

## Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with Athos Fava

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting with a delegation of the Communist Party of Argentina headed by its General Secretary Athos Fava. The meeting was held at the CPSU Central Committee on March 3. A wide range of questions with which both parties, the international communist movement, all progressive forces are deeply concerned, was discussed.

The conversation was keynoted by the thought about the extreme responsibility of the leadership of the communist parties for a correct theoretical assessment of the processes in their countries and in the whole world, for a timely and correct choice of a political line and tactics suiting the requirements of the current time. The destiny of socialism, national independence, implementation of the possibilities of the working class and the liberation movements, largely hinges on this. The solution of many problems common to the entire humanity and civilisation's survival are linked with this.

### Interests of Society

There was an in-depth exchange of opinions on the contents and international importance of the reorganisation taking place in the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev shared with the Argentine comrades considerations that enabled the leadership of the CPSU to conceive the idea of reorganisation, to determine its general trend and fundamental goals, and then to work out criteria and guarantees making it possible to preclude the errors of the past and to ensure its irreversible character.

All the questions which we are resolving now — from renewal of machine-building to combatting drunkenness become major political matters. We realised that reorganisation when it is translated into practical deeds will affect the interests of many categories of the working people. But these are circumstantial, transient interests. And Lenin taught us that the vital interests of society should be regarded as of paramount importance at turning points, otherwise society cannot develop further.

The people has supported the Party which offered it truly revolutionary changes. This is, indeed, a revolution, but the point of the matter is not power it is effective use of this very power

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of workers and peasants for socialism's transition to a new stage.

Reorganisation has, essentially, a simple formula: not away from socialism, but more socialism, not away from democracy, but more democracy. Everything that we are doing and that the people supported is based on socialist choice.

### Openness

Reorganisation is gaining momentum, and the realisation of its essence and importance is deepening along with it. What happens now, what we approached in connection with the January plenary meeting of the Central Committee, would have been simply unthinkable a year ago. Were we asked then if what becomes customary now is possible at all we would have either given a negative or an evasive answer. Over these two years we have yet done little to meet the current needs of the Soviet people. We certainly have neither the hungry, nor the homeless, nor those with nothing to wear. But this is not the point of the matter now. The atmosphere in society has changed radically, a sense of human dignity has increased sharply, civic potential has awakened. This is an earnest of the further progress of reorganisation. And it is very important not to lose sight of realities, not to get drowned in praising ourselves. And though we are now pretty much allergic to raptures about success, we have sworn to criticism, self-criticism, openness, and we shall continue assessing everything strictly, even stringently, objectively, facing the truth. For this is the most important and effective instrument of democracy which ensures enlisting the people in reorganisation and its progress.

Athos Fava spoke about the exceptional importance of the undertaking on which the Soviet leadership, the Soviet people had embarked, for the entire world development, for the communist movement. Reorganisation is a phenomenon which is, perhaps, comparable to only two or three phenomena in the entire Soviet history. This is a truly revolutionary epic, even though, in Athos Fava's appraisal, it is received not without questions even among communists. Some people recall the 20th CPSU Congress in this connection. Athos Fava expressed the confidence that this time communists will not make mistakes and will be able to draw from the courage of socialism, its dynamism, will appraise correctly its strong positive impact on all world processes and, above all, on the shaping of new thinking which is so much needed for eliminating the nuclear menace. He said reorganisation means courage of socialism, Leninism in action. It helps not only communists but also other progressive forces to pass to the offensive, to assume the initiative. It restores interest in socialism not only in the working class, but particularly among intelligentsia, in other sections, that started turning away from it.

In response to sincere and profound appraisals made by Comrade Fava, Mikhail Gorbachev said: "It is very important for us to know how we look to friends, for who if not they will tell us all the truth, tell it selflessly and with a sincere wish of success."

Athos Fava spoke about a serious breakthrough in the activity of his Party, about its working out a new line suiting the conditions of the development of Argentine society at the current stage, taking into account radical changes in all of Latin America and on the world scene.

The exchange of opinions showed that though the CPSU and the Communist Party of Argentina work in absolutely different conditions, the experience of the past decades when there was tardiness in assessing new processes and phenomena, when there was a lagging behind in theoretical assessment of tasks, confirm that there are essentially the same underlying causes for the strength and weaknesses in the activity of communist parties.

Responsible for the unfavourable developments is neither Marxism-Leninism, nor socialism as a system, but an unskilled use of them at the corresponding historical stage, under the given concrete national and international conditions.

It is impossible to outline in advance approaches that would be right always, under any conditions, Mikhail Gorbachev said. A permanent search for adequate decisions is necessary. And herein lie the political responsibility and role of the Party and state leadership. But when it fails to keep up with the course of events, setbacks emerge, sometimes involving grave consequences. Hence it is important, especially at crucial junctures, to have a dynamic, highly ideological and closely rallied leadership possessing a creative potential and permanently preserving its collective nature.

### National dignity

Much attention was devoted in the conversation to the problem of combining the efforts for mankind's survival with the struggle for the immediate interests of the working people, for national independence, for a just international economic order and for the protection of nature. The question was also examined of the significance and character of broad contacts and co-operation between class and ideologically different political forces at the inner state and international levels. An analysis was made of the problems of the enormous foreign debt of many states and their exploitation by imperialism under the new conditions characteristic of which, on the one side, is a strengthening of the transnational capital and on the other the growth of national dignity and the assertion of the right of every people to independent choice. In that connection the question was raised of anti-imperialist solidarity on a regional and international scale.

All these problems, which merit a further theoretical analysis, were approached from positions of dialectics and in specific historical terms.

In that context questions were touched upon also of the international communist movement. Both parties are convinced that it is in need of overcoming the stereotypes, which appeared at the preceding stage in connection with the shortcomings and weaknesses in a number of its links.

In these troubled and important times, the end  
(Continued on next page)



# Mikhail Gorbachev's letter to Swedish writer

A PLEASANT ceremony took place at the USSR Embassy in Stockholm on March 9, reports TASS correspondent Nikolai Vukolov:

The USSR Ambassador to Sweden Boris Pankin handed over to Mrs Astrid Lindgren a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev. The world renowned Swedish writer was invited to the International Forum in Moscow For a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, For the Survival of Humanity. Astrid Lindgren could not, for health reasons, attend the forum, in which she very much wished to participate. Therefore the writer, whose works are known in all countries of the world not only to children but to grown-ups, decided to express her gratitude for the invitation and sent a letter to the Soviet leader.

The letter said:

*Dear Mr Gorbachev,*

*I wish to thank you for your initiative to convene the peace conference. It is a ray of hope in this time of hopelessness. I wish to thank you above all on behalf of children, on behalf of those who suffer most because of our inability to live in peace on Earth.*

*I received the other day a letter from a little Swedish boy. He could hardly write and the letter was a brief one. It said in crooked block capitals: 'I am afraid of war. Are you too?'*

*How could I answer? Since I wished to be honest I wrote: Yes, I am afraid of war too. All people are. Yet I wished to reassure him in a way and I added a sentence, which I hope is right. I wrote: but you know so many people in all countries on Earth wish for peace, wish that an end be put to all wars. And you will see that this is going to happen ultimately. People will achieve what they wish most — peace on Earth.*

*Dear Mr Gorbachev, I believe that you are doing everything in your power so that our children should not live in permanent fear of war. And I hope that this peace conference will be a step forward on that long, difficult road to long-awaited peace.*

*Astrid Lindgren.*

Astrid Lindgren read out the reply from Mikhail Gorbachev. It said:

*Dear Mrs Astrid Lindgren,*

*I am deeply grateful to you for your letter. Your books are read by millions of Soviet children.*

*(Continued from previous page)*

of the 20th century, the communist movement can take second wind, by outlining forms of interaction, communication and joint actions on an equal footing according to the spirit of the times. The international voice of the communists should ring even louder.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Athos Fava also declared for such relations between the communist parties that exclude the monopoly of truth and any "centre", favour a joint search for answers to questions on topical and long-term matters, relations of trust and sincerity, when the sides are capable of appreciating each other's experience and prize the principles which make it possible to draw useful lessons for everyone from that versatile experience.

The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of deep mutual understanding, that was a lively and mutually-beneficial dialogue of real friends.

Taking part in the meeting were members of the Political Commission of the Communist Party of Argentina Central Committee P Echegaray and F Alvarez, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoli Dobrynin and member of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoli Chernyayev. □

*These books teach kindness and responsiveness, and thus participate in bringing up the younger generation of our country too.*

*In your letter you described the Moscow Forum as a 'ray of hope'. We also attach much significance to that event. Concern with mankind's future brought together in Moscow people, many of whom are well known not only in their own countries, but also all over the world. Scientists, writers, politicians, businessmen, physicians, people in various fields of culture and religious figures expressed their views in the discussions on the main problem of the times. There were many views and appraisals, and a lot of disputes, but one thing common to all participants manifested itself: it is the wish that civilisation survive, that the nuclear intimidation strategy be replaced with the strategy of trust and strengthening of peace, and be pursued without delay.*

*Thinking of peace is thinking of children. Nobody has the right to conduct things in the international arena in such a way that children, wherever they may live, are deprived of a future and become victims of the ill-considered policy of grown-ups. I wish to assure you and your little compatriot who asked you the question about war: we in the Soviet Union will do everything in our power to prevent a world catastrophe, so that those*

*who take their first steps in life, should step over the threshold by the end of the century, behind which the threat of nuclear war should be left forever. It is precisely for such a safe and reliable peace that we intend to work perseveringly, together with all on our unique planet.*

*I wish you, Mrs Lindgren, good health and fresh successes in your creative activities serving the interests of peace and progress.*

*Thank you for the book you sent to me,*

*Mikhail Gorbachev.*

Answering questions from local and Soviet journalists, the writer told the ceremony how she was deeply touched by the fact that the Soviet leader had answered her letter. This is a very clever and profound letter. What is expressed in it coincides with my idea that it is necessary to save the planet's peaceful future, to preserve peace for our children, for all people. It clearly and convincingly follows from the Soviet leader's letter that the Soviet Union works precisely in that direction, which must be welcomed. People of all trades in all countries of the world should jointly work for peace, since this is so natural and necessary to all of us, Astrid Lindgren said. Therefore I would wish to thank Mikhail Gorbachev again for that letter and the warm wishes addressed to me. □

## Discriminatory act by the US Department of State

BEWILDERMENT and indignation — such was the reaction of the members of a Soviet trade-union delegation to the refusal by the US Department of State to issue entry visas to them.

The Soviet specialists were invited by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers of the United States to attend a trade union conference on the protection of labour. The conference opened in Washington on March 10.

"This is a discriminatory act with regard not only to the Soviet trade unions but to American trade unions to which the Department of State dictates, not for the first time, whom they can and whom they cannot invite to the United States," Galina Sukhoruchenkova, Secretary of the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions (AUCCTU) told journalists at a Press Conference on March 9.

She was to have headed a delegation consisting, in particular, of Academician Nikolai Izmerov, Director of the Institute of Labour Hygiene and Occupational Diseases, Eduard Kolodin, Director of the AUCCTU Institute for the Protection of Labour, and Professor Viktor Ivanov of the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, an expert on radiation safety.

"At the conference our experts intended to share their experience with their American counterparts on radiation and chemical shielding at enterprises, the abatement of noise, vibration and other unfavourable factors at workplaces," Sukhoruchenkova said.

"It was planned to show the American colleagues a photographic exhibition about labour protection in the Soviet Union, a film about the tragic events at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and to exchange experiences in activities to reduce the incidence of occupational injuries and diseases.

"People who directly participated in eliminating the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident were included in the delegation at the request of the US association. However, the US authorities sacrificed the lofty cause to their political ambitions," the AUCCTU Secretary said.

It was pointed out at the press conference that it was not the first instance of unfriendly actions by the US Department of State which, when denying visas to representatives of Soviet working people, pleads as a rule the provisions of the immigration law of the period when the Cold War was at its height, as well as the negative attitude by the AFL-CIO leadership to Soviet-American trade union exchanges.

The delegation members sent a telegram addressed to the participants in the trade union conference in Washington, expressing regret that "yet another specific chance of Soviet-American co-operation cannot be used through the fault of those who continue to cling to the dogmas of anti-Sovietism, to the detriment of considerations of reason and humaneness, and contrary to the vital interests of working people". □

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# Eduard Shevardnadze's Pacific region visits

## Meeting with Australian Prime Minister

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign Minister, who is on an official visit to Australia, met Prime Minister Robert Hawke in Canberra on March 3.

A detailed exchange of views was held on topical international and regional issues.

Eduard Shevardnadze briefed the Australian Prime Minister on the strategy outlined by the 27th Congress of the CPSU for accelerating the Soviet Union's socio-economic development, the policy of reorganisation and renewal in all fields of the life of Soviet society.

It was stressed from the Soviet side that in the complex and controversial world today, where everything is dominated by the need for a choice between mankind's existence and non-existence, new approaches and methods of settling international disputes, and a new thinking corresponding with the realities of this nuclear-space age are necessary.

The Soviet Foreign Minister drew the Australian Prime Minister's attention to the

Soviet Union's large-scale programme for the total elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction by the end of this century, the major Soviet initiatives tabled at the Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik, the proposal of the USSR and of the other socialist countries on the creation of a comprehensive international peace and security system and the history-making Delhi Declaration on the principles of a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world.

The significance was pointed out of the proposal spelled out by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the problem of a cut in and elimination of medium-range nuclear weapons.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Robert Hawke declared for reaching as soon as possible specific positive results at the current bilateral and multilateral talks on the limitation and reduction of weapons, with an eye to putting an end to the weapons race on Earth, preventing it in outer space and reducing the level of military confrontation.

Both sides expressed the view that under the conditions of continuing tension, responsible actions are necessary to contribute to building

healthier international relations, strengthening universal peace and building confidence and mutual understanding among nations.

The Soviet Foreign Minister explained the programme put forward by the Soviet Union for ensuring peace and security, developing relations of good-neighbourliness and mutually-beneficial co-operation in the Asian-Pacific region, in the light of the provisions spelled out by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok and in his statement during his visit to India. The Soviet Union favours that the region should not be a source of tensions, an arena of military-political confrontation, but should actively join in the process of forming a comprehensive international security system.

The Prime Minister said that the Soviet proposals had been received with interest, above all in the context of the efforts made to prevent military rivalries and ensure broad peaceful political and economic co-operation in the region.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership Eduard Shevardnadze invited the Australian Prime Minister for an official visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. □

## Joint Soviet-Indonesian announcement

THE Soviet Union and Indonesia favour an immediate end to all nuclear weapons tests, and the speediest conclusion of a multilateral treaty on their total ban. This is pointed out in the joint Soviet-Indonesian announcement issued on March 8 on the results of the official visit to Indonesia of USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The sides reaffirmed their stand for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and called for the speediest convocation of an international

conference on that issue. They expressed support for the idea of creating nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world and for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific.

### Political settlement

The sides declared for preventing the spreading of the weapons race into outer space, for developing international co-operation in the use of outer space solely for peaceful aims. They also stressed the need for invigorating efforts at the disarmament conference to conclude a convention banning chemical weapons.

The sides discussed issues related to the situation in various parts of the world and expressed serious concern about a sharpening of tensions constituting a threat to universal peace and security. They reaffirmed their principled stand as regards the need for a political settlement of conflicts and disputes in accordance with the generally accepted norms of international law.

Touching upon the situation in South-East Asia, the sides agreed that it is of key significance to peace and stability in the region to carry on and build up constructive efforts in order to reach a mutually acceptable political settlement of questions related to Kampuchea. They also agreed that countries concerned outside the region could make a useful contribution to a search for such a political settlement.

The Soviet side reaffirmed the USSR's consistent stand for a political settlement in South-East Asia, and its interest in ensuring peace and stability in that part of the world. Firm intention was expressed to carry on the policy of strengthening and developing friendly relations with ASEAN member states.

Eduard Shevardnadze was received by President Suharto of Indonesia. In the course of the meeting mutual interest was expressed in a further strengthening and broadening of the friendly relations between the USSR and Indonesia, which are assuming increasingly stable and diversified character. It was stressed that President Suharto's coming official visit to the Soviet Union would be a weighty contribution to the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the current visit, which will serve towards strengthening of mutual understanding between the two countries and further progress in friendly Soviet-Indonesian relations.

Eduard Shevardnadze expressed gratitude for the warm and hospitable reception accorded to him in Indonesia. On behalf of the Soviet Government an invitation has been extended to Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja to pay an official visit to the USSR. The invitation was gratefully accepted. □

## USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs in Laos

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, who is currently on an official friendly visit to Laos, on March 9 met Kaysone Phomvihane, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR).

Satisfaction with the dynamic development of the relations of fraternal friendship and all-round co-operation between the Soviet Union and Laos, relations based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, was expressed during the friendly conversation which was held in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding.

The participants in the meeting held that the unity and cohesion of socialist countries, and further increase in the coordination of their efforts in the world arena, in Asia, in particular with a view to averting the threat of nuclear war, to ending the arms race and to ensuring peace and universal security acquire special importance in the conditions of tensions which persist in the world through the fault of imperialism.

Security and co-operation in the Asian-Pacific area can be assured if the weighed and well-

considered ideas contained in Mikhail Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech are realised.

The Soviet Union and the LPDR are in favour of developing stable, equal and mutually beneficial contacts between the countries of this part of the world and in favour of a joint search for ways towards a political settlement of regional conflicts existing here.

Mutual conviction was expressed that the Delhi Declaration on principles for a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world opened up fresh prospects for achieving good-neighbourliness and co-operation on Earth.

The Soviet Union reaffirmed support for the constructive proposals and practical steps of Laos which at one with Vietnam and Kampuchea comes out in favour of improving the political climate in South-East Asia and making it a zone of peace, goodwill, good-neighbourliness and co-operation.

Talks between Eduard Shevardnadze and Phoune Sipaseuth, member of the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the LPDR, were held on the same day. □



# Nikolai Ryzhkov meets working people

THE results of the first steps toward the implementation of the strategic course of the CPSU at speeding up the country's social and economic development, the ways of resolving problems impeding advance were discussed on March 9 during a meeting of working people of the Urals city of Sverdlovsk with Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The essence of the radical reform of the country's entire system of economic management is the restoration and development of Lenin's principles of democratic centralism, the introduction of the economic methods of management everywhere, Nikolai Ryzhkov said.

"In order to ensure that everything planned by

the Party is implemented in concrete actions, that the reorganisation becomes the very life of our society, the entire people must be interested in this important undertaking. There is only one road for this: broad democratisation," the speaker said.

## Landmarks

"Reorganisation is a complex process which requires vast efforts of the whole people. It is absolutely clear that we are at the beginning of this road. We have not yet been able to overcome all the negative things in the national economy that we inherited from the past."

Inertia and the habit of working in the old ways are still largely felt. Though there was a certain progress in 1986, the first month of the new year showed that the economy had not been given the stability which would ensure its dynamism under any conditions and against restraining factors which arose in January and against which we are

not guaranteed in the future. The February results show that the situation is improving somewhat, but the January lag is still far from being overcome.

Our task is to step up the rate of economic development so as to achieve the landmarks planned in the months ahead.

The country is looking forward to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, having a clearcut programme worked out by the Party, the programme for speeding up the country's social and economic development, raising the living standards of the Soviet people, radical reorganisation of all aspects of society's life and conducting a vigorous foreign policy. The Party and the people are raising the banner of peace and international co-operation high above the globe. The Party's strategic course meets with strong support of the Soviet peoples since it expresses their aspirations and their plans for the future, the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers said in conclusion. □

## Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee on March 5 considered additional measures to accelerate the mechanisation of agriculture. A resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on this issue envisions the further expansion of the production potential of machine-building for agriculture, improvements in the organisation of labour, the more

### Century of humanitarian culture

THE next century should become a century of humanitarian culture, or there will be no 21st century, Academician Dmitri Likhachev believes. "It should be humanitarian because otherwise humanity will destroy itself. The technology of extermination has reached an unprecedentedly high level, or, to be more exact, an unprecedented moral meanness," he told journalists on March 4.

According to Academician Likhachev, humanitarian thinking is a system of views of the world centred around man, the concern for his wellbeing and the preservation of the human race.

He believes that a purely auxiliary role should be assigned to machinery. If it does not occupy a subsidiary role with regard to man, it will start functioning just for the sake of functioning. "Then technological progress will get out of control, will consume natural resources and the natural environment in general. After that it will consume itself, smashing humanity on its way," he said.

"Technology should be reoriented. Instead of seeking immediate and grand success, it should be aimed at the formation of a creative atmosphere," Academician Likhachev said.

He pointed out that a moral code for scientists should be drawn up. "A scientist should possess a broad and profound consciousness following the lines of civic duty and should feel responsible for his actions. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are proof enough of the necessity of this. The moral code should envisage the personal responsibility of a scientist for the harm that can be inflicted on humanity through his actions". □

extensive introduction of work in shifts, the expansion of the facilities of design and research organisations and the application of advanced materials and accessories.

Proceeding from the resolutions of the 27th Congress, the Political Bureau approved proposals on the procedures for the performance rating of senior officials of the staff of government and public bodies, which should become an effective form of the collective evaluation of the work of cadres, an incentive to their professional growth, to the enhancement of responsibility for one's duties and to higher standards of work.

Concrete organisational and economic measures were outlined to ensure the efficient performance of the State Committee of the USSR for Foreign Tourism so that the demand by foreign and Soviet citizens for tourist services is met to a fuller extent and that shortcomings in that field are removed.

The Political Bureau heard Mikhail Gorbachev's reports on his meetings with Amintore Fanfani, President of the Senate of the Italian Republic, and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. It was noted that the meaningful exchange of views between them on matters of European and international security was very important to the revitalisation of the East-West political dialogue and the search for ways of improving the international situation.

The Political Bureau reviewed the results of the talks of the Soviet leadership with Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson, who paid an official visit to the Soviet Union. It noted the closeness of the positions of the two sides on strengthening international security and stability, curbing the arms race and the need for joint actions of big and small states to safeguard peace.

The Political Bureau has endorsed the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's conversation with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Argentina Athos Fava. The meeting noted with satisfaction the community of views of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Argentina on questions of the current situation in the world that were discussed, and confirmed their readiness to promote the cognizance and resolution of the problems facing the international communist and working class movement, to continue the quest for forms of

equal communication and co-operation among fraternal parties meeting the spirit of the times, interaction of communists with other forces in the struggle for a nuclear-weapon-free world and for the survival of humanity. The mutual striving of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Argentina to continue developing traditional comradely relations linking both parties was emphasised.

Upon hearing Nikolai Slyunkov's information on the visit of the CPSU delegation to Portugal, the Political Bureau noted with satisfaction the identity of views between the CPSU and the Portuguese Communist Party on cardinal questions of the struggle for peace, democracy and social progress. The invariable solidarity of the CPSU with the struggle of the Portuguese Communist Party in defence of the Portuguese people's democratic gains was confirmed.

The meeting also discussed some other questions of economic development, of the Party's organisational and ideological work, as well as development of co-operation with foreign countries. □

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# Soviet Foreign Affairs Commission delegation in Spain

A DELEGATION from the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet (Parliament), led by Alexander Yakovlev, alternative member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and member of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived in Madrid on March 8 for an official visit at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Congress of Deputies of the Cortes Generales (Parliament) of Spain.

At the airport Alexander Yakovlev made a statement for the press in which he said in particular:

"The main aim of the visit is to exchange views with the parliamentarians of Spain on ways to overcome the present dangerous development of the international situation, on how to bring the situation in the world back to normal, on how to humanise international relations, to get rid of the

fear of a nuclear catastrophe, fear of wars and fear for the future of our children, and on how to ensure that prejudices in relations between peoples, distrust and suspiciousness disappear."

"These are urgent tasks and, as experience shows, they require in many respects new approaches. The problem is virtually as follows: either political thinking and practical actions come into conformity with the realities of our times or our civilisation, the very life on Earth may vanish."

## New realities

"At a time when man has become technically capable of putting an end to his own existence, a further counting on military means in politics and in international relations does not guarantee genuine security for any country, for any person, but increases the danger for all. There is only one way out, namely peaceful coexistence, co-operation between countries, and a search for ways and means of interaction."

"To come to realise this and, on realising it, to build a practical policy in accordance with the new realities — herein is the essence of the way out of the suicidal impasse, the essence of the analysis from which the Soviet Union proceeds in its policy."

"You look at Europe from the Pyrenees and we look at it from the Urals. Our two countries are like two 'walls' of the common European home, and we are equally worried and concerned over everything that takes place in this home and over how it lives."

"A question of immense importance is being decided now: whether Europe will get rid of the objects which are obviously useless for the common 'home' — medium-range missiles."

"There is another question: whether the process of developing security and co-operation in the continent will intensify, or the forces which do not wish our home well, and to which this home is foreign, will gain the upper hand again."

"We have come to Spain in a period of serious, large-scale changes in the life of the Soviet Union, and of our entire society. The purpose of the transformations is to make the life of the Soviet people and of every Soviet person fuller, more interesting and spiritually richer. Creation is the objective, and it is inseparable from peace and blended with it."

"In conclusion, allow me to convey the sentiments of deep respect and traditional sympathies felt by the Soviet people towards the friendly Spanish people, and wishes of peace and prosperity." □

## Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman on Soviet proposals

THE February 28, 1987 statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, evoked a positive response everywhere in the world, Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Ministry Press Centre on March 5.

Since it was a bold step and a concession to the West, the West simply could not criticise it without criticising itself. For the same reason it was impossible to dismiss that proposal as propaganda. Gennadi Gerasimov went on. So, many people believe that the West has fallen into a trap of its own making.

Recalling that US President Ronald Reagan welcomed Mikhail Gorbachev's statement as a step promoting the understanding achieved during the Reykjavik meeting, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the US delegation to the Geneva talks had tabled its draft treaty on medium-range missiles which in a number of main parameters is in line with the Reykjavik accords. The Soviet proposals are based on these accords, Gerasimov emphasised.

The Soviet delegation, he said, had begun to study that document. At present discussions are taking place in Geneva on the problem of medium-range missiles.

Three groups are working at the nuclear and space arms talks — two would complete their work on March 6, and the group on medium-range missiles would extend the current round till March 19.

"If the American side shows readiness for constructive negotiations one can hope that the work in Geneva will proceed at a rapid pace," Gennadi Gerasimov said.

At the same time some commentators are expressing doubts: will verification difficulties be surmounted? Isn't a wedge being driven between American and West European solidarity? Won't some misalignment result as regards the balance of forces in Europe? It is also observed that a long road lies ahead and that many months will be required to travel it. US Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, while acceding to the positive appraisal of the proposals, emphasises the importance of a careful analysis of those proposals, first of all from the standpoint of verification.

The new Soviet proposals on medium-range

missiles evoked a special interest in West European countries and it can be said that comments are positive there — in West Germany, Italy, Britain and some other West European countries. Yet one can come across attempts at belittling the importance of the new Soviet proposals, picturing them as an effort to drive a wedge between the ranks of the Europeans, and to leave the US and Western Europe divided on that issue.

"But in general the beginning is good, in our opinion," Gennadi Gerasimov said in conclusion. □

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# October: 70 years on. The revolution continues

THIS time of change and renewal in every area of life of Soviet society is seen as revolutionary, that is comparable to the process started by the Great October Revolution. The twelve months that have passed since the 27th Party Congress have been the opening stage of urgent action to reshape the economic machinery, a year of positive change in the political, economic and cultural areas and in moral climate as well as in the very attitude to man and his problems, in the style and method of work of every component of the social organism.

Why does the CPSU call this change revolutionary? For what we normally see as a revolution is radical change at the very base of society and in the mode of production, while in this case the foundations of the social and economic order remain essentially unchanged: the public ownership of the means of production, planned socialist economy, the political system governed by the principles written into the Constitution of the USSR, and Marxist-Leninist ideology, as the ever dominant philosophy.

## Economic front

Those who see the current process of renovation as just about "shaking the foundations" and negating the socialist and communist perspective should be reminded of what Lenin thought of reforms in a victorious socialist revolution. He pointed out the revolutionary essence of what were anything but revolutionary methods of economic development. Calling those methods reformist (as opposite to the direct "Sturm und Drang" methods), Lenin stressed their significance for carrying forward the cause of the revolution which, of course, did not boil down to the one-time act of power takeover, but was to establish a new type of society. "The achievements of the revolution," he wrote, "cannot now be the same as they were previously. Their nature inevitably changes in conformity with the transition from the war front to the economic front, the transition to the New Economic Policy, the conditions that primarily demand higher productivity of labour, greater labour discipline. At such a time improvements at home are the major achievements of the revolution; a neither salient, striking, nor immediately perceptible improvement in labour, in its organisation and results . . ."

Such an "improvement at home" is a really revolutionary task in the present reshaping process. The novelty and the uncommonness of the modes of approach it contains are based on a Leninist analysis of the dialectics of the revolutionary and "reformist" methods of socialist change.

"Marxism alone," Lenin wrote, "has precisely and correctly defined the relation of reforms to revolution, although Marx was able to see this relation only from one aspect — under the conditions preceding the first (to any extent) permanent and lasting victory of the proletariat, if only in one country. Under those conditions, the basis of the proper relation was that reforms are a by-product of the revolutionary class struggle of the proletariat . . ."

"After the victory of the proletariat, if only in one country, something new enters into the relation between reforms and revolution. In principle, it is the same as before, but a change in

form takes place, which Marx himself could not foresee, but which can be appreciated only on the basis of the philosophy and politics of Marxism."

Today Soviet society has to upgrade practically every aspect of its life. The present turning point and the need to undo as soon as possible the consequences of a downturn, correct the mistakes and make up the ground lost in recent times compel a revolutionary kind of action indeed, in terms of urgency and magnitude. So it is a revolutionary kind of change, both in substance and, largely, in the methods used, that is involved in resolving the pressing, even long overdue problems.

The argument about the revolutionising pattern of change now going on has been increasingly appreciated and approved by Soviet people. Here is, for example, what a *Kommunist* magazine reader, N S Matorov of Kuibyshev, has written to the Editor: "The revolutionary clean-up is going on in a close-fought battle with the forces of inertia, conservatism, eyewash, and so on. And although this is a revolution without guns and not against a class enemy, it too requires, as we see, the people fully involved in it to have uncommon courage, sometimes make certain material sacrifice, and display civic maturity and moral staunchness."

Economic reform comes first. It is a thorough overhaul, upon the sound foundation of socialist public property and planned economy, of the machinery of exploiting the essential factors and advantages of the economic system that was started by the October Revolution. A new managerial set-up is taking shape, shedding the impediments that hampered economic growth for quite a long time. Things like commodity-money relations, full cost-accounting, self-repayment and self-financing are being brought into play on an ever larger scale. Industry, civil engineering, railway transport and the distributive network have made notable headway in switching over to new operational conditions since this year began. The immediate task ahead is to pass on from "patching up" things to a thoroughgoing reform of economic activity and management to cover planning, financing, price-setting, supplies, and all stages of the reproduction cycle and economic growth factors.

Socialist property relations are also undergoing what is a revolutionary kind of change. There is, of course, no question of their "abolition" or replacement by any other form of property. But an analysis of the problems of the recent past makes it abundantly clear that even with the socialist type of ownership predominating, there can occur some stagnation and even regress, glaring mismanagement and waste, improper distribution and other economic irregularities. The advantages of the socialist property system can never be expected to work automatically. It all depends on how you handle this property.

Plans are afoot to give full scope to co-operative forms of property and promote self-employment. A wide-scale experiment is under way to encourage economic interest and provide additional incentives, both material and moral. Such a daring undertaking all along the front of economic expansion sometimes frightens undecided and wavering people, all the more so since the processes under way do not always fit in with what have for years been customary, long-learned patterns. But what matters is not a quest for the sake of a quest, nor change for the sake of change. It is important to try out a wide range of approaches as soon as possible. Perhaps, some of the forms and approaches emerging today will

not stand the test and will have to be given up.

The moves to upgrade the economy, however important they are by themselves, are geared to the supreme objective of all-round development of the individual.

It takes a new kind of decision-making and action, and a break with many of the long-established patterns and ideas to bring about a truly revolutionary change of tack to the good of man so as to meet his needs and wants. While declaring our humanistic objectives in the years that have gone by, we did not always have enough forces and resources to realise them in full, and even did not always properly use whatever we had. Now with far more resources available and the right priorities set, the opportunities for faster advance of social welfare are not yet being used, "from force of habit", as intensely as required today. So there has to be a rethink and effective and determined action: it is social policy that brings out best of all the humanistic nature of the socialist system and its essential distinction from capitalism. There has to be close attention to squaring the progress of high technology with human interests so that the "primacy" of the individual should be invariably respected, human dignity never devalued, and man assured the status of true architect of his destiny.

More democracy is the condition, method and result of this revolutionising change. The October Revolution demolished the judgement cultivated for centuries that only a fraction of the public could actually share in government — it turned this function over first to the majority and then to the entire people, thereby demonstrating the truly humanistic message of proletarian, socialist democracy.

## Striking root

In theory, the concept of self-government by the people has been treated variously. Quite often it was used to denote merely the autonomy of local authorities and economic units — in that case self-government was seen as nothing short of fragmented, decentralised and simply a spontaneous kind of rule. Sometimes it was presented even as a kind of antibody to the whole body politic. In short, those lop-sided concepts treated the process of consolidation of the State and promotion of self-government as isolated, never overlapping, and sometimes opposing each other. In relatively recent years, such concepts resolved themselves into what has proved to be an unfounded forecast of a prospect of the Socialist State withering away as its functions "devolved" to community organisations.

It should be said in no uncertain terms that forecasts of that sort never followed from the actual development of the Socialist State. Self-government by the people is gaining ground and striking root not outside but within the framework of socialist statehood, penetrating deeper and deeper into the fabric of public and social life.

What does that mean in actual practice? First of all, the consolidation of the authority and influence and the extension of the competence of the Soviets of People's Deputies, the political foundation of the USSR. During the decades since October 1917, the soviets have developed into a ramified system of institutions concerned with legislation, administration and supervision. However, today we are no longer satisfied with their performance. Plans are afoot to enhance considerably their measure of responsibility for everything that happens within the territory under their jurisdiction, enlarge their powers notably those relating to industrial management,



## KRASNAYA ZVEZDA:

## Who is Scared by the Results of Reykjavik?

THE practical possibility to destroy nuclear weapons that arose during the US-Soviet meeting in the Icelandic capital has put this question in bold relief: why develop anti-missile weapons if things are moving to where there will be no nuclear missiles and other offensive strategic arms at all?

"From both the political and military point of view, this question is perfectly logical and legitimate," the Soviet Army daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* said on March 10 in an article entitled *Who's Been Scared by the Results of Reykjavik?*

The "Strategic Defense Initiative", however, it added, had still been left to stand in the way of the efforts to stop the arms race and get rid of nuclear weapons and poses the main stumbling block on the path to a nuclear-free world.

Analysing why this has been allowed to happen, the paper quoted Mikhail Gorbachev as saying: "The US Administration's attitude to SDI is the key to understanding what it has at the

back of its mind. It has the same at the back of its mind as the American military-industrial complex has".

The "Star Wars" project was for the military business, not just another juicy pie, the article said.

It also meant, *Krasnaya Zvezda* explained, a fundamental new area of capitalist military enterprise, opened up by the latest phase in the scientific and technological revolution.

"Monopolies have been going out of their way to make the scientific and technological advances help their enrichment and SDI has come in most handy in these efforts," the article went on.

"US military-industrial quarters have been using SDI in a bid to remove or substantially lower the barriers existing in the way of higher profits. This is why, the interested US circles believe, if there were no SDI, it would have had to have been invented, *Krasnaya Zvezda* continued.

It cited the Western press as concluding that the SDI idea was the brainchild of the American monopolies because it held out the promise of an

unprecedentedly big market for military-industrial products.

"Expenses on large-scale research and development efforts under the 'Star Wars' programme are fully covered by government funding. American military-industrial firms are thus given the possibility to master the most exotic technologies without investing one cent of their own towards these ends."

It went on to say that the "Star Wars" programme enabled the US munitions monopolies to engage in developing the latest technologies and thoroughly modernise their production facilities effectively for free.

The paper added that SDI also gave the US military-industrial companies involved in the space arms race the broadest opportunities to draw on the expertise of top-notch specialists without spending any funds of their own on their training and re-training.

"This is why the quarters linked with militarism and profits from the arms race have been clearly scared by the 'winds of change' after the meeting in Iceland," *Krasnaya Zvezda* said. □

(Continued)

make their members more active, democratise what have somewhere become routine procedures of calling and holding sessions, deliberations of standing committees, and so on. That implies, in other words, a kind of "reconstitution" of the authority of the soviets in its Leninist acceptance. That is a truly revolutionary enterprise, too.

Real and all-embracing self-government has nothing whatever to do with bureaucratic "mystification" totally unrelated to the actual needs, interests and requirements of the people. Yet another idea in promoting it is to galvanize all social-political structures and institutions into full-scale action as the vehicles of both representative and direct democracy and to stimulate their change-over from formalistic routine and tedious "functioning" to real work for the good of the people.

Self-government has been given a fresh impetus within the framework of production groups as well. The rights granted to them will be reinforced by the Socialist Enterprises Act which will help make a plant, factory or an amalgamated complex better "fit" the system of economic management governed by the principles of cost-accounting and more effective and flexible in using the potential of democratic centralism.

The 70 years of socialism on Soviet soil and the present quickening movement towards a qualitatively new state of society bring out with ample evidence constant progress as a base element and major trend of the new system. The socialism we have built is an advancing and forward-looking society.

The principle of development and renewal ever at the bedrock of actual socialism has worked and is working best of all at the turning points of history. The laws of dialectics determine the pattern of evolution and upgrading of the new type of society at this juncture as well. Today socialism is forging ahead, while resolving its contradictions in what Marx described as by no means a "quietly kind way". For socialism to

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## Counter-measures against SDI

THE space spiral of the arms race cannot give the United States military superiority, according to Major-General Ivan Anureyev.

Writing in the Soviet journal *Energiya* (Energy), he analysed military technical measures which can be adopted to thwart an SDI defence, including active counter-measures and passive counter-measures.

The first group encompasses ways of knocking out SDI components in outer space, in the air and on the ground and disrupting the system of managing the anti-missile defence, as well as radioelectronic means of fooling ABM facilities.

The other includes decoys, ways of protecting rockets and nuclear warheads from laser beams, and missile launch camouflage techniques.

General Anureyev described destruction of SDI components such as orbiting battle stations and space-based battle management systems as the most effective way of weakening the entire missile defence dramatically.

He said this can be done with all manner of space-based, air-borne and land-based weapons, including space mines — satellites laden with

high explosives, which are inserted into orbits close to those of SDI stations and can be blown up on command from the Earth.

Besides, one can produce clouds of metal balls to travel on collision courses with SDI components. Coasting at a speed of 15 kilometers per second, one such 30-gram ball can pierce a steel casing (or a space station's wall) 15 centimeters thick.

Missiles and warheads can be protected from SDI laser beams with light-deflecting coatings and can also be sent tumbling through space to their targets so as to prevent a laser weapon from locking onto a particular part of their bodies.

Besides, rockets can also be equipped with an extra cooling system and clouds of fumes and aerosols can be formed in the atmosphere to absorb laser emissions, General Anureyev said.

He said an analysis of the package of possible measures to foil an SDI defence has demonstrated that there are efficient and relatively cheap ways one can employ to retain an ability to deal a crushing retaliatory blow to the aggressor, and that the cost of such an "asymmetrical answer" to SDI would come to just a fraction of that of the US "Star Wars" project. □

advance means to fight an uneasy, sometimes exhausting battle against outdated things, overcoming the periods of stagnation, followed by yet faster headway towards yet higher summits of progress.

All attempts to focus on recording what has been achieved and reassuring assessments of what has been done are bound to do much damage to the economy, social welfare, ideological and moral aspects of life and to cause intellectual stagnation. That is a law of history: only those who never fall behind the march of the times and help it forward by their own effort can keep pace with it. That is what it means to be a revolutionary today, to be loyal to the banner and the ideals of the October Revolution.

To work for the ideals of humanism, socialist morality and justice to be translated into reality is the sum and substance of the activities of the Communist Party. Just as seventy years ago, the wind of the century fills the sail of socialism. The revolution continues! □

(Kommunist No. 1, 1987 — Novosti)

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# Reduction of conventional forces in Europe: it's time to act

By Vladimir Katin, *Novosti political commentator*

THE Soviet Union's decision to separate the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe from the package of proposals the USSR tabled at Reykjavik, and the call to immediately conclude a separate agreement on the matter, have evoked a favourable response in the world. However, it appears that not all want such an agreement. Some Western European leaders expressed concern that such an agreement would give the Warsaw Treaty Organisation a big edge in conventional armaments.

However, according to data provided by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Stockholm Peace Research Institute, there is an overall balance between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. The US Brookings Institution claims that the conventional force balance is now even tilting in favour of the West. The Soviet Defence Ministry offers similar figures: in Europe NATO has 94 combat-ready divisions and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation 78 combat-ready divisions. The strength of an American division is 16,000 to 19,000 men and a West German division has 23,000 men, while a Warsaw Treaty Organisation division has a maximum strength of between 11,000 and 12,000 men. This gives NATO a considerable advantage.

Now about military hardware: Until recently the Warsaw Treaty Organisation had more tanks than NATO, but when Spain joined the

Atlantic Alliance, that advantage diminished considerably and even if it still exists, NATO's many-time superiority in anti-tank weapons makes up for it by a long chalk.

NATO has more tactical aircraft than the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. And last year this was confirmed by the US Defense Secretary.

It should be noted that even though there is a balance, the armed forces of one alliance can never be a mirror reflection of the armed forces of the other. One may have an advantage in one type of weapon, the other in another type, but on a global scale they are roughly neck and neck. This is the main thing.

The Warsaw Treaty countries respect the opinion of the NATO countries and their military experts, including the view that an imbalance in some types of conventional armaments and differences in estimates of troop strengths and weapons can hinder the process of reduction of armed forces in Europe and create misunderstandings and problems. But is it really an insurmountable obstacle in our age? I think the Rubicon will be crossed if both sides demonstrate the political will to do so. There are concrete proposals on this score.

To begin with, the Warsaw Treaty countries have long been calling for a simultaneous disbandment of both alliances. The disbandment of their military organisations might be the first step toward this goal. Unfortunately, the NATO countries are not prepared to go that far. Aware of this, the Warsaw Treaty countries proposed reducing military forces and conventional armaments step by step. A programme for such a

gradual reduction was put forward at a meeting of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee, held last July in Budapest. The Warsaw Treaty countries propose reducing along with conventional forces tactical nuclear forces with a range of 1,000 kilometres. The proposed reduction is to cover all Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Conventional forces in Europe should be reduced in accordance with an agreed timetable and with constant maintenance of the military balance at lower levels so that no harm is done to the security of either side. As a first step, the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO may reduce their troop strengths by 100,000 to 150,000 men of either side within a period of one or two years. The reduction may also include cuts in the number of tactical aircraft. Right after that the Warsaw Treaty countries are prepared to make further deep cuts as a result of which, if the NATO countries agree, in the early 1990s the land troops and tactical aircraft in Europe would be reduced by 25 per cent from their present level. In numbers, that would mean a reduction of more than 500,000 troops on either side.

This is a very simple way to eliminate what the West calls the "threat" from the Warsaw Treaty Organisation's conventional forces. If this problem really worries anyone in NATO and is not used only to discredit the new Soviet proposal on the elimination of American and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe, it must be dealt with promptly. That would be a good test of the intentions of the Western leaders, for it would show whether they really want to ensure effective security for Europe. □

## International reaction to Soviet proposals

"MY conversation with Mikhail Gorbachev has convinced me of the absolute seriousness of the Soviet leader's proposal that medium-range missiles be withdrawn from Europe," Iceland's Prime Minister Steingrímur Hermannsson told a press conference in Copenhagen on March 5 following his official visit to the USSR.

The head of the Icelandic Government underlined the Soviet Union's readiness to get down immediately to negotiations on tactical missiles. He said that the question of establishing a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe had also been discussed with Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader, he said, expressed understanding of Iceland's opinion that such a zone should embrace a territory from the Urals to Greenland. The General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee stressed that it was very important that the idea of a nuclear-free zone in the north of the European continent be backed by as many countries of the region as possible.

A spokesman for the Cyprus Government said on March 5 at a briefing for journalists that the Cyprus Government had welcomed with special satisfaction the recent proposal of the Soviet

leader Mikhail Gorbachev aimed at the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. He said that it was undoubtedly an important step which gave grounds for the justified hope that the expectations of humanity stemming from the Reykjavik meeting would come true.

The Greek Government fully supports Mikhail Gorbachev's recent proposals which are a positive step leading to the elimination of all medium-range nuclear weapons, both Soviet and US, in Europe, a spokesman for the Greek Government stated on March 6.

He also emphasised that the stand of Greece on the problems of nuclear disarmament remained unchanged: Greece is against nuclear weapons in any manifestation.

The USSR's initiative to conclude a separate agreement aimed at eliminating US and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe is a far-reaching and wise step, the influential Indian newspaper *Hindustan Times* says. Moscow's readiness to discuss this issue separately has appreciably boosted the prospects for reaching an arms control treaty.

The proposal put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev is directly related to the understandings attained at the Soviet-US meeting in Reykjavik; it is a continuation of the USSR's peaceful offensive, the article says. The sides have to sit down at a negotiating table now to discuss details of an agreement and develop its guarantees, the newspaper stresses.

The West will behave in an absurd way if it turns down the new Soviet proposals on disarmament set forth in the statement of February 28, 1987 by Mikhail Gorbachev, said West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in an interview with the ZDF TV programme *Bonner Perspektiven*. Putting forth the proposal to scrap all Soviet and US medium-range missiles in Europe, he pointed out, the USSR thereby showed, its goodwill.

"The German Democratic Republic (GDR) supports the Soviet Union's important new initiative concerning the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. The initiative gives an opportunity really to make the European continent a zone free from nuclear weapons", Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SUPG) and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, stated on March 8 at a reception given by the SUPG Central Committee on the occasion of International Women's Day.

"We are for the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe because it is essential to fight for peace in practice, not in words", the GDR's leader emphasised.

"If medium-range missiles disappear from the territory of Europe, there will be no need any longer for shorter-range theatre missiles either. It will be possible to solve these issues through talks, too". □