THE problems of higher and specialist versity downwards) with industry—a at all. It had not risen above the During the half century of Soviet rule, a number of solutions have been pro-cooperation between institutes, whereas under Khrushchev, the policy was one of what may broadly be called 'sandwich courses for all'-a coordination of education and work which led to considerable interruption of production and the exasperation of supervisors and managers. During the past few years, the Khrushchev policy has been quietly modified, adapted and legislated out of existence, and a return to more conventional policies introduced.

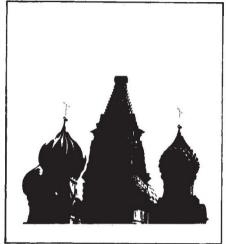
The new approach includes a certain amount of streaming, or rather creaming, of the highly gifted into specialist schools at a fairly early age. (One interesting facet of Soviet educational psychology is that, although it denies the existence of educational subnormality-except in the case of actual brain damage-it does admit the existence of above-average mentalities-although hedging its bets to the extent of claiming that the intelligence of a "lively" average child can be improved "in accordance with the needs of the by educating him or her together with national economy as they arise"), yet the highly gifted). Whatever the theo- underlying the whole statement one retical justification for creaming, cur- senses a realisation that such a policy rent Soviet policy seems to have as its can only be fruitful if it is implemented pragmatic aim the production of the in accordance with the special circumvast work force of the intelligentsia stances of each institute. needed for the expansion of the Soviet • The failure of the latest Soyuz to economy.

ister of Higher and Specialist Secondary Education, V. Elyutin, outlines the plans for the 1980s and 1990s, and stresses the need for a new strategy in parties to the project. Commander the next 10 years. Present plans include commander of the US team, said at a cialists more flexible, and ensuring the to Moscow for a joint training mission, life, science and industrial activity". confidence in the joint mission and are One defect of the Khrushchev system satisfied with the safety aspects of the was that, for logistical reasons, young flight. The Russians, for their part, people were assigned to factory train- were eager to explain that this Soyuz or future professions. Another fault for the joint mission, but an earlier was the difficulty secondary school version that had been "less diligently" studies to the specialist technique of the link-up. International goodwill and industry, in which they were supposed cooperation continues unaffected. to participate. Minister Elyutin's stress

education have always been particularly policy which is to be "extended fur-horizon of foreign tracking stations and difficult for Soviet educationalists, who ther" in the immediate future—in- need therefore never have been menmust seek the best means of using dicates that the emphasis will now be tioned. Presumably it was the forthpotential talents for the good of the on such industrial training at a later coming joint mission which prompted state, while not departing from the age, when it can be more meaningful the Soviet planners to make the theoretical tenets of equal opportunity, to the student and less disruptive to the announcement—but was their motivafactory. He notes, however, that such tion one of cooperation, or fear of furposed. At one stage the exceptionally groups of institutes, and industrial en- aborted flight with the safe recovery of gifted were expected to develop their terprises may take "the most diverse" talents in extracurricular time (traces forms. The new plans are still produc- assurance: even if the rocket fails, the of this remain in the mathematical tion-orientated ("changes in specialities men are safe. The old rumours of

Russia today

from Vera Rich, London



A recent Pravda article by the Min-Salyut space station will not, repeat not, have any effect on the joint Soyuz-Apollo mission planned for July 1975. So we are told quite firmly by both

tional institutions (from Moscow Uni-planners chose to announce the failure Jerusalem or Tel-Aviv.

or ther setbacks? In the latter case, an the cosmonauts might serve as a re-"olympiads" for schoolchildren), and specialisations" will be introduced Vladimir Ilyushin, Gagarin's alleged predecessor on the launch pad, have never been entirely squashed in either East or West, and the Soyuz failure does offer a certain "substantiation" in that a crew-carrying rocket can be launched and fail without being tracked by foreign stations. The latest Soyuz venture is, at all events, a success for Russian safety procedures, and this fact may well have motivated the decision to release the news.

 Intimations that increasing pressure was to be exerted on participants in the illicit Sunday seminar for "refusnik" scientists have, unhappily, been justified by recent events. A letter to western "Academies of Science, Scientific Societies and Individual Scientists", signed by 45 participants of the seminar, states that increasing pressure is being exerted on individual participants "in order to interfere with the seminar's work." Methods mentioned include the issue of call-up papers for retraining in the Soviet Army (which could later be interpreted as access to classified information, a prima facie reason for refusing a visa), prosecution for "parasitism" (being without employment, although the scientists concerned have been deprived of their jobs as a result of applications for exit visas) complete its link-up with the orbiting and, in the case of Mark Azbel, the physicist, a kind of de facto exile. Professor Azbel, formerly Head of the Department of Electron Theory at the Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, had scientific and technological training for Richard Truly, the back-up capsule been visiting relatives in Chernovtsy, and was about to return home to Mosmeans of "making the training of spe- press conference in London, on his way cow when he was stopped at the railway station and told not to go there organic connection of education and that the Americans still have every for several months "or he would find himself further east" (in Siberia). Azbel is now stranded in Odessa without friends or money. It seems that, since the seminar continues to meet, ing that was unrelated to their talents was not the model which will be used in various venues, the authorities are now trying to erode it by pressure on the individual participants. They still children had relating their school checked than the system planned for seem unwilling to take the simple step, suggested by the seminar's founder, Aleksandr Voronel, of granting the Yet in spite of the mutual re- whole group exit visas and thus letting on the cooperation of higher educa- assurances, one wonders why the Soviet them transfer their vexing activities to