

critical influence is concentrated in the hands of the party apparatus and the KGB. The selectively chosen representatives of the scientific elite have, however, merged with the administrative and party elite: those who have signed letters attacking Sakharov, those who have dismissed Jewish scientists wanting to emigrate from the USSR, and later signed false secrecy certificates of these scientists, are themselves scientists. Their actions are dictated not by their scientific but by their administrative interests, by their proximity with the party oligarchy and their desire to use this in their struggle for rank and power. They are the ones who appear most often at international conferences; they are the ones who gain most from the "scientific détente". The strengthening of scientific contacts

with the West, as long as they develop in a way suitable for the Soviet authorities, increases the influence of the most rigid elements of the Soviet establishment and provides them with additional levers to influence scientific life in the Soviet Union.

Soviet citizens differ from one another in everything, just as citizens of any Western country do. In accordance with the spirit of the "third basket" of the Helsinki Declaration, contacts ought to be developed on the individual level and not on the level of the delegations selected by the authorities. The organisation committees of international conferences should reserve the right to invite to conferences Soviet scientists who are prominent in their field, and should make their attendance a condition for the attendance of the

official Soviet delegation. The participation of Western scientists in any scientific exchange programmes must be conditional on the Western side being able to choose at least some of the members of the Soviet delegation and being able to have free contacts with any scientists in the USSR whom they would like to meet. Soviet scientists must also retain the right to send their articles to foreign magazines through members of the editorial board as well as through the Soviet regional editor.

Measures such as these would not cause a halt to scientific contact with the West. The needs of the state, and of the members of the elite, ensure that. And they represent something more than mere declarations of support or solidarity. □

COMECON

WITH growing industrialisation, fuel and power supplies are a matter of increasing importance to the Comecon block, particularly as the new policy of economic integration begins to take effect, and considerable reliance has come to be placed on oil, gas, and electricity delivered from the Soviet Union by pipeline and cable. But despite official Soviet statements that fuel and power export commitments would remain unaffected by the new drive for economies at home, it seems that there will after all be an export cutback. During a recent Miners' Day rally in northern Bohemia it became apparent that deliveries of Soviet oil to Czechoslovakia over the next five years would "fall short" of original estimates. Accordingly, the Czechoslovak Government has concluded that "we shall be unable to maintain the growth rate of past years".

There are other problems too. An article in the Slovak *Pravda* notes that in spite of the additional 4,000 MW or so of new generating capacity planned for the next five years (which should include two atomic reactors at Jaslovske Bohunice, providing some 35% of the total new capacity for Czechoslovakia), the generating system will still have "minimal reserves" and will be constantly stretched.

Nuclear power is a matter of pressing importance to Comecon, and, not surprisingly, there is considerable international cooperation. Joint research into the construction of the necessary equipment, which has resulted in the development of new types of generator, is carried out by Interatomenergo and Interatom-instrument. The latter organisation

is the only Comecon enterprise to have its own autonomous accounting system and operating capital of convertible currencies. Atomic power stations are being constructed (with Soviet aid and expertise) throughout the Comecon block, notably at Lake Zarnowiec in Poland, and Paks in Hungary. Ultimately, they should all



be connected with a 750 kV grid, the first line of which, from Ukraine to Hungary (with a later extension planned to Yugoslavia), should be commissioned in 1978. By 1990, nuclear power stations should meet one-quarter of the forecast electricity demand of the Comecon block.

In the meantime, to fill the energy gap, conventional fossil fuels are in ever increasing demand, and intensive work is being carried out both to modernise existing coal mines and to develop new ones. One such project, described recently by the Prague television service, bears a touch of inadvertent humour. A new open-cast coal mine, which will provide fuel for a power station in northern Bohemia, is, in line with the Socialist custom of naming important enterprises after

revolutionary heroes, to be called after Maksim Gor'kii. One of Gor'kii's most famous works is entitled *'From the Lower Depths'*.

● The drought which this year has affected all the European members of Comecon together with certain western parts of the Soviet Union (though not the Moscow region, where too much rather than too little rain has been the problem), has forced the authorities to place a new emphasis on the utilisation of water resources. Some research had, indeed, already begun with the mapping last winter and spring of Carpathian water-resources. That survey did not, however, extend to the eastern regions of the Carpathians (Ukrainian SSR), where over-zealous tree-felling is apparently resulting in erosion and consequent "destruction" of the water table. Precipitation in the Carpathians is of vital importance to the water supplies of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary and Ukraine.

Several local water economy schemes are now being implemented. These include anti-flood measures on the Tisza, Mura and Raba in Hungary, a dam on the Cirocha in Slovakia, a special turbine-type aerator for the purification of polluted river water (developed at the Purification Equipment Institute in Sofia) and a reservoir on the Odra near Mietkow in Poland. Although, like the Carpathian survey, many of these projects were already envisaged or under way before the drought became a pressing problem, the considerable media coverage they have received indicates that water supply has become an issue of grave importance.