

EIR Special Report

One year after the KAL massacre: Who rules Russia today?

by Criton Zoakos

In the 12 months which have passed since the cold-blooded murder of 269 innocent civilians aboard KAL Flight 007 over Sakhalin Island by the Soviet Air Defense forces, the Voiska PVO, the military personalities and policies which were concealed behind that act of brutality have come to the fore to assert their undisputed position of overall leadership in the Soviet Union's political establishment.

The man who gave the orders to shoot the airliner, General of the Army Vladimir Govorov, is now deputy defense minister; his deputy at the time of the shooting, General of the Army Ivan Tretyak, has since been promoted to Commander-in-Chief of the Far East Theater Command. The promotion of these two was merely part of an overall change of guard in internal Russian power relations in which the Russian military took directly in its hands the affairs of the empire. The change of guard was best symbolized by the extraordinary theatrical performances of Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai V. Ogarkov before Moscow's international press corps right after the KAL massacre.

Russia's uniformed elite chose to come to the fore at that time, and selected the brutal act of massacring civilians to announce the event, for the purpose of leading in its own name the concluding phase of the drive to establish unchallenged world hegemony by approximately 1988.

Watershed at Erice

A careful review of developments in Soviet society over the past year would convince any reasonable person that this sudden ascent to public prominence of Russia's uniformed leaders was not based on either caprice or accident. Management of the economy has passed into the hands of Marshal Ogarkov's General Staff; the military has also taken direct control of day-to-day foreign policy, transportation, energy policy, the "use of human resources," including a general reorganization of the educational system on the basis of guidelines dictated personally by Marshal Ogarkov.

Uppermost among the tasks addressed by this mobilization of the Russian military command is to prevent, even by means of pre-emptive nuclear war, the



Soviet party leader Chernenko is applauded by Marshals Ustinov, Ogarkov, and Kulikov before an audience of young communists in the military, on May 28, 1984. Displaying the xenophobia and "blood-and-soil" fanaticism which is increasingly characteristic of public pronouncements by Soviet leaders, Chernenko exhorted Soviet youth to "hate the enemies of the Motherland."

United States from developing the strategic anti-missile high-energy beam weapons announced by President Reagan in his historic March 23, 1983 televised address to the nation.

Virtually unknown to the public and unnoticed by the political press is what happened in Erice, Italy, at an international scientific gathering approximately 10 days before the KAL 007 massacre: What could have become a historic meeting took place in a quiet, discreet study room between two prominent men of science, the American Dr. Edward Teller and the Russian Dr. Y. P. Velikhov. Each man had for decades led his country's scientific and technological efforts to develop advanced weapons systems, Teller being the father of America's hydrogen bomb and Velikhov the head of Russia's laser beam-weapons program. Dr. Teller, it was confidentially reported at the time, had just met with his President, Ronald Reagan, from whom he was given an unusual assignment, a proposal to pass on to the Russian side.

When Academician Velikhov heard the American proposal, he responded with astonished silence. He subsequently explained that he would have to consult with Moscow before he could give an answer. After a telephone communication with Moscow, he returned to Dr. Teller with the reply. It was now Teller's turn to be astonished, pleasantly this time. The answer from Moscow was "yes"! A communiqué was issued to the press which, through its circumspect wording, made it clear that the two superpowers were about to enter into some type of joint effort to end the era of Mutually Assured Destruction, MAD. That communiqué was published in the *EIR* (Sept. 6, 1983).

Reagan's proposal to the Russians was: Let us jointly, or

in parallel, develop the defensive means, such as beam weapons, by which we can simultaneously eliminate the power of nuclear missiles to hold our populations hostage. The offer probably included some type of sharing of relevant technological information and other confidence-building arrangements. Reportedly, the Reagan-Teller offer was cast in such generous terms that a Russian rejection would have proven a genuine embarrassment. So there was no formal, verbal rejection. Moscow authorized Velikhov to say "yes."

However, from that day onward, Yuri Andropov, then President of the Soviet Union, disappeared, never to be seen in public until his funeral. And within a few days after the Erice declaration of Teller and Velikhov, the world scene became totally transformed by the brutal destruction of the Korean airliner over Sakhalin Island. The Russians finally said "no" to Reagan's generous proposal, and sealed their "no" in blood.

When Chernenko finally replaced the long defunct Andropov, he was elevated on the tips of the General Staff's bayonets to preside over the already thoroughly militarized state. The only qualification which propelled him to his high office was his great age and his feeble health—clearly a transitional figure. Both before and after the beginning of Chernenko's titular reign, Russia's spokesmen have plainly stated, in public and in private, that they shall never permit the United States to carry out the strategic defense program announced by Reagan on March 23, 1983. They have not spelled out the means which they intend to employ to carry out their purpose, except to the extent that they have made countless allusions to their readiness to go to nuclear war as

an ultimate resort. All such statements, the record shows, were careful to show that the one thing which would make them launch such war, their *casus belli*, is nothing else but the "Star Wars" program of President Reagan.

Ultimately, as the most candid among Russian spokesmen have admitted, their objection to America's development of high-energy defensive beam technologies is an objection based on cultural grounds. The "new physical principles" upon which these high-energy beam technologies of strategic defense are based involve such scientific, technological, and economic implications that their introduction in military applications will unavoidably be accompanied by a profound transformation of general culture and social practice in American society, a "paradigm shift" away from the "post-industrial society" nightmare which began being enforced in the United States during the 1967-68 period, at the dawn of the era of "détente" and Henry Kissinger.

Where is the 'focus of evil'?

Fixed at the center of Russian strategists' attention has been the fact that the period of so-called détente, the era of SALT I, SALT II, which accompanied the dramatic decline of American industrial, technological, and scientific strength, was pivoted around a domestic American program favoring a parasitical "service economy" and a counter-cultural "post-industrial" paradigm shift.

The problem among the intelligence and national security institutions of the U.S. government is that throughout the year which passed, they have continued to hysterically deny the fact that their Russian adversary is principally a *cultural* adversary and, in this sense, only secondarily a military one.

The prevailing view in the National Security Council, the CIA, the State Department's Intelligence and Research section, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and all the secondary feeder research institutions and think tanks, is based on axiomatic assumptions supplied by the same American oligarchical families and elites which embarked on the détente and arms control deals with the Russians in the 1960s and 1970s. These families and interests, exemplified by McGeorge Bundy, Averell Harriman, the Mellons, Rockefellers, Weyerhausers, and so forth, were and are the very same forces which financed and led the nation into its countercultural post-industrial decline, the substantive ingredient which to the Russian elite was more valuable than the merely secondary advantages they enjoyed from the arms-control agreements per se.

These American oligarchical families and interests share with their Russian counterparts the same outlook and philosophy respecting public affairs. In their way of thinking, what counts is arbitrary power over societies, nations, and individuals and what is to be suppressed is a culture based on a scientifically and industrially forward-looking citizen population. They are jointly committed to extirpating those spe-

cific cultural values and practices which give rise to democratic republican forms of self-government. The 1967-68 "arms control" deals between the Russian and the American oligarchical elites were essentially a joint undertaking to extirpate the last institutional remnants of such democratic republican cultural practices.

When President Reagan and his supporters in the scientific and military community decided to accept and push forward the March 23, 1983 program for strategic defense, they were responding not to the cultural threat to the nation, but to the obvious and by then undeniable military consequences which derived from our deliberately engineered cultural decline. To this day, there is no evidence that anybody at all in the Reagan camp is even remotely aware of the extent and character of the cultural threat to our national security.

Not so, however, with the oligarchical elite which manages the affairs of the Russian Empire. Their response to Reagan's March 23, 1983 speech, a response symbolized by the KAL 007 massacre, was to the underlying threat to their cultural orientation and not to the possible military threat of an American beam-weapons program. They well know, especially after President Reagan's repeated generous offers (through Dr. Teller and others), that there is no intrinsic military threat to their country in America's Strategic Defense Initiative. When they howl about Reagan's "militarization of space" and Star Wars "first strike" threat, they know that they are lying to the world. The telltale is their rejection of Reagan's generous proposals, conveyed via Dr. Teller at Erice.

That the Russian elite decided to respond to a potential cultural threat by military means, by ostentatiously putting its uniformed members in all command positions is typical of the way the crude, *pravoslavnaya* Russian-Byzantine culture has in the past responded to peaceful cultural challenges to uplift itself: It will kill rather than better itself. As the documentary articles in this Special Report make abundantly evident, there are no "faction fights" nor political conflicts nor instabilities inside the Russian Empire at this time. This is a fiction spread by Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies for the benefit of the credulous fools in our intelligence community. What rules in the Russian elite today is the cult of the *Rodina*, the mystical, ecstatic "collective soul," the *Sobornost'* of Holy Mother Russia. It is heady stuff, which few if any among us raised in the cultural matrix of Western civilization can easily stomach. Nonetheless, this backward, barbaric moral outlook is what animates Russia's consummate military professionals who are now in command.

The extent to which the official intelligence institutions of our government fail to recognize this fact, is a measure of the damage done to our institutions by the countercultural, "Aquarian" post-industrial age of Messrs. Kissinger, Brzezinski, Bundy, et al.