

A SOVIET  
MONTHLY  
DIGEST

# Socialism

principles · practice · prospects



**PERestroika:  
Initial Results**



## Readers' Letters

After reading the articles about the 19th All-Union Conference of the CPSU (June-July, 1988) published in your digest (SPPP Nos 9, 10) I decided to write you a letter. The importance of the conference consists, as I see it, in its principled appraisal of the present stage of restructuring under way in your country and in outlining the ways of its further progress. I think that you haven't had such a sharp, uncompromising and open talk before. There is no doubt that the working people in the Soviet Union and your friends in socialist and other countries have been given a lesson in openness from the conference delegates.

MOHAMMAD HAZRAT,  
Afghanistan

I'm interested in Soviet books and journals, especially the ones about scientific socialism. Thanks to your journal my notions of the Soviet Union have changed for the better. Most books published in the West carry much false information about your country which makes it difficult to get a true picture of Soviet reality.

I love socialism because in spite of all its shortcomings it guarantees equality and social justice.

METREY L. MASHAPURI,  
Zimbabwe

As a teacher of history I'm interested in articles about the origin and development of the Soviet state and its first leaders. I'm particularly interested in the problems you are tackling now in the process of restructuring.

DANIEL JUST,  
Benin

Dear Daniel Just,

We recommend that you read the article "Farther, Farther" in which an old revolutionary, Yelizaveta Drabkina, reminisces about V. I. Lenin. It is published on p. 8. The section, USSR: Life and Problems, carries features describing the present stage of Soviet society's development.

We know much about the capitalist economy and the main groups and associations in capitalist countries. Are the socialist countries solving the

POLITICS

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THE INDIVIDUAL  
AND LIFE-STYLE

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IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE IN  
THE WORLD TODAY

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EDWIN MADUNAGU

problems of their economic integration? If they are how are they going about it?

ANJELA GABRIEL ANDRADE,  
São Tomé e Príncipe

Dear Anjela Andrade,

We recommend that you read the article "CMEA Countries: A New Concept of Cooperation" (p. 25) and other features published in the Socialist and the Present World section of this issue.

Kumar Baburo, a reader from India, writes:

I've read that the USSR has a large network of evening and correspondence courses at institutes of higher learning. How can students combine their study with full-time work?

To tell you frankly, dear Kumar Baburo, this is not easy. That is why the state helps those who want to raise their educational qualifications while continuing to work. They are entitled to a series of benefits.

First, the factory or office management is obliged to provide them with additional leave while retaining their average monthly pay. This leave averages 20 to 30 days and is given twice a year to enable them to take their winter and summer exams.

Second, they get a four-month paid leave to prepare for their graduation exams and to write their graduation paper.

Third, undergraduates have the right to one day off more each week, while retaining 50 per cent of their pay for that day.

There are also a number of other fringe benefits. For instance, the law obliges the management to provide students with regular leave during the summer, as a rule, that is when they are free from studies. Correspondence students have their fares paid once a year.

In a word, there are many different situations in life, but none of them should prevent a person from getting a higher education if he wishes to. This is precisely why the institutes of higher learning run evening and correspondence courses.

The Editors thank the readers for their letters.

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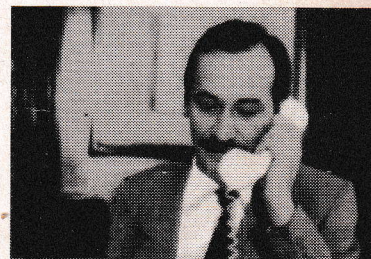
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January 21, 1989 is the 65th anniversary of Lenin's death. Reminiscences of Yelizaveta Drabkina, a Communist Party veteran, are devoted to the life and work of the founder of the Soviet state. **8**

Since April 1985 a radical renovation of various spheres of life has been under way in the USSR. Its objective is the progress of society to new frontiers. The article "Restructuring: The First Results and Prospects" highlights this process. **17**



Reorganization of the political system and the creation of a socialist law-governed state are among the urgent tasks of perestroika. Academician Vladimir Kudryavtsev and Yelena Lukasheva, D.Sc. (Law), examine various aspects of this problem. **13**

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, an international economic organization of socialist countries, was established 40 years ago, in January 1949. A selection of articles deals with socialist countries' cooperation within the CMEA. **25**



The victory of the Cuban revolution on January 1, 1959, signalled the establishment of the first socialist state in the Western hemisphere. Journalist Mikhail Zubatkin analyzes the development of this country over the last three decades. **28**

# MOSCOW BEAUTY

Read about the contest 'Moscow Beauty-88' on p. 47.



The jury named Maria Kaliniņa, a 17-year-old graduate from a Moscow school, winner of the beauty contest.

Participants getting ready for the contest.

Yekaterina Chilichkina, a laboratory worker, was the audience's favourite.

