

Russian nuclear missiles can still destroy the world

by EIR's Editors

While German television viewers watched in astonishment, the 20 ICBM hatches opened on board a Russian Typhoon-class nuclear submarine, showing the nuclear missiles, each armed with six MIRVed warheads. "With this submarine, I can destroy the world," the ship's commander explained. He said it would take some 20 years for Russia to achieve democracy, but in the meantime, he would hold the keys to the nuclear weapons, and would follow whatever orders he were given. A Russian military man responsible for firing the missiles said that in the event of war, he would, of course, be killed, but this would only take a "nano-second," while the agony of the enemies of Russia would be protracted in time.

The 45-minute documentary was jointly produced by a Franco-Russian television team, and was shown on Germany's ARD TV network on July 16. For the first time, western journalists had been allowed into the top-secret submarine base at Murmansk.

The show's producers pointed out that the statements by the ship's commander were obviously intended as "psychological warfare," but that nevertheless facts are facts: Russia is still a nuclear superpower. The producers also reported that a truck driver who worked on the ship, who reported sensitive information to the TV crews about lapses in ship-board security, died three days later. They speculated that he may have been punished for opening his mouth in the way that he did.

This flamboyant display, orchestrated by Moscow, confirms what *EIR* has been reporting for some months: the emergence of a faction in Moscow determined to reinstitute a Russian Empire, a "Third Rome," with Moscow as its capital. This ominous development entered a new phase on May 22, when President William Clinton signed on to the

British-French policy of doing nothing to stop Serbian aggression in the Balkans. At that point, the Moscow imperial faction concluded that the West would do nothing to thwart its plans.

LaRouche's response

Lyndon LaRouche, in his weekly "*EIR* Talks with LaRouche" radio interview on July 21, was asked by interviewer Mel Klenetsky for his view of the situation. Here is his reply:

"This is something which I can assure people I know very well. I forecast this as a likely possibility back in the spring of 1983 if the SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative] were not implemented. In June 1983, there were several things published by me, after some work by my collaborators on this study, during the month of May, warning that it should have been obvious that since the 1960s, there was a change in progress in Russia, away from bolshevism, toward something else.

"I warned those who were very happy about this change away from bolshevism around the U.S. government (the CIA and the National Security Council) that this was not as simple as they thought it was, and that what they were looking at, was a turn toward an old Russian matrix, the so-called Third Rome matrix, which had dominated Moscow many times since the middle of the 15th century, but which had been official since about 1510. This is the idea that Moscow would become the capital of a Third Roman Empire. I said that the Russians would go through a period of crisis, and that if what I proposed in connection with the SDI were not implemented, we would see the collapse of communist Russia, but followed by a new Russian imperialism which would inevitably go

in the direction of ideas of people like Dostoevsky, to an Orthodox ideology-pivoted new Russian Empire, which would develop an adversarial policy toward the western countries, more virulent, in many respects, than had been the case under communism.

“What we are seeing with that broadcast from the Typhoon-class submarine and the statements of its commander, is that the Russian ability to destroy the West, is true. Russia today is a superpower. Each of these submarines has the capacity of hitting 120 different targets in its initial shot, without reloads. There are numbers of these Typhoons and there are other weapons. We can still have thermonuclear World War III under certain conditions.

“Look at what is happening inside Russia generally, particularly since Clinton backed down to the British monarchy-French operation to protect the Serb operation in the Balkans.

“The Russians have now considered that the United States is a paper tiger which may still have a little sting in its tail, but which is headed for a deep crisis, a deep economic crisis, in which the United States’ sting in the tail will be lost.

“Under those conditions, certain forces in Russia, with the encouragement of some people in Britain, France, and the United States, are moving to establish a post-Yeltsin Great Russian/Russian imperial power which will become adversarial, as it is already in the process of becoming so, to the United States. This is a demonstration; and the film is a shocking symptom.

“Look at what is happening today along the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, where Russian forces are now moving in with hot pursuit operations across the border into Afghanistan in reprisals for British-directed (and in part American-directed) Afghani military excursions into Tajikistan. We are now at the beginning of what could become World War III, unless we come to our senses.”

Will the West wake up in time?

While the leading political figures of the West are, in general, acting as though they were asleep at the helm, there are some who are beginning to sound the alarm.

An important inflection point was the vote on July 16 by an enclave of native Russians in Narva, Estonia to support a referendum that would separate their region from Estonia and affiliate it with Russia. Estonian Defense Minister Hans Revas, speaking from Narva to Swedish Radio as the referendum was taking place, warned that “we are two years behind the Balkans.” He said he was sure war would break out, and that there would be a “Balkanization of the Baltics.” While this might not happen immediately, it would happen, at the latest, in his view, within one year.

In a discussion with *EIR* on the significance of the Estonian referendum, a well-informed European expert on Russian affairs described Moscow’s strategy as “to gather unto Muscovy what Muscovy once had.” The source continued: “I have an assembly of evidence which shows that there is a

definite pattern of Russian behavior, a pattern that I formerly was reluctant to believe existed. They have now begun a strategy based on the implantation of Russian enclaves outside Russia. Stage one in their strategy is to define such enclaves, whether it be in Estonia, or eastern Ukraine, or Moldova. Stage two is to start linking them together. Stage three is to gather unto Muscovy what Muscovy once had.”

Such a “restorationist” push, he noted, made it credible that a new state could be formed, called Novorossia (“New Russia”), linking the enclave of Trans-Dniestr in Moldova to Russia itself via a network of “Russian enclaves” in Ukraine.

This idea was the theme of an article in the London *Economist* of July 16, which reported on the growing militancy of the hardline Russian commander in the Trans-Dniestr, Gen. Aleksandr Lebed. According to the article, Lebed is trying to forge an alliance with ethnic Russians in three parts of Ukraine—Odessa, Crimea, and the Donbass coal-mining region around Donetsk—in order to form a new state of Novorossia.

Our source also foresaw a very nasty Russian move to neutralize what Moscow claims to be a “Ukrainian nuclear threat”: “The Russians will fix the Ukrainians, they will not tolerate this.”

According to the source, “The Europeans will close their eyes to these developments. They will mouth words like ‘stability,’ ‘respectability,’ ‘democracy,’ to characterize Russian moves that actually have none of these characteristics. The Europeans won’t, and can’t, do anything about this. This is already shown by what they haven’t done in response to Russian threats to the Baltic states.”

The growing strategic threat, and the western inaction in the face of it, was pointed out sharply in an editorial in the influential French journal *Le Monde Diplomatique* in mid-July, under the headline “The Russian Volcano.” Ignacio Ramonet complains that the West has been transfixed, for too long, by the power struggles between Boris Yeltsin and his opponents, as if this were the main issue confronting Russia. In reality, the population is living in a “state of shock” after the political earthquakes since the fall of the Soviet Union. At this moment, Russia itself is rocked by “centrifugal, nationalist, and separatist” trends. The majority of the population is faced with pauperization, as prices of goods and services have multiplied by 26 times in a year.

In the face of all this, the West shows itself “stricken by immobility,” as was clearly evidenced by the totally inadequate response of the West to the Russian problem at the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo. Concludes Ramonet: “The egoistical West seems, yet again, incapable of forecasting the nonetheless foreseeable fires that threaten to engulf Russia, and which threaten to undermine the pursuit of democracy in this country, and to put in danger the security of the world. Why does the western world remain so deaf to the jolts, the rumblings, and the detonations which announce the imminent explosion of the Russian volcano?”