



NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

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U.S. Press Distorts Meaning of Soviet Defense Chief's Appointment

May 15 (IPS) — On April 29, the Soviet politburo announced the appointment of Dmitri F. Ustinov as Defense Minister filling the vacancy left by the death of Marshall Andrei Grechko three days earlier. With the speed of the appointment and the qualifications of the appointee - Ustinov was the man chosen by Stalin to run Soviet war production during the second world war — the Soviets broadcast that there would be no shift whatsoever in strategic Soviet thinking. Taken with correlative policy statement published in the Soviet and Comecon sector press, the Ustinov's appointment is a warning that the Soviet Union is prepared to launch a strategic nuclear attack on the United States if pushed to the brink by Atlanticist capitalist factions.

The major press and other media in the United States, under the top-down control of both the Rockefeller and Harriman Wall Street factions, has systematically and deliberately misrepresented and therewith distorted these clear Soviet signals.

On May 5, German Democratic Republic radio attacked Schlesinger doctrine-advocate and former CIA Deputy Director Ray Cline as a man foolishly believing in "regional" nuclear war, whose influence is dangerous. On May 6, leading Pravda commentator Yuri Zhukov blasted both Cline and Rockefeller-collaborator George Ball for "playing on the brink of a hot war" in their support for the Schlesinger regional warfare doctrine. On May 8, to the accompaniment of a range of unmistakable warning speeches and articles by, variously, Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Maskalenko, Warsaw Pact chief Yakubovsky, Warsaw Pact Commander Jacobovsky, and GDR leader Willi Stoph, it was announced that Leonid Brezhnev, Soviet Head of State and Secretary-General of the Communist Party had been promoted to the full military rank of Marshall. This is the first time a Soviet civilian has taken the highest of military posts since Joseph Stalin's assumption of the rank of Marshall army command two months after the 1941 Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

Beginning with a mid-April Washington, D.C. conference of the American Newspaper Editors Association, addressed by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Kremlinologist Zbigniew Brzezinski, George Ball and other nuclear strategists and Kremlinologists, the U.S. press has engaged in systematic lying and deliberate misevaluation to the effect that each of these developments signifies Soviet commitment to a "soft-line" amenability to "regional" nuclear war.

Therefore, while a major U.S. Labor Party drive is underway to identify and root-out each and every National Security Council policy-conduit agent in the nation's media to expose and break up the censorship, the simple fact stands that IPS

in its daily and weekly editions is the only honest, accurate and reliable source of reportage and evaluation of those major new Soviet policy initiatives and personnel shifts which are so critical to the future of humanity.

The single exception to this statement has been the May 7 Chicago Tribune, whose editorial announced: "For once we agree with the U.S. Labor Party...the appointment of Ustinov...the man who impressed Stalin favorably and who built the SS-18, is certainly no harbinger of global tranquility."

The pattern emerging from a grid of U.S. press misreportage of Soviet danger signals establishes that the purpose is only secondarily to dupe and confuse the population and sane decision-makers alike; primarily, the press campaign of deception is employing conditioning techniques to create a climate in which the self-imposed insane delusions of Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger and their supporters about Schlesinger "regional" war-fighting idiocy can be imagined practical and even most clever by its proponents. Apart from IPS, the entire U.S. press has been denying the most certain of post-war facts: in a confrontation involving their strategic interests, the Soviets will unleash their entire arsenal on North America.

Following Ustinov's appointment a number of biographies of the new Soviet defense chief appeared simultaneously in major papers throughout the U.S. The general theme of the "bios" was the same: Ustinov was a civilian, he had never been in the military and thus represented a different strata of the Soviet bureaucracy than the late Marshall Grechko. All were carefully worded to imply that there existed a policy distinction between Ustinov and the notorious hard-liner Grechko leading the reader to draw the implication that Ustinov was a soft-liner, pro-detente. In some cases direct statements to that effect. Deleted from the biographies for obvious reasons was Ustinov's connections to Stalin etc.

In the cases of large newspapers such biographies, were written by the resident "Kremlin watchers". Other papers which cannot afford the luxury of carrying a State Department agent Kremlin specialist on their payrolls were conducted syndicated columns by such "luminaries" as the likes of Victor Zorsz. The biographies were backed up by brief news analysis and news articles which carried a similar slant on the "story".

The major wire services meanwhile carried news stories which contained paragraphs summarizing the misinformation in the Kremlinologist's biographies of Ustinov. These articles were then placed into the various regional and local papers. Appropriate editorials were synthesized to support

this or that particular point of misinformation all concluding (with the exception of the previously mentioned Chicago Tribune piece) that Ustinov was a "soft-liner."

The similarity between the articles and their placement throughout the press is clear indication of conspiracy to control the news around the Ustinov appointment to deliberately portray a misevaluation of its importance and meaning — a conspiracy involving major wire services, the editorial boards of major newspapers, etc.

The following selected excerpts are representative of the black propaganda concerning the Ustinov appointment.

The New York Times, Editorial, April 30

Dmitri F. Ustinov's appointment "gives the soft-liners more factional power." He was promoted to the rank of Marshall "to soften the impact" his appointment would have on the hard-line military.

The New York Times, Editorial, May 4

"As the man who presided over the arms production program, Ustinov is undoubtedly more acceptable to the military than other civilians. But at the same time, his civilian status may be intended as a signal to the U.S." indicating Soviet commitment to detente.

Washington Post, April 30, Op Ed Column by Victor Zorza.

Ustinov's appointment "does not mean the doves are on top again, but they are in a position to begin courting the U.S.

again." As military-industrial production chief under Stalin, Ustinov had the job of "trying to control the military's appetites" and "shooting down the demands" of the Red Army when "they became excessive..."

A similar pattern of misinformation - generated in the same way - has appeared in the press about Brezhnev assuming the rank of marshall. Below is a sampling.

International Herald Tribune, May 13, Column by Victor Zorza.

The appointment of Chief of State Brezhnev to the rank of Marshall and of "civilian" Dmitri Ustinov to the Defense Ministry are both a "reassertion of the soft-line." Ustinov's appointment is "analogous" to the ousting of U.S. Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger last fall. "In both cases, the hard-liners were defeated."

Chicago Tribune, May 14, Column by James Jackson.

"In the long run, Brezhnev's new military regime may bring a drastic slowdown in Soviet military growth...the Soviets have achieved parity...Brezhnev may have decided that parity is enough" and he now wishes to "rein in" the military hardliners by his own military appointment. "He will seek to only maintain parity while shifting economic resources into the sluggish civilian economy. Brezhnev can wear his Marshall's uniform but he must prove that he can make the generals salute it."