

Behind The SALT Talks' Collapse:

General Giller's Secret

Aside from the broader issues of global political policy, the collapse of the SALT negotiations now going on in Moscow is directly attributable to the negotiating posture adopted by Messrs. Warnke and Vance. Briefly stated, this posture involved the attempt to bluff the Soviet leadership into accepting a total ban on the future introduction of new weapons systems based on qualitative technological and scientific breakthrough "in return" for freezing strategic weapons at the quantitative levels agreed upon at Vladivostock in 1974. U.S. adoption of this policy is readily inferred from remarks in President Carter's press conference earlier this month — especially his stress on the necessity for a total nuclear test ban treaty — as well as from earlier congressional testimony by chief strategic arms negotiator Paul Warnke during his Senate confirmation hearings.

The policy was made explicit in a March 24 op-ed in Cyrus Vance's New York Times by fascist economic planner and de facto Carter Administration policy advisor Wassily Leontief: "... the United States and the Soviet Union push on and on with the development and deployment of entirely new — and because of that not-yet-restricted — types of weapons . . . This vicious circle can be broken only if purely technical agreements are replaced, or, even better, supplemented by agreements limiting the overall volume of military expenditures."

The actual motive behind Mr. Leontief's concern and Mr. Carter's "real disarmament" posturing, of course, has precious little to do with the necessary and desirable conversion of high-technology military production potentials to civilian production. High-technology and capital and energy-intensive production methods, exemplified by most military production, actually have no room in Carter's economic program — a program based on the creation of labor-intensive "make-work" jobs.

The entire point of the noble disarmament exercise is that an Administration which is committed to energy conservation, the scuttling of the nation's most advanced nuclear fusion and fission research and development programs, the destruction of high-technology industries, and the substitution of drugs and astrology for scientific thought and methods obviously cannot expect to hold its own and guarantee the nation's security in a race in which the likely adversary, the Soviet Union, is demonstrably committed to the exact opposite policy thrust.

Therefore, the Carter team is attempting to con the USSR into "outlawing" Soviet technological development policy, the better to ensure that the Administration's presently operational *war policy* — successive, escalating military-strategic confrontations with the Soviets — has some chance of success.

The "Sleeping Giant" Fable

Thus was invented the fable of the "sleeping giant." According to recent congressional testimony by former CIA director William Colby, the Soviet leadership, through the diligent and insightful work by the Moscow "U.S. Institute" under the leadership of Georgii Arbatov, has been convinced that the Soviet Union must accept Carter-type disarmament terms lest the sleeping U.S. giant be provoked in the field of weapons development into the same kind of massive R and D effort that put the first man on the moon. While, to the best of our knowledge, Georgii Arbatov may in fact be involved in retailing such stories, the realities of the situation — as clearly understood by the Soviet military and scientific establishment, and at least a substantial portion of the Politburo — are entirely different. As U.S. intelligence and military experts, too, are well aware — and many of them have said so publicly — the Soviet Union at this point enjoys a decisive advantage in the potential for short-term conversion of already accomplished scientific and technological breakthroughs into decisive strategic weapons advantages. Under these circumstances, the Soviet Union, of course, has nothing to gain from the Carter-proposed ban on new weapons systems, and the "sleeping giant" fable is simply a desperate attempt of playing upon paranoid inclinations of the Soviet leadership strata, with the hope of bluffing them into acceptance of what is in fact the only feasible arms policy of an Administration bent on deindustrialization and dequalification of the U.S. population.

The Emperor's New Clothes

The entire matter is most pointedly demonstrated by once again examining the relationship between fusion energy R and D programs and weapons applications from the standpoint of the by now celebrated "Rudakov disclosures." In July of last year, the Soviet fusion researcher Dr. L.I. Rudakov reported in detail to a conference of U.S. scientists at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory on work he was doing on using electron beams to compress target pellets of fusionable material. At that time, he disclosed that Soviet scientists had discovered how to use non-linear effects to achieve a very efficient transfer of energy into rapid compression.

As New Solidarity reported at the time, and as was immediately recognized by the U.S. scientific and intelligence communities, these disclosures implied that the Soviets had achieved the capability of developing far more efficient thermonuclear weapons, as well as the more peaceful uses of fusion power.

The immediate reaction of the authorities involved was to totally hush up the Rudakov disclosures — sending out telegrams telling scientists not to mention them, at-

tempting to classify the whole thing, and so on — up until the story was finally broken in the scientific and national press largely due to the efforts of the U.S. Labor Party.

The immediate question raised at the time was: why in the world did U.S. authorities attempt to classify revelations of Soviet advances made to U.S. scientists? The mystery deepens when the further research the Soviets are undertaking in particle beams is considered. As reported in the current issue of *Scientific American* and elsewhere, Soviet physicist Gersh Budker has devised a method of vastly increasing the intensity of proton beams, an accomplishment of immense use in both high-energy and fusion research. This discovery may as well have military implications, especially considering the recent statements of Major General Keegan, the former chief of U.S. Air Force intelligence that the Soviet Union has developed powerful particle beam weapons for anti-missile defense.

If, in fact, the Soviet Union is far ahead of the U.S. in these electron and proton-beam technologies (and if they had such potential military implications), then why wouldn't every revelation about these topics from the Soviets be discussed and disseminated as widely as possible in the U.S. in an attempt to catch up? Why the classification? What, in fact, has the U.S. got to hide?

The answer is that we have nothing to hide — that is the secret! General Giller's Department of Defense Applications, which has responsibility for U.S. research on laser and electron-beam fusion, is so secretive about *Soviet* advances precisely because widespread discussion of such advances would reveal just how far behind U.S. research really is. And this would puncture

the carefully cultivated myth of the sleeping giant. The evidence from the Rudakov Affair on this matter is doubly confirmed by reports on the U.S. laser fusion program itself.

The prestigious and comprehensive Brueckner report recently prepared by the Electric Power Research Institute states flatly concerning U.S. laser fusion research and the many non-linear effects which have been observed in those experiments: "No laboratory has yet made the measurements required to resolve the present uncertainties in these phenomena." Thus in laser research, as well as electron-beam research, the U.S. effort to develop more advanced thermonuclear *weapons* (the principal aim of U.S. fusion research in this area), has absolutely nothing to hide.

This situation is scarcely surprising, considering that the U.S. fusion effort, even its military side, has been starved for funds and hogtied by useless classification. Carter's most recent, across-the-board cuts in the fusion research budget, including laser and electron-beam fusion, obviously only make this situation worse. The sleeping giant has no monster weapons up his sleeve to frighten the Russians with.

As is obvious from the present collapse of the SALT talks, the Soviets are aware of the U.S. bluff and have now called it. This means that the Trilateral Commission bluffers, if they are allowed to remain in power, will accelerate even further their drive towards confrontation before the Soviets' technological-military advantage becomes totally overwhelming.

—Uwe Parpart