The USSR and other socialistic countries attach major significance to development of international cooperation, including cooperation between socialistic and capitalistic countries. One of the most commonly recognized modern forms of international cooperation is multilateral cooperation, which is being established between socialistic countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (COMECON), whose 30th anniversary is being widely celebrated this year. Starting with cooperation in the area of foreign trade, with mutual supply of raw materials, food, machinery, and equipment, the exchange of experience and scientific—technical achievements, the member-nations of COMECON have gradually progressed toward stronger ties in economics, science, and engineering.

As a result of their constructive work, and the mobilization of each country's resources, as well as the development and strengthening of multilateral mutual cooperation and assistance, the member-nations of COMECON have been highly successful in building socialism and communism. The industrial production per capita in the member-nations of COMECON has increased by more than eight times over the last three decades. Where the portion of these countries' industrial production amounted to 18% of the world production at the outset of the 1950s, they now generate about one-third of the world's industrial production.

During this period, cooperation between member-nations of COMECON has been successfully developed in the field of electricity, subsequent further growth in the production and consumption of electricity, and the use of atomic energy in worldwide goals. From 1950 through 1978, the production of electricity in member-nations of COMECON increased from 135 billion kWh to more than 1600 billion kWh, i.e., by almost 12 times.

The Central Dispatcher Administration (CDA) of the United Power System (UPS) was established in 1962 to organize the parallel operation of the power systems of the member-nations of COMECON, including coordination of the planned—scheduled and operational activity of the state dispatcher administrations of the power systems in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Hungarian People's Republic, German Democratic Republic, Polish People's Republic, Socialist Republic of Rumania, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and the Lvov Power System of the USSR. The overall intergovernment exchange of electricity between participating members of the CDA of UPS reached 25.4 billion kWh in 1978 (it was 3.4 billion kWh in 1963). The capacity of intersystem transmission lines increased by a factor of six from 1963 to 1978. The general plan for future development of the united power systems of member-nations of COMECON, including cooperation with the electric-power system of the Socialist Federated Republic of Yugoslavia, which was approved at the 30th meeting of the Council as a basic trend in cooperation, has been drafted.

To bring the general plan to fruition, an agreement for cooperation in the future development of united power systems in member-nations of COMECON during the period to 1990 has been signed. The construction and start of operation of the 750-kV Vinnitsa-Western Ukraine (USSR)--Albertira (Hungary) transmission line was completed in 1978 on the basis of multilateral cooperation among interested member-nations of COMECON. The development of the complex utilization of the Danube's water-power resources, which calls for the construction of a number of critical water-power projects by the combined forces of interested countries, has been worked out and is now being realized. A resolution calling for multilateral assistance and cooperation in the most rapid development of power in Mongolia and Cuba has been adopted, and is now being put into practice.
Cooperation has expanded among the member-nations of COMECON in the field of power-capacity growth in nuclear power plants. The rated capacity of nuclear plants has increased from 1100 MW in 1970 to 11,259 MW in 1978. Programs for the development of nuclear power have been adopted and are being carried out in the majority of member-nations. In conformity with the general agreement for cooperation in the future development of the united power systems of the member-nations up to 1990, it is planned to increase the rated capacity of nuclear power plants built in these countries to 37 million kW with technical assistance supplied by the USSR.

In subsequently expanding multilateral cooperation within the framework of COMECON, the member-nations are actively developing economic ties with other countries, primarily with socialist governments that are not members of COMECON, and with developing countries, as well as with industrialized capitalist countries.

The basic portion of scientific-technical cooperation with foreign, and primarily socialist countries, is composed of bilateral ties on a mutually beneficial basis. Joint scientific and technical studies, mutual exchange of specialists for familiarization with scientific and technical advancements and leading production experience, the mutual transfer of technical documentation on a no-cost and contract basis are being carried out with socialist countries on a broad scale. The All-Union Association "Vneshtekhnika," through which technical assistance has been rendered only recently on a large scale by dispatching and admitting specialists for consultation on the use of new techniques, production technology, and design expertise and for joint studies, plays a major organizational role.

In 1978 alone, the leading scientific-research, design and construction, and production organizations of the Ministry of Power and Electrification of the USSR indulged in scientific-technical cooperation with corresponding organizations of socialist countries in 96 subject areas. Last year, 1890 scientists and specialists in the field of power engineering were admitted into the USSR, while more than 500 Soviet specialists in the same field were dispatched abroad. For example, 349 persons were admitted from the German Democratic Republic, 174 from the People's Republic of Bulgaria, 237 from the Polish People's Republic, and 509 from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

A number of subject areas have also been developed in the field of hydraulic engineering. Thus, the All-Union Lenin Order S. Ya. Zhuk Scientific-Research Institute for Design and Exploration (USSR) in conjunction with the J. Cherni Water-Conservation Institute (Socialist Federated Republic of Yugoslavia) conducted a study on the subject "Development of a rational layout and method for geophysical investigations to study rock foundations for hydraulic structures." "Recommendations on the use of geophysical methods for study of the deformability of rock masses," which assume major practical significance for water-power construction, are being developed jointly.

While cooperating on the topic "Development of methods for the stabilization of alluvium during construction of water-retaining hydraulic structures," the B. E. Vedeneev All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering, together with the same Water-Conservation Institute (Yugoslavia), prepared and published "Recommendations on consolidation injection in hydraulic construction."

The S. Ya. Zhuk Institute and the United National Power-Plant Establishment (German Democratic Republic) have cooperated on the topic "Improving methods for the design and construction of hydroelectric and pumped-storage power plants and increasing their operating efficiency." A new branch methodology on the selection of parameters and the determination of the efficiency and earning capacity of pumped-storage power plants is being implemented as a result of this cooperation.

Soviet hydraulic engineers participate actively in the work of international organizations, such as the international Association on Hydraulic Research and the SIGB, which are engaged in research and development in the field of hydraulic construction.

The International Association on Hydraulic Research (IAHR), which was founded in 1935 with the direct participation of the Soviet Union, has a current membership of more than 2500 scientists and hydraulic engineers from 81 countries. Soviet specialists participate