

SPECIAL REPORT

Excerpts From Brezhnev Speech At CPSU Congress

Feb. 28 (IPS)— The following are excerpts from the 5 hour address delivered by General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev at the 25th Party Congress Feb. 24. Translated from the Feb. 25 Literaturnaya Gazeta:

"Much depends on the policies of the ruling (Communist) parties, on their ability to safeguard unity, to fight against seclusiveness and national isolationism, to take into account their common international tasks, and to act jointly to carry out these tasks...

"We see in foreign economic relations an effective means of solving political and economic tasks. Through economic integration, the might and cohesion of the socialist community is strengthened. Cooperation with developing countries facilitates the reconstruction of their economies and their social life on progressive principles. Finally, economic and scientific-technological ties with the capitalist state solidifies and broadens the material base for the policy of peaceful coexistence.

"One characteristic of our time is the growing use of the international division of labor to develop each country, regardless of its wealth and the economic level it has achieved...

"There are other, broader aspects of foreign economic activity. Today there are important and urgent global problems, such as raw materials and energy, the elimination of the most dangerous and widespread diseases, protection of the environment, exploration of the cosmos and use of the resources of the Pacific Ocean. These problems will have an increasing influence on the life of all people and on the entire system of international relations. Our country and the other socialist countries cannot stand aside from the solution to these problems, which concern the entire human race...

"In foreign economic relations, politics and economics, diplomacy and commerce, industrial production and trade are interconnected in a single whole. Therefore they have to be approached in an integrated fashion, unifying the efforts of all state organs, all our political and economic interests. This is how the Central Committee of the Party formulates this important question.

"Communists of different countries follow one another's work with interest and understanding. Differing opinions may arise from time to time, different approaches to one question or another... But Marxist-Leninists approach such questions from the standpoint of internationalism, concern for strengthening the unity of the movement, and discuss problems that arise in the spirit of genuine comradeship, on the basis of equality and respect for the independence of each party. Of course, there can be no question of compromise on principles, of reconciliation with views and actions which contradict Communist ideology. That is final.

"The capitalist world is bursting with an economic crisis whose severity and depth, as bourgeois spokesmen admit,

can be compared only with the crisis of the beginning of the 30's... Communists are far from predicting the 'automatic collapse' of capitalism. It has not a few reserves. However, events of the past few years confirm with renewed force that capitalism is not the society of the future. (Prolonged applause)

"Communists proceed in their struggle from the general lawfulness of revolutionary development and of the construction of socialism and communism... And it can be confidently stated that if concessions to opportunism may give some kind of temporary advantage, in the final analysis they can only harm the party.

"I would like particularly to stress the importance in our time of proletarian internationalism. It is one of the most important principles of Marxism-Leninism. Unfortunately, there are some who treat it in such a way that there is little left of internationalism. One even finds people who openly propose to renounce internationalism. According to them, the internationalism which Marx and Lenin founded and defended has become antiquated. But in our opinion, to renounce proletarian internationalism would mean to deprive the Communist Parties and the workers' movement in general of a powerful and tested weapon. (Prolonged applause). This would be a good service to the class enemy, who, it must be said, is actively coordinating his anti-communist activity on an international scale. We Soviet Communists consider the defense of proletarian internationalism the sacred obligation of every Marxist-Leninist."

RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRACIES

"Contacts with socialist and social democratic parties have broadened... It goes without saying that there can be no question of ideological rapprochement of scientific communism with the reformism of the social democrats. Among social democrats there are not a few whose whole activity is premised on anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. There are even parties where people are punished for having contact with communists. We will fight against any such phenomena, since they only play into the hands of reaction...

"Detente does not and cannot abolish the class struggle. No one can expect that under conditions of detente the communists will reconcile themselves to capitalist exploitation or that the monopolists will become revolutionaries. Thus the strict observance of the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other states, respect for their independence and sovereignty — this is the indispensable condition for detente.

"We do not hide the fact that we see in detente the road to the creation of more favorable conditions of peaceful socialist and communist construction. This only goes to show that socialism and peace are inseparable."