

One Soviet Journal: Economic Cooperation Necessary

The following are excerpts from the International Affairs article "East-West Relations: Possibilities and Realities", authored by Y. Shiryayev and T. Sokolov, in the January 1977 issue.

...If both socialist and capitalist countries promote mutual trade, participate in working on major international problems and actively cooperate in improving infrastructure, utilizing new kinds of energy, exploring outer space, solving public health problems, protecting the environment and so forth, this will lead to the economic growth of each nation concerned, deepen mutual trust and strengthen peace....

Realities Within Greater Europe

...(The) rapid expansion of trade with capitalist countries shows that socialist integration by no means leads to the isolation of the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance — ed.) states and presents no obstacle to lively and mutually beneficial business relations with countries of the opposite system. Moreover, the fulfilment of measures under the Comprehensive Program (of the CMEA — ed.) aimed at raising the efficiency and technological level of production will create the material conditions for intensifying the CMEA countries' economic ties with third states, West European nations in particular.

Today there is a solid political basis for further European-wide economic development....

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries are today mapping out a long-term economic strategy featuring large-scale comprehensive programs for periods of ten to fifteen years. These programs cover fuel and energy, metallurgy, leading branches of heavy engineering, and food problems. They take into account scientific and technological progress at home and abroad. This will place economic, scientific and technical, and production cooperation between socialist and capitalist enterprises on a more long-term footing and steadily increase its scale, a fact confirmed by Western economists as well. There can be no doubt, the French economists A. Faure and J.P. Sebord wrote, that the development of Siberian mineral deposits will result in profound changes in the Soviet Union's relations with Western Europe, whereby their economies will draw closer together and mutually penetrate....

The expansion of European East-West trade and economic relations within Greater Europe presupposes the solution of a number of problems linked with international settlements. These problems are due to the dissimilarity of the currency mechanism in the countries of the two systems. It will be recalled that in 1943-1944 as a participant in the Bretton Woods Conference, the Soviet Union had helped draw up projects for the establishment of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-

national Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). However, when these monetary organizations began operating, it became evident that their functional structure did not guarantee equal rights to all their members and that they could not facilitate equal international cooperation.

Subsequently, the monetary system of the CMEA countries was created. The transferable ruble underlies settlements between these countries. This is not a national but a collective currency, the earnings of which are linked with the actual export of goods and services, in other words, in a commodity-based currency. The system of multilateral settlements in transferable rubles set up by the CMEA states can play an important role in promoting world economic cooperation, especially in the realization of continental-scale projects. There already exist the technical and organizational possibilities needed for incorporating other, including West European, countries into the CMEA currency system. Any country wishing to become a member and recognizing and abiding by their regulations can join the international banks of the socialist countries, namely, the International Bank for Economic Cooperation (IBEC) and the International Investment Bank (IIB)....

Another: Mideast Economic Cooperation is "Aggression"

The following are excerpts from a Nov. 22 Izvestia article, "Businessmen's Aggression", in which author L. Koryaun describes a brochure he read recently in Beirut entitled "Israel in the Year 2000":

...In it was depicted a picture of the region in which, the authors write, Israel will in the next century play a special, "leading role". Israel, the monograph stresses, will become the most advanced state from the point of view of "technical thought." It may begin "brain exports", that is, exports of a large number of specialists and business people, who will still be needed at that time by the Arab and African countries.

The brochure contains an unambiguous hint: ... open your doors, and an "avalanche of minds" will pour in — engineers, teachers, doctors, military specialists.

But this is a dangerous avalanche. It threatens to collapse on the Arab and African peoples and wreck everything they have gained in a difficult and long national-liberation struggle.

Under the guise of supposed "cooperation", and "integration", Israel, resorting to methods typical of a colonial power, wants simply to colonize the awakening countries, to prepare for them the old fate of raw materials subsidiaries and suppliers of cheap labor power....