

prominent Egyptian statesmen and asked them to discuss the development of Egyptian-Soviet ties. Here is what IZVESTIYA was told by Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs and also head of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society:

"There have been warm and cool periods in relations between our countries. I would now term these relations mature and highly assess them. Cooperation is developing and mutual understanding is growing stronger, which undoubtedly serves to strengthen stability both in the world and in the region."

Butrus Ghali recently visited the Soviet Union and, naturally, the conversation turned to his impressions of his visit.

"We are attentively following events in the USSR. We are studying the results of the 19th party conference and can see the changes in the foreign policy sphere. We positively assess them, for we believe that the aim of these changes is to strengthen world peace.

"One of the theses of Soviet policy set forth by M. Gorbachev in his book, where he raises the problem of the ever-deepening gulf between the developed and developing countries, is very important for our relations," the minister went on to say. "This is a vital question, and it can only be resolved through dialogue. And, in my opinion, restructuring in the field of international relations means, above all, dialogue—and that is what the USSR advocates."

As an impressive example of new thinking, the minister cited the decision on a political settlement concerning Afghanistan and the Soviet troop withdrawal. "We welcome this," Butrus Ghali stressed, "and we believe that a peaceful settlement accords with the interests not just of Afghanistan but of the entire world community.

General Sami Khudayr, governor of Port Sa'id Governorate, knows about war first hand. As a lieutenant during the Anglo-French and Israeli aggression against Egypt in 1956 he took part in the defense of Port Sa'id.

"Relations between our countries are deep rooted, and the inhabitants of Port Sa'id are proud of their special place in the formation of Egyptian-Soviet relations," Sami Khudayr said. "After all, it was the Soviet Union that helped us during those most difficult times for the city. And we will never forget that.

"Ordinary people came to the defense of besieged Port Sa'id. Many of the home guard went into action," he said. "Children chalked 'Death to the occupiers' on the enemy vehicles. Military fate," the general summed up, "linked Egypt's Port Sa'id and the USSR's Volgograd, whose inhabitants won struggles against enemies. It is no accident that the cities are twinned."

[Velikiy] General, I remember that when we met 2 years ago we noted that contacts between the twin cities of Port Sa'id and Volgograd had faded somewhat. How about now?

[Khudayr] I'm now just on my way to Volgograd to further develop our ties. I'd like to think that this process will continue in many areas—including economic, trade, and athletic contacts. In this sense Soviet restructuring provides a good opportunity to implement these intentions...

Demichev Receives Syrian Delegation

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[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—Satisfaction with the state of relations between the Soviet Union and Syria and a desire to continue fruitfully developing bilateral cooperation were expressed during a friendly meeting in the Kremlin today between Petr Demichev, an alternative member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and a visiting delegation of Syrian MP's [members of parliament].

The delegation, from the Commission on Interarab and International Affairs of the Syrian parliament, the People's Council, arrived in Moscow earlier in the day at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Demichev said that Soviet-American dialogue, the INF Treaty, the signature of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, the possibility that has emerged to settle the Iran-Iraq conflict and the signs of progress towards resolving also other conflicts have marked a thaw in the world political climate. It is important to stimulate this process in every way.

In this context the participants in the meeting made a thorough discussion of the problem of a Middle East settlement. They were unanimous that time is urging a stepup in efforts to put an end to the most protracted and explosive conflict, namely the Arab-Israeli one.

It is essential that there be general awareness in the Middle East that it is only on the basis of a balance of interests of all the sides that mutually acceptable constructive solutions can be found.

The sides emphasized the importance of achieving an early and fair settlement by preparing and convening an international conference on the Middle East.

Delegation leader Nazih Duwaydari, a member of the Central Committee of the Ba'th Party, spoke highly of Soviet foreign policy initiatives for removing the nuclear threat, effecting cardinal disarmament measures and defusing tensions, including those in the Middle East.