

TULA SPEECH

III. 18 Jan 77

R 3 USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS, POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Present in the hall were party government, trade union and KOL [Komsomol] functionaries, front-rankers of factories, collective and state farms of the region, representatives of the creative intelligentsia, active participants in the city defence, soldiers of the Soviet Army, and numerous guests. They greeted with a stormy ovation General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Leonid Brezhnev who made a speech.

The meeting was transmitted by the central television network of the USSR.

Brezhnev Speech

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["Leonid Brezhnev's Speech in Tula"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tula, January 18 TASS--The following is the text of a speech made by Leonid Brezhnev, the general secretary of the CPSU CC, at a celebration meeting, devoted to the presentation of the Gold Star medal to the hero city of Tula.

Dear comrades,

The farther the years of the Great Patriotic War recede <sup>FROM US</sup> ~~into the past~~, the more deeply we realise the greatness and significance of the heroic deeds of those unforgettable years. Today we are honouring Tula, the hero city, whose outstanding exploit earned the highest award of the homeland.

As war veteran, it gives me great pleasure on this red-letter day to be with you, to share your holiday mood.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the citizens of your glorious town, men and women, people of all age and professions, on the lofty award.

The hero cities, whose names are associated for all time with the most memorable events of the war, salute and congratulate you. Moscow, Leningrad and Volgograd, Sevastopol and Odessa, Kiev and Minsk, Novorossiysk, Kerch and the Brest Fortress sent their representatives to you to admit you into their glorious, heroic family. (applause)

Veterans of the formidable years of war, frontline soldiers and workers at the home front, who did everything for the sake of victory, salute and congratulate you. (applause)

All Soviet people today share your joy and your pride. (applause)

On such remarkable days, one most strongly senses the link of times. For our present rests on that which was created, gained and defended by preceding generations.

Your city is one of the oldest in the country. For centuries Tula was the shield and arsenal of the Russian state. The character of Russian man--tireless worker and skilled craftsman, staunch defender of the homeland, unbending fighter for a happy future--matured on these ancient lands. (applause)

Tula is a city with a wealth of revolutionary and fighting traditions. One of the fighting detachments of the Russian proletariat was formed and hardened in class battles here. [paragraph continues]

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In the years of revolution and civil war the city became an arsenal for the Red Army. The offensive of Denikin's troops was checked at the approaches to Tula. Lenin wrote at that time: 'Tula is just now of exceptional importance--and generally speaking, even independently of the enemy being close at hand, Tula is of vast importance to the republic'. And today we have every reason to say--working class Tula has always been worthy of this high Leninist appraisal. (applause)

In the dramatic days of the autumn of 1941, when the Nazi command staked everything on the capture of Moscow, Tula once again became an impregnable fortress, standing in the road of the enemy.

The fascists wanted to seize Tula and to advance toward the capital from the south. The target seemed to be easily attainable to them. Guderyan's armoured divisions were not confronted by big alignments of Soviet forces at that moment. The people of the city and its environs, however, rose to the defence of Tula together with army units. Even at a time when the enemy almost succeeded in closing the ring, ~~around the city~~, the people of Tula did not falter, ~~did not panic~~. Workers, producing arms and ammunition, miners and steel-makers stood to the last man. From the fiery frontlines of 1941 the gallant Tula workers' regiment marched into immortality. (applause)

The communists, the Tula party organization were the soul of the heroic defence. On October 16th, 1941, a meeting of the city party active resolved not to surrender the city to the enemy. It is impossible to read this document without emotion. "Tula, the red ~~arsenal~~ <sup>forge</sup>, the city of glorious armourers, the city of metal workers, the resolution of the active said, will never be in the dirty paws of the German gangsters. We, the Bolsheviks of Tula, reassure the Central Committee of the ~~USSR~~ <sup>USSR</sup> (B), that all, like one man, will take up arms to fight to the last drop of blood for our homeland, for our beloved city, and will never surrender Tula to the enemy". And the people of Tula honoured their pledge. (applause) (applause)

32,000 out of the 40,000 party members took up arms to fight. The communists rallied the people to the construction of defensive fortifications. They did their utmost to maintain an exemplary revolutionary order in the besieged city, to continue the manufacture of defence production without the slightest break.

The sons and daughters of the Leninist Komsomol were fighting the enemy shoulder to shoulder with the communists.

And Tula held out, Tula vanquished. (applause)

It gives me great pleasure to greet the organizers of the defence of Tula, who are here: The chairman of the city defence committee and first secretary of the regional party committee Vasily Gavrilovich Zhavoronkov, the chairman of the regional executive committee Nikolay Ivanovich Chmutov, the commanders of military units Anatoliy Petrovich Gershkov, Mikhail Trofimovich Bondarenko and Stepan Fedorovich Zubkov. (applause after each name)

Veterans of the workers' regiment Nikita Pavlovich Zubankov, Aleksey Nikolayevich Terekhovkin, Vsevolod Sergeyevich Strokov and others are in this hall today. \* Here are former soldiers, guerrillas, workers at Tula factories, those who forged the weapons of victory in the front-line city, under enemy fire. \*(applause after each name)

Please, dear friends, accept the deepest gratitude from all those you were defending and succeeded in defending. (applause)  
Many, very many did not return from the battlefields. They fell for the sake of life, for the sake of the homeland.

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Please rise to honour the memory of the fallen heroes.

Comrades, the lessons of the last war call us to vigilance. Indeed, fascism was routed. But there still are fascist and profascist regimes. Some people still dream of revenge. There are aggressive forces that are by no means passive. This must not be forgotten.

Yesterday I went to Yasnaya Polyana. This is a holy place for every cultured person. The life, described by Leo Tolstoy, receded into the past, but his works are eternal, for eternal are the undying movements of the mind and the heart he depicted so brilliantly.

There, in Yasnaya Polyana, the great writer pondered much over problems, which are uppermost in our minds, too, problems of war and peace. But all ideas of Leo Tolstoy are in keeping with our epoch. But the message of his great novel, the message that in the final analysis the people, the masses solve the fundamental problems of history, determine the destiny of states and the outcome of wars, this profound message is true today as always. Recalling the grave years of war, we pay tribute to the fighting people, the victorious people, the people, who in three post-war decades converted their homeland into a mighty, flourishing power. \* (applause)

It is often said: How fast does time fly. Indeed, this is so. Time flows slowly only where nothing happens. Just look what is being done in our country: Everywhere-- construction projects, everywhere--work, everywhere--continuous, vigorous advance.

The Tenth Five-Year Plan period took a confident start. 1976 witnessed the biggest-ever harvest in our history--224 million tons of grain. Increment in industrial production was 4.8 instead of the planned 4.3 per cent. More than 6,000 million roubles worth of industrial production was marketed over and above the plan. The real incomes of the population increased 3.7 per cent during the year. To put it in a nutshell, the tremendous exciting program of economic and cultural advance, charted by the 25th CPSU Congress, is being implemented.

You, the people of Tula, are also successfully implementing this program. Present-day Tula is a major industrial and cultural centre. Important scientific researches are being conducted here, up-to-date machines, equipment and precision instruments are being developed and manufactured. The workers, technicians and engineers of Tula, the intellectuals of Tula make a weighty contribution to the cause of communist construction. (applause)

*Ivan Khoritonovich,*  
It gave me pleasure to learn that you had fulfilled the socialist obligations of the first year of the five-year plan period ahead of schedule and that industry of the city turned out almost 15 million rubles worth of production over and above the plan. And it is important that the increment in industrial production was obtained through a rise in labour efficiency.

Among those in the van are the staffs of the "Tulachermet" scientific and production organization, of the "Shtamp" and "Priboy" factories, of the Kosogorskiy metallurgical and other enterprises. They are persistently working on the technical modernization of production, the introduction of <sup>comprehensive</sup> complex systems of controlling quality of production, raising the efficiency of the entire economic activity.

A splendid impression was made by the staffs of the engineering works I inspected last night. 63 per cent of their production earned the state mark of quality. Of course, there still is such an indicator as 100 per cent, but even that which has already been achieved is good, is great.

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Recently, after learning that the honorary title of hero city had been awarded to Tula, the veteran workers of the enterprise called upon all the people of Tula to make Tula a city of highly efficient production, exemplary culture and way of life. I should like to support this initiative wholeheartedly. (applause)

Now, in the first days of the new year, it is appropriate to recall that a good beginning is the key to the whole. This is especially so for the five-year plan period, which is rightly called five-year plan period of efficiency and quality. For, to attain the planned level of quantity, one can, so to say, "go into higher gear" at the last moment. But such ephemeral efforts are obviously inadequate to attain a new level of quality, to markedly improve efficiency. Systematic, every-day work is needed. And this applies, of course, not only to Tula, but to all enterprises, all branches of the economy, all labour collectives in town and countryside.

The Tula worker has always been renowned for his skill, the quality of his production. And it is not without reason that Leskov made the hero of his well-known story "Levsha" ("Left-Hander") precisely a Tula handicraftsman. And, comrades, pay attention to the fact that Levsha not only has great skill but also takes pride in his art, in what we today would call the quality of work. He cannot work badly, this would be below his dignity of working man. (applause)

You certainly agree with me that the problem of quality in many ways remains a problem of skill, and professional qualification, and the conscience of every worker in our time, too, the time of fast scientific and technological progress and of tremendous changes in the nature of labour.

On this red-letter day one cannot help saying kind words of those who worthily continue the glorious traditions of working class Tula, who set examples of conscientious, responsible attitude to their worker's duty. The renowned workers' dynasties of the Shishkovs, the Iljins and the Tikhonovs enjoy profound respect in Tula. Among the best of the best are heroes of socialist labour, fitters and gauge-makers' team leaders Leonid Alexandrovich Grishin and Gennadiy Aleksandrovich Pushkin. Among them are senior sinterer Ivan Mikhailovich Borisov, who was a delegate to the 25th CPSU Congress, grinders Alevtina Stepanovna Serova, member of the Central Auditing Commission of the CPSU, and Aleksandr Ivanovich Chekulayev, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Among them are assemblers' team leader V. Ientina Aleksandrovna Kasimova, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and many other comrades. (applause)

In our country there are hundreds of thousands of such people who by their example illumine the road ahead of us. And this is as it should be. Since there lives the Soviet people, since the party of communists leads the country onward, there always will be men and women with fiery hearts, boundlessly loyal to our immortal communist cause. (applause)

These days reports are streaming in from all over the country about the tremendous enthusiasm with which millions upon millions of working people are receiving the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the AUCCTU and the YCL [Komsomol] Central Committee "on the all-union socialist emulation for raising the efficiency of production and improving the quality of work, for fully fulfilling the assignments of the Tenth Five-Year Plan". Increased pledges to worthily meet the 60th anniversary of the Great October Revolution are being adopted everywhere. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Tula party organisation, all working people of your city will also approach the anniversary of Soviet power with big labour successes. (applause)

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In keeping with the Leninist tradition to consult the party and the people on the most important matters of concern to the entire state, the Central Committee recently addressed a letter to collective farmers, workers of state farms, farm-machine operators, scientists, specialists in agriculture, workers in industry that supplies materials and technical equipment for agriculture, to all working people of the Soviet Union. This document characterises the most urgent problems of agriculture and sets forth a concrete programme of its accelerated development. Judging by the people's response to the Central Committee's letter, communists, all working people are fully resolved to devote all their energy to the effort to grow a bumper harvest, to ensure a new upsurge of animal husbandry. This is rejoicing. This instills confidence that in the anniversary year the workers in agriculture will advance to new frontiers in the development of this vitally important branch of the economy.

Comrades, I think there is no need today to dwell on the entire spectrum of domestic problems and tasks. They were clearly formulated at the 25th Congress of the CPSU. They were thoroughly discussed last October at a plenum of the Central Committee. The plenum confirmed again that concern for Soviet man, for his needs and requirements is in the centre of the party's policy. The steady growth of the people's living standards was and remains the pivotal direction of all our plans, both for the immediate future and for the lengthy perspective. *(applause)*

Here we have many big and complex questions. Not all of them are being solved as swiftly as we would like. You know that the weather conditions during the past five-year-plan period, especially in 1972 and 1975, were extremely unfavourable for agriculture. This could not but affect the population's supply with meat and dairy products. The party sees these difficulties and is doing maximum of what is possible to overcome them.

I want to stress in this connection that the CPSU Central Committee has outlined a number of extensive measures aimed at changing the situation in animal husbandry for the better. These measures are already being implemented. Much more fodder has been stored than last year. Hog and poultry breeding are being developed at an accelerated pace. The emphasis is being made on improving the reproduction of livestock and on the intensive fattening of animals. Conditions are thereby being created for a noticeable improvement in the population's supply with meat and dairy products.

On the whole, comrades, the Tenth Five-Year Plan will signify a major stride forward in the growth of the people's welfare. Suffice it to say that last year alone nearly eleven million people had their housing conditions improved. The average monthly wage of industrial and office workers now exceeds 151 roubles. During the past year the retail goods turnover of state and cooperative trade grew by 4.6 percent.

The decision to raise the rates and salaries of 31 million workers in education, public health, culture, trade and communal services was adopted recently. This appears to be quite a good new year's present, *(applause)* though strictly speaking, the word "present" is not quite applicable here. The raising of wages is a logical result of the growth of the social productivity of labour. The dependence here is simple: The more efficient is our work, the bigger are the possibilities of the state. I am convinced that everyone will draw a correct conclusion from this: To live better, to earn more, one must work better. This is an old but not an aging truth. *(applause)*

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As I was preparing to come here, I made a point how the people of Tula are living and how the town is developing. I was told that new houses with modern conveniences are built in Tula every year, that accommodation in schools and kindergartens was increased and new hospitals and outpatient clinics were opened.

I know you will say that this is not too much. You will say that more flats are needed, more schools and kindergartens, more goods in stores.

Well, you are right. Our requirements are outrunning our possibilities. But we are not marking time, we are advancing. Let us compare several figures. Whereas 474 million roubles were allocated for the development of Tula in the Eighth Five-Year Plan and 718 million in the ninth, the Tenth Five-Year Plan provides already for 903 million roubles. \* 2,280,000 square metres of housing were commissioned during the past ten years. This actually means that a second Tula was built. Wonderful buildings of a theatre, a circus, an art museum, a sports complex, many new schools, kindergartens and nurseries have appeared in the city. \*Why don't you applaud? (applause)

As you see the line of further improving the life of working people is quite evident. Spendings on housing construction, education and public health, on everyday and communal needs are steadily growing. This is true not only of Tula. This is true of the country as a whole. All our deeds and thoughts are directed at perfecting the socialist way of life. (applause)

Everywhere our great people is absorbed in peaceful creative work, is engaged in an undertaking of tremendous scope and historic importance. And it does not want the threat of war to weigh down on it as heavy burden. The 25th congress instructed the Central Committee undeviatingly to build up efforts in the struggle for lasting peace. And that is what we are doing, acting persistently and consistently.

Soviet people ardently approve of the party's foreign policy. They know that this policy safeguards their motherland from war, accords with the interests of all nations, opens up scope for friendship and cooperation among them, services the cause of social progress throughout the planet. At numerous meetings and rallies, in thousands upon thousands of letters to the CPSU Central Committee, to newspapers, to the radio and television they give the Central Committee, its Political Bureau, and the government their due for their tireless struggle for peace. (applause)

No country has ever offered mankind such a sweeping, concrete and realistic programme of lessening and then fully eliminating the danger of a new war, as it was done by the Soviet Union.

This programme includes such a global measure as the world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. It encompasses all the main problems connected with the arms race and outlines effective steps towards curbing it, towards disarmament. It is directed at preventing the appearance of new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction, at complete prohibition of nuclear tests. The Soviet Union has offered the United States to refrain on a mutual basis from the development of new types of submarines and strategic bombers.

All our peace initiatives accord with the common line of fraternal socialist states in the international arena. We struggle together for their implementation. The proposals by the Soviet Union and its friends are supported by dozens of states in the United Nations organisation, by the popular masses in all continents.

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The important proposals set forth at the recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation are new convincing proof of the peaceful nature inherent in the defensive alliance of socialist states--Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia. It was proposed that every participant in the European conference undertake the obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against each other and not to enlarge the number of members of the Warsaw treaty organisation and NATO.

We are firmly convinced that in the long run the lofty ideas of peace upheld by the Leninist party and the Soviet state will be implemented. (applause)

But this can be achieved only through struggle, precisely through struggle, comrades. Because our constructive proposals often encounter a mute resistance and even open opposition.

For instance, when the members of the Warsaw Treaty organisation raised the question of not being the first to use nuclear weapons, NATO's reply was more or less as follows: No, this does not suit us, we must retain the possibility to threaten the Soviet Union with the use of nuclear weapons. We hope, however, that those who ultimately determine the policy of states will display a reasonable approach to our proposal.

Here is another example. At the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe we are told, in effect, the following: You reduce more, while we will reduce less. Such a stand, of course, cannot advance the negotiations.

Felt behind all this is the pressure by the more aggressive forces of imperialism, by the military and military-industrial circles and politicians bogged down in anti-Sovietism, the "hawks", as they are usually called in the West. It is precisely on their order that intelligence agencies, headquarters and various institutes compose thick reports and treatises in which they arbitrarily interpret the Soviet Union's policy and the measures taken by it to strengthen its <sup>defence</sup> capabilities. And as though by command, this misinformation is circulated throughout the world by news agencies, the press, radio and television.

Frankly speaking, this noisy and idle talk has become quite tiresome. And in the West, too, when serious politicians are asked whether they are alarmed by the prospect of "Soviet aggression", they answer with a confident "no".

Of course, comrades, we are perfecting our defences. It cannot be otherwise. We have never sacrificed and will never sacrifice the security of our country, the security of our allies. (applause)

But the allegations that the Soviet Union is going beyond of what is sufficient for defence, that it is striving for superiority in armaments with the aim of delivering "the first strike" are absurd and totally unfounded. Not so long ago, at the meeting with prominent representatives of the American business community, I already said and I want to emphasize it again that the Soviet Union always was and continues to be a convinced opponent of any such concepts. (applause)

Our efforts are directed precisely at avoiding either the first or the second strikes and at avoiding nuclear war in general. (applause) Our approach to these questions can be formulated as follows: The Soviet Union's defence potential must be sufficient to deter anyone from taking a risk to violate our peaceful life. (applause) Not a course at superiority in armaments, but a course at reducing them, at lessening military confrontation--such is our policy. (applause)

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On behalf of the party and the entire people I declare that our country will never embark on the road of aggression, will never raise the sword against other nations.

*(applause)*

It is not we but certain forces in the West that are adding new and new spirals to the arms race. First of all the nuclear arms race. It is not we but those forces that are the initiators of the swelling of military budgets by throwing hundreds of billions into the bottomless chasm of military preparations. It is these forces, acting under the false pretext of the "Soviet menace", that represent the aggressive line in the international politics of today.

And if this line is left without a rebuff it deserves, the threat of war will grow again. This line is equally dangerous for the peoples in the East and in the West. The Soviet Union will oppose it in every way and expose its dangerous essence.

From the experience of recent years we know that the policy of capitalist states can also be determined by those who realise the danger of playing with fire and are capable of taking into account the realities of the contemporary world. We hope that notwithstanding all the vacillations and proneness to phrasemongering, that is often dictated by domestic considerations, they will keep in the fore good sense and a sober approach to problems of world politics.

For it is precisely due to this that the change in relations between the USSR and France became possible in its time, that the known treaties with the FRG, the four-sided agreement on West Berlin, important agreements of the Soviet Union with the United States, and with other capitalist countries were concluded and the European Conference on Security and Cooperation was held. In other words, detente was set in motion.

*(RAZRYADKA NAPRYAZHENOSTI)*

What is ~~detente or~~ relaxation of tensions? What meaning do we invest in this term? Detente means first of all the overcoming of the cold war and transition to normal, stable relations among states. Detente means willingness to resolve differences and disputes not by force, not by threats and sabre-rattling, but by peaceful means, at a conference table. Detente means a certain trust and ability to take into consideration each other's legitimate interests.

Life has shown that the atmosphere of international intercourse can be noticeably changed within a short period of time. Contacts between countries in the political, economic, cultural and other fields have expanded. And what is most important, comrades, the danger of a new big war has been pushed back. People have drawn an easier breath and began to look into the future with greater hope.

That is what ~~detente or~~ relaxation of tensions means and such are its evident results.

*(applause)*

What can the present-day cold war chieftains oppose to it? A growth of taxes and military spending, a further reduction of allocations on the population's social needs? A building up of means of the mass annihilation of humans? A whipping up of military psychosis and fear of the future? This will not be accepted by the peoples. They will not accept this. *(applause)*

As we all know, the relaxation of international tension was achieved at the price of tremendous effort. Neither is it easy to preserve the accumulated political capital of detente. But no difficulties and obstacles will force us to retreat. There is no more pressing and vitally important task than that of making peace lasting and inviolable. *(applause)*



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Statesmen who are aware of their responsibility to millions of people, of their responsibility for the destinies of nations must consider the will of the peoples for peace. As to the Soviet Union, we will not be found wanting.

We are prepared jointly with the new administration in the United States to accomplish a new major advance in relations between our countries.

First of all, as we are convinced, it is necessary to complete in the nearest future the drafting of the agreement on limiting strategic armaments on the basis that we had reached in Vladivostok already at the close of 1974. Some politicians in Washington now express regret that this agreement has not been signed to this day. But whatever the regrets, lost time cannot be regained and it is important that practical conclusions be drawn from this.

And the question is being asked in the United States as well about possible developments if such conclusions are not made. An influential American newspaper wrote recently that in such an event the Soviet Union and the United States will start the creation of a new generation of nuclear weapons which in practical terms it will be impossible to control.

Such a prospect does not suit us. I repeat that time will not wait and the conclusion of the agreement must not be postponed.

The Soviet Union, naturally, is prepared to advance further in questions of limiting strategic armaments. But at first it is necessary to consolidate what has already been achieved and to implement the accord reached in Vladivostok, the more so that the interim agreement expires this October. Then we could immediately pass on to talks on more far-reaching measures. Otherwise it may happen that by adding new questions to those that are being currently discussed we will only further complicate and procrastinate the solution of the task in general.

The need is ripe to prevent more reliably the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to make more effective the regime of non-proliferation established by the known treaty. We are prepared to conduct businesslike talks on this matter.

We <sup>should also come to</sup> ~~would like to reach~~ <sup>as soon as possible</sup> an ~~early~~ agreement on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. We have no objections to discussing the related questions at any level and at any venue: in Vienna, in Bonn, in Washington, in Moscow-- anywhere. (applause)

Standing now in the centre of European politics is the task of fully implementing the accords reached by 35 states a year and a half ago in Helsinki. We regard the final act of the European conference as a code of international obligations aimed at ensuring lasting peace. Of course, all its provisions should be fulfilled and that is our daily concern. The Central Committee attaches much political importance to this work, and many of our ministries and agencies are involved in it.

It is quite natural that more has been accomplished by now along some directions, while along other directions the necessary measures are being carried out gradually or are only being drafted. Much depends here on the overall state of political relations between states or, as it is said, on the level of the relaxation of tension. By poisoning the international atmosphere the opponents of detente only impede this work.

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In Western countries individual elements are often taken out of the final act and a big polemic started over them. The purpose of this is obvious: To impede the positive processes started by the European conference. Such people, judging by everything, care little about ensuring lasting peace in Europe. Another thing occupies them. They would like to pressure us, to teach us to live according to rules that are incompatible with socialist democracy, with socialist law and order. I would like to say that this is a futile attempt. (applause)

In Helsinki, socialist states and states with a differing social system worked together and achieved big results. This was a serious, businesslike cooperation based on a common interest in success. Now this cooperation should be developed further. We are prepared for this and, as is known, have already made a number of concrete proposals, in particular on some economic problems.

We regard as a big and important task the further development of bilateral relations with France, the FRG, Italy, Britain and other European and non-European states. We have based and will base our relations with them on the principle of peaceful co-existence. This is a Leninist principle, and we sacredly preserve and multiply Lenin's heritage, all of it. (applause)

We stand for most vigorous measures to liquidate the military hotbed in the Middle East. The bloodshed in Lebanon, that was stopped with such difficulty, has demonstrated once again the dangers that are fraught in a further procrastination of the Middle East conflict.

The Middle East needs a lasting and just settlement that would not impinge on the vital rights of any state ~~and any people~~. Israel of course has the right to state independence and secure <sup>to</sup> existence. But the Arab people of Palestine has a similar right.

The road to a settlement of the Middle East problem, and we have stated this many times, lies through the Geneva Middle East peace conference. It now appears that all the interested sides are inclined to resume its work. And this implies a still further increase in the importance of cooperation between the co-chairmen of the Geneva conference--the Soviet Union and the United States. Given mutual desire, they could do much to help the sides in the search for mutually acceptable solutions.

Such is our position on a number of major international issues.

Such are the intentions with which our country entered the new year, 1977. The Soviet Union will strive for this year to bring better results than the previous one in the cause of strengthening peace and security of the peoples, in the development of peaceful cooperation between states. <sup>(applause)</sup> We will make our constructive contribution and have the right to expect the same from those to whom we address ourselves.

Comrades, I am concluding my speech and I would like to draw your attention again to our immediate tasks. The second year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan is beginning. And it is very important, it is extremely important for all labour collectives, in town and in countryside, to work rhythmically, to their full ability from the very beginning of the year, from these very days of January.

It is a matter of honour of every communist, of every working man and woman that the state plan, its quantitative and qualitative indicators be definitely fulfilled, that the socialist pledges be definitely fulfilled. The party's Central Committee, the Soviet Government are convinced that here in Tula peoples will work only in such a manner. (applause)

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Comrades, for more than ten years now an Order of Lenin adorns the banner of Tula. Now I have been entrusted with the honorary and pleasant mission of attaching to your banner a gold star, this symbol of heroism, staunchness and courage, a symbol of nationwide acknowledgement of the outstanding exploit of Tula's defenders. (applause)

Permit me on instruction of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to read out the decree on the awarding of the title of "hero city" to Tula. *insert \* below.*

Dear friends, I again congratulate you all upon the high and well deserved award.

May your wonderful city become still more beautiful.

May new victories in labour and communist construction add to its glory.

Let happiness, high spirits and welfare be in every Tula family.

I wish you big successes, comrades. (applause)

\* Same page, insert at end of second paragraph the following additional paragraphs:  
The decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the awarding to the city of Tula of the honorary title "hero city."

This is to award the city of Tula the honorary title "hero city" with the presentation of the gold star medal for courage and staunchness shown by the defenders of Tula during the heroic defense of the city which was a strategic point on the route of the German fascist forces to Moscow in the Great Patriotic War. [applause] [Announcer interrupts: "Leonid Ilich Brezhnev attaches the gold star to Tula's banner." The announcer then names the people standing by the banner to the applause of those present.]

Comrades, on this your red letter day, I would like to leave as a memento in Tula to the Central Committee and all of you, the sculpture of the working man by the well-known, famous sculptor Shadr which portrays a worker who is bearing freedom and carrying the Leninist banner firmly in his hands. [applause]

The development of the national economy of the USSR for 1976 was fulfilled and exceeded as regards overall volume of industrial production, as regards the manufacture and delivery of the majority of types of industrial production, as regards the purchases of grain and raw cotton, and as regards retail trade turnover and a number of other indicators.

The national income, which is utilized for consumption and accumulation, increased by 5 percent in 1976 over the 1975 figure. The increment in industrial production in 1976 was 4.8 percent as compared with 4.3 percent as envisaged by the annual plan. The plan for marketing industrial production was fulfilled by all USSR ministries and ministries in the union republics. Production worth R6.2 billion was marketed excess to plan. The output of many progressive [progressivnyy] production lines was mastered. Labor productivity in industry rose by 3.3 percent as compared with 1975.