

The fraud of Soviet 'anti-revanchism'

by Konstantin George

Since January, West Germans have been bombarded with "news," "commentary," and "scholarly" pontifications from the media on so-called German revanchism, a made-in-Moscow Orwellian term for an alleged German syndrome caused by the postwar loss of extensive territory by Germany, including the provinces of East Prussia, Pomerania, and Silesia, to Poland and the Soviet Union. These territorial changes and the ravages of the advancing Red Army produced a flood of people escaping or expelled from these regions—some 15 million in 1945.

Soviet media attacks on West Germany as "revanchist" and "neo-Nazi" began in a massive way in December 1983, timed with the near-conclusion of a huge hardware buildup of troops, armor, aircraft, and munitions among Russian forces stationed in East Germany. The charges of repeated West German violations of the "German militarism" and "Nazi removal" parts of the 1945 Potsdam Agreement are meant to build a pretext for Soviet military actions against West Germany. That propaganda proved to be the opening gambit to the huge June-July Soviet military maneuvers rehearsing a surprise attack on West Germany, and the "violation of the Potsdam Agreement" Soviet demarche to West Germany on July 10.

Now an additional real reason for this campaign has finally come out into the open in the Soviet media: West Germany's growing desire to participate with the United States to develop laser technology, space-based missile defense systems—the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Moscow's excuse for the latest media attacks on West Germany was the decision of the West German expellee organization of the Silesians (now southwestern Poland) to hold a July conference on the 40th anniversary of their expulsion, with West German Chancellor Kohl as guest speaker, under the slogan "Silesia remains ours." After a week of the West German media being obsessed with this theme, the compromise slogan, "Silesia is our future in a free Europe," was arrived at, and Kohl agreed to speak.

In the midst of the hubbub, a 21-year old youngster, the offspring of Silesian expellees, with a head full of fantasies, to say the least, and perhaps requiring psychiatric care, wrote an article "describing" a future West German Army march into Eastern Europe.

The East German government used these pathological scribbles to fabricate a Goebbels-style Big Lie that the Bonn Defense Ministry has a military plan to invade Poland. The newspaper of the ruling Socialist Unity Party *Neues*

Deutschland carried a major piece by the East German news agency ADN's Bonn correspondent charging that the 21-year-old's fantasy was based on an article written by Colonel Hubatschek of the West German Defense Ministry, in the military magazine *Wehrkunde*. Hubatschek merely made the correct legal assertion that the final borders of Germany can only be defined by a peace treaty, legally settling all questions open from the Second World War. Hubatschek also referred to the goal in principle, and with no time deadline, of unifying Germany.

The Bonn correspondent of ADN, with a fantasy-ridden imagination rivaling that of the crazed youngster, wrote that "confidants of Defense Minister Manfred Wörner" are responsible for this "concept of aggression." "The author . . . got the recipe to change the European postwar order and to recreate the German Reich within its 1937 borders, a recipe which openly calculates the option for war, from West German Army Colonel Hubatschek: . . ."

It's obvious to all, including the propagandists of the Kremlin and East Berlin, that the West German Army would only be in a shooting war if the Soviet Union were to invade. So why all the fuss?

The Soviet military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* of Jan. 27, answering that question, began a sharp escalation in the campaign against West Germany: "The Bonn government is declaring its readiness to take part in the realization and development of Washington's plans to militarize outer space," writes *Krasnaya Zvezda*, attacking Defense Minister Wörner and Foreign Ministry State Secretary Alois Mertes for their "approval of the Star Wars." *Krasnaya Zvezda* adds that "to coordinate their activities" with NASA and the "American Space Industry . . . the German Scientific-Research Society of Aeronautics and Astronauts has opened an office in Washington."

The paper on Feb. 1 denounced the Bonn government for supporting the U.S. SDI, "on orders from across the ocean." Singled out for attack is a recent newspaper article by West German Defense Ministry State Secretary Hans Rühle, not only endorsing the SDI, but categorically documenting the Soviet program, "from at least 1957," to research and develop an effective ABM system. *Krasnaya Zvezda* then threatens that West German "declarations in support of Pentagon plans. . . simply provoke an aggravation of the situation on the European continent and the intensification of the nuclear confrontation here."

Krasnaya Zvezda gives its readers in the Soviet Armed Forces a new definition of "revanchism"—support of the SDI. Calling West Germany "the most militarized region in the world" and accusing the Bonn government and Chancellor Kohl of encouraging "those forces in the Federal Republic of Germany who refuse to accept the postwar order of Europe," The paper writes, "These revanchists are counting on the offensive potential of the Bundeswehr based on American nuclear weapons on earth and in space, to hatch sinister plans for a new campaign to the east."