UNDER THE BANNER OF LENINISM
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Speech by Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the 19th Moscow City Party Conference on March 29, 1968

Dear Comrade delegates,

On behalf of the Central Committee of our Party, I warmly greet all delegates to this conference and through you all Communists and working people of Moscow and wish all of them new successes in the struggle for the great cause of communism.

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Dear Comrade delegates,

On behalf of the Central Committee of our Party, I warmly greet all delegates to this conference and through you all Communists and working people of Moscow and wish all of them new successes in the struggle for the great cause of communism.

The Moscow city conference sums up the reports on work done and elections held in our Party. The reports and elections in primary Party organisations, the election of district, city and regional committees of the Party was a big event, an im-
portant landmark in the life of our Party and all its organisations. All meetings and conferences focused attention on how the 23rd Congress resolutions and Central Committee Plenary Meeting decisions were being fulfilled, on how to enhance the role of the Party and all Communists in carrying out economic and political tasks and in fulfilling the five-year plan successfully.

These meetings and conferences discussed the fuller use of available capacities, improving production efficiency, raising labour productivity, bettering the quality of goods and reducing production costs. These are very important matters, Comrades. They are of vital significance for our state, for raising its economic and defence potential and for improving the people’s living standards.

Reports by Party committees to the Communists became, in effect, reports to the entire people, because of the wide coverage given by the press and radio to proceedings at these meetings and conferences. Publicity, keeping the Party rank and file and all the working people informed about the Party’s activities, is a principle of our Party life by which we strictly abide.

The meetings of Party organisations were attended by over 12 million Communists and the reports were discussed by 2,700,000 people. This means, Comrades, that practically every fourth Communist at the meetings gave his opinion on Party policy and the practical activity of his organisation, made observations and submitted proposals. This is genuine democracy in action.

The meetings and conferences demonstrated anew the unbreakable unity of our Party ranks, showed that they are solidly rallied round the Central Committee. All Party organisations unanimous-
ly approved and supported the foreign and home policy of the Communist Party, elaborated by the 23rd CPSU Congress and the Plenary Meetings of our Party’s Central Committee and consistently applied by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and the Soviet Government.

The Central Committee values highly this support, seeing in it a reliable basis for united action by the many millions of Communists, a guarantee of fresh victories in communist construction.

Critical observations and proposals voiced at meetings and conferences are of great value for our further work.

It goes without saying that we have in mind principled Party criticism, not philistine criticism. Party criticism, as Lenin pointed out, must be comradely and frank, alien to diplomacy and petty considerations. Its value is assessed not by how barbed are the expressions used but by its veracity and conviction, the significance of the question raised and the benefit it brings. The Party is vitally interested in having all Communists use the weapon of criticism correctly, in the Leninist way.

We expect all leading bodies, to which conference delegates addressed critical remarks, to examine them most carefully and take the necessary measures.

It should be noted that at these meetings and conferences questions of developing intra-Party democracy were taken up as an inseparable part of the problems of further strengthening Party discipline and observing the Leninist principles of democratic centralism. Special emphasis was laid on Lenin’s proposition that every Communist is responsible for the Party, just as the Party is res-
ponsible for every Communist. This is a matter of exceptional importance. The Communist Party is a party of people who not only think alike but also act alike. Unity of action is possible only if there is strong, conscious Party discipline, and all Party members act energetically and display a high sense of responsibility.

They are very mistaken who think that Lenin's directive on the need for iron Party discipline holds significance only for the period of direct revolutionary action and that it loses its urgency in the course of further socio-economic and democratic changes. Experience teaches us irrefutably that the Party needs strong, conscious discipline when leading the masses to revolution, and also when, at the head of the masses, it is working to create a socialist society and again, in the period of full-scale building of communism. This is one of the prime sources of the Party's strength, its successes and its victories.

Comrades, your conference is proceeding in a fine comradely, Party atmosphere and demonstrating the Moscow Communists' unshakable loyalty to the militant banner of Marxism-Leninism.

The Moscow Party organisations' all-round activities in performing the tasks of communist construction have been reflected in the detailed report by V. V. Grishin and delegates' speeches.

The Moscow Party organisation has always been, and remains, a militant and glorious detachment of our Party, a true and reliable mainstay of the CPSU Central Committee. For 50 years now, that is, since the Soviet Government and the Central Committee of the Party headed by Lenin moved to Moscow in March 1918, your Party organisation has been the organisation for our capital. And we
can say that it has done credit to its high and honorable position.

The Moscow Party organisation has played an outstanding part in the country's socialist industrialisation, in the technical reconstruction of industry and in training personnel for all sectors of the national economy. The working people of Moscow have initiated many splendid undertakings which have greatly stimulated the creative energy of the masses. They led the emulation campaigns for the early fulfilment of the first five-year plans. In the grim years of the Patriotic War Muscovites set an example of selfless labour and heroism. In post-war years, Moscow's people have more than once sponsored important undertakings in the technical re-equipment of industry, in improving the quality of goods and have made noteworthy achievements. Muscovites together with Leningraders have started socialist emulation to complete the current five-year plan ahead of schedule by November 7, 1970, and to observe the centenary of Lenin's birth in a worthy way.

Moscow industries hold a big place in the country's economy. Muscovites make more than one-third of the electric motors produced in our country, a quarter of the automobiles, a considerable quantity of metal-cutting machine tools, instruments, radio and electrical equipment and many other goods.

Moscow is a generally recognised centre of science, literature and art. Here thousands of eminent scientists, writers and painters, theatre and cinema artists live and work. Here ways for the further development of Soviet science and culture are charted in the Academy of Sciences, in art workers' organisations and in state institutions.
The working people of our capital by their selfless labour in all economic and cultural sectors are making a big contribution to strengthening our country’s economic and defence potential, to furthering scientific and technological progress.

The Moscow organisation is also doing much to improve our capital. The capital is becoming noticeably more beautiful and the Muscovites’ living conditions are improving. Moscow symbolises a city of a new, socialist type, a city without the social contrasts inherent in capitalist cities. Moscow’s layout is planned and building is carried out in such a way that all city residents enjoy modern amenities.

In a word, Comrades, Muscovites’ successes are numerous. But we must look ahead, see the problems yet to be solved. It is right that the City Committee’s report and the delegates’ speeches, besides the achievements, also mentioned shortcomings and discussed unutilised potentialities.

The Central Committee hopes that the Moscow City Party Committee, the Moscow Soviet, the entire Moscow organisation will take into account the proposals of the delegates to the conferences and of the participants in the meetings and utilise these proposals to improve the work still further. You have many forces, good, experienced cadres and you have every opportunity to achieve still better results in developing the economy, science and culture, in carrying out organisational and political work.

Comrades, our Party enjoys tremendous prestige and confidence among the Soviet people. This prestige, this confidence did not come of themselves. They were won in the crucible of battles and in constructive activity, in years of success.
in periods of hardship, in the course of political, economic and social changes on a huge scale. Today when the Soviet Union is solving new historical problems the role and significance of the Communist Party are further enhanced. This is a natural phenomenon which follows from the objective requirements of our society's development. Big and intricate problems arise in the course of communist construction, problems associated with building the material and technical basis of communism, improving relations of production, educating people, further developing friendship among the peoples. Science and technology are rapidly developing, essentially changing the entire mode of our life. Socialist democracy is being extended. Our country faces big and complex tasks in its activity in international affairs, above all in extending and deepening all-round cooperation with other socialist countries, supporting the world revolutionary and national-liberation movements, and strengthening world peace.

Only a party equipped with an advanced theory, Marxism-Leninism, can correctly solve these problems, define exactly the main, vital trends of the country's economic and social development. Only a party, welded together by unity of views and action, a party which has great experience in political and organisational activity is capable of lending to all the work of building communism a purposeful, scientifically-based and planned character. Only a party closely bound to the many-million-strong working masses, is capable of uniting all the people—the working class, peasantry and intelligentsia—to accomplish both the economic and political tasks successfully.

The entire experience of our construction has
confirmed the correctness of Lenin's words that "the dictatorship of the proletariat would not work except through the Communist Party". Experience demonstrates that a socialist state of the whole people which continues the cause of the dictatorship of the proletariat can develop successfully only when the working class has the leading role, and under the guidance and direct influence of the Communist Party. In the interests of the people, in the interests of communism, the Party will discharge its duties as unswervingly and selflessly, as it has done throughout its history, as the great Lenin charged us.

In the course of communist construction the Party is gaining further strength, its ranks are growing and Party organisations are becoming still more efficient. In the two years since the 23rd Congress more than one million people have been admitted to the CPSU. The working class holds a leading place in this replenishment. Last year workers comprised 52.2 per cent of those admitted as candidates to the Party. We have not had such a large share of workers among new candidates during the last 35 years. Leading representatives from among collective farmers and the Soviet intelligentsia are also joining the Party. By drawing into its ranks the finest representatives of the working people and simultaneously getting rid of those who fail to live up to the high calling of a Communist, the Party is becoming still stronger and more united.

The CPSU now has 13,180,000 members. At present there is practically no collective of any importance without a Party organisation. This gives our Party vast opportunities to influence the masses, all spheres of social activity. What is
important now is to use these opportunities to the full.

To enhance the role of the Party means to make all Party organisations more efficient, to raise the political consciousness of the Communists, to see to it that they actively participate in drawing up and carrying out the Party's policy, that they lead the struggle to complete the five-year plan successfully and carry out the tasks of communist construction.

Our Party has trained and placed in the leadership of various sections of Party and state activity as well as of the national economy highly competent, energetic men and women devoted to the cause of communism, and who enjoy well-merited prestige and respect among the people. It can be safely said that never before have we had such a competent body of leading cadres as today.

In present conditions when it is necessary better to combine centralisation and local initiative, planning and economic stimulation, collective leadership and personal responsibility the selection and training of cadres assumes ever greater importance.

A spirit of great trust in cadres, of solicitude towards them, a more objective, better-informed assessment of their activity has spread in our country in recent years. This is very good, Comrades. Trust inspires people, strengthens them and gives them confidence. But it would be wrong to think that greater trust in cadres and the granting of more independence to them implies less control of their activity. Trust in, and respect for, cadres must necessarily be combined with high demands. The Party, while trusting its cadres, has held, and will hold, everyone responsible for the job given him,
strictly call him to account for any violation of Party and state discipline irrespective of the post or past services.

The growth of the ranks of cadres, their replenishment with new people is a natural process in the Party, government and economic apparatus. In this connection is should be said that we now have tremendous possibilities for replenishing the ranks of leading workers with the finest people from all categories—workers, collective farmers, and intelligentsia—with the finest representatives of our youth and women who have given a good account of themselves in practical work.

The role and responsibility of the Soviets, trade unions, Komsomol and other mass organisations of the working people increase in conditions of full-scale communist construction. The Communist Party, as the leading and guiding force of the entire political system of our society, unites and directs the activity of all state and mass organisations. The Party considers it to be of major importance for all mass organisations, within the bounds of their rights and functions, to act boldly and confidently, for Communists working in these organisations to regard this activity as their responsibility and to display greater initiative and constructive effort. Enhancement of the Party’s leading role and that of the Soviets, trade unions and Komsomol, of all the working people’s mass organisations—this is an interconnected and reciprocally determined process, reflecting the profoundly democratic nature of our socialist system.

Comrades, our Party has always attached prime importance to the economy as the foundation for building communist society.

Successes in economic construction enable us to accomplish the main social tasks, to raise living
standards. Economic progress determines to a great extent the country's defence potential and our influence on the development of the international situation in the interests of peace and socialism.

This year we are completing the transfer of industry, building and transport to the new system of management. The new conditions make new demands on Party, Soviet, economic and trade union organisations. Much work has to be done to raise the efficiency of social production.

The working class, collective farmers, Soviet intelligentsia, all our people worked persistently for more than two years now to carry out the five-year plan assignments.

In two years industrial output increased by approximately 20 per cent, the country received 12,000 million roubles' worth of goods over and above the plan. The key sectors—power engineering, metallurgy, chemical industry and machine-building—developed at high rates. Simultaneously, the output of consumer goods rose substantially. The Party's line of closing the gap in growth rates in the output of consumer goods and means of production is being implemented successfully.

The situation in agriculture too is improving. In the last two years the average annual farm output noticeably exceeded the average annual output in the preceding years. The material and technical basis of agriculture is being strengthened.

At the same time we realise that we still have much work to do to implement the decisions on agriculture taken by the 23rd Party Congress and the May 1966 Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee. This is a big job requiring the efforts of the entire Party, of all the people.
The development of social production following the 23rd CPSU Congress made possible the raising of real per capita incomes by more than 12 per cent. The better the situation in our industry and agriculture, the greater the possibilities for further raising the living standards of the people.

Economic development at the present stage is characterised by an acceleration of growth rates, heightened efficiency in production and a steady advance in the well-being of the people. This natural process is reflected in such a general indicator as the growth of the national income. I recall that in 1961-65 the average annual increase in national income was 5.7 per cent in our country. In two years of the new five-year plan this increase reached an average of seven per cent.

But to assess the achievements correctly we must clearly visualise future tasks and ways of performing them. We have to consolidate and develop the successes of the first two years of the five-year plan. In future too we must concentrate our main effort on raising labour productivity, on utilising all the potentialities of socialist production and accelerating scientific and technological progress.

At this conference, just as it was at the other Party conferences, much attention is being paid to questions of raising labour productivity. Indeed, concern for labour productivity, for improving the quality of goods and lowering production costs, and for labour discipline, must be in the centre of all the Party’s political work. This is the main thing now.

Introduction of a five-day working week began in our country last year. Millions of factory and office workers now have two free days a week. Needless to say it is more pleasant and convenient to have two days off in a row than to have one
day off. True, additional problems face Party functionaries and industrial executives, local Soviets and trade unions. It is a matter of providing the best week-end facilities for health, cultural development and for bringing up children. All this is good and necessary.

But while showing concern for the two free days, Party organisations and industrial executives must devote unflagging attention to the five working days so they are used more efficiently to further raise production. Organisational work of improving further the operation of enterprises and offices and industrial management assumes greater importance in the new conditions. Party bodies and industrial executives have to display more initiative. All problems pertaining to the organisation of labour in a five-day working week must be solved quickly. Delegates have mentioned it here, and have spoken of it correctly.

The level of activity of Party organisations, the level of ideological work must be judged above all by the way production assignments are fulfilled, by the growth in labour productivity, the state of labour discipline and by an implacable struggle against any evidence of poor organisation and negligence. At all times, we must be guided by Lenin's statement that there is no communist education, and cannot be any, outside socially conscious labour and activity.

Constantly fostering communist consciousness, we must properly combine material and moral stimuli to work. Under socialism they are not opposites, they supplement each other. In our country work is not only a means of livelihood, it is becoming a spiritual requirement of Soviet people, their lofty duty to society. It would be wrong to
reduce everything solely to the material incentive, this would impoverish the inner world of the Soviet citizen.

In our country the Soviet working man is the real master of production. He is concerned about the operation of his shop, his factory, the reputation of the factory's trade mark, his collective farm or state farm. Labour enthusiasm produces heroes of industry and agriculture and brings into being new forms of the emulation movement, splendid undertakings and initiative. It is in the socially conscious attitude to work that the ideological maturity of the Soviet people, their profound devotion to the Party, to the ideas of communism, is displayed.

It is precisely the task of Party organisations, the press, radio, TV, cinema, of all our ideological establishments to raise ever higher the prestige of labour, new undertakings, the initiative of the working people, and to strive to make the communist attitude to work the standard for every working man.

It is necessary to heighten the role of workers' meetings, which should discuss the vital problems of production and how to strengthen labour discipline. Proposals made at workers' meetings should be heeded. Ministries should make it a rule to summarise the proposals made at workers' meetings so that practical conclusions can be drawn from them and so that respective collectives can be informed of them all the time.

Comrades, the Party and economic bodies have in the past few years done extensive work in raising production efficiency and making fuller use of reserves. There is no doubt that this work has produced fine results. At the same time some enter-
prises still do not make sufficient use of their equipment and permit substantial losses in working time. As you know, such things happen in Moscow too, and this must not be ignored.

A good deal has also been done to increase the output-capital ratio and positive results can be seen, if for example, we make a comparison with the past five-year period. However, analysis shows that we have all the opportunities to increase radically efficiency in social production, granted that we learn to use fixed assets more rationally, if we ensure that new projects are put into operation in good time and create the necessary conditions for their proper exploitation, if we make practical use of the latest achievements of science and technology.

It is the duty of Party organisations to look into the matter. However, this is a job not only for Party organisations, but primarily for ministries, economic, planning and supply agencies, and for all our specialists.

Since the scale of production of our national economy is immense, it is quite important to improve the quality of output. Forgive me if I do not dwell on this question since all the delegates, all the Communists understand what it means. I shall merely say that improvement in the quality of any product—whether automobiles, tractors, engines, machine tools, clothes or footwear—will help us to make substantial savings and to meet the requirements of the population more fully. Last but not least, this also will mean that our goods will become more competitive and the Soviet Union's positions in foreign markets stronger.

One of the major problems of the national economy is that of capital construction. Construction
is going on on an immense scale in our country. Though there are great successes there are still quite a few shortcomings, too. We do not by any means get industrial projects, buildings for cultural and social purposes and public utilities put into service with sufficient speed in all parts of the country. There are cases of dispersal of means, low-standard designing, and a number of other shortcomings.

Recently the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers adopted a decision on measures for providing personnel for capital construction. Substantial aid is being rendered to the building workers, who make up a large section of the Soviet working class, one that often has to work in difficult conditions. It is the duty of Party organisations to take this important sector of our economic development under their supervision, and not only to criticise, but also to give practical help to speed up the improvement of capital construction.

There is one more question, which I must mention. In our age—the age of the scientific and technological revolution—one major condition for lasting success in economic development is the rapid introduction of scientific and technical achievements into production, the utilisation of the scientific and technical know-how of other countries, including the countries of the socialist community, which have accumulated considerable useful experience in the field of technical progress.

All the all-Union ministries are concentrated in Moscow. The ministries and their Party organisations bear great responsibility for scientific and technical progress. The ministries' organisational period is over, and the time has come to be more exacting with regard to their work. The ministries
are responsible, first of all, for the technical level in the appropriate branches of industry.

In Moscow, too, is the Academy of Sciences, and also the country's leading research and design institutes. These have the task of solving quickly and effectively vital scientific and technical problems, to search persistently for new constructive developments, to be in advance of practical experience, to create, if I may put it so, a scientific and technical foundation for the future that will make possible a qualitative improvement in production, and thus ensure the highest levels in all the leading branches of industry.

The Party highly appreciates the work of our scientists, and does everything necessary to ensure the successful development of science. The Central Committee and the Soviet Government are now working out measures to increase the effectiveness of science still more and strengthen its ties with production.

Naturally, we also have some shortcomings in the development of certain branches of science and in the work of some research establishments. However, the main thing is that in many cases there is too great a delay in applying scientific discoveries and new technological developments into production. Such things really happen. However, Comrades, something else is happening. When they speak of scientific and technical progress, some of our people obviously underestimate the scientific and technical achievements in our country and other socialist countries. At the same time they are inclined to overestimate the achievements of science and technology in the capitalist world.

But the facts show that it is socialism and the planned management of the economy that provide
unprecedented opportunities for science to flourish and for scientific and technical progress to be used in the interests of the whole of society. Everyone knows about the tremendous discoveries of Soviet scientists in space research, the exploration of interplanetary space, nuclear physics, mathematics and other fundamental sciences. Our science and the scientists of the fraternal socialist countries have done a great deal to bring about improvements in various branches of production, especially in metallurgy, chemical industry, electronics and telemechanics. Naturally, the scientists, designers and engineers in our country are still faced with great tasks which have to be tackled so that Soviet science really becomes the most progressive in all spheres and fields.

The incurable ills of capitalist economy are seen particularly clearly against the background of the constant and rapid development of the economy of the socialist countries and the stupendous achievements of the entire socialist system.

Incidentally, our scientists and propagandists specialising in the international field could devote more attention to the analysis of those socio-economic and political processes which are now developing in the capitalist world and have brought it to a frantic state.

At present the economy of capitalism is involved in serious upheavals in its major echelons—in Britain, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. There is certainly a reason for these, for the entire preceding development of world economy, and especially the economy of the USA, has led up to the situation. These upheavals reflect the growing instability of the capitalist economy, and the aggravation of the uneven nature of its development. The post-war period saw a growth of
production and trade in the capitalist world. And this is a fact. However, it is certainly not to be ascribed to a revival of capitalism's "viability", as bourgeois ideologists try to claim. It is due to the specific features of the present-day revolution in science and technology. Now this growth has given way to a series of crisis slumps whose proportions exceed anything seen in the last quarter of the century.

The currency crisis now developing is the most vivid expression of the crisis phenomena in the capitalist system. Recently there was a 14.3 per cent devaluation of the pound sterling, and one can judge the significance of this action, for one thing, from the fact that the pound sterling is used in up to 30-35 per cent of all international transactions. No wonder that after the devaluation of the pound sterling there was a devaluation of currency in more than 25 capitalist states. Now it is the turn of the US dollar, the devaluation of which has actually begun. It is now 60-67 per cent of the pre-war value. In these conditions one must not rule out the possibility of a profound crisis of the capitalist system. We can already see a rapid growth of unemployment in America, Britain, France, Italy, and the Federal Republic of Germany. By the beginning of 1968, there was a total of six million unemployed in these countries. This figure stands for living people, for human tragedies. It is certainly testimony to the ills of capitalism. And we must speak of this frankly, Comrades, for it is the truth, it is a convincing weapon in the ideological struggle.

Comrades, in the report of the City Committee and in the speeches of the delegates great attention was devoted to questions of studying Marxist-Leninist theory and to ideological questions. That is
quite right. An acute ideological struggle is now taking place. The front line in this struggle is, if I may express it thus, a watershed, between socialism and capitalism, between two opposing social systems.

Unable to stop the onward march of history and not daring to make a frontal attack on the world of socialism, imperialism is trying to weaken the ideological-political unity of the working people of the socialist countries. In doing so it is gambling primarily on nationalist and revisionist elements.

To put it briefly, in our day the ideological struggle is the fiercest front of the class struggle. There can be no political indifference and passiveness here, no neutral attitude with regard to the aims of the enemy. Our Party has always given warning that in the field of ideology there can be no peaceful coexistence, just as there can be no class peace between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

Our ideological adversaries understand that they cannot shake the moral-political unity of Soviet society. Yet bourgeois ideologists still hope to influence somehow the world outlook of some groups of the Soviet population and to deaden their class consciousness.

All kinds of anti-Soviet organisations and services created by the imperialists are looking for morally unstable, weak and politically immature people. Those who are ensnared by them are people prone to self-advertisement and ready to “assert” themselves as loudly as possible—and not by working for the good of the country, but by any politically dubious means, without being squeamish about praise from our ideological opponents. The Soviet public severely condemns the disgraceful behaviour of such two-faced people. These renegades should not count on remaining unpunished.
Vivid testimony of this are the numerous letters being received from the working people and the resolutions passed at meetings of factory and office workers of Moscow and other cities.

Our enemies in the imperialist camp are very tenacious in their attempts to take advantage of any manifestations of ideological immaturity and waverings on the part of individual representatives of the intelligentsia. The imperialists are trying to use these phenomena in their own interests in the ideological struggle against the world of socialism. However, everyone should know that Soviet people working in cultural fields, like all intellectuals in our country, have always been and will be with their people, with Lenin’s Party. Soviet intellectuals have always been and will remain loyal to the ideals of our revolution. Our enemies will never succeed in weakening the inviolable unity of the Soviet people and its Communist Party, the unity which is the guarantee of all our victories in the struggle for the great cause of communism.

Every Communist, every Soviet citizen knows very well that our country’s strength lies in this unity which is also the basis for our successes in economic development and in strengthening the country’s defence might. This great unity is the basis of the durability of our friendship with the fraternal socialist countries and with the Communists of the whole world. This unity is our invincible strength in the struggle against imperialism. This unity is the source of our successes in the struggle for world peace.

Comrades, when we speak of ideological work, we think first of all of the education of our youth. This is a cause of major importance for the Party and the state. In effect, this is a question of the future development of our society.
Our young people know the meaning of labour, they know how to work and can work well. We see this at the country's leading construction projects, at power stations and plants, in the fields and on livestock farms, at research institutes and laboratories. The merger of study with practical work showed in the formation of detachments of student builders and in student participation in other useful undertakings. This has already become a worthwhile institution in our country.

In the course of communist construction the political, scientific and technical education of youth is becoming an ever more important and responsible task.

In the first years of Soviet power Vladimir Lenin called upon Soviet youth to study, study and again study. In response to this call the young workers of the cities and countryside of the Land of the Soviets—and we all remember this—attended classes for the elimination of illiteracy, other educational courses and workers faculties. They mastered the ideas for which their fathers had fought against the enemy on the barricades of the revolution and in the trenches of the Civil War; they mastered the foundations of Marxist teaching, the ABC of communism, and at the same time the initial scientific and technical knowledge required to build socialism.

Now the opportunities for youth to get an education have increased immeasurably. At the same time the society has a greater need for politically conscious, ideologically mature, well-educated and highly skilled workers.

In our day there are more opportunities than ever before for young people to make a systematic and deep study of the science of Marxism-Le-
ninism, to apply broadly Marxist-Leninist teaching in all the complex processes of the life and development of our society. In our day science is invading ever more imperatively all spheres of life. At present there are almost no industrial branches whose development one can picture without the use of electronics and cybernetics, using the achievements of biochemistry and quantum physics and many other summits of modern scientific knowledge.

Our youth must scale these summits. Showing daily concern for the Marxist-Leninist education of Soviet youth, we should, at the same time, see to it that they employ the knowledge they obtain to solve the practical problems of communist construction, so that all the achievements of modern science are used for the benefit of the Soviet people.

It is necessary to draw young people more actively into scientific and technical work. The Party, YCL and trade union organisations at institutions of higher learning and enterprises should initiate broad activities to draw youth into scientific and technical societies, scientific groups, which can be organised at educational establishments, plants and factories, on state and collective farms, so that there young people can get a full idea of the latest scientific achievements and their role in production. An important part in this is to be played by scientists, professors and teachers at educational establishments and all our research workers.

This is an important task, Comrades. A really mass-scale movement of youth to master the summits of modern science and technology should be organised. When politically mature and armed with the latest scientific and technical knowledge, our
youth will be able to make an even more worthwhile contribution to the nation-wide cause of communist construction. And the Party considers it a duty to do everything so that our youth—our young workers and collective farmers, men of the Soviet Army and Navy, college students—take an ever greater and more active part in the country’s public and political life.

Comrades, these days our people and people everywhere are marking the centenary of the birth of Maxim Gorky, the proletarian writer of genius, Lenin’s friend and fighter for the happiness of the working people. His immortal characters, his passionate and militant articles, the entire boundless legacy he left serve our great cause and castigate the enemies of the Soviet Union just as trenchantly as when he was alive. A great humanist and revolutionary, he hated the capitalist system, tore off its hypocritical masks and exposed all manifestations of imperialist, fascist ideology.

Gorky was glad to see the mighty progress of the Soviet Union, he was proud of the constructive genius of the workers and peasants who became the masters of their fate. He taught our youth to appreciate the poetry of labour and to inculcate in itself a feeling of attachment for, and love of, labour. “You should love labour,” he said. “No other force can make man as great and wise as the force of labour—collective, harmonious and emancipated labour.”

Inheriting Gorky’s traditions, our creative intelligentsia by its works enriches the spiritual world of Soviet man, it praises the heroism of the recent days of combat and the present-day labour exploits of the people, lauds the attitude of irreconcilability to ideology which is alien to us.
All the best that is produced by our writers, artists and all those working in the sphere of the arts meet with the grateful response and acclaim of millions. When works appear that are ideologically and artistically weak, and such works unfortunately do appear in our literature, cinema and the theatre, Soviet people make a strict and exacting assessment of them, and call a spade a spade.

There is a good deal of talk and misinterpretation in connection with artistic failures and ideological mistakes. Life shows that in places where unions of creative workers and Party organisations show a principled attitude, where a frank and straightforward comradely discussion takes place in connection with shortcomings, there is a fine atmosphere for successful creative work.

It is hard to overestimate the great ideological work which the Party did in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Many new interesting forms of this work have appeared also in Moscow Party organisations. And Moscow Communists, like other Party organisations, are quite right in drawing on the experience they accumulated during these noteworthy days.

Now the country is preparing for events of such importance for our Party and the entire communist and working-class movement as the forthcoming 150th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx and the centenary of the birth of Lenin. These great dates will no doubt lead to a new upsurge of the Party’s entire ideological activity; they will represent a new important step in mastering the very rich heritage of Marxism-Leninism and in the
further creative development of our revolutionary teaching.

These dates will also be extensively celebrated outside our country, by the entire international communist movement. We are deeply convinced that the firm foundation of Marxism-Leninism will ensure a strengthening of the unity of the communist movement, of all the anti-imperialist forces, and, no matter how much our enemies may show their spite, the future lies with the great ideas of Marx and Lenin, the future is with communism.

Further on Leonid Brezhnev reported to the delegates on the session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states which took place in Sofia on March 6 and 7, and on the meeting of the delegations of the fraternal Parties and governments of six socialist countries in Dresden on March 23 this year. The delegates unanimously endorsed his report.

In conclusion, Leonid Brezhnev said:

Comrades, we are living at a time and in a situation which place an immense responsibility on our country—the world's first country of triumphant socialism, on our Party—the glorious Party of Lenin, on our entire people in the vanguard of social progress. The country's workers, collective farmers and intellectuals—all Soviet people—realise this responsibility, and each of them is working, in his own field of endeavour, to strengthen the might of our great homeland.

Allow me, Comrades, to express my confidence that the capital's glorious Party organisation, closely rallied around the Central Committee, will continue in the vanguard of the struggle for the successful fulfilment of the tasks of commu-
nist construction set by the 23rd Congress of the CPSU.

Allow me, Comrades, to once again wholeheartedly wish all the delegates to the conference and all Communists in Moscow great success in their future work.
first creative development in our revolutionary teaching.

Therefore, we, Comrades, must once again mobilise our entire national strength in the struggle for the success of the communist movement. We are deeply convinced that the firm foundation of Marxism-Leninism will ensure a strengthening of the unity of the communist movement, of all the anti-imperialist forces, and, no matter how much our enemies may show their spite, the future lies with the great ideas of Marx and Lenin, the future is with communism.

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