

Soviets mock appeasers, turn screws on Germany

by Edith Vitali

In contrast to the crackpot scientists, quack-politicians and other ignoramuses in the West who have derided Ronald Reagan's new strategic defense initiative as fantasy-world "Star Wars," as of early May the President could point to a new supporter of the feasibility of "beam weapons." Writing for the military daily *Red Star* May 9, the Chief of the Soviet General Staff, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, stated in so many words that "weapons based on new physical principles" will appear "in the immediate future." To make sure that the message was understood, he said it twice: "Their creation is a reality of the immediate future, and to ignore this even now would be a serious mistake."

At least, his admission contributed to greater clarity. But the vision of the Soviet Union soon being able to deploy such weapons is not reassuring: The leadership of that country is on a confrontation rampage worse than at any time in the postwar period.

- Moscow's spectacular and "irrevocable" withdrawal from the Los Angeles Olympics came as a shock to the proverbial man in the street.

- In Afghanistan, Soviet forces are gunning down peasants in their fields, using machine-gun fire from helicopters. They started a campaign of terror even in so-called "loyal" areas like Kabul, where on May 7 a Soviet army jeep drove into a crowd waiting at a bus station, shooting at people without warning; several were killed.

- Citizens in West Berlin have been subjected for weeks to the noise of supersonic night flights by Soviet jet fighters.

- The Kremlin just announced that it will deploy new "tactical missiles" in East Germany, a way to put pressure not only on West Germany, but also France. The SS-20 with its range of 1,000 kilometers, once stationed in East Germany, can reach any target at the Atlantic Coast.

These moves coincide with an escalating Soviet campaign around the alleged "revival of Greater German revanchism" about to launch a new crusade against the East together with the United States. Absurd as this accusation might look at first sight, especially in view of the zealous subservience vis-à-vis the Kremlin which Henry Kissinger's friend, West German Foreign Minister Genscher, is manifesting these days, this is exactly the Big Lie that will "justify" a Soviet military move into West Germany. The danger of such a move is growing, as the Russians are bent on humiliating the United States before the November election.

Articles on the subject of "revanchism" and "militarism" in West Germany, the "Wehrmacht traditions" and an alleged revival of "Prusso-Hitlerianism" in the West German army, the Bundeswehr, have abounded in the Soviet media since last December. Since January, Soviet and East German military preparations for a "Blitz strike" against West Germany have been stepped up, and the propaganda campaign has reached a new hysterical pitch.

Propaganda builds for military move

Now it's no longer only the press, but the leadership who is speaking in these terms.

- Marshal Ogarkov, in the cited article on May 9, claimed that "revanchists" and "neo-fascists" who have not learned the lessons of the Second World War "have become increasingly more vocal in the Federal Republic and West Berlin." His reference to West Berlin is especially hair-raising, since it is the German city most exposed to Soviet pressure. "As on the eve of the Second World War," he continues, "they are renewing their activity and they are intensively spreading national and racial enmity among the population, propagandizing slogans about 'Greater Germany' and are urgently calling for the re-establishment of the German Reich in its

'historical borders.' It appears that the vanquished fascists left over after the war and the reactionary imperialist forces have not given up hope of trying once again to test the strength of our defense, and they are openly carrying things to the material preparation of a new war."

- Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, at a May 4 meeting with Polish Prime Minister Jaruzelski, stressed that "*revanchists of all kinds are raising their heads in Europe,*" encouraged by the "anti-communist crusade of Washington." The remark concluded a diatribe that West European calls for "dialogue" and "negotiations" are nothing but a "premeditated fraud." The NATO initiative at the Vienna MBFR talks was nothing but a trick "to cover up for their policy of stepping up conventional armaments," he raved. "In the recent period, mainly after the deployment of new American missiles began in Western Europe, appeals for contacts and negotiations are being heard from Washington and some other Western capitals. However, unfortunately, there is nothing concrete behind these appeals. Those who would like to think that finally some realism and sane thinking are making headway, would be deeply deceived."

- On May 4, *Red Star* published an article on "right-wing forces of the Federal Republic and the Bundeswehr," by Colonel Kasyuk, who claimed that the German army is "ready to march east" any instant.

- On May 12, the government paper *Izvestia* continued the campaign with an article on the "West European Union." Bonn correspondent Grigoryants writes that the revival of the "West European Union" as the "second leg of NATO" is only a cover for West German remilitarization—including West Germany getting access to nuclear weapons. The nuclear energy program of West Germany is alleged to have the purpose of providing plutonium and enriched uranium for building the bomb!

It is no coincidence, of course, that the Soviets are launching this smear campaign against those traditionalist military circles in West Germany, who, far from having a "brown" past, are seriously concerned about the Soviet military threat, and therefore interested in collaborating with the United States in developing defensive beam weapons.

'What if the United States weakens?'

The propaganda took a new twist on May 5, with a *Pravda* article by Ernst Henry, alias Semyon Rostovsky, one of the Soviet KGB's top disinformation agents, who in the past served as a controller of the Philby-MacLean spy network in London and later gained an entrée into Jewish dissident circles by adopting an "anti-Stalinist" and "anti-fascist" cover. The Russian Henry sat on the Central Committee of the German Communist Party in the 1920s, and in this function had close contact with the "National Bolsheviks" in the Nazi Party.

In his *Pravda* article, Henry calls the United States the worst enemy of the U.S.S.R.: "Even Hitler Germany at the time did not have such broad plans for hegemonistic striv-

ings," he claims. However, Henry says it is short-sighted of the United States to rearm Japan and Germany as allies in its efforts at world domination: These countries have their own, much further-reaching aspirations. "What will happen, if the United States, as a result of its insane gamble in the international arena, becomes weaker, and loses initiative and influence over its allies? This is a very important question, and history forces us to raise it now. To wait for the answer is risky for the Americans themselves. West German militarism is alive, waiting for its time to come."

In other words, should the Soviets "judge" that the Americans are no longer in control, they will do the United States a "favor" by strangling "German militarism" in its cradle. The German daily *Die Welt* added accurately that the only possible crescendo after such an article is for the Soviets to go ahead and send tanks to the Rhine.

The current state of affairs, as unpleasant as it already looks, is not the bottom of the pit. Experts in Washington expect a major escalation around August.

Spreading the 'class struggle' abroad

The Soviet leaders are openly preparing their population for war. Chernenko, the current figurehead of what is in fact a ruling military junta, told the Party Program Commission on April 25 that "peace" is a relative virtue for communists, not a value in and of itself. First comes the "class struggle," by fueling which the Soviet Union hopes to acquire world hegemony: "It serves us well to adhere to the idea that the problems of war and peace, like all global problems, don't exist by themselves. They are inseparable from the worldwide social contradictions, from the development of the class struggle." He pledged "unchanging solidarity" for the "unfolding revolutionary process," be it national liberation movements in the developing sector or workers' movements in the West.

On April 28, Chernenko visited the "Hammer and Sickle" steel factory in Moscow, whipping up war hysteria further. "June 1941 [the day when Nazi Germany's offensive began] will not be repeated," he declared demagogically, as if anybody were planning to attack the U.S.S.R. today. "In connection with the aggravation of the international situation," Chernenko claimed, "the Central Committee of the CPSU is receiving many letters, the authors of which propose to prolong the working week, and to create a National Defense Fund." (See *EIR*, May 15.)

A Russian defector who knows Soviet manipulation tactics from the inside called this a typical way of forewarning the workers that indeed the Council of Ministers will prolong working hours, "guided by the will of the Soviet people." The mere mention of a "National Defense Fund" is sure to ring a warning bell in the minds of Soviet citizens: They all remember that such a Fund existed only once before—during the Second World War. At that time, they had to turn in not only money, but also any household goods which could be of use in the war effort.