
Documentation

Perestroika means war mobilization

Excerpts from General Secretary Gorbachov's May 13 speech at Baikonur, reported in Pravda of May 14.

Dear Comrades! Permit me to cordially greet you on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government, and to thank you for your shock labor, for your persistence, and for your creative work on behalf of our Motherland.

All we Soviet people have always pronounced the word Baikonur with special emotion. It has become a symbol of our Motherland's greatest exploit—a triumph of Soviet science and the great potential of the socialist social system. . . . It was from here, that mankind first stepped into outer space, opening a new page in the history of civilization. It was from here at Baikonur, in October 1957, that the first artificial Earth satellite—a symbol of revolutionary science and technology—was put into orbit. It was from here, on April 12, 1961, that man's first flight into space was carried out—the remarkable flight by our countryman, Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin. These are all great landmarks in the development of Soviet science and technology.

Created by the labor and talent of Soviet scientists, workers, engineers, and military specialists, the unique scientific research experimental complex is the true embodiment of Lenin's dream of turning our state into a great industrial power. In essence, what is concentrated here, is the intellectual capacity and the final results of the work of many dozens of our country's scientific research and design organizations and major machine-building enterprises. It is a real testing ground for advanced thinking in engineering. I would say that in all main areas, it is equipped with the most up-to-date science and technology.

. . . Everything here at the space center . . . has been produced by us in the U.S.S.R. It is all high-quality and state-of-the-art technology. Once again, a simple but very important question comes to mind: Why do we at times try to acquire even simple items from abroad, if we are today capable of resolving such vast, large-scale, and complex tasks. . . . There is no reason for us to go abroad, hat in hand, in this way. No embargoes, no ban . . . on selling us technology and equipment will slow down the development

of our country or the implementation of the great social and economic plans connected with *perestroika* and the acceleration of our economy. . . .

Perestroika 'like a rocket'

There is no distinction between main and auxiliary work here. . . . Much, indeed almost everything, depends on each individual. . . . We all need to work the way people work at the space center. . . . We need to be patriots, to live and work conscientiously and to competently carry out the task we have been assigned.

Acquaintance with your work has further vast significance, significance of great political importance. What is happening here and the fact that the solution of such very difficult problems is within your abilities, convinces me that the tasks set for our science and technology, and above all for Soviet machine building . . . are within our powers and that they will be fulfilled. This is the key sector which will enable our economy to rise to new heights. . . .

If we discuss *perestroika*, I will draw the following comparison: The *perestroika* begun in the country is like the bursting of a powerful rocket into space. *Perestroika* must be promoted with the same persistence, conscientiousness, and thoroughness we employ, when preparing and ensuring the reliability of space flights. Everything must be completely altered in all directions, in the economic, social, and spiritual spheres. . . .

[*Pravda* had this to add, from Gorbachov's speech]: "M.S. Gorbachov also stressed the defense significance of the work being carried out . . . at Baikonur. He said: Our policy of peaceful outer space is not a sign of weakness. . . ."

A scientific-technical revolution

Marshal Victor Kulikov, first deputy minister of defense and commander in chief of Warsaw Pact Forces, was interviewed in Izvestia May 9.

. . . The gains of socialism must be reliably defended. All work on the improvement of the defense capability of the country and strengthening of the Armed Forces is conducted in accord with this. We do not have the goal of surpassing or outmaneuvering anybody in the military realm. . . . All that we have achieved in the military realm, at the beginning of the eighties, is essentially only our answer to the aggressive aspirations of imperialism. The combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces has grown immeasurably. It is a firm fusion of military skill with a high level of technical capability, ideological resolve, organization and discipline of personnel, and their devotion to their patriotic and international duty.

The scientific-technical revolution has sharply accelerated the rates of modernization of the Armed Forces. In the last 10-15 years, two or three generations of missiles have replaced each other, a significant portion of our aircraft, submarines, and surface ships, artillery, tanks, guns, and other weapons, combat and special technology has been re-

placed with new units. Fifth-generation computers are in use. . . .

Perestroika is going ahead in the country; it is not just a matter of lip-service, but it has actually touched all areas of our life. It is going on in the Armed Forces, too. For military people, *perestroika* is above all brought to life in new approaches to solving the tasks of strengthening the Armed Forces and raising their combat readiness. . . .

The labor of military cadres and of the entire personnel of the Army and Navy is aimed at the unswerving enhancement of combat readiness. The perestroika currently taking place in the Armed Forces, which embraces all aspects of their lives and activity, is also aimed at this.

Pravda of May 12 carried an article by M. Markov, academician-secretary of the Nuclear Physics Section, U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, entitled "Offered for Application: Thoughts of a Scientist About the Relationship of Basic Research to Practice."

The fact that the utilization of the results of basic research in all areas of science helps the acceleration of technical progress, has already become a truth as evident as ABC. But I would like to underscore the, perhaps, no less important feature of basic research—that the very process of preparing and conducting it, is accompanied, as a rule, by discoveries of new technologies and new types of equipment, which are subsequently applied with great success in practical activity. . . .

At the present time, the Soviet national program for high-energy physics, cosmic ray physics, particularly neutrino astrophysics, up to the year 2000, is under review. In several of these areas, it is necessary to liquidate the lag that has arisen, behind the level of world science, and in others, it will be extremely difficult to maintain the existing lead. All of this demands investments into these scientific areas, of a volume to which Gosplan and the financial and construction organs, and other echelons of management, are unaccustomed. Naturally, there will be attempts to narrow the financing and stretch out the construction over time. From an administrative point of view, these are natural, but in reality, they can mean the planned, long-term lagging behind, of leading directions of science, and a dangerous retardation of

the emergence of new technologies. . . .

The examples show, that financial investments in the development of basic research, really are the most profitable investment of capital. After all, the benefit from production of the holographic diffraction screen [described earlier in the article] alone could more than cover the expenditures for the entire national program of high-energy physics.

Discussing the emergence of new technologies during research projects, which accompany basic research, we have leaned on the experience of just the one area of science which the Nuclear Physics Section of the Academy of Sciences takes care of. But the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has 17 sections, which are conducting their own basic research, with all the accompanying results important for the acceleration of the country's scientific and technical progress. For example, in the future of outer space, free of nuclear weapons, are envisioned factories, producing specific materials under conditions of weightlessness, and exo-atmospheric facilities for the utilization of solar energy.

Perestroika means combat readiness

On May 9, Pravda quoted Marshal Sergei Sokolov, Soviet defense minister.

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In the May 9 Krasnaya Zvezda, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Marshal Ogarkov's successor as chief of the Soviet General Staff, and first deputy defense minister, stated:

The Reagan administration has discovered an "imbalance" in armaments between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., in the Soviet Union's favor. Using this deliberate untruth as a cover, the U.S. leadership is intent on augmenting its nuclear arsenal by the end of the 1980s and transferring the arms race to outer space. Here the task is, on the one hand, to protect U.S. territory beneath multi-layered ABM defenses and thereby deprive the U.S.S.R. of the ability to deliver a counterstrike in the event of nuclear aggression against it, while on the other hand, deploying in outer space new strategic strike means, which, combined with strategic offensive forces, would afford the U.S., now rendered "invulnerable," the opportunity to constantly threaten the Soviet Union. . . . The Soviet Union will not allow the existing military equilibrium to be upset.

On May 9, Soviet TV featured Army Gen. Pyotr Lushev, first deputy defense minister.

Reactionary U.S. forces are striving to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union at all costs. . . . A large-scale program of preparing for and waging chemical and biological warfare is being implemented. Work related to the creation of weapons based on new physical principles is being stepped up. A great danger . . . is presented by U.S. plans to militarize space.