

deception and camouflage. One must not be seen by the enemy, but must in turn be able to see the enemy. Even with the most modern reconnaissance methods, reconnoitering an area in depth is enormously difficult. The possibilities of effectively camouflaging units in both a natural outside environment and in villages and towns are extraordinary. The observer, admittedly lacking a sharpened experienced observation ability, was again and again astounded at how effective camouflage can be—how tanks, artillery, heavy equipment can be made to “disappear.”

Camouflage gives the defender advantages over the superior attacking forces, but at the same time, camouflage is—as a matter of survival—not to be overestimated in importance. In connection with concealment—in its broadest sense, meaning not only static units, but units on the move—night operations are taking on greater importance in modern warfare. For example, the majority of logistical operations, above all transport of troops and supplies, can only be carried out by night. Night warfare itself is also becoming more and more important. Night combat also offers for the well-trained and well-equipped defender considerable possibilities against a superior enemy.

Regarding the above-cited tank battle that the observers were able to follow, lighting conditions and concealment played key roles. One Panzer company, well camouflaged during the twilight hours, and well spread out, took up ambush positions, lying in wait for the “enemy.” The “enemy” armored attack, which had been spotted, had to occur in a sector about 4 km wide. “Enemy” reconnaissance tanks did not succeed in making out the “Blue” tanks lying in wait in their positions, and thus, a total of 7 “Red” tanks appeared during the last moments of twilight at a distance of about 2,500 meters (about 2,700 yards) away from the gun barrels of the “Blue” tanks. Then, one heard the crack of the practice ammunition of the “Blue” tanks, before the “Blue” forces rapidly changed their positions. The decision of the “battle” umpires was clear.

The big NATO autumn maneuvers in the Federal Republic of Germany, “Bold Guard” in the north and “Franconian Shield” on the Central Front, have demonstrated that an aggressor from the East will not have an easy time. NATO’s military capabilities can still make any aggression a hazardous enterprise. We are not saying this in a self-soothing manner, but taking into account the severe shortcomings in NATO’s defensive power. The real danger on both sides of the Atlantic to the security of the West lies in the inner political disarray of the West, expressed in plans to remove American troops and in European appeasement and crumbling will to resist Moscow. The problem does not lie in the population, but among the responsible political figures. The overwhelming majority of people in the maneuver areas were—in spite of many irritations and maneuver inflicted damages—friendly and positively disposed to the German, French, and American soldiers.

Soviets set sights on Korean peninsula

by David Barnes

Over the weekend of Sept. 6-8 in Pyongyang, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, more than 120 organizations representing 80 countries, attended the Pyongyang International Conference for Denuclearization and Peace on the Korean Peninsula, hosted by the government of North Korean dictator Kim Il-Sung. Participating along with the various European and Asian communist parties, were the South Korean National Democratic Front and the Japanese Socialist Party—the latter, one of the main groups opposed to the pro-Western defense policies of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Among those nations represented were Mozambique, Malta, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Vietnam, the People’s Republic of China, and the Soviet Union.

The purpose of the gathering, in the words of the official Soviet news agency TASS, was to voice “support for the concept of strengthening peace and security in Asia and the Pacific put forward by Comrade Gorbachov in his speech in Vladivostok.” As stated in the opening speech by North Korean Vice-President Yi Chong-Ok, “If a nuclear-free peace zone were established on the Korean Peninsula, this region would be cleared of the danger of nuclear war, and this would greatly help toward the conversion of Asia into a continent of good neighbors and cooperation, where a durable peace is guaranteed.”

Also in the North Korean capital that weekend was Bruno Kreisky, the Socialist International vice-president and one-time Austrian chancellor. Kreisky is an associate and avid promoter of Libyan madman Muammar Qaddafi, a key component of the Soviet-directed terror international, along with North Korea’s 100,000-man Spetsnaz force. Apparently Kreisky did not attend the conference itself, but was nonetheless received and lavishly banqueted by Kim Il-Sung.

The significance of the “peace” conference and Kreisky’s hobnobbing with the North Koreans must be seen in terms of the U.S.S.R.’s determination to replace the United States as a strategic presence in Asia and the Pacific Basin, utilizing the Korean peninsula as a vital military staging ground.

The Moscow-Pyongyang axis

Moscow has increasingly consolidated its control over the Kim regime, particularly since the North Korean-directed terror-bombing in Rangoon, Burma, in October 1983, which

was aimed at South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, and in which four of Chun's cabinet members were killed.

The Soviets have built their present relationship with North Korea largely through gradual delivery of desperately needed modern military equipment. In December 1984, their relationship made great headway with the visit of then-Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa to Pyongyang, during which agreements were reportedly reached regarding stationing of Soviet SS-20s, as well as advisers, in North Korea. Also discussed, though at the time not agreed upon, was the use of two North Korean ice-free ports for the Soviet Pacific fleet.

By the spring of 1985, Moscow began delivery of its top-of-the-line MiG-23 to the North. The current number of MiG-23s in North Korea is enough to complement 36 squadrons. In January 1986, according to the Japanese newspaper *Sankei Shimbun*, the Soviets began delivering air-defense missiles, along with the SS-1/SCUD and the AA-7.

Another major development in Moscow-Pyongyang affairs was the December 1985 announcement that the U.S.S.R. had signed an agreement with Pyongyang for construction of a nuclear power plant in North Korea, following talks between North Korean Prime Minister Kang Sung-San and Mikhail Gorbachov. The plant supposedly would give the North Koreans the ability to produce weapons-grade plutonium. The Soviets, however, forced the Kim government to sign the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty first—in Moscow on Dec. 12, since Moscow saw no reason for North Korea to have its own nuclear capability, when Moscow's object was to forward-base Soviet-manned nuclear weapons on North Korean soil in the first place.

During August of this year, in return for the military hardware already given, the Soviets were able to gain a further foothold on the peninsula by pressuring North Korea to provide access to both the west coast port of Nampo and the east coast port of Wonsan. Moscow made no bones about its intention to turn these ports into its own naval bases, like that at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. Moscow has also forced the Kim regime to acquiesce to its demands to conduct joint military exercises in North Korea, and to set up a combined intelligence command.

With the attainment of the Nampo and Wonsan port facilities, the Soviets are now in a position to substantially augment the projection of nuclear forces into the Asia-West Pacific region, placing the entire Korean Peninsula in a pincer-hold and immediately threatening Japan. In addition, with the combination of the newly acquired Korean ports and the base at Cam Ranh Bay, the Soviets will be able to effectively control the entire Chinese coastline.

Highlighting these recent developments have been reciprocal visits by the naval fleets of North Korea and the Soviet Union (probably the prelude to the joint naval maneuvers suggested by Soviet Pacific Fleet commander Adm. V.V. Sidorov in July), and the fact that the Soviets have been

granted permission to fly their warplanes through North Korean airspace.

These developments give the lie to North Korea's pronouncements of good will and peaceful intentions made at the Pyongyang conference. But more to the point was Yi Chong-Ok's remark, during his conference presentation, that the U.S. government should "stop the shipment of new nuclear weapons into South Korea, reduce stage-by-stage all the nuclear weapons already introduced and, furthermore, completely withdraw them and cancel all its operational plans involving the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula."

The Soviets' gameplan, in part, being played through their North Korean puppet and the anti-nuclear peace movement, is to use the impression of an international "anti-nuclear" consensus against the United States, providing the diplomatic cover for destabilizing and destroying American allies in the region; to deprive the United States of military basing facilities; and ultimately to drive the United States out of the Asia-West Pacific region altogether—the same gameplan currently being played through the likes of terrorist-supporter Kreisky and his Socialist confederates, against the United States and the Western alliance in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In Defense Policy and as a Military Phenomenon

Modern Irregular Warfare

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