

Kosygin: 'A great responsibility rests with both our countries'

Pravda of Nov. 5 carried the speech by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin at the Nov. 4 Kremlin Palace of Congresses, excerpted here:

... The future of our economy is based upon a reliable energy and fuel base. Our planned system, the achievements of the scientific-technological revolution create favorable conditions for the growth and rational use of energy resources. . . . We have entered a period of wide construction of atomic power stations with thermal reactors, which will play a continually growing role in providing electricity for the European part of the Union. The achievements of nuclear physics and related sciences have brought us right up to the threshold of one of the greatest accomplishments of mankind — the creation of thermonuclear energy, whose sources are unlimited. . . .

The Soviet Union wants our relations with the United States, as with any other country, to be an effective factor for peace. We are prepared to do everything that depends on us, since we are aware of the significance of our relations for the peoples of both countries, for the general situation in the world and for the prospects for settling many international problems.

I would like to express the hope that the efforts being undertaken now by both sides at the Soviet-American negotiations on limiting strategic offensive weapons will lead to a mutually acceptable solution to this most important question. Such an agreement, very important in itself, would also make possible a serious step towards creating conditions for the smoothing out of Soviet-American relations and their subsequent positive development.

We proceed from the standpoint

that a great responsibility rests with both our countries for ensuring general peace and eliminating the threat of war and, consequently, both the Soviet Union and the United States must make their actions in international affairs commensurate with the scale of this responsibility before all mankind.

This fully applies to all regions of the world, including, of course, to Europe. American policy on that continent for over three decades now has rested on the fiction of the "aggressiveness" of the Soviet Union and, in correspondence to that fiction, on securing the West European NATO members from the so-called "Soviet threat." Over the years this myth has pretty well fallen into disrepute, and Western Europe's belief in it has declined. This is the result of the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries, our major initiatives for strengthening European security. But nevertheless the NATO leadership is continuing to whip up fear of Soviet policy, purposely distorting its goals. Such a line can serve the cause of peace neither in Europe, nor in Africa, nor anywhere else....

We are for the broad development of political, economic, cultural and scientific-technological ties between all countries of the world, in order to bring together on an international scale the efforts of states to solve the most complex global problems involving rapid population growth, the satisfaction of growing needs for food, raw materials and energy resources, the protection of the environment, the struggle against diseases. Naturally we as communists have our own views about the social-economic and other preconditions which are necessary for the most successful solution of these questions. But we

are ready for equal and mutually advantageous cooperation with other countries, independent of their social system. The most important and necessary condition for this is detente, and the cooperation among states has been and will remain its reliable foundation.

Peking problem

Speaking of the international situation, it is impossible not to mention the activities of Peking. Preaching the inevitability of a new world war and fanning the flames of anti-Sovietism, the present Chinese leadership has gone over to an unprincipled bloc with the most reactionary forces in the world. . . .

The Soviet Union takes the policy of the Chinese leadership as it is, and evaluates it accordingly. As in the past, we are for normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations, which would answer the basic interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples, as well as peace and international security. We are not, of course, opposed to other countries maintaining normal relations with China. But we cannot close our eyes to one side of Chinese policy, as some do, seeing only that which does not affect their current interests. History teaches that such an approach is fraught with dangerous consequences. A policy whose aim is to destabilize the world situation cannot but evoke condemnation; it demands a firm rebuff. . . .

Correction

A typographical error in Table 2 of the article "East bloc debt: why the scare?" in our last issue disarranged the rate spreads above the London interbank overnight rate (LIBOR) on syndicated credits charged to Comecon and Western borrowers. The first rates listed, .625-.75, should have been matched to prime Western borrowers, not Bulgaria, and the rest of the rates move up one place, accordingly. But the rate for Comecon banks was correctly shown as 0.75.