

Moscow Refuses To 'Play Ball' With Brzezinski

An extraordinary two-page editorial in the Soviet Communist Party paper *Pravda* yesterday announced the Soviet Government's wholesale rejection of U.S. efforts to pretend that the Carter Administration's strategic arms (SALT) proposals are still on the negotiating table. "Some quarters are pretending in vain that the Soviet side has not given a final answer and that it allegedly needs time to study the new American proposals because of their 'drastic character,'" said *Pravda*. On the contrary, the editorial declared, the Carter package "not only lacks any constructive element but in general cannot be the subject of serious discussion. Nor is it intended for such discussion." (*A full analysis of the Pravda statement will appear in next week's EIR.*)

The *Washington Post* today, calling this a "full-blown public assault" on the Carter administration's nuclear arms control offers, reported that it has already "jarred official U.S. attempts to transfer the Moscow-Washington debates to 'discreet' private negotiations." Incredibly, however, administration officials and advisers quoted by the *Washington Post* attempted to minimize the impact of the *Pravda* statement. It's only a "newspaper editorial," said one. "*Pravda* is discussing our proposals in a way, despite the Soviet contention that they do not warrant discussion," said another.

However Soviet diplomats have shown to all but the mentally unhinged that the editorial *is* Soviet policy, and it is final. In a meeting yesterday with national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, Soviet ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin unceremoniously refused to enter into what Brzezinski euphemistically referred to as "the bargaining process." "That they don't find our proposals congenial has already been made clear," Brzezinski told reporters, "and they have not departed from that position."

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko rejected the Carter Administration's proposals, advanced by Secretary of State Vance in Moscow last month, as "a dubious, not to say cheap" trick to place the Soviet Union at a strategic disadvantage to the U.S. The proposals would have the USSR cutting its strategic weapons arsenal by half while U.S. stockpiles remained virtually untouched, and halting its vital military research and development programs, which some observers say are "20 years ahead of the U.S."

Despite the Soviets' unequivocal response, Brzezinski — targeting the previously compromise-prone Brezhnev faction in the Soviet leadership — still hopes to provoke at least "comment" on the U.S. proposals, thereby resuming bargaining on the terms set by the Carter Administration. Chief U.S. arms negotiator Paul Warnke

flatly announced last week that he did not believe Gromyko really meant what he said! However, Warnke blustered on national television April 10, the U.S. is operating on a "short timetable," and if no breakthrough on SALT is reached by the time Vance and Gromyko confer again in May, the U.S. will have to go ahead with new weapons programs.

The Soviet news agency TASS promptly denounced Warnke for "threats" and "attempted blackmail." The U.S., it said, will have to "assume all responsibility for the consequences of such actions."

The Real Debate

The Warnke-Brzezinski bluff is an even more stupid miscalculation than their original expectation that the Soviets would agree to bargain with Vance in March. The

USLP Pins Arbatov At MIT

When Georgii Arbatov, head of the Soviet USA and Canada Institute, told a Massachusetts Institute of Technology audience April 11 that science and technology increase the danger of nuclear war, the Trilateral Commission backers sponsoring his lecture rushed to defend him from questions by U.S. Labor Party members. Moderator Karl Kaysen — a participant in the recently issued Ford Foundation nuclear energy study advocating deindustrialization and cuts in energy use — banned what he called "political polemics" in the question period and prevented Labor Party speakers from taking the floor.

Labor Party spokesman Graham Lowry, however, collared Arbatov after the speech. "As you know," Lowry said, "the greatest danger today is the threat of thermonuclear war. And this danger is seriously increased by misperceptions among the Soviet leadership of the true state of affairs in the United States. You are a key part of an intelligence operation aimed *against* the Soviet leadership. At one time we thought you were just an incompetent. Now we know you are an incompetent Rockefeller agent." Lowry detailed Arbatov's extensive consultations with David Rockefeller and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

The MIT lecture series, entitled "World Change and World Security," has featured other leading Atlanticists like McGeorge Bundy and Robert MacNamara.