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CONTENTS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL AFFAIRS

| | |
|--|---|
| Lapygin, Aspin on Defense Oversight [Vladimir Markov; MOSCOW NEWS No 36, 10-17 Sep 89] | 1 |
| Report by Chairman of LiSSR Commission on Military Service [Yu. Antanaytis; SOVETSKAYA LITVA, 3 Oct 89] | 2 |
| Soviet of Mothers, Widows of Fallen Servicemen Formed [R.I. Lysenko; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 17 Oct 89] | 4 |
| Civilian Workers Required to Take Military Training [IZVESTIYA, 25 Oct 89] | 5 |
| 'Shield' Military Trade Union Described [TRUD, 28 Oct 89] | 6 |

ARMED FORCES

| | |
|--|----|
| Changes in Pension Rates [A. A. Montvilu; SOVETSKAYA LITVA, 13 Oct 89] | 8 |
| Inequities in Officer Assignments [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 13 Oct 89] | 9 |
| Interview With Military Commissar of Azerbaijan [A.A. Kasimov; BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY, 18 Oct 89] | 10 |
| Exceptions to Rule on Student Early Retirement [K. Spivak; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 21 Oct 89] | 11 |
| Legal Training Courses [V. Zyubin; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 25 Oct 89] | 12 |
| GlavPU on Organization of Legal Training [N. Ivanov; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 25 Oct 89] | 13 |
| Reasons for Shortage of Warrant Officers [V. Dyakonov; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 1 Nov 89] | 13 |
| Readers' Reactions to Officers' Conferences [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 14 Nov 89] | 14 |
| High Percentage of Kzyl-Orda Draftees Sent to Construction Troops [K. Imanberdiyev; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 14 Nov 89] | 15 |

AIR FORCE, AIR DEFENSE FORCES

| | |
|--|----|
| Helicopter Training Weak Against Air Defenses [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 28 Oct 89] | 16 |
| Cost of Fighter Pilot Training [A. Sidorov; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 16 Nov 89] | 16 |

NAVAL FORCES

| | |
|--|----|
| Golf-Class Sub Withdrawn From Baltic Fleet [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 2 Nov 89] | 17 |
|--|----|

SPECIAL TROOPS

| | |
|--|----|
| Col Gen Makartsev on Current Status of R-R Troops [M. Makartsev; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 6 Oct 89] | 18 |
| 1995 Plan Target for Road-Building Troops [G. Kashuba; PRAVITELSTVENNIYY VESTNIK No 21, Oct 89] | 19 |
| Ministries, Republics Use Construction Troops as Cheap Labor [A. Vorobyev; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 1 Nov 89] | 20 |
| Main Military Procuracy to Review Problems Among Construction Troops [V. Kaunin; IZVESTIYA, 2 Nov 89] | 21 |

CIVIL DEFENSE

| | |
|---|----|
| Reader Suggests Subordination of Civil Defense to State Commission [I. Mingalev; IZVESTIYA, 18 Oct 89] | 23 |
|---|----|

REAR SERVICES, DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

| | |
|---|----|
| Conversion: Defense/Civilian Joint Stock Groups Proposed [MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, 6 Sep 89] | 24 |
| Conversion Creates Problems at Leningrad Shipyards [LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 8 Sep 89] | 25 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Round Table Discussion on Results, Profitability of Conversion [L. Ivankin and Ya. Strugach; <i>LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA</i> , 2 Oct 89] | 26 |
| Consumer Goods Production from Ministry of Defense [V.M. Arkhipov; <i>SOVETSKAYA KULTURA</i> , 5 Oct 89] | 30 |
| Conversion: Missile Design Bureau Producing Washing Machines [Yu. Shcherbinin; <i>PRAVDA</i> , 6 Oct 89] | 31 |
| Lapygin on Size of Defense-Industrial Sector [M. Rostarchuk; <i>SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA</i> , 7 Oct 89] | 33 |
| Motor Vehicle Repair Enterprise Producing Furniture [F. Semyanovskiy; <i>KRASNAYA ZVEZDA</i> , 10 Oct 89] | 33 |
| Defense Industry Converting to Farm Machinery Production [N. Zheleznov; <i>SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA</i> , 12 Oct 89] | 34 |
| Missile Refueling Vehicles Sold in Civilian Economy [Yu. Shevchenko; <i>PRAVDA UKRAINY</i> , 15 Oct 89] | 34 |
| Kiev MD: Diversifying Sources of Goods for Military Stores [N. Zaika; <i>KRASNAYA ZVEZDA</i> , 1 Nov 89] | 35 |
| Economic Effects of Conversion to Civilian Production Discussed [SELSKAYA ZHIZN, 2 Nov 89] | 35 |

FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

| | |
|---|----|
| U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan [V. Vinogradov; <i>KRASNAYA ZVEZDA</i> , 7 Oct 89] | 37 |
| Artificial Intelligence as Aid to U.S. Aircraft Diagnostics [V. Frolov; <i>KRASNAYA ZVEZDA</i> , 18 Oct 89] | 37 |
| Naval Uses for Artificial Intelligence Systems [V. Frolov; <i>KRASNAYA ZVEZDA</i> , 25 Oct 89] | 39 |
| Rear Admiral Pushkin Urges End to Nuclear Weapons Testing [A. Pushkin; <i>SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA</i> , 2 Nov 89] | 40 |

Lapygin, Aspin on Defense Oversight

18120006 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English
No 36, 10-17 Sep 89 p 6

[Interview with Vladimir Lapygin, Chairman of the Committee of Defence and State Security of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Les Aspin, Chairman of the US House Committee on Armed Services, by Vladimir Markov, APN diplomatic analyst]

[Text] [MOSCOW NEWS] You are both heads of important parliamentary committees. Can you describe your careers?

[Aspin] I'm 51 and a trained economist. I was involved in defence planning in the Pentagon and then taught economics at a university before being elected to Congress from the 1st Wisconsin District. I've been Chairman of the Armed Forces Committee for four years.

[Lapygin] I was born in 1925. In 1952 I graduated from the Moscow Aviation Institute as a mechanical engineer. In recent years I headed research and development for the steering system of the Buran reusable space craft. I have a doctorate in technology and a Professor's title. I became a USSR People's Deputy after a tense race against three rivals in the Tuva Autonomous Republic.

[MOSCOW NEWS] The House Committee on Armed Services has been in existence for more than 40 years. The USSR Supreme Soviet Committee of Defence and State Security was formed two months ago. What are the similarities and what are the differences between these two committees?

[Aspin] Basically our Committee's function is budgetary control and oversight of the Defense Department, to make sure that the money is spent wisely. The approval of the budget is critical to our ability to influence what happens in the Pentagon because that is what makes sure that the Pentagon pays attention to Congress. The reason they have to pay attention to Congress is because Congress approves the budget. So the military has to listen to Congress.

I think that the USSR Committee has made a very good start and has a lot of potential to be very very important and very powerful in determining the size and structure of the Soviet budget.

[Lapygin] We are ready to consider the experience of American legislators, but we, of course, are not going to copy their ways.

Our Committee has, for example, listened to the chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and the chief of intelligence of the General Staff on matters related to our armed forces and NATO forces. The Committee will embark on an important stage when it starts to discuss the Soviet state budget this September, primarily outlays for the development and production of weapons and other defence needs. The matters will first

be discussed generally and then each arms programme will be critically assessed as to cost. Our aim is to steadily reduce spending but this will depend on the results of the arms talks. If the talks are successful, we should be able to cut the Soviet defence budget by half by 1995, or by 38 billion roubles. As we watch the military budget discussion of the US Congress, we will also be making conclusions about our own defence spendings. One of the Committee's priorities is to promote the conversion process now under way.

[MOSCOW NEWS] The parliamentary machinery in any country needs constant improvement. How can its efficiency be improved?

[Aspin] Every country is different and no model that works in one country can be directly transferred to another. But I can tell you from our experience in the US that very important to our successful functioning in Congress, essential to our ability to operate is that we have enough money to hire staff, which is about a hundred, and that they be independent staff, that they are not a staff that has any other loyalty. They work for Congress and they work for the Armed Services Committee.

[Lapygin] We seek high competence in taking any decision in the Committee. In addition to reports and information provided by the government bodies we will rely on the analyses of independent experts. Admittedly, we don't have enough money so the Committee staff will for the time being consist of ten experts.

[MOSCOW NEWS] To what extent are both the committees independent of the military industrial complex?

[Aspin] We are not totally independent. I don't think there is any such animal. On our Committee are a number of people who represent military districts and are influenced by the military. But I think it's a question of having a chance to hear other points of view and arguments voiced by civilian experts, not just listening to the military.

[Lapygin] Many on our Committee have had vast experience working for the defence industry or serving in the forces. They know not only the real state of affairs in these fields but also what voters think. At the starting stage of the Committee's operation, they came up with various views on specific questions. This plurality of views is to be encouraged in the future.

[MOSCOW NEWS] How do both committees ensure "reasonable sufficiency" as regards secrecy? To what extent should members have access to all the information about their armed forces and military projects?

[Aspin] I think there should be various degrees of secrecy: some defence technology, for example, should be kept secret but its research and development costs should be known. From my point of view, MPs should have access to any information but must not make classified information public.

[Lapygin] We plan to continue openness in the military sphere though there are certain limits. Without a doubt, excessive secrecy has harmed and continues to harm our science and economy. The USSR Supreme Soviet will be looking into this matter and all members of the Committee will surely get access to any information they need for decision making.

[MOSCOW NEWS] Taking part in the dialogue between members of the US Congress and the USSR Supreme Soviet are also experts who used to look for weak spots in both countries to exploit them to their advantage. Today such experts have a different mission: both countries are talking about the need to eliminate the "enemy image." How is this psychological conversion proceeding?

[Aspin] It would be an illusion to think that the stereotypes of mistrust and suspicion that have accrued over decades on both sides could be quickly and fully erased. But much has been done in the last four years, a comparatively short space of time. The process has been helped on by a more active East-West political dialogue, the control measures under the INF Treaty, military and other contacts, including those between our committees.

[MOSCOW NEWS] What is your assessment of the committees' first contacts and your trip to the USSR?

[Aspin] The most important thing is that it's the beginning of what I hope to be a greatly expanded and continuous communication. We are looking forward to some broadening of various areas of cooperation where we might work together on joint projects.

During the discussion in the Kremlin one Congress member proposed joint working groups on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology, the banning and destruction of chemical weapons and the fighting of terrorism. We could also perhaps hold joint hearings where experts from both countries would speak before our two committees.

[Lapygin] Openness, exchanges and cooperation could lead to the end of the arms race. While it is up to the governments to take decisions on specific disarmament problems, one can't underestimate the role of the committees in matters of security and arms control.

[MOSCOW NEWS] There will be a return visit to the US by members of the Committee of Defence and State Security. What is it going to accomplish?

[Lapygin] We would like to know more about what the Armed Services Committee does in general, to visit NASA, some of the laboratories and US naval bases. We would be interested in discussions with politicians and military experts to better understand processes taking place in the United States.

[Aspin] This visit is going to take place next January or a bit later. We'll be happy to reciprocate for the hospitality and openness we have received here.

Report by Chairman of LiSSR Commission on Military Service

90UN0074A Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian
3 Oct 89 p 2

[Article: "Military Service by the Republic's Young Men: Report by Yustinas Antanaytis, Chairman of the Commission on Military Service, Under Presidium of LiSSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] Dear deputies, in addition to the state and general human problems that have accumulated and, unfortunately, are not decreasing, a large number of which problems have already been discussed at this session, everyone is troubled and concerned by the negative manifestations in the USSR Armed Forces. Obviously we are not speaking about the army as a whole, and not about its professional affairs, but about the conditions under which Lithuanian young men are serving, the interrelationships among those young men, and frequently their fates also.

Today it is no secret to anyone that, practically speaking, the winds of perestroika have not yet touched these conditions or relations; that in many barracks the law of the fist, the law of force, is flourishing; that weak individuals, especially the newcomers, frequently are subjected to mockery and humiliation; that frequently, by means of force or blackmail, their personal articles and money are taken away from them, they are forced to work for others, and, in the event that they disobey, they are beaten or even crippled. This atmosphere renders a negative, or even tragic, influence upon the mental state of individual young men; there have been suicides; and certain individuals, incapable of withstanding the situation, have been going absent without leave.

I do not want to say that this has been occurring everywhere, in all military subdivisions, but our commission has grounds for asserting that there are a large number of disturbances in the army and no positive shifts can be discerned.

The Commission on the Military Service of Young Men, which was created on 3 May 1989 under the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet, in its turn is attempting, to the extent that its manpower and competency allow, to combat the negative situations that have been mentioned and to help the young Lithuanians who have found themselves in a serious position. For this purpose the commission, on 58 occasions, sent telegrams and letters to USSR Ministry of Defense and personally to Minister D. Yazov. Those messages contained an attempt to resolve the specific conflicts, as well as demands that wide-scale steps be taken to carry out perestroika in the army. In order to review our recommendations and the claims, during the past few months three commissions from that department, which were headed by generals, came to Vilnius. With their assistance we not only resolved several conflicts, but also attempted to convey the mothers' concern and grief with regard to the unfavorable processes in the Armed Forces.

In our opinion, after these meetings and long, heated debates with representatives of the public and with our commission, the military leaders left with a better understanding of what we are striving for, and we hope that this will also be conveyed to the ministry administrators.

At one time we sent recommendations to the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and to the Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet. On 126 occasions dealing with relations and conditions that were abnormal from the point of view of army regulations, we contacted various military administrative levels, commissariats, and medical institutions. True, the reaction to our letters was not always immediately the correct one, and many of those letters did not receive a reply, but nevertheless dozens of young men from Lithuania were transferred from unbearable conditions of service to other subdivisions, which frequently were closer to home, and others, for reasons of health, were released from service ahead of time and were given medical and other aid.

Having received the warning message about more serious conflicts and disturbances, the members of our commission travel to the troubled military subdivisions, regardless of how far away they are, and they usually find a way out of the situation. We meet with the inductees and study their opinions.

For example, in this building the members of our commission have been regularly accepting visitors for four months. Approximately 500 persons have asked us for assistance on matters of military service, and no end to this stream is in sight. The commission proves to be in an especially complicated situation when the people coming to us asking for aid are young men who, unable to withstand the mockery and the insults, have gone absent without leave from their military unit. During the past four months there have already been 38 such cases. Most of these young men returned with signs of violence on them or in a state of profound mental depression, and they require in-patient treatment. We managed to protect 20 of them from harsh, but actually undeserved, punitive articles in the regulations, and to transfer them to another place of service. How the situation will turn out for the others is still being decided. But we are alarmed by the fact that the persons who have decided to take advantage of the commission's assistance include several deserters who committed crimes in their units, but who are posing as victims of relations that do not conform to the army regulations. Obviously, young men such as these should not count on receiving the commission's assistance.

I have listed only the main trends and forms of the commission's activities. Practically speaking, there is a considerably larger number of concerns and matters. Despite the selfless—and I use that word without exaggeration—work performed by a number of commission members, such as V. Eydukaytis, P. Radzyavichyus, G. Sausenavichyus, V. Shadreyka, D. Tareylene, M. Trimonene, V. Zhilinskayte, and others, the commission's work load already considerably surpasses the capabilities of the public subdivision. It would seem that, if one carries out a

better search, it might be possible to find employees at state enterprises who are not too busy, who could be transferred to this work sector that is so important for the nation. The attention of the Presidium of LiSSR Supreme Soviet should be directed to this as quickly as possible.

Dear deputies, today the Commission on Military Service, with the consent of the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet, is bringing up for the session's discussion the draft of a resolution. The purpose of the resolution is to accelerate the development of perestroika, and to implement the principles of real democracy, humanitarianism, and glasnost in the army. The essence of the recommendations has been set forth in the document. Nevertheless it is necessary to comment briefly on a few of them.

Like the residents of other republics, the residents of Lithuania are making increasingly persistent demands that their sons perform their mandatory military service in their own republic, or close to it. These demands are influenced by the climatic, psychological, and social adaptation, infrequently by the complicated family relations, etc. But at the present time only one-fourth of the young Lithuanians who have been inducted into the army are serving in the Baltic Military District and the Baltic Fleet, taken together. Military men attempt to assuage us by saying that 80 percent of all our countrymen are serving in the European part of the Union. Obviously, this is better than serving somewhere in the Kurile Islands or Central Asia, but you cannot say that this is "closer to home," as was promised.

Unfortunately, one cannot see any substantial shifts on the part of Ministry of Defense to correct the situation. And the arguments given by its representatives are, to put it mildly, unconvincing.

For example, don't you think it rather strange that on a Baltic naval vessel that bears the proud name of Komsomolets Litvy [Lithuanian Komsomol Member], the crew of which is made up of approximately 200 persons, only four Lithuanians are currently serving? It is also difficult to explain why, in the military units of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs that are deployed in our republic, only 8 percent of the young men are from Lithuania. One could ask many more "whys" like this. That is why we recommend adopting the formulation of paragraph A in the first resolution.

Public opinion has been insisting with increasing stubbornness and demandingness upon the cessation of inducting young men into military construction units. What kind of army is this if, for practically their entire period of service, these soldiers "fight" with a shovel, crowbar, or saw in their hands? Especially since the people serving in these military units include a large number of persons who have been previously sentenced and who are carried on the rolls of the internal affairs agencies, alongside of whom young men with mental deviations or physical defects are also working. It is not accidental that every second warning message received

by our commission pertains to disturbances in an army specifically of this type. Seventy percent of the persons who deserted as a result of relations that did not conform to army regulations also came from this kind of army. And no one can see that the situation in the construction units has improved noticeably, although we have heard more than a sufficient number of discussions and pretty promises. There is obviously just one way out: each person should do what he is supposed to do. The soldier should protect and defend his land, and the construction worker should engage in construction.

The number of all kinds of problems and accidents in the army would be considerably smaller if the medical processing of the inductees were to be conducted in a more demanding manner. At the present time the army inducts indiscriminately young men with poor vision, with signs of debility, and with other physical shortcomings. It is simply inhuman to think that these are the people who are used to form the construction battalions that were previously mentioned. As a consequence, these people who have been given a hard time by fate become the object of practical jokes and mockery, or even the first candidates for victims of accidents in construction. Frequently they return home with mental and somatic ailments that have been made even more acute or that are incurable.

Medics who carry out the medical processing explain that they are guided by the notorious 1987 Order No. 260 of USSR Ministry of Defense. True, a few days ago we learned that certain changes have been made in it, in the direction of making the processing more humanitarian, and those changes will go into effect on 1 October 1989. Nevertheless I want to ask the republic's medics, and primarily Minister Antanas Vinkus, the following question: aren't your commissions that have been created at city and rayon voyenkomats [draft boards] demonstrating too much zeal? Especially since the voyenkomat administrators assert that the medics' findings are final.

Since we have touched upon the voyenkomats, I would like to add the following: when, at the previous session of the Supreme Soviet, our commission, in its inquiry to the republic's voyenkomat, expressed serious claims, things in that administration began to get better: there was an intensification of its contacts with the public, and also with our commission, and the questions here began to be decided in a less formal, more well-wishing manner. This should be said first of all about the administrators of the voyenkomat subdivisions, Colonels Konstantin Golubayev and Algirdas Stulginskas. I would like for commissar Colonel Algimantas Visotskis to resolve these critical problems more decisively and more attentively.

While positively evaluating the efforts of the republic government, and especially the leadership of the party's Central Committee, that have been directed at conducting negotiations with the administrators of the USSR government and the Department of Defense concerning the taking into consideration of the persistent demands of the republic's public and of Sajudis, the commission recommends that this work be continued in order to achieve the

real shifts that the public expects. This is mentioned in the draft of the resolution to be discussed.

Our commission must also do more in this direction.

We hope that, in their turn, the school system, youth organizations, and families will pay more attention to the better physical training of the young men, to the reinforcement of their will, stamina, and the inculcation of noble human qualities, this facilitating the overcoming by our young men of the difficulties of military service.

It must be added that any spontaneous, incompletely thought-out actions, for example, attempts to return the military service card or the boycotting of military induction, will only complicate the dialogue that has already begun at various levels, but that gives hope, and will lead to negative results.

The republic's population hopes that this resolution of the Supreme Soviet will receive the proper response from the center and that population links high hopes with the USSR people's deputies, especially the deputies from Lithuania. Especially since three of them—Egidiyus Bichkauskas, Yuozas Olekas, and Stasis Kashauskas—are active members of our commission.

We realize that the path that this draft will take is no easy one. But we hope that, by carefully thought-out actions, and by consolidating our efforts, we shall overcome all obstacles.

Soviet of Mothers, Widows of Fallen Servicemen Formed

*90UM0047A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
17 Oct 89 First Edition p 1*

[Interview of R. I. Lysenko by correspondent Lt Col A. Oliynik: "Soviet of Mothers and Widows"]

[Text] The founding conference was held on 15 October in the hall of the Central Museum of the USSR Armed Forces. Its organizer was the Moscow City Military-Patriotic Association of Afghan Veterans. Our correspondent, Lt Col A. Oliynik, was invited to the conference, interviewed Roza Ivanovna Lysenko, a member of the initiative group that created the Soviet of Mothers and Widows of Fallen Afghan Veterans. Her son, Sr Lt Vladimir Lysenko, a helicopter pilot, perished in Afghanistan, and was posthumously awarded the Order of the Red Star.

[Oliynik] Roza Ivanovna, tell us about the goals and tasks of the Soviet of Mothers and Widows.

[Lysenko] The Moscow Soviet is a voluntary association of mothers and widows of soldiers who perished fulfilling their military duty on the soil of Afghanistan, as well as in other regions where Soviet soldiers and officers participated in combat operations. The main directions of our activity are these:

—participation jointly with party and komsomol organizations, military commissariats, soviets of veterans

of war and labor, and women's soviets, in the military-patriotic and international education of the younger generation;

—organization of a movement to perpetuate the memory of our sons and husbands fallen on Afghan soil, and in particular we will come out in favor of the USSR Supreme Soviet establishing a day in memory of fallen veterans of Afghanistan, and erecting a memorial in Moscow indicating by name those who were killed, died of their wounds, or are missing;

—helping in every way to improve material and housing conditions, employment, and medical support for mothers and widows of those killed, died of wounds and illnesses, and missing, and to satisfy other legitimate requests;

—cooperation with Soviet and foreign social organizations in the struggle for peace on the entire planet.

Our soviet is part of the Moscow City Military-Patriotic Association, with the rights of a fully equal and independent organ, and uses its current account and seal. Apropos of this, contributions may be sent to account number 609225, Sverdlov Department, Zhilsotsbank [Housing and social services bank], Moscow, with a note, "For the fund of the Soviet of Mothers and Widows of Fallen Afghanistan Veterans."

[Oliyrik] Your vast activity is meaningless without the active and interested assistance of party and soviet organs, the komsomol, as well as the military commissariats. How are your relationships with these organs taking shape?

[Lysenko] It is difficult to convey the grief that befell our mothers and widows who lost sons and husbands in the undeclared war in Afghanistan. But, it is being aggravated, and this was discussed painfully at the conference, by manifestations of callousness, heartlessness, and red tape in granting the benefits provided for by law. Unfortunately, neither representatives of the CPSU Moscow Gorkom and Komsomol, the Moscow Soviet, nor representatives of Moscow Oblast party and soviet organs, were present at the conference, although they were all informed about our conference, including the top people. It is as though a mother's grief troubles only military people, and that widows are the lot of Moscow residents. Former veteran of Afghanistan, Maj Gen V. Shcherbakov, Maj Gen V. Bepalov, first deputy chief of the Political Directorate, Moscow Military District, the Moscow City military commissar, and many rayon military commissars from the city of Moscow and Moscow Oblast were present in the hall, and held frank discussions with us.

[Oliyrik] An appeal to the deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet was approved at the conference. What is it about?

[Lysenko] Our appeal contains almost 20 points. First of all, it raises questions directed at the social protection of

the mothers and widows, and all the families of those veterans of Afghanistan who were killed, died of wounds and illnesses, or are missing. We also appealed to the members of the USSR Supreme Soviet requesting the establishment of an all-union day in memory of those fallen on Afghan soil, and about rendering all-round assistance in returning Soviet prisoners of war captured by the Afghan rebels to the homeland.

Civilian Workers Required to Take Military Training

90UM0072A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Oct 89 Morning Edition p 6

[Article: "Women on the Military Drill Field"]

[Text] This letter was not edited in the editor's office, nor was it abbreviated, save for a few excessively inflammatory phrases. Only the names of officials were deleted, inasmuch as it is impossible at the moment to verify all accusations levied at them. Anyway, the problem does not lie with the behavior of certain individuals, even if they are executives. No matter where a person works—in the army, in a cooperative, at home, or abroad—he must be protected from tyranny.

Dear editor! This letter is written by a collective of blue and white collar workers of a Soviet military unit stationed in the GDR.

When we filled out our paperwork in military commissariats, each of us signed a work contract stating our positions, salaries and other obligations. The contract said nothing about our having to undergo mandatory military training in addition to our principal work.

We were surprised to learn on arriving at our place of work that all of us, without exception, were to undergo military training in addition to doing our principal work—both men and women, even though women are not required to do military service. We are awakened by an alert signal, and we are compelled to put on military uniforms and undergo rifle, drill and other military training. Things are especially hard for the women. They have consoled themselves to the fact that they are forced to wear unwieldy tarpaulin boots and endure tactless questions from servicemen, especially when they require sick leave. We endured all of this silently, but our indignation with the coarseness and caddishness of the authorities increased, and finally the moment came when our patience ran out.

On 10 August we were awakened by an alert at 0600 hours. A major general was to visit the unit that day for an inspection, and our command decided to put on another show. Having changed into our uniforms we began waiting to form up—we sat around from 0600 to 1130 hours. The first to give up were the women. They changed and went home in spite of the coarse insults.

A little while later the men were formed up, the unit commanders arrived, and they launched a tirade of

swearing and threats. The petty tyranny of the chief of the political department and the deputy commander for rear services knows no bounds.

The impunity of these officers allows them to pronounce the following without reproach (we cite the political department chief verbatim): "Freedom is democracy, democracy is power, and power is dictatorship. Perestroika is only something in the Union, and even there it's working its way into a dead end, while here it has never been, and it will never be. All perestroika means to you here is that you are to wear your hair short."

The deputy commander for rear services speaks even more openly: "While in the Union they're already winding down their marching with signs, perestroika never has reached us, and it never will." This officer ended his speech with the choicest unprintable swearing.

Finally the general arrived. Passing by the smoking room, where the men had gathered together prior to formation, he named everyone of them "impudent," gave orders for all of them to cut their hair down to the skin, and to call them up into military service in the next week or so. It was a good thing that no one responded literally to this hit-and-run attack by the general.

If we are obligated to undergo military training, then why does the declaration of the Committee of Defense Ministers of Warsaw Pact Countries, "On the Numerical Strength Ratio of Armed Forces and Armament of the Warsaw Pact and NATO" (IZVESTIYA, 30 January 1989) state: "Blue and white collar workers were disregarded...on both sides because they do not undergo military training in peacetime...."?

In a word, the trade union organization, which was created specially to protect the interests of "civilians," pays full homage to the unit command, and acts only as a whip in relation to us. Anyone who tries to speak out at meetings on urgent problems, who talks against the opinions of commanders, is sharply cut off mid-sentence. The command applies the methods of Stalin's times against all who show displeasure: Gossip and compromising information are gathered, and people are subjected to public mudslinging. They generally want us to be a subservient, uncomplaining mass patiently enduring all insults. How long must this violation of moral norms go on, and this all-permissiveness flourish?

We are also counting on your assistance in bringing perestroika to the army and establishing normal human relations in it between commanders and subordinates.

P.S. We decided to send this letter from Brest, since otherwise we were sure that it would be intercepted.

(A total of 61 signatures)

FROM THE EDITOR: The Main Military Procuracy, which we asked if military training was mandatory for "civilians," gave this reply: No training for nonmilitary personnel is foreseen. Consequently the described case is a "local initiative" by the commanders, and nothing

more. But how was it that such things are possible—both the training, which we have learned is unnecessary, and the insults, threats and open martinetism accompanying it? How is it that people (not just one or two persons—over 60!) are unable to find protection from tyranny, and are compelled to seek assistance from a newspaper?

One would think that they have many defenders determined by law. There are the trade union, the military tribunal (it is the one that is supposed to resolve labor disputes arising between the command of military units and civilians working in them abroad), and the military procurator; finally, there is the legislation itself—particularly the Labor Code known to all, without reference to which you can't dismiss a Soviet army worker or move him to another place of work. But the fact itself that an appeal has been made to the editor's office is evidence that the system of legal and moral protection is not working—there is no trust in it.

We believe that one of the causes of this is that Soviet military units stationed abroad are traditionally closed. They are separated from us, from all of the society by state borders, by the strong fences of secrecy, and by the fear of persons working in them from speaking their minds (it is no secret, after all, that work abroad is more advantageous and prestigious, and that far from all who want to work there are able to do so). Add to this the instructions which often go contrary to the law. It is enough for a commander, a political worker or a personnel office worker to suspect a subordinate of "actions soiling the honor of a Soviet citizen" to guarantee a swift departure back home. Sometimes slander takes its toll as well.

It would be pertinent to recall civilians who worked in Afghanistan. They shared all of the burdens of the war together with servicemen, but they never did receive any kind of benefits. They are saying that the appropriate decision is now being prepared, albeit late. It would be nice if it were adopted without delay.

The authors of the letter to IZVESTIYA are demanding neither benefits nor privileges. All they want is "normal human relations." Is that too much to ask?

'Shield' Military Trade Union Described

90UI0105B Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Oct 89 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The 'Shield' Trade Union"]

[Text] "I have learned that a military trade union has been set up in Moscow that will defend the rights of servicemen." [signed] A. Kalich, Priozersk

We contacted a member of the organizing committee of the "Shield" Union for the Social Protection of Servicemen, Draftees, and Members of Their Families, M. Timokhov.

"The 'Shield' union recently held its inaugural congress in Moscow at the Palace of Culture imeni Kurchatov.

"At present the possibilities of our organization are quite limited; we are only providing skilled legal aid for

servicemen. But in the future we hope to become a real trade union; that is, we shall be able to provide social protection for servicemen and the members of their families, and to provide necessary material assistance.

“Unfortunately, the Ministry of Defense does not support our activity. But we hope they will understand and support us in the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

Changes in Pension Rates

90UM0073B Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian
13 Oct 89 p 3

[Interview with Albinas Antanovich Montvilu, chief, Finances and Pension Department of the Lithuanian SSR Military Commissariat, by correspondent M. Filipenkov: "Who Is Entitled to Benefits"]

[Text] On 1 August 1989 the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted the law "On Immediate Measures to Improve Pension Support and Social Services to the Population" in execution of decisions of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies. In compliance with the law enacted by the Supreme Soviet, the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a decree on 21 August of this year, "On Improving Pension Support to Some Categories of Officers, Shore-Based and Seagoing Warrant Officers, Extended-Service Servicemen, Commanders and Rank-and-File of Internal Affairs Organs, and Their Families." It became effective as of 1 October 1989. A correspondent from SOVETSKAYA LITVA asked Albinas Antanovich Montvilu, chief of the Finances and Pension Department of the Lithuanian SSR Military Commissariat, to comment on it.

[Montvilu] A 15 ruble monthly increase has been established as of 1 October 1989 in pensions geared to time of service granted to officers, shore-based and seagoing warrant officers and extended-service servicemen disabled by wounds, contusions or mutilations suffered in defense of the USSR or while performing other obligations of military service, or as a consequence of illness associated with time at the front; this raise is not limited by the corresponding pension ceilings.

[Filipenkov] In the event of their death as a result of the above-indicated circumstances, what rights do their parents and wives who have lost breadwinners enjoy?

[Montvilu] Minimum pensions paid in the event of loss of a breadwinner to the parents and widows of officers, shore-based and seagoing warrant officers and extended-service servicemen who died owing to wounds, contusions or mutilations were increased to 70 rubles per month.

The minimum pension established by the decree in the event of the loss of a breadwinner—70 rubles per person per month—applies only to parents and widows receiving a pension for deceased servicemen and disabled war veterans. The existing minimum pensions still apply in relation to other family members.

The pension received by parents and widows in the situations indicated above receiving less than 70 rubles per month has been increased to this amount. In the case where a pension is paid to other family members besides parents and the widow following loss of the breadwinner, it is the proportion of the pension that goes to the parents and widow that is increased to 70 rubles per person per

month; however, the pension for the entire family may not exceed a corresponding maximum.

[Filipenkov] Please say a few words about the 25 September 1989 decree of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, which is directly associated with the subject of our interview.

[Montvilu] In accordance with this decree, as of 1 October 1989 participants of the Great Patriotic War and persons awarded USSR orders and medals for selfless labor and faultless military service in the rear during the Great Patriotic War are granted the right of free travel on all forms of city passenger transportation (except taxis) and on publicly used motor transportation in rural areas (within the bounds of the administrative region of residency).

As of 1 October 1989, all benefits established for persons who had participated in the Great Patriotic War as military servicemen have been extended to parents and unremarried widows of servicemen who died as a consequence of wounds, contusions or mutilations suffered in defense of the USSR or in the performance of other obligations of military service, or as a consequence of illness associated with time at the front.

[Filipenkov] What documents must be presented in order to obtain such benefits?

[Montvilu] Documents entitling the bearer to the benefits include correspondingly the "Certificate of a War Participant," the "Certificate" (for civilian personnel in the fighting forces) and the "Certificate on the Right to Benefits" (for persons awarded USSR orders and medals for selfless labor and faultless service in the rear during the Great Patriotic War). In this case before enterprises of the Administration of State Bank Notes, Coins and Medals make available the special certificates on the right to benefits, benefits are to be granted to these persons on the basis of certificates accompanying their medals.

Parents and widows of deceased servicemen are granted benefits on the basis of the pension certificate, which must be stamped "Widow (Mother, Father) of a Deceased Soldier" by a pension organ.

In the event that parents and widows are not retired, benefits are granted to them on the basis of the serviceman's death certificate, issued by corresponding organs of the USSR Ministry of Defense, the USSR KGB and the USSR MVD.

As we know, war participants receive a discount on a round-trip railroad fare once a year; therefore mothers and unremarried widows of deceased servicemen also enjoy this benefit as of 1 October 1989. As far as obtaining a coupon for privileged travel, such coupons will be issued, by the military commissariat at the beneficiary's place of residence and at her request, to mothers and widows of deceased servicemen receiving a pension from the USSR Ministry of Defense, and to

those not receiving such a pension but possessing a certificate issued by the Lithuanian SSR Military Commissariat providing for benefits as of 1 October 1989 established for war participants.

[Filipenkov] We know that other benefits have also been planned. Could you please say a few words about them as well?

[Montvilu] In addition the 21 August 1989 decree foresees payment, as of 1 January 1990, of full pensions geared to time of service, irrespective of wages being received, to retired officers, shore-based and seagoing warrant officers and extended-service servicemen employed as laborers and skilled workers.

Disability pensions are also to be paid as of this date (irrespective of the disability group and cause, or of the place of employment and position occupied) to disabled workers, in the full amount, without regard for wages received. This means that earnings are not a factor in determining the pensions they receive beginning in December 1989, and that from this time on, they will no longer need to submit documents indicating their earnings to a USSR Savings Bank institution.

[Filipenkov] Thank you for the information.

Inequities in Officer Assignments

90UM0043A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
13 Oct 89 FIRST EDITION p 2

[Letters in response to correspondence by Col I. Varfolomeyev: "Term of Service Not Established..."]

[Text] *On 7 Jul 89 a letter by Maj N. Bulatskiy, entitled "Along the Large Circle," was published in our newspaper. Having stated that following 12 years of service in the North he is being transferred to Kazakhstan, where living conditions are no better, the author raised the question: Why do some officers serve long years without replacement in unfavorable areas, while others are entirely freed of such difficulties? The editors received an answer under the signature of Maj Gen O. Sokolov, which asserted that there are no injustices in the assignment of officers. It was hard to agree with this. As a result there appeared the correspondence by Col I. Varfolomeyev, "Term of Service Not Established..." We acquaint the readership with some responses to it, as well as publish the official replies.*

Eight out of the 10 years of my service took place in the unit in which Maj N. Bulatskiy, the author of the letter, "Along the Large Circle," also serves. There, in the North, my wife fell ill. The doctors recommended that I be transferred to an area with good climate and where there is a good medical institution. However, neither in the unit, nor at higher headquarters, did anyone even want to hear about my transfer. For almost two years my letters and requests moved along various command levels. Finally, after requesting that I be given leave to go to Moscow to personally resolve the matter, an order about my transfer was signed.

My coworkers in the North, Galkovskiy, Lyubin, and Vyshinskiy, were replaced in about the same way. We, of course, did not end up "in the small circle," but, nevertheless, now our working and living conditions are relatively better. It is noteworthy that here, in the western Ukraine, officers also serve for 10-12 years without replacement. They hold on to their position, and their apartments, which perfectly suits the purposes of their father-commanders, as it is most simple to "educate" the people, and control them.

The author of your publication is right. While improving the mechanism for replacement and transfer of officers, it is also necessary to think about those who are serving in places where the term of service is not defined.

Sr Lt V. Sheshko

This summer my son Igor completed the Samarkand Higher Military Automotive Command School. In the allocation he received an assignment to the Moscow Region. The special assemblies took place, and on 28 August he began to carry out his duties in his first officer's position. On 29 August he was suddenly ordered to leave to serve in another unit, located many hundreds of kilometers away. Thus, he spent a little more than one day in the "small circle." He did not, I hope, compromise himself, and the position was not reduced, but, since he was given no other explanations, he is left to think about some "chosen" candidate for it.

I will tell you honestly that my son did not lay claim to the "small circle." He could also have begun his service on the periphery. He was prepared for this. But, the very fact of what took place does not give honor to the cadre officials of the Moscow Military District.

Maj Med Svc V. Rzhveskiy. Ashkhabad.

I do not believe that anything changed following your publication. Those who have long served in the Moscow region and other "prestige" areas have put down roots in these places, have acquired apartments, dachas, automobiles, and, finally, friends, who protect them. Why should they go somewhere to "overcome difficulties!" For this there are majors N. Bulatskiy, A. Ovsnenko, and others.

I myself serve in the Transbaykal, in a location with harsh climatic conditions, 60 km from the garrison where I began service as a lieutenant. I do not want to blame anyone for the fact that I was assigned here. I am a military man, and am by nature suited to difficulties. I acknowledge that I had the opportunity to "protect myself" with an appropriate certificate and not go to the Transbaykal Military District. But, I felt this was demeaning.

Nevertheless, sometimes the question arises: Why do some officers not even know our land beyond the Volga? The cadre organs must always be on alert for fairness in this respect.

Maj V. Galetski

* * *

Editor's commentary. Other readers have also written us about indifference and callousness toward officers, and injustice committed during their reassignments. In particular, these include Lt Col V. Dudochkin, who, following 18 years of service in the Far East, was transferred to Baku, and is living there without his family in a dormitory (there is no apartment!), and Lt Col V. Novikov, who has been serving for 20 years in Central Asia, and has lost any hope of being transferred from there. We received a letter from Maj V. Batura, who served in the same unit as Maj N. Bulatskiy. He writes that he also, following 13 years of service in the North, is being sent to Kazakhstan. He is being sent on an urgent basis, without consideration for difficult family circumstances. The readers, speaking about the importance of the problem posed in the article, support its thoughtful, fair resolution. The draft new Statute on the Conduct of Military Service by Officer Personnel, which provides for mandatory rotation of service in different regions, is finding great support in this connection.

* * *

From the Official Responses...

The facts set forth in the article, "Term of Service Not Established...", are timely, and correspond to reality. We have directed the attention of the cadre organs in the Air Defense Troops and the Moscow Air Defense District to the fact that they may and are obliged to send officers who are serving in units in the Moscow area as replacements to localities, with terms of service established.

The Main Cadres Directorate has approved and is taking measures to eliminate shortcomings that exist in officer reassignments.

Questions of assignment of officers to one area or another must be examined continuously by the functioning efficiency report boards, taking into account the allocation for replacement, family situation of officers, and other circumstances. Officers must be sent as replacements primarily to those geographic areas in which they have not previously served.

The appropriate work is underway in the cadres directorates of the Air Defense Troops, and the construction and quartering organs of the USSR Ministry of Defense, with respect to the future assignment locations of majors N. Bulatskiy, A. Ovsiyenko, and the other officers named in the article.

Col Gen V. Arapov, first deputy chief, Main Cadres Directorate

* * *

The article, "Term of Service Not Established..." has been examined attentively in the apparatus of the commander-in-chief and the political directorate of the Air Defense Troops. The problem raised in it is timely, well-founded, and reflects shortcomings that still exist in

work with officer cadres. In part, this is explained by the fact that the problem being discussed was not reflected precisely and specifically enough in previously approved legislative documents.

The appropriate officials have been told of the need to observe strictly the principle of social fairness in organizing officer reassignments.

Maj Gen A. Gaydukov, deputy chief, Political Directorate, Air Defense Troops

Interview With Military Commissar of Azerbaijan

90UM0073A Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in
Russian 18 Oct 89 p 2

[Interview with Maj Gen A. A. Kasimov, Azerbaijan SSR military commissar, by AZERINFORM correspondent A. Guseynov: "The Army—Offspring of the People, and Its Problems—Our Common Concern"]

[Text]

[Guseynov] Abilfas Asadullayevich, various rumors and conjectures have recently been circulating in the republic concerning supposed conflicts in the army over ethnic issues, including ones involving loss of human life. It is being asserted that Azerbaijani soldiers are special targets of attack. To what extent are these rumors true?

[Kasimov] It would be wrong to assert that interethnic conflicts occurring throughout the entire country have not affected the army to some degree as well. The army is the offspring of the people, and its sons serve in it. This is why all of the processes occurring in our society inevitably find their way into it. At the same time let me declare quite categorically that there has been not a single case of interethnic violence resulting in loss of human life. To my deep regret I cannot say just as categorically that there are no deaths among young Azerbaijanis, as well as soldiers from other regions of our country by the way, during their service in the armed forces. Here is an example: Just this year 65 servicemen called up in our republic died due to various illnesses, due to violations of swimming rules, during performance of official obligations, and as a result of motor vehicle accidents. Criminal proceedings were initiated in relation to each of these cases, and the matters are being investigated.

[Guseynov] Are concrete steps being taken to do away with such sorry statistics? They are our sons, after all.

[Kasimov] They are being taken, and believe me, they are quite radical. Young men are often unprepared for the trials and difficulties they encounter in the army. They must be taught endurance, the ability to endure difficulties and to prepare themselves physically from childhood. But just take a look at our playing fields: I'm not going to get into the terrible condition of most of them, but even the open ones stand empty. Many conscripts do not know how to swim—that's one other cause

of accidents. Every army, including a national one, needs healthy, courageous youngsters.

[Guseynov] You are, incidentally, one of three Azerbaijani generals now in active service. That is precisely why I would like to hear your opinion concerning the plausibility of creating a national army.

[Kasimov] You yourself just stated one of the reasons why it would be implausible: Who would command it? But the main reason perhaps is economical. This is something we have to reckon with, especially now that the republic is preparing to convert to cost accounting and self-financing: Maintaining a modern army requires a lot of money, you see. I would advise something else—creating separate national units or even formations: After all, there once was an Azerbaijani division that trained national personnel.

I would also like to say something else in this connection. The USSR Ministry of Defense adopted a decision allowing up to 25 percent of conscripts to serve in their own republics. We are creating special commissions—rayon, city and republic—which will be staffed—besides by representatives of the military commissariats—by representatives of party, soviet, Komsomol, trade union and public organizations, and mothers of soldiers. It is they who will decide which conscripts should remain in Azerbaijan for army service. Let me state that this right will be exercised by conscripts with families, by sons of single mothers, by youngsters from families that had lost members serving in the Soviet Army in peacetime (primarily in Afghanistan), by the children of families resettled from Armenia and Fergana if they had not become settled yet and the family's material position is difficult, by youngsters fit for noncombatant service, and upon representation by public organizations and local soviets (for example, orphan conscripts, and so on).

[Guseynov] Cases of desertion from the armed forces have recently grown more frequent. Most youngsters claim they desert due to persecution on ethnic grounds. What do you have to say about this?

[Kasimov] Yes, desertion of Azerbaijanis from the Soviet army has become more frequent in recent times, and we report each such case to the military procuracy. Thus recently in Stavropol Kray, civilian Armenian nationalists incited by Warrant Officer Asatryan began threatening Azerbaijani servicemen of a construction unit. As a result 22 servicemen fled to Baku. Upon representation of the republic's military commissar, the Main Military Procuracy initiated criminal proceedings against Asatryan. However, it stands to reason that the desertion itself will not go unpunished either. We are talking about a legal state, a law on universal compulsory military service exists, and no one has repealed it. Let me emphasize that no pressure of any kind will compel me and my subordinates to deviate from our official obligations: We are fulfilling our duty to the motherland and people.

[Guseynov] And one last question: The opinion is circulating that practically all Azerbaijani conscripts are sent to construction subunits for their army service. How accurate is it?

[Kasimov] Prior to the early 1980s, 60 percent of all conscripts were sent to construction units, and 40 percent were sent to combat and training subunits. Now the situation has changed dramatically. It would be sufficient to point out that in 1988, 70 percent of the conscripts were sent to combat and training subunits, and 30 percent were sent to construction and railroad troops. I must admit that we often have to refuse assignment of some conscripts from Azerbaijan to prestigious units, if I may call them that, even though they could be so assigned on the basis of their paperwork. The whole problem lies with their poor general educational preparation and weak knowledge of Russian.

In conclusion I think that it would be correct to appeal to the parents. All the more so because the autumn call-up is upon us: Don't keep your sons from becoming real men. Yes, shortcomings do exist in the army, as in other spheres of our society's life, but perestroika and glasnost are changing the situation. The republic's military commissariat will take all steps to ensure that parents will receive reliable information on the progress of their children in army service. Don't yield to panic and provocations.

Exceptions to Rule on Student Early Retirement

90UM0062A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
21 Oct 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by K. Spivak, department head, Tajik Polytechnical Institute, in the "Letters to the Editors" column: "More on 'Counterfeit' Students"]

[Text] My work has to do with military registration of students. I have been involved in issuing certificates to persons on active duty authorizing their discharge into the reserves before completion of their term of service, in accordance with the USSR Supreme Soviet decree of 11 July 1989. I will not go into great detail on certain irregularities that arose in connection with my issuing the certificates. Thus, I was visited by relatives of students that had been dropped from the institute's rolls before they were drafted. Relatives of evening and independent study students came to the office (more than once) with their petitions. I received many inquiries from unit commanders requesting information on persons who were not daytime students; the answer was always in the negative, of course.

I was certain that, after the work we had accomplished, fairness would triumph, with no persons other than full-time students receiving a discharge on the basis of the above decree. It turned out that I was completely wrong. "Early birds" appeared as early as the beginning of the school year. They typically would declare their intention to transfer to the daytime division, so that they could cover up their tracks. We would ask them: "How is

it that you were discharged into the reserves, even though you were not so entitled, since you did not complete your term of service? Their responses varied. Some of them looked away in shame; others looked at us in an insolent manner; still others were simply rude, as if to say: "There is nothing you can do about it; I am holding in my hands a license giving me the right and an entry in my military service card rendering the discharge official." I know at least ten such dodgers that are in the Tajik Polytechnical Institute. I must admit that they are not the only ones at fault.

Former student Ashurmetov was dropped from the institute's rolls for failing his studies even before he was drafted, receiving no certificate. However, he himself appeared in the office to request reinstatement in the institute as a former soldier.

Evening division student Mirdzhanov stated that his unit commander discharged him as a reward for excellent service.

The parents of evening division student Sharopov visited the office accompanied by their son. They requested we reenroll him, this time in the daytime division, stating that he had been discharged in error, and, as such, it was not up to him to request that he be permitted to complete his term of service. This opinion is shared by jurist Tatarchenko, who has no doubts as to his judgement. He even went so far as to confirm this in writing.

Evening division student Bayezov suffered a bit of embarrassment. His unit commander (city of Gomel), acting diligently, requested confirmation of Bayezov's certificate (Form 26). A check indicated that the certificate was "counterfeit" in all respects, including a forged signature and official seal.

The father of evening division student Sirozhidin Abdiyev, requesting and even demanding that his son be issued a certificate, did not leave my office for two weeks. You can be sure that he did not receive one. However, I was quite surprised to see standing before me none other than Sirozhidin, who was holding a completed resident's registration, complete with military records stamp, saying: "Just admit me the way you are supposed to and transfer me to the daytime division."

The commander of the unit in which evening division student S. Yusufov served discharged him into the reserves, but later launched an inquiry.

Then there were "soldiers" who sensed that something was amiss while visiting the office and would turn on their heels and leave, without giving their name.

Those were incidents that occurred. You should know that there will be more of them. I informed my superiors, members of the school administration. The results were less than encouraging. For example, the assistant head of instruction turned down my request to refuse admission to such students, instead directing faculty deans to admit them to classes. One that had not been admitted

appealed to the Ministry of Education of the Tajik SSR, which telephoned the office to ask: "Why did you commit such a thoughtless act? The student served 18 months in the Army. Why are you placing obstacles in his path? Admit him!" Who dares defy a superior organ?

I informed my territorial rayon military commissariat of what had transpired. Promises were made to take measures. However, nothing has changed.

Legal Training Courses

90UM0067A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by Colonel of Justice V. Zyubin, retired, Honored Jurist of the RSFSR: "According to a Common Plan"]

[Text] **Standardized programs for the study of law have been established for all categories of personnel in the Army and Navy.**

There are two such programs: One is for regular forces, and the other is for training centers and Army and Navy warrant officer schools.

The program for regular forces is divided into six sections: legal instruction for officer personnel, for warrant officers and extended service personnel, for female troops performing active duty as soldiers, sailors, sergeants, and senior NCO's, for servicemen in compulsory terms of service, for military construction personnel, and for civilian employees of the Soviet Army and Navy. Each section provides for the study of standard acts—laws, statutes, regulations, etc.—in conformity with the appropriate legal minimum.

In the military units and aboard ship, study time is allotted for operational and political training according to a common plan. For example, 26 hours per year are allotted for officers: Commander training comprises 16 hours, and Marxist training makes up 10 hours. In addition to required lessons, the plan should also provide for elective forms of legal instruction and training, such as the work of lecture centers and schools of legal knowledge and circles of young Communists, lessons in the system of Komsomol political education, and periodic instruction of personnel in new legal developments.

Officers up to regimental commander and equivalent positions, warrant officers, and extended service personnel will pass tests to measure their mastery of the training program once every two years and before assignment to a new position. Commanders and officers in charge will conduct annual discussions with the remaining categories of personnel to monitor their progress.

The standardized legal training program for students at training centers and Army and Navy warrant officer schools provides for instruction in the principles of Soviet law. Depending on the period of training, from 20

to 45 hours of study time are allotted for mastery of the program. Students take an examination or test at the finish of instruction.

GlavPU on Organization of Legal Training

90UM0067B Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 89 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Colonel N. Ivanov, Commander of a group on questions of organizing legal education and compulsory legal training, by Lieutenant Colonel A. Plotnikov: "To Educate as They Train"]

[Text] **The Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy [GlavPU] has created a group on questions of organizing legal education and compulsory legal training in the regular forces.**

Our correspondent met with Colonel N. Ivanov, commander of this group.

[Plotnikov] Nikolay Vasilevich, please tell us why the need arose to activate the subunit you command.

[Ivanov] In May of this year, as KRASNAYA ZVEZDA already reported, the USSR Ministry of Defense published an order "On the Organization of Compulsory Legal Training and the Improvement of Legal Work."

In due course, a coordination and methods council was created in GlavPU on a voluntary basis. But, as practice showed, it was impossible for volunteers to resolve questions of the organization and method of providing compulsory legal training. So the group on questions of organizing legal education and compulsory legal training was formed. It is manned by political workers and judges advocate.

[Plotnikov] And so the group was created. And what is its function?

[Ivanov] There is a rather widely held view that compulsory legal training is a matter for lawyers. But it is wrong to think that. The officers of the military procuracies and tribunals will, as before, perform their primary work, rendering aid to commanders and political workers on questions of legal instruction. But the main actors in compulsory legal training are the officers, commanders, and political workers, and the leaders of the military and labor collectives.

Our group is charged with studying and summarizing the experience of organizing legal education and compulsory legal training in the Army and in the Navy, and with preparing proposals to improve this work. We will operate in close contact with the directorates and departments of GlavPU, the appropriate subunits of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, the Administration of Affairs of the USSR Ministry of Defense, the Main Military Procuracy, and the Military Tribunals Directorate. The group is a sort of working body for a coordination and methods council.

[Plotnikov] What have you accomplished so far?

[Ivanov] We have formulated documentation for the development of an order of the USSR Ministry of Defense concerning organization of compulsory legal training in the regular forces and instruction in the legal disciplines in the military institutions of higher education.

Representatives of our group have already been at the military units of the Odessa Military District and the Baltic Fleet. They participated in a practical-scientific conference and helped organize compulsory legal training. In a word, we have defined the organizational principles so that the real process of training may begin.

Reasons for Shortage of Warrant Officers

90UM0081A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 89 First Edition p 2

[Letter to editor from WO V. Dyakonov et al. (a total of 13 signatures), under the rubric "Letter to the Editors": "It Is Time to Think About Us Too"]

[Text] Far from all of the units and ships are manned with the prescribed number of seagoing and land-based warrant officers. In our opinion, the shortage of these specialists is due to the fact that their financial rewards and their personal service and other types of support do not conform to their service conditions. Like officers, we do not have a fixed work day. We experience the hardships of the service and garrison life, and some of us rarely see our families. The material and moral losses suffered by an officer who moves from one garrison to another have been calculated many times. But the seagoing and shore-based warrant officer receive far less money and are sometimes actually below the poverty line. And so, perhaps the time has come to give some serious thought to the seagoing and shore-based warrant officers.

Today, even if there is no housing problem at the garrison, we are doomed to rent our little apartments for at least 5 years (in accordance with the Statute on Performance of Military Service). When that period elapses we are placed on a waiting list. Our pay was set around 20 years ago. Most seagoing and shore-based warrant officers receive the sixth pay grade. They begin their service with a rate based on position and military rank which is approximately the pay of a librarian. After 15 years in the service, they reach the maximum for the sixth pay grade which, together with rations allowances, amounts to slightly more than 250 rubles. It remains the same until the end of their service, even though they be splendid specialists.

With 20 years of service behind him, the seagoing or shore-based warrant officer is ordinarily a highly rated professional, but his earnings equal those of a beginning worker. Where is the social justice? And the young man who wants to become a warrant officer thinks about whether it is worth taking on the burden of the military

service and having "second-rate" status. He who has already donned the shoulder-boards of the seagoing or shore-based warrant officer automatically finds himself facing the choice of whether to continue in the service or leave it. The best and most self-confident leave....

Since the reduction in the Armed Forces is freeing up funds, it would be fair to channel some of them into social, personal-service and material support for the personnel, including the seagoing and shore-based warrant officers. This could induce the soldiers and sailors to devote themselves to the homeland's defense instead of entering a cooperative at the end of their regular term, thereby making possible the competitive selection of individuals to serve as seagoing and shore-based warrant officers.

It seems to us that several military grades should be established in order to enhance the prestige of this category of servicemen, in order to make their service attractive. Possibly three. And different rates should be established for the different grades. Furthermore, the primary grade should be conferred upon the graduates of schools for seagoing (shore-based) warrant officers, regardless of position held. Subsequent grades should be awarded only to those with good certification after a certain period of conscientious service. In addition, we support the proposal presented in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the unit commander be given the authority to establish a pay rate for any warrant officer based on the latter's contribution to the combat readiness.

Readers' Reactions to Officers' Conferences

90UM0105A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
14 Nov 89 First Edition p 1

[Set of letters from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers under the title: "On What Concerns Us"]

[Excerpts] As has already been reported, the Ministry of Defense and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy have resolved to convene an Army-Wide Officers' Conference which will consider the issue of the course of perestroika in the USSR Armed Forces and the tasks of the officer corps in further enhancing it.

The Army-Wide Officers' Conference is called upon to become an important final event at the stage of completion of the forming of officers' conferences in units and on ships, to establish this institution, to endow it with the status of an advisory organ of the unit commanders and ship captains on all practical issues which concern officers and members of their families, on reinforcing the rule of law and legal order, and on ensuring the social protection of people.

The date of convening the Army-Wide Officers' Conference has been specified—8 and 9 December 1989. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA intends to cover in a constructive manner the course of the preparations for it, to publish the views and proposals by our readers concerning the

issues of operation of this new public organization, perestroika in the army and the navy, and the development of the processes of glasnost and democratization in the life of military collectives. Today we are publishing yet another set of letters.

To Rally and To Educate

To my mind, the Officers' Conference will become an educational institution only if it is going to be absolutely democratic. Resolutions of the conference should be carried out by the unit command as long as they do not contravene the law, including resolutions on cadre issues. I also believe that the conference needs a presumption of security or, more precisely, social protection for those voicing the criticism of any commander.

As I see it, the conference may state its lack of confidence in the commander, say, for boorishness and being rude with people, immoral actions, and incompetence as a commander. The officers' conference as a community of members with equal rights is capable of rallying the officer corps in the spirit of patriotism, camaraderie, mutual help, and strict compliance with the standards of morality and honor of the officer.

[signed] Reserve Colonel L. Berezkin, Vladivostok

Is the Commander Always Right?

As it happens at present, all of the most significant issues of the service and life of officers are technically resolved by commissions but actually by a single person, the unit commander. Hopes for a more democratic resolution of these issues appeared when the Provisional Regulations on Officers' Conferences were published. What came out in the course of the discussion? There are too many duties of every kind in the regulations and few rights, and in the instances when the conference does have a right it still plays the role of a petitioner. Even voting is supposed to be open, except for electing the council of the conference. You do not have to be a genius to understand that an open vote is democratic given the independence of voters. In a system with subordination as strict as in the army this is sham democracy once again.

One gets the impression that our father-commanders are very reluctant to share their authority with the officer community though, to my mind, it is quite logical that the one-man-command of the commanders should extend only to issues directly associated with combat readiness. As far as other issues are concerned, the army community should be actually privy to them. There are many issues, for example, the transfers of officers, job placement of their wives, and the allocation of all kinds of benefits, whose resolution in many cases can very hardly be called fair. This is why it is necessary to endow the military community with power in the form of Officers' Conferences, if we are to talk seriously about democratization in the army.

[Signed] A. Ivanov

High Percentage of Kzyl-Orda Draftees Sent to Construction Troops

90UM0105B Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Nov 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by TASS correspondent K. Imanberdiyev in Kzyl-Orda, Kazakh SSR: "Sponsorship... Through Carbon Copies"]

[Text] One draftee in three from Kzyl-Orda Oblast will end up serving in the Military Construction Troops. Have military specialties such as border guard, missile trooper, or tankist lost their romanticism and popularity? They certainly have not. In the oblast military commissariat, with pride they told me that a group of our excellently trained fellow local residents has been sent for service to an honorably titled detachment of border guards. What about the rest? Unfortunately, many of them will have to perform duties in the army which are equally necessary but simpler.

What is the reason? Deviations in the health status and poor preparation of future soldiers are the main reasons. The prevention and treatment of various diseases is poorly organized at the local level. There is a shortage of

medical specialists in the oblast, especially in offices for teenagers. On top of that, many young people do not engage in sports.

As they say, everyone has got to pitch in, in order to solve these problems. A significant role in this belongs to the Komsomol ((Leninist Communist Youth League)). Who should get tomorrow's soldiers involved in continuous training in athletic circles and classes at military-athletic clubs if not Komsomol activists? However, it looks like this task is of little concern to komsomol leaders. Cases of surprising indifference on their part come to light even in the hectic days of the draft campaign. Thus, at several meetings of the draft commission the seat of... the representative of the Komsomol Oblast Committee has remained vacant. He has been sitting it out in the quiet of his office. All Komsomol character profiles for draftees from Dzhalagashskiy Rayon were carbon copies.

An employee of the oblast military commissariat, Lieutenant Colonel A. Soldatkin says: "There have also been positive developments in the course of the current draft campaign. Due to the questionnaires filled out, we have a better knowledge of the contingent drafted. We have delivered a number of lectures; the draftees have come to understand better in which arms and under which conditions they will serve.

Helicopter Training Weak Against Air Defenses

18010012

[Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published in the 28 October 1989 First Edition a page 2 editor's response, entitled: "Following Publication in 'KRASNAYA ZVEZDA': Beyond the Screen of a 'Grade of Four'". The response is directed toward an item published on May 12 by Guards Senior Lieutenant N. Vertiya concerning oversimplification in combat flight training for helicopter crews, and particularly insufficient use of knowledge and experience gained in Afghanistan.

The problem was discussed in the Military Council of the Leningrad Military District. The commander of the Leningrad MD, Major-General V. Nikiforov noted that the tactical training of both pilots and flight crews of helicopters was not very creative and was found to be

notably weak in overcoming enemy air defenses, precision of approach to the target and destruction of targets.

Cost of Fighter Pilot Training18010014 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
16 Nov 89 First Edition p 2

[Major-General of Aviation A. Sidorov, First Deputy Chief of the Political Directorate of the Air Forces: "[Unititled Editorial Comment]".]

[Excerpt] ...The training of the modern pilot has become very expensive. In England, for example, it is around 25 million pounds sterling. In order for us to train a military pilot up to the level of First Class [rating] on an aircraft of the Su-27 or MIG-29 class, it is necessary to spend almost 2 million rubles. ...

Golf-Class Sub Withdrawn From Baltic Fleet

*90UI0105A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
2 Nov 89 First Edition p 3*

[TASS report: "Elimination of Sea-Based Weapons"]

[Text] Baltic Fleet, 1 November—(TASS) The ceremonial withdrawal from the combat component of the Baltic fleet of one of the diesel-powered missile submarines [RPL/SSB] known in the West as the Golf class has taken place on the territory of a naval unit. First Deputy Chief of the Main Staff of the Navy Vice Admiral D.M. Komarov reported the following to a TASS correspondent:

"The withdrawal of the ballistic missile submarine from the combat forces is the latest stage in the unilateral disarmament measures being undertaken by the Navy on the basis of decisions by the Soviet Government to reduce the USSR Armed Forces and defense spending. Proof of the importance of this event is the fact that the submarine withdrawn from service carries three ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads. As was stated by M.S.

Gorbachev in Helsinki, before the end of 1990 the remaining submarines of this class will also be eliminated and the warheads for their nuclear missiles destroyed. They will not be replaced. Thus, the policy of a nuclear-free zone in the Baltic Sea proclaimed by the Soviet Government and the deepening of confidence-building measures and security in Europe has been underscored by practical deeds.

"The ceremony, which took place in the presence of representatives of a public group monitoring the reductions in the armed forces and armaments, is not only of military and political significance, but also has a profound moral significance; namely, that the sailors have said their farewells to a ship sailing under the naval flag under which they carried out their constitutional duty to defend the sacred state interests of the motherland.

"Unfortunately, we do not yet observe actions equivalent to our own in the navies of the NATO countries. As a result, their destabilizing role is growing under conditions of reductions in other kinds of armaments."

Col Gen Makartsev on Current Status of R-R Troops

90UM0027A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
6 Oct 89 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Colonel General M. Makartsev, Commander of Railway Troops, by V. Uvatenko: "Service on the Lines"]

[Text]

[Uvatenko] Mikhail Konstantinovich, on the whole KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has written quite a bit about military railway engineer personnel, telling about the construction of the Baykal-Amur Mainline [BAM] in particular. Nonetheless, at the July session of the USSR Supreme Court some of the people's deputies asked, "And what are the railway troops?"...

[Makartsev] Well, I believe a historical excursion will help us better understand the intended use for the troops and the problems which trouble military railway personnel.

Russia was the first country in the world to create and comprehensively develop railway engineer troops in its military. They began to activate the first military railway units—14 separate companies of military workers, 2 conductor companies, and 1 telegraph company—in September 1851 for the security and maintenance of the Petersburg-Moscow railroad. In the wars which Russia fought in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of this century, Russian railway troops demonstrated that they were a necessary component of a functioning Army.

The Soviet railway troops were created by direct order of V.I. Lenin on 5 October 1918. This date is considered their birthday.

During the civil war years military railway personnel built and restored more than 20,000 kilometers of lines, safeguarding transport efforts in the course of combat operations. Afterwards, in peacetime, they participated in the construction of the Moscow-Donbass, Gomel-Chernigov, Tula-Sukhinichi, Orsha-Lepel, and Chernigov-Ovruch lines, and built railroads in the Far East.

During the Great Patriotic War railway troops, together with special units of the NKPS [People's Commissariat of Railways], restored and built so many kilometers of the steel main lines in the USSR and 10 contiguous countries that there were enough to circle the earth 3 times at the equator. And, in addition, bridges, tunnels, communication lines, stations, and sidings...

In the postwar period military railway personnel took part in constructing 1,720 kilometers of railroads across unbroken expanse and building the new Ust-Kamenogorsk-Zyryanovsk, Abakan-Tayshet, Ivdel-Ob, and Tyumen-Surgut lines, and the Transmongolian and Baykal-Amur Mainlines. And they successfully handled

the task of repairing damages from the mishaps at Chernobyl, Arzamas, and Sverdlovsk and the earthquake in Armenia.

[Uvatenko] A decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of 21 March 1989 removes railway troops, along with border and internal troops, from the USSR Armed Forces. What sort of changes does this entail? It has been said that the soldiers are just a cheap labor force for the USSR Ministry of Transport Construction.

[Makartsev] I will start by saying that our new status places a great responsibility on us. The system, conditions, and term of service, manpower acquisition, and material, technical and financial support all remain the same as they are for the Soviet Army and Navy. And the range of assignments remains as before. The military railway personnel are taking and will continue to take a most active part in all the most important construction projects for the national economy. Without doubt, the whole military way of life will also be retained, just as it is for all Soviet servicemen, with work on the firing range, in the classrooms, and on the training grounds.

Personally I can understand the apprehensions that are being expressed to the effect that the soldiers outside the Armed Forces "will not see the world" at work. But believe me, that does not at all depend on departmental limitations. Not too long ago we often had to move questions of combat training into the background under the pretext of production needs. Moreover, thinking followed a stubborn stereotype when, to oblige the plan, both the regulation system and the daily needs of the personnel were brought in.

Lately, we have made fundamental changes in our approach to these questions and especially in our attitude toward the social sphere and work conditions. And here, I believe, the new economic conditions under which the military railway personnel have now been organized will help.

[Uvatenko] What are you referring to?

[Makartsev] In May of this year the decision was made to move the brigades and units of the railway troops onto full economic accountability and self-financing on the level of their contract activities. At the same time they will maintain themselves through budgetary allocations as before. As of 1 July a number of the brigades have changed over to the new work conditions, and the rest will change over at the new year.

What does this give us? In the first place, 80 percent of profits in excess of the plan may now be put into a financial incentives fund for personnel. Preliminary calculations show that in the first year, under conditions of the implementation of the assigned tasks with the expected technical and economic indices, there will be the opportunity to increase wages for officers and ensigns by 6 percent and for industrial and office workers by 50 percent, and to multiply wages for soldiers and sergeants by a factor of 8.

Secondly, though not less importantly, is the possibility of putting 20 percent of profits in excess of the plan into a social development fund. Military railway personnel have to endure service under difficult conditions, and the officers and ensigns find themselves on the lines for long periods, separated from their families. We try to do everything to see that their service goes well. For example, over the last 3 years we managed to double the introduction of living space. Now economic accountability must open new opportunities for us. At the same time it, of course, requires an increase in the efficiency of construction output.

[Uvatenko] What are military railway personnel doing these days? Where does the "line on the map" take them?

Currently military railway personnel work on many of the country's railroads in almost all the union republics—in the Baltic region and Transcaucasia, in Central Asia and the Far East, and in Siberia and the Urals. Over the three years of the current 5-year-plan the troops have been responsible for about 21 percent of the newly-built railway lines and more than 26 percent of the secondary lines. Each year we bring 600-800 kilometers of railroad lines of all designations into permanent operation.

Literally just a few days ago we brought into permanent operation our final 156-kilometer section of the BAM, from Zeysk to Tungala. Here the Eastern Section of the BAM (and this is 1,466 kilometers, built through the thickets, bogs and crags of the taiga), which was built by military railway personnel, is ready for operation.

Lately they have been saying in the central press and on the radio and television that the BAM is not needed at all. Then why did they bother building it? I am personally convinced that the mainline has a future, and that it is needed. Today the BAM is no longer an idea or a project. A significant part of it is an inhabited line with settlements and social and cultural facilities. Now it is a matter, relying on BAM, of actively and energetically opening up the BAM zone, Siberia, and the Far East.

The participation of the railway troops in the construction of this unique project will go down as one of the most glorious pages in the history of our troops.

Of course the railway troops have many problems. We will all solve them together. And I hope for the help of the press in this. Incidentally, we will have our own weekly newspaper, VOYENNY ZHELEZNODOROZHNIK, which will be available to subscribers and at "Soyuzpechat" kiosks starting 1 January 1990. We want people to fully understand what the military railway people do and what sort of contribution they make toward meeting the country's economic and defense objectives.

* * *

Colonel General M. Makartsev was born in 1927 in the city of Yelets in Lipetsk Oblast. After graduating from a

construction school for railway transport he worked as a technician, and then as a superintendent of work on the Moscow-Donbass railroad.

In the Army since 1948, he served in one of the railway battalions and then became an officer. Since that time his whole life has been inseparably linked with the railway troops.

He made his way up all the ranks from commander of a platoon to chief of staff of the railway troops. He graduated the Military Academy of Rear Services and Transport, and in 1983 he was named Commander of Railway Engineer Troops.

He has been a member of the CPSU since 1950. He is a Hero of Socialist Labor and a Distinguished Builder of the RSFSR.

1995 Plan Target for Road-Building Troops

90UM0082A Moscow PRAVITELSTVENNYY
VESTNIK in Russian No 21, Oct 89 p 5

[Article by G. Kashuba, Press Center of the USSR Ministry of Defense: "They Are Building Roads"]

[Text] "Construction of Makarye-Kurino road in Kirov Oblast; length, 15 kilometers; work performed by 3rd Road Construction Company, commanded by Capt V.G. Yegorov; work begun 1 Jan 1989; completion date, 30 Nov 1989."

Such signs can be seen today in many areas of the Russian Nonchernozem Zone, where road construction formations of the USSR Ministry of Defense are at work. By 1995 they are to build around 22,000 kilometers of roads in 10 oblasts, build surfaced, intra-farm main roads and link all of the central farmsteads of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses with the rayon centers by convenient routes.

What has been accomplished last year and this? Do we have the proper level of labor productivity and work quality? Are military posts being built? Are the social and personal service needs of the personnel and the families of the servicemen being met? These and other questions having to do with the fulfillment of the state road construction program for the Nonchernozem Zone were discussed by the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Defense.

It was noted that the state assignments are being completed in general. A total of 80 kilometers of roads specified in the plan were opened for use in 1988; 531 kilometers are to be completed this year and another 820 kilometers next year.

The rate and the quality of the road construction could be higher, however, if not for major deficiencies in the material and technical support for the projects, in the organization of the forces and the provision of essential living and personal service conditions for the personnel. Fewer than 40% of the families of officers and warrant

officers are presently provided with housing, and this task is assigned to the local soviet organs.

The decree passed by the collegium defined measures for eliminating the deficiencies, for ensuring absolute fulfillment of the assignments and enhancing the quality of the work.

Ministries, Republics Use Construction Troops as Cheap Labor

90UM0082B Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by Maj A. Vorobyev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Neither Soldiers Nor Workers"]

[Text] **How are the military construction workers assigned to national economic construction projects faring?**

The two military construction companies were located many hundreds of kilometers from their permanent station for 7 years. They were sent on TDY to the Kazmedstroy Trust. The personnel worked in auxiliary sections, performing various unskilled jobs.

And now Maj V. Yakovlev, detachment commander, has with great difficulty obtained permission to reunite the detachment.

It turned out not to be so simple, however. A team of GAI [State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate] inspectors arrested the entire motor transport detachment under what was clearly a pretext. And there was no way to transport the personnel to their permanent station. A discussion between Maj Yakovlev and G. Yurchenko, deputy chairman of the Dzhezkazgan Oblast Executive Committee, shed some light on the situation. The latter had this to say:

"Comrade Major, you are disrupting our plans for the use of military construction workers. What is the oblast center to do without them? How are we to get the needed workers from the enterprises?"

In the end one of the companies had to be left at the trust. The civilian chiefs forced it to be left.

The fact is that the detachment commanded by Yakovlev was one of seven sent during the infamous times of stagnation "to extremely important ferrous metallurgy construction projects in Kazakhstan," as the papers put it. Today not seven but a far greater number of military construction detachments are at work on civilian projects in the republic. The Kazakh SSR State Construction Committee says that they are performing an honored assignment for the homeland.

"The military construction detachments constitute a large force, of course," Maj Yakovlev told me with bitterness. "They can perform the most difficult industrial assignments. I do not know about the other republics and departments, but in Kazakhstan the military construction workers are used as flunkies, as cheap

manpower. It is therefore believed that the military construction workers can get along perfectly well with trifling wages and can live in tents or even in the former "zone," as was the case with my subordinates. During our 10 years in the region we have not known clubs, dining halls and other facilities.

One of the best detachments working for Kazakhstan's Gosstroy is commanded by Lt Col Bayramov. I was told about the results of its financial and administrative performance. It turns out that this year any profit is out of the question. The military construction workers will barely be able to earn their daily bread.

And so the subunit commanders are forced to seek with trepidation any sort of extra work for their subordinates. Unfortunately, this is not just in Kazakhstan.

Col of Justice V. Kovalenko, acting procurator for the Belorussian Military District, reports systematic violations of the procedure for using military construction workers by the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Construction. Literally in order to get enough to eat, the military construction workers have had to work at a vegetable drying plant, in the city food trade system, in the union of consumer cooperatives, at the Mayak Kolkhoz and in the public catering combine. At one time they even swept streets in the oblast center and cleaned cow-sheds.

It is apparent from the editor's mail that this situation is not a rarity also for the military construction workers assigned to construction ministries of the RSFSR, the Ministry of Power and Electrification, the Ministry of Water Resources Construction and the Ministry of Coal Industry of the USSR, and to many other departments.

What is more, the fruits of their labor are frequently appropriated by others. Lt Gen V. Khudenko looked into a letter from Pvt A. Bronnikov, a military construction worker, at the editor's request. He officially confirmed the fact that civilian specialists were appropriating and reducing the wages of the soldiers in accordance with a statute approved by the construction directorate.

Lt Col N. Osipenko, chief of the directorate of military construction units assigned to the Ministry of Construction in the Eastern Regions of the USSR, writes with bitterness that some months the military construction workers earn 49 rubles. It is obvious that officials in this department have contrived to use the military construction worker to patch holes in their management. The organization headed by Yu. Geyev, for example, shorted the military construction workers by 15,000 rubles for March, and the construction organization under A. Bereza shorted them by 6,500 rubles.

Military construction worker V. Bugrov's father recently wrote the editor to ask: "My son ended up in the Ministry of Construction in the Eastern Regions of the USSR. But I sent him to serve in the military and not to work off a labor requirement. If he and his comrades have spent 2 years working in construction, what are they: soldiers or workers?"

It is not easy to answer this question. The legal status of military construction workers assigned to other ministries and departments is not set down anywhere in the law, after all. Is this not the cause of the misunderstanding and sometimes a disinclination to provide proper living conditions for the construction workers in epaulets as required by law? Why draft people into the military service, one asks, if they are to become day-laborers?

The editors recently received a report on the follow-up of another complaint and of the steps taken. Col V. Smirnov, acting first deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the North Caucasus Military District, wrote the following: "The investigation established the fact that the military construction detachment went to Novochoerkassk to reconstruct an electric locomotive plant. The Novochoerkasskstroy Trust and the Rostov-on-Don Territorial Construction Association, which took charge of it, failed to provide proper living conditions for the detachment. The personnel were housed in a building in need of major repairs. The detachment does not have a club, food storage depots, premises for a store or a snack bar, or its own dining hall. The personnel receive their meals in three shifts at the Voskhod restaurant, where the customers consume alcohol along with their evening meal."

Col V. Smirnov further reported that the military construction workers are not provided with a proper amount of work. They are therefore forced to work in outside organizations. The motor vehicles essential to the units' normal functioning have not been assigned to the detachment. The housing situation is especially bad. Only 27% of the families of officers and warrant officers have received apartments.

The district political directorate reports that the Minister of Construction in the Eastern Regions of the RSFSR has been informed of all this. Steps are being taken to rectify the situation.

It appears that some sort of local measures in this or that sector will make it possible to rectify the situation and eliminate the glaring deficiencies. But is it not time to give some thought to the main thing: whether the use of draftees in civilian ministries and departments in general conforms to the laws of our state, which we would like to think is just?

Main Military Procuracy to Review Problems Among Construction Troops

90UM0088A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Nov 89
Morning Edition p 6

[Interview with Maj Gen Justice Vyacheslav Vladimirovich Kaunin, chief of Main Military Procuracy Directorate, by IZVESTIYA correspondent V. Litovkin on 1 Nov 89, place not specified, under the rubric "From Competent Sources": "Service Not by the Regulation"]

[Text] *The Main Military Procuracy Collegium begins work on 2 November. It will examine questions of the*

status of legality and law and order and will outline measures for strengthening procurator's supervision in military construction units working to accomplish national economic tasks.

Our correspondent chatted with Maj Gen Justice V. Kaunin, chief of the Main Military Procuracy Directorate, on the day before.

[Litovkin] Vyacheslav Vladimirovich, I honestly admit that familiarity with the state of affairs in military construction units attached to various union and republic ministries and departments causes great alarm. Statistics show that over the last three years the number of crimes and incidents here not only has not decreased, but has even grown, making up over 40 percent of all negative phenomena which occur both in the Army and Navy as well as in other military elements. What are the reasons for that situation?

[Kaunin] There are many. One can say there is an entire set of closely intertwined problems. It includes demographic trouble in the country, when it is necessary to call up young men for service in military construction units who have returned from imprisonment (there are up to 20 percent of them in some detachments) and even those who have noticeably fallen behind contemporaries in mental and physical development. The general level of the draft contingent, which has dropped of late, also has an effect. As you know, drunkenness, drug addiction, and an attitude of immunity to normal rules and regulations now have assumed menacing scope among the youth. Add to this an absence of labor conditioning and a young man's inability and lack of desire to endure basic hardships, without which one simply cannot get by in life, and it will become clear how complicated it is to work under such conditions.

And the situation also is aggravated by the fact that ministries and departments to which military construction units are attached use available forces extremely irrationally again and again while constantly striving to "dislodge" them from the Council of Ministers.

For example, the Ministry of Construction in the Urals and West Siberia Regions of the RSFSR used only 50 percent of military construction personnel for their immediate purpose. Where did the others not work! As helpers in a ski factory and chemical plant, as dishwashers in dining halls, as yardmen, and even as kindergarten nannies. It is a similar picture in other places. The heads of ministries are excellently informed of this, but no steps are taken.

The crying mismanagement under which some ministries and departments keep military construction personnel as a reserve, so to speak, in case of catch-up rush work or to patch up economic holes and gaps is developing into a criminogenic situation. Idleness is the most favorable soil for it.

[Litovkin] But the fact is that the absence of a large amount of parallel work entails both unprofitability of

the military construction personnel's upkeep and their inability not only to earn money, but also to pay for their housing, clothing and food.

[Kaunin] Of course. And this is a direct violation of a person's constitutional right guaranteeing a wage "no lower than the minimum amount established by the state," which as you know is 70 rubles today. But the monthly pay of military construction personnel in Astrakhanstroy did not exceed 12 rubles per month, and it was 15 rubles in Astrakhangazpromstroy.

Military construction personnel often work side by side with unescorted prisoners and receive criminal experience firsthand, as they say.

Here we also have a total disregard for basic rights and needs of military construction personnel by the heads of sectors and departments. This is also expressed in an absolute indifference toward servicemen's unsettled everyday status and toward those sanitary and hygienic conditions under which they live and work. I am not even speaking of the fact that families of officers and warrant officers often have no housing, and in some cases their subordinates are accommodated in ill-equipped spaces where there is no heating, no water and no sewage system.

Military construction personnel of the RSFSR Minuralsibstroy [Ministry of Construction in the Urals and West Siberia Regions] stationed in Perm live in a hotel type of building intended for children's summer vacations. Twelve to fourteen persons have been put in rooms designed for four. In winter the walls of the room completely freeze and are covered with a crust of ice. But no one cares about this. Moreover, a hundred military construction personnel from this detachment were placed on detached duty by ministry heads to the city of Gubakha and lodged in cells of a former local prison, the main "contingent" of which had been transferred to another place. The concentration of harmful impurities in the air in the old place exceeds permissible standards by 50 times. And these are far from solitary facts.

[Litovkin] Your story suggests an obvious idea to me: perhaps reject the services of military construction personnel or remove them from subordination to various ministries and departments and send them where military personnel should be, to the Ministry of Defense! They have enough work there. The housing situation for

officers and warrant officers is widely known. Although other options also are possible such as "removing" their shoulderboards. Have them be called labor armies or something different.

[Kaunin] Unfortunately our economy cannot for now give up the services of military construction personnel, just as it also cannot transfer them for needs of the Ministry of Defense alone. And probably it will not be able to do this for a rather long time yet, although there are such ideas.

[Litovkin] Fine, but what is being done today to impose proper order in military construction units and curb the growth of crime in them?

[Kaunin] The Main Military Procuracy together with the USSR Procuracy (and I am speaking only about them) are adopting a broad set of specific measures to strengthen legality and law and order in military construction units subordinate to union and republic ministries and departments. It is simply impossible to mention them all. I will single out the main ones: we regularly hold procurator inspections in the military construction detachments. We have begun to react more sharply and promptly to every incident, we make a fundamental assessment of it, and we engage in preventive work. We rely on glasnost and openness in our actions. The upcoming Main Military Procuracy Collegium with invited heads of ministries and departments also is a specific link in achieving these goals.

In addition, we are petitioning the USSR Council of Ministers not to call persons who have had criminal records into the Army, establish not military, but labor obligation for them, and place them at the disposal of local soviets. Obligate ministers to immediately relocate military construction detachments from zones that are hazardous to life and create necessary conditions for their life and work in strict accordance with demands of military regulations. Ensure that there is a large amount of parallel work, in its absence transfer military construction units to the Ministry of Defense, and also legislatively tighten the Statute on Military Construction Personnel by writing a paragraph in it without fail about unconditional protection of individual rights and interests envisaged by the USSR Constitution.

Imposing order in military construction units working at construction sites of the national economy is a task not only of law-protection agencies, but of society as a whole.

Reader Suggests Subordination of Civil Defense to State Commission

*18010013 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 89 Morning Edition p 6*

[I. Mingalev: "What is to be Done With Civil Defense".]

[Text] I have worked in the civil defense system for a quarter of a century. [My] Respect for it is declining, as [my] military rank and salary grow. This is not because of the continuing secrecy of everything connected with civil defense. Indeed in the years of glasnost even the scope of finances earmarked for defense, the command-staff and the troop exercises of military districts, groups

and fleets have been disclosed. I do not think that in the civil defense system there should be more secrets, even from our own citizens.

A large amount has been written about this already, but changes for the better are not yet apparent. Fundamental changes are needed. I propose that the country's Civil Defense be removed from subordination to the Ministry of Defense and transferred to a USSR Council of Ministers State Commission for Emergencies. The staffs and sub-units, in my view, would be manned with people with, unlike [what we have] now, lower salaries. We don't need apparatchiks, but rather strong, mobile professionals.

However, in order to carry out this reorganization, a law on civil defense must be passed.

Conversion: Defense/Civilian Joint Stock Groups Proposed

90UM0021A Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Sep 89 p 1

[Article by A. Kusov, candidate of engineering: "Stocks for Conversion"]

[Text] The peaceful initiatives of the Soviet state, and the formation of new political thinking quite logically involve beneficial economic consequences. It is necessary to make able use of the situation. In the interests of society, the funds freed from expenditures for defense are to turn into real income and raise the level of wellbeing.

In 1988, a substantial quantity of consumer durables, for example, approximately 10 million television sets, 95 percent of all the Soviet-made refrigerators, 62 percent of the washing machines, and 69 percent of the vacuum cleaners, were produced in enterprises of defense branches of the country's industry.

Recently, the production of equipment for the fruit and vegetable, starch hydrolysis, macaroni and preserve industries has been given to Minaviaprom [Ministry of the Aviation Industry]; the production of assemblies and flow lines for processing of cattle and poultry, ice cream production, and the manufacture of metal can packaging to Minoboronprom [Ministry of the Defense Industry]; the development of equipment for milk processing to Minatomprom [Ministry of the Nuclear Power Industry]; and the production of equipment for the bakery products, sugar, pastry, yeast, and vegetable oil and fat industries to Minobshchemash [Ministry of General Machine Building]. Video tapes, laser disk players, and other electronics equipment comprise a substantial share in the production of new consumer goods by defense industry branches.

Moscow enterprises are faced with having to assimilate much of the above enumerated production, and those which are already engaged in manufacturing technical products of a non-defense nature for consumer goods must expand their production. But, as the saying goes, soon the tale will be told. You see, conversion is fraught with the need to carry out major organizational and technical measures, requiring substantial capital investments and time. Products that are economically advantageous to the defense enterprises are often unable to find consumers in Moscow, or to correspond to the actual needs of the city. What can be done here?

In my view, it seems advisable to create city joint stock societies, which unite the interests of enterprises in the defense and non-defense branches of industry, to accelerate and reduce the cost of the conversion processes. Profits from the sale of the product will be distributed in proportion to the contribution to the final product, and each enterprise can be a shareholder in several stock societies, involved with goods of different kinds.

Then enterprises producing, for example, electronic circuits, elements of cryogenic equipment, or microelectronic motors, will become not passive suppliers of parts, but active participants in the production of the end product, and interested in its sale in the city. Needless to say, this work must be appropriately stimulated by the Moscow City Ispolkom.

Scientific research institutes and design bureaus of defense branches, included in such societies as stockholders, will also be interested in maximum use of the capability of related branches, which are looking for and developing new consumer goods, and entirely civilian technological equipment. This promises them allowances from the sale of goods in the city.

The creation of joint stock societies may take place on the basis of a unique auction of the guaranteed long term needs of the capital for one or another product. In this case, it is not excluded that various joint stock societies will take up the production of competing models of goods. What if they do? Economic competition should only be welcomed. It is another matter that the city must not stimulate their total production (leading to delivery outside the Moscow region).

In a number of cases, enterprises of the city economy or non-defense branches, and in other cases defense industry branches, may act in the lead capacity in joint stock societies. Leadership would depend on the stock contribution, which is determined by functional and cost analysis of the production. In short, the most varied possibilities exist.

The sphere of activity of joint stock societies is determined by the actual tasks of the social and economic development of the city. This includes support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Program for Production of Consumer Goods in Moscow for the 19th Five Year Plan and until the Year 2000. In particular, I recall that it is anticipated that for 1990 the production of refrigerators will be increased to 295,000; that of radio receivers to 650,000; tape recorders to 285,000; television sets to 1,105,000 (including 725,000 color sets); washing machines to 310,000; furniture to the amount of up to 315 million rubles; enameled steel dishes up to 900 tons; games and New Year's tree decorations to the amount of up to 290 million rubles; and garden tools and implements to the amount of 26 million rubles. Taking into account that the program includes improving everyday electronic apparatuses, on the basis of using the latest achievements of microelectronics, organizing the series production of miniature stereophonic tape recorders, new generation color television sets with flat screens and stereophonic sound accompaniment, and many other things, the participation of enterprises in the defense branches of industry is becoming a most important factor in its realization.

The state, the city, and enterprises of all branches, I believe, are interested in the creation and functioning of joint stock societies. How is this beneficial to the state?

The production of consumer goods and other non-defense products will be organized quickly without substantial capital investments. Why must the city not stay on the sidelines? It provides for the output of products that are acutely needed by the population and the city economy.

The interests of the enterprises are that, owing to cooperation in production at specialized factories, the profitability of the end product will be higher than if it were produced in a single, non-specialized factory. Consequently, all stockholders will also receive higher profits.

The interests of the ministries and departments will not be set aside. Participation of their enterprises in joint stock societies will raise the share of consumer goods, as it is said, in the branch slice.

Joint stock societies can play an important role in implementation of "Progress-95," the comprehensive territorial-branch program for intensification of the social and economic development of the city, since output of products needed by the city is being achieved essentially by carrying out organizational measures, with minimal additional expenditures. I believe that from discussions about conversion and plans for its implementation, it is time to shift to action. Moscow residents, combining efforts regardless of departmental subordination, can and must set the example in this respect. And so, who is first?

Conversion Creates Problems at Leningrad Shipyards

90UM0021B Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 8 Sep 89 p 2

[Article by correspondents V. Ganshin and L. Frolov:
"Difficult Steps of Conversion"]

[Text] A building slip at which the din of metal is not heard, the fire of the electric welder is not seen—this rarely happens. Nevertheless, this picture can be observed on the Leningrad wharves. What happened?

Nothing has changed in the name of the Admiralteyskiy Association; however, this mighty shipbuilding firm, to use navy language, is sharply changing course. And not by its own choice. In the postwar decades several generations of great professionals were formed, who were equal to any task. And now, all at once, this is not so.

Many orders, which determine the prospects of the enterprise, one could say, until the end of the century, have been cancelled! This is true even though the laying down of these ships even took place, and orders were placed at other enterprises throughout the country for components; however, matters went no further. On the captain's bridge of the association is an understandable confusion. No, the Admiralteyskiy workers will not remain without work, but so many problems have arisen:

what to do with half-built ships, how to settle accounts with subcontractor enterprises, what to do to retain their unique cadres?

What is the reason for this situation? That can be answered in one word—conversion. The Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry has been given the mission to assimilate output of more than 900 types of new products. These include mechanized flow lines for the production of dry animal feeds and various foodstuffs, and packing assemblies. Other branches of industry have also received extensive tasks for output of non-military products, since production of weapons and military equipment is being reduced by 19.5 percent. Factories that have long worked on defense needs are becoming suppliers of equipment for the agro-industrial complex, light industry, trade, and public catering bodies. Output of consumer goods and medical equipment will be considerable.

The Admiralteyskiy workers are called upon to make an important contribution to this process. Under the new conditions, they are faced with undergoing a test of their stability. The fate of a number of ships, which have already taken on clear contours, has been decided. They will never traverse the sea lanes. Notifications obtained from purchasers were terse and specific: financing is ceasing. This was thunder out of a clear blue sky. Its "echo" is even now rolling about the shops, disrupting the customary working rhythm, and causing stresses in the brigades and sections. In general a tangle of problems was formed unexpectedly, and their solutions have not yet been found. An outflow of cadres began; invaluable specialists are leaving. The prestige of the association, which has built a multitude of ships of the most varied types and tonnages, is falling.

Having unleashed conversion, the shipbuilders were also confronted with another serious factor: how to find an equilibrium between the already partially displaced production and a new specialization, in no way associated with the building of ships.

The Leningrad workers were assigned, one might say in the fashion of a fire brigade, to begin series production of equipment for elevators and flour mills. We saw models of the new products; they are rather complex and labor intensive to manufacture. The Admiralteyskiy workers had no time for vacillation—it is necessary to deliver up to 50 such assemblies monthly. A completely unusual situation arose. An enterprise that had always produced "one-time" products—ships—was told to assimilate series output of mass machinebuilding production.

The shipbuilders, of course, are not against the reorientation to civilian products. Everyone with whom we spoke on the wharves was unanimous: it is a necessary and important matter, but it requires serious preparation, and we must not "turn around" by 180 degrees, while underway, production that took shape over decades, break the ties that have been set up, and destroy the technological rhythm.

"How are we to 'stay afloat' just the same, in this unbelievably complex situation? I will tell you frankly, only due to the overtime and material supplementation of those who began to work on the new products," states I. Litonov, association party committee secretary. "In a few days people cannot be retaught, new ones cannot be obtained, and this means that yesterday's slipway workers, for example, must transition to a shop. And this already involves a conflict. The fact is that the wage rates of workers employed directly in shipbuilding are 10 percent higher than those of persons working on machinebuilding orders. And then, the majority are confronting for the first time products not in our profile, and, therefore output falls and wages are reduced correspondingly. At the end of the month it is necessary to seek out additional sums to pay overtime workers.

In this situation the party committee must play an important role. Of course, the loss of wages is a painful matter, especially in the first stage of conversion. But, it is necessary that people understand that we are implementing our peace policy, not merely in words, but in deed. We affirm its principles not only at meetings, but in the factory shops, laboratories and design bureaus. Therefore, we are all conduits of conversion.

There is no dispute; someone must take the first steps. But, they must be well thought out, analyzed, and adjusted. It would be advisable, probably, to organize a specialized shop, which would have the appropriate equipment and accessories, for today the manufacture of components and units for flour mill assemblies is scattered in various sections, and often is semi-homemade in nature. As a result, parts wander from shop to shop, and there are no well set up technological chains for intra-factory ties. Part of the collective, apparently, should be fully oriented on the new type of state order. It is no less important to eliminate the gap in wages between the defense workers and their comrades who have "taken off the shoulder boards."

And it is most important, in solving the problems of conversion, to effectively redesign and refit the old plants. As it is picking up speed, the shipworkers have been forced to adjust substantially the quite recently approved shipbuilding program. The construction of fish industry bases and tankers is coming to the forefront. Output of consumer goods is being significantly expanded. The annual volume of their sale will exceed 15 million rubles.

The problems of the Admiralteyskiy workers are also quite familiar to other related enterprises in the city. Not long ago it was hard to imagine that the brand name of the famous shipbuilding association, Baltiyskiy Zavod, would appear on food kettles and machines for producing sausage, or that the Severnaya Verf factory had begun to produce products for the agrarian sector. And each of these collectives is experiencing similar difficulties, and the painful transition to the new tracks.

Round Table Discussion on Results, Profitability of Conversion

90UM0086B Leningrad *LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA* in Russian 2 Oct 89 p 2

[Round-table discussion by members of LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA Businessmen's Club, conducted by L. Ivankin and Ya. Strugach, under the rubric "The Businessmen's Club": "Levers and Incentives"]

[Text] **Probably no problem is more acute today than the shortage of consumer goods. It creates inflationary trends, social tensions and economic difficulties. The prolonged distortion in the development of branches in groups A and B has made itself felt. Capital investments in construction and reconstruction and in the updating of technology and equipment at light industry enterprises are still not producing a perceptible return. Furthermore, given the increasing consumer demand, it is doubtful that we shall totally eliminate the shortage in the near future.**

Attempts to rectify the situation, enlisting machine-building enterprises for the production of consumer goods, are not yet producing any big results. For purposes of encouraging increased consumer goods production the government has established a number of benefits for those who are successfully increasing their production rates.

The term "conversion"—that is, changes in the production structure of the defense industry branches—has come into widespread use of late. It is planned to increase their output of products for the people by reducing the production of military equipment and utilizing the available highly skilled cadres and the production base.

What have these steps produced? What contribution are the Leningrad enterprises of the machine-building and defense industries making to increased production, to the enlargement of the assortment and enhancement of the quality of goods for the people? What is hampering things? What economic and legal mechanisms are necessary? These questions were discussed at a regular session of *LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA'S* Businessman's Club in which directors and specialists from a number of city enterprises took part.

[N.A. Ignatyev, first secretary of the Oktyabrskiy Rayon CPSU Committee] The subject of discussion is naturally of concern to all of us. I would like to share the information I possess as chairman of the commission set up by the CPSU oblast committee to study the situation of consumer goods production at nonspecialized enterprises. Today the defense enterprises alone turn out more than 1 billion rubles worth of goods annually, and the average annual growth rate is as high as 20%.

Leningrad's industry as a whole produced 3.88 rubles worth of consumer goods per ruble of wages during the first quarter of 1989. There are many enterprises with a considerably higher figure, but there are also many at which consumer goods account for a minuscule portion of output.

While consumer goods production grew by 6% last year, however, the monetary income of the population doubled on average. Industry is clearly not satisfying the needs of the consumer market. This trend is intensifying. The population's income grew by 15.8% during the first quarter, for example, while the increase in goods amounted to only 3.5%.

Production will have to be increased several times over in order to saturate the market. And basic changes are essential throughout the entire production and sales chain in order to achieve this.

[B.N. Taller, chief engineer at the Machine Building Association imeni Ya.M. Sverdlov] Our collective still has nothing to brag about in this respect. We produce 13.6 kopecks worth of consumer goods per ruble of wages. A shortage of production space is the cause. The construction of an electronics plant is currently being completed in the Parnas Industrial Zone, to be sure. A single engineering and production system is being set up there for turning out consumer goods, which will house production, design, technological and economic services. It is planned to initiate the production of personal computers, electronic toys, metal furniture components and plastic items in the new area. This will make it possible in 3-4 years to produce almost 13 million rubles worth of TNP [consumer goods], which is four times the present amount.

There is a realistic possibility of increasing the output of the highly popular all-purpose woodworking lathes from 3,000 to 5,000 within the near future. I am reluctant to make any guarantees, however. The supply of assembly parts is still very poor, after all. The Poltava plant, for example, cut our order by 1,600 motors. Just tell me how we are to work our way out of the situation under these circumstances.

In general, almost every enterprise in Leningrad involved in the production of household equipment experiences a constant shortage of electric motors. I believe that the program for regional economic accountability should provide for the construction of an electric motor plant to meet the needs of Leningrad's industry.

Here is another thought. We all know that many enterprises are taking a risk in setting up or increasing the production of consumer goods, since they are not certain that their plans will be backed up with a reliable supply of materials and equipment. And progress will be slow until the Leningrad Supply Administration guarantees the provision of everything necessary for the production of consumer goods.

[V.P. Zanin, general director of the Signal Association] As long as I can recall being in management I have heard appeals to increase the production of consumer goods, but the matter nonetheless just squeaks along. All admonitions are useless until economic mechanisms are activated.

To improve the financial situation in the nation I recommend that the state borrow from the enterprises and from citizens the amount necessary to cover the deficit in the

state budget not backed up with available goods, and at a higher interest rate than that set by the Savings Bank. Furthermore, it should revise the methods for ascertaining profits and regard them as the difference between all revenues and all outlays. This would make it possible to eliminate the frequently unrecognized padding.

Furthermore, the subsidies received by the producers for so-called cheap production should be distributed directly to the consumers. It is hopeless to attempt to saturate the market with consumer goods while the inflationary processes exit.

The production of these goods should be advantageous not just to the enterprise as a whole, but also to the actual people who produce them. What we have is this, however. If a person produces 10 items and receives 10 rubles, his earnings are increased by only 2-3 rubles if he doubles that.

Wages must grow at the same rate as output. With the existing system for determining labor productively, it makes no economic sense to stress outstripping rates of growth for this indicator over rates of growth for wages.

Another thing. I propose abolishing the mandatory revision of quotas and rates. The fear that they can be cut at any time does nothing to stimulate labor enthusiasm. It is frequently an actual retardant to the development of technological progress. The decision to revise them should be at the discretion of the labor collective.

[A.P. Korolev, general director of the Almaz Association] As an experiment we have decided to leave the scheduled basic cost of production at the same level for several years for the production of consumer goods. Automation has been introduced, more products are being turned out and profits have increased, but we do not touch them. They remain at the disposal of the collective and are distributed at its discretion, whether as bonuses or for the further development of production. The worker now has a direct interest in turning out more products and is not afraid that the rates will be cut. And he no longer has any reason to keep his own professional secrets from others.

We do a very poor job of getting to the bottom of our own internal problems. Right now we are most concerned about relations with the suppliers. All of our good intentions are frustrated by the adverse supply situation. We should expect the situation to grow worse as a result of the establishment of taxes on the wage fund, and enterprises producing parts for consumer goods or materials will stop building up production.

[V.D. Pishkov, deputy general director for economics at the Association imeni Kozitskiy] We constantly come up against this problem. I do not recall a year in which we received everything we were supposed to from the stocks. We now have a realistic possibility of increasing the output of television sets but are being held up by a lack of assembly parts. We now have a fourth generation of fine colored television sets almost ready to go into

regular production. We have been able to make only a few experimental sets, however. When the new product goes into regular production basically depends upon the supply of assembly parts. We could somehow provide an incentive for our subcontractors. As a temporary measure, for example, we could send our sets to them for sale in their collectives. We do not have the right to do this, however, since all of our output must be turned over to the trade system. We are told that we can dispose of everything over and above the plan as we see fit. But we barely scrape together enough assembly parts for the volumes specified in the plan.

Let us say that we increase our present volume by 50,000-100,000 sets. The immediate question then is whether the Leningraders will benefit from the increase.

The fact is that our wholesale trade component distributes the association's products throughout the nation, "from Moscow to the very hinterland," as they say. Only about 10% of the television sets produced by the Association imeni Kozitskiy remain in Leningrad. The customer can choose a product from some other television plant in the nation, to be sure, but what sense does that make? Given the present enormous demand, there is no competition. The servicing and repair of the equipment is deteriorating drastically, however.

I see the extensive development of proprietary trade as the solution. Only with great difficulty were we able to set up our own store in Leningrad. Transportation costs and damage to the sets were drastically reduced as a result, since they are competently prepared before leaving the association for the trade system. The warranty service is also far better in this situation. We are prepared to open a number of other proprietary stores in Leningrad, but the trade system has other interests.

[A.P. Korolev] I would call this "dictate by the trade system." They are already beginning "to twist our arms" at the wholesale fairs. They either refuse without adequate justification to accept that which they themselves have recommended or, under the pretext of protecting consumer interests, impose delivery volumes which they know in advance cannot be met. The solution is simple. Apply toward the commodity turnover target fines for failure to live up to the terms of the agreement. There may be no goods on the shelf, but the trade system will not be the loser. It is our opinion that agreements on deliveries of consumer goods should be based on what the industrial enterprises can provide and not on the demands of the trade system. The enterprise should be authorized to conclude agreements with the trade system for no more than 75% of the total state order for the production of consumer goods, the rest being sold on the open market as above-plan output.

A new product frequently does not reach the consumer just because the enterprises and the trade system cannot reach agreement on prices. We thought about producing commemorative serving tables. We calculated how much their production would cost the enterprise itself. The

total cost of purchased parts amounted to at least 80 rubles, and we suggested a retail price of 100 rubles. Representatives of the trade system said, cutting the price: "We will not take them at more than 50 rubles." We suggested offering at least a small batch of them for sale in order to test customer response. The trade workers absolutely refused, however, and were not even interested in the opinion of consumers. Perhaps the price would have been acceptable. After all, these are not everyday products, but items for aficionados, so to speak.

We believe that authority to set prices for new products, regardless of which department the enterprise producing them is under, should be the prerogative only of the corresponding executive committee of the soviet of people's deputies, where this matter should be conclusively decided with the assistance of skilled specialists.

[V.V. Kotylevskiy, chief of the consumer goods section of the Znamya Truda Association] I want to return to the problem of wholesale fairs already mentioned. We are forced to participate in them, although there is nothing for us to do there. We know in advance that the trade system will purchase everything, demand an additional volume over and above all our production capabilities and then send us schedules indicating where to send the products, and how many. I believe that prior to attending an All-Union fair, we need to first hold a Leningrad fair arranged by the executive committee. We would then know what the city needs.

The same with prices. We need to take into account the fact that changes are constantly occurring. The representative of the Association imeni Kozitskiy just said that their television set has finally become profitable. But what are we to do in the case of production of boat anchors which sell for 4 rubles, while our production cost is 8 rubles? This product became unprofitable for us when we began producing it out of steel instead of the cast iron previously used. I could cite many such examples. As you know, we are facing substantial changes in the price structure, which is an objective process. If the price policy remains unchanged, however, we shall not benefit. Particularly since the trade system has no incentive to lower prices.

How are we to increase output. I believe that expanding cooperation within the Leningrad area is one way. Our association presently produces 50 kopecks worth of goods for the people per ruble of wage fund. We shall increase their output and master the production of gardening items and stainless steel thermoses. We want to set up the production of all sorts of kitchen equipment. We immediately encounter difficulties in setting up the operation, however. Here is a simple example. When we decided to make plastic children's sleighs we had to prepare a fairly large die. I am ashamed to say that preparations for the production of this item took 5 years.

[N.A. Ignatyev] The Metalloposuda Association waited more than 2 years for an ordinary teapot handle.

[V.V. Kotylevskiy] In general, the manufacture of such tools is the problem of problems for most Leningrad enterprises. We must have a specialized tool plant. This matter was raised many years ago, and it has still not lost its urgency.

Cooperation needs to be organized on a qualitatively new basis. We made an attempt together with Elektrosila to produce electric meat grinders. We were prepared to make certain parts, deliver them to Elektrosila in exchange for assembly parts and then assemble the entire product. Several months have gone by, however, and the Elektrosila people have not yet provided the necessary drawings. We need electric motors for dishwashers, for example. It was suggested that we set up their production, but the suggestion was rejected. We are now working out an alternative, setting up production of the motors at a plant in Gusev, Kaliningrad Oblast, particularly since the collective there wants the plant to become a part of the Tekhnokhim MGO [not further identified]. These are all future plans, however. I support the suggestion that we need to build in Leningrad a plant specializing in the production of electric motors for household equipment. It could provide a great many [enterprises] with its products. I believe that the Leningrad Executive Committee should establish a situation most conducive to the building of an enterprise amenable to the production of electric motors for household equipment.

[B.N. Taller] We also feel the dictate of the trade system. We expend an extremely significant amount for each woodworking lathe we produce, which provides only 3-4 rubles in profit. We could rectify this situation somewhat by arranging for direct sales of the products through our own store. The trade system is afraid of losing the trade discount received from the enterprise, however, and rejects our suggestion. But then we ourselves are not overly enthusiastic about making a product which actually does not earn enough to cover the production costs.

[I.G. Rekord, director of the Scientific Consultation Center at the Finance and Economics Institute imeni N.A. Voznesenskiy] This occurs because our trade system is actually the distributor of the goods. It should be a commercial enterprise, however. Let us say that slow-moving goods have accumulated at the bases. The manufacturers can be blamed. But then they received orders for the product. They sold it to the wholesale purchaser. So he should be responsible for what he bought and cover losses out of his own funds. Today, the trade system bears practically no liability for not studying demand or for orders compiled "by cursory estimate." It zealously rails at the suppliers, however.

When a producer begins preparations for production he must have a good idea of precisely what products the consumer needs, how many and at what price, where to obtain the production documents, and so forth. In other words, he has to engage directly in marketing.

I have been working for several months now on the adoption of a system of economic incentives for consumer goods production at the Kirovskiy Zavod, I encountered these questions from the very beginning. The system itself was recently described in LENIN-GRADSKAYA PRAVDA, and I want to stress once more the fact that we would hardly have been able to do anything at the Kirovskiy Zavod if our relations with the trade component had not been changed.

[V.L. Turkin, chief engineer for the Nevskiy Zavod Association imeni V.I. Lenin] The marketing service needs to be developed as extensively as possible, of course. Unfortunately, we are frequently forced to reinvent the wheel, even though there are scientific organizations, as an example, which could work out the technology and the design according to our orders and help with other specific matters. The Nevskiy Zavod intends to increase the output of consumer goods 2.5-fold during the next 5-year period (we now produce 23 kopecks worth of goods per ruble of wages). We manufacture 23 different products and many things out of the byproducts. We have also begun producing medical items and a considerable quantity of laboratory equipment meeting foreign standards.

It is the usual situation, incidentally. The vessels designated for use on electric burners must have a reinforced bottom and an exceptionally smooth surface. This means that we need a special technology which we have never before used in our main production operation. Someone has it, though. Someone is using it, but we have to invent it anew.

[G.S. Khizha, general director of the Svetlana Association] Unfortunately, we have to overcome enormous difficulties and obstacles to get anything done, although there are many interesting ideas today. The Svetlana recently succeeded in resolving one extremely important, fundamental problem. The State Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers approved our suggestions for increasing the firm collective's incentive to produce consumer goods. As of now all profits from production over and above the yearly level (this year is the base year) will remain at the enterprise at the disposal of the collectives which earn them. And the Svetlana has received authority to dispose of this profit at the discretion of the STK [not further identified]. In addition, we are opening another account at the bank, and earnings from the sale of consumer goods will go into it.

And so, part of the goods we produce will go to our proprietary store, and the earnings from them will go into the aforementioned account. This money will go to the shop collectives, which will set up the necessary funds and settle with the subcontractors. They will also take wages from it, which will be paid out only after the goods have actually been sold. Essentially, shops producing consumer goods are receiving the same economic rights and benefits as those enjoyed by the cooperatives. I am convinced that this is one of the most important mechanisms we need today for developing initiative in the state enterprises.

Since the additional goods produced will be sold through our own Svetlana trade system, the amount of the trade discount will be added to the profits. A council of the labor collective will decide how the income is to be used. I would point out that this income, made up of ready money from the population, contains not a kopeck of so-called non-cash, "dead" money whose conversion into "live" money is today rightly named as one of the main sources of the advancing inflation. The STK is authorized to channel the money acquired into any of three economic incentive funds.

And a few more thoughts. About price setting. Unlike the cooperatives, which perform work and services based on prices and rates established independently by agreement with the consumers, we plan to sell the additional output of consumer goods at state prices—at agreed-upon retail prices based on calculated outlays only in the absence of these. This rules out the possibility of arbitrarily raising prices and speculating on the interplay of supply and demand.

The wages paid to workers employed in the production of consumers goods or providing paid services for the population have to pass through subcontracting sections, shops and collectives, which will increase responsibility and material incentives to achieve good end results at minimal cost.

In addition, part of the additional funds are to be centralized and used as bonuses for workers, specialists and managers in other subdivisions for making timely preparations for consumer goods production and developing new products and as incentives for the labor collectives of construction enterprises and organizations providing the raw and processed materials and assembly parts necessary for their production. After all, as has been correctly stressed here, it is difficult to count on success in this area without an economic incentive for our subcontractors.

The growth of wages under this system will strictly correspond to the growth of production. The accumulation of funds in a separate account will also promote their goal-oriented use for developing consumer goods and services and tooling up for their production.

The participants of the Businessmen's Club believe:

- that a number of fundamental economic, technological and organizational measures are needed for drastically increasing the output of consumer goods, enlarging the assortment and improving their quality;
- that limitations on wages for the producers of consumer goods must be lifted when this is not the main production line at the enterprise;
- that it would be expedient to begin setting prices for all new goods at the Leningrad City Executive Committee, bypassing the State Committee on Prices and other organization;
- that the Leningrad Main Supply Administration is obligated to create a situation of priority for supplying the consumer goods industry with the necessary equipment and spare parts and to introduce the unlimited and unfunded release of materials and assembly parts for specific purposes;
- that the consumer goods production base needs to be strengthened; specifically, the need has arrived to build a specialized tool plant and an enterprise for the production of electric motors for household appliances;
- that we must develop and intensify in every way cooperation in the production of consumer goods within the Leningrad area;
- that we must grant enterprises the authority to exchange consumer goods produced over and above the plan through direct contacts;
- that we should study the experience of the Svetlana and Kirovskiy Zavod associations in the development of an economic policy aimed at further encouraging consumer goods production and take steps toward its extensive dissemination based on the specific circumstances of each enterprise;
- that we need to organize a unified service for the study of competition and demand in the consumer market in the Leningrad area;
- that each enterprise should have a comprehensive program for the development of new types of products and for increasing output to more fully satisfy consumer demand;
- that it is very important, as the participants in the Businessmen's Club stressed, to regularly publicize positive experience acquired at specific enterprises and how they succeed in overcoming departmental and bureaucratic barriers on the way to the consumer; the editors accept these proposals and intend to continue monitoring problems involved in consumer goods production.

Consumer Goods Production from Ministry of Defense

90UM0083B Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 5 Oct 89 p 2

[Interview with Army Gen V.M. Arkhipov, deputy USSR minister of defense and chief of rear service of the USSR Armed Forces, by Vil. Niyazmatov, Moscow, under the rubric "An Important Interview": "Military Plants—Civilian Goods"]

[Text] The inter-republic consumer goods wholesale fair has ended in Moscow. The USSR Ministry of Defense was among the ministries and departments offering their products there. This was the subject of an interview with Army Gen V.M. Arkhipov, deputy USSR minister of

defense and chief of rear services of the USSR Armed Forces, by our correspondent.

[Niyazmatov] Vladimir Mikahaylovich, the Armed Forces and consumer goods. Does this not seem like a strange connection at first?

[Arkhipov] It would indeed have appeared extremely unnatural 2 years or so ago. Our ministry's enterprises had only thoroughly departmental assignments. Clearly recognizing the situation in the nation, however, we are more and more vigorously engaging in providing the nation's population with quality goods. For this purpose we thoroughly studied all of the capabilities of our enterprises and compiled a specific list of goods which could be sold in the state trade sector. Last year we produced 80 million rubles worth of these commodities, but that is only the beginning.

[Niyazmatov] What do your department's enterprises produce today?

[Arkhipov] The list is a long one. Suffice it to say that the list of goods for 1988 contained around 1,000 items. I shall name a few of them: various household goods and dishes, all sorts of locks, hardware, gardening tools and accessories, radio equipment, electrical household good, prefabricated garden sheds, construction materials, various knitwear and woolen items, footwear, office supplies.... In short, that which is in great demand today.

[Niyazmatov] How is the production of these goods distributed among the military districts? What guidelines does a certain district follow, for example, in planning the production of thoroughly "civilian" goods at military enterprises? Have they taken into account consumer demand and the needs of the population?

[Arkhipov] The distribution of production was not made "blindly," of course, and certainly was not dictated in orders. The work was coordinated with the local soviets in all the districts. Representatives of the rayon and city executive committees and oblast soviets of people's deputies visited our enterprises, where they specifically discussed what the given region needed most. Stable "specialization" has now been specified for the production of goods at enterprises of specific districts. In the Far East and the Transcaucasus, for example, they set up production of fur items and concluded agreements on their delivery to the trade system. Upholstered furniture is produced at a ship repair plant in the Baltic. Our enterprises in the Baltic area have set up the production of all sorts of dishes, an auto repair plant in Zaporozhye delivers trailers for passenger cars to the trade system and a construction combine in Kaliningrad (Moscow Oblast) provides the population with various lumber products. At the request of the local soviets in the Turkistan District, we are producing the special hoes used in the region, shovels, handcarts and wheelbarrows.

Popular items include children's toys, hammocks, sporting goods, plumbing supplies, bicycles.... In short, our enterprises will produce 160 million rubles worth of

consumer goods this year. The figure will almost double, to 300 million rubles, next year. Incidentally, I recently visited our enterprises in the Ukraine, in Novgorod and Pskov oblasts and in the Baltic region, where we reached agreement with local authorities on the list of items to be produced in the future.

This consumer goods fair was of great benefit to us. We not only showed our products to others, but, most important, we had an opportunity to see what the enterprises of various ministries and departments are producing. It is important, after all, that there be no unneeded duplication. We also concluded a number of agreements on cooperation at the fair. For example, we are to be provided with raw materials, in exchange for which we shall provide finished products.

[Niyazmatov] Will the production of consumer goods not affect the fulfillment of purely defense plans?

[Arkhipov] We are performing this work without detriment to our main function. It is important to note first of all that we are producing all of the products to be sold through the trade system by economizing, seeking additional material and financial means and utilizing secondary resources. We have also begun building up enterprise capacities and have converted many of them to a double-shift operation. Labor productivity too is being increased by making extensive use of material and moral incentives. For example, we permit the workers at our enterprises to purchase the products they produce with cash. We see the enlistment of the wives of officers and warrant officers in the production of consumer goods as another source of manpower. We arrange for them to work at home, particularly on the production of sewn goods, as well as other items.

Conversion: Missile Design Bureau Producing Washing Machines

90UM0031B Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
6 Oct 89 Second Edition p 8

[Article by PRAVDA Correspondent Yu. Shcherbinin, Volgograd: "Barrikady Is on that Side: Complete Secrecy"]

[Text] The Americans helped me get into a "closed" enterprise. Yes, this is just how it happened: The Americans opened the path into this enterprise to Soviet journalists. Two years ago they would not let me past the entrance. They convinced me: It was impossible to even mention the Barrikady enterprise in vain! But a year later, military inspectors from the U.S. headed by General R. Lajois, having arrived at the city on the Volga, "searched" this same Barrikady [enterprise] from head to foot.

By that time, in the words of the American General, "the most unique medium range missiles in the world" were already being destroyed at the Kapustin Yar test range.

The SS-20 launch complex is now a missile weapons museum exhibit. It also opened last year at Kapustin

Yar. And if Designer Valerian Sobolev wants to recall his youth, he travels a little more than 100 kilometers from Volgograd to this military test range where the first ballistic missile was launched and where the brainchildren of his SS-20 Central Design Bureau are now being systematically destroyed.

Valerian Sobolev, middle age and average height, is unusually authoritative. He has the ability to listen to whom he is talking with and, what is 100 times better, to precisely formulate his thoughts and make a sound decision, advantages which always distinguish an intelligent man. Sobolev had a worthy opponent during the Congress of People's Deputies elections—a professor of a polytechnic institute. A Colleague. Valerian Markovich is also a doctor of science and a professor. Until recently, he combined the work of chief designer at Barrikady with that of department chairman at a polytechnic institute.

Deputy business forced him to sacrifice the department chairman's position although he continues to "advise" degree seekers. All members of his family, his wife, son, and daughter, are engineers. This happy family regards its head without deep emotion but with a sufficient amount of adoration to help in everything.

Having become a people's deputy, Sobolev did not change his telephone number but he turns off his home telephone after 23:00 hours. In the eyes of the bureaucratic system, he remains a closed chief designer for whom even travel to a socialist country as a member of a delegation is a problem.

But recently Sobolev found the time to meet with a PRAVDA correspondent. I cannot judge just what played the deciding role—glasnost or the chief designer's prestige at the rank of people's deputy. One way or another, I was allowed onto the plant's ground in my car and was cheerfully shown the road to the designers building, respectfully emphasizing: "He is going to see Sobolev." It is true that passage at each point was recorded by guards who passed me from hand to hand. The transmission conveyer also misfired just at the stairs leading directly to TsKB [Central Design Bureau].

"You are going to see Sobolev?" The guard was surprised. "That is not permitted."

I am familiar with this type of people. It is useless to argue. It is senseless to argue that you are not interested in special weapons. But suddenly the closed communications began operating and the guard saluted.

Of course, I was quite interested in finding out what replaced the SS-20. I looked into the assembly shops and talked with workers and testers. But conversion proposes acquainting journalists with the past in the defense industry and only to some degree with its future civilian direction.

Sobolev's intellect has also been subjected to conversion. He spent more time during the last year on the civil than on the defense industry. Is this beneficial for the country? I do not know. Another thing is indisputable,

our market really needs the washing machines designed by the TsKB defense enterprise.

The splendid technical data, 39 programmed operating modes, reliability, and universal application of the washing robot brought the Volgograd Ivolga to a higher level than the Vyatka-Avtomat which is popular in the Soviet Union. The new machine is also cheaper. For purchasers. And the enterprise will be given minus 1.5 million rubles just this year for the washing machine. The powerful in intellect and technical level Barrikady Association, capable of producing truly unique special weapons, turned out to be helpless with regard to home appliances.

The discussion of the planning bodies: If this can be, then the washing machine is based solely on speculative calculations. Having confounded Barrikady by conversion to the level of washing machines, the defense workers collective and the economy as a whole will be placed in a disadvantageous position. Just to give the enterprise a somewhat civilian view, one of the special weapons is being transferred to a native enterprise thousands of kilometers away. The assembly shop thus being vacated is being reconfigured to produce washing machines. Prospects: Next year, 50,000 units and two years from now, 100,000 units. We all know that complicated home appliances become profitable when millions are produced.

"If that were the future," says V. Sobolev, "we would have designed a machine at the highest world level, for example, with the use of a computer. But the machine would cost about 900 rubles with a thousand unit production. Once again trifles. One hundred thousand washing machines over the next two years are not even enough for Volgograd Oblast. But the command system is strong and very fundamental.

Sobolev proposed:

"We do not need restructuring. Give us the Volgograd Krasnaya Zarya Plant which will specialize in first generation washing machines. We will give the enterprise new life. We will increase the technology two fold and we will increase power several times over...."

The owner of the plant—Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry—does not at all agree. They say they need the plant! It may be a poor one but this little box with a water area is a shortage item today.

The 175,000 "Volzhankas" are being not delayed in stores. Does that mean chase junk while there is a demand?

"We basically have an incorrect approach to home appliances," S. Frolikov, department chief of the Ministry of the Defense Industry, is convinced. "Production of these same washing machines must be oriented on the growth of the housing industry. You understand that a gas stove, sink, and washing machine must also be considered as necessary attributes of a new apartment."

I understand. Moreover, I see: This relationship to the introduction of housing gives rise to long term orders for

production of washing machines. That means we cannot get by with converted shops—we need plants. Today the most effective path is to buy licenses, build plants, and produce needed “appliances.”

Where do we get hard currency? V. Sobolev has his opinion on this score. He has developed several types of machinery for the national economy based on a missile launcher. One of them is a pile driver. It is unique, there is no similar apparatus. I will not rave about its advantages, I will only say: It will cost about 800,000 dollars on the world market.

Another example is a logrolling machine—230,000 dollars. We are proposing production of several types of special machinery for emergency situations, fire fighting equipment, and equipment safes. All of these are really unique, there is a huge demand, and they will be very expensive.

“By next year we will already be able to sell 10 machines of any type,” says V. Sobolev. “Let us say that we purchase 400,000 washing machines in Japan with the hard currency we earn. Everything, without additional expenditures, without lowering main production. And the main thing is that we will not need to transfer highly skilled experts to the assembly line. Another alternative is to acquire a plant.”

I do not think that the chief designer wants to barricade Barrikady from consumer goods. A man of business and the future, he is seeking more rational and beneficial solutions to the problem. First of all we need a conversion of thinking to do this. Not a battle cry but an organized beginning must be the foundation of the new movement.

“Unfortunately, there is no active conversion center in the country,” V. Sobolev is convinced. “No one is engaged in distributing or coordinating orders. This same Barrikady is supposed to manufacture one of six automatic production line machines to produce canned goods. And who will make the other five? How will they interface?”

Lapygin on Size of Defense-Industrial Sector

90UM0031C Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA
INDUSTRIYA in Russian 7 Oct 89 p 1

[Article by M. Rostarchuk: “Committee on Issues of Defense and State Security”]

[Text] Just what is the defense industry, what does it produce, and what does it take away? While opening a committee meeting at which we discussed the defense sector’s contribution to the nation’s economy based on conversion within the framework of Gosplan-90 [State Plan-90], V. Lapygin, its chairman, reported these data. The defense sector’s production fund is 6.4 percent of the cost of all of these funds throughout the nation. In 1989, the military industrial sector will consume 12.1 percent of national income. But at the same time, this year the ratio of civilian production to the defense sector will total 41 percent, next year 49.2 percent, and in 1995 already 60 percent. These are planned conversion points.

V. Smyslov, first deputy chairman of USSR Gosplan, acquainted the deputies with details of the plan for civilian production at defense sector enterprises.

The decision was made to curtail deliveries of obsolete types of combat equipment and weapons. And, at the same time, to reorient a portion of military production at 400 of this sector’s enterprises to civilian needs. Conversion costs money, it will cost five billion rubles next year but it will provide more than 39.9 billion rubles worth of consumer goods (a growth of 10.1 billion rubles) and a profit of two billion rubles. A characteristic detail—more than one ruble’s worth of production is output per ruble of capital investment funds paid into the defense sector. I also need to say that today the defense sector produces all televisions, 97 percent of the tape recorders (including video recorders), a significant portion of refrigerators, washing machines, and motor units. But the issue is something else, this is very little.

Despite the convincing contribution, the Gosplan report resulted in a number of serious comments among the deputies. The first issue, provision of resources, raised doubts. Second. Much of which is “hung” on defense plants does not correspond to their specialization. Thus, maybe we should approach the problem in a different way, the deputies asked? Increase output of that production specialization which corresponds to the world level, sell it on the world market and, with the hard currency obtained, purchase either licenses or consumer goods which have already long been superbly produced in other countries.

Deputies Academician Ye. Velikhov and IL [Ilyushin] Chief Designer G. Novozhilov said in this regard that we all need to once again weigh: An IL-76 costs 6.7 million rubles [to manufacture] but [sells for] 25-30 million convertible rubles on the world market and we could purchase several hundred thousand personal computers or video recorders for this sum. The aircraft builders are being forced to produce refrigerators or looms although they need to manufacture aircraft—civil, various, small or large, both for us and for export. This is more profitable.

Motor Vehicle Repair Enterprise Producing Furniture

90UM0031A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
10 Oct 89 First Edition p 2

[Article by Reserve Colonel F. Semyanovskiy, Moscow Military District: “Furniture from a Repair Plant”]

[Text] Previously this enterprise was exclusively engaged in repairing automobiles. Right now the main production has been crowded together in the shops. A place has been freed up for other production: Upholstered furniture that there is a shortage of in the nation.

“When we began producing furniture,” Plant Chief Colonel S. Kuzkin says with a smile, “we of course did not have any experience. We only had a plan for producing 170,000 rubles worth of consumer goods. We could not get drawings or equipment anywhere. So we started by buying

a sofa at a commission store. We disassembled it, studied the technology of manufacturing it, and we developed our item. As it turned out, it in no way lags behind those manufactured at special enterprises.”

They had to purchase the fabric which is so necessary for producing upholstered furniture through the Oblast Administration of Gosstab. The plant concluded an agreement with a furniture factory located hundreds of kilometers from the enterprise to acquire porolon and particle board. Material suppliers were also found for seat covers for Zhiguli, Moskvich, and Volga light automobiles. They are also manufactured here.

It is true that the question is reasonably raised at the plant that this practice is dangerous and that at any time there may not be sufficient component materials for production. But, be that as it may, today the plant is already manufacturing 15-20 suites of upholstered furniture per month. It is being sold in garrison military exchange stores by contract.

Defense Industry Converting to Farm Machinery Production

904B0041A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Oct 89 Second Edition p 1

[Article by N. Zheleznov, TASS columnist: “How the Program Is Being Fulfilled”]

[Text] The state program announced in 1987 for providing new equipment for the processing branches of the agro-industrial complex is growing stronger but not at rates that would make it possible next year to remove the strain in the supply of food products. That is the general tone of the meeting held on 11 October by the State Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers on Military-Industrial Questions at which discussions were held on the contribution of the defense branches of industry to the development of the agro-industrial complex.

The country has been creating a defense capability over many decades, not taking costs and expenditures into account. The Soviet people denied themselves a lot of things, and now they have a right to count on a return from this sector of the economy and on its help in resolving perestroika's important social tasks. Managers of branches who spoke at the meeting, reporting on the progress of fulfillment of the program for this year, cited what appeared to be comforting data on the amount of new equipment for milk plants and refrigerators, and for vegetable storage facilities and grain combines. But all of their speeches, strange as it may seem, ended with one refrain: if something did not go right, then the parts producing factories were to blame. The USSR Ministry of General Machine Building was instructed, for example, to create a large series complex for the production of powdered potatoes. Everyone knows that potatoes are the main item of our losses in vegetable stores. But very few know that in our country only 1.5 percent of the tubers go into processing, while in the United States 50 percent of the tubers are processed. Six plants, which

obligated themselves to establish enterprises in the ministry next year, must increase the percentage of potatoes processed in the country by a factor of 6 immediately.

Indeed, our space industry is ready to accomplish such a “revolution” on the store counters, just as it is completely within the power of the heads of former rocket shops to equip milk plants with first-class equipment for the output of homogenized milk, to create series production of cereal mini-plants, and to arrange an all-union conveyor line for the output of Russian meat dumplings. But as was shown in the discussion, in which, in addition to members of the state commission, managers of enterprises, chief designers, and party committee secretaries took part, the linkup of the defense complex with science and the practical work of the processing branch is slipping now not because of the technological design part, but rather because of the paper bureaucracy. I.S. Belousov, the chairman of the state commission and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, emphasized that the defense complex is able fully and in time to insure a sharp change for the better in the harvest processing industry. All that has to be done, he said, is to adopt emergency measures today that correspond to that tense situation that has developed in the country in foodstuffs.

But emergency measures, a list of which is shown in the resolution adopted at the meeting, first and foremost affect thousands of people—engineers and workers who, even without this, are experiencing great difficulties in the conditions of converting defense branches to peaceful production, arranging new production, and mastering new professions. Many of them know what continuous work for several days in a row means before turning over an important defense order. And now, as a representative of the city of Votkinsk assured the members of the commission, the people are ready to work because of the cause which is so important for perestroika. But to maintain their enthusiasm and to stimulate their efforts under conditions of the recent tax on the wage fund becomes rather difficult.

Under these conditions, the participants of the meeting emphasized, a special responsibility rests with the party committees of the ministries, enterprises, NII (scientific research institutes), and KBs (design bureaus) of the defense industry.

O.D. Baklanov and Ye.S. Stroyev, secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the meeting.

Missile Refueling Vehicles Sold in Civilian Economy

90UM0086A Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 15 Oct 89 p 1

[Article by Yu. Shevchenko: “The Military Equipment Changes Professions”]

[Text] Specialists with the Odeskhimnabsbyt Administration have put a military aircraft refueler to civilian use. The tractor-trailer unit, switched from its military

"occupation," was sent with a load of liquid chemicals to enterprises in the southern area of the republic.

Made of stainless steel, the tank makes a good container for hauling chemicals. Previously, for each such trip, it was necessary to specially rig the vehicle, instruct the driver, work out and coordinate the route with GAI [State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate] workers. All of these problems have now been eliminated. The large refueler can transport seven tons of cargo at one time with no extra trouble.

"We also recently purchased several missile refueling vehicles which had been turned over to lessees," B.M. Kolisnichenko, chief of the Odeskhimsnabsbyt Administration, said. "We are now using these large containers as a permanent transshipment base for various substances.

Since the beginning of the conversion in the Odessa Military District a lot of other equipment has been freed and is being reassigned for use in the national economy. Hundreds of motor vehicles, electric welders and machine tools have already been transferred from the military units.

Kiev MD: Diversifying Sources of Goods for Military Stores

*90UM0083A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
1 Nov 89 First Edition p 4*

[Article by TASS correspondent N. Zaika: "'Medicine' for the Shortage"]

[Text] Workers with the Trade Directorate of the Kiev Military District have come up with a reliable method of taming the jinni called "shortage." They are filling the shelves of stores under its jurisdiction, which have been fairly empty of late, by means of decentralized procurements and local sources.

Commercial links with trade firms of Mongolia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Pakistan, with the Khabarovsk Kray Union of Fishing Cooperatives, with defense industry enterprises and cooperatives of the Ukraine and the Baltic area have made it possible to come up with an additional 90 million rubles worth of goods during 8 months of this year alone. This is more than 18% of the annual commodity turnover. From their partners the military entrepreneurs procure carpeting, fur products, sewn goods and leather clothing, household goods and radio equipment, knitwear, perfumes, toys, fish products, animal fats, canned goods and so forth. They provide in return consumer goods manufactured at local industry enterprises as well as the products of local craftsmen.

The collaboration with cooperatives is particularly significant.

"This has added only around 2.5 million rubles to commodity turnover in 9 months," I was told by I. Khaskelberg, chief of the district wholesale procurement base.

"Nonetheless, the benefit from our ties with the cooperatives is obvious. Their products are sold at list price. In addition, they give us a trade discount, which amounted to around 50,000 rubles during the first 6 months."

Economic Effects of Conversion to Civilian Production Discussed

*904A0060A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian
2 Nov 89 p 4*

[Report on views of Major General V. Korolev, head of chair of political economy and military economics of the military-political academy imeni V.I. Lenin, on the subject in response to a reader's letter under the headline of "Conversion"]

[Text] *Recently one hears more frequently about the conversion of military production. What is it? A curtailment of defense industry, voluntary and one-sided disarmament of our country? I would like a competent specialist to tell us about conversion in SELSKAYA ZHIZN. [Signed] V. Ishchuk, town of Radekhov, Lvov oblast.*

Major General V. Korolev, professor, doctor of economic sciences, head of the chair of political economy and military economics of the military-political academy imeni V.I. Lenin, which is decorated with orders of Lenin and of the October Revolution, answers.

[Korolev] In brief, conversion is going over from military production to production of peacetime goods.

Why did conversion become possible today? First of all because first successes appeared and perspectives opened in the field of true disarmament, especially in connection with the going into effect of the Soviet-American agreement on destruction of medium and short-range missiles. Also, progress in negotiations on reductions in strategic aggressive weapons, the possibility of concluding a convention on the liquidation of chemical weapons, and negotiations began on conventional armaments in Europe.

Speaking at the United Nations, M.S. Gorbachev emphasized the timeliness of the transfer from the economics of armament to the economics of disarmament and suggested that all governments, especially the large military powers, make their national plans for conversion. Based on them, a special international group of scientists could prepare materials on the problem. For its part, the Soviet Union decided in the course of 1989 to prepare experimental plans for a civilian reequipping of 2-3 defense enterprises, and publicize the results of the experimental work restructuring of specialists from the defense industry and also the utilization of its equipment, buildings and related equipment in peaceful areas.

Furthermore, in January 1989 the Soviet Union announced a 12 percent personnel reduction in the Armed Forces, 14 percent in the military budget, and 19.5 percent in armaments production and military technology. At this time conversion is proceeding on a

bilateral foundation. However, this foundation is asymmetrical: quantity and structure of military enterprises and armaments subject to the INF treaty significantly differ between the Soviet and American sides. In the Soviet Union, in part, production of intermediate and short-range rockets, their launchers and ancillary equipment has been discontinued. Certain parts of the rockets are being eliminated, others are being passed on to the peoples' economy for peaceful use. It has been announced that instead of rockets, new forms of drilling equipment, metal-cutting lathes, perfected machines for processing of agricultural production, and consumer goods will be turned out.

In January a new stage of conversion is beginning. It will involve restudy of many military factories, eliminate them or convert their military technology, which is already paid for, to peaceful purposes, find jobs for retired military, requalify a portion of the personnel of defense enterprises—all this requires new and substantial expenditure.

What economic advantages does the policy of disarmament now being effectuated in the country offer?

The intended reduction in defense expenditures of 14 percent will yield direct savings of 10 billion rubles. Furthermore, releasing 500,000 military, of whom, as analysis indicates, at least 80 percent can be attracted to the people's economy, will create favorable conditions for growth of public production. According to specialists' calculations, this will permit increase of the national income of the country by a minimum of 1.8 billion rubles. It follows that the overall economic effect on society from reduction in defense expenditure and in the numbers of Armed Forces personnel, and in connection with it attraction into public production of demobilized personnel, will amount to about 12 billion rubles. All these means can be used for social needs and economic development of the country.

But the economic effect of reduction of the Armed Forces and conversion of the powers of military production is not limited to the above-mentioned sum. The elimination of 10,000 tanks, 800 combat aircraft, and many thousands of units of other military technologies will permit the country, figuratively speaking, to "beat swords into plowshares" and obtain an additional 1.8 million tons of steel, 0.5 million tons of aluminum, and also the use for civilian needs of 1.8 million tons of various fuels annually. All of this, with former Armed Forces strengths and combat technology, would have been used for combat preparedness and for replacement of rapidly-aging weapons. After all, today many forms of weapons are morally unsuitable for the conduct of contemporary warfare already 4-5 years after the beginning of their mass production. And an active life-cycle of even ordinary armament systems does not exceed 10-12 years.

A significant economic effect will be obtained from direct use for civilian purposes of military and its ancillary equipment, their assemblies and parts. Diesel tank engines, some aircraft equipment, troop command and control points, and so-called dual purpose equipment: automobiles, bulldozers, mobile power stations, river-crossing equipment, troop quartering (quartermaster and engineer) equipment, and many other items are kept in mind. The owners of this wealth could become industrial enterprises, sovkhozes, kolkhozes, cooperatives, individual renters, schools, professional-technical schools, and other educational institutions. Relatively low prices for military property to be transferred to the people's economy, if accompanied by well-organized information, will help the program's rapid execution. One could organize regional auctions of assemblies and parts, even entire technical systems, which could serve peaceful labor.

From our viewpoint, the problem of reorienting enterprises which turned out military equipment now being eliminated to civilian production is fully solvable. In the USSR, this involves factories at Votkinsk, Volgograd, Petropavlovsk, and Sverdlovsk. Even though the INF Treaty does not prohibit the use of their capabilities to produce other kinds of weapons, the enterprises mentioned are already delivering civilian products. Thus, for instance, an automated line for assembly of precision lathes with programmed controls is running at the Votkinsk machine-building factory; it also produces equipment for dairies, systems for drilling installations and underwater drilling, assemblies and parts for automobiles and washing machines.

In the course of the current perestroika, technical modernization and equipping of civilian enterprises is entrusted to industrial administrations of defense branches. It is decided to convert 250 military factories to the manufacture of equipment for processing of agricultural raw materials. The execution of these plans will occupy over 200 leading scientific research institutes and builders' offices of defense industries.

Already now industry working for military requirements manufactures about 2000 items needed for daily living, economic, and cultural purposes, while civilian production takes about half the volume. Only in 1988 almost 10 million television sets, 95 percent of all domestic refrigerators, 62 percent of washing machines, and 69 percent of vacuum cleaners were produced here. It is estimated that in the coming years defense industry will develop and produce more than 140 kinds of complicated technological consumers goods, including digital laser record players, videocameras, pocket watches with voice synthesizers, videotape recorders, civilian computers and others. In a word, reduction of the Armed Forces and conversion of a portion of military production permits society to get a significant economic advantage. But to bring conversion into effect, a whole series of economic and social problems must be solved.

U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan

90UM0035A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
7 Oct 89 First Edition p 5

[Article by V. Vinogradov: "Dual Purpose Deal"]

[Text] The report of the signing, in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, of an agreement through which the United States will supply Pakistan with 60 more F-16 modern fighter-bombers has to attract the very close attention of the countries of South and Southwestern Asia.

I recall that the basic understanding on the sale of this consignment of American aircraft to Islamabad was reached during the last visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the U.S. And now the appropriate agreement has been signed. This means that the Pakistani Air Force will soon have 100 F-16 fighter-bombers in its inventory. And if we add that these aircraft can carry the nuclear weapons that the Pakistani military industry is working so hard to develop, it is easy to imagine what a powerful offensive asset the Pakistani generals will have at their disposal.

And this is what I particularly want to say about this. This is a dual purpose deal. Judge for yourself. Having obtained in due course an additional 60 F-16's from Washington, the actions of Islamabad officials are motivated by the need to "withstand" [the threat from] India. That is, they talked about certain strategic missions which they say the Pakistanis must carry out in light of the "threat" from India. I do not need to add that the truth is that this "threat" has been concocted by the Pakistanis themselves. We really only need to recall that the excessively militarist Islamabad regime was the instigator of the last two Indo-Pakistani armed conflicts.

Of course, Pakistani strategists "will bear in mind" the possible use against India of the F-16 fighter bombers obtained from the United States. But only in their minds for now. And meanwhile Pakistan is already using these aircraft in combat operations. Against whom? Yes, against the Republic of Afghanistan. Not counting the instances when the Pakistani Air Force, while providing support to the Afghan opposition's armed formations, has conducted raids against Afghanistan's border villages, has engaged in combat with the Afghan Air Force, and has even shot down Afghan aircraft. F-16 fighter bombers have been involved in the majority of these clashes.

Therefore, there is no reason to doubt that the additional F-16 fighter bombers entering the Pakistani Air Force inventory will also be used in that same undeclared war that certain American and Pakistani circles are conducting against the Afghan people through the hands of mercenaries. In this regard, the timing of the signing of the previously mentioned agreement draws attention to itself. The fact is that the irreconcilable opposition, despite the generous military assistance of the United States and the broad support of Pakistan, is clearly "marking time," having limited the barbarous missile

attacks against Kabul and other Afghan cities. Besides, these Afghan opposition groups based in Iran are already not insisting on the removal of Najibullah's government from power in Kabul and are ready to begin contacts with him.

Such activities and the mood among the armed opposition do not entirely suit its sponsors in Washington and Islamabad. That is why the United States is also continuing to build up Pakistan's military potential so that it can render even more vital assistance to the extremists. This is precisely where we should search for an answer to the question of why Washington, in addition to the complex deal already implemented to provide 4.02 billion dollars worth of military aid to Pakistan during the last several years, decided to provide another 60 F-16 fighter bombers to Pakistan. It really cannot be considered an accident that B. Bhutto, who spoke recently at a press conference in Islamabad, once again reaffirmed the continuity of Pakistan's current position with regard to Afghanistan that consists of the unacceptability of the Kabul government and in support for opposition groups who are entrenched in Peshawar.

The only result of Washington's policy can be a further prolonging of the Afghan conflict that has already complicated the situation in South and Southwest Asia for such a long time.

Artificial Intelligence as Aid to U.S. Aircraft Diagnostics

90UM0053A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
18 Oct 89 First Edition p 3

[Article by Col V. Frolov, candidate of technical sciences, in the column: "Military Technical Review": "A 'Thinking Weapon', Part Two: An 'Artificial Intelligence' System for Aviation"; continuation of article published in 4 October issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA]

[Text] The 1960s were the time of a qualitative leap in complexity of airborne aviation equipment, when many system modules started to be tied to built-in miniature computers. Another trend came into being: a sharp increase in number of types of aviation systems, with a drop in number of experienced technical specialists—"brains"—available, due to a variety of reasons. The lion's share of money allotted for equipment operation, in the opinion of foreign military observers, goes to diagnosing faults and preventive maintenance, the acquisition of auxiliary servicing equipment, and training of technical specialists and operators.

The above factors, in combination with requirements related to the very mission of the Air Force—the conduct of highly dynamic combat operations—give rise to the need for rapid and precise procedures for diagnosing and restoring onboard systems under field conditions.

At first glance, technical diagnostics of aircraft electronic and electromagnetic systems is identical to medical diagnostics. Both cases involve a search for "defects"

and anomalies. In aviation there is a large number of unexpected breakdowns in onboard equipment that cannot be expressed beforehand as "if - then" rules usually applied to deductive reasoning on the basis of expert appraisal.

For example, under field conditions it is quite common (indeed practically a daily occurrence) to experience unfavorable events, such as drops of solder falling into an LSI [large scale integration] printed circuit board to short-circuit several components; damage to a cable caused by a recruit hauling heavy equipment over it; or a cup of hot coffee spilled into electronic circuitry (Anything can happen in aviation!). The foreign press has already reported on an incident whereby a nuclear attack alarm was set off by field mice that had eaten through the vinyl chloride insulation of an outside cable.

Since all the above events cannot be covered by diagnostic rules, there is a need for a more universal methodology. Resolution of this problem led to introducing into the "data base" of an expert system information sources that can provide a foundation for rules generation by the expert system itself. For example, the system memory was provided with a coded description of actual equipment circuitry representing the relationships and functional characteristics of system components. In addition, powerful methods taken from reliability and repairability theory were employed (including statistical data analysis of past failures and failure prediction algorithms). As a result, the expert system progressed beyond generating new rules to "understanding" circuits new to it and the essence of the particular task to be accomplished, i.e., it took on the capability of acting at the level of a highly qualified specialist. This kind of expert system can simplify considerably the technical servicing process and improve combat readiness of an aviation unit.

The artificial intelligence system is being developed as a part of the broad scientific program "Pilot's Helper." This "intelligent" apparatus, known as EXNAV, integrates the indications provided by a large number of navigation devices and sensors possessing various tactical and technical characteristics. Operating in a dialog mode, the pilot selects the navigation method that is optimum for the given conditions. In addition, the system provides diagnostics for the sensors proper, changes the "configuration" of their inputs (or outputs), and effects navigation control. It is also designed to facilitate decision-making by the crew by offering several alternate choices.

The foreign press discusses two different architectures of this kind of system: one designed by Lockheed, the other by McDonnell Aircraft. In the former system, onboard expert systems produce modulations to interact by transmitting messages via a so-called "bulletin board." The second approach is characterized by broader application of computer technology to facilitate the crew's work by

virtue of integrating the data provided by the aircraft's various devices and systems and presenting the data in the most convenient form.

Experimental models of two sensor data integration and flight planning systems have been built. Testing consists of simulating the attack of a ground target in the air defense area penetration and exit phases. Expectations are that the system will provide redundancy for pilot control and decision-making during the attack of ground targets that are protected by powerful air defense. Tasks that can be resolved by the system also include the support of flying in combat formation and developing suggestions for executing maneuvers that are then radioed via an "intelligent" speech synthesizer to the second of the pair of aircraft.

Foreign experts point out that these kinds of synthesizers are successfully fitted into the cockpit of a modern aircraft. Due to the presence of a large number of instruments the crew must monitor, the pilot may not take notice the instant a small pilot light flashes, warning of a fire in the engine, for example. For this reason, to reduce the stress level of crew members (especially of the pilot flying a single-seat aircraft), extraordinary messages such as "Fire in the Engine", "Dangerous Altitude," and "Trim Tab Failure" are translated into functions of the automatic speech synthesizer. Its "electronic voice" not only alerts the crew to the danger, but also issues spoken prompts, offering possible choices that can be made.

The firm of Energy Optics has developed an "intelligent" autopilot featuring a highly sensitive optical sensor. The onset of loss of consciousness is registered by a device that utilizes the reflection of infrared radiation from the cornea of the pilots' eye to monitor the frequency with which he blinks. In this case, the autopilot possessing the "artificial intelligence", automatically taking over control of the aircraft, sets the craft onto horizontal flight and stabilizes the course to the airfield.

The Pilot's Helper program also includes work on a computer system that will scan electromagnetic waves emanating from a pilot's brain, monitor his pulse and cardiac systole, and accomplish other vital body functions. With this as a basis, the system will be capable of displaying on an electronic screen the resulting index of the pilot's combat fitness. In addition, it will be capable of tuning in to the pilot's body to supply data.

Relative to the long-range prospects of aviation robotic systems, observers speak of the possibility in principle of inputting electrical signals from the brain directly into a fighter craft's controls. While there are problems—serious ones—in this regard, they claim that there is a need for fundamental work in this area.

In an article entitled "The Future Offers a Challenge" published in the periodical SIGNAL, the chief of the aerospace directorate of the U.S. Air Force stressed that the technology of the 21st century will rely principally on attainments made in "artificial intelligence."

Naval Uses for Artificial Intelligence Systems

90UM0069A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
25 Oct 89 First Edition p 3

[Article by Colonel V. Frolov, candidate of technical sciences, under the rubric "Review of Military Technology": "Thinking' Weapons"]

[Text] 3. An 'artificial intelligence' system for the Navy. Final part. Begun in the 4 October and 18 October issues of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

The U.S. Navy's Scientific Research Administration has established the Center for Applied Research as part of the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), to perform research along the following basic lines: servicing, maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair of supercomplex electronic equipment; identification of targets detected by radar and acoustic sensors; and machine instruction and the comprehensive processing of data collected through sensors and measurement systems. The foreign press cites information about robots for the transport of superheavy loads or those that signal the location of a fire aboard ship, the use of OV [chemical agents], or the enemy's surface or underwater equipment penetrating under cover of darkness to neutral waters. It was reported that behind the widely advertised expedition to the wreck of the Titanic lay a hidden and principal goal—to put the military deep-water robot called "Jason Junior" through a test run, so to speak.

Foreign specialists express varying opinions concerning prospects for the use of robots in naval operations. On one hand, they have "eyes," "ears," and even a "brain." They "see" through clouds, fog, and ocean depths, and they "hear" sounds and receive electronic signals which are inaccessible to man. They "know" where they should strike a blow and precisely when to do it. However, as the director of Center for Defense Research at the Planck Physics Institute (FRG) noted, "They require a technology that is unusually complicated and, consequently, they are unreliable."

In connection with this, foreign specialists refer to the example of the frigate Stark, which was hit by a missile in the Persian Gulf relatively recently. The ship was hit despite the fact that it was loaded with very nearly the best of today's antimissile equipment.

What routes are being taken in order to solve the most complex technical questions? For their purposeful operation, robots require some common laws and standards which they can always use, in any critical situations. Only such universal laws, stress foreign military observers, will resolve questions of the standardized and predictable functioning of "intelligent" systems.

One of the projects at the U.S. Navy's Center for Applied Research involves automatic recognition of military vessels. Until recently, the most advanced electronic machines here invariably lost when they competed against man. But the system being created simulates the

processes of heuristic deductions of experienced specialists and analysts. For this it was necessary to "teach" an expert system (and the developers spent much time specifically on this aspect) to record the experience of the operator in recognizing targets, to accumulate knowledge, and then to conduct in "its belly" those same logical deductions that an experienced specialist carries out in the process of analyzing information which he has received.

To test the system, more than 100 representations of ships were used, particularly ships belonging to similar classes so that the task would be difficult even for an experienced operator. At that time, correct results were obtained in 84 percent of the instances.

A program "Computer Strategist" is being developed for the U.S. Navy. On the basis of an analysis of radar and satellite data, it is supposed to help the commander of a fleet organize a naval engagement with the participation of a carrier battle group and its dozens of combat aircraft and helicopters, surface ships, and submarines.

At the U.S. Navy's Center for Oceanic Systems, an expert TECA system has already been created—a "System to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Measures for Repulsing Potential Threats," which uses 400 rules of logical deduction. It is designed to help Navy officers answer such questions as, for instance, "Do the markings on the radar screen correspond to enemy ships or aircraft? What is a potential enemy preparing to do? Which of the many possible defensive measures has the best chance of success?..." The system is expected to be operated in automatic mode with the help of conventional (that is, human) language, with a dictionary comprising about 20,000 words and including idioms, naval terminology, and proper and geographic names. For each inquiry, a corresponding variant will be selected from an extensive quantity of special linguistic models of the type, "What is the significance of the given parameter for the given ship?"

And there are other projects of an analogous and more complicated "content."

* * *

As we see, "thinking weapons" are not the conjectures of fiction writers. The armed forces of the leading imperialist governments, and especially of the United States, are being equipped with them. Evidence is provided by the fact that appropriations for the development of a fifth generation EVM [computer] and supercomputers exceed expenditures on the national programs of the NATO countries and even on international programs for the creation of systems of "artificial intelligence." At heart these ambitious pretensions of the aggressive circles are always that same belief in the so-called "silver bullet," that is, in equipment or in the newest technology able to guarantee military superiority. Will robots replace soldiers on the battlefield? "Machines do not get tired. They do not close their eyes, they do not hide under the trees when it rains, they do not lounge about

with their friends, and they do not sneak off for a cigarette," believe American military men. "If there is an order to undertake a mission involving heavy casualties, they will not waver." In like manner, the "computer strategist" does not dream, it develops muscles for the big push. It does not care about the warming trend in international relations and the implementation of agreements on disarmament. It works until that moment when we will be able to bury the bayonet in the earth, still so very far away.

Rear Admiral Pushkin Urges End to Nuclear Weapons Testing

90WC0012A Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 2 Nov 89 p 3

[Article by Rear Adm A. Pushkin, Candidate of Naval Sciences: "Catastrophes of Which We Learned Years Later"]

[Text] Chernobyl rocked the entire world, but it stands to reason that this tragedy affected us most. The shadow of radioactive dust touched the Ukraine, Belorussia and Russia. In the time of glasnost the scale of the catastrophe became known to millions on millions of Soviet citizens and other earthlings.

But the fact is that mankind or, more correctly, countries possessing nuclear weapons, essentially have voluntarily organized catastrophes similar to Chernobyl for many decades.

Elugelab Atoll in the Pacific ceased to exist in 1952 as a result of a test of the "superbomb," as the United States then called the hydrogen bomb. It simply evaporated. The United States conducted numerous above-ground and underwater tests of atomic devices on Bikini Atoll, also in the Pacific, from 1946 through 1954. Twenty-three years later American authorities declared the atoll "safe" and permitted its inhabitants to return home. Some time later, however, they again had to be evicted. Water, fish, mollusks, as well as the fruit of coconut palms and the bread tree turned out to be contaminated by products of radioactive decay and could not be used as food. As reported by the Associated Press, "Bikini residents driven from this island will not be able to return for the next 30 and perhaps even 100 years due to radiation."

Disaster finally struck. Another test was conducted on Bikini Atoll in 1955. According to the weather forecast it was assumed that the mushroom cloud would be carried northward during the tests, but it began travelling rapidly eastward because of an unexpected wind shift. Geiger counters aboard American ships of the screening force began clicking. Personnel took cover in ship spaces, and automatic systems for washing off radioactive dust were activated. But the "death ash" caught both local residents and American servicemen unawares on Rongelap and Rongerik atolls. Two hundred sixty-four persons affected by a mysterious ailment were sent to the military hospital on Kwajalein Island. All of them, like many of the Japanese fishermen from 856 vessels which

were fishing in the vicinity of the Marshall Islands that season, became victims of radiation sickness.

Things also were no better with our nuclear tests. The first explosions of a hydrogen weapon at the Semipalatinsk test site in 1949 were conducted without any protective measures at all. Residents of a number of villages were subjected to irradiation. During the 1940's and 1950's the USSR Ministry of Health permitted a person to receive 50 roentgens during the first 24 hours and up to 100 over a week's time. Thirty to forty tests were conducted at the Semipalatinsk test site alone in 1958, but no radiation measurement data were preserved in test site materials. Soon we detonated a monstrous 58 megaton device over Novaya Zemlya equal to 3,000 bombs of the kind that destroyed Hiroshima and exceeding by 20 times the cumulative explosive force of all bombs dropped during World War II. It must be assumed that more radioactive fallout occurred on the Kola Peninsula after that explosion than after Chernobyl, and winds carried very dangerous elements—strontium 90 and cesium 137—around the world.

This small excursion into history is necessary. It serves as a vivid illustration of those mortal dangers which were lying in wait for people as a result of nuclear weapon tests.

Two tragedies involving nuclear space age technology have occurred of late: the death of the Challenger crew and the accident at Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Station. They harshly reminded us that people have only scraped the surface in the mastery of fantastic forces. The fact is, however, that what happened at Chernobyl was not something new. It was the 27th reliably known major accident at an atomic electric power station by count since the first atomic power station began operation at Obninsk. Accidents aboard nuclear submarines attest to the possible tragic consequences.

Present nuclear weapon tests at underground test sites also are hazardous. One of them, arranged by France on Mururoa Atoll, generates constant alarm and protests in South Pacific countries. Some scientists in Latin America assert that underground explosions could be the cause of devastating earthquakes of recent years in Chile, Ecuador and Peru. They also do not exclude a seismic effect of French explosions on Mexico and Central America.

Despite the fact that the United States has been conducting nuclear explosions underground since 1963, the danger of radioactive radiation remains for residents of the state of Nevada and neighboring Mexico. According to Mexican scientists, a leak of radioactivity is registered in Mexico from 31 out of 100 of these tests.

There are grounds to be concerned over the fate of a ban on nuclear explosions in space, where such tests will be required to check out a nuclear-pumped laser gun and so on during realization of SDI. This means that strontium 90 and other fission products again will get into the atmosphere and fall to Earth in the form of radioactive fallout. The United States would hardly conduct such

tests over its own territory. The ocean expanses with their islands and archipelagoes obviously will be the release point again.

Positive ideas acquire genuine value only when they are materialized. The Soviet Union has demonstrated that ability. In making the decision to introduce a moratorium and subsequently to extend it, the Soviet side proclaimed as it were a withdrawal from harsh nuclear confrontation fraught with an explosion deadly for all human civilization.

The cessation of nuclear tests which Moscow unilaterally undertook and the repeated extension of the moratorium until 1 January 1987 was a proposal addressed above all to the United States to make a breakthrough into new political thinking in the main military sector. It was aimed at curtailing the most dangerous process of modern times—the qualitative upgrading of nuclear weapons. Moreover, this is a universal measure in the sphere of disarmament by which we can immediately restrict the development of all nuclear systems—strategic, medium-range, and operational-tactical.

A test ban is the fastest and most radical of all arms limitation measures realistically implementable at the present time: it permits bypassing a large number of problems involving disproportions of a technical, strategic, geostrategic and political character. The fourth round of Soviet-American talks on a limitation and cessation of nuclear tests now has begun. There is no doubt that a positive solution to such problems will permit improving the radioactive and ecological situation in Semipalatinsk and in the state of Nevada. Statistics of oncologic illnesses for Semipalatinsk Oblast which considerably outstrip average data for Kazakhstan attest to the insistent need for this. The number of people with blood diseases has doubled there since 1970.

There are too many nuclear weapons in the world already. So many have been stockpiled now that there is an equivalent of 15 tons of TNT for each person on Earth. Present nuclear weapon stockpiles are sufficient to kill every earthling many times over. This is why every sector of the globe freed of nuclear weapons can become

a contribution to political detente. For example, 13 states declared the South Pacific to be a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and South America also declared itself to be a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Thus even now access to nuclear weapons is closed in vast regions of the globe. One would like to see both Europe and Asia and then also vast expanses of the ocean (which thanks to nuclear-powered missile submarines and other ships are not free of nuclear weapons) to be such a zone in the near future. The USSR has proposed and is proposing that states which possess nuclear weapons declare a moratorium on all nuclear explosions, to be in effect until conclusion of a treaty on a total and general nuclear weapon test ban.

By its recent lengthy unilateral moratorium and other practical affairs, Moscow has proven the sincerity of intentions and the reality of achieving the goal that has been set. The development of a U.S.-USSR dialogue and the INF Treaty created a favorable background for the next steps along the path to a nuclear-weapon-free world. New times also require a new policy. The Soviet concept of advancing into the future by eliminating all kinds of mass destruction weapons was set forth by M. S. Gorbachev on 15 January 1986. This process already has begun with the destruction of two classes of nuclear weapons in Europe.

The Soviet Union is cutting back a considerable portion of its Armed Forces unilaterally and without any compensation. Noting that the overall scope of these reductions exceeds what the Bundeswehr has at its disposal, the West German journal SPIEGEL evaluates them as the second most important breakthrough on the path to peace after signing of the INF Treaty.

We see that our country, guided by the ideals of strengthening the security of all mankind, has introduced a large set of new proposals which attest to the fact that the USSR's attempt to reduce military confrontation is receiving new material reinforcement. The upcoming Soviet-American summit must yield new results in deterring the arms race and stopping nuclear weapon tests.

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