

Carter Is Pushing USSR To The Brink

The rash of U.S. armaments and strategic posture decisions announced or leaked after President Carter scotched the B-1 bomber in favor of the cruise missile has drawn the heaviest denunciations and warnings of war from Moscow since Carter took office.

At each development — the cruise missile, the July 7 report that a “neutron bomb” has already been tested, and revived talk of accelerating the MX mobile missile program — the Soviets snapped back a new charge that Washington is hell-bent on an arms race which puts a new SALT agreement out of the question.

Privately, Soviet officials indicate that it is not merely the pile-up of this hardware that alarms them, but the strategic posture it implies.

The cruise missile and the neutron bomb, both of which Secretary of Defense Harold Brown wants to deploy with NATO forces in Europe, are in the Soviet view weapons intended for theater nuclear confrontation. Their priority in Administration plans signals to Moscow that the U.S. is going full swing into “local nuclear war” scenarios on several fronts. Brown’s efforts to sell Europe the cruise and neutron bomb and Secretary of State Vance’s proclamation of a one-China policy, intended to win Peking’s firm alliance on a “second front” against the USSR, are bolstering this Soviet perception. At the point where the perception becomes an intelligence estimate that a “limited”

nuclear strike on the USSR or one of its allies is immediately imminent, then the most reliable defensive move under Soviet military doctrine is to launch a combined counterforce and countervalue first strike against the United States.

Red Star, the USSR Defense Ministry daily, published twin articles on July 3 to reveal just where Moscow is looking on the map. One of them reported how Brown, at the recent NATO Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Ottawa, bludgeoned the Europeans to accept the cruise missile. The second detailed Carter’s northern Asia policy of pressuring Japan to arm, take up the regional slack when U.S. forces in South Korea are reduced (to be shifted to the NATO front), and strike a formal alliance with China. The same day the government daily *Izvestia* warned that present U.S. policies could easily touch off a world war in the Middle East or Africa. As Henry Trehwitt of the *Baltimore Sun* commented this week that Soviet-American relations are at a 10-year low, Horst Sindermann, formerly Prime Minister of East Germany, told a Leningrad meeting of Warsaw Pact nation parliamentarians that if the “enemies of detente” are not stopped, the world is headed for nuclear catastrophe.

“Dangerous Undertakings”

The rapid succession of Moscow’s statements in the past week is a grave record of how the Soviets are being

Soviet Delegate: U.S. Forces Step Backwards At Belgrade

Yulii Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation at the present agenda talks for this fall’s Belgrade session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), told a plenary meeting of the talks July 6 that “certain Western countries” had forced a step backwards in the deliberation. That afternoon, Vorontsov’s deputy Sharkov convened a press conference to single out the United States, not the Western European delegations, as the guilty party. A revised Soviet agenda proposal had been rejected, as the U.S. team insisted on its plan to provide for a full review of purported “human rights” violations in the past two years.

According to reports in the West German press, members of the U.S. group exploded in fury at the West Europeans — especially Bonn’s representatives — for not going along with Washington’s insistence on jeopardizing the CSCE with the “human rights” ploy. Bonn is “too susceptible to

Soviet arguments,” a Carter envoy reportedly complained.

On July 7, a meeting in Leningrad of parliamentarians from Warsaw Pact member nations concluded with an open call to the parliaments of all CSCE signatories. It urged struggle for disarmament, for preventing a new world war, and for broad economic and scientific cooperation. All of these tasks are vitally necessary for every nation, said the statement.

More than one speaker in Leningrad urged that the Belgrade agenda talks get the show on the road, since dickering there is delaying discussion on these priority topics. The *Financial Times* of London, however, has reported rumors among delegates at Belgrade that the meeting may be adjourned for the summer without agreement on an agenda for the autumn foreign ministers’ conference.