

Suvorov backs U.K. expulsion of spies

by Mark Burdman

During the second half of May, Britain has become involved in an intense war against Soviet and East bloc espionage. The British government, around May 12, began a process to expel 11 Soviet diplomats and journalists for activities "incompatible with their status," a code-word for spying. Four Czech diplomats were expelled almost two weeks later. Both the Soviet and Czech governments have responded angrily, by counter-expulsions of British diplomats and journalists more extreme than the U.K.'s own measures.

As this warfare escalated, the British weekly *Mail on Sunday* on May 28 held the first-ever interview by a Western newspaper with Viktor Suvorov, one of the few Soviet GRU (military intelligence) officers ever to defect to the West. Suvorov had been a GRU major and a member of the General Staff, and received intensive training with Soviet *spetsnaz* commando units. He defected 10 years ago, from the Soviet Embassy in Switzerland.

Suvorov's books on the GRU and Soviet *spetsnaz* units have given Western readers a rare insight into Soviet methods of irregular warfare against the West. His latest book, *Der Eisbrecher: Hitler in Stalins Kalkül*, available in German and French but not in English, details Soviet plans to utilize the Hitler-Stalin Pact to buy time, preparatory to launching a war against Nazi Germany before the U.S. and Britain could bring troops onto the European continent. Michael Liebig reviewed *Der Eisbrecher* in the May 19, 1989 *EIR*.

In his *Mail on Sunday* interview, Suvorov fully defended Britain's recent decision to expel Soviet spies, only expressing regret over the fact that Britain hesitated as long as it did in expelling them. He held Mikhail Gorbachov personally responsible for overseeing the spying war against the West. *Mail on Sunday* journalist Paul Spencer said Suvorov expressed his ideas "with the urgent desperation of a man to whom nobody will listen."

Gorbachov coordinates the spying

"What people in the West never understand is that these spies are serious, they will clean out your country," Suvorov warned. "Mentally, the Soviets are still fighting the Second World War. It is a real war to them, never forget that." Given Suvorov's groundbreaking revelations about the Soviets' World War II strategy in his most recent book, this warning

must be taken especially seriously.

"While Gorbachov is charming everyone, there are spies in the embassy, spies posing as journalists, Aeroflot workers and businessmen who are working double-hard to recruit agents with the money you lend them," he went on. "The level of penetration is very deep and very dangerous. Your intelligence services may know who the spies are but, believe me, a spy is dangerous even under control. The only course of action you can take is to expel every spy you find, instantly and with as much noise as possible. If you do that, the Soviets will respect you."

He insisted that Mikhail Gorbachov is not only fully cognizant of all Soviet spying activities, but is intimately involved in *coordinating* spying activities. Says Suvorov: "The three tiers of KGB, GRU, and 'clean' diplomats work absolutely independently. We in the GRU hated the KGB. The diplomats hated the KGB. Even the ambassador is subordinate to the KGB men who are watching to make sure he doesn't defect. The body coordinating all these tiers is the Central Committee and Gorbachov. Of course, he knows what is going on in his own country."

According to Suvorov, periods of "détente" are crucial for an *increase* in spying: "I was there in the middle and late 1970s, during a period of détente, like we have now. What happens in such periods is that the intelligence machine uses every advantage of friendship to recruit agents and through them buy information or technology. Our intent is quite clear. We have our own scientists and institutes, but why not pick your brains as well. The aim is to be always one step ahead. *Periods of détente come and go in cycles and these times are absolutely crucial to spies. You must do as much as you can while times are good* (emphasis in original).

'Trying to bully you'

He advised the British: "Remember, the Soviet Union understands only strength and it respects the sovereignty of those nations who respect their own sovereignty and defend it. I chose to live in Britain because you defend your sovereignty with the greatest commitment and the Soviets respect you for it. Please don't ever lose that."

According to Suvorov, Britain's only mistake in the recent spy-expulsion affair was hesitating as long as it did: "That is why they are expelling your diplomats and journalists. They threaten you because they saw your hesitation. . . . By [Britain's] trying to do it quietly, they saw your weakness and fear. That is why they have expelled your diplomats and journalists and threaten 170 of your staff in Moscow. They are trying to bully you to make you even more afraid in the future." He drew the following parallel: "You are like a girl who is being pestered by an over-amorous man and who says to him, very firmly, No. If that girl lets his hand rest on her knee for a moment and shows some doubt about her resistance, he will exploit it. He will try the same again, slowly trying to push the boundary a little further each time."