

Editorial

Czar Mikhail bears the mark of the beast

The situation within the Soviet Union and throughout the East bloc continues to be explosive. It would be wrong, however, to assume that the Soviet leadership has been caught unawares; or that Gorbachov suffered a setback in June in his attempt to then modify Party Statutes and restructure the membership of the Communist Party Central Committee.

A close look at the new Soviet constitution reveals the opposite to be the case. The Gorbachov constitutional reforms will, in fact, give the new President greater power than that wielded by any other Russian head of state in the present century. Where Gorbachov was not successful in taking control of the Central Committee by carrying out a drastic purge of its membership, he will accomplish the same goal of consolidated power through revisions in the Soviet constitution which will take effect on Nov. 29.

A leading Swiss Sovietologist, Ernst Kux, characterized the situation in a Nov. 16 article in the Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. "Gorbachov gives himself *more* legal power than was possessed by Stalin in his constitution of 1936, and more power even, than was possessed by the Czar in the constitution of 1905."

Among other additions to the constitution are the emergency powers which Gorbachov as head of the State and Party will have to deploy Soviet forces against the population of the U.S.S.R. under conditions of internal crisis for the "protection of the integrity of the U.S.S.R." Coupled to this, is the right of the Supreme Soviet and the Head of State to deploy Soviet forces to fulfill international treaty obligations. He will also have the right to deploy forces against other countries in order to fulfill external treaty obligations.

The newly revised constitution will not only consolidate Gorbachov's position (or that of a successor) as combined Party Chief and Head of State, but give to that office the formal right to rule by decree. Article 119, Section 13 of the revised constitution gives the President emergency powers for the protection of the

U.S.S.R. in single regions or the entire nation.

As Kux says, ironically, "The Soviet Union will be moving from totalitarianism of a Stalinist type to an authoritarian 'democracy,' with too much authority." The structure of the State will be transformed to include a 2,200-person Congress of Peoples' Deputies, which in turn is elected by a complex proceeding.

One-third of its membership is, in fact, chosen to serve by the leadership of a variety of State institutions and organizations, including the Russian Orthodox Church. Kux points out that this feature of the constitution is directly modeled upon fascist corporatism. This elected body, which meets once annually, will choose 450 members of the Supreme Soviet (reduced from the 1,500 membership of the past) and the President, who is not directly elected.

While the Party will no longer directly control government and the economic administration, the power of the bureaucracy or *Nomenklatura* will remain unchanged, particularly since the State will remain a one-party state, and despite the fact that many candidates may participate in a sort of primary election process, only one list will be voted on in election itself.

In 1985, *EIR* published "Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988," which documented the militarization of the Soviet State. Our readers are familiar with the fact that we have repeatedly exposed the fraud of Gorbachov's reforms. *Glasnost* and *perestroika* are intended to place the economy of the Soviet Union on a war footing, by streamlining it.

Any appearance of democratization—insofar as it attacks the extremes of bureaucratic privilege—is intended for such purposes of streamlining.

The present leadership in the U.S.S.R. is a grouping which emphatically includes the military. Just as Hitler announced that he was bringing a thousand-year Third Reich into existence, so Gorbachov and his crowd believe in the mystical destiny of the Russian Empire in its *second millennium*.