

## Editorial

### *Are the Soviets miscalculating?*

We are now seeing an escalated terror wave, which some believe is meant to be a signal to the U.S. Congress: Ratify the INF treaty or else! Whether or not the Soviet aims are that specific, it is clear that the Soviets are brandishing their iron fist.

As any informed individual knows, terrorist networks all function under the broad governance of the Soviet KGB. Whether we are dealing with the Iranian hezbollah, or Qaddafi's forces, or the Japanese Red Army—all apparently activated over the past week—or their East German counterparts, in the final analysis the KGB calls the shots.

Pakistan is in a virtual state of seige, with the destruction of its capital city (and slaughter of over 1,000 people there) only the tip of the iceberg. The newest hijacking, the bombing of American service personnel, the murder of moderate PLO leader Abu Jihad, will be last week's news by the time we hit the newsstands, but everyone predicts the terror count will only mount. A mine explosion in the Persian Gulf has destroyed another U.S. ship.

U.S. response to the crisis from the top, has been typically flaccid. The arrogance of the Soviets is only matched by the supine American willingness to accept any rotten treaty to which Gorbachov will put his signature. Last week it was the dismemberment of Afghanistan, coupled with the demand that the Pakistanis undertake to close down the 200 Afghani guerrilla camps in their country.

Not only would this doom the Afghans to the same fate suffered by all those who are forced into Soviet-controlled slave-labor camps, but it would let loose those who resisted such a fate, as desperate bands within the borders of Pakistan.

The question then is, are the Soviets correct in their calculation that in the present political situation, they can get away with almost anything without even driving the U.S. from the bargaining table, far less eliciting an appropriate reprisal? Are they right in supposing that heightened tensions throughout the world will herd the U.S. Congress into line, and force through the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty without further delay?

We think not.

One very good sign that some stiffening may be in sight, is the recent letter by former Defense Secretary Weinberger. For the first time, Weinberger, who up until now has loyally defended the treaty, has threatened to publicly break with it. He has directly contradicted the State Department claim that there was a "clear understanding" that the treaty would ban "futuristic weapons." No only does Weinberger categorically deny the State Department assertion, but more to the point, in the same letter he states: "I would have opposed it in the strongest possible terms because it would have an obvious adverse effect" on the Strategic Defense Initiative.

We, in the West, are rapidly coming to a branching point, a point of no return. The parallel between Ronald Reagan's capitulation to Mikhail Gorbachov and Neville Chamberlain's similar disgusting retreat before Adolf Hitler, has been drawn repeatedly. But the pace is speeding up; the analogy to the Munich period will not hold much longer, as the Soviets continue to deploy their irregular forces in large-scale military operations—as in Pakistan.

We hope that Weinberger's decision to go public at this time is a sign that more and more patriotic Americans are waking up to the reality. The Soviets and their minions must be taught an uncompromising lesson. The response to the latest Iranian outrages should be military action by the United States against the Iranian mainland. We have the guns and airplanes to manage such action with surgical precision.

Similarly, the INF treaty must be rejected uncompromisingly.

As Lyndon LaRouche reaffirmed in his April 12 television broadcast, Moscow will understand and respect an appropriately tough response to its latest outrages. The Soviets would understand a President LaRouche. We predict that they are wrong when they think that their latest outrages will go unchallenged. We predict that these, combined with LaRouche's uncompromising rallying cry, are beginning to wake up the forces needed to defeat appeasement, and put the Russian bear back in his cage.