

## Session of USSR Supreme Soviet

NIKOLAI TALYZIN, Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, delivered a report on the plan for the USSR's economic and social development for 1988 at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet which opened on October 19. Dealing in brief with the results of 1987, he said that the country's economy is primarily developing in line with planned targets. However, some industries, for instance machine-building and the light industry, are lagging behind their targets.

In 1988, the speaker went on to say, it will be necessary to ensure higher rates of growth in social production than in the first two years. Therefore, according to the draft plan, it is scheduled to raise the national income to be produced in 1988 by 4.3 per cent as against the plan for the current year. Industrial output will go up by 4.5 per cent and that of agriculture by 3.4 per cent. Labour productivity will rise 4.2 per cent. Large-scale measures are planned to save resources. In the first three years of the five-year plan period (1986-1988) the draft plan provides for cutting by 6.9 per cent the metal consumption share of national income and its energy consumption share by 5.3 per cent.

Special attention in the draft plan for next year is given to social programmes and the growth in the people's well-being. For instance, the total sum of payments and benefits from social consumption funds which are used to finance free medical services for the population, public education, social insurance, to pay out pensions, stipends and various allowances, will grow to 171 billion roubles in 1988 or 3.5 billion roubles more than is provided for by the five-year plan for this year. A new boost will be given to housing, which is even now developing at higher rates. Next year another 11.5 million people will improve their housing conditions.

Dwelling on the development of foreign economic relations, the speaker noted that socialist economic integration with the CMEA countries would expand and deepen in 1988. The Soviet Union will continue rendering economic and technical assistance to the developing countries in strengthening their economies. It will maintain, in future too, trade and economic ties with the developed capitalist countries. Talyzin said in conclusion.

The State Budget of the USSR for 1988 has been drawn up proceeding from a fundamentally new financial policy, said Boris Gostev, Minister of Finance of the USSR, who delivered a report on the USSR State Budget estimates for 1988 at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

New economic management conditions introduce substantial changes into the pattern of

both incomes and expenditures, he said. Incomes are to be redistributed in favour of enterprises. Next year they will have at their disposal more than 100,000 million roubles for self-financing production and social development.

One more specific feature of the budget is a further reduction in the turnover tax share. This is linked with a considerable reduction (by 12 billion roubles) in receipts from sales of alcoholic drinks.

The Finance Minister pointed to a reduction in foreign trade receipts to the budget. This is linked with the unfavourable state of world prices. However, he said, the raw material trend of Soviet exports is being slowly overcome.

Budget social provisions are to grow next year. The total expenditures to meet various requirements of the population (housing construction, the output of consumer goods, development of trade, consumer-oriented services, and so on) will amount to 402,000 million roubles in 1988, a 22,000 million rouble rise over the current year. Environmental protection expenditures are also to grow — up to 10,500 million roubles.

Touching upon military expenditures, Gostev said that "expenditures in the State Budget for the upkeep of the personnel of the Armed Forces of the USSR, payment of pensions, military construction and other expenditures will remain at the current year level — 20,200 million roubles".

## Mikhail Gorbachev meets secretaries of regional Party organisations

ON October 19 Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met the first secretaries of regional Party committees in the non-black-earth zone of the Russian Federation.

It was stressed during the meeting that the vast territory holds an exceptionally important place in the life of the whole country. There are large industrial centres, major agricultural areas, big scientific potentials, and cultural values of the past and the present concentrated there. At every stage in history it has played a tremendous role in efforts for progress and for a new life.

A substantive exchange of opinions was held on the progress of the perestroika (restructuring) drive, an earlier adopted programme concerning the non-black-earth zone, and work to update organising and political activities.

The regional Party leaders spoke about an upswing in public and political activity in their areas and about efforts to accelerate the social and economic development of the regions and

autonomous republics in the non-black-earth zone. Stress was laid on the high significance of the Party's decisions on the zone to improving production facilities available there and raising the standard of social and cultural services in the countryside.

A number of proposals were voiced for further

improvements along these lines and several criticisms made with regard to ministries and departments.

Concluding the conversation, Gorbachev stressed that Party committees and organisations have special responsibility for furthering all

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## To the constituent conference of the Lenin Child Foundation of the USSR

On behalf of the Central Committee of our Communist Party, I heartily greet you, delegates of the constituent conference of the Soviet Child Foundation named after Lenin. You represent work collectives, mass organisations, professional unions, parents and teachers. Today, our community's concern for children has found a new expression in the foundation being inaugurated.

This conference is taking place shortly before a red-letter day, the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. State protection of mothers and children was one of its principal gains. Soviet power gave shelter to all homeless children. It set up a universally accessible education network. It guarantees all-round personal development to everyone. The Communist Party and the Soviet State do much to improve the academic and moral education of children, and their leisure. If we draw the entire population into the effort, it will be even more successful thanks to the Soviet people's kindness, gift of compassion, initiative and efficiency in supervision.

Ever new forces are joining our revolutionary restructuring effort. Brought to it by their

communist social awareness, they devote their disinterested enthusiasm to the cause. Now, our community displays its inspired humanism in establishing a mass organisation to take care of children.

It will pool the nation's spiritual potential and material means for the sake of mothers and children. It will allow people to do their bit for orphans, disabled children and other children in distress. No child in our country shall be lonely and neglected, and we shall spare no effort for that goal.

The Soviet Child Foundation has ample tasks. It takes really kind and industrious people to cope with them. Foundation activists must be able to protect children hand-in-hand with state authorities. They must help children to develop into well-educated and efficient adults, good citizens worthy of their glorious Motherland.

The CPSU Central Committee wishes the Lenin Child Foundation every success. The new mass organisation will be a reliable assistant of the Party and the nation as they tackle their big task of educating the rising generations. Of that we are sure.

Mikhail Gorbachev.

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# Mikhail Gorbachev's remarks at CPSU Central Committee meeting

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV made the concluding speech at the October 17 meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting discussed tasks of Party and economic bodies in accelerating the development of the processing industries of the agri-industrial sector of the USSR.

Summing up the results of the discussion, he said that questions bearing on millions belonged to big politics. This is why the question discussed by the participants in the meeting — the question bearing on the entire country, on the very vital interests of the people — is a question of big politics and should be treated as such.

Describing Nikolai Ryzhkov's report as a realistic and serious one, making a correct appraisal of the situation in that area of work, Mikhail Gorbachev said: "What we are talking about is organising work in this area in such a way, changing it in such a way as to make it keep pace with rates of growth of agricultural production in order to ensure that everything produced in the fields and at the farms reach the consumer. And with good quality, too."

Attitude to that important area of the national economy, he said, should be changed at all the levels of planning and supply agencies, at the headquarters of the industries involved in the realisation of that programme and at the local level as well.

Mikhail Gorbachev said it was a blunder that the sector of vital importance for people's everyday life which was giving the economy 120 billion roubles' worth of produce a year and accounted for one-half of the goods turnover in retail trade had not received due attention over a protracted period of time.

Speaking of the exhibition of food industry equipment seen by the participants in the meeting, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said that "it gives rise to the hope that things will begin changing for the better. In the past 18 months we managed to start building many complicated machines. This means that we are capable of making new achievements."

The task being set forth, he went on, is to carry through in the coming five to seven years a radical retooling of the food and processing industries on a modern scientific basis and to wipe out the

deficit in farm produce storage facilities in the next two, at the most three, years. This should give practical support to the Party-charted course toward accelerating the development of the mentioned branches of the agri-industrial sector.

This task, he emphasised, is a complicated one, even an extremely complicated and multi-faceted one. It will require the maximum involvement of all of the national economy's resources and potentialities, a carefully considered and comprehensive approach to its fulfilment.

"The CPSU Central Committee will most vigorously work toward the implementation of the planned measures and will strictly bring to account those who impede the solution of such important problems," he said.

"Now it is important to switch from words and resolutions to practical work and work with initiative at the centre and local level.

"We have accumulated such a potential that, having set it in motion, we can make decisive headway in implementing the Food Programme and accomplishing the tasks formulated by the 27th CPSU Congress." Mikhail Gorbachev said in conclusion.

## Nikolai Ryzhkov's speech at Central Committee conference

NIKOLAI RYZHKOV, a Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, spoke on October 17 at a conference at the CPSU Central Committee, which discussed the tasks of Party and economic bodies to speed up the development of processing industries in the agribusiness sector.

He said those industries were not keeping pace either with industrial needs or with ever growing consumer requirements.

As he summarised the guidelines for accelerating the development of the processing industries, Ryzhkov stressed the need for phasing in new-generation good technologies widely, processing farm produce more thoroughly, and cutting back its losses dramatically in this way.

New technologies, he said, would make it possible to boost output by 20 to 30 per cent from the same amount of initial products.

Storage operations, too, should be drastically updated to employ deep cooling and freezing, controlled atmosphere storage, automatically-managed forced ventilation systems, and effective polymer film, including that for packaged storage, on a large scale, the Soviet head of Government continued.

Through-going change was called for in produce transportation, including the priority need to develop specialised vehicles, the carriage of products in packaged and containerised form, and such advanced means of conveyance as pipeline and pneumatic systems, Ryzhkov said.

He added that by the end of the next five-year plan period (1991-95) the manufacture of equipment for the comprehensive processing of farm produce was to treble, automatic devices, robots, microprocessor and computer systems would be used extensively, product quality go way up, and working conditions also improve.

A total of 38,000 facilities were to be

modernised and some 29,000 new ones built, he said, transportation and storage services were to be revamped as soon as possible.

Ryzhkov made a point of emphasising the need for all grain grown by farmers to be preserved and used rationally as a direct way to supplying national economic needs, enabling us to stop buying large amounts of grain abroad.

Speaking of investment policies in the processing industries, he recalled that the plan for 1986-90 provided for increasing capital

outlays in those industries by 50 per cent compared with the target of 22 per cent for the agribusiness sector as a whole.

The operating capacities of plants to process cattle and poultry, make whole-milk products, vegetable oil and high-quality natural butter substitutes, and produce canned fruits and vegetables were to grow between 30 and 50 per cent by 1995, which would be enough to meet demand for such facilities fully, Ryzhkov went

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## USSR: electric energy supplies

THE production of electric energy in the USSR in the past nine months increased by 4 per cent, as compared with the same period last year, to reach 1,213,000 million kilowatt hours. This was reported by the State Committee on Statistics of the USSR.

Generation of electricity was growing both through new electric power plants and modernisation of the existing ones. Scores of thermal, hydraulic and atomic power stations are now simultaneously being built in the country. New turbines at a number of thermal electric power stations in Siberia and the Far East were put into operation this year alone.

Thermal electric power stations (their number is 57 in the USSR) now account for the bulk of electricity in the Soviet Union and in the overwhelming majority of other industrial states. Thermal electric stations rely mainly on mazut (black oil), a valuable and irreplaceable natural material. But specialists are trying to have it replaced by natural gas and oil — the Soviet Union being second to none in the world for their reserves. Big thermal electric power stations are under construction in the eastern part of the country where there are considerable coal deposits being developed by the open-cast method. Twenty big electric stations in the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan rely on these deposits.

Atomic power engineering is developing in the USSR at a particularly fast rate (the world's first atomic power station was built in the USSR in 1954). Atomic power engineering is now developing mainly through the construction of generating units with reactors and turbo-generators of a million kilowatts. Last year atomic power stations accounted for a little over ten per cent of the electricity output, the figure now is over 11 per cent. The development of atomic power engineering and big thermal electric power stations based on cheap coal remains the mainstay of the Soviet energy strategy.

Ninety per cent of Soviet electric power stations form a single power grid. This makes it possible to flexibly manoeuvre with electricity, to transfer it, in case of need, from one area to another. This is very important for such a vast country as the USSR.

The Soviet Union and other socialist states profoundly benefit from the pooling of their energy capacities.

Over the period of 70 years of Soviet Government the country became not only a big electricity producer (first place in Europe and second in the world), but also its solid exporter. The USSR supplies electricity to Finland, Norway, Turkey, Afghanistan, socialist countries of Europe and Asia.

(TASS, October 20)



# Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with participants in CMEA session

ON October 14 Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting with the heads of the government delegations and secretaries of the central committees of the fraternal parties of CMEA member states taking part in the work of the 43rd (extraordinary) sitting of the session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Present from the Soviet side were Nikolai Ryzhkov, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Vadim Medvedev, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Speaking on behalf of the fraternal countries taking part in the CMEA session Zbigniew Messner, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, informed Mikhail Gorbachev of the work and the main results of the sitting and the decisions adopted by it. The sitting, he said, was an important step in implementing the accords reached at the working meeting of the leaders of the fraternal parties of the socialist countries in Moscow in November 1986 on restructuring the mechanism of economic co-operation. The sitting declared for the further building up of efforts to deepen and expand socialist economic

integration.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the work of the CMEA session reflected the objective requirements of further perfecting and developing the all-round co-operation of the socialist countries. The past years show that the CMEA has served well both the interests of each country and the common interests of socialism. But now as the fraternal countries are reaching new landmarks of economic development there is need for a serious restructuring of the CMEA. Being worked out are more effective forms and methods of managing the national economy, special attention is being given to raising the independence of the main economic unit. This does not mean at all a renunciation of the use of the advantages of planning. So in the activity of the CMEA it is necessary to ensure a more organic combination of the coordination of plans of co-operation with the development of direct production ties between enterprises and research institutions.

The decision to work out a collective concept of socialist division of labour is an important result of the CMEA session's work, Mikhail Gorbachev noted. The determination of long-term guidelines of co-operation specialisation and co-production will enable each country belonging to the CMEA to bring out fuller its internal possibilities, show what it is capable of, accelerate social and economic development and facilitate the attainment of the socialist community's common tasks.

There exist and still will be considerable difficulties on the road of further deepening integration and restructuring the CMEA's work but there is no doubt that by acting jointly, in the spirit of genuine comradeship, in a socialist way our countries will overcome them. As for the Soviet Union, it views co-operation with socialist countries as the most important, priority direction of its policy.

Mikhail Gorbachev also dwelt on some questions of the new stage of restructuring that the Soviet Union has entered after the January and June plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee and spoke about the main directions of activity by the Party which is the motor and guarantor of perestroika. It is by no means that we regard what is being done in our country as some absolute truth, he noted. All the fraternal parties and countries are conducting a quest and collective experience is accumulated in the course of this quest.

Touching on some pressing international problems Mikhail Gorbachev said that there existed a good chance to conclude an agreement between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles. Thereby the beginning would be laid for practical steps in disarmament which is favoured by the socialist countries. It is important to build up joint efforts so that the new political thinking would triumph in international relations and the idea of a comprehensive system of international security would become a reality, Mikhail Gorbachev said.

## CMEA SESSION COMMUNIQUE

A COMMUNIQUE has been adopted at the 43rd (extraordinary) meeting of the session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which ended in Moscow on October 14.

The session discussed pressing problems of restructuring the mechanism of the CMEA's multilateral co-operation and of its socialist economic integration and activities, the communique says. Measures have been outlined to see to it that co-operation should to the utmost promote intensification, the dynamic and harmonious development of the national economies of the CMEA member countries and the growth in the wellbeing of their peoples.

To resolve topical objectives of raising the co-operation of the socialist states to a qualitatively new stage, the communique points out, it has been decided to draw up a collective concept of the international socialist division of labour for 1991-2005. It is deemed necessary to substantially improve the CMEA's structure and eliminate the multistage character and parallelism in the CMEA's work.

The CMEA member countries reaffirm their determination to broaden its all-round economic, scientific and technical co-operation with all socialist states. The need to deepen economic co-operation with developing states is underlined. The CMEA member countries, true to the policy of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, declare for developing economic, scientific and technological co-operation with the developed capitalist countries on a mutually-beneficial basis, and for establishing official relations between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community and between CMEA and EEC member countries.

The CMEA member countries welcome the

Soviet-American accord on medium- and shorter-range missiles and declare for the early signing of this agreement. The parties to the meeting reaffirm their firm resolve to work for restraining the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, and for attaining disarmament so that resources released as a result of disarmament be channelled for development.

The communique draws attention to the fact that tension in international political relations is

an obstacle to the normal development of the world economy and economic co-operation, it heightens crisis phenomena in world economic relations, destabilises trade-and-economic and scientific-and-technological relations between states, blocks the process of their reconstruction on a fair and democratic basis including the establishment of a new international economic order, hampers the fair settlement of foreign debt problems, and imperils the economic security of states.

## Soviet-British commission ends session

MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL economic co-operation is a factor which stabilises the development of Soviet-British relations. This is the conclusion drawn by the participants in the 14th session of the Standing Inter-Governmental Soviet-British Commission for Scientific-and-Technical and Trade-and-Economic Co-operation which was crowned in Moscow on October 15 with the signing of a protocol.

The trade level between the two countries may be expected to be higher in 1987, than in 1986, it was noted at the session. The commission worked in new conditions, now that over 70 Soviet enterprises from 22 industrial ministries have emerged on the world market, having the right to independent economic activities. Many of them participated in negotiations with representatives of business circles of Britain. Direct contacts between Soviet and British partners are favourable for the development of business relations between the two countries, it was noted at the meeting.

Implementation of the objective of ensuring a

rapid growth of bilateral trade, set in the course of the summit negotiations during British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the USSR in spring 1987, would be promoted by the expansion of reciprocal deliveries through the commodities mentioned in the list for additional reciprocal deliveries in 1988-1990, and also the deepening of integration of production in industry and establishment in the USSR of joint ventures with the participation of British firms, the protocol says. Some of them are already discussing such projects of co-operation with Soviet partners in the production of means of automation, chemistry and petro-chemistry, metallurgy and the agri-industrial complex.

The delegations to the session were led by the Foreign Trade Minister of the USSR Boris Aristov and Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry, Alan Clark.

Alan Clark was received by Boris Tolstykh, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology. Questions of expanding scientific and technological co-operation between the two countries were discussed.

British Ambassador to the USSR Bryan George Cartledge took part in the talk.



# Mikhail Gorbachev's conversation with Todor Zhivkov

ON October 16 Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

During the conversation there was an exchange of information on the course of the restructuring drives conducted in the two fraternal countries. Questions of the further development of Soviet-Bulgarian co-operation were discussed.

Mikhail Gorbachev noted that after the January and June plenary meetings of the Central Committee the restructuring had entered a new stage. Work is conducted in two decisive directions: cardinal reform in the economy and further democratisation. We realise that it is impossible to achieve everything at one go. Great efforts, vast persistent work will be required. Definite stages will be passed. We shall be conducting our affairs in such a way that the tactic of implementing the restructuring should not exert a negative effect on its very strategy. It is important that a moral and political atmosphere which promotes the restructuring has now been created. The people is rallied solidly behind the restructuring and is determined to carry it through.

The history of the Soviet Union from the October Revolution to the present shows patently that all our gains in the economy, in the social sphere, culture and other areas have been achieved due to the fact that socialism opened the road for the social creativity of the masses.

At the same time this experience shows another thing, that the main reason behind

failings which brought about certain problems and difficulties was underestimation of real socialist democracy which makes the man true master. This is why the CPSU now attaches priority importance to the development of democracy so that working people should feel deeply involved in all the undertakings implemented by work collectives and by the state. This is promoted by glasnost, effectiveness, the introduction of full cost-accounting.

The characteristic feature of the present is that the reorganisation is now permeating all sections of society. And much depends in this on how Party organisations will be working.

The restructuring has been started on the initiative of the Party which has formulated this policy and is guiding the people along the chosen road. The Party is the motor and guarantor of the restructuring. Only it alone can work out the strategy and tactic of our development on a scientific basis, determine the personnel policy and conduct the ideological work. At the same time the creation of a new mechanism of the management of the national economy makes it possible to relieve Party bodies of purely economic, managerial functions, uncharacteristic of it. This is also one of the aspects of the restructuring.

We are interested in how our Bulgarian friends are implementing the restructuring in their country. We feel the shoulder of a reliable friend. The restructuring gives a chance to you and to us to achieve a qualitatively new level of social and economic development. But this also enhances mutual responsibility for the success of the undertaking. It is important that the restructuring should promote the further development and strengthening of socialism and our all-round co-operation.

The Soviet Union, Gorbachev pointed out, regards fraternal friendship with Bulgaria as one of the major gains of our peoples, and intends to

continue doing everything possible to strengthen and promote it further.

The Bulgarian communists, all Bulgarian people, said Zhivkov, wholeheartedly welcome and fully back the restructuring drive now under way in the fraternal Soviet Union. It is of principled importance not only for the Soviet people, but also for the destinies of the peoples in the socialist countries and all of mankind. The BCP also came to the conclusion that the country's further advancement along the path of socialism calls for drastic change, for restructuring.

Zhivkov described the Party's activity on implementing decisions of the July plenum of the BCP Central Committee, the essence and content of the reform of bodies of state authority, the economic mechanism, the country's administrative and territorial division, and so on. He emphasised that the success of the drastic changes, now under way and planned, in the political, economic and other structures of society on the basis of principles of socialist self-government is unthinkable without consolidating the leading and guiding role of the BCP as the people's political vanguard.

Gorbachev and Zhivkov noted principled coincidence of the goals and tasks of restructuring in the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, although they have specific features — in scope and pace of transformation, in forms and methods of achieving this transformation.

The unanimous view was stressed that comradesly, frank relations between the CPSU and the BCP, between the USSR and Bulgaria at the current crucial period are especially important. Both parties attach prime importance to this factor.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and mutual understanding characteristic of Soviet-Bulgarian relations.

## SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON KAMPUCHEA

*Here follows the full text of the Statement by the Soviet Government:*

ON October 8 the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea came up with a programme statement on the fundamentals of a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem. This important initiative of the People's Republic of Kampuchea evoked a broad interest and a positive response of the world public.

The conviction has been strengthening in the international arena of late that a policy of national reconciliation should play a decisive part in the settlement of regional conflict situations. Its implementation opens up a way to the termination of senseless fratricidal wars, the overcoming of contradictions between various political forces and groups, the solution of urgent national problems.

The policy pursued today by the leadership of the People's Republic of Kampuchea meets all these objectives. After proclaiming in August 1987 the policy of national reconciliation which was approved by the Kampuchean people, the Kampuchean Government mapped out in its statement of October 8 a concrete programme of actions with a view to achieving national accord in the country and a political settlement of the situation in Kampuchea and around it. The key elements of the proposed programme are the readiness for a constructive dialogue with all the opposing groups and individuals with the

exception of Pol Pot and his closest accomplices, the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops simultaneously with the discontinuation of any outside interference in the affairs of Kampuchea, a general election in the presence of foreign observers and the creation of a coalition government, as well as the holding of an international conference that would guarantee the realisation of the agreements reached.

This is obviously a major step forward on the way to the settlement of a conflict situation which has darkened for many years the atmosphere in South-East Asia. It reflects the goodwill of the leadership of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and its readiness for a reasonable compromise for the sake of the supreme interests of the nation, and takes into account the positions of various Khmer groups and the parties concerned, primarily South-East Asian countries and the ASEAN member-states.

The Soviet Union welcomes the constructive proposals of the Kampuchean Government and believes that they are in line with those positive changes that are taking place in the development of the present-day political situation around Kampuchea. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the initiative of the Kampuchean Government created favourable conditions for an early beginning of a constructive dialogue between the Kampuchean leadership and other Kampuchean sides, primarily Norodom Sihanouk, with a view to finding mutually acceptable

solutions. For its part, the Soviet Union, which has invariably come out for a peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean problem, is ready to promote in every way the success of this process together with other parties concerned.

The USSR supports the idea of convening an international conference, as proposed by the Kampuchean Government, for working out guarantees of Kampuchea's independence and peace in South-East Asia and reiterates its readiness to take part in it.

There is no alternative to a political settlement of the conflict situation around Kampuchea. A solution to the Kampuchean problem with due account for the basic interest of the Kampuchean people and the political realities existing in the region would lead to the restoration of peace in that much suffering country and would become a major contribution to the improvement of the situation in South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region in general.

The Soviet Union hopes that those to whom the new peace proposals of the Kampuchean Government are addressed will display the necessary political will and will, on their part, promote the settlement of the Kampuchean problem on the basis of national reconciliation in the interests of Kampuchean people, the cause of peace in the region and throughout the world.

(TASS, October 17)



# Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee

THE Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee at its meeting on October 15 approved the results of the talks held by Mikhail Gorbachev, Andrei Gromyko and Nikolai Ryzhkov with President Mauno Koivisto of Finland.

The talks showed that both the Soviet and the Finnish sides firmly intend to move on along the path of good-neighbourliness and trust, equitable partnership and a respectful attitude towards each other's integrity. The 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance remains an unshakeable foundation for the development of Soviet-Finnish relations.

The Political Bureau highly assessed the documents signed during the visit and noted the identity of the two countries' interests in increasing reciprocal trade on a balanced basis, in speeding up the development of new modern forms of economic co-operation, including the establishment of joint ventures.

The talks revealed the two sides' readiness to apply efforts in favour of attaining disarmament, reaching tangible results in all directions of the Helsinki Final Act and strengthening universal security.

The Political Bureau stressed the importance of continuing and developing interaction with Finland and other countries in implementing measures for reducing military confrontation and tension, promoting extensive peaceful co-operation in the north which were proposed by

Gorbachev in Murmansk.

Eduard Shevardnadze reported on the results of his talks with US President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington, and his discussions with statesmen of several countries in the course of the current session of the UN General Assembly, on the results of his official visits to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay and his working visit to Cuba.

The Political Bureau noted the significance of the successful completion of work on a treaty for the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles of the USSR and the United States as a follow-up to the agreement in principle reached at the talks in Washington.

It approved the activity of the Soviet delegation led by Shevardnadze at the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly on strengthening international peace and security.

It was emphasised that the talks in Cuba reaffirmed the identity of views on key problems of the present time and the mutual striving towards perfecting Soviet-Cuban co-operation.

The Political Bureau stressed the importance of the further improvement of relations of the USSR and Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay and other Latin American states in the interests of the peoples of our countries and development of a comprehensive system of international security and equitable co-operation.

The Political Bureau approved the results of Yegor Ligachev's meeting with Ali Salim al-

Biedh, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party. The two sides' invariable aspiration to strengthen friendly co-operation between the CPSU and the YSP, between the Soviet Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was confirmed.

Having heard Anatoli Dobrynin's report on his trip to the Federal Republic of Germany, the Political Bureau stressed the significance of the further all-round development of inter-state relations between the USSR and the FRG from the viewpoint of the two countries' interests and advancement towards building a peaceful "all-European home."

The CPSU's aspiration was confirmed to continue investigating ties and co-operation with the SPD and other social democratic and socialist parties in averting the threat of nuclear war and handling other global problems.

The Political Bureau approved measures, drafted by the USSR Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers of Soviet Estonia, on transferring enterprises and organisations within the system of the Estonian State Agri-Industrial Committee to full cost-accounting and self-financing.

It examined proposals for limiting the construction (extension and reconstruction) of industrial and production facilities, administrative and public buildings in Moscow.

The Political Bureau examined some other questions of Soviet economic development and the foreign policy activity of the Party and the state.

## State Commission on Crimean Tatars

THE state commission chaired by Andrei Gromyko at a session in the Kremlin has examined issues raised in applications of citizens from among the Crimean Tatars.

The commission considered reports by groups of Tatars and representatives of the state commission who toured union republics and

regions in which the bulk of the Crimean Tatars live.

It approved conclusions on the need for a weighed approach to the issues raised, proceeding from the interests of all ethnic groups of the country and the further consolidation of friendship and brotherhood of the Soviet peoples.

The commission heard reports by Vitali Vorotnikov, Vladimir Shcherbitsky and Inamzhon Usmanhodzhayev on the conditions of work and life of the Crimean Tatars living in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan, on meeting their social needs, providing assistance in developing the national language, education and culture.

In this connection, union, republican and local bodies were recommended to ensure additional measures to meet more fully the cultural demands of the Crimean Tatars, expand the publication of literature in the Tatar language, including works by contemporary national authors, founding, where required, new newspapers and giving more time on radio and television.

Ways to promote Tatar handicrafts and theatrical and concert troupes were outlined. It was recommended to improve substantially the coverage of the past and present of the Crimean peninsula, of ethnic groups living there, their participation in social construction at various stages of the country's development and thoroughly study all available documents on these subjects.

The commission analysed and qualified as inadmissible individual acts of the violation of rights of citizens of Tatar nationality in choosing the place of domicile, study and work that took place in the Crimean region.

It stressed the need for more exact determination in legislation of rules regulating the order of domicile and residence registration of citizens of all nationalities in the Crimea and other health resorts of the country as those are of great national significance for rest and health-building of millions of working people.

It was reported at the session that the commission had received about 10,000 letters calling for resolute measures to curb the activity of extremist-minded persons from among the Crimean Tatars directed at heightening tension, provoking anti-social feelings and kindling ethnic strife.

In this connection, the commission pointed to groundlessness of the attempts to refute the information contained in the TASS statement of July 23, 1987, whitewash nationalist traitors and put them on a par with honest Soviet patriots of Tatar origin who fought against fascism.

These attempts have nothing to do with the aspirations of the Crimean Tatars, hinder the work of state bodies, contradict provisions of the Soviet Constitution which bans propaganda of national exclusiveness, enmity and contempt.

Confidence was expressed that local Party and government bodies would give more attention to questions of internationalist and patriotic education of people, of raising the culture of inter-ethnic communication and securing further cohesion of all ethnic groups and worthy observance of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The commission will continue work along these lines, closely co-operating with local Party and state bodies, with broad sections of the Soviet public.

(TASS, October 15, 1987)

### USSR — POPULATION

ON October 1 the Soviet population reached 283.8 million people, the nation's statistics committee reported on October 17, noting that the birth rate keeps rising.

(continued from page 378)  
on to say.

He called for special attention to the need for improving living and working conditions and social amenities for workers in the processing industries. "We need to build well-appointed homes, schools, daycare nurseries, club-houses, medical centres and other projects at a priority pace today," he said.

"New economic machinery means not only economic methods of management, levers and incentives, but also corresponding structural changes. Proposals for setting up new production structures to cover the entire cycle from crop and livestock farming to processing for marketing deserve to be given most serious consideration," Ryzhkov said further.

"The Party and government see it as a pivotal objective of their policies to achieve early and substantial increases in food production by tapping all sources for growth everywhere," he concluded.



# Press conference of the Soviet delegation at the UN

THE delegation of the USSR to the 42nd session of the United Nations General Assembly gave a press conference on October 15. It was emphasised that the current session was of special importance for the Soviet Union — it coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, reports TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Chernyshev.

Here at the United Nations, one can clearly see how the political map of the world has changed over the past 70 years under the impact of the processes of social renewal of our entire planet — processes which received a powerful impetus in October 1917, said Vladimir Petrovsky, a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

Our country, which rapidly traversed an immense historical road due to the revolution and due to social choice made by it, considers itself to be an inalienable part of the single family of nations linked with bonds of interdependence in the face of the nuclear and other global threats to mankind.

Carrying out reorganisation inside the country, we proceed from the premise that renewal is needed in the sphere of international relations as well, Petrovsky said.

The task of tasks is to bring these relations into line with the realities of the nuclear and space age, which means recognising that universal security is the sole formula for survival. It was precisely V I Lenin who proclaimed the ideas of making talks international and universal, detecting the emerging problems and resolving them on the basis of the balance of interests. Today, too, we see no alternative to inter-

nationalising dialogue and making it universal. This is why, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister said, we attach special importance to the United Nations as an indispensable vehicle for international co-operation and joint constructive work and intend to render every assistance to the organisation and its Secretary-General.

Supporting the Secretary-General's suggestion that a military threat reduction centre be set up, we propose to consider the expediency of establishing communication lines between the UN Headquarters and the capitals of the permanent members of the Security Council as well as with the place of stay of the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. We stand for creating a mechanism under the UN auspices to monitor on a wide international scale the observance of agreements called upon to lessen international tensions and curb the arms race and the situation in the regions where conflicts are in progress, Petrovsky said.

Any attempts to create or exploit financial difficulties of the United Nations are incompatible with demands of realism and responsibility in politics, he emphasised.

Expressing its principled attitude to actions of that kind, the Soviet Union, for its part, is ready to take practical actions in a constructive search for ways to overcome financial difficulties experienced by the United Nations at present.

By now the USSR has paid in full its 1987 contributions to the regular budget and toward financing the United Nations armed forces.

Moreover, in reply to the request of the Secretary-General the Soviet Union made a voluntary contribution of 10 million dollars to a special account opened in order to overcome the United Nations' financial difficulties.

This year we made another important step in this direction. With the aim of supporting the United Nations in ensuring its sound fiscal basis

the Soviet Government decided to pay its arrears to the regular UN budget, the Soviet representative said. Implementing that principled decision the Soviet Union paid on October 12 more than 28 million dollars over and above its 1987 assessments to the regular UN budget. The Soviet Union is also prepared to consider its participation in mending the deficit in the budget of the armed forces of the organisation.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, highly praised the Soviet Union's constructive contribution to the search for ways to overcome financial difficulties experienced by the United Nations.

An official spokesman for the Secretary-General welcomed the Soviet Union's decision to pay its debt to the regular UN budget and consider its participation in eliminating the deficit in the budget of the armed forces of the organisation.

Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed the hope that all countries in arrears would take action to fulfil their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations so as to enable it to work with renewed confidence tackling the tasks facing it.

## Soviet West German enterprise

THE Avtovaz Amalgamation, one of the biggest industrial enterprises in the USSR, has become a member of the mixed Soviet-West German society Technounion GmbH, a press conference was told in Moscow on October 9 by Vladimir Pavlov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR.

Set up several years ago by the Soviet foreign trade association Licensintorg and the West German firm Ferrostahl AG, this society successfully promotes the growth of the Soviet export of technologies and equipment and the development of other mutually advantageous ties with foreign partners. Under the agreement that was signed Avtovaz's share in the society's authorised capital is 10 per cent, those of Licensintorg and Ferrostahl AG being 40 and 50 per cent respectively.

Through Technounion GmbH the Avtovaz Amalgamation will be able to actively offer on the world market and first of all the West German market its licences and know-how in such fields as machine-tool and robot building, manufacture of motor vehicles and production of special tools.

Such forms of co-operation will be developed as joint designing and creation of promising models of equipment. Some experience of such work has already been accumulated — Avtovaz specialists and a number of West German firms have jointly developed samples of technological assemblies for welding robots and also are working along other directions. On orders placed by Avtovaz the mixed society will purchase efficient technologies and equipment and perform engineering work with the participation of West German specialists.

"The implementation of this agreement will help raise the technical and scientific potential of Avtovaz, speed up work to create promising models of motor vehicles, machine-tools and robots for mass production which will find application in other industries as well", a TASS correspondent was told by Valeri Ignatov, Director General of Licensintorg.

## International economic co-operation

TWO protocols signed in Helsinki on October 16 at meeting of working groups on economic co-operation in the production of foodstuffs and scientific and technical co-operation, provide for closer contacts in biotechnology, development of machines and equipment for the food industry and agriculture.

The sides have made progress on many issues which came under discussion at working groups within the permanent inter-government Soviet-Finnish Commission on Economic Co-operation. "We also examined prospects for establishing joint ventures and in this area, I believe, the sides will make a considerable advance," Heikki Haavisto, Chairman of the Finnish working group, said.

The inter-governmental Soviet-Norwegian Commission for Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technological Co-operation ended its 14th session in Moscow on October 16.

The commission considered prospects for implementing joint projects in fisheries, in all-round utilisation of the Kola peninsula's mineral resources and in power engineering.

The sides reaffirmed their aspiration to broaden co-operation by using new forms of business relations and deepening scientific and technological exchanges.

Mutual supplies of oil and oil products in the Caspian Sea area will be a new field of economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and Iran. An agreement in principle to this effect has been reached at the talks between representatives of the two countries, which ended in Moscow on October 17. The Soviet delegation at the talks was led by Konstantin Katushev, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the Iranian — by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqa-Zadeh.

Iran will supply up to five million tons of crude oil a year to the USSR. After its refining at Soviet factories nearly two million tons of light oil products will be shipped back to that country. All carriage of these products on the Caspian Sea will be done by the Soviet tanker fleet. An increase in the volumes of mutual supplies is possible.

To ensure a balance in the settling of the accounts by the sides in these trade operations Soviet machinery and equipment are to be supplied to Iran. The Soviet Union will also give assistance to that country in implementing various industrial projects, in particular, dredging work in Iranian ports on the Caspian Sea.

The Soviet and Iranian representatives discussed the question of the possible transit of Iranian oil across the USSR's territory. Considering the large scope of that project they agreed to carry on its examination.



# Soviet Foreign Ministry briefings

## PERSIAN GULF

HAVING attacked two Iranian oil platforms on October 19, the United States is in fact becoming a participant in the military conflict, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing in Moscow on October 20.

Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said that the US was one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and bore special responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

The US, he said, co-authored resolution 598 of the Security Council, and its actions ran counter to paragraph 5 of the resolution calling for maximum restraint and abstention from any actions that might result in the further escalation and broadening of the conflict.

The attack was carried out on civilian facilities of a sovereign state, said the Soviet spokesman, which was an obvious violation of international law. The Soviet Union had repeatedly warned about the things that were happening now. The causes of the escalation were not only in the continued conflict between Iraq and Iran, but also in broadening US military presence and interference in the region's affairs. US actions were unacceptable from the viewpoint of international law, politics and morality.

"It is noteworthy that the US informed the Security Council and, thus, the Soviet Union about its military action after it had actually taken place.

"Rejecting use of power methods as a totally unacceptable means of normalising the situation in the Persian Gulf, the Soviet Union does not limit itself to criticism of someone else's actions.

"The Soviet side has advanced specific and

quite realistic proposals directed at settling the Iran-Iraq conflict and defusing tension in the Gulf zone," Gerasimov said.

"The Soviet Union suggested that foreign navies be withdrawn from the Gulf and a UN naval force be set up to replace the fleets of the non-littoral states in that region.

"It is not as yet too late to start implementing these proposals. The Military Staff Committee of the UN Security Council could handle the issue. We call for invigoration of its activity.

"We reaffirm the conviction that it is necessary to fully comply with resolution 598 and extend all necessary assistance to the UN Secretary-General's mission for these purposes," Gerasimov pointed out.

## SOVIET PERSONNEL IN ISRAEL

A group of consulate personnel from the Soviet Foreign Ministry was sent to Israel in the middle of last July to settle issues connected with the stay of Soviet nationals in that country, inspect the condition of Soviet real estate property there, and clarify its legal status, journalists were told at a briefing.

Gennadi Gerasimov told them also that it had become clear in the process of the work that it would take more time than originally expected to complete it.

That applied first of all to Soviet immovables in Israel, he said. Taking stock of them was a time-consuming job and despite the large amount of work done by the group, some related matters remained outstanding, he added.

That was why, Gerasimov explained, it had been found expedient to extend the stay of the Soviet group in Tel Aviv in agreement with the Israeli side.

The group's status and functions remained unchanged and no new tasks were added to its

original mandate, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

## US DISCRIMINATION OF SOVIET NATIONALS

Gennadi Gerasimov criticised the continuing restrictive measures against Soviet nationals and institutions in the United States over recent weeks.

Speaking at a briefing he said the State Department had maintained a purposeful policy of hardening the living and working conditions for Soviet official representatives, correspondents and businessmen in the United States ever since November 1983, when new rules were adopted for trips by Soviet diplomats around the United States.

"Even if one disregards the political side of the matter, one can only be surprised at the legal grounds for the new restrictions.

"Not only have the bureaux of newspapers that can hardly be described as government ones been included in the category of official missions, but the same category has been designated also to the commercial offices of Amtorg, Sovfracht and Belarus Machinery, which have been registered in keeping with US law and are consequently regarded as American companies.

"By placing them in special conditions, the State Department is throwing up further obstacles to developing trade and economic relations between the USSR and the United States," Gerasimov said.

"In our view, the practice of coming up with ever newer irritants in Soviet-American bilateral relations runs counter to the spirit of the times and is a leftover from the confrontational approach," he added.

## Afghan leader addresses Party Conference

OUR revolution is neither a proletarian nor a socialist one. Whatever our enemies may say, our party is not a communist one. Najibullah, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, said in his report to a nation-wide party conference, which opened in Kabul on October 18.

The main achievement of the past decade, he continued, is the development of the April Revolution. The first genuinely democratic elections have been held over a considerable territory of Afghanistan, bodies of people's power have been formed. The wish to put an early end to the fratricidal war has brought us to the policy of national reconciliation. Despite the war-time conditions all the pre-revolutionary economic indices have been topped. The rights won by the people will be sealed in the new constitution.

Speaking on the multi-party system, Najibullah noted that the existing parties and organisations and those being created anew may act legally, freely, provided they work for national peace.

With regard to the internationalist soldiers of the limited contingent of Soviet troops, Najibullah said that they had saved at daily risk of their lives thousands of Afghan children, women and old people from bloody reprisals. Our country will be eternally grateful to the Soviet people for their assistance in the past and the present in defending and building new Afghanistan.

We have made achievements, but they can and must be even more substantive, Najibullah said in conclusion. The national reconciliation policy is so far at the beginning of the road. We will have to accelerate.

## Russian Orthodox Church and Vatican Communique

NUCLEAR disarmament and peace efforts have been the principal non-religious subjects discussed by representatives of the Russian Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches meeting in Venice on October 11 to 16, ANSA News Agency reports.

The delegations had been led by Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, President of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, the wire service said quoting a communique on the meeting.

The communique noted complete agreement on the fundamental aspects of the nuclear disarmament issue.

It added that the use of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction was definitely contrary to the principles of Christian morality and that nuclear deterrence must be considered a temporary solution entailing the duty gradually to reduce nuclear weapons stocks and eventually eliminate them altogether.

It was essential, the communique continued, to look for effective and peaceful solutions to conflicts so as to pave the way to complete disarmament.

The document expressed mutual agreement about the moral need for peaceful uses of outer space and other world resources which, it said, were the common property of all mankind. It voiced the hope that current efforts towards abolishing all kinds of nuclear arms would be successful and mark the start of a process leading to the destruction of all weapons systems in general.

The communique stressed the special role the church could play in fostering an atmosphere of trust among nations.

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# Perestroika on the planet

By Eduard Baskakov, *Novosti* political correspondent

THERE is a humorous saying in foggy England: the British Isles have the best climate, though the weather is the worst. Everything seems to indicate that the opposite is being observed in world affairs today: September has seen an appreciable improvement in a political weather, though it is too early to speak about a change in the political climate. What I mean is the principled agreement reached between the USSR and the US on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles. Indeed, this means so far only a small fraction of nuclear arsenals. But it is really for the first time that the long-standing idea of nuclear disarmament has come close to its implementation.

What has made it possible? In the indivisible tangle of reasons one can see the ever more acute problems before the US economy, a fall in the popularity of militarist programmes among the US public, the growing apprehension of Washington's West European partners, and the obvious pre-election considerations of the Reagan Administration. As I see it, however, the decisive reason in that same tangle is the irrepressible spread of the new political thinking in the world, which, on the basis of recognition of realities of the nuclear-missile age, is aimed at saving human civilisation from destruction. After all, one can use an ordinary umbrella to shelter oneself from bad weather, even in Britain with its rainy weather. But no "nuclear

umbrella", as experts firmly believe, will be able to save mankind from the threat of nuclear winter hanging over it.

## Glasnost

Without belittling other people's services, Moscow can by right take pride in the fact that the incipient perestroika on the planet, in the international sphere, has been touched off in large measure by perestroika in the USSR. We are engaged in real earnest in revolutionary transformations at home, but, indeed, the world has long since been indivisible, and this means that there is a direct relationship between the domestic policy of any state and its foreign policy. That is why we are introducing glasnost openness, dialogue and unity of word and deed into international relations, too, as instruments of perestroika in the world, which is long overdue and revolutionary in its own way, for the sake of fully removing the threat of war. Eduard Shevardnadze, leader of the Soviet delegation to the recent, 42nd, session of the UN General Assembly, said the following in this connection: "If we have a concept of a world revolution, which is most closely linked to the process of revolutionary change in our country, we make no secret of it. It is this: organising the entire human community on a basis of recognition of peace as a supreme value of existence: human life, freedom and dignity as a general yardstick; and peaceful coexistence as a universal principle for relations among states."

And if mankind seems to have begun little by little to cope with the political bad weather on the planet, has not the time come for seriously tackling the political

climate, too? Therefore, we treat the understanding concerning the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles as a start to a subsequent agreement on a reduction (by half all at once) in strategic arms, provided the ABM Treaty is preserved. And we are dreaming of something even bigger.

The idea of building an all-embracing system of international security, which was put forward at the 27th Congress of the CPSU in February 1986, has already won a considerable number of co-authors and become the subject of discussion at the UN General Assembly. It is precisely in such a system covering the military-political, economic and humanitarian spheres that we see a guarantee of a secure world for all regions on the planet. And it is precisely the United Nations, the emergence of which was, in fact, the embryo of the new political thinking, can and must, in Moscow's opinion, be at the head of building such a system: moreover, it should become an effective instrument of promoting peaceful coexistence.

It goes without saying that a change of weather for the better does not suit cold war veterans in any way: their voices can be heard from the other side of the Atlantic and from a number of capitals of West European NATO countries. It must be assumed that they will somehow try to wreck the ratification of now quite a realistic agreement on medium- and shorter-range missiles and, moreover, to prevent more sweeping measures in the sphere of disarmament. One should like to believe, however, that it is not only nuclear stockholders that make weather in Washington. All the more so since no one is able to abolish all those factors which have conditioned the reaching of the present Soviet-US understanding. □

## USSR Supreme Soviet ends session

THE USSR Supreme Soviet has ended its two-day session in Moscow's Kremlin.

The session was opened on October 19 with a joint sitting of both chambers which heard reports on the country's plan and budget for 1988.

Nikolai Talyzin, a Deputy and Chairman of the State Planning Committee, and Boris Gostev, a Deputy and Finance Minister, delivered the reports.

(Continued from Page one)

perestroika-related efforts, using the possibilities opened by it in economic affairs more actively, and promoting democratisation and glasnost (public openness) more vigorously. Party organisations should be in the vanguard of perestroika.

This is especially important considering the fact that quite a few problems have piled up in the zone and that there are difficulties and contradictions to be overcome there, first of all those regarding the social advancement of the countryside, returns from investments and assets, and the comprehensive development of productive forces.

Local Party organisations should devote daily attention to introducing new economic management methods, the team- and family-contract system, and profit-and-loss accounting. The regional Party committees and their first secretaries should show greater concern for stepping up the Party's activities for perestroika to go ahead and for all personnel, every communist and every person in general, to join in it. □

At separate sittings, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet began debates on the reports which were continued at the chambers' morning sittings on October 20.

About forty deputies took part in the discussion of the draft plan and budget of the USSR.

At the concluding joint sitting, the Supreme Soviet adopted laws of the USSR on the State Plan for Economic and Social Development and on the country's State Budget for 1988.

The Supreme Soviet considered deputies' proposals for amendments to the law of the USSR on the order of appealing to court against illegitimate actions by officials infringing upon citizens' rights. A report on this issue was made by Georgi Razumovsky, a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Supreme Soviet resolved to introduce the amendments.

The deputies elected Tashtanbek Akmatov, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in Kirghiza, a Soviet Republic in Central Asia, Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The session approved decrees of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted in the period between the sessions.

The session of the USSR Supreme Soviet ended its work.

### Composition of the Supreme Soviet

The USSR Supreme Soviet consists of two equal chambers, each of 750 deputies. Young people under 30 account for 22 per cent of the 1,500-

strong Soviet Parliament, women account for 32 per cent, persons with higher and secondary education — 96 per cent, CPSU members or candidate members — 71 per cent. There are representatives of 59 nationalities at the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In the USSR there are no professional parliamentarians. The supreme state power is exercised by representatives of the working people who upon their election to the Supreme Soviet do not cease their professional activity. Therefore the USSR Supreme Soviet sessions do not last for months, and the main brunt of parliamentary work is shifted to scores of deputy commissions.

There are 527 workers and 242 peasants in the present-day Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Representatives of these two main classes of Soviet society make up the majority at the Supreme Soviet (769 out of 1,500). Among the other deputies there are 141 scientists and workers in culture, 269 Party workers, 198 state employees, 68 economic executives and specialists, 55 servicemen.

The USSR Supreme Soviet is a kind of apex of the pyramid of the Soviets which exercise power in the country at all levels. In the USSR there are about 52,000 soviets of different levels, with a total of over 2,300,000 deputies. □

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