

NUCLEAR AGE: THE MEASURE OF DANGER

Press Conference for Soviet and Foreign Journalists

The Soviet people accepted with gratitude the expressions of sympathy from international organisations, scientists, experts, and private citizens of foreign countries in connection with the misfortune that struck the Soviet Union, the Chernobyl accident. A number of foreign physicians, along with Soviet doctors, have been coping with the most serious consequences of the disaster. One of them, Professor Robert P. Gale of the University of California, addressed a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists held on May 15 in Moscow. At his invitation, the meeting with journalists was attended by A.I. Vorobyov, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. Present at the conference was prominent US businessman and public figure Dr. Armand Hammer, currently on a visit in Moscow.

As soon as I got a line on the Chernobyl accident, Prof. Gale said, I offered our Soviet colleagues, through the International Bone Marrow Registry, my help in sizing up the degree of contamination of victims and in treating them. By the time a group of American specialists came to Moscow, he said, Soviet doctors had assessed the situation and given recommendations for the treatment of 35 people affected by high doses of radiation. They willingly accepted our offers of participation by specialists from several countries in consultations and of sending medical equipment and drugs.

Governmental and private medical organisations of 15 countries responded to our requests, he said. He noted the high level of specialised equipment at the Moscow clinic, something that made it possible to hold complicated surgeries within a short time and achieve success in treating bad contamination cases. There were 19 bone marrow transplantations.

We shall need many months yet, he said, to assess the full scale of the accident's medical consequences. We have agreed, he noted, to take regular Soviet-American consultations and efforts in this sphere and jointly to publish the results of our work as soon as possible. We have come to terms on the necessary steps to raise the level of scientific and medical preparedness for nuclear accidents. We jointly suggest that all governments should critically assess their individual and collective efforts in this sphere, for a nuclear plant accident is an international, rather than only national, misfortune, whose scale may prove too great for resources and skills of one nation.

On behalf of his colleagues -- scientists and medics Professor Robert Gale expressed readiness to take all necessary measures for saving people who suffered from the accident.

Replying to journalists' questions, Robert Gale noted the high degree of preparedness of Soviet colleagues and medical establishments for the events. He said that their preliminary estimates of radiation doses and therapeutic strategies were, as far as it was possible, very exact. I think that the work of these people was heroic. They risked their own lives to save the lives of their compatriots.

The most important lesson of the accident at Chernobyl, the American medic said, is that it shows that science and medicine have no national boundaries. Another conclusion is that the events of the past few weeks have demonstrated our limited possibility to react to nuclear catastrophes. If someone believes that quick aid can be given during a nuclear war, this regrettably is out of the question.

A correspondent from radio Finland asked which professional groups found themselves in the most difficult position. The group of firemen suffered most, A. I. Vorobyov

answered. These people, he said, knew which fire was being quenched by them, knew that they were threatened not by the fire, but by radiation. And they did put the fire out, saving our lives. We are asked: what lessons are drawn from the first minutes of the accident, were the firemen members of a special unit fitted out with all necessary equipment? Of course, they had such equipment. This service takes a serious approach. It so thoroughly thinks out and analyzes protection systems that, no doubt, it has drawn all the right conclusions from the events. But we often forget that any accident is badly forecast. Eliminating one accident, it is practically impossible to prepare oneself for another. The military call this to "prepare for the past war."

"The Guardian correspondent asked me if there were residents of Chernobyl, Pripyat and other settlements in the 30-kilometre zone among seriously endangered patients placed in hospitals," Professor Vorobyov went on. "There are no residents of neighbouring settlements among dangerously contaminated patients. The whole population were thoroughly examined, and their clothes and thyroid gland emission metered. I took part in testing. Its results did not reveal any case threatened with sickness. As to whether the Chernobyl accident may threaten other countries with radiation sickness, that is quite impossible."

Mr. Armand Hammer came to meet the press right from the hospital where the accident victims are being treated. He said that as a physician, he was deeply moved by his colleagues' humane teamwork and their heroic effort which had saved many lives. He referred to Soviet doctors as top-class specialists, and said Soviet hospitals were excellently equipped.

"I well remember events of sixty-five years ago," Mr. Hammer went on. "I was twenty-three when I visited the parts of Russia stricken with famine and a typhoid epidemic."

I remember my interview with Lenin and his words on how important it was to re-establish trade between our countries. When Dr. Gale told me he would like to go to the Soviet Union, I sent a telegram to Mr. Gorbachev immediately. His answer came without delay: Dr. Gale is welcome. The scholar ordered drugs and equipment, and many countries, the United States included, carried out his order. The American people and all world nations were willing to help the Soviet people at the time of trouble," said Mr. Hammer.

Professor Vorobyov was asked if some Western countries had good grounds to limit or even stop agricultural imports from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

"I think the answer is clear," he replied. "Radioactive contamination is not cyanide: it's easy to detect. Every custom-house has the dadgetry to check radioactive isotope contamination of foodstuffs. As is known, we all emit some radioactivity, just as foodstuffs do. There are definite international standards in that, and a simple check helps tell safe products from contaminated ones before exporting them. But it isn't so much the matter of administrative steps to change international trade rules in such instances. We doctors see it as a trifle today as compared to mankind's plight if a major nuclear catastrophe takes place. In this connection, I should like to support the spirit Dr. Gale has introduced into this conference: the accident has demonstrated how vital it is to cooperate, and not only in science."

There were questions bred by lies which some Western media had been feeding to their readers and listeners during these disquieting days. Hartwig Nathe, of Deutsche Press Agentur (West Germany), asked to comment on an unusual telephone call from Gomel. A resident of that city allegedly said over the telephone that she and her five-year child had suddenly become bald and that she associated it with the Chernobyl accident.

We are carefully monitoring the situation around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, said A.Vorobyev. Gomel is not an exception, and so far no radiation levels dangerous to the health of people have been registered there.

Some reporters inquired if the peace cycling race that had been launched in Kiev posed any health hazards to those taking part in it. As far as I understand, Dr. Robert Gale said, cycle races do cyclists good. Cycling is a good exercise building up the body.

As a professional therapist, Vorobyev added, I don't quite agree with my colleague, because I don't like racing. But this is my personal view. Speaking seriously and putting things in an objective and precise manner, I would like to repeat: radiation levels near the Chernobyl power plant and on the borders of the Soviet Union are reported to the IAEA on a daily basis. I hope it is well understood that one would be unable to conceal what is really going on. If in Kiev ionising radiation levels had grown to dangerous proportions, we would not have been reacting to all this so calmly. I repeat again and again: what we know we tell. What we tell can be easily verified by any outside observer, even one beyond our borders.

(TASS)

(Pravda, May 16. In full.)

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VOKPO-860515-501

TV ADDRESS BY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

Good evening, comrades,

As you all know, misfortune has befallen us - the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It has brought pain to Soviet people and stirred the international community. For the first time ever we encountered in reality such a formidable force as nuclear energy that has gone out of control. On considering the extraordinary and dangerous nature of what happened in Chernobyl the Politbureau took into its hands the organisation of work to ensure the speediest correction of the breakdown and the limitation of its consequences. A Government commission was formed which immediately left for the scene of the accident while at the Politbureau a group was formed under Nikolai Ivanovich Ryzhkov to solve problems of great urgency.

Work is being conducted around the clock. The scientific, technical and economic possibilities of the entire country have been put to use. Operating in the area of the accident are organisations of many Union Ministries and departments led by Ministers, prominent scientists and specialists, units of the Soviet Army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A huge share of the work and responsibility has been taken by the Party, government and economic bodies of the Ukraine and Byelorussia. The operating staff of the Chernobyl nuclear power station are working selflessly and courageously.

So what exactly happened?

As specialists report, the reactor's capacity suddenly increased during a scheduled shut-down of the fourth unit. The considerable emission of steam and subsequent reaction resulted in the formation of hydrogen, which exploded, damaging the reactor and bringing on radioactive emission.

It is still too early to pass a final judgement on the causes of the accident. All aspects of the problem - design,

technical and operational - are under the close scrutiny of the Government commission. It goes without saying that when the investigation into the accident is over, all the necessary conclusions will be drawn and measures taken to rule out a repetition of such an occurrence.

As I have said, it was the first time that we encountered such an emergency when the need arose to quickly curb the dangerous force of the atom that had gone out of control and contain the consequences of the accident.

The seriousness of the situation was obvious. It was necessary to evaluate it immediately and competently. And as soon as we received reliable initial information it was made available to the Soviet people and sent through diplomatic channels to the governments of foreign countries.

On the basis of this information practical work was launched to correct the situation and limit the grave aftermath of the accident.

In the obtaining situation we considered it our paramount duty, a duty of special importance, to ensure the safety of the population and provide effective assistance to those involved in the accident. The inhabitants of the community near the station were evacuated within a matter of hours and then, when it had become clear that there was a potential threat to the health of people in the adjoining zone, they also were moved to safe areas. All this complex work required utmost speed, organisation and precision.

Nevertheless the measures that were taken failed to help many people. Two died at the time of the accident - Vladimir Nikolayevich Shashenok, an adjuster of automatic systems, and Valery Ivanovich Khodemchu^k, an operator at the nuclear power plant. As of today 299 people are in hospital with radiation sickness of varying degrees of gravity. Seven of them have died. All possible treatment is being given to the rest. The

country's best scientific and medical specialists, specialised clinics in Moscow and other cities are treating them and have at their disposal the most up-to-date methods offered by medicine.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government, I express profound condolences to the families and relatives of the deceased, to the work collectives, to all who have suffered from this misfortune, who have suffered personal loss. The Soviet Government will take care of the families of those who died or were injured.

The inhabitants of the areas that heartily welcomed the evacuees deserve the highest appreciation. They responded to the misfortune of their neighbours as though it were their own, and in the best traditions of our people displayed consideration, responsiveness and attentiveness.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are receiving thousands upon thousands of letters and telegrams from Soviet people and also from foreign citizens expressing sympathy and support for the victims. Many Soviet families are prepared to take children into their homes for the summer and are offering material aid. There have been numerous requests to be sent to work in the area of the accident.

These manifestations of humaneness, genuine humanism, high moral standards cannot but move each and every one of us.

Assistance to people, I repeat, remains our top priority.

At the same time vigorous work is under way at the station itself and on the adjacent territory to limit the scale of the accident. In the most difficult conditions it proved possible to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading to the other power units.

The staff of the station stopped the three other reactors and put them in a safe state. They are under constant control.

A stiff test has faced and is facing all -- firemen, transport and building workers, medics, special chemical protection units, helicopter crews and other detachments of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In these difficult conditions much depended on a correct scientific evaluation of what was happening because without such an evaluation it would have been impossible to work out and apply effective measures to cope with the accident and its aftermaths. Prominent scientists from our Academy of Sciences, leading specialists from the Union Ministries and agencies, the Ukraine and Byelorussia are successfully coping with this task.

I must say that people have acted and are continuing to act heroically, selflessly. I think we will yet have an opportunity to name these courageous people and assess their exploit worthily.

I have every reason to state that despite the deep gravity of what happened the damage turned out to be limited owing to a decisive degree to the courage and skill of our people, their loyalty to duty, and the concerted effort to liquidate the aftermath of the accident.

This task, Comrades, is being solved not only in the area of the nuclear power station itself but also in scientific institutes, at many of the country's enterprises which are supplying all essentials to those who are directly involved in the difficult and dangerous effort to deal with the accident.

Thanks to the effective measures taken, we can say today that the worst is over. The most critical consequences have been averted. Of course, there is much left to be done. It is not yet time to rest. Extensive and demanding work still lies ahead. The radiation level in the station zone and in the immediate vicinity still remains dangerous for human health. The top-priority task as of today, therefore, is to deal with

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the aftereffects of the accident. A large-scale program for the radioactive decontamination of the territory of the power station and the employees' community, of buildings and structures has been drawn up and is being implemented. The necessary manpower, material and technical resources have been concentrated for that purpose. In order to prevent radioactive contamination of the water, measures are being taken at the site of the station and on the adjacent territory.

The meteorological service is constantly monitoring the radiation situation on the ground, on the water, and in the atmosphere. They have at their disposal the necessary technical systems and are using specially equipped planes, helicopters and ground monitoring stations.

It is absolutely clear -- all these operations will take much time and will require considerable effort. They should be carried out meticulously in a planned and organized manner. The area must be restored to a state that in no way endangers the health and normal life of people.

I must not fail to mention one more aspect of that affair, and that is the reaction abroad to what happened at Chernobyl. The world at large, and this should be emphasized, treated with understanding the misfortune that befell us and our actions in that complex situation.

We are profoundly grateful to our friends in Socialist countries who have shown solidarity with the Soviet people at this time of trouble. We are grateful to the political and public figures in other states for their sincere sympathy and support.

We express our kind feelings to foreign scientists and specialists who showed readiness to give assistance in coping with the consequences of the accident. I would like to note the participation of the American physicians Robert Gale and Paul Tarasaki in the treatment of the injured and to express

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gratitude to the business circles of those countries which promptly complied with our request to purchase certain types of equipment, materials and medicine.

We appreciate the objective attitude to the events at the Chernobyl nuclear power station on the part of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director-General Hans Blix.

In other words, we highly appreciate the sympathy of all those who treated our misfortune and our problems with an open heart.

At the same time it is impossible to pass by, without political assessment, the treatment given the event at Chernobyl by the governments, political figures and the mass media in certain NATO countries, especially the USA. They launched an unbridled anti-Soviet campaign. It is difficult to imagine all that has been said and written in the past while -- "thousands of casualties", "mass graves for the dead", "Kiev desolate", "the land of the Ukraine poisoned", and so on and so forth.

Generally speaking, we faced a veritable mountain of lies -- most dishonest and malicious lies. It is unpleasant to recall all this, but it must be done. The international community must know what we had to face. This must be done to find the answer to the question: what, in actual fact, was behind that highly immoral campaign?

Its organizers, to be sure, were interested neither in the truth about the accident nor in the fate of the people at Chernobyl, in the Ukraine, in Byelorussia, in any other place, any other country. They needed a pretext for defaming the Soviet Union, its foreign policy, for lessening the impact of Soviet proposals regarding the termination of nuclear tests and the elimination of nuclear weapons, and at the same time, for dampening the growing criticism of US conduct on the

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international scene and of its militaristic course.

Bluntly speaking, certain Western politicians were after very definite results. They were out to blast the possibilities for smoothing out international relations, to sow new seeds of mistrust and suspicion toward the socialist countries.

All this made itself clearly felt during the meeting of the leaders of "the Seven" held not long ago in Tokyo. What did they tell the world, what dangers did they warn mankind of? Of Libya, groundlessly accused of terrorism, and also of the Soviet Union which, it turns out, failed to provide them with "full" information about the accident at Chernobyl. And not a word about the most important thing -- how to stop the arms race, how to rid the world of the nuclear threat. Not a word in reply to the Soviet initiatives, to our definite proposals for ending nuclear tests, ridding mankind of nuclear and chemical weapons and reducing conventional arms.

How should all this be interpreted? One gets the impression that the leaders of the capitalist powers who gathered in Tokyo wanted to use the Chernobyl accident as a pretext for distracting the attention of the world public from all those problems that make them uncomfortable, but are so real and important for the whole world.

The reaction to the accident at the Chernobyl station has become a kind of a test of political morality. Once again two different approaches, two different lines of conduct were revealed for everyone to see.

The ruling circles of the USA and their most zealous allies -- especially West Germany -- regarded the occurrence as just another possibility to put up additional obstacles to the development and deepening of the East-West dialogue, which is progressing slowly as it is, and to justify the nuclear arms race.

Moreover, an attempt has been made to prove to the world that talks and hence agreements with the USSR are impossible, and thus to give a green light to further military preparations.

Our attitude to this tragedy is completely different. We realise that it is another signal of alarm, another grim warning that the nuclear era calls for new political thinking and a new policy.

This has strengthened still more our conviction that the foreign policy course established by the 27th CPSU Congress is correct and that our proposals for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the ending of nuclear explosions, and the creation of an all-embracing system of international security meet those inexorably stringent demands which the nuclear age makes of the political leadership of all countries.

As to the "lack" of information, over which a special campaign, a political campaign, has been launched, it is an invention. The following confirms this. It took the US authorities ten days to inform their own Congress and months to inform the world community about the tragedy that took place at Three Mile Island atomic power station in 1979.

I have already said how we acted.

All this enables one to judge who approaches in what way the matter of informing their own people and foreign countries.

But this is not the main thing. We hold that the accident at Chernobyl, just like the accidents at US, British and other atomic power stations poses very serious problems to all states, problems which require a responsible attitude.

Over 370 atomic reactors are now functioning in different countries. This is reality. The future of the world economy can hardly be imagined without the development of atomic energy. Altogether 40 reactors with an aggregate capacity of

over 28 million kilowatts are now operating in our country. Mankind derives considerable benefit from the atom when it is used for peaceful purposes.

But it stands to reason that we are all obliged to act with still greater caution, to direct science and technology at ensuring the safe harnessing of the great and formidable nuclear power.

The indisputable lesson Chernobyl gave us is that in conditions of the further development of the scientific and technical revolution the questions of reliability and safety of equipment, the questions of discipline, order and organisation take on paramount importance. The most stringent demands everywhere and in everything are needed.

Further, we deem it necessary to declare for a serious deepening of cooperation within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). What could be done in this respect?

First, creating an international regime of safe development of nuclear power on the basis of close cooperation between all nations dealing with nuclear power engineering. A system of early warning and supply of information in the event of accidents or malfunctions at nuclear power stations, specifically when this is accompanied by radioactive emission, should be established under such a regime. Likewise it is necessary to adjust an international mechanism, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, for the speediest rendering of mutual assistance when dangerous situations emerge.

Second, for the discussion of the entire range of matters it would be justifiable to convene a highly authoritative special international conference in Vienna under IAEA auspices.

Third, in view of the fact that the IAEA was founded back in 1957 and that its resources and staff are not in keeping

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with the level of the development of present-day nuclear power engineering, it would be expedient to enhance the role and possibilities of that unique international organisation. The Soviet Union is ready for this.

Fourth, it is our conviction that the United Nations Organisation and its specialised agencies, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), should be more actively involved in the effort to ensure safe development of peaceful nuclear activity.

Considering all this, it should not be forgotten that in our world, where everything is interdependent, there exist, alongside problems of atoms for peace, problems of atoms for war. This is the main thing now. The accident at Chernobyl showed once again what an abyss will open up if nuclear war strikes mankind. For nuclear stockpiles are fraught with thousands upon thousands of disasters far more horrible than the Chernobyl one.

In conditions of increased attention to nuclear matters, the Soviet government, having considered all circumstances connected with the security of its people and all of humanity, has decided to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests till August 6 of this year, that is till the date on which more than 40 years ago the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, as a result of which hundreds of thousands of people perished.

We again urge the United States to consider with utmost responsibility the degree of danger looming over mankind, to heed the opinion of the world community. Let those who lead the United States show their concern for the life and health of people by their deeds.

I confirm my proposal to President Reagan to meet without delay in the capital of any European state that will be

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prepared to accept us or, say, in Hiroshima and to agree on a ban on nuclear testing.

The nuclear age forcefully demands a new approach to international relations, the pooling of efforts of states with different social systems for the sake of ending the disastrous arms race and radically improving the world political climate. Broad horizons will then be cleared for fruitful cooperation between all countries and peoples, and all men on Earth will gain from that.

(Pravda, May 15. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ
TÜSTAV

proclaimed a total war on "international terrorism".

But, judging by all, a just settlement in the region is the last thing Washington wants. Apparently, it is most of all afraid that normalization may tie up its hands in the rest of the world, for instance, in Central America.

Such policy suits Israel's expansionist forces by giving them carte blanche in solving the problem by force. A new escalation of US-Israeli threats to Syria clearly shows that the strategic partners are ready to unleash aggression against it any time.

* * *

The West continues spreading lies about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It is even claimed that the accident poses a mortal danger to the whole world. Certain circles, first of all, in the US, are doing this to sidetrack public attention from the real sources of concern for the future of mankind, from those who are speeding up the nuclear arms race, preparing Star Wars and rejecting all concrete measures aimed at detente, writes Yuri Gvozdev, Novosti political analyst.

Meanwhile, some mass media stress the harmful impact on the environment of the underground nuclear proving grounds in Nevada, ranging from the emission of radioactive gases to the air to the fluctuations of the earth's crust. The shattering walls of sky-scrapers in Las Vegas, a hundred miles away from the proving range of the Pentagon are not the whole problem. Seismic waves are spreading in the lithosphere thousands of kilometres to the south.

Not long ago the Mexican Dia wrote: scientists have already practically proved the link between nuclear explosions in the USA and seismic disasters in Mexico, Peru and Chile. It is not ruled out that the last year's disaster in Mexico City had also resulted from the testing in Nevada. The New

Delhi-based Patriot came to the same conclusion, quoting authoritative Western experts. The paper writes that underground nuclear explosions play the role of the trigger in such cases. An explosion releases the tremendous energy which has accumulated in the earth's crust for millennia as a result of natural geodynamic processes. Some Mexican experts believe that the testing by France detonated earthquakes in Central America and even in Indonesia.

The Soviet Union is resolutely advocating full cessation of nuclear testing, and elimination of underground testing grounds. Of course, the main aim is to stop the very dangerous nuclear arms race and to reduce the threat of global Hiroshima. But this would also rid mankind of the ecological headaches which even now accompany nuclear explosions. Earthquakes are one of these. Moscow's sincerity on this question was vividly borne out by the unilateral moratorium which it announced in the early August of 1985. But the USA did not follow suit. Meanwhile, if it had not ignored this step, a road to agreement on an overall nuclear test ban could have been paved.

(APN, May 13. In full.)

THE END

PROFITEERING ON OTHERS' MISFORTUNE

V. Bolshakov

The desire to help a man in need instead of profiteering on his misfortune, is a faultless sign of moral health. But when a pursuit of wealth at any price is considered moral there can be no talk of such an indicator.

It would seem strange to look for any connection between the "trade war" on both sides of the Atlantic and in Western Europe proper, on the one hand, and the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, on the other. But certain forces have created it artificially.

The United States, which has long been threatening to take "punitive measures" against the West European suppliers of food products to the USA, is now ramming through Congress a bill on banning food imports from the Old World under the pretext of increased radioactivity there. Though experts from the World Health Organisation said the other day that there were no reasons now for such a ban, just as for the initially taken precautionary measures, fears continue to be stepped up.

As was stated in the French TF-1 television programme, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station has become a "convenient pretext for certain politicians to establish embargo on agricultural products which were to be exported under the concluded agreements." Italy, for instance, has refused to import some products from France. On the other hand, it complains that its EEC competing partners do not buy its milk, though it has been proved to be harmless.

This campaign in the Western press has also damaged the export of food products from Finland and other countries. However, the main blow of the "psychological war" strategists was directed against the USSR and other European socialist countries. Despite convincing proofs, granted by the national

organisations of these countries and international bodies, and the thorough measures of controlling the radiation level and the quality of products, the EEC countries and some other states, not belonging to the group, have banned imports of a number of agricultural products from the East European countries.

L'Humanite Dimanche has qualified the measure as "obviously discriminatory and prompted by purely political considerations." The Polish PAP agency added: "It is not the first time when far-fetched pretexts are used to put a spoke in the wheel of the socialist countries and the East-West economic cooperation." The Hungarian press points out that the EEC's decision is hardly motivated by health protection reasons; it is more probable that its aim is to defend the tense food market of the EEC countries.

In this situation the actions of some "fighters against radioactive products" look more like attempts to profiteer on others' misfortune and, at the same time, to trip up the competitors. This is the reason for the on-going "irradiation" with anti-communism.

(Pravda, May 13. In full.)

HEALTH SERVICE OFFERS TIMELY HELP
TASS Reporters in Chernobyl Station Vicinity
V. ZHUKOVSKY, V. ITKIN and L. CHERNENKO

Almost half the patients hospitalized in Kiev after the accident have been already discharged.

"The medical service was among the first to fight the danger, together with firemen, the power station staff and the militia," A. Zelinsky, First Deputy Minister of Health of the Ukraine, told us. "Our Ministry received the alarm from the start. Without delay, we gave first aid to patients and checked the environmental contamination. Our top-class experts were sent to the site. 230 medical squads and many first-aid posts were set up, responsible for treatment and disease prevention.

"All evacuees are subject to medical and dosimetric check-ups. About a hundred thousand have gone through examinations, and the effort is going on."

Over 1,300 doctors, nurses, laboratory assistants and dosimetrists are working in the station vicinity and in the settlements where the 30-kilometre zone evacuees have found shelter. They have 240 ambulances at their disposal. The medical posts, whose number approaches a hundred, conduct regular prophylactic examinations, dosimetric checks and take repeated blood tests. The population's health is under constant supervision. Everybody has received prophylactic doses of iodine preparations in the endangered zone, whereas outside it the situation does not require medication even for precaution's sake.

Doctors and other specialists constantly check the environment, foodstuffs and water--drinking water in particular. The safe dose has not been exceeded in the Kiev water reservoir, for one. The running water system is clean.

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Milk is subjected to double checks at dairy farms and creameries.

Raw food and forage are also thoroughly checked. Every day, experts examine over a hundred foodstuff samples. Shops and markets are constantly supervised. Dosimetric squads are active in airports, at railway stations and long-distance bus terminals. Highways are regularly washed in Kiev and throughout the region.

The health service selflessly works everywhere. The Ukrainian Ministry of Health vigilantly supervises every environmental factor.

(Sovietskaya Rossia, May 14, 1986. Abridged.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VEKFI
TÜSTAV

Tuesday, May 6, 1986

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VOEKO-860506-502

FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR

In the duration of May 4 a complex of measures continued to be carried out at Chernobyl nuclear power station in order to remove the effects of the accident. The cleaning-up of the territory of the 4th unit of the nuclear power station is under way. The emission of radioactive substances continues to decrease.

Work was started to bank up the river Pripyat in the area of the nuclear power station to prevent its possible contamination.

The radiation situation on the territory of the Ukraine and Byelorussia is stabilizing with a tendency toward its improvement. The necessary sanitary and preventive measures are being carried out in the area.

Temporary employment at other enterprises, construction sites, collective and state farms is being arranged for the population evacuated from the 30-kilometre zone of the nuclear power station.

(Pravda, May 6. In full.)

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VOEKO-860506-503

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THE POWER PLANT AND AROUND IT

Pravda's Special Correspondents V. Gubarev and
M. Odinets Report from the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Area

The Pripyat looks strange and unusual from a helicopter. Snow-white many-storeyed houses, wide avenues, parks and stadiums, playgrounds near preschool establishments, and shops...A few days ago 25,000 people lived and worked here in the power and chemical industries, construction and water transport. And now the town is empty. There is not a single person in the streets, and no light is seen in the windows in the evenings. And only a special motor vehicle of the dosimetric control service sometimes cruises along the streets. From time to time the noise of engines breaks the silence of the township on the river bank. This means that a regular shift is brought to the plant - its three power generating units have to be looked after, and specialists are now controlling the plant's reactors which have been switched to the lay-up condition.

And the fourth unit...

A blast destroyed the constructions of the reactor building and caused a fire. This happened at night...

At the alarm signal from the fourth power generating unit, the chiefs of the plant's fire-fighting posts, Lieutenants V. Pravik and V. Kibenok, quickly mobilised their personnel. The coating of the machine hall had caught fire as a result of the explosion, and the people devoted their efforts to extinguishing it. They tried to put it out at a height of thirty metres. The fire-fighters' boots stuck in the bitumen melted by the high temperature, the soot and the smell of burning made it hard to breathe but the courageous men kept

combatting the fire. Major Leonid Telyatnikov, a Communist, gave an example of selfless performance of his duty by effectively organising the work on extinguishing the fire. Later on, experts noted that the fire-fighters' exploit had considerably limited the scale of the accident.

And still what the physicists feared most of all did happen - the reactor got damaged, part of radioactivity was thrown out of it, and then a fire began inside it. It is extremely difficult to extinguish it because it is impossible to pour water or any chemicals on the fire - they would immediately evaporate because of the high temperature and go into the atmosphere. An extremely complicated and difficult but controlled situation arose.

It does credit to the thousands of people working at the power plant or living near it that there was no general panic, though some panicked. The trouble brought people together so closely that it did not take them long to establish order on their own.

Some foreign news agencies and all sorts of radio "voices" tried to sow panic by reporting death of thousands of people, a nuclear explosion and exposure of almost the whole European part of the USSR and neighbour countries to radiation. And in the Chernobyl area these reports are regarded, to say the least of it, with surprise... What can be more shameful than gloating over a misfortune?

In actual fact measures were taken promptly to ensure the safety of the population and take things under control.

There is a one-storey building of the Chernobyl weather station not far from the confluence of the Uzh and Pripyat rivers. Eight times a day its six staffers take air and soil samples, check humidity and moisture content, and monitor the direction of the wind.

On that Saturday morning head of the station Zinaida

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Kordyk personally checked instrument readings. She saw at once one of the instruments showing increased levels of radiation. Zinaida immediately suspected there was something wrong with the nuclear power plant nearby and sent her daily report on the measurements to the Ukrainian Hydrometeocenter.

By that time work had already proceeded apace at the township of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant to evacuate its residents. It was well organised and supervised by state and party agencies. It took only four hours to get everything ready and take the residents out of the township. When people in Kiev learned about the mishap on the Pripjat River, many turned up at their job places in spite of the weekend and volunteered to help. Several dozen drivers of Motor Garage 09124 were lined up in the backyard of their enterprise and told they would have to take people out of the Chernobyl plant area. Anyone who did not want or could not go was requested to make a step forward. None did. They drove 80 vehicles to the township and worked hard there. Several drivers of various Kiev garages won special praise from the township residents, including V.Brovarny, a party member and holder of the Order of Labour Glory; B.Levanda, member of the Young Communist League; driver S.Drozdyuk who had volunteered to join the party shortly before that. Tribute should be paid to the tireless efforts of M.Sapiton, chief of Pripjat Motor Garage 31015.

Within a short period of time, thousands were evacuated from the township and nearby areas and taken to the neighbouring districts. All were quickly provided with accommodations, services, supplies and medical aid. G.Goncharuk, secretary of the Ivankov District Party Committee, said the evacuated had been treated well and welcomed wherever they had been brought to. In the village of Blidcha, Anastasia Leshchenko, a retired worker with a family

of five, volunteered to provide lodgings and board for 10 evacuees from Chernobyl. I. Kovalenko, resident of the same village and member of the Radyanska Ukraina collective farm, played host to seven evacuees. The people of the Ivankov district said they were prepared to share their belongings with their neighbours to help them live through their fix.

Over 5,000 evacuees from Chernobyl were moved to the Borodyan District, taken care of, given accommodations and provided with all the necessities. The usual pattern was to move a collective farm from the Chernobyl District to live on a temporary basis on a collective farm of the Borodyan District. For example, the Komsomolets Polesya collective farm moved to the Zarya collective farm in the village of Zagaltsy. The Maidanovka state farm and Peremoga collective farm took in quite a few evacuees, as did all other farms. Those responsible for finding accommodations for the evacuees and arranging for their children to go to school were deputies to Village Soviets. It was decided that schools should work in two shifts, the first one for the evacuated schoolchildren and the second shift for the locals. The evacuees help local people on the farms. So far the Borodyan district has managed to keep to the schedule in sowing corn and flax. Livestock breeders, falling behind the schedule for some time, have caught up now and are proceeding apace at a rate faster than that at the same period last year.

Kiev's doctors compassionately responded to the trouble which had occurred in the Chernobyl area. Most of them that last April Saturday reported to their city hospitals and polyclinics to offer their personal assistance to the sufferers. Doctors of the city's Oktyabrskaya Hospital N. Putseva, L. Dubinskaya and L. Sirotinskaya efficiently and promptly unfolded their department on the scene. Medical workers of Hospital 25 merit kind words. Most at once left

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Kiev saying only "Please tell my people I'll be soon back."
Doctor V. Melnik, doctor's assistants V. Kiselev and A. Novikov, we were told, deserve the kindest words for their devoted work on Chernobyl soil in these days...

Despite the complexity of the situation following the Set 4 accident, order prevailed and is prevailing in the atomic power station township and nearby villages. The people themselves and Komsomol squads have maintained it in the first place. Motor vehicle traffic on the roads was and is well organized. Officers of the local militia station V. Kucherenko and A. Stelmakh have operated quickly and efficiently in the complex situation. The republic's Ministry of the Interior has given a high assessment of the courage and bravery of officers from the Polessk, Chernobyl and Ivankov district militia departments.

Work to liquidate the accident is now continuing at the atomic power station. To secure the shut-down cooling of Sets Nos. 1, 2, and 3 and their preservation, as well as to end the aftermath of the Set 4 accident, the shifts led by Boris Baranov, Vladimir Ignatenko, Nikolai Bekeshko and Gennady Dikoi are working. The shift for heat and underground engineering lines and its chief Nikolai Primak have faced the toughest conditions. Fitters of this shop Vladimir Kozlikin and Vladimir Ivanchik and senior foreman of the electrical shop for electric supply circuit restoration Nikolai Gritsenko are displaying real courage and heroism.

It is the second week since the accident. The situation remains complex. But the most important thing is that the state of affairs is in control not only near the atomic power station, but also in adjacent areas. The level of radiation has fallen. In Kiev, Chernigov and other large cities and small populated localities - everywhere careful monitoring of the environment is in process. Additional measures have been taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

(Pravda, May 6. In full.)

INVOLUNTARY SELF-EXPOSURE

Who Kicks Up Anti-Soviet Fuss and Why?

Yuri Zhukov, Pravda Political Correspondent

In recent months, the world community has been watching with understandable concern the manifestly provocative political antics of the US Administration. It has been seizing upon any pretext to heat up what is already a strained situation, sow the seeds of mistrust and strife between peoples, and vitiate the political climate.

The object behind all that is to divert public attention from criminal aggressive US acts, like the recent bombing of Libya and the undeclared wars against Afghanistan, Angola, and Nicaragua, and to justify the escalation of the arms build-up, the continuation of nuclear tests, and the rejection of the Soviet peace initiatives.

This escalation of provocative acts has just reached yet higher pitch. The US government machinery and the media at its service have circulated their own stories about the consequences of the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station disaster. The latest anti-Soviet campaign is designed to whip up mistrust and enmity towards the Soviet Union.

Everybody knows that vigorous prompt action has been taken to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and to bring relief to its victims. As the custom is, the Soviet Government has informed the leaders of many nations of what has happened at Chernobyl. The Soviet Ambassador to the UN has told a plenary session of the General Assembly about the way the consequences of the disaster are being eliminated.

UN General Secretary Perez de Cuellar has expressed his satisfaction that the situation at the Chernobyl APS is under

control. Many governments, organisations and private citizens of various countries have addressed their messages of sympathy to the USSR and the Soviet leadership have expressed their sincere gratitude to them.

It is only a few high-ranking personalities in Washington and in several NATO capitals that have seized upon the news of the Chernobyl disaster to exploit it for their own hostile political ends. They have set about whipping up hysteria and panic. Cock-and-bull stories about "thousands of dead" and about the population of Western Europe and, perhaps even, of the United States, too, being in danger of radioactive contamination have been invented. Panic-mongers have compelled Western students, specialists, and tourists to start leaving the USSR, even if they were in Siberia at the moment.

Soviet TV viewers have seen indignant and protesting tourists being literally forced into the airliners that have been expressly sent in to take them out, made to put on the clothes brought in for them, and to undergo a special test which has invariably shown, as was only to be expected, that they have not been exposed to any radiation while in the USSR.

The organisers of this provocative campaign are building up their pressure on the US allies in NATO, demanding that they refuse to buy foodstuffs in Socialist countries and ban their citizens from going there.

More than that. The men in Washington have been out to undermine confidence in the Soviet proposals for the elimination of nuclear arms. They have refloated the false argument that there can be no agreement with the USSR on the subject because effective verification of compliance with such agreement is impossible because US spy satellites and other monitoring devices failed to monitor the Chernobyl disaster, as The New York Times said.

The disaster has finally been made an object of a special

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discussion at the meeting of the heads of the seven biggest capitalist Powers in Tokyo.

Then the thick dust raised by Western politicians and secret services began to settle. Late on May 1 American and Western European television companies had to show flashbacks received from Kiev and Minsk, the cities which, according to their earlier reports, suffered from the aftermaths of the accident at Chernobyl. The bewildered Americans saw that mass Mayday demonstrations were held there.

The CBS television company said that people in Moscow wondered why the West was making such a fuss about the accident. Another company, the ABC, cabled a report saying that the Soviet authorities did not ban Western tourists from visiting Kiev which was 80 miles from the site of the nuclear accident.

The New York Times carried a report datelined Warsaw saying that a radiation expert who had hurriedly arrived from the United States to make measurements in the apartment building of the American embassy compound and in the flats of American diplomats had to admit that he discovered no deviations.

A scandal was brewing. American reporters rushed for explanation to a study group set up on the US President's order "to monitor developments related to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant." Lee Thomas, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, was given them to prey upon. He had to admit that the accident did not jeopardise the Americans' health. Further, though with some reservations, he had to admit that the number of victims of the accident reported by the Soviet side might (sic) be true.

Having received such explanations, which turned the story the Administration prompted them into dust, embittered American journalists told Mr. Thomas that the US

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administration had made irresponsible comments in its assessment of the Chernobyl accident.

Representatives of the White House and the State Department had once again to warm up the unappetising dish cooked in Washington and repeat the old stories which had already been dismissed as false. Then began the self-exposure of the "chronic liars," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt called people engaged in such unseemly practices.

The ballyhoo raised about the Chernobyl accident produced a result which Washington had not expected. It made Americans to look around and ask themselves about the situation in their own country, at their own nuclear power plants. They saw a disquieting picture, which the authorities had been carefully hiding from them. Senator John Glenn made public a secret report by the US Congress General Accounting Office, which said that there were 151 accidents at nuclear power plants in 14 countries between 1971 and 1984. Moreover, according to Senator Glenn, the term "accident" is applied to a release of considerable amount of radioactive materials or their effect on humans. Most of these accidents occurred in the United States but the authorities kept mum about them.

In 1985 the United States recorded the biggest number of dangerous nuclear power plant accidents since the Three Mile Island disaster near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1979. Congressman Edward Markey came to this conclusion on the basis of the annual report presented to Congress by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The report said that major accidents or faults were registered last year at 10 per cent of all US nuclear power stations, including the nuclear power plants at Davis-Besse near Toledo, Ohio, and Rancho Seco near Sacramento, California.

US policy in the sphere of atomic energy poses a constant danger of radioactive pollution to the territory of Mexico, David Baena Bustos, Secretary-General of the country's Amalgamated Atomic Workers' Union, said. Talking to journalists, he emphasised that Washington is regularly staging nuclear explosions some 60 kilometres away from the Mexican border. This tends to intensify radioactive pollution in Mexico, which is still further worsened by the spread of radioactive substances to the environment as a result of accidents at US atomic energy plants. Last year, according to data available, about 2,300 "incidents" of this kind have been registered in the USA, David Baena Bustos pointed out.

On March 31, 1986, a sudden discharge of gas contaminated with radioactive substances into the atmosphere took place at the nuclear power plant at Dungeness, Kent County, Britain. The Observer pointed out that erection work was under way at the plant to install new equipment for use in the process of cooling the second reactor. There was an explosion followed by the leakage of gas. Fortunately, The Observer said, there was no loss of human life then. This accident, as admitted by the British press, has not been the only one at British enterprises for the processing of nuclear fuel.

The unseemly hullabaloo concerning the accident at a Soviet nuclear plant raised by Washington has thus boomeranged. Soviet people do not gloat over failures and accidents at US nuclear plants. They understand that the putting to use of atomic energy is a comparatively new, challenging and unexplored line. It calls for business-like cooperation between scientists, experts and engineers in all countries.

It is about time for those who, blinded with anti-Sovietism and anti-communism, are in a hurry to use any

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pretext for speculating on other people's misfortunes, to realize that such behaviour is censured in a civilised society.

(Pravda, May 6. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA
TÜSTAV
VAKFI

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NEANDERTHAL MENTALITY

T. Vasilyev

There is a mounting anti-Soviet propaganda campaign in the US over the disaster that has happened at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station. Even high-ranking White House spokesmen have joined it over the past few days. The White House chief of staff, Donald Regan, speaking in an NBC television programme last Sunday, must have decided to break all records of insinuations against the Soviet Union. He repeated the shopworn allegations of the Soviet "reluctance" to make full information available to the "whole world" about what has happened, claiming that the Soviet Union has fenced himself off from everybody by a kind of "stone wall". Posing as umpire, he even argued that to act like that was "unworthy of a civilised nation".

Well, Mr. Regan, bearing as he does quite a bit of responsibility due to his office for Washington's present foreign policy line, is rather ill-placed to philosophise on what is and what is not worthy of a "civilised nation". At least, because it is exactly owing to this reckless policy that an unprecedented threat of nuclear annihilation has come to hang over all human civilisation.

One may well ask Mr. Regan: Is that policy worthy of a civilised nation? Is it a worthy act for men considering themselves to be "civilised" to stockpile arms for the wholesale annihilation of millions, deliberately ignore the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing and refuse to follow elementary logic and common sense.

No, that is not the way of civilised men. It is rather a kind of neanderthal mentality. That is what Washington officials so eager to do their bit towards whipping up anti-Soviet hysteria should remember.

(Pravda, May 6. In full).

The End

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BOOMERANG

Academician G. Arbatov

Misfortune has befallen us. It took the form of an accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. A government commission is to find out why. This accident (the world's 152nd at a nuclear power plant, and by all appearances a serious one) will make nuclear experts in all countries thoroughly ponder over all possible aspects of nuclear reactor safety.

But the events at Chernobyl worry more than government experts and nuclear power specialists. This accident has been in the focus of attention of the world public for many days.

That is all quite natural. Not only in the adjacent regions of the USSR, but in other countries higher radioactivity of clouds and precipitation has been registered (true, posing no threat to health or life). It goes without saying that any normal person could not help being worried.

We understand this concern. And when something like this happens in another country, we are also worried.

Compassion has also been manifested in the past few days by many people abroad, as the accident involved victims -- people were injured and irradiated. Thousands of people have had to be evacuated from the surrounding communities. We never doubt the sincerity of compassion for those who have suffered. After all, nothing else could have brought US physicians, Professors Robert Gale and Paul Tarasaki rushing to Moscow. And the same sentiments have made thousands of Englishmen, Americans, French, Swiss, Japanese and Germans offer their services as donors of bone marrow (its transplantation is called for in cases of serious irradiation). Soviet people truly feel deep gratitude to all of these fine men and women, to all whose moral support they have received at this time of

trouble.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, they say. Just like an enemy, for that matter.

And our enemies have been wide awake the past while. In fact, they haven't even got a wink of sleep. The "psychological war" apparatus, set up by the USA and its NATO allies, has by all appearances been on the alert. That could possibly have happened even prior to the accident at Chernobyl. They have long been looking for a pretext for another anti-Soviet campaign because many important people in the West were worried over the response of the public in the US, Western Europe and all over the world to important Soviet initiatives. Take, for instance, the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests declared by the Soviet Union. Or the programme for the elimination of nuclear armaments by the year 2000. Or the proposal to establish a comprehensive system of international security. The fact that the USSR stood before the world public as a country honestly and persistently upholding peace has intimidated the sponsors of the arms race much more than Soviet submarines and missiles. They were frantically searching for a pretext, or even a hint of a pretext, to open massed propaganda fire at the growing international authority of the Soviet Union. And at mutual confidence, confidence of which there has remained so little, but which nevertheless is needed like the air we breathe to stabilize the situation and begin backing away from the dangerous threshold to which we are being irresistibly pushed by the arms race and the "cold war".

A version was concocted -- the reader knows about it -- which was unbelievably primitive: you see, since the Soviet Union did not at once announce the causes, scale and aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, no Soviet proposal could be trusted and no talks could be

conducted with it, to say nothing of concluding agreements with it. They were shouting about that on all corners 24 hours a day. Complex scientific terminology was used to delude the uninitiated. Shameless manipulation was launched of the most potent human emotions: the feelings of self-preservation, fear for one's children, and fear of an invisible threat.

Regretfully, this propaganda campaign did leave its mark. I saw that in talking to foreign visitors and answering the questions of foreign television newsmen and radio listeners over the past week. I must say that I never doubt the sincerity of the questions or the concern which prompted them. Delusions are usually sincere, in fact. However, they are more often than not fostered by someone else -- by deliberate liars and falsifiers this time.

Well, for instance, how could an inhabitant of a small Scottish town, who was worried about the health of his four children, know that his question about why the Soviet government had "still not reported the causes of the accident" was unanswerable as yet? Unanswerable for the simple reason that an answer to it still cannot be provided by the Soviet government (just like, say, the US government does not yet know the real cause of the loss of the Challenger spaceship, although that happened way back in January). Moreover, somebody assured him that he had to worry about the health of his children because Moscow had not reported the radiation level. Although it would be much more difficult for the Soviet authorities to measure the level near Glasgow or Edinburgh than for the British. Meanwhile the self-same "well-wishers" forgot to tell him that the radiation level in Scotland does not pose a hazard to people's health. Or another example. Could a Dutch, West German or Frenchman reading his respectable (i.e., bourgeois and, as a rule, anti-Soviet) newspapers remember that it took the US authorities nearly two

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months to report the accident at its Three Mile Island nuclear power plant and forward it to the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), whereas the Americans and their allies began demanding a report from the USSR literally on the very day after the accident? Or would it occur to a Japanese newsman putting meticulous questions to me and complaining about "radioactive rain" in Tokyo that Nevada, where the USA explodes its nuclear bombs (often accompanied by discharges of radioactive substances), or French nuclear testing grounds (on an island in the Pacific) are much closer to Tokyo than Chernobyl is?

I explained the true situation in detail to my interlocutors and listeners. I explained, among other things, that an accident had occurred, and that our paramount task was to provide urgent aid to the dozens of injured, to evacuate the many thousands of residents of surrounding communities and localize the source of radioactivity.

I believe that when the passions fanned by anti-Soviet persons abate, this "sin" of ours will be remitted. Although personally, I think we are guilty of this "sin", after all. Our guilt lies not in the underestimation of the importance of public opinion but in the underestimation of the activity and coordination of anti-Soviet propaganda. It could not have occurred to us that even an accident, misfortune, and human sorrow could be so shamelessly utilized for dirty propaganda games.

But if the sponsors of the "hatred campaign" over the accident at Chernobyl, are celebrating their "success", I think, bitter disappointment is in store for them. In a bid to stir up a propaganda ballyhoo and direct it against the USSR, they have resorted to an obvious distortion of the facts, and presented a serious but local accident as a world nuclear holocaust. But by doing so, they have made people stop and

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ponder over the danger of a nuclear conflagration as such. And in a week this has wiped out all trace of the efforts by certain Western politicians and propagandists over the years to "train" the nations to reconcile themselves to the nuclear threat, and "learn to live with the bomb". And their little trick is most likely to turn into a propaganda boomerang.

It goes without saying that detailed information about Chernobyl will be provided -- it has already begun pouring straight into the hands of Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr. Hans Blix, who was invited to the USSR. There is no doubt whatsoever that the dust -- both radioactive and propagandist -- will soon settle. And people will begin thinking. Thinking about the fact that for a fortnight the world, from Great Britain to Japan, was frightened by a radioactive discharge, caused not even by a nuclear explosion (since there was none) but by an accident at an atomic power plant. However, there are more than 50,000 nuclear warheads stockpiled in arsenals. And people have somehow -- to the arms race sponsors' delight and direct benefit -- begun forgetting about that. Now they will perhaps recall these ominous facts, and the fact that the US and its allies are continuing their nuclear tests with all of the radioactive discharges involved. Maybe following this propaganda shock the Western public will see the NATO strategy, stipulating first use of nuclear weapons, in a new light.

This accident, or incident -- be it of negligible scale in comparison with the threat posed by nuclear war and the nuclear arms race -- has again vividly demonstrated one irrefutable fact of our era. And that is: man has brought to life, created such forces, against which he is absolutely helpless if they are used to destroy. And this is one lesson Chernobyl has taught us. People have seen on this example how

irrational and absurd the very idea of a nuclear war is.

And the second lesson: there are times when even the most tested, reliable and perfect equipment lets one down. In vain are some of our ill-wishers babbling something about the cause being the Soviet Union's "lagging behind" in the technical field. According to the IAEA, the RBMK-1000 reactor installed at Chernobyl is more reliable than the best Western models. And quite a few accidents have occurred at nuclear power plants in the US and England involving reactors of their -- not our -- make. That is to say nothing about catastrophes with the most modern and seemingly tested equipment -- i.e., the Challenger tragedy for example, or the recent accidents involving the Titan and Delta missiles.

No, this has nothing to do with anyone lagging behind. Nor should one harbour illusions about someone else's perfection. There are problems too serious to be left to the control of mechanisms, withdrawing them from the sphere of human reason, and renouncing the rational procedures of joint substantiated decision-making. These are the problems of war and peace, above all. These are all other security problems, whatever the sphere -- military, political, economic or humanitarian.

So whether the sponsors of the deafening anti-Soviet campaign wanted to do so or not, they have provided a powerful impetus to people's thought, to enlightenment. In the final count they have helped people to see how the vulnerability of all human civilization has increased, including technological vulnerability. We have been reminded of this many a time prior to Chernobyl. For instance, the discharge of poisonous substances at the US chemical plant at Bhopal, India, claimed 2,500 lives, and undermined the health of tens of thousands. Following Bhopal, the alarm was sounded over the dumps of highly toxic wastes all over the world. "Acid rain" has made people think about your neighbour's ability to kill your

forests, lakes and rivers through carelessness or to save a few cents. It is a fact that whole seas have been polluted. To say nothing about the most dangerous effect, the growing threat to the very existence of man, posed by conventional and nuclear weapons, fire, irradiation and "nuclear winter".

The rapidly growing technological vulnerability of man calls for a radical restructuring of the whole system of international political and economic relations, and of political thought. Because to live a normal life, and even just to survive, with all of the contradictions, differences and difficulties tearing the world apart, cooperation is needed. Cooperation, that is, in establishing the comprehensive system of international security which has been proposed to the world by the CPSU during its 27th Congress. Outlining the platform and the contours of the system, Mikhail Gorbachev said that our proposal was dictated not by wishful thinking but by an understanding of the realities in the world today, and of the demands created by the specifics of the current stage of international development.

The choice facing mankind is tragically simple: either peaceful coexistence, or "non-existence". The sponsors of the anti-Soviet campaign obviously did not intend to bring the public in the West to see that truth. But blind hatred, like other uncontrollable emotions, often makes one take rash steps. This seems to be happening now. The accident at Chernobyl is not our misfortune alone. It has shown that even the peaceful uses of nuclear power affect the interests of all in a nuclear age. What, then, can be said about nuclear war? The threat of such a war is everyone's misfortune.

(Pravda, May 9. In full.)

FROM CHERNOBYL TO KIEV

V. Gubarev and M. Odinets, Pravda special correspondents, tell about a meeting in the Ukrainian Council of Ministers

A group of foreign journalists has arrived in Kiev. On May 8 and 9 they got acquainted with the situation in the Ukrainian capital and in the Kiev Region. They represented major news agencies, newspapers and television from socialist countries and the United States, Sweden and Japan, Italy and Canada, Kuwait and France, Finland and West Germany. They were offered an opportunity to meet the leaders of the republic, specialists, scientists and foreign citizens working or studying in Kiev. Our foreign colleagues visited a district in the Kiev Region where the inhabitants of the dangerous zone had been evacuated.

The newsmen paid a visit to the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, where they were met by A. Lyashko, Chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, Y. Izrael, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Control of Natural Environment, L. Ilyin, Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, A. Romanenko, Minister of ^{Public} Health of the Ukraine, top officials of Kiev and the Kiev Region.

The talk with the journalists took a long time. It came to an end only when detailed answers and explanations had been given to all questions. The conversation was started by A. Lyashko.

"I have just received a telephone call from Chernobyl," he said. "The situation at this hour is as follows. The temperature in the reactor has decreased to 300 degrees. This means that the combustion process has stopped. The radiation situation is improving."

Q: What are your main concerns today?

A: We are ensuring the security of people living in the

zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power station. We are taking all measures to maximally help the population affected by the accident. Those who seriously suffered from radiation were promptly brought to Moscow where they have been given medical aid. People with pronounced signs of disease are immediately hospitalized. From Kiev and other parts of the republic 230 teams of doctors have come. They are providing medical services in districts adjacent to the 30-kilometre zone. Those who service the generating units of the nuclear station and the population evacuated from the 30-kilometre zone have undergone medical checkups.

From the account by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine one can see the picture of the great organizational work which is now underway to eliminate the consequences of the accident. Close attention is being paid to the quality of water in the Kiev water reservoir that lies south of the nuclear station.

Speaking about the evacuation of people from the 30-kilometre zone, A. Lyashko said that the population has been accommodated in districts adjacent to the Chernobyl District and provided with housing, medical aid and public services. They are given grants for buying things^s lost during the evacuation. Children study at schools, while little ones are accommodated in kindergartens.

Replying convincingly and in detail to the correspondents' questions, A. Lyashko pointed out that the report about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station was published immediately after a diagnosis made by prominent specialists who urgently arrived from Moscow to Chernobyl. In such a serious matter hasty conclusions are inadmissible. Riding in the crowded sunlit streets of the Ukrainian capital, Western journalists could see for themselves the falsity of the myth about a deserted Kiev.

Q: Will the station resume its work and if so when will it be?

A: We believe that the accident is being eliminated successfully. As soon as complete safety is secured, the station will resume its work. I mean, of course, the first, the second and the third generating units. The fourth unit will be deadened. Although its machine room is intact and in a normal working condition, its further use is unreasonable.

Q.: What are the prospects for the nuclear power industry in the republic?

A.: Of course, conclusions must be drawn from the accident, but progress cannot be hampered. Human genius has put the nuclear power industry at the service of people. So we cannot stop enjoying this benefit. There are 41 power units in the Soviet Union, and of these 10 are in the Ukraine. The future belongs to the nuclear power industry. Countries ought to cooperate and exchange experience, including in a safe use of that energy source. At the same time, we ought to realize what an enormous potential the nuclear power engineering offers. This means it must be geared only to peaceful needs. The events at Chernobyl remind us again that nuclear weapons on earth must be eliminated. In his January 15 Statement General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev presented a clear-cut program of action. Sadly, the Western countries, the U.S. above all, have so far not responded to the proposed program the way they should have, so that nuclear weapon tests on Earth are still going on.

Q.: How many people are there in the nuclear power plant area?

A.: (L.Ilyin, Vice-President of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences) We have come to this press conference straight from Chernobyl. There are many people working on the

NPP site now. Some are providing maintenance for the first, second and third reactors, while others are eliminating the consequences of the accident at the fourth unit, still others have begun work to decontaminate the station. These are workers, engineers, physicists, chemists, servicemen and medics. Radiation levels are checked on a regular basis. All those working in the area of the nuclear power plant have been provided with individual protection means. As Chairman of the National Commission for Radiation Safety, I can say with full responsibility we are maintaining a rigid control to prevent exposure of all those in Prip'yat to overdoses of radiation.

Q.: What is the radiation situation in the area?

A. (Y.Israel, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control): Radiation levels may differ from place to place down there, but in the majority of locations exposure has not exceeded permissible levels. But the problem is to ensure complete safety of people, so they have been evacuated from the zone. In Kiev, environment monitoring agencies are working hard, and they had done so before the accident. At one time radiation background increased, but never ever has it been anywhere near what is regarded as threatening people's health. A similar situation has been found in the town of Gomel where radiation levels have dropped 2.5 to 3 times over during the past few days.

(L.Ilyin): I would like to add that all the levels of radiation so far monitored in Kiev and other cities have not been dangerous for people. Anyone subjected to an X-ray scanning of one's teeth or stomach is exposed to much higher doses of radiation.

Q.: When will the evacuated people get back home?

A. (A.Lyashko): When all works to wipe out the aftermath are over, soil, houses, apartments, etc. will have to be decontaminated, and this will involve a great deal of work. It

has already been started, but it is so far difficult to say when it will be finished.

Q.: Is there any danger of polluting the Dnieper and the Black Sea?

A. (Y.Israel): Even in the Pripyat area the levels have been within a permissible range. We are monitoring the levels very carefully, taking samples on an hourly basis. This is how things have been going so far. An earth embankment is being mounted and peat for water filtration piled up along the banks of the river to have bank protection facilities in the event of rains. Many works in the area are being carried out with the sole purpose of preventing quite different situations, to be on the safe side, to put it differently. But as we are talking about safety, it would be better to overdo than to neglect something. The Dnieper throughout its length and, certainly, the Black Sea have not been exposed to any radioactive leaks.

The press conference at the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine helped reporters from many countries to see the events at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in a different light. They got convinced that efforts to eliminate the consequences of the accident were not only bold but also carefully calculated. There must be no more unexpected, unforeseen situations...

(Pravda, May 10. In full.)

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VOEK0-860511-505

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CONCERNING EVENTS AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT IN THE USSR

TASS Report

In the West, inventions have been put in circulation to the effect that Soviet export goods and means of transportation pose danger owing to their "radioactive contamination". A number of West European countries have taken steps to limit the import of food products and other commodities from the USSR and some European CMEA countries.

Such actions undermine the purposes of the international agreements on trade, economic, manufacturing, scientific and technical cooperation concluded between the countries in question and the USSR and are at variance with the generally accepted practice of deciding questions that arise in international trade.

The competent state bodies of the USSR took and continue taking the necessary prompt and effective measures. Soviet goods and means of transportation pose no danger from the standpoint of radioactivity either to the population of this country, or to people in other states.

A Meeting with Journalists

On May 8, A.P. Lyashko, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, met with a group of foreign journalists who had arrived in Kiev.

A.P. Lyashko told of measures being taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Cheronbyl nuclear power station. He pointed out that the situation in the area of the station was under control. It was reported that temperature in the damaged unit of the station had dropped to 300 degrees Centigrade, which indicated that the process of burning in the reactor had stopped.

There is no threat to the health of the population, and

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the economy of Kiev Region is functioning stably. At the same time, the journalists' attention was drawn to the fact that some Western news agencies had launched a slanderous campaign in connection with the accident aimed at misleading the world public and distracting it from topical questions of improving the international political climate.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic answered journalists' questions.

Yury Issrael, Chairman of the USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, was present at the meeting.

(TASS)

From the Council of Ministers of the USSR

Work to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear power station continued there on May 8 and 9. An intensive cooling of the reactor has been under way in order to lower the temperature of the active zone which has helped sharply to reduce the emission of radioactive substances.

Work has been carried out to shore up the banks of the river Pripyat in the Area of the nuclear power station in order to prevent the radioactive contamination of the river with rain water from adjacent territory. The situation at the nuclear power station's first, second and third generator units is normal.

The area of the Chernobyl nuclear power station on May 8 was visited by Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Soviet scientists and specialists briefed him on the situation and the measures being taken to localize the accident.

From the Council of Ministers of the USSR

Throughout May 10, work to eliminate the consequences of the breakdown continued at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

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The temperature inside the reactor went down substantially as a result of the taken measures. The opinion of scientists and specialists is that this is indicative of a practical termination of the reactor's graphite burning process. The release of radioactive substances has sharply diminished.

Work to decontaminate the territory, buildings and facilities of the power station, as well as the motor roads and other objects located in the nearest vicinity is underway on a large scale with the use of up-to-date materials and technical means.

Work is being done to additionally consolidate the reactor's foundation.

According to the data of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Control of Natural Environment, radiation level is 0.33 milliroentgen per hour at a distance of 60 km from the station and 0.32 milliroentgen per hour in Kiev, which is absolutely safe to people's health. On the country's Western border, radiation level is within the limits of the natural background.

Press Conference in Vienna

Vienna, May 10. (TASS). The situation in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant area is getting stabilised and is under control of Soviet experts. The Soviet side is doing all possible to eliminate the consequences of the accident. This was stated by Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix at a press conference held at Schwechat airport in Vienna after his return from the USSR.

During our stay in the USSR, in frank and friendly conversation we were informed in detail about the state of affairs at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, he said. We had a chance to inspect the scene of the accident from a

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helicopter and to make sure that at the present time the radiation level there is small. The invitation to visit the Soviet Union, as well as the talks held there should be viewed as a highly positive continuation of the close cooperation of the USSR with the IAEA.

The participants in the press conference informed in detail about the contents of the communique on the results of their stay in the Soviet Union. Hans Blix particularly stressed the provision of the document saying that the accident will not influence the fulfilment of the existing plans of the development of the atomic power-generating industry in the USSR. The text of the report about the accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Power plant which had been prepared by the delegation on the basis of the information obtained in the USSR was also read out. This document points out in particular that due to the measures adopted the leakage of radiation from the damaged reactor has been drastically reduced and the radiation level in the zone with a radius of 30 km from it continues to fall.

Fiendish Delight

Washington, May 10. (from V. Gan, Pravda staff correspondent). "The reaction of the US mass media and politicians in Congress to the tragedy at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was appalling and shameful. By and large, the former and the latter made it clear to the Soviet people that America was more concerned about somehow discrediting their country, and not about the loss of human life and the consequences of the tragedy... An official of the Administration expressed in a conversation with me fiendish delight, saying that the Ukraine, the USSR's granary, had, perhaps, suffered as a result of the accident. I want to believe that most Americans are ashamed of such gloating".

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The above written in a letter from Robert Fitzpatrick, who resides in Washington, to The Washington Post needs no comment. Everything observed and stated in it is utterly clear.

(Pravda, May 11. In full.)

There Is No Danger

Brussels, May 10. (TASS.) The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station has not created even the slightest danger to the Belgians. Radioactivity in the country's air space, drinking water and food products has never reached dangerous level, W. Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister said here.

(Pravda, May 9-11. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

COMMUNIQUE ON BLIX VISIT TO USSR

On the invitation from the USSR Government the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, visited the Soviet Union from May 5 to 9.

He was accompanied by the Deputy Director-General L.V. Konstantinov and the Director of the Nuclear Safety Division Morris Rosen.

H. Blix and the accompanying IAEA experts were received by the Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers B.E. Shcherbina, at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy.

H. Blix and his party were provided information on the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Ways of further enhancing nuclear power safety through broader international cooperation and greater role of the IAEA were discussed.

The Soviet experts gave the IAEA representatives detailed information about the accident at the unit 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power station and about the measures taken for the elimination of consequences of the accident.

H. Blix was informed that necessary operational personnel are present at the three undamaged Chernobyl units, which are shut down.

H. Blix and his colleagues accepted the invitation to visit the Chernobyl station area, where they received additional information about on-site conditions and measures being taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

In response to a request from the IAEA Director-General, the Soviet side expressed its willingness to provide, as soon

as it is available, information on the accident, to be discussed at a meeting of nuclear safety experts in order to help IAEA states learn from this accident and thus further improve nuclear power safety.

The Soviet side is ready to provide the IAEA with information on the level of radiation obtained at a station 60 km from the Chernobyl station and at several other stations along the western border of the USSR; the IAEA will be distributing this information to national radiation protection authorities concerned.

The Soviet side stated that the accident will not affect its nuclear power development plans.

Ways of further improving nuclear power safety were discussed as well as international measures which may be usefully developed within the IAEA framework in order to minimize possible consequences of nuclear power accidents. Both parties noted that such measures may include the development of a mechanism to warn about radioactivity releases which could affect areas beyond national boundaries; provision of information on background radioactivity; and the introduction of possible additional technical measures at nuclear facilities to prevent accidents and reduce their effects.

Both parties stressed the importance of IAEA activities to ensure nuclear safety and a totally peaceful utilization of nuclear power.

(Pravda, May 11. In full.)

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VOEKO-860511-507

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CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: SITUATION GETTING
STABILISED

Press Conference in Moscow

Ever more reassuring reports are coming from the scientists and experts engaged in eliminating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. From day to day the temperature in its damaged power-generating unit decreases, and the consistent reduction of the level of radiation and, hence, of the probable health hazard in the zone adjacent to the station is noted. The state of the water and air environment in the township of the atomic power plant, Kiev, Minsk and other near-by cities does not cause any anxiety.

Such is, in short, the conclusion drawn by the top officers of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who were in this country at the invitation of the Soviet government. On May 9 IAEA Director-General Hans Blix (Sweden), his deputy Leonard Konstantinov (USSR) and director of the nuclear safety department of the Agency Morris Rosen (USA) spoke at the press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists held at the Press Centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The IAEA Director-General told the audience about the meetings with the heads of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy, the USSR Ministry of Public Health, the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control and the USSR State Committee for Supervising the Safe Conduct of Work in the Atomic Power-Generating Industry. On May 8, the IAEA representatives flew aboard a helicopter over the town of Chernobyl which lies

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18 kilometres away from the nuclear power plant as well as over the territory of the plant and saw the damaged unit from a distance of 800 metres. In very frank conversations, as a result of the visual observations at the scene of the accident we have got a sufficiently full, though preliminary, idea of the accident and its consequences, Hans Blix said.

We shall receive a full and authoritative description of the accident, its causes and consequences after the necessary analysis, the IAEA leaders stated. But even now we are quite satisfied with the preliminary information and with the positive course of developments. The chain reaction was automatically stopped at the moment of the accident. This has been indirectly confirmed by the medical examination of the victims -- they have not been exposed to a high level of neutron radiation. A sizable part of the radio-active ejection was formed by short-lived radio-nuclides half of which was made up of a iodine isotope, iodine-131.

Prof. Morris Rosen praised the method employed by Soviet specialists of having radiation absorbed by a shield consisting of sand, boron, clay, dolomite and lead. This quickly brought down radiation levels within 30 km around the power plant and made it possible for the shift personnel to continue work on the three remaining reactors to keep them safe and plugged. The third reactor, near to the fourth one, was not damaged, so its cooling and back-up systems are functioning normally. Work has proceeded apace under the crippled reactor to render the radiation source harmless and, as physicists say, "bury" it in a thick layer of concrete.

The following data indicate to the improvement of the radiation situation within the 30-km zone. By May 5 the radiation level on the borderline of the zone had been two to three milliroentgens per hour, down from to 10 to 15 milliroentgens per hour at the worst point. By May 8 it was

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further reduced to 0.15 milliroentgens per hour. IAEA Director-General said radiation levels in water reservoirs in Kiev and Kiev Region were normal throughout the accident.

The meetings in Moscow and the Ukraine produced tangible results reflected in a joint communique, Hans Blix said. I would like to add something to what has been said in the document, he declared. The nuclear power industry is a sophisticated and crucial sphere of human activity in which we need to consult each other. IAEA is precisely a forum and a lever for promoting this kind of cooperation. The Soviet colleagues were forthcoming in responding to my invitation to come to Vienna to discuss the results of measures taken to stop the accident, Blix said. A no less important thing is that Soviet specialists will now promptly inform IAEA on the radiation situation. The information outlet for IAEA is to be opened today, as we are leaving Moscow, Blix said. He described the agreement as paving the way for a new international mechanism to ensure a timely warning about accidents at nuclear power plants, whose consequences may transcend national boundaries.

Predictably, most of the questions asked by reporters were about the health of the people living in the area adjacent to the nuclear power plant and beyond it. How soon will the source of radiation be buried completely, so that the people could get back home?

It was only yesterday, IAEA representatives said, that we were in Kiev. We saw normal life, habitual for a big city, they said. The streets were crowded, particularly during the day when an international peace cycling race was launched. We visited the Second World War memorial and saw many foreign tourists there. To put it shortly, life is proceeding at a normal pace there. Schools are open. Health checks among the residents of Kiev, including children, indicate that there are

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no reasons to speak about the danger to people's health, they said.

American reporters asked if the radiation leak from the fourth crippled unit had been plugged and what the extent of damage inflicted on the Ukraine's agriculture was.

The situation at the crippled unit is returning to normal, the specialists said. Radiation monitoring during our inspection flight over of the station in a helicopter showed that the amount of radioactive materials leaking into the atmosphere had dropped sharply. As for the damage to agriculture, it depends on the distance from the disaster center and on the time period that has elapsed since the accident occurred, they said. We have already emphasised that radioactive isotopes leaked during the accident are short-lived, they insisted. This means that work will be resumed on the nearby fields in due time, and that the township near the nuclear power plant will again be safe for living.

Some foreign correspondents inquired if the Soviet Union would have other operational reactors of the Chernobyl type shut down.

Hans Blix said during a painstaking investigation of the accident the Soviet authorities had found nothing to make them have other reactors shut down. We have been told, he said, that measures are being taken to boost safety at other units.

* * *

On May 9 Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), left Moscow. He had been visiting this country at the invitation of the Soviet government.

(TASS)

(Pravda, May 10. In full.)

THE END

DAYS OF WORRIES AND ENERGETIC EFFORTS

Izvestia's Special Correspondent Andrei Illesh Reports
from the Area of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

Every morning at nine o'clock experts report at the Kiev City Executive Committee on the radiation level and the amount of drinking water in the city.

Representatives of the research institutions inform the local authorities about the situation relating to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The up-to-date research equipment in the city now serves the vital needs of the city and the region.

We return to this subject again because many readers of Izvestia, though the newspaper has already published information on the contamination of the environment, are still worried by the situation in the city. Briefly speaking, the situation is normal. Here is experts' opinion:

"Speaking about the tendency," Professor M. Shandala told our correspondent S. Tsikora, "we expect that the radioactive background in Kiev will return to normal somewhere by May 19. Today, as you understand, it is above the normal level, but is not dangerous to people's health."

A reference-book on the subject reads: radiation on our planet existed even before man's appearance on it. We feel it all our life. Its normal level is harmless, but increased radiation is dangerous. The radiation level is estimated by the total annual dose received by man.

The scientist continued:

"The norms of radiation safety permissible in the USSR are the following: 5 roentgens a year for people whose work is connected with radioactive substances, and 0.5 roentgen for those who do not work with them but live near-by. This concerns normal conditions of work and life. When accidents

occur, which do not last long, safety norms are different. But they, too, do not exceed the doses that may cause serious ailment, radiation sickness, for instance.

"In connection with the recent accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant," the professor continued, "the radiation norm in Kiev has risen to 10 roentgens a year. However, under the present radiation level in the city, in order to receive this dose every citizen has to be constantly exposed to radiation for 2,000 days, that is, for over five years. In view of this, all experts say definitely that the present level of radiation in the city, though it is higher than the ordinary radioactive background, is not harmful for people's health."

This does not exclude, however, thorough preventive measures: observance of sanitary norms, wet cleaning of houses, limited time spent by small children in the open and so on. Such advice is given by doctors over local television and in the press.

May 10. The town of Chernobyl is 18 kilometres away from the nuclear power plant. It is from there that efforts were taken to neutralise the seat of radiation.

I.S. Silayev, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR: "Today we can confidently speak about a new stage in the work on eliminating the consequences of the accident. The main danger has been removed; we can work now calmly. The possibility of a disaster, about which the Western mass media said a lot, is now excluded. This does not mean of course that we may stop our activity. Much is still to be done. One of the main tasks today is completely to decontaminate the station and adjacent territory."

Academician Y.P. Velikhov, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR: "Theoretically, up to this day, the possibility of a disaster existed - a great amount of the fuel

and of the reactor's graphite was in a burning hot state. This situation has been eliminated. As has already been said, hard work now awaits specialists. They will have to decontaminate and capsule all radioactive substances. This will prevent them from penetrating subsoil waters. So far, special work is being conducted inside the damaged unit in the most difficult conditions of high radioactivity. Much is being done by builders now. They are freezing the soil and pouring a large amount of concrete. The aim of all this work is to 'bury' the damaged reactor."

Kiev. May 10.

(By telephone)

(Izvestia, May 11. Abridged.)

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Work for radioactive decontamination of the territory, facilities of the station, transport communications was conducted on May 11 at the Chernobyl atomic power plant and nearby locality. Preparation is underway for decontamination of dwelling houses.

A complex of preparatory measures is being implemented to encase in concrete the reactor compartment of the fourth power-generating set.

The radiation situation on the Western borders of the USSR is normal. The radiation levels in the Ukraine and Byelorussia remain unchanged.

(Pravda, May 12. In full.)

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DIRTY TRICKS

On Anti-Soviet Campaign in the West

The ruling circles in Western countries seek to use the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station for unseemly ends, Pravda's London correspondent Arkady Maslennikov says.

As the propaganda campaign was unfolding, we observe, more facts surfaced to confirm, firstly, that safety precautions at nuclear facilities in the West were often much worse than in the USSR, and, secondly, that many of these countries could hardly boast they inform the public properly.

The Observer weekly in its latest issue, on three pages devoted to these problems, reported that about 300 major and minor accidents have happened at the world's largest nuclear fuel processing plant in Sellafield on Britain's North Western coast since the early fifties.

As a result of one of the accidents, in October 1957, at least 13 people died and more than 200 were exposed to radiation. The situation was not much different in the United States.

The Western countries, Maslennikov points out, have nothing to boast about in the field of "providing timely information for their public". According to the Observer, it took American authorities several years before they determined what caused the accident at the three Mile Island nuclear power station in 1979 and found it possible to notify the world public.

On many occasions, the Western governments deliberately withheld information or refused to undertake measures vital for the life and health of thousands of people.

A science writer for the Guardian recalled that the United States failed to warn the inhabitants of the Marshall islands

about an advancing radioactive cloud following a test of an American hydrogen bomb.

He also wrote that Britain hushed up for 25 years the fact that the discharges accompanying the fire at Sellafield in 1957 contained plutonium.

That is not accidental. Suppressing information related to the operation of British nuclear facilities is a consistent and deliberate policy on the part of Whitehall. The national newspapers write about this ever more often today, and representatives of the country's peace-loving public raise the alarm.

Denouncing those in the West who seek to gain political benefits from everything, including misfortune, B.Wolden, political analyst, observes in the Standard newspaper that any accident at a nuclear power plant compels one to think about terrible consequences even of a limited nuclear war.

There are neither ideological, nor geographical, nor economic ends that would justify the risk of nuclear conflict between two sides.

This madness has to be stopped sooner or later. Why not now? asks the British analyst. This is the correct opinion which is worth sharing, Maslennikov points out.

(Pravda, May 10. Summary.)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR--
ON THE ACCIDENT AT THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

As has already been reported in the press, an accident has taken place at the Chernobyl nuclear power station 130 kilometers north of Kiev. A government commission headed by Boris Shcherbina, a Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is working in the locality. It includes the heads of ministries and departments and leading scientists and specialists.

According to preliminary data, the accident took place in one of the premises of the 4th power-generating unit and resulted in the destruction of part of the structural elements of the building housing the reactor, its damage and a certain leak of radioactive substances. The three other power-generating units have been shut down, they are in order and in the operational reserve. Two persons were killed during the accident.

Priority measures have been taken to deal with the effects of the accident. The radiation situation at the electric power station and the adjacent territory has now been stabilized and the necessary medical aid is being given to those affected. The inhabitants of the nuclear power station's settlement and three nearby populated localities have been evacuated.

The state of the radiation situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and the adjacent territory is being monitored continuously.

(Pravda, April 30. In full.)

INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

"In its international aspect, the Chernobyl accident has become a kind of test of political morality," writes Tomas Kolesnichenko in Pravda's international review. "Once again two different approaches and two lines of conduct in the world arena have been revealed for everyone to see. No release of radioactivity can compare with the discharge of anti-Soviet lies and slander into the air and into the pages of the Western press, which has been observed in recent weeks. Particular zeal in this respect has been shown in the USA and the FRG".

But lies have short legs, as a saying goes. Already now foreign news media (particularly after Western correspondents visited Kiev and the Chernobyl area) are backing out, virtually admitting the failure of the anti-Soviet campaign.

"The Chernobyl tragedy has been regarded quite differently in the Soviet Union," the author points out. "We are aware: this is yet another alarm, another grim reminder of what incalculable danger is posed by nuclear energy running out of control. The topicality of the Soviet peace initiatives, aimed at fully eliminating nuclear weapons, ending nuclear explosions, and at creating an all-embracing system of international security, has confirmed itself in all obviousness."

They in Washington, the newspaper writes, "The loudest of all were expressing their concern for the life and health of people in connection with the Chernobyl accident. US leaders have now a real opportunity to back up their words with deeds. Inherent in the nuclear arsenals stockpiled and in nuclear tests are thousands upon thousands of disasters far more terrible than the Chernobyl one. This is what the alarm

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sounding today throughout the world reminds us of. The bell tolls for everyone including the USA."

(Pravda, May 18. Summary.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

NATIONWIDE RESPONSE

We Want Help Chernobyl People,
Soviet Citizens Write to Pravda

A.Pokrovsky

Right after the Chernobyl accident, the Pravda office has started to receive urgent telegrams and detailed letters with constructive ideas and the most warm sympathies. Pravda continues to receive such messages. Most of them express the sentiments aptly summed up by L.Marishina, a woman from Moscow, who wrote that now all of us must be one large family.

As is always with a good close-knit family, the main concern is children. Bela Abayeva, a music teacher from Tbilisi, sent an urgent telegram, saying that her family would be glad to welcome children evacuated from the dangerous zone in the Ukraine. Lyudmila Pashkan, who lives in Saratov, cabled us that she could accept one or two kids of any age for the summer, guaranteeing them good rest on the Volga, attention and full care. Parfyonov, a man from Omsk, writes he would be glad to help four pre-school Chernobyl children become good sportsmen. According to A.Pomazkov, who heads the Party organisation of the chief railway construction trust of Kazakhstan in Central Asia, the transport building administration and other organisations in Samarkand would put, free of charge, 150 Ukrainian children at their Young Pioneer summer camps.

The USSR government and the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine have taken the necessary measures for the children from Chernobyl and the adjacent areas to have good summer holidays. However, we should not reject corresponding proposals made by individuals or workforces. Local Soviets could inform the Ukraine of their possibilities to help the

accident sufferers.

The complicated situation at the Chernobyl atomic power plant and the first reports about the selfless efforts made to combat the consequences of the accident started another flow of letters to Pravda, while hostile foreign radio stations were alleging panic there. Writing from Moscow early in May, K.Arustamov, a technologist specialising in gas turbines, pumps and compressors, and a CPSU member since 1970, said he would be glad to help combat the Chernobyl accident.

Physicist Paskushov, 30, sent an urgent telegram from Grozny, telling us he could immediately take holiday to go and work free of charge in any capacity to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Diesel locomotive driver Mutchayev cabled us from Kandalaksha that he was ready to go to the Chernobyl site. Alexander Paschenko, a heavy crane operator from Talnakh, also wants to help with abolishing the accident. He is seconded by Igor Strukov, an excavator operator from the Perm region. A group of operators of bulldozers and excavators from the town Alagir (Panov, Gabiyev, Sturza, Bondarev, Pavlyuk, Bliskach, Mikhailov and Kurdan) want to be sent to Chernobyl.

Of course, not all volunteers would go to Chernobyl if only because certain trades and professions are not needed there. Soviet citizens want to help alleviate the consequences of the accident in the most effective way possible. A telegram from the personnel of workers' canteen No.7, catering for the staff of the Stavropol district power plant, calls for organising a nationwide relief day to help combat the Chernobyl consequences. This proposal is supported by Abil Babazhanov, a teacher from Turkmenia, and Galina Kurzova, a nurse from Moscow.

Such a relief effort was already organised by the crew of the trawler Alexei Chuyev belonging to the Maritime fishing

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administration. The sailors told us that they would soon reach targets for the second year of the five-year programme and that they were transferring 18,152 roubles in aid to the accident sufferers.

We also receive letters from individuals. Vera and Semyon Zavoistye from Leningrad wrote to us that they had transferred a thousand roubles to help the Chernobyl people and Konstantinovskaya, a woman pensioner from the village of Mezhhgorie, the Transcarpathian region, had donated her monthly pension for the purpose. Antonina Chaplya from Novokuznetsk, Zamoshchenko from Yalta, Vasily Kirichenko from Slavyansk and Pavel Kaznovsky from Moscow write they want to contribute to the relief fund, too.

In his TV appearance on May 14, M.S.Gorbachev advanced proposals as regards a new approach to international relations in the nuclear age. Soviet citizens warmly support these ideas.

While passing off Britain, we attentively listened to the statement by M.S.Gorbachev. We unanimously support the new Soviet peace initiatives, says a cable we received from the crew of the diesel ship Perm operated by the North shipping lines.

The telegrams and letters from readers do not need comment. Thanking them most warmly for compassion, we want to tell them they can offer their services to the Federal Atomic Energy Administration, 7 Kitaisky Proyezd, Moscow. Money can be transferred to account No.904, State Bank of the USSR.

(Pravda, May 18. In full.)

WHO POLLUTES THE HORIZONS

Vitaly Korionov, Pravda political analyst

The moment of truth -- this is, perhaps, the most exact characteristic of our days.

A really serious threat is looming over mankind. Weapons with the total yield of one million Hiroshima bombs are already stockpiled in the nuclear arsenals. But this is not enough for the militarists. The echo of the nuclear blasts at the Nevada testing ground shows once again that new types of weapons, now aimed at turning outer space into an arena of military operations, are being tested.

* * *

But not only new types of weapons are being tested. Parallel with them, the newest means of "psychological warfare" against socialism are being developed and polished up. In the past few weeks the world has witnessed the behaviour, disgraceful in its cynicism and dishonesty, of those circles in the United States and some other NATO countries which set the tone to their political and propaganda machine.

The command signal came from Washington. By the President's order a special interdepartmental group was hurriedly set up. Officially, it was instructed to "consider questions relating to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant". But in actual fact this group, headed by Vice-President George Bush, saw its aim first of all in mobilising mass media to fan up a violent campaign of lies and slander against the USSR.

The group stopped at nothing, neither the provision of the most flagrant lies to the press, radio and television under the camouflage of "information", nor supplying mass media with the most outrageous falsifications, nor fabrications by

"witnesses" who had allegedly seen the "horrors". Judging by all indications, corresponding pressure was put on the news services.

I am ashamed that the US Administration and the "Big Press" exaggerated in every way the scale of the accident and distorted the facts, says J. Steinbuck, one of the leaders of the American Committee to Commemorate the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Behind all this is the desire to asperse the Soviet Union, to deceive the Americans and to distract them from the growing threat posed to the very existence of mankind by the policy of the US Administration.

And here is the opinion of a common American reader, Frank Dreisan, who wrote in a letter to the newspaper Chicago Tribune that the accident at the Soviet nuclear plant has demonstrated the stupidity of the US press. American mass media launched a hysterical campaign at a time when the reports of the Soviet but not American press were distinguished by accuracy.

What is the root cause of such a bacchanalia? It lies first of all in the fact that the US ruling circles have nothing essential to say in response to the detailed constructive programme for preserving and strengthening peace advanced by the CPSU and the Soviet state. These quarters are against termination of the arms race and attainment of honest agreements with the Soviet Union based on the principle of equality. But at the same time they cannot directly admit their true intentions in the face of the peoples demanding elimination of the nuclear war threat. That is why they resort to malicious slander on the USSR and at the same time try hard to look decent in the eyes of the world public.

Furthermore, the ballyhoo is caused by the fact that it is exactly from Moscow that the voice of reason has sounded in these alarming days. It is the Soviet leaders that have drawn

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the most serious conclusions from a situation which shapes up when the formidable force of the atom goes out of control.

Well-known is the great attention of the world to the Soviet proposals advanced in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech of May 14. The international public regards these proposals as new convincing proof of the responsibility with which the Soviet Union approaches the problems facing mankind in the nuclear age.

The kind of an international plebiscit around these proposals shows that the forces of peace and reason view them as a logical follow-up and one more component of the large-scale initiatives launched in the Statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of January 15 and at the 27th Party Congress. No matter what mountains of lies are heaped up by the anti-Soviet and anti-Communist speculators in connection with the Chernobyl accident, they are unable to camouflage the fact that at the crucial moment it was the USSR which proposed a complex of measures to prevent the atom from becoming a sword of Damocles and make it serve man in his peaceful constructive work.

Many prominent public figures and politicians abroad have characterised the new Soviet proposals as a manifestation of ethic political thinking corresponding to the complicated realities of the 20th century. These proposals are really impressive, says Preston Truman, director of a US anti-war organisation. They graphically show that the Soviet Union regards the problem of preservation of peace and cessation of the arms race with full sincerity and seriousness. The accident at the Chernobyl atomic plant, as well as the accidents that had occurred at the atomic plants in other countries, are lessons to be drawn not only from peaceful uses of atomic energy, Admiral (Rt) J. Larocque, Director of the Washington public organisation Defence Information Center,

notes. They serve as stern lessons in the sphere of military uses of the atom. They show once again that catastrophic incidents with nuclear weapons are quite possible. If such an incident takes place where is the guarantee that it will not lead to a nuclear war? The proposals to end the nuclear tests and to eliminate nuclear weapons from Earth as soon as possible are aimed at preventing such a fatal accident.

There is a just saying that radiation needs no passport, for it can spread across all borders. But this means that its spread can be checked, when the atom gets out of control, mainly by co-operation between states, regardless of their social system. The aid given by American doctors to Soviet people who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl accident is a shining example of how the two great nations should have arranged their relations if the US leadership had had political wisdom and will.

Washington is lacking this wisdom and will however. It used the accident at the Soviet nuclear plant to give a new dimension to the old campaign about the "Soviet military threat." Before the accident credulous people were being scared by Soviet SS-20 missiles and tanks and now they are being scared by "Soviet radiation."

Though life itself has dispersed that cloud of slander, the forces hostile to socialism are nevertheless trying to cash in on the accident.

On May 13 the UPI news agency cabled a statement by D.Duarte, a representative of the US Food and Drug Administration, who said that no signs of contamination had been discovered in East European food imports after many days of quality monitoring. Nevertheless, on the same day the Common Market foreign ministers hastened to ban fresh food imports from the majority of socialist countries. A strange interpretation of the Helsinki Final Act! Everyone can see

that there are purely political motives behind the Brussels decision. It is a new attempt to apply a kind of economic sanctions against the socialist countries. The press in the socialist countries justly says that the main reason for the EEC decision is protectionism and discrimination rather than concern for people's health. It is an attempt to harm the socialist countries' economies.

It is also a shame that even confronted with new facts about the dangerous power of the atom, the ruling elite in the United States continues to escalate preparations for nuclear war. The White House has rejected a new offer to negotiate a nuclear test ban. Washington is determined to continue nuclear testing. These days the press revealed that after prolonged resistance the US Department of Defence, yielding to public pressure, had to publish a report on "nuclear winter." However, the conclusion one can find at the end of the report is something only the Pentagon could think of. Instead of admitting, as any sane person would do, the disastrous consequences of a nuclear war, the Pentagon warriors declared that the grave consequences of a nuclear conflict for the environment only emphasised the urgency of the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Pointing to the dangers of the Star Wars programme, Kurt Gottfried, a professor of physics at the Cornell University, wrote in The New York Times that nuclear power plants had been working for years and that some experience had been accumulated in this field, whereas the systems developed under the Star Wars programme can only be tested in a nuclear war. The Star Wars shield, Prof. Gottfried went on, would be so complicated that it can be compared to many orbital nuclear power stations which should all work together as smoothly as a symphony orchestra. It is for the future historians, the American professor melancholically said, to explain why the

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President succeeded in setting our country on this wild-goose chase. The problem is that SDI is not merely an illusion but a very dangerous gamble for the future of mankind.

There is one more thing about Washington's actions which I would like to note. The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is being used by Washington as a pretext for refusing to conduct a serious dialogue about the verification problem in the field of disarmament. Nato claims that the Soviet Union is against verification, though it is clear to everyone that this country is no less interested in ensuring effective verification than any other. The Soviet Union's clear-cut statements on this problem disarmed the falsifiers. The world can see that the USSR is open for control, though the opponents of disarmament keep saying the opposite.

They are trying to convince people in the West, especially the Americans, that the Soviet Union is too slow in telling the world the details about the situation at Chernobyl. Taking its cue from the White House, the press hypocritically asks whether the Soviet Union can be trusted after this. The Washington Post said not without malice that the accident could not fail to affect the Americans' readiness to deal seriously with the Soviet Union. Thus the tragic accident at Chernobyl is being used as a means of convincing the Americans that there should be no agreements with the Soviet Union.

The events that followed the accident at Chernobyl showed once again that there are two different kinds of political ethics and two lines of conduct in matters of truly vital significance for humankind. The world's nations have been given a new chance to see that the Soviet policy meets their fundamental aspirations.

(Pravda, May 22. In full.)

THE END

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DIPLOMATS VISIT KIEV

At the request of heads of diplomatic missions of foreign countries accredited in Moscow, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised for them a trip to the Ukraine so that they could familiarise themselves with the course of work to liquidate the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Today the diplomats were received by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine Alexander Lyashko. He acquainted them with the situation at the nuclear power station and told them what had been done by the Republic's party, government and economic bodies to overcome the consequences of the accident, ensure the safety of the population and the normal functioning of the economy in adjoining areas. It was stressed that the evacuation of the population, livestock and equipment from the 30-kilometre zone had been carried out in an organised way and within a short period of time.

The diplomats were also told that people evacuated from the danger zone were being given medical treatment and non-return cash grants. Measures have been taken to provide them with jobs. The children of evacuated families have finished the school year and are leaving for young pioneer and work-and-rest camps in other parts of the Ukraine. Radiological and laboratory checks are being conducted in all the dispersal zones. More than a hundred decontamination centres have been set up. The radiation state of the environment is being constantly monitored throughout the territory of the Republic. The quality of foodstuffs, water in rivers and underground sources is being stringently checked.

Alexander Lyashko drew the attention of the ambassadors to the fact that certain circles in the West are circulating inventions and tall tales about the accident, are trying to

cast aspersions on the Soviet programme of utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes, to generate mistrust in the USSR and obstruct the talks on the reduction of nuclear arms.

Speaking on behalf of the guests, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the USSR, Dimitr Zhulev, thanked for the interesting and frank account of the accident at the nuclear power station and the liquidation of its aftermaths.

The diplomats travelled to the Makarovsky district. At the executive committee of the Fasov Village Soviet they were told of the life and work of evacuees from the Chernobyl zone. The guests acquainted themselves with the work of the Makarovsky milk plant and a sanitary-epidemiologic station.

(Pravda, May 22. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH
TÜSTAN

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CHERNOBYL: ALLEGATIONS AND REALITY

Writer Yeremei PARNOV

Scientists argued for a long time what geometric body suits best to describe the shape of the Earth. Neither the sphere nor the ellipsoid would do. A special term, geoid, was the way out, and emphasised our planet's uniqueness.

A sparkling light-blue world with clouds curling all around, a world small and fragile, beautiful and so lonely in the pitch-black boundless Universe: that was how the first space pilot saw the Earth. A generation has grown since for whom a glimpse of our planet from space is a part of everyday reality. That generation's children are growing up, and the Earth rotates on and on. Cyclones and anticyclones brew in seas and oceans, and the changing wind brings rain to some places, and heat waves to others.

At the end of April and beginning of May, I listened to TV weather forecasts in the United States. It was an impressive lesson of propaganda, with minute doses of fact dissolving in a sea of fiction. I don't mean brazen lies like the panorama of smokestacks in Trieste, Italy, passed for Chernobyl. That was a crude piece of work. Artful propaganda conjurers (or prestidigitators, as their entertainer colleagues prefer to call their profession) deserve far more attention.

That the Chernobyl accident opened foreign news programmes and took up most of them was quite natural. But the way the information was served was really surprising.

As the texts were read out, the screens were lit with red. A five-point star pulsated on them as if irradiating death rays. A red banner with the hammer and sickle emblem replaced it, to be replaced again with the map of the Soviet Union. Red is the symbol of my country, that's true, but here it was used to create the impression of nuclear horror. Likewise, the

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crimson sunset over Trieste was passed for a radioactive cloud. Ignorance took in gaping whatever vicious slanderers had to offer it.

Red Is Danger, was the McCarthyite message of all that the man-in-the-street saw and heard over the TV from morning till late at night.

As far as I know, serious analysts accuse the present Administration of political myth-making someone has branded gnostic. It really has something in common with some sects of the early Christian era, with their Manichaean attitude to the world seen as a system of opposites: God and devil, light and darkness, good and evil. The simplistic picture seemed to be long forgotten and, at any rate, unsuitable as a prism through which today's political realities could be seen. But claims to America's holy mission weren't born out of nothing.

Now we saw that even news of disaster and suffering were squeezed into the Procrustean bed of propaganda.

Primordeal fear emanated from crimson-lit screens, the apocalyptic fear of the Empire of Evil. With such formidable psychological preparations, information was superfluous. Facts were broadcast without preliminary checking, to say nothing of figures. Heart-rending episodes prevailed.

Imagine the picture of a West European airport where people right from a tour of the Soviet Union are undergoing dosimetry. Or a close-up of a cabbage bed and a galvanometer (believe it or not!) held close to it, with the hand jumping right--and no comments. The radiation dose is not named, neither are the units of measurement. As he remembers the earlier picture of tourists embracing their near and dear, the man-in-the-street is supposed to conclude they are dangerously contaminated. Even the behind-the-screen voice saying that medical examination showed the tourists to be in excellent health health could do nothing: the jumping galvanometer hand did the trick.

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But take a sober view of things. Everything in the world around us makes geigers click: a colour TV-set, the cigarette you smoke--even your own body, safe and sound. Hard cosmic rays penetrate the atmospheric screen to reach the Earth and make the super-sensitive counter react.

Iowa water samples showed increased radiation levels. "Thirty times higher," the TV announcer anxiously commented. To all appearances, he did not know that even a dose a thousand times above the accepted level was within safety limits.

The American mass media have done all they could to make the public forget even the scanty knowledge it had about background radiation and its safe level. So, the man-in-the-street gaped at a group of high-school students coming back from the horrible city of Kiev as at miraculous survivors. Thank God, he said in his mind.

Now, your TV-set shows a dim picture of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Its quality is so poor that you can't make out anything, and the announcer says in a patter: "Panic in the town. Streets covered with corpses." The picture had quite a long life, according to TV news standards.

Even after Soviet official statements gave an exhaustive account of the situation, the anti-Soviet wave did not subside. On the contrary, it spread worldwide. Meteorologists and experts on civil power engineering, environment protection, medicine and other aspects of nuclear studies joined the campaign. And the sinister winds obligingly changed direction on maps.

The elements and "specialists'" commentary showed malicious deliberation. The fact that it was no more than a forecast was mentioned casually, though the actual meteorological situation did not fit the scheme at all. The "experts'" gloomy prophecies were supposed to turn the hasty

guesses into real proofs. Professors and top executives of the military-industrial complex mentioned some fatal doses of radiation. Everything was very scientific, except the main thing. The actual situation outlined by Moscow in detail did not fit their abstract prognosis increased by a thousand times. Even if the atmospheric front had moved at an as yet unprecedented speed, the radioactive cloud could not have been seen over many different regions of the world at the same time.

Yet, according to the old saying about sand thrown against the wind and blinding the thrower, the public opinion arrived at a conclusion different from the one it was expected to draw. It turns out that the hysteria fanned around the Chernobyl accident has forced many Americans to wonder what is going on in their own country, what safety measures are taken at US nuclear plants and what are the actual reasons for nuclear tests in Nevada which raise the Earth's surface in bubbles and which are accompanied, according to press reports, by radiation leakage.

The stock exchange reacted to the situation like a seismographer registering the slightest earth tremours. The shares of a number of big companies dealing in peaceful and military application of nuclear power went down. The Dow Jones indices turned out to be much more convincing than the imaginary radiation figures operated by TV commentators. The latter had to change the tone of their comments. They had to, because it turned out impossible to conceal the data of radiation control obtained by US Embassy officials in Moscow. One country after another reported a radical improvement of the radiation situation. The most preposterous lies had to be discarded. To back the televised information, the Vremya programme announcers appeared on the American TV screens. However, their Russian speech was hastily muffled by imposing

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comments poured out by the local commentators. I wish our announcers could hear the nonsense spoken on their behalf!

Meanwhile, the emphasis was shifted to the domestic events. The US power plants claimed to be equipped with the latest achievements of advanced technology to ensure safety and, of course, the priority of US researchers in all spheres of science and industry were praised to the sky. As for Hiroshima, neutron bomb or nuclear-pumped laser for the "star wars", they were never mentioned, the same as all kinds of trouble at home. What was spotlighted, was an old tale of the Soviet Union's "technical backwardness." One might think that it wasn't Kurchatov who had the first nuclear plant built. It looked as if the first nuclear-powered ship was not launched in the USSR; as if the Soviet satellite was not the first to open the space era; as if Yuri Gagarin was not the first man in space!

I met with some Americans who were obviously ashamed of those concoctions. Congressman Nickolas Mavroules (Massachusetts) and Clark University's President Richard Train, for instance, paid their tribute to the Soviet people's service to humanity. Incidentally, they did it not only in private but in front of reporters' microphones.

It was very timely because some of the reporters went out of their way to maintain the hysteria fanned in connection with the Chernobyl accident which all the decent people of the world took so close to heart.

A polite and intelligent reporter of Berkshire Eagle, Allan Cooperman, came to see me late at night. He had learned that the local library had an English translation of my book published by Atomizdat. It turned out that his paper would like to know what effect the Chernobyl accident would have on the Soviet Energy Programme.

"I know you would find it hard to answer this question now

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that you don't know your Government's opinion," the reporter said sympathetically. "But our readers would like to know your personal opinion, that of a scientist and author specializing in forecasts."

"Well, new technology is always fraught with certain danger. Don't you think that experiments in outer space were equally dangerous? Take the last Space Shuttle mission, for instance. Of course, we'll go on with our Energy Programme. I have no doubt that people's safety will be our main concern and that we'll do our best to provide it."

The next phrase was omitted in the paper version of the interview. It went: "I have no doubt that you, too, will continue building power plants because humanity has no alternative. It is as impossible to reverse scientific progress as to return to camp fires like those burnt by primeval people in caves."

My companions and myself visited Massachusetts on an invitation of the US-USSR Bridges for Peace drive. We dwelt in ordinary American homes and met hundreds of people, among them scientists, clergymen, physicians, engineers, college and high school students, every day. We made public appearances and answered numerous questions at educational establishments and churches turned into discussion clubs. We also attended sessions of municipal councils and talked to many people, from Representatives to kindergarten teachers.

Most of them were decent people. They don't know too much about the USSR, and it's not their fault, they would like to learn as much as they can.

The fact that the emblem of the US-USSR Bridges for Peace drive is a rainbow is, I think, highly symbolical. The multi-colour rainbow must rise and shine over the mist of allegations and lies, understatements and trite political speculations, despite the monochromatic vision of some

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politicians, despite their hate for the red colour which some of them clumsily tried to link up with radiation dangers.

Boston-Moscow.

(Pravda, May 26. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

Chernobyl Day by Day

A RED LINE ON THE MAP

A. Simurov, Pravda correspondent

The sense of collectivity is one of the most valuable features of the Soviet character. It has come to yet greater prominence as the work of eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster progressed.

The working group engaged in accident relief operations is led by Alexander Petrov, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. He invited me to have a look at the map of Gomel Region. Its southern part was cut by thick coloured lines. He said:

"The red line is the semicircle of the 30-km danger zone on Byelorussian soil. It was marked right after the accident, and all the population and animals were evacuated from there. Now look at the winding line inside the red circle and beyond. This is the danger zone that was delimited after careful local measurements. It allowed us to make essential corrections: let the people evacuated from some areas return, but get more from other areas to move out. Field work on some farms is going on by the rotation principle. Experts have devised a special mode of work for the purpose and specific terms of pay and other benefits have been established.

"In short, the emotional outburst has been replaced by technologically sophisticated, sustained, consistent and comprehensive work. Its overriding objective is to prevent adverse radiation effects on human health.

"Certain things came as a surprise in the process of examination. For example, clear patches have been discovered within the 30-km zone as well as some "dirty patches" outside it. Such "patches" have been identified, as have the

distinguishing specific features of each particular area, the influence of meteorological conditions, and the pattern of their effect on the human being.

"Prevention work has been yet another important development. We have been telling the population of the southern districts of Gomel Region not to consume the products they get from their own holdings. We are providing all of them through the system of consumer cooperatives, checking them, sorting them out to see what has to be "buried" and what can be reprocessed. To make up for the products lost, we have been supplying canned foods--dairy products, meat and vegetables.

"All water supply sources have been carefully examined. Some wells have to be closed down, others cleaned. Mobile teams have been set up to drill more artesian wells. A veritable war has been declared on road dust, the most active radiation carrier. Streets, pavements, roads and footpaths are being periodically sprayed. There is a large-scale work under way to surface country roads and adjacent territories are being covered with plastic film.

"The Government of the Republic has ordered a consignment of tractor-cultivators and fodder-harvesting machines with sealed cabins to be turned out within the shortest possible time-limits. Measuring instruments to check radioactivity levels are being made for all enterprises under the jurisdiction of the State Agri-Industrial Committee, the Ministry of Bakeries and Combined Foods, the Ministry of Forestry, and other departments. Local industries have started to turn out portable shower installations for farm workers and sealed hothouses to grow vegetables on private holdings."

Here is what another Vice-Chairman of the Byelorussian Council of Ministers, N.Mazai had to say:

"The Council of Ministers of the Republic has been taking

special care about the health of children. All children have been moved out of the danger zone in Gomel Region. Upwards of 60,000 children are now at Young Pioneer Camps, vocational and recreational camps, sporting and tourist centres in the northern districts of the Republic. They have holiday homes and resorts at their disposal as well. A large number of Byelorussian children have been invited to spend their vacations in other sister Soviet republics. We are most grateful to them for it.

"The operation "Children" has been carried out promptly under a well-devised plan. Kids under three have left with their mothers. The Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions has provided over four thousand accommodation vouchers for them to stay at the Anapa, Adler and other boarding-houses. Children between 3 and 6 have been taken to their new places of residence with their day nurseries under the direction of their educators and medical staff. Groups of schoolchildren together with teachers have been formed. One should underline the perfect and most responsible work of Party, local government and Komsomol organisations, all the institutions of the Republic concerned with so big-scale a resettlement of the infant population."

Byelorussian medical staffs have been working round the clock ever since the accident occurred. Here is what the Minister of Health of the Byelorussian Republic, N. Savchenko said about it:

"Whenever we had to take any decision in terms of medical assistance in the situation we had to face we followed one major principle: it's better to provide proper care before than cure after. We applied this principle to three southern districts of Gomel Region. We have carried out a hundred per cent comprehensive examination of the people there, involving radiation monitoring laboratory teams and public health

officers. Many people have been admitted to hospitals for examination and preventive treatment. Most of them were discharged soon afterwards. A regular medical check-up has been introduced, and a recurrent examination is under way. I can tell you that none of those examined have been found to suffer from radiation sickness.

" A large amount of work has been organised to check foodstuffs--in public and private husbandries, enterprises of the meat and dairy industries, in public catering, on the markets, etc. At first many business executives and members of the public showed themselves to be rather careless and medically incompetent. That was a cause for concern, so we did our best to mend matters through the instrumentality of the local press, broadcasting and television services."

...The progress of work to undo the consequences of the accident is reviewed every day by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Byelorussia and by the Government of the Republic. A full-scale offensive to set things right is on.
Minsk.

(Pravda, June 4. In full.)

THE ROUTE TO SAFETY
Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant:
a Comment by Scientists

V. Ivanov, doctor of physics and mathematics, professor, chairman of the Radiation Safety section of the Learned Council of the State Committee for Science and Technology and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, and B. Pakhomov, doctor of philosophy, professor

Scientific and technological progress creates unprecedented opportunities for the improvement of people's living standards, the furtherance of culture and the solution of the global problems facing mankind. But it also involves considerable problems.

On the one hand, the creation of new materials, production processes, means of control, the use of means of automation and electronic devices and computerisation enable one substantially to increase the safety of operation of any production facilities. On the other, the growing abundance of technical means of great sophistication as well as of great capacity poses a certain degree of risk. The "price" of even a single accident vastly increases. As to the military uses of scientific and technological achievements, danger now threatens the very existence of civilisation on earth. The automation of missile complexes and especially the space-based weapons being developed in the USA creates a threat of nuclear disaster that may result from a technical malfunction in the control systems.

The reactor accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

has strikingly demonstrated the importance of the problem of safety not only in its practical aspect, but also in terms of fundamental methodology. And if it is fair to speak, for example, about the need to spread the knowledge of computers, to no lesser degree do we feel today a lack of knowledge among the broad sections of the population regarding the key principles of solving the problem of safety of technical facilities. Western propaganda has deliberately taken advantage of this fact in reporting most slanderously about what happened at Chernobyl and in trying to create in the public a hostile attitude towards the USSR, and to scuttle the adoption of decisions on the Soviet proposals to ban nuclear, space and chemical weapons and reduce the conventional arms.

The wide use of the achievements of nuclear physics in the economy has become an integral part of technological progress. At the same time nuclear equipment and technology, just as any other, requires well-thought-out measures of safety.

When the first nuclear reactors were launched and the nuclear industry began to develop at a rapid pace, the number of people professionally connected with ionising emissions considerably increased. The antiradiation protection of the workers of the nuclear industry and the entire population is now a separate field of intense research by specialists. Physicists, doctors, biologists, chemists and mathematicians are involved in this work.

A nuclear reactor of any design in the process of work is a source of radiation, as well as producing a large amount of nuclear-fuel decay products. Possessing high radioactivity, these wastes are potentially hazardous for the environment and man. To ensure safety in the operation of nuclear reactors is a special research and engineering task.

In living organisms radiation induces complex biochemical processes eventually leading to the changes which are called

radiation effects. They in some cases can be regarded as useful, and in others as harmful and even dangerous. The useful effects include, for example, the destruction of a cancer tumour in radiation therapy.

The radiation effect generally is proportional to the amount of radiation energy absorbed by living tissue. Related to a mass unit of substance, this energy is the radiation dose which acts as a measure of the impact of radiation on a living organism, as a measure of danger if this impact is unfavourable. The reaction of biological tissues and the body as a whole to radiation is determined not only by the magnitude of the dose, but also by the time of exposure, by its distribution within the body among organs and tissues, by the mix of ionising radiation, etc.

A magnitude called gray is at present accepted as a unit of dose. One gray is equal to one joule of absorbed energy per one kilogram of matter. For X-ray and gamma emissions the unit "roentgen" is also used. Without going into subtleties of a scientific nature, we shall indicate that 1 gray for living tissue is equivalent approximately to 100 roentgens.

Every living thing on earth is, and always has been, under the action of radiation. This is the so called radiation background which has two ingredients: a natural background and the one caused by the technical activity of man - technogenic background. Natural background is conditioned by space radiation and by natural radioactive substances contained in the soil, water, air, in all the biosphere. From the natural background each human being on Earth receives in a year a dose equal to about 100 milliroentgens, which constitutes about 0.01 milliroentgen per hour.

Radiation can have adverse effects in two different situations: when a person is exposed to a high one-time dose or to a series of small doses spread over an extended period of time. Accidents produce acute exposures. The Chernobyl nuclear power station is a case in point, where part of the personnel and firemen found themselves in the zone of intensive radiation. As a result, some developed radiation sickness, occasionally in a serious form. Such radiation is confined in space, for its intensity rapidly falls off with distance.

Low doses cause effects only in a small percentage of people and obey laws of probability. Such probable effects are a remote aftermath of exposure and are accidental in nature. Their gravity does not depend on the rate of the dose, only their probability increases with it. Legislation has set up norms of radiation safety which totally preclude the appearance of radiation sickness and make the risk of probable effects so small as to be practically unnoticeable.

Low doses, as has been stated above, have a probable effect on living organisms. It means that possible radiation effects are random and can be detected only statistically when large groups of people are exposed to them. Even background radiation is responsible for a certain non-zero probability of remote unfavourable consequences. Nevertheless we say it is quite safe. How is this to be understood?

The probability of leukemia induced by background radiation is given as one in a million people a year. A tenfold rise in background radiation raises the risk factor to ten in a million a year. On the other hand, with an average life expectancy of 70 years, as many as 14,000 people in a million die every year from all causes. Out of this total only one death can be assumed to be due to background radiation. Smoking, for example, is by far more dangerous for man.

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Numerous observations suggest that death risk from diseases provoked by smoking (including cancer of the lungs) is 500 cases for a million smokers a year. It follows, therefore, that smoking is ten times as hazardous as a 50-fold rise in background radiation.

It explains why in some parts of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, where the accident added to background radiation, the measures being taken are aimed to reducing the probable effects of the risk. Less time outdoors, dusting of clothes, footwear and rooms, care with some foods, and administration of some preparations - all these are measures that act against the probable effects of low radiation, that is, they cut down the risk and bring it to the natural and extremely small risk of background radiation.

As far as the safety level of the nuclear power industry is concerned, it can be said that conventional fuelled power stations emit into the environment 100 times more pollutants, including radioactive ones, than nuclear power plants do. (Not in emergency situations, of course). The point is that coal contains a radioactive isotope of carbon which is ejected with smoke. Converting coal-burning stations to nuclear fuel not only clears the air, but also reduces radioactive pollution.

Risks involved in day-to-day operation should be distinguished from ones due to the likelihood of an accident. Scientific and technological progress and cultural advance generally have combined to produce ample possibilities for enhancing safety of engineering devices. There is, however, a certain trend towards a higher price paid by society even in the event of isolated accidents, as the Chernobyl example suggests.

Any scientific approach to accident safety must be based on a proper assessment of the risk factor. The accident in Bhopal, India, at the plant of transnational corporation Union

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Carbide, highlighted the profit-motivated approach to engineering safety in the capitalist world: some get economic benefits while others risk accidents. The most glaring and dangerous example of this kind of tendency is the imperialist arms race - profits for corporations threaten to annihilate vast numbers of people and destroy material and cultural values.

Socialist society develops new technology for the sake of man. This determines the permissible risk criteria: any risk involved in the use of new equipment or technology must necessarily be lower than the risk associated with old plant or methods. Only in this case does scientific and technological progress ensure continued intensification of production and an ever higher level of safety.

(Pravda, August 27. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARŞİVİ
TÜSTAV

EXEMPLARY EPISODE

V. Viktorov

A few days ago the Soviet side sent a note to the US embassy in Moscow, drawing the attention of the American side to US press reports saying that according to a report by the National Laboratory at Los Alamos, for more than 18 months, beginning from January 1960, the United States had been conducting secret nuclear tests.

This in spite of the fact that a tripartite freeze on nuclear testing between the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain was still in force and US President Dwight Eisenhower had declared that the American side would not resume nuclear weapon tests without prior notification of its decision. No such announcement came from the American authorities for 18 months. Moreover, throughout that period the United States officially assured the world of its unconditional compliance with the moratorium. However, the reports published recently indicate that in spite of its assurances the United States secretly conducted many nuclear test explosions (the reports say that during that period the Los Alamos laboratory had conducted 35 tests and the Livermore laboratory had carried out almost as many explosions).

Thus, in 1960-1961 the United States repeatedly violated the nuclear test ban moratorium and this episode illustrates the actions to which the United States resorts to avoid limitations placed on the testing and upgrading of nuclear weapons. The Soviet side said that it would like to receive additional official explanations on the matter.

For some time now the United States has been zealously promoting its image as an advocate of compliance with international agreements. However, no tricks or diplomatic

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been finally refuted. In that situation the United States had to admit that it would not agree to a nuclear test ban. Moratorium does not meet the security interests of the United States and its allies and friends, President Reagan said last year explaining why he was against banning nuclear explosions.

By continuing its nuclear tests, the US not only disrupts the chance of negotiating a ban on all nuclear testing but also openly and covertly violates the agreements restricting the parameters of such tests.

In particular, the Soviet side has repeatedly addressed the US in connection with discharges of radioactive substances beyond its national territory as a result of underground nuclear explosions, which is a gross violation of the 1963 Treaty.

On several occasions the US has set off nuclear devices at its test ranges in Nevada, whose capacity exceeded the 150-kiloton limit set by the 1974 Treaty. During a test carried out by the US in the autumn of 1975, the powerful nuclear explosion caused an earthquake registering several points on the Richter scale in the Las Vegas area. Despite the US assurances that it intends to observe the 150-kiloton limit, it has overreached that limit on several other occasions since then.

Moreover, today when the Soviet and American delegations in Geneva are considering the question of how to begin large-scale talks on stopping nuclear tests and, in accordance with the subjects discussed in Reykjavik, reach that final objective through agreements on limiting the yield and the number of nuclear explosions, official US representatives are increasingly speaking that in the future they will need explosions reaching beyond the limits of the 1974 Treaty. Speaking at the end of February in the Senate Armed Services

grounds are the Kwajalein atoll in the Pacific and the White Sands area in New Mexico, whereas tests for ABM purposes in Nevada can be rightfully regarded as a deviation by the US from its commitment under that Treaty.

Both recent history and the latest facts convincingly show that the militarist plans of the US associated with the course for developing and modernizing nuclear weapons and implementing the SDI programme undermine the legal foundation of arms control. Stopping that dangerous process is a primary condition of advance to a nuclear-free and safe world.

Data on the number of nuclear explosions
staged by the USSR and the US between 1966
and 1985

	USSR	US
20 years (1966 - 1985)	329*	548
15 years (1971 - 1985)	260	315
10 years (1976 - 1985)	181	188
5 years (1981 - 1985)	76	93

1986: the US carried out 15 nuclear tests; USSR
observed a moratorium on all nuclear explosions

* - besides, the USSR staged 120 and the US 15 nuclear
explosions for peaceful purposes.

(Pravda, March 13. In full.)

MISLEADING STATEMENTS CONDEMNED

Vienna, May 14 (TASS.) Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has condemned the ballyhoo raised by US propaganda with the support of some Western countries in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. At the general assembly of the International Press Institute held in Vienna the IAEA head stressed that Western reports, especially on the first days after the accident, were often misleading, particularly in assessing the amount of damage and the number of victims. In this connection he expressed regret that some Western newsmen showed lack of the sense of responsibility -- they published panicky materials and not infrequently misled the public. Hans Blix noted that always some experts or even politicians are panic-stricken in estimating the situation. The way the Western mass media covered events in the Soviet Union could spark off unjustified panic. In a tense situation, he emphasized, one should rightly assess the scale of events.

Referring to experts of the World Health Organization, the IAEA director-general noted that there are no grounds for limiting food imports from East European countries, including the Soviet Union.

(Pravda, May 15. In full.)

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VOEKO-860508-507

FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR

Work to liquidate the consequences of the accident was continued at the Chernobyl atomic power station during the past 24 hours. The radiation situation continues to improve as a result of the measures taken. Work is under way to decontaminate the terrain in the area of the station, where the radiation level has substantially decreased. The walling of river banks to prevent radioactive substances from being washed into the river Pripyat is nearing completion.

The radiation level of the territory beyond the zone directly adjoining the station is somewhat higher than the natural background but does not pose a danger to the health of people.

(Pravda, May 8. In full.)

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VORIO-860507-509

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PLAYING WITH MARKED CARDS

Yevgeni Grigoryev

If one were to believe some Western politicians, nothing now concerns them more than information. They themselves often hide it from the public when they are secretly scheming brigandage. Nor would they have "information leaks" on nuclear plant accidents at home.

For example, on the first day of the accident in Harrisburg, USA, in March 1979, recalls an NBC reporter, the Administration tried to minimise its seriousness... The accident's first days were a concealment of facts, he adds. In Britain, too, the electricity board initially preferred to surround the March 31 Dungeness, Kent, nuclear plant accident with a wall of silence, notes The Observer. Only after many insistent inquiries did it agree to give some information.

But those are home stories, think the gentlemen, happily plunging into the current Western anti-Soviet hullabaloo over Chernobyl.

It is well known that the USSR has furnished relevant information to the governments of many countries, including the USA. Yet, none other than the Washington men continue to do the most of lamenting that they're almost completely uninformed. Hypocrisy even led them to use the Tokyo forum of the Seven where a special statement was issued. It unmistakably bears the mark of US propaganda, demanding "urgent information" on what its authors really know perfectly well.

We don't have enough information, a White House spokesman complained there at a news conference. Did the Russians refuse any particular information request? a journalist asked. I do not think we went into particulars; we simply asked for

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general information, the spokesman manoeuvred. But did they refuse your request? the journalist insisted. I do not think they refused, admitted the spokesman and unabashedly lied: They simply gave no information at all.

So it is not the truth, not the facts and the real situation, that interests the Western pseudochampions of information. Playing with marked cards, they would like to denigrate the Soviet Union as a country that is concealing something and which supposedly can't be trusted in anything, big or small. A dirty scheme of the misinformers! And a short-legged lie.

(Pravda, May 7. In full.)

TÜSTAV
TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

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VOEKO-860508-510

ELIMINATING AFTERMATH OF CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

V.Gubarev, M.Odinets

"Pravda" published a regular report of its special correspondents from the zone of the Chernobyl atomic power plant.

Academician Yevgeny Velikhov, Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, staying in the area of the Chernobyl station these days, said in a "Pravda" interview that at the moment they were holding defenses organized in depth and trying to foresee all the possible versions.

The main task today is to ensure the safety of people. This is why people were evacuated from the 30-km zone. The specialists are also mounting an offensive against the reactor. They are working not only close to it, but also under it. The task is to fully neutralize it, to "deaden" it, as they use to say. All is going on in an organized manner. A telephone call is enough for decisions to be taken. No one is evading work, all are acting selflessly.

According to Academician Velikhov, no one has had to handle such accidents so far. The unusual situation calls for the solution of problems with which neither scientists, nor specialists had ever dealt before.

A reactor is a body weighing several thousand tons. This gigantizing mass is warming up. In short, the accident at the atomic power plant has taught many lessons, and not only to specialists. It again vividly demonstrated what a great catastrophe a nuclear war would be. The accident is a minor thing in comparison with it. There are many people in the West, specifically in Europe, who have launched a noisy campaign over the accident in Chernobyl. At the same time, they pass in silence the danger that lurks in warheads of Pershing missiles or try to understate it. Western propaganda

experts would rather come to think whether it would be better to prevent a worldwide catastrophe instead of making the most of the misfortune, Yevgeny Velikhov said.

According to the newspaper, sand, clay, lead and other materials are being dropped into the body of the reactor from helicopters in order to further protect people from radioactivity.

The correspondents made a small trip over the Kiev water reservoir on board a special boat from which specialists take samples of water. The area of the man-made water reservoir exceeds 920 square kilometres. It contains 3.7 cubic kilometres of water. A Koval, chief health-officer of the Dnieper basin, said that at first they, naturally, had had some misgivings, but the samples invariably showed that the state of water was normal.

Dozens of motor vessels set out for passenger voyages from the Kiev river port these days up and down the Dnieper. The beautiful three-deck motor vessel "Viktor Glushkov" is moored at the berth of the river port. It is making a cruise along the Dnieper with 330 foreign tourists on board.

Collective farmers in the areas close to the 30-km zone are going on with spring ploughing.

There are a lot of trucks on the streets of the town from which the population was evacuated. They are going to the wharf where dikes are being built on the river banks. Nearby the workers are dismantling a temporary 200-metre-long pontoon bridge by which the population was evacuated not long ago. People of various nationalities and from various parts of the country are working in Chernobyl. They promptly came there in order to help eliminate the aftermath of the accident.

(Pravda, May 8. TASS. Summary.)

FOREIGN PRESS ON CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

Rude Pravo Condemns the Campaign Launched by the West

Prague, May 4. TASS. The breakdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power station immediately riverted universal attention in the world, Rude Pravo writes today. Words of sympathy are being addressed to the Soviet government. Positively appraised are the energetic actions of the members of local government bodies and the courageous efforts by Soviet specialists and rescue services to localize the radioactive contamination source which sprang up as a result of the breakdown.

Underlying the extraordinary event is the misfortune that befell people. It is from this fact that a stand of the international public should have been formed. One cannot but see that immediately after the TASS announcement of the breakdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the event became a springboard for unworthy speculations and for the piling up of lies and accusations.

High-ranking officials in Washington are using the breakdown, the first one in th history of the Soviet nuclear power industry, for a political blackmail against the USSR, and are seeking to blow it up into a political problem in international relations. In so doing they, in Washington, display a surprising forgetfulness as if nothing of the kind had ostensibly happened in the United States.

The leading circles of some NATO countries, and first of all those of the United states and Britain, are seeking to drum up a veritable hysteria around the accident. The hysterical campaign is centering on anti-Communism, anti-

Sovietism and on endeavours to strain international relations and to accuse the USSR and the entire socialist world at any cost. We are witnessing obvious attempts at driving a wedge between the USSR and other countries, neighbouring European ones, in the first place.

This is, finally, also an obvious attempt to divert attention from the main issues of our time which the Soviet Union brings up in the international arena, including proposals on ending any nuclear tests, and on banning chemical weapons, not to mention the set of proposals concerning nuclear and conventional arms.

The rapid progress of science and technology is fraught with not only successes but also material losses, as well as loss of human life. Not a single sector of human endeavour is an exception in this respect. Mankind has to pay for every advance. The study of outer space does not do without victims either. One can recall the 25th, seemingly perfectly rehearsed, launch of the American spaceship.

This also applies to researchers in the field of the nuclear power industry. There can be no exception in this field, although extraordinary and costly measures are taken to ensure people's safety. Man's endeavours to master all forces of nature cannot be regarded as finished.

The friends of the Soviet Union are standing at these moments by its side with full understanding. They are full of indestructible belief in Soviet science which does its best to make the natural environment serve man, and to make Atom -- the source of tremendous destructive and creative power -- serve only peace. This is the main thing which stands behind the resolute efforts of the Soviet people. This is the reply to the question what is behind the hysteria launched by certain circles of the capitalist world around the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

El Dia About Campaign of Slander in USA

Mexico City, May 4. TASS. The Mexican newspaper El Dia has exposed attempts by the USA and some other western countries to use an accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station for dirty political aims.

Despite official statements by the Soviet government on the situation at the nuclear station and accounts by foreign students and tourists who have returned to their countries from Kiev, the newspaper writes, the western mass media continue whipping up a vicious campaign of lies and slander in connection with the Chernobyl accident, sowing panic among population and undermining trust in Soviet science.

Attempts to picture the accident at one of the Soviet nuclear power stations as a sort of "nuclear danger", El Dia stresses, show clearly Washington's striving to distract the attention of the people from the genuine danger looming over them as a result of the escalation of the arms race in the USA and the Reagan administration's unwillingness to halt nuclear testing. The newspaper reminds its readers that Washington is drawing up plans to deploy nuclear weapons in outer space and continuing their testing in close proximity to the Mexican border.

They in the White House, El Dia points out, prefer, however, to keep silence over the danger which is posed to mankind by the American Star Wars programme, as well as over the danger of radioactive contamination spreading to Mexico.

Accidents at US Nuclear Power Stations

Washington, May 3. TASS. Some 20,000 accidents and faults took place at US nuclear power stations since 1979. This figure is cited in a report compiled by the US Public

Citizen organisation. The information collected by the authors of the report shows that the number of accidents at US nuclear reactors increases with every year. Thus, 2,310 accidents took place at 68 nuclear power stations in the USA in 1979. The biggest of them was a partial meltdown of a reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station not far from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The number of accidents reached 3,804 in 1980, 4,060 next year and over 4,500 in 1982. The number of accidents at nuclear power stations surpassed five thousand in 1983, with 247 of the accidents being assessed as particularly grave by the commission on nuclear regulation. In other words, the authors of the report point out that dangerous accidents happened at US nuclear power stations virtually every day.

Accident at British Nuclear Power Station in Kent

London, May 4. TASS. A serious accident took place at a British nuclear power station in Kent County on March 31, 1986, resulting in the discharge of radioactive gas into the atmosphere, the newspaper Observer reported today.

As the second reactor's new gas cooling equipment was being installed there on that day, it said, a blast occurred, followed by a radioactive gas leak.

Luckily, the Observer remarked, there were no casualties but the country's Central Energy Board threw a wall of silence around the accident and agreed to provide a certain amount of information only after repeated and persistent requests.

The question of the reliability of the equipment used was never raised, the paper said.

According to the local press this accident is not the only one at British nuclear fuel processing enterprises. As pointed out by another British newspaper, The Guardian, more

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than a quarter of a century ago a large disaster took place at the nuclear fuel regeneration plant Sellafield. Contrary to experts' requirements the British authorities did everything possible to conceal the scale of the disaster. As a result of the accident 13 people perished and more than 260 people were doomed to diseases caused by radioactive contamination. Since then, The Guardian notes, "nuclear alarms" at that nuclear plant, which is now called the Windscale, have sounded about 300 times, including four times within the first three months of this year.

(Pravda, May 5. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMALARI
TÜSTAV

ON THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR
POWER STATION

TASS Announcement

Expressions of sympathy and proposals for tembering aid are made to the Soviet government from foreign states, various organisations, private companies and individual citizens in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

TASS is authorized to report that the Soviet government expresses sincere gratitude to all those who have expressed their sympathy and understanding of what happened and offered aid and assistance. At present, we are able to deal with the consequences of the accident by our own means. Certainly, when assistance offered with good intentions canprove useful, it will be accepted with gratitude. Thus Robert Gale, a well-known US expert in radiology, has already arrived in the Soviet Union for consultations. Hans Blix, General Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), arrives in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet government.

One has to regret, however, that against the background of sympathy and understanding, attempts are being made by certain circles to use what has happened for unseemly political ends. Rumours and fabrications which are at conflict with fundamental norms of morality were put to use for propaganda purposes. For instance, faked reports are spread on a death toll running into thousands, panic among the population, etc. Engaged in this sort of activity are those who do not accept the very spirit of confidence and detente, to whom it is customary to kindle strife among nations. It is understandable to every normal person that maliciously

delighting in other people's trouble is an unseemly occupation.

As for the Chernobyl accident, work to eliminate its consequences and extend aid to those affected by the accident is going on at the station and in the surrounding area.

The service personnel of the station maintain reliable control over the state of the other three reactor units, whose operation was halted, and the cooling systems of the reactors.

From the Council of Ministers of the USSR

Work to eliminate the consequences of the accident continues at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. As a result of the measures taken in the past 24 hours, the emanation of radioactive substances decreased, the radiation levels in the area of the nuclear power station and in the settlement at the station lowered.

Measurements taken by specialists by means of control equipment show that the chain reaction of fission of nuclear fuel does not take place, the reactor is shut down.

Work is under way to clean polluted sections of the adjoining locality. Specialized units supplied with the necessary up-to-date equipment and effective means are engaged in this work.

Some news agencies in the West are spreading rumours that thousands of people perished during the accident at the nuclear power station. It has already been reported that in fact two persons died, and 197 people were hospitalized. Forty-nine of them were discharged from the hospital after a medical examination. Enterprises, collective farms and state farms and institutions are functioning normally.

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From the Council of Ministers of the USSR

Efforts to implement a complex of technical measures continued at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (NPS) on April 30.

The radioactivity on the territory of the NPS and the NPS' settlement dropped 1.5-2 times.

Work is under way to deactivate the polluted areas adjacent to the NPS territory.

Medical assistance is administered to those involved, of whom 18 people are in serious condition.

There are no foreign citizens among the affected persons.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

The Ambassadors of Great Britain, Finland, the Netherlands, and the charges d'Affaires of France and Austria were received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR on April 30-May 1.

On the instructions of the Soviet government, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Anatoly Kovalev informed them about the state of affairs dealing with the effects of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Gennady Yagodin, Minister of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education of the USSR, and Andranik Petrosyants, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy, took part in the conversations.

In the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station Area

On May 2 Nikolai Ryzhkov, Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of

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Ministers of the USSR, and Yegor Ligachev, Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the area of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. They familiarised themselves with the situation in the area and considered, together with the government-appointed commission and the leaders of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and the government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, party and local government bodies of the Kiev Region and the city of Chernobyl, measures being taken to eliminate the focus of the breakdown at the fourth power unit of the station, to normalise the situation in the adjacent area, and to render assistance to the local population.

It was pointed out that the work to correct the situation is being conducted in an organised manner and with the use of the necessary means. Decisions were taken on additional measures to expedite the work.

Nikolai Ryzhkov and Yegor Ligachev visited the populated localities where they met with people who had been temporarily evacuated from the area of the nuclear power station and inquired about arrangements for their life, trade and medical services, provision of employment, and the functioning of schools and pre-school institutions.

Taking part in the trip were Vladimir Shcherbitsky, Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, Boris Shcherbina, Chairman of the government-appointed Commission and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Alexander Lyashko, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Grigory Revenko, First Secretary of the Kiev Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

(TASS)

(Pravda, May 1-5. In full.)

UNREASONABLE ZEAL

V. Bolshakov

The newspaper Pravda commented on May 4 on fables and conjectures circulated in the United States and other NATO countries about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which Western propaganda is seeking to present virtually as some kind of international crisis.

A campaign of fear is being whipped up in the US press and on television, the paper said. Demands are being made for the United States to be given the right of "an immediate inspection and investigation on the spot." Why so? A total of 151 accidents at nuclear power stations are known to have occurred in 14 countries from 1971 to 1984 but Washington's reaction has never been like this.

The explanation is self-evident if one reads some comments in the Western press and ponders certain latest developments.

By artificially turning up an outcry, they are clearly out to distract world attention from the barbarity and disgraces of the recent US aggression against Libya, from the nuclear blasts in Nevada which have outraged all mankind and from the militarist Star Wars program.

It is this rather than public health that is the concern of the organizers of these propaganda shows.

Sensible people of the world realize that an accident has happened, against which nobody is guaranteed. The conclusions to be drawn from it will benefit the entire world community which has not as yet been able to rule out accidents at nuclear power stations.

The USSR stands for cooperation among states also in this field as it believes that nuclear power should be used

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exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Some people from among the advocates of a continued nuclear arms race in the NATO sphere apparently see this as a "threat". This is evidently why they have decided to inflate a propaganda cloud as big as possible in a bid to poison the international atmosphere.

(Pravda, May 4. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VE YAYIN KURUMU
TÜSTAV

SO WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?

The White House staff director, Donald Regan, who is currently in California together with President Reagan, has spoken to journalists.

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Asked by a correspondent of the American TV network ABC to comment on Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for signing a treaty banning all nuclear weapon tests during the next Soviet-American summit, Donald Regan, notes the correspondent, "made it clear that a complete renouncement of nuclear tests is not in the interests of the US". Parallel with this, the ABC reports, D.Regan said:

We are not against a treaty banning all nuclear weapon tests, but against the signing of such a treaty without a proper verification system. We want to be able to verify what they are doing and we think that they, too, want to know what we are doing. So if we succeed on the issue of verification and make sure it is effective enough, then progress as regards the signing of such a treaty will be guaranteed.

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The paper Pravda has asked the head of the Soviet delegation at the talks on ending nuclear weapon tests, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy A.M.Petrosyants to comment on this statement by the US administration spokesman.

X X X

I agree with Mr.Regan on that the issues of verification are an important element in the proposed treaty banning all nuclear tests. That was exactly why these issues were a subject of detailed discussion at the tripartite talks six

years ago with the participation of the Soviet Union, the US and Britain.

Later, the Soviet proposals on the issues of verification were concretised in the document "Fundamental Provisions of the Treaty on the Complete and Universal Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon Tests" which was considered by the 37th session of the UN General Assembly in 1982. It was envisaged by that document that verification of observance of the provisions of that treaty would be built on a combination of national and international measures. Specifically, national measures included the use of national technical means of verification and the handover of data obtained by those means to the other participants in the treaty. As for international measures, in addition to consultations and exchanges of information generally recognized by all treaties and agreements, they primarily provided for the exchange of seismic data which is the most effective instrument in verifying nuclear explosions. To this end, each party to the treaty would set aside a number of seismic stations to take part in the international exchange of seismic data through a specially organized agency. The document also provided for a system of communications and for the establishment of special centres for the interpretation of seismic data, for their location and so on. For the establishment of a seismic data exchange system our proposal provided for the formation of a special committee of experts from the participating states.

The Soviet proposal also provided for on-site inspections as a major verification component. We suggested working out a detailed procedure for such inspections, including a list of rights and functions of the inspecting personnel and the role of the host side in the course of the inspection.

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Moreover, it was proposed to add stipulations enabling any two or more participating states to agree on additional verification measures.

Our principled approach to verification was clearly formulated by Mikhail Gorbachev on July 14, 1986, during his meeting with representatives of the International Forum of Scientists to Stop Nuclear Tests. He said:

"...The Soviet Union is prepared to agree to any forms of verification, both national and international, including on-site inspection....".

Moreover, the agreement to have American control equipment installed in the area of Semipalatinsk in July this year practically corroborates our preparedness to accept international verification measures.

Meanwhile representatives of the US Administration on diverse levels, speculating on the need to continue the strategy of the so-called nuclear deterrence, approach the treaty envisaging a comprehensive nuclear test ban as but a remote possibility for the United States. Therefore the far-fetched issues of the complexity and insufficient reliability of the verification measures are being used as levers to hinder the drafting of such a treaty, and camouflage the true position of the US Administration -- its unwillingness to disarm.

On the face of it, Mr. Regan's statement looks like a change in the position of the American Administration. But the pending Geneva meeting of our delegations -- the American and the Soviet ones -- to discuss in September this year the ending of the nuclear weapons tests will show whether it is so in actual fact.

(Pravda, August 21. In full.)

TWO APPROACHES

The Soviet Union

* On July 30, 1985, a Statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was published. It said: "The Soviet Union has decided to stop unilaterally any nuclear explosions as of August 6 this year. We call on the government of the United States to stop its nuclear explosions as of this date which is marked worldwide as the day of the Hiroshima tragedy".

* On August 6, 1985, the Soviet moratorium came into force.

* On January 15, 1986, the Soviet Union declared: "We prolong for three months our unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions".

* On March 14, 1986, the reply of Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the joint message of the leaders of the Delhi Six was published: "The Soviet Union shall not conduct nuclear explosions after March 31 either -- until the USA carries out its first nuclear explosion".

* On March 29, 1986, Mikhail Gorbachev said in a Soviet television address: "As for our unilateral moratorium, I can say that it is still in force until March 31, 1986. But even after that date, as has been announced, we will not carry out nuclear explosions, if so does the United States".

* On May^{14, 1986,} Mikhail Gorbachev said in a Soviet television address that the Soviet government decided to prolong its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests until August 6 this year.

* On August 18, 1986, the USSR for the fourth time prolonged its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions.

The United States

* On August 18, 1985, the USA performed the first underground nuclear explosion after it had refused to follow the Soviet Union's example and freeze nuclear tests.

* On March 22, 1986, a nuclear device was tested in Nevada by the decision of the US administration. Such was the reply of the White House to the appeal by the Delhi Six leaders.

* On April 10, 1986, the USA conducted a nuclear explosion in Nevada code-named Mighty Oak. It was officially announced as the ninth explosion since the Soviet Union had announced its unilateral moratorium.

* On April 22, 1986, the tenth nuclear explosion was carried out in Nevada since August last year when the Soviet Union unilaterally proclaimed a moratorium on all nuclear explosions.

* On May 21, 1986, the eleventh nuclear explosion code-named Panamint was performed in Nevada. This was done soon after the Soviet Union prolonged its unilateral moratorium till August 6, this year.

* On June 5, 1986, the twelfth test was conducted in the underground tunnel in Nevada since the Soviet Union proclaimed a unilateral moratorium on August 6, 1985.

* On June 26, 1986, the USA performed the thirteenth nuclear explosion, on July 18 the fourteenth and on July 24 the fifteenth out of the officially announced explosions. Apart from that, the USA conducted another three unannounced nuclear explosions.

(Pravda, August 20. In full.)

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THE REPLY OF MIKHAIL GORBACHEV,
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
TO THE ADDRESS OF THE LEADERS OF ARGENTINA, GREECE,
INDIA, MEXICO, SWEDEN AND TANZANIA

To Mr. Raul Alfonsin, President of Argentina,
Mr. Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece,
Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India,
Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico,
Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden,
Mr. Julius Nyerere, First President of Tanzania

Dear Sirs,

I want to thank you for your address of August 7, 1986, in which you formulate a new concrete initiative, aimed at breaking the deadlock in the key issue of lessening the risk of nuclear war, ending nuclear weapon tests.

We are in full agreement with the conviction, stated in your declaration, that responsibility for protecting our planet is borne by all nations inhabiting it. The task of preserving human civilisation and preventing it from perishing in the flames of nuclear catastrophe is indeed a common cause for all states, all nations. If a nuclear war breaks out, it will affect each and every one of us.

We share your evaluation of the fatal consequences to which the use of even a small part of the nuclear arms arsenals existing in the world may lead. The process of their sophistication and further stockpiling is continuing, and nuclear weapon tests are contributing to it. That is why there is no task more urgent or important today than that of ending all nuclear testing. This measure could help in practice to halt the qualitative improvement and quantitative growth of the nuclear arms arsenals. We link to this measure the

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beginning of progress on the road leading to a nuclear-free world.

There are no obstacles to the end of nuclear testing except the position of certain powers, which is rooted in suicidal reliance on nuclear muscle. The interests of preserving human civilisation in the nuclear-space age urgently require new political thinking. It should be based on the recognition of the fact that the escalation of the nuclear arms arsenals, far from adding to security, can, conversely, bring about "zero" security, that is, total self-annihilation.

Guided by a sense of responsibility for the fate of mankind, we introduced a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. Recently, after it had been in effect for one year, the Soviet leadership decided once again to extend it, this time till the beginning of 1987. I want to stress that it was not an easy decision for us to make. You know that the United States, in spite of our moratorium, has not stopped nuclear explosions and therefore is making progress in the buildup of its nuclear arms/arsenals. Yet we think that our unilateral action is justified because it should contribute to the solution of the problem of nuclear testing and the deliverance of mankind from the nuclear threat. Taking this step, we believe that people in all countries will appreciate the long silence at the Soviet testing sites.

It is my profound conviction that if the USA joined the Soviet moratorium -- and our extension of the moratorium gives it another chance to do so -- a serious and responsible step would be taken towards stopping the sophistication of the most destructive weapons and their stockpiling.

This bilateral moratorium would undoubtedly help in achieving a treaty banning nuclear weapon tests. Verification measures which would be worked out to monitor compliance with the moratorium could, as you rightly note, become an important

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step towards the establishment of a system for verifying compliance with a comprehensive test ban treaty. In the general political context, too, the moratorium could create the preconditions for the conclusion of such a treaty.

We think that the Soviet-American talks which opened in Geneva in late July should be oriented to that goal. The Disarmament Conference could become an important forum for multilateral talks on the same problem if artificial barriers blocking its effective work towards drawing up a treaty to ban all test explosions are removed.

We think that the United Nations Organization, which has been debating the problem of ending nuclear weapon tests for more than three decades, has not yet exhausted its potentialities for resolving it and that they should be used more energetically.

It is our view that all possible effort in this field should be made and that one set of talks should complement another rather than preclude or replace it. I therefore believe that the meeting of experts from the six countries with Soviet and American experts proposed by you could make a valuable contribution towards the accomplishment of the goal of a comprehensive nuclear test ban and set the stage for energetic and businesslike talks on these problems. We are ready to send Soviet experts to such a meeting.

The Soviet Union has already expressed its readiness to make use of your offer of assistance in verifying the suspension of nuclear testing, including on-site inspection, naturally, if it is accepted by the other side, too. It would of course be useful to jointly discuss your new proposals and look for mutually acceptable solutions to the problem of verifying the suspension of nuclear testing.

It is clear from the Mexico Declaration adopted by you that we and you approach in the same manner the serious

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consequences with which the turning of outer space into a new site for the arms race is fraught. Just like you, we are convinced that space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, in the interests of all mankind. It is from this concept that our country's recent initiative, calling for the development of international cooperation in averting an arms race in space and in its peaceful use, proceeds. Concrete proposals aimed at preventing outer space from becoming a scene of military rivalry have been tabled by us at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons. We stand for tightening the regime of the ABM Treaty, which in today's conditions constitutes the foundation of strategic stability, and for full and unflagging observance of every stipulation of that document, concluded in perpetuity. We think much importance should be attached to reaching an agreement as soon as possible between the USSR and the USA on banning space-to-earth and space-to-space strike weapons and prohibiting anti-satellite systems, plus dismantling the systems already available to the sides. The Soviet Union is open both to the solution of the whole range of these problems in their entirety and to a search for individual agreements eventually leading to the above goal of dependably keeping weapons out of outer space.

You also touch upon the question of another Soviet-American summit in the Mexico Declaration. The Soviet Union stands for such a meeting. Yet this new meeting should serve the purpose of normalising relations between the USSR and the USA, improving the international situation and speeding up arms reduction talks. We would be prepared at such a meeting, for instance, to sign an agreement banning nuclear tests. In short, a Soviet-American summit should be really meaningful. This was the essence of the accord reached by the leaders of the two countries in Geneva.

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In conclusion I want to express confidence that our joint efforts to curb the arms race and to end nuclear weapon tests will eventually be translated into concrete measures leading to the accomplishment of that important goal.

Sincerely yours,

Mikhail Gorbachev

(Pravda, August 24. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

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MESSAGE TO MIKHAIL GORBACHEV FROM
THE DELHI SIX

To Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the
Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Esteemed Mr. General Secretary,

In our letters to you of October 24, 1985, February 28 and April 10, 1986, we expressed our fervent hope that the current negotiations between your country and the United States would be successful.

You will recall that we called on both yourself and President Ronald Reagan to undertake a mutual suspension of nuclear testing, at least until your next summit meeting. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your having unilaterally declared a moratorium on all nuclear tests.

As you know we have been meeting in Ixtapa, Mexico, over the past two days to discuss ways in which we might be able to help facilitate progress in arms control and disarmament. Today we have adopted the Mexico Declaration, the text of which will be duly transmitted to you via official channels.

We believe that we are in a position to make a contribution in the field of verification. We have outlined in a separate document some concrete ideas concerning how we could assist with such verification.

We welcome the fact that the USA and the USSR recently started bilateral talks on nuclear testing issues. We wish to propose that experts from our six nations meet with experts from your country and America. The details of time and place could be arranged through mutual consultations. The purpose should be to explain in detail the proposals which we have presented, to discuss how they could be implemented, and to

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explore other possible ways in which our six countries could facilitate test ban verification. We suggest the broadest possible agenda covering any verification issue that your experts may consider important. We hope that by making both you and President Reagan this offer, we might be able to assist in this crucial field.

Yours sincerely,

Raul ALFONSIN, President of Argentina
Andreas PAPANDREOU, Prime Minister of Greece
Rajiv GANDHI, Prime Minister of India
Miguel de la MADRID, President of Mexico
Ingvar CARLSSON, Prime Minister of Sweden
Julius NYERERE, First President of Tanzania

(Pravda, August 24. In full.)

WHEN THERE ARE NO ARGUMENTS

Comment by A.Maslennikov

Western propagandists become obviously inconsistent when they write about the USSR's decision to extend the moratorium on nuclear explosions till the beginning of next year. Thus, the London Times, having found no arguments to substantiate why Washington refuses to join in the moratorium, declared the Soviet initiative to be a "propaganda ploy".

In the opinion of this newspaper, a criterion of the seriousness of the approach to the problem of arms control could be a renunciation of that ploy, or in other words, resumption of nuclear explosions. A very perverse kind of logic indeed.

Speaking about why the moratorium idea is being such stubbornly rejected by leaders of the Western nuclear powers, The Times makes a very interesting pronouncement. The Russians must realise, it writes, that the possibility of reaching agreement on a treaty on universal prohibition of nuclear tests does not exist while President Reagan is in office, because in his opinion it is important for the United States to have a programme for testing its weapons system. In that way the propagandists on the banks of the Thames are trying to kill two birds with one stone: to sow mistrust in the feasibility of renunciation of nuclear explosions and at the same time to justify the position of their own government which again hastened to follow in Washington's wake. Why, they argue, persist and work for a moratorium if the US does not agree to it anyhow ...

It is hoped that despite such ploys the Western public will see who and what should understand regarding the

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cessation of the nuclear arms race. More and more people are coming to realize who is responsible for the continued slide towards the nuclear abyss. The slide, the barrier to which can and must be a universal moratorium on nuclear weapons tests.

(Pravda, August 26. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

POLITICS AND POLITICKING

V. Falin

For a year and two months there has been complete silence at the Soviet nuclear testing grounds. In that year and two months there have been many explosions at the American nuclear testing grounds. The US administration refuses to join in Soviet "propaganda" -- this is how it qualifies the nuclear test moratorium which the Soviet Union introduced in the summer of 1985 and has extended four times since. A nuclear test ban is being slandered and branded "a lie" designed to distract attention from more important things, while the American efforts in the field of nuclear testing for military purposes is being presented as "a contribution" towards curbing the arms race.

Absurd, you would say. Absurd, indeed. It is impossible to prove what cannot be proved without crucifying the truth. So they are raping the truth. A habitual occupation for Washington.

Let us recall the reaction of the US leaders to the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium in 1958. Moscow is engaged in propaganda, they said then. The "treacherous Russians" decided to put the West at a disadvantage and trap it. And while they said this, they tested with unprecedented intensity new types of nuclear weapons. The Americans conducted more than 50 unrequited explosions at that time. Among the arguments against an interim or termless test ban proposed by the Soviet Union were "the absence of trust", "difficulty of verification" and "asymmetry" in the composition of armaments of the sides. Like it or not, Washington kept telling the public, the United States and its allies consider nuclear weapons the basis of their military strategy and should

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therefore take care for its modernisation and combat readiness.

In short, Washington is now staging a show similar to the one played almost 30 years ago. One might think the past decades have flown by the United States without trace and have not compelled its leaders just to ask themselves: what's the use of making new mistakes and persisting in old preconceptions? The testing of the late 1950s and the early 1960s led to nuclear rivalry under water, pushed the missile race onto its present level and paved the way for development of the many other weapon systems that have made peace on Earth so fragile. It made everyone anxious and added nothing to US security.

Renunciation of experimental nuclear explosions was for President Eisenhower tantamount to renunciation of intercontinental weapons and the policy of ensuring American military superiority. The President-General was not prepared to rise above the people who surrounded him and those sick with nuclear fever. He could only give them the name military-industrial complex. What has the present head of the US administration on his mind? What are the visions which he cannot or does not want to part with? Considering "unpredictability" his trump card, Ronald Reagan is in no hurry to open the brackets. He may say one thing today and quite another tomorrow, depending on the prevalent mood in the Pentagon. The man will hardly give you a dull moment.

It's no fun, however, when the policy of a whole country, and not just an individual, becomes "unpredictable." Political "unpredictability" is akin to wilfulness and arbitrary rule. How can one negotiate anything with the "unpredictable" United States if it can renege on commitments all of a sudden under some pretext or without any pretext at all? Without batting an eyelid, the Americans would tell you that you should take them

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as they are. You don't like them? Nobody is keeping you. The United States can do without friends and partners.

A glaring anachronism. Yet, it is quite consonant with the logic of neo-globalism. Friends are a nuisance for those who want to lord it over in the world. Such people need servants, a retinue, a clique. They stick to the obsolete meaning of the word "policy," which Vladimir Dal defined in his famous "Dictionary" in this way: "Plans, intentions and aims of a sovereign, known to a few, and his actions, which often conceal these plans, intentions and aims." In order to be able always to have full freedom of action.

What the President passes in silence, his advisers and Cabinet secretaries blurt out. They do not attempt to conceal that the references to control, to a need to blow up from time to time a weapon gone stale in storage just for a try-out, or to catch up with the Soviet Union, are mere subterfuges to squeeze ever more money out of the taxpayer. The man-in-the-street can find his bearings in the sea of misinformation no better than in smog: at least, that is what the misinformation is intended for.

What exactly are they up to over there? Minutes of Congressional proceedings have recorded Pentagon representatives' recognitions that the United States is not in the least behind the Soviet Union. What they are after is not to catch up with us but to leave us behind.

And again, the Congress is not a confessional for tycoons from the military-industrial complex. They are really outspoken only among their own--for instance, when it gets down to dividing budget allocations. Only then do they recognise that it is not weapons of old makes that are being checked at the Nevada testing grounds but at least half a dozen hyper-new. The possibilities of using energy radiated in

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explosions for qualitatively new weaponry are also studied.

Laser weaponry is just one--but essential--alley of SDI research. The Strategic Defence Initiative is expected to be a failure if the laser effort is not a success. Hence the weighty "no" to the nuclear test moratorium: one can't develop a nuclear-pumped laser without making test explosions. Nuclear-laser technology is still in its cradle. Much water will flow under the bridge, and many nuclear tests will shake the soil before it becomes clear if the idea is at all practicable. The number of tests planned is unknown: the figures cited fluctuate between a few dozen and hundreds.

Mikhail Gorbachev called special attention to the fact that the weaponry being tested is fit for actual nuclear warfare. Information has become public that means of communication, homing devices and detonators are undergoing tests for survival capacity in actual warfare. Another object of underground tests is to check whether the accepted standards of passive defence and means of counteracting it fit in with the latest scientific information. Much is being done to make nuclear charges smaller and lighter for the sake of more accurate homing and longer range with the same explosive power and the same means of delivery. Last but not least, opportunities are sought for military use of transuranium-powered devices.

According to statements by workers of US nuclear laboratories, the catalogue of models for military use of the atom is as inexhaustible as the atom itself. It's just a question of orders and the amount of government-allocated funds. A phase shift in billionths of a second turns one nuclear process into quite another. Instead of a shock wave the weapon emits neutrons or other elementary particles. Truly boundless scope for the search of a greater evil, as if the one found were insufficient.

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Even a review-like, schematic acquaintance with the agenda of current and scheduled experiments in Nevada leaves no two opinions - they there are not merely preparing war. They are at pains to forge and nurture a weapon which is for the second time in half a century to make a revolution in military art. The USA miscalculated in its first attempt at world domination. The nuclear monopoly proved a venture with a short half-life. As a result, superpower led Washington into a deadend. Now they are inventing an "absolute weapon" which must also give them absolute power. Even if for an instant, but an instant long enough to accomplish their schemes.

It is not only weapons that are being tested in Nevada. The latest US military doctrines are also undergoing checks and fine-tuning on the range. These explosions test peoples' patience and their determination to resist the imperial longings of Washington.

Consequently, termination of tests is a military-technological problem in many ways decisive for the solution of the broader task of nuclear disarmament as set out in concrete terms in Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of January 15, 1986. But it is also a political, legal and moral problem.

Political because mankind cannot and must not be a hostage to anyone's "unpredictability." International relations are not a continuation of intra-American twists and turns or the factional struggle among US monopolies. People have the right to demand clarity. They are fed up with declarations. They need peace actions.

Terminating tests is a legal problem, above all in the sense that the USA, the USSR and Britain have a treaty obligation to work for a ban on test nuclear explosions and to reduce, rather than increase, nuclear rivalry. The day is drawing near when Washington and London will have to answer to

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more than 100 states for undermining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Moral because the planet has long been groaning under the burden of already-accumulated weapons. There will soon be no room left in Europe and some other regions for the erection of additional mountains of armaments and military equipment. It is time to stop before the irreparable happens, to realize that each new system and unit of weaponry takes from the peoples a part of their security and hope.

It is the duty of politics today to turn the possible into the real, the hopes of peoples into actuality. This is diametrically opposed to the schemes of the intriguers who put a gloss on evil. It is all too serious to allow anybody to throw the Earth into an uncalculated orbit. Common sense should prompt to each honest man his place at this crucial moment.

(Pravda, September 16. In full.)

A NEW, DECISIVE STAGE

Yuri Zhukov, Pravda's political correspondent

The decision by the USSR once more to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, its appeal to the reason and dignity of the Americans and its appeal to the US President not to lose again the historic chance on the road to terminating the arms race are an object of lively comment throughout the world.

However at the Californian ranch of President Ronald Reagan, where his apparatus has gone for the time of holidays, they are pretending as though nothing has happened at all. Anonymous "high-ranking officials" of the US administration, the State Department and the Pentagon have hastened to declare, as is reported by a correspondent of the CNN television network, that "the question of signing an agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests at this year's summit does not stand on the agenda of the US delegation at the forthcoming meeting."

Already this, the first, response from the US "high-ranking officials" confirms that the decision makers there remain unwilling to give up the old, militarist way of thinking. Some cheerful statements, it is true, are also being heard across the Atlantic according to which the Statement by the Soviet leader "opens the way" for a new Soviet-American summit.

In this connection it is permissible to ask: Did the Soviet Union before that put up any obstacles in the way of the meeting? Did it by its actions "close the way" for it? The Soviet Union always was and is a supporter of meetings at the highest level which give an opportunity to discuss and solve the major issues of international relations!

Furthermore, I - and probably many other Soviet citizens - have some other legitimate questions: How does Washington conceive the summit dialogue? What would they there want to talk about? What results do they expect from it?

Let us give some thought to this all. As we have learnt from the latest statements by US representatives, the Washington administration does not want to join the moratorium on nuclear explosions. It won't hear of any termination of nuclear tests. Neither is it going to discuss the question of preventing the militarisation of outer space, as, by the way, the President himself has confirmed. They do not want to abandon nuclear weapons - on the contrary, they are hurrying to create ever new, still more lethal varieties of such weapons.

And so I try in vain to find in the statements of US senior officials an answer to the simple and clear questions: How do they conceive the summit? What, in their opinion, should the leaders of the two largest powers talk about?

Washington has failed or does not want to understand the most important thing: whether one likes it or not, the Soviet moratorium does work for the cause of peace, works successfully, and the longer they will close their eyes to this, the greater the moral and political damage they will incur.

Oh, how much the bosses of the US military-industrial complex, who set the tone in the US capital, would like to have the USSR resume its nuclear explosions! How zealous they were carrying out one after another their 18 tests in Nevada, in the hope of provoking us into giving up the moratorium!

But the Soviet Union did not succumb to provocations. It has calmly and firmly warned: if need be, our state will be able to meet any US challenge, including the notorious programme of preparation for Star Wars.

Yes, our moratorium which has proved to be an impressive and understandable measure for hundreds of millions of people, is having ever growing influence not only on broad public opinion, but also on political parties, on governments and on the policy of many states.

The real meaning of the aggressive policy of the present US administration is becoming increasingly obvious. Not surprisingly, even Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General B.Rogers, has announced recently that the alliance of the US and its NATO partners is passing through a "highly critical period" now: the allies are demanding with growing insistence that their Big Brother should reverse from dangerous confrontation with the socialist countries to the search for mutually acceptable solutions.

Outside NATO, the effect of the moratorium on the international situation is being felt even more strongly. An authoritative group of six states representing four continents: India, Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, Greece and Tanzania has formed within the international peace movement. The group is consistently campaigning for the prohibition of nuclear tests and for the termination of the arms race. Their positions are shared by a majority of the non-aligned states. The Soviet peace initiatives are actively supported by the UN General Assembly.

Our moratorium is working even in the US where each peace initiative of ours is either presented in a distorted light or is simply buried in silence.

Whereas only this spring only 42 per cent of the Americans were in favour of a nuclear test ban, in summer their share grew to 56 per cent and now it stands at 80 per cent. Whereas last year after the declaration of our moratorium just a few members of the US Congress spoke in favour of joining it, in July this year their number reached 150, while a few days ago

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the House of Representatives passed a decision by 234 votes against 155 denying funds for nuclear weapon tests with a yield exceeding one kiloton.

The number of peace activists' organizations in the US is growing. Whereas in 1984 there were 1,350 such organizations there, in 1985 4,000 new local and 200 nation-wide anti-war organizations were founded. This year their aggregate number stands at 5,700. Increasingly often these organizations are establishing cooperation with Soviet anti-war organizations. This is quite understandable: more and more people are realizing into what a terrible deadlock America is being goaded by its present leaders obsessed with the arms race.

There begins a new stage of the struggle for the prevention of nuclear war - an exceptionally important, if not decisive, stage.

The situation on the whole is favourable for achieving success in this struggle. Available to the peace supporters now is a coherent, logical programme of action easily comprehensible for each and all.

People see that:

- the Soviet proposals of January 15 on liquidating nuclear weapons in the world by the year 2000 fully meet the requirements of our time;

- the package of constructive proposals put by the USSR on the table of negotiations in Geneva on nuclear and space arms opens the way for agreements;

- the complex of measures to reduce armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, proposed by the Soviet Union together with its Warsaw Treaty allies, awaits discussion and approval;

- the extensive programme of ensuring security and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Ocean drawn up by the Soviet Union meets the vital interests of the peoples of not

only this region, but of the entire planet;

- the Soviet Star Peace plan, opposed to the US Star Wars scheme and envisaging the creation of a world space organisation, awaits discussion in the UN;

- the new Soviet proposals on chemical weapons make it possible still this year or next year to sign a convention prohibiting these weapons and destroying their stockpiles and the industrial base for their production;

- the proposals tabled at the Stockholm conference by the USSR and fraternal socialist countries in cooperation with other participants of this conference have opened the way for the achievement of important agreements on the nonuse of force, on notification of military exercises and troop movements, on the exchange of annual plans of military activity and on inspections;

- a Soviet plan for the establishment of an international regime of the safe development of the nuclear power industry has been submitted for discussion with all interested organisations;

- the socialist countries have developed proposals for the creation of a comprehensive system of international security which await their discussion at the next session of the UN General Assembly.

No one will be able to deny the incontrovertible truth that the solution of the vital, burning issue of today - the issue of banning nuclear tests - would be a prologue to the realisation of this all-embracing programme and to a dramatic improvement of the political climate in the world.

(Pravda, August 22. Abridged.)

SDI AND THE GAS MASK

K. Georgiyev

Any sane person would wonder what the gas mask has to do with the American Star Wars programme. But it is well known that Washington has invented many stories to advertise SDI.

In one of them, a space-based missile defence, which is being developed under the SDI programme, was compared to a gas mask. The comparison took President Reagan's fancy and in his nationally televised address the day after the end of the Reykjavik meeting the President, telling the Americans about his efforts to convince Mikhail Gorbachev that it was sensible and necessary to have a space-based missile defence system even if all offensive ballistic missiles were eliminated, said: "I likened it to our keeping our gas masks even though the nations of the world had outlawed poison gas after World War One."

Let's probe the meaning of this statement without bias. What if it reveals the truth?

Before discussing whether it is possible to compare such incomparable things as space weapons and the gas mask, let us first see whether the President was right when he said that "the nations of the world had outlawed poison gas."

Unfortunately, poison gas as well as other types of chemical weapons have not yet been banned. The 1925 Geneva Protocol, which the President apparently had in mind, only prohibits their use, but does not ban the stockpiling or production of chemical weapons.

It would be appropriate to recall here that unlike the Soviet Union and most other countries, the United States had ratified the Geneva protocol only 50 years after its signing and 30 years after World War Two, not World War One. The

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United States widely used chemical weapons in the aggression in Vietnam. Little wonder people prefer to keep their gas masks.

The United States is also to blame for the absence of an international convention that would ban chemical weapons and ensure the elimination of their stockpiles and the industrial base for the production of this weapon of mass destruction. Then, as a matter of fact, there would be no point in keeping the gas masks. The draft of such a convention was submitted by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to the Geneva Committee on Disarmament in 1972. That apparently urged the United States to "let off steam" and at least ratify the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

However, after that the United States have been blocking for years the efforts to work out a convention on the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. Moreover, it is developing at a fast pace new, even more lethal types of these weapons, against which no gas mask would protect. It was only thanks to the persistent efforts of the Soviet Union, which has made far-reaching proposals in this area, that signs of progress have appeared at the talks to ban chemical weapons.

That's how the matters stand with poison gas and gas masks. So the whole story on which the effort to liken SDI to the gas mask rests is false.

The main question, however, is this: how can any rational person compare the gas mask, with which you cannot kill a single person, even if you hit him with it on the head, to a colossal space-based system which could be used as both an offensive weapon and a "shield," from behind which one could deliver a first nuclear strike.

Things must really be hard for Washington if it resorts to such comparisons.

(Pravda, October 27. In full.)

WHY DO THEY NEED TESTS?

In a bid to justify their reluctance to join the moratorium on nuclear explosions, the high-ranking representatives of the US administration, and, echoing them, many of the American mass media assert that more nuclear tests are needed to reveal the reliability of the American arms arsenal.

As the same time Dr. Jeremy Leggett from the information center for verification technology (London) has published a letter in the Guardian, in which he rejects the US administration's argument that tests are necessary to make sure that nuclear bombs in the arsenals are in a working condition. Referring to experts' opinion he writes that this is only needed to create more sophisticated and more destabilizing weapons of a new design.

Pravda editors asked USSR Deputy Minister of Defence General of the Army V. Shabanov to comment on these statements.

I know about the statements of the US officials concerning the necessity for the US to continue nuclear weapons tests for what they say remaining confident in the efficiency of the available nuclear arsenal, he said. This argument doesn't hold water, however. It is intended for people - there are quite many of them - who do not know the military and technical aspects of the problem.

In actual fact, the check on the existing arsenal is far from being the chief goal of nuclear tests. Military experts are very well aware that most of them are carried out with the aim of perfecting and testing new types of nuclear weapons.

Quite a few examples on this score can be taken from American military programs. The MX ICBM is now undergoing flight tests. Mighty high-precision nuclear warheads are being developed for this first-strike missile.

Several variants of nuclear warheads are being created for the new Midgetman small-size missile.

The new generation of SLBMs, Trident-2s, will also be provided with high-precision nuclear warheads.

New nuclear warheads are being developed in the US also for the next generation of strategic cruise missiles.

Neutron and other more efficient nuclear ammunition is being elaborated for tactical missiles and artillery.

Nuclear space weapons, worked out under the SDI program, show the true goals of nuclear tests in the US. This is especially true of nuclear-pumped lasers. Washington regards these as a most promising attack weapon for warfare in space.

According to different sources, the US experiments with converting nuclear explosion energy into other types of controlled energy for hitting various targets in and from space.

It becomes clear why Washington does not accept the Soviet proposal on stopping all nuclear tests. While harping on "problems of verification", it continues developing new samples of nuclear weapons. In this sense Doctor Leggett is not far from the truth.

Those who are responsible for the USSR's defence are closely watching the White House's efforts to develop the American military-technological potential. If need be, Soviet science and industry will worthily respond to Washington's attempts aimed at upsetting the existing military and strategic balance.

(Pravda, August 29. In full.)

WILL REASON GET THE UPPER HAND?G.Vasilyev, Pravda's own correspondent

Speaking these days to Americans, reading papers or listening to radio and television programmes, one gets convinced that the extension by the Soviet Union of its moratorium on nuclear explosions until January 1, 1987 and the profound and realistic assessment of the international situation made in the Statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev, on Soviet television have had a great impression on the United States. The sober-minded Americans have received these moves by Moscow as a practical manifestation of the new way of political thinking.

The Americans knew that the Soviet moratorium had expired on August 6 and that Washington had responded to Moscow's goodwill with a series of nuclear explosions in Nevada. So many people here were wondering how the Soviet Union would act under these circumstances. Would it resume its own nuclear tests, for which the USSR had more than enough grounds, or would it meet the requests of the world public and extend the moratorium once again? The "hawks" had clearly hoped for the former, but the move so vigorously provoked by the Pentagon strategists and by the arms manufacturers never happened.

The people of goodwill in the US are giving credit to the Soviet Union for its patience, consistency and profound responsibility for the world's future. Well, but how about those for whom the echo of the explosions in Nevada is sweeter than any music?

I have made a telephone call to the Washington-based "Coalition for Peace from the Position of Strength", an ultra

right-wing organization uniting retired generals who have learned nothing, some of the more reactionary members of Congress and anti-communist professors. At learning that I wished to hear their opinion about the Soviet Union's decision to extend the moratorium, the line first went dead and then a voice said that the specialist on this issue was not around.

So I dialed the number of another well-known extreme right-wing centre, the "Committee on the Present Danger", but the people who answered the call refused to discuss the issue of the moratorium either. In that the "hawks" who are usually so vociferous were so uncharacteristically silent this time one could clearly sense confusion and the fear of self-exposure on their part. The bravest character among the right-wing warriors proved to be General Daniel Graham, a former chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the current director of the High Frontier - a militarist organization which is pushing through the Star Wars plans. He barked that the Soviet moratorium "is of no special importance" since in his high opinion "the salvation of mankind is in the deployment of defensive weapons in space".

The General did not bother with any niceties. But then why should he if the US administration which apparently thinks along the same lines has likewise instantly rejected the Soviet proposal for signing an agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests?

The nonconstructive, avowedly militaristic stand of the White House cannot but cause here the indignation of those who have hoped for gleams of reason in the actions of the administration now approaching mid-term, and then also presidential elections. For the situation now in the USA differs from what it was in those days when the right-wing Republicans coming to power declared that they would leave communism on the ashheap of history and began to implement

their 2-trillion-dollar programme of rearmament at an accelerated pace. There is no longer any dominance of warhawks in America's political firmament or any preparedness of legislators unhesitatingly to adopt the power, confrontationist solutions to international problems suggested by the administration.

Important reasons underlie the serious changes now evident in the political climate of the USA. More than five years of an intensified buildup of "military muscles" have not brought the USA victories on the international scene, but they have burdened heavily the economic organism of the country. The awareness of the threat of nuclear catastrophe has become a powerful factor setting the public in motion.

Recently President Reagan, clearly losing self-control, in a temper scolded the US House of Representatives, accusing it of sins for which in the years of McCarthyism serious troubles had awaited an American. He said that the legislators were recklessly undermining the US national defences. Those charges were brought against the congressmen for the fact that before summer recess they had voted for a whole series of decisions trimming the Pentagon's budget and inducing the administration to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union.

A week earlier the Senate passed a number of similar decisions, though in milder form. The differences are to be resolved in September by a House-Senate conference committee. The White House threatens to veto an "unacceptable" bill. Be that as it may, the legislators' "rebellion" reflects the growth of antiwar sentiments in the country and on Capitol Hill.

It is sometimes written here that a struggle goes on within the US administration over the questions of foreign and military policy. An influential group of the most active "pushers," upholding the interests of the military-industrial

complex and backed by the extreme rightwing forces of the country, would have the White House embark on an unbridled arms race and the abandonment of existing Soviet-American agreements. To judge by the real actions of the administration, the warhawks have so far clearly prevailed in the Washington kitchen debates. The "moderates" can only claim some propaganda tricks designed to soothe the US NATO allies and blunt the criticism on Capitol Hill.

Fortunately, there are still clever men in the USA the brightness of whose mind and the breadth of whose views do credit to the American people. I phone to California, to the small town of Salmon Creek where there lives the remarkable scientist, Lenin Peace Prize laureate and holder of two Nobel prizes, Linus Pauling.

"The report that the Soviet Union has extended its moratorium on nuclear explosions has made me very glad," says Professor Pauling. "I have always been for a universal and complete ban on nuclear tests. Such a treaty would be an important step. Of course, I know that President Reagan is against, that he intends to go on testing new nuclear charges. But I do not lose hope. I want to believe that realism will eventually prevail in Washington."

As I listened to Pauling, a long past rainy day came to my mind. A line of demonstrators near the UN building and a tall lean man marching in its ranks with a poster demanding an end to atomic tests in the atmosphere. Then, in 1963, Pauling's appeal and that of millions of like-minded men throughout the world was heard. Reason triumphed over political intrigue. The Partial Test Ban Treaty was concluded in Moscow. What a sigh of relief all mankind would draw if now, twenty-three years later, an agreement on banning all nuclear tests were signed at the Soviet-American summit meeting.

(Pravda, August 26. Abridged.)

ONCE AGAIN ABOUT LOGIC

K. Georgiyev

In the October 22 statement on Soviet television, Mikhail Gorbachev said that a campaign was launched in the United States to whitewash the destructive position of the American administration, which came to the meeting in Reykjavik unprepared, with an old baggage, and when the situation pressed it into giving clear answers, wrecked the chances to wind up the meeting with agreements. As Mikhail Gorbachev said, the main force was mobilised to defend the SDI programme which was disgraced in Reykjavik.

Here I would like to comment on some of the methods used by SDI advocates.

In a bid to prove that President Reagan's position on SDI in Reykjavik was logical, they say that when the President proposed replacing the ABM Treaty with a new agreement that would regulate the development and deployment of space-based missile defence systems, he argued that such a treaty would make the number of defence systems deployed dependent on the number of ballistic missiles remaining after reduction.

If we use logic and make a simple count, that would mean that since the sides agree to reduce to nought the number of all strategic weapons, including ballistic missiles, of course, within 10 years, the number of space-based missile defence systems designed for deployment should also be brought to nought by the end of the 10-year period. If there is no sword, there will be no need for a shield.

Washington thinks differently, however. It says that even if there are no ballistic missiles, the United States should have the "right" to deploy a certain number of space-based missile defence systems.

What number? How can one compute it? The problem is

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nonsensical, as scientists say. It cannot be solved even with the aid of mathematical logic (I hope mathematicians will forgive me).

Since the White House does not accept even the simplest logic, it decided further to befuddle the issue. Representatives of the US administration say that they are prepared to share that mysterious amount with the Soviet Union so that either side had a certain amount of SDI systems.

We leave this problem for the succeeding generations of mathematicians to solve. So far, a substantive reply to all these proposals has been given by Mikhail Gorbachev.

First, he made it clear to the President that in any case the Soviet Union was not going to copy the American SDI programme. Our answer to it will be effective but asymmetrical. Time will show what it will be.

Second, as Mikhail Gorbachev said in his televised address on October 14, it was made clear to the President that we did not take seriously the idea of sharing the results of SDI research with the Soviet Union. How can one trust the seriousness of this promise if the United States does not want to share with the Soviet Union even oil-mining equipment or equipment for dairy factories?

The President seemed to be offended by that remark and said that he would have abandoned SDI if he had thought that its results could not be shared.

Sounds fine, doesn't it? But when American journalists asked the President's National Security Advisor, John Poindexter, what the United States was prepared to share with the Soviet Union, his replies confirmed what the Soviet leader had said.

The President said that the United States was prepared to share with the Soviet Union SDI "technology," "systems" and missile defence "facilities," whereas Poindexter told the

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journalists that a transfer of technology did not necessarily mean that both sides should have facilities and control systems for them which could be shared.

When the journalists persisted and asked for an explanation of that illogical statement, Poindexter said that sharing SDI did not mean sharing technical documentation. Yet, he said, one could envision a situation when both sides would have access to a command and control system controlling sensors and defence systems.

No more questions were asked. Everyone understood the "dialectical" nature of White House logic (the Soviet leadership realised that from the start) when "share" also meant "not to share" and "transfer" first meant "transfer no one knows what" and eventually "not to transfer anything."

Such is Washington's logic.

(Pravda, October 24. In full.)

MORATORIUM AND VERIFICATION

A Soviet Expert's Comment

Academician M. Sadovsky,

Director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Institute
of Earth Physics

Few scientific disputes result in such convincing unanimity of opinion as the discussion of the possibility of detecting and identifying underground nuclear explosions.

The question has a long history. It should be recalled that experts agreed that it could be resolved positively at a meeting held in Geneva as far back as 1958. The participants in that meeting, including the world's leading scientists such as Nikolai Semenov, Igor Tamm, Ernest Lawrence, John Cockroft, William Penney and Hans Bethe, came to the conclusion that a nuclear test ban treaty could be effectively verified and worked out a document in which they formulated conditions for the establishment of an international system to monitor underground nuclear explosions.

However, some six months after the Geneva meeting, the American side presented "new seismic data" that "refuted" the scientists' conclusions. Unfortunately, the people who were behind that "refutation" achieved their objective. The Geneva agreement of experts hung fire and this led to the growth of doubts and suspicion among non-specialists about the possibilities of seismology.

The possibilities of science have grown many times since then. There are now absolutely no grounds for questioning the possibility of detecting and identifying nuclear explosions with the aid of existing national facilities. Nevertheless, the harmful effects of the "new data" subversion are still being felt and manifest themselves in misconceptions which are quite common in the West. This confirms the importance of

information about the real state of affairs and about the opinion of scientists who are experts in the field.

Thomas Cochran, senior researcher with the US Natural Resources Defence Council, was a member of a team of American scientists who participated in a seismic project staged near Semipalatinsk last July in collaboration with the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

He believes that joint Soviet-American experiments are necessary for the elimination of American suspicions about Soviet compliance with a nuclear test ban treaty, if such a treaty is signed.

It should be noted that Thomas Cochran considers existing technology and methods, with the Soviet Union and the United States having the same number of stations, sufficient for registering explosions with a yield of less than one kiloton.

The American scientists themselves have managed to prove that it is impossible to conceal underground explosions by carrying them out in huge underground cavities ("decoupling"). Moreover, as Thomas Cochran justly said, such explosions are difficult to carry out and can be easily detected by non-seismic means. American seismologist Charles Archambeau and others proved that the monitoring of the high-frequency component of earth tremors reduces the camouflage power of "decoupling" dozens of times.

Thus, there is no obstacle to a nuclear test ban treaty. However, my almost 30-year experience of participating in the campaign to ban underground nuclear explosions does not allow me to be confident that the US administration will not invent some new pretexts. The Americans openly tell us that they do not trust us. We, including myself, can just as well tell them that we do not trust the US administration.

(Pravda, September 23. Abridged.)

THE BRANCH, THE SWORD AND REASON

Vitaly Korionov, Pravda's Political Commentator

With growing anxiety people all over the world are listening to the rumble of the nuclear blasts coming from the American testing grounds in Nevada. More and more often they ask: will this continue for ever? Where will this lead?

Such questions are asked also by some Soviet people, who are undoubtedly patriots and have reason to worry about their country's security. Here is in front of me a letter from A. A. Ryabov, a young specialist from Moscow, which came to our office a few days ago.

"One need not be a prophet to realise that the Americans will not agree to a moratorium and therefore to continue it means to harm the security of this country and, at the same time, give the United States the hope that it can outrun us while we keep up the moratorium," he wrote. "You can't stop a sword with a branch. A sword can only be stopped with a sword."

Frankly speaking, I understand Comrade Ryabov and the causes that made him write us. Indeed, the situation is not simple. For more than a year now we have not conducted nuclear explosions. In fact, the Soviet Union was never keen about them and conducted much fewer explosions than the United States. Moreover, a third of them was conducted for peaceful, economic purposes. One can understand what this 18-month break means for our socialist state at a time when the Americans keep on exploding nuclear devices and are not going to stop. The American press says the Pentagon is planning hundreds of explosions.

Doesn't in this situation the moratorium harm the security of this country and its allies? Is our restraint justified?

Such questions are only natural. We have never concealed the fact that it was not easy for the Politbureau of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and the Soviet government to decide to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions till January 1, 1987. It was a very responsible and difficult decision for the Soviet leadership. And the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee frankly admitted this. Nevertheless, we did take such a decision and life and the course of events serve to show that it was right.

First of all, we must not shut our eyes to the time we live in. We live in the nuclear weapon age. It was said that only a sword can stop a sword. That was true of the pre-nuclear age. The sword of our time is, mainly, the nuclear sword. That is why mankind is so worried. Where shall we come if we start wielding this sword as unthinkingly as the American militarists are doing? Even if the two swords symbolised the balance of strategic forces (it still exists), these nuclear swords would be too dangerous for mankind. They carry equal danger for all, not security.

Our epoch calls for new mentality. The problems of the nuclear age cannot be solved if we are guided by old preconceptions. And these problems are the survival of the human race and all life on Earth. In our time it is impossible to ensure the security of states by military means alone. Today, it is, to a very great extent, a political problem. This is the view of our party and our country.

The Soviet Union has pledged never to be the first to use nuclear arms. It proposed the world's first realistic and all-embracing programme for stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons by the end of the century. As an example to emulate, it stopped nuclear tests on a unilateral basis: an act that won it even more respect on

the part of the world community, which sees that we confirm our word by deed. Our steps do not stem from weakness. On the contrary, fury is a display of weakness, to quote a 19th-century author--just such fury as now displayed by hawks in Washington. Hawks view the progress of history with trepidation, as their positions aimed to justify nuclear tests shrink like chagrin leather. Time works against nuclear Big Stick policies as carried into space. The Soviet Union, on the contrary, represents a world confidently progressing towards the embodiment of humankind's most radiant hopes. Only a party that feels great responsibility to its nation and the entire globe is able to make such daring steps as the CPSU is making.

We may hear the following objection: but the United States is going on with its dirty business. Clearly, the development of entirely new kinds of weaponry intended for nuclear warfare on Earth and in space is the main aim of US nuclear tests.

The United States is going on with that--for the time being, I venture to say. History itself is against hawks. Our moratorium plays an ever greater role here. A crucial factor of current global politics, it works for the benefit of nations and of international security.

The Soviet moratorium is a practical step towards nuclear disarmament. It has triggered a worldwide discussion, whose progress demonstrates that our action enjoys the support of most people in the world. Mankind's conscience approves of what we are doing. Most UN member states welcome our actions, which are meeting ever greater understanding in developing and non-aligned countries. The stance the Delhi Six have taken is but a single instance to illustrate the latter point. The voice of reason sounds ever louder in the United States as well, the Congress included. It is far easier to enumerate those who come out against the moratorium. The present US Administration finds itself in ever fuller moral and political

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isolation--in what might be called a moral bunker. It is hardly possible to stay in that bunker for long.

To all appearances, the present Administration will oppose the stopping of nuclear tests to the bitter end: too great is the pressure of the military-industrial complex on it. But there are things in this world which do not depend on the US Administration--and on the United States, for that matter.

The "war party" did act in the United States in the previous decades too, but we nevertheless managed to break its resistance in the 1970s (with the help of level-headed influential forces in the United States) and conclude a series of major international agreements that created a barrier to an uncontrolled arms race. Some of these agreements are still in force. Why then should we give up trying to seek the conclusion of new agreements? On the contrary, we must step up these efforts and we are convinced that they will succeed in the end.

We believe in human reason and the reason and dignity of the American people. For the present policy of US ruling circles leads the cause of security of all countries and peoples, including the security of their own people, into a hopeless impasse. Working together with all thinking mankind, we are leading the peoples into a world without wars and without weapons. Sooner or later the majority of people in the world will go this only right way.

Of course, we have absolutely no illusions about the people we have to deal with in the capitalist world. Therefore, the security of our country is a sacred cause of the Party, the government and our whole people.

Brandishing nuclear weapons, the imperialist forces, especially in the United States, are trying to scare the Soviet people. They are pinning special hopes on the Star Wars programme, which they deceptively call Strategic Defence

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Initiative. At the same time, they hope to force the USSR into unnecessary expenses. This card too will be beaten however. The United States has no monopoly on scientific and technological progress in the military field. Moscow knows how to devalue the Star Wars programme in case of need, and it can do so faster and at less expense than Washington believes.

"As regards our economic problems, we would like to find faster and better solutions to them and therefore we would welcome any opportunity to divert money and resources from defence to civilian sectors and to the cause of advancing the wellbeing of the Soviet people," Mikhail Gorbachev said in an interview to the newspaper Rude Pravo. "However, we shall never sacrifice our security interests and we shall not make concessions that would harm it, at negotiations or elsewhere. The Soviet people would simply not allow us to do so."

The Leninist Party will never allow anyone to damage the security of this country or its socialist friends. Soviet people may rest assured on this score.

At the same time, we must bear in mind that economic might is the foundation of effective security of this country. The cause of peace directly depends on how well and enthusiastically everyone of us works at his workplace. We know from history and from more recent experience that whenever we fail, the enemies of socialism step up pressure on us. When we grow stronger economically, socially and politically, the capitalist world becomes more interested in maintaining normal relations with us and the illusion that the course of history can be changed crumbles.

Our Party pursues the right policy. It is a far-sighted and well thought-out policy. If we follow it without deviation, we shall foil the designs of the enemies of peace and further strengthen the cause of socialism and international security.

(Pravda, September 18. In full.)

UNIVERSALITY OF MORATORIUM

Reflections on the Political and Military
Effect of Nuclear Test Suspension
Academician Y. Primakov

Some political decisions are radical in the role they play, generating new tendencies and opening up fundamentally new ways of development of the international situation. One of such decisions is, beyond question, that of the Soviet leadership about extending the nuclear test moratorium until January 1, 1987. The USSR has unilaterally started suspending these tests while the US is persisting with nuclear blasts in the Nevada test range. That was by no means an easy decision for the Soviet side to make. Yet make it it did. And it did so advisedly rather than impulsively under the influence of time-serving considerations, as one can see also from Mikhail Gorbachev's replies to the Rude Pravo questions.

New Approach

The Soviet Union's unilateral suspension of nuclear tests is a practical expression of the foreign policy line sketched out at the April 1985 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee and worked up by the 27th Party Congress. The CPSU proclaimed: the only way out of the close nuclear confrontation fraught with the danger of a fatal explosion for all human civilization is through a new approach to relations between States and this new approach calls for a new kind of political thinking. A major element of such thinking is desisting from attempts at gaining military superiority over the opposite side as a way to ensure one's own security. In other words, there is the fundamental conclusion that with the progress of military technology at its present level and with

the actual prospect ahead for it, it would be totally unreasonable to count on the military way of assuring security. It is political means, above all, that are required.

Positive ideas acquire their true value only when they materialize. The best way to materialize them is by showing that you can do it, that is by demonstrating your own ability to pass from suggesting an idea to putting it into practice. The USSR has demonstrated this ability. Creating a good chance for an accord with the United States about ending nuclear tests outweighs, in our judgement, the sacrifice that the USSR is deliberately making by extending the moratorium for the fourth time. One should note, in particular, that what we mean is an accord that implies dependable verification. Nobody is suggesting a test ban alone without anything to go with it, as some opponents of the moratorium in the West claim. The suspension has been designed to enable the opening of talks and success in bringing about a verifiable nuclear test ban under a proper international treaty.

A Breakthrough

The Soviet Union's decision to impose an 18-month moratorium on nuclear testing is an invitation to the United States to make a breakthrough into a new political thinking in the main military field. A nuclear test ban is conducive to a halting of the most dangerous process of the upgrading of nuclear weapons. Moreover, it is a universal measure in the field of disarmament, through which it is possible promptly to limit the development of all nuclear weapon systems, strategic, medium-range and tactical. A nuclear test ban is also the most rapid and radical measure that can be carried out today to limit armaments: it makes it possible to surmount a great number of obstacles arising from technical, strategic, geo-strategic and political imbalances.

It should be noted also that a nuclear test ban can play a significant role in halting the spread of nuclear weapons. The problem of non-proliferation is acquiring more and more significance today. It is known that some countries are making efforts to develop nuclear weapons. The situation is aggravated by the fact that these countries (Israel, South Africa, Pakistan and South Korea, for example) threaten their neighbours and actively participate in regional conflicts. Their going nuclear may not only create a serious and immediate threat to a number of neighbouring countries but also further destabilise the international situation and, eventually, provoke a nuclear war.

Political Implications

Furthermore, a nuclear test ban can more effectively than any other single urgent measure bring about a change in the public and political climate in the world. There is ample reason to believe that a Soviet-American nuclear test ban agreement will strengthen trust between the two countries and create conditions conducive to the settlement of dangerous regional conflicts in the Middle East, West and South Asia, Central America and Africa.

The Soviet decision to extend its moratorium on nuclear tests, resulting from new political mentality, takes into account the sentiments and views of politicians, scientists, experts and large segments of public opinion in many countries. And in adopting a new political thinking one cannot ignore the growing role of public opinion all over the world.

On July 14, 1986, when Mikhail Gorbachev met with the participants in international conference of scientists in Moscow, leading scientists from the United States, Britain, Italy, France, Japan and Sweden asked the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee to extend the

moratorium. A similar plea was made to the Soviet and American leaders by the leaders of six countries, signers of the Delhi Declaration -- Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden. Public opinion polls taken in the United States also indicate that the number of people favouring a nuclear test ban tends to grow. One of the reasons for this is that the Soviet moratorium, which the American press hushed up at first, received more and more publicity and gained popularity with each new extension.

The Public's Role

Even as they defend their specific interests, leaders of the capitalist world cannot close their eyes to the significance of public opinion when they elaborate political decisions. That is why they do their best to manipulate public opinion. We take that opinion into consideration as a major influence on politics, and spare no effort to thwart ill-intentioned manipulation of the public; that is part and parcel of the Soviet approach to international affairs--and has fully proved its worth.

The sequence of recent events can be represented as a cause-and-effect chain: the Soviet Union for four times prolonged its unilateral moratorium--which gave the lie to allegations about the Soviet war threat and about the Soviet foreign-political initiatives being meant entirely for propaganda--which accounted for a certain public opinion shift in the US, other NATO countries and Japan--which brought about certain differences in the stances of the US and some of its allies on the possibility of compromise in the relations with the USSR--which somewhat changed the stance of both Houses in the US Congress on issues connected with Soviet-American talks, including the end to nuclear tests.

The chain misses its final link: shifts in the US

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Administration's position. But as one can well see, the Administration will come under ever more pressure whether it meets the Soviet Union halfway on the nuclear test ban issue or prefers to negotiate on bringing down the nuclear explosion threshold; whether it simulates progress or openly marks time. Whatever it will do, the Administration has less elbowroom than before. Everything indicates that this fact will to a certain extent tell on the next Presidential elections.

Their "Arguments"

In his replies to the Rude Pravo editor, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee has well shown the set of aspirations that have caused fierce opposition to prohibiting nuclear tests, and in the most convincing way exposed the false arguments used by the advocates of nuclear rivalry. Washington has already tried a whole series of "arguments" against the Soviet proposal that the US should join the moratorium. At first those were the far-fetched problems of verification, and then, when the USSR had clearly demonstrated that they actually do not exist, Washington was forced to assume talk of linking continued nuclear tests to security for the USA and its allies. The US military are saying that they need tests not only for the qualitative development of nuclear weapons and a changeover to other systems, in particular the realisation of the Star Wars (SDI) scheme, but also as a means for checking the combat effectiveness of existing nuclear arms. Yet if tests are really necessary for the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, they aren't indispensable for checking the existing nuclear warheads, in the authoritative opinion of leading American, other Western and Soviet scientists. Consequently, by insisting on the continuation of nuclear tests, the US politicians and military really talk not of security, which is

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based on the preservation of military-strategic balance with the USSR, but of attempts to upset it and achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union.

It must also be said that the US refusal to cease nuclear weapon tests faults by itself better than all logical constructs the thesis of Washington's official military policy that the USA is striving to free mankind from nuclear weapons, which, specifically, is made out as the case for the SDI programme, directed in reality at gaining the possibility of delivering a first nuclear strike.

* * *

We are living in a space and nuclear era, in a mutually dependent though contradictory world. Under these conditions, time for the adoption of decisions is very limited, it quickly runs out. A realisation of this fact not only by the Soviet Union, but the United States and all other nations must clear the road for the new way of political thinking without which mankind would doom itself only to going up the down staircase.

(Pravda, September 11. In full.)

SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

The other day, the United States additionally put into service a 131st heavy bomber equipped to carry long-range Cruise missiles, this without dismantling an equivalent nuclear-weapon delivery vehicle in compensation. By making this step, it overstepped the aggregate limit fixed in the SALT-2 Treaty of 1,320 units on the number of MIRVed strategic ballistic missile launchers and Cruise missile-armed heavy bombers. The US does not conceal that this amounts to its total abandonment of the SALT-2 Treaty which, as the American Administration put it, was left behind it. Therefore, practical actions followed President Reagan's statement last May of intent to break out the 1972 Interim Agreement and the 1979 SALT-2 Treaty, a statement that drew anxiety and condemnation around the world.

A treaty which has sealed military parity between the USSR and the United States and limited the nuclear arms race for a number of years in its central area -- the field of strategic offensive arms -- has now been trampled underfoot. The value and usefulness of this agreement consisted in its provisions on the sides' commitments to observe both quantity and quality restrictions on their strategic nuclear systems. The SALT-2 Treaty provided for substantially narrowing possibilities to modernize such systems. Besides, it set corresponding limits on the main groups of strategic systems. Compliance with all these provisions, based on the sides' recognition of the principle of equality and equal security, guaranteed strategic stability and served as the point of departure in the search for ways of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons.

The decision to beef up the US arsenal of strategic systems and violate the SALT-2 Treaty has been dictated by

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nothing other than a desire by Washington to upset the military balance between the USSR and the United States and assure itself military superiority. These actions could seriously affect international security.

By undertaking them, the United States opens the gate to an unlimited race in strategic nuclear arms, which will inevitably sharpen the dangerous rivalry in the military field. The refusal to abide by the agreed restrictions on the quantitative growth and qualitative modernization of strategic offensive arms may make the situation unpredictable.

The United States has dealt the final blow to the SALT-2 Treaty just now, but it has been undercutting it for more than one year. In the very first days after taking office, the Reagan Administration axed ratification of that Treaty. At the same time it launched activities that were in clear violation of the SALT-2 Treaty. Ignoring the special restrictions set by the Protocol to the Treaty, for example, the United States has started mass deployments of long-range Cruise missiles. Washington has obviously also circumvented the Treaty by stationing its medium-range missiles in Western Europe as a supplement to the US strategic potential.

Work has forged ahead at full tilt, in the meantime, on an unprecedented program for modernizing and building up strategic offensive arms in all areas, with new MX and Midgetman intercontinental ballistic missiles, B-1B and Stealth strategic bombers and nuclear-powered submarines with Trident-1 and Trident-2 missiles being developed and built.

Washington's attitude to the issue of stopping nuclear weapons testing has been a vivid manifestation of the militarist fever gripping it. The United States has not only refused to follow the example of the Soviet Union and declare a moratorium on nuclear explosions but has been reluctant to discuss the issue and declined to go into talks whose aim

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would be a complete and ultimate end to nuclear weapons testing.

The SALT-2 Treaty was, of course, a serious impediment to all these militarist programs. This is why Washington decided to do away with it once and for all.

The military-industrial bosses' interests, connected with the development of a large-scale anti-missile defence system with space-based elements and of space strike weapons, enter into conflict with the ABM treaty in just the same manner.

By the 'Star Wars' programme, the United States wants to extend the spiral of the arms race over to outer space and to convert outer space into a military citadel and staging area for US hegemony. This is why, to the US administration, the ABM Treaty is the next target after the SALT-2 Treaty. The US Administration has set about gradually shaking that agreement loose as well.

Washington cannot but be aware that such a policy is evoking great indignation in the world. Hence, the endeavours to cover it up with talk about 'mutual restraint', and with declarations of commitment to nuclear disarmament, statements which are accompanied with all manner of allegations of violations by the Soviet side of obligations. The United States' renunciation of the SALT-2 Treaty dispels all that verbiage and fully lays bare the militarist essence of the US policy for the whole world to see.

As for US propaganda efforts to misinform the world public by ascribing to the Soviet Union violations of the strategic arms agreements, those are a desperate and dishonest attempt at diverting attention from the United States as the true disrupter of strategic stability and at finding some kind of justification for its departure from the international treaties.

The Soviet Union has always strictly and honestly abided by all the articles and all the provisions of the SALT-2 Treaty, just as those of other international agreements.

It is significant that the United States has decided to attack the structure of fundamental accords in the field of strategic arms limitation precisely at a time when a prospect for an improvement of the international situation had appeared at long last.

The Soviet programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 has found wide-spread understanding and a favourable response throughout the world. The initiatives which were put forward on the basis of the programme and with which our country went to the meeting in Reykjavik opened up real ways towards a nuclear-free world. The idea of a comprehensive system of international security is striking deep root. The new thinking in international affairs which has found reflection, in particular, in the Delhi Declaration signed by the leaders of the USSR and India recently, is more and more tangibly supplanting the dogmas of power politics. Possibilities for a fundamental change in the entire international situation have begun to show.

The choice of precisely this moment by the US administration to torpedo the SALT-2 Treaty cannot be regarded otherwise than a major act of provocation and an attempt at stopping the tendency towards relaxation of international tension. The US step is a logical element of the campaign of malicious attacks against the historic opportunities which the Reykjavik meeting offered and which would open up the road to a nuclear-free world which, as it transpires, is much dreaded by US militarists.

Washington is making a big mistake. Exceeding the limits set by the SALT-2 Treaty will not strengthen US security. The six years the present Administration has been in office

confirm: in the field of arms limitation the Administration, without constructing anything, has destroyed and is destroying much.

Naturally, the US decision, as the Soviet Government warned in its Statement of May 31, 1986, gives the Soviet Union all grounds to regard itself free from its commitments under the 1972 Interim Agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty.

At the same time, the Soviet side believes that there is still an opportunity for stopping the dangerous course of events being provoked by the irresponsible actions of the present American Administration.

In America and outside it, it may be presumed, there is still enough political wisdom and even a sense of self-preservation to not allow the entire structure (built over 15 years) of accords limiting strategic arms to be wrecked.

Taking into account the immense universal importance of the issue and the need to preserve the key constraint on the strategic arms race, the USSR refrains for the time being from abandoning the limitations under SALT-1 and SALT-2 Treaties.

All who cherish the cause of peace should realize that the task of uniting the forces in favour of the persistent search for a way out of the dangerous impasse into which the US militarist circles are pushing mankind is urgent and acute today as never before. A sturdy barrier should be placed in the way of the imperial ambitions for domination on Earth and in outer space.

The Soviet Union, for its part, resolutely counterposes a course of peace and international security to the irresponsible policy of the current American Administration.

(Pravda, December 6. In full.)

WILL NEVADA EVER BE SILENT?

Press Conference in Moscow

A total nuclear test ban is a top priority, a short cut to nuclear arms reduction and their subsequent elimination. So it is only too natural for it to be integral to the proposals put forward by the Soviet side at the Reykjavik meeting.

This conviction was reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration, signed during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Y.M.Vorontsov said in his opening address at the press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists on a nuclear test ban at the Foreign Ministry's Press Centre on December 2.

Because of the American stand in Reykjavik on compliance with the ABM Treaty, there were no final accords, unfortunately, on any of subjects under discussion, the speaker went on to say, but the parties were as close to an understanding on the test problem as they were on the issue of strategic offensive arms and medium-range missiles. President Reagan acknowledged, in particular, that the US and the Soviet Union were beginning the talks whose ultimate objective was a total nuclear test ban.

However, on the test issue, too, the American side has since been disowning the Reykjavik accords.

In dealing with the present US Administration, we have seen more than once that whenever it finds its own position to be a nuisance to it in any way it drops it just like a pair of gloves it needs no more. This applies to the issue of tests, too. Once the argument about the inadequacy of verification has proved to hold no water, it has, indeed, become clear to all that the "King is naked": the US just does not want to stop the tests.

The reason behind the refusal to end tests is because the

US is openly banking on military superiority over the USSR by creating a third generation of nuclear weapons.

The fact that the verification problems have been no more than a subterfuge has been borne out by the third round of the Soviet-American talks just over.

Referring to the outcome of the third round of the Soviet-American talks on a nuclear test ban in Geneva, the Chairman of the USSR State Atomic Energy Committee, A.M. Petrosyants said, in part: following persistent Soviet proposals, there were the first consultations in July, 1986, after a six-year break, on matters relating to the ending of nuclear tests. And only after Reykjavik was some ground actually broken. At the opening of the third round in November, the American side announced that it had arrived not for meetings as it had earlier insisted but for negotiations. That was some movement ahead already. But there was none on the main issue. There was practically no search of ways to end the tests of nuclear weapons.

The American delegation suggested that we deal with minor issues, such as measuring the yield of nuclear blasts. Though those questions were of little importance for the Soviet side, which had declared a full and unconditional moratorium on nuclear tests, we were prepared to discuss them if the American side had said that it considered those issues as a step towards the conclusion of a nuclear test ban treaty or agreement. Unfortunately, it was not so.

The American side says that a nuclear test ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons should be the last, not the first step at the negotiations to ban nuclear testing. This thesis is devoid of any logic. Any unbiased person can see that a ban on testing is a first step towards halting the upgrading of nuclear weapons and preventing the development of new types of destruction weapons.

Unfortunately, the American side keeps talking about the "ultimate," or "long-term," goal. It would be natural to ask what a "long-term goal" means. Does it mean a year or two or three years? How long will it take? The answer is this: only when the situation in the world will be conducive to it, when nuclear weapons will no longer be needed. And while there are nuclear weapons, testing must continue. Such is the position of the American side. It makes it absolutely impossible to begin to prepare a treaty. No wonder the third round of the talks produced no results.

Y. M. Vorontsov, A. M. Petrosyants and I. L. Nersesov, corresponding member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences who headed the joint Soviet-American experiment in Kazakhstan, replied to journalists' questions.

Question: How was the question of banning nuclear tests formulated at the negotiations between Mikhail Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi?

Answer: For decades India has been in the forefront of the struggle to ban all nuclear weapon tests on Earth. The participants in the talks in Delhi made their positions abundantly clear. Both sides called for an early and effective test ban and the documents of the Delhi meeting reflected their viewpoint. India is a leading member of the Delhi Six group of countries and therefore Mikhail Gorbachev told the Indian Prime Minister what he had told in his reply to the group's appeal. He said that the Soviet Union was prepared to co-operate with the Delhi Six in seeking the conclusion of a nuclear test ban treaty.

Question: A group of Soviet scientists visited the United States in November. Could you tell us about the course and results of that trip? Did they conclude any specific agreements with the US Natural Resources Defence Council?

Answer: That trip had been originally planned for

September because by that time the bulk of the work to prepare a joint experiment in the Soviet Union had been completed: we had installed three monitoring stations. The American government gave Soviet scientists permission to come to the United States only in November. Using material prepared by American experts, we have picked out three sites near the Nevada testing ground, the way we did it in the USSR. We have agreed to install there soon equipment for on-surface seismic monitoring. No Soviet specialists will participate in running that equipment because we have no permission to stay in Nevada. Besides, it has been decided to drill at those sites 100-metre wells and install new equipment there, the way it was done in the Soviet Union.

For the time being, our partners are not sure whether the American government will allow them to drill wells at those sites, because all the land in those areas is government property. So, we are not on an equal footing with our American colleagues in the project. In the Soviet Union, we have organised, as it was agreed, observation points, drilled wells and are now waiting for new, more advanced equipment to arrive. And in the United States, we are just in the very beginning of the experiment and it is the US government, not the Council, that is responsible for this.

Question: Some people in the US, for instance, the expert Rowny, have been recently saying that the allegedly closed nature of Soviet society makes it difficult to check what the Soviet Union does to observe the control agreement. Please comment on those statements.

Answer: It must be difficult for Mr. Rowny to keep abreast of the time. Who can seriously speak of a closed Soviet society when our country is offering that American scientists work at our nuclear testing grounds? The Soviet Union has consented to on-site verification wherever necessary, and has

actively promoted that arrangement in Stockholm. The Soviet Union proposes that the severest possible control were imposed on the reductions of nuclear and conventional weapons in Europe.

Question: What new developments do you observe after Reykjavik in the nuclear test ban issue?

Answer: In Reykjavik, understandings were accessible on stopping nuclear tests: at any rate, on starting Soviet-American negotiations on that score. But following the Reykjavik summit, the United States rejected everything discussed there. Some countries, the Delhi Six among them, offer their services to participate in talks together with the United States and the Soviet Union, and jointly elaborate the entire mechanism of the appropriate international verification. Unlike the latest US stance, these are hopeful developments.

Question: Mr. Shultz, the Secretary of State, has recently said that the Soviet Union and the United States have agreed upon the music in stopping nuclear tests. The tune is to be discussed now. Does that statement present the true picture? What are the available agreements like, if there are any?

Answer: The Secretary of State has got somewhat carried away by metaphors. We hear only one tune from the US, a rather noisy one: that of nuclear explosions. So both his metaphors distract the attention from the real state of things.

Other questions were also answered.

(TASS)

(Pravda, December 3. In full.)

AN IRRESPONSIBLE STEP

Vitali Gan

According to Department of Defense spokesman Robert Sims, the United States is inaugurating the 131st B 52 strategic bomber armed with nuclear-tipped Cruise missiles. Thereby it will exceed the limit imposed by the Soviet-American SALT II Treaty. It will not take compensatory steps, such as scrapping outmoded Poseidon subs, that would enable it to remain within the limit.

Robert Sims said President Reagan had decided to waive the commitment following a White House meeting with Secretary of Defense Weinberger and State Secretary Shultz. He "motivated" the intentional US breach of the arms race limitation accord as a reaction to a Soviet "military threat" and alleged Soviet violations of SALT II.

Yet behind the piles of lies one can clearly see the true motives for this irresponsible step. Mr. Sims said, notably, that the United States could not afford cuts in its deterrence forces structure. In other words, SALT II, which has always incensed the Washington opponents of detente, is an obstacle to the military-industrial complex and its political agents getting a free hand for going on with an unlimited arms race.

In dismantling SALT II, the Washington Administration again appears before the world as a mouthpiece of militarism.

(Pravda, November 29. Abridged.)

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR
STRATEGIC STABILITY

December 8 saw an international press conference at the Foreign Ministry's Press Centre on the Soviet position as per the system of agreements concerning strategic arms limitations.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Alexander Bessmertnykh made the following statement:

Events the consequences of which may have the most serious impact on the further development of the international situation have been happening lately in the field connected with strategic stability in the world.

The United States has not only announced its rejection of the 1972 interim agreement and the SALT-2 Treaty but actually exceeded one of the main limitations recorded in that Treaty by putting into combat service a 131st bomber equipped to carry Cruise missiles. Thereby the United States has taken a provocative step, a step without precedent designed to wreck the Treaty structure for limiting the arms race.

Washington has come out in the role of violator of the process for cardinal reduction and liquidation of nuclear arms.

The present administration was brought to the flouting of the SALT-2 Treaty by its attitude to the fundamental security issues. This attitude is based on an obsolete stereotype of the old way of thinking which would seem to say one's own security can be achieved at the expense of the security of others.

Also manifest here is the peculiar logic of American diplomacy when one set of things is said for the public and different things are done in practice. Look for yourselves:

In Reykjavik the President of the United States gave his

consent to the liquidation of all strategic offensive arms within an agreed period. But now the United States opens the floodgates for an unlimited build-up in precisely these arms.

In Geneva the American delegation says that it is proceeding from instructions "to move ahead". But in reality it is not taking a single step towards accords and is putting a brake on the talks.

Washington talks much about the importance of an "atmosphere of trust". Yet they are actually leading things to growing unpredictability in the development of the strategic situation and suspicion in relations between states.

While declaring that SDI would make nuclear weapons unnecessary, the USA has set out to build up its nuclear potential in both number and sophistication.

To sum it all up, one can say that the current US Administration, which does not have to its credit a single agreement on arms control, is wrecking the agreements in effect in that field, is setting records in military spending, is initiating arms race in outer space and leading things towards undermining the ABM Treaty too.

There is a quite definite impression that they in Washington are in a hurry to bind the future administration with mutual responsibility in the field of the arms race.

In these conditions the Soviet Government had all grounds, one may say, to automatically relieve itself of the respective commitments under the Treaty and the agreement being demolished by the Americans.

But the Soviet leadership thoroughly weighed up the political, military and moral aspects of the evolving situation and arrived at the conclusion for the need to apply additional efforts to ward off the threat of slipping down to the road leading to strategic chaos from mankind.

In this connection, the Soviet government stated on

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December 5 that the USSR refrains for the time being from withdrawing from the restrictions under the SALT-1 and SALT-2 Treaties.

In taking such a grave decision, the Soviet Union proceeds from the enormous importance of the matter for all humankind, and from those noble and humane motives which stand behind the Soviet programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, behind our unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and behind the large-scale, compromise proposals made by the USSR in Reykjavik.

The Soviet side is giving the leaders of the United States an opportunity to weigh once again with all responsibility the possible consequences of its actions, to heed the unanimous opinion of the international community and sober voices coming from political and public quarters, some in the US. The Soviet Government's decision is also a call upon the US Administration to show genuine restraint, to stop and refrain from steps that would finally derail the agreements on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments. There still exists a way out of the situation, and measures are still possible which would prevent an uncontrollable buildup of the strategic offensive arms.

As to the Soviet Union's future line, we will continue pursuing persistently a peaceful and dynamic foreign policy, but, as Mikhail Gorbachev said a few days ago, "no one shall be able to exploit our interest in peace to make us forgo our security".

Then Alexander Bessmertnykh and Col.-Gen. Nikolai Chervov, department chief at the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, answered newsmen's questions.

QUESTION: Will unilateral observance of SALT-2 harm Soviet security?

ANSWER: As it continues to observe the SALT-2 limits, the

Soviet Union will attentively evaluate the developments and watch US action. We know what the other side is like. Whatever the Soviet Union does, including its unilateral steps, is well thought out lest our security suffers. The Soviet Union will not allow anybody to achieve military superiority.

President Reagan's decision to torpedo SALT-2 is an attempt to act from strength. But the Soviet Union is a mighty and proud power that will never waive its security and independence, never allow anybody to exercise diktat in its respect.

Neither Star Wars nor the nuclear arms race will lead the United States to military superiority. We have every economic, intellectual and military-technical potential to answer any American challenge. The Soviet Union does not aspire to greater security. But it will not consent to lesser security either. Such is the will of the nation as expressed by the 27th CPSU Congress. It is sacred to us, and will be so ever after.

QUESTION: What do the words "abstains for the time being" mean in the Soviet government's Statement? How long will the Soviet Union display reserve?

ANSWER: After the US Administration made a practical step to violate one of the key SALT-2 limitations, the Soviet side has every lawful ground to be free of Treaty limitations. If emotions alone guided Moscow's action, that would be the way to behave, perhaps.

But after the Soviet leadership regarded the issue attentively and in detail from the viewpoint of common sense and the logics underlying our policy, it decided that the Soviet Union will observe the limitations for the time being. For how long, you ask? Much depends on the United States, mainly in the military-strategic field. Will the US make compensatory efforts to return to the Treaty limits? Or will

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it go on violating that and other SALT-2 premises?

The Soviet Union will watch the US action with the utmost attention. We shall watch out whether US military programmes endanger parity.

QUESTION: The Soviet government's Statement says that the United States is committing a major error by cancelling SALT-2. What does it mean?

ANSWER: The US Administration must have failed to realise how its decision to cancel the Treaty would influence the United States' national interests and security. If the structure controlling the strategic arms race were buried, it would lead to unforeseeable results, and to lack of assurance as to how the parties exercise their strategic programmes.

SALT-1 and 2 contain many premises to dependably monitor strategic developments. Now, chaos and instability threaten us to hamper international security and negotiations on nuclear and space weapons: it is difficult to base understandings on insecurity, which could follow from the course the US is imposing on the world.

We suggest that the United States display genuine reserve: that it strictly adhere to treaties and agreements, and confine itself to agreed ceilings. Only that approach can be the basis for strategic stability and constructive negotiations.

Other questions were also answered.

(TASS)

(Pravda, December 9. In full.)

WHO IS HURRYING TO BURY THE SALT-2 TREATY AND WHY?

Today Pravda is opening a new column entitled "From Different Standpoints". It will comprise the most typical pronouncements by the press and politicians of the Western countries on pressing issues and commentaries by Soviet journalists, scientists and public figures.

On February 3 the newspaper carried the full text of an article by Robert Dole, the Republicans' leader in the US Senate, published in the New York Times and the commentary on it by Pravda's writer on international affairs, Nikolai Kurdyumov. We offer the text of the commentary to our readers.

* * *

The Republican Senator from Kansas has assumed an unenviable role of a grave-digger for the SALT-2 Treaty. His article is a graphic illustration of the attempts to use every possible means, stopping at nothing, for justifying Washington's decision to torpedo this important document. It is relevant to say here that even many of Dole's colleagues in the Senate qualified this move as a "tragic error".

Such views are well-grounded. The provocative character of the US actions is perfectly clear. Washington has violated the Treaty. By President Reagan's statement and by phasing in the 131st strategic bomber carrying Cruise missiles the United States officially refused to observe the document which for a number of years contained the arms race in its central sphere - strategic offensive weapons. It was violated not to remove a threat to the American "retaliatory-strike potential", as Dole claims, but with the obvious aim of breaking the military parity between the USSR and the USA.

It is a generally recognised view that the compliance with the SALT-2 Treaty ensured strategic stability, helped

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strengthen the sides' mutual confidence, and served as a starting-point for the search for ways of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons. It is also no less obvious that by violating one of the major limitations laid down in the Treaty the United States made a most dangerous move aimed at ruining the treaty structure of the arms race limitation. But, contrary to logic, the Senator has gone to the length of saying that not the renunciation of the Treaty by the US Administration but Congress' decision to observe it would allegedly undermine the chance of attaining an agreement on reducing armaments.

Equally false are the arguments in support of "solid reasons" which have supposedly exhausted all the President's patience and forced him to forswear the treaty. Senator Dole follows the well-trodden path of groundless allegations about nonexistent violations of the SALT-2 Treaty by the Soviet Union. As it has been repeatedly stated by competent Soviet authorities, the Soviet Union has indeed developed a new light ICBM known in the West as SS-24 in response to the deployment of the new MX first-strike missile in the US. But it has done so in full conformity with the treaty which allows the development of one new missile. Besides, and also in accordance with the treaty, the USSR has modernized one of its missiles adopted about 15 years ago. It has been replaced with a missile known in the West as SS-25. So why is the Senator trying to pass black for white? Is it not to prevent Congress from quelling the militarist frenzy of the Administration?

However, for sheer lack of facts the Senator keeps resorting to falsifications. Take, for example, his allegations about a "colossal build-up" of the Soviet military potential, whereas in actual fact the opposite is the truth. The figures on Soviet and American strategic offensive weapons presented by the Soviet side to the US President at the

meeting in Reykjavik convincingly show that whereas in the overall number of launchers there is approximate parity between the two sides, the proportion in the number of warheads on strategic delivery vehicles is 10,000 to 14,800. In other words, the American side has an almost 50 per cent superiority in the number of nuclear warheads.

All this is certainly known or ought to be known to the Senator who holds the prominent position of the Republican minority leader in the Senate. So if Robert Dole nevertheless resorts to such groundless allegations and deliberate desinformation, these must really be hard times for him.

As it is, it could not be otherwise. Why, even some of the Republican Senators have joined the Democrats to propose a bill providing for the Administration's return to the observance of the SALT-2 quantitative level. Even the "hawks" in Washington are beginning to realize that the attempts to vilify the peace-loving policy of the USSR convince very few people and do not produce the desired results. So the article by Robert Dole clearly meant for "domestic consumption" is the latest proof to this effect. Incidentally, who could have told the Senator about the "Moscow's obvious and right opinion" that the SALT-2 Treaty is "obsolete". There is no such opinion in Moscow. On the contrary, we consider the treaty highly important. The Soviet government has announced that it will stick to its provisions for the time being despite the American refusal. The self-restraint shown by the Soviet Union in response to the provocation by the US which has trampled upon the treaty encounters wide-spread support and approval in the world. At the same time, it effectively corners the US Administration.

This explains the frantic attempts by such officials as Senator Dole to bury the SALT-2 Treaty and mankind's hopes of stopping the frenzied arms race.

(Pravda, February 3. In full.)

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SAFETY GUARANTEED

Physicians firmly say that there is no risk to the health of holiday-makers in the Baltic, the Crimea, Odessa or the Caucasus, Izvestia wrote on May 24 in its answers to numerous questions from readers about conditions at health resorts in the European part of the USSR this year and the quality of food in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station.

Yuri Stupin, chairman of the Central Health Resort Management Council of the Soviet Trade Unions, said in an interview to the newspaper that there were no doubtful "sections" or areas with even slightly higher radiation levels at the health resorts.

The recall of health resort vouchers issued earlier was explained by the decision to make available several thousand accommodations, mostly on the Black Sea coast, for prophylactic purposes to people who had lived in Chernobyl and around it and had been evacuated from the 30-km zone. About 2,000 accommodations will be made available near Anapa and 1,500 in Yevpatoria for health-building Young Pioneer camps. Gelendzhik and Adler will play host to parents with children and Anapa mostly to children. Quite a few accommodations have been set aside at the Dimitrov health resort in Kislovodsk, North Caucasus, and at the Kuyalnik health resort in Odessa for those who had worked within the accident zone.

As for food quality, Anatoly Zaichenko, deputy chief state sanitary expert of the USSR, told the newspaper that all the foodstuffs were thoroughly checked. Dairy products are checked at least twice, at farms and at dairy factories. The processing of milk into butter and cheese, Zaichenko said, makes these products absolutely free from radioactivity. The state continues to purchase food in the Ukraine and

Byelorussia.

The chief of the main Veterinary Board of the State Agri-Industrial Committee of the USSR, Alexander Tretyakov, told the newspaper that the cattle headage from the accident zone had been fully preserved. The animals have been taken to new farms and are being closely monitored by veterinaries. The farms which took them in were given additional fodder stocks. The livestock privately owned by those who were resettled from the accident area has been bought by the state.

As for the poultry taken out of the 30-km zone, it was not affected, Alexander Tretyakov said, due to several factors, such as biological protection, containment indoors and last year's fodder.

(Izvestia, May 24. Summary.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARŞİVİ
TÜSTAN

Chernobyl: Chronicle of Heroism

ARMY RELIEF EFFORT

A.Gorokhov, Pravda Special Correspondent

I am beginning this reportage from a bunker dug under one of the buildings of the atomic power plant. Situated 600 metres from the damaged reactor, the bunker is the control outpost which coordinates efforts to abolish the consequences of the accident.

The fact that the armed forces are handling the bulk of the work involved in combating the aftereffects of the accident points once again to the scale of the disaster. "For all the gravity of the accident, its damage has been limited thanks mostly to the courage and skill of our people, their loyalty to their duty and their concerted actions..." These words from M.S.Gorbachev's statement over the Soviet Television on May 14 fully apply to troops. In peace-time troops are handling what is in effect a combat task. This is the main focus of the active political work conducted by Party organisations with military personnel, the work gauged by war-time standards. Party organisations at every level, all Communists, with every tenth serviceman holding a Party membership card, are doing everything for orders, the instructions of the government commission and experts' ideas, some of them very unorthodox, to be communicated to every soldier and officer as soon as possible and implemented with an eye for the specifics of the situation.

Army Party organisations are working in close contact with the local Party committees. A few days ago the Communist Party of the Ukraine awarded diplomas to a large group of helicopter pilots.

Its painful to look at depopulated settlements, fields and pastures with not a man in sight, at orchards in bloom. Towns

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and villages within the 30 km evacuation zone are kept clean and in order thanks to the medical and hygienic schemes promptly organised inside the zone and where troops have been stationed. Everywhere at house gates you see inscriptions "activated" and "desactivated" left by chemical corps troops and civil defence units.

Major-General (Medical Corps) N.Kryuchkov told me what army medics were doing to help the evacuees. Some 40,000 people underwent health screening at medical battalions and people were given expert advice to give them peace of mind. I was asked to write that the houses of the evacuees are preserved intact. Also, people, particularly anglers and those who like to gather mushrooms and berries, were warned that the 30 km evacuation zone had been sealed off and they should not try to penetrate it.

Army medics have surveyed all water sources, soil and food stocks. All troops are healthy. A few soldiers have been exposed to increased radiation levels not dangerous to health. Not to mention the heroes who performed a feat in the first few hours and days following the accident and who, risking their health, saved thousands of lives.

Since May 9 the bunker's population, which consists of representatives of all ministries and government departments involved in the relief programme, has included Col. Y.Keleberda from the national civil defence staff. He took over from Col. V.Dolgoplov. Col. Y.Keleberda told me about the mission of the bunker's people who coordinate daily efforts and keep the government commission and Chernobyl task groups up to date on the situation. The bunker is, of course, not the best place for the work of its inhabitants. It is crowded and it is hot there. However, effective teamwork is under way.

In this difficult period Soviet citizens have again

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demonstrated the inviolable unity of our society and its noble humanism. They have shown that the Party and the people and the people and the army are connected by the strong bonds of combat and labour traditions and friendship among the country's numerous ethnic groups. In Chernobyl I talked to many people and went to quite a few army units. Nowhere was there any sign of cowardice or indiscipline. Efficient and high-spirited, all those involved in the relief programme are resolved to complete their mission as soon as possible.

The main thing for us now is to lay a reactor foundation with a cooling system, I was told by I. Silayev, a Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. This is anything but easy, he continued. Defying difficulties, this job is being tackled by troops together with metro builders and Donbas coal miners. Actual events differ from what people imagine them like. We are reviewing some ideas upturned by developments. The accident has certainly added to our experience. The accident is putting people, solutions, intra-economy links and the public's cooperation with the armed forces to test. Of course, we have a number of issues to settle. In general, people are passing the exam with flying colours, he added.

The army continues with its relief effort.

(Pravda, May 20. Abridged.)

THROWING STONES IN A GLASS HOUSE

On a Letter Sent to Izvestia Editor-in-Chief
Ivan Laptev by Hans Joerg Kastl, the Ambassador
of the Federal Republic of Germany to the USSR

"Dear Mr. Laptev,

"People who live in a glass house should not throw stones. This idea comes to mind when one reads the article headlined 'An Absurd Show' published in your newspaper on May 7 of this year. Mr. Lapsky arouses indignation by his cynicism.

"The Chernobyl accident is a disaster for the Soviet Union. The State and citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany sincerely sympathise with the Soviet Union in the misfortune. The Federal Government has conveyed this sympathy to the Soviet Government. The Chernobyl accident, the scope of which the Soviet Government is not yet able fully to evaluate or monitor, is, however, a hazard to the more close and the more distant neighbours of the Soviet Union.

"The prime duty of any government is to ensure the safety of its citizens. It is up to the Soviet Government to decide on the form it deems it necessary to discharge this duty; but, for goodness' sake, it is the concern of the Federal and Land authorities in our country, and not of Mr. Lapsky or your newspaper, to decide how the safety of our citizens should be ensured. To criticise the conduct of German authorities is a legitimate right of our freely elected people's representatives in parliaments.

"Some of them even reproached the authorities for having belittled the hazard coming from Chernobyl. Izvestia ought to cease criticising other countries and citizens whom the Soviet

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Union gave cause for concern. Izvestia still has enough material to write about lapses of oversight in its own country and to press for the prevention of disasters in the future."

"Respectfully yours,

"Joerg Kastl,
Ambassador

of the Federal Republic of Germany."

* * *

The newspaper's editorial board:

"We welcome the fact of Mr. Ambassador writing to Izvestia and appreciate the frank character of his letter. But this is precisely what prompts us to answer it with equal frankness and without beating about the bush.

The letter leaves no doubt that it is no belles lettres. It is, rather, the stone which people living in a glass house venture to throw. The lesson this proverb teaches is that people whose own conduct is open to criticism should not criticise the conduct of others. But this is precisely what has not been taken into consideration in the letter.

Let us leave aside the tone of the letter lecturing Izvestia on what it should do or write about and what material to use, whom to praise and whom to criticise. Let us turn to the crux of the matter. It is connected with the article headlined 'An Absurd Show' by Vladimir Lapsky in our newspaper at the beginning of May. The article described the reaction caused in some circles of West Germany by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. As an unbiased reader can easily establish, Mr. Ambassador does not disprove, nor can he disprove, anything written in the article. The only thing he can say is: Do not criticise West German authorities, for this

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is 'a legitimate right' of Federal Parliamentarians. Of course, it could be assumed that Mr. Ambassador cannot tell newspaper criticism from the discharge of legislative functions. It is common knowledge that any newspaper of any country may criticise actions of any foreign government.

The West German press does this with regard to the Soviet Union regularly and unscrupulously. Quite another thing is to dictate actions, in this case, to the Bundestag or Bundesrat or even Landtags. Izvestia by no means intends to do that, Mr. Ambassador! Not only experienced diplomats, but even we can tell the difference.

The lessons of the Chernobyl accident are not only of a scientific or technical but of a political character. It has shown how brittle our planet is, how inter-dependent the destinies of its dwellers are, and now necessary it is to harness nuclear energy, particularly that which serves the purposes of destruction, not the cause of creation. In general, people in the world regarded with understanding the misfortune that befell us, and our actions in this complex situation. It has been generally recognised that our country has done everything possible to minimise the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. And not only for the Soviet people.

By the way, the head of the Federal Chancellor's office, Wolfgang Schaeuble, has stated that the Chernobyl accident does not pose any hazard to the life and health of the West German population.

The concern caused by the Chernobyl developments is quite understandable. But there is a vast difference between concern and malignity and, the more so, ill-will. The US ruling circles and the more zealous of their allies -- among them one has to specially mention the FRG -- saw in the misfortune another opportunity to launch an unbridled anti-Soviet campaign and to mount additional obstacles in the way

of the development of the dialogue, difficult as it is, between East and West, and to justify the nuclear arms race. This is, in our opinion, genuine cynicism.

This political cynicism is the more disgusting as it exploits the warranted fears of people and unfounded rumours which are still being zealously circulated in some countries. This space here gives us *no* opportunity to illustrate exhaustively the anti-Soviet concoction cooked in West Germany in connection with the Chernobyl accident by mouthpieces ranging from the turbid Deutsche Welle to Die Welt which has pretensions to being a reputable newspaper. Take the inventions published by that newspaper about endless streams of refugees in the Ukraine, or about the Soviet Union facing a fearful famine. Or the thoroughly rehearsed panic-mongering by the Deutsche Welle over a possibility of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs in West Germany. Izvestia has already related other examples of lies and panic spread by the West German mass media and certain spokesmen. How should we react to all that, Mr. Ambassador? Should we pass over in silence the outrage on the truth and common sense? Should we not call things by their proper names? We could not, we had no moral right to pass over these anti-Soviet remarks in silence. For decontamination is essential not only in Chernobyl but in the international arena.

(Izvestia, May 25. In full.)

CHERNOBYL'S PAIN

G.Alimov, A.Illesh

It has so happened that some medical specialities have, as it were, moved to the foreground. Anghelina Guskova, a section head at Clinical Hospital No.6, has long been doing her job with brilliance. But who ever speaks about a radiologist until something absolutely extraordinary occurs? So, it is for the first time that newsmen from several press organs have come to Guskova's office. Their visit was caused by the echo of the Chernobyl accident.

Question: The persons who were most of all hit by radiation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant are now at your clinic. We would like to learn about the health of those who were the first to appear near the damaged reactor...

Answer: Let us do as follows. Some patients of ours are really in a very grave state. Some of them is really in danger. That is why any indiscreet word, especially linked with a concrete name, can serve as a major adverse factor. Furthermore, any premature contentions, even in narrow professional circles, are inadmissible.

Question: How are you treating the patients?

Answer: What we have encountered, I mean the acute radiation disease, is very complex. It affects quite a number of organs and systems simultaneously. That is why we have invited physicians of a wide range of medical specialties to treat the patients. And still experts on blood diseases are the leading ones among them.

Question.: It is well known that Doctor Robert Gale, who had arrived from America, participated in the operations performed jointly with you...

Answer: We are grateful for the assistance of the specialists from America who worked in our clinic, and shall

not forget it. They ensured a very important aspect of the work -- the replacement of the lacking blood-production through the transplantation of blood cells and embryonic liver. The range of our joint work was limited to 19 patients to whom such operations are recommended.

Of course, the presence of the specialists with world experience was useful. I also want to say here that we had performed six first transplantations by the time when our US colleagues arrived. The very first decisions and the first actions were taken specifically by Alexander Baranov. We continued this work with the American colleagues.

Question: Whom else are your specialists contacting in the process of their work?

Answer: Many people are ready to come to help us. Why don't we invite them? We are guided by the sole idea: who can really help us? For example, communication with the people who have already participated in transplantations is certainly useful. Our specialists can certainly cope with all the other problems -- countering infections, prevention of bleeding, and treatment for secondary toxic phenomena. Our results in this field are a match to the foreign ones.

Now a few words about the other assistants. We are being helped by the Institute of Cardiology with its very highly developed biochemistry, the Institute of Haematology with its blood service and the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, which provide us with special diagnostical preparations and evaluate the concentration of anti-infection medicines, and by the oncological centre... We are contacting also the enterprises producing some medicines, sometimes most unexpected ones. For example, we receive from Latvia a very useful preparations for treating burns... People who are ready to help us frequently ring us up. We consider all the offers, and if we find something that can be even of small use to the

patients, we accept the offer with gratitude. But, of course, we cannot "test" all the medicines which have been developed in the world on the patients. Restraint means wisdom. We use only the preparations of which we are confident.

Question: What is the working regime of the doctors?

Answer: It is determined by the extent of the disaster. We have no working schedules therefore. There was no grumbling because we all realised that everything depended on how fast and efficiently we would work.

Question: Did doctors have to learn some things anew?

Answer: Yes, they did. Sometimes they even had to learn new specialities. We had one blood separator and now we have four. There was one centrifuge and now there are three. We are getting new equipment and we have to learn fast how to handle it. A piece of equipment which arrived at Sheremetyevo airport at night is at work the next morning.

Doctors have established personal contacts with their patients. They know each other well. I think this is very important. Our foreign colleagues followed the same rule and asked translators to tell their patients that they were in expert hands.

Question: How did you arrange your co-operative work with Dr. Gale?

Answer: I would like to say once again that his coming here was very important and useful. In co-operating with us our colleagues were tactful and polite. True, we had differences and in such cases we did what we thought was right. When some problem caused a controversy, Prof. Gale said: "Stop it. No more argument. Do as the hosts say." I think we would behave in the same way if we were in his clinic.

Question: Is there any country that could cope with a similar accident and its aftermath on its own from the point

of view of technology and qualification of the staff?

Answer: I am sure no country could make do with its own experience. I would like to say once again that no one in the world in peacetime has ever faced such a horrible and scientifically unknown problem. I am convinced that many countries might have found themselves in a worse position.

Question: How many patients do you have at the moment?

Answer: Nearly 200 were admitted. About 70 have been discharged. So we now have about 120 patients. Some 70-80 of them are constantly on our minds and in our hearts. The most difficult period has come. The period from third to sixth week is the hardest in radiation sickness for all, even for cases of medium severity.

Question: Are contacts with patients dangerous for doctors?

Answer: Such contacts were absolutely safe for our health, though a slight increase in radiation doses were registered in some of my staff. They were all within the normal level however.

Question: What do you do when a patient gets worse?

Answer: We use every means available to alleviate his suffering. We are trying to cheer them up by talking about their future to take their minds off their plight. Yes, we have problems, of course.

Question: How long will the treatment take?

Answer: A severe case of radiation sickness has a cycle of two and a half to three months. After that doctors will deal only with burns and local lesions.

Question: All your patients are male?

Answer: We have few women. Most of our patients are young males. There are two doctors, first aid doctors, among them. They are unassuming men who expertly described the situation. Their account was very important for us. There are also

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firemen. There are no helicopter pilots because they were well protected in flight. Most patients are nuclear plant workers who fought the fire in the early hours of the accident and searched for victims in the fourth unit.

(Izvestia, May 28. Abridged.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL
TÜSTAV
TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

Monday, May 19, 1986

VORIO-860519-514

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"ILL-SUITED" FACTS

V.Mikheyev

These days Die Deutsche Welle radio station has been a source of high-level anti-Soviet "radioactivity". It presented the tragic events at the Chernobyl nuclear power station as short of a terrorist action, aimed against the West, of course.

Die Deutsche Welle has polluted the air with an unprecedented number of concoctions. It is alleged, for example, (and even with "references to the Soviet press") that "several kilometres from the seat of the accident" cows are grazed, and agricultural work is under way. And that after the Western correspondents who visited the area saw that all dwellers had been evacuated from the 30-kilometre zone.

In a bid to step up panic among the West Europeans, it is reported that "vast areas in Europe have only been saved by winds". And not a word about the firemen, the helicopter crews and other specialists who risked their lives to stop the radioactive danger.

But these seem to be "ill-suited" facts for Die Deutsche Welle. The station continues fanning tension, despite its report about a statement by the West German Minister of the Interior Friedrich Zimmermann to the effect that there had been or was no danger for the population of the FRG. The station speaks about some "poison" penetrating into certain foodstuffs, and limitation of imports from the East European countries, including the USSR. That is pompously presented as a "big step" to protect the population. And not a single word about the conclusion by the World Health Organization (WHO) experts who said that there had been or were no reasons whatsoever for such an embargo.

Die Deutsche Welle is also contributing to the attempts to split the socialist community by fostering distrust among

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nations. With this aim in view it is importunately speculating on some disastrous effects of the accident for the population of Poland. Rejoicing over it no less than over the accident itself, Die Deutsche Welle hurried to announce that Zbigniew Brzezinski demanded a one-billion dollar compensation from the USSR to Poland.

But it failed to intimidate the Polish citizens. A Polish government spokesman said there was or had been no threat of radioactive contamination. Somewhat later the US Department of State and the British authorities had to admit that too, and so did a US expert on a special mission to Warsaw. However, Die Deutsche Welle passed all of it over in silence.

So, inventions instead of facts, and rumours instead of information. Rumours which seem to emanate from US and other NATO countries' embassies in Moscow. Thus, Die Deutsche Welle announced: "It is said in Moscow that the Black Sea beaches will be closed for tourists this season". Just like that. Which is as nonsensical as the lie about the "death of 2,000 people", coined in the very first days by an unnamed "woman in Kiev".

Die Deutsche Welle does not like the truth. The stabilization of the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station seems to be "bad news" for it. None so deaf as those who won't hear.

(Izvestia, May 16. In full.)

AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Moscow, May 13, (TASS). Work to decontaminate the territory of the nuclear power plant, the station itself, the buildings and soil is successfully in progress at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the newspaper Izvestia said. Main attention is devoted to the most heavily contaminated sections: the reactor and everything near or around it.

In a difficult situation, the newspaper says, people are exerting every physical and intellectual effort. The whole of their creative potential is aimed at resolving one task. This is clearly demonstrated by the work jointly done here by scientists of various "departments".

The assistance of scientists, their contribution to the common cause is hard to overestimate, a TASS correspondent was told by Ivan Silayev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The experimental activity of scientists and their discoveries made here in the area of the nuclear power plant are considerable. Thus, for example, the method of coating soil with a special decontaminating film originated and was tested here. The film reliably covers the surface, hence radioactive dust and particles cannot after that get into the soil and water. Three hundred thousand square metres per day is the rate at which the dangerous sectors are covered. The starting rate was 10,000 square metres.

Yet, Silayev stressed, tomorrow and in a week we are all in for an even larger volume of work to be done and even greater efforts are to be exerted.

What other methods of "insulation" are used at the nuclear power plant? Answering that question of a correspondent of the newspaper, Ivan Silayev said that a method of water glass

flooding has been mastered. It bears much promise in coating the roofs of buildings and structures, since water cannot wash away such a coating. On May 13, work was completed to ring the system of sewage discharge. This has completely eliminated the possibility of rain water getting from the station in the Pripyat river.

One can very well see from the window of the office helicopters flying towards the station one after another. What are the crews of MI-8 helicopters doing now? They are carrying lead shot in suspended containers and accurately dropping their cargoes, Silayev said. The task is to isolate ultimately all openings, through which the release of radioactivity into the atmosphere is possible, even if theoretically. As seen from the readings of instruments the level of release is steadily lowering.

(Izvestia, May 13. Summary. TASS.)

ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA IN US

The newspaper Izvestia published an article by Alexander Bovin, the paper's columnist who visited the United States in late April -- early May to attend the 4th Meeting of Journalists from Eastern and Western countries. He wrote about a hysterical anti-Soviet campaign in the United States over the Chernobyl accident.

Everything focused on Chernobyl -- terrifying rumours and stories, unabashed lies, assessments made by pseudo-experts, lengthy lectures delivered by knowledgeable persons, satellite photographs, and tourists returning from the USSR looking scared and numb from encounters with reporters. This show given several times ran to the accompaniment of annoyed statements about the absence of full and timely information from Moscow.

Yes, there indeed was little information at first. We, the five newsmen who happened to be in New York at that time, could feel that even keener than the Americans. But we realized that time was needed to furnish information and that emergencies pre-supposed an especially careful approach to the character and amount of data released. We, let me emphasize, understood that and tried to explain it to the Americans.

Be what it may, the restrained tone of communiques from Moscow could not justify the extent of the raging propaganda hysteria. There were words of sympathy, of course. However, they were barely audible against the background of tactless and unabashed, to put it mildly, judgements and statements called upon to cultivate animosity to the Soviet Union. As many as 15,000 people buried in a mass grave -- this is what was announced. Later it was reported with many reservations

and clear distrust that at the moment of the accident "only" two people died. It seemed that the commentators eagerly waiting for trustworthy information did not like that figure at all.

And what about blood-red radioactive clouds? Carefully depicted by the TV people, they periodically travelled across TV screens to cover some or other area on the geographical map.

Because of my profession, Alexander Bovin emphasized, I deal with American journalism in one way or another every day. One should think that I got accustomed to everything. But this kind of callous unscrupulousness left me stunned at first. I felt stunned emotionally -- how can that be, this is a real trouble, the sorrow which all people ought to share: not so long ago we all mourned the death of American astronauts together.

On the plane of reason and logic, though, everything was much simpler. Those who applauded the invasion of Grenada, who welcomed the bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi could react to Chernobyl only the way they did. They feel no shame. But somehow you feel ashamed of them.

(Izvestia, May 13. Summary.)

PROFITING BY OTHERS' MISFORTUNE

The hullabaloo raised in the American and West European mass media over the Chernobyl accident has no ground, say sober-minded Western circles who objectively assess the facts.

Based on objective and precise information the Soviet Union has been supplying, their conclusions make quite understandable the current estimations of the Western propaganda hysteria.

The WHO headquarters press conference following the meeting of radiation experts stressed: "The Western mass media's presentation of the events evoked an undesirable and inadequate reaction in the population."

Prime Minister Martens of Belgium said as he presented a governmental declaration in the Senate: "Never since the accident has Belgium registered air radiation exceeding international standards. Belgian specialists' measurements showed the radioactivity level in drinking water and fresh vegetables to be much below those international standards accept."

Zimmermann, the West German Minister of the Interior, said over the radio and television: "No danger has existed for us. Going up for a short time, air radioactivity has fallen to reach the usual level in many places."

Daglish, an IAEA representative, said, addressing the press in Vienna: "The European radioactive situation presents no danger to people's health." Professor Pellerin, head of the French radioactive defence service, bore out his conclusions: "The radiation level in France is not hazardous for the population's health."

Scientists confirm official conclusions. Rosalyn Yalow of the US, awarded the 1977 Nobel Prize for fundamental medical studies, said to the AP that passengers flying from Europe to

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America receive, perhaps, larger radiation doses than the population of Kiev's environs in the vicinity of the Chernobyl station.

James Jackson, prominent in the US and world labour movement, described the anti-Soviet campaign unleashed after the accident as monstrous violation of the truth. The circles responsible for it are doing dirty business on other people's misfortune. Only utterly unscrupulous people are capable of that, he said.

Conclusions are made like the one The Sunday Telegraph of Great Britain has carried. Frank Allaun, Deputy Chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, called Mrs. Thatcher's and Mr. Reagan's stand on the Chernobyl events hypocritical in the paper, quoting the many accidents at British nuclear power stations concealed from the public, to prove his point.

However, the forces interested in whipping up psychosis have no intentions to abandon their campaign. The ballyhoo in the Western press continues, although it is subsiding since groundless conjectures cannot resist facts.

News agencies report that attempts are being made to impose a decision on the European Economic Community to stop the import of food from seven socialist countries until May 31. These discriminatory measures are being motivated by the Chernobyl accident despite the fact that on May 6 experts of the World Health Organization pointed out that there are no reasons for recommending limitations of import from East European countries.

In this connection observers believe that measures planned by the EEC are politically motivated. As noted by The New York Times, the aim of the ban is to increase pressure on the Soviet authorities. However, a much more serious aim lies behind such actions -- to divert public attention from the real danger posed by the continuation of the nuclear arms race.

The Australian Guardian points out that the hysteria over the Chernobyl accident and immense frightening newspaper headlines are in sharp contrast with the practically complete silence kept by the Western mass media concerning the stockpiling and testing of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, the paper goes on to say, one of the lessons drawn from the accident should be a more profound awareness of the fact that the use of even several nuclear bombs is fraught with disastrous consequences.

In his letter to the London Observer Professor Hall of Manchester University points out that the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station does not involve great danger. The real threat to humankind is posed by existing nuclear weapon stocks, and we should focus our efforts on getting rid the world of nuclear arms.

At the same time the foreign press ever more frequently writes about unseemly actions of the governments of Western countries, primarily of the US, in connection with the use of nuclear energy. As pointed out by R. Alvarez, a staff member of the US-based Institute for Working out the Policy in the Field of Environmental Protection, each time when the US administration faced the choice: to make atom bombs quicker and cheaper or to protect the health of the population, preference was invariably given to the bombs.

This conclusion is buttressed by the ABC television company. In its report the company says that the US authorities regularly discharge a large amount of radioactive substance into the atmosphere in order to check monitoring equipment. This has been taking place since 1949 in the Hanford nuclear complex in the State of Washington. The reporter points out that now the United States is clamorously demanding that the Soviet Union supply information on the causes of the Chernobyl accident, while the people living in

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Franklin County in the State of Washington have not yet received from their government a full account of what happened nearby.

(Izvestia, May 11. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL

Izvestia special correspondent A. Illesh
reports from the Chernobyl Nuclear
Power Plant Area

As has been reported, an accident occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant near Kiev. Inside the station building, at its fourth generating set, a fire broke out. To suppress the flame was extremely difficult, as neither water nor chemicals were of any use here. The high temperature would instantly have turned into vapour everything that could get into the fire zone.

Our story will be about the things obvious as of now and about the steps being taken to end the consequences of the accident.

For this purpose we shall have to return to the night of April 26. Let us reconstruct the course of events with the help of Izvestia Kiev correspondents N. Baklanov and S. Tsikora.

The clock was at 1:27 a.m.. Army Firefighting Unit No. 2 watchmen, who were guarding the plant, heard a blast. The chief of the watch, Lieutenant V. Pravik, automatically recorded the time. And the next instant the howling of a siren filled the premises of the firefighting unit: the watch chief had sounded the alarm. But members of the unit themselves had understood a second earlier that there would be a job for them and were already putting on protective clothing and hurrying to the fire-engines.

The telephone operator contacted the firefighting unit in the town of Pripjat, and then the central fire communications post of the Firefighting Department of the Kiev Regional Executive Committee. Action followed on the highest squad

dispatch number - Number 3. This signal demanded that the firefighting units should also start preparing reserves. All off-duty personnel were immediately prepared for departure. Meanwhile, the Firefighting Department's deputy chief Lieutenant-Colonel I. Kotsyura, division heads and other officers had left Kiev for the nuclear plant. The situation there was extremely complex: the coating of the machinery room was ablaze. So the first task was clear: to beat down the flame.

Firefighting had to be done at a height of 30 metres. This was not merely high-altitude work. Each step in the advance on the fire took incredible pains. The coating bitumen was melting because of infernal heat, and the firemen's boots became ever heavier with each passing minute as they got stuck in the molten mass and turned into "leadens" with all the tar on them. Chief of the unit Major Telyatnikov took the charge of the work up there... He with the firemen, ignoring danger, fought the blaze until the threat of a fire spread disappeared. And this was the most important thing. For next stood the first, second and third sets of the plant.

The militia acted efficiently and selflessly in the complex situation. At 2:15 a.m. a meeting of the Pripjat Internal Affairs Department leadership was held. Entry to the town had to be barred for all transport not involved in the liquidation of the accident or the rendering of aid to the injured. The next priority was to maintain the strictest order in the town. And, finally, it was necessary to bar access to the nuclear plant for all "unnecessary" vehicles.

Officers of the Polesk militia were the first to arrive for help at the town internal affairs department by 4 a.m. Then came those of the Chernobyl and Ivankov departments (these are neighbour districts). All the forces were flung to organise checkpoints, roadblock the roads, cordon off the area

and grouped for control-post service in the town and the guarding of important plants.

The most hazardous part of the job fell to those who were on duty at the checkpoint near the enflamed building. Special vehicles were hurrying here and their traffic had to be regulated. Pripyat traffic inspection men on the first day worked ten to 12 hours each. Junior Militia Lieutenant V. Vishnevsky, Militia Starshina M. Matyukha and Senior Sergeant V. Denisenko deserve particular mention among them. Order was established on the roads.

The fire was extinguished. But ahead was no less urgent and crucial a task requiring, on the one hand, tact and understanding and, on the other, special execution speed. I mean the evacuation of the people. And the militia tackled this important job well. The entire town of Pripyat was divided into five sectors (each embraced one housing estate), and five evacuation groups were manned accordingly. Senior officers of the town's internal affairs department and of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs took charge. On April 26 the republic's Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs G. V. Berdov, and on April 27 chief of the political department Major-General A. I. Borovik arrived at Pripyat. They returned to Kiev only on May 4 when the most complex operations had at last been carried out.

"Our workers acted courageously in all situations," says G. Berdov. "They demonstrated perseverance. A great role was played in organising work by Party groups and organisations headed by A. Borovik."

It should be added that no less courage was displayed by Berdov himself.

The brunt of the evacuation efforts was carried by district militia officers of the town of Pripyat. A great deal depended on them in the sense of how fast and efficient the

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evacuation would be. It took one night and a half of the next day to prepare lists of evacuees. Evacuation workers were distributed in accordance with the number of buildings and entrance doors. A count of the required number of transportation facilities was made. Buses were distributed by sectors, each having its own route.

"Evacuation was announced at 14.00," A. Borovik says. "At 13:50 our workers made a tour of all flats to warn people, repeating the radio communique transmitted earlier. No assembly points were established to prevent commotion and panic. Our efforts produced the desired result."

The result speaks for itself: within two hours practically the entire population of the city -- nearly 40,000 people -- was evacuated in 1,100 buses. Traffic control officers ensured uninterrupted movement of the column. Those few who failed to move along with their neighbours came to militia stations. They were quickly brought to evacuation points and were eventually driven away by buses.

The city became deserted, but nothing -- homes with property, shops and institutions -- was left without protection. The security service took over as soon as the evacuation was completed. The republican Interior Ministry officials specially praise the efforts of Capt. Stelmakh, deputy head of the Pripyat interior department, and Lt.-Col. Kovalenko, whose wife was in hospital and his three children were at home. He just dropped in to see them for a couple of minutes and hurried back to work again.

People were at last evacuated from the danger area. The 30-kilometre line that surrounded the plant was now closed. Only those who were engaged in eliminating the aftermaths of the accident or worked at the other three working power units remained within. Militiamen organised a registration service for people who got lost. Now any person can find his family in

a matter of minutes.

There is no population in the danger area. How are those who have been evacuated from that area to know about their health? It was only natural that people were worrying. For six nights running light has been on in all the rooms of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. The Ministry workers were among the first to learn about the accident at the Chernobyl plant.

Says V. Kozlyuk, head of the therapeutic and preventive medicine department: "A telephone call from a Ministry duty officer woke me up early in the morning.

Luckily I live not far from the Ministry. I got there quickly and the information I received forced me to act promptly and assume responsibility. Several minutes later ambulance cars from all over Kiev and regional hospitals rushed to Chernobyl..."

"In a matter of hours we had in the vicinity of the Chernobyl plant enough doctors to examine people who were not far from the station and give treatment to accident victims."

"In the early most difficult and alarming days I worked in the Polesye district. The district hospital was converted into an emergency aid centre. The patients who were in the hospital at the moment were very understanding and showed amazing consideration and tact. Those who were not very ill asked to be discharged to give way to people who were severely injured in the nuclear accident. Of course, those who were discharged were hospitalised elsewhere."

"Doctors worked round Chernobyl day and night, taking no days off."

"By the end of the first day after the accident all persons with the slightest, even theoretical, signs of radiation disease had been admitted to the Polesye and Ivankovsky hospitals. There they were given their first examination. If any signs of the radiation disease were

discovered, the patient was immediately transferred to the Kiev Radiology and Cancer Research Institute clinic".

All people, who were in the zone of the atomic power station during the accident, undergo comprehensive medical screening, including blood tests. Such check-ups will be possibly organised more than once.

We are doing this, V. Kozlyuk said, to prevent any deviations from the accepted norms. This major preventive effort will ensure us against any adverse consequences in the future.

Experts spoke last night in a Kiev TV programme to prevent ungrounded speculations and rumours. Said G. Revenko, First Secretary of the CPSU Kiev Regional Committee:

The evacuation zone has been extended from 15 to 30 kilometres. We have removed all people from there and not because there was a direct threat to any of them. We have enlarged the evacuation zone because in cases like this we must have an extra guarantee. We must be very careful when things concern the health of people.

The Kiev Region hasn't come against such a problem before. People ring up the Regional Party Committee, volunteering to go wherever and whenever necessary, offering help and saying they are ready to do their bit.

There is no shortage of work. Evacuees are being accommodated in tens of settlements in four districts of the Region. They have to be supplied with food and clothes. Children have to be placed in school and old people ensured hospital care. The state is doing everything for the evacuees. The public is also helpful. Although some people live in crowded conditions, they, too, welcome evacuees, offering aid.

We have done quite a difficult job and even more complicated things are ahead, said the secretary of the regional Party committee. People are moving with all their

belongings, including cattle and poultry. They even take away dogs. We must help them preserve everything. The state gives us money for this. People in need receive things free of charge. They are also given money. From local cooperatives and other distributors they can have goods on instalment plan without the initial cash payment. Regional authorities also supply evacuees with clothing.

The regional Party committee sees its main task in giving every support to the government commission investigating the accident, in preventing panic and continuing with economic programmes. Economic matters remain our major concern. Kiev, a huge city, continues to receive farm goods without interruption. The quality of farm produce is checked twice. People do not worry over the quality of foodstuffs they buy in shops. Plants continue to operate. It's life as usual.

Emergency teams, uniting tens of people, are working heroically at the site of the atomic power station. Although the situation, as experts say, is complicated, it is fully under control. That is the most important thing.

Kiev Region

(Izvestia, May 6. In full.)

Friday, March 20, 1987

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EXPERIMENT NEAR NUCLEAR PROVING GROUND

Joint Soviet-American Nuclear Test Monitoring Project
S. Matayev in Kazakhstan

Soviet and American scientists have been through the first phase of an experiment to monitor underground explosions at nuclear proving grounds near Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. The experiment is being accomplished in line with an agreement between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Natural Resource Defense Council of the United States. Below is an account of the first results of the experiment as presented in Izvestia's interview (retranslated from the Russian by Novosti) with the American scientists participating in the project.

The Soviet side has stood by its commitments to pursue a package of specific nuclear test monitoring methods agreed between Soviet and American scientists, said a member of the American group, prof. Jonathan Berger of the University of California. As part of the first phase of the experiment, which was extremely successful, scientists deployed ground-based monitoring facilities near the test site and made hundreds of registrations.

The professor showed a seismogram recorded by American equipment. For nearly eight months the sensitive devices had been monitoring echoes of distant earthquakes and nuclear explosions in the Nevada desert. But never throughout that time had the soil been shaken in the area of Semipalatinsk. The Soviet self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing lasted for almost 19 months.

Berger said the results of test monitoring convinced him that international verification of nuclear testing was technically possible. However, more precise measurements

nuclear proving grounds. In the meantime, our Soviet colleagues have not yet been allowed to deploy their equipment in U.S. territory. We are sorry our administration refused to join the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing and instead went on with its nuclear testing schedule in Nevada. We are convinced that our presence here will make some people take a closer look at real things, Sherr said.

John Sharatz, a leading American specialist in electronics and consultant to a big company, said his arrival to Karkaralinsk, though not accidental, was good luck. When I was invited to take part, I agreed instantly, as I had been prepared for this a long time ago. I have four children and I am not indifferent to their future. And I took part in the Vietnam war, he said.

Sharatz said he had not understood right away what kind of war it was. He lost his foot in that war. But he said if both his feet had been blown off, he would have tried to come to the test monitoring site, as there were few places in the world where representatives of the two superpowers acted in unison. He said there at the test monitoring site one could see with his own eyes that all talk about the "Soviet threat" was entirely ungrounded, that the Soviet Union and its people really wanted peace and were consistently working toward that end.

As agreed by the Soviet and American sides, the experiment will last for a year and be completed in July 1987.

(Izvestia, March 19. In full.)

THE BARRIER

L. Chernenko, TASS correspondent -
special to Izvestia

A test site and quiet would seem to be incompatible notions. For it's not a nature preserve, but a site for tests after all. But quiet has marked the Soviet nuclear test sites for almost 18 months now. In conservation are the silos in granite rocks, trains of trucks stand still at the closed gates, the hotels for experts are empty, and wild rams unfearingly roam the mountains. After the New Year, too - until the first US explosion - the Soviet test site will be silent. Sensitive American instruments set up in the Semipalatinsk area listen to this quiet. Right there US scientists and experts for more than six months have been conducting their observations. Is this not an indicator of our desire for mutual understanding and trust.

One might think, now that American seismic stations operate in our test site's environs, it's a sin to speak of Russian secretiveness or the complexity of the problem of control. But at a time when the world public still hopes that the White House will not lose the historic chance to join the Soviet moratorium and agree to start talks on a complete and total ban on nuclear weapon tests, it is again repeating its favourite old arguments on the "inadequacy" and "unreliability" of existing control measures. They have been employed to complicate... the ratification of treaties of ten-year standing.

President Reagan sent a message to the Senate expressing the Administration's willingness to agree at last to ratification of the 1974 Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests and the 1976 Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful

Purposes. However this belated consent goes hand in hand with new conditions. It is being asserted that the treaties are unamenable to effective verification, that it is necessary to improve the measures of control and to lower the degree of uncertainty in evaluations of the yields. As an effective measure to verify the observance of the conditions of the treaties, the President speaks of the so called cortex method.

Thus, they again want to make the problem of control a barrier in agreement's path. Are there any grounds for this? From the latest work carried out by leading US experts - Professor Sykes and Professor Everden - it clearly follows that the Soviet Union has never violated the ceiling established by the treaties. And, various misunderstandings were due only to the fact that either the results of observation were deliberately distorted, or the wrong method for determining the yields was used.

Why, then, does the US side insist on the use of the cortex method? What is it about? Next to the hole into which a nuclear charge is put, another hole is bored into which a special unit to record the blast's parameters is lowered.

"Such a method is very expensive, and in addition, there is no evidence that proves its accuracy or effectiveness," believes the scientific director of the Soviet-American experiment on control over the nonconduct of nuclear tests, Igor Nersesov, head of a department at the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of Earth Physics. And there are other, tried and tested solutions. For example, American Professor Nuttli from Saint Louis University in his studies has shown that the correct use of seismological methods produces no worse results than cortex. In the USSR seismologists have long been engaged in the use of full earthquake recordings to fix the magnitude of weak vibrations. The application of this method produces results many times better than the classical

ways of determining the energy of a source.

This means that the cortex method can be successfully replaced with the seismological one, which is considerably lower-cost, simpler and more reliable. And, it is not necessary each time to anew make a special installation and bore a hole. The ordinary seismic stations can with equal success be used for this. It is such a method that Soviet scientists proposed to US experts when they were concluding an agreement on joint work in Kazakhstan and in Nevada. It would seem that if the American side prefers cortex so much and regards it as the only method, then its comparison could be carried out with seismological techniques, with the data of the same Professor Nuttli, to find out which method is better. But the Americans for some reason do not agree to this.

One more important circumstance explains Reagan's cortex preference. The fact is that this method is used only to register big charges - over 50 kilotons. For smaller charges it is unacceptable. Thus, the Americans, by linking control to the cortex method, actually go over to the testing of large-yield charges, that is, exactly the charges that they need for the realisation of SDI. Instead of lowering the threshold for tests, Reagan, by advocating cortex, actually raises it to the upper limit admitted by the treaty.

In a word, the belated willingness to ratify the treaties of ten years' standing is not a gesture of good will, which the world community is expecting in vain from the US Administration, but yet another dexterous manoeuvre, one more barrier on the road to prohibition of nuclear tests.

But there also are forces in the USA that are interested in putting up a different barrier, a barrier in the path of the nuclear arms race. It is for this purpose that the Soviet-American experiment on control over the nonconduct of nuclear tests is being carried out.

The Soviet Union has fulfilled its commitments in organising stations of seismic observation in the Semipalatinsk area. The stations started operation last November. New, more perfect well equipment is planned to be installed in February. Professor Bercher from California University in San Diego and Professor Priestley from Nevada University will arrive in Kazakhstan for this purpose. Now, too, American specialists are keeping their scientific watch in the Semipalatinsk area.

But Soviet scientists were unable to visit Nevada, though the agreement specified such a trip. They were to leave for the USA back last September to select a place in Nevada for the installation of seismic stations. But the issuing of visas was delayed, and various conditions were laid down. Only in November the trip took place. The Soviet scientists visited in Dallas the firm that produces seismic equipment, and in New York made the acquaintance of the work of their colleague Professor Sykes; they also went to Washington and San Diego. But they weren't admitted to Nevada. Places for the installation of seismic stations had to be fixed without seeing them - by the photographs, maps and rock samples presented by American colleagues. How work will proceed in Nevada is unclear so far.

So, what's the worth of all this talk about preparedness for strict measures of control and about the difficulties in solving this question set by the Soviet side? Dozens of American specialists have already visited Kazakhstan, whereas Soviet seismologists could see Nevada only in photographs. The initiative of US scientists, who are not only calling for the prohibition of tests, but are also making their practical contribution to this cause, proving in the joint experiment the effectiveness of the seismological methods of control, does not meet with support in the White House. The Administration is still reluctant to stop the nuclear arms race.

(Izvestia, January 17. In full.)

THE KEY TO A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD

A Review of Disarmament Discussions at
the 41st Session of the UN General Assembly
Y.Amelin and E.Mamedov

The realities of the nuclear and space age demand a new mode of political thinking. Therefore, the Soviet Union has made definite moves towards establishing a new approach to the most pressing problems of humanity, above all, the problems of war and peace.

This found its full reflection in the discussion of the arms limitation and disarmament issues at the 41st UN General Assembly.

The session bore the imprint of Reykjavik which opened up the shortcut to a nuclear-free future. Nearly all delegations referred to the historic significance of the meeting of minds at Reykjavik and spoke for a yet harder effort from the frontiers reached in Iceland. The new mode of thinking, arising from the Soviet vision of a nuclear-free world, have induced other states to take a fresh look at the potentialities of the international community and of its most representative forum -- the UN.

The international community appears to have realized that the key to resolving the to-be-or-not-to-be dilemma is in its own hands and calls for a concerted effort and rallied ranks behind the idea of excluding violence from the political and philosophic outlook of the time.

For the first time the UN disarmament discussion was virtually free from confrontation, which made it possible to focus on specific problems and adopt a practical approach to the ideas that had been expressed earlier on the urgency of measures to limit arms and attain disarmament. For the first

time, the General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution emphasizing that the ultimate objective of nuclear disarmament was the total elimination of nuclear weapons and that all the nuclear Powers had their own responsibility to bear for the implementation of this process.

One distinct idea that ran through the statements of most delegations was that nuclear disarmament was not the concern of the restricted "nuclear club". Expressing the general mood, India's representative in the First Committee declared: "The destiny of our civilization cannot remain in the hands of two or five states. The non-nuclear states have the same rights to decide their own destiny." The resolution on the prevention of nuclear war sponsored by a number of socialist and non-aligned nations highlighted an increased determination of the international community to prevent a nuclear disaster.

Nearly all delegations noted that nuclear disarmament was a wide range of practical measures in specific areas and there was a virtual consensus in naming suspension of nuclear tests as the first practicable measure. The appeal of the Soviet nuclear test moratorium has beyond doubt contributed to a livelier discussion of the problem of nuclear testing at the present session. The Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions was supported in two resolutions. There were five resolutions on testing altogether. These documents, co-sponsored not only by influential non-aligned and neutral nations, but by some Western states, emphasize that a comprehensive test ban is a means to test a true readiness to achieve nuclear disarmament. Two of the resolutions imperatively call on the Disarmament Conference to start multilateral CTB negotiations. The US, Britain and France refused to go along with this call.

One problem in the General Assembly's attention this year was that of preventing an arms race in space. Most non-aligned nations and a number of Western countries unequivocally went

on record for the 1972 ABM Treaty to be preserved and made more effective.

Even the closest US allies -- Britain, West Germany, Japan and Italy, were among the 154 countries to vote for the resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in space, calling, in particular, for multilateral negotiations to achieve consensus on the subject. The US abstained.

Yet another feature of the 41st Session was increased emphasis on the problem of the reduction of conventional forces and armaments. The proceedings were influenced by the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and the new situation after Reykjavik. The Soviet Union displayed a most constructive approach and seconded all the resolutions on these issues, including those moved by Western countries.

Mutual understanding and an earnest desire to resolve the problems on the agenda reigned during the discussion of eliminating chemical weapons, limiting naval armaments, establishing non-nuclear zones etc. The US delegation adopted an outdated position boiling down to blocking all sensible ideas from whatever quarter. Washington's obstructionism was particularly manifest this year. The US opposed a series of proposals to curb and reverse the arms race.

The Soviet Union voted for all resolutions on arms control and disarmament. Moreover, in some cases the Soviet Union, together with other socialist countries, withdrew its own draft resolutions to subscribe to the proposals advanced by other nations and support their desire to play a more active and effective role in resolving the cardinal problems of today.

The spirit of constructive attitude and mutual understanding that prevailed at the very start of the session

was carefully maintained by the overwhelming majority of states, which enabled the consensus approval of resolutions on what had been until recently considered controversial and even conflicting issues, such as verification of compliance with agreements. It is noteworthy that the USSR and other socialist countries co-operated with Canada, West Germany and some other Western countries in sponsoring a number of resolutions.

The outcome of the disarmament discussions at the 41st General Assembly warrants certain serious conclusions.

First, the international community has entered the historic phase of moulding a political world outlook in perfect moral agreement with the imperatives of the nuclear and space age.

Second, the clear practical orientation of the adopted resolutions indicates that disarmament is no longer an utopian dream and is becoming a reality achievable in the foreseeable future.

Third, no attempts to stop the train of history can succeed.

The stubborn reluctance of the US to reckon with the interests of the international community makes Washington the source of an enhanced danger for the world.

(Izvestia, December 23. In full.)

Thursday, October 2, 1986

VOR12-861002-510

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WHY SOVIET SEISMOLOGISTS' US TRIP
HAS BEEN POSTPONED

B. Ivanov

Recently I visited a seismological station near the Kazakh town of Karkaralinsk where the Soviet-American experiment to monitor the nonconduct of nuclear explosions is being carried out. For two months now the American sensors installed here have been "listening" to the quiet at the Soviet nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk area. Soviet and American specialists are on a round-the-clock scientific duty at the station. Such cooperation has become possible thanks to an agreement between the USSR Academy of Sciences and the US Natural Resources Defense Council that provides for establishing several such stations near the Soviet and the American nuclear test sites in order to show the ability of scientists of the two countries to guarantee reliable control over the nonconduct of explosions.

Under the agreement, Soviet specialists were already a month ago to have traveled to the USA to discuss with their American colleagues opening similar seismological stations in Nevada. However the five of our scientists - L.Nersesov, S.Daragan, N.Tarasov, O.Stolyarov and Y.Sutulov - are still in Moscow. The cause: the obstructionist policy of the US authorities, who hinder the Soviet-American experiment.

The departure of the Soviet delegation was so planned as to enable it to attend the meeting of the technical-consultative committee of US scientists set for September 6 where some questions of joint seismological work were to be considered. But Washington turned out to have a "special" opinion on this account. It was in no hurry to issue entry visas to our seismologists. At first the State Department kept mum, and then began saying to the inquiries of

the Soviet side that it was necessary to wait a while, that any formalities "require time." But there was no time to spare. Seeing that the visas question remained at a standstill, the US scientists pushed back for a week their meeting, hoping that their Soviet colleagues would after all manage to attend it. Besides that, they for their part repeatedly tried to "hurry" the authorities, yet time went by and still there were no visas. How do matters stand now? The Izvestia editorial board put this question to Professor M.Gokhberg, acting director of the Institute of Earth Physics of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Here is his comment:

"Several days ago we received a telegram from our colleagues from the Natural Resources Defense Council. They report that the State Department has 'started talking' at last and stated its position on the question of visas. Briefly, it boils down to the following. If the Soviet scientists, says the American side, intend to maintain business contacts with a non-governmental organisation (which the Natural Resources Defense Council is), then the State Department can issue them visas, but for a much shorter period than we asked for. Our scientists will be permitted to visit some universities in the USA, but they will not be allowed into Nevada. This is, so to speak, the first variant. There is also another. The State Department declares that it will immediately issue visas to our seismologists for the required time, allow them to visit Nevada and to look at the latest types of US equipment and generally fulfil all our wishes, but only on one condition: the Soviet experts should come to the USA as guests of the US administration and necessarily attend a nuclear test at the Nevada site.

"I must say that such 'proposals' are, naturally, unacceptable to us. In actual fact, the US administration

by one means, or another - 3 -

wants by hook or by crook to legitimatise its line of carrying out its program of nuclear tests, thus attempting to make the Soviet Union accept that de facto. Some time ago Washington in response to our extension of the unilateral moratorium invited Soviet scientists to attend a nuclear test in Nevada. In other words, instead of joint monitoring of the nonconduct of explosions the Americans proposed that we should continue testing together. What the State Department does now is the same old tune, but only re-arranged. Therefore the trip of our scientists to the USA has been postponed so far..."

(Izvestia, October 1. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

ANOTHER MOVE FOR CONFIDENCE

TASS special correspondents Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko report from a Soviet nuclear test site:

The first Americans to see a Soviet nuclear test site at close quarters are journalists Ilene O'Connor and Robert Tanner, who represent TV companies of the USA, Western Europe, Canada and Japan.

They arrived at the test site together with a group of foreign correspondents. The visit, the first ever, was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

A special Aeroflot flight took the journalists from Moscow to Semipalatinsk and they were eventually brought to the site. Some foreign correspondents, fond of saying that a good deal in this country is shrouded in secrecy, could never have imagined that they would find themselves at that site. Keen-eyed American satellites are most certainly constantly watching the spot from up there but they have not recorded anything of interest in more than a year now. The site has become a staging area for a peace offensive.

The Soviet test site has been quiet since August last year in accordance with the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium. This quiet is being listened to by sensitive American instruments set up near the site at Karkaralinsk in a Soviet-American experiment to monitor a nuclear test ban. The instruments say everything is as it should be. It is better to see once than hear a thousand times, for the naked eye and not satellites to do that seeing, and for the pictures to be from conventional cameras. That way the world has further proof of our honesty and trust, that we are true to our word

and ready to take the first step. This first-hand proof is no less important than the scientific data and, seismograms produced by the American scientists near the site.

Soviet seismologists who are to have an opportunity to make observations in Nevada under the terms of the joint experiment have not yet been given US visas. American TV journalists, meanwhile, are going to send a live report from the Soviet nuclear test site.

Major General Yuri Viktorovich Lebedev of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, who accompanies the journalists, said:

"Some dishonest politicians and journalists in the West say that the Soviet Union's moratorium on nuclear tests is Soviet propaganda. So it is, we are carrying out propaganda for detente, we do not want the world to be jolted by nuclear blasts, and now we are taking another step in this propaganda, giving a group of foreign journalists from major news agencies, TV and radio broadcasting companies and newspapers an opportunity to visit and inspect a nuclear test site near Semipalatinsk, which has been quiet for more than a year. I want to stress that the media are being admitted to such a facility for the first time ever. Is it not a manifestation of goodwill and the desire to use every opportunity to draw attention to the Soviet Union's vigorous and offensive policy of peace and to our appeal to the other side to follow this example and stop the tests of nuclear weapons of every type."

General Lebedev stressed that while foreign journalists, including Americans, had arrived at the Soviet test site, the USA had not yet issued entrance visas to the Soviet scientists who under the bilateral agreement are to mount seismographic equipment near the Nevada nuclear test site. He said that the journalists would also visit Karkaralinsk, a city in the Karaganda region, where American seismologists are now working.

Monday, September 29, 1986

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"I highly appreciate the trip organised by the Soviet Foreign Ministry," a correspondent of the Japanese news agency Kyodo Tsushin, K. Azawa, said. "Up to now not a single one of my colleagues has ever seen such a facility as a nuclear test site, which are kept secret in any country. I want to inspect most closely and to think over everything we are shown and told. It is of great interest to me personally and to millions of readers and listeners all over the world who are waiting for our reports. The USSR is unilaterally continuing to observe its moratorium, which is admired by all those who want peace. I am all for the moratorium and that is why I flew to Semipalatinsk so willingly and have such an interest in everything I see around."

That visit, one billed as sensational by all the journalists, has begun.

Semipalatinsk,
September 27.

(Izvestia, September 28. In full.)

SDI IS THE MAIN HITCH

Alexander Bovin

Ronald Reagan's great illusion has become an obstacle to a great compromise which Mikhail Gorbachev proposed in Reykjavik. Refusing to accept this compromise, to recognize the balance of concessions, the President of the United States continued insisting on his Strategic Defence Initiative with fanatical stubbornness.

The US needs SDI for it still hopes to break ahead, to get strategic advantages. It is not accidental that Caspar Weinberger once said that if the USA implements SDI it will be in the same position like when it had the atom bomb monopoly. This is an argument which is clear and obvious.

If one side works intensively on creating an ABM system, then, the lower the levels of offensive potentials, the lesser the number of delivery vehicles and charges, the easier it is to disrupt the balance by a sudden breakthrough at some section, to outstrip the other side and achieve a strategic gain. And we cannot overlook this potential menace.

Neither can we overlook the obvious circumstance that defensive systems might have also offensive possibilities. Thus, actually all kinds of armaments being developed under the Star Wars programme are capable, for instance, of destroying satellites without which systems of observance and warning against a missile attack are impossible.

The Star Wars programme can lead to the development of fundamentally new kinds of arms. The race in these arms will thwart all the plans of nuclear disarmament.

The Americans keep saying: Don't you worry, believe us, we

Wednesday, October 22, 1986

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have good intentions, we'll do you no harm, we need SDI only as a shield...

We would like very much to believe this but we can't. Intentions are subjective and changeable. Therefore we must ponder not so much on what Washington wants to do but on what it can do. It is not intentions but objective possibilities that should be analyzed. And the analysis shows that unilateral implementation of SDI might enable the USA to undermine the military strategic parity and, hence, to sharply destabilize the situation in the world enhancing the threat of war.

The Soviet Union's choice is obvious. We are definitely against supplementing or replacing the arms race on earth with such in space. Washington must make its choice now.

The Star Wars programme and its advocates are the main obstacle on the road to disarmament. And this is not a matter of the Soviet-American relations alone. This is a problem for entire humanity.

(Izvestia, October 21. Abridged.)

ABM TREATY: WHAT'S GRAND ABOUT IT?

K. Markov

In a series of his recent statements, Mikhail Gorbachev has repeatedly emphasised that the ABM Treaty, provided both sides strictly abide by all its clauses, is the basis of the process of the reduction and subsequent elimination of strategic offensive weapons, which will eventually and in a historically short space of time rid the world of nuclear weapons. Thus, the threat of self-destruction hovering over humanity today would be eliminated too.

The fundamental importance of the ABM Treaty is recognised by the leaders of almost all countries, including the United States' allies in NATO, and a majority of prominent political leaders and experts in the United States.

Only the members of the present US administration, who are trying to fling off the ABM Treaty because it stands in the way of SDI, ask with surprise: "What's so grand about this treaty?" Moreover, they say that the main provision of the treaty, pledging the sides not to build a defence against nuclear strike, is "immoral."

Indeed, the situation may seem baffling at first sight. Hasn't the right to defence always been a sacred right? one may ask. How can one forfeit one's right to defence? The right to defence is unquestionable, but the problem is how it should be exercised in a particular situation.

The ABM Treaty is grand because it resulted from the statesmanship and political courage of those who came to realise and openly told their people and the whole world that the only sensible and effective way to defend oneself against nuclear weapons, until they are eliminated entirely, is to renounce defence, that is not to build any anti-missile systems to defend the territory of the country.

Paradoxical though it may seem at first glance, this formula can be understood by anyone who really wants to puzzle out this problem.

The kernel of the matter is that without an ABM system to defend the territory of the country either side realises that if it delivered a nuclear strike at the other side, even a weakened counter-strike would do unacceptable damage to the attacker side. There would be no winner in that war. If one side built a large-scale ABM system, the other side would suspect it of planning a first nuclear strike and trying to reduce to an "acceptable" level the effect of a counter-strike with the aid of this large-scale ABM system.

This would force the other side either to build its own ABM system or considerably to increase and upgrade its strategic offensive forces or, more likely, do both. The result would be a continuous arms race, with each new round increasing the risk of nuclear catastrophe in geometrical progression.

The laws of logic that led to the conclusion of the Soviet-American ABM Treaty in 1972 are eternal and therefore the sides agreed that the treaty would be termless.

Unfortunately, logic is no longer held in esteem in Washington, which is doing everything to demolish the ABM Treaty and build a large-scale missile defence system with some of its elements based in space. The American leaders argue that the ABM Treaty was concluded only because at that time neither side had technical capabilities for building an effective ABM system. Now that they have such capabilities the treaty has not only become meaningless but is also "immoral" because it stands in the way of an ABM system capable of protecting people.

This speculation brings to mind a remark made by Mikhail Gorbachev, who said that a half-truth was the most dangerous lie.

Thursday, October 30, 1986

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There is no denying the fact that science and technology have made big strides since the conclusion of the ABM Treaty. But this is only a half-truth, which is worse than a lie. And the whole truth is this.

Firstly, the fact that it is now possible to build a more effective ABM system than it was possible in the early seventies only emphasises the need to preserve and even strengthen the ABM Treaty because the reasons for which that treaty was concluded still apply and even more so.

Secondly, the increased scientific and technological possibilities do make it possible (provided the other side sits idle, which is silly to expect) to build a space "shield" from under which the side that has built it would be able to make a disarming nuclear strike.

However, the world's leading scientists, including American ones, agree that it is impossible to build a shield that would be impenetrable to counter-strike, to say nothing of a massive first strike against which it is allegedly designed.

(Izvestia, October 29. Abridged.)

ABM TREATY AND "GOSPEL"

K. Markov

In his October 22 television address Mikhail Gorbachev, returning by necessity -- because of the distortions by Washington -- to the course of his meeting with President Ronald Reagan in Reykjavik noted specifically that he had been very much surprised when the US President started telling the Soviet side and him personally not to regard the ABM Treaty as "Gospel".

President Reagan, far from negating this, has more than once told about it himself. For instance, during the October 14 briefing for the leading US TV commentators the President said that, as for the ABM Treaty to which Gorbachev continually returned as if it were "Gospel" he asked Gorbachev once: what tremendous elements are there in this Treaty which makes our governments state to the people that we will not defend them from a nuclear strike?

The President preferred to keep mum about the reaction to what he had said in Reykjavik but the world learned this from the TV speech of Mikhail Gorbachev when he said: "What, then, should one's attitude to treaties be? Should they be looked upon as so much paper?"

It is this issue of treaties being "Gospel" that I would like to dwell upon here, leaving aside the President's reaction to the ABM Treaty.

Article VI of the Constitution of the United States of America which is the world's first written constitution says:

"This Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land."

The meaning of this provision is perfectly clear -- US

international obligations are classed as supreme law and must be observed as strictly as the country's Constitution.

Of course, one can say that this is a home affair of the Americans to analyze whether the President regards the US Constitution as "Gospel" (using his own comparison) or not.

Let it be so. But the sacred character of international treaties, the duty of states to strictly observe them is not only an internal legal norm of one or another country, in this case the USA, as its Constitution says. It is also a major international norm laid down in the principal international treaty of the present-day world, or as they sometimes say, in the treaty of treaties -- the Charter of the United Nations Organisation which the United States was one of the first to sign.

It is also relevant to recall here that the principle of fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law figures in the Helsinki Final Act among the ten principles of paramount importance which the participating states (the USA included) have committed themselves to be guided by in their mutual relations and their relations with other countries.

Taking all this into account, how can one remain unsurprised when the US President calls for not regarding as "Gospel" the ABM Treaty which has laid the foundation of strategic stability and which makes it possible, in the context of its compulsory and strict observance, to confidently advance towards a nuclear-free world?

The gist of the matter certainly does not lie in the verbal casuistry about "Gospel", doubly so because the attitude of people to this Gospel now varies, and they have an indisputable right to this.

As before, the essence of the matter lies in Washington's desire to undermine or even crumple and cast away like a scrap of paper the ABM Treaty which prevents the United States from

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making "legitimate" efforts to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union by stationing weapons in space. If it had been otherwise, if the American SDI programme had fitted into the framework of the ABM Treaty (as the Washington Administration keeps reiterating), why should not the US President have regarded this treaty as "Gospel"?

(Izvestia, October 27. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA
TÜSTAV

Monday, October 20, 1986

VORI15-861020-515

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AMERICAN SCIENTISTS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER STAR WARS

A. Blinov, Izvestia staff correspondent in Washington

For more than three years the present US Administration has been forcing the Star Wars programme upon the American people. Deceptive terms like "space shield" and "defence initiative" have been invented to mislead the public. Continuous efforts are made to fuel chauvinistic sentiments. But the sober-minded Americans reject the dangerous plans. American scientists, university intellectuals take an active part in the moves against the Star Wars project.

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The call by the American scientists to ban space weapons is one of the most emphatic anti-war actions taken in the past few months.

According to the data of the Union of Concerned Scientists - the initiator of this call, it has been signed by a majority of the members of the US National Academy of Sciences and by 57 Nobel Prize winners which makes up more than half of the Nobel Prize laureates living in the USA.

Citing the results of the polls held among scientists, the Union of Concerned Scientists has noted that only 16 per cent of American physicists hold the view that the Star Wars project can protect the country's population against a nuclear attack. Three fourths of the specialists who have relation to the Star Wars programme believe that it should not be implemented.

(Izvestia, October 18. Abridged.)

WHERE'S YOUR PROGRAMME, GENTLEMEN?

Wlodzimierz Lozinski, Trybuna Ludu analyst

It has become a rule with the United States immediately to label as propaganda any Soviet proposal on slowing down the nuclear arms race. Now again, as soon as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made a statement on extending the nuclear explosions moratorium, the White House followed up with its pet word: "propaganda". The Soviet nuclear test range has been quiet for more than a year now. The USSR is honestly fulfilling its unilateral commitment. Meanwhile American soil is rocked with explosions, which are recorded accurately by American instruments installed on Soviet territory.

Who is advocating what, it may be asked? That is as clear as daylight: the USSR and its allies advocate a world free of weapons of mass destruction, while the US a nuclear arms race. The White House and the Pentagon furiously defend their positions of strength and militarist superiority over the Soviet Union. What is more, they are intimidating the American public with Soviet peace initiatives. Everything is turned upside down, and common sense is ignored. All efforts of the American side are concentrated on rejecting peace initiatives and describing them as a threat to US security.

But if the American administration dislikes that peace initiatives come from the Soviet Union (regarding them as little short of trickery), why shouldn't it itself make similar "propaganda"? Why shouldn't it finally heed the call of the Delhi Six (leaders of Mexico, India, Sweden, Greece, Tanzania and Argentina) to halt nuclear tests? Or is their appeal propaganda as well? Regrettably, every counter "argument" produced by Washington has a hint of falsity about it.

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And one more point. The ruling American circles tend to reproach the Soviet Union that, in stepping up its peace offensive, it makes its initiatives known worldwide, acting with full publicity. An often-repeated argument in Washington is that it all could be discussed by leaders of the two countries at their meeting, behind closed doors, so to say.

But the problem of preventing a new world war does not belong to the category of hush-hush matters. It affects the vital interests of all countries, of everyone living on this Earth. It is well to sit down at the negotiating table with a clear programme raising the hopes of all people. Does Washington have such a programme? For the time being it can hardly say so. Which cannot but cause apprehension in the world.

Warsaw

(Izvestia, August 27. In full.)

Wednesday, August 27, 1986

VOVP15-860827-510

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THE FORCE OF EXAMPLE

S.Kondrashov, Izvestia political commentator

The American people are prepared to support their government if it makes serious moves towards the consolidation of normal relations with our country and towards the signing of agreements reducing and stopping the arms race.

But here is one of the main and persistent paradoxes repeatedly registered by numerous public opinion surveys: two thirds and even three-quarters of the Americans stand for normal relations between our two countries and for the aforementioned agreements, but at the same time approximately two thirds of them do not trust the Soviet Union and our peaceful intentions. It is at the intersection of these two trends which regrettably exist alongside each other that the rostrum is built from which President Reagan and his associates are declaring that only the ever stronger positions of strength can become a foundation for the construction of stable relations with the Soviet Union and that only the buildup of the arms race can lead to its deceleration. Also from this rostrum comes the frequent argument that nuclear tests are needed as long as American security is based on the concept of nuclear deterrence, in order to keep the nuclear powder dry, so to speak.

So the real problem is not in how many Americans approve of the proposed nuclear test ban, but in how much the main postulate of militant and aggressive anti-Sovietism, which is mistrust of our country and our ideology and foreign policy, has been shaken in their minds. Changes here are coming more slowly than one would like them to, and yet they do come. One of the indirect proofs of these changes is the reduced

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emphasis in American political discussions on the good old argument about the "Soviet threat" closing in upon America from all directions. The constructive character of our foreign policy and the repeated confirmations of our readiness for reasonable compromise and of our desire to listen to the other side's proposals are changing our country's image for the better in the eyes of the Americans and eroding the bastions of mistrust and suspicion. As we have found out during the peace cruise along the Mississippi, the process of the dehumanization of our country intensively encouraged by the American mass media and by some of the politicians is now running into another process which I would describe as rehumanization or the restoration of human features in the image of the other people and the other society.

Long-established views do not change easily or quickly, even if the time for such changes is ripe. Since there are no miracles in politics, tireless efforts and time are needed for positive changes. Time for doing away with the heavy inertia of the past in public consciousness. Also time for showing the entire potential of positive example in international affairs and for exposing the weakness of the positions of its opponents.

Over the past year Washington's official arguments against the Soviet moratorium have fallen off like dead fig leaves, exposing to many (but not all!) the shameful nudity of the politicians who by their old chauvinistic and imperialist tradition are relying not on reason but on strength and on their selfish interests, and are unable to adjust their mentality to the requirements of our nuclear age. It's all propaganda! they shout, having lost all other arguments. Propaganda! But then maybe this is not only an excuse or a ploy, but also a sign of their organic inability to believe in the possibility of a new way of thinking taking into

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consideration the interests of the entire mankind. From a strictly military issue, the question of the prohibition of nuclear tests has long become a political issue or an issue of political will. And now, it is also increasingly becoming a moral issue. The force of the Soviet example leads to the formation in the international community and in American society of such a political and moral atmosphere which will hopefully force the officials in Washington to respond in the same vein with their numerous "unofficial" compatriots.

(Izvestia, August 26. Abridged.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

Monday, August 11, 1986

VORI2-860811-507

7

A SIGNAL FROM CAPITOL HILL

On August 8 the US House of Representatives by 234 votes against 155 adopted an amendment to the bill on military allocations for the next fiscal year. The amendment establishes a temporary moratorium on nuclear tests of over 1 kilotonne as of January 1, 1987, for one calendar year.

Since the Senate has not adopted a similar amendment to the Pentagon's budget, the House initiative is to be considered by the Senate--House of Representatives Conference Committee. If endorsed by it, the amendment will be enforced as of the new year.

The voting on the amendment is a telling blow at the plans of the Reagan Administration, and the Pentagon above all, who did what their utmost to prevent its adoption. The 1-kilotonne ceiling it stipulates would promote the achievement of the major goal of the opponents of nuclear tests -- banning tests of almost any nuclear armaments since the less than 1-kilotonne tests are of but insignificant military significance, says an explanatory note to the initiative. The thing is that staying within the limit it would be short of impossible to develop new strategic arms, including those envisaged by the Star Wars programme.

The step taken by the House is not only of practical but also of political importance.

This signal mirrors the sentiments on the Capitol Hill and all over the United States against further nuclear arms race, and for banning all types of nuclear tests.

Also of interest is another amendment endorsed 64-35 by the Senate the same day. It calls on the President to resume negotiations with the Soviet Union on the universal and complete ban of nuclear weapon tests, and to ratify the two agreements already signed -- the Treaty between the USSR and

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the USA on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests (1974), and the Treaty between the USSR and the USA on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes (1976).

(Izvestia, August 9. Abridged.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

AFFECTED OPTIMISM

A.Bovin, Izvestia political correspondent

No sooner had politicians in Moscow actually studied the US President's message than journalists in Washington got down to discussing its content in every detail. Judgements differed, of course, as indeed, they should. But the dominant one in the commentaries that reflected the White House stance was something like this. The Administration had most carefully studied M.S. Gorbachev's letter and found some positive elements in it; in its turn, the Administration was making a big stride to meet Moscow half-way, taking as much account as possible of the Russians' worries and wishes; so, "the ball is now in the Soviet court." The optimistic conclusion was that Mr. Reagan's letter was throwing the doors wide open to a second Soviet-American summit and inspiring hope that it would be O.K.

That is the case they are trying to make. And the reasons behind this official and semi-official optimism are not so difficult to see. Having obviously overdone its "muscle flexing", negativism, all kinds of provocative antics, and facing growing pressure from the allies and from the American public, too, and trying not to look too hawkish in advance of the November elections, the Administration has been out to present its peace-making image, to reassure its allies, and to show the Americans how anxious it is to improve relations between the US and the USSR.

Should there, indeed, be such a turn in Washington's policy, one could only welcome it. For the time being, however, there is no reason for such rejoicing or, to put it mildly, there is too little reason for it. Naturally, I don't know what the official reaction to the US President's letter

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will be. But it seems to me that this letter--to judge by what has been written in Washington and said in Moscow about it--can in no way be regarded as a step forward towards agreement, compromise, and a reasonable balance of interests.

Let us have a look at the main issue--the SDI, that is the Star Wars programme. Our idea is to have a total ban imposed on any arms in space. For a period of transition, we have proposed abiding by the ABM Treaty for 15-20 years, that is limiting the whole effort in this field to laboratory research while, at the same time, radically slashing the offensive nuclear potentials.

Now, what is the US President proposing? Studying, developing, and testing anti-missile systems for five years, without deploying them. If such research and tests show that these systems can be created, the parties concerned will undertake to negotiate for two years about how to pass over to an "age of defensive systems". Should these negotiations prove unproductive, either party would have the right to deploy its own system, upon notifying the other 6 months before the deployment.

Now let us see what this all comes to.

First, the said five years have no practical meaning whatsoever because, according to statements by officials in charge of the Star Wars programme, Americans will be able to start deploying the ABM systems only in the mid-90s, that is, no sooner than ten years hence.

Second, the Americans propose to break the ABM Treaty all through these five years, "without withdrawing" from it. For they propose to go beyond laboratory research. And, moreover, they see that "research" itself as a rather wide-ranging enterprise including full-scale testing.

Third, what Americans want to negotiate is not a ban on

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arms in space but the rate of space militarisation. And, in the long run, they reserve the right to act as they please.

So where can one see any sign of any regard for "Soviet preoccupation"? Where is there any move towards compromise? What they want us to do by our signature is to give our consent to the American Star Wars programme, no more no less.

I am not going to examine other points of Reagan's letter which one can pick from the Western press. They are all modelled on one pattern, that of taking the fullest possible account of the interests of the US and ignoring those of the USSR. It may well be, of course, that the letter does contain certain positive suggestions and interesting details and a certain impulse towards mutual understanding but one can see nothing of it from hearsay, so to speak. Nor can one see any encouraging indications of the President's desire to have his meeting with M.S.Gorbachev crowned with some tangible constructive results. To fly all the way across the Atlantic just to meet one another again? There is hardly any great point in that. One would very much like that meeting to take place and to see it really improve Soviet-American relations and take the disarmament issue off the ground, rather than boil down to producing yet another "spirit". But agreement, unlike, say, a moratorium, cannot be unilateral. It would be useful for those in the White House and around it to stop negotiating with each other and pause to think in real earnest of how they should negotiate with the Soviet Union. Neither pressure nor trickery would work. Nothing but good faith, nothing but a desire and ability to appreciate your partner's worries and interests.

(Izvestia, August 9. Abridged.)

SOVIET MORATORIUM: AN APPEAL TO REASON

Izvestia leader

For the fourth time the Soviet Union has extended its moratorium on nuclear explosions, which it unilaterally introduced on the fortieth anniversary of the tragedy of Hiroshima. Of course, it was not easy to adopt such a decision: over the past twelve months silence on our testing grounds had been ripped eighteen times by the echoes of explosions in Nevada.

Is it expedient to maintain the moratorium when the United States has not ceased its nuclear tests? Is not the risk too great and does not time work against the security of the country? The Soviet Union had enough grounds to resume its nuclear tests. But it has not resumed them, giving the Washington administration an extra time for using the historic chance on the road to ending the arms race.

Why does the USSR attach so much importance to this?

Ceasing the tests would close the channel for improving the existing and developing new, sophisticated arms systems, systems of weapons of mass destruction. This is perhaps the chief motivation behind the not simple decision which the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government took after comprehensively and scrupulously weighing up all the "pros" and "cons." We are not just proposing that those channels should be closed. We do close them. As General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev stressed in his Statement on Soviet television, "the moratorium of the Soviet Union on nuclear explosions, being action, and not only a proposal, in practice proves the seriousness and sincerity of our programme of nuclear disarmament, of our calls for new policy - a policy of

realism, peace and cooperation."

By extending the moratorium, we reaffirm our preparedness to fulfil the high responsibility the Soviet Union bears as a socialist state and as a nuclear power whose duty it is to make every effort to prevent global disaster and to save mankind from perishment in a nuclear conflagration.

What can be more convincing, more eloquent than practical actions? To solving the problems of international security the Soviet Union makes a weighty, quite specific contribution, hoping that its initiatives will cause a chain reaction of vigorous response measures by other states and governments, measures capable of ensuring swift advancement along the road to curbing and terminating the arms race. Its programme for general nuclear disarmament by the year 2000 opens broad operational scope for peace-loving actions. The only thing required is a desire to advance towards this aim, a desire expressed not in the form of high-sounding declarations, but of concrete deeds.

Guided by its strategy of peace, the USSR has not limited itself to words: on the table of bilateral negotiations and international forums, whether at Vienna, Geneva or Stockholm, constructive proposals have been put; in Vladivostok a call was issued for the ensuring of security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region; in New York, at United Nations headquarters, a call for the establishment of Star Peace and the laying of the foundations for a comprehensive system of international security.

This is not only the result of a sincere desire for a world without arms and wars. It is a manifestation of highest state wisdom, of the way of new thinking which the modern world, tired of living in the conditions of a "balance of terror," so badly needs. This is apparently why the Soviet initiatives meet with such a broad reaction of approval and

appreciation all over the world and, of course, in our country. The Soviet people wholeheartedly support the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government and insist on a persistent continuation of the foreign-policy course of the 27th Congress of the Party.

Yet from the White House comes an assertion that joining the moratorium "would not meet the security interests of the United States, our friends and allies" because tests "are needed to maintain the reliability and effectiveness of nuclear weapons, which in the foreseeable future will remain the key element of our deterrent."

On the conscience of the White House is the statement that it is going to keep nuclear weapons "in the foreseeable future." By this statement the White House actually voids the solemn declarations by the President at the Soviet-American summit in Geneva where the intention of the sides was confirmed to work for an end to the nuclear arms race on earth and for its prevention in outer space.

And to speak for "friends and allies" and, by extension, the entire world about what their interests should be means to show a mentality that is dangerously behind the process of deep-going changes in international life, means to continue adhering to the perceptions about the world as one's private preserve.

The world thinks differently than Washington about whether the moratorium meets the interests of the peoples of the planet or not. It is by no chance that the leaders of countries of four continents - India, Greece, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden and Argentina - in their Mexican Declaration adopted a few days ago have again appealed for the termination of all nuclear tests. It is by no chance that the Soviet moratorium has been approved by the UN General Assembly, the world's most representative forum of states.

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As to sentiments in the United States itself, here is what Dr. Bernard Lown, co-chairman of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, wrote to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee: The Soviet Union has ceased nuclear explosions, and this act is far more eloquent than any solemn speech... A mutual Soviet-American moratorium on nuclear tests meets the security interests of the United States and of all nations.

Meets the interests of the USA and of all nations... But Washington stubbornly persists in not recognizing this, in refusing to see that the world has irreversibly changed since August 1945, that attempts to ensure one's own security without consideration for the security of other countries and peoples, attempts to gain military superiority are doomed. Showing a pre-nuclear way of thinking which became obsolete with the Hiroshima tragedy more than forty years ago, Washington keeps asserting: what the Soviet Union is doing is propaganda, it's a tactical move designed for world public opinion.

But the world would only welcome a similar move designed for the international public on the part of the USA and a silence that would at last prevail over Nevada in response to the silence on our testing grounds.

To take our preparedness for compromises, for such cardinal measures as the unilateral moratorium as evidence of the fact that America is wearing out with its power the Soviet Union and weakening its political will is a mistake. It's an extremely dangerous illusion based on the long outdated view of what international relations should be, and especially relations between the two nuclear powers. This is a false premise with which it is impossible to take the path of honest agreements, the path of making the international climate healthier.

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By again extending the moratorium, the USSR says frankly and openly: the United States should impartially assess the situation and overcome its delusions about the Soviet Union and its foreign policy. Time for this is still there. But there is less and less of it.

(August 21. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VEKFI
TÜSTAV

IZVESTIA ON THE SITUATION IN THE CHERNOBYL
NUCLEAR POWER STATION AREA

The situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station can now be briefly described as stable, Lev Voronin, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, has stated in an interview with Izvestia published in its May 20 issue. In the government commission he took the place of Ivan Silayev, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Chairman of the Machine Building Bureau of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The reactor temperature is about 200 degrees. The discharge of aerosol particles is minimal, Lev Voronin said.

A programme has been drawn up for a period ending on June 15, which envisages the main directions of actions. These include the construction of a concrete "sarcophagus" in which the remains of the station's fourth generating set which ran out of control will be encased, preparations for the operation of the three unaffected power generating sets of the station and decontamination of the territory adjacent to the station, and of the 30 km zone.

The first ploughing experiment begins on May 20, Lev Voronin said. We shall overturn soil layers and treat them with decontamination substances. Various methods and various compounds will be possibly tried. The decontamination of the territory naturally includes the treatment of buildings.

A large part of radioactive fragments and any potentially hazardous materials can be reliably isolated in the "burial place" of the fifth, not yet completely built, power generating set of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. When time comes for a resumption of the construction, a new one can be built in another place.

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I want to emphasize once again, the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR said, that the most tense period is over. The work now concerns the entire long-term future of the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Professor Yuri Grigoryev, member of the government commission from the USSR Ministry of Health, told Izvestia correspondents that not a single group of population within the 30 km zone had any dangerous symptoms.

(Izvestia, May 20. Summary.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

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VOEKO-860521-512

ACADEMICIAN VELIKHOV ON THE EVENTS IN CHERNOBYL

Work to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is proceeding successfully, Yevgeny Velikhov, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, said in an interview with the Moscow-based magazine Ogonyok.

Nobody has ever encountered such an accident. The unusual situation required non-standard, at times unexpected decisions, the scientist said. The reactor's protection was disturbed and its cooling ceased; an incandescent "crystal" formed. How to cool it? How would it behave? Will the scope of the accident broaden? We could not give answers to such questions in the first days of the accident and therefore were trying to foresee all possible variants to localize the accident and prevent a further radioactive contamination of the atmosphere and the environment. Nobody has ever had to give a precise evaluation of the situation, find solutions and carry them out within the shortest time possible. A multitude of problems of that kind cropped up every day.

Thanks to measures taken the development of the accident was prevented, then a "cold zone" was created around, and an intensive cooling of the reactor's core was started. This work is proceeding successfully. Encasing of the unit in concrete is underway. As we say, the reactor will be "buried".

The Chernobyl accident has taught us many a lesson, Yevgeny Velikhov continued. We are paying dear price, unfortunately, the dearest price possible -- human lives. Remarkable, heroic people are dying from the radiation effects. They are the people who in the first days prevented the accident from expanding. Their feat will be remembered forever.

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But there is one more lesson, which all people on Earth should learn. This accident is insignificant as compared with nuclear war. But it clearly demonstrates what would happen to the world if it is hit by a nuclear catastrophe. Yes, we are mourning the dead. But the best tribute to their memory is to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. Nuclear energy contained in the bombs, shells, and warheads should be wiped off the face of Earth.

I am convinced that all sensible people in the world will draw correct conclusions from the Chernobyl accident, the main of them being the need to step up the struggle for nuclear disarmament and to support the initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union.

(Ogonyok No.20. Summary.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARASTIRMALARI

Friday, March 20, 1987

VONT2-870320-507

7

EXPERIMENT NEAR NUCLEAR PROVING GROUND

Joint Soviet-American Nuclear Test Monitoring Project
S. Matayev in Kazakhstan

Soviet and American scientists have been through the first phase of an experiment to monitor underground explosions at nuclear proving grounds near Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. The experiment is being accomplished in line with an agreement between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Natural Resource Defense Council of the United States. Below is an account of the first results of the experiment as presented in Izvestia's interview (retranslated from the Russian by Novosti) with the American scientists participating in the project.

The Soviet side has stood by its commitments to pursue a package of specific nuclear test monitoring methods agreed between Soviet and American scientists, said a member of the American group, prof. Jonathan Berger of the University of California. As part of the first phase of the experiment, which was extremely successful, scientists deployed ground-based monitoring facilities near the test site and made hundreds of registrations.

The professor showed a seismogram recorded by American equipment. For nearly eight months the sensitive devices had been monitoring echoes of distant earthquakes and nuclear explosions in the Nevada desert. But never throughout that time had the soil been shaken in the area of Semipalatinsk. The Soviet self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing lasted for almost 19 months.

Berger said the results of test monitoring convinced him that international verification of nuclear testing was technically possible. However, more precise measurements

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could be accomplished with the help of underground monitoring facilities that would be devoid of noise interference. Underground facilities would be deployed as part of the second phase of the experiment, already underway strictly according to schedule, Berger said. He said American sensors would be lowered into several 100-meter wells. Some wells had been sunk.

Jacob Sherr, a participant in the recent International Forum For Nuclear-Free World, For Survival of Humanity, said both in Moscow and at the test monitoring site he saw numerous indications of practical steps by the Soviet leadership to safeguard peace and defuse the nuclear threat. He said he was quite impressed by the seismic station and the amount of work already done at it. He said this raised hopes that the joint project would produce positive results in the field of mutual test verification.

Sherr said he knew transportation of the equipment for the second phase had not been smooth. Dispatched from the United States, the designated cargo had been lost at an international airline due to somebody's mistake, if not foul play. It was ultimately found in Tokyo and brought to Karaganda via Moscow. A trailer brought the fragile equipment to Karkaralinsk. Further movement was difficult due to roadblocks caused by heavy snowing. Help came unexpectedly from local miners who had been vacationing at a nearby rest home Shakhter.

I was particularly impressed by the Soviet people's unanimous desire to have the experiment accomplished at all costs, and also by the fact that they trusted the American group, Sherr said. Sadly, far from all people in my country know about that or about how well we have been treated here, he said. We have encountered a lot of understanding in the Soviet Union and we were allowed to start work near the

NEWS AND VIEWS

The US leaders made February 3 a bleak day in US policy this year and in world politics as a whole, Novosti Press Agency comments. The nuclear device detonated by the Pentagon at the Nevada testing ground on that day was not the biggest American explosion registered by seismographs. Yet, it had the biggest political repercussions, shaking to the foundations the trust in the United States of millions of people who hoped against hope that the past year would be the last year in the history of nuclear testing.

The American leaders had enough time to heed the voice of reason. For 18 months there has been complete silence at the Soviet nuclear testing grounds. The aim of the unilateral Soviet freeze on all nuclear blasts, announced in August 1985, was to persuade the United States to join that first and simplest act of disarmament. Seven weeks ago -- by that time the US administration had responded to the Soviet move by conducting 24 nuclear tests -- the Soviet Union, extending its moratorium for the fifth time, warned the other side that there was a limit to Soviet patience and that the USSR would end its moratorium with the first US blast in Nevada in 1987.

The Soviet Union had given the United States too many odds anyway. It should be recalled that from the beginning of the nuclear era to January 1, 1986, the United States had conducted 801 nuclear tests and the Soviet Union 563, or one-third less. So we can no longer endanger our own security, the security of our allies and international security as a whole at a time when the United States continues to upgrade its nuclear capabilities and develop space weapons.

The 25th American nuclear blast was the drop that overfilled the cup of our patience. And now it is for the Soviet government to decide what to do next. But whatever that

decision, the Soviet freeze, a prominent act of peaceable policy, will not just come down in history, but will remain a live active factor of world politics.

Announcing the fifth extension of its moratorium on the New Year eve, the Soviet Union emphasised that even if the USSR had to resume nuclear testing after a 25th US nuclear blast, it would suspend its nuclear testing programme as soon as the United States halted testing. In that statement the Soviet Union reiterated its oft-repeated proposal for convening without delay full-scale negotiations on a nuclear test ban treaty in any form and at any forum with the participation of the United States as the necessary condition. The Soviet Union has always advocated a full ban on all nuclear tests for military purposes, considering it a major step towards the ultimate goal of halting the nuclear arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons. Though the US administration has failed to pass a new test for political maturity, it cannot escape responsibility for the future of the world and its security.

The situation in Afghanistan is complex and in some regions even tense, Colonel Abdul Ghafar, an officer from the operation department of the Afghan Army General Staff, told Novosti correspondent in Kabul Boris Gan. Armed groups from seven Islamic parties are doing their utmost to provoke violation of ceasefire declared by the government from January 15 this year, and prevent national reconciliation. From January 15 to 31 the enemy fired at the garrisons and army posts on nearly 250 occasions. Shooting was particularly heavy along the Afghan-Pakistani frontier. Gangs in Herat bordering on Iran have become more active, particularly in Shindand, where attacks have been registered on army columns supplying distant regions with food. The enemy mines roads and uses

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Monday, February 9, 1987

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News and Views

NEVADA AND HISTORY

Alexander IGNATOV, Novosti political correspondent

The American state of Nevada has not gone down in history as a glorious or heroic chapter; yet it is there now with a bitter touch of the unpleasant, yet memorable events. The roar of another nuclear explosion at the test site there, though not so big in its yield, resounded all over the world in a sinister manner.

Not so much because that was the 815th American nuclear test, but because it blew up the planet's hopes for a substantial step towards ending the arms race and wrote finis to the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions, which had been in effect since August 1985.

Moscow waited 18 months for Washington to return the gesture of goodwill. It is for 18 months that silence prevailed at the Soviet test ranges. The Kremlin extended its moratorium five times, each time urging the White House to reciprocal concessions, mutual restraint. And what was the reply? The US Administration carried out 25 underground nuclear blasts, dealing 25 blows upon the cause of nuclear disarmament, all this to the accompaniment of expatiations on its commitment to peace, disarmament, and restraint.

The Soviet Union's nerves proved really strong. It did give Washington a start, but everything has the limit. That is why Moscow deemed it no longer possible to risk the country's security, because the tests in Nevada enabled the Americans to perfect their weaponry and increased the threat of the USA forging far ahead, which, with due account of the imperial thinking of US ruling circles, the sentiments of having a licence to do anything and adventurism inherent in them, makes the threat of nuclear war more real.

The explosion, which was heard on February 3, after the USSR's last warning, came as a symbolical insult to the public conscience, as supporters of arms control in the West put it. True, the US newspaper Today made a conjecture that it served not so much military interests as the personal ambitions of the US President wishing to become the founder of a defence programme, in other words, the pioneer of Star Wars.

In all likelihood, the US President will go down in history as a myth-maker, not peace-maker, because most scientists not only in the USSR and Europe but in the USA itself appraise success of his Strategic Defence Initiative as mythical, while the attempts to develop SDI on the basis of nuclear weapons sophistication are fraught with grave danger.

The February underground test has caused much indignation in the world. Two thousand people took part in a demonstration at the gate of the Nevada test site, with 200 of them having been arrested. Demonstrations of supporters of a freeze on nuclear testing have been held in many US cities. A resolution tabled for discussion at the House of Representatives aimed at restricting the Pentagon's plans had 140 co-authors. One hundred and forty Communists? No, 140 members of the Democratic Party.

Incidentally, the US Administration has challenged not only its own fellow countrymen. The White House said its disparaging "No" in reply not only to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries but to the Delhi Six--the six authoritative states imperatively urging renunciation of explosions. The USA has turned its back on the whole of the developing world, refusing to heed the voice of the Harare Non-Aligned Summit. Similarly, the men in Washington were unwilling to consider the opinion of the UN General Assembly, which expressed itself in favour of a search for agreement between the USSR and the USA in this sphere.

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A sit-in of protest was a reaction of Hiroshima victims, who gathered in the Park of Peace, to Reagan's latest act. A resolution of West German Socialists, the Presidium of the Social-Democratic Party of Germany, pointed out the White House's unwillingness to reach agreement with the Soviet Union. Soviet citizens interviewed in the streets of Moscow, whose views are given in the columns of central newspapers, have accused US leaders of irresponsibility.

Some people might think that public opinion is immaterial for the US military-industrial complex. However, the fact that the date of the latest explosion was shifted from February 5 to February 3 was a sign of the Administration's fear: it strove to "forestall protesters".

What's next? The press reports on the Pentagon nurturing extensive plans for explosions: 200 or even 300 tests. The state of Nevada, according to reference-books, is known for its mineral resources; tourism is well-developed, with Las Vegas, the major US gambling centre, being located there. As it appears, however, one will have to add to the above the following words: notorious for its nuclear test site, where in the 1980s the US government continued its reckless militarist games dangerous to all the world and unanimously condemned by the public of the planet.

The Soviet Union is doing all it can to put an end to nuclear testing. The issue of tests, as before, is in the focus of attention, and Moscow is ready to close down its own test sites as soon as testing in Nevada is finally discontinued.

(APN, February 8. In full.)

THE END

NEWS AND VIEWS

Enver Mamedov, Novosti political analyst, writes:

Military experts and researchers have established that if a war in Europe, involving conventional weapons alone, breaks out today, it would deal a crushing blow at civilization in Europe and elsewhere. If conventional shells hit dozens of nuclear power plants (and there are more than 200 in Europe), radiation would spread over vast areas. Hundreds of destroyed chemical plants will poison land, the air, and rivers.

Densely-populated cities would fall victim to fire storms which would be stronger than tornadoes that accompanied the bombings of Hamburg and Dresden by Anglo-American aircraft.

This is exactly why the Soviet programme of January 15, 1986 for eliminating nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction before the end of this century, stressed the urgent need to complement wide-ranging measures for a gradual elimination of all nuclear weapons by negotiating cuts in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe. The Warsaw Treaty proposes substantial reductions in all components of the ground forces and tactical aviation of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty in Europe (from the Atlantic to the Urals). As a first step the USSR and its allies suggest a one-time mutual reduction of the NATO and Warsaw Treaty troops by 100,000 to 150,000 men on each side in one or two years.

Needless to say, all cuts should be reliably verified. The Warsaw Treaty suggests verifying the cuts with national technical means and international procedures, up to on-site inspections.

So what was NATO's response to this peace initiative? First it was silenced, and when this was no longer possible, NATO proposed instead of the well-balanced programme which does not give a superiority or loopholes to any side, holding

negotiations on the alleged "disbalance". Its programme provides for unilateral cuts in conventional weapons and troops of the Warsaw Treaty countries or modernization and rapid buildup of the US and NATO conventional weapons (Washington has already started acting in this direction). But what "disbalance" is meant? After all, the facts recognized even by some prominent Western military experts, point to rough parity between the sides' armed forces and conventional armaments. NATO has 94 divisions in Europe, and the Warsaw Treaty, 78. According to a JCS report to Congress (1984), the alignment of forces in aviation is stable.

What is the situation like now? Where, when and how should the urgent problem of lowering the level of military confrontation in Europe be tackled? The most logical solution would be to extend the mandate of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. This could be done at its second stage (Stockholm-2). Participation of neutral and non-aligned countries in debates can only ease progress to solutions.

* * *

Yuri Gvozdev, Novosti political analyst, writes:

Mercenaries, also known as dogs of war are ready to kill people and destroy houses, farms, hospitals, and schools if they are paid tidy sums. The world community is alarmed about the mounting activities of mercenaries.

It is the United States who use mercenaries on the largest scale. Not long ago the US Congress allocated 100 million dollars as aid to the Nicaraguan contras and actually legalized this dirty practice. The Reagan administration needs mercenaries to pursue its policy of neoglobalism in Central America, the south of Africa, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, and other areas.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Vladimir Katin, Novosti political analyst, writes:

In experts' opinion a situation has developed the continuation of which is fraught with inflicting serious damage on the security of the Soviet Union and its allies. Therefore, it is exclusively the considerations of security that dictate the necessity to resume underground nuclear tests on Soviet testing ranges if after the New Year night the United States again explodes another nuclear device.

Extending repeatedly its moratorium, the Soviet Union has accepted major security tradeoffs. A threat has appeared that the United States which has conducted more nuclear explosions than the Soviet Union by one-third may forge ahead in the development of its strategic armaments. Here is the opinion of General of the Army Yuri Maximov, Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Missile Forces: "The unilateral moratorium we proclaimed undoubtedly creates certain difficulties in the work aimed at improving armaments, but we have to reconcile with this for the sake of the general goal -- the discontinuation of the arms race, the preservation of world peace."

I would like to stress that this has been stated by a general. There are no threats or sabre-rattling in his statement. What a sharp contrast to the bellicose calls by NATO's generals to build up the bloc's missile and nuclear arsenal!

Such are our security risks. Let us consider now the positive results of the Soviet moratorium.

First. The whole world is now convinced that Moscow is determined to switch-over the issue of the discontinuation of underground nuclear tests to the practical plane. This has been graphically proved by our long-lasting action.

Second. The Soviet action has been vigorously supported all over the world -- at the United Nations, by 101 non-aligned countries, by the Delhi Six, by many political parties and public organizations. This is a manifestation of new mentality in the atomic age.

Third. During the Soviet moratorium some statesmen and governments, primarily the US Administration, have fully and finally exposed themselves. It has turned out that they have paid lip service to nuclear disarmament. When it was necessary to take a clear-cut stand on the issue, NATO countries failed to do this.

Fourth. The Soviet moratorium has shown that there is a real opportunity to curb the nuclear arms race without delay provided there is a political will, as it has been unilaterally done by the USSR.

To sum up, the moratorium and its lessons have enriched the experience of the peoples' struggle for a nuclear-weapon-free world, have shown that the arms race can be stopped and are therefore the property of all mankind.

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Yuri Gvozdev, Novosti political analyst, writes:

CIA activities promise to become still more dangerous for many nations in 1987. A straw in the wind is the agency's plans concerning Nicaragua. In that country, the CIA is engineering and testing operations that may be used tomorrow against other Third World countries. The trend is to legalize actions that only recently were regarded as "covert." This was made possible by the US Congress' official allocation of 100 million dollars in contra aid. According to Washington reports, next year the CIA will undergo "one of public tests in its history" for effectiveness, which it hopes to prove by

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a variety of "innovations."

Equipping the contras with more lethal weapons is one of them. The CIA no longer talks just about antiaircraft missiles. It wants to supply tanks, planes, artillery guns.

Use of Honduras and Pakistan as starting bases for hostile campaigns against both neighbour states and whole regions will likely increase. In December US secret services, backed up by the Pentagon, induced Tegucigalpa to provoke a border conflict, which also served as cover for the contras. Pakistan, too, has started behaving much more aggressively on Afghan and Indian borders of late.

There will also be closer CIA-Pentagon "semiwar" cooperation, to judge by the Nicaraguan precedent. Green Berets will far more extensively and openly train "freedom fighters" and accompany them in combat operations. The CIA might also enlist US Air Force and Navy fire support for its actions.

And, of course, "geography" will further expand. From 1981 to mid-1985 CIA covert operations quintupled, exceeding 50.

(APN, December 24. In full.)

THE END

News and Views

IVANOV DOUBTS: SHOULD THE MORATORIUM GO ON?

Vladimir Simonov,

Novosti political correspondent

A young man rang me up from Kalinin, a town outside Moscow, the other day to say that he had read my articles and was in doubt: won't national security suffer if the Government kept on extending its unilateral nuclear test moratorium?

Academician Georgy Arbatov, Director of the Institute for US and Canada Studies, who often acts as a government expert, said at a news conference in Delhi recently that his Institute was receiving many letters expressing the same kind of concern. Some of the writers even insisted on the Soviet authorities resuming nuclear tests before "the Americans pass us in nuclear affairs".

To understand how a Soviet "man in the street" comes to form so critical a judgement on our continued self-imposed test ban let us try to read his mind:

"I am Pyotr Ivanov, a schoolteacher from Kalinin. After the Second World War which bereft me of my parents and my wife of her mother, peaceful coexistence ceased to be a mere political term for us. It is the ashes that keep hearts burning.

"The Western radio voices tell me that a moratorium is too sophisticated a problem to bring it up for a world-wide discussion, as my Government has been doing.

"I don't agree. In my view, anyone who is not indifferent to international affairs can well see what nuclear testing is. It is a booster for the nuclear arms race. The ending of tests would make any upgrading of nuclear weapons impossible and so check the race.

"My country has been keeping its test sites silent for

sixteen months. To judge by the declarations of the Delhi Six, the Soviet initiative has been welcomed in all continents. But the US has carried out 23 explosions in the meantime. Isn't that an abuse of our generosity?

"Professor Richard Pipes of Harvard University and Kenneth Adelman, Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, assure me that it is not. I've read their articles, written expressly for Soviet newspapers, so for me, Pyotr Ivanov, too.

"Pipes says a moratorium would impair the quality of the American deterrent. The weapons, he claims, are aging, and have to be tried out. But that argument holds just as good for the Soviet nuclear arsenals, doesn't it? Besides, Soviet experts have been checking the state of nuclear explosives without any blasts. They are ready and willing to share this 'secret' with Mr. Pipes' compatriots, if the US joins the moratorium.

"Is that convincing? For me, it is.

"Adelman is against the moratorium because he claims my country cannot be trusted. He says in 1961 it perfidiously broke the accord about ending explosions between the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States.

"I went to our school library to leaf through some books. There I found a copy of a document which must certainly be in the files of the State Department and so readily available for Mr. Adelman. It is President Eisenhower's statement of December 31, 1959: 'We consider ourselves free to resume the testing of nuclear weapons'. France had carried out four explosions by 1961. So, when my country finally resumed testing, there was no more accord in existence at all.

"Is that convincing? For me, it is.

"I, Pyotr Ivanov, want my children to be able to walk barefoot on the grass, rather than ironshod on nuclear ashes.

"However, hasn't my Government overstepped the safety

margin by having extended the unilateral moratorium four times in a row? Hasn't it reached the limit beyond which the nation's defence capability will be in danger?

"I am in doubt. So I feel I have to write, to warn...

"This is a Year of Peace. It is drawing to a close, and so is the term of the Soviet moratorium. When I think what Christmas present would be good enough for my children, for the children of far-off America, and those in the Third World, I see nothing better and human for them than the US joining the moratorium.

"Unless it does, there would be no option left for me, Pyotr Ivanov, but to call on my Government to drop it?

"After the Third World War, there would be nobody left to say that I was right."

Ivanov's voice is part of Soviet public opinion. The longer the US dodges resolving the problem of a total nuclear test ban, the louder will this voice be growing.

(APN, December 5. In full.)

THE END

Friday, October 24, 1986

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NEWS AND VIEWS

At the Soviet- U.S. summit in Reykjavik Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev spelled out to President Reagan a real package of sweeping proposals to halve strategic offensive arsenals in five years, eliminate both Soviet and American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, pledge not to scuttle the ABM Treaty in the forthcoming 10 years and ban nuclear weapons testing, Vladimir Katin, Novosti political correspondent, writes.

The first two proposals proved to be a near-deal, so both sides admitted they could start working on tentative accords on strategic offensive and medium-range missiles. It seemed a breakthrough would be reached soon.

But then the talks stalemated over SDI, because the United States had rejected out of hand the Soviet demand that Star Wars research, development and testing be confined to the laboratory.

Many in the West wonder why the Soviet package of proposals cannot be unpacked to make a deal at least in areas where understanding had been reached. The point is that in proposing its package the Soviet side implied that all of its proposals were linked and could therefore not be considered separately. To understand this let us look at the topic from the other side and see why the United States does not want to abandon SDI. The U.S. President says America needs SDI to protect itself and its allies from a potential Soviet missile attack. But if the world rids itself of nuclear weapons in 10 years, as suggested by the Soviet Union, why then will the United States and its allies need SDI as a shield against non-existent Soviet nuclear missiles? The only answer to the question is that SDI will be an offensive system, otherwise

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there is no sense in it.

See what may happen if the first two proposals on strategic weapons and medium-range missiles are separated from the Soviet package to achieve early agreements. Then in ten years the USSR will find itself with no nuclear weapons at all, while the United States will have completed SDI and launched new sophisticated weapons in outer space.

So the Soviet package is not a restaurant menu from which any side can pick up what it likes, ignoring the rest. For by doing so it will ignore the chief issue firmly linked to all the others.

And yet it does not mean that talks won't be held in each of the above areas. In fact, the sides are negotiating them in Geneva, including space weapons, strategic offensive systems and medium-range missiles in Europe. An accord can be reached on each of these issues, but none will enter into force as long as all three are not considered in a package and all aspects of the nuclear problem are not taken into account.

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America continues discussing the results of the Reykjavik summit, Edgar Cheporov, Novosti special correspondent in New York, writes. Despite the dissent of opinion, despite the contradictoriness of views, there is a common feature: Reykjavik has made the Americans look in a more realistic light at the policy of both Washington and Moscow.

The chief result of the meeting between the US and Soviet leaders, Michael Myerson, executive director of the US Peace Council, told me, lies in that it has shown the public that the struggle for disarmament continues. Putting forward new ideas and demonstrating a new way of thinking, the Soviet Union has again done all it possibly could to start, together with the US, the process of disarmament. Washington's attitude to Star Wars is the main obstacle in the way to this, which

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also means, to a positive solution to disarmament problems. Today, President Reagan speaks about the merits of the Strategic Defense Initiative. But its implementation would be a heavy blow to universal security and the national security of the United States. The SDI programme was passed on the initiative of the military-industrial complex and insures its interests. The arms manufacturing corporations are locked in a fight for government orders. The number of those seeking them in running into hundreds, for, indeed, SDI would cost three trillion dollars. Reykjavik has set peace champions, who seek to rebuff this policy, new objectives and tasks.

(APN, October 23. In full.)

THE END

NEWS AND VIEWS

If one examines the latest statements by Mikhail Gorbachev, one will see that the situation after the meeting, according to him, has not deteriorated, Spartak Beglov, APN political analyst, writes. On the contrary, it has offered new opportunities and eased the invigoration of the search for mutually acceptable decisions. The conclusion suggests itself: the process initiated by Reykjavik must continue.

The Soviet side has taken an understanding view of the fact that following Reykjavik the American leadership need to sort out things on what to do next, to think and take counsel with Congress and the public. We expect that US politicians will make a deeper study than at Reykjavik of the proposals put forward by the Soviet side. For we proposed really big, really large-scale and clearly compromise-based steps, largely meeting half-way the concern of the Americans and their allies, discarding minor and petty things and stereotypes that sometimes encumbered new approaches to disarmament matters. Time imperatively dictates to American politicians, too, that they should step over the old and obsolete notions and stereotypes, and among them, over the illusion that the US could revive the position of strategic diktat, which permeates the whole Star Wars programme.

If the US finally assumes the stand of realism and gives up the chimeras of the past disguised as "heralds of a space future", then the experience of Reykjavik will at once come handy in agreements which are still within grasp and are so needed by humanity which is tired of waiting.

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The US Administration is to blame for the failure to reach agreements, James Bush, one of the chiefs of the American Defense Information Centre, told APN correspondent V. Markov in Copenhagen.

The stumbling block was President Reagan's reluctance to create the conditions for implementing the agreements by consolidating the regime of the ABM Treaty, adopting equal commitments in the sphere, and introducing at least minimal reasonable limitations on the testing and development of new armaments with space-based elements. The SDI program, no matter how hard its advocates might try to publicize its orientation to defense, implies the deployment of a powerful offensive potential. Therefore, it is really aimed at surpassing the Soviet Union and winning a decisive strategic superiority. Speaking objectively, the attempts to implement SDI inevitably reduce to naught the chances to achieve disarmament and rid our planet of the burden of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet side made considerable concessions on all key questions discussed there. Yet, there were no more or less meaningful changes in the American position. Take, for instance, the problem of a nuclear weapons test ban. The contrast is striking. Despite a unilateral Soviet moratorium, the United States has not yet displayed readiness to solve this problem.

As I see it, the real reason lies in the US Government's stake on Star Wars. The US needs nuclear explosions for the development of its nuclear-induced combat laser. If the Administration imposed a moratorium on nuclear tests, it would have to suspend the development of this new type of weapon. This is a weapon which cannot be called defensive in any way, because it can be used for surprise attacks at the other side's

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strategic targets. So, Nevada is already an operating proving-range of Star Wars.

Peace champions encounter many difficulties, and make many sacrifices. But yet, the peace movement has now become a factor which no government can ignore. This movement prevents many politicians from erroneous decisions and rash steps. Reykjavik urges us all to act.

Another important factor is the position of the US NATO allies. For the time being many of them have reconciled themselves with SDI and even agreed to take part in it. Now, I'm sure, they are bound to see what role is played by SDI. In any case, both international and domestic pressure on the US Government on SDI questions will be growing after Reykjavik. Success can only be achieved by joint and vigorous moves.

(APN, October 20. In full.)

THE END

NEWS AND VIEWS

The US President clung to his Star Wars programme in Reykjavik, instead of consenting to a radical reduction of strategic attack weaponry and complete elimination of European-based medium-range missiles by both sides. Academician M. Markov, Chairman of Soviet Pugwash Committee, writes. Some officials of the US Administration promptly announced that after it is deployed, the SDI system will not threaten a single Soviet citizen as it is meant solely to protect the United States from rocketry. Even if so, is that an excuse for rejecting Soviet peace proposals? Or, if we pose the question broader, how do SDI partisans picture the two superpowers' coexistence with the Star Wars programme carried out? To answer both queries, we have to examine the US President's viewpoint in detail.

Leading world scientists deservedly condemned SDI technicalities. We shall not go into those technicalities, nor shall we describe SDI as a formidable attack weapon system, an instrument of militarizing space. Suffice it to say that if implemented, that programme will immeasurably increase the danger of accidental nuclear warfare; it is bound to thwart nuclear disarmament negotiations for a number of reasons laid bare for all to see.

Firstly, the number of the potential enemy's missiles which the first SDI strike fails to destroy will be the larger the more missiles there are prior to the attack--which renders superfluous any reduction of the carriers and nuclear warheads stockpiled. More than that, it would be best to further stockpile them.

Secondly, SDI would essentially increase the possibility to accidentally trigger off nuclear warfare. Even an imperfect

large-scale ABM system with space-based elements presupposes a super-computer macro-system with mistake-proof programmes of tens of millions of lines, i.e., able to give instantaneous, 100-percent correct information not only to identify several thousand objects but to recommend desired action.

But a physical law postulates that the number of mistakes grows in the SDI mathematical apparatus (early-warning systems, and homing and tracking control) as the computer system receives ever more complicated tasks. In other words, the human race passes its fate into the hands of robots incorporated into a giant network. According to natural laws, such a system can't be perfect, and its dependability can't be verified. Thus, the allegedly perfect SDI system promises that man-made machines will exterminate man.

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Mozambique is in mourning, V.Kunin, APN analyst, writes. President Samora Machel died on his way home from Lusaka when his plane crashed in Natal, South Africa. An investigation is underway. The tragedy suggestively coincided with a brazen threat and slander campaign the South African authorities had launched some weeks ago against Mozambique. Two days before the President died, an AIM commentary had said that Magnus de M. Malan, South African Minister of Defence, had accused him of complicity with terrorists and ominously forecast the imminent collapse of the FRELIMO regime. The unprecedented propaganda campaign was to prepare the ground for attacking Maputo and assassinating the President, the commentary said.

The Mozambican news agency had every reason to make such conclusions, what with the formidable infantry, tank and artillery forces Pretoria concentrated on the frontier. Ever more South African cargo planes supply MNR bandits with arms and materiel. South African Air Force helicopters are

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assume higher, special responsibility. First of all, this is responsibility for mankind's survival. Only those are responsible enough who realize that the danger of nuclear self-destruction urges worldwide unity, and who will be ready to cooperate with all members of the world community in this spirit; those who, instead of zigzagging backwards, to the policy of "total confrontation", will be brave enough to make a great change in international affairs.

* * *

We've no intention to exaggerate, V. Katin, APN political commentator writes, but the fact remains that all the types of nuclear weaponry - tactical, medium-range, strategic - are now located in Europe. Nuclear arsenals of four out of the five nuclear powers are concentrated here. These arsenals can destroy civilisation in Europe.

The conclusion: the problem of security is probably more acute in Europe than anywhere else, because of the highly explosive potential of nuclear confrontation. This also makes the threat of catastrophe more likely here, even if accidental, unintentional, through the fault of a computer or the psychic instability of personnel.

West Europeans should view such a complicated situation from the standpoint of their own security - with their own eyes, not through others' glasses. No, we aren't going to put anybody at loggerheads. This isn't serious for big politics. A concrete businesslike proposal has been made: the USSR and the USA should eliminate their whole European potential of ballistic and cruise missiles. Is this good or bad for Western Europe? Before January 15 it just dreamt of a disappearance of SS-20s. And now? London is against, Bonn is wriggling. Other capitals are silent. Why? Obviously the US pressure for refusal is too strong. If it works, Washington will then innocently say, we don't mind accepting the Soviet

proposals, but the allies object...

So it is time for the allies to see through this double game of their senior partner and look at events soberly and independently, not forgetting about their own interests and about survival and a life without fear of the future.

(APN, March 24. In full.)

THE END

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA
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NEWS AND VIEWS

Humankind will not survive a nuclear war; it will perish if such a war breaks out, V. Katin, Novosti political analyst, writes. Two recent disasters -- the Challenger tragedy in the United States and the tragedy at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl -- have shown the world the dimensions of the threat facing humanity.

These disasters have revealed the abyss that will yawn before our eyes if a nuclear war hits the world. Accumulated nuclear arsenals threaten the human race with thousands of catastrophes much more horrible than the Chernobyl accident. Any accidental malfunction in a spacecraft carrying nuclear weapons aboard may trigger off a nuclear war. Let us imagine that combat spacecraft of the Soviet Union and the United States are launched and that as a result of an accident a craft burns up like the Challenger. The other side will interpret this accident as an attack, automatic retaliatory systems will operate and the world will be plunged into nuclear chaos.

As the American philosopher Henry David Thoreau put it, we are becoming tools of our tools. The situation is still worse, and our tools in such an extreme situation may start operating against our will and threaten us with destruction.

At a recent news conference in Moscow Soviet Academician Georgy Arbatov has said: "It will be disgraceful if a lamentable end awaits us due to delusions and ignorance, due to our inability to explain some issues to each other."

The Soviet Union spares no effort to prevent such a lamentable end to humankind, an end which humanity does not deserve. The USSR has taken on the unilateral commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. For more than 12

months the Soviet Union has not carried out nuclear weapons tests or any nuclear explosions, even for peaceful purposes. Here the USSR also act unilaterally. "A year without explosions is already a political and military reality," Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stressed.

The stumbling block is the stand taken by the United States which, as facts show, is not ready to abandon the arms race and therefore is bluffing. It is paradoxical that in such an advanced capitalist country as the United States, backward notions, sluggish mentality and pre-nuclear concepts are so widespread. So far the US leadership has shown that it is unable to think in a new way. Herein lies the greatest danger for all of us, for all humankind.

There are people in the USA who hope to start and win a nuclear war and for this purpose are sharpening the long sword -- they are perfecting nuclear weapons in Nevada. Do these people know that enough nuclear weapons have been heaped up in the world to destroy the Earth ten to fifteen times over? Of course, they know and yet they are multiplying nuclear arsenals, relying on outmoded concepts of security and measures of ensuring it.

There are also people in the USA for whom the arms race is a gold-mine and who are cashing in on the military business. But do they realize that if a nuclear conflict breaks out there will be no one left to figure out the profits from the production of missiles and warheads.

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It can be established by simple arithmetics that the project Lavie will cost an Israeli, including babies and very old people, 1,000 dollars, journalist S. Berets writes. One must add to this sum 6,000 dollars per capita due to Israel's

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state debt, which now stands at more than 25 billion dollars.

Why does Israel need such an expensive project? Its Air Force has enough modern planes. Not just to show the world that Israel "can match the others".

For several reasons. The Washington Post gives employment as the main reason. But other considerations seem to be more probable. The same newspaper suggests that the aim is to prevent Israeli experts in the aerospace field from leaving the "Promised Land" in search of better opportunities for applying their professional know-how. Another reason, The Washington Post points out, is that Project Lavie is destined to stimulate high-tech research, which would boost Israeli export, primarily of military equipment.

Here is the heart of the matter. As noted above, according to estimates by military experts, the Israeli Air Force will need 300 fighters. But Israel is going to sell new fighters abroad too. The potential buyers are Israeli's main military clients at present -- Chile, South Africa, Taiwan and Argentina. Zionist arms dealers are planning to sell them over 400 Lavies, which will give them not less than a billion dollars of profits.

What role is given to 300 Lavies (Lions), studded with the most up-to-date American electronic equipment, to be put into service in the Israeli Air Force? The main goal will be to win superiority in the air in the Middle Eastern theatre. Besides, new planes will have enhanced opportunities for dealing missile and bomb strikes at ground targets. In this respect not-so-distant events in the Middle East come to mind: Israeli terrorist air raids on the Nuclear Research Centre in Baghdad in 1981, on the PLO headquarters in the suburbs of Tunis in 1985 and brigandage in the skies of Lebanon which has been continuing since June 1982.

The maiden flight of the Lavie aircraft is scheduled for September.

(APN, September 11. In full.)

THE END

REVIEW OF THE JOURNAL "KOMMUNIST" No.11,1986

The latest, eleventh issue of the CPSU Central Committee's journal Kommunist opens with an article by Y. Solovyev, Alternate Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Secretary of the Leningrad Regional Party Committee, "Intensification: Reorganizing in Progress, Searching for New Approaches".

He writes that the Leningrad Regional Party organisation considers its major priority to persist in directing the efforts of the working people of the city and Region towards bringing about major change in every area of economic activity.

The implementation and the continued elaboration of the regional development programme, "Intensification-90", have made it possible to bring more of the reserves into play to promote economic expansion. One result achieved has been to increase the average annual growth rates of productivity in the region by 1.3 times and in Leningrad proper by 1.5 times compared with the opening period of the previous five-year plan.

One can already speak of some practical results of the organisational, economic and technical activities outlined by the 27th Congress of the CPSU and accomplished under the "Intensification-90" programme. The Kirov Amalgamated Works had to refit the main tractor assembly conveyor-belt to produce a new, K-701M model, that was originally planned to do in a three-month break of production with the output of thousands of tractors delayed. The new idea is to phase out the depreciated equipment and re-arrange the machinery in operation to vacate 14,000 square metres of shop space for the new conveyor-belt to be installed without suspending

production.

In the columns of "Modern World: Trends and Contradictions", the journal carries an article by Academician B. Ponomarev "Lessons of the Great Patriotic War and the USSR's Fight for Peace".

He says that the international situation is rather strained at the present time, with imperialism intensifying aggressive activities and scheming against the Soviet Union everywhere. The arms race continues, developing more and more formidable means of homicide. Responsibility for it lies, first and foremost, with the governing quarters of the United States. The arms build-up process they spur on has led to the threat to the existence of civilisation reaching an unprecedented level.

The picture of the modern world with its stockpiles of arms and the prospect for humanity would be bleak, indeed, if there were nothing but imperialism on Earth, with its power politics and dictatorial practices. But there are other forces and other politics in the modern world. The 27th Congress of the CPSU has shown a different prospect for humanity to look forward to and produced a full-scale programme to spare it the danger of nuclear war and to move towards a safe peace and international security. That is, in point of fact, a programme to save humanity from nuclear destruction.

It comprises the following propositions advanced by the USSR and its allies during the last six months.

1. The ending of nuclear tests. The Soviet Union has unilaterally suspended nuclear explosions and offered to start negotiations without delay about a total nuclear test ban.

2. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century along with refraining from the development of strike space weapons(SDI).

3. Scrapping Soviet and American medium-range missiles in

the European zone.

4. Scrapping chemical weapons and industrial capacities to manufacture them before this century comes to a close.

5. Reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe -- from the Atlantic to the Urals.

6. International cooperation in the exploitation of space for peaceful ends, for the good of all humanity.

7. Dependable verification in every stage of disarmament involving both national facilities and international procedures, up to and including on-site inspections.

8. Creation of an all-embracing system of international security to cover the military and political as well as the economic and humanitarian fields.

The Soviet Union's further decision to prolong its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing until January 1, 1987, is yet another move towards the reduction of nuclear arms.

Along with proposing action to limit and reduce all types of weapons, the CPSU and the Soviet State have been working hard all the time for peace and security of the peoples in every area of international relations and doing everything within human power to safeguard the peace.

It is important, the author says, for all of the world's nations and peoples to draw the proper lessons from the war that ended in 1945, from its outcome and from the subsequent process of development, and to make the necessary conclusions. The character of the international situation and the evaluation of the balance of forces in the world today indicate that the partisans of aggression and power politics should learn some abiding truths before it is too late.

First, a nuclear war, should it be triggered off by an aggressor, would not spare its instigators either, including the ruling circles of imperialism. The nuclear arms and

missiles would offer no chance of that kind to them.

Second, it is worth remembering that on the eve of World War II, the USSR called for a marshalling of forces to stop it. Yet, the Western States counted on getting Hitler Germany to strike at the USSR and so pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them. Those designs fell flat, and Germany struck against those very countries first. The present-day policy of the trans-Atlantic hawks in NATO is also directed towards using the armed forces of European countries to further the interests of American imperialism. Now, propaganda about having to "defend" Europe against the "Soviet threat", against Communism is nothing but a rehash of Goebbelsian diatribes.

Third, the top priority the White House has set itself in building up its armaments and conducting a policy from a position of strength and dictatorial ambitions is to arrest the process of progressive social change in the world and prevent revolutions. But it would do well to remember that imperialism has failed to do so even by two world wars. On the contrary, World War I had produced the conditions for the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution and for the establishment of the world's first Socialist State -- the USSR. World War II created the prerequisites for the collapse of the capitalist system in eleven countries of Europe and Asia. A world Socialist system thus emerged and colonialism crumbled. So, the effect of the two world wars was not to strengthen the positions of imperialism but to weaken them considerably.

Fourth, a very important lesson to draw from the Soviet Union's battle against Hitler Germany is that it demonstrated for the whole world to see the vitality and invincibility of Socialism, the Socialist State, and the Soviet people. The Soviet Union's strength and standing have since increased many times over. The military-strategic parity between the USSR and

the US, between the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO is a major factor to deter aggressors of all stripes and ranks.

Under the heading "Strategy of Acceleration: Theory and Practice", the journal carries an article "In a Major Link of Renewal" giving an account of the "Round Table" of the Journal Kommunist at the Novolipetsk Metal Works.

L. Tsvetkova discusses man's psychological abilities and problems of education. The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party P. Grishkyavichus considers a wide range of issues relating to the social reconstruction of the countryside.

Josef Lenart, Member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPCz, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, and Chudomir Aleksandrov, Member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, give their accounts of the congresses of the Communist Parties of their respective countries. There is also an article by Heng Samrin, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, and Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, "The Kampuchean Revolution: Stages of Development".

(APN)

THE END

NEWS AND VIEWS

People in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, including many Americans, if we are to judge by US press reports, believe that in Reykjavik the sides will not be able to avoid discussing the problem of ending nuclear testing, writes

Enver Mamedov, Novosti political analyst. The Soviet position on the matter is well known: if the United States joins the unilateral Soviet moratorium, this will clear the ground for an early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty. That would be a first major step towards eliminating nuclear weapons.

For more than a year now the Soviet Union has not conducted any nuclear explosions, demonstrating a new way of thinking without which humanity won't be able to survive in the nuclear age.

Washington stubbornly continues testing, however. On September 30 the United States carried out another nuclear weapon test in Nevada. It was the 21st American nuclear test since the announcement of the Soviet moratorium.

What are the assertions of the advocates of nuclear testing?

In the September 23 address in the White House, President Reagan said that the United States must continue nuclear tests to ensure that its nuclear weapons are effective.

There is no doubt that the President had been misguided by his dishonest advisers. Leading experts, including American and British ones, have provided convincing evidence that nuclear explosions are not necessary to check nuclear weapons for reliability. There are safer and cheaper ways to do this. And American scientists and experts know this well. In fact, the Pentagon and experts with arms corporations and the Energy Department have been testing nuclear warheads for their

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reliability without explosions for years. They have been simply testing their non-nuclear components.

The US President further said that nuclear testing helped the development of satellites, ships and tanks that could stand up better to a Soviet nuclear strike and that this would discourage the Soviet Union from making a first strike.

This assertion results from the Pentagon's doctrine that a nuclear war is possible and can be winnable, which the US President publicly renounced in Geneva. Moreover, the Soviet Union made a solemn pledge never to initiate the use of nuclear weapons.

The United States refused to pledge no-first use of nuclear weapons and there is documented evidence about the existence in the safes of American military headquarters of plans for American nuclear attack on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

The President said that testing allowed the United States to stay ahead of the Soviet programmes designed to neutralise the American deterrence potential. This time he put his finger on it. The United States needs testing for military superiority. What I can't understand is how one can "stay ahead" and at the same time (Mr. President's fourth argument) to try to catch up with the Soviet Union in upgrading and building up arsenals.

For more than a year there has been silence at Soviet nuclear testing grounds. Taking into consideration that since 1945 the United States has conducted one-third more nuclear tests than the Soviet Union, including 21 nuclear weapons tests since the announcement of the Soviet moratorium, it is the Soviet Union that must catch up with the United States, not vice versa.

Lastly, the US President said that a nuclear test ban treaty could not be effectively verified. He said this after

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the Soviet Union had agreed to national and international verification in any form, including on-site inspections. He said this after the Soviet Union had accepted the offer of the Delhi Six to organise additional inspection. (Incidentally, the United States kept mum about the initiative). He said this after a group of American scientists had installed their seismic equipment near a Soviet nuclear test site in Kazakhstan and foreign correspondents were allowed into its territory. So verification is not the point. The Soviet Union suggested to the United States creating a broad system of international control. The latter made no reply. The only conclusion from this is that some circles in the United States are not prepared to end the nuclear arms race and are bluffing.

(APN, October 3. In full.)

THE END

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News and Views

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WORLD DEMANDING AN END TO NUCLEAR TESTS.

WASHINGTON RESORTING TO UNWORTHY TRICKS

Enver Mamedov, APN political analyst

Moscow's extension of its moratorium on nuclear explosions is being keenly discussed in the world. Having hoped that the Soviet Union would show reason and good will, world public opinion was not disappointed. Most sociopolitical forces of the planet have positively received the courageous and well-thought-out decision of the Soviet leadership. Many governments, including some US NATO allies, the New Delhi Six, the majority of the Non-Aligned Movement countries and, of course, the peoples of the USSR and socialist states, greeting the action of the Soviet Union, insist that Washington should follow its example.

All responsible figures, public organisations and groups anxious to move the key issue of ending the danger of nuclear war from a standstill regard the termination of all nuclear tests as the most urgent and important task of our time. They realize how difficult it was for the Soviet Union to decide on moratorium extension amidst nuclear blasts on the proving ground in Nevada. Nevertheless, as Mikhail Gorbachev stresses in his reply to the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania, we believe that our unilateral action is justified because it must ease the solution of the problem of nuclear tests and the deliverance of mankind from nuclear threat. In taking this step, continues the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, we trust that people in all countries will correctly assess the long silence on Soviet testing grounds.

Yes, the majority of people in all countries and on all continents are highly appreciative of this silence. At the same time they demand with redoubled energy that the United States should join the Soviet moratorium, having received a historic chance for this. A bilateral moratorium would open the door to a world without nuclear weapons.

In his reply to the message of the leaders of the Six, Mikhail Gorbachev notes that the United Nations has not yet exhausted its potential in resolving the test-end issue and that it should be more actively used. A disarmament conference can be an important forum for multilateral negotiations on the same issue, along with the Soviet-American talks which started in Geneva at the end of July.

Mikhail Gorbachev accepts the proposal of the Six for a meeting of its experts with Soviet and American experts. Such a meeting could make a valuable contribution to achieving a comprehensive ban on tests and to commencing an active, businesslike multilateral dialogue on these questions.

The Soviet Union, he reaffirmed, will readily use the offer of the Six to render help in monitoring the cessation of tests, including on-site inspections, provided, of course, that the United States too agrees to this.

Touching on a second Soviet-American summit, Mikhail Gorbachev declares that the Soviet Union is for the holding of such a meeting, but that it should promote better relations between the USSR and the USA, a healthier international climate and speedier arms control negotiations. "For example, we would be ready there to sign an agreement on terminating nuclear tests." To put it briefly, the Soviet and US leaders' meeting should be filled with practical content. Herein lies the substance of their Geneva understanding.

So it is up to Washington. We in the Soviet Union are well aware of how large are the forces in the USA which resist the

cessation of the arms race and fear like fire a stop to nuclear tests. The influence of these forces has determined the hasty negative reaction of a White House spokesman and the US propaganda machinery to the Soviet initiative. Supporters of the nuclear arms race, opposing any Soviet proposal aimed at the termination of this race, have no scruples and embark on the outright deception of world and US public opinion.

Though the Soviet Union's stand on control over the implementation of agreements reducing nuclear and conventional arms and banning nuclear tests is well known, the Washington propaganda outfit keeps on falsely alleging that "the Russians are against verification and control." The Soviet Union has on many occasions declared its adherence to strict control, including international, and agrees to on-site inspections. But that deliberate lie still lingers on in the US press and the speeches of administration members, let alone the representatives of various reactionary "foundations" and "associations."

Give thought to the basic distinction in approaches of our two states to the question of nuclear tests. For twelve months the Soviet Union carried out not a single nuclear explosion and on August 18 declared that it would continue its moratorium until the beginning of next year. This is not a mere proposal, or a declaration, or rhetoric. It is a concrete action, a concrete deed. The American side, ignoring world public opinion, has been carrying on tests and at the same time endlessly adding conditions on which it may some day agree to test termination. In fact, it doesn't mean even that, but just possible restrictions of tests, yet again on the condition of fulfilment of a countless number of baseless and at times senseless demands.

Washington declares that it cannot give up tests so long as nuclear weapons exist. According to it, they have to be

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checked ("what if they have grown damp?") and improved. And what if the available stockpiles aren't enough to incinerate mankind? When the authors of these flimsy "arguments" get rebuff even from influential American figures and experts, they quickly change the theme and begin to say that without balanced conventional arms progress is impossible. But when proposals for such balanced conventional arms are put on the negotiating table, they vaguely expatiate that this also is not enough.

The question of human rights then pops up. But if matters are conducted in such a way, then the solution of the problem of nuclear tests, of reducing and destroying nuclear arsenals will drag on for decades. It may so happen that there will be simply no one to sign an appropriate agreement. We favour acting rather than talking. Nuclear threat is increasing. Washington, despite its first negative comments, has not yet given a definitive official reply to the Soviet proposals. But whatever manoeuvres and tricks it may make, the US administration will not escape the fact that its attitude to the Soviet moratorium is in the eyes of the public the touchstone by which it will judge the responsibility of its choice: to use or refuse to use one more historic chance on the path to ending the arms race.

(APN, August 24. In full.)

THE END

TIME OF RESPONSIBLE ACTIONS

The latest Soviet decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions is being met with strong approval and support all over the world.

X X X

"We Are Fighting for Such a Treaty"

V.Sukhoy

Thomas Joseph Downy^e has been representing his home state of New York in the House of Representatives for ten years now. He is a member of the Democratic Party and a politician of a new mold among the American legislators. He is young and energetic and also a consistent opponent of the arms race who stands for a mutually acceptable and verifiable American-Soviet agreement which would substantially reduce the nuclear arsenals of both countries.

After the announcement by the Soviet Union of its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions last year, T.Downy^e together with two other Congressmen, P.Schroeder and E.Markey, became one of the initiators of introducing an amendment for consideration in the House, providing for reduced allocations on further nuclear tests in Nevada.

T.Downy^e also made a supposition that the number of proponents of the cessation of nuclear tests would grow, both in the country at large and on Capitol Hill.

This is exactly how it has happened. A few days ago the House of Representatives approved a bill which prohibits the White House to carry out nuclear explosions with a yield of more than one kiloton as from January 1, 1987.

A Pravda correspondent has asked Thomas Downy^e to comment on the decision by the Soviet Union to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions until January 1, 1987. This

is what he said:

General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev has announced a decision which is certainly a major contribution to the cause of stronger peace. I hope that my government will carefully consider all "pros" and "cons" and will eventually reply in kind.

The House of Representatives has very clearly and unequivocally spoken in favour of the President entering talks with the Soviet Union on signing an agreement banning all nuclear tests. We Congressmen think that such an agreement can be reached before January 1, 1987. Otherwise, we will do everything within our power to deny funds to the administration for staging nuclear tests of a higher yield. I would like to repeat that we are proceeding from the fact that the White House has a unique opportunity now for sitting at once at the negotiating table with your country and reaching a mutually acceptable agreement within the next two or three months on the cessation of all nuclear tests.

Unfortunately, the majority of the Senators think that nuclear explosions meet the interests of our own and international security. Nevertheless, there are people among them who do not agree with this and who are generally in favour of an end to all tests. And yet they still do not go as far as we House members do. It is quite possible that the Soviet decision to extend its moratorium on nuclear explosions will make many Senators reassess their positions. If this happens, they will first of all try to persuade the President to stop nuclear explosions.

I am positive that the cessation of nuclear weapon tests is the thing wanted by all ordinary people and, notably, by the people of our two countries. If we come to terms on this issue, we will make a resolute step forward in the development of American-Soviet relations. A treaty banning all nuclear

NEWS AND VIEWS

The reaction of US ruling circles and a large part of the American mass media to the accident at Chernobyl sharply contrasts with the general mood of sympathy and understanding, writes Novosti's political analyst E. Mamedov. Some of the US allies in Nato followed the official American line and launched a malicious anti-Soviet campaign of slander. They put out reports saying that "thousands" of people were killed in the accident and that radiation contaminated the territory of the Ukraine and even the whole of Europe. The CIA-controlled radio stations, the pet children of the US administration, did everything to sow fear and panic among the population of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries but their efforts failed to produce the desired result. In the early days of the accident blind hatred of "communist ideology," anti-Sovietism and malicious joy over the misfortune that befell the Soviet people flooded the front pages of right-wing newspapers and television screens, especially in the United States.

What were the motives behind that campaign orchestrated from Washington? The main aim was to besmirch the Soviet Union, undermine its international authority and distract public attention from the historic Soviet proposals on the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century, the halting of underground nuclear explosions and the destruction of chemical weapons.

The United States and some other Nato countries saw in the Chernobyl accident a chance for hindering the already difficult dialogue between the East and the West and incite more distrust for the Soviet Union.

The accident at a civilian reactor enabled the Soviet people and all mankind to see what a nuclear war would mean. That is the reason why the Soviet leadership continues to

insist that the nuclear age requires new mentality and new policy, the creation of a comprehensive system of international security, the halting of nuclear explosions and the scrapping of nuclear arsenals.

As regards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the problem of developing reliable and safe technology acquires paramount importance here. The most harsh standards are needed everywhere and in everything.

Moreover, the Soviet Union favours closer co-operation within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the creation of an international regime for safe development of nuclear power engineering on the basis of close co-operation between all countries using nuclear energy. There is a need to arrange a system of prompt notification and provision of information in the event of accidents and mishaps at nuclear power plants, especially those resulting in the release of radioactivity. There is also a need to establish an effective system of mutual assistance.

Mikhail Gorbachev has proposed holding an international conference in Vienna under the aegis of the IAEA. It would be good if the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme joined the IAEA's efforts.

All these proposals for the strengthening of international co-operation in the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy provoked favourable response in most countries.

Taking into consideration the increased attention of the world's nations to the nuclear problem, Mikhail Gorbachev announced on May 14 the decision by the Soviet Government to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests till August 6. On that day more than 40 years ago the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing hundreds of thousands of people.

The Soviet leadership is again calling on President Reagan

to weigh with a full sense of responsibility the danger hanging over mankind and heed the voice of the international community. Mikhail Gorbachev reiterated his invitation to President Reagan to meet without delay in any European capital that would agree to host such a meeting or in Hiroshima to discuss a nuclear test ban.

* * *

An exhibition of paintings from the collection of Dr. Armand Hammer, an American industrialist and public leader, is being held at Moscow's State Picture Gallery, commentator S. Petrosian writes.

Opening the exhibition, Dr. Hammer emphasised the need to maintain peace and demonstrate mutual respect. "There are more values that unite people than differences that divide them," Dr. Hammer said. No problem is insoluble, he went on, if we focus on our common wishes and needs.

The exhibition, which after Moscow is to go to Odessa and Kiev, features nearly 100 paintings and drawings spanning a period of five centuries and including pictures by Michelangelo, Rafael, Titian, Tintoretto, Rembrandt, Rubens, Goya, Corot, Manet, Monet, Renoir, Sezanne and Americans Gilbert Stuart, Frederic Remington and Newell Wyeth. The staging of the exhibition in Kiev is designed to dispell the allegations about "high radiation levels" and "panic" in the Ukrainian capital.

Art helps people to come together. Aware of this, the Soviet Union favours the development of cultural ties with other countries, including the United States. This is our constant policy.

(APN, May 19. In full.)

THE END

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News and Views

POLITICAL INTRIGUES AND THE LESSONS OF CHERNOBYL

Edgar Cheporov,

Novosti political correspondent

I will quote a passage from a letter by Herbert Zinter, a U.S. citizen, to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "I would like to convey my sincere, heartfelt condolences to those who could have suffered or died as a result of the accident at the nuclear power plant", he wrote. "Those of us who treasure friendship and people more than political intrigues want to wish you all the best in the aftermath of the disaster... I want to finish my letter by expressing hope that our peoples will become friends, not enemies, one day. I am convinced that you and your people desire peace as much as the U.S. people do." (Retranslated from the Russian.)

These days quite a few letters like the one I have just quoted are being sent to the Soviet Union. What I really like about these messages is that those who have sent them in want and actually do imagine themselves in our shoes, perceiving our disaster as their own. Many letters offer help. Some public and private medical institutions in several Western countries have volunteered to take part in handling the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident. Fourteen nuclear physicists at an atomic power plant in the north of Scotland said they were prepared to go to Chernobyl to help their Soviet colleagues.

One of the most crucial lessons of Chernobyl is, as Mikhail Gorbachev put it, the fact that the accident has put to test the West's political ethics. But it is not only the ethics of professional politicians. We are living at a time when everyone is a politician to some extent. I do not see any

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reason for the leaders of states to stick to one brand of ethics, while ordinary citizens stick to another one, in dealing with crucial global issues. I am also convinced that a policy conducted by a state must be based on the generally accepted, time tested principles of decency.

When the other day I was listening to the story of Prof. Robert Gale, of California University, who is handling the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident together with his Soviet counterparts, I thought that Dr. Gale must be a very decent man, first of all. What was his first reaction to the events in Chernobyl? It was to offer the Soviet people his help. Did he act like a politician under the circumstances? He certainly did. The events of the past few weeks, Dr. Gale says, have proved our response to nuclear holocausts can only be a limited one, so anyone who thinks people can be given quick aid in a nuclear war is wrong. His conclusion: a nuclear war must never be fought. Dr. Gale has offered us an example of a thinking in a nuclear era. I am convinced that the position held by such people as Dr. Robert Gale is a model position on which the USSR and the U.S., as well as all the nations inhabiting our small, fragile planet Earth, should base their relations.

Another lesson of Chernobyl is that we have seen Washington and some of its allies trying to use the misfortune that has befallen us to sow suspicion and animosity toward the USSR and render us political and economic damage. The EEC sanctions against the socialist countries, prompted by people across the Atlantic, are just the point. The Common Market "experts" did not rely on any verified scientific facts when they proclaimed violations of radioactive pollution standards. But they had never needed such facts, for the only thing they wanted was to pollute the atmosphere of mutual trust in Europe. But have they succeeded in doing so?

Apparently, they have not, as what we are seeing now is how truth cleans up lies. While in Moscow and at Chernobyl, we have been given real facts about the situation, said IAEA Director-General Hans Blix. He also said he opposed attempts to scare the West Europeans with the Chernobyl disaster. Things went so far, he added, that in my homeland, Sweden, some papers frontpaged reports alleging that while visiting the Soviet Union I was exposed to a radiation dose exceeding the annual level permissible to an NPP expert. So I had to undergo a medical examination which revealed that the dose I had been actually exposed to did not exceed the one inherent in a tooth X-raying.

The reaction to the Western campaign of slander was also manifest in the publication of some reports that would never have surfaced under less dramatic circumstances. Thus, public attention was drawn to the fact that way back in 1949 a radioactive cloud was released in the north-west of the U.S. on orders of the American government. What the experiment meant was to translate into reality the Pentagon's nuclear plans. Another fact was drawn in the focus of the public eye, namely that the cumulative impact of all U.S. nuclear programs was to produce a total of about 324,000 cu.m (!) of radioactive waste in the country. One public organisation concerned with data on nuclear problems and resources announced there were indications of radioactive leaks, even though the exact locations of waste dumping were kept strictly secret.

There has been an almost unlimited flow of reports estimating the number of earlier accidents at American and West European nuclear power plants. In Britain, one nuclear facility was reported to have survived through 300 accidents. But how many knew about these? Predictably, during a recent debate at the House of Commons Britain's Tory government was

severely criticised for attempts to withhold information on major disasters at nuclear power plants, including those that had produced radioactive leaks.

Finally, the most important lesson of Chernobyl is in the fact that the fatality of a nuclear conflict has suddenly been made appallingly clear against the background of the accident, so it dawned upon many, as it had never done before, that a nuclear holocaust was inadmissible. Comparing the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster with that of a nuclear war, Isaac Asimov, an American SF writer, predicted that if the United States delivered a first precise and devastating nuclear strike at the USSR, Western Europe and the rest of the world would be wiped out, too. He said, and justly so, that the more people realized what they would be in for in the event of a nuclear war the stronger they would voice their demands to ban nukes and President Reagan's foreign policy would lose ground.

Indeed, the Chernobyl events invite us to drawing conclusions about both the military and peaceful uses of the atom. But at what conclusions will the U.S. arrive? The Pentagon has warned the West Europeans that these days children and pregnant women should be advised against staying on a wet soil and grass, being caught in a rain or walking in pools of rain water. The advice has been meant for the people whose homes are in close proximity to the U.S. Pershings and Cruises, whose land the U.S. wants to turn into a bridgehead for deploying its new mass destruction means, the binary weapons. Such is the real worth of U.S. "concern" over children and pregnant women.

The real worth of Washington's "dedication to the cause of peace" can also be perceived from the U.S. reaction to the new Soviet initiative advanced in the wake of the Chernobyl accident. The USSR announced an extension of its self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing till August 6, 1986. Mikhail

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Gorbachev also reaffirmed his proposal to meet President Reagan instantly in the capital of any European state or in Hiroshima to agree on a nuclear test ban. Washington did not respond so far.

(APN, May 18. In full.)

THE END

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

NEWS AND VIEWS

"We must help each other," Dr. Robert Gale, expert in bone marrow transplantation, who came from the US to help those suffering from the effects of the Chernobyl accident, said in a Novosti interview. "This might happen in any country. There is no other duty for doctors."

"We are co-operating with our Soviet colleagues and the only thing we are short of is time," Dr. Gale went on. "However, our treatment of those who have been brought to Moscow is successful. Every patient needs individual approach. The problem is to diagnose patients who were near the site of the accident. It should be noted that Soviet doctors are quite good at diagnostics, though in this case every patient requires individual approach. What happened in Chernobyl might have happened in any country which has nuclear power stations. Like the Russians, we don't have enough experience in this field."

"Of course, our Soviet colleagues would have done without us. But we are learning from one another. It is very important psychologically that we work together. We are all one emergency aid team. We have learned a great deal from our Soviet colleagues and this first experience of joint work is especially valuable. We are now better prepared for any surprises. We all hope that nuclear energy will only be used for peaceful purposes and under effective control."

"It's highly significant that before leaving Los Angeles when it became known that we were going to treat Russian patients in the Soviet Union, people began to call us offering their bone marrow for transplantation to Soviet people who

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suffered in the Chernobyl accident. I would like to emphasise once again that Russian doctors were prepared to the extent to which anyone might be prepared under similar circumstances."

"The problem of information is not easy in this situation. I think the Soviet Union handled the situation with a sense of responsibility and as soon as it made sure what had happened, it began regularly to provide verified and honest information which helps eliminate the aftermath of the disaster calmly and without panic."

* * *

In his televised address Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev noted that the accident at Chernobyl showed once again what an abyss will open up if nuclear war strikes mankind. For nuclear stockpiles are fraught with thousands upon thousands of disasters far more horrible than the one in Chernobyl, writes Vladimir Katin, Novosti political analyst.

In conditions of increased attention to nuclear matters, the Soviet Government, having considered all circumstances connected with the security of humanity, has decided to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests till August 6 of this year, that is till the date on which more than 40 years ago the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, as a result of which hundreds of thousands of people perished.

These days Moscow is again urging the United States to consider with utmost responsibility the degree of danger looming over mankind. Let the US leaders show their ^{o/} concern for the life and health of people by their deeds.

"I confirm my proposal to President Reagan to meet without delay in the capital of any European state that will be prepared to accept us or, say, in Hiroshima and to agree on a ban on nuclear testing," declared Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union emphatically rejects the allegations

about "lack of information" about the accident. The seriousness of the situation was obvious. It was necessary to evaluate it immediately and competently. And as soon as we received reliable initial information it was made available to the Soviet people and sent through diplomatic channels to the governments of foreign countries. On the basis of this information, practical work was launched to correct the situation and limit the grave aftermath of the accident. The main point is that the accident at Chernobyl, just like the accidents at US, British and other atomic power stations, poses very serious problems to all states, problems which require a responsible approach. Over 370 atomic reactors^a are now functioning in different countries. This is reality. The future of the world economy can hardly be imagined without the development of atomic energy. The USSR has 40 reactors with an aggregate capacity of more than 28 million kilowatts. Mankind derives considerable benefit from the atom when it is used for peaceful purposes. Yet, the bitter experience shows that it is necessary to act with still greater caution, to direct science and technology at ensuring the safe harnessing of the great and formidable nuclear power.

In this connection, the Soviet Union suggests a serious deepening of cooperation within the framework of the IAEA. In its opinion, it is necessary to adjust an international mechanism for the speediest rendering of mutual assistance when dangerous situations emerge. A highly authoritative special international conference could be convened in Vienna under IAEA auspices.

(APN, May 15. In full.)

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to a new level. There is a sinister plan of using the latest means of warfare in a region stuffed to capacity with nuclear explosives.

Lack of responsibility for international security is the least we can say of the results of the Tokyo meeting.

* * *

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CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: FACTS AND
PROBLEMS THROUGH THE EYES OF AN EXPERT

Oleg Borisov

Here's our correspondent's interview with Ivan Yemelianov, prominent Soviet nuclear physicist, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, winner of the Lenin and the USSR State prizes. He made an important contribution to the designing and putting into service of a number of Soviet nuclear power stations and standard one-million-kW power reactors.

Q. It so happened that small Chernobyl has become a subject of extensive discussions in various parts of the world. Varying in tenor, the discussions invariably center on the reactor. It has a capacity of 1 million kW--perhaps this is the only thing that non-experts know about it. Could we have more context on power units of this type?

A. Experts call it GCBR--great capacity boiler reactor. It uses graphite as neutron moderator. The heat agent is boiling water circulating in vertical channels. Incidentally, one million kW is its power-generating capacity, whereas its heat capacity is 3,200 MW. In power terms, these are impressive figures, but the boiler is easily controlled. If need be, the

reactor can be stopped, the decrease speed being 8 per cent a second.

I would like to stress that the accident-affected power unit at Chernobyl is no new experimental design. Reactors of this type have been operating faultlessly for years at various Soviet nuclear power stations. The first of these was put into operation at the Leningrad power station as early as 1973. Neither it, nor similar reactors of the following generation gave rise to complaints from experts. So, the hints concerning possible Soviet technological inefficiency dropped here and there in the West have been generated either by ignorance or something worse.

Q. Speaking at a May 6 press conference in Moscow, you said that the minute the accident occurred, the chain reaction was automatically stopped. Nevertheless, according to observations, the temperature in the reactor zone is still high. Why?

A. Yes, at the critical moment the automatic protection system did what it was supposed to do. It quickly brought the reactor to the sub-critical state, as experts say, and the chain reaction of fission was stopped. But before the reactor was stopped, the chain reaction within uranium 235 had generated a considerable number of radioactive fragments, that is, radioactive nuclei of other elements. They continue to decay, which is always accompanied by a release of energy. If, following an accident, the system intended to consume the concomitant heat is idle, the reactor gets heated and this may lead, among other things, to the conflagration of the quantity of graphite inside it. This is what took place for some time at the fourth power unit, but now, after measures we have taken, the fire has been put down.

Q. What is the aggregate capacity of heat emissions generated by the decay of radioactive fragments now?

A. Less than 6 megawatts. Presently, active steps are being taken to cool the lower part of the reactor. I must say the work is proceeding apace.

Q. Sharing his impressions following a rather close helicopter flight round the accident-stricken power unit, IAEA Director General Hans Blix said he had seen no signs of a fire nor of any other active processes. But there was a thin smoke rising over the site. As the saying has it, "There is no smoke without fire".

A. Yes, indeed, there was a light smoke at the time of the flight. But it was in no way directly connected with radioactive decay. Chain reactions have been suppressed. The cause of the smoke is different. Owing to the processes I have just described, the reactor zone, notably graphite, still has a sufficiently high temperature. This is why, whatever outside materials with organic embedments come into contact with it, they get oxidized. These embedments may be contained in the mixture of substances currently dropped from helicopters on the reactor in order to stop all polluting discharges. I do not doubt the wisdom of the saying, but there are no signs of a fire at the power unit.

As for the radioactive discharge into the atmosphere, it was generated by the convection thermal flow, when the heat in the reactor zone was at its highest. Presently, the temperature is steadily declining. The cushion of dry substances built up above the reactor is barring the polluting emissions.

Q. Let us return to the question implicit in the entire happening. What are the causes of the Chernobyl accident?

A. So far, we are not one hundred per cent sure about the original cause. Members of the governmental commission, which

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effort to achieve a complete destruction of nuclear death all over the world.

(APN, May 11. In full.)

THE END

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

News and Views

A POISONED CLOUD OF ANTI-SOVIETISM

The Soviet people are thankful to all foreign organisations and citizens that have expressed their sympathy over the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR in the United Nations expressed gratitude to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and to the delegations which showed understanding and sympathy over the accident.

Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yegor Ligachev - Members of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee - visited the Chernobyl area. Together with the leaders of the Ukrainian Republic they considered measures which are being taken to eliminate the seat of the accident at one of the four power generating units of the nuclear power plant and to normalise the situation in the region. They also met the local residents temporarily evacuated from the area where the plant is situated.

As it was reported, two persons perished as a result of the accident, 197 were hospitalised (the condition of twenty of them is grave), and 49 persons were discharged from hospital after a medical examination. Energetic measures are being taken to do away with the consequences of the accident. The Soviet authorities have informed the IAEA international organisation in Vienna and the governments of many countries about the mishap.

So, an accident took place. Statistics shows that in 1971-1984 as many as 151 mishaps of this kind occurred in 14 countries. Their list includes five major accidents in the USA. The number of minor accidents at the US nuclear power plants, which are not announced, reaches 4,500 a year, as it

is said in the just-published report of the American organisation Public Citizen. But atom must serve mankind, and for peaceful purposes alone. There are vast opportunities for international cooperation in this sphere.

At the same time, the Soviet public and press note with growing perplexity and indignation the atmosphere of inflated and unhealthy hullabaloo in connection with the Chernobyl accident created by the official circles and mass media of the USA and some other NATO countries. The meanest methods of presenting sensations are used. Lies of the largest calibre are spread. For instance, it is claimed that not two but 2,000 persons were killed by the accident while Chernobyl is portrayed as a "dead city" at which the rate of radiation is 2,000 times higher than that caused by the explosion of the American A-bomb in Hiroshima.

In a vain bid to present "evidence" and "witnesses" some Western governments are arranging demonstrative shows by checking radioactivity of the aircraft and lorries arriving from the USSR, and are forcing their citizens - tourists and students to leave the USSR. Many of them admit in their talks with newsmen that they view such actions not as a manifestation of concern for their health but as clearly provocative moves. For instance, Ervol Court from Canada, who conducted research work in Kiev, expressed the conviction that the Soviet people would never allow a threat to the foreign citizens' health to emerge. Stontol Artois from France, a student of an educational establishment in Kiev, expressed the view that all this has resulted in "political propaganda."

Yes, we are talking about a deliberately inflated and well-orchestrated ballyhoo aimed at polluting as much as possible the political atmosphere in East-West relations with miasmata of anti-Soviet hysteria and to use this poisoned cloud as a cover for the series of criminal actions of US and

NATO militarism directed against peace and the peoples' security. The Soviet people qualify the current provocative campaign exactly in this way.

"The explanation is quite simple if one reads some Western press commentaries and thinks over some latest events," Moscow-based Pravda writes. "The artificial fanning of the ballyhoo is clearly aimed at diverting the attention of the world public from the barbarism and disgrace of the recent American aggression against Libya, from the nuclear blasts in Nevada which caused the indignation of all humankind, and from the militarist Star Wars programme. This is what the organisers of the propaganda shows really care for, but not for the people's health."

Furthermore, it is abundantly clear that the recent Soviet proposals on radical steps to free Europe and the whole world from nuclear weapons have, as it were, stuck in some Western leaders' craw. The Soviet plan of nuclear disarmament spotlighted their unwillingness to part with nuclear weapons. But to admit this would mean to tell the West Europeans in no uncertain terms that they are doomed to live for ever on a powder-magazine stuffed with 15,000 US nuclear charges of various types and that they will remain hostages to the American Pershings and Cruise missiles when there is no guarantee against some maniac or drug addict pushing the button of a nuclear holocaust.

The Soviet public holds the view that the people who are now sparing no effort to sow mistrust for the Soviet Union are threatening the main thing - the fate of the talks on which it depends whether the world will be rid of the most frightful danger of military atom with an aggregate destructive force of one million Hiroshimas. The phrasemongering of some leaders and MPs trying to call into question the very possibility of holding talks and coming to terms with the USSR can be

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qualified in no other way but as a mixture of irresponsibility and a direct hope to get a free hand in the mad race.

The reply of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev published on May 3 to the message of the leaders of six states (Argentina, India, Tanzania, Sweden, Mexico and Greece) stresses the determination of the Soviet Union to do everything in its power to stop the sliding of mankind to a nuclear precipice..

(APN, May 4. In full.)

THE END

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMALARI
TÜSTAN

News and Views

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: TIME TO DECIDE

Spartak Beglov, Novosti political analyst

A propaganda campaign launched by authorities and mass media in some Western countries around the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station has led to a truly record anti-Soviet "fallout" in the world's political atmosphere. Washington's special zeal suggests the idea that it is again trying to deliberately sow mistrust towards the Soviet Union, thereby calling into doubt the future of the vital-for-all talks to remove the greatest danger which is posed to mankind by nuclear weapons arsenals.

No doubt, scientific and technological progress will enable mankind to reliably guarantee itself against mishaps in the use of atomic energy for civilian purposes. But to guarantee oneself against a military disaster, one primarily needs political will.

Leaders of the Six (Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden) again called on the leaders of the USSR and the USA to take a first step on the road towards curbing the nuclear arms race, stressing in their message that sophistication of nuclear weapons fuels this race, and escalates the danger to their people and to the future of all mankind.

Nuclear weapons are primarily upgraded through tests. It is widely known that the Soviet Union imposed a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions last summer. The world public hoped in vain that the USA would reciprocate this act of goodwill. In the last 8 months the US carried 10 new nuclear explosions. Moreover, it staged two latest tests in April in Nevada after the expiry of the Soviet unilateral

moratorium on March 31. But Moscow notes that it is still in no hurry to resume its own tests.

In his May 3 reply to the April message of the Six General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev emphasized that in this new situation, and despite the provocative American actions, the USSR is fully resolved to seek a ban on nuclear explosions.

The Soviet side is ready for a moratorium if the USA also abstains from testing. The proposal to begin bilateral Soviet-US negotiations on the cessation of nuclear tests remains valid as well.

The USSR also favours the resumption of the tripartite talks on the issue, about which British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was recently informed.

And, finally, Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal on his meeting with President Reagan in Europe to negotiate in principle an end to nuclear testing also remains in force. The proposed meeting would not replace the Soviet-American summit on which the sides agreed in Geneva.

Needless to say that multilateral talks on a nuclear test ban can be conducted at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament as well. The USSR is ready to negotiate an agreement to extend the sphere of action of the Moscow Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in three media to the fourth medium -- underground.

Mikhail Gorbachev stressed in his reply that the Soviet Union is determined to translate into life the concept of a nuclear-free world.

The plan of stage-by-stage elimination of all nuclear arsenals by the year 2000, proposed by Moscow on January 15, is on the agenda. Backing this plan, the Soviet leaders proposed the other day cuts in conventional weapons, and in tactical nuclear arms on the entire territory of Europe --

from the Atlantic to the Urals under international control.

Some Western leaders think that the accident at Chernobyl gives them an excuse to call into doubt the Soviet ability to honour its commitments in verifying arms control agreements.

An example is the US President's radio address of May 3, where he brought to the absurd the logic of anti-Sovietism. Take a mishap at the atomic power station in Dungeness, Britain, on March 31, which London tried to silence. This fact did not belittle the priority of the task of curbing the energy of military atom in anyone's eyes. The USSR stands for eliminating nuclear arms under appropriate control.

Implementation of these proposals implies reciprocity, a wish of other countries to follow suit. One old saying goes: "A thousand-mile long road begins with a first step". Are the leaders of the West, first of all, the United States, ready for such a step?

This is the question the answer to which is greatly waited for by millions of worried people all over the world.

(APN, May 4. In full.)

THE END

RIDICULOUS SHOW

Izvestia on Actions of ERG Authorities

The Bonn authorities behave in a strange and unseemly way in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Vladimir Lapsky writes in Izvestia. On the one hand, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, land authorities reassure the population by saying that the radiation situation in the FRG is not hazardous for health, and, on the other, they are sowing panic, saying that people should keep windows closed and thoroughly wash vegetables and fruit, and that children upon coming home should immediately take a shower, as if before the accident apples and radishes were eaten unwashed and children were sent to bed dirty. And what absurdities are now being mouthed about the accident. It is alleged that "the entire land of the Ukraine has been contaminated", that there are thousands of unburied bodies around the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and so on and so forth.

It is clamoured that any discussion of the Soviet peace initiatives is now out of the question. Discriminatory measures have been worked out against the USSR and other socialist countries in the fields of trade, transport and tourism.

Shipments of farm produce from socialist countries to the FRG are stopped on the border on "suspicion" of radioactive contamination. The press is denigrating Soviet nuclear technology, alleging that it is unreliable.

Why is it that they in the Federal Republic of Germany kept silent when there were accidents at nuclear power stations in the United States and Britain (and there were dozens of them), the author asks. It is clear that the FRG authorities are motivated not so much by the concern for the health and life of people, as by purely political reasons. And the United States, which keeps considerable stockpiles of

nuclear weapons on the territory of the FRG, would hardly allow its ally on the Rhine to say a word on this score.

It is sought to swamp by the present wave of anti-Sovietism such burning questions of international life as the United States missile strikes at Libya, the development of the US Star Wars programme in which the FRG would like inconspicuously to join, and many other things.

As to the fuss on the border around farm produce from socialist countries, the question arises as to who has more grounds to stop and check imported food products? As is known, the FRG not only buys food products from socialist countries, but also sells them such goods, specifically meat products. Some 15 nuclear power stations are functioning in West Germany and the problem of the storage of radioactive waste has not been solved. The radioactive background there is rather high as many as 5,000-6,000 units of nuclear ammunition are stored in the FRG. (There was an explosion at a US base of "Pershing" missiles in the FRG not long ago and that explosion almost led to a disaster). Water and atmospheric pollution in the FRG is high. Biostimulants, including carcinogenous ones, are widely used in agriculture and that question was raised more than once in the local press.

So, the anti-Soviet propaganda show staged in the FRG looks quite absurd and the sooner it is stopped, the better for everybody.

(Izvestia, May 7. Summary.)

A TEST FOR... HOSPITALITY

G. Kulbitsky, TASS correspondent

From the very first minutes of their stay on West German soil members of the touring company of the Kiev Shevchenko Opera and Ballet Theatre became witnesses of a provocative anti-Soviet show.

* * *

The first act. The scene of action: the border checkpoint Herleshausen. All of the setting is apparently taken from a civil defence manual. There has been set up a decontamination centre and its personnel in special clothing, wearing gas-masks and wielding control instruments, are carefully counting off something...

"Strictly speaking, there were two checkings," says the leader of the Soviet delegation, Ukrainian SSR First Deputy Minister of Culture S. Koltunyk. "First selective, and then they 'checked' everybody. People were taken to a separate room, where they were also photographed. After this procedure it was announced that an 'increased level' of radiation was observable in some of the delegation's members. Upon our demand, a re-checking was done in the presence of Soviet representatives. Of course, the level proved to be absolutely normal."

"Beyond doubt," stresses Koltunyk, "it was a deliberately provocative act, aimed at frustrating the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theatre tour in the Federal Republic of Germany."

The second act. The scene of action: the foyer of a hotel in Ludwigshafen, the porter's stand. Kiev artists entering the hotel are met by strangely-looking doormen in antiradiation clothing and with geigers. Onlookers have also gathered: representatives of the press, as well as a public eager for a "spectacle." Again the checking procedure takes place.

accompanied by threats of the management not to allow the Soviet artists into this hotel. The checkmen shake their instruments, declaring that "they are faulty," since they do not show an increased level of radioactivity.

In the meantime, on another "scene" - behind the hotel building - dozens of "experts" handle the settings for "Eugene Onegin" and "The Tsar's Bride," having in advance called news photographers to record a story that was then to go round all newspapers: people in protective suits with geigers near trucks with the mark "Sovtransavto." The harbour in which Tatyana Larina liked to sit in moments of sadness is thrice taken to an unknown place - supposedly for "de-gassing." The settings are returned badly damaged.

The initiators of this act obviously hoped that the troupe would not be able in a short time to get over the shock of these "tests for strength" to which they were subjected.

But they did overcome the shock, and the third act went absolutely not the way the scenarists and stage-managers of the anti-Soviet show, preferring to remain anonymous, had expected. A thunder of ovations broke the solemn silence of the city's largest theatre Pfalzbau after Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin." For long did not die down the applause of the fans of music, with which they rewarded the mastery of the celebrated Soviet company. The cordial welcome accorded to the Kievans by the art lovers of Ludwigshafen and other cities of Rhineland-Palatinate made laughable the attempts to wreck the tour by using the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident as a pretext.

A frenzied anti-Soviet campaign was unleashed in West Germany following the Chernobyl accident. Some people tried, and are still trying, to use the faraway disaster to arouse enmity and mistrust in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. So provocations against Soviet performers are far

from incidental, as is clear to West Germans.

The authorities' stand spurred on the campaign, it is stressed here: they supplied evident misinformation and swept up panic by their limitations of imports from the Soviet Union and some other European socialist countries. That mainly concerned foodstuffs. Their steps were unnecessary to the extreme, as the authorities themselves acknowledged in the long run, F. Zimmermann, the Minister of the Interior, recognising that the Chernobyl accident "presented no danger for the West German population and is presenting none."

With today's anti-Soviet hullabaloo, the West German Rights are evidently responding to the Soviet peace initiatives in order to nullify the positive influences our proposals have had on the population.

The West German democratic community and the opposition parties accuse the federal authorities of the following: no concrete steps to implement the Soviet peace initiatives result from prolonged discourses on policies aimed at "creating a world with less weaponry." Instead, West Germany creates ever new obstacles to detente and stages provocations of all sort. Demands to stop and think, to deteriorate the situation no more are voiced ever louder. Ever more people are outspoken in their indignation at the way the renowned Soviet troupe has been treated in West Germany.

The public anticipates with tremendous interest the Kiev company's performances in Ludwigshafen and Wiesbaden. Some people would have liked to have the tour cancelled--but the provocation failed thanks to the reserve the company and its leaders displayed. The tour has started and will go on.

Ludwigshafen.

(Sovetskaya Kultura, May 15. In full.)

ACADEMICIAN GOLDANSKY ON US NUCLEAR TESTS

The nuclear tests being conducted by the USA are aimed first and foremost at perfecting the available nuclear weapons and creating "extraordinary" third generation weapons, said Academician Vitaly Goldansky, a prominent Soviet physicist.

The new generation of American nuclear weapons will include nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers, weapons with directed intensification of radiation and electromagnetic impulse as a result of the nuclear device blast. It is precisely to this end that it is planned to conduct tens and even hundreds of test blasts in the Nevada test-range. The Academician explained that the work done by American scientists to miniaturize nuclear warheads will lead to an increase in the number of warheads that can be delivered by one missile, which, in its turn, will result in a new spiral of the arms race.

Besides, Goldansky said, work is under way within the SDI framework to design weapons for the impulse or destructive impact on matter by laser beams and beams of neutral particles accelerated to a speed of tens of kilometres a second.

American scientists are planning to concentrate the nuclear blast energy in a long needle inside the X-ray laser. When exposed to a stream of X-ray radiation arising at the time of the explosion, the needle becomes some kind of a plasma of a very high density. Each nuclear warhead is expected to pump by its explosion ^{several} tens of needles of the X-ray laser, and fast computers will send these needles against targets after computing the trajectory of missiles already in flight.

In the opinion of the scientist, a source of great alarm is the fact that SDI should be based on a perfectly

functioning computer programme. This is as improbable as the existence of a library of 5,000 books with 300 pages each printed without corrections and containing not a single misprint. In this case "misprints" stand for the threat of an accidental outbreak of war when the whole sophisticated SDI system is put to action by an originally false alarm system, Academician Goldansky said.

(TASS. February 3. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA
TÜSTAV

"Nükleer Caydırıcılık" Kavramı Üzerine

Mehmet ERGÜL

Norveç'te NATO Savunma Bakanlarının toplantısına katılan Zeki Yavuztürk, "Türkiye'nin nükleer politikası tamamen caydırıcılığa yöneliktir" dedi (Hürriyet, 17 Mayıs 1987).

Bizde de sık sık yinelenen bu "nükleer caydırıcılık" kavramı nedir? Bu kavramın geçerli, sağlam bir temeli var mıdır?

"Nükleer caydırıcılık" kavramı, Amerikan askeri doktrininin ana öğelerinden biridir. Nükleer silahların varlığını haklı gösterme amacı güden bir anlayışın ürünüdür. İlk olarak 1946 yılında Pentagon için düşünce üreten Rand Corporation uzmanları tarafından ortaya atılmıştır. Kavram, son kırk yıl içinde değişik biçimlere bürünmüş, ama özü aynı kalmıştır. Bu kavramın hareket noktası, "Amerikan yaşam tarzına, 'hür dünya'nın değerlerine ters düşen bir ideolojinin ve politik sistemin, yani sosyalizmin potansiyel bir saldırgan" sayılmasıdır. Böyle olunca, bugün olmasa bile, yarın, fırsat bulduğunda sosyalizm kendi tarzını dünyaya egemen kılacaktır. Potansiyel saldırgan, başına gelecek belayı kavramalı ki, ~~saldırıya hazır olmalı~~ bu kararından vazgeçmek, yani caymak zorunda kalsın. ^{Ancak} nükleer silahların yaratacağı dehşet, potansiyel saldırganın ~~niyetinden~~ ^{onu} niyetini ortadan kaldırmassa bile, kararından vazgeçmeye zorlayabilir. silahların dehşeti, ^{kırk yıldır yeni} Bundan ötürü nükleer ~~saldırganı~~ ^{saldırganı} caydırmakta, bir dünya savaşının çıkmasını önlemektedir.

"Nükleer caydırıcılık" kavramı, özünde çürüktür. Sakat bir temele dayanmaktadır. Çünkü, bir an için bu anlayışı, yani nükleer silahların caydırıcılığını, koruyuculuğunu kabul etsek bile, bunun yüzde yüz güvencesi yoktur. Dünya yüzünde kişi başına dört ton patlayıcı maddenin düştüğü, nükleer cephaneliklerin bütün dünya nüfusunu yirmi kez yokedebilecek düzeye ~~ulaştığı~~ ulaştığı bir durumda, nükleer silahların ~~varlığını~~ ^{varlığını} haklı göstermenin mantiki bir yanı

ve Amerikan üslerinin varlığı, ülkemizi her an karşı bir nükleer darbe tehlikesinin içine atıyor. Topraklarımızı komşularımıza karşı ABD'nin bir sıçrama tahtası durumuna getiriyor. Militarizm, demek-
Amerikan askeri ve jeopolitik doktrin-
rasiyi ayaklar altına alıyor. ~~Bu anlayışın sonucu, komşularımıza karşı~~
leri, ülkemizi militarizm ve gericiliğin en uç biçimlerine mahkûm ediyor. Ülkemizin komşularıyla ilişkileri, Atlantik ötesindeki Ame-
rikan askeri doktrinleri temelinde gerginleştirilmek isteniyor.

Oysa "nükleer caydırıcılık" kavramının, bu Amerikan doktrinini-
nin dayandığı "Sovyetler Birliği düşmandır" anlayışının temelsizli-
ği besbelli değil mi? Komşumuzdan doğal gaz almaya hazırlanıyoruz.
Ama topraklarımızda, Amerika'nın nükleer füzeleri, doğal gaz aldı-
ğımız ülkeye yöneliyor. Bunda en küçük bir mantık kırıntısı var mı?
Doğuda on ilimiz, koşmu Sovyetler Birliği'nden aldığımız elektrik
enerjisiyle aydınlanıyor. Ancak topraklarımızdan "nükleer caydırıcı-
lık" adı altında Amerikan füzeleri yöneliyor. Bu çelişkinin neresi
~~saxunluk~~ haklı gösterilebilir?

komşumuzdan gelen
Topraklarımızdaki Amerikan füzeleri, elektrik tellerininin,
trafoları mı hedef alıyor? Topraklarımızdaki Amerikan füzeleri,
neyi caydırma amacı güdüyor? Komşumuzdan aldığımız elektrik ener-
jisini ve alacağımız doğal gazı mı?

Demek ki, devletler arasında güvensizliği körükleyen "nükleer
caydırıcılık" anlayışını, eski düşüncüyü artık bir yana bırakmak
gerekıyor. ~~Yeni düşünceler~~ Komşularımızla ^{aramızdaki} anlaşmazlıkları körüklemek
değil, yapıcı yönde ~~gözlem~~ çözüme kavuşturmak aklın gösterdiği yoldur

A NEW UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WAS
CONDUCTED IN THE USA YESTERDAY, ON THE 547TH DAY
OF THE SOVIET MORATORIUM

A. Mozgovoi

The US Department of Energy has reported that yesterday the United States conducted an underground nuclear explosion code-named Haysbrook. It is the 25th blast after the introduction by the Soviet Union of the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. According to AP news agency, the yield of the explosive device was less than 20 kilotons. The test was held at the nuclear testing ground in Nevada, 138 km north-west of Las Vegas at a depth of 213 metres.

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in the testing-ground area to protest against the continuation of the nuclear blasts by the United States. It was planned to stage a mass demonstration of protest at the call of the anti-nuclear mass organisations on February 5, the day on which the Haysbrook test was to be held according to the schedule announced by Washington. In the view of the local analysts, the Reagan Administration planned to thwart this action by changing the date for Tuesday.

Washington.

(TASS)

* * *

By declaring a unilateral moratorium on nuclear blasts as of August 6, 1985 and extending it five times our country has demonstrated its goodwill and its firm desire to help accomplish the task which is crucial to mankind not in words but in deed. It is deeply regrettable that the American Administration has not responded to the call by the USSR to join its peace initiative. Ignoring the demands by the

international community expressed in the resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the appeals by the non-aligned movement, the proposals by the Delhi Six leaders, and, last but not least, the opinion of the US people, the White House stubbornly continues to implement the programmes of nuclear tests.

The yesterday explosion is the first in the series of six blasts slated for the next three months. The Washington Post writes that the number of tests held in Nevada this year will exceed the respective figure for 1986.

Nuclear explosions are a kind of dope for the American leaders obsessed by the mirage of military superiority. Third-generation nuclear weapons - the warheads for the MX, Trident-2 and Cruise missiles and the nuclear-induced X-ray lasers designed for Star Wars are now being tested in Nevada.

The nuclear intoxication gives rise to dreams of world domination. But these are castles in the air. One must not play down, however, the threat posed by the United States' attempts to "forge ahead" in the military field. Repeatedly extending the moratorium, the Soviet Union made serious sacrifices as far as its own security was concerned. The decision on resuming nuclear tests, if the US continues them, has been prompted solely by the interests of security of the USSR and our allies. This is a forced measure, to be more precise, we have been forced to take it.

And this is well understood by all those who hold dear peace and security. Many letters have been received by the Sovetskaya Rossia editorial office, with their writers expressing support for the policy of the Party and the government.

The USSR's stand on nuclear explosions is unequivocal: there should be no such explosions. As Mikhail Gorbachev emphasised in his reply message to Takeshi Araki, Mayor of Hiroshima, "the struggle for fully banning and eliminating

nuclear weapons is the very essence of our policy, and we are prepared for constructive international cooperation for the sake of attaining this noble goal". The Soviet Union made the proposal to start without delay negotiations on completely ending or phasing out nuclear testing. It is ready for holding such negotiations in any constituent form and at any forum, naturally, with the United States' participation. Even if forced to resume nuclear explosions, the USSR is ready to re-introduce the moratorium, if a similar decision is taken by the United States.

Nuclear power politics, the policy of nuclear blackmail has finally discredited itself. Today, it is hanging over mankind like the Sword of Damocles, threatening its survival. It is the duty of one and all to remove that sword.

(Sovetskaya Rossia, February 4. Abridged.)

THE ASH OF RAINIER-MESA

A. Mozgovoi

The Rainier-Mesa nuclear test range in Nevada has earned ill fame indeed, not simply because it is continuously rocked by nuclear blasts, but because such tests bring on accidents and disasters quite often. An underground nuclear explosion in March 1984 made a 10 metres-deep hole and 15 experts who investigated the test effect fell into it and got crippled. One of them died in a Las Vegas hospital a little later.

There was further bad news from Nevada the other day. It was about a nuclear test codenamed Mighty Oak carried out in Rainier-Mesa on April 10. Soon after the blast, the KLAS reported that a violation of safety rules had put 70 million dollars' worth of electronic equipment out of action. But that was not all. It has since come to light that there was an intensive release of radioactivity. The "Mighty Oak" broke, creating a threat to Americans living in the neighbourhood of Rainier-Mesa.

A number of public organizations of Nevada and Utah demanded an immediate inquiry into the circumstances of the incident. Yet, the US Department of Energy and the Pentagon are planning a further escalation of nuclear testing. The outlay for nuclear blasts is to rise from \$500 million this fiscal year to \$850 million by 1991. Much of this amount will be spent on testing nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers, a major component of Reagan's Star Wars hardware. The next test of the Mighty Oak type will take place in December. Altogether, about a hundred underground nuclear blasts are to be carried out under the Strategic Defence Initiative.

The Washington Centre for Defence Information has issued a report saying that the present US policy on nuclear arms could be summed up by three words: statements, testing and

build-up. This cycle, it argued, would be broken if the US stopped nuclear tests. As long as nuclear testing continued, so would new nuclear arms production. Of course, there have been more than enough declarations about Washington's commitment to the cause of peace and disarmament. But, no more than that.

In August last year, the Soviet Union suspended all nuclear explosions. It has since extended this unilateral moratorium three times, urging the United States to follow suit. The response has been either silence or clumsy subterfuges. In Reykjavik, M.S. Gorbachev offered to the US President to begin immediate talks about a total nuclear test ban. The top issues to consider, he suggested, could be the "thresholds" for nuclear blast yields, the number of nuclear tests a year, the future of the Soviet-American treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests (1974) and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes (1976), which have never been put into effect through the US fault. So the parties concerned would be moving towards drafting a total nuclear test ban treaty.

Yet, the American side does not want to conduct serious talks. "It would prefer to make them endless", Mikhail Gorbachev has emphasized, "and to keep the problem of banning nuclear tests in abeyance for decades".

The world's peoples imperatively urge Washington to stop testing. That is the demand of US citizens, too. The Russians have stopped nuclear explosions. Why haven't we? This seems to be the most popular slogan-issue in the American anti-war movement. In spite of resistance from the military-industrial complex, upwards of 120 areas in the US have been declared nuclear-free zones. The movement for a nuclear-free status has swept through scores of other cities and districts throughout the nation. Americans do not want to live in fear of radioactive ash from Rainier-Mesa or turn into ash themselves.

(Sovetskaya Rossiya, November 11. In full.)

Thursday, August 21, 1986

18 page
VOVP2-860821-507

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NEW POLICY URGED

Mikhail Ozerov

M.Gorbachev's Statement has once more made perfectly clear the sense and substance of Soviet foreign policy at the present time.

What is this policy distinguished by?

First of all, by its constructive spirit. The USSR shows -- and the Statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee conclusively proves it -- the firm determination to bring about a breakthrough towards improved international relations.

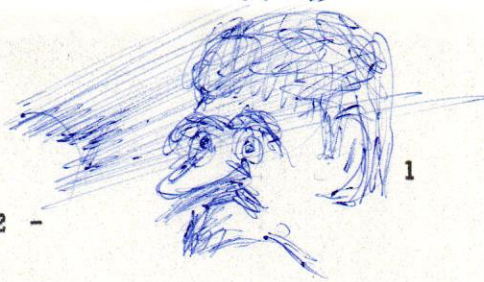
We are showing the way to follow -- that of ending the arms race. The Statement insists on the total elimination of the dreadful weapons of annihilation, nuclear arms, first and foremost. Somewhat earlier we specified the time-limits within which that could be achieved -- by the end of the century.

Some in the West have been calling our plan just about "utopian". They are still refusing to appreciate the magnitude of the priorities the Soviet Union has set itself. Our country's intentions are global, indeed, but so is, after all, the problem confronting humanity today -- the problem of survival. This problem is, however, dramatic and urgent not only for Europe but also for the Americas, Asia and Africa. It can be resolved only by the most radical means and by the common efforts of all the parties concerned. If the Western States, and, above all, the US, did not limit themselves to doubts and speculation, but reacted positively to the proposals and moves of the USSR, that "utopia" would certainly become a reality.

All the more so since this country has been setting a

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concrete example, and that is yet another feature of present-day Soviet diplomacy. M.Gorbachev has announced the decision to prolong the moratorium on nuclear explosions. Although the United States has carried out 18 nuclear "salutes" during the twelve months the Soviet moratorium has been in force, it will be quiet on our nuclear testing grounds until January 1, 1987.

The decision on the moratorium shows how a nation must behave if it does care for the destinies of peace instead of just paying lip-service to it. The moratorium is not an offer. It is an act. It is an act showing the peace-building message of Soviet foreign policy. It is an act that enables progress towards resolving the fundamental issue -- that of disarmament. It is an act producing an extremely great influence on other peoples and giving a further fillip to the peace movement.

That is what justifies the conclusion you may find in many comments on the Statement that the extension of the moratorium means a further stage in the effort to call a halt to the arms race.

There has been a widespread response abroad to the Soviet Union's resolve to achieve an early agreement on ending nuclear tests and to have it signed at the Soviet-American summit meeting later this year. "The ball is in the Reagan team's court now", this opinion of a British TV commentator is shared by Western experts and journalists urging Washington to support the Soviet initiative.

Comments on the Statement find Soviet foreign policy to be active and pushing. It is pushing forward on many "fronts". In the Far East, we have proposed including the Asian and Pacific region into an all-embracing system of international security. In Europe, our country is pressing for a sizable reduction of armed forces. And even up in space -- the USSR has just

submitted a programme of building a "Star Peace" and creating a world space organisation to the UN as an alternative to the "Star Wars" programme...

Another essential point is this: the Soviet Union's foreign policy is gaining momentum, becoming more dynamic, more and more often "outpacing" everybody else and taking the lead.

What other features are typical of Soviet foreign policy? I would single out realism (the Statement is opposed to wishful thinking and to playing on emotions. It is built on a thorough and well-considered analysis of present-day realities) and courage (the extension of the moratorium has been interpreted by all sound-minded elements of this planet as an act of political courage).

These truths are not new in diplomacy. Yet the point is that in earlier times they were far more often pronounced rather than taken into account, formulated rather than observed. The nuclear age requires a different code of rules to obey in international affairs. It is not by chance that the Statement should be laying the greatest possible emphasis on the new mode of thinking which, as M.S. Gorbachev said, is incompatible with regarding the modern world as somebody's backyard and with attempts to "favour" others with one's own tutelage and instructions.

We are convinced that the traditions of "fisticuffs", thousands of years old, have to be dropped, and that people have to learn to understand each other and to seek mutually acceptable solutions...

The international situation today is alarming and even dangerous. Common sense seems to be taking too long to dawn on the White House. The new thinking, as the Statement rightfully notes, is opposed by the militarisation of political thinking, above all, in the US, which has dangerously fallen behind the

change in international life. Hence, the annoyance and outright displeasure of official personalities in the United States, Britain, and some other countries with the latest Soviet initiative, and their demonstrably far-fetched arguments against the moratorium.

US leaders are now trying twice as hard to assure everybody that they need nuclear testing for strengthening peace. Absurd? Of course. But that is what they say, thereby reaffirming their militarism.

The Soviet people do believe in a change for the better. This belief reposes on the course that the Soviet Union is following, boldly and resolutely streamlining its economy, social and cultural development, human mentality, and, indeed, the whole tenor of life of this society, that is all of it, foreign policy, too. Properly speaking, one element is inseparable from the other: to realise our sweeping social and economic objectives, we need peace, above all, peace.

(Sovetskaya Rossia, August 21. Abridged.)

NUCLEAR RACES OF HAPLESS COWBOYS

A. Shatilov

There are quite a few stereotypes of cowboy thinking and catchwords it has inspired in US everyday life and politics. "Shoot oneself in the foot" is one of them. They say it when a hapless cowboy taking out his pistol to hit his enemy shoots himself in the foot in a flurry, that is, hits himself. That is what happens to the US Administration when it invents all kinds of absurd arguments trying to find an excuse to dodge giving a positive response to the Soviet proposals for a mutual moratorium on nuclear tests.

The men in Washington do see, naturally, that world and, indeed, American opinion, are opposed to the Administration's indiscriminate stonewalling on the issue of ending nuclear explosions. Therefore, the White House has been trying to cover up its "No" to the numerous appeals for renouncing nuclear tests with a propaganda canopy of all kinds of "arguments" which, on balance, serve to lay bare the Administration's duplicity rather than make its case.

One version that was put afloat in the early stages against the moratorium was about the "difficulties of verification". The Soviet Union made it quite clear right away that national technical facilities, of which, incidentally, the US has far more than the USSR (the ratio between appropriate seismic stations is 10:1 in favour of the US), could be used quite effectively to monitor compliance with the moratorium on nuclear explosions.

Moreover, the USSR has declared that it is willing to accept any verification of a ban on nuclear explosions, including international procedures, and on-site inspections, whenever necessary. It has likewise expressed its readiness to accept the offer of assistance from the leaders of the

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"Delhi-Six" in test ban verification.

Finally, the USSR has offered to the US to agree on according observers of both sides an opportunity, on mutual terms and at appropriate requests, of visiting the scenes of unidentified events to remove possible doubts as to whether or not such events have anything to do with nuclear explosions. It has suggested a special meeting of experts of both countries to work out procedures of verification of a mutual pledge to refrain from nuclear explosions.

That is to say, verification is no problem at all as far as the USSR is concerned. Washington's threadbare propaganda argument has fallen flat. By turning its back on our proposals, the US Administration has shown that what worries it is by no means the problem of verification but that of how to escape a test ban agreement under a far-fetched pretext.

Once the US Administration clearly misfired in trying to play on the difficulties of verification, it made another "shot". It claimed that the ending of nuclear tests without an alternative opportunity to keep on upgrading nuclear arms would reduce the effect of nuclear deterrence and that it had by all means to catch up with the USSR as far as the total number of explosions was concerned. But that argument holds no water either. There would be no weakening of deterrence since, by mutually suspending nuclear tests, the US and the USSR would find themselves on a par. Besides, the United States, dead-set as it is to upgrade nuclear arms, has carried out 40 per cent more of nuclear explosions than the USSR, in the post-war period and 70 per cent more, counting those of Britain and France. Realising that this argument is missing the mark as well and just underlining the stubborn reluctance of the US to renounce its nuclear arms build-up programme, the Washington cowboys produced a whole pack of new "arguments".

They asserted that a nuclear test ban to apply to all

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nuclear Powers would cause these weapons to be spread around the world in all directions at once--vertically and horizontally. Should nuclear explosions come to be banned, indeed, the United States would have to make up for the loss of confidence in the effect of its nuclear arsenal by building it up numerically. Now, the non-nuclear nations, once they find the United States so "uncertain", would give preference to a "nuclear option", i.e., get down to making nuclear arms of their own. Such an apocalyptical picture of the future world was drawn in a letter from State Department spokesman James Dyer to Congressman Edward Markey who asked the US Administration to explain in clear terms the wherefore of its refusal to heed the voice of reason and to stop explosions.

This juggling with "arguments" is nothing short of an absurd logic. Any attempt at limiting the process of upgrading nuclear arms turns out to be its own antipode--a booster of the militarist race. It means presenting reality in a distorting mirror. The design is simple, however: to befuddle the uninitiated and to give the military-industrial complex an opportunity to go on "doing its business" and lining its pockets with US tax-payers' cash.

Yet, it is a matter of record that in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was by itself a major step towards curbing the nuclear arms race, over a hundred nations of the world recorded their commitment to conduct negotiations on nuclear disarmament in good faith and, consequently, arrive at an accord to stop all nuclear explosions once and for all. That would be an effective way that would lead to nuclear weapons fast aging and outliving themselves and, in fact, being scrapped, in the long run.

At this juncture, the US is producing 8 types of nuclear warheads and developing 11 more types. It has been speeding up nuclear experiments in Nevada under the SDI programme and

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developing strike space weapons, including those with nuclear blast pumping, along with upgrading the present nuclear arsenal.

While turning down the pseudo-arguments of those forces in the US who are all too prone to nuclear brinkmanship in the name of their imperial ambitions, the Soviet Union has proposed a clear and practicable programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2000. The ending of nuclear weapon tests would be a major component of this programme. Guided as it is by its desire to set a good example, our country has been observing a moratorium on all nuclear explosions for over a year, still urging the US to follow suit.

The self-exposing arguments of the US Administration betray more of the unconstructive line it stands by. Rather than "shoot themselves in the feet" with their own clumsy arguments in favour of nuclear explosions, Washington should see the logic of mutual survival and general security and take a practical step forward towards ridding the planet of nuclear weapons by accepting to stop nuclear tests.

(Sovetskaya Rossia, August 12. In full.)

A TEST BY A TEST SUSPENSION

Alexander Luty

Interest in the initiatives announced in the Statement by M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, over a week ago has been growing, not declining. In the United States, too, where the press continues to comment on the Soviet Union's unilateral nuclear test ban extension. Neither can official spokesmen avoid referring to the Soviet leader's Statement which has become a major topic of foreign policy debate in the US.

So what has been the reaction across the Atlantic to the Gorbachev Statement? It has been certainly positive from a wide cross-section of American opinion and many Congressmen, and negative from the Administration and the military-industrial complex elements that are close to it.

It has been allquiet on the Soviet nuclear test ranges for over a year. The moratorium is an impressive, concrete and understandable act. A test suspension is a logical move towards ending nuclear arms production altogether. According to the Opinion Research Corporation, 60 per cent of the Americans have been speaking up for the US to forgo nuclear testing and 80 per cent for both countries to refrain from such tests at least until the next summit meeting. In fact, the number of those favouring a test ban tends to rise.

Shortly before the Soviet leader made his Statement, US Congress sent two unequivocal signals to the Administration on the issue of a nuclear test ban. The Senate voted for the resumption of talks with the USSR on a total nuclear test ban. The House voted for the US to suspend nuclear tests exceeding one kiloton as from January 1. Neither resolution will be

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binding, and the second one is a half-and-half gesture. And yet the fact is that the American legislators do not want to align themselves with the White House position.

So, the majority of the Americans, the majority of Congressmen are for the ending of nuclear blasts, if with some reservations. But what about the Administration? The yet another "No" from the White House to the appeals for joining the Soviet moratorium sounds unconvincing, confused and embarrassed. First, the Assistant Press Secretary of the White House made a standard declaration at Santa Barbara, California, where the President has gone to relax, to the effect that "the moratorium does not respond to the security interests of the United States". Then the same Press Secretary advised the USSR with some irritation to concern itself with a study of the "American proposals" in Geneva which, as he does know only too well, are anything but constructive. Now, the other day, the White House Chief of Staff, Donald Regan, usually not prone to diplomatic sophistry, announced that the Administration had been "somewhat disappointed" by M.S. Gorbachev's Statement which, he claimed, spoke of "general things" rather than of "concrete details".

The natural question is: if an extension of the moratorium is a "general thing", what is a concrete one? The Administration's confused excuses? The argument about the moratorium as "Moscow's tactical propaganda exercise" does not work. The claim about the impossibility of verification has been disproved, to all intents and purposes, by the Soviet invitation for American specialists to undertake such verification. But is it, indeed, verification that is the main point at issue? Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Perle was adamant in objecting to a total nuclear test ban even if it were verifiable. There is no longer any ground whatsoever to support the argument about the need to test the workability

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of the existing nuclear devices. According to a statement by Norris Bradbury, a former Los Alamos Laboratory Director, tests to try them out are held less than once a year.

It is well known that nuclear weapon tests is the driving force behind the Star Wars Programme. There can be no upgrading nuclear-pumped X-ray laser without further tests. There have been some pronouncements in Washington in recent times to the effect that continued testing is eventually a blessing for humanity because the Strategic Defence Initiative is the key to safety from nuclear missiles and to the salvation of this planet. Yet, the Administration's arguments on this score do not hold water either. Speaking at Glassboro, President Reagan announced that SDI was a shield that could protect the US from nuclear missiles just like a roof protected a home from rain. But the SDI Programme Director, Lieutenant-General James Abrahamson commented that they had never said that assured defence was the aim of SDI. So, what is it then? A contrivance to help carry out a nuclear strike? It appears it is. The essential object of SDI is not defence by any means but attack in the hope of escaping retaliation.

Washington has been put on the defensive, a well-known Sovietologist Marshall Shulman believes. However, the USSR is not to blame for the US Administration having to go on the defensive. The process of arms limitation is not a series of propaganda punches and counter-punches, but a serious dialogue of responsible partners. I mean responsible, that is to say that what everyone expects from Washington is not an assortment of trite excuses but a well-considered and constructive reaction to the Statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Washington-Moscow

(Sovetskaya Rossia, August 28. Abridged.)

Monday, August 25, 1986

VOVP2-860825-508

4

OUR FIRM RESOLVE

Col.-Gen. N.Chervov

M.S.Gorbachev's Statement offers a thorough analysis of the present world situation and specifies the guiding principles of the foreign policy of our Party, worked out at the 27th Congress. This Statement is tangible evidence of the new political thinking and the new approach to the problems of war and peace, of ensuring general security and strengthening the national defences. It is an important new stage in the struggle of the Soviet people and the world's progressive forces for the total nuclear test ban, the elimination of nuclear weapons, and improvement of international relations.

The decision to prolong the moratorium confirms the seriousness and sincerity of our nuclear disarmament programme. It has been a difficult thing for us, in the military sense, above all, to take such a decision. But the CPSU has taken it, realising that the political benefit of such a move would by far outweigh all other considerations.

In a way, our decision is putting the US Administration on the defensive. It is a test of the White House approach to the problem of nuclear arms reduction and of the US Government's ability to see beyond its own narrow interests. As is known, the White House on the same day rejected out of hand any possibility of joining the Soviet moratorium. This refusal is compromising Washington's entire policy as well as that of NATO as a military alliance that declares itself to be committed to defence but, in actual fact, is escalating military preparations for aggression.

That has to be taken into account. The Statement underlines that we soberly assess the situation and that we

know who we have to deal with. The nation's security is a sacred thing for us. "This must be clear to everybody. It is a point of principle", M.S. Gorbachev pointed out.

The Soviet Union has the forces and the means to ensure dependably the security of this country as well as that of our allies in the face of any aggressive US action. Our commitment to peace is not a sign of weakness but one of our confidence in our strength and potentialities and in the rightness of the political course we have chosen, which is unanimously supported by the entire Soviet people and by the servicemen of the Army and the Navy.

Following the extension of the Soviet moratorium, there have been all kinds of fake stories in the West just to play down the importance of this major practical step towards disarmament. US leaders argue, for instance, that America has fallen behind the USSR and so has to continue nuclear tests. But such pronouncements do not tally with actual facts. The facts show the US to be in the lead as far as the number of explosions are concerned. It has carried out more nuclear explosions than all the nuclear Powers, put together, notably about one-third more than the Soviet Union.

Now, the US has set off more nuclear blasts in each particular sphere (in the atmosphere, under ground and under water). Suffice it to take the record of the last two years. In 1984, the countries concerned staged about the same number of nuclear weapon tests. In 1985, the US carried out about a score of explosions, while the USSR carried out nine, including two for peaceful purposes, before suspending them. During the first twelve months of the Soviet moratorium, the US detonated 18 nuclear devices. So there is nothing like falling behind in any sense. That is to say that those who say so actually want the United States to retain the opportunity of upgrading and developing new types of nuclear weapons, and,

consequently, carrying on the arms build-up.

The actual reason why the US administration does not want to give up nuclear explosions is America's striving to tip the existing balance of forces in its favour. This is the purpose of a programme to develop various nuclear warheads for space strike weapons under Star Wars plans, as well as new types of arms (MX, Trident-2 and Midgetman strategic missiles). There are no other reasons.

Western propaganda concerning the moratorium uses an unseemly trick of insinuating that the Soviet military is not agreed with the Party's disarmament and security decisions, especially unilateral ones. What can be said here? This is wishful thinking, nothing else.

In the Soviet Union the Communist Party is the sole leading and guiding force of society. Military leaders are Party members, they share a common Marxist-Leninist outlook and think alike on military-political problems and questions of armed forces. This does not exclude differences in views on these involved issues. But that is our domestic affair. Efforts by certain Western circles to find any discrepancies between Soviet political and military leaders is a waste of time.

The Gorbachev Statement and the latest Soviet political initiatives fill Soviet servicemen with greater confidence. The Party and government decision to extend the moratorium has placed additional responsibility on the Soviet armed forces in firmly defending the country and called for greater vigilance and higher combat and mobilisation preparedness.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government have entrusted us, military men, with a vastly important mission to guarantee the security of the Soviet people's peaceful labour and the possibility of implementing the stupendous plans of communist construction adopted at the 27th Party Congress. It

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is the duty of Soviet fighting men to live up to this confidence and to ensure the fulfilment of the tasks set to us.

(Sovetskaya Rossia, August 23. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV

ABM TREATY vs. SDI

A.Mozgovoy

At the meeting in Reykjavik the obstructive US stand on the issue of the observance of the 1972 Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty) became the stumbling block. Today this is obvious for all. The US administration, however, is trying to deny its responsibility for that. Its principal efforts now, to quote Mikhail Gorbachev's televised speech of October 22, are channelled at defending the SDI which was put to shame in Reykjavik. Propaganda emphasis is placed on the argument that the Soviet Union has supposedly decided to revise the provisions of the ABM Treaty.

The American President himself has announced that the US has the right to continue research, development and tests under the SDI programme, claiming that this is "in line with the provisions of the ABM Treaty".

Of course, the text of the ABM Treaty is not a verse or a piece of prose which stays in the memory for a long time. This is the chief argument of those who are trying to present the Soviet Union as a kind of a saboteur who has set out to undermine the agreement in order to prevent the materialization of the American President's favourite brainchild, the Strategic Defense Initiative.

So let us turn to the text of the Treaty. Its Article V reads as follows: "Each Party undertakes not to develop, test, or deploy ABM systems or components which are sea-based, air-based, space-based, or mobile land-based". In view of the character of the SDI, there can only be one interpretation of this provision: the development, testing and deployment of anti-missile space weapons is prohibited, but this is exactly what Washington refuses to accept.

To by-pass Article V of the ABM Treaty, American spokesmen are referring to one of the coordinated statements attached to that Treaty. It allows the possibility of the development of ABM systems based on physical principles other than those which existed at the time of the signing of the treaty. However, the testing and deployment of such systems is allowed only in the regions limited by Article III, and the systems themselves must be land-based and stationary.

So what amendments to the ABM Treaty are being sought by the Soviet Union which are unacceptable for the US? The answer is none: the USSR is not seeking any such amendments. Moreover, mindful of the US Administration's and the President's special affection for the SDI, our country has agreed to the continuation of laboratory research and tests of new ABM systems.

The only thing the USSR proposes is to consolidate the fundamental provisions of the ABM Treaty by vowing not to pull out of it within the forthcoming ten years. For if one follows basic logic, one will see that after deep cuts in strategic offensive armaments, to be followed by their complete liquidation, and after eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe it would be only foolish to create a space shield.

And yet across the ocean they are alleging SDI is a safe passage to "defence and security", doing it with vigour worth being applied elsewhere. There is hardly anything farther from the truth than such allegations. For SDI in fact will only serve to destabilize the strategic situation, make it worse than now. Indeed, "exotic weapons" deployed in outer space could well be used both for defensive and offensive needs.

Space-based weapons will be completely automatic, or else they will lose sense. It means that all commands inducing them to operate will be issued not by men but rather by machines within a time period measured by seconds, not minutes. So any

technical error or failure will inevitably sparkle off a global war. Worse still, while sweating over its SDI program, the United States hopes to grab control over space exploration efforts by other states. If Star Wars weaponry is really completely automatic, any nation about to put a space craft into orbit will have to ask the United States for "permission". But nobody will want such an arrangement. Then an endless race will be launched in creating all kinds of weapons and counter-weapons. Will the United States win the race? It remains to be seen.

And yet there is a way out. It is in perceiving the realities of our era which requires a new mode of thinking and non-traditional political decisions. This approach has been manifested by the Soviet Union. It is high time the United States, too, got rid of the burden of largely outdated doctrines and views. Security issues cannot be resolved from the position of strength.

(Sovetskaya Rossia, October 24. Abridged.)

Monday, September 15, 1986

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VOMI2-860915-514

IN THE EPICENTRE OF SILENCE

(A Report From the Soviet Nuclear Testing
Range in Kazakhstan)

A Soviet-US scientific experiment under way near the Soviet nuclear testing range in Kazakhstan has disproved Washington's claims that a nuclear test ban cannot be verified. Scientists involved in the experiment had registered the explosion in Nevada 13 minutes after it had been conducted, writes A. Borovik.

American scientist David Chaves told the Sovetskaya Rossiya correspondent that advances in seismology made it possible now to detect even weak nuclear blasts in foreign territory and distinguish them from remote earthquakes by national means.

His colleague David Currell added he hoped that the results of the joint experiment would be used in the interests of disarmament.

David Chaves said Americans advocating a bilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions were harassed in their own country. When it became known that he was going to the USSR to take part in a Soviet-US experiment, for instance, Chaves found himself the target of a spate of sneering jokes and mockery.

D. Currell said all indications regrettably were that the Reagan administration, far from planning to join the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions, was bent instead on making sure by all means that America put up with the need to continue nuclear testing.

A Soviet expert group is leaving for the United States on Sunday, September 14 to take part in scientific work near the US nuclear testing range in Nevada.

Group leader Igor Nersesov, who heads the Seismology

Department at the Institute of the Physics of the Earth under the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said:

"We are to deal with tasks similar to those being fulfilled here, near the nuclear testing range at Semipalatinsk. We hope that the Soviet-US experiment will make it possible to take a big step forward in upgrading seismological monitoring methods."

US scientists have been given a unique opportunity to monitor the Soviet moratorium in areas in the immediate proximity to the Soviet testing range. Seismic equipment has been installed and is functioning there.

Will Soviet experts, however, be offered similar possibilities and conditions in Nevada?

The correspondent put this question to Jim Boyer, official spokesman for the US Department of Energy in Nevada, after reaching him by telephone.

"Soviet specialists in Nevada?" the man asked in his turn. "It's the first time I hear about it!"

Boyer turned out to be totally unaware also of the fact that there were American scientists currently working near the Soviet testing range in Kazakhstan, Sovetskaya Rossiya said.

(Sovetskaya Rossiya, September 13. Summary

Thursday, May 8, 1986

VOEK0-860508-518

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TRUTH AND LIES ABOUT CHERNOBYL

TASS special correspondents Vladimir Itkin and Lev Chernenko reported on May 7 from the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant area:

Several days have passed since we visited the accident area and met with dozens of people - eyewitnesses of the tragedy that occurred at 1:23 a.m. on April 26. We were at the very edge of the "zone" where a real battle of men against the elements is now going on. A systematic battle, backed up by the calculations of scientists and experts and embodied in the courage of the people about whom, we are sure, a full story will be told some time later. We saw a lot during these days, and understood much.

After reading dozens of so called "reports," "allegations," "statements" and "counsels" of Western newspapers, radio, television and news agencies, where the Chernobyl accident has been turned from an event of human tragedy into an issue of political blackmail against the USSR, we had a wish precisely from here, near Kiev, just to say: "Stop! Let's look into the matter!"

Several hours after the accident, as the eyewitnesses testify and documents show, the situation was already under control. But it was too early, and simply impossible to speak of the size of the accident.

That was here, at Chernobyl...

But in London the Daily Mirror, without the slightest embarrassment, in worriedly speculative terms reported that 2,000 were assumed to have been killed in the first stage.

In the very first minutes after the accident, chairman of the executive committee of the Pripjat Soviet of People's

Deputies V. Voloshko was at Set 4. He had for a long time worked at the plant. People speak of him as a good, competent expert. It was he who became the head of the local operations headquarters, set up in the nuclear plant town.

"To allege 2,000 dead is an obvious lie," he said. "For it was a night shift, and, moreover, the time of a planned reactor shutdown."

"As in all power plants of the world - power engineers know this perfectly well - shifts are smaller during this time, and especially at night," Voloshko continued. "I shall note the other side of the story. At the moment of the accident, each of those who were at the station was worth a hundred. What these people accomplished can only now, and still not in full, be understood. They are heroes. And just as war heroes draw fire, so did they. They suffered most. Many of these people are now in the best special clinics of the country. The best doctors are struggling for their health. I would bow low to them, the Soviet, American or Japanese doctors, if they do everything possible and impossible to save my comrades."

The station's Party deputy secretary G. Karyaka is still on duty. Communists man the watch at Sets 1, 2 and 3. We met with them right at the edge of the "zone" we have already mentioned.

On the morning of April 26 Karyaka was also at the station.

"Only now the picture of what happened can be reconstructed," he says. "The reactor got damaged, its active zone partially broke, a part of radioactivity was thrown out and the reactor's criticality was lost. We know that our Western ill-wishers assert that radioactivity still continues to increase. This is also a lie. The reactor was almost stopped back at the time of emergency protection, at a minimum level of capacity. Now many other technological problems of

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ending the aftermath of the accident are being solved, but there is no chain reaction."

Ukrainian Minister of Public Health A. Romanenko, speaking on television, told the region's inhabitants about the current radiation situation.

"There is no direct threat to the health of the people of Kiev and the region. The weather conditions immediately after the Chernobyl accident excluded the spread of radioactive substances in the city's direction. The work being done at the plant has permitted considerably reducing their entrance into the environment. In the last few days, however, some rise in the level of radioactive background, due to the changed direction and intensity of the wind, has been observed in the city and some districts of the region. But the level of radiation is not health hazardous and isn't an obstacle to normal work activity."

The radiation situation in Kiev does not call for any use of preventive medicines by the population. All the questions relating to the environment's influence on population health are under the unremitting control of the ministry.

In these days in the Chernobyl area we are, so to speak, in the midst of events. We see what titantic work the Party and government agencies of the republic are carrying out to provide the evacuated families with work and all necessary things for a normal life.

Nobody's concealing the accident at Chernobyl. What happened shows once more that the atom, even peaceful, requires very great caution. And if it is enclosed in bombs, in missiles aimed at destroying people - this is madness! So now say people at the many get-togethers and meetings taking place here, near Kiev.

We assert once more: in the Ukrainian capital and the adjoining districts a normal, calm life is going on. All enterprises are working.

(Trud, April 8. Abridged.)

AT NUCLEAR TEST SITE IN KAZAKHSTAN

Soviet-American experiment: the realities and
opportunities

E. Zhurabayev, Trud special correspondent

I at once want to call this experiment bold. Judge for yourselves: under its terms, US scientists with their observation equipment get access to a 200-kilometre zone around the nuclear test site in Kazakhstan, and their Soviet counterparts to the areas adjoining the Nevada site.

In July a US Natural Resources Defence Council team arrived in Kazakhstan. It included such prominent American scientists as James Brune, a leading theoretician in world seismology, and Charles Archambeau, scientific adviser to the Delhi Six. Together with Soviet colleagues they selected three monitoring points, and soon the installation of ground recording equipment began.

What is the state of affairs now?

I visited all the three points, scattered over the boundless steppe of northeastern Kazakhstan. They are the settlements Karkaralinsk (Karaganda Region), Bayanaul (Pavlodar Region), and Karasu (Semipalatinsk Region). The locations reliably cover the entire test site, and outcropping granite rocks provide the most favourable conditions for observation. Already on July 17 the equipment at Karkaralinsk spotted the first explosion in... Nevada.

As I was told by Soviet participants in the experiment - workers of the Institute of Earth's Physics F. S. Tregub and N. F. Yukhnin, Kazakhstan monitoring by far exceeds the necessary level of reliability. If a weak tremour in Greece has been registered, and nearly all the Nevada explosions identified (save the smallest three of less than 1 kiloton,

and the fixed yield limit for nuclear explosions is 150 kilotons), then a nuclear test in Kazakhstan will sweep all the sensors off-scale: they will have to be simply turned off.

The US colleagues in Kazakhstan share their opinion. I talked to David Chavez of the University of Nevada, Reno.

He said that he was fully satisfied with how things were going in Kazakhstan. The experiment's second phase is now in: installation of equipment in special wells 70 to 100 metres deep. This will end daily and seasonal temperature fluctuations, as well as ground noise. The wells at Karkaralinsk and Bayanaul are ready, and the well at Karasu will be completed soon.

To be placed in these wells late in October and early in November is the new, more sensitive equipment the Americans expect to receive unless an embargo is imposed on its being taken out of the USA, Chavez said. He added that, working here, they familiarised themselves well with the geology of rocks in the test site area. Local crystalline rocks differ from Nevada's and have turned out to be so favourable for the passage of elastic vibrations that US specialists often overrated the power of previous Soviet explosions. This sometimes led to "above-the-150-kiloton-limit" complaints being addressed to the Soviet side. So, the experiment is already helping to allay suspicions, Chavez said.

When the Soviet Union first announced its unilateral moratorium, many Americans thought that the Russians at the time simply did not need nuclear explosions, he went on. But over a year's silence at the nuclear test site has convinced us that you have taken a bold and difficult step which shows readiness for practical and still more serious actions. Similarly, our experiment also has a great political significance. It is not so much a question of the scientific aspect - here everything has long been clear; you have been

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the first to venture to open access to your test site, Chavez said.

Yes, we have been the first to do so - despite our warranted fears, despite the arms race imposed on us, despite the many attempts to provoke us, and despite the exceptional political stubbornness of the US administration. Moreover, the experiment is still unilateral in a sense. The American team has been in Kazakhstan for quite a while now, yet to their Soviet colleagues, whose first visit to Nevada was scheduled for September 14, the US State Department is still refusing visas.

Karkaralinsk - Bayanaul - Semipalatinsk.

(Trud., September 26. Abridged.)

Monday, May 26, 1986

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REPORTING FROM CHERNOBYL

S.Prokopchuk

Special cargoes are still being dumped in the zone of the crippled reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Only now they are deposited along the perimeter of the zone, not in the crater of the faulty unit. Several thousand tons of sand, clay, lead, dolomite, boron and other materials have reliably sealed the accident-stricken reactor, the Soviet daily Trud writes.

The "breathing" of the crippled unit is becoming shallower and shallower, the paper says. However, heaps of contaminated fragments and debris still litter the site. It is especially difficult to tame radioactive dust. It is to be sealed with the help of synthetic liquid rubber. Exposed to the air, the material hardens fast, covering contaminated areas with a sturdy film. The operation is carried out by helicopter crews.

The areas of the nuclear power plant's territory that are littered with smaller fragments and radioactive dust are deactivated in a different manner -- with the help of an adsorbing film. When the film hardens it looks like the one of which polyethylene bags are made. The material is applied by spraying when it is in a liquid state. Hardening it seals dust and other "litter" so well that it then remains only to roll up the resulting cover and take it to burial sites.

These efforts have led to a considerable reduction in radiation in the 30-kilometer zone.

The paper quotes Anatoly Romanenko, Minister of Health of the Ukrainian SSR, who said that the radiation background in the capital of the Ukraine presents absolutely no hazard to human health.

(Trud, May 25. Summary.)

IN THE EPICENTRE OF SILENCE

S.Leskov

A group of American seismologists and Western media men have visited the area of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test range where preparations are all but over for the second phase of the Soviet-American experiment to monitor nuclear test suspension.

* * *

The Semipalatinsk test site has been silent ever since the Soviet Union announced its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions over a year ago. Not the Nevada range, which is still thundering as new types of weapons are tested. In the meantime, US seismologists have been invited to the "holy of holies", a zone next to the Soviet nuclear test site, which is, certainly, a pointer to the Soviet Government's good will.

What has been under way over there is a unique scientific experiment under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and an influential non-governmental private-funded US organization-- the Natural Resources Defence Council. We have covered the first phase of the experiment which began back in July.

Now there is the second phase on. Most competent minds in the field of seismology believe that it will enable the final solution of what is by no means a simple problem of monitoring nuclear blasts even of the lowest yield. Equipment to register surface vibrations was installed at three points during the first phase. But that equipment was ground-based, that is to say, open to the action of winds, rains and temperature drop. To avoid the probability of error in so important a matter, it was decided to lower the instruments into 100-metre-deep wells to keep them away from the elements.

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Those three points are Karkaralinsk, Bayanaul, and Karasu in Karaganda, Pavlodar and Semipalatinsk regions. We have been to those three townships. Soviet and American scientists looked hard to see whether everything was ready for the second, important phase of the experiment? The restless special correspondents of the American US News & World Report and People magazines, West German and Japanese television, Czechoslovak radio, news agencies of Italy, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, the Japanese Asahi newspaper, and other publications put their questions whenever they could.

They were particularly keen on quizzing Vice-President Yevgeni Velikhov of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, a leading authority on nuclear physics:

- Why is the White House Administration refusing entry visas to Soviet seismologists proposing to install similar equipment around the Nevada test range?

"Our scientists have been offered to choose between visiting American university centres and attending nuclear tests in the Nevada range. The first option is outside the problem, the second has to be seen as political provocation. It is clear that Soviet scientists, favouring as they do a nuclear moratorium, cannot get involved in servicing tests and so approving of them. The American side does not want to be monitored."

- Isn't the Soviet side going to switch off the seismic equipment if there is no agreement with the US on the subject?

"We believe that the experiment is serving the cause of peace. It is a one-year agreement, but we would not object to having it extended, whatever the action of the US Administration".

--Suppose there is an agreement on a bilateral moratorium. Won't that leave open the possibility of secret nuclear tests?

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"Sceptics and opponents of the moratorium have suggested that carrying out a test in the wake of an earthquake which superimposes on a blast picture, sort of covering it up, or in a man-made cavity that would damp seismic waves can make a deliberate deception possible. These doubts turn on the erroneous presumption that the Earth's bowels placidly keep silent and erupt only if disturbed by a nuclear test. The Earth never 'falls asleep' and is in a state of vigorous seismic activity, but every source of vibration has its own specific parameters of amplitude, frequency and direction. An experienced seismologist can identify and even locate the source of increased activity. Besides, the very preparations for nuclear tests demand such an amount of work as cannot be kept secret at all".

--Is a moratorium so essential, after all? Perhaps, new types of nuclear weapons can be developed without site testing as well?

"I do not see any feasible way of doing so. That is just the reason why the US President, who is banking so much on the SDI Programme providing for new types of weapons to be developed, cannot renounce nuclear testing. As Mikhail Gorbachev said, the President is the prisoner of the military-industrial complex. The SDI Programme is of benefit to Big Business which largely shapes US government policies. This age, with a nuclear threat hanging over the whole of humanity, requires a different mode of thinking, more mature. Gorbachev proposed a workable plan at the Reykjavik meeting for a progressive reduction and total removal of the threat of nuclear war. That plan is a good test of our maturity. The world is now at the cross-roads and I trust it will find a chance to survive. The Soviet-American experiment gives one such chance. Our work is urgent, and we must as soon as possible convince all those who doubt the possibility of

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foolproof monitoring of a nuclear test suspension.

With the inspection over, I found myself sitting in our aircraft next to Thomas Cochran, the man in charge of the American side of the experiment. The scientist was tired but clearly pleased with his fact-finding.

--The Soviet colleagues have made fine preparations for the second phase of the experiment. We discussed with Academician Velikhov an interesting and quite practicable project for a Karkaralinsk--Moscow--Nevada exchange of telemetric information, using, in particular, communication satellites. Of course, without an inspection in the Nevada test range, the experiment will be losing much of its value. Our Council will make every effort to secure an early accord with the Administration on a visit by Soviet scientists to the US. I agree with Academician Velikhov: the joint experiment is resolving important and urgent problems. We must hurry!

Karkaralinsk--Bayanaul--Karasu.

(Komsomolskaya Pravda, October 23. Abridged.)

WHAT'S BEHIND THE ANTI-SOVIET BALLYHOO ABOUT THE
CHERNOBYL REACTOR ACCIDENT

P. Mikhalev, Komsomolskaya Pravda's
Special Correspondent in London

All these days the British mass media have been like a reactor boiling off hatred and inciting unprecedented anti-Soviet hysteria in the country. Both "serious" papers and the gutter press have been bawling and having hysterics while writing about our misfortune. It seemed that they had received an almost lethal dose of anti-Soviet radiation. They have been gloating over our misfortune, which, as a matter of fact, might have happened anywhere in our industrial age.

Now even the hotheads in Fleet Street have calmed down a little. The "sensation" is no longer frontpage news. It is no longer possible to make white appear black. Moscow's clear-cut statements have done their job. Government communiques and the TASS statement about measures taken to combat the accident and the press conference held in the Soviet Foreign Ministry press centre have had a sobering effect even on the most unfeeling cynics.

Paradoxically, it was the British students who studied in Kiev and Minsk that sobered their compatriots down. One newspaper headline had said that the British students were "entrapped" in the USSR. In actuality, 102 British students were forcibly deported from the Soviet Union. The "exodus" was organised by the British embassy in Moscow, which, as one might assume, had received appropriate instructions from London. This in spite of the fact that, according to The Times, the British ambassador in Moscow was provided with full information about the Chernobyl reactor accident by the most competent bodies, including the USSR State Committee for the

Utilisation of Atomic Energy, the Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and assured that there were absolutely no health risks for the British students studying in Kiev and Minsk.

It appears, however, that a sober and balanced account of the accident did not fit in with the scenario of anti-Soviet hysteria. Some people simply could not do without "foreigners fleeing from the Soviet Union." Some people were dying to see heart-rending meetings at London airport with "hostages of a nuclear hell" and counted on their testimony. Their plans fell through, however.

There was testimony but it was not the testimony the organisers of the provocation needed. As regards the accurate and unbiased medical data, the Guardian said that a thorough radiological examination of all the students who had flown from Moscow did not reveal any signs of radiation. Incidentally, that was clear even in Moscow.

The question is who stands to gain from all this hullabaloo? It is, above all, the die-hard anti-Sovietists, the enemies of peace and detente and all who wanted to use first "international terrorism" and now the accident at Chernobyl as a means of distracting people's attention from the nuclear arms race and the efforts to spread it into space. In a bid to tarnish the appeal of the new sweeping Soviet peace proposals, which the enemies of peace bluntly dismiss as "propaganda," they are doing everything to malign the Soviet Union and its consistent efforts to ease international tension. Hence the attempts to use our misfortune for unseemly purposes and as proof of demagogical speculation about the "evil empire." It is absolutely clear that if our misfortune did not occur, it would be necessary for them to invent it.

The people who fanatically tore the guts of the Nevada desert with nuclear explosions and those who kowtow to them

here in London seem unable to resist the temptation of manipulating the phrases like "nuclear nightmare" and "nuclear destruction" with regard to the Soviet Union, a country which has won universal acclaim for not conducting nuclear tests for nearly a year now and for making persistent efforts to bring about a nuclear test ban.

However, a lie is exposed sooner or later. Even if it comes from space. It was a US spy satellite that made a sensation by exaggerating the disaster at the Chernobyl atomic power station where, it was asserted, at least 10,000 people were killed and another reactor blew up. For all their technical sophistication, spy satellites, these eyes and ears of the CIA and the Pentagon, have let their masters down. However, the spy satellite has done its evil job. Like tuning fork, it set the tone to a huge campaign of lies and anti-Soviet hysteria which has started in the Western media, including those of Britain. There is nothing new about such campaigns. Every time the US Congress is preparing to vote on a militaristic budget, Washington legislators and millions of US taxpayers are served data from "competent intelligence sources" which have allegedly fixed violations of the anti-missile defence treaty by the Soviet Union, enigmatic concentrations of troops and naval forces and other operations by the Soviet armed forces. As soon as a military budget is passed, more or less successfully, it is announced without much ado that the "intelligence sources" erred, having been confused by an "irresponsible" spy satellite.

Last Sunday, The Sunday Times reported from Washington that there had been 628 nuclear accidents in the United States. The newspaper said that the accidents had occurred with US warships or aircraft carrying nuclear weapons over the past twenty years. This fact was recently admitted by spokesmen for the US navy. The veil of silence over these

highly-dangerous accidents was lifted thanks to a Quakers' organisation which takes stock of unpublished information about nuclear emergencies.

In 1965, a nuclear-equipped bomber missed the carrier landing deck and plunged into the Pacific. In 1968, a submarine, carrying nuclear weapons sank in the Atlantic. Accidents with nuclear submarines were also registered over two months this year, The Sunday Times said. It remains a fact that the United States has not yet said anything about the accident with its submarine which ran aground in the Irish Sea on March 13, 1986 (the newspaper meant the atomic submarine Nathanael Greene which had 16 Poseidon ballistic nuclear missiles, -- P.M.).

The American advocates of double standard have supporters in Britain.

The question of whether people could trust the cabinet of the Tories, whose leaders are eager to speak about an "open" and "closed" society, was raised, unexpectedly for them, last Sunday by the weekly Observer in an article saying that Britain has hushed up a nuclear explosion. This was a reference to the accident which took place at the atomic power station in Dungeness, Kent, on March 31, 1986, as a result of which radioactive gas leaked into the atmosphere. However, the British Central Electricity Generating Board has concealed the accident from the public. The matter will be taken up in Parliament next week. Instead of gloating over other people's misfortune, London should see what is taking place right under its nose.

(Komsomolskaya Pravda, May 8. Abridged)

SYMPATHY EXPRESSED OVER CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

In connection with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the Soviet Government, various organisations and Ministries of the USSR continue to receive expressions of sympathy and offers of help from citizens, mass organisations and private firms in foreign countries. A message from New Zealand doctors, who work for the prevention of nuclear war, signed by Doctor J. Prior, offers, in particular, support and aid, should they be needed.

Jack Geiger, President of the Influential American organisation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Doctor Victor W. Sidel, Head of the American Public Health Association, have sent a message to Academician Yevgeni Chazov, the Soviet Co-President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, expressing sympathy with Soviet people at this difficult time and readiness to render any assistance.

These are only two of the many telegrams which have been received in the past few days from abroad.

This worthy and humanistic understanding of what has happened cannot but evoke sincere gratitude of Soviet people.

(TASS, May 7. In full.)

AT FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRESS CENTRE

"The Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions has become one of the most tangible manifestations of the USSR's vigorous foreign policy. It is an action, a concrete action rather than just a proposal," stated Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow on October 3.

The press conference highlighted prohibiting nuclear weapon tests and the recent visit to the Soviet nuclear testing site in the area of Semipalatinsk, a city in Kazakhstan, by a group of Soviet and foreign journalists.

"There has been silence at our testing sites since July 25 of last year, the day the USSR conducted its last nuclear test explosion," Boris Pyadyshev went on. He stressed that in the Soviet Union's opinion a bilateral and then a multilateral moratorium would be one of the most important steps leading to the creation of an all-embracing system of peace and international security. Proceeding from this the USSR is prepared to sign a CTB treaty at any time and in any place," he stressed.

As we see it, at the forthcoming Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik it would be quite possible to arrive at an agreed-upon instruction concerning the preparation of draft agreements on two or three aspects of nuclear arms, for instance, on ending nuclear weapon tests, he went on. This question is long ripe and long ready for solution. It is not difficult to reach agreement on it if political will, a sense of responsibility and a desire to make a concrete step towards restricting the arms race are displayed.

The USSR calls on the United States to join the onward movement rather than urge us to move back, to explosions. We would like to hope that in the end realism will prevail with the American side in this matter, the spokesman of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated.

As was noted at the press conference, a group of journalists representing the leading media of the world, who visited the area of Semipalatinsk, had seen for themselves that the main Soviet testing site is inactive and that no preparations for further tests in that area are being made.

The press conference was addressed by Major General Yuri Lebedev, a department deputy head of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces. Answering the question about a possibility of covert underground nuclear explosions and nuclear weapons tests, he said that there were no practical possibility to conduct such explosions.

Yuri Lebedev explained that even camouflage measures did not provide a possibility to conduct a nuclear explosion that would remain unnoticed. Low-capacity explosions' seismic signal can be artificially weakened, but it involves large-scale and serious technical work which cannot remain unnoticed. The General stressed that there was no place in the Soviet Union where preparations for nuclear tests were under way.

Addressing the press conference, Mikhail Gokhberg, acting director of the Institute of Physics of the Earth under the USSR Academy of Sciences, spoke in detail about the means of control intended for detecting nuclear explosions within the framework of the Soviet-American experiment. He said that at present all the three stations situated in the area of the Semipalatinsk testing ground were functioning. Both Soviet and American scientists are working there. US scientists are changed about once a month.

He recalled in this connection the delay with issuing entry visas to a group of Soviet scientists who were to go to the US on September 14 and to find a place where to install seismographic equipment in accordance with the agreement signed by the US Natural Resources Defence Council and the USSR Academy of Sciences.

He said that the American side had stipulated the issuing of visas by conditions that had been obviously unacceptable for the Soviet side. The US Administration is trying to lure Soviet scientists to the test site in Nevada in order to legalize in this way the continuation of nuclear tests by the US. The presence of Soviet scientists at the test site would be tantamount to the sanctioning by the Soviet Union of the continuation of US nuclear tests.

Answering the question about the problems that could be possibly discussed at the Reykjavik meeting, Boris Pyadyshev said: "The Soviet side puts in the centre of attention questions of security, the reduction and limitation of nuclear weapons. Along with them, the sides can discuss practical questions connected with bilateral Soviet-American relations. It is possible that other problems of mutual interest, including regional conflicts, will also be discussed at the meeting."

(TASS, October 3. In full.)

FALSE ARGUMENTS

The United States had several objections to the Soviet moratorium: the Soviet Union allegedly does not agree to verification and control, the verification and control are technically impossible, America's position will worsen, and so on.

Although they look different, they all have one thing in common: they are all false and affected.

This has been stated by Gennary Gerasimov, Head of the Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who spoke over the Soviet television in the "Vremya" program on August 26.

These arguments were dispensed with, Gerasimov continued, because the Soviet side's agreement to verification and control, as well as the technical potentialities, removed this problem. Washington was deprived of its propaganda tools. It is now looking for new, fresh arguments and has actually invented two.

Larry Speakes, a spokesman of the White House, and others are talking about a long list of topics for discussion, with nuclear tests being one of them. There is nothing new in dissolving one problem in a great number of others.

Another argument is of philosophical nature: wars are started by people, not by armaments. This is a dangerous simplification. It is true that decisions are taken by people. However, they can well become influenced and even dominated by technological fanaticism. Signs of it can be clearly seen in Washington today.

The arms race is being accelerated by its own momentum. This is why, although wars are started by people and not by armaments, the fanatics of armaments can in some fatal way influence the decision-making politicians. The turning down of

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the tests not only puts up a barrier on the way of the development of new, more sophisticated types of nuclear weapons. It can also help the sprouts of confidence to force their way. Gerasimov said in conclusion that the bold Soviet decision showed political realism, while the stubborn "no" of the US reflected nuclear fanaticism.

(TASS, August 26. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ
TÜSTAV

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

G.GERASIMOV ON MORATORIUM

The ending of nuclear tests is the link in the chain which would allow us to resolve the problem of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons, Gennady Gerasimov, Head of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said today in his comments on the Soviet Union's extension of its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear testing until January 1, 1987. He addressed Soviet and foreign journalists at a briefing in the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

The reaction to the latest peace initiative of the Soviet Union on the other side of the Ocean is one of clear disappointment over Moscow's refusal to "play Washington's game" and resume nuclear testing.

American officials called the Soviet Union's decision "propaganda". Yet it is a manifestation of both common sense and a new way of thinking. The Soviet Side will sustain some military and economic losses as a result but we believe, Gerasimov said, that ways should be looked for to terminate the arms race -- he who raises the nuclear sword will die by it, and it is a crime not to reckon with this fact.

Soviet foreign policy is based on awareness of deep-going changes in the world. The American side clearly lacks such awareness. It is coming up with far-fetched arguments against ending nuclear tests, in particular, difficulties of verification. It would seem that there could be nothing vague in that area, especially since the Soviet Union has not only agreed to on-site inspection technically but has taken a practical step and allowed American scientists to bring their seismic equipment to the area of Semipalatinsk. The point is not verification but the unwillingness of the USA to stop the

arms race.

The Soviet side agreed to extend the moratorium in the hope that Washington would reevaluate the situation without bias, cast aside everything irrelevant and join the Soviet moratorium, which will eventually make it possible to reach an agreement on a nuclear test ban.

* * *

A meeting of government experts on drafting conventions on prompt notification about nuclear accidents and assistance in the event of such accidents has closed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. Gennady Gerasimov stressed at the briefing that agreement on the texts of these important documents had been achieved at the meeting. They are to become the fundamental elements of the international regime of safe development of nuclear power engineering.

The notification system will be used in the event of nuclear accidents which could lead to a transfer of radioactive substances, of nuclear accidents at all nuclear plants, including those for defence purposes. It will also apply to nuclear plants in surface ships and submarines, nuclear energy sources in space vehicles.

In accordance with the provisions of the convention on prompt notification, Gennady Gerasimov said, the states are obliged to notify about all nuclear accidents, with the exception of accidents with nuclear weapons and during nuclear blasts, about which the nuclear powers could, if they so wish, notify other countries (i.e. in the latter case the commitment on notification is not made) for its part, the Soviet Union was also prepared to agree to mandatory notification in the cases involving accidents with nuclear weapons and during nuclear blasts, yet the USA opposed that.

The spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry stressed that draft conventions are to be tabled at the special session of the IAEA General Conference on questions of safe development of nuclear power engineering, which is scheduled to be held in Vienna on September 24-26 this year.

* * *

A meeting of consular officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Israel was held in Helsinki on Monday, head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennady Gerasimov reported at the briefing.

The meeting was of a preliminary nature. The purpose was to reach agreement on how to discuss in future two consular problems: the question of Soviet property in Israel and consular assistance to Soviet citizens in Israel.

But at the meeting the head of the Israeli group made a statement of a political nature about methods of resolving the Middle East crisis. The question of Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality was also raised. All this was clearly beyond the framework of the consular nature of the talks.

Outside the Helsinki meeting Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Yitzhak Shamir, speaking publicly, declared that Israel has "valuable property" in the Soviet Union, "two million ensnared jews". To put the matter in such a way means gross interference in the Soviet Union's affairs since the aforementioned two million Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality have not authorised Shamir to speak on their behalf. Israel has no right to speak for Soviet citizens of Jewish Nationality.

A trip by Soviet consular officials to Tel Aviv, and technical details were discussed at the meeting in Helsinki. Tel Aviv's representatives, however, posed the question of a trip to Moscow by an Israeli group for similar purposes. But the point of the matter is that there is no Israeli property

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on Soviet territory, nor Israeli citizens permanently residing there.

Since no common ground was established, the question of a trip by Soviet consular officials to Tel Aviv was dropped and there was no talk of further contacts, Gennady Gerasimov said.

(TASS, August 19. In full.)

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VEKİLİ
TÜSTAV

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ARMAND HAMMER: LESSONS OF PEACE AND COOPERATION

New York, May 19. (TASS). Armand Hammer, prominent American businessman and public figure who visited the Soviet Union recently, said in a UPI interview that we must learn lessons of peace and cooperation from the Chernobyl accident.

He told about his impressions from visiting in Moscow, on May 15, Hospital No.6 several miles from the city centre where accident victims were treated.

"The patients I saw there were among the seriously ill victims of the radiation from Chernobyl. While they were obviously very ill, they were comfortable and receiving care of the highest standard I have seen in my long years of experience in medicine," he pointed out.

Armand Hammer told about how the trip of Dr. Robert Gale to Moscow was organized after he telexed to General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev Dr. Gale's offer of help. Later on three more specialists in bone marrow transplantation and tissue typing, including Dr. Paul Tarasaki, were sent to the USSR. "They dropped everything to assist in this humanitarian effort," Armand Hammer said.

"We sent supplies from the world over, some 15 nations in all. While the Soviets are sophisticated in their techniques and practices, no nation can cope alone with the tragedy of radiation emission of these proportions."

"They took me in the hospital to the floor where some of the recent transplant patients were convalescing. I was heartened to see in the hospital the teamwork between the American and Soviet physicians."

"Communication among the doctors was surprisingly easy because many of the Soviet doctors speak English, and many of

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the medical terms are the same in both languages."

"The hospital was abuzz with action, but the patients I talked with were calm and trying to cope with their condition. I gave them hope by telling them in Russian that they were under the best care possible, that their future looks bright, because the finest of our two nations were committed to saving them."

"I told the patients that we had come from America to help them. They were pleased, smiled and thanked me in Russian."

"It brought back memories of 65 years ago when I was on a similar mission bringing help to people dying of hunger and typhus in the Urals when I was thanked by Lenin personally as I was this time by General Secretary Gorbachev. The most impressive and lasting memory this time, as in 1921, is the people... We hear of human tragedy and only when we see them, only when they appear before us as individual human beings in their hospital beds, do we realize that we could just as easily trade places."

Armand Hammer said in conclusion that "Chernobyl... continues the story of human lives lost and saved, of fears and courage, of the determination of individuals to give their all to benefit their fellow men."

(TASS, May 19. In full.)

THE EXPLOSIONS CONDUCTED AND THE "ARGUMENTS"
MARSHALLED. A CHRONICLE OF FACTS

A Documentary Survey

The Reykjavik meeting between Mikhail Gorbachov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, has again highlighted the role the issue of nuclear testing plays in the efforts to end the arms race. A ban on nuclear tests would prevent the advent of the so-called third generation weapons which are now being developed; consequently, a ban would make it possible to avert a new spiral of the arms race. The Soviet leadership is a firm advocate of precisely this solution to the problem. The Washington administration expounds a different view. US officials argue that further perfection of nuclear arsenals and the implementation of SDI will make peace more stable.

The following survey, prepared by the WMR Commission on Scientific Information and Documentation, cites facts and figures illustrating the positions of both sides.

On July 30, 1985 news agencies carried a statement made by Mikhail Gorbachov. "In an effort to facilitate a halt to the dangerous competition in nuclear stockpiling and wishing to set a good example," he said, "the Soviet Union has decided unilaterally to stop all nuclear explosions from August 6 this year. We call on the government of the United States to stop its nuclear explosions as of that date which is observed world-wide as the day of the Hiroshima tragedy."

The Soviet initiative attracted universal attention. The press and prominent statesmen and political figures in many countries welcomed this step, seeing it as a tangible contribu-

tion to the struggle for limiting and ending the arms race, for greater trust. However, the US administration reacted negatively to the Soviet moratorium. Despite the fact that the idea of an end to all nuclear tests found support in the US peace movement, within the churches, trade unions and even in Congress, White House officials kept claiming that this would be contrary to US interests.

Nevertheless, on August 6, 1985 the Soviet moratorium entered into force. What was the US response?

August 18, 1985. The United States exploded a nuclear device at the Nevada test site. Official figures put the yield at 20 kilotons, about the same as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

September 27. A new explosion of the same yield was detected.

October 10. The United States conducted an underground test of two nuclear devices. An Energy Department spokesman announced that the yield was again 20 kilotons. UPI reported that the test was connected with the programme to develop space strike weapons.

October 16. Another nuclear explosion.

December 5. A nuclear device of up to 150 kilotons exploded, the test prepared jointly by the United States and Great Britain.

December 28. A 150-kiloton explosion for testing SDI lasers.

The First Extension of the Soviet Moratorium

On January 15, 1986 the Soviet Union announced an extension of its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions for another three months.

The US position remained unchanged. The main argument the United States marshalled at the time was that the introduction of a mutual moratorium was pointless because neither side could

reliably verify compliance with it.

This argument was challenged not only in the Soviet Union but also in the United States itself. Most US experts believed it was contrived. The New York Times wrote that scientists had no doubt verification of a ban on nuclear explosions could be guaranteed.

The issue of monitoring nuclear explosions has a long history. At the dawn of the Pugwash Movement in the latter half of the 1950s, Soviet and US scientists jointly advanced the idea of "blackboxes"--seismographs that would register underground tremors. The sensitivity and the reliability of the equipment--and consequently, of verification--have since increased immensely, particularly with the advent of high-frequency instruments. The United States not only possesses the latest technical means of verification but even enjoys a measure of advantage in this field: it receives seismic data from almost 200 monitoring stations scattered all over the world, some of them located along the perimeter of Soviet borders and covering all of Soviet territory. Competent US scientists hold that the threshold at which these stations can detect underground nuclear explosions conducted in the Soviet Union is well below the one-kiloton yield. Moscow has also removed all doubt about on-site inspection. US scientists have been invited to monitor a Soviet test site.

The Second Extension

On March 14, 1986 the world learned that the Soviet Union

would not explode nuclear devices even after March 31--until
the first nuclear explosion in the United States. The unilateral
Soviet pledge to continue observing the moratorium was contained
in Mikhail Gorbachov's reply to a message from the Delhi Six--
the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and
Tanzania. The world was waiting for the United States to respond.

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TÜSTAV
TARİH ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ

March 22, 1986. Within the framework of developing a new warhead, the United States detonated a device of about 150 kilotons, dealing a blow to the hopes of people throughout the world and in the United States itself: the test was conducted in the closing days of the Soviet moratorium.

Nevertheless, on March 29 the USSR reiterated that its pledge to refrain from conducting nuclear explosions would remain in force even after March 31, 1986 if the United States followed suit.

April 10. Another device exploded at the Nevada test range to ascertain the effects of radiation on military hardware.

April 22. Another nuclear test, this time connected with work on third-generation weapons--X-ray and optical lasers, electromagnetic rail guns, etc.

A new "argument" accompanied these explosions: it was alleged that in terms of many major nuclear weapon systems, the United States was lagging behind the Soviet Union and was therefore forced to continue nuclear testing. The inference was that there was also a lag in the number of tests.

The actual facts are as follows. From 1963, when the Moscow Treaty Banning Nuclear Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water came into force, through 1985, the United States conducted 470 underground explosions and the Soviet Union, 399. Besides, the US total should include the 16 British tests also conducted in Nevada. As for the overall "lag", it is common knowledge that all elements of the US strategic triad (land-based ICBMs, submarine-launched missiles and nuclear-capable long-range bombers) are armed with well-tested warheads, and the same is

true of the medium-range nuclear weapons (cruise and Pershing II missiles) deployed in some of NATO's European member-countries. Moreover, the warhead for the Midgetman missile has already been developed and tested. If there is anything the Americans have not tested yet, it is the next generation of weapons designed for the "star wars" programme.

The Third Extension

On May 14, 1986 Mikhail Gorbachov announced that, after weighing all considerations connected with the security of its people and of all mankind, the Soviet leadership decided to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests to August 6, 1986.

But the explosions in Nevada continued according to the following schedule:

May 21. A nuclear device for a new generation of weapons was tested.

June 5. A "routine" nuclear test.

June 25. A British nuclear device of about 150 kilotons detonated.

July 17. An explosion of the same yield.

July 24. A 20-kiloton explosion.

This series of tests was backed by another "argument" --that the United States must continue the explosions in Nevada to regularly verify the effectiveness of the available nuclear arsenals.

Tom Wicker, a New York Times arms control expert had this to say about this "argument": "Forget the recently devised propaganda claim that America needs to keep testing in order to make

sure that its warheads remain reliable. The United States has never conducted a statistically significant number of explosive proof tests, and non-explosive means of testing weapons reliability have long been considered efficient."¹

The question of whether explosions are at all necessary to test the available nuclear arsenals for reliability was raised in the United States back in 1983 when Glenn Seaborg, a prominent American scientist who had chaired the US Atomic Energy Commission for many years, published an article calling for a comprehensive ban on nuclear explosions. He argued that the nuclear weapon types developed in the 1960s and 1970s did not require explosive proof testing.

Seaborg's view is shared by many figures in the US academic community. For example, David Brenner of Columbia University stressed that the Livermore and the Los Alamos laboratories constituted a huge supercomputer facility for simulating the explosion of a nuclear device without actually detonating it. The explosions in Nevada, he wrote, were "a political, not a scientific act".²

On August 6, 1986 the Soviet unilateral moratorium had been in effect for a full year.

Over this period, the United States conducted 15 officially announced explosions. Add to that another three unannounced tests Soviet experts detected with the help of national verification means--seismic stations and satellites. (The US press subsequently reported that these devices were detonated in Nevada on August

15, 1985, in late October 1985 and on April 20, 1986). Summing up this "response" of the US administration to the Soviet unilateral moratorium, many observers noted that certain quarters in the United States were doing their utmost to force the Soviet Union into foregoing its unilateral obligations.

The Fourth Extension

On August 18, 1986, affirming its commitment to peace, its goodwill and dedication to curb the arms race, the Soviet leadership decided to extend, yet again, the unilateral moratorium imposed more than a year before. The explosions in Nevada continued.

September 4. The United States conducted another nuclear test. Although the US Energy Department made no official announcement, the American Peace Test, an anti-war organisation, reported that according to its sources, the device was detonated under a classified military research programme conducted by the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory.

William Broad, a leading US arms control expert, has repeatedly pointed to the interconnection between research carried on under the programme to develop third-generation weapons and the growing number of nuclear tests: "Senior officials of the Los Alamos National Laboratory said ... that in the past about six underground nuclear tests have usually been required in developing a new weapon. But the amount is rising, they said, as scientists try to create more complex nuclear arms. Perfecting one of these new designs could require 100 or 200 explosions."

September 11. Another nuclear device, with a yield of up to 20 kilotons, detonated in the United States.

September 30. An explosion of about 150 kilotons.

October 17. A blast of the same yield.

November 14. Another nuclear warhead tested.

All this shows that the position of the US administration on nuclear testing has remained absolutely unchanged since the Soviet moratorium was imposed. And while Moscow is still searching for ways to solve this highly important problem of disarmament, the Soviet Union, as Mikhail Gorbachov has noted, "cannot indefinitely exercise unilateral restraint with regard to nuclear tests".

Why continue testing? This is what Tom Wicker thinks: "Actually, continued nuclear testing can have no purpose other than to develop more, 'improved' nuclear weapons. Yet such weapons are needed not to improve deterrence but only if one side or the other seeks decisive superiority, which the history of the arms race shows to be a costly and dangerous illusion; or pursues an enhanced 'war-fighting' capacity--the supposed ability to fight and win a limited nuclear war.

"But no matter how 'surgical' or 'clean' the weapons that one side might launch in an effort at limited war, there would be no guarantee that the responding weapons would not be more destructive, and no way to stop the nuclear escalation that strategic experts on both sides ^{believe} / would follow. Continued testing only makes that terrible scenario more likely to become reality."

Essentially, the answer is correct. This view is shared by all reasonable people, by all those who are dedicated to peace and who are stepping up the struggle for the complete cessation of nuclear testing.

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TÜSTAV
TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

¹ International Herald Tribune, April 3, 1986.

² International Herald Tribune, April 12-13, 1986.

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
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WESTERN PROPAGANDA'S COCK-AND-BULL STORIES

Warsaw. May 7. TASS. Addressing a press conference here, a spokesman for the Polish Government has strongly condemned the various inventions and cock-and-bull stories issued by Western propaganda in connection with the effect on Poland of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

He said that some quarters of the Western news media, first and foremost the subversive Radio Free Europe, were deliberately trying to use in their programmes beamed to Poland the accident at the nuclear power plant for their political ends, to frighten the country's population and cause panic in order to heighten tensions and use what happened against the Polish state and vital interests of the Polish people. Radio Free Europe was hysterically shouting that the "Polish leadership was concealing from the population the threat, which has emerged", that "the Polish authorities preferred to remain tight-lipped instead of saving people." Thus, Radio Free Europe, the Washington Post and the Voice of America as well as the French Liberation, which echoed Free Europe, were doing their utmost in an attempt to undermine trust in the measures taken by the Polish authorities.

I wish to say with all responsibility, the Government spokesman said, that the Polish people were informed about the radio-activity level, which emerged, and about preventive measures, timely and conscientiously. There was no peril to human health in Poland anywhere, nobody fled anywhere, and schools were not closed, contrary to the Western propaganda claims. The radio-activity in Poland, albeit, it was greater than before the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, was not dangerous to human health. This was also later

confirmed by American experts.

Then what right had Western propaganda to try to cause panic in Poland and arouse distrust in its authorities? What human rights were they upholding? Certain quarters in the West thus had recourse to heinous methods, but they could not care less about the safety of the Polish people.

The spokesman for the Polish Government said that they want to tell governments and political forces in the West, which have recently all of a sudden expressed the wish to help Poland with medicine and food the following: stop trying to hurt Poland. This is the only thing we want. This will be the best, and for that matter, free assistance to the Poles.

Western propaganda is engaged in a foul game, its sights being set against the Soviet Union. This is a new kind of the same political gambling, in which the Western press has been engaged from the very moment of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Yet, no attempts of this kind will ever upset Polish-Soviet relations of friendship and trust, the spokesman for the Polish Government said.

(TASS, May 7. In full.)

A CHRONICLE OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS

The newspaper Moskovskiye Novosti carries in its issue dated May 18 a chronicle of nuclear accidents in the world over the last 35 years:

1951, Detroit, USA--an accident at an experimental breeder reactor involving the overheating of fissionable material as a result of permissible temperature being exceeded, and radioactive air pollution.

1957, Windscale, Britain--a fire involving fuel components and graphite moderator at Number One plutonium production reactor and a release of radioactive iodine. The reactor was put out of operation for some time. At this nuclear centre, later given the name of Sellafield, 13 people died and more than 260 developed radiation sickness.

1958, Chalk River, Canada--a leak of heavy water contaminated with radioactive particles from a fuel core of the reactor, a uranium core meltdown, a release of poison gas, and radiation effects on technicians working to put things under control.

1961 Idaho Falls, USA--a release of radioactive material from the military-purpose reactor. The accident was caused by violations of techniques by servicing personnel. Three people died.

1966, Detroit, USA--loss of coolant in an experimental breeder reactor caused a considerable meltdown and an increase in radiation intensity. The reactor was put out of operation and restarted in 1970.

1969, Lucens, Switzerland--a leak of coolant in a research reactor. The efficiency of safety systems made it possible to localise the effects of the accident.

1969, Lingen, FRG--an excessive radioactive emission as a

result of technical trouble.

1972, Chalk River, Canada--a leak of radioactive liquid from an experimental breeder reactor due to an error on the part of servicing personnel, an explosion of a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen inside the reactor.

1972, Obriegheim and Wuergassen, FRG--malfunctioning of safety systems of a reactor and an accident during a trial start of another reactor; an instant stop prevented an explosion.

1972-1973, USA--recorded 850 instances of malfunctioning at all US nuclear reactors in operation during the period. Seventy per cent of reactors examined had serious defects in safety systems. The estimated loss of life in accidents: two people died and 15 seriously affected.

1975, Brown's Ferry, USA--a fire involving the electrical equipment of a reactor, during which a considerable proportion of safety and control systems went out of order.

1975, Gundremmingen, FRG--a release of overheated radioactive steam when pipelines were under repair, two people died.

1977, Clinton, USA--an accident at a nuclear power plant under construction, with many workers getting a critical dose of radiation.

1977, Brunsbuettel, FRG--a breakdown of main pumps involving a release of radioactive steam into the machine-room of a reactor and partially into the atmosphere.

1978, Antwerp, Belgium--cracks detected in the body of a steam generator during the annual reactor loading at the Dul nuclear power plant, with radiation affecting a number of technicians, several men and one woman, replacing used fuel elements.

1979, Three Mile Island, USA--a leak of radioactive water from a reactor due to the malfunctioning of valves of a

coolant pump involving accumulation of radioactive gas in the upper section of a reactor. One person died, about a hundred people taken to hospital, and 1,400 evacuated from the zone of contamination.

1981, Tsuruga, Japan--a leak of radioactive water causing a tenfold increase in the concentration of radioactive substances in the Gulf of Urazoko. Radiation affected 270 people, Fishing in the Gulf was under a ban for a long time.

1981, La Hague, France--a fire at a plutonium enrichment plant involving the formation of a radioactive cloud, with radiation affecting a large number of people.

1986, Webbers Falls, USA--a reservoir with radioactive gas exploded at a uranium enrichment plant. One person died and eight were injured.

1986, Sellafield, Great Britain--a four-fold leak of radioactive fuel from reactors of a nuclear power plant, with five staff members affected by radiation. Since the opening of this nuclear centre more than 300 serious and disastrous incidents have been recorded. In some cases, the radius of radioactive contamination in surrounding areas reached 25 miles.

(Moskovskiye Novosti, May 18. Summary.)

THE END