Soviet Union's Answer To The Wake Forest Speech

TASS, Moscow (March 17) — President James Carter of the United States in an address spoke about "a major reassessment" by the current Administration of the United States's military strategy.

In his speech he repeated some past remarks to the effect that the U.S. seeks to avert nuclear war, strives for cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries in the matter of reducing tensions. At the same time, Jimmy Carter's speech contained a number of elements which cause apprehension for they are obviously incompatible with those remarks.

From the essence of the President's speech it follows that the speech actually means a shift of emphasis in American foreign policy from the earlier proclaimed course towards ensuring the national security of the United States through negotiations, through limiting the arms race and deepening detente, to a course of threats and a buildup of tension.

President Carter spoke of deploying a whole number of the latest systems of strategic and conventional armaments. We have under construction, the President said, new trident submarines equipped with ballistic missiles. He stated that he had ordered rapid development and deployment of cruise missiles to reinforce the strategic value of American bombers. At the same time work is underway on the intercontinental ballistic missile and the Trident 2 submarine-launched ballistic missile. "I shall not hesitate to take actions for full scale development and deployment of these systems," Carter stated.

To justify this course the President resorted to the worn out thesis about a "Soviet military threat" and alleged also that the USSR interferes in local conflicts. Grossly distorting the Soviet Union's policy James Carter said that the USSR shows "an inclination to interfere in African countries."

It is well known that the Soviet Union does not seek unilateral advantages. In its policy it does not seek any benefits for itself anywhere either in Africa or in the Middle East where Israel with U.S. encouragement has occupied part of the territory of still another sovereign Arab state.

The USSR upholds the sovereignty, national independence and freedom of the peoples, strives for the hotbeds of tensions to be quenched by peaceful means on the basis of observing the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the renunciation of the recarving of already existing borders.

Attempts are being made to distort this principled position of the Soviet Union in order to cover up imperialist interference in these and other parts of the world.

The maturity of a political course is determined by how much it corresponds to the real interests of the countries and peoples, to the needs of ensuring security and peace. These interests demand an end to the arms race and the elimination of hotbeds of tension and deepening of the detente process, the creation of peaceful conditions for the life of the people.

Unfortunately James Carter's speech is testimony to a departure from the solution of these real and vital problems.

Soviets On Salt: Our Patience Is Limited

The Soviet statement on the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks reprinted here — an authoritative unsigned March 17 piece in Pravda *titled "A Rejoinder" — was blacked out of most major U.S. newspapers:*

As the Soviet press has already reported, a rapprochement of the positions of the USSR and USA on questions of strategic offensive weapons limitation was known to have been achieved at the end of last year.

However, during the recent period, statements have been made by official persons in the United States, and a great many commentaries have appeared in the press, which definitely indicate that there are some who would like to complicate — if not wreck outright — the conclusion of a corresponding Soviet-American agreement. Whatever reasons and distracting maneuvers may be used, it is evident that all this plays into the hands of the opponents of an agreement, who seek only one thing — to begin a new spiral in the arms race — and who care nothing about the prospects of peace, the fate of the peoples, including their own people.

Under these conditions the question lawfully arises: do they not want to repeat in this way what was done after the Vladivostok meeting? (1975 summit meeting between President Ford and Soviet leader Brezhnev during which a basic SALT II agreement was reached — ed.) It has long been a generally-known fact that it was precisely the obstructionist position of the USA that blocked at that time the process of practical realization of the clear and concrete agreement reached in Vladivostok on the conclusion of a new longterm strategic arms limitation agreement, on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security of the sides. It is also known what great efforts were required to bring the agreement back onto a practical track.

Such a question — is it not raised again by events of the