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SPECIAL REPORT

Oblomov Sleeps at Die Welt

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Dec. 20 (IPS) — The article, "Die Wiederkehr des Josef Stalin," in Die Welt of Dec. 20 reminds us of a fact well-known to insurance actuaries, that certain fatal accidents are caused by unconscious suicidal intentions of the victim. This is certainly the appropriate observation to applied to the cited article of writer Carl G. Ströhm! Since Ströhm is well-informed writer on Soviet questions, certain crucial errors in his views of the East cannot be the result of ignorance, but must be attributed to potentially suicidal wishful thinking.

The subject of Ströhm's cited article is an important item contributed to the Dec. 18 Pravda by professor K. Suvorov, "On the Path of Socialist Industrialization: . . ." Ströhm completely misinterprets the article as signifying a Soviet withdrawal from an "interventionist" outward orientation into an autarchical inward-turning. On this account, Ströhm makes a mistake which could be catastrophic if such views were to be adopted in leading NATO circles.

The strategic significance of the article is that it contributes to a general pattern of Soviet preparations for the looming possibility of impending thermonuclear warfare, and should be seen in the light of recent meetings of top Soviet civil defense figures and related, unconcealed Soviet signals of Warsaw Pact awareness of the implications of the operational Hilex 75 (or "Hilex 7") deployment of NATO forces under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's direction. Instead of taking warning that the Warsaw Pact is making a political consolidation in preparation for the contingency of World War III, Ströhm mistakes the Suvorov article's emphasis on Soviet industrial "autarchy" to signify a Soviet retreat to a passive posture toward affairs in the capitalist sector.

The almost suicidal aspect of Ströhm's error is that such misestimations of the Soviet and Warsaw Pact posture could encourage Mr. Kissinger's friends in the present course toward earlier eruption of general thermonuclear war. This is most dangerous and significant within leading circles of the German Federal Republic.

It has been established that the qualified military and related leaders in the BRD know without the slightest doubt that any NATO warfare with the Warsaw Pact forces means the obliteration of the Federal Republic, including the near-certainty of a second strike thermonuclear attack by U.S. naval forces against Warsaw Pact forces in the BRD. Therefore, it is understandable that key BRD political and military leaders should passionately desire to believe the infantile fantasies circulated from the RAND Corporation, Ray Cline, "paperclip general" Alexander Haig, and NATO General Secretary Luns' offices: baseless assurances that the Soviet political leadership will capitulate without war to impending Kissinger-directed thermonuclear brinkmanship over a Kissinger-launched Middle East war.

As long as such BRD leaders can induce themselves to believe such nonsensical assurances from Ray Cline et al., they can avoid the obligation to break openly and definitely with the insane games of Messrs. Rockefellers, Kissinger, and the Rockefeller-allied Atlanticist factions. Ströhm's article is properly seen as a reflection of the kind of thinking coming out from Mr. Ronald Reagan's military affairs advisor, Mr. James Rodney Schlesinger, on this count. Otherwise, Mr. Ströhm, who is undoubtedly far more intelligent and informed than Mr. Schlesinger, would not — in our estimation — make such blunders.

In that respect, as we believe Mr. Ströhm would otherwise see clearly, his thinking out loud in this Dec. 20 Die

Welt item represents the sort of quixotic bedroom fantasizing classically associated with the case of Oblomov.

Crucial Features of Suvorov's Item

It would be most useful for Carl Ströhm and others to directly compare the Suvorov Dec. 18 item with my own published appraisal, "The Question of Stalinism Today." That comparison would point up the significance of certain historical inaccuracies in Professor Suvorov's account. This is clearest when one recognizes that the Fourteenth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the name of Trotsky do not correlate with the issue Suvorov is raising — except in one critical respect. On the general issue, Suvorov is actually defending Stalin's industrialization policy of the "Third Period" against the policies of Bukharin, Rykov, and Tomsky. When, then does Suvorov shift the date of the fight to 1925, and counterpose Stalin's industrialization policy to that of Trotsky and Preobrazhensky, rather than to the "snail's pace" policy actually represented by the co-thinkers of Bukharin at the 1925 congress? An informed Sovietologist like Ströhm should not have overlooked that most curious paradox in the Suvorov article. If he had not overlooked that paradox, he would have trembled with fear rather than squirming comfortably in Oblomov's warm bed.

Suvorov attacks Trotsky and Preobrazhensky for the policies of Bukharin! The key to this can only be, as Suvorov himself repeatedly emphasizes, the achievements of "socialism in one country." Such an autarchical outlook has one possible objective significance at this time, a political orientation to impending circumstances of general thermonuclear warfighting.

As my article itself should suffice to make clear, I do not agree with the methods of political algebra used by professor Suvorov. If I project myself into the position held by Soviet leaders,

I would sharply criticize Suvorov for the attempt to make a "silk purse" of self-sufficiency from the "sow's ear" of being once again in the circumstances of a besieged fortress. I would argue that the plague of "white (actually brown) Communism" afflicting Western European Communist parties could not have succeeded if the importance of openly describing reality for what it is had been adequately reflected in CPSU practice. I would criticize Suvorov and others from underestimating the ability of party cadres and workers generally to accept hard truths without consoling rationalizations.

Since I have constructed a cadre-formation of unusual qualities of effectiveness from absolute beginnings, without outside help, there can be no doubt that I am eminently qualified in making such criticisms. Without doubt, the recent "white Communist" coup d'etat in the French Communist Party tends to convince some CPSU and other Communist leaders that I have been correct concerning the CPUSA, Italian CP, and so forth all along.

Yet, once I have registered such criticisms of the political policy errors in the Suvorov article, I am otherwise inclined toward a compassionate understanding of the motives behind such included errors.

The "Trip-Wire" Connection

This past week, on the basis of observation of certain critical features of Soviet and other conduct, I concluded — and publicly warned — that it was most possible if not yet certain that Warsaw Pact response to operational Hilex 75 operations was being based on a "trip wire" connection between distinct, parallel Soviet political and military options. That is, that the characteristic Soviet political posture immediately operating is a Soviet commitment to establishing a peaceful basis in the founding of a "new world economic order!" However, at the point that the Soviets perceived that Rockefeller, Kissinger, et al. had established effective preponderance over other factions in the NATO countries, the Soviets must go to a strictly military option.

This week, it has been determined that my own estimation is in essential agreement with that of leading forces within the U.S. capitalist establish-

ment. So, at this moment, the struggle within the U.S. to prevent Rockefeller's breaking (or, assassination) of President Gerald Ford, and the fight by both certain Republican and Democratic forces to dump the madman Henry Kissinger are the principal, last remaining struggles standing between the world and general thermonuclear holocaust.

By contrast with the U.S. internal situation, Henry Kissinger has France in his pocket, and has made considerable advances toward the objective of isolating and neutralizing the sane forces grouped around Chancellor Schmidt in the BRD. Britain is solidly for the moment under control of the Hilex 75 operational war-game, and important Italian resistance to Rockefeller and Kissinger is not sufficient by itself to offset Kissinger's imposition of the Hilex 75 command-structure upon other sections of Western Europe. In this overview, the kind of wishful thinking expressed by Carl Ströhm can be seen as actually suicidal to the extent it is accepted in other key BRD need to crush Mr. Kissinger's influence over European policies, underestimation of the insane operational deployment of Hilex 75, itself contributes to the political preconditions under which general thermonuclear holocaust might erupt at almost any early moment.

For reasons which might appear to be incredible and complex to poorly informed persons, I have not-accidentally found myself a critical figure in these developments. For various reasons, Messrs. Kissinger and Rockefeller have an extraordinary fear of both my own personal influence and that of the Labor Committees generally. In their reaction to this fear of me, Kissinger and Company have steered a middle course between launching outright repression against the Labor Committees and yet organizing as much harassment as they imagine will not augment our influence through the countervailing advantages of outright political "martyrdom." The result of Kissinger's effort to find the most efficient middle course against me and the Labor Committees is a massive deployment of covert CIA-type operations, using some of his highest-ranking collaborators in several nations for this purpose, as well as his agents and

conduits within social-democratic and "white Communist" circles.

However, covert operation launched on such a scale and at such high levels of political, financial and press circles with such intensity can not remain exactly covert in fact. The Kissinger-CIA "covert" operations against me and the Labor Committees have become approximately as covert in fact as the 1961 "Bay of Pigs" operation. This has qualitatively increased my importance in the highest levels of politics, finance, and so forth. In particular, my prominent position in formulating both the political and economic features of a new world economic order, a position which has made me of significant importance among certain leading circles, causes the harassment against all figures who wish to discuss with me to become a significant feature of the current world situation. In this unprecedented, but not inexplicable fashion, the behavior of certain circles and persons toward me and toward the Labor Committees has become both a factor and a thermometer-measurement of the struggle to prevent World War III. In particular, the point at which Kissinger might be situated to massively repress the Labor Committees becomes the point — more or less within even days — that general thermonuclear war will erupt. The point at which the Labor Committees can be massively repressed is the point of deterioration of the political situation at which the Soviet "trip wire" must be activated.

On that account, despite the major political differences between ourselves and persons such as Carl Ströhm, we strongly encourage them to verify or correct their estimations with our aid. At this point, as Paul Nitze suggests in the current issue of Foreign Affairs, the Soviet Union might probably win general thermonuclear war, but on terms — those of general holocaust — which no one this side of such war would consider a desirable variant of the present situation.

In particular, the Suvorov article should be seen in the same general frame of reference as high-level recent meetings of Soviet civil defense officials. Anyone who rejects the alternatives offered through Leonid Brezhnev is playing an extremely foolish game.