

PEACE POLICY



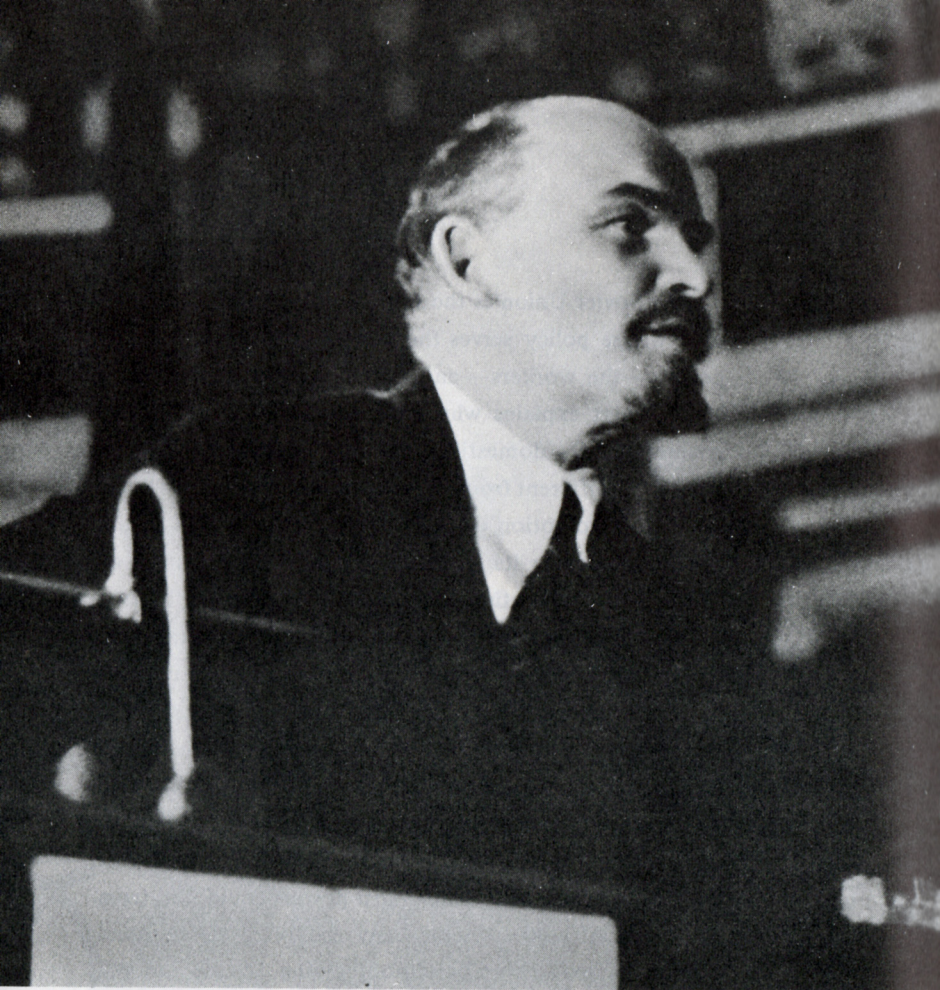
The symbolic Plough of Peace which Siberians made soon after the Civil War from captured weapons.



The Soviet Union is the first country in the history of man whose policy serves the interests of the majority of people—the workers—and not the exploiting minority. This in part explains why from the first days of Soviet government its domestic and foreign policies have been essentially different from those pursued by all other states.

Active promotion of peace has been the policy of the Soviet state since its inception. Following the victory of the socialist revolution in Russia there came to be two different social systems in the world. The country of triumphant socialism was faced with the problem of what its relations should be with states of the opposing system. Criticizing the “Left” communists Lenin said in 1918: “Perhaps . . . the interests of the world revolution forbid making any peace at all with imperialists? . . . The incorrectness of this view . . . is as clear as day. A socialist republic surrounded by imperialist powers could not, from this point of view, conclude any economic treaties, and could not exist at all, without flying to the moon.”

Lenin showed that despite the hostile attitude of imperialism peaceful relations among states with different social systems were possible. “That it is possible both politically and militarily,” he wrote, “has now been proved; it is a fact. But what about trade? What about economic relations? Contacts, assistance, the exchange of service? . . .” Lenin was optimistic on the subjects:



Декретъ о мирѣ, принятый единогласно на засѣданіи Все- россійскаго Съѣзда Совѣтовъ Рабочихъ, Солдатскихъ и Крестьянскихъ Депутатовъ 26 октября 1917 г.

Рабочіе и крестьяне всѣхъ странъ, объединенные революціей 26-го октября и представляемые во Съѣздѣ Рабочихъ, Солдатскихъ и Крестьянскихъ Депутатовъ, призваны были исполнить великую задачу и призваны были исполнить великую задачу и призваны были исполнить великую задачу...

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“Russia has sprouted, if one may so express it, a number of fairly regular, and permanent commercial relations, missions, treaties, etc.”

The principle of peaceful coexistence was theoretically substantiated by Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, and was the basis of the Soviet Union’s policy towards the capitalist countries. That principle was outlined in the Decree on Peace adopted by the Second Congress of Soviets on November 9, 1917, one day after the victory of the October armed uprising in Petrograd.

The historic significance of that decree is obvious. It made clear to the world, immediately after the victory of the Revolution, that the basic principles of the new socialist state’s foreign policy consisted in the struggle for peace, peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, equality of nations, respect for independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states.

The Soviet Government appealed then to all belligerent nations to put an end to the imperialist war and conclude a just peace without annexations or indemnities on the basis of recognition of the right of peoples and nations to self-determination. In his *Report on Peace* Lenin stressed that the Soviet state advocated the conclusion of such treaties and agreements which would promote good-neighbour relations among countries.

For over 50 years the Soviet state has consistently implemented the socialist principles of international relations and conducted an active foreign policy aimed at solving international problems to the interests of peoples. This policy envisages the rallying of the forces of peace to fight the war-mongering, reactionary forces. Peaceful coexistence is an inalienable part of that policy.

The principles of the Soviet Union’s peace policy, one of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, were elaborated by Lenin. The Decree on Peace, which he signed was the first act passed by the Soviet government.

There are many attempts these days to distort the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social and political systems. For instance, the "ultra-left" claims that in conducting a policy of peace the Soviet state and the CPSU play into the hands of the US imperialists; they describe Soviet peace policy as betrayal of the peoples who are waging an armed struggle against imperialist aggressors. This is nothing but slander and crude vilification of Soviet foreign policy.

Such claims are obviously absurd: the policy of peaceful coexistence does not imply preservation of the social and political *status quo*; nor does it mean relaxation of the ideological struggle. Least of all does it imply peaceful coexistence in the field of ideology or in relations between oppressed nations and imperialism. On the contrary, it presupposes an intensification of class struggles against imperialism on a national and world scale. It also hinders imperialism's attempts to overcome its internal contradictions by aggravating international tensions and inciting military conflicts.

It would thus be a serious mistake and criminal adventurism to welcome war in the belief that capitalism would perish in it. Today when it is possible for socialism to defeat capitalism in peaceful competition, to call for war, which could lead to a thermo-nuclear war, is contrary to the interests of socialism and of humanity as a whole.

To live in peace with all nations, to conduct a policy of peaceful coexistence which offsets the aggressive militarist policy of the more militant imperialist circles is not a tactic or a propaganda stunt; it reflects the very nature of the socialist system born half a century ago in Russia and now functioning in a number of states which form a world socialist community. The principle of peaceful coexistence opens up vast prospects for fruitful cooperation of countries with different social systems. It is on the basis of this principle that the Soviet Union conducts its relations with capitalist states, and carries

out negotiations for settling important problems, for reducing war danger, curtailing armaments, and easing international tension. The Soviet Government favours the establishment of mutually advantageous economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and cultural relations with all countries.

The successful development of the relations between the Soviet Union and France, Finland, Japan, Italy and a number of other capitalist countries shows that the principle of peaceful coexistence is both feasible and desirable.

A Survey of Soviet Diplomacy

Immediately upon its foundation the Soviet state concentrated its efforts, in the sphere of foreign policy, on concluding a universal, democratic peace—a peace without annexations and without indemnities, and renounced Russia's former imperialist policies. However, the conclusion of a universal peace was frustrated by the Entente. The aim of the Soviet policy then was to withdraw from the imperialist war through a peace treaty with Germany so as to have a respite and then to prolong it in the hope of turning it into a lasting peace.

Of course, in the early years of Soviet Government the forces of peace were considerably weaker than they are today. The correlation of the forces of socialism and imperialism then was not in favour of socialism. This explains why the forces of reaction succeeded in mounting armed intervention against the land of Soviets.

In these conditions the Soviet republic was faced with the important problem of staying the hand of the imperialists—preventing them from drawing the sword. Revolutionary Petrograd (now Lenin-

grad) issued an appeal to stop the bloodshed and conclude peace. Weary of the senseless war the peoples welcomed the appeal with enthusiasm and hope. In Britain, France, Germany and a number of other countries there were mass movements for peace with Soviet Russia, against the imperialist policy of their governments. The imperialists failed in their attempts to topple the Soviet power.

Having dealt with the armed intervention by foreign powers and with internal counter-revolution, the Soviet state reaffirmed its readiness to work for peaceful cooperation with other states. To secure peace was to the interests of the working class. Peace facilitated

The Soviet foreign policy of peace and the support given it by the progressive world public gained a firm position on the international scene for the young socialist state. In 1922, at the world conference in Genoa the USSR delegation expounded for the first time the Soviet proposals on



socialist construction in Russia. Peace was essential for strengthening the socialist state, rehabilitating and developing the national economy, and raising people's standards of living.

The Soviet Government first announced the principles of its foreign policy in 1922 at the Genoa conference, the first representative international meeting in which the Soviet Union took part. The Soviet delegation at the conference stressed that in an age which made possible coexistence of the old and new social systems economic cooperation between countries of these two systems was imperative if general economic rehabilitation was to be achieved.

disarmament and the establishment of a system of collective security. Between the two world wars the Soviet Union consistently advocated peace and opposed the policy of appeasing the aggressor from the rostrum of the League of Nations.



For Universal Disarmament and Collective Security

The Soviet declaration at Genoa gave rise to a new trend in international politics—work for disarmament. The Soviet delegation advanced a proposal on universal reduction of armaments and a strict ban on the more inhumane methods of warfare which would entail the extermination of civilian population. Despite the negative attitude taken by the Western powers towards the Soviet proposal, the Soviet Union repeatedly raised this issue at international conferences within the League of Nations in 1922, 1924, 1925, and 1928.

On November 30, 1927 at the League of Nations Maxim Litvinov, head of the Soviet delegation, announced a Soviet proposal for disbanding all armed forces, destroying all types of weapons and ammunition, dismantling military bases, prohibiting war propaganda and military training, and other measures to secure general and complete disarmament.

The Soviet proposal was received with enthusiasm by the world public. In 1932 the Western powers were compelled to agree to the setting up of an international committee on disarmament. However, the committee was used by the imperialist circles merely to appease the public. The committee sat for about three years but accomplished nothing. Meanwhile, the militarists were quietly preparing for a war against the USSR.

In the period between the two world wars the Soviet Union exposed a number of imperialist moves and intrigues against itself.

When armed intervention against the Land of Soviets failed, the world reaction began looking for a new shock force capable of crushing

The USSR was consistent in its foreign policy during World War II and this facilitated the establishment of the anti-Hitler coalition. It was one of the states that pounded the United Nations. The Soviet delegate to the 1945 Conference in San Francisco, A. Gromyko, signed the UN Charter.



the social system it hated. Fascism with its racist theories appeared to suit the purpose. When Hitler came to power in 1933, reactionary Western politicians deliberately ignored the rabid fascist theories and shut their eyes to Hitler's adventurism. Under the cover of talks about democracy and peace, they started to pacify Hitler by making small concessions and deflect his military striking power to the East, against the Soviet Union.

With the connivance and encouragement of the Western powers the Nazi Government violated the Versailles peace treaty and began remilitarization, making no secret of its plans for world domination. The Soviet Union denounced the policy of indulging the aggressor, and called for resolute action to curb the forces which threatened to push the world to the brink of a new war. When Hitler's troops occupied the Rhineland in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles, the Soviet delegate at the League of Nations insisted on the adoption of drastic measures to stem provocations by Germany and prevent its remilitarization. The Soviet Union called for a collective rebuff of the aggressor at the time of the civil war in Spain, of the forcible annexation of Austria by Germany ("the Anschluss"), and of the Munich collusion, and after the Nazi troops took over Czechoslovakia.

In the complex situation of those days the Soviet Union, aware of the threat to humanity posed by fascism, urged the setting up of a collective security system. This system was to stem all aggression no matter by which country or against which country. The Soviet Government warned the world about the imminent danger of military aggression from the fascist power.

A Plot Against the Socialist State

The Soviet Union's efforts, however, met with little understanding. Consider for instance the Moscow talks in the spring and summer of

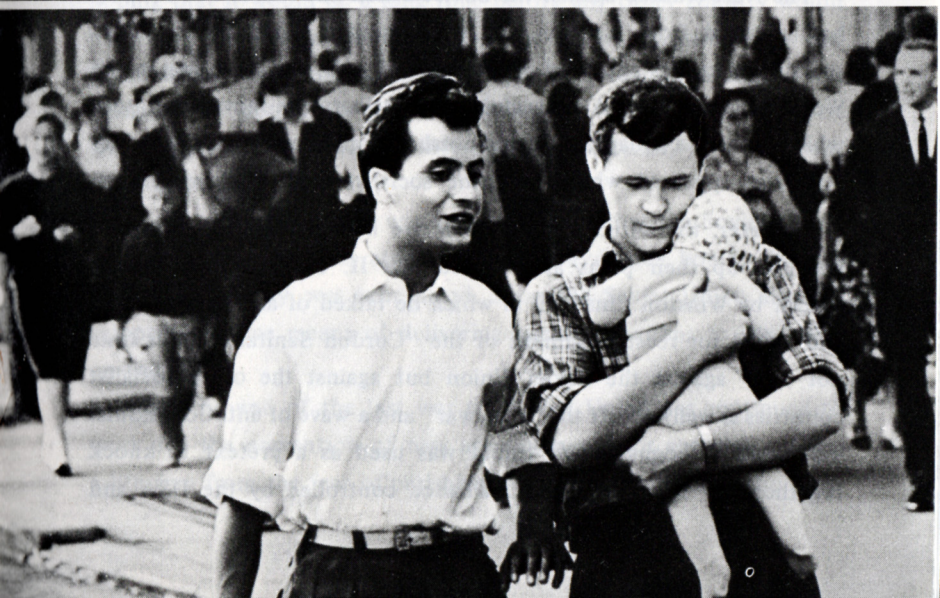
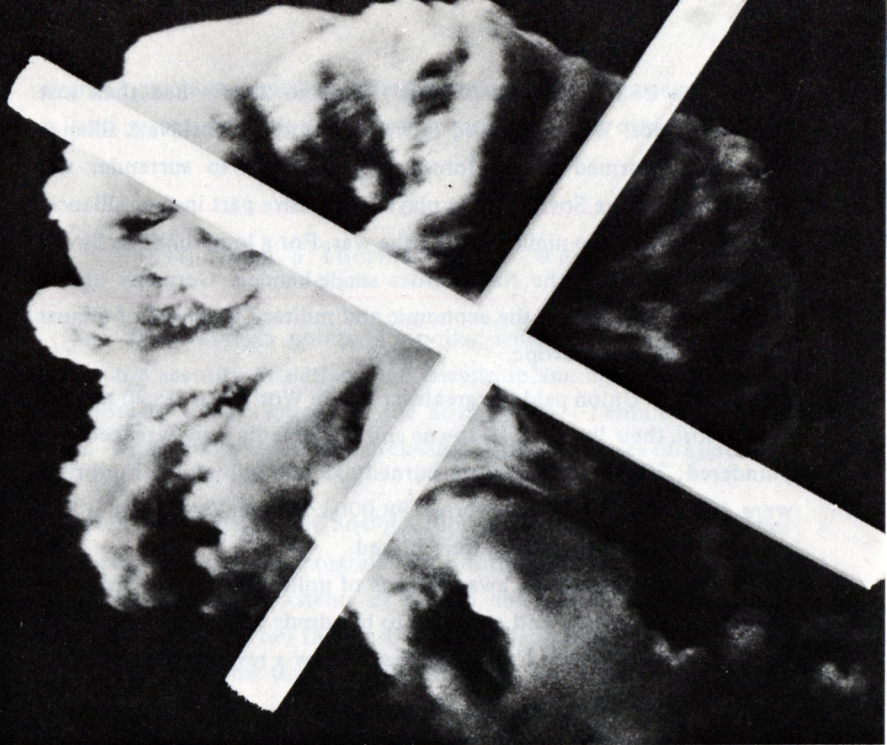
1939 between the Soviet Government and representatives of Britain and France. The appeasers of Munich were then in power in London and Paris. They hoped that Hitler's Wehrmacht which they had helped to create would strike first against the Soviet Union. They played with the idea of "channelling" aggression in the Eastern direction.

The British and French officials sent to the Moscow talks did not have sufficient authority to conduct serious negotiations on organizing resistance to fascist aggression. Their task was rather to stall for time while London and Paris tried to come to terms with Nazi Germany by offering it a free hand with respect to the Soviet Union. When the Western tactics became apparent, the Soviet Union had only one way out: to look after the security of its people without outside help. The Soviet Government accepted Berlin's proposal to conclude a Soviet-German non-aggression pact. In this way the Soviet Union was able to put off for two years that tragic moment which came on June 22, 1941 when the Nazi hordes, drunk with the success of easy victories in Western Europe, overran Soviet territory sowing destruction and death.

The Soviet Union had done everything it could to avert war, to preserve peace. It was through no fault of the Soviet Government that the Western powers rejected Moscow's sensible foreign policy based on the Leninist principle of maintaining peace and friendship between peoples.

It is worth noting that even after the occupation of France and at a time when the Luftwaffe kept pounding the British Isles, the appeasers in those countries, ready to come to terms with Hitler, did not give up their policy. In mid-May 1941 Rudolph Hess, Hitler's deputy in the Nazi Party, flew to Scotland. That mysterious visit, which undoubtedly had been arranged with the help of the British Munich-policy supporters, started rumours about a coming reconciliation between London and Berlin to facilitate Nazi Germany's crusade





against the USSR. However, Hess's friends in Britain had then lost their influence. What followed is well known. An anti-Nazi alliance was finally formed which forced the aggressor to surrender unconditionally. The Soviet Union played a decisive part in that alliance. Its peoples bore the main brunt of the war. For a long time the Soviet Union had to fight the Nazi hordes single-handed. Germany at the time had at its disposal the economic and military potential of almost the entire Western Europe.

The Soviet Union paid the greatest price in World War II: 20 million people lost their lives; 1,710 towns and settlements were wrecked and plundered; 70,000 villages were burned; 32,000 industrial enterprises were destroyed; 1,876 state farms, 98,000 collective farms, and 2,890 machine-and-tractor stations were ruined.

The world war carried away dozens of millions of human lives and caused untold misery and suffering to hundreds of millions of people. That is why the Soviet Union can never allow a revision of the results of World War II.

The Nazi crusade against the Soviet Union had failed. Our country had emerged from the war even stronger than it was before. More socialist countries appeared in Europe and Asia, and later one in the Western hemisphere. A powerful national-liberation movement arose which led to the collapse of the colonial system. Scores of independent countries appeared which took the socialist road of development.

However, the anti-Soviet forces active between the two wars did not give up their plans after World War II. The notorious Fulton speech by Winston Churchill in which he talked of an "iron curtain" and called for reestablishment of the "Cordon Sanitaire" (this time not only against the Soviet Union but against the other socialist countries as well) set off the "cold war" and a wave of anti-Communist psychosis. A bogus Soviet threat was used as a pretext to knock together the aggressive NATO alliance controlled by the USA and

oriented primarily against the Soviet Union and other socialist states as well as against national-liberation movements in other countries.

To Avert a Thermo-Nuclear War

The Soviet foreign policy is a policy which consistently pursues peace, the security of nations and friendship among them. Since the first foreign policy action by the Soviet state—Lenin's Decree on Peace—the Soviet Union has tirelessly fought the forces of aggression and war.

After World War II the Soviet Union and other socialist countries proposed an extensive program for ensuring international security, and a comprehensive scheme of general and complete disarmament. But just as in the thirties the West refuses to lend support to the Soviet peace initiative. This time the West is led by the United States. In the first postwar years the USA, relying on its nuclear monopoly and hoping that it would be a long time before any other country would have weapons of mass destruction, became a fresh contender for world domination. The notorious Baruch Plan advanced by Washington was designed to perpetuate the US monopoly on nuclear weapons. Washington tried to disarm other powers unilaterally so as to place them under its control.

In the circumstances it was very important that the Soviet Union should develop its own atomic and then hydrogen bomb. The US nuclear monopoly was terminated. Soon the Soviet Union also developed effective means of delivering nuclear weapons to any point on the globe.

Since the end of the last war the Soviet Union has continued to work for the prevention of new aggression and for ensuring peoples a life free from the fear of perishing in a nuclear explosion. The Japa-



Soviet people strengthen their friendly contacts with the peoples of many lands. Meetings between representatives of Japanese and Soviet public serve to promote the cause of peace.

nese know better than any other people what misery atomic explosions bring. They have had the ill fortune of living through the tragic days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. But according to military experts, there was no operational or strategic need for the US to use the atomic weapon. The USA was pursuing a purely political aim—to display its might and nuclear monopoly.

Realizing the dangerous consequences of a thermo-nuclear war the USSR took up a resolute struggle, immediately after World War II, for general and complete disarmament and for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

As early as 1946 the USSR submitted to the United Nations a draft convention on banning the use of atomic weapons, stopping their production and destroying their stock piles, as well as a draft resolution on universal reduction of armaments. On the basis of the Soviet proposals the General Assembly passed in late 1946 a resolution “On General Regulation and Reduction of Armament and Armed Forces.”

However, the Western powers did not intend to implement their declarations. Nevertheless, the Soviet delegation continued to submit, at nearly every UN session, proposals on general disarmament and the ban on the nuclear weapons production. A standing committee on disarmament was set up on Soviet initiative.

Owing to the efforts of the USSR, other socialist countries, and a number of peace-loving non-socialist nations, and despite vigorous opposition from the imperialist circles, definite steps towards disarmament have been taken in recent years. A treaty was signed banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water; the Antarctic was declared a nuclear-free zone; and a ban on orbiting nuclear weapons in space was agreed upon.

The Soviet Union considers that all major issues pertaining to complete nuclear disarmament can be settled only on the basis of an international agreement signed by all the nuclear powers. The USSR is prepared at any time to take part in negotiations on that vital problem. Of course, it is difficult to reach agreement on all issues at once. Therefore, they should be tackled gradually. The treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, signed by over 90 states thus far, serves precisely that purpose. Some countries, however, for no apparent reason, either do not wish to sign it or cannot bring themselves to signing it.

People everywhere cannot help feeling greatly concerned about the fact that the earth still shudders from nuclear test explosions. The

Honouring the memory of those who laid down their lives for the happiness of future generations. A never-ending procession of Soviet people file past the Grave of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow.

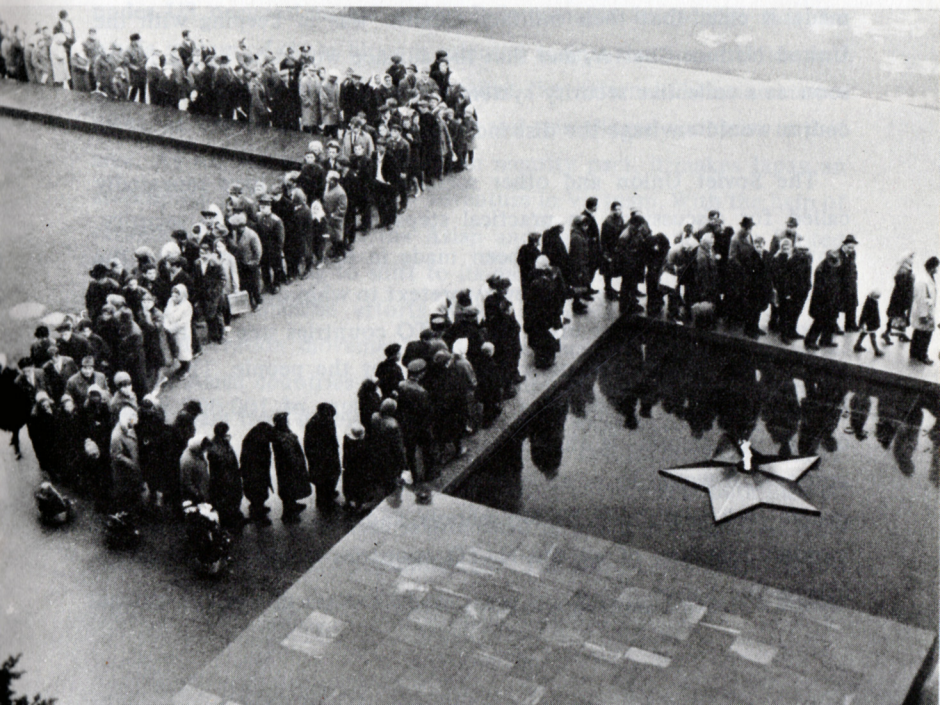


Soviet Union has always made it known that it is ready to reach agreement on that issue too. The USSR believes that adequate control over that type of tests can be effected by national means.

From the day nuclear weapons were developed the Soviet Union stressed the necessity of using atomic energy for peaceful purposes only. The atom should serve peace, progress and the well-being of mankind.

Security Problems

World War II was hardly over when a whole chain of military bases of the USA and its NATO, SEATO and SENTO allies appeared, surrounding the Soviet Union. Intensive reconnaissance of Soviet



territory began. A multitude of spy balloons and reconnaissance planes violated the Soviet Union's air space. Military adventures embarked on the policy of "local" and "special" wars, or in other words, of direct aggression. American militarism is still causing bloodshed in Vietnam where it is trying to subjugate a heroic people. Because of the obstinacy of the Israeli aggressors and their sponsors, the situation in the Middle East is extremely tense and could lead to serious military conflict. Bonn's revenge-seeking policy constitutes a grave danger in Europe. And the imperialists are trying to suppress the national-liberation movement in Africa and Latin America.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries repeatedly warned the West about the dangers the "cold war" policy entailed. It was the threat posed by the aggressive military blocs that compelled the socialist countries to take steps to strengthen their defences. To achieve this they concluded the Warsaw Treaty of 1955. Its members made it clear that their military alliance was in keeping with the United Nations Charter, and that the alliance would be disbanded as soon as a collective security system was created in Europe, which of course would envisage the disbandment of NATO.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have repeatedly called for discussions on practical steps to ensure world security. However, little progress has been made in that direction since the NATO policy-makers seize on every pretext to whip up the "cold war" atmosphere. They have made the NATO countries step up the arms race, which means economic hardships for the people. The NATO military outlays, for instance, exceed the sum of 100,000 million dollars per annum. If that money were to be spent for peaceful purposes, it would be possible to rehouse between 40 and 50 million people each year, build 50,000 schools, and 10,000 hospitals. Just a month's spending of all the NATO countries would be enough to irrigate the Sahara.

As it was between the two world wars, West Germany's militarist and revanchist aspirations are again being encouraged by the West. The West German ultras do not conceal their intention of possessing nuclear weapons. Of course, the present situation in Europe is not the same as that in 1939. The correlation of forces today is such that it would be a hazardous undertaking for anyone to try to change the *status quo* by military means.

However, imperialism remains a dangerous force, and its increasing aggressiveness jeopardizes peace. Therefore, the peace-loving forces must be vigilant and in constant readiness to rebuff any military adventures both in Europe and Asia.

The continued aggression in Vietnam involves the possibility of the conflict spreading to adjacent areas. It is in that vast geographical zone that such military blocs as the SEATO, ANZUS and the US-Japan security pact, which practically place the southwestern Pacific zone under US occupation, are active. It is common knowledge that the whole system of those blocs is oriented against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Asia, against the national-liberation movement, as well as against the neutral and non-aligned countries in that area. As for the so-called US-Japan security pact, it makes Japan an accomplice in the US military adventure in Vietnam. With the help of various alliances, such as the Asian and Pacific Council, the United States are now trying to shift to its partners the main burdens of its military and financial efforts which are designed to suppress the national-liberation movement in Asia, to frustrate the hopes of independent Asian countries to conduct their own foreign policies, and to prevent them from developing contacts with socialist countries.

World developments make it imperative that a collective security system be set up in Asia. As a state having territories in both Europe and Asia, the Soviet Union is interested in peace in Asia where over one half of the world's population live. The idea of creating collective security systems in regions where there is a growing danger of armed



conflict was first advanced by the Soviet Union. Such systems, in the USSR's opinion, would be more effective in preserving peace than the present military and political groupings. The Soviet Union also considers that collective security can only be achieved, whether in Europe or Asia, in conditions of peaceful coexistence of the two world social systems.

Defence of Peace, a Universal Cause

The two world wars in the first half of this century carried away 70 million human lives and razed thousands of cities and villages. The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are a tragic warning about the consequences another world war might bring should imperialism succeed in starting it.

A world nuclear conflict would mean that millions of people would die within minutes, and that the treasures of world civilization and culture would be turned into ashes.

Today a lasting peace is not something utopian, it can be realized. There are powerful social and political forces in the world opposing war and advocating a détente and broad international cooperation. In the 20 years of its existence the world peace movement has grown tremendously: over one hundred national peace committees have been organized on five continents. Fifty-four international and 320 national active anti-war organizations from 101 countries were represented at the last session of the World Assembly for Peace held in Berlin. The progressive public of Japan is also an active peace-supporter.

The existence of a broad peace front and a powerful movement for peace eliminates the inevitability of a new world war. But for peace to triumph on earth it is necessary that all progressive and peace-

loving forces stand united. The struggle for world peace, against war danger, and especially the threat of a nuclear war, remains the chief task of the anti-imperialist forces.

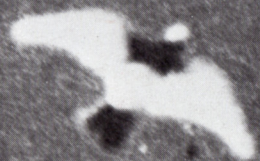
The Soviet people are convinced that good-neighbour relations between states help to bring about a lasting peace. Promotion of economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural ties, especially between countries with differing socio-economic systems, is the basis for peaceful, friendly relations among all states. When nations conduct trade, exchange visits, get acquainted with each other's culture and the way of people's thinking, they lay the basis for peaceful coexistence.

In this connection, the Soviet people would like to have friendly relations with Japan, their neighbour in the Far East. Both sides have already done much to promote good-neighbour relations. Their economic and commercial cooperation is making headway to the interests of both. Success of Soviet-Japanese contacts is due to the community of the two nations' interests—the maintenance of peace in Asia and the Pacific area.

The consistent peace-loving policy pursued by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the peace efforts by the working people in the capitalist countries, and the growing national-liberation movement—they are a reliable guarantee against a repetition of the horrors of another world war.

Bill Puryear
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