

Mikhail Gorbachev receives British Foreign Secretary

ON April 10 the Soviet President received Douglas Hurd, Britain's Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Appraising Soviet-British relations, Mikhail Gorbachev said they are open to discussion of any issues. Through joint efforts we have reached understanding and trust which makes it possible, without losing time on conventions, to get to the essence of the matter. Despite the problems that are arising, these relations are generally adequate to the times and affect the well-considered approaches of the two sides even towards complicated matters. Positions on one of them – the German issue – are rather close, Gorbachev said referring to his telephone conversation with Margaret Thatcher and her recent letter.

At the same time, Gorbachev explained in detail why the Soviet Union does not accept the entry of a united Germany into NATO. It should not be allowed to breed mistrust and to belittle the large political capital in world affairs, which allows one to co-operate in a new way and to look into the future with more confidence. The solution should be sought in the creation of new structures of security for entire Europe – from the Atlantic to the Urals. The process of formation of such a structure should be accelerated and the reunification of Germany synchronised with it. In the meantime a transitional stage is possible. We are prepared for a constructive search. We believe that even more difficult problems can be solved if there is understanding and the interests of each other are taken into consideration.

But the Soviet people would not take a decision that would break the existing strategic balance. Our former allies in the anti-Hitler coalition should not introduce nervousness into Soviet society.

Speaking about Soviet-US relations in connection with Eduard Shevardnadze's recent visit to Washington, Gorbachev again stressed the importance of US participation in the European process and said that if there are concerns there over major changes in Western and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, attempts should be made to eliminate them. We will work hard to ensure the success of the Soviet-US summit in June and hope to find satisfactory solutions to the outstanding issues of strategic arms cuts.

Gorbachev again invited Britain and other nuclear powers to think about stopping nuclear tests. This would immediately have a strong and positive impact on the entire peace process.

In reply to Hurd's request, Gorbachev set out the Soviet President's policy on the Lithuanian issue. Lithuania was not lucky. The adventurist actions of the current leadership can cost dearly the Lithuanian people themselves, the Soviet Union and world peace. It simply exploits for destructive purposes perestroika, democratisation, glasnost and new thinking.

We display the maximum political goodwill, although it is increasingly harder to do so. Our stand is absolutely clear. We have a mandate from the Third Congress of USSR People's Deputies and no one has the right to cancel it. The situation should be restored as it was on March 10.

If the Lithuanian people whose opinion some

persons are afraid of asking, still want to secede from the USSR, then it will be their right provided for by the Constitution and the recently approved law.

But everything should proceed strictly within the framework of legality. The President's duty, as in any other country, is to protect the Constitution. This will be done.

This notwithstanding, we do not want, precisely out of respect for the Lithuanian people, to scatter to the winds the good things which have been accumulated over many decades of joint life.

The problem which arose through the fault of the Lithuanian leaders, is of international significance not only from the viewpoint of preserving everything achieved thanks to new thinking.

Not only the Soviet Union has problems of a federative state in the present conditions. Attempts to tackle these problems in an anti-constitutional and voluntarist way, as it is being done in the Lithuanian Republic, is a bad precedent for all states with a federative or similar structure.

"This is strictly a domestic issue," said Gorbachev. "But we hope for an understanding of all who are committed to principles of legality and law."

Saying goodbye to Hurd, Gorbachev asked him to convey a message of greeting to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and expressed the hope for detailed talks during her visit to the Soviet Union this summer.

The meeting was attended by Eduard Shevardnadze and ambassadors Rodric Braithwaite and Leonid Zamyatin. □

Soviet and British foreign ministers focus on Europe

TALKS continued in the Soviet Foreign Ministry on April 11 between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Douglas Hurd, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in the Soviet Union for an official visit.

The two foreign ministers' dialogue centred on the state of affairs in Europe. It was pointed out with satisfaction that the general evolution on the continent creates favourable prerequisites for a constructive solution to the existing problems and

for the strengthening of security and stability.

The two sides had a frank exchange of views on the state of affairs connected with the building of German unity. The two ministers pointed to the coincidence of the Soviet Union's and Britain's fundamental approaches to a settlement of problems that arise in this connection: the drawing of the two German states closer together and the building of German unity should evolve in a peaceful democratic way with due regard for the legitimate interests of all the countries, within the context of realities that took shape in post-war Europe, and with the inviolability of the existing borders remaining an indispensable condition.

It was emphasised that the 'two plus four' mechanism plays an important role in resolving the external aspects of German reunification and that its work should be intensified.

It was reaffirmed that the Soviet Union favours the synchronisation of the formation of a unified Germany with a positive evolution of the all-European process and the formation of a fundamentally new European security structure which will replace the blocs.

A war risk prevention centre in Europe, the idea of which was put forward by the Soviet Union and supported by a number of European countries, could become an important element of such structure.

Shevardnadze disagreed with Hurd's remark

that NATO membership of a reunified Germany would best ensure the security of the whole of Europe. From the Soviet Union's point of view, such a version of solution would upset the military and political balance that has taken shape in Europe.

The two foreign ministers considered matters connected with holding in 1990 a summit meeting of the leaders of 35 countries which participated in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

The two sides are convinced that the CSCE summit should become a major step in the development of the CSCE process and be crowned with a tangible political document reflecting the realities of the present-day development of Europe.

The sides agreed that the CSCE summit should do as follows:

– Note the increased spirit of co-operation in East-West relations,

– Sign an agreement on conventional arms and if possible an accord on confidence-building measures, and determine future arms control steps and means to strengthen security in Europe;

– Solemnly to reaffirm the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, primarily those provisions which concern the inviolability of borders and develop some other principles, including such as non-use of force either between blocs or inside
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Soviet President receives US Senators

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV received a group of US senators at his presidential office in the Kremlin on April 12. The group, led by Senate Democratic Majority Leader George Mitchell, included John Glenn, Paul Sarbanes, Jim Sasser, Bill Bradley, Wyche Fowler and Thomas Daschle.

Meeting the influential senators, Gorbachev sought to accurately depict events in the USSR and the positions of its leadership. He described the situation for them frankly, in a broad context, and briefed them on measures to achieve a breakthrough, primarily in economic development.

This moment is the most trying moment in perestroika. Perestroika was not somebody's invention, but a carefully considered choice, one that has become vital for the nation.

From the very beginning attempts to improve the social and economic situation ran into the prevailing administer-by-command system. Radical political reform was needed, and it has made it possible to abandon the system, creating at the same time the modern world's most politicised society.

But we do not yet have a new system, it has not yet taken shape. This middle stage explains the difficulties and popular concern and is a cause of discontent. It has become necessary to expedite economic transformation. This is among the reasons behind the early adoption of an executive-style presidency, and also its priority task.

Such was in general the objective logic of perestroika. It also determined the evolution of policies, which, however, could not escape miscalculations and mistakes due to the novelty of what

was happening and to the lack of experience and knowledge.

The change is enormous. It takes time. But the main thing now is to pass the transitional period as quickly as possible. As we look for all solutions and all answers, we shall seek to keep processes within the democratic framework, although some of them overstep it in some respects.

We shall move only forward, towards new forms of life, ruling out attempts to relapse into the former system and into former methods.

Soviet-American relations and efforts to improve them should proceed from this. In America, Gorbachev said, they should be interested in perestroika's success.

Mitchell and other senators confirmed this, referring to the opinion of political circles and most Americans.

Agreeing that for the most part the international significance of perestroika is realised in America, Gorbachev drew attention also to other views counting on a weakening of the Soviet Union and to some congressional resolutions, which give reason for Soviet people to view them as interference.

The situation at the strategic nuclear arms reduction talks was among the topics discussed. Without going into detail, Gorbachev singles out the problems of air – and sea-launched cruise missiles as the principal difficulties. However, he brushed aside recent doubts in the United States about Soviet determination to take all measures for a treaty halving strategic offensive arms to be initiated in June.

It is simply that a more careful consideration of all issues is required now lest difficulties arise later. It is essential therefore to rule out a situation which could be misused to gain unilateral advantages.

solidating and developing those trends.

From the viewpoint of preparations for a Soviet-British summit in June this year during a Britain festival in the USSR, the two ministers analysed the state of bilateral relations.

It was pointed out that the new quality that the two countries' political contacts are acquiring and the achieved level of mutual understanding in approaches to a wide range of international and bilateral problems make it possible to set the task of putting the entire aggregate of Soviet-British relations onto the path of co-operations and partnership.

The two ministers heard and endorsed reports by the leaders of bilateral working groups that had been set up on the eve of the visit to elaborate in-depth specific matters of European politics, disarmament, regional settlement, trans-national problems, bilateral relations and humanitarian co-operation.

The talks were held in a business-like and constructive atmosphere.

On the same day Douglas Hurd laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin wall.

The British guest had a talk with Alexander Dzasokhov, Chairman of the Soviet Parliament's Committee for International Affairs.

Matters aimed at developing Soviet-British relations, including those through parliamentary channels, all-European and international aspects of the German reunification process were touched upon during the meeting.

Welcoming British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union, Hurd and Dzasokhov expressed hope that the visit would promote an intensification of bilateral economic, trade, scientific and technical relations. □

Having set the date for the meeting, we need to act more energetically. There is little time left. "I gave instructions to speed up the work," Gorbachev said. "We shall present our considerations by James Baker's visit in May. We hope that he will not come with empty hands either."

The senators asked the President to comment on Lithuania.

Ignoring the fact that the Soviet Union as a multinational federation is going through a most crucial phase in its development, the incumbent Lithuanian leaders, he said, have taken provocative, adventurist action. "They put everyone in an unthinkable situation. We are demonstrating patience and self-control. If, for instance, we accepted that the USSR is for them an 'alien state,' the population of Lithuania would find themselves in a gravest situation within the next two or three days."

The Third Congress of People's Deputies reaffirmed the right to self-determination, including secession from the USSR. But this must be a constitutional process. The situation should be returned to what it was on March 10, so that only then, by law and with regard for the interests of all, to sort out problems and find solutions.

First of all, the Lithuanian people should be asked themselves, through a referendum, about their attitude to two possible options: remaining part of a radically updated federation as an independent sovereign republic or leaving.

But the latter option will take years and have inevitable, grave social, economic and other consequences. People should know everything about it. Lithuanian leaders, in the meantime, adopt one illegitimate act after another and take provocative action, leaving less and less room for political approaches.

"We do not need to be convinced that political methods are better. Not everything depends on us, however. And senators, like Americans in general, should realise this and avoid giving lectures. They might prompt resentment in our society, affecting Soviet-American relations," Gorbachev said.

"And we value these relations. We treasure everything done to improve them, including by the American side. The Americans also have something to treasure among the gains made on this path. So much hinges on Soviet-American understanding both for you, for us and for all."

"We favour co-operation with the United States in every field. Valuable capital has been made in these areas recently. It should be augmented and nothing of it should be wasted."

Gorbachev pointed to the important role played by the US Senate and personally by a number of senators in constructively developing relations with the USSR and to the significance of broadening contacts between Congress and the Supreme Soviet and direct meetings between Soviet and American parliamentarians.

Yevgeni Primakov, Alexander Dzasokhov, Georgi Arbatov, Anatoli Dobrynin and the US Ambassador Jack Matlock also took part in the exchange of views. □

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blocs, raise the role of conference mechanisms in settling disputes, to strengthen democratic structures through universal commitment to free elections, and de-ideologise international relations.

– Develop the process of economic co-operation between CSCE countries,

– Study means due to which it is possible to hold more intensive political consultations at various levels within the CSCE framework.

The two sides are convinced that the CSCE summit requires thorough and comprehensive preparations.

When discussing regional issues, the two foreign ministers favoured a continuation of international efforts to achieve a settlement in Cambodia, specifically the joint action of five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and of other countries concerned.

The two ministers expressed common confidence that there is a real possibility to achieve progress in a Cambodian settlement process.

Describing the situation taking shape in Afghanistan, Shevardnadze pointed out that a number of new reassuring elements have appeared there and the possibility of holding free elections is emerging.

The attention of the British side was drawn to the proposal made by the Republic of Afghanistan to hold elections under UN control, as was the case in Namibia.

The Soviet side believes that this proposal could be effectively implemented with an appropriate international support.

Analysing the situation in the south of Africa, the two foreign ministers welcomed positive trends that are gathering momentum in the region and agreed to co-operate with a view to con-

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Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at dinner in honour of Polish President

A GENUINE desire to understand one another and a respectful attitude to the choice made by the peoples of each country accord with the basic national interests of the Soviet Union and Poland. It is the path along which Soviet-Polish relations will develop, President Mikhail Gorbachev said at a dinner given in Moscow on April 14 in honour of Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The Soviet Union wants these relations to be good-neighbourly, mutually beneficial and truly partner-like, Gorbachev said.

Speaking of the historical "knots" that cast a shadow on Soviet-Polish relations, the Soviet President pointed out that "many of them have already been undone."

In particular, documents were recently found that indirectly but convincingly testify that the thousands of Polish citizens who died in the forests around Smolensk 50 years ago were victims of Beria and his assistants, Gorbachev said.

"It is not easy to speak of this tragedy, but we must, for the way to genuine renewal and genuine mutual understanding lies only through telling the truth," Gorbachev said.

Touching upon the situation on the European continent, Gorbachev said the Helsinki Process "is now breaking into the open and acquiring a new dimension." But there are still unresolved problems and hidden snags in its path.

The process of renewal in individual European countries must not weaken the all-European stability, on the contrary, it must enhance it, he said.

Under these conditions, co-operation between the Soviet Union and Poland, the largest countries

in Eastern Europe, acquires particular importance, the Soviet President said.

"Our two countries are interested in security in Europe, security in the broadest sense of the word - military, political, economic, humanitarian, and ecological," he added.

Gorbachev pointed out that the peoples of the Soviet Union and Poland have a right to expect a solution to the German question that will reliably guarantee their own interests and the interests of all European countries.

From this point of view, he said, determining the military and political status of Germany is exceptionally important.

"We believe it is not enough for Germany to have obligations only with regard to the United States and other NATO members. Germany should have the same kind of obligations with regard to the Soviet Union and East European countries," Gorbachev said. □

SOVIET-POLISH DECLARATION

Here follows the text of the Soviet-Polish Declaration, issued in Moscow on April 14:

PRESIDENT of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Republic of Poland Wojciech Jaruzelski declare:

1. The good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial co-operation between the Soviet Union and Poland, meeting their national interests, are of fundamental importance for both states and are a significant factor promoting stabilisation and the strengthening of peace in Europe.

2. The consistent mutual respect for equality, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, freedom of socio-political choice and other generally-accepted international principles and norms, contained in the United Nations Charter and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, is the reliable foundation of Soviet-Polish relations.

New Soviet business weekly funded

THE Soviet Union's first economic and financial weekly newspaper, *Business and Banks* has been founded. It will be issued from next June by the Information-Commercial consortium.

Its founders include the news agency Infornbank as well as the leading Soviet banks - Promstrojbank, Agroprombank, Zhilsotsbank and Sberbank.

The weekly will provide regular coverage of current world and domestic market prices of the main industrial commodities and food products, raw materials as well as foreign currency rates. It will carry operational banking information, economic reviews and forecasts by leading foreign and Soviet experts.

Legal documents, which have not been widely published so far, will be of special interest to all organisations and enterprises which use the bank services.

The new weekly's supplement, *Zarubezhnoye Delovoye Obozrenie* (Foreign Business Review), will feature activities of major foreign banks, international financial organisations and leading foreign firms, world trade development and changes in the world market, as well as other issues. □

3. The profound democratic changes in the Soviet Union and Poland, with all their differences, are expanding the social basis of mutual relations. At the same time, the new conditions require renewed forms and content of the established Soviet-Polish ties. The heads of state consider it important that this objective process be based on a carefully-adjusted balance of interests.

4. The Soviet Union and the Republic of Poland need to increase the efficiency of their mutual economic co-operation. Transition to payments in freely convertible currency on the basis of world prices and the use of market mechanisms should become a major step on this way.

5. The Soviet and Polish authorities will create the most favourable conditions for communication between Soviet and Polish citizens and for the provision of the public with objective information about the developments in both countries. The sides believe that the national and ethnic groups living on the territory of each country, as well as churches, can play a positive role in drawing the peoples of the two countries closer together.

It is important to complete the work to restore the historical truth about difficult periods in Russian-Polish and Soviet Polish relations and to promote in every way the development of constructive Soviet-Polish dialogue at all levels, with the broad participation of the public, scientists and cultural personalities.

6. Positively assessing the importance of the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the Soviet Union and Poland and taking into account the radical changes in their life, as well as the current processes in Europe and the world, the sides intend to develop their relations on new principles in accordance with this declaration. The existing treaties and agreements remain in effect.

7. The Soviet Union and Poland will promote the transformation of the present military-political alliances into a qualitatively new non-bloc system of reliable collective security in Europe. Unless new European security structures are created, the Warsaw Treaty remains an important factor of peace and stability in Europe.

8. Fully recognising the right of the German people to self-determination, the Soviet Union

and Poland are unanimous that the process of German unification must be synchronised with the general European process, reliably take into account the vital security interests of the Soviet Union, Poland and other countries, and ensure firm guarantees of inviolability of Poland's present Western border and all postwar borders in Europe and their international-legal sealing.

9. The heads of state declare that the Soviet Union and the Republic of Poland will consistently advocate the complete exclusion of force from the practice of international relations, their democratisation and humanisation, and will establish the primacy of international law and common human values and interests in them.

Mikhail Gorbachev Wojciech Jaruzelski

TASS statement on Katyn

The following is an official TASS Statement issued on April 13:

THE need to elucidate the circumstances of the death of Polish officers interned in September, 1939 has long been raised at meetings between representatives of the Soviet and Polish leadership and in broad public circles.

Historians of the two countries have conducted a careful investigation of the Katyn tragedy, including a search for documents.

Just recently, Soviet archive workers and historians discovered some documents concerning Polish servicemen who were kept in the Kozelsk, Starobelsk and Ostashkov camps by the NKVD Security Police.

It follows from these documents that in April-May 1940, 394 of the 15,000 or so Polish officers kept in the three camps were transferred to the Gryazovetsk camp. The larger part, however, were 'turned over to' the NKVD administrations in the Smolensk, Voroshilovgrad and Kalinin regions and never mentioned in NKVD statistical accounts again.

The discovered archival material puts direct responsibility for the atrocities in the Katyn Forest on Beria, Merkulov and their henchmen.

The Soviet side, expressing profound regret over the Katyn tragedy and declares that this tragedy is one of the gravest crimes of Stalinism.

Copies of the discovered documents have been passed over to the Polish side. The search for more archival material continues. □

Soviet President and Prime Minister send letter to Lithuania

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov sent a letter to the Parliament and Government of Lithuania, saying that "artificially and illicitly provoked by the Lithuanian leadership, the issue of the republic's position in the federal state tightens into an ever tighter knot, assuming the nature of a political dead end."

"The republic's leadership continues to adopt legislative acts and decisions that set Lithuania in opposition to other republics and the Soviet Union as a whole," they noted.

"Other constituent republics are asking quite rightly why should they continue supplying products to Lithuania at the expense of their own needs, while the latter's steering agencies continue their anti-constitutional actions and disregard the rightful interests of the integral national economy and the country's citizens.

"In this situation, we are compelled to issue the following warning:

"If the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR do not rescind the above decisions within the next two days, instructions will be given to stop supplies to the Lithuanian SSR from other constituent republics of those categories of products that are sold on external markets for freely convertible currency.

"We do not want things to go as far as this, but the situation now completely depends on the Lithuanian leadership," Gorbachev and Ryzhkov said. □

Yanaev elected new trade union leader

A MEETING of the Soviet Trade Union Council elected Gennadi Yanaev, 52, to lead the Soviet trade unions, replacing retiring chairman Stepan Shalaev.

Yanaev was born in Gorky region and began work on a farm in early childhood to help a region that lost most of its male population in the war.

After graduating from an agricultural institute, Yanaev was put in charge of a tractor repair station and then a regional repairs service.

He graduated from law school, and soon after became active in politics.

For 12 years, Yanaev headed the Soviet Committee of Youth Organisations, and then worked as a deputy chairman of the Soviet Friendship Societies Union.

From 1986, he held senior posts in the Soviet trade union movement — secretary and then deputy chairman of the Soviet Central Council of Trade Unions.

Yanaev has been a member of the Soviet Communist Party for about 30 years. He is a member of the International Labour Organisation Administrative Council.

Yanaev is a popular figure in the international workers' and trade union movement. He has won domestic popularity for his parliamentary crusade for workers' social and economic rights and interests. □

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Gorbachev meets delegates to Komsomol Congress

SOVIET President and Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev on April 10 met delegates to the 21st Congress of the Young Communist League (Komsomol), which opened in Moscow that day.

Addressing the delegates, who represent more than 30 million Komsomol members, Gorbachev described the current situation in the Soviet Union as being at a turning point.

He said present conditions required consolidating all perestroika-orientated forces in society and the Communist Party was suggesting an "extensive platform for such consolidation -- the platform for humane democratic socialism".

Gorbachev voiced the confidence that the Komsomol "will continue to march side by side and together with the Party."

Speaking about perestroika, the President said that recent elections to republican parliaments and local councils completed the formation of a renewed Soviet power structure.

He said legal foundations were being created to transform the country's national-state system, which will be based on new, genuinely federative principles.

On the international aspects of perestroika, Gorbachev said that "due to the Soviet Union's new foreign policy, the cold war has ended, the world has moved away from the brink of nuclear conflict, and a real disarmament process has begun."

However, he noted, perestroika has brought about controversial processes in society. He pointed to attempts to "lead the Party astray."

"Our present-day goal is the revolutionary renewal of socialism, the radical renewal of the country and the modernisation of its economy and socio-political structure," he said.

Pointing to the need to speed up economic reform, Mikhail Gorbachev told delegates that the governments' respective proposals will be considered at a joint session of the Presidential Council and the Council of the Federation on April 14. The session is expected to make responsible, difficult but necessary decisions, to implement which national accord in the country is required.

The President and the Presidential Council, Gorbachev said, intent to use the powers vested in the head of state in order to adopt a package of measures to impart new dynamism to changes in the economy. Their priority concern is to ensure the effective application of new principles of economic management in accordance with the fundamental laws promulgated by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In 1990 and early 1991 it will be already necessary to implement the major measures in this direction that were originally scheduled for 1992 and 1993.

Speaking about problems of the younger generation, Mikail Gorbachev noted that the present younger generation found itself alienated from ownership, production, power and culture to a greater degree than other sections of the country's population.

He pointed to the urgent need to work out and translate into life a comprehensive state policy with respect to the younger generation.

The entire society must decisively turn towards young people's real concerns and guarantee their equitable participation in general political and social processes.

The meeting between the President and delegates to the Youth Congress lasted nearly four hours. Delegates showered the President with questions — a few hundred questions were asked.

Responding to a question about the possibility of a split in the Soviet Communist Party, Gorbachev said he did not rule out the possibility that some communists might leave the Party if they occupied different positions and disagreed with the Party platform. The Party is now being purified, Gorbachev stressed. In his opinion, discussion before the 28th Party Congress and the results of the congress will open prospects for the consolidation of Party forces around the CPSU platform, perhaps creating an opportunity to avoid a split.

Delegates focused on inter-ethnic relations, including the situation in Lithuania. Gorbachev described as "adventurist" the actions of the Lithuanian Parliament, which proclaimed the republic's independence on March 11. He stressed that he did not view the situation in Lithuania as irreversible and told delegates that the Soviet leadership is trying to convince the Lithuanian authorities to repeal their decisions.

According to the Soviet President, the question of Lithuania's future should be subjected to a popular referendum. Gorbachev voiced confidence that the population of the republic would favour an independence that preserved vital links with all the Soviet republics. The issue should be resolved by reforming the federation, not splitting it, he stressed.

Responding to a question about the possibility of introducing presidential rule in Lithuania, Gorbachev said that the country's leadership was seeking a political settlement of the conflict. At the same time he did not rule out the possibility of direct presidential rule. He said it would be an extreme measure taken only if a civil conflicts develops. □

Gorbachev receives participants in World media conference

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev received participants in the 11th Conference of the World Media Association in the Kremlin on April 11.

Prominent political, public and religious figures and journalists from more than 40 countries are attending the conference which is being held in the Soviet capital for the first time.

Touching upon problems during the present stage in the renewal of Soviet society, Gorbachev emphasised that the country is now living through a critical and difficult period.

"I feel that society is leaving the 'rallying' stage and is becoming involved in real deeds," he said. "Availing ourselves of these sentiments, we want to radicalise the process of reforms."

The President thanked the participants in the forum for their words of solidarity with perestroika-oriented work and for their high assessment of the Soviet people's actions.

"I am confident that there is no way back and that all problems will be resolved only as we move forward and through the mastering of new forms."

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Eduard Shevardnadze's press briefing

THE Soviet-US dialogue which ended recently in Washington was an important event in the foreign political life of not only our country, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told a news briefing in Moscow on April 16.

The entire range of crucial international and bilateral relations was discussed in Washington. Here I would like to single out an extremely useful conversation on ways to solve regional conflicts, the minister stressed. The sides stressed the need to use the entire potential of Soviet-US relations for settling conflicts no matter where in the world they take place. Here I would like to return to my meetings and talks in Windhoek (where a Soviet delegation recently took part in festivities marking Namibia's independence), in particular with US Secretary of State James Baker, regarding national conflicts in Angola, Mozambique, and ways to dismantle apartheid in South Africa. The United States maintains certain contacts with the South African Government, and the Soviet Union with the African National Congress, other forces and movements of the region, which holds out good prospects for our co-operation in this field, the minister said.

The Afghan problem was also considered during the meeting in Washington. The positions of the two sides over the problem are gradually,

step-by-step, drawing closer together, he said.

Shevardnadze described as very considerable the headway in the consideration of matters concerning reductions in strategic offensive arms, a ban on chemical weapons and in particular in matters pertaining to the elimination of chemical weapons stocks which are rather large.

The way towards solving the problem of eliminating all types of weapons, it seems, is to move from setting limits to reductions, he said.

The Soviet Foreign Minister pointed out that much attention during the meeting in Washington was devoted to matters connected with the situation in Lithuania.

"Everyone took interest in this problem" and concern for the situation in the world as a whole and for the state of Soviet-American relations was felt, he said. As I see it, a realistic and sober-minded approach dominated, the minister said.

In answer to a question by a TASS diplomatic correspondent at the briefing about the reaction to the idea, expressed by US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Bermuda, to hold a NATO summit on German reunification, Shevardnadze said that "this decision is a natural desire of the sides to consider the problem in its aggregate.

However, the "two plus four mechanism" for a solution to the problem is in existence and it can hardly be replaced by various kinds of meetings. The reunification process, the minister be-

lieves, is proceeding not so rapidly and painlessly as some seek to portray it.

Speaking about forthcoming visits of foreign statesmen to the Soviet Union, Eduard Shevardnadze singled out visits by the Italian Foreign Minister and the Premier of the Chinese State Council.

After Mikhail Gorbachev's official visit to Italy at the end of last year, Shevardnadze said, relations between the Soviet Union and Italy reached a new stage, acquired a new quality — "good trustful relations, a sphere of agreement on many issues and a basis for co-operation have taken shape in the relations between our two countries," he stressed.

This is why we attach great importance to the Italian Foreign Minister's visit.

Soviet-Chinese relations were normalised in Beijing last spring, the minister went on. "We regard this normalisation as a vital achievement in the restructuring of the system of inter-relations among countries. We are now passing over in our bilateral relations to the practical implementation of our agreements, to practical matters," the minister noted.

"What I have in mind is the specific development of economic, scientific and technical co-operation. The overcoming of military confrontation (much has been done in this respect), the solution of border issues and the consideration of matters relating to our inter-action in the Asian-Pacific region and the world as a whole," the minister stressed. □

Vladimir Petrovsky on consequences for peace and security

THE international conference Tendencies in Science and Technology: Consequences for International Peace and Security opened in April 16 in Sendai the administrative and industrial centre in the north east of the Japanese island of Honsyu. The forum, organised by the United Nations, is being attended by politicians, government representatives, scientists and experts in disarmament from twenty-two countries.

Historic changes in the world, when ideological and military confrontation in East-West relations is supplanted by political dialogue and co-operation, opens up favourable opportunities for multilateral efforts in the field of disarmament, UN Deputy Secretary General Yasuji Akashi said in his opening address at the conference.

Broad international scientific and technical co-operation as well as joint steps aimed at averting the use of high technologies for the creation of new kinds of armaments can become an important contribution to strengthening global security and stability, he pointed out.

In an epoch of radical shifts in the world in the beginning of the collective construction of a new, post-confrontational world, the role and place of scientific and technical progress in the search for ways to strengthen security must be reconsidered in-depth, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky told the conference.

The world community is in need of a policy aimed at demilitarising international relations and enabling nations to switch resources over to peaceful and creative development. Over recent years a great distance has been covered, taking mankind away from the abyss of nuclear destruction. A new quality has been acquired by talks on strategic weapons, on a chemical weap-

ons ban and on conventional forces in Europe. Verification and openness are becoming inalienable accompanying measures.

In this context, tasks arise to ensure the continuity of disarmament processes, as well as their globalisation and the involvement of all states in the process, the Soviet delegation head noted. Processes of reducing military confrontation which have begun in Europe are consonant with security in Asia. Our Euro-Asian country might become a link between the two continents in this respect.

The Soviet Union regards working out measures to control the use of scientific and technological achievements for military purposes as a major independent direction in the military — political field, Petrovsky noted. It is inadmissible that while some categories of arms are being reduced and eliminated, new quality arms are replacing them. The Soviet Union, India and some other states have advanced a number of ideas aimed at preventing the use of new technologies for the creation of new weapons, he said.

In the present interdependent world, security is made up not only of military components but also of economic and ecological ones, Petrovsky noted. The significance of co-operation, agreements and mutual enrichment of scientific and technological efforts of various countries is increasing. This is especially expedient, taking into account the new global challenges to humanity advanced by the present epoch.

The solution of an entire range of issues, including power supplies with the help of thermo-nuclear reactors and the normalisation of the environment, is hardly possible for a single national. It is too expensive and sometimes simply impossible.

"As regards the Soviet Union it is firmly oriented towards the integration of its economy in the world system and is prepared to expand and mutually-enrich exchanges and contacts in the field of science and technology and to

merge, where necessary, our talents with others' skills in organisation and management. At the same time our country cannot ignore the fact that such exchanges are still regarded in the West through the prism of force stereotypes and the desire to ensure scientific and technical supremacy in the military field," Petrovsky stressed.

Until recently the Berlin Wall was regarded as the main symbol of the ideological division of the world, a barrier of this kind still exists in the field of scientific knowledge. This barrier is COCOM.

"Discrimination in the field of contacts and high-technology exchanges can hardly be seen as consistent with present realities. International trade and co-operation should not be hampered by high thresholds and closed doors. If our partners fear the technological exchanges may be used for military purposes, the Soviet Union is prepared to look for ways to dispel these fears. We favour a prompt start to East-West consultations on the rules of transfer of the double-purpose technologies, envisaging, where necessary, the procedure for verifying its use after the purchase," the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister said.

Discussing ecological problems, Petrovsky stressed that universal efforts are required to resolve them, national potentials should be added up for the purpose.

The attention of conference participants was drawn to the idea of a new, strategic ecological initiative — SEI. It proposes to pool, within the framework of a single super-project on an international basis, the potential of the best minds mankind has, and to concentrate resources to develop perfect technological solutions. In this connection the Soviet readiness was reiterated to promote Soviet-Japanese co-operation in the ecological field, including the opening of the Kuril Islands and the Sakhalin for these purposes and turning them into a common testing ground for joint efforts in the sphere of environmental protection. □

Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's open letter

THE Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party called on the country's communists to consolidate the Party ranks on a principled basis, to unite all those to whom the aims of perestroika and the ideals of humane democratic socialism are dear.

In an open letter, published in Moscow on April 10, it stresses that the appeal was prompted by "the complex contradictory processes in society and the Party" before the 28th Party Congress which is scheduled for July.

Deep changes in the country and the acuteness of problems confronting the country make the Congress especially significant.

The pre-congress discussion is now gaining momentum in the Party organisations and in the press, the message notes. Discussion is based on the new Party platform and the Party rules drawn up by the Central Committee.

The discussion reflects a variety of views and positions existing in the Party and society as a whole, but the Central Committee thinks it impossible to ignore attempts "to detract the Party from the strategic course it has embarked on, and - should this happen - to provoke a split."

This is done both from the right and from the left, the letter notes. Some reject perestroika which they view as "a liberal-bourgeois degeneration" of the Party and society. Others, joining anti-socialist forces, have proclaimed the October Revolution to be a tragic mistake and are

calling for the restoration of capitalism.

Nationalistic and chauvinistic moods and separatist aspirations are a serious danger.

Paying lip-service to perestroika, the letter notes, some card-carrying communists have begun attacks against the Party from pseudo-radical positions.

Expressing serious concern over the situation in society and the Party and the desire to radically change it, "the democratic platform," the Central Committee believes, "contains essentially no serious attempt at making a constructive contribution to working out the Party's strategy and tactics." It offers no solutions to issues of concern for Soviet society at present. The striving of the authors of the democratic platform for the complete freedom of factions and groups within the Party may lead, according to the Central Committee, to the disintegration of the Party.

The Central Committee states that the moment is now ripe to decide, without giving up the freedom of discussion, whether those should remain in the Party ranks who are "persistently and consistently working towards a split and creating organisationally formed factions within the Party, who reject the Soviet people's socialist choice, who by their views and conduct have actually placed themselves outside the Party."

The separation from those who have embarked on the path of struggle against the Party is not a purge and not the suppression of dissenters. It must be directed against the organisers of factions, the letter stresses. □

Soviet Young Communists criticise Party letter

DELEGATES to the 21st Congress of the Komsomol (Young Communist League) of the Soviet Union, on April 16 issued an address to the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) and all communists, suggesting that the CPSU refrain from organisational measures, until the CPSU's 28th Congress, with regard to Party members that adhere to platforms that differ from that of the CPSU Central Committee.

Through this document representatives of young people expressed their attitude to the CPSU Central Committee's April 11 open letter "For Consolidation on a Principled Basis", which insists on the expulsion of those who aim to split the Party and to organisationally shape factions inside the CPSU.

The CPSU Central Committee's letter was ardently discussed during the Congress, and many delegates viewed it as a "serious political miscalculation" which may lead to the use of administrative pressure methods to combat dissent within the Party.

"We are convinced that only the CPSU Congress may determine the strategic line of the Party, relying on everything progressive that is reflected in the platform of the CPSU Central Committee, the 'democratic' or some other platforms," the Komsomol address says.

"Only the CPSU Congress has the right to decide whether there is room in the Party for

advocates of this or that theoretical point of view."

Vadim Medveyev, Politburo member and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, explained the Central Committee's open letter during the discussion at the forum.

He read out the text of the CPSU Central Committee's resolution which had been adopted simultaneously with the letter. The Central Committee recommended Party organisations, "without limiting the freedom of discussion, and enhancing its constructive principles," to dissociate themselves from "anti-Party ideological positions and if necessary take organisational measures with regard to leaders of factional separatist currents, right up to their expulsion from the CPSU."

So, the question is not to take any measures with regard to people for their ideological positions, Medvedev emphasised. Both the letter and the accompanying resolution explicitly cautioned against pushing away those who adhere to different views. Organisational measures should be taken only with regard to organisers of factions, those who seek to split the Party, Medvedev explained.

The Komsomol Congress, however, did not support such a point of view. In the "address to the CPSU Central Committee and the communists of the country", adopted at the Congress on April 16, the CPSU Central Committee letter is described as an "attempt to weaken discussion within the Party."

At the same time the delegates suggested that the supporters of the 'democratic platform' abandon work to form factions in the run-up to the CPSU's 28th Congress. □

Consumer co-operatives revived in Leningrad

LENINGRAD has become the first Soviet regional centre to revive consumers' co-operative societies which until recently operated only in the countryside.

The local co-operative society in April 16 began the transfer of shops to leaseholders who concluded contracts for the delivery of vegetables, fruit, sausages and fresh fish with farms in the Baltic republics, Central Asia as well as in Poland and Hungary.

Along with state trade, the new society will now supply Leningraders with foodstuffs. It will also sell footwear, clothing, domestic radio and TV appliances, and so on.

"However, our main aim is to provide Leningraders with foodstuffs," society board chairman Valentin Molodtsov said. "We'll bring goods turnover to 100 million roubles this year, ten times more than two years ago when city co-operatives took their first steps," he noted.

"We have mapped out new prospects for development, and foreign partners will help us implement them. Their initial investments totalling 18 million roubles in terms of hard currency," the chairman underlined.

The Italian firm Intercoop offered, on account of these investments, to design an automatic factory for packing foodstuffs purchased wholesale. The factory will be built near Leningrad where the construction of cold-storage facilities have begun.

Yugoslav-made meat-processing modules will be assembled at the same place. Leningrad shareholders of consumers' co-operation actively participate in the development of the new industry.

Among them are mammoth industrial enterprises, including the Kirovsky Zavod Engineering Amalgamation, the Karl Marx Amalgamation, the hoist machinery factory and several light industry enterprises.

Construction of processing workshops began with funds allocated by shareholders. It is also planned to build hotels, restaurants, cafes and a soft drinks factory. □

(continued from p128)

"We are only at the beginning of the process of shaping a new world order," Gorbachev said. "The structural elements of this new world are very fragile and vulnerable, putting immense mutual responsibility upon all of us. It is essential to promote this robust process, which has developed in international relations."

"I am personally convinced that everything will ultimately work out because new thinking has stimulated tremendous energies in the world. The molding of a new epoch is the job not only of politicians but also of broad social forces and peoples."

Having pointed out that it was precisely within this context that he viewed the Conference of the World Media Association, Gorbachev called it "a very important element of co-operation" and welcomed the mission of the forum's participants. □

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What should be done in order to conclude a strategic arms reduction treaty?

Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, advisor to the Soviet President who was a member of a top-level Soviet delegation in Washington, is interviewed by Vladimir Markov, Novosti's diplomatic correspondent.

NOVOSTI: How would you describe the situation at the talks to sign a treaty on a 50 per cent reduction of Soviet and US strategic offensive armaments after Eduard Shevardnadze's latest visit to Washington?

AKHROMEYEV: This treaty will be of fundamental importance from the viewpoint of both sides national security interests and defence capability. The sides have already traversed the longest part of the road towards drafting this treaty. However, a few very important problems were not solved either before or during the latest talks. Therefore, a wealth of hard work remains to be done by the time President Gorbachev visits the US.

What are the most important of the remaining problems?

First, the relationship between the future treaty and the ABM Treaty, signed in 1972.

Second, the problem of the cruise missiles on heavy bombers.

And third, the limitation and reduction of submarine-launched cruise missiles.

People who are not very familiar with all these problems could get the impression that these are more technical than military-political questions. Not at all.

The issue at hand is a major military-political problem of vital importance to the USSR and the US.

Wasn't the problem of relationship between the future treaty and the ABM Treaty mostly settled at Wyoming, when the Soviet side suggested concluding the strategic arms reduction treaty without signing a corresponding document spelling out the general understanding of the anti-missile defence problems?

At Wyoming we actually decided the question in form, rather than in essence. In order to proceed

to the essence of the matter, the United States should recognise that these two treaties are objectively interconnected and that the strategic arms reduction treaty cannot be effective outside the effectiveness of the ABM Treaty. Thus far the sides have not been able to reach agreement on this point.

The United States is no less interested than the Soviet Union in signing and putting into effect the strategic arms reduction treaty. I think that eventually Washington will have to recognise the relationship between these two documents.

What are the disagreement on air-launched cruise missiles and how could they be settled?

The treaty sets a 6,000-warhead ceiling for each side, and whether the sides keep the ceiling will depend on how ALCMs are counted. The Soviet Union does not want the ceiling to be violated. But talks are a two-way process, and the US insists on raising this level on mutual agreement.

Could you be more specific, please?

I don't think that the public discussion of such sensitive details is appropriate at the present moment.

What about submarine-launched cruise missiles?

There are two major disagreements in this field. The first concerns questions of control. Although the US agreed to sign a politically binding document on this type of armaments as an addendum to the treaty, it is, nevertheless, against agreement on control over its observance, claiming that it is technically impossible. Our opinion is that such control is possible and necessary.

The second disagreement concerns the limitation and reduction of submarine-launched cruise missiles. We are signing a treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments, aren't we? But the US only wants to fix the admissible levels for both sides.

Does it mean that the future agreement could be by right called a treaty halving strategic offensive armaments if the United States agreed to a strict limitation of these two types of cruise missiles? If

it doesn't agree to this, then the sides will actually reduce less than half of their nuclear strategic armaments under the planned treaty.

The Soviet Union wants the treaty to determine the levels to which the sides should reduce their strategic armaments. If after reduction each side had 1,600 carriers with 6,000 warheads, then we could say that their strategic potentials are reduced by half. But, as I have already said, the US insists on a method of estimates which would make it possible to exceed the 6,000-warhead level.

The point at issue is by how many warheads this level can be raised. The USSR wants this increase to be very small. This is what the sides are discussing at present.

In Washington, the sides discussed, probably, for the first time the question of future talks on strategic stability, which are to get under way following the signing of the strategic arms reduction treaty. Can you explain what these talks are about?

Strictly speaking, the idea of the talks on strategic stability was discussed at the level of experts even before this. This idea has been removed to the background in the past 12 or 18 months because of the intensive efforts towards drafting the strategic arms reduction treaty.

In principle, both sides are for the continuation of the process towards strengthening strategic stability. But their approaches differ because of differences in their geostrategic conditions and the structures of their armed forces which have developed historically. Of major importance for the USSR are land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and for the US - submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers. Tough talks lie ahead in order to find mutually acceptable solutions.

What, do you think, should be done in the first place in order to solve the problem of strategic stability?

It is necessary to establish a balance of forces by cutting down all the types of strategic armaments without exception.

Compliance with the ABM Treaty is also of great importance for maintaining stability. □

General Chervov: restraint is needed

By Vladimir Chernyshev TASS military writer:

THE American press has lately launched a propaganda campaign over alleged 'Soviet obstinacy' at arms control negotiations. It is being asserted that the Soviet Union toughened its stand on a number of fundamental issues at the negotiations.

Attempts are being made to sow doubts about the Soviet Union's determination to reach accords in the near future at the Geneva and Vienna talks. And the newspaper *Washington Post*, in an article signed by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, discusses - with no grounds whatsoever - the "growing influence of the Soviet military."

"United States media statements about a toughening of the Soviet stand contradict reality," General Nikolai Chervov, head of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Administration, said.

Negotiations on disarmament are not a game of put-and-take, the general said. The drafting of agreements on 50 per cent cuts in strategic offensive armaments and conventional troops in Europe, is almost completed. The most crucial

stage in the negotiations has started. It is now necessary to work thoroughly with all questions in order to rule out situations that could be used to get unilateral advantages.

It is therefore necessary, as never before, to analyse thoroughly the sides' proposals on outstanding issues. Any other approach will undermine the viability of future agreements.

The USSR and the USA are two states upon upon which it is impossible to impose a policy they do not favour, particularly in the area of disagreement, Chervov said. The results of negotiations are directly linked with the most sensitive national security interests, with the need to ensure the country's required defence capacity level. It is natural that the states, parties to the talks, support decisions that are in their national interests.

The American media's insinuations, which distort the Soviet Union's attitude towards disarmament, interfere with the normal course of the negotiations. Only a little more than a month remains before the summit meeting, the general stressed.

Both sides should display restraint on the threshold of this major political event. Nothing should hamper agreements on real cuts in military potentials of the sides, he said. □

The Wonders and Problems of Lake BAIKAL

Lake Baikal is often called "the gem of Siberia" or "the Siberian Sea". It has a surface area of 31,500 square kilometres. Baikal is the world's deepest lake (1,620 metres), containing one-fifth of the fresh water on the surface of the planet.

Lake Baikal's water is almost as pure as distilled water. There are some 1,800 species of wildlife and vegetation living in the lake, and three-quarters of them are not to be found anywhere else in the world.

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Democratisation within the CPSU

By Vladimir Ostrovsky, *Novosti* parliamentary correspondent:

"THE draft rules of our Party, submitted for nationwide discussion, open with provisions on the primary Party organisation – the basis of the CPSU," Yuri Manayenkov, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and member of the Russian Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, said in an interview with the *Novosti* parliamentary correspondent.

"Decentralisation of state and economic structures, which we are implementing in the course of perestroika, also called for the decentralisation of socio-political life in the country. So it is quite logical that the primary Party organisation has moved to the centre of the stage. The new draft rules grant it broad powers: it can define its own structure, direction and methods of work, periodicity and order of meetings, political actions, and financial activity. It has the right to express its attitude to decisions of any Party organ, which is obliged to give a substantive answer to that.

"I would single out here the right of a minority to uphold its stand," noted Manayenkov. "So, while in the past the rules proceeded from dogmas and theoretical schemes, now they are nourished by life itself, including the experience of foreign communist parties. But at the same time, we are not departing from the principles of democratic centralism in its Leninist interpretation. Its indispensable condition is: freedom of opinions and unity of action. In other words, a wilful suspension of collective thought, multiplied even by some of the Party organisations, is liable to cause a paralysis of collective will. In this present crisis situation and extremely responsible transition period in the development of our society we need this will more than ever before.

"I would like to dwell on a new provision in the rules – the right of the primary Party organisation to take half of the membership dues for its needs. It is sometimes asked how this is to relate to the fact that the Party's property and monetary resources are an asset belonging to the Party in general? First, one point in the rules probably cannot reflect the entire mechan-

ism of this phenomenon. On the other hand, truth comes to the world in three stages: as sedition, as doubt and, lastly, as an axiom, depending on its novelty and degree of understanding. In this case the new idea should be analysed – that is what the draft is for. I think it has something to talk about.

"Democratisation of the Party is also reflected in a provision that a future successor to the Politburo – the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee – is to become accountable to a plenum. And it must present its accounts on a regular basis – not less than once a year. Fundamental political issues will also be agreed by it with a large number of Central Committee members, who have the final say. And it is very correct that Central Committee secretaries will be increasingly relying on commissions as an elective structure.

"Equally important is a provision on the observance of Party ethics. Lenin defined it means as a situation when moral prestige is higher than the formal, it is the responsibility of every Party member to the entire Party, awareness of one's revolutionary duty, strict discipline, mutual assistance, mutual trust, and courage, as he said, 'so that Party spirit should be not only a word, but also a deed'. This requirement is relevant today, too, and it was not for nothing that the 27th Congress of our Party launched a drive 'for the pure and honest image of the Party member'," stressed the Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

"In the context of our time, when there is a diversity not only of opinions, but also of ideas, it becomes much more complex. In this situation, Party ethics, from our point of view, must mean the ability of healthy Party forces to prevent the Party being made into a bargaining object, and in certain cases also the ability to divide among ourselves. The Party rules and programme will gain prestige when both their spirit the letter are observed scrupulously," concluded Yuri Manayenkov.

Pravda: consolidation on principles of perestroika

"THE recently published letter by the Central Committee of the CPSU 'For Consolidation on a Principled Basis' is being discussed by communists and public circles throughout the country," the newspaper *Pravda* says in its editorial on April 16.

"The Central Committee's letter," the article says, "has been submitted for the Party's and the people's open discussion. This is extra proof of the Party's dedication to the policy of glasnost, to Party democracy.

"Attempts by specific forces to sidetrack the Party from its strategic line come both from the 'right' and the 'left', which, despite their seeming distinctions, tend to converge, the Central Committee's letter notes. This is clearly seen in

the attitude to the draft platform of the Party's Central Committee 'Towards Humane, Democratic Socialism'.

"Take, for instance, those members of the Party who are nostalgic about the past and embarrassed by current changes. They believe the main reason for waning Party prestige is that 'the CPSU leadership has departed from the fundamental principles of scientific socialism'. Others openly accuse the Party's political leadership of having 'slipped down to the social democratic road'. Conservatism, dogmatism and the inability to conduct a dialogue lead to defeat in the ideological and political struggle which is growing increasingly acute. It would be an unforgivable mistake not to see all this or, the more so, to put up with it.

"Most dangerous is yet another tendency," the newspaper says, "which is readily observed of late. Anti-Party forces are emerging under the flag of perestroika, actually under the cover of the Party's nationally recognised course towards society's revolutionary renovation. Posing as 'democrats' and the sole advocates of radical changes, these people continuously attack the Party's ideological foundations, Leninism and the socialist option, which our people made in October of 1917.

"Especially obvious are the efforts by some people, who have joined the movement of communists rallied around the 'democratic platform', a movement that has emerged during the Party's renovation. They are using it to further their own ambitious goals.

"The main purpose of the Central Committee's letter," *Pravda* says, "is to consolidate the Party's sound forces on the eve of the Congress, so that they come to this important forum as a united, powerful and close-knit force. The broad, free, constructive and creative discussion in the Party will and must continue. It must be pursued both before the 28th Congress and during it. The Central Committee's open letter by no means puts a limit to such discussions. It actively promotes a business-like and frank exchange of views within the Party." □

Soviet commission discusses problems of Crimean Tatars

THE State Commission for the Problems of the Crimean Tatars has had its regular meeting.

The commission heard a report by the commission's working group that visited the Ukraine in March this year and discussed priority measures to solve matters connected with the creation of necessary socio-economic conditions for the settlement and employment of Crimean Tatars who return to the Crimea.

The commission also considered a draft of a state programme for a voluntary organised return of Crimean Tatars to the Crimean region for permanent residence. The draft was prepared in the Ukraine Council of Ministers with the participation of representatives of the Crimean Tatar people.

The state commission endorsed in the main the above mentioned documents and issued instructions to specify them with due regard for the exchange of views and suggestions expressed during the meeting.

The commission considered and approved a draft statute of the state commission for the problems of the Crimean Tatar people, in order to subsequently submit it to the USSR Council of Ministers.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the public organisations of Crimean Tatars from Uzbekistan and Krasnodar territory.

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