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RUSSIAN NEWS:

Soviet Air Force Day opens in Moscow with a salute from massed ack-ack guns. No display is complete without a few banners - though Sister Anna might be surprised at this novel method of carrying them.

Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people are here to watch, from President Voroshilov and Premier Bulganin downwards. Malenkov, Molotov and Krushchev are here too.

This is the four-engined turbo-prop "Bear" bomber, escorted by two MIG - 17 fighters.

The "Badger" bomber is a military version of the TU-104 jet, recently seen in London. And these are YAK-17 fighters.

Several novel aircraft are on show, like this semi-Delta-wing Jet - either new to Western eyes or developments of types which have been seen before.

Foreign visitors are impressed by the timing of the various manoeuvres, and the pilots' skilful handling- especially during the aerobatics.

Helicopters are prominent in the show - both single-rotor and double-rotor types. A massed-landing display suggests that Russia is developing the use of the helicopter for tasks formerly carried out by parachute or glider units.

These single-rotor helicopters look smaller, but they are evidently capable of carrying very substantial loads: for example, mobile light artillery complete with their detachments.

More foreign visitors than ever before are invited to this year's display - a token, perhaps, of the calmer atmosphere in the world today.

And from East Berlin comes a further sign of easier times - the withdrawal of 33,500 Soviet occupation troops from Germany. A ceremonial parade in the capital marks the beginning of the withdrawal, which was forecast in recent speeches by Soviet leaders. Watching the march past are foreign officers, including representatives of the Western powers.

Armoured units are among the troops being withdrawn, and there are cheerful farewell scenes at the railway siding as the heavy tanks, and their crews leave in the same trains on their long Eastward journey.

No one can say who is happier - the Germans to see the grip of occupation loosening: or the Russians to be going home.