

Rehabilitation of Stalin's 'Hammer' augurs Russian imperial expansionism

by Konstantin George and Luba George

On July 3, Stalin's foreign minister and right-hand hatchetman from 1939 to 1949, Vyacheslav Molotov, "The Hammer" (the Russian word "Molotov" means "hammer"), re-emerged from obscurity at the age of 94, with full honor and pomp, exactly 27 years after his July 3, 1957 expulsion from the Communist Party leadership as the leader of the "Anti-Party Group," which included other members of Stalin's inner circle, Georgi Malenkov and Lazar Kaganovich.

Following his fall from power, Molotov remained in the public view for five years, first as Soviet ambassador to Outer Mongolia—not exactly center-stage—and then as Soviet representative to the International Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna. Since 1962, almost nothing was heard or seen of "The Hammer." And 1962 was the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

July 3, 1984, inside the Kremlin. The Italian communist paper *L'Unità* reports that Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko has received Molotov. "Out of the blue," or so it seems to those who don't follow the Kremlin goings-on closely, Molotov is rehabilitated and reinstated in the party. The strategic context of the Molotov-Chernenko meeting is the climactic phase of the largest Soviet military maneuvers conducted since the end of the Second World War, a just-completed massive increase in Soviet air strength in Eastern Europe, a very recent increase in Soviet troop strength in Afghanistan from 135,000 to 200,000 troops, and a build-up of military strength near the border with Iran both in occupied Afghanistan and in the Soviet Union.

The rehabilitation of Molotov symbolizes in a truly Russian manner that the Russian Empire is preparing the next wave of expansionism, both outright territorial acquisitions, and the "negotiation" at gunpoint of new Yalta and Potsdam-like "sphere of influence" and satrapial arrangements with the nations of Western Europe, the Persian Gulf, and other regions of Asia.

Molotov's name is synonymous with the "agreements" which "legalized" the Russian Empire's past conquests: He negotiated the 1939 Hitler-Stalin Pact (indeed it was Stalin's replacement of Foreign Minister Litvinov with Molotov in the spring of 1939 that paved the way for the Nazi-Communist Axis) and the 1945 Yalta and Potsdam accords.

On July 10, seven days after Molotov again set foot in

the Kremlin, the Soviet Foreign Ministry delivered a menacing demarche to the West German government, charging alleged "violations of the 1945 Potsdam Agreements," and threatening a Russian invasion and occupation of West Germany. The demarche was drafted in a brutal "bully boy" style which must have made old wicked, evil Molotov smile approvingly, remembering the "old days" of the 1930s and the 1940s when he, and his Hitler-Stalin Pact ally, Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, were the "masters" in drafting and sending such Notes to the intended victim nations.

If 1962, the year of Molotov's disappearance, was also the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis, then 1984, the year of Molotov's rehabilitation, may see a Cuban Missile Crisis in reverse. On July 11, *Izvestia* chief political commentator Alexander Bovin, a Politburo mouthpiece, publicly stated in East Berlin that such a "Cuban missile crisis in reverse" was possible for 1984. Bovin was quoted in the Italian Communist Party newspaper *L'Unità*, the first journal to break the news of the Molotov rehabilitation.

Praise for Stalin

The re-emergence of Molotov was preceded by unprecedented steps to rehabilitate Stalin himself. The June 20 issue of the weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* carried an article by one Fyodor Burlatskii hailing Stalin's "great successes" and "wise leadership" during the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences in 1945, which delivered half of Europe into the hands of the Russian Empire. KGB official Burlatskii is notorious for his role in directing the U.S. nuclear freeze movement against President Reagan's anti-missile defense program, through a spring 1983 meeting in Minneapolis with Walter Mondale and other leaders of the Democratic Party. It was Burlatskii who, in an August 1983 article in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, said that the U.S. deployment of a laser-weapon anti-missile defense system would be a "casus belli" for the Soviet Union. Burlatskii was also the author of an October 1983 attack against *EIR* founder and U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., as the intellectual author of the beam-weapons defense policy.

It was *Literaturnaya Gazeta's* chief editor, Alexander Chakovsky, who in 1968 took the first step in the rehabilitation of Molotov, through his novel *Blokada*, which favorably

mentioned the ousted foreign minister. One week before the Burlatskii article, an article appeared in *Sovietskii Patriot* portraying Stalin as "kindly, wise, and perceptive" during a wartime meeting with partisan leaders in the autumn of 1942. Then on June 23, the army paper *Red Star* published a historical photo from the June 1945 victory parade with Stalin's face in the background!

Sovietskii Patriot's description of the meeting between Stalin and the partisan leaders was no mere "historical" article. Stalin is assured by his interlocutors that the "entire population in the western regions" (the Baltic, Polish, and Romanian territories awarded to Russia by the Hitler-Stalin Pact) supports the partisans and Stalin. Stalin answers "gently": "That is not quite correct comrade. There are some people who do not support us, who do not love Soviet power." The article is a defense and justification of Russian imperial territorial expansion.

Under the stewardship of Stalin and his executioner Molotov, the Soviet Union acquired, during the period of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, 40% of pre-war Poland, the Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the Romanian provinces of Bessarabia and Bukovina, Finnish Karelia and the Finnish Arctic Coast. In 1945 these gains were kept, and northern East Prussia was added from Germany, the Carpatho-Ukraine region from Czechoslovakia, and Southern Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands from Japan.

The Stalin-Molotov territorial demands on the Turkish Dardanelles and Bosphorus, Iranian Azerbaijan (occupied by Soviet troops from 1945 until October 1947), and the north-eastern Turkish provinces of Kars and Ardahan (part of the Russian Empire by conquest, from 1878 to 1917), were not fulfilled and remain "on the shelf." One should not forget the November 1940 Molotov-Ribbentrop supplement to the Hitler-Stalin Pact, which duly recognized Russia's "legitimate territorial aspirations in the direction of the Persian Gulf."

Molotov was even more insistent on territorial acquisition than Stalin. He had a well-documented (cf. Alexander Werth, *Russia: The War Years*) pathological hatred of Poland, wanting it removed forever from the face of the earth, always referring to Poland as "that miscarriage of the Versailles Treaty." For Molotov, even a puppet-Poland was not good enough. Similarly, as Nikita Khrushchev noted in his memoirs, Molotov in 1955 bitterly opposed the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Vienna and the occupation zone of Austria.

It is a bitter irony that the government of Poland has now (July 16) sent its "own" demarche, echoing that of the Soviets, to the West German government, protesting alleged West German violations of Yalta and Potsdam. The charges are figments of wicked imaginations spinning out pretexts for military aggression; they are doubly hypocritical given the Molotov re-emergence. There are no ceremonies in Bonn honoring von Ribbentrop, but things are very ugly in Moscow, where Molotov, The Hammer, is alive and feted in the Kremlin.

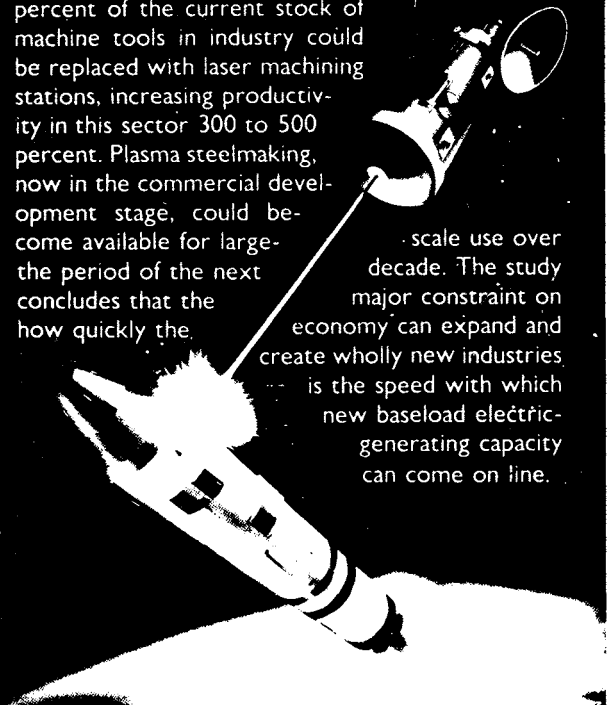
The Economic Impact of the Relativistic Beam Technology

A unique study of the impact of the new defense-related technologies—high power lasers, particle beams, and fusion—which will become available to basic industrial production as the March 23 defensive strategic doctrine proposed by President Reagan is developed. The report is a computer analysis incorporating the LaRouche-Riemann model, which examines the little-discussed revolutionary civilian economic "spinoff" effects of the new beam weapon development program.

The study reveals that with rapid introduction of new laser and related technologies into the civilian economy, the growth of the economy would be so rapid that:

- an estimated 4 million highly skilled industrial jobs could be added to the economy per year;
- the U.S. trade deficit could be eliminated in two years; and
- the rate of growth of real GNP could approach 25 percent per annum.

Over a period of two years, 50 percent of the current stock of machine tools in industry could be replaced with laser machining stations, increasing productivity in this sector 300 to 500 percent. Plasma steelmaking, now in the commercial development stage, could become available for large-scale use over the period of the next decade. The study concludes that the major constraint on how quickly the economy can expand and create wholly new industries is the speed with which new baseload electric-generating capacity can come on line.



This EIR Special Report is available for \$250.00. Contact: William Engdahl, EIR Special Services, (212) 247-8820.