

Editorial

A simple little test

Here's a little test for anyone in a position of influence who welcomed the Jan. 15 "new disarmament initiative" of Soviet strongman Mikhail Gorbachov as a step toward peace: Such a person should either be investigated as a Soviet agent, or should produce evidence proving that he or she is mentally incompetent, and therefore can be exempted from such suspicions.

The surprise of Gorbachov's move has tended to mask the fact that there is nothing new in the Soviet offer: The pundits of the U.S. capital had not expected any new moves from Moscow until after Gorbachov consolidated his power at the 23rd Party Congress, upcoming in February. Once again, the Soviets demand that any arms reduction be linked to a ban on the West's proceeding with the SDI program.

One of the influentials who should take the above-mentioned test, is former Central Intelligence Agency director William Colby. Colby spoke at a news conference convened Jan. 17 by anti-SDI groups, including the Bertrand Russell-founded "SANE," the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, the Committee for National Security, and Citizens Against Nuclear War—an aromatic array of assets of the Russian intelligence services, which as *EIR* has documented, steer the "nuclear freeze" movement. Colby applauded the Gorbachov offer, adding candidly that "the price is Star Wars [the SDI] . . . we're not giving up anything but the President's dream."

Another candidate for the test is the *New York Times*, whose Leslie Gelb, on Jan. 17, drooled over the Soviet arms offer as "an innovative package of tantalizing proposals for complete nuclear disarmament." Gelb opined that Moscow is trying to offer a face-saving way out of the SDI for Reagan, by drawing "a line in negotiations between research on the one hand and development on the other."

The real intention of the Gorbachov "surprise," obvious to anyone but an idiot (or a Soviet agent) is to drive a wedge between the United States and its Western European allies over the Strategic Defense Initiative. Take a look at the following developments in Europe, *coinciding* with the Jan. 15 arms offer:

- In Britain, a government crisis has broken out which threatens to bring down Prime Minister Maggie

Thatcher. The content of this crisis, set off over an apparently trivial issue, is the Liberal Establishment's desire to replace the Anglo-American oriented Thatcher with an "Anglo-European" creature more able to carry out strategic decoupling from the United States.

- Spain, the western pivot of NATO's southern flank, is facing a popular referendum perhaps as early as March, which is being shaped to stir up anti-American sentiment and either take Spain out of NATO, or, more likely, restructure NATO as a weaker, "Europeanized" entity with a much-reduced U.S. presence.

- The Russians have just massively reinforced their presence in the Mediterranean, according to a Jan. 16 report in the Italian paper *Il Giornale*, which reports that total Soviet naval strength in the Mediterranean now stands at between 25 and 33 naval vessels. In addition, according to military sources, the Soviet SA-5 300 km range SAM batteries, brought into Libya, will be operational "any day now."

- West Germany, the key NATO member, continues to be under fierce pressure to forego partnership in the SDI, even as a delegation from Bonn visits Washington to discuss cooperation. The day after the Gorbachov offer, the Soviets deployed a team of their Bonn embassy personnel to meet with defense and arms control experts of the Social Democratic opposition parliamentary group. After the meeting, Social Democratic Party chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel denounced the SDI as leading "to a new arms race in space and on earth"; Soviet Bonn embassy chief Tereshov then gave a press conference denouncing the SDI as a "major obstacle to progress at the Geneva talks," warning the Bonn government not to join the SDI project.

The Soviet propaganda ploy comes at precisely the moment when budget-cutting hysteria is escalating in the United States over the deadly, self-inflicted wound known as the Gramm-Rudman amendment. Hence, the Gorbachov "disarmament offer" plays right into the demands of the international banking fraternity that the SDI be abandoned for budgetary reasons. This can only heighten European fears about how Europe could defend itself in event of a Soviet attack. No wonder the Soviets are feeling smug, after Gorbachov's Jan. 15 "surprise."