

## Brezhnev: N-Bomb Complicates SALT

*In his speech to the Feb. 24 meeting of the Supreme Soviet, Soviet President Brezhnev discussed U.S.-Soviet relations.*

Trips abroad by delegations of the highest organ of power of our country (i.e., the Supreme Soviet —ed.) and the development of contacts with parliamentarians and government figures of other countries occupies an important place in Soviet foreign policy. Among them are contacts with the U.S. Congress, which are of course, of considerable significance.

As can be seen from the delegations' reports, Comrade Ponomarev and our other comrades accomplished useful work in the United States.

The foundation of relations between our country and the USA was laid by a whole series of agreements and understandings which were achieved in the past few years as a result of summit talks. Opportunities for deepening and broadening cooperation between the USSR and the USA have been created. But today, unfortunately, it must be stated that the road to this cooperation is still blocked by all kinds of obstacles. They are being created by forces who are interested neither in good-neighborly relations between the USSR and USA, nor in detente in general.

How is this expressed concretely?

Let us take, for example, the talks on strategic arms limitation. Noticeable progress has been achieved in these talks. It is clear, however, that certain people in the USA would like to put the brakes on the course of these talks and hinder their successful conclusion.

We have repeatedly, in various forms, brought our position to the attention of the White House as well as the American Congress. It is clear, consistent, and definite. I will not repeat it here. I would only like to stress once again that we are for a rapid conclusion of the talks on the principles of equal security. After a new treaty on limiting strategic arms is signed, it will be possible to go

to the next stage. This would be a true watershed on the road to military detente. We would like to hope that responsible figures in the USA understand how much, as they say, is at stake.

There is another negative circumstance. I have in mind the plans to produce the neutron weapon and deploy it in Europe. The realization of such plans, which are very attractive to militaristic circles in the USA, would substantially complicate the situation. The Soviet proposal on mutual repudiation of production of the neutron weapon is well known. There is only one alternative to stopping the production of this weapon — a new qualitative leap in the race for lethal weapons. It is impossible not to see this.

Economic and scientific and technical cooperation is an element of no small importance in Soviet-American relations. Here too, the artificially created difficulties are far from overcome. These are basically connected with well-known decisions of the American Congress, which we rightly evaluate as an attempt at interference in our affairs.

In other words, comrades, a period in Soviet-American relations has begun when it is necessary to apply new efforts to give these relations dynamism and a more constructive character. In this matter, of course, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Congress of the USA could play a role.

The Supreme Soviet delegation, as we directed, invited a delegation of the U.S. Congress to visit the USSR on a reciprocal visit. This is good. We have already received such delegations and we consider them useful.

In conclusion, comrades, I would like to emphasize once again that we view Soviet-American relations as an important element in the general international course of the Soviet state, a course toward consolidation of peace, ending the arms race, and towards the development of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between states.