

of peace and development are solved and a fair and equitable new international and political order is established.”

In a press conference, Russian President Putin stressed that “economic projects are the basis for solving political problems.” He was referring to a Siberian Energy Institute

project for energy integration, embracing Russia, China, North and South Korea, and Japan. Putin said that it was difficult to determine who would benefit most from the cooperative effort, and hailed the North Korea/South Korea dialogue as the precondition for realizing such mutually benefi-

Russia's Putin Promotes New 'Atoms for Peace'

Russian President Vladimir Putin came out with the following “Atoms for Peace” initiative, as an addendum to his speech to the UN Millennium Summit:

“Initiative of the President of the Russian Federation on energy supply for sustainable development of mankind, radical solution to problems related to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and global environmental improvement.”

We have lived to see the turn of the millennium. Crossing the border of centuries, let alone millennia, is not a chance open to every generation.

Unfortunately, the 20th Century is leaving behind a backlog of cardinal problems, including the vital challenge of preventing military conflicts. The situation is aggravated by the sprawl of weapons of mass destruction, and first of all nuclear arms, which remains a serious threat to mankind.

Another threat comes from man's technological activities with the ensuing environmental impacts. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production are increasingly causing ecological degradation. The situation can hardly improve in the near future as the developing countries, where the most rapid energy production growth will take place in the next century, are not in possession of modern technologies requiring large investments, and will rely on more readily available energy sources, to wit, coal and hydro, which are causing the greatest damage to the environment.

Do we see answers to these challenges today? We believe so.

The 20th Century witnessed the advent of nuclear energy both as a weapon and as a new energy source. Military technologies were adapted to peaceful nuclear energy uses, but their inherent dualism will not allow ruling out all possibilities for accumulation and separation of weapon-grade materials, thus adding to the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation.

The policy of restrictions on nuclear technology transfers to other countries and the enhanced international con-

trol proved to be insufficient to bar nuclear proliferation.

Russia repeatedly came out with proposals aimed at curbing the nuclear arms race and was the first to suggest that nuclear weapons should be eliminated and their production abolished forever. Regrettably, this initiative has never found support from other nuclear states.

Though compelled to maintain nuclear parity, Russia nonetheless did not perform as many tests as did, for instance, the United States. Russia was the first to declare unilaterally a moratorium on nuclear tests, and has been unswervingly keeping to it since. Our country has ratified the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Today, Russia is coming out with a new initiative for drastically improving the effectiveness of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We deem it essential to phase out the main weapons materials—enriched uranium and plutonium—from use in the peaceful nuclear power sector. It is also necessary to put an end to the build-up of plutonium stockpiles, resulting from irradiated fuel reprocessing, while its already existing inventories should be returned to the nuclear fuel cycle.

Some serious investigations carried out in Russia testify to the feasibility of nuclear power development without these weapons materials. Moreover, it becomes possible to burn the natural radiation equilibrium of the planet. Such an approach can arrest the adverse environmental impact of the power production industry, and would pave the way for final solution of the radioactive waste problem.

Large-scale power industry growth on the basis of new nuclear technologies would allow saving the global fossil reserves for non-energy uses by the present and future generations, stabilizing and then diminishing the greenhouse effect, and providing for the ever-increasing global energy consumption in an economically and environmentally optimal way.

Any state would find it extremely difficult to attain these objectives single-handedly. We suggest that all countries concerned join their efforts in an international project under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Russia is prepared to cooperate with all countries along these strategic lines to ensure energy supply for sustainable development of humankind, radical solution of nuclear nonproliferation problems, and global environmental improvement.