

The Ogarkov Plan: major Soviet advances toward world domination

by Rachel Douglas

The conduct of Soviet policy in 1984 belonged to the man who temporarily disappeared on Sept. 6, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, after whom the "Ogarkov Doctrine" for total war against the United States and Europe is named. The military maneuvers, command changes, economic mobilization, and diplomacy of the U.S.S.R. throughout the year were designed to bring about a huge expansion of Soviet power and influence around the world and to put the forces and assets in place for winning a general war if the West does not yield to Soviet demands for a redivision of the globe, a "New Yalta," that concedes Western Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia to them.

When Yuri Andropov's February, former police thug and party hack Konstantin Chernenko stepped into his shoes as Communist Party general secretary and then chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Sovet and chairman of the Defense Council. This was an exchange of figureheads. As mouthpiece for the military junta running the U.S.S.R., Chernenko was wheeled out to make certain pronouncements: in March, to outline a Kissingerian "code of conduct" for relations among nuclear powers, and in August, to exhort a meeting of party youth activists in the armed forces to nurture "love for the Motherland and hatred for its enemies."

Under military direction, meanwhile, the war buildup proceeded. At top-level political and military meetings throughout the summer and autumn, the Soviets finalized the "Ogarkov Doctrine," establishing the operational plans and readying the troops' war-fighting ability.

The reorganization of the armed forces command structure and the changes introduced to the Soviet economy in 1984 bore the stamp of Ogarkov, who in published writings in recent years had stressed the need to put into place—*before war begins*—the command structures that would be required to fight and win the war. When, in September, Marshal Ogarkov was transferred from his post as chief of staff, he was not demoted, but elevated to oversee the main sector of the wartime command and control apparatus.

The division of the Soviet Armed Forces into Theaters of Military Operations—or Theaters of War—is close to complete. The essential theater is the Western, comprising all troops and units of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Air Defense, and Strategic Rocket Forces directed against the United States and NATO. These, since September, have been under Ogar-

kov's command. Closely related was the upgrading of the Soviet space program and beam-weapons development during 1984; on Dec. 20, the new chief of staff, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, pledged to keep pace with the West in "new types of weapons based on new physical principles"—what Ogarkov in a May 1984 interview said would be critical for the future.

The Far East Theater of War, for military operations in Siberia and the Pacific, also underwent a command change, with the transfer of Gen. Vladimir Govorov to the post of deputy defense minister. Reportedly under the direction of 1st Deputy Defense Minister Sergei Sokolov, the Far East command headquarters at Chita, Siberia, is under Gen. Ivan Tretyak. Lesser-scope Theaters of War handle "limited war" and "surgical strike" contingencies pertaining to various regions.

From February's Soviet press endorsement of Walter Mondale to a mid-December threat on the pages of *Izvestia* to put nuclear missiles on the Moon and in orbit, Soviet energies were poured into stopping the United States from exiting the age of Mutual Assured Destruction through beam-weapon strategic defense against Soviet missile attack. Moscow also pursued the closely related goal of splitting the NATO alliance, cajoling and threatening Western Europe every week of the year.

Those leading the movement against these Soviet strategic aims came under constant fire, as evident in unprecedentedly violent attacks by Soviet spokesmen against Lyndon LaRouche and against the Schiller Institute, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche. On March 12, *Izvestia* threatened the White House against any contacts with LaRouche. The next month, the KGB outlet *Literaturnaya Gazeta* blasted LaRouche as a "neo-fascist" for advocating beam defense for Europe. And in November, Communist Party official Vadim Zagladin attacked the Schiller Institute's campaign for the freedom of European nations from Soviet domination.

Western Europe, from the Mediterranean to the northern flank, was subject to a constant onslaught of "near-miss" Soviet maneuvers practicing military attacks. The Soviets whipped up friends like Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti into efforts for an "independent" Europe, decoupled from the United States.

While funding and embracing the new fascist movement in West Germany, the Green Party, Moscow launched its

ugliest propaganda campaign against alleged "neo-Nazism" and "revanchism" in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). To the accompaniment of sonic booms made by Soviet fighter jets swooping in over West Berlin and the guns of Soviet soldiers simulating the crossing of the Elbe, the Soviet government on July 10 delivered a diplomatic *demarche* to the West German government. Stating that the Soviets considered the FRG to be in violation of the 1945 Potsdam Agreement, asserted Soviet intentions to dictate and hold veto rights over West German policy and defied the United States to do anything about it.

The Soviets also maintained a less noisy, but very consistent, offensive to gain economic hegemony over Western Europe. An April meeting of top German bankers with their Soviet counterparts in Tashkent, Soviet Uzbekistan, mapped plans for the European Currency Unit to replace the dollar as an international reserve currency. In October, the U.S.S.R. raised its first ECU-denominated loan on the Euromarket.

At home, everything for war

At the Supreme Soviet session on Nov. 27, Soviet Finance Minister Garbuzov made the first public announcement of a Soviet defense budget increase in five years—up 12%. Soviet defense spending is really much higher than the public figures, as our list of just some new weapons systems in 1984 shows, but the announcement confirmed that Ogarkov's di-

rectives on integrating the economy into the war machine are in effect.

In November, the authoritative party journal *Kommunist* printed an article by two wartime directors of the Chelyabinsk Tank Factory, one of the most important military enterprises during World War II, who wrote, "The lessons of the war are . . . also relevant for our own time. Today . . . there is experimental testing of new forms and methods of socialist economy. . . . On the eve of the 40th anniversary of our victory, it is all the more appropriate to recall the positive aspects of the economic mechanism that operated during the years of the Great Patriotic War and which guaranteed the successful work of the economy." The authors boosted the "centralization of resources" in combination with "economic autonomy of the defense enterprises" as particularly worthy of imitation. One practice lauded was child labor; this, too, is back on the agenda for the U.S.S.R. since the Soviet school reform of early 1984.

Preparations for the spring 1985 celebration of victory in Europe also served as a pretext for the wholesale rehabilitation of Stalin as a wartime leader, and all his cohorts, too. The party readmitted 94-year-old Vsyachelav Molotov, Stalin's foreign minister, in July. Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter, was accepted back into the country in November, as were several young deserters from the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, who answered the "call of the Motherland."

Moscow's gains in military technology

April 2: U.S. officials say the Soviets have up to a 10-year lead in beam-weapons R&D, including the x-ray laser, according to *Aviation Week*.

April 20: Defense experts say the Soviets have installed new antiballistic-missile systems on the Kamchatka Peninsula.

July 25: Soviet spacewalkers test a 66-pound tool for metal-cutting, welding, coating, and soldering in space; Soviet press says it will be used for "assembling and erecting space stations and parts of stations."

July 25: *Jane's Defense Weekly* reports the first Soviet full-size aircraft carrier is under construction at the Nikolayev shipyards on Black Sea.

July 29: The U.S.S.R. is testing a sea-skimming transport plane that is a "quantum leap forward in amphibious warfare," writes the London *Sunday Times*.

Aug. 14: The Soviet military press reports surface-to-air missile tests near Kiev; the missile hit "small, fast-moving targets, hard to distinguish from reflected signals from high ground"—cruise missiles.

Aug. 25: The Soviet defense ministry announces a successful test of a land-based long-range cruise missile.

Aug. 27: Norwegian defense ministry photo of new, *Sierra*-class Soviet submarine released.

Oct. 22: Western intelligence reports surface in the press on Soviet deployment of the mobile, three-stage SS-25 ICBM in the Western military districts of the U.S.S.R., among existing SS-20 sites.

Oct. 22: The London *Daily Telegraph* reports, "The Soviet Union is producing a new helicopter, fitted with highly sophisticated anti-tank missiles," the Mi-28.

Sept. 1: Military daily *Red Star* says Strategic Rocket Corps chief Marshal Tolubko attended test of ICBM which hit a small peg driven into ground at very center of the target area, "unbelievably far away."

Sept. 17: Intelligence sources report an accelerated schedule of testing the new SS-25 ICBM and development of others: the SS-X-27, enlarged SS-18, and SS-X-26.

Dec. 10: *Aviation Week* reports on satellite pictures showing that Soviet submarines have practiced breaking through the polar ice of the Arctic Ocean to fire missiles; this would allow close approach to North America and escape from anti-submarine warfare detection.