

## The CPSU Central Committee's statement on the Baltic republics

*THE findings of the commission of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet studying the German-Soviet treaties and their consequences were published in Vilnius on August 22. These treaties were declared illegal and invalid, as were the declaration of the People's Sejm of Lithuania on joining the USSR (July 21, 1940) and the USSR Law on Admitting the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic into the USSR (August 3, 1940).*

*This was done when a relevant commission of the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR is yet to finish its work. Incidentally, the commission was set up at the initiative of deputies from the Baltic republics, whose representatives take part in it. This was done in disregard of the fact that the final word belongs to the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR, to which the commission will report its findings.*

*The statement by the commission of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet is not accidental. It is directly linked with the separatist line which has been pursued in the past months with growing persistence and aggressiveness by certain forces in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Its highpoint came on August 23 when popular fronts and affiliated organisations held a mass action, whose political aim was to incite the peoples of the Baltic republics to secede from the Soviet Union.*

*The CPSU Central Committee sees it as its duty to make the following statement:*

The current situation in the Baltic republics is the cause of increasing concern. Developments there affect the vital interests of the entire Soviet people, our entire socialist Motherland.

Perestroika paved the way for the rapid growth of the national awareness of peoples, made them confident that they can independently solve the problems of their political, social, economic and cultural life. The national revival of every nation in the great Soviet multinational family, with the use of new possibilities for the free and balanced interaction with other nations of the country, brought about by perestroika, lies in the channel of the policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet State, is one of the bases for renewing our entire society. The recent crucial measures aimed at strengthening the sovereignty of union republics and filling them with new and real contents pursue exactly these goals.

The Baltic republics actively joined in the process of deep transformation. Workers' collectives got moving and the intellectual forces of all strata of society became active.

But at a certain stage nationalist, extremist groups took advantage of democracy and openness and gradually began to introduce an unhealthy aspect into the development of events.

Having misappropriated the part of true proponents of the national interests, they, step-by-step, steered the course of affairs toward an alienation of the Baltic republics from the rest of the country and the disruption of long-standing organically formed links with other Soviet nations. Their positions became more and more openly extremist and separatist. The anti-socialist and anti-Soviet nature of their projects became evident very soon. In some places, organisations resembling political formations of the bourgeois period and the time of Nazi occupation sprang up. Actually, parallel bodies of power began to be set up. Intimidation, deception and disinformation became routine, and even moral terror and defamation of all who disagreed, all who remained true to internationalism and the idea of an integral Soviet Union. Some of the mass information media served as sources fostering nationalistic attitudes.

Abusing freedom of international relations, nationalist leaders contacted foreign organisations and centres, seeking to involve them in what was in fact the internal affair of their republics and treating them as consultants and advisers, as if people in the west were better aware of the actual needs of the Baltic nations, as if they were guided not by their own open or concealed projects with respect to our country, but were in fact concerned about the Soviet people's welfare.

It came to direct acts of vandalism, mockery of state insignia, desecration of sacred things viewed as inviolable by any decent individual — monuments to those who fell in the Civil and the Great Patriotic war.

Soviet people across the country watched and read with astonishment and bitterness about things that in no way agreed with what they knew of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonia national traditions and would appear insulting to the national character of these people known for their honesty, sober-mindedness and respect for standards and civilised human relationships.

The activity of forces that are destructive, anti-Soviet and anti-national to their core, the atmosphere of nationalism led to the promulgation, at the level of bodies of state authority in the republics, of unconstitutional acts contradicting our state's principles of federation and envisaging discrimination against the non-indigenous population of these republics.

On August 23, 1989 attempts were made to fan up emotions to a point of actual nationalist hysteria. Slogans foisted upon thousands of people were brimful of animosity toward the Soviet system, Russian people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Army.

Concern over the developments in the Baltic republics is felt profoundly across the entire country by people of most diverse nationalities. An ever increasing flow of letters, statements and other information about how close to heart common people unaffected by the virus of nationalism, Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians

themselves take the developments come pouring in to the Central Committee. Even those involved in mass actions either are not fully aware of, or do not share the projects of the organisers of the anti-Soviet movement and seek to express as well as they can their friendly and warm-hearted attitude toward representatives of other nations, denounce extremist and criminal actions of those who are close to nationalist leaders. Anyway, no calls come from among the common people for disrupting links with other nations of the great country.

This provides an additional proof that the separatist movement reflects neither the interests of the Baltic peoples nor their true national patriotic awareness.

The activities of the nationalist forces have already led to serious economic losses in the economy of the Baltic republics, as well as to inter-ethnic and social tensions. In some places, a real threat of a civil conflict and mass stress clashes which will involve grave consequences, has arisen.

Things have gone far. The fate of the Baltic republics is in serious danger. People should know into what abyss they are being pushed by the nationalist leaders. The consequences could be disastrous for these peoples, if the nationalists managed to achieve their goals. The very viability of the Baltic nations could be called in question.

We should say it openly and with a feeling of responsibility before the Baltic and all Soviet peoples.

Right from the outset the CPSU Central Committee has displayed deep understanding of the specific features of restructuring processes in the Soviet Baltic republics. It saw at the proper time the need to renew the republics' leadership by an inflow of fresh forces and helped to act in the spirit of the time, live by the needs and concerns of the people and speed up the solution of urgent socio-economic problems. It seemed that the Baltic leaders managed to find common language with the public and population and gave the right assessment of the possibilities and ways of carrying out transformations with due account of the local national conditions.

*(continued on next page)*

### Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Pope

IN a message in reply to Pope John Paul II, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has considered drastic issues of the present times: elimination of the threat of nuclear war, consolidation of peace and justice on Earth, and the protection of basic values of civilisation.

Gorbachev analysed practical ways towards shaping extensive international co-operation to find solutions to these problems.

The message expressed readiness for the further development of Soviet-Vatican contacts. The message was handed over to the Pope by Yuri Karlov, a personal representative of the Soviet Foreign Minister, in the Vatican.

During a conversation with the pontiff, the sides exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon in the light of the need for invigorating peace efforts to settle the crisis as soon as possible while preserving that country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. □

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It must be said that the leaders of these republics failed to do everything in order to contain the process in the normal channel of perestroika reforms. They failed to stem the negative tendencies, to redress the situation, to uphold principled positions, to convince people of the harmfulness of the plans and practice of opposition forces. The genuine line, consolidating society on an international basis, on nationwide and universal values of perestroika taking maximum account of national peculiarities and requirements, came against obstacles which are yet to be cleared.

One also has to admit that some Party committees and functionaries gave in to difficulties and lost heart. Some even began to play up to nationalist sentiments, weakened counteraction to separatist plans.

The situation that arose calls for a deep analysis, real and serious assessment and resolute urgent measures to clean the perestroika process in the Baltic republics from extremism, destructive and harmful tendencies.

The CPSU Central Committee urgently calls on the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, all those who cherish their homeland, peace and national accord to realise the full extent and reality of impending disaster, to display responsibility and wisdom at this turn of the history of the entire country.

The Central Committee appeals to the working class, peasants, and those who create the material base of life and are always the first

to suffer most of all from social and national upheavals — we need jointly to seek and find a way out of the situation, to stop the hysterical elements and not to give in to nationalist hysteria.

We all share many difficulties. The country and its economy are in a different situation. Do not believe those who try to prove that the life of Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians will be better off and comfortable, once the 'migrants are evicted', the Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Poles, Jews and others who live and work together with you put in an unequal position, the republics 'secede from the USSR'. This is an obvious lie. This is delusion.

Each republic, each region are linked by thousands of economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological and simply human ties with others, with the entire country. What will happen if these ties are cut at one fell swoop? It is absolutely clear that none will be better off.

The Baltic republics, which are the first in our country to get the opportunity to organise truly independent management, to go over to self-reliance and cost-accounting, today face the broadest vistas for initiative, innovation, economic development and better life. Accretions and distortions of the past, which prevented state bodies and the population of the republics from feeling and acting as masters of their house, are being removed.

The CPSU Central Committee hopes that the working class, working people of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, who have glorious revolutionary internationalist traditions of struggle for the happiness of their and all peoples of our great country will say their weighty word this time as well, defend the new revolution and uphold perestroika.

The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party is appealing to all intellectuals of the fraternal Baltic nations and calling upon them in this difficult time to be true to their truly lofty spiritual vocation, to their sense of responsibility before nations and the entire country.

The intelligentsia is the harbinger of goodwill, reason, unity and human concord, but not of animosity, confrontation, humiliation and insult to others. No grief is another's grief — let us remember this.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is addressing its words of anxiety and hope to you, dear women, mothers and sisters: are there any concerns in the world that are capable of taking the place of concern for the little ones? For averting all trouble, for ensuring motherly love, attention and humanness of society towards them? Your warm-heartedness, your active kindness and good sense must help restore in society trust and mutual understanding. It is in your power to have a wholesome effect on the younger generation.

We are addressing this appeal to people's deputies calling upon them to show statesmen-like responsibility and political maturity, to use their authority to help overcome the crisis.

We appeal to the common sense of the peoples of the multinational Soviet Baltic region. It is time, in our common interest, to put an end to the fateful course of events, to come to your senses, go over from confrontation to dialogue and a painstaking search for expedient decisions and compromises.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is appealing to all communists in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, to Party veterans and those who recently joined their fate with that of the Leninist Party: you must set an example of goodwill and human communication and persuade people of the necessity of concord and consolidation.

The Soviet Communist Party is a unifying force which is capable of taking into account and integrating healthy national interests in its policy for the international progress of the whole country. It is not without reason that the destructive forces are doing their best to weaken the Party,

because that would destroy the cohesion of the Soviet peoples and untie hands of those who are being guided by their selfish ends which are far from the true interests of peoples.

Life convinces us of the fact that a nationalities policy in line with the requirements and spirit of restructuring and new thinking is the only way to resolve the negative problems, which have accumulated in the sphere of inter-ethnic relations, and get rid of past mistakes.

The CPSU has submitted the fundamentals of such a policy to a nationwide discussion by publishing its platform on the nationalities issue. The results of this discussion will be summed up by a plenum which will also submit its own proposals for consideration of the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR, the USSR's supreme legislature.

We, communists, are now bearing an extreme responsibility for the fate of our multinational homeland and the Soviet people. Today, as never before, each communist should have the courage to perform concrete deeds, promote Party comradeship, build the unity of forces and increase the joint contribution to restructuring without which no ethnic or inter-ethnic problems can be solved.

There has come for every communist to take a principled Party stand and act so that his honour and conscience be clear before the people now and before the coming generations.

This is our common duty today.

Let's preserve the single family of the Soviet peoples and the unity of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. □

(Moscow, August 26)

### Latvian communists back CPSU statement on Baltic republics

THE Bureau of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party has described the August 27 Statement by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party on the Baltic republics as very important for the work of the Latvian Party organisation and the republic on the whole.

The conclusions contained in the CPSU Statement should become the subject of a deep analysis and the basis for specific actions designed to normalise the socio-political situation in Latvia.

The Latvian Party Bureau confirmed that there were really separatist, anti-Soviet, nationalist and chauvinistic feelings in Soviet Latvia. In this situation, the Bureau went on to say, the Latvian Communist Party will continue to exert its efforts to make Latvia a sovereign republic in a qualitatively renewed Soviet federation and seek a new status for the Latvian Communist Party as an integral part of the CPSU.

"We will continue deepening restructuring and democratisation and promoting dialogue and co-operation with all public organisations and movements which favour a fundamental renewal of socialism and revolutionary perestroika," the Bureau said.

The Bureau urged communists and all working people in Soviet Latvia to perform their patriotic and internationalist duty and work hard to overcome the crisis situation in the economy and qualitatively improve people's living standards. This should become a basis for consolidating all social and ethnic groups in Soviet Latvia. Primary Party organisations and Party committees bear special responsibility for unifying the Party forces and increasing their contribution to restructuring.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee has called on the people of Latvia for calm and well-considered decisions. "Latvia's fate, its future are in our hands," the Bureau of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee said. □

(TASS, Riga August 28)

### DECREE of the USSR Supreme Presidium on the convocation of the USSR Supreme Soviet

THE Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

To convene the second session of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on September 25, 1989 in Moscow.

President of the USSR Supreme Soviet  
Mikhail GORBACHEV

Moscow, the Kremlin,  
August 16, 1989.

The committees of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the standing commissions of its chambers will start their work before the second session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on September 18.

(Pravda, August 18).

Visit  
of  
Mikhail  
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to  
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## Law of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the endorsement of the decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet "On the Endorsement of the Provisions on the Trade Missions of the USSR in Foreign Countries"

THE Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolves:

To approve the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of March 30, 1989, "On the Endorsement of the Provisions on the Trade Missions of the USSR in Foreign Countries" (Bulletin of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR 1989, No. 14, Article 95), formulating the Provisions as follows:

### The Provisions on the Trade Missions of the USSR in Foreign Countries

**Article 1.** Trade missions of the USSR are the organs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, exercising abroad the rights of the USSR in the field of foreign economic activity and ensuring effective participation by the USSR in the system of world economic relations.

Trade missions of the USSR are guided in their activities by the Constitution of the USSR, other laws of the USSR, these Provisions, and the international treaties signed by the USSR.

**Article 2.** The main tasks of the trade missions of the USSR are as follows:

- (a) representing state interests of the USSR in foreign countries in all spheres of foreign economic activities and ensuring their protection;
- (b) pursuing an effective foreign economic policy of the USSR in foreign countries;
- (c) assisting the development of economic relations between the USSR and foreign countries, improving the structure of foreign trade and employing new methods of conducting trade and economic relations;
- (d) exercising control over the observance by the ministries, government departments, government, co-operative and other public enterprises, associations and organisations, hereafter referred to as "Soviet participants in foreign economic activities", of the state interests of the USSR in conducting their foreign economic activities, and co-ordinating their activities in foreign countries;
- (e) protecting in foreign countries economic interests of the Soviet participants in foreign economic activities, providing all possible assistance to them, including the Bank of Foreign Economic Activities of the USSR, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR, Soviet foreign trade consortia, associations for business co-operation with foreign countries and consultancy, broker and other organisations, in conducting foreign economic activities, promoting new trends and forms of economic, scientific and technological co-operation, such as the establishment of direct ties, the launching of joint ventures, service, engineering, trading and advertisement firms and participation in joint (stock) societies, arranging co-operation in production and making investments abroad;
- (f) working out proposals concerning the construction of projects with Soviet participation and their operation and ensuring conditions for their effective performance;
- (g) monitoring the observance of international agreements signed between the USSR and foreign countries in the field of foreign economic relations, including trade, industrial, economic and technological co-operation, and participating in the drafting of proposals and in negotiations on such agreements;

(h) protecting ecological interests of the USSR in accordance with effective legislation;

(i) trade missions are responsible for the implementation of trade and economic agreements concluded with foreign countries and for the strict observance of the economic and trade interests of the USSR.

**Article 3.** Trade missions of the USSR can, if authorised by the Council of Ministers of the USSR, carry out the tasks listed in Article 2 also outside the host country.

In the countries where the USSR has no trade mission its functions and tasks are carried out by the trade counsellors of the Soviet embassies.

**Article 4.** The trade representation of the USSR, in keeping with the tasks set to it:

(a) works for the pursuance of the USSR's foreign economic policy in host countries and for the creation of most favourable conditions for this in keeping with the USSR's state interests in all matters of foreign economic activity;

(b) studies the general economic conditions, plans and programmes for economic development, the monetary and financial condition of host countries, the development of foreign economic relations, legislation in the sphere of foreign economic activity, ecological standards, the situation on the market of goods and various services, and other distinctive features of economic relations with the countries in question, and informs the Ministry of External Economic Relations of the USSR and, if necessary, other interested state bodies of the USSR thereof;

(c) informs institutions and organisations in host countries of economic, social and ecological and commercial conditions in the USSR, and also of Soviet legislation in the sphere of foreign economic activity;

(d) gets from Soviet participants in foreign economic activity the necessary information on questions of their foreign economic activities in host countries;

(e) issues, in keeping with the procedure defined by the Ministry of External Economic Relations of the USSR, licences for export and import operations, permissions for import of goods to the USSR, for the transit of goods via Soviet territory and re-export of goods, and also certificates on the passage of goods and other documents required for the exercise of foreign economic activity;

(f) participates in the development of socialist economic integration of the CMEA member-countries and in the co-ordination of state plans of the USSR and host countries, and assists in accomplishing long-term programmes for economic, scientific and technological co-operation and the international treaties concluded for the purpose of their implementation;

(g) check on observance of ecological requirements in working out terms for purchases;

(h) verifies in host countries observance by Soviet participants in foreign economic activity of the USSR's state interests and Soviet legislation on foreign economic activity, without interference in their operations;

(i) renders necessary assistance to Soviet participants in foreign economic activity in establishing and developing new forms of foreign economic activity and holding negotiations, concluding and implementing foreign trade deals in host countries;

(k) participates in the work of inter-governmental commissions and committees on trade, economic, scientific and technological co-operation, international economic organisations and their working bodies as regards foreign economic-co-operation;

(l) studies the system of certification in effect in host countries, the application of standards of international organisations, problems of quality control and competitiveness of Soviet goods and services, and informs the Ministry of External Economic Relations of the USSR and the State Committee of the USSR for Control of Quality of Products and Standards and, if necessary, other state agencies of the USSR thereof, and also makes proposals on raising the technical standards and competitiveness of export products;

(m) assists in the holding of Soviet national trade and industrial exhibitions and in participation by Soviet foreign economic and other economic organisations in international exhibitions and fairs in host countries, and co-ordinates the work of Soviet participants in international exhibitions and fairs in those countries;

(n) involves companies and organisations in host countries into participation in exhibitions held on Soviet territory with a view to demonstrating the latest machinery, equipment and technologies.

The trade representations of the USSR shall also discharge other functions in accordance with legislation of the USSR and international treaties concluded by the USSR.

**Article 5.** Trade missions of the USSR, on their own behalf or on behalf of the USSR, can make deals and conclude other juridical acts needed for performing the tasks they are entrusted with, can present parties in courts as plaintiffs or representatives of plaintiffs. Trade missions of the USSR can act as respondents in courts only on legal disputes stemming from deals and other juridical acts concluded by trade missions of the USSR in receiving countries, and only in those countries relating to which the USSR has expressed its consent to the subjugation of the USSR trade mission to the court of the receiving country on above disputes. (This consent shall be given in international treaties or in the form of a unilateral statement brought to the notice of the competent authorities in receiving countries).

**Article 6.** The Soviet state bears the responsibility for the commitments of trade missions of the USSR with due account of the provisions of Article 5.

Trade missions of the USSR are not responsible for the commitments assumed by Soviet foreign trade and other economic organisations. At the same time, Soviet foreign trade and other economic organisations are not responsible for the commitments of trade missions of the USSR.

**Article 7.** Trade missions of the USSR are established on the basis of international treaties concluded between the Soviet Union and receiving countries.

**Article 8.** Trade missions of the USSR are subjugated to the Ministry of External Economic Relations of the USSR and are component parts of Soviet Embassies. The Ministry of External Economic Relations of the USSR determines their structure and appoints their staff, proceeding from the necessity of representing the interests of Soviet participants in foreign economic activity on the market of the receiving country.

The trade representative of the USSR and his deputies enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunity in the volume envisaged by international treaties of the USSR.

Ministries, departments, amalgamations, enterprises and organisations ensure, if necessary,

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# Nikolai Ryzhkov receives foreign delegations

## Ryzhkov meets Japanese

SOVIET Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov on August 25 received in the Kremlin the leaders of a Japanese business delegation, in Moscow to attend the 12th joint meeting of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet Committee on Economic Co-operation.

The two sides noted that major positive changes in international affairs had been brought about since the previous Soviet-Japanese economic forum by new political thinking.

Soviet-Japanese relations on the whole follow in the channel of these positive international tendencies, as political dialogue is being stepped up, relations in practical fields broadened and the general atmosphere of bilateral relations improved, the participants recognised.

Describing Soviet policy towards Japan, Ryzhkov noted that it aims at developing full-blooded and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries, whose scale and quality would correspond to the potentials of the two states, as well as to the political and economic realities of the modern world. Ryzhkov expressed Soviet readiness to broaden co-operation with Japan in various fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Constructive Soviet-Japanese interaction would serve not only to strengthen good-neighbourliness between the two nations but also to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The Japanese guests were briefed on perestroika in the Soviet Union, which is advancing despite great difficulties, on reform of foreign economic ties and openings for Soviet-Japanese business co-operation, especially in the Far East.

At the same time it was suggested that the organisation and structure of co-operation should be perfected, the existing reserves tapped more fully, and new forms and methods used to meet current demands. In particular, the possibility was stressed for creating joint enterprises in the Far East and Siberia to engage in timber processing, consumer goods production and the processing of agricultural raw materials.

The Japanese participants reaffirmed the interest of Japanese business circles in developing mutually advantageous trade and economic ties with the USSR and set out their views on possible measures to promote further development.

Both sides praised the activity of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet committees on

economic co-operation and noted the practical importance of the current meetings for the further extension of business partnership between the two countries. □

## ★ Meeting with US delegation

SOVIET Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov received in the Kremlin on August 26 a delegation of the Committee on Agriculture of the US House of Representatives, led by its chairman E. De la Garza. The delegation is visiting the USSR as part of a series of parliamentary exchanges.

The substantive and business-like conversation focused on Soviet-US relations and the current positive changes in them. Ryzhkov dwelled in detail on guidelines for political, social and economic transformations in the USSR and the pace of economic reform. Special emphasis was laid on broad vistas that open in this connection for stepping up economic interaction between the USSR and the USA, especially in the field of agriculture.

The US congressmen shared their impressions from their stay in the Soviet Union, praised the atmosphere of openness and readiness for co-operation on the part of Soviet agricultural enterprises and organisations. They noted that familiarisation with the situation in the Soviet agro-industrial complex convinced them of a large potential in developing production of food-stuffs and agricultural raw materials, although this branch of the economy seriously lags behind. On the whole the congressmen had a more favourable impression of the situation in Soviet agriculture than before their trip to the Soviet Union.

Acknowledging some critical remarks by the American representatives, Ryzhkov went on to brief them on the guidelines for modern agrarian policy of the CPSU, elaborated at the March 1989 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, on efforts to use the Soviet Defence Industry for the manufacture of advanced production for the processing industries of the agro-industrial complex.

De la Garza and other members of the delegation said that the American public follows with great interest the course of Soviet perestroika, wishes it success and displays growing interest in expanding Soviet-US exchanges and strengthening mutual understanding. They said Soviet agricultural enterprises could primarily benefit from

American expertise in processing and marketing farm produce.

The Soviet side drew attention to the continuing anachronisms in Soviet-US economic relations which, despite marked progress in political relations, are seriously hampered by artificial restrictions dating from the cold war period. All this is a hangover from the past and should be got rid of. On the whole, the American interlocutors expressed understanding of the reasoning on this issue. □

## Leningrad Communists Favour Radical Democratisation

"LENINGRAD Communist Party leaders believe that radical democratisation of Party life based on an integral scientific concept is necessary, and the development of such a concept has become an urgent need," Leningrad communists said in a resolution published on August 26.

The document, summing up the opinion of nearly 600,000 Party members, was adopted at a meeting of the Leningrad Party organisation which opened a week ago and passed in an atmosphere of an open and extremely sharp discussion.

"In a bid to coordinate the efforts of the communists of the Russian Federation in the Republic's economic development and the solution of social, ecological and cultural tasks, the Leningrad Party organisation suggests that a republican Party organisation with elective governing bodies be set up. At the same time, the Soviet Communist Party should remain a united organisation. Any attempts to turn it into a confederation of Party organisations of isolated union republics are inadmissible, and any attempts to counterpose or infringe on the rights of the Soviet nations and nationalities are not acceptable either. All Soviet citizens should have equal rights irrespective of their nationality," the resolution said.

The resolution recognises a strike as an extreme measure to respond to the inactivity of a bureaucratic apparatus and calls for developing a mechanism for settling labour disputes, jointly with government bodies and trade unions, so that to exclude the possibility of satisfying the needs of one category of workers at the expense of other groups. □

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the representation of their foreign economic interests abroad through business trips of their representatives at their own expense for work at trade missions of the USSR by arrangement with the USSR Ministry of External Economic Relations and the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Article 9.** Trade missions of the USSR are headed by trade representatives of the USSR appointed to their posts and relieved from their posts by the USSR Council of Ministers at the recommendations made by the USSR Ministry of External Economic Relations and agreed upon with the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a rule, the term of their constant stay abroad in one country shall not exceed five years. The financing of trade missions of the USSR is a separate budget item of the USSR

Ministry of External Economic Relations, with the efficiency of their activity periodically checked.

If necessary, the USSR Council of Ministers gave USSR trade representatives adequate powers for presenting them to competent bodies of receiving countries.

**Article 10.** Trade missions of the USSR can have their branches in receiving countries. They are set up in accordance with treaties concluded between the USSR and receiving countries or other arrangements with the competent bodies of receiving countries.

Mikhail GORBACHEV,  
President of the Supreme Soviet  
of the USSR

Moscow, the Kremlin,  
August 3, 1989.

(Izvestia, August 13. In full.)

Igor Voloshin and Lev Simkin

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# Briefing at USSR Foreign Ministry Press Centre

"THE Soviet side has taken note of the decisions of the Polish Sejm and will, naturally, see Tadeusz Mazowiecki as a partner in affairs linking our countries," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh said on August 24 in a comment on the Polish Parliament's election of a new premier. Gremitskikh, First Deputy Chief of the ministry's Information Directorate, told a briefing in Moscow that current developments in Poland are very important for both Poland and Soviet-Polish relations.

Commenting on the situation in Afghanistan, he said that failing to achieve victory on the battlefield, the Afghan armed opposition is trying to explain this by "lack of Western military aid," primarily American. "The opposition leaders' logic holds no water," the spokesman continued. "Not everything is as it seems regarding the fulfilment by the United States of its commitments, assumed at Geneva. There is only one explanation for this: both are trying to add fuel to the dying down of the conflagration in Afghanistan."

Noting that the military deadlock in Afghanistan is obvious, Gremitskikh said negotiations are inevitable. He said the sooner this is realised in Washington and Islamabad, the less blood

will be spilt in Afghanistan.

Gremitskikh noted that the results of a meeting of the Committee for South Africa of the Organisation of African Unity held in Harare on August 21 are appraised in the Soviet Union with satisfaction and are viewed as another step to a comprehensive settlement in the south African region.

He said the USSR shares the viewpoint confirmed in Harare that as long as the inequitable apartheid system is preserved in South Africa, not a single people of South Africa will feel secure and not a single agreement will be regarded as durable. Proceeding from this stand the Soviet Union supports the efforts of African countries, the principles laid down in the document adopted in Harare, aimed at a real dismantling of apartheid and the creation of a truly democratic non-racial society in South Africa.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters that USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kompletov had on August 24 received Pakistan's Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Jawad Jabbar now staying in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet news agency, TASS. They discussed prospects for the development of Soviet-Pakistani relations. During the discussion of international problems, the main attention was given to the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

The USSR Foreign Ministry is holding consul-

tations with a large number of the United Nations member-countries in preparation for the 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Gremitskikh said. The aim of the consultations are to exchange opinions on the main questions of the forthcoming session. During the consultations the Soviet side sets out its concept for advance to a new world order through a consensus of humanity, the task of creating effective mechanisms for the ensurance of the security of states, above all by political means. He noted that all consultations are being held in a constructive and benevolent spirit.

The spokesman assessed a session of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation that recently closed in New York. During the session the delegates discussed a wide range of questions regarding the situation in the remaining colonial territories, as well as various aspects of the problem of decolonisation. Gremitskikh said the debate had reflected the increasing assertion in world politics of the principles of the new political thinking which is based on the recognition of the sovereign rights of every people to choose its own forms and ways of social development, to ensure security above all by political means in the process of democratisation, demilitarisation and humanisation of international relations.

Answering a question about the situation in Lebanon, Gremitskikh said that the Soviet side intends to use all political and diplomatic means to help ease the acute Lebanese crisis. □

## Foreign travel formalities streamlined

THE opportunities for Soviet citizens to travel abroad without encountering bureaucratic obstacles have been considerably increased recently.

The new regulations concerned first of all business trips to socialist countries, Viktor Zelenov, head of the Consular Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said in an interview with the weekly *Argumenty i Fakty*.

A decision of the management of the employing enterprise is enough to allow a person to go abroad.

The foreign ministries of the union republics and interior-ministry agencies in territories and regions in such cases issue foreign passports within several days. Last year, Soviet citizens made 533,000 business trips to socialist countries alone.

Inter-governmental agreements on reciprocal trips of citizens on private invitations on a non-

visa basis have been concluded with the majority of socialist countries.

An invitation telegram certified by competent bodies is enough, for example, for a Soviet person to go to Hungary. One may go to Hungary for vacation or medical treatment if a sanatorium voucher or a medical institution's document certifying its readiness to receive a person is produced. Similar protocols with regard to other socialist countries are being also drafted, Zelenov said.

Private business trips to these countries can be made with a domestic Soviet passport with an insert issued by Soviet internal affairs agencies. A similar accord has been reached with regard to Soviet tourist groups going there.

In order to go to capitalist or developing countries one should have visas, the obtaining of which takes time, and should submit visa application questionnaires and a number of other documents to embassies.

The Soviet side has succeeded in reaching agreement with Iran, Britain and Sweden on shortening the time for the consideration of visa requests, Zelenov said.

These matters are tackled rather promptly in the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. An agreement on non-visa trips with diplomatic passports has been reached with Cyprus. Soviet proposals on these matters are also under consideration in the foreign ministries of France, Italy and a number of other countries.

Zelenov assured that the consular service seeks to considerably facilitate the entry of foreign citizens into the Soviet Union through the channels of trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

A 48-hour period for the issuance of visas has been introduced. The number of multiple visas has been considerably increased. The Soviet Union introduced these rules unilaterally in May 1988 despite the fact that there are much more rigid visa regulations for Soviet business people, scientists and specialists in most Western countries. □

## Geneva protocols ratified

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a letter to Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Red Cross, officially notifying him that on August 4, this year, the USSR Supreme Soviet ratified the 1977 additional protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the Protection of War Victims.

These major documents of international humanitarian law were ratified by the Soviet Union without any reservations to limit the sphere of their application, the letter emphasised.

Guided by a desire for an all-round strengthening of international law and order, the Soviet Union also stated its recognition, on the basis of reciprocity, of the competence of the international commission for the establishment of facts. The founding of the commission is provided for by one of the protocols ratified.

The international community may rest assured that the Soviet Union will continue to firmly meet its commitments in the field of humanitarian law in good faith and expects the same from other countries, Shevardnadze pointed out.

The first of the protocols ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet considerably extended the rights of the protection of civilian population, sanitary personnel and medical institutions during possible combat operations.

Under the protocols, the population of occupied territories is granted the right to material aid if they experience a shortage of medicines or food.

Protocol one bans warring sides from making attacks of an 'indiscriminate' nature which, apart from military facilities, may also affect civilians.

Protocol two is practically the first international legal document in which humanitarian provisions of laws and war customs are applied to participants in internal (civilian) conflicts irrespective of which side they are on. It also envisages additional safeguards against arbitrariness with regard to the civilian population. □

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# Nagorno-Karabakh: the situation

IN Nagorno-Karabakh earlier this month work was resumed at enterprises, construction sites, on motor transport, in organisations and institutions that had been on strike since May 3. But a considerable number of workplaces remain deserted. The material position of many families had deteriorated because of the strike which lasted nearly four months. The monetary incomes of the population with taking into account public consumption funds dropped by over 50 million roubles over this period.

The decision to return to normal work all over the region's territory was taken by a congress of representatives of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh held in Stepanakert in mid-August has undoubtedly been a positive decision. Other decisions of the congress and the reasons for it being held deserve to be set out in greater detail.

With the introduction of special administration in Nagorno-Karabakh, the powers of regional Party and government bodies were suspended and they were transformed into Party and government apparatuses of the Special Administration Committee. Supporters of the Karabakh movement now say that this measure runs counter to the Soviet Communist Party regulations and is unconstitutional. One of the strikers' demands was the restoration of power to regional Party and government bodies and transfer to the Special Administration Committee of functions of the representation of the central powers.

At a meeting of USSR people's deputies from Nagorno-Karabakh and leading officials of the region with the country's leadership late in June, it was agreed that the time frame and procedure for the restoration of these bodies will be determined by the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Special Administration Committee. It was intended to elect the Regional Party Committee during the report and election campaign, and the Regional Soviet of People's Deputies during regular elections, bringing the structure of the executive committee in accordance with the transition to the regional cost-accounting planned for Nagorno-Karabakh.

But the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh was aggravated by the continued strike, by the fact that some local officials shirked important socio-economic matters in their competence, by irresponsible actions of hooligan elements on both sides and ill-considered statements in the republican and local press. Tension heightened in

## Soviet aircraft designer Alexander Yakovlev dies

THE Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers have expressed deep sorrow at the death of prominent Soviet aircraft designer Colonel-General Alexander Yakovlev. Yakovlev, 84, died on August 22, after a long illness.

The obituary notice, signed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, says that under Yakovlev's supervision, aircraft with high technical and combat characteristics were designed.

Yakovlev was known for his tireless search for fresh ideas, creative courage and great talent for organisation.

The aircraft designed by Yakovlev include the Yak fighters, which contributed so much to the Soviet victory in the Second World War, the Yak-15, one of the first Soviet jets, an all-weather interceptor and the Yak-38, a jet-lift aircraft. □

Nagorno-Karabakh and the region was sealed off.

In these conditions the congress of representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh, actually representing only its Armenian majority, elected a national council "for the stabilisation of the situation in the region until the functions of the regional soviet and the regional Party committee are restored" and turned over to it "on behalf of the people the lead in governing the region in all the period between congresses."

In the decisions of the congress the national council is described as the "united people's body of communists and non-Party people. Recognising the programme and regulations of the Soviet Communist Party and acting in the framework of Soviet laws, they implement their line in the interests of the people through local soviets, people's deputies, Party committees, trade unions, the Komsomol, councils of work collectives and public organisations."

It is also emphasised that "the national council is independent in its activity and is accountable only to the congress. Its decisions are obligatory on the entire territory of Nagorno-Karabakh." It is unclear in what ways the national council intends to implement its declared priority task of the stabilisation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the prevention of conflicts on ethnic grounds. A detailed specific programme for the solution of these problems, duties and competence of the National Council and its presidium have not yet been set out. It is also unclear how relations between the national council and the Special Administration Committee will be arranged. In accordance with the decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the introduction of special administration in Nagorno-Karabakh the Special Administration Committee has full power in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

★

*The address of the congress to the Azerbaijani people says.*

"The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh proceeding from the inalienable right of every people to decide its political status, unambiguously declared in the resolutions of the sessions of the regional Soviet for the withdrawal from the composition of the Azerbaijani Soviet Socialist Republic and for entering the composition of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. This in no way infringes on the genuine interests of the Azerbaijani people, for a people ruling other peoples cannot be free." The address ends in the call for sanity and mutual recognition of each people's inalienable rights and for specific actions toward peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Jurists are yet to assess the legality of the congress and correspondence of its documents to state legislation with taking into account special administration operating in Nagorno-Karabakh. But it is obvious that leaders of the Armenian part of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh are striving to find new effective forms of the expression of people's will, so as to remind the authorities and the public of the question raised.

The problem of Nagorno-Karabakh is a tight knot. But it cannot be cut straight from the shoulder as some would like. An attempt at such a solution of the problem will invariably effect adversely many people. The problem of Nagorno-Karabakh should be resolved in a balanced way, precluding the risk of possible errors fraught with the further aggravation of the situation which is tense as it is.

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*Commenting on the criminogenic situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Lieutenant-General of Interior Forces Ivan Shilov, USSR Deputy Interior Minister said:*

The number of criminal offences increased considerably in Nagorno-Karabakh. Firearms, home-made bombs, and bottles with incendiary mixture are being confiscated from some residents of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjoining districts. Firearms are used more and more often in committing criminal offences. Populated localities, posts of Interior Forces, convoys of vehicles accompanied by military are fired on.

In these conditions some leaders of informal associations irresponsibly demand that army units be withdrawn from the special administration area, even though it is precisely the Interior Forces that are the main guarantor of the prevention of mass inter-ethnic clashes and of the maintenance of public order in the region.

The situation in the region required the involvement of a greater number of persons in the investigation of crime. On a decision of the USSR Interior Ministry an investigation group was formed in the region. It consists of staff members of the Criminal Investigation Department and the Crime Prevention Service. Its main task is the investigation of particularly dangerous crimes committed on the basis of ethnic strife. It is only in complex with the solution of the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh that problems of restoring and consolidating law and order in Nagorno-Karabakh can be solved. □

## Soviet Government congratulates new Polish Premier

ON August 24 the USSR Council of Ministers congratulated Poland's new Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, in his election to the post.

The message from the Soviet Government expressed confidence that "the traditional relations of friendship and all-round co-operation between the Soviet Union and Poland will continue developing on the basis of sovereign equality and respect, mutual benefit and mutual responsibility, in the interests of our peoples, in the interests of peace and stability in Europe and around the world." □

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# Soviet troop reduction in Europe

by Vladimir Chernyshev TASS military writer:

IMPLEMENTING its new defensive doctrine, the Soviet Union shows adherence to a fundamentally new model of ensuring security, not by the build-up of military might but through reduction of armed forces and armaments to levels of reasonable defence sufficiency.

In this direction reductions of Soviet forces and armaments are made in Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

But some persons in the West try to mislead the world public. They allege that the Soviet Union, instead of making reductions, builds up its groups of forces on the territories of its allies, specifically in the GDR and Hungary. In this connection we shall look into the real state of things.

Information received from the USSR Defence Ministry indicates that reductions are to be made stage-by-stage, in 1989-1990. During the preparatory stage in the first half of each year, it is planned to carry out a number of organisational measures in groups of forces to enhance the defensive tendency, specifically through introducing a new structure in all-arms units. Units to be disbanded are to be withdrawn to the territory of the USSR in the second stage each year, up

to October.

For instance, three tank divisions will be withdrawn from groups of Soviet forces before October of the current year. Two of these tank divisions will be withdrawn from the Western Group — the divisions deployed at Vogelsang and Juteborg. The third tank division to be withdrawn will be that of the Southern Group, deployed in the area of Veszprem. Besides that three training tank regiments and two anti-aircraft rocket regiments, an air and a helicopter regiment, a training communication regiment, two anti-aircraft rocket brigades, four assault and two assault amphibious battalions, as well as other units of special troops are to be withdrawn from groups of Soviet forces.

The armaments and combat equipment to be withdrawn include 24 rocket launchers, some 2,700 tanks and a considerable amount of other armaments.

Two more tank divisions will leave the Western Group of forces and one tank divisions the Central Group of forces in 1990. Two assault brigades, two training tank regiments, one assault battalion and a chemical defence battalion will also be withdrawn. Six tank divisions, an anti-aircraft rocket brigade, two training tank regiments, two anti-aircraft rocket regiments and an air and a helicopter regiment are to be disbanded.

It is not only the deployment of all-arms units

but also their structure that are transformed to serve defence purposes. All the divisions in the Western and Central Groups of forces will assume defence structure in the course of two years.

Tank regiments are withdrawn from motorised rifle divisions which will retain only motorised rifle regiments, and a number of tanks will be reduced by 40 per cent. The number of tanks in the remaining tank divisions will be decreased by over 20 per cent as a result of removing one tank regiment from the composition of each tank divisions. Separate tank regiments in the Western Group of forces are transformed into motorised rifle regiments and the number of tanks in them is decreased by 60-80 per cent. Their main purpose will be repulsing aggression. As a result of these measures offensive capabilities of these forces will be drastically reduced.

At the same time the number of anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapon systems, means for placing minefields and engineering equipment will be considerably increased in restructured divisions. So defensive capabilities will be considerably enhanced.

All this clearly indicates a sharp lowering of the offensive potential of Soviet groups of forces. Their defensive capabilities will be enhanced with simultaneous substantial cuts in the numerical strength and armaments. □

## How the Soviet economy will benefit by military conversion

"THE main thing now is to distribute in an optimum way production capacities released as a result of slashing the manufacture of weapons and military equipment," Igor Belousov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Military and Industrial Commission told the newspaper *Pravda* on August 28. In this interview he gave his understanding of conversion of military production at the present stage of the country's economic development.

"Many factories of the defence complex have already started the process of the so-called partial conversion this year," Belousov noted. He cited its general results. This year the complex will put out 95.5 per cent of military equipment as against 1988 (the growth stood at 105.5 per cent before the conversion), and the output of civil products will rise to 108.9 per cent against 105.7 per cent before the conversion. This trend will remain in 1990 and will amount to 95.3 per cent for the output of military hardware and to 113.1 per cent for civil goods as compared with the previous year.

Belousov also described the main areas of the national economy, on the development of which capacities released during the conversion will be oriented: equipment for the agri-industrial complex, the light industry, trade and public catering, production of consumer goods and medical equipment. There is a task for carrying out immense work to realise a programme for the country's informatisation. This is the development of electronics, computers and communications means.

The Soviet statesman pointed out that the conversion will bring about a broad exchange of scientific and technical achievements. As a result of developing the space system *Energia-Buran*, it is possible to use in the economy over 600 modern technologies, new materials and improved technical means. The introduction of scientific and technical achievements in space explorations will make it possible to save some 15 billion roubles by the year 200 and will help raise the technical level of Soviet industry and competitiveness of its equipment and goods.

Belousov noted that the USSR conducted conversion in 1945-1947 and in 1961. "But the importance of conversion has never been so great for further detente and for expansion of possibilities of a search for new constructive decisions in international affairs. The Soviet State has never given so much attention as now to the Soviet man, his needs, cares and aspirations in implementing such measures." □

## US, Soviet expenses on military space programmes

THE Soviet Union has allocated 6.9 billion roubles for its space programme this year, this includes 1.7 billion roubles invested in projects with economic applications and 3.9 billion in the military space programme, the weekly *Argumenty i Fakty* (Arguments and Facts) reports on August 25.

It says that the space shuttle *Buran* has cost the country 1.3 billion roubles.

The weekly points out for comparison that the United States has earmarked 29.6 billion dollars for space efforts this year, including three billion dollars for economic and scientific projects and 22.8 billion for the military space programme.

The US shuttle programme absorbs another three billion dollars.

The weekly suggests a rational redistribution of "space funds" in favour of the economy, shifting emphasis from costly long-term projects to meeting current industrial, agricultural and scientific needs. □

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# Socio-political events in the Baltic republics

by Ivan Petrov, TASS news analyst:

THE main events in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia during the latter part of August centred on one date — the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Non-Aggression Treaty between the Soviet Union and Germany (August 23, 1939).

The keynote of the judgments of the newspapers of the three Soviet Baltic republics is that the treaty, which is commonly known as the 'Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact', and the secret protocol to it, became a juridical basis for "the annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by the Soviet Union."

This point of view is expressed not only by private individuals but also by the official media. A conclusion of the commission of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet (Parliament) was made public recently. It says that the German-Soviet treaties "predetermined the loss" of the sovereignty and independence of the Lithuanian Republic. The commission maintains that the declaration dated July 21, 1940 by the People's Sejm of Lithuania on the republic's accession to the USSR, is unlawful.

The recent events marking the treaty's anniversary in the three Soviet Baltic republics took place under the slogan 'be independent again and regain statehood'.

The 'Baltic road' action, organised by the people's fronts, was the central event. People

formed a giant human chain stretching for 600 kilometres from the Hermann Tower in Tallinn to the Gediminas Tower in Vilnius. Many participants in the protest wore black armbands.

The people's fronts sought to draw attention of the foreign public to the human chain protest action. This is why, perhaps, placards such as 'Russians, get out of the Baltic region' were written, contrary to logic, in English, not Russian.

A large number of foreign guests were invited to attend various meetings, rallies and symposia. A symposium attended by lawyers and political scientists from the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, Britain, and Denmark was held in Riga, the capital of Latvia. And it seems the hosts and the guests did not agree on all things.

Representatives of Latvian nationalist movements call for limiting the rights of Russians who live in the republic and even for deporting them. But, as was noted by William Huff, and international legal expert from New York, Western democracies will never be supporters of those who call for the deportation of the non-indigenous population from Latvia and other Baltic regions.

And what about Moscow's stand? Unlike the Baltic republics where emotional estimates understandably quite often prevail over sober analyses, the central press sought to calmly analyse the historical situation connected with the conclusion of the pact and its consequences.

Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev, who heads the commission elected at the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR for political and legal evaluation of the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Treaty, voiced an authoritative opinion.

In a *Pravda* interview he emphasised in particular that, irrespective of evaluations of the treaty itself, it should be recognised that "neither the treaty nor the protocol to it determined the juridical and political status of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The change of their status occurred by virtue of other circumstances. It is still more absurd to look for some interrelationship between the present position and the three republics and the non-aggression treaty."

It has been noticed in the Soviet Union that most Western analysts in their coverage of mass demonstrations in the Baltic region showed a sober-minded approach.

A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry pointed out at a briefing on August 24 that, in the opinion of a number of Western analysts, the "rocking of the Soviet multi-ethnic boat is at the same time the rocking of the European and world boat."

It is hard to disagree with this. Now that changes for the better are still very fragile, the future depends in many respects on how deep will be the realisation of the simple truth: we live in a closely interconnected and interdependent world. □

## Soviet Foreign Ministry briefing on Lebanon

THE draft documents and protocols, elaborated in Paris, form a good concrete foundation for the continued search for a settlement of the situation in relation to Cambodia, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told journalists at a briefing held in Moscow on August 28.

In summing up the international conference on Cambodia that is coming to an end in the French capital, Gennadi Gerasimov, head of the ministry's Information Directorate, pointed to the common understanding that became visible in the conference of the need for a comprehensive solution of the Cambodian problem by political means.

Gerasimov expressed regret that several fundamental issues of Cambodian settlement had not as yet been resolved. He referred to internal aspects in connection with which "it is problematic that decisions leading to a comprehensive settlement would be adopted."

The French Ambassador to the USSR Jean-Marie Merillon, Jose Fernando Almanza Morena-Barreda the Spanish Charge d'Affaires and Conor O'Riordan Ireland's Charge d'Affaires visited the Foreign Ministry on August 25,

the Soviet spokesman said. They handed over a statement on Lebanon, endorsed by foreign ministers of 12 countries of the European community at a meeting in Paris on August 22-23. The statement calls on all sides to observe the cease-fire and to end the blockade, and urges members of the Tripartite Committee of the League of Arab States to resume its peace mission.

Gerasimov said that the Soviet Union also maintained active contacts with all sides capable of contributing to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis. The Soviet side attaches special importance in this connection to the resumption of the work of the Tripartite Committee, whose efforts are crucial for establishing and observing a cease-fire in Lebanon.

Gerasimov welcomed the results of the General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Conference, which ended in Manila on August 26, as an important landmark on the way to lesser tension in Asia and the Pacific.

He called attention to the fact that the assembly went on record for the first time for a final and regulated removal of all foreign military facilities, bases and nuclear weapons to make way for a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality and a nuclear-free zone in South-East Asia.

Noting that this call is consonant with Soviet policy in the region and initiatives made by Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk, Gerasimov voiced the opinion that the decisions taken in Manila offer favourable possibilities to promote mutually beneficial peaceful co-operation in South-East Asia.

Speaking about the reported resumption of deportations of Palestinians from the occupied territories by Israeli authorities, he recalled that "this shameful practice has been already condemned on many occasions by the international community as running counter to the 4th

Geneva Covenant of 1949."

He said that the Soviet side denounces the deportation of Palestinians and demands the immediate termination of these anti-humane actions.

Gerasimov spoke of the situation in Sri Lanka and ways for settling inter-ethnic conflicts there. The Soviet Union, he said, always favoured the earliest solution of this problem with due regard to the positions of all interested sides and hails the dialogue between Delhi and Colombo. This naturally will help normalise the situation on the island and stabilise the situation in the region.

Mohammad Nabi Amani, head of the Press Centre of the Afghan Foreign Ministry, who accompanied Afghan Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil on his trip to Belgrade, said at the briefing that the peaceful population of Afghanistan, field commanders, and those who were engaged in fighting are tired of war and want peace. This became particularly apparent after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The Afghan problem cannot be resolved by war. The only way to resolve it is through dialogue and a political settlement to the problem. The war cannot be won. It will only lead to greater civilian casualties and devastation of cities and villages. □

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