

Editorial

Mrs. Thatcher's 'I love Gorby' movement

Great Britain's Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher is doing her level best to sabotage Franco-German plans to unleash a new "Marshall Plan" for the economic reconstruction of Eastern Europe. In doing so, she is increasing the probability of a Soviet crackdown there, and is bringing the world closer to the brink of war.

An instance of this idiotic policy is her demand that all Western European economic aid to Eastern Europe—specifically to Hungary, East Germany, and Poland—be tied to acceptance by the recipient countries of International Monetary Fund conditionalities. This came up on the weekend of the Nov. 20 European heads of state summit in Paris, which broke down with no actual unity on any important questions.

The irony of this, is the impossibility for such conditionalities ever to be applied, since they are about to go out the window in any case. Not only is the Soviet empire in a physical economic breakdown crisis, as a result of Mikhail Gorbachov's attempt to impose free market structures upon an already collapsing Soviet economy, but the United States is in what some have described as the most serious downturn of the 1980s, which is actually the onset of a new general economic breakdown in the West—perhaps not as serious as that into which Russia is plunging, but something headed in the same direction.

Under these conditions, IMF conditionalities are not only cruel, as they have always been, but are downright suicidal.

Mrs. Thatcher's motives are not, however, primarily directed by her obsessive commitment to the insanities of Milton Friedman's free-market ideology. She is also intent upon propping up the tottering regime of Mikhail Gorbachov, and doing so at practically any cost whatever. Maggie's crush on Gorby is another piece of historic irony. In Moscow the Gorbachov era is seen as a catastrophic failure, with the exception of concessions which he has gotten from London and Washington. While there is no clear replacement for Gorbachov in sight right now, the growing crisis is

perceived in Moscow to be leading to a point of no return. This is forcing some action on them, perhaps as early as the last weeks of December or the first weeks of the new year. At that time, we may well see a military crackdown which will use the secret police apparatus still in place throughout Eastern Europe to effect a series of coups.

Softness in the West is precisely the wrong signal to be giving at this time, because it will simply be seen by hard-liners as a green light. Mrs. Thatcher's attempts to sabotage the Paris summit represent just such dangerous softness, but so, too, do the recently announced U.S. defense cuts and congressional softness on the terrorists in El Salvador.

The Soviets have got to perceive that there could be a hard reaction of the type they definitely do not like, if they move toward a replay of the events in Hungary in 1956 or Czechoslovakia 1968. We have got to toughen up our image on a number of things, and correct this wishy-washy nonsense. Let's not *assume* that it's going to happen, but let's recognize that it *could* happen, and let's prepare for it.

In this regard, Margaret Thatcher's spiritual infatuation—almost a sexual infatuation—with Mikhail Gorbachov since about December of 1984, is no longer to be tolerated as an element in world politics. This spinsterish, British nanny figure can not be allowed to hang the future of humanity on her indecent attachment to the brutal but sweet-talking Soviet dictator.

This is a factor of misapprehension in the situation among the Thatcher forces, but in the United States as well, typified by the zeal to impose a free market ideology upon the Soviet Union. In reality they are bankrupting the Soviet economy, rather than opening it up to Western investment. In reality they are creating the inevitable conditions for a hard-line shift, in which a bunch of hard-core KGB military types are going to rely upon muscle to get what they want.

So the "I love Gorby" policy of Britain's nanny Thatcher is not only wicked, but impotent as well.