

For the Soviet military, it was a 'red banner' year

by Konstantin George

For the Soviet Military High Command, 1987 was indeed a "Red Banner" year, culminating in the INF Treaty and its disastrous consequences for the West. During the period leading up to the treaty, Moscow launched a series of qualitative reorganizations in the military domain, to maximize the advantages it has obtained both from the treaty and from anticipated post-INF conventional forces cuts in Europe. This has brought the Russian Empire into the "end game" phase of its drive for control of Europe, and with that, domination of the Eurasian landmass.

The sweeping reorganizations have been overseen by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov—the U.S.S.R.'s wartime commander in chief, who turned 70 on Oct. 30. What Ogarkov—the man who brutally acknowledged the 1983 KAL 007 shootdown to the world press—accomplished in toto during 1987 is one of the most important hidden stories of the year.

Not least, he settled his own "succession" question, in that the Soviet military leadership will be an Ogarkov-type leadership for the crucial next 5-10 years. Let us examine his reorganization in time-line fashion.

Sometime at the beginning of 1987, Ogarkov was elevated to the head of the Soviet Defense Council, the U.S.S.R.'s highest political body. In protocol terms, this placed him under only Gorbachov. De facto, it made him Russia's wartime commander in chief. Since September 1984, when Ogarkov created the wartime Theater Commands, he had become in effect wartime commander in chief in his capacity as commander of the Western Theater Command, entrusted with waging war against NATO.

In his new post at the Defense Council, Ogarkov moved

with breakneck speed to transform the Soviet military command and force structure, to execute a new offensive military doctrine based on portable "emerging technologies" (radio frequency, microwave, etc.), and vastly increased emphasis on *spetsnaz* commando units. The *spetsnaz* or special forces are to use hand-held varieties of such weapons for a surprise attack against vital NATO installations before invading Ground Forces leave their "jump-off" positions.

The new doctrine was developed by the Soviet General Staff under Ogarkov's direction (he was chief of the General Staff from January 1977 to September 1984).

On May 9, 1984, Ogarkov spoke in a *Krasnaya Zvezda* interview about the changes in warfare. "The rapid development of science and technology in the postwar years is creating the real precondition for the appearance, in the immediate future, of even more destructive and previously unknown types of weapons based on new physical principles. Work on these new types of weapons is under way in a number of countries—the U.S., for example. They will be reality in the very near future, and not to take this fact into account already now would be a serious mistake."

A "sanitized" version of the doctrine was released in a 1985 book by Ogarkov's protégé, Gen. Col. Makhmud Gareyev, a deputy chief of the General Staff. Lengthy excerpts from the book, must reading in the West, appear in *EIR*'s recently updated "Global Showdown Escalates" special report. Gareyev's book elicited the following evaluation from Lt. Col. John G. Hines and Notra Trulock III, in the fall 1986 *Washington Quarterly*.

"The more recent Soviet view that new conventional

weapons will have a destructive effect approaching that of 'low-yield nuclear weapons' suggests they anticipate that these weapons may provide the Soviet commander with non-nuclear response options that would have the same military effect as nuclear weapons."

The March-June coup

In the period March through June, Ogarkov placed his followers in key command positions. He began with the General Staff. The General Staff's 1st deputy chief and two of the five deputy chiefs were replaced. Of the remaining three, Gareyev, and the Signal Troops commander, General of the Army Belov, are Ogarkov followers. Simultaneously, the Ground Forces were purged. General Mayorov was fired, and a close colleague of soon-to-be Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov, General of the Army Postnikov, replaced him.

The landing of Mathias Rust's Cessna in Red Square at the end of May provided the pretext for Ogarkov to complete the process. Yazov was appointed Defense Minister, and Ogarkov's 1984 choice for the Far East High Command, General of the Army Ivan Tretyak, was appointed commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces.

The sweep went further. The 1st deputy commander in chief of the Western Theater Command, under Ogarkov, General of the Army M.I. Sorokin, became Deputy Defense Minister (in charge of the Main Inspectorate), and General of the Army D.S. Sukhorukov became Deputy Defense Minister for Cadres.

All the new appointees are distinguished by their considerable experience with spetsnaz forces: Yazov gained such during his 1980-1984 command of the Central Asian Military District (including Afghanistan), and during his 1984-86 command of the Far East Military District, where he directed "combined arms" simulations of an invasion of Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido;

Tretyak, as the Far East Military District's commander (1976-84) prior to Yazov, and then as head of the Far East High Command, had acquired an even greater wealth of such experience.

Sorokin, as deputy commander of Soviet Airborne Forces from 1964-69, had played a key role in the first postwar "revolution" in spetsnaz training and organization in 1967. From 1976 to November 1981, he commanded the Leningrad Military District, which also contains the entire mix of Soviet elite units: the "normal" spetsnaz brigade assigned to each military district, along with a naval spetsnaz brigade attached to the Northern Fleet, a Marine Infantry regiment, an Air Assault Brigade, and an Airborne Division. Finally, from December 1981 to September 1984, Sorokin was the commander of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

General of the Army Sukhorukov has an equally impressive pedigree. From 1969 until 1979, he was deputy commander and then 1st deputy commander of the Soviet Airborne Forces, and from 1979 until June 1987, the commander

of Soviet Airborne Forces.

The Ground Forces reorganization

But Ogarkov did more than simply put his new people into old slots. The Ground Forces began to be reorganized into a wartime structure of Corps and Brigades, eliminating the Division from the Soviet Order of Battle. The reorganization began and has gone the furthest in Ogarkov's Western Theater. It is close to completion among the Southern Group of Forces in Hungary, and well advanced among the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

The reorganization is designed to simplify command and control at the "lower" level, by having an Army with two Corps, as opposed to four or more Divisions, and, vertically, from the top down, by integrating the new structure directly under the wartime Theater Commands established by Ogarkov in September 1984. By making the basic unit the Corp, instead of the Division, the offensive troop strength and, above all, firepower under a single commander is at least tripled. In short, a decisive improvement was effected in the capacity to execute a high-speed, deep-penetration offensive for rapid breakthrough.

The other crucial advantage is political. Under the reorganization, sleight-of-hand "pull-outs" of Soviet Divisions from Europe, Divisions which no longer exist, can be announced with great fanfare, as "unilateral" moves to encourage a speed-up of the anticipated "deep cuts" to occur in NATO's "conventional forces" in Europe following the INF catastrophe.

In short, the name of the Russian game is, through the pursuit of forces reorganization, incorporation of "emerging technologies" into the Order of Battle, and new "arms control" traps for the West, to attain the degree of superiority necessary for Europe to be either taken, or negotiate a surrender.

The Soviet SDI

During 1987, too, alarming Soviet advances were recorded in crash programs to develop radio frequency weapons and a "Strategic Defense Initiative." It is probable that even before the end of this decade, Russia will have deployed its first such weapons. As for the Russian SDI, it was not a touch of *glasnost* that prompted Gorbachov to "admit" to NBC News the existence of a Soviet SDI program, but the confidence of a dictator-bully that the West's collapse, the budget-cutting insanity prevailing in the Reagan administration and Congress, and Soviet SDI progress, now make such an admission allowable.

The Soviet SDI is huge, in fact, much bigger than even the U.S. Pentagon has reported in its annual *Soviet Military Power* publication. The program contains at least 25,000 scientists and researchers concentrated at nine major sites. Moscow's acceleration of SDI began, not in 1983, as in the U.S. case, but in the late 1970s, after Marshal Ogarkov

became head of the General Staff.

The Soviets are now building space stations to deploy directed energy weapons, and are now building the first ground-based lasers to shoot down missiles. Moscow already has anti-satellite lasers deployed, as well as an ABM missile system.

According to the Pentagon study, the nine known Soviet "SDI" sites are: 1) Sary Shagan in Kazakhstan, which has "the first prototype laser system in the world," and whose "lasers can damage sensors on satellites in low orbit." 2) Atop a mountain near Tadzkikstan's capital of Dushanbe, "the site of a massive construction project," where "a 100 MW power station has been constructed." The United States believes a laser is being built, able to destroy incoming missiles and attack orbiting American satellites and battle stations in space. 3) Troitsk, east of Moscow, "Russia's equivalent of Los Alamos and Livermore," which "includes a massive tunnel to test high-energy laser weapons." 4) Tyaratam, in Kazakhstan, with "two launch pads capable of launching several missiles a day, to attack satellites in orbit." 5) Azgir, near Stalingrad, a "center for developing technology to generate small nuclear explosions to provide directed energy." 6) Storozhevaya, on the Soviet Pacific coast, northwest of the Kamchatka Peninsula, "a high energy laser development facility." 7) In and around Moscow, "a number of centers concentrating on kinetic energy and particle beam research." 8) Serpukhov, south of Moscow, where "much of the research on computers to manage" the ABM deployment is concentrated. 9) Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, "the testing site for nuclear weapons," and "also a center for underground testing of x-ray laser."

The Soviet SDI program has been developed in conjunction with a military space program to develop, test, and mass produce giant booster rockets and space stations to ensure the earliest possible deployment of laser weapons. This was underscored in April 1987 with the successful launching of the Energiya super-booster from the Baikonur Space Center. Gorbachov visited the center on the eve of the launch; he was accompanied by Lev Zaikov, Defense Industry secretary—a clear indication that *perestroika* is being conducted in service of Ogarkov's war plan. The Energiya can place into orbit space stations weighing up to 100 tons. In 1987 came its successful test launch; 1988 will see the first heavy payload launches, lifting peace-loving space stations into orbit. While the lame duck Reagan administration will be "negotiating" guidelines pertaining to space-based ABM systems in the context of the START talks, the Russians will start deployment of space stations.

In sum, in 1987, Ogarkov settled the question of who will run the Soviet military, and initiated a reorganization of Soviet Ground Forces for wartime deployment. The new revolution in warfare through radio frequency, microwave, and other "emerging technologies" was initiated. The true dimensions of the Soviet SDI program became known.

Terrorism increases in 'peace' euphoria

In numerous articles and speeches throughout 1987, *EIR's* Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche gave the military and law enforcement authorities of the NATO countries a powerful conceptual weapon with which to combat terrorism effectively—if they are sharp enough to use it. LaRouche insisted on the critical Soviet role in steering international terrorism, under Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov's irregular warfare doctrine.

Indeed, he wrote, in an analysis of the INF treaty verification measures published in *EIR* on Dec. 11, 1987, the U.S. teams which Secretary of State George Shultz will now dispatch to inspect Soviet munitions factories, will be scrutinizing those weapons which the new Soviet order of battle is already rendering obsolete. The new order of battle relies on new technologies like compact, "hand carried" nuclear bombs and "radio frequency weapons," as well as on extensively developed *spetsnaz* commando capabilities already in place in the target countries before the outbreak of hostilities. Under the cover of escalating civil-war activities of Soviet-directed "peace-loving anti-nuclear" forces recruited in Western European nations, Soviet commando teams go into action, for sabotage, assassinations, and related missions.

The key to defeating Moscow's irregular warfare against the West, is to grasp the importance of cultural, political, and economic factors in war—the very point that most Western strategists and statesmen today ignore. In a groundbreaking study of Soviet military doctrine published in *EIR* on Sept. 4, 1987 ("Pavlov is a Russian soldier's weak flank"), LaRouche pointed out that even in regular warfare, the total effort deployed to secure victory is approximately 80% expended in cultural, economic, and political measures of support for military action.

If Western strategists comprehend the inherent flaws of Muscovite culture, LaRouche argued, they will be able to defeat the Ogarkov gameplan.

How can the *spetsnaz* problem be dealt with? LaRouche stressed two points: "1) Do not allow the legalized proliferation of those 'radical counterculture' strata on which the Red Army today depends chiefly for inserting *spetsnaz* infil-