

Fast moves by Russia's slow demagogue

Even as he pumps the flesh in Washington, Mr Boris Yeltsin's confidence remains unimpaired by his considerable foreign policy and economic problems. He appears self-assured in the belief he is the only individual capable of pulling Russia through her crisis. Although opinion polls indicate his popularity has declined and public confidence in the policies of the country's first deputy prime minister, Mr Igor Gaidar, is at an all time low, the president is still "man of the month". He is unchallenged as a political leader in Russia. His determination to preserve his reputation at home and abroad as a "reformer" and a Russian strongman are at the base of his recent manoeuvres.

In a recent interview with *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Mr Yeltsin stated his intention to take on his opponents in parliament and the Congress of Deputies. He called for a referendum on crucial issues and was unrepentantly supportive of the IMF-friendly policies of the Gaidar government.

Nonetheless he shrewdly appointed Mr Vladimir Shumeko, a leading critic of privatisation, as vice-premier during his cabinet shake-up last week. He also appointed two members of the "centrist" lobby in parliament, Messrs Chernomyrdin and Khizhi, to ministerial slots. In meetings with parliamentary leaders he speaks vaguely of realignments, of the necessity to reshape the government. But he retained his option to proceed with a referendum in autumn to increase his powers. He also protected Mr Gaidar, and his own image as an IMF reformer, on the eve of crucial G-7 meetings and his present official visit to the US.

The backdrop to all of this is the situation inside and outside

parliament. In the chamber, the Russian president has silenced Mr Ruslan Khasbulatov, speaker of the Supreme Soviet and bitter critic of the Gaidar government. Officials judiciously leaked information that Mr Khasbulatov occupied a luxurious apartment constructed for Leonid Brezhnev and had taken a lavish trip to Pisa at state expense.

Other deputies are far from silent, but they are numerically weak and quickly contained. This is true of the motley group of communists and "patriots" led by Mr Sergei Baburin and others in the four-party Russian Unity group in parliament. They are vociferous in their broad criticism of the entire gamut of domestic and foreign policy by the government, but are kept in check by the more neutral parties in the Supreme Soviet and by Mr Yeltsin's supporters.

But there is also disaffection in the democratic camp. The focus of this dissension is not the issue of the president's powers, as was the case in April. It is pervasive, despite the efforts of the "Committee for Reforms" — the Democratic Russia forum and the Movement for Democratic Reforms — to rally support behind Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar through meetings and demonstrations.

Deputies are aware of the manipulations used in April to rally them around the government. They know the communist bogey for what it is and are more wary of the growth of fascism; the rise, as one of their number warned, of "national patriots".

Criticisms by the influential radical democrat, Mr Yuri Afanasyev, of official policy and the operation of the Democratic Russia forum have weakened connections between democrats and the president and his team. Mr Afanasyev

Hari Vasudevan explains the domestic situation Boris Yeltsin left behind when he went to Washington



Still the man of the month

speaks of the ossification of the forum and contends it is now dominated by the Moscow Coordinating Council and members of the Moscow Voters' Association. Consequently, the movement has lost the right to set norms for constituent organisations. A disastrous development, he believes, as the times are dangerous for everything the democracy movement stands for.

Mr Afanasyev points out that *apparatchiki* of the old party, more interested in self-aggrandisement than in genuine social issues, are now direc-

tors of trusts and heads of banks. The *nomenklatura* entrenched in Russia's industrial sector and has coalesced around influential figures like Mr Gennady Burbulis, Mr Yeltsin's right-hand man. Its authority is far from broken.

The role of this old elite in Russia's economy is ominous. Personal connections between *nomenklatura* and the heads of joint stock companies, the large personal fortunes for both old and new officials of state corporations, the arrange-

ments between old hacks and today's traders to take advantage of the hike in prices since January eat away at the reform programme. The new exchanges for coal, grain, oil and other commodities are almost farcical. They affect only a portion of the market, whereas they were meant to provide the places where producers and middlemen meet and allow some competition to ensure some fairness in pricing. Prices are decided by local mafias based on a nexus between *apparatchiki* and traders.

All this is indicative of the hold of the Soviet mandarins. It may well point the way to the formation of a new propertied class, once privatisation of state property is under way. Given the many-tiered privatisation planned by the government, and uncertainty concerning laws and regulations, those in positions of influence will have a serious advantage in the process.

And, as occurred in the case of a cafe on Novy Arbat, despite the desire of worker collectives to take on the running of enterprises,

they are ultimately being taken over by senior officials. The only means to prevent a degeneration of the democratic achievement, according to people such as Mr Afanasyev, is for Democratic Russia, the most broadly-based of the pro-democracy groups, to transform itself into a movement which will ensure the distribution of state property widely. In parliament, where half the assembly is opposed to reform, Democratic Russia must shun identification with government, including service in the president's administration or in the administration of major municipalities. Only then will members be able to maintain links with the public.

Fortunately for Mr Yeltsin, Mr Burbulis and others, supporters of radical democracy are limited in number. As leaders of Democratic Russia have pointed out, such support comes down to members of the Voters' Club of the Academy of Sciences and a few others.

Democratic Russia is closer to Mr Afanasyev's requirements than perhaps he admits. It undertakes social work and the forum has "reform committees", where members give consultations on issues of privatisation. Democrats sponsor numerous publications littering Moscow concerning private enterprise, the new laws, credit availability, exchanges and so on.

Circumstances have ensured that democratic deputies are rarely associated with administration directly. In January Mr Gavril Popov, mayor of Moscow, agreed to consult Democratic Russia on the appointment of prefects and sub-prefects. But ultimately this came to nothing and he named close associates to the jobs. When Democratic Russia worked closely with administrators, as in Chelyabinsk, it

had no positions or posts. Division among democratic ranks initially caused few ripples. The opposition such as Russian Unity, is far from united. Hardly 65 percent of the democrats vote as a solid bloc on any occasion. The movement's members demand a closer look at the work of Mr Gaidar's reforms. There is also a call for "left" forces to meet and act in view of rampant inflation.

Such developments overlap with resentment over US policy toward Russia — Washington's arm-twisting over the Indian rocket deal and IMF questions concerning the pace of Russia's economic reforms. Both issues have raised questions about the standing Mr Yeltsin has in public and in parliament, and the future of economic reforms. There is no immediate threat to his authority since parliamentary politics is treated with public apathy. The trade unions are divided, inept and discredited. But with an eye to Russian nationalism and expected opposition to the course of reform, Mr Yeltsin decided two weeks ago to introduce some critics of Mr Gaidar into his government.

The cabinet reshuffle allowed him to show that, on the eve of his summit with Mr George Bush, he cannot be typecast as an American client. It also shows he is preparing for the eventuality of the US letting him down in the course of his reforms.

By accepting the resignation of Mr Popov as mayor of Moscow, Mr Yeltsin has also unleashed a major organiser into the machine politics of the democrats. A gambler to the core, he hopes this will yield due rewards in Washington next week and in Russia in the course of an autumn referendum on his policies and his powers.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

D.G.E. & T.

ADMISSION NOTICE

Office of the Director, Advanced Training Institute, Madras offers the following short-term training programmes for skill upgradation of industrial workers/technicians under A.V.T.S. Project from July '92 to September '92.

1. TOOL DESIGN
(a) Design of Jigs & Fixtures: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mechanical Engg. OR NAC/NTC in D'Man Mech. trade or Tool & Die Maker trade & (b) 2 years experience in Design Office/Tool Room/Production Shop. Duration: 12 weeks. Maximum Intake: (10) Period: 10 Aug 92—30 Oct 92.

(b) Design of Gauges & Inspection Fixtures: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mechanical Engg. OR NAC/NTC in D'Man Mech. trade or Tool & Die Maker trade & (b) 2 years experience in Design Office/Tool Room/Production Shop. Duration: 5 weeks. Maximum Intake: (10) Period: 06 Jul 92—07 Aug 92.

2. PRECISION TOOL ROOM
(a) Jig Boring: Qualification: (a) NAC in Machinist Trade & (b) 2 years experience in Machine shop. Duration: 6 weeks. Maximum Intake: (2) Period: 14 Sep 92—23 Oct 92.

(b) Die Sinking & Engraving: Qualification: (a) NAC in Machinist Trade & (b) 2 years experience in Machine shop. Duration: 8 weeks. Maximum Intake: (2) Period: 13 Jul 92—04 Sep 92.

(c) Optical Profile Grinding: Qualification: (a) NAC in Machinist/Grinder trade & (b) 2 years experience in Grinding shop. Duration: 6 weeks. Maximum Intake: (2) Period: 14 Sep 92—23 Oct 92.

(d) Jig Grinding: Qualification: (a) NAC in Machinist/Grinder trade & (b) 2 years experience in Grinding shop. Duration: 6 weeks. Maximum Intake: (2) Period: 14 Sep 92—23 Oct 92.

(e) Modern Tool Room Practice: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mechanical Engg. (b) 2 years experience as Section in-charge/Group Leader in a Tool Room. Duration: 8 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 13 Jul 92—04 Sep 92.

3. PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY
A. Concept Oriented Multi Skill Training Programme
(a) M.M.T. Milling & Turning: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mechanical Engg. OR NAC/NTC in Machinist Trade. Duration: 5 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 20 Jul 92—21 Aug 92.

(b) M.M.T.—Capstan Lathe & Automats: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Turner Trade & (b) 2 years experience in Tool Room. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (4) Period: 01 Sep 92—25 Sep 92.

B. Skill Oriented-Operator Training Programme
(a) Surface Grinding: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Machinist/Grinder & (b) 2 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (4) Period: 27 Jul 92—21 Aug 92.

(b) Universal Grinding: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Machinist/Grinder & (b) 2 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (4) Period: 27 Jul 92—21 Aug 92.

(c) Tool & Cutter Grinding: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Machinist/Grinder & (b) 2 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (4) Period: 27 Jul 92—21 Aug 92.

(d) EDM Spark Erosion—Open Die Making: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Machinist/Grinder & (b) 2 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (4) Period: 01 Sep 92—18 Sep 92.

C. Tool & Die Making
(a) Die Making—Manufacture of Press Tools: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Turner Trade & (b) 2 years experience in Tool Room. Duration: 10 weeks. Maximum Intake: (6) Period: 21 Sep 92—27 Nov 92.

4. ENGINEERING METROLOGY AND INSPECTION
(a) Zeiss 3 Co-ordinate Measuring Machine with Computer Control: Qualification: (a) S.S.L.C. and NTC/NAC in Metal Cutting Trades OR Diploma in Mech./Elec. Engg. and (b) 2 years relevant experience. Duration: 2 weeks. Maximum Intake: (4) Period: 27 Jul 92—07 Aug 92.

(b) Metrology & Engineering Inspection: Qualification: (a) S.S.L.C. and NTC/NAC in Metal Cutting Trades OR Diploma in Mech./Elec. Engg. and (b) 2 years relevant experience. Duration: 8 weeks. Maximum Intake: (10) Period: 17 Aug 92—09 Oct 92.

5. MACHINE TOOL MAINTENANCE
(a) Bearing & Lubrication: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Millwright/Fitter/Turning/ Machinist trades OR Diploma in Mechanical Engg. (b) 2 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (10) Period: 20 Jul 92—07 Aug 92, 07 Sep 92—25 Sep 92.

(b) Material Handling: Qualification: (a) NAC/NTC in Millwright/Fitter/Turning/ Machinist trades OR Diploma in Mechanical Engg. (b) 2 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 2 weeks. Maximum Intake: (10) Period: 17 Aug 92—28 Aug 92.

6. INDUSTRIAL HYDRAULIC & PNEUMATIC CONTROL
(a) Hydraulic & Pneumatic Controls (Maintenance): Qualification: (a) NAC in Millwright/Fitter & (b) 3 years experience in relevant field. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 10 Aug 92—04 Sep 92, 21 Sep 92—16 Oct 92.

(b) Application of Hydraulics & Pneumatics in Industrial Automation: Qualification: (a) Degree or Diploma in Mech. Engg. with 2 years experience. Persons with sufficient experience in a supervisory capacity in relevant field. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 13 Jul 92—31 Jul 92.

7. ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE
(a) Digital Electronics: Qualification: (a) NTC/NAC in Electronic/Radio Mech./NAC/ Electrician Trade or Diploma in Electrical/Radio/Electronic Engg. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 21 Sep 92—09 Oct 92.

(b) Linear ICs and their Applications: Qualification: (a) NTC/NAC in Electronic/Radio Mech./NAC/ Electrician Trade or Diploma in Electrical/Radio/Electronic Engg. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 10 Aug 92—28 Aug 92.

8. HEAT TREATMENT & MATERIAL TESTING

(a) Heat Treatment Course for Supervisors: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mech./Elect. or ITI Certificate & (b) Experience in Metal Working trade. Duration: 6 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 03 Aug 92—11 Sep 92.

(b) Non-destructive Testing of Metals: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mech./Elect. or ITI Certificate & (b) Experience in Metal Working trade. Duration: 2 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 06 Jul 92—17 Jul 92.

9. ADVANCED WELDING
(a) TIG Welding: Qualification: (a) NTC/NAC in Welding trade & (b) Two years experience in Welding shop. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 10 Aug 92—04 Sep 92.

(b) CO₂ Welding: Qualification: (a) NTC/NAC in Welding trade & (b) Two years experience in Welding shop. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 14 Sep 92—01 Oct 92.

(c) Welding Course for Supervisors: Qualification: (a) Degree/Diploma in Mechanical Engg. with 3 years experience as Supervisor. Duration: 3 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 13 Jul 92—31 Jul 92.

10. PROCESS CONTROL INSTRUMENTATION
(a) Process Control Instrumentation (Basic): Qualification: (a) Degree/Diploma with relevant industrial experience OR NTC/NAC in the trade of instrument mech. with 3 years experience OR Higher Secondary with 5 years experience. Duration: 2 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 20 Jul 92—31 Jul 92.

(b) Process Plant Operators' Course (Petrochemical/Refineries/Fertilizers/Utilities): Qualification: (a) Degree/Diploma with relevant industrial experience OR NTC/NAC in the trade of instrument mech. with 3 years experience OR Higher Secondary with 5 years experience. Duration: 1 week. Maximum Intake: (6) Period: 10 Aug 92—14 Aug 92, 17 Aug 92—21 Aug 92.

11. CNC CENTRE
(a) CNC Milling Programmer: Qualification: (a) Degree or Diploma in Mech. Engg. and (b) Two years shop experience in Milling/Lathe. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 24 Aug 92—18 Sep 92.

(b) CNC Lathe Programmer: Qualification: (a) Degree or Diploma in Mech. Engg. and (b) Two years shop experience in Milling/Lathe. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 20 Jul 92—14 Aug 92.

(c) CNC Lathe Operator: Qualification: (a) Diploma in Mech. Engg. with 2 years shop experience in Lathe/Milling OR SSLC with 50% marks (min.) in Maths NTC in the trade of Machinist/Turner with 5 years shop floor experience. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (8) Period: 28 Sep 92—23 Oct 92.

(d) CAD/CAM: Qualification: (a) Shop floor Managers/Engineers. (b) Degree/Diploma in Mech. Engg. with 10 years experience in shop floor. Duration: 4 weeks. Maximum Intake: (6) Period: 24 Aug 92—18 Sep 92.

12. HEAT ENGINES:
(a) Repair & Maintenance of Petrol Engines: Qualification: (a) NTC/NAC in Mech. Motor Vehicle trade & (b) 3 years field experience. Duration: 6 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 07 Sep 92—16 Oct 92.

(b) Appreciation Course in Heat Engines: Qualification: (a) NTC/NAC in the trade of Mech. Motor Vehicle, Mech. Diesel/Farm Equipment OR Diploma in Automobiles and (b) 3 years field experience. Duration: 6 weeks. Maximum Intake: (12) Period: 13 Jul 92—21 Aug 92.

Note: The above mentioned qualifications are relaxable if a candidate has acquired sufficiently long industrial experience or has the necessary background to undergo the training.

Tuition Fee: The rates of fee as applicable for all the courses are as under: (a) Nominees of Government Departments: Rs. 250/- per trainee per week. (b) Nominees of small scale industries and private candidates: Rs. 100/- per trainee per week. (c) Nominees of large & medium scale industries (public & private): Rs. 500/- per trainee per week.

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Registration: The registration for admission to the above-mentioned courses is open on first come first served basis. Request for admission may please be sent to THE DIRECTOR, ADVANCED TRAINING INSTITUTE, GUNDIRY, MADRAS-32. THREE WEEKS prior to the commencement of course, furnishing the following particulars/information.

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE COURSE _____
From _____ To _____
(Name of the Course) (Period)

(i) Name in full (Block Letters):
(ii) Father's Name:
(iii) Address in Full (Block Letters):
(iv) Whether a member of SC/ST:
(v) Date of Birth:
(vi) Academic and Technical Qualification:

Examination passed	Year	Percentage of Marks	Subjects

(vii) Practical Experience:
Firm/Employer Period Designation Nature of Job

Place: _____ Signature of the Applicant _____
Date: _____

Note:
(i) For further details please write to Director, Advanced Training Institute, Guindy, Madras-600 032.
(ii) Director of the Institute/DGET reserves the right to cancel or alter any course/all courses without assigning any reason/note.
(iii) Please note that the payment should be made through Bank Drafts drawn in the name of Administrative Officer, Advanced Training Institute, Guindy, Madras-32 payable at Union Bank of India, Extension Counter, CTI Campus, Madras-600 032 or Madras Branch of any Nationalised Bank.

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For details, contact:

Petroleum Conservation Research Association,
P-835, Block-P, Ground Floor, New Alipore, Calcutta-700053.
Ph: 459070.



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All entries should reach us by 14.8.92 before 3.30 p.m.