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USSR: The major Soviet anniversary statement took a relatively moderate and nonpolemical line on a number of key foreign policy issues.

In a speech on the eve of the Soviet Union's 51st anniversary, politburo member and First Deputy Premier Mazurov said that Moscow was working actively for a relaxation of international tensions and for the solution of "acute international problems" by negotiations. Mazurov specifically noted that the Soviet Union had expressed a readiness to negotiate with the US on a strategic arms limitation agreement. He also called on more nations to sign the nonproliferation treaty and urged that it be brought into force as soon as possible.

Mazurov took the conventional Soviet line on several other foreign policy problems. He said Moscow would continue to support North Vietnam until the Vietnamese people were allowed to decide their own destiny, and he called the US bombing halt decision a "success" for Hanoi. He reaffirmed Soviet support for the Arab nations and laid the blame for continued Middle East tensions on Israel and the West.

Mazurov's strongest words were used in defense of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. He singled out "extremist circles" as being guilty of using the policy of bridge building to export counterrevolution, and he said that antisocialist forces had been working within Czechoslovakia to tear that country from the socialist community. He added, however, that Moscow and its allies had shown this could not be done, and that now they have confidence in the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

On domestic issues, Mazurov called for a "high degree of organization and firm discipline," but he credited scientific progress for Soviet economic gains. He also had a word of praise for economic reform in the Soviet Union which he said will expedite the scientific-technical revolution. [redacted]

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