

Brezhnev hits China war threat

Offers West cooperation, pact against nuclear first strike

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev topped off a series of speeches by the Soviet leadership March 2, with a nationally televised survey of his domestic and foreign policy. With respect to the United States, Brezhnev offered a carrot and brandished a stick, as he warned China and its Anglo-American supporters to halt a course of action which could plunge the world into thermonuclear war. He countered with the Soviet policy-alternative to war, an offer to the West, including America, of broad initiatives for trade and disarmament.

Most U.S. news media, their editorial decisions under the sway of State Department attempts to black out the war danger, misrepresented both the "carrot" and the "stick" of Brezhnev's speech. The Soviet leader was reported to have issued a conciliatory perspective that was a "drastic departure from the recent Soviet propaganda line" of attacking Washington's connivance with Peking's invasion of Vietnam. Most press followed the lead of the *New York Times*, whose Moscow correspondent wrote that the aging Soviet leadership is "less vigorous and decisive than necessary in a fast-paced world," and that Brezhnev's health "has forced him to let important decisions drift It would be out of character for him to approve risky, extensive action against China."

On the contrary, Brezhnev's warnings to China were decisive. We excerpt the speech below.

The "conciliatory" side of his speech was also different than represented. Both Brezhnev and Prime Minister Kosygin, who spoke the preceding day, defined economic development as the fundamental goal of Soviet policy for the Third World as well as in East-West relations.

Brezhnev cited the existing 25-year economic cooperation agreements of the USSR with France, West Germany and Finland, which are broadly recognized as measures for political stability as well as economic growth, and offered to negotiate one with Italy. Soviet officials told the *Journal of Commerce* that they would like to see the same arrangement with the United States, if Washington will remove the legal and political obstacles already thrown up against trade.

Brezhnev concentrated much of his speech on an appeal to the Carter Administration to drop its confronta-

tion policies and work with the USSR and Western Europe for global peace and development. His words, amplified by the continuing official Soviet warnings about Southeast Asia, demonstrate that Moscow considers the danger of war very imminent. But Brezhnev, in predicting that he will be able to meet President Jimmy Carter "in the not distant future" to sign a SALT agreement and open discussions in other areas, has held the door open for the U.S. not only to salvage detente, but to join East and Western Europe in forging an alliance for industrial growth and strategic security.

Brezhnev's further disarmament proposals are under consideration at high levels of European governments.

— Rachel Berthoff

Brezhnev: 'the task is to prevent war'

In his March 2 election speech, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev dealt with China before relations with the major Western nations. Following are excerpts translated from the Soviet daily, Pravda:

With its unprecedented, naked, and murderous attack on the small neighboring country of socialist Vietnam, the present Peking rulers have revealed to the entire world once and for all the sneaky, aggressive essence of their great-power hegemonistic policy. Now everybody sees that this policy is now the most serious threat to peace in the world. It is now clearer than ever how dangerous are any forms of complicity with this policy.

The Soviet people, together with peaceful peoples of the entire world, demands the immediate cessation of the Chinese aggression against Vietnam, the withdrawal of all troops to the last soldier Today, in this difficult hour, we are fully and totally in solidarity with the Vietnamese people. And no one should have any doubt: the Soviet Union is faithful to the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation that binds our countries The aggressor's plans are doomed to fail.

The most urgent and burning task for humanity in our time is stopping the arms race and preventing the threat of nuclear world war....

One of the major tasks in this frame of things is without doubt the elaboration of a new Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of strategic arms. Now this labor of more than six years seems to be close to completion. Of course, the treaty could, in our view, be better. It does not fully meet our wishes. But it is a reasonable compromise, which takes into account the interests of both sides. On the whole, it is a great and a good thing ...

Conclusion of a SALT-2 treaty will without doubt exert a positive influence on the world climate. The new treaty, when work on it is finished, will probably be signed during my meeting with President Carter — I hope, in the not too distant future. We intend to discuss also several questions of further development of Soviet American relations, the strengthening of detente and consolidation of general peace.

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The economic ties among European countries have grown more stable. In the recent period, for instance, we have concluded long-term economic agreements with Finland, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany. Our relations with Italy can be brought onto the same basis. These agreements are a sort of joint capital investment of the East and West in a very necessary and mutually beneficial cause — the preservation and consolidation of international peace.

Of course we do not belittle the difficulties for strengthening peace and securityNATO is furiously building up its arms and making the European situation difficult....

The Soviet Union has repeatedly declared that it advocates not the build-up, but the limitation of nuclear and conventional arms by agreement on the basis of full reciprocity (on the Vienna armed force cut talks for Central Europe — ed.). This applies to middle-range weapons in Europe too — taking into account, of course, the existence of American military bases there

We are prepared, of course, to consider other proposals

In 1976, the Warsaw Treaty countries proposed that signatories of the pan-European Conference (Helsinki Agreement—ed.) vow not to use nuclear weapons first against each other. In reply, it was said in the West that this would make conventional war more likely. Well then, let us agree on the non-first-use of nuclear as well as conventional weapons.”

Kosygin: 'work toward creative goals, not war'

Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin addressed a Moscow audience March 1: Among other issues, he situated the danger of war in the context of recent developments.

Ultimately the purpose of our struggle for detente and disarmament, for the elimination of the threat of war, is to give the people the opportunity to use their resources as broadly as possible for creative goals — to use for these goals more of the advantages of international cooperation and thus accelerate the economic and social progress of humanity. This is a great task, which deserves the huge efforts persistently expended by the Soviet Union to hasten its accomplishment.

International cooperation is becoming a factor of increasing significance in world politics as well as in the world economy. For each country, regardless of its social system, this is the real way to ensure stable, mutually beneficial relations with other countries. For all the countries and regions of the world, this is basically the only possible path to the solution of several global problems which face all of humanity and can only be solved by collective efforts. These are the questions of preserving peace, supplying energy and food, protecting the environment, and othersAnd the most important of these global problems, the one whose solution gives the key to all the others, is the prevention of a new world war.

The Chinese leadership has committed a despicable crime against the cause of peace and progress. Its attack on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on its heroic and long-suffering people, is a cynical and barbarous act This is a policy of adventurism. It gives pause not only to China's neighbors. And any connivance with such a policy is extremely dangerous, because this is connivance with force and dictate, connivance with the attempts of the Chinese leadership to throw the peoples into war. There is no justification for the aggression; it should be condemned by all; it must be firmly repulsed.

Berlinguer to China: Detente now crucial

On the occasion of a Naples Italian Communist Party (PCI) congress on Sunday, March 4, PCI Secretary General Enrico Berlinguer endorsed Soviet President

Leonid Brezhnev's call for a rapid conclusion of the SALT talks and attacked the elements of Britain's "arc of crisis" scenario for step-wise confrontation with the USSR which has been propounded at great length by Zbigniew Brzezinski. And he urged a North-South development perspective as the anchor for world peace. Berlinguer spoke as follows, according to the PCI daily Unità:

... After our condemnation of the Chinese attack, we want to address an urgent appeal to the leaders of the Communist Party of China, for the withdrawal of their troops from Vietnamese soil ... so that peace can be re-established between those two countries; an event which could establish among all Indochinese peoples an order founded on mutual respect for freedom, independence, and national sovereignty ...

While in Indochina a major bloody conflict takes place, which is extremely dangerous for world peace, at

the same time we see conflicts and tensions among other regions and continents — from the Mideast to the Persian Gulf ... to the Horn of Africa, to southern Africa ... and each of these conflicts could trigger a major war This danger is even more grave considering that relations among the superpowers have deteriorated recently, (and) the rearmament game goes on

(In such a situation,) questions of the progress and survival of populations become more acute and explosive in the vast underdeveloped sector, precisely because there exists no framework of global relations for detente and cooperation within which peace and development can be assured. In order to assure them, we are convinced that western Europe must lead the way to the recovery of the detente process, and for an East-West-North-South cooperation capable of renewing the social-political order (of the underdeveloped countries.)

Soviet perspective on energy development

The scope of international development needed today means a transition to a new quality of energy production requiring international efforts, in the view of Soviet scientists and economists. We summarize here two articles from *Pravda* in the first months of this year, publication of which has received no attention in America.

Academician N. Basov, the Soviet laser fusion pioneer, wrote in *Pravda* Feb. 4 on "The Laser and the Power Industry of the Future." Emphasizing the importance of pooling international research efforts, Basov called for rapid development of the fusion-fission hybrid reactor as a commercially feasible transition process before the establishment of thermonuclear fusion power for broad use in industry.

"As civilization develops and peoples' standard of living rises," wrote Basov, "the quantity of energy consumed inevitably grows.... Therefore, humanity faces the common task of seeking and mastering new sources of energy. It would be hard to overestimate the dramatic depth of the importance of the power problem. Happily, as almost always happens in crisis situations, science suggests the way out. The idea of controlled thermonuclear fusion, which emerged several decades ago, will be able, it seems to us, to give humanity a mighty source of energy and avert the threat of energy famine, already in the near future."

Academician N. Inozemtsev, chief of the Institute

of World Economic and International Relations, proposed in the Jan. 22 issue of *Pravda* a worldwide strategy for energy advancement and Third World development. His outlook is the basis for the 15-year development package being taken to India by Prime Minister Kosygin this month.

"From 1900 to 1977, the world consumption of energy grew 12-fold.... If we speak about the coming decades, besides the utilization of oil and gas and the establishment of better economic relations among the producing nations and consuming nations, there arises the urgent need for broader use of anthracite and other energy raw materials, and to speed up the construction of atomic power stations. It is clear that humanity has entered a period of preparing for the inevitable fundamental reconstruction of the entire structure of the fuel economy and the utilization of such practically inexhaustible resources as thermonuclear fusion energy and solar energy.

"The mechanization, electrification and chemicalization of agriculture, large-scale land improvement, and the successes achieved by biological and genetic science are the real basis for the sharp increase in grain and other crops' productivity.

"For all these opportunities to be realized, we must have peace and further progress in the social, economic, scientific and technological, and cultural development of humanity. We need broad international cooperation."