



SOVIET Trade and Economic Ties



The presentation of the Gold Mercury International Award to Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Moscow, October 1980



An Important Means of Strengthening Peace and Promoting Economic Development

Today foreign economic ties are playing an increasingly important role as a means of accelerating economic development through the use of the advantages of international division of labour and of improving the international climate and promoting detente.

In accepting the Gold Mercury International Award in October 1980, Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said:

"We in the Soviet Union have always regarded equal and free international trade not only as an excellent medium for satisfying the material interests of the participating parties, but first and foremost as a powerful factor for consolidating peace and good relations between nations."

The economic strength of a country and the volume of its foreign trade are interconnected, though one does not directly follow from the other.

Signing the protocol of the third session of the Soviet-Portuguese joint commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Moscow, December 1979

The signing of the documents of the 13th Assembly of the French-Soviet chamber of commerce, Moscow, October 1979



Of the economically developed states the USSR is least dependent on foreign markets. This is due not only to the availability of domestic raw materials, fuel and energy resources, to its big industrial, scientific and technological potential and a large home market, but also to certain characteristic features of its historical development.

For a long time Western trade policy prevented the Soviet Union from relying on foreign customers and suppliers. By 1940, or 22 years after the Great October Socialist Revolution, the USSR was producing 7.7 times more industrial goods than Russia did in 1913, the country's peak year in industrial output before the Revolution, but its foreign trade turnover showed no appreciable increase. A striking contrast was provided by the 1946-1979 period during which the USSR's foreign trade turnover rose 30 times.

Today foreign trade is one of the fast growing sectors of the Soviet economy and its role in

this sphere is becoming increasingly important.

Import accounts for approximately 15 per cent of the country's industrial plant, and 10 per cent of consumer goods sold in the domestic market. Nearly one-third of the USSR's output of passenger cars, cameras and watches and 15 per cent of steam turbines are exported. In the last few years Soviet foreign economic ties have been growing at faster rates than the country's national income and industrial output. At the same time a balance is maintained between imports and exports. In the socialist economic system foreign trade is a state monopoly and is determined not by the spontaneous "free market" forces but by scientific planning which takes into account the requirements of the economy as a whole.

The construction of the West Siberian oil extraction combine



At the construction site of the Soyuz gas pipeline. At the beginning of 1979 Soviet gas began to be delivered to consumers in the European countries, members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, as well as to Austria, France and Italy

**Soviet foreign trade in 1975-1980
(in thousand million roubles)**

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Trade turnover	50.7	56.7	63.3	70.2	80.3	94.1
export	24.0	28.0	33.2	35.7	42.4	49.6
import	26.7	28.7	30.1	34.5	37.9	44.5

USSR Foreign Economic Ties: Results and Prospects

The main task of the Soviet economy is to improve the people's well-being. Foreign trade provides an effective means of carrying out this task.

Soviet Imports Structure

Consumer goods make up one-third of total Soviet imports, of which foodstuffs hold (among them, meat, dairy products, fruit and vegetables) second place in terms of volume. They help to make Soviet people's diet more balanced. The Soviet Union buys large quantities of fodder grain to accelerate the development of its livestock breeding sector.

Manufactured consumer goods account for 11.4 per cent of Soviet imports. During the first four years of the Tenth Five-Year Plan period (1976-1979) the USSR spent nearly 16,000 million roubles on consumer goods imports,



or double the figure for the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1971-1975).

Today the main suppliers of foodstuffs and manufactured consumer goods to the USSR are CMEA member countries, which are successfully carrying out a joint programme of specialisation and co-operation in production.

Improvement of living standards and the strengthening of the material and technical basis of the country's economy are two aspects of the same process. That is why machines and equipment remain major import items. For instance, in 1979 they accounted for 38 per cent of Soviet import in terms of money or 14,400 million roubles. But the share of imported equipment in the overall volume of new equipment is relatively small for the Soviet economy is developing mainly on the basis of domestic engineering industries. At the same time, in view of scientific-technological progress it would be unwise to ignore the advantages of international division

of labour and foreign achievements in some industrial sectors. Thus, every year a certain number of newly-built Soviet industrial projects are outfitted with imported equipment. In the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1971-1975) 2,000 industrial projects had imported equipment. In the Tenth Five-Year Plan period the Soviet Union received from CMEA member countries 1,000 complete sets of industrial equipment, mostly machinery for machine-tool manufacture, heavy and power engineering, chemical engineering, and the automotive, pulp-and-paper and light industries.

Soviet Exports Structure and Export Base

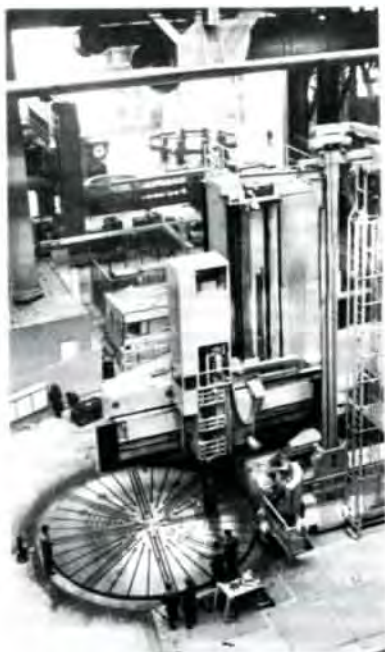
A country's import possibilities are determined by its export base.

In the late 1970s conventional energy sources, ores, metals, sawn timber and cotton accounted for 55-60 per cent of Soviet exports.

Share of the most important groups of goods in Soviet export and import in 1980 (in percentage)

	Export	Import
Total	100	100
including:		
machines, equipment, transportation facilities	15.8	33.9
fuel and electric power	46.9	3.0
ores and concentrates, metals and metal goods	8.8	10.8
chemical products, fertilisers, natural rubber	3.3	5.3
timber and pulp-and-paper products	4.1	2.0
textile raw materials and semi-finished goods	1.9	2.2
industrial consumer goods	2.5	12.1

The Atomnash plant on the Volga puts out reactors rated at one million kilowatts. A certain number of them are exported.



This is due mainly to the fact that the country has an abundance of natural resources and well developed extractive industries, and also to the specific features of the division of labour within the socialist community.

In the USSR's fuel and energy exports, oil holds first place. In the past decade exports of natural gas have risen sharply. In early 1979 the large-capacity *Soyuz* gas pipeline was put into operation, which now carries Soviet natural gas directly to consumers in CMEA member countries, and also to Austria, Italy, Federal Germany and France.

Exports of electricity increased from 34 million kwh in 1960 to 15,406 million kwh in 1979. Electricity is supplied mostly to European socialist countries.

The USSR's share in world exports of machines and other industrial equipment is growing. In 1980 it sold 7,800 million roubles' worth of such products on the world market.

The Soviet Union is among the first countries in the world to

Igarika port on the Yenisei river specializes in the export of first-rate Siberian timber.



Drilling rig at Kholmogory. Siberian oil and gas occupy a prominent place in the world market

export complete sets of equipment for heavy engineering works. In 1979 it delivered such sets to 740 firms and enterprises abroad, and Soviet specialists conducted surveying and design work for 802 projects in various countries.

A number of Soviet engineering sectors have excellent export possibilities, among them industries manufacturing equipment for power generating plants, machine tools, high-precision programmed controlled machines, electric motors, aircraft and related equipment, farm machines and tractors, fine mechanics products and household electrical appliances.

Export Prospects for the 1980s

The "Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-1985 and for the Period Ending in 1990" give a general idea about Soviet export prospects in the years ahead. As



The YAK-40 passenger jet is in demand in many countries of the world because of its high aeronautic qualities, its comfort and its ability to land on earthen air strips.

"Made in USSR" is a trade mark which enjoys authority in all continents. The products of local craftsmen are especially popular



in preceding years the USSR will increase its exports of fuel and raw materials, but it will also considerably expand its exports of manufactured goods, with emphasis on finished products and goods with a high degree of processing.

In the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period (1981-1985) the USSR will offer its foreign customers a wide range of rolling mills and metal-making and foundry equipment. Soviet-made cold rolling mills for manufacturing stainless steel, titanium and tantalum pipes are well known in the West, and have been bought by firms in Federal Germany, the United States, Japan, Sweden and France.

There is much interest in Soviet-made rotary saws for super-high-speed cutting of hot large-section billets on the world market. Nippon Steel Corporation of Japan has already purchased one of these saws.

In the current five-year period cooperation will be continued with Grundig Co. (FRG) which will import Soviet-made magnetic cir-



Niva cars made at the Volga motor works

*Transistors from the Riga
electrotechnical plant*



cuits; with Golodetz Co. (Great Britain) which will import various models of Soviet-made automatic machines for making thermoplastics; and with Valmet Co. (Finland) which will buy from the Soviet Union broad-gauge paper-making machines.

Export of machine tools and forging presses will increase. Industrial cooperation with such well-known firms as Siemens Co. of West Germany, ASEA Co. and SAAB Co. of Sweden, Olivetti Co. of Italy and Fanuc Co. of Japan, has enabled the USSR to expand production and increase exports of numerically controlled machine tools.

Of course, the scope of Soviet economic cooperation with industrially developed capitalist countries depends not only on the Soviet Union, but also on the readiness of its partners to broaden economic relations with the USSR.



*Products from the Second Moscow
watch factory*



Distribution of Soviet foreign trade turnover among groups of countries in 1980 (in thousand million roubles)

	Trade turnover	Export	Import
Total	94.1	49.6	44.5
Socialist countries	50.6	26.9	23.7
including:			
CMEA member states	45.7	24.3	21.4
Developed capitalist countries	31.5	15.8	15.7
Developing countries	12.0	6.9	5.1

Economic Integration of the Countries of the Socialist Community

In 1949 the socialist countries, on the initiative of their Communist and Workers' Parties set up a Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Since then a new type of international division of labour, known as socialist economic integration, has been shaping up and steadily gaining strength. Today the ten CMEA member countries account for one-third of the industrial output, one-quarter of the national incomes and one-fifth of the agricultural production of the world. On the whole the economic growth rates of the CMEA countries are two times higher than those of the developed capitalist states. In the 1950-1979 period per capita national income in Bulgaria increased 9 times, in Hungary—more than four times (320 per cent), in the GDR—nearly seven times (570 per cent), in Mongolia—nearly three times (190 per cent), in Poland—nearly 5 times (370 per cent); in Romania—more than ten times (930 per cent), in the USSR—nearly six times (470 per cent), and

in Czechoslovakia—four times (300 per cent). With the assistance of the USSR and other fraternal countries Cuba and Vietnam are building the foundations for a modern industry, and they too are successfully carrying out their economic tasks. In 30 years the productivity of the CMEA member countries, taken together, has increased five times, and capital investments—ten times.

Mutual trade plays an important role in the economy of the countries of the socialist community; it meets most of their needs in raw materials, fuel, energy, and manufactured goods. In the 1950-1979 period its volume increased 24 times. The goal of long-term planned development of their own energy resources, in which the USSR is particularly rich, has proved correct. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan period (1976-1980) the USSR delivered to CMEA member countries nearly 370 million tons of oil, 46 million tons of oil products, 88,000 million cubic metres of gas, and 64,000 million kwh of electricity. The corresponding figures for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period (1981-1985) will be still bigger.

It should be mentioned that in the 1974-1979 period alone the CMEA member countries importing Soviet oil saved nearly 3,000 million roubles thanks to the difference between world oil prices and contract prices for mutual trade within the CMEA framework. Moreover, the oil imports were covered by big Soviet credits, which helped balance the trade turnover.

Soviet-made machines and equipment meet about one-third of the import requirements of CMEA member countries, and play a big role in the modernisation and development of their industries. As for the USSR's import from these countries, 42 per cent consist of industrial equipment and transportation facilities.

A New Stage

In the late 1970s the CMEA countries were faced with a whole range

The 34th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in Moscow



of complex problems arising from a decline in labour reserves, higher growth rates of capital investments, increasing difficulties in developing natural resources for production and a number of unfavourable foreign economic factors, such as soaring world prices for fuel and raw materials, crisis phenomena in the capitalist world, and discriminatory trade practices of certain Western states with regard to socialist countries. In these conditions it became necessary for the fraternal countries to pool their efforts in developing resources and co-ordinating their economic development plans. In 1979, a number of multilateral long-term special-purpose programmes of cooperation in key economic sectors—the fuel and power industries and machine-building; agriculture and the food industry; and consumer goods production and transport—were drawn up. They translate into concrete terms the Comprehensive Programme for Socialist Economic Integration adopted by the CMEA countries. The Soviet Union is play-

Soviet specialists helping their Hungarian comrades to build an atomic power station in Pecs. This is the largest construction project in the republic.



Zoya Pavlova, a Bulgarian, works at the Ust-Ilimsk timber combine, a joint construction project of the CMEA member countries.



The Boxberg thermal power station in the German Democratic Republic, built with Soviet assistance, is the largest power station in Europe using brown coal as fuel.



ing an important role in the implementation of these programmes. For instance, in connection with the programme for the fuel and power industries, an agreement has been concluded on specialisation and cooperation in the manufacture and delivery of equipment for atomic power stations for the period ending in 1990. Under this agreement the USSR, specialising in the manufacture of reactors, is helping the European CMEA member countries and Cuba in the construction of atomic power stations with a total capacity of 37 million kw. It is also planned to build jointly two big atomic power plants (four million kw each) in the USSR. Half of the electricity generated will go to the countries that take part in the projects, each receiving an amount in keeping with its share in the construction.

The multilateral agreements that have been concluded in connection with the programme of cooperation in transport provide for the reconstruction of 20,000-km railway tracks with two junctions from

Every year the Soviet Union delivers to Hungary 15 million roubles worth of radio sets, cameras and other cultural and household goods

The All-Union Association Avtoexport delivered to Czechoslovakia nearly 35,000 Soviet-made passenger cars in 1980. In 1978-1980 it delivered 47,500 *Lada* and *Niva* cars to France, the biggest buyer of Soviet-made cars among the West European countries.



Soviet-made power generating units in the machine hall of the Darkhan thermal power station in Mongolia

These Kirovets tractors will be shipped to the countries of the socialist community



the USSR to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the reconstruction of the Moscow-Warsaw-Berlin and Moscow-Bucharest-Sofia highways and the building of other large-scale projects.

Economic ties between the USSR and other countries of the socialist community are also being furthered through bilateral cooperation, which, as provided for by agreements reached between L. Brezhnev and the leaders of the fraternal parties and states at their Crimea meetings in 1977-78, includes long-term programmes for specialisation and cooperation in production for the period ending in 1990.



The all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam is developing successfully. Soviet specialists help Vietnam to train its national cadres



At the Ilyichevsk port on the Black Sea a major part of the shipments is carried out by means of container haulage

Norway has purchased over 2,000 Soviet machines and presses and several hundred Soviet tractors. In the 1978-1981 period the Soviet Union sold more than 7,000 passenger cars to Norway.

The All-Union Association Technimportorg has signed a contract with Global Watches Co. of Great Britain for the delivery of 1.5 million watches which will be sold in Britain under the trade name "Seconda".

The Bokaro Steel Plant, built with Soviet technical assistance, is one of the biggest enterprises of the Indian public sector



On Equal Terms

The Soviet Union attaches major importance to the development of mutually advantageous trade and economic ties with newly-free Asian, African and Latin American countries. Its economic relations with these states are of a new type that rules out inequality of any kind. One purpose of this cooperation is to strengthen the economic independence of developing countries and build up their industrial potential.

With the assistance of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community nearly 4,500 projects in all, mostly industrial enterprises that can serve as the material basis of economic independence, have either been completed or are under construction or are to be built in newly-free countries. They form the core of the state sector and help solve many economic and social problems, such as food supply, employment and training of national personnel. It should be mentioned that socialist countries do not

The Soviet Union took part in the construction of the Euphrates hydraulic complex in Syria.



Workers of the Hardwar heavy power equipment plant in India use Soviet blueprints to assemble power generators.



This plant in Kabul for producing prefabricated parts for housing construction has been built and equipped with Soviet assistance.

demand a share in profits or a say in the management of these enterprises or any other privileges.

Machines and other industrial equipment occupy a leading place in Soviet exports to newly-free states, which also receive Soviet industrial raw materials and other goods including rolled stock, fertilizers, oil products and timber. The USSR, in turn, needs certain types of raw materials and traditional export goods produced by Asian, African and Latin American countries. Every year it imports 60,000-70,000 tons of tea mostly from India and Sri Lanka, 270,000 tons of oranges from Morocco, Turkey and Egypt, and 18,000 tons of bananas from Ecuador and Guinea.

Thus, cooperation between the USSR and newly-free countries is mutually advantageous. In 1980 the USSR traded with 97 developing countries, and had bilateral agreements with 76 of them.

It has become an increasing practice on the part of the Soviet Union to conclude long-term



The teachers' college in Bamako has been built by the joint effort of Soviet and Mali workers. The college is staffed by Soviet and Mali teachers



The mixed Soviet-Afghan Afsoz transport agency ships various export and import transit goods

Kawasaki Steel Corporation of Japan has bought from the All Union Association Licensing a new technology for making sheets of aluminum. The technology and equipment for its application have been exported to the United States, Federal Germany, France, Japan and several other countries.

agreements covering a period of five or more years with developing countries. In 1980 the USSR signed such agreements with India, Morocco, Argentina and Nicaragua. Under these agreements the USSR provides practical help to the countries concerned in building vital economic projects and strengthening their economy generally. Payments for the services rendered are made in the form of deliveries of traditional export goods and certain types of products turned out by industries built with Soviet assistance. These deliveries account for approximately 20 per cent of the Soviet Union's imports from all developing countries.

Experience shows that cooperation with the socialist community helps newly-free countries in their fight against the remnants of colonialism, for the complete victory of national liberation movements and for the achievement of political and economic independence.



The signing of the inter-governmental protocol in Moscow, August 1980, on Soviet assistance in the construction of a highway in the Democratic Republic of Madagascar



Soviet specialists teaching Nigerian colleagues to work a new pipeline for oil products



A phitopathological laboratory has been built with Soviet help near Addis-Ababa. Soviet and Ethiopian scientists are jointly investigating methods of pest control

Kail Fazer Co. of Finland has bought a license for making rye bread according to a Soviet recipe. The firm believes that the new product will quickly become popular with consumers all over the country.

The All-Union Association Mashpriborintorg was presented with the Africa Award for 1980 for fruitful promotion of trade between the Soviet Union and African countries. The Award was instituted by Editorial Office, an advertisement and publishing firm in Spain



**Trade turnover between the USSR and developed capitalist countries
(in thousand million roubles)**

1970	1975	1979	1980
4.7	15.8	25.7	31.5

Helsinki Principles and East-West Trade

The code of principles governing international relations adopted by the European Security and Co-operation Conference in Helsinki in 1975 incorporates the wealth of experience in good-neighbourly cooperation between states with different social systems. A cardinal condition for such cooperation is the consolidation of detente, and this objective is well served by the economic ties between the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, on the one hand, and developed capitalist countries, on the other. Experience shows that these ties are mutually advantageous.

In the 1975-1979 period the USSR's trade with West European states increased from 11,500 million to 19,300 million roubles, or by nearly 68 per cent. In 1980 their trade continued to grow at a rapid rate, amounting to 19,800 million roubles in the first nine months of the year. For this period the USSR's balance of trade showed a surplus of over 1,200 mil-

The visit of Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany to Moscow, was crowned by the signing of a long-term programme on cooperation between the two countries in the economic and industrial field for the next 25 years.

lion roubles with regard to Western member countries of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. At present its biggest trading partners are West Germany, France, Finland, Italy, Britain and the Netherlands.

Large-Scale Trade and Economic Relations on a Long-Term Basis

A qualitatively new feature of the USSR's trade and economic relations with capitalist countries in recent years is their long-term and large-scale character. From 1975 to 1979 the USSR signed over 30 long-term agreements and programmes with these countries. Such forms of economic ties as compensation agreements, industrial cooperation and technology exchange have been playing an ever greater role. By the end of the 1970s Soviet organisations had concluded long-term contracts worth thousands of millions of roubles with Western firms for the construction in the USSR of more than 60 big industrial projects on a compensation basis. Most of these contracts and agreements are effective for a period of more than ten years, and in some instances, for 25 years.

It should be pointed out that the large scope of these agreements is an indication of the rapid development of Soviet industry, and not of its dependence on supplies of Western equipment. The share of imports in the total amount of equipment installed at Soviet enterprises is only 15 per cent, including 10 per cent from CMEA countries and 5 per cent from Western countries. Here is another example. In the last ten years the USSR has become one of the biggest importers of pipes for oil and

This hydraulic press with a compressive force of 65,000 tons was ordered by the Interforge firm in France and made in the Soviet Union



gas pipelines. However, the imported pipes do not exceed six per cent of the total quantity of pipes produced by Soviet industries.

Advantageous for Both Sides

The mutually advantageous character of the trade between the USSR and Western countries is evidenced by the growth of their economic relations. Between 1970 and 1980 Soviet trade with Western countries rose from 4,700 million roubles to 31,500 million roubles, a nearly 7-fold increase, which indicates the profitability of trade with the USSR. With the economic situation in capitalist countries continuing to deteriorate it is essential for the West to expand its business ties. According to estimates by West European economists, Soviet orders provide jobs for 350,000 workers in West Germany and for about 150,000 in Finland. On the whole East-West

The delivery of Soviet natural gas to France is yet another example of the mutually beneficial cooperation between both countries. The photo shows the final stage of the construction of the pipeline.



economic contacts create two million work places at enterprises in capitalist countries.

The energy crisis would no doubt have been far more acute for the Western states if they had not taken advantage of Soviet fuel deliveries on a compensation basis. Calculations show that in the last ten years socialist countries exported to the West over 800 million tons of fuels in terms of oil.

Good Prospects

The USSR is optimistic about prospects of East-West trade. This is indicated in the "Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-1985 and for the Period Ending in 1990" adopted by the 26th CPSU Congress in February-March 1981. They read in part:

"Proceeding from the principles of peaceful coexistence of states with differing social systems and the need to strengthen detente,

The Alt-Uman Association Sotompor and Athenian Tankers Co. of Greece have agreed a contract for the sale of five Soviet tankers with a deadweight capacity of 27,000 tons each to be delivered in 1980-1982.

Mr. Minos X. Kynakou, president of the Greek company, thinks that Soviet-built tankers compete well with similar vessels built in other countries.



Lada cars have become a frequent sight on Austrian roads. Each year Austrians buy tens of thousands of cars produced by the Volga motor works.

The construction of the first stage of the metro in Helsinki is one of the many examples of developing cooperation between the Soviet Union and Finland.



to maintain stable mutually beneficial trade, economic and technical contacts with capitalist countries showing interest in cooperation with the Soviet Union, to continue the implementation of the agreements in force and the conclusion of new agreements on carrying out large-scale projects in the fuel, metallurgical and chemical industries and other branches of the national economy, to explore other avenues for promoting cooperation with these countries."

The All-Union Association Promotomashexport has signed a contract with several Indian companies for the delivery in 1981-1983 of three 35,000-kw diesel generators, two electric furnaces for heat treatment of rings and other electric thermal equipment.

*The International Trade Centre
in Moscow*



Organiza- tion of So- viet For- eign Trade

Foreign trade is a component part of the USSR's national economy. The principles and the fundamental tasks of Soviet foreign trade are defined by CPSU Congresses and form part of the guidelines for the country's economic and social development for the forthcoming five years or for a longer period. General supervision of the implementation of the set tasks is exercised by the USSR Council of Ministers. The State Planning Committee of the USSR, the Council's main planning body, works out on a scientific basis the concrete assignments for every five-year period and for every year, which are carried out by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade and the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. At present there are 45 All-Union self supporting foreign trade associations under the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade among them Mashinoexport, Promsyrimport, Avtoexport, Exportkhleb, Medexport and Metallurgimport. The governing board of each association

includes representatives of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade and corresponding sectoral ministries and departments, which enjoy equal rights as board members. Export and import operations are conducted by specialised firms set up under the associations. They are organised on sectoral principles in keeping with the existing system of management of the national economy.

The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry promotes trade, economic, scientific and technical ties with other countries. In 1982 the Chamber marked its fiftieth anniversary. The Chamber is a public organisation. Among its collective members are foreign trade associations, industrial enterprises and scientific-research institutes, most of which either produce goods for export or are interested in importing goods from other countries.

A major function of the Chamber is to establish direct contacts with business circles of various countries. Each year the Chamber receives several thousand businessmen and several hundred representative delegations from abroad. It takes part in the work of international economic organizations and is a member of many mixed chambers of commerce. It maintains contacts with similar organizations in 80 countries in many instances on the basis of agreements on cooperation.

The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been increasingly active in the field of international fairs and expositions. The work of organizing international exhibitions in the USSR is carried out by the All-Union Association Expocentre. The Chamber is also responsible for organizing and holding Soviet national exhibitions abroad. In 1970, 94 exhibitions with the participation of foreign firms were held in the USSR; in 1975 the number was 160, and in 1979-230. At exposi-

The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Ties



tions held in 1979 alone contracts worth a total of 1,200 million roubles were signed. Over 5,000 firms and organizations from 40 countries took part in these expositions.

The International Trade Centre in Moscow, a modern complex situated in a picturesque park on the embankment of the Moscow river, is well known to thousands of businessmen from other countries. It consists of a 22-storey administrative building which houses the offices of 300 foreign firms, two hotels and a congress hall. With a huge floor space of 150,000 sq. metres, the International Trade Centre is extremely well planned and impresses the visitor with its look of compactness and efficiency. The All-Union Association Sovintcentre, specially set up to run the Centre, provides up to 1,000 types of services to its clients in the areas of business, cultural and recreational activity and everyday life. The work involved is carried out by four specialised firms—Interoffice, Servicecentre, Intercon-

One of the halls of the Soviet pavilion at the traditional Leipzig fair



gress and Inpred. The International Trade Centre in Moscow is a member of the World Trade Centres Association (there are 25 trade centres in the world), whose motto is: "Peace, trade and mutual understanding". The Association, which is a non-governmental organization functioning under the aegis of the United Nations, held a general assembly session at the newly-opened Centre in Moscow in 1981.

A big modern exposition complex covering an area of 93 hectares has been opened in the immediate vicinity of the International Trade Centre. Not all of its projects have been completed. But the All-Union Association Exponentre has already held several international fairs in the first of its 16 pavilions with a floor space of 14,000 sq. metres.

The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry also handles the work of patenting Soviet inventions in other countries and foreign inventions in the USSR. Some 3,500 Soviet enterprises and scien-

tific-research organizations have taken advantage of the Chamber's services and patented their inventions in 69 countries outside the USSR. About 2,500 foreign firms from 65 countries have patented their inventions in the USSR also with the help of the Chamber.

A standing Arbitration Commission under the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry settles disputes which sometimes arise between partners in the execution of economic transactions. The Chamber also has a Maritime Arbitration Commission which deals with disputes in commercial shipping. Members of these Commissions take an active part in the work of the International Council of Commercial Arbitration, East-West Committee, International Congress of Maritime Arbiters and other similar international organisations.

What Foreign Partners Say about Cooperation with the Soviet Union

RUDOLF BRAUER,

Director of the Research Institute of the GDR Ministry of Foreign Trade:

"Most of the GDR's needs in major raw materials and fuel imports are met on the basis of long-term agreements with the USSR: natural gas—100 per cent, oil, timber and cotton—over 90 per cent, and iron ore and important non-ferrous metals—60-70 per cent. These imports form the material- and-technical basis of our economy."

E. A. MANZÓN,

President of the Argentinean-Soviet Chamber of Commerce:

"The industrial and scientific potential of the USSR, its advanced technology can be used to promote Argentina's economic progress."

LE KIM KNUYEN,

Chief Commercial Counsellor at the SRV Embassy in the USSR:

"The USSR shows understanding of the kind of problems facing our country, which is engaged in the difficult task of economic rehabilitation and development, and is helping us solve them in every possible way."

S. R. JANE,

Manager of the Bhilai Steel Plant:

"The iron and steel works in Bhilai, the first project of Indian-Soviet economic cooperation, is technologically the most advanced and the most profitable enterprise in India's state sector."

A. KARJALAINEN,

Co-Chairman of the Standing Intergovernmental Soviet-Finnish Commission for Economic Cooperation:

"Trade with the Soviet Union reduces the effect of the unfavourable world market conditions on Finland's economy. It has been estimated that trade and economic ties with the USSR provide jobs for at least 150,000 people in Finland. This indirectly influences the well-being of another 300,000 people in our country."

PAUL NOUAILHAC,

General Manager, GISOFRA French Bank Association:

"Development of relations between France and the Soviet Union in the economic sphere is desirable, possible and very important."



An Important Means of Strengthening Peace and
Promoting Economic Development

USSR Foreign Economic Ties: Results and
Prospects

Economic Integration of the Countries of the
Socialist Community
On Equal Terms

Helsinki Principles and East-West Trade
Organisation of Soviet Foreign Trade

Алонз Филипенко
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