

opposition forces emphasize peaceful means of achieving the goals set with a view to avoiding the stepping up of domestic tension and the emergence of conditions that could be used as a pretext for the generals to seize power in the country again.

It appears that the further development of events will depend on the opposition's ability to pool its efforts, and also on the role that the Pakistani Armed Forces intend to play in the country's political life. General Mirza Aslam Beg [name as published], now chief of staff of Pakistan's ground forces, has already stated that the Army should remain aloof from political activity and concentrate on defending the country against external enemies. But time will tell what this statement is worth.

Vorontsov Meets Iranian Envoy on Gulf Conflict
*LD0209165688 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT
2 Sep 88*

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov today received the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the USSR, Naser Heirani Nobari, at his request.

The two had a substantive exchange of views on the problem of settling the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The also discussed practical issues of promoting Soviet-Iranian trade and economic relations.

Syrian Party Delegation Continues Visit

Meets With Vorontsov
*LD0509195688 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1632 GMT 5 Sep 88*

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep (TASS)—Yuliy Vorontsov, first USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, received today a delegation from the Syrian Arab Republic People's Council Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, headed by Nazih Duwaydari, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee, which is visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

A discussion took place, in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, on a wide range of topical issues concerning the situation in the world and in the Near East, as well as further deepening Soviet-Syrian interaction in the international arena.

Yuliy Vorontsov briefed the Syrian parliamentarians on the efforts being undertaken by the Soviet Union to build a secure and nuclear-free world and to establish constructive international cooperation. He underlined in this connection the important significance of relations between the USSR and Syria. The problems of the liberated states are close to and understood by the Soviet Union, which invariably supports their struggle to strengthen independence and to freely choose the path of their own development.

Those taking part in the conversation pointed out the necessity of stepping up efforts aimed at convening an international conference on the Near East. The Soviet side affirmed its intention of giving vigorous assistance to seeking a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of a balance of interests of the sides.

Group Visits Belorussia

*JN0309191888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1250 GMT
3 Sep 88*

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (SANA)—The Syrian People's Assembly delegation under Nazih Duwaydari, Ba'th Party Central Committee member, is continuing its visit to the USSR.

Yesterday, the members of the delegation arrived in Minsk, capital of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, where they conferred with members of the Presidium of its Supreme Soviet led by Vladimir Mikulich. The meeting took up Syrian-USSR relations in general and Syrian-Belorussian ties in particular, with special emphasis on parliamentary ones.

Mikulich praised Syria's stands under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, declaring that Syria stands out not only as a Middle East power but also globally. The Soviet official emphasized the need for efforts on behalf of Middle East peace through the vehicle of a UN-sponsored international conference on the basis of Israel's evacuation of all occupied Arab land and the Palestinians' right to self-determination and statehood.

Comrade Duwaydari, for his part, commended the valiant struggle of the Belorussian people against Nazi occupation. He drew a parallel between Zionist and Nazi practices, saying that the Zionist demolition of Al-Qunaytirah recalls their Nazi predecessors' destruction of Minsk.

Syrian Party Official Stops Over in Moscow
*JN0509070288 Damascus Domestic Service
in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Sep 88*

[Text] Moscow—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, arrived in Moscow last night en route to the DPRK. Al-Ahmar is leading a party and government delegation to participate in the celebrations on the 40th anniversary of the DPRK's independence. While in the USSR, Comrade al-Ahmar will hold meetings and contacts with some Soviet officials within the framework of the developing relations between the two parties and the two friendly countries.

The head of the Syrian delegation spoke about the latest developments in the Arab region, stressing that the Syrian Arab Republic under President Hafiz al-Asad is struggling to attain peace on the basis of achieving pan-Arab rights, including the liberation of the occupied territory, and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Kapitsa explained the dimensions of the current restructuring campaign in the Soviet Union and its impact on the overall international situation, including the state of affairs in the Middle East. Kapitsa called for reinvigorating the efforts of all international peace-loving forces to defuse the situation in the Middle East and seek a just and lasting solution in this region.

Najibullah Addresses Party Leaders

LD0109174588 Moscow TASS in English 1721 GMT
1 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul September 1 TASS—Coalition government has been ensured in Afghanistan at the level of villages, districts, provinces and central bodies of power on the territory controlled by the state authorities, Afghan President Najibullah said here today.

The Afghan leader, addressing the first meeting of the leaders of the country's political parties, observed that "all new forms of state power with coalition elements that have been created recently show their viability."

"After May 15," he said, "the armed opposition has been imposing war on us and we, regrettably, are being drawn into it ever more actively.

"One should not forget the chief strategic goal of our government—the policy of national reconciliation.

"And if war is being imposed on us, we, in turn, should impose the policy of reconciliation. Above all, it is necessary to press for the cease-fire not only in the country as a whole, but also in individual villages, districts and provinces."

"All parties should display great vigour, militancy in pursuing the policy of reconciliation. All parties and public organisations should act as a single, united front," the president said.

Najibullah noted that the problem of establishing a democratic front remained so far at the initial stage of its solution. The process was hindered by the vestiges of the past, relapses of narrow party approach to national tasks, the aspiration of individual political leaders to settle all accounts and their underestimation of the seriousness of the present day military-political situation.

The president stressed the need for all parties' participation in organising self-defence neighbourhoods, enterprises and institutions, forming special militarised units of individual parties and establishing control over territories.

Afghanistan's foreign policy should also be based on a multi-party basis, Najibullah said. "This corresponds to the principles of political pluralism and coalition policy.

"In foreign policy work, the parties' attention should be concentrated on the implementation of the Geneva agreements, relations with neighbouring countries and the entire Muslim world, consolidation and development of relations with the Soviet Union.

"Friendship and cooperation with the USSR form the cornerstone of our foreign policy. No political party in Afghanistan, which is truly national, may fail to reckon with that fundamental principle.

"Afghan-Soviet cooperation is an historic, objective necessity, an indispensable condition for our country's independence and neutrality. We should also strive consistently towards the normalisation of relations with the neighbours, above all Pakistan and Iran."

"The earliest cessation of the fratricidal war is the only way towards broad and full democratisation of our society. A totalitarian state is not our ideal, and we will fight till the end against those who are trying to impose it on our people," the president said.

The leaders of the political parties represented at the meeting expressed support for the course towards national reconciliation and their readiness to facilitate in all ways the implementation of that humane policy.

A resolution adopted upon the completion of the meeting expressed principled support for the policy of national reconciliation. It stressed the need for ending combat operations and starting talks between opposing groups and highly assessed the Geneva agreements.

The resolution said that Afghan-Soviet friendship was an important factor of the successful solution of the tasks of Afghanistan's social and economic development and international stability.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Gorbachev Greets Zambia's Kaunda on Reelection

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[Undated] M.S. Gorbachev message to Kenneth Kaunda, president of the Zambian United National Independence Party.

[Text] To Comrade Kenneth David Kaunda, president of the Zambian United National Independence Party.