

Clumsy "Peace" Swindler

SOVIET Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has clamoured about his "detente" hoax year after year at the U.N. General Assembly and served up "disarmament" proposals of one kind or another to show Moscow's "sincere" desire for "peace." As is his custom, he handed the current General Assembly session a draft which he called a "world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations" and called for deliberation on the draft as an "important and urgent" item on the agenda.

But in the ten days and more after his proposal was made, few of the more than one hundred member states' representatives bothered to refer to the Soviet draft, except a handful of Soviet "community" members speaking in response to paternal Soviet bidding.

Conversely, the representatives of the small and medium-sized countries, speaking one after another, cited facts to expose the superpowers' lies about "disarmament" and "detente," denouncing them for paying

lip service to disarmament while actually engaging in feverish arms expansion.

Even when Gromyko was peddling the Soviet draft on September 28, many representatives were so fed up with his tirade that they just walked out.

People will not forget that the Soviet Union, a superpower, was running wild and committing aggression and expansion in the world while loudly chanting its "peace" hymn on the U.N. platform.

In 1968, the Soviet Union flagrantly sent hundreds of thousands of troops and thousands of tanks and large numbers of aircraft to invade and occupy one of its allies. But the next year it sanctimoniously tabled at the General Assembly a so-called "strengthening international peace and security" proposal. Again in 1972, after Pakistan had been invaded and dismembered the previous year — an event instigated and supported by the Soviet Union — the same Soviet representative

trotted out a draft resolution "on the non-use of force in international relations and on the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons." Last year the Soviet Union carried out massive armed intervention in faroff Angola, but at the current General Assembly session the Soviet representative peddled a draft "world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations."

The Soviet Union which has more than doubled military expenditures in the last decade or so put forward hypocritically a proposal to the U.N. General Assembly in 1973 urging the five permanent member states of the Security Council to cut their military expenditures by 10 per cent and "aid developing countries" with the money thus saved. It conducted 14 underground nuclear tests in 1975, but Gromyko put forward at last year's U.N. General Assembly a draft resolution on the "conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons tests" and called for "banning the development and manufacture of new types of mass destruction weapons and new systems of such weapons."

Gromyko talked profusely again at the current U.N. General Assembly session about why "the Soviet Union has been, and continues to be, in favour of removal of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of states" and "nuclear weapons tests should be stopped everywhere and by all." But the very next day, the Soviet Union

conducted its sixth underground nuclear test this year and a missile test in the Barents Sea.

The hypocrisy and double-dealing of Soviet social-imperialism cannot but arouse detestation and resentment from more and more people. Representatives from a number of countries exposed there and then the Soviet representative's hypocritical attitude. Gromyko stated pretentiously on September 28 that "the world today spends on armaments about 300 billion dollars a year, or more than a million dollars every two minutes," and that despite the adoption of many U.N. resolutions, "the gigantic machinery of arms production, or, in other words, of material preparation for war, (is) continuing to gather momentum." Dealing specifically with Gromyko's remarks, S. Rajaratnam, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, bluntly pointed out that the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, account for 60 per cent of the world's total arms expenditures of 300 billion dollars!

Facts show that the "disarmament" and "detente" trumpeted by the Soviet representatives are hollow phrases and all the "proposals" they have dished up are a wicked hoax. Soviet social-imperialism is the biggest peace swindler and at the same time the most dangerous source of war in the present era.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent,
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