

German admiral warns of Soviet war threat

by Konstantin George

Admiral Dieter Wellershoff, inspector-general of the West German Armed Forces, issued an alarm about how dangerous the Soviet threat has become, in the March 16 issue of the weekly *Stern* magazine. His statement is particularly remarkable, in view of the foolish euphoria that pervades much of Germany's political life now about the Gorbachov "peace policy."

"The threat has in reality increased," the admiral wrote, "although the feeling of being threatened has lessened." A lessening of the Soviet threat "is not in sight. Peaceful coexistence and disarmament negotiations are merely a phase, which is to be used to weaken the opponent."

Wellershoff emphasized that the Soviet goal since 1917 has been and remains world domination: "This goal has been emphatically pursued up to now, and also under Gorbachov, nothing in this regard has changed. What's changed has only been the style, the tactic, and climate of political confrontation. However, neither the withdrawal from Afghanistan nor the peaceful tones of the new Soviet foreign policy should detract from the fact that Soviet strategy remains directed toward war."

Wellershoff also emphasized that the main goals of Soviet foreign policy are the containment of the United States, the decoupling of the Americans from Europe, and the weakening of NATO, by hitting the West "economically, militarily, politically, and psychologically."

Soviets: 'on the verge of war'

These warnings have not emerged in a vacuum. In mid-February, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze suddenly announced, during his 10-day Mideast tour, that a Middle East war, employing nuclear weapons and leading to a superpower confrontation, could erupt at any time this year. Since then, a series of venomous war threats have been emanating out of Moscow with increasing frequency, both from the leaders of the Soviet military and from the highest officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Had these same threats been issued, let us say, during the Khrushchov years, headlines in all Western newspapers would have reported this to the public. Not today.

Beginning right before the March 15-16 plenum of the

Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, war threats became a daily affair. On March 13, the new Soviet Chief of the General Staff, General of the Army Mikhail Moiseyev, declared in the military newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, after accusing the United States and NATO of refusing to abandon their "offensive military doctrine": "The current threat has been heightened through Western military-political actions, and by the possibility of an *unintentional war*. Recent U.S.A. and NATO maneuvers have reached such dimensions that it's as if *the world now finds itself on the verge of a war*."

The next day, March 14, *Krasnaya Zvezda* carried a lengthy commentary denouncing the alleged "offensive military doctrine" of the U.S.A. and NATO, declaring that a "new round in the qualitative [high-technology] arms race" has begun. The organ of the Soviet Defense Ministry announced that the "offensive" U.S. strategy has "largely devalued any of the positive results which have been able to be achieved with so much effort at the negotiating table."

These two broadsides are the peak to date in a broad intimidation campaign by the Soviet military leadership, denouncing the United States and NATO, and signaling that the threshold of a new period of East-West confrontation has begun.

How alarming the situation is becoming is shown by the fact that the threats are emanating simultaneously from the Soviet military and foreign ministry. This is being coupled with the significant raising of tensions in Central Europe, along the border between East and West Germany, with Moscow's green light to its East German puppets to shoot and kill refugees, resulting in at least two deaths in the week leading to the Soviet Central Committee plenum.

End of the détente illusion

On March 16, the second day of the plenum, Yuli Vorontsov, the U.S.S.R.'s first deputy foreign minister, read out a Soviet government declaration charging that the Afghan guerrilla offensive against the town of Jalalabad was being "directed and coordinated by high-ranking Pakistani Army officers," and represented a plot by the United States and Pakistan against "the Republic of Afghanistan," with "many American, Saudi, and Pakistani military advisers" participating in the offensive. Vorontsov added the claim that "one Saudi and four American military advisers" had been killed in the fighting, and then warned the United States: "The fighting in Afghanistan is turning into a regional conflict, which threatens to affect détente between the Soviet Union and the United States."

The illusions prevalent up until now, thanks to the Western media, concerning Gorbachov and the Soviet Union, will soon be dropping. Beset with staggering bloc-wide food, economic, and national unrest crises, the Soviet leadership is now creating the climate required through such threats, for the exercise of "flight forward" military options as the Evil Empire's means of trying to "solve" these problems.