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LACK OF RESULTS IN VIENNA TALKS DISCUSSED

Prague ZIVOT STRANY in Czech No 6, Mar 77 pp 50-52

[Article by Radoslav Klein: "What Hampers the Progress in the Vienna Talks?"]

[Text] The Vienna talks on the reduction of troops and arms in central Europe have been going on for over 3 years. This certainly is enough time to warrant a question as to the results of these important discussions and why the participants have not achieved any concrete results.

On the one hand, there is an agreement that the negotiations have brought about certain benefits--namely, that the member states of the Warsaw Pact and NATO can better understand their respective positions on the issue of the reduction of troops and arms and that the negotiations took place in an overall good atmosphere. On the other hand, on the question of what has prevented a final agreement the two sides differ. Many Western communications media have for some time attempted to create the impression that the blame for the present stagnation of the Vienna talks falls on the "inflexibility" of the delegations of the socialist countries which are allegedly unwilling to accept the "only just" concept of the NATO countries. Similar tendentious and mendacious accusations appear from time to time in the Western press, primarily in order to cover up the real intention of the Western approach toward the Vienna talks: the continuing effort of the West to achieve unilateral military advantage through the so-called asymmetric reduction of armed forces (approximately in a 3:1 ratio in favor of NATO). Such an attitude not only contradicts the main principle governing the reduction of troops on which all the participants have already agreed, but its consequence is the destabilization of the mutual ratio of forces in Central Europe. Such an attitude would disturb the equilibrium which has been historically created and which has made it possible to positively resolve many complicated questions in the relations of European countries with different social systems on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. Any disruption of this equilibrium would unfavorably reflect on the entire process of detente. From this viewpoint the struggle

of the socialist countries in the Vienna talks for a just and mutually balanced reduction of troops and arms which would maintain the existing equilibrium of the military forces in the central European theater--naturally on a substantially lower level--is also a struggle for the strengthening of the process of relaxation of international tension.

Permanent Obstacle--Feverish Arming of NATO Countries

It is obvious that the Vienna talks are not conducted in a vacuum or that they are not isolated from the development of world policy. On the contrary, they are an inseparable and important part of the world's political development. The Vienna talks must be considered as one of the sectors of a front on which there is a battle between the forces of the relaxation of international tension on one hand and the enemies of this only correct policy, which does not offer any reasonable alternative, on the other. A reduction in the current high concentration of arms and armed forces in strategically important Central Europe would undoubtedly significantly contribute to the strengthening of peace and international security. However, such a development is not in the interest of those imperialistic circles which do their best to prevent positive developments and to recreate the Cold War. Consequently, the main reason for the failure of the Vienna talks is the actions of the enemies of relaxation which often appear to have no direct relationship to the negotiations on the reduction of troops and arms, but which in effect complicate, slow down, and directly endanger these talks.

The acceleration of the feverish arming of the NATO countries, the increase in military appropriations which put the main emphasis on modernization and improvement of arms, is the permanent obstacle toward the achievement of mutually acceptable agreements in the Vienna talks. The journal BLÄTTER FÜR DEUTSCHE UND INTERNATIONALE POLITIK, published in Cologne, reveals that the European members of NATO added to their armaments last year 1,600 tanks and armored cars, 1,500 sets of antitank guided rockets, several hundred military aircraft of various types, and over 20 military seagoing ships. (At the same time it is generally known that a great part of NATO equipment belongs to the U.S. forces which are not included in the above list.) Large sums from the appropriations are used for the modernization of all existing arms systems.

Military expenditures in those West European countries which are members of NATO have almost doubled in the last 5 years. West German Minister of Defense Leber himself admitted that the military expenditures of NATO in 1975 were approximately 30 billion dollars higher than those of the Warsaw Pact countries.

Bourgeois propaganda tries to explain the increases in military expenditures by trite fabrications, such as some "Soviet threat" and the nonexistent feverish arming of the Warsaw Pact countries, which allegedly surpasses the bounds of necessary defense. The public and politicians in Western countries

are frightened by intensive panicky campaigns which point to some acute "Eastern danger" and which speak about information received from some "confidential intelligence sources," concerning the state of Soviet arms. Thus, for example, the Western press paid great attention to a "study" of an obscure Belgian general, Closea, in which he described a sudden attack by Soviet troops against the Federal Republic of Germany. According to an unrestrained fantasy of this militarist, the Soviet tank forces would occupy the main centers of the Federal Republic, and within 48 hours would reach the Rhine. Naturally, this scary "study" ends with an appeal for an increase in arms and the strengthening of the military structure of NATO. The whole thing, however, is nothing but a direct attack on the policy of the relaxation of tension and on the Vienna talks on the reduction of troops and arms.

Similarly, General Haig eagerly joined a chorus, conducted by the military industrial monopolies of the capitalist countries. General Haig asserts U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT that he "is not interested in speculations concerning Soviet aims," but only in the abilities of Soviet troops which, according to his criteria, are bigger than needed for defense. And once again, there is a bogey of a "growing Soviet power" based on some unidentified information known to American intelligence services. It is startling that an officer so high up in NATO does not even mention the policy of relaxation and that he is not interested in "speculations concerning Soviet aims." Otherwise, he would have had to note that the USSR outlined at the 25th CPSU Congress a further, detailed program aimed at strengthening peace, security, cooperation, and disarmament; that the Soviet Union proposed a global agreement on the rejection of force in international relations; that the Warsaw Pact countries offered, at a recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee, to conclude an agreement according to which every participant of the Helsinki Conference would renounce the first use of the nuclear weapons; that L. I. Brezhnev clearly stated in his Tula speech: "The argument that the Soviet Union exceeds the limits necessary for defense, that it strives for arms superiority in order to be able to make the "first strike" is utter nonsense without any foundation. Our country will never adopt the path of aggression and will never raise its sword against other nations."

This, however, obviously does not interest Gen Haig and other military leaders of NATO. Such a policy obviously does not fit into their noisy, scary maneuvers and grand deceitful manipulation of numbers and facts, and into their attempts to persuade Western public opinion that the Cold War is still on and that nothing has changed.

Big Lies of the Enemies of Detente

Soviet Academician G. Arbatov unmasked in his article in PRAVDA this big lie of the enemies of detente, concerning the so-called "Soviet threat" and the figures on the Soviet armed forces. He reminded his readers about the hullabaloo in the United States in the fifties concerning the "U.S. lag

in bombers," which ended in the adoption of vast military programs. Soon afterward, however, it was officially announced that the previously estimated strength of the Soviet air force was exaggerated by at least three times. In the sixties, there was the hysterical campaign according to which the "United States was behind the Soviet Union in rocket weapons," which also led to unprecedented programs of development and production of rockets. Soon afterward once again came an admission that the Soviet rocket threat was exaggerated--this time some 30 times. However, not a single U.S. rocket was withdrawn from production.

Today the situation is similar. There is an alarm about the general "backwardness" of the West in the military sphere; the purpose is to force governments and political leaders to consent to further increases in military expenditures, the development and production of B-1 bombers, the so-called crossing rockets, Trident submarines, and further improvement in the nuclear potential. How can all this be squared with the goals of the Vienna negotiations and overall efforts for the achievement of relaxation of tension also in the military sphere?

A precious characteristic of the militarist marauders was offered by the former U.S. representative to the United Nations, Charles Yost, who stated: "One can openly say that our stubborn and pig-headed individuals who disseminate ad absurdum a thesis of the Soviet danger are against any arms control against any limitation thereof with the exception of those limitations which grant such advantages to America that the sought for agreements are beyond reach.... These ultraconservatives basically offer to the American people as an alternative to a realistic arms control a limitless mutual escalation of production of the most perfect, destructive, and ever-more-expensive arms."

Similarly one can agree with an article in the West Berlin paper MORGENPOST which states that at conferences of the North Atlantic Pact one can always hear about the rearming of the Warsaw Pact countries; but "those who always talk about the 'Soviet danger' have a chance to stop this 'danger,' if this argument is serious, by accepting the socialist initiative concerning disarmament."

Rather than having NATO representatives in Vienna look for a mutually acceptable compromise, there are voices in the NATO staffs who stress the necessity of a "limited nuclear war" concept based on the conduct of military actions in which only a small number of nuclear strikes will be used at the beginning against selected military targets. Similar concepts are dangerous not only from the military viewpoint, because nuclear war cannot be limited to a framework of a few strikes, but also from the political viewpoint, because this idea suggests the existence of an illusion of a possibility of some "humane" conduct of nuclear war. In the light of the above facts, the offer of the socialist countries to conclude an agreement according to which no country will use nuclear weapons first, and an agreement on the prohibition of all tests which will thus prevent further

development of the weapons of mass destruction, is ever more pressing. The socialist countries therefore put forward in Vienna a logical demand to include in the program of arms reduction not only all types of troops but all types of weapons, including nuclear weapons.

The arrival of two new American combat brigades in the Federal Republic is not without significance for the Vienna talks. This act is a direct challenge to efforts to stabilize the ratio of military forces in central Europe and thus to create basic favorable conditions for a gradual reduction of the levels of troops and arms in this area. The possibility of such a situation was before the socialist countries when they presented a proposal in Vienna back in 1975 which demanded that all participants accept an obligation not to increase the number of their troops in central Europe during the negotiations. The strengthening of the strike capability of the NATO forces in the central European theater fully demonstrates why the Western delegates in Vienna rejected this constructive proposal.

Characteristic 'Contribution' of NATO

The military circles of NATO not only feverishly arm but publicly demonstrate their negative attitude toward detente. How else can one interpret an unusually high number of military exercises in no way comparable to regular maneuvers of NATO troops, within the operative sphere of central Europe? After the adoption of the final act at the Helsinki Conference, in which the signatories promised to "remove the causes of tension which can develop among them..." and to "...strengthen confidence among themselves and thus to contribute to the improvement of stability and security in Europe, one would logically expect the countries to reduce to the minimum military activity on the European continent. However, what are the facts? According to the admission of the NATO supreme commander in central Europe, General Haig, there were over 30 military exercises in the area between northern Norway and the eastern Mediterranean from the beginning of last summer. These exercises involved over a quarter million troops and officers, 1,500 aircraft and 400 combat ships of the NATO countries. At the same time, the methodical direction as well as the code names of these maneuvers clearly prove their hostile aim directed against the socialist countries. This certainly is a characteristic "contribution" of NATO toward military relaxation on the European continent and toward the Vienna talks.

Since its very beginnings, the progress of the Vienna talks has been unfavorably affected by the military policy of NATO's leading circles, whose hostility to the policy of detente is generally known. Hence it is obvious that as long as the delegates of individual Western countries to the Vienna talks play the music composed for them by the militaristic circles in NATO, it would be difficult to expect any great progress in Vienna.

Initiatives of Socialist Countries

The socialist countries, which from the very beginning of the Vienna talks oriented themselves toward the maximum concreteness of the talks, have shown

several times during the course of the 3 years that they are interested in an agreement. This is documented by a number of compromise proposals which in many respects took into consideration the attitudes of Western countries. The goal was and still is to vault over such great differences as still exist in the differing attitudes of the two sides on the problems of reduction of troops and arms in central Europe.

The delegations of the socialist countries made a significant step toward a compromise: in their proposal of February 1976 they agreed to the reduction of troops in two stages which was the precondition of the West. Last June, in order to stress their positive attitude toward the negotiations, the socialist countries submitted data on the numerical strength of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries in the central European theater as of 1 January 1976. The delegations of the socialist countries also showed their good will in this matter even when they justifiably demanded that, prior to the publication of the data on the numerical strength of troops, it would be necessary to have a clear idea as to what extent, through which method, and when the reduction of troops will be realized. The submission of our numerical data was one more attempt on our part to narrow the gap between the two sides.

In such serious negotiations as the Vienna talks it is, however, necessary that the other side--namely, the West--shows its good faith toward the achievement of a mutually acceptable compromise. The progress of the talks so far does not indicate that this is happening. In spite of the fact that the socialist countries, using persuasive arguments, disproved the artificially constructed concept of the Western countries and proved that this concept aims at gaining a unilateral advantage for the NATO countries, the West so far has done nothing which could be considered a step toward an agreement.

The countries of the Warsaw Pact at a recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Bucharest adopted a declaration in which they stated their "interest in efforts to reduce the possibility of a military confrontation" and declared that their goal was to make progress in this respect. They expressed their belief that an agreement on troops and arms reduction in central Europe is possible, provided that all participants in the negotiations honor the accepted principle not to harm the security of either side, while at the same time keeping in mind the interest of all European countries.

At the October plenum, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev declared that the Soviet Union is ready to discuss the counterproposals based on the same principles and that it is willing to work for further joint constructive steps and negotiations with Western representatives at any level, including the summit. And at a festive meeting in Tula, L. I. Brezhnev declared: "We would like to have an agreement on troops and arms reduction in central Europe as soon as possible. We are willing to discuss pertinent questions at any level and any place: in Vienna, Bonn, Washington, Moscow--at any place."

From the above documents and speeches, it is obvious that the socialist countries are deeply interested in achieving concrete results in Vienna and that through their attitude in the talks as well as through their overall positive policy, they aim at the improvement in the process of the relaxation of international tension, by contributing to the creation of favorable prerequisites for the solution of the question of troops and arms reduction.

Fundamental changes in the Vienna talks can be achieved if the Western countries start looking for mutually acceptable solutions and put aside their unrealistic demands, which express the strategic interests of the NATO military staffs. However, it is necessary to openly point to the mistake of those Western representatives who believe that the interest of the socialist countries in achieving an agreement is so strong that the latter will accept agreement at any price and will be willing to accept even solutions which could weaken their own security. The socialist countries emphasized several times that for them an acceptable agreement is one which deals with troops and arms reduction on the basis of real mutuality, without endangering the security of any participant.

Now it is up to the Western countries to show whether they will be guided by political wisdom. The continuing arming and the activation of the reactionary militaristic forces in NATO, however, stand in the way of the only correct and realistic solution--namely, an agreement on the reduction of troops in Central Europe.

1277

CSO: 2400

CPCZ REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES SEW CONGRESS IN WEST BERLIN

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Apr 77 p 6 AU

[Report by Vitezslav Havlicek on speech by O. Svestka, RUDE PRAVO chief editor, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat and head of CPCZ delegation, to the Fifth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party [SEW], held in West Berlin on 15-17 April: "Fifth SEW Congress Has Ended in West Berlin; On the Course of Action Unity"]

[Text] The delegates accompanied with a stormy display of agreement the speech by O. Svestka, head of the CPCZ delegation, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat and chief editor of RUDE PRAVO, who said among other things, "Hardened in class struggle, leaning on rich traditions and deeply rooted in the workers class, the SEW stands firmly and resolutely on the ground of Marxism, Leninism and proletarian internationalism. We sincerely appreciate the relations of close fraternal cooperation and international unity between our two parties, and I want to assure you that you can just as in the past, count with the full support and understanding of the Czechoslovak Communists and all our people also in the future.

Comrade Svestka then spoke about the dynamic development of the socialist society in the CSSR and noted that socialism insured for all Czechoslovak citizens firm security in life, reliable prospects for the future and at the same time fully guaranteed the democratic rights and freedoms of the working people.

"The positive results achieved are, understandably not to the like of our class enemies abroad or of the negligible little group of those people in our country, who in their hatred of socialism of the communist party, changed over to the positions of the enemy." He continued, "Of late the forces of imperialist reaction unleashed a hysterical, antisocial, anti-communist offensive campaign. Its objective is to impair the current favorable international development, divert the attention of its own public from the key urgent domestic and international problems, and smear the socialist social system. The fabricated lying slander of the socialist countries should become a pretext for a gross interference in their

internal affairs. We will not allow anyone under any pretext to interfere in our internal affairs. Czechoslovakia will unswervingly defend its inalienable rights, its dignity as well as the interests of socialism."

The speeches by the representatives of other parties were also very cordially received, whether directly at the congress or at friendly meetings in individual West Berlin districts. The speeches of the representatives of the Italian and French communist parties as well as other speeches expressing the appreciation of the work of the West Berlin communists and of the significance of the meetings of fraternal parties and the mutual exchange of experience also were commented on with attention.
[as published]

CSO: 2400

EAST GERMANY

SOVIET MARSHAL USTINOV, DELEGATION VISIT GDR

Press Release on Visit

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 16-17 Apr 77 p 1 AU

["Important Contribution To Strengthening Friendship and Cooperation--Concluding Press Statement on the Visit of a Soviet Military Delegation Headed by Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, USSR Minister of Defense, to the GDR"]

[Text] Berlin (ADN)--At the invitation of Army Gen H. Hoffman, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and GDR minister of national defense, a military delegation of the USSR headed by Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, paid an official friendship visit to the GDR from 11 to 15 April.

The delegation included: Army Gen A. A. Yepishev, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; USSR Deputy Ministers of Defense Chief Marshal of Aviation P. S. Kutakhov and Marshal of the Soviet Union K. S. Moskalenko; and others.

Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, was received by E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, for a visit. During the visit an exchange of views took place on fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the Ninth SED Congress, on questions of the further developing fraternal relations and allsided cooperation between the CPSU and the SED and between the USSR and the GDR, and on a few topical international problems.

Comrade D. F. Ustinov's talks with Comrade E. Honecker proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual accord. D. F. Ustinov conveyed to Comrade E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, the greetings and best wishes of General Secretary L. I. Brezhnev and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. E. Honecker cordially thanked Marshal D. F. Ustinov and asked him to convey to Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and the comrades

of the Soviet party and state leadership his personal and the fraternal greetings of the SED Central Committee Politburo and the GDR Council of Ministers.

Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov and the members of the Soviet military delegation had meetings and conducted talks with Army Gen H. Hoffman, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and GDR minister of national defense, and other military figures of the National People's Army. The ministers discussed a wide circle of questions of mutual interest and expressed their great satisfaction over the successful development of the cooperation between the Soviet army and the GDR armed forces. The mutual readiness to promote the further development and deepening of the friendly relations between the armed forces of the USSR, the GDR and the other states of the socialist community was reaffirmed. The ministers stressed the importance of mutual meetings and of the exchange of experiences between representatives of the armies of the states of the socialist community and stressed the need to regularly implement similar measures at various levels.

The meetings and talks proceeded in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and confirmed again the complete unanimity of views on all questions discussed.

During their stay in the GDR, the USSR minister of defense and the members of the Soviet military delegation visited groups of units and units of the National People's Army of the GDR and acquainted themselves with the life and the combat training of the army personnel. The delegation visited industrial enterprises and had meetings and talks with workers, employees and enterprise managers. The GDR working people and the soldiers of the National People's Army received the Soviet guests with cordial friendship and sympathy. Cordial reception and fraternal hospitality was accorded everywhere to the military delegation.

During its stay in the GDR the Soviet military delegation visited the group of Soviet forces in Germany.

The visit to the GDR of the delegation headed by Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, constituted a new important contribution to further developing and strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the people and the armies of the Soviet Union and the GDR.

Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, USSR minister of defense, invited Army Gen H. Hoffman, GDR minister of national defense, for an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union at a date convenient to him. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Hoffman 13 April Speech

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 14 Apr 77 p 3 AU

[Speech by Army Gen Heinz Hoffman, GDR minister of national defense, at 13 April friendship meeting with the GDR National People's Army regiment "Rudolf Gypner"--place not specified]

[Text] Esteemed comrade defense minister of the USSR! Dear Soviet comrades in arms! It is with great pleasure that we welcome in our midst the military delegation of the USSR headed by Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitri Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of defense!

We see in you, dear Soviet comrades in arms and in class, the leading representatives of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces, the outstanding representatives of the army which was born in the fire of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which, educated by the party of Lenin in the spirit of Lenin has performed immortal deeds of heroism, which saved the life of the first socialist state in the world by smashing the imperialist intervention and the international counterrevolution, which withstood the devastating onslaught of the fascist military machine and which liberated half of Europe from fascism's rule of terror, and which for more than three decades now has been bearing the main burden of preventing our earth from becoming the scene of a third world war.

Comrade Erich Honecker said at the fifth plenum of the SED Central Committee: "The Soviet Union in the 60th year after the Great October is the decisive peace force in the world. If the ruling circles of the imperialist countries are today forced to accept the principles of peaceful coexistence it is primarily due to the fact that the political, economic and--above all also--military power of the Soviet Union force them to recognize that an armed clash with socialism would mean their own doom."

Great respect and profound gratitude for the historical attainments of the Soviet power and its glorious armed forces--this characterizes the political realizations and moral feelings which the people of the GDR and its armed forces are expressing during these weeks.

Esteemed Soviet comrades, you will be able to see that the working people of all classes and strata of the GDR are preparing the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution like their own holiday. They are proud that today they are firmly standing at the side of the Soviet workers and peasants, which in October 1917 gave the course of human development a fundamental change and initiated the epoch of worldwide transition from capitalism to socialism.

To stand at the side of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces, to have--jointly with the other fraternal armies of the Warsaw Pact--the Soviet Army as a friend and comrade in arms is a tremendous advantage for the GDR's socialist national defense and an inexhaustible source of military fighting strength and superiority over the imperialist aggressors.

The National People's Army [NPA], its development, its moral spirit, its armament, training and education are most closely linked with the historic Soviet military achievements.

The military policy of our party and the structure of our armed forces are based on Lenin's teaching of the defense of the socialist fatherland and the findings of Soviet military science. Every stage in the development of the NPA, every introduction of new arms and equipment or new combat regulations was accompanied by the material and ideal aid of the Soviet Army and particularly of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

Learning from the army of the Red October and striving to honorably measure up to the big brother from the regiment next door in friendly competition has become a dominant phenomenon in the life of the NPA.

Because our party and our armed forces have written every chapter of the military policy of the socialist German state in closest cooperation with the CPSU and the Soviet Armed Forces, the sons of German workers and peasants have learned within a historically brief period to attain also the peaks of modern military science, and it has been possible to train and educate the young builders of socialism as its staunch defenders!

In fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union, the GDR was able to develop into an internationally recognized socialist state with an efficient national economy. In closest cooperation with the Soviet Armed Forces the NPA has become an effective armed tool of our worker-peasant power, a respected part of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact states.

The workers and LPG peasants and all working people of our country can fulfill the demanding tasks of the ninth party congress with effectiveness and elan, filled with optimism and belief in victory because it is certain for the entire future: We have in the Soviet Union the most loyal friend and mightiest ally, the most reliable economic partner and--in the form of the Soviet military power--also the most effective protective shield existing in the world against all aggressive attempts of imperialism!

Dear Soviet comrades, let this visit reaffirm your conviction that the people of the Soviet Union, too, can always rely on the people of the GDR and that you have here in the heart of Europe a loyal ally on whose soldiers the Soviet Armed Forces can also count in any situation. Because in the policy of our party Central Committee and the government of our state, in the economic policy as well as in the military policy, national and international aspects have always formed an inseparable entity and because, according to a statement of Ernst Thaelmann, for German Communists the attitudes toward the Soviet Union has always been the touchstone of proletarian internationalism!

Whatever we are doing to strengthen the GDR is always also being done to increase the weight of socialism and peace in the international class struggle, to implement the joint socialist foreign policy and the coordinated steps of detente, and to enlarge the wealth and the happiness of life of our family of peoples! This is the clear course of our ninth party congress, which was most clearly reaffirmed at the fifth SED Central Committee plenum!

Nobody will succeed in diverting us from this road! Whether the most reactionary circles of international financial capital want to blackmail us economically or militarily, whether their organs of psychological warfare and ideological diversion want to morally corrupt us, whether they pour out over us buckets full of dirty lies and slander or try to lure us with hypocritical tunes of an "all-German nationalism": the working people and the soldiers of the GDR know who are their friends and who their enemies!

While various politicians on the Rhine present themselves as alleged representatives of the interests of all German-speaking people, they are stepping up armaments and increasing the striking power of the Bundeswehr, increasing its readiness for aggression. The year 1977 will become a record year in the FRG--in its attacks against the social interests of the population as well as in armament expenditures: with its \$264 in armament expenditures per capita of the population the FRG is already now heading all European NATO states, even outranking the nuclear powers Great Britain and France.

We know that even the stepped-up arms race will not return to the German imperialists the military superiority which they used in 1917-1918 for shameless blackmail against the young Soviet power and in 1941 for a treacherous attack!

Those people west of the Elbe and Werra who dream of a forcible conquest or a "non-violent" incorporation of the GDR and who want to push us down on our knees by way of an intensified arms race as well as by anticommunist ideopolitical drumfire should take notice! The workers, peasants and other working people of the GDR, the soldiers of the NPA and the border troops will not let themselves be pushed over by any of these means!

The socialist GDR cannot be shaken, neither in its political stability nor in its firm social structure, nor in its persistent advocacy of the principles of peaceful coexistence, of detente in Europe, and of the peace program of the 25th CPSU Congress!

We know sufficiently well from the experiences of the class struggle that every step in the interests of stable peace and a happy future of the peoples in social security must be reliably protected by the military power of socialism.

Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said at the recent Soviet trade union congress: "The party has set the task of putting the material and cultural living standard of the Soviet people in the foreground. It has transformed our programmatic slogan of everything for man, for the benefit of man a thousand-fold into practical deeds."

This includes also the multifarious efforts on behalf of one of the most important tasks of our time--to achieve the restriction and cessation of the arms race, particularly of the nuclear arms race.

As is known, the Soviet Union and the states fraternally linked with it have on various international levels, particularly before the United Nations, in the SALT negotiations and at the Vienna talks on the reduction of troops in Central Europe, submitted constructive proposals and also have already achieved important agreements--such as the first SALT agreement or the accord of Vladivostok, the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, and others. We will certainly continue along this road of constructive proposals.

However, so long as forces have influence in the West which are profiting from armament, interested in expansion and strong enough to be hopeful of their chances in military adventures, peace and detente and favorable conditions for socialist construction will be created only to the extent to which socialism simultaneously leaves no doubt about its political and economic might and also its defense strength.

This is the position from which the GDR and its army is participating in the worldwide struggle of the working people for peace and international security, for national liberation and social progress. Despite all the difficulties which still have to be overcome in this struggle, it will be fought victoriously to the end. This is guaranteed by the trail-blazer of human progress, the USSR; this is guaranteed by the army of the Red October; this is guaranteed by the socialist community of states and the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact!

We greet from this meeting the great Soviet people, the workers, collective peasants and intellectual workers, the Communists of your country, the Leninist Central Committee of the CPSU, and its general secretary, Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev!

We wish the Soviet people new great successes in industry and agriculture, in science and technology, in shaping the developed socialist society and in its reliable protection!

Long live the inviolable friendship and comradeship in arms between the USSR and the GDR, between the glorious Soviet Armed Forces and our NPA!

Hoffman 13 April Dinner Toast

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 15 Apr 77 p 3 AU

[Toast by Army Gen Heinz Hoffman, GDR defense minister, delivered at dinner for visiting USSR Defense Minister on 14 April in Berlin]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Minister Ustinov;

Dear comrades marshals, generals and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces;

Dear comrades and friends;

Now that the visit of our dear guests from the USSR is nearing its end I feel a particular urge to most cordially thank you once more, esteemed Dmitri Fedorovich and dear Soviet guests, for the full and rich talks during your visit to the GDR and for the experiences passed on that occasion.

We would have liked to have shown you, our best friends, the entire army, all groups of units and units, would have liked to have familiarized you with even more enterprises and working people. But naturally this cannot be accomplished in 1 week. Nevertheless, I believe that we have used the time well.

Every working man of our country, every member of our National People's Army who had an opportunity in these days to meet you, the representatives of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces, has been reaffirmed once more--and most impressively at that--that the ties of friendship and comradeship in arms between our two states, peoples and armies are knotted tight. No power in the world will ever dissolve them.

It is with pleasure and profound satisfaction that we have received the words of recognition and praise at the Oranienburg meeting, which you, dear Dmitri Fedorovich, have found for the GDR's working people and for its soldiers.

If you, dear Soviet comrades, are taking with you the certainty of possessing in the GDR a sincere and loyal friend of the Soviet people and in the National People's Army an unshakable comrade in arms imbued with the Leninist spirit of socialist internationalism, for whom the alliance with the country of Red October ranks among the most precious possessions, then all of us are most pleased with this.

The talks which we conducted, the valuable ideas you conveyed to us and the entire significance of your visit we shall be thoroughly evaluating yet in the circle of leading comrades of our National People's Army. But what is already certain is:

This visit will enter the history of our armed forces as a memorable event, since it constitutes another climax in the relations between our armies. At a time of intensified imperialist attacks against the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the unity of the socialist community of states your visit, dear Soviet comrades, manifests to the entire world:

No enemy, by no matter what method, will ever shake the integrated power of our socialist alliance.

The general line of our parties, the policy of our states, and happiness in life of our peoples are safely protected also in the future by the glorious Soviet Army and Navy, by the united armed forces of the states participating in the Warsaw Pact.

I am able to assure you once more, esteemed Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union Ustinov, dear Soviet comrades, that the National People's Army will do all it can in the 60th year of the Red October to accomplish great new performances for the military protection of our common achievements in order to come off honorably at the side of the heirs of Lenin, the glorious Soviet Armed Forces.

Do convey ardent militant greetings to the members of the Soviet Army and Navy in the homeland, ardent militant greetings to the great Soviet people. Let us raise our glasses in this spirit and drink:

To the indestructible friendship and comradeship in arms between the GDR and the USSR, between the armed forces of our states;

To the Communist Parties of our countries and to their Central Committees with Comrade Leonid Brezhnev and Erich Honecker at the head;

To the health of our high guest, the USSR national defense minister, Marshal of the Soviet Union Ustinov;

To the well-being of our Soviet comrades in arms!

Ustinov 13 April Dinner Toast

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 15 Apr 77 pp 3, 4 AU

[Toast delivered by Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitri Ustinov at Berlin dinner on 14 April]

[Text] It gives us great pleasure to be able to welcome you as very dear guests at the USSR Embassy.

The visit of the Soviet military delegation to the GDR is nearing its end. It was interesting and eventful. The talks with Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, and with Comrade Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, have made a particularly great impression on us.

The talks with you, comrade minister, and with the other leading state and army representatives also were useful and fruitful.

With great attention we have acquainted ourselves with the life, daily activities and combat training of the members of the National People's Army, with the glorious feats of the working people in the industrial enterprises and with the life and culture of your country's people. Wherever we went, we were received as close and welcome friends with great cordiality and joy. We are aware that this cordiality and joy expressed the truly fraternal relationship between the GDR people and the Soviet people.

Permit me to express heartfelt gratitude to the SED Central Committee, the GDR Government, the leadership of the National Defense Ministry, the members of the National People's Army and to the republican working people for this joy and hospitality, for the sentiments of fraternal friendship toward the Soviet Union, its people and the armed forces members.

We were greatly impressed by the successes achieved by the GDR people in building socialism as well by the people's enthusiastic work aimed at accomplishing the tasks set forth by the Ninth SED Congress. We were witness to the fact that socialism, whose scientific foundations were worked out by Marx and Engels, has taken firm roots on German soil.

The National People's Army members are marching shoulder to shoulder with their people, they are persistently assimilating military skill. They are perfecting combat-readiness day after day and thus are making a worthy contribution to consolidating the comradeship in arms among the socialist fraternal armies. The National People's Army of the GDR is a firm element of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact member-states.

The Soviet people and the members of our armed forces rejoice at the successes of the GDR people and of their National People's Army. Their successes, comrades, are also our successes, successes of all countries of the socialist community. They are clear evidence of the tremendous vitality of the new social system, of the victorious ideas of Marxism-Leninism.

Comrades, the community of socialist states, welded together by the commonality of ideas and the unity of aims, is increasingly consolidating its international positions and authority and is reasserting itself as the leading factor of world policy. No lies or slander whatever against the socialist countries can reduce the attractiveness of socialism or hamper its victorious advance on our planet.

What are the genuine causes of these lies and slanders spread by our class enemies? It is, above all, the impressive successes of socialism and the deep economic, social and moral crisis of capitalism. These are the true causes of our enemies' fury.

Comrades, the CPSU and the SED unremittingly see to it that the friendship and cooperation between our armies and peoples are consolidating and developing because we know full well that this accelerates our advance many times. "So far as collaboration among the socialist countries is concerned," Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stated, "it is not just an addition of forces that is taking place but a multiplication." Today the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GDR and the other socialist fraternal countries have acquired a comprehensive nature. They help the socialist countries successfully solve both internal and foreign policy problems. It is our sacred duty and commandment to also strengthen this friendship further.

On the other hand, dear comrades, we can assure you that the Soviet people and our armed forces members are firmly resolved to also consolidate this friendship in the future and to guard it as a great achievement of our peoples.

Dear friends, tomorrow we are leaving the hospitable soil of the fraternal GDR. We are taking with us the best impressions of your country, its people and the members of the National People's Army. We wish the GDR working people great achievements in building the developed socialism and the members of the National People's Army new successes in political and combat training, in consolidating the fighting strength and combat-readiness of the armed forces for the benefit of their people and the entire socialist community.

Permit me, comrade minister, to invite you with a military delegation for an official visit to the Soviet Union at a time convenient for you. We shall be pleased to welcome in our country you, dear comrade minister, and other representatives of the GDR National People's Army. The Soviet people and its army members will accord you heartfelt hospitality and a friendly reception.

Permit me to raise the glass:

To the unity and friendship of the peoples of the socialist fraternal countries and to the inviolable comradeship in arms of their armies;

To the SED, its Central Committee and to Comrade Erich Honecker, Central Committee general secretary;

To the CPSU, its Central Committee and to Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, Central Committee general secretary;

To the well-being of Comrade Army Gen Heinz Hoffman, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and GDR national defense minister;

To your well-being, dear comrades.

CSO: 2300

HUNGARY

GDR LEADERS CONGRATULATE HUNGARIAN COUNTERPARTS ON LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 4 Apr 77 p 5 AU

["Congratulatory Message on the 32d Anniversary of Hungary's Liberation From Fascism"]

[Text] To Comrade Janos Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee,

Comrade Pal Losonczi, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic,

Comrade Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic, Budapest.

Dear Comrades: On the occasion of the 32d anniversary of the Hungarian people's liberation from fascism by the glorious Soviet Army we extend to you, the MSZMP Central Committee, the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic as well as to the fraternal Hungarian people most cordial congratulations and fraternal greetings on behalf of the SED Central Committee, the State Council, the Council of Ministers and the people of the GDR.

We are sincerely glad about the great successes in building socialism that have been achieved in the 32 years of the Hungarian People's Republic's existence by the Hungarian people and its workers' class under the leadership of its battle-tested Marxist-Leninist party and in the unbreakable alliance with the Soviet Union. Being a firm and reliable member of the community of socialist states, the Hungarian People's Republic enjoys a high international reputation. In the framework of the coordinated foreign policy of the socialist countries, it is making an important contribution, and is actively participating in the implementation of the peace program that has been further developed by the 25th CPSU Congress.

We are deeply impressed by the great verve and the creative initiative with which the communists and all working people of the Hungarian People's Republic are implementing the ambitious goals of the 11th MSZMP Congress

and are scoring top performances in the socialist competition devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

We wholeheartedly congratulate you, dear comrades, and the Hungarian people on these magnificent achievements.

We note with special satisfaction that the fraternal alliance and the universal cooperation between the SED and the MSZMP as well as between our two socialist states and peoples are successfully and dynamically developing on the firm foundation of Marxism-Leninism. Visible evidence of the constantly closer ties of our unbreakable friendship as well as of the unshakable militant alliance between our parties, states and peoples was the visit to the GDR a few days ago by a party-government delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance signed during this visit is a document of historical significance which determines the main directions for the collaboration of the GDR and the Hungarian People's Republic for many years to come, and which serves the further drawing together of our states and peoples.

It is the aim of this treaty to contribute to strengthening the unity and cohesion of the countries of the socialist community and to safeguarding peace.

Rest assured, dear Hungarian comrades, that the GDR will make every effort also in the future to further deepen the fraternal friendship and the universal collaboration between our parties, states and peoples.

With all our hearts we wish you and the fraternal Hungarian people new great successes in implementing the tasks adopted by the 11th MSZMP Congress.

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council,

Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers.

CSO: 2300

HUNGARY

GREETINGS SENT TO SYRIA, CAMBODIA, DANISH QUEEN

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Apr 77 p 14 AU

[Unattributed report: "Greetings Messages"]

[Text] On the occasion of the national holiday of the Syrian Arab Republic, messages expressing their good wishes have been sent by Pal Losonczi, chairman of the Presidential Council, to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic, and by Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Gen 'Abd al-Rahman Khulayfawi, prime minister.

In a message on the occasion of the national holiday of Democratic Cambodia, Pal Losonczi and Gyorgy Lazar have greeted Khieu Samphan, head of the state of Democratic Cambodia, and Prime Minister Pol Pot.

On the occasion of the birthday of Danish Queen Margrethe II, the national holiday of Denmark, Pal Losonczi has expressed his good wishes in a message.

CSO: 2500

KADAR SPEAKS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Apr 77 pp 3-5 AU

[Address by MSZMP Central Committee First Secretary Janos Kadar at 16 April session of the fifth national conference of socialist brigade leaders at the Ferenc Rozsa Cultural Center of Construction Workers in Budapest: "The Movement of the Socialist Brigades Has Grown Into a Mass Movement, Into a Popular Movement"]

[Excerpt] The World Will Continue Advancing on the Correct Path

The coming about of the Helsinki Conference on European Security is among the most important events. One must mention here the successes of the peoples' anti-imperialist struggles, outstanding among which is the victory of the Vietnamese people's struggle for freedom: as a result of this success, the 50 million Vietnamese people are living in a united country, in one fatherland, and are building a socialist society today. This is a world historic victory of the many decades-long freedom fight of the Vietnamese people. The changing of the international situation in a favorable direction is demonstrated also by the fact that, supported by the international solidarity of the progressive forces, the Angolan people have carried their struggle for freedom to victory, and that the imperialists could not deprive this people of liberty, a people that has shed the yoke of over 4 centuries of Portuguese colonialism and have set out on their own path.

Also, the successful struggles of the international communist movement have contributed to the favorable development of the world situation. The fascist regime of several decades has collapsed in Portugal, the military junta has been overthrown in Greece and, through the liquidation of fascism, after 38 years, the Spanish Communist Party has regained its legality and freedom in Spain. We wish further successes to these fraternal parties and the democratic forces and peoples of Portugal, Spain and Greece. We wish that they may prosper and advance on the path of development!

It is part of the general characteristics of the international situation that the imperialists have become fed up with the successes of progressive

forces, are implementing various countermeasures and have even sounded the cold-war bugles. It is known, for instance, that, under the label of "defending" human rights, they are organizing campaigns against the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries. Yet, it is clear: If we compare the manner in which human rights are assured in the Soviet Union, in the socialist countries and in the United States and other leading capitalist countries, the scale is tipped in favor of the socialist countries.

Fundamental human rights--the right to life, work and culture and the opportunity to freely develop one's personality, health care and the right to recreation--are far better assured and resolved in all socialist countries, including our country, than even in the leading capitalist countries.

It is part of the imperialist countermeasures that they stubbornly hold fast to the vestiges of the still-existing colonial power. Even now they are exerting extraordinary efforts to maintain the racist and discriminatory regimes in South Africa and other countries of the continent. Lately, a foreign imperialist intervention has taken place in Zaire, where a provincial uprising broke out against the Mobutu regime. It is not at all the rights of these people that the imperialists have become worked up about, but the natural assets to be found there, such as copper and uranium, for instance. That is why they try to continue to maintain their exploiting, neocolonialist regimes there. The socialist countries have appropriately expressed their position on Zaire. This, too, reflects our consistent principle, that all peoples should be able to decide themselves, without foreign interference, how they are to live and what path of development they are to pursue.

Despite imperialist efforts, we will continue pursuing the path we have been following, because we are profoundly convinced that justice is on our side and that the world has set out in the right direction and will continue advancing on the correct path. In collaboration with the Soviet Union, all socialist countries and all progressive forces, we will continue struggling for peace and detente, which constitute our primary and elementary aspiration and demand. We are prepared to cooperate also with realistic-minded politicians of the capitalist countries.

Soviet-U.S. negotiations in the matter of strategic weapons have come into the center of attention recently. We far-reachingly support the Soviet Union's clear-cut position, which was set forth in detail by Comrade A. Gromyko at a press conference and with which also Hungarian public opinion has become familiar. We are profoundly convinced that the Soviet Union is adopting the correct stance when, on the one hand, it resolutely rejects intervention in its domestic affairs and when, on the other hand, it is prepared, with the same resolution, to engage in negotiations and come to terms in the matter of strategic weapons. We welcome this policy and wish that it may lead to success.

The position adopted by the Soviet Union at these negotiations is consistent with the views professed by the Hungarian People's Republic as well. We have long professed--and we consistently adhere to this--that no state has the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic. Everybody must understand that we are living in a world where not even the strongest capitalist country can intervene in the life of even the smallest socialist country. At the same time, we are fully prepared to realize peaceful coexistence with any capitalist country. We represent a realistic position and we pursue an active policy vis-a-vis capitalist countries--Finland, Austria, Italy and the FRG, for instance. We are striving for normalized relations and, if possible, economic relations producing mutual benefits with the United States as well.

However it must be stressed that we are for a collective treatment of the Helsinki recommendations. We, on our part, are striving fully to realize the recommendations, but we feel that the same is mandatory for everybody who has signed these recommendations. We are preparing in this spirit for the Belgrade conference as well--which we expect will carry forward the very important historical process that has begun with Helsinki, because this is its purpose and mission. Our position is that political detente must be complemented by an expansion of economic relations and must be followed by a military detente. We deal with every international issue in this spirit, because we are sincere supporters of good relations and friendship among peoples, irrespective of different social systems.

It is an important international condition for our work of socialist construction that the Hungarian people be in the vanguard of human progress and that they have great and strong allies: the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries.

We are performing intensive and constant work in the Warsaw Pact and CEMA. We belong to the world socialist system and with progressive people, irrespective of their color and language, we understand each other.

Recently, outpourings appeared in the Western press to the effect that there is uncertainty about the future in the socialist countries. As for us, the Hungarian people do not live in uncertainty; on the contrary: we are looking to the future with hope. Admittedly, our ship has to pass through reefs sometimes, we must navigate through sandbanks occasionally, but our ship's engine is functioning evenly, the steering gear is in order, we are on course and we are advancing.

CSO: 2500

HUNGARY

SOYUZ-77 MILITARY EXERCISE NOTED

Budapest NEPHADSEREG in Hungarian 26 Mar 77 p 2

[Article by Istvan K. Toth: "Strengthening Our Alliance--The Defense of Peace"]

[Text] During the day the guests arriving in our homeland visited the Ministry of Defense and met with the leaders of the Hungarian People's Army to exchange ideas about questions of mutual interest.

Let Us Strengthen Our Common Defense Organization

On the evening of 21 March, Minister of Defense Colonel General Lajos Czinege gave a dinner to honor the chief commanders and the guests who came here for the Soyuz-77 exercise. Those participating included V.G. Kulikov, marshal of the Soviet Union and commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces, A.I. Gribkov, general of the army and chief of staff of the United Armed Forces, J.A. Naumenko, colonel general and representative in Hungary of the commander-in-chief, comrades who had arrived with the commander-in-chief, Karoly Csemi, lieutenant general and Ministry of Defense state secretary, Istvan Olah, lieutenant general, chief of the general staff and deputy minister, leading comrades of the MSZMP Central Committee, of the ministries and of chief authorities, members of the Military Council of the Ministry of Defense, leaders of organs of the Ministry of Defense and commanders of the army units.

Colonel General Lajos Czinege, minister of defense, and Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces, gave toasts at the dinner and comradely gathering.

In his toast the comrade minister greeted Comrade Kulikov. He said, among other things: "It gives us sincere pleasure to greet you personally as commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces in our homeland among our comrades in arms. Using the occasion offered by a personal meeting we wish you much success, effective work, good strength and health in the responsible office you hold in our common defense organization, in the name of the Central Committee of our party, of the government of our people's republic, of the commanders of our army and of all our personnel."

Comrade Czinege emphasized that as a result of the coordinated, diligent work of our revolutionary parties and governments leading the fraternal socialist countries, of the efforts of our peoples building socialism and communism, and of the struggle of the forces of the socialist world system, of the international labor movement and of progress, the international positions of the forces fighting for social development and world peace and security are constantly increasing and strengthening. He emphatically stressed that the essence, aggressive nature and strategic goal of imperialism had not changed. Today the forces of international reaction, ready for anything, are waging an hysterical campaign against the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, the international communist movement and the progressive, democratic forces.

In the interest of their aggressive purposes and of even greater profit they are forcing a new arms race on mankind, making threats with military power and not recoiling even from open aggression.

The comrade minister noted that all this demands from our socialist countries that we increase our efforts, strengthen our cooperation and strengthen further our common defense organization, the Warsaw Pact. Since the creation of the Warsaw Pact, our homeland, the Hungarian People's Republic, has consistently undertaken and fulfilled, in the interest of a defense of our freedom and independence and on the basis of our internationalist obligations, the tasks falling on it from the common defense efforts of our fraternal countries and the obligations deriving from our union and alliance.

A Lively, Living Link

The comrade minister said: "For our homeland and our working people nothing can replace that aid which we have received and are receiving from the Soviet Union and the Soviet army in realizing our goals serving the building and defense of socialism. Especially significant for us soldiers, multiplying the effectiveness of our efforts, is that sincere friendship and many-sided cooperation which binds our people's army to the armed forces of the fraternal Soviet people, tempered in revolutionary battles. It is an honor that the Hungarian People's Army can be the comrade-in-arms of the strongest army in the world, of the Soviet army which represents the chief strength of our common defense organization. The comradely cooperation, common preparation and solution of tasks which have become a natural everyday practice which we have developed with the Soviet Southern Army Group temporarily stationed in our homeland and with its headquarters, staffs and troops are a lively, living manifestation of the comradely link between our fraternal armies."

In the concluding part of his speech the minister of defense spoke of one of the most significant common programs of the current year, of Soyuz-77, the current exercise of the United Armed Forces. "In its goals," he emphasized, "it is an adequate expression and realization of our aspiration to prepare our commands and staffs to carry out our common tasks at a high level."

Soyuz-77 is further strengthening our fraternal friendship-in-arms and the internationalist cooperation and union of our armies. The exercise is contributing effectively to our preparation to carry out our joint tasks completely and to a further development of our united armed forces."

The Demands of Our Age

Marshal V.G. Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces, answered the greeting of the comrade minister. In his answer he expressed gratitude for the hearty comradely reception, for the good wishes and for the sincere, friendly words. Speaking of his visit and of the purpose of the command and staff exercise led by him he emphasized that in the time to come there would be further favorable opportunities to debate and exchange opinions concerning questions mutually affecting and interesting the fraternal armies and comrades in arms. The most varied questions must be solved at the command and staff exercise and following an evaluation of experiences further tasks and requirements must be defined.

Comrade Kulikov expressed thanks to the Central Committee of the MSZMP, and personally to Comrade Janos Kadar, and to our government for making possible and ensuring the carrying out of this exercise on the territory of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Joining what Colonel General Lajos Czinege, the comrade minister of defense, had said about the significance of the exercise Comrade Kulikov noted that the necessity of it had been dictated by the situation which had developed in the world. Imperialism is doing everything today in the interest of slowing or obstructing the process of detente which is developing world-wide and serves the cause of all mankind. Imperialism is poisoning the international political atmosphere.

"Despite the fact," he continued, "that the age of the cold war is being gradually replaced by detente and that the peaceful coexistence of countries with different social systems is winning ground, we cannot decrease our vigilance. In our day also the Western aggressive circles are doing everything in the interest of slandering socialism and arresting social progress."

The commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces called attention to the fact that the modernization of weapons and the deployment of new equipment is proceeding to an ever greater degree in NATO and military expenditures are increasing further. Our fraternal countries are struggling consistently so that detente might win new ground in world politics and that peaceful coexistence might expand and strengthen. The spread of this has been quite palpable in recent years. At the same time we should see clearly that the aggressive, dark forces of international reaction want to obstruct and stop this process at any price. This is why we cannot give up a perfection of our military preparedness and a further strengthening of our military positions.

In accordance with the guides of our parties we are doing everything in the interest of having the battle readiness and political and military preparedness of our fraternal socialist armies correspond to the demands and requirements of our age.

Qualitative Development

Comrade Kulikov then spoke of the increased responsibility and tasks of the armed forces. "As a result of the care of our parties and of the work of working millions," he said, "our armed forces have new, modern technical equipment satisfying every demand and are developing further qualitatively. It is a first order task of the generals, officers and all personnel to use these weapons and technical equipment as effectively as possible in the interest of ensuring our peaceful development."

Speaking of the Soyuz-77 exercise the commander-in-chief said that its goals included among other things the perfection of the leadership experience and cooperation readiness of commanders and staffs by introducing and practicing new motifs corresponding to the requirements of modern battle. It offers an opportunity for the development of the working methods of troop leaders and for developing the most expedient solutions of various organizational questions also.

In conclusion Comrade Kulikov emphasized that he trusted that the commands and staffs affected by the exercise would make maximum use of the opportunities at their disposal to carry out their tasks at a high level, to do their work in the spirit of internationalist friendship, making full use of their theoretical and practical training, their knowledge and their strength and doing their duty perfectly.

With the Unit Staffs

In the course of carrying out the Soyuz-77 exercise Comrade Kulikov, leading workers of the United Armed Forces, Colonel General Lajos Czinege, the comrade minister of defense, and other leaders of the Hungarian People's Army visited the headquarters of one of the units of our people's army where they received a briefing from Major General Janos Stock about the preparations of the unit and the execution of the tasks defined for it in the exercise.

Marshal Kulikov and his comrades, Bela Biszku, a member of the MSZMP Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, Janos Borbandi, deputy premier of the Council of Ministers, Colonel General Lajos Czinege, minister of defense, and other military leaders visited the command post of the staff of one of the participating units where they heard a briefing from Major General Lajos Morocz, commander of the unit, about the work there and about the fulfillment of the tasks received within the framework of the exercise.

MSZMP'S GYORI ADDRESSES WEST BERLIN PARTY SCHOOL MEETING

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Apr 77 p 5 AU

[Report on Fifth SEW Congress and activities of MSZMP delegation: "The Fifth SEW Congress Continues Its Work; Imre Gyori Conveyed the MSZMP's Greetings"]

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the congress, meetings were held in three West Berlin workers districts--in Charlottenburg, Neukoelln and Wedding--at which foreign party delegations met with party members. Imre Gyori, MSZMP Central Committee secretary and head of the Hungarian delegation, addressed the meeting held at the Charlottenburg party school.

To begin with, he conveyed the heartfelt, comradely and internationalist greetings of the Hungarian communists and noted: "Your party's particular contribution to strengthening European peace and security is its resolute struggle for a consistent adherence to the four-power agreement on West Berlin and against any attempt or endeavor aimed at the agreement's one-sided interpretation or undermining. The Hungarian communists support the struggle of the communists of West Berlin, so that West Berlin should no longer be a danger point in Europe and a constant source of international conflicts and so that the city should be able to feel the fruits of detente and a peaceful life." Dealing with the close interrelations between the struggle for an internal democratic transformation and for detente, he expressed his great appreciation of the activity pursued by the West Berlin fraternal party to attain the most fundamental human rights--the right to work and the right to socialist security.

On behalf of the MSZMP Central Committee, Imre Gyori wished the congress successful work.

CSO: 2500

UN HUMAN RIGHTS PACTS, POLISH RIGHTS GUARANTEES COMPARED

Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH in Polish 19-20 Feb 77 p 2

[Zbigniew Zukowski commentary: "The Human Rights Pacts"]

[Text] After the appearance in the 16 February SZTANDAR MLODYCH of the information that, at the motion of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers had asked the Council of State to ratify the Human Rights Pacts, we received many questions from readers about this matter. Therefore we hasten to comment.

The Human Rights Pacts are the name given to two international conventions passed unanimously by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966. The first concerns civil and political rights, while the second deals with economic, social, and cultural rights. Both constituted an expansion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights passed in the form of a resolution of the General Assembly in 1948, which was only a set of principles and did not possess binding legal force. The passage of the pacts was thus an important step in the direction of creating effective guarantees of the protection of basic human rights, because the protection of these rights became a law and not just a moral-political obligation of states.

"These pacts acquire force of law after they are ratified by at least 35 states. Thus the decision of Polish authorities is a positive step on the way to their realization. At this point it is also worth stressing that Poland made a rather large contribution to the work on ratifying the pacts. Thanks to the efforts of Poland and other socialist countries, economic, social, and social welfare rights were also included in the pacts. They were recognized as being fundamental, on a level with traditional political rights. Thus the justness of the Marxist thesis was acknowledged, that guaranteeing socioeconomic rights is a condition for realizing the remaining rights.

Ratification of the Human Rights Pacts does not constitute anything "new" either for socialist political thinking or for Polish constitutionalism. Many provisions of the pacts find expression in our constitution, and those

which are not in the fundamental statute are expressed in the rules of internal law. As an example could be cited the rights granted to suspects in criminal proceedings to which so much space is devoted in the political pact and only some of which are guaranteed by the constitution. However, criminal procedure regulations guarantee these rights more fully than the pacts.

It should also be kept in mind that rights embodied in the constitution are of a class nature. Regulations relating to fundamental rights and civic freedoms are thus interpreted in the light of the foundations of the socioeconomic and political structure of the state. Moreover, the constitution expressly points to the provisional nature of political rights in its provisions, which define the limits to exercising these rights. Thus the pacts will be interpreted in each state in accordance with the ruling class's ideopolitical concept. It is understood that in the socialist structure these rights are supposed to serve the realization of principles of supremacy of the working masses, but the state will see to it that civil rights are not exploited in a struggle to overthrow the existing structure or for purposes incompatible with the interests of the working people.

As far as socioeconomic rights are concerned, there is no doubt that the content of the constitution is consistent with the content of rights embodied in the pact, but taking into account all the provisions of Polish internal law, the scope of many rights is decidedly broader than that provided for in the pacts, a fact which is also worth knowing about.

CSO: 2600

ROMANIA

CENTENNIAL OF STATE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATED IN U.S.

Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 17 Apr 77 p 6

Manifestations Devoted to the Anniversary of the Centennial of the State Independence of Romania

Text Washington--The state university in Columbus, Ohio hosted a Romanian-American scientific meeting devoted to the centennial of the state independence of Romania. The Romanian delegation, made up of academicians Const. C. Giurescu, Stefan Pascu, Emil Condurachi, Univ Prof Zoe Dumitrescu Busulenga, Dr Ilie Ceausescu, Dr Aurel Chibutiu, and Dr Virgil Candea and their American colleagues presented a number of scientific papers treating major themes of Romanian history.

During a celebration in which more than 200 university professors, students, and Americans of Romanian origin participated, the delegation from Romania was greeted by the lieutenant governor of the state of Ohio, Richard F. Celeste. The festivities concluded with a beautiful folklore performance by the Romanian dance group of the university.

Also, the delegation of Romanian scholars took part in a scientific session organized at the same university and in a symposium on the subject, "Tradition and Current Trends in Romanian Historiography," hosted by Wayne State University in Detroit. There was also a Romanian book exhibit. Historians and cultural figures from Detroit and neighboring communities participated in both events. The Romanian ambassador in the U.S. Nicolae M. Nicolae, was present.

CSO: 2700

ROMANIA

BETRAYERS OF HOMELAND CURSED IN VERSE

Bucharest FLACARA in Romanian 14 Apr 77 p 15

[Poem by George Ciudan: "Curse"]

[Text] For the Betrayers of the Socialist Homeland

Whoever sells out his people and country, let maggots and shame consume him,

Whoever detaches himself from the doina [Romanian folk dance], let him be covered with carbuncles, heart and soul,

So that no doctor and no medicine can cure him,

Forever and ever, forever and ever!

Whoever sells out the sacred vision of the Romanians, let him not find any tomb on the earth, no plank for a coffin,

May God dry him out alive and when he dies may no star fall at his death, may no star fall at his death!

A Transylvanian carnation to have on the soul wound, seven times cursed be the one who desecrates flowers, the one who desecrates flowers!

The blue skies of Voronet, which are priceless in the world,

Whoever sells them for the hardest currency of lies and treason, let typhoid fever be his lot, let typhoid fever be his lot!

Whoever betrays his country let the maggots and the torture of the longing which has no cure eat away at him,

Forever and ever and when he dies may no star fall at his death, may no star fall at his death!

CSO: 2700

SKOPJE MEETING ON ALL-PEOPLES DEFENSE

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 18 Mar 77 p 3

[Article by S. SH.]

[Text] Under the leadership of Bosko Stankovski, yesterday in Skopje there was a conference on current problems of preparation of local communities for all-peoples defense, and for assignments of the Socialist Alliance. The conference was organized by the Commission for All-Peoples Defense, Security and National Defense of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Macedonia (hereafter SSRNM), and the republic council of local communities. There was broad participation by representatives of agencies, organizations and other bodies that are interested in this matter in local communities, communes and the republic. Attending the conference was the president of the Presidium of Macedonia, Vidoe Smilevski. The keynote speech was delivered by the president of the Commission for All-Peoples Defense, Security and National Defense of the Executive Committee, SSRNM, Rade Gogov. A discussion followed which involved some 15 participants of the conference.

Discussion at the conference concentrated on implementing the concept of all-peoples defense in local communities. In some places it has already been transformed into a system which more or less successfully functions in practice. Participants in the discussion pointed out a number of facts which show the implementation of the system of all-peoples defense, but at the same time they raised questions which must first be resolved in the local communities. It is apparent that one of the most urgent questions is how to expand efforts for peoples defense and how to involve increasing number of people in them. It was demonstrated that there are not and cannot be set and invariable solutions in local communities when it is necessary to develop fully the creative relationship and the initiative for finding particular local solutions. This, however, must be accomplished in an organized manner and without violating the necessary unity of command and direction of defense. Consequently, it was emphasized that it is necessary for the Socialist Alliance to support initiatives for activities in this area by all organized socialist bodies. The final document of the conference will be prepared in that spirit by a task force formed for the purpose.

Discussants participating included Muarem Kasam, Vangel Nedanovski, Dusko Pejovski, Trajce Poposki, Cvetko Veljanovski, Blaga Rampova-Belceva, Gligor Angelovski, Atanans Kardulovski, Kiro Gelevski, Cveta Hadzivasiljeva, Mile Angelovski, Angele Mihajlovski, Metodija Jakimovski and Kosta Georgievski. The closing speech was delivered by the president of the Executive Committee, SSRNM, Bosko Stankovski.

Participants in the discussions brought up several questions of organizational and practical features of various aspects of all-peoples defense. Of special note is the matter of involving women and youth in the system of all-peoples defense. It was pointed out that there can be and should be many tasks of national defense that could be left to the local communities. There should not be a single person who lacks his position and his assignments for defense in case of aggression against the country, but at the same time the populace must be trained and made familiar with its tasks. All participants also spoke of the matter of secrets that are to be preserved, from the point of view of the most important criterion for determining secrecy for people organized for defense and protection, as well as for those who are not involved. The problem of financing defense in local communities was also raised, along with the question of more rapid development of civil defense, which now is lagging behind the tempo of development in the armed forces, including the Yugoslav National Army and territorial defense units. One feature is that numerous viewpoints in local communities remain in the form of attitudes at the level of councils, committees, commissions or other bodies, or even in agencies for peoples defense, although in fact their importance extends to the entire population. It was also revealed that it is necessary to reexamine the nature and magnitude of the preparations of local communities for successful operations during wartime.

12131
CSO: 2800

YUGOSLAVIA

ZAGREB TV PRESENTS FOUR-HOUR PROGRAM ON RELIGION

Ljubljana DRUZINA in Slovenian 27 Mar 77 p 2

[Text] Zagreb, 11 Mar 1977 (AKSA)--On 9 March 1977 Zagreb Television presented its viewers with a 4-hour review of religion within the framework of its program "Free Wednesday." The program was organized as a roundtable discussion in which political workers and Marxist experts participated. The public could call in and ask questions over the telephone. In this way the program maintained close contact with the public and included its response.

The panelists first described the background of religion, the relationship of society toward religion and Marxist views on religion as a social phenomenon as well as its place in society. The viewers heard about the movements within Christianity and particularly within the Catholic Church after the last ecclesiastic council. They became acquainted with some statistical data according to which religion is supposed to be fading away everywhere and with the different degrees of this decline in various countries and social strata. The program included two films, one of which presented the background of religions--Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity--while the other dealt with the presence and influence of religion in our society.

A 4-hour program cannot, of course, be reviewed in a short article. Accordingly, we must limit ourselves to a few excerpts. It was said in the program that religion was present in all historical eras and in all societies. Its form had a special relationship with the nature of society. Therefore religion of today, too, is related to the problems of the contemporary world. In contrast with Marxism, however, religion is not supposed to change the world but only provide an interpretation of its essence. Thus religion is intrinsically conservative and wants to preserve the values of the past. Nevertheless, religion does maintain a vision of the future. The position on the historical importance of religion, albeit ideological, was repeated and it was stated that the times when religion was supposed to solve social problems have gone by.

There was also discussion on the crisis of religion. The panelists emphasized that religion is experiencing a crisis which is manifested by its

diminished role in society, its adaptation to the world, and a decline in religious observance. It was stated that the church did not show sufficient interest in maintaining a dialogue, including the ecumenical communication, and that it did not care enough for making the world a better place.

We heard once again that religion should not be counteracted by administrative measures but rather by removal of certain social conditions--that is, by resolving the problems from which various religious forms in society arise. Membership in the League of Communists is incompatible with religion because for the party religion is not a personal affair. However, the party is endeavoring to abolish the differentiation between the believers and non-believers.

The legal position of religious communities in this country is based--according to the president of the Croatian Commission on Religion, Lalic--on the principle of freedom of conscience and religion, separation of the Church and State, and abstention of the Church from political affairs. Upon withdrawal from the politics, religion should concentrate fully on itself. The State thus wants to remove from religion its non-religious ingredients.

There was also discussion on religious teachers, charitable activities and construction of new ecclesiastic buildings. Lalic emphasized that hitherto the housing development planning policy had not been sufficiently cognizant of the citizens' religious needs so that churches had to use apartments instead of nonexistent church buildings. There should be no difficulties in granting building permits in the future. Charity, according to the same panelist, does not come under the purview of the Church. However, believers should not be prohibited from engaging in this kind of activity. The society should take another approach and remove the causes for such activity--that is, enter this area and take it over. And the teachers who are believers? If their religious convictions do not interfere with the program of instruction and cannot be characterized as clerical they should be permitted to work in their profession but not otherwise. It is difficult, however, to give specific prescriptions in this area.

The Zagreb TV program on religion was certainly interesting. Naturally, it had its drawbacks but it should be emphasized that it nevertheless provided a personal insight to the viewers into the problems of a social reality that is still alive in all social strata. Unfortunately, it must be said that the dialogue was one-sided. In other words, the choice of panelists necessarily provided only for socio-political answers. Until questions on religion can also be answered along with a Marxist theoretician by a believing person from our society--and there is no need to be afraid that he would be lacking in ability to be critical--one can hardly speak of impartiality. Another thing that should be pointed out is that religion is not and cannot be solely a sociological problem. That is to say, religion is something more than merely a sociological phenomenon. Its roots are deep in man's personality and therefore it cannot be a personal affair. And through

man's personality it has its roots also in society as a whole. Man is a social creature according to all his inclinations. It is well that our social reality endeavors to remove from religion the non-religious admixtures. We fear, however, that it may in its fervor, relying solely on sociological criteria, also do away with the strictly religious dimensions of man's personality. Precisely for these reasons a dialogue in such programs is not only useful but absolutely necessary.

12070

CSO: 2800

COMMENTATOR FAULTS ALLEGED RELIGION-SCIENCE CONFLICT

Ljubljana DRUZINA in Slovenian 27 Mar 77 p 3

[Text] The Saturday, 19 March 1977, edition of DELO carried a brief report on the debate at the Slovenian SAWP Republic Conference presidency's Coordinating Committee for Regulation of Relations Between the Self-Managing Society and the Church, which lasted almost 5 hours. The subject of the debate was what happens in our country if a teacher is a religious believer. We welcome discussions that clarify the status of believers in our society. The brief report on the extensive debate reflects considerable breadth. We can trace a number of ideas with which all believers of good will must agree.

It is emphasized that our schools cannot be ideologically neutral. "The kind of school which we advocate is a high quality, socialist self-managing school which is in the common interest of believers and nonbelievers alike. The idea is to teach young people to think and act independently, critically, and creatively so that they may, with the help of scientific knowledge acquired at school, develop into a well-rounded person and creative self-manager." Such an idea of education is the best foundation for a firm personal faith, hence schools organized by these precepts are also truly in the interest of the believers.

Furthermore, it has been stated that the presence of Marxism as science and critical theory is essential for the educational process. "The purpose is to change the present relationships into truly socialist self-managing ones with the help of Marxist science," says the report. Such Marxism can also be accepted without danger to faith by the believers. This in fact is not anti-deism or fighting the religion, although our Marxist brothers may have been awkward in expressing themselves on this subject. For example, in his article "League of Communists Policy With Respect to Church and Religion," (DELO, 25 Dec 1976) Ivica Racan stated: "Attracting and engaging the believers in the building of socialism and destruction of the material and spiritual causes of religiousness also represents one of the exceptionally positive results of our policy." Is the building of socialism indeed the same thing as destruction of the material and spiritual causes of religiousness? Is socialism in its essence truly opposed to religion. I believe

that time has already overcome such theories. A reasonably aware believer of our Church can only smile at such "scientific" observations but some believers could be confused by such assertions and begin to wonder whether they should take part in the destruction of their religion. The above-mentioned article puts the matter somewhat differently: "A conflict with religion can occur only when religion impedes social, economic and cultural progress, when it acts contrary to the socialist self-management. However, no such conflicts exist because of religion itself." There is nothing to be added to this.

We can be pleased that it was clearly stated in the debate that curtailing the religious liberty of educational workers is not permissible. It has been stated: The basic question, after all, is not whether a religious teacher may teach in the school of a socialist self-managing society but rather what kind of a teacher he is. If he teaches in the sense of brotherhood, unity, liberty, independence and nonalignment of Yugoslavia; in accordance with scientific understanding and in accordance with the instructional and educational goals of the socialist self-managing society; if he provides the future generations with the full opportunity to acquire and maintain a world view of their own, then he is performing his duty. No one is forcing him to advocate atheism but it is, of course, clear that he cannot and must not be allowed to function in the school as some kind of catechist. Here I would point out the plain fact that this also applies to the non-religious teacher. He, too, must provide the young with full opportunity to arrive at their own world view.

It is unacceptable and insulting to us believers, however, to read the idea about the conflict between science taught at school and religion. A statement was made that "only those can choose the teaching profession who are convinced that they can reconcile their faith with science and who accept the responsibility to live with the conflict as their own personal one and refrain from expressing it in their attitude toward science or socio-humanist direction of instruction and education." The obsolescent thesis about conflict between religion and science has, unfortunately, still many adherents in our country, most of whom are acquainted neither with science nor with religion or interpret one or the other erroneously if they find a conflict. The assertion that a religious teacher carries within himself a conflict between religion and science is nonsense at which believers could smile if this thesis were not threatening to the position of a religious believer in our society. A society maintaining that there is a conflict between science and religion and properly desiring to be guided by science would necessarily place a religious person in a subordinate position. A person cannot be truly free if society is downgrading him and pushing him aside because of his world view. And does this not frequently happen in practice?

A believing Christian as well as a believing teacher can, out of his Christian conviction, become sincerely and concernedly integrated in the process of building our socialist self-managing society. For the ideals of mutual relationships in this society are genuinely Christian ideals. We can even say

that today no other concept of society is closer to the ideal of evangelist principles than the concept of our own society. Therefore it would be well not only for the believers but for the entire society, too, if the historically conditioned but nowadays outworn theses on the negative role of religion disappeared from our reality. Some Marxists are known to have already arrived at this conclusion.

A number of problems exist which should be resolved in the spirit of dialog as, for example, the question of the relationship between science and religion, between Marxism and Christianity, between socialism and Christian outlook on social relationships. These problems, although seemingly theoretical in nature, require an answer because they are of considerable interest in our social relationships and of vital importance for the position of religious persons in our society. Are we ready for a dialog?

12070

CSO: 2800

PROTECTION AGAINST SILICOSIS AT ZLETOVO, SASA MINES

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 25 Mar 77 p 3

[Article by F. J.]

[Text] One hundred million dinars have been spent for the purchase of technical equipment for ventilating mine pits and protecting the workers from silicosis at the Zletovo and Sasa mines. "Black spots" have been removed from the roads. Greater safety has been achieved in traffic.

Several subcommittees of committees of the Macedonian Assembly yesterday discussed reports on the activities of the republic secretariats and reacted positively to the work of government agencies. The delegates stated that the governmental agencies had achieved better cooperation with organizations of associated work, communes and other agencies and organizations in the republic.

The Council for Industry, Mining, Construction, Transportation and Trades of the Committee on Labor has determined that inspection services and republic inspectorates have significantly improved standards for executing laws, regulations and other legal standards of performance. The number of controls performed has increased greatly, while more stringent standards and sanctions are being applied against violators of regulations.

In the past year, agencies of marketing inspection have conducted close to 14,000 inspections for standards. Most of them related to procedures for establishing prices and for quality control of products. The inspection service for income and budget matters, for example, uncovered 2,430 persons who were receiving income and profits that were subject to tariffs, but who were not reporting these incomes!

The delegates gave special attention to the report of the republic mining inspection commission which reported on measures that have been undertaken for the protection of miners from silicosis. According to the report, the Zletovo and Sasa mines are investing enormous sums to obtain and install

technical devices to protect the miners from silicon dust in mine tunnels. At the Zletovo mine, purchase of ventilating equipment for the mine pits has cost 50 million dinars. The same amount of money has been spent for equipment acquisition at the Sasa mine. Measures are being undertaken to invest funds for protecting human life and to reduce the incidence of silicosis, the most common ailment among the miners. Miners now receive 16 months retirement and seniority credit for each year of employment. They are seeking to obtain 18 months for each year.

Delegates to this commission are striving to eliminate "black spots" on the roads and to provide greater traffic safety. In discussing the report of the highway inspection service, it was stated that new roads that are being put into service are eliminating previously encountered technical defects.

The Commission for Health and Public Policy of the Committee for Social Labor considered an analysis of the status and problems in children's aid matters and positions and opinions expressed in public discussions of this topic. Delegates of this commission adopted the developmental program for immediate aid to children in Macedonia for the coming year, as well as the draft resolution for improving the social and economic position of women in Macedonia.

12131
CSO: 2800

END