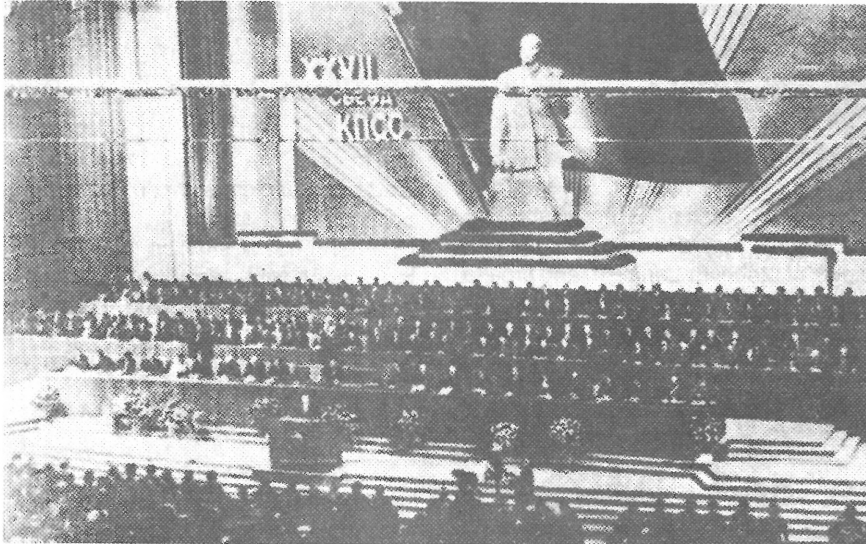


CPSU 27th Congress

The 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), which convened on February 25th, can rightfully be called the most important international event of this period. It was attended by 5000 delegates, plus 135 representatives of progressive and communist organizations from all over the world.



In view of the congress documents and the speeches delivered at its sessions, one can say that this congress marks a new era of international and socialist developments, due to the following facts:

One: The congress stressed the Soviet Union's sincere decision to employ all means for attaining world peace and nuclear disarmament. In the opening speech, Secretary General Gorbachev stressed that socialism definitively rejects war as a means for solving political, economic or ideological differences: «Our aim is a disarmed, non-violent world.»

Two: The documents of the congress stress the progressive role played by the national liberation movements seeking to liberate their countries and peoples from imperialist hegemony and oppression. It was stressed that newly liberated countries are moving in one of two directions in their development, either in the direction of socialism, or in the direction of capitalism. Consequently, the Soviet Union will continue to support those countries that choose the socialist direction, and cooperate with the others.

Three: It is clear from the congress documents that the Soviet Union will make all efforts to improve relations with China, because China considered the

October Revolution as vital to the victory of the Chinese revolution; the Soviet Union, for its part, considers the victory of the Chinese revolution as having strengthened the world communist movement.

Four: In line with the emphasis put on the importance of the Soviet Union's economic development, the following goals were set for the coming 15 years: (a) doubling production; (b) fully automatizing the economy, exploiting currently untouched natural resources and land without fearing unemployment,

knowing that the Soviet economy can absorb much more man power; (3) concentrating on meeting the needs of Soviet citizens in terms of quality and quantity; (4) cutting waste of raw materials to a minimum, and benefitting maximally from resources.

Open discussion

The congress devoted special attention to faults and failures of the past, making it clear that mistakes would be eliminated and those responsible punished. There was a broad, open discussion to find constructive solutions for existing problems. In a press conference in Moscow, February 27th, CPSU Politbureau member Haidar Aliev said that questions concerning social policy had never before been discussed so frankly at a party congress. During the February 26th session of the congress, the leader of the Moscow party committee, Boris Yeltsin, said that one of the reasons behind the economic problems of the last decade was that the party organization had intervened in economic affairs to the extent of beginning to lose its role as a political leadership. Thus, the committees of the Central Committee had become almost like duplicates of the ministerial committees.

On March 6th, the congress held its closing session. A new central committee of 307 members and politbureau of 12 were elected. The composition of these bodies showed clearly that new dynamism had been injected in the CPSU top leadership by the congress, in line with the tasks the party will shoulder in the coming period. In his closing speech, Comrade Gorbachev urged the congress to «bring home to every Soviet citizen» the message of «radical transformation in all spheres of our life.» ●

Cuba — 3rd Party Congress

Our people and party will always be like a single fist and a single heart.

This was said by First Secretary Fidel Castro at the closing session of the 3rd congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, on February 7th. Attended by 1790 delegates and guests from 197 progressive parties and liberation movements, the congress evaluated every aspect of the party's and country's life — economic and social development, defense of the revolution, the role of the mass organizations, etc. — in addition to

the international situation and Cuba's role. Tasks were charted for the coming period, and elections were held based on a slate of candidates drawn up to inject more women, youth, blacks and mulattos into the leadership, strengthening its popular representative character.

The Communist Party of Cuba distinguishes itself by having developed from a national liberation movement, by having led the people not only to over-