

Inside the Pentagon by Tecumseh

The ASAT test capitulation

The postponement of the first U.S. anti-satellite missile test amounts to acceptance of a Soviet ultimatum.

On Feb. 26, a short item in the *Washington Post* quoted unnamed "administration sources" to the effect that the planned testing of the first U.S. anti-satellite missile system had been postponed from March until June. The *Post* commented: "The Soviet Union last year demanded a moratorium on such tests as a condition for resuming arms negotiations.

"The administration refused, but sources said the test had been put off for 'technical reasons.'"

Despite such assurances, the postponement of the test amounts to the acceptance by the United States government of a blackmailing Soviet ultimatum issued some weeks earlier.

The Soviet ultimatum had been delivered in London during the first half of December, during the visit of then Kremlin golden boy and current Soviet party boss Mikhail Gorbachov to London. At that time, Gorbachov had put the finishing touches on the present strategic arrangement between Queen Elizabeth and the British oligarchical faction for which Lord Peter Carrington is the spokesman, on the one hand, and the Ogarkov-Aliyev-Romanov combine in the Kremlin, on the other. Gorbachov had been accompanied on that London junket by Evgenii Velikhov, the Soviet academician who oversees the Soviet beam-weapon program. Gorbachov and Velikhov announced that if the planned March ASAT test were not postponed, all arms-control negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union would come to an

end, and all existing treaties would become inoperative.

That ultimatum had raised eyebrows.

It was one of the most blatant threats to come out of Moscow since the days of madman Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev's infamous Berlin ultimatums of the late 1950s, when the Russian dictator had threatened to terminate the rights of the Western allies in Berlin if they did not agree to sign a peace treaty with his East Berlin satrap, Walter Ulbricht.

That ultimatum led directly into the great Berlin crises and into the geometry of thermonuclear confrontation.

This time the Soviet ultimatum has been quietly accepted.

Administration spokesmen protested too much in their responses to questions on the subject. Pentagon spokesman Mike Burch confirmed that the delay was indefinite, possibly going up to three months. Asked about the ultimatum, he responded: "I can assure you that the delays are for technical reasons having to do with the ASAT only and that there is no political motivation behind this whatsoever."

A similar cover story was offered by National Security Council chief Robert McFarlane when he appeared for a speech to the Overseas Writers Club on March 7, denying that there was any connection between the Gorbachov-Velikhov ultimatum and the delay of the ASAT test.

In reality, the ASAT test delay is

the product of a complex web of international intrigue. Prominent in that web is the decision of the Carrington faction of the British oligarchy to bet on Gorbachov as the personable, Westernized young man who can keep Marshal Ogarkov and his military cohorts under control—a delusion that Gorbachov, of course, did nothing to dispel. The delay of the ASAT test must be interpreted in the Kremlin as a signal validating whatever monstrous iniquities were agreed upon during the Gorbachov London junket.

And that, in turn, must have solidified the Ogarkov group in its resolve to place Gorbachov in the position of public figurehead and spokesman for a combination that is much more complex than Gorbachov alone.

The specific mechanics of this intrigue in Washington are more than a matter of mere speculation. A participant in the plotting is likely to have been one Carol Rosin, the would-be Mata Hari who heads the phantom "Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space." Rosin was observed hobnobbing with Rhode Island Sen. Claiborne Pell and Cable News Network's Ted Turner at the Smithsonian Castle dinner given in honor of visiting Soviet Politburo member Shcherbitsky.

In an interview June 5, 1984, Rosin had talked about her techniques of sabotaging such exercises: "There was a very high-level group of people in the Pentagon who are very concerned about the weaponization of space. . . . One of them told me that if I could get the Soviets to make a statement about ASATs, then they would be able to stop the ASAT tests."

This tried-and-true mode of intrigue has now procured a delay in a vital test, and has sabotaged the intent of the President's policies.

Will no one in the building blow the whistle on those responsible?