

Editorial

Chernenko

It was only a few weeks ago, on Jan. 21, that Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. told a U.S. nationwide television audience over CBS-TV that Yuri Andropov was politically dead and that the U.S.S.R. has been run by a military junta bent on a thermonuclear showdown with the United States since at least August, when Andropov dropped out of public view. Now that Andropov is officially dead, have things changed?

Most of the major news media want you to think so. The funeral of Andropov occasioned much flapping of wings about the new opportunities to ease tensions, created by Andropov's death and an expected "succession fight." President Reagan should "signal to the Soviet Union and the world that he will now pursue every opportunity for peace," said Walter Mondale. "I would suggest to them that the time has come for a top-level dialogue," opined Zbigniew Brzezinski, who helped Jimmy Carter package up the Middle East for delivery into Russian hands. "I think the United States should be very receptive to a peace offensive," was the dictum of Henry Kissinger, running for the job of official appeaser to Moscow.

The appointment of Konstantin Chernenko, Andropov's alleged rival, to succeed the deceased figurehead, only heightened the clamor for a deal. Has everyone forgotten that after the Korean Air Lines massacre in September 1983, it was Chief of Staff Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov who met the press to give a cocky justification of the deed? And that from then on, Ogarkov, his deputy Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, and Defense Minister Marshal Dmitri Ustinov were more or less constantly in view, while Andropov sniffled out of sight with his alleged cold?

The detonation of war in Lebanon, the convoys of kamikaze truck bombers fanning out in the Middle East, the prewar military deployments in Europe are the projects of that military junta, not the personal accomplishments of Yuri Andropov. As the news articles in our International section indicate, the Soviet leadership is going ahead full tilt toward thermonuclear showdown.

In this context, the gambit of the "lovable" Cher-

nenko's openness to peace is being used to lock into power those figures in the West who most stand for appeasement, like Kissinger, and Peter Lord Carrington, who's running Britain's Mrs. Thatcher—so that when the showdown comes they will be in place, ready to sell out the West. Chernenko's first days in office dispelled all illusions of a Russian policy change for all but the purblind or willful liars:

● In his first speech as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chernenko indicated that the main emphasis of Soviet domestic politics will be a campaign to take all questions of management of the national economy out of the hands of Communist Party officials. Such a drive to curtail party interference in vital matters of the economy and national security has been the trademark of Ogarkov, who first announced his program of militarization of the Soviet economy in July 1981.

● Chernenko confirmed that he is the marshals' man on issues of foreign policy when he defined Soviet peace efforts as synonymous with greater strength for the East bloc. He stated: "It is absolutely clear, comrades, that the success of the effort to preserve and strengthen peace depends in a considerable measure on how great the influence of the socialist countries in the world arena is, and on how vigorous, purposeful and coordinated their actions will be."

● The Soviet station Radio Volga has reported a continuous series of meetings between Soviet, Czech and East German soldiers with Andropov's funeral as the pretext, while significantly larger contingents of militia and regular troops were in Moscow than during the funeral of Leonid Brezhnev little more than a year earlier.

When he warned Jan. 21 of the Soviet threat, LaRouche said that the only effective response would be presidential announcement of a National Defense Emergency Mobilization of the sort effected by President Roosevelt in 1939-43. The "succession" in the Kremlin, far from buying time for the West, has made that policy more urgent than ever.