

Washington slides toward pact with Moscow

by Konstantin George

The climactic phase of U.S.-Soviet negotiations for a "global double zero option" will begin with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's arrival in Washington on Sept. 15. Shevardnadze will be holding three days of talks with Secretary of State George Shultz, toward agreement on eliminating intermediate range nuclear missiles, and is then to be received by President Reagan.

Reagan has evidently deluded himself into believing that through such an agreement, he will secure "peace in our time."

The Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) accord is a veritable "Munich II." It would terminate the U.S. nuclear presence in Western Europe, and thus leave the continent prey to Soviet intimidation and blackmail.

Complementing the drive toward the INF agreement are an array of U.S.-Soviet "regional affairs" talks between State Department and Soviet foreign ministry officials, and the elaborate Soviet *glasnost* campaign, strategic deception of the West to the effect that a "liberalization" is under way in the U.S.S.R.

Pre-summit euphoria in Washington

Reagan's pre-summit euphoria was apparent during a Sept. 10 White House banquet in honor of Ingvar Carlsson, Olof Palme's successor as Social Democratic prime minister of neutral Sweden. It is the first state visit to Washington by a Swedish prime minister since 1961.

At the banquet, the President of the United States and a leader of the pro-Soviet Social Democracy expressed identi-

cal views on an INF treaty. Reagan stated that there were "grounds for great optimism" respecting an INF agreement and a summit; "the end of November" would be the best time for the meeting with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov, he added.

Reagan did say that an INF "agreement has not yet been reached on some points," adding quickly, "But, we're working hard at it, and hope to reach an agreement."

The same optimism was conveyed on Sept. 10 in Brussels by White House special emissary Paul Nitze. Nitze was dispatched to brief the NATO allies on the state of the U.S.-Soviet talks, and reported that, as far as an INF treaty was concerned, "Really, all the big problems have been resolved."

Soviet demands concerning the 72 West German Pershing-IA missiles were only "an artificial problem," according to Nitze, "resolved" by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Sept. 2 declaration that, in the event of a U.S.-Soviet agreement, Germany would proceed to eliminate the missiles.

Yet, the Pershing-IAs had no more been part of the Geneva negotiations than the French or British nuclear forces. The Soviets, buoyed by the Reagan administration's readiness for concessions, raised demands against Germany's missiles only at the last minute.

Kohl's capitulation came on the eve of the visit of the Soviets' East German satrap, Erich Honecker, and was clearly coordinated in advance with the Reagan administration. The State Department immediately followed Kohl's declaration with an announcement that, if West Germany scrapped

the missiles, the United States would remove their nuclear warheads from German soil.

Said Nitze in his press conference, "A lot of detail was left to be resolved," but the American and Soviet delegations were already working on a "joint draft text" for an INF agreement. A simultaneous press conference in Washington D.C. by Rozanne Ridgway, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, exuded the same optimism.

The regional crisis management game

Shevardnadze's trip to Washington has been preceded by an array of American-Russian talks at the deputy foreign minister (assistant secretary of state) level, discussing regional situations from the Near East to the Far East. These quiet, seemingly innocuous meetings, receiving almost no press notice, have been combined with the private "international diplomacy" of Soviet assets in the West such as Armand Hammer, to form the core of an imperial effort to redraw the world map in Moscow's favor.

The world has now witnessed the media spectacle of the Honecker visit to West Germany. Nearly every political figure in West Germany outdid himself in groveling before the Soviet satrap. Very few seem to have observed that Honecker's way was prepared by the private diplomatic travels of Armand Hammer. The 89-year-old friend of every Soviet leader since Lenin spent the end of August in Moscow, then proceeded to Bonn for a Sept. 3 meeting with Kohl, and the next day was in East Berlin for a lengthy meeting with Honecker.

According to the Sept. 10 *Washington Post*, "administration sources" have stated that Shultz and Shevardnadze will sign an agreement to set up "nuclear risk reduction centers" in Washington and Moscow, to prevent "accidental nuclear war." The intriguing point about this otherwise trivial disclosure is that the agreement was worked out *in May* in Geneva—another secret American-Soviet meeting, this time worked out by Richard Perle, then still assistant secretary of defense.

One wonders what will be revealed a few months from now concerning the current round of "regional matters" talks. The scope of those talks is considerable, as revealed by a look at the calendar for the first two weeks of September.

- Two days of meetings between Assistant of Secretary of State Edward Djerejian and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Alexeyev Sept. 10 and 11 in Geneva, discussed the Near East, the Gulf, and Afghanistan. On the Soviet side, the talks followed several days of discussions in Moscow between the Soviets and a visiting delegation from the Iranian foreign ministry, as well as a visit from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, and a delegation from the Arab League.

- September talks in Moscow concerning Far East regional affairs feature Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Gaston Sigur and Soviet Deputy Foreign

Minister Igor Rogachev. Sigur on Sept. 13 was scheduled to proceed to South Korea, currently in the throes of a Philippine-style destabilization co-sponsored by the Soviets and the U.S. State Department.

- From Sept. 7-10, Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker was in the Angolan capital of Luanda for talks aimed at a superpower deal on Namibia.

- On Sept. 10, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky arrived in Bonn for talks with West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher and leaders of the pro-Soviet Social Democrats. Petrovsky's arrival, right in the middle of the Honecker visit, received almost no mention in German news media.

Petrovsky had spent most of August in the United States, both at the United Nations, and at the huge Soviet-American gathering in Chatauqua, New York. At both locations, he held extensive meetings with American officials and leading businessmen.

Let them eat glasnost

The slide toward "Munich II" is being accompanied by massive Soviet propaganda concerning the deception known as *glasnost*, designed to allow Western leaders to sugarcoat their New Yalta capitulations. The *glasnost* offensive in the Soviet media is centered around a campaign to rehabilitate the two leading opponents whom Stalin had murdered, Nikolai Bukharin and Leon Trotsky.

If anyone wishes to review the Soviet media of 1945, Stalin's media, one will find a *glasnost* exceeding by far the "democratization" rhetoric of Gorbachov. How many times did the Soviet press then print and reprint Stalin's promises that the countries of Eastern Europe would be based on "free elections," with "all parties" allowed, etc.—all to make the original Yalta palatable.

What better way for Gorbachov, who bears resemblance to the young Stalin who directed a massive pre-war military build-up, to fool the West than to embark on an "anti-Stalin" campaign, rehabilitating Stalin's purge victims.

According to the French journalist, Alexander Adler, Gorbachov is planning to officially rehabilitate both Bukharin and Trotsky for the "Revolution's" 70th anniversary.

- The Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* recently hailed Trotsky as a "hero and martyr of the Revolution."

- The party paper *Pravda* (without mentioning their connections to Trotsky) honored two leading Trotskyites executed in 1937.

- *Vestnik*, the news bulletin of the foreign ministry, has just published an article describing Trotsky as the first chief of Soviet diplomacy, who "conducted himself with honor."

- Trotsky's grandson, living in Mexico, has been granted a visa to attend the Nov. 7 anniversary celebrations.

- Mexican and other Trotskyites are expected to receive invitations to the anniversary celebrations.

These latest signals on “left opposition” leader Trotsky were preceded by a drive to rehabilitate “right opposition” leader Bukharin.

- On July 16, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Court officially rehabilitated the leading Bukharinite agrarian economists, such as Nicholas Kondratyev, who were executed during the Stalin purges.

- *Pravda* of Aug. 9 carried a lengthy article by historian Viktor Danilov, which carried the arguments used by Bukharin in 1930 to attack the Stalin’s forced collectivization of the peasants.

- On Sept. 9, the *Moscow News* ran an article by Yuri Afanasyev, the new director of the U.S.S.R. National Archives, which stated that the 1938 trial of Bukharin was “baseless” and, “One need not be a professional historian, but only a human being, to say that Bukharin had never been a political criminal.”

The *glasnost* propaganda is also focused on conveying the image that the Soviet Union is now opening up its military facilities for American “inspection.” This farce reached its peak on Sept. 9 when three Democratic members of the House of Representatives were taken on a tour of the Krasnoyarsk ABM phased array radar facility to “prove” to them that it constituted no violation of the ABM Treaty. The congressmen, who could not tell the difference between an ABM radar facility and the proverbial “hole in the wall,” were awed by the red carpet treatment. They dutifully returned to the United States to issue statements casting doubt on the Pentagon’s charges that Krasnoyarsk was designed to service anti-ballistic missile systems—of which there is no doubt whatsoever.

Given such results, one can easily imagine the delighted Soviet hosts more than willing to extend *glasnost* to other military facilities, opening these up with much fanfare for the inspection of other U.S. congressional delegations.

Last month, quietly, another such *glasnost* affair was staged, when a U.S. Pentagon team was allowed to fly into the U.S.S.R. and observe Soviet military maneuvers in the Carpathian Military District, following Pentagon statements that the maneuvers were in violation of the Helsinki “confidence building” agreements.

If it means creating the atmosphere to get the American nuclear presence out of Europe, Moscow will gladly stage more such shows, a trivial price to pay for Munich II.

The main reason for such otherwise farcical *glasnost* functions, is the Western media’s desire to accommodate Moscow’s description of Gorbachov’s image. The rehabilitation of Trotsky and Bukharin provides a case in point. On Sept. 10, a day on which so much of the Western European media was engaged in “rehabilitation” coverage, the Soviet media was granting the most space to a theme that does not quite square with *glasnost*—pages of articles on the occasion of the 110th birthday of Felix Dzerzhinsky, “Iron Felix,” to use *Pravda*’s phrase, the bloody-handed founder of the Cheka, predecessor of the KGB.

Arrest of Italian arms rocks West Europe’s

by Umberto Pascali

“This is the biggest scandal since Irangate. . . . It is as though Rockefeller had been arrested!” commented an American expert immediately after the Italian police arrested 34 people (11 are still being sought), including one from the top echelons of the Italian Establishment, the industrialist Ferdinando Borletti and his son Giovanni. The accused are charged with having illegally sold weapons to Iran—the weapons that the Khomeiniacs are now using in their war in the Persian Gulf.

The illegal weapons traffic was part of a scheme involving prominent Sicilian mafiosi based in Trapani, acting as intermediaries with Teheran. The weapons and explosives were paid for with drugs and with “assistance” to terrorists operating in Italy, West Germany, and elsewhere in Europe.

“Our work is only beginning,” declared Prosecutor Augusto Lama. “We will turn half of Europe upside down.” What is emerging in Italy is part of a broader European picture, including similar and related scandals in Sweden, Belgium, Austria, West Germany, and England. Several sources in Italy are stressing that the “rotten business” came to light after U.S. National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci visited Italy and several other European countries, to discuss their participation in the military operations in the Persian Gulf.

The arrests are a result of the investigations which began last December, when Abu Nidal-controlled terrorists bombed the Rome airport, killing 13 people; they occurred one day after the Italian Council of Ministers decided to send a contingent of naval ships to the Gulf, in support of the U.S. deployment there. The Council’s decision put an abrupt end to the strenuous opposition of Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who is not only an advocate of “friendly” relations with Iran, Syria, and Libya, but is also the top political protector of the Italian military industry.

The Borletti dynasty

By far the most important person arrested, Ferdinando Borletti, is himself close to Andreotti. Borletti is president of Valsella; a defense firm located near Milan, which had just received a commission from Teheran, to provide Khomeini with 2.5 million mines! Fifty percent of Valsella is owned by