People and President of the Republic of Mali.

The sides expressed satisfaction over the state of Soviet-Mali relations and discussed prospects for the development of bilateral ties in various spheres.

An extensive exchange of views took place on topical international problems. Special attention was devoted to an analysis of the topical problems of the African continent, specifically the situation in the south of Africa, in Chad, Western Sahara and some other regions. The sides expressed the conviction that the supreme interests of Africa required a peaceful settlement of all the interstate disputes and the early elimination of the seats of tension in the continent.

In this connection the sides strongly denounced the policy pursued by the racist regime of South Africa which resorts to terror

against the majority of the country's population, continues its illegal occupation of Namibia and stages aggression against independent countries. It was pointed out that the racists would not have behaved so insolently had it not been for the support rendered to them by some Western powers, primarily the United States.

During an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East, it was emphasised that the settlement of the Middle East crisis envisaged the liberation of the Israeli-occupied Arab lands and the just solution of the Palestinian problem, including the exercise of the right of the Palestinian people to the creation of their own independent state.

The sides analysed the difficult economic situation of African countries. They reaffirmed that the genuine solution of African problems, just as of the problems of other developing countries, could be achieved within the framework of the consolidation of peace and international security and the establishment of a new international economic order that would guarantee equal economic security for all countries.

The talks will be continued. □

You know about the steps taken by the Soviet Union recently in international politics. We have no doubt that you are familiar with relevant statements by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on these issues. We stand for the line stretching from the Soviet-American Geneva summit not to get lost in the whirlpool of international affairs.

Seeking to ensure a future of peace for mankind, the Soviet Union has come up with a concrete plan for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the current century. It has announced a new moratorium on nuclear explosions, and we have not carried out any for almost a year now.

Our country has also formulated a plan for the complete elimination of chemical weapons as well.

The Warsaw Treaty member-countries recently put forward in Budapest a programme for major reductions in the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

All this shows that the Soviet socialist state is perseveringly working for an improvement in the international climate in full accord with the directives of the 27th Congress of our Party.

But it is the prospect of lessening tension that is viewed by certain forces in the West, first and foremost in Washington, as a threat to their interests. Talk about the threat, naturally, is pure fiction and those who use it are well aware of the fact.

Our initiatives on the acute problems of disarmament and the removal of the threat of war are encountering an unwillingness from the militarist forces to seek accord.

Blocking new agreements, they simultaneously make unilateral statements about their intention to violate the existing ones.

Imperialism is resorting more and more often to armed force against emergent countries. Recently an African state, Libya, fell victim to a barbarous act of US aggression. Copying the American policy of state terrorism, the racists of South Africa are perpetrating gory crimes against their own people and the peoples of neighbouring countries.

This situation prompts the only conclusion that imperialism cannot be allowed to dictate to the peoples. All the states, big and small, can and must make a contribution to the efforts against the war threat. The unity of all the peace forces can raise a strong obstacle to the aggressive plans of those who stand for the continuation of the arms race and the policy of the further aggravation of the world situation.

Africans believe, and with good reason, that the time has come to take practical measures to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity and establish a nuclear-free zone in the continent. This is a matter of vital importance to African countries.

The time has come to raise a dependable barrier against deadly weapons coming to the continent. The Soviet Union for its part firmly states that it views the establishment of nuclear-free zones in different regions of the world as an important measure in efforts to narrow the sphere of nuclear preparations.

The task of normalising international economic relations is becoming equally urgent. The economic plight of the developing countries and their exploitation by the neo-colonialists is fraught with grave consequences for the entire system of international contacts. They also constitute one of the deep-seated causes of tension and conflicts in various parts of the world.

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Andrei Gromyko receives Juan Antonio Samaranch

MOSCOW, July 9, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in the Kremlin today Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, who had come to the Soviet Union to attend the Goodwill Games.

During the conversation the sides raised some questions connected with the international Olympic movement and international co-operation in the sphere of sports.

Andrei Gromyko emphasised that the Soviet State favoured the development of sports contacts and attached much importance to the international Olympic movement, which is playing a major part in the consolidation of mutual understanding, co-operation, friendship

among nations and peace. The speech of greeting delivered by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachyov, before the participants in the Goodwill Games called their attention to the significance of sport as the ambassador of peace.

It was pointed out that the Communist Party and the Soviet State devoted much attention to the development of physical culture and sports.

The Soviet side positively assesses the Goodwill Games which are under way in this country and in which athletes from many countries are taking part. Both the opening ceremony and the high results shown by the participants in the games produce a strong impression. Goodwill opens borders and creates possibilities for meetings and association for representatives of countries with different social and political systems.

Juan Antonio Samaranch pointed out the significant role played by Soviet sports organisations in the international sports and

Olympic movement. In his opinion, by the end of the century sport will become an important part of the life of the whole of mankind. He also expressed satisfaction with the opportunity to visit Moscow and to attend the Goodwill Games.

In connection with the discussion of the problem of the venue of the 1988 Olympics, Andrei Gromyko said that the Soviet side supported the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on holding the coming Olympics both in the South and in the North of Korea. This would promote the improvement of the situation in the peninsula and the normal development of the Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee should make its contribution to the just solution of this problem.

The conversation was attended by Marat Gramov, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, and Vyacheslav Gavrilin, Deputy Chairman of the committee. □

Andrei Gromyko meets Brazilian Parliamentarians

MOSCOW, July 14, TASS:

ANDREI GROMYKO, a 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 a delegation from the National Congress of the Federal Republic of Brazil. It is paying an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR

Supreme Soviet.

The delegation, led by José Fragelli, President of the National Congress and President of the Federal Senate, includes members of both chambers, deputies and senators, who represent the leading parliamentary parties of the country.

In the course of the conversation with the Brazilian parliamentarians, Andrei Gromyko explained in detail to them the meaning of the latest foreign policy initiatives of the Soviet State, aimed at the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the current century, at

preventing an arms race in outer space, at eliminating chemical weapons and the industrial base for their production, and at reducing the conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe.

It was noted on the Soviet part that the first effective step towards curbing the arms race could be a ban on nuclear weapon tests. The USSR had been refraining from nuclear explosions for almost a year.

"Energetic actions by all countries are needed to ensure a radical turn for the better in the international arena. The Soviet Union and Brazil have many points of contact in this respect," Andrei Gromyko noted.

José Fragelli said that the Brazilian Parliament had voiced support for the major Soviet peace initiatives, aimed at nuclear disarmament, at strengthening peace and at preventing the militarisation of outer space. Support for these initiatives was also expressed officially by Brazilian President José Sarney.

Discussing Soviet-Brazilian relations, the sides voiced satisfaction with their consistent development in different fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. They pointed out the need for and usefulness of the expansion of parliamentary contacts with a view to building trust and broadening international co-operation. □

Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

MOSCOW, July 12, TASS:

AT its meeting on July 11, the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee heard a report from Mikhail Gorbachyov on the participation of the CPSU delegation in the work of the Tenth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party, and on the conversations with Wojciech Jaruzelski and other Polish leaders.

It was pointed out with satisfaction that the cordial reception accorded to the Soviet Party delegation by the delegates to the Congress and by the population of Warsaw mirrored the character of the fraternal relations between the two parties and between the Soviet and Polish peoples. Confidence was expressed that the visit of the CPSU delegation would contribute towards the strengthening of co-operation between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Polish United Workers' Party, and towards the strengthening of friendship and co-operation between the USSR and the Polish People's Republic.

The Political Bureau examined the communication by Geidar Aliyev on the work done by the Soviet Party delegation which attended the 13th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, and stressed the striving for a further development of friendly ties between the CPSU and the LCY and the two countries, and for a build-up of all-round co-operation between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

The Political Bureau approved the results of the talks and conversations of the Soviet

leadership with President François Mitterrand of France. It was pointed out that, at this crucial juncture in European and world development, Soviet-French political dialogue at summit level assumed an even greater significance as a factor for improving the international situation, strengthening trust among nations, intensifying the all-European process and creating an international security system. The talks in Moscow on the whole complex of Soviet-French relations made it possible to enhance the effectiveness of mutually beneficial co-operation in trade and in the economic, scientific-technological and cultural fields.

The results of the USSR's economic development in the first six months of 1986 were examined. It was pointed out that positive change had been taking place in the course of implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress concerning the economy's development. While positively appraising the strengthening of positive trends in the economy, the Political Bureau pointed to the inadmissibility of complacency, since acceleration had been achieved in by no means all sectors. Special attention was drawn to further increasing the output of commodities and development of services for the population.

The Political Bureau also examined a number of other questions pertaining to the implementation of the decisions of the 27th Congress and the June (1986) plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, on accelerating the socio-economic development of the USSR and implementing the CPSU's foreign policy strategy directed at ensuring peace and co-operation among nations. □

LE DUAN HONOURED

MOSCOW, July 14, TASS:

TODAY Mikhail Gorbachyov, Geidar Aliyev, Andrei Gromyko, Lev Zaikov, Pyotr Demichev, Alexandra Biryukova, Vadim Medvedev, Viktor Nikonov, Alexander Yakovlev and Ivan Kapitonov paid a call on the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the USSR in connection with the death of Le Duan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

They honoured with a minute's silence the memory of this outstanding son of the Vietnamese people, prominent figure of the international communist, working-class and national-liberation movement, tireless champion of the cause of peace and socialism and great friend of the Soviet Union.

The leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet State signed their names in the book of condolences. □

On the situation around Afghanistan

By Colonel Ivan Yurkovets, Cand. Sc. (Philosophy)

WHEN speaking about the need to normalise the situation around Afghanistan, the Western capitals mean a military solution. It is enough to point out that the USA and the other countries which are waging an undeclared war against Afghanistan have already spent a sum equal to the latter's national budget for aid to the counter-revolutionaries.

Massive support for anti-Afghan terrorist formations for more than 8 years has often been presented to the world public as a means of settling what is called by Western politicians the "Afghan issue". But the very appearance of this term merely reflects the covert and overt manoeuvres around Afghanistan which are directed by officials of the USA and some of its

allies. This became especially clear during the preparations for and the holding of the Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva. Despite the assurances of the West about its commitment to political settlement, it is taking steps which are designed to aggravate confrontation.

Aware of the importance of the 7th round of the talks, West Germany, Norway and Sweden conducted hearings on Afghanistan in recent months. The leaders of the Afghan bandits were received in Washington and Paris literally a month before the resumption of the Geneva talks on July 30 between the foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan with the mediation of Diego Cordovez, personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General.

The USA, Pakistan and other participants in the undeclared war are violating international laws by rendering financial and military support to counter-revolutionaries. The US is doing the

same in respect of Nicaragua. Quite recently the International Court of Justice in the Hague qualified as illegal the support rendered by the US Administration to former Somoza men who are trying to overthrow the Sandinista Government. The American broadcasting service CBS called the US response to similar accusations very tell-tale. One US Administration official said that nobody cared about international law.

Creating a 'vicious' circle in the search for ways of settling the situation around Afghanistan, the ruling circles of the US are trying to lay the blame for persisting tensions on the USSR and Afghanistan which are acting in full conformity with international law. The USSR is giving aid to the lawful government of a sovereign state, whereas the USA is encouraging terrorist organisations set up in defiance of international law.

And, last but not least, Soviet aid meets the interests of the Afghan people who are engaged in a democratic transformation of their society, whereas US policy is just an attempt to restore the rule of the feudal elite in the country, which means social regress.

Political settlement based on the lawful consideration of the interests of all countries involved in the conflict, is the only possible solution acceptable for all.

The Afghan Government has every right to demand cessation of outside interference in the internal affairs of the country, and reliable international guarantees against resumption of aggression in the future. It is ready to settle all disputes with its neighbours in the spirit of good-neighbourliness and co-operation.

(Novosti Press Agency, July 8, 1986) □

MIKHAIL GORBACHYOV MEETS SCIENTISTS

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accordingly. But we demand that this right should be respected by others. If the sovereign right of every people, every country is not recognised, chaos will set in in international relations. It is not enough to recognise this philosophically. It is necessary to act in accordance with it. You can rest assured that we shall be firmly upholding this conviction. At the same time, we have absolutely no wish to put the destinies of the world and of our country, of other peoples at the mercy of those who hope to dictate

their will to the whole world.

"And when we speak about America, with which we have debates all the time, sharp debates at times, we do not paint it all black at all, or even in two colours, black and white. We see the real America, America as it is. And we know that there are many people in American society who share a realistic approach to the problems of today.

"It is necessary to work and to create a new type of relations in international, interstate affairs. Neither the Soviet Union nor the United States will be able to command the world. The world has changed. Unless this is recognised, one might make gross blunders in politics. We proceed precisely from this view and you shall see it for yourself. I think the Soviet Union has already advanced serious arguments to confirm this viewpoint.

"Returning to the theme of the forum I would like to say in conclusion that I fully agree with your opinion that an end to nuclear testing would be a major step in the right direction, towards an end to the arms race and to the upgrading of nuclear weapons, and, in the long run, towards their elimination.

"The opinion was expressed here that this forum should not become a single act, that the sponsoring groups should continue its work. The initiative of Soviet and American scientists is a useful example in this respect. Everything was started with a meeting which seemed to remain the only one. However, it set the beginning of a movement, a very influential movement of competent people. I think that if scientists connected with another field—with technology—were to continue the efforts started in Moscow, we should only welcome them. But this, of course, is your own business.

"I am very pleased with this meeting, and, which is the most important thing, with its spirit and content. Politics and science should cooperate today more than ever before. Today there should be no science that would not analyse the political consequences of this or that of its discoveries and achievements, just as there should be no politics that is not based on the achievements of science, on its strict analysis, objective evaluations and forecasts.

"I favour the union of politics and science. Every country stands to gain from it both in its internal affairs and in the solution of the problems which we are discussing today.

"Thank you. I hope that the work that you have started will develop and will enjoy the support of all those who are concerned about the present-day situation in the world." □

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Beyond the transparent walls of the pool, under water, there is a full-size mock-up of the orbital station. A group of researchers in special suits demonstrated methods of work outside the station.

In the central square of Star City, François Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachyov placed flowers at the monument to Yuri Gagarin.

Addressing the people of Star City, Mikhail Gorbachyov said: "We had very important talks with the French President these days. And you know what we are thinking about: we are thinking, above all, that there should be peace on Earth and in space. This is our consensus of opinion."

François Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachyov saw the exhibition at the Star City museum, visited Yuri Gagarin's memorial study and made entries in the distinguished visitors' book.

"Star City has become the symbol of Soviet cosmonautics, the embodiment of human exploit and the highest achievements of technological thought," Mikhail Gorbachyov said. "Cosmonautics have widened the horizons of knowledge. People could see better their wonderful common home, could realise in full measure how beautiful it is for life and how small and fragile for wars. We believe in mankind's tomorrow. But for mankind to have a tomorrow, outer space should remain peaceful, every step to the stars should bring benefit. And we are glad that the capital represented by the joint useful undertakings of the USSR and France in this direction is being replenished. This is to be well promoted by the coming prolonged Soviet-French space expeditions. New successful launchings and safe returns to space explorers. On the trails blazed by Yuri Gagarin you help by your heroism, courage and skill to unravel the mysteries of the Earth and the universe, to replenish the achievements of the human mind, and serve the great goal—unity of people on Earth." □

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That is why the Soviet Union, putting forward its initiative on the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security, calls for international economic security to be an organic part of it. We have proposed that a world congress on the problems of economic security be convened as the first step in this direction. Naturally, these problems should be examined in close relationship with the improvement of the overall political and economic situation.

The Soviet Union is strongly opposed to any attempt to exploit the difficult situation of the developing countries to intervene in their domestic policies. Those who practise such intervention would like to block the process of the economic liberation of the continent. That is why, at a recent special session of the UN General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, the Soviet Union resolutely called for the drafting of a comprehensive programme to resolve the economic problems of the continent.

Our policy in Africa, as everywhere in the world, is honest and open. We regard the peoples who have embarked on their roads of independent development as friends and equal partners. The Soviet Union has rendered and will continue to render those African peoples political support and economic assistance.

Comrade President,

Allow me to wish you, your wife and all members of the delegation happiness and well-being, and the entire Mali people the further consolidation of the independence of their country and every success in the fulfilment of the development plans of your state.

Long live Soviet-Mali friendship and co-operation! □

Declaration of participants in International Forum of Scientists to Stop Nuclear Tests

HAVING gathered in Moscow at the International Forum of Scientists to Stop Nuclear Tests, we have had an opportunity to discuss in an informal manner the pressing problems of our time: the nuclear arms race and the continued sophistication of new types of nuclear weapons leading to a decline in nuclear stability.

In the course of our open discussion, scientists from various fields of knowledge had the opportunity to air their views on the serious problems of nuclear weapons and on practical moves for improving the situation.

We are faced with a simple and implacable reality: human civilisation will never survive nuclear war. Even the most advanced technological systems can have hidden and catastrophic malfunctions. This is convincingly confirmed by the recent *Challenger* tragedy and Chernobyl accident.

To reduce the risk of nuclear war active measures are needed. We are positive that a complete and verifiable ban on nuclear tests could well become a first step along this way. Since the tests are meant to develop new weapons systems, such a ban would come as a retarder for the nuclear arms race. In the long run, the proposed complete and verifiable test ban would be a step towards the destruction of all nuclear arsenals. That would mean a decisive turn towards mutual trust, towards the victory of common sense and towards open international contacts.

A new way of thinking is needed for the accomplishment of this goal. The unilateral

Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests is a highly important manifestation of such a new way of thinking which opens unique opportunities for a complete nuclear test ban. We hope that the US will reciprocate with a similar moratorium decision. We also hope that the Soviet Government will find it possible to extend its moratorium, and that all nuclear powers in all parts of the world will join up with this moratorium and with all the other initiatives aimed at reducing the risk of nuclear war.

As regards the problem of verification of the proposed complete ban on nuclear tests, we are convinced that the latest achievements in the field of seismology in combination with the appropriate mutually-observed international procedures, including on-site inspections, will secure a high degree of confidence that nuclear tests are no longer being held. This confidence will be strengthened further if international scientific co-operation grows broader and stronger.

Our forum welcomes the agreement between the USSR Academy of Sciences and the US Natural Resources Defense Council, under which American and Soviet scientists have installed seismic equipment on the territory of the USSR near a testing ground in the Semipalatinsk area. That initiative has clearly shown the possibility of mutual verification of the

proposed comprehensive nuclear test ban. We are calling for new joint initiatives with the participation of other nations.

We are addressing the leaders of all nuclear powers and especially of the USSR and the US with an appeal for an agreement banning all nuclear tests.

We are also asking the UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, to use his high authority in promoting the accomplishment of this task which the forum finds extremely important for all world nations.

We are convinced that the security of mankind in general and that of the Soviet Union and the US would grow substantially stronger with a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. We also hope that in the long run a comprehensive and verifiable nuclear test ban could lead to the complete destruction of all nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction.

(Novosti Press Agency, July 15, 1986) □

Speech by Academician Velikhov

MOSCOW, July 11, TASS:

"THE conclusion of a treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons tests would seal off all paths to their qualitative improvement and, consequently, to an increase in the threat of self-destruction," said Yevgeni Velikhov, Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

He was addressing the International Forum of Scientists to Stop Nuclear Tests which has opened here today. The forum is attended by representatives of 35 countries.

"This treaty", Velikhov said, "would launch the implementation of the all-embracing programme for complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the present century, put forward by the Soviet Union."

Velikhov reminded the audience that the discussion on stopping nuclear explosions had been going on for several decades. During these years both Soviet and US governments had expressed interest in concluding an appropriate treaty paving the way for the survival of mankind. Regrettably, the present US Administration had stopped the negotiations on this important problem.

Velikhov pointed to the great importance of the 1963 Treaty on Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the three media. This treaty had opened the way for a series of other agreements on urgent problems of limiting armaments. And yet, despite the efforts of peace-loving people, complete prohibition of nuclear tests had not been reached.

"Under these conditions," the scientist went on to say, "of special danger is the US five-year plan for the development of strategic weapons, which will result not only in a quantitative build-up but also in a qualitative improvement of nuclear arms. This considerably decreases the stability of the strategic balance which has taken shape in the world."

"We are interested in equal security, regarding it as a manifestation of sober-minded thinking," Velikhov emphasised. "The stability of the nuclear balance and opportunity for reducing nuclear arsenals is possible only under conditions of a complete discontinuation of nuclear tests." □

Press briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW, July 15, TASS:

"THE project of Soviet and American scientists to install seismographic equipment on Soviet and US territories respectively in order to monitor nuclear explosions is of paramount significance," said Gennadi Gerasimov, chief of the information department of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

Addressing a briefing here today, he stressed that the creation of such a station on the Soviet Union's territory completely refuted the opinion widespread in the West that the Russians could not be trusted and therefore, it was claimed, testing could not be stopped. "Now that there are monitoring stations near the Soviet nuclear proving grounds, this argument is falling to pieces. We have once again proved that we are for control and are ready for large-scale measures of control, including on-site inspection," the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry pointed out.

"Now not a single test will escape the stringent control of high frequency seismographers."

Gennadi Gerasimov drew the attention of the journalists to the statement by Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a meeting with scientists yesterday, that the fight against the arms race could not be protracted for years and even less for decades. "It is necessary to speed up the whole thing, failing which military technology, which is developing at a very fast rate, will leave us behind. A time may come when the main decisions, for example on pushing buttons, will be taken not by presidents but by technology. Imperfect people cannot create perfect tech-

nology, but technology, as the latest accidents have shown, errs in both cases," he said.

"In his radio address to the nation the US President quoted the US *Readers Digest* magazine as saying that the Russians possessed or almost possessed a 'red shield' of strategic anti-ballistic missile defence. Yet we are not preparing such a 'red shield', since we consider such a defence to be technologically impossible, destabilising and dangerous, and contravening the Treaty of 1972 on the Limitation of ABM Defence Systems. The now existing system, to which the US side refers, is territorially limited and is permitted under the treaty of 1972.

"That system does not claim to defend the whole of the USSR's territory."

Gennadi Gerasimov drew attention to publications in the US press, from which the world has learnt about the holding of specific measures which can only be assessed as practical preparations for nuclear war. The point at issue is the plans to build specially hardened nuclear ammunition depots in close proximity to the landing sites of forward-based aircraft at various bases of the US Air Force. Two such depots have already been built at Ramstein air base in the FRG. They are to be built at the US bases in Turkey, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece and South Korea. These plans are fresh proof of the Reagan Administration's wish to ensure practical possibilities for the use of American nuclear weapons even at the early stages of a military conflict in various theatres of military operations, above all in the European theatre. According to the estimates of experts, the programme for building such depots is a fresh step on the way of preparations for nuclear war and is detrimental to arms control, since in this way satellite monitoring of manipulations with nuclear weapons at these bases will be rendered impossible. □