

Konstantin Chernenko's greetings to All-Union conference

MOSOCW, December 10, TASS:

KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has sent a message of greetings to the All-Union conference entitled 'Perfection of Developed Socialism and the Party's Ideological Work in the light of the Decisions of the June 1983 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee'.

Pointing out the topicality of the subject of the conference, Konstantin Chernenko emphasised that "the Party and the people are now equipped with the concept of developed socialism. The concept provides us with a strictly scientific idea of our immediate and long-term goals and of ways to attain them, and underlines the need for the new edition of the CPSU Programme which is being prepared".

It is pointed out in the message that

the ideas of "the June plenary meeting and of the subsequent plenary meetings of the Central Committee have been appreciated by millions of people and materialise in practical deeds, in positive changes in the national economy, in the steady rise in the well-being of the masses and in the growth of their political and labour activity".

Creative potential

Konstantin Chernenko emphasised that "Soviet society is faced with qualitatively new tasks which call for the mustering of the entire creative potential of the people and a certain re-orientation of social consciousness. Exceptionally great in this respect is the importance of ideological and political education work. It rouses millions of Soviet people to dedicated efforts to intensify production, to accelerate scientific and technical progress, to

economise on material resources, and to achieve a high productivity at every workplace".

The message says that realism, large-scale reliance on science, knowledge of and regard for the interests and requirements of people are characteristic of the Leninist style of work.

"It is only on this basis that it is possible to ensure the persuasiveness and comprehensibility of the propaganda of our ideals, of the historic gains of the land of the Great October Socialist Revolution, of its domestic and foreign policy, and the cultivation of high ideological principles, moral fortitude, patriotic and internationalist sentiments in Soviet people. Propaganda is an effective weapon against any 'psychological' attacks by the class enemy and against its attempts at denigrating socialism and at impeding our progress."

Mikhail Gorbachyov's report to

THE ALL-UNION CONFERENCE 'PERFECTION OF DEVELOPED SOCIALISM AND THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISIONS OF THE JUNE 1983 PLENARY MEETING OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE'

IN his message of greeting to the participants of the conference, Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, voiced profound and principled ideas on the key problems of perfecting developed socialism, and formulated the chief ideological tasks stemming from the decisions of the June 1983 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, with due reference to the current situation and the broad historical perspective. We must be strictly guided by these provisions and conclusions.

The past 18 months have shown convincingly that the June plenum of the CPSU Central

Committee was a timely and very important event. Having given priority to ideological work, and having asserted a broad social view of ideology as a sphere of thought, action and education, the plenum elaborated a new long-term concept of ideological work and opened up a new page in the Party's ideological life.

Today it is necessary to check once again whether ideological activity corresponds to the high social criteria of its effectiveness, and to the general rhythm of work in the country.

The Central Committee regards the holding of the current conference to be a definite stage in the work to implement the decisions of the June plenum, and a landmark in the preparation for the next (17th) Party Congress.

Our society is living through a very responsible period. Speaking about the main results of the past few years, one can say with certainty that, steadily following the course of the 26th CPSU Congress, the Party and the people are confidently marching forward along the road of perfecting all aspects of life in Soviet society and along the road of peace and progress.

The plenums of the CPSU Central Committee held over the years have specified and creatively developed the strategy of our advance. The Party's ideological arsenal has been replenished with new concepts and conclusions.

The Central Committee and its Political Bureau, headed by comrade Konstantin Chernenko, are conducting all-round theoretical, political and organisational work aimed at the continued consolidation of the economic and defence potential of our homeland. This work is permeated with the spirit of collectivity and high responsibility to the people.

A realistic and creative approach to work and intolerance of shortcomings are more and more firmly asserting themselves in the activities of Party organisations and of government and economic bodies. The Party-launched drive for the nation-wide assertion of order, organisation and discipline and for a higher responsibility of personnel at all levels of management has received unanimous approval.

The implementation of important measures in the economic, social and ideological spheres has made it possible to overcome negative trends in the economy, to boost its growth rates, and has had a favourable effect on the moral and political atmosphere in the country. As a result the Party's prestige has been raised even higher, and its ties with the masses have grown stronger.

Guided by the directive of the June plenum, the CPSU Central Committee has put higher demands on Party committees for the state of affairs in ideology, and has adopted measures to improve the education of young people, to invigorate patriotic and atheistic education of the working people, and has taken steps toward solving a number of other topical problems. The ideological work of Party organisations and

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institutions is being increasingly tailored to the implementation of socio-economic tasks. Changes for the better have taken place in the training and education of personnel in forms, methods and style of ideological work.

We are facing ambitious and complicated tasks. The forthcoming 27th CPSU Congress will open up new historical vistas before our country. As is known, it will adopt a new edition of the Party Programme—the programme for the perfection of developed socialism, and will determine the tasks for the next five-year period.

The theoretical directives and provisions on regards the level of social maturity attained by Soviet society, advanced by comrade Konstantin Chernenko, form the principled foundation for the Party's strategic line and for the continued improvement of its entire ideological and party-political work. The conclusion that we are at the beginning of the historically long period of developed socialism has been profoundly substantiated. It is on this basis that the Party's concept of developed socialist society is being worked out.

The evaluations and conclusions that have been made warn us against going too fast, and against confining what has been achieved and what is to be achieved. At the same time they clearly show that it is impermissible to be too slow in taking practical action, in solving urgent problems, and in attending to shortcomings.

Initiative

Deep-going transformations are to be made in the economy and the entire system of social relations, and the prosperity of the Soviet people is to be elevated to a fundamentally new level. As a result, socialism will rise to a new stage of maturity.

Vast potentialities of accelerating the socio-economic development of society lie in the combination of the initiative of the masses with a scientifically sound and creative approach to the solution of urgent problems.

After the June plenum, the Central Committee took important measures to boost the effectiveness of the social sciences. These measures are already yielding certain results. However, specialists working the social sciences are still slow and timid in tackling the key theoretical problems of our development.

Economics is faced with responsible tasks. The state of affairs in this field has been thoroughly and critically analysed by the CPSU Central Committee, in its resolution on enhancing the role of the Institute of Economics at the USSR Academy of Sciences in elaborating theoretical problems of the economy of developed socialism. Quite a few useful works have appeared in the last few years. At the same time, economics has not yet advanced a detailed concept for going over to a dynamic, highly effective economy, and for creating a more perfect economic mechanism.

Take such a fundamental and topical problem as the interaction between the modern productive forces and socialist production relations. In our interpretations of it, dogmatic ideas, which at times do a disservice to our theory and practice, are far from being fully overcome.

Life teaches us to consider with utmost responsibility the objective dialectics of the development of the productive forces and production relations, as a major source of speeding up the socio-economic advance of society. This obliges us to detect and settle in good time the contradictions emerging in this sphere.

The requirements of perfecting developed socialism demonstrate the need for us to greatly enrich our views on many other major problems of social sciences as well.

Let's turn to the question of the development of the political system of our society. Thus, the profound idea of the founders of Marxism-Leninism on self-government is well-known. They

saw its essence in ensuring the real, practical participation of ever bigger masses of working people in management, and in the elaboration, discussion, adoption and implementation of socio-economic decisions. Lenin never contrasted Soviet state power with the self-government of the people. He valued the Soviets highly because they combine the function of being the bodies of power of the workers and peasants, with that of ensuring their unity and cohesion.

Now that much is being done to increase the role and prestige of the Soviets, and to perfect our political system and all forms and methods of involving the masses in running state and public affairs, we especially need a serious elaboration of the theoretical problems of the development of socialist self-government of the people. Studies in this field would help the Party to solve practical tasks arising along this road more successfully.

Ideological work

Mikhail Gorbachev dealt further with the problem of considering the interests of different social groups in our political system, and spoke about the scientific elaboration of the principle of democratic centralism in modern conditions.

The CPSU is paying unremitting attention to the development of Marxist-Leninist theory in close co-operation with the communist and workers' parties of other states, above all of the socialist countries. Party documents—materials of the congresses and plenums of the Central Committee, as well as speeches by Party leaders—raise key theoretical problems, and contain new conclusions and provisions, generalising the experience of historical development.

The economy has been and remains a major target of ideological work, as it is of the entire efforts of the Party and the people. The experience of the past two years has shown convincingly once again the important results that can be achieved by the intensification of political, organisational and ideological work among the masses.

Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, in a speech at the November 15, 1984 meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasised that the positive shifts in the economy must not only be consolidated, but also multiplied. Everything possible should be done in the time remaining before the end of the five-year plan to tie up the loose ends and finish the eleventh five-year period in a worthy fashion.

At the same time, we cannot but think also of the prospects for the country's development. Life has posed before us a task of stupendous political significance—that of raising the national economy to a qualitatively new scientific, technical and organisational level, of effecting a breakthrough in the intensification of social production and making this production more efficient.

The course towards intensification is dictated by objective conditions, by the entire progress of our country. There is no alternative to it. Only an intensive economy, drawing upon the latest scientific and technological achievements, can provide a reliable material foundation for advancing the people's prosperity, strengthening the country's positions in the world and entering the next millennium in a manner befitting a great and prosperous power.

The speaker stressed that the process of economic intensification should be made the concern of the whole people, and be regarded as politically important as was the country's industrialisation.

A substantial acceleration of scientific and technological advance is today the principal means for effecting a radical turn in economic intensification and stepping up the rates of the country's economic and social development. This task is exceptionally vast and has many aspects.

Acceleration of scientific and technological growth, as is known, will be discussed at the next plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. The strategy of further boosting the scientific, technological and production potential is of prime importance here. Priority should be given to fundamentally new and truly revolutionary scientific and engineering solutions capable of raising labour productivity many times over.

We have quite a number of enterprises and scientific institutions in this country where the standards at which scientific and technological problems are tackled are among the highest in the world. But there are also collectives which are content to recapitulate what has long ago become general world practice. This situation must be subjected to critical scrutiny on the part of the State Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR State Planning Committee, the USSR Academy of Sciences and, of course, top executives in industries.

Scientific and technological progress requires closer attention to be paid to the cultural and technical level of the working class and the farmers, and the training and perfection of society's main productive force to be radically improved. This raises the task of thoroughly overhauling the system of personnel training—from general educational schools to vocational schools and colleges and universities. Such work is already under way, and it should be pursued on a larger scale. Very soon we shall have to implement measures to create better moral and material pre-requisites for raising considerably the creative returns from technical experts, and for enhancing the role and prestige of engineers.

Stakhanovites

We must take a new and fresh look at many aspects of socialist emulation and drop obsolete approaches and methods. The main goals of emulation today are smooth working rhythm, timely fulfilment of contractual obligations, high quality of products, introduction and application of new technology and sparing use of each minute of working time, each ton of raw materials and each rouble. All ideological media should regard it as a very important thing to support the mass movement now spreading up and down the country to work two days a year using the saved materials and fuel.

Next year we shall be marking the 50th anniversary of the Stakhanovite movement, which has played a signal role in the history of socialist construction. Carrying on the traditions of the Stakhanovites means directing the energies and initiative of the masses towards solving key problems of greater economic efficiency.

One of the salient questions on the agenda today is reorganisation of forms and methods of economic management. The aim of this is to create an economic mechanism meeting the requirements of developed socialism. A significant milestone along this road is the large-scale economic experiment in industry. More energy should be devoted to a search for the most suitable forms and methods of combining the economic interests of society, the work collectives and each individual worker. A lot could be done here by all our ideological media.

Concern for the welfare of the people and fuller application of the principles of social justice is the supreme purpose of the Party's activities. Consistent realisation of these objectives strengthens the masses' confidence in the Party and promotes their labour and political activity.

Vast potential for enhancing man's social role is to be found in the perfection of the Soviet political system, in the further advancement of socialist democracy. Giving full rein to every aspect of the Soviets' activities, naturally, holds pride of place here. It is necessary that working people be well informed of how their particular

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Soviet functions, how it fulfils electors' mandates, and reflects and protects their interests. It is also important that the constitutional principles of accountability of all executive bodies should be observed unswervingly, as an effective way for all people to check on the state of things in various sectors of government, economic and cultural development. Of especial significance now is the concern of the Soviets, of the state bodies of people's control and of the public at large for the most strict observance of Soviet laws by all executives and ordinary citizens.

It is essential that the working people should be further involved in the daily discussion and solution of problems facing enterprises, construction projects and collective and state farms. The Law on Work Collectives offers wide scope for this. Its efficient application will make it possible to activate in practice the energy of the people and will help tap more fully all production reserves—technical, economic and social. Organisational and educational work should everywhere be directed in such a way that every collective can exercise a tangible influence on the cultivation of the individual's creative potential. This must be the aim of the work of the Party, trade union and Komsomol organisations.

Publicity is an inalienable part of socialist democracy—a rule of all social life. Wide, timely and frank information is evidence of trust in people, respect for their intellect and feelings, for their ability themselves to grasp a particular event. It adds to the working people's activity.

Public awareness of the functioning of Party and government bodies is an effective tool for combatting bureaucratic distortions and obliges a more thoughtful attitude to be taken towards adopting decisions and verifying their fulfilment, towards remedying shortcomings and omissions. The persuasiveness of arguments, the efficacy of education, and the matching of words by deeds, largely depend on this.

Relations of distribution are of tremendous significance in the implementation of principles of social justice. Much has been done in recent years to put things in proper order in this sphere. However, many problems still remain, and they have to be solved through the joint efforts of government and economic bodies, and wide sections of the public. Comrade Konstantin Chernenko spoke about this at the recent All-Union conference of People's Controllers.

Socialist principles

Life has taught us that any departures from the socialist principles of distribution and economic management may and do breed such serious phenomena as labour and social passivity, parasitism, moral nihilism, and concealed forms of redistribution of incomes and the good things of life. The inexorable arm of the law must bar the way to those who do not respond to arguments of reason and the voice of conscience and civic duty. Also the problem of distributive relations concerns not only one's earnings, but actually the entire system for satisfying people's requirements, a system which in no small way is supplied from social consumption funds.

The health services, for example, are of interest to everybody. We have created a truly democratic system of health protection. At the same time one cannot fail to see that medical services do not meet all of the modern requirements. Party and government bodies should pay more attention to the work of health care facilities.

The services sphere has in recent years acquired great social weight. The Party will be building up its efforts to make this sphere accord with the demands of the day. To these ends, a comprehensive programme for the development of consumer goods production and services has been completed.

Man develops himself not only in production and everyday life, but also in his leisure hours. I

think the time has come to enhance the responsibility of local bodies for social and cultural development. They have been given wide rights. However, when analysing working people's letters that arrive at the Central Committee, one sees that there are some local bodies who not only do not know how to exercise their rights, but even refuse to do so. Proper order must be set here.

The Party's Central Committee believes that unflagging attention to social questions, whatever aspects of life they may concern, must be a law for all government, economic, and public organisations, for central and local bodies. No appeal to objective circumstances can be accepted as a justification for inattention to people's needs. For us communists this is a matter of principle.

Socialism has exercised and is continuing to exercise its main impact on world developments through its economic policies and through achievements in the social and economic field. Each new step forward along this road is the most convincing argument in favour of the socialist system and the Soviet way of life. Socialist ideology carries with it truly humanistic ideals of social progress, of the development of the human personality, of a world without weapons and wars, without exploitation and oppression.

It is capitalism, not we, that is compelled to dodge and mask itself, to resort to wars and terror, falsification and subversion in order to check the relentless onward sweep of time. The general crisis of capitalism is not just an aggravation of its economic, social and political contradictions. It is also a spiritual crisis, an ideological and moral one.

Meanwhile, the ideological activity of the monopoly bourgeoisie has sharply grown in recent years. Our opponent has developed a huge propaganda machine for ideological confrontation and is using highly sophisticated technical methods, subversive and psychological ploys. In

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its intensity, content and methods, the psychological war now being conducted by imperialism is a special variety of aggression, which infringes on the sovereignty of other countries.

In these conditions, more than ever before, we need Party principledness, a consistent class approach to the assessment of current events and developments, political vigilance and intolerance toward alien views, a creative and vigorous nature in ideological work, efficiency, boldness and persistence.

The vigour of our ideology consists not only in debunking bourgeois ideological myths and stereotypes. It lies above all in asserting our ideals, the socialist standards of social life, genuine freedom and democracy and the popularisation of the historic achievements of real, living socialism.

The vigour of our ideology lies in the most active popularisation of the peaceable international policies of the CPSU and the Soviet state and of the countries of the socialist community.

In the struggle for the cause of peace and social progress, the CPSU's consistent course is one of rallying the forces of the international communist and working-class movement in every way. We uphold the historical truth of the great ideas of Marxism-Leninism and, along with all revolutionary and peace-loving forces of humanity, speak out for social progress, for the cause of peace and the security of all nations.

Finally, the vigour of our ideology means the Party's adherence to principle, and prompt information. We must give timely and straight answers to questions posed by world developments, by the trend of struggle and competition between the two opposing systems, and in good time make some or other corrections to our concepts and practices when the realities of life require it.

In view of the acute and complex nature of today's ideological struggle, the June plenary meeting set the task of better countering propaganda both inside the country and among foreign audiences. Party committees and the mass information media are duty bound to

continue deepening the content of this work and striving to make it more effective.

The report deals at length with elevating the level of Party guidance in all spheres of social life, with radically improving the style of work in the light of the decisions adopted by the June plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Central Committee attaches enormous significance to all our cadres learning the Leninist way of work. Only given a political approach, a critical comparison of the efforts made with practical results, and a constant creative search, can questions be resolved—as Lenin said—not as officials do, but in a statesmanlike way.

Combatting formalism

The facts indicate that it is far from everywhere that enough skill and sometimes perseverance is shown in organising things practically. Formalism has been and remains the sworn enemy of living thought and living deeds. Its manifestations are enormous. Its substance is incompetence, indifference, an official and bureaucratic approach substituted for a Party and political one, where the main thing is not how to do something, but how to look better.

Of course, there are no ready-made recipes for combatting formalism on all occasions. But the Party has always had an unshakable Bolshevik principle: people should be judged not by what they say but by what they do, by their work—by results, not showmanship. We shall be following this life-tested principle in the future too.

An overwhelming majority of our cadres perform honestly their Party, official and professional duties, they enjoy well-deserved respect and prestige among the working people for their dedication in work, personal modesty, justice and attention to people.

Unfortunately, we still encounter instances of a different sort. Complaints continue to come in from working people about bureaucratic attitudes to their needs and requests, about the haughtiness of some executives and officials, about nepotism and patronage.

In all the affairs we are now discussing, a great

role is played by mass information media. The Party sets great store by the journalists' work, which sometimes calls for deep knowledge, creative endeavour, insistence on principle and sometimes courage. I could name quite a few constructive and effective contributions made by the press, television and radio on pressing questions of economics, education and culture. But there are also many publications and programmes that suffer from monotony, lack of individuality and from superficiality. The Party expects that the mass information media will make an even more considerable contribution to the implementation of plans of socio-economic progress, and improvement of communist upbringing.

The CPSU Central Committee values and prizes the work and efforts of our entire ideological corps—canvassers and lecturers, people's teachers, and cultural education workers.

The services performed by scientists and creative artists in moulding the Marxist-Leninist world outlook, a lofty civic attitude, patriotic pride for our socialist country, and in enriching the people's life with new spiritual values, are great. Our intelligentsia may rest assured that everything significant, honest and truthful created by its talent will be supported by the Party and evoke a grateful response in the hearts of Soviet people.

We will be soon celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. Each new generation, as it enters life, turns its gaze to the sources of that victory, for civic and political maturity is inseparable from the country's history, from its heroic pages. Soviet patriotism has been and remains one of the greatest spiritual gains of our system. And we must most carefully, and with Party attention, preserve and multiply this possession, for there is no nobler sentiment than love of one's country and commitment to internationalist duty.

It is the living creativity of the people that guarantees the success of all our undertakings. We have a good deal to do to raise our socialist society to a new and higher stage, to meet the 27th congress of the Leninist Party in a worthy manner.