

much an open matter of question. I imagine it is a question they ask themselves. Certainly outsiders who know their system less well are bound to ask: "With problems as deep rooted and intractable as the Soviet leaders themselves admit these problems to be, how can anyone reasonably expect that they will be cured or attacked, or altered, to any important degree, in a short time?" I guess that must surely be a major problem for the Soviet leadership: that in the end, the people who want change in the Soviet Union, will become impatient to see it, and those who do not want change will have a chance to rally their forces to resist.

[HILL] I guess that was the thought that came to mind when we were speaking about generational and other changes. The process is bound to be a long one if it is to go anywhere.

[TAYLOR] Yes, I would not say it is without hope, and I would be perfectly prepared to say it is too early to judge. But nonetheless people from the West where societies evolve much more rapidly, are in a way impatient for change. I think this is a particularly North American cast of mind: that life consists of problems and problem-solving, and that to problems there are solutions. You do not take the attitude that the problems have always been there and you live with them, or that certain problems are insoluble. You are much more inclined to say, "Well, what's the answer? And why haven't you got it yet?"

I do not think that that is so much the Soviets mentality, although it is perhaps silly to generalize. Obviously, the Soviet people have had to learn to live with burdens that we can hardly understand and would never accept. On the other hand, we have by comparison a free and flexible society. We are accustomed to adapting it rather quickly; and even though by our own standards we may appear to deal with social and economic problems rather slowly and unsuccessfully, nonetheless by comparison with other societies, our society changes very, very rapidly. Change and flexibility are built into our attitudes. When we look at something like the Soviet Union, I think we are all too inclined to say: "Well, what's Gorbachev done today? Why hasn't he produced thorough going reform yet? How long do we have to wait?"

Well, I think that probably we will have to be patient a long time about some of the things we would like to see happen.

[HILL] Thanks very much indeed. I am very grateful to you for taking the time to do this interview.