

Soviets on NATO maneuvers: 'A strategy of intimidation'

The Soviet press is giving extensive coverage to the ongoing series of NATO maneuvers, attacking them as a "strategy of intimidation" aimed at both the socialist countries and supporters of detente within the NATO member countries.

The *Izvestia* article "NATO's Gendarme Uniform," excerpted below, exposes the role played by NATO in using the kidnapping and murder of Italian political leader Aldo Moro to further generate hysteria against the East bloc, and names other destabilization operations aimed against NATO member countries.

However, Soviet observers are also sharply attuned to the existence of opposition within NATO's ranks to the war-confrontation policies of Commander Haig and the British. *Izvestia's* feature, "Dangerous Myths," points to recent statements against Haig's policies by a West German general as indicative of a broader "painful reappraisal of values" on the part of some military layers, a phenomenon which is "quite remarkable."

Soviets Analyze NATO Psywar

The Soviet military daily Krasnaya Zvezda of Sept. 3 carried an article, excerpted here, entitled "NATO: Militaristic Demonstrations," coauthored by Col. M. Ponomarev and V. Postnikov.

Tomorrow begins the regular series of yearly complex maneuvers and exercises of the unified, multinational and national armed forces of the countries of the North Atlantic bloc. The whole series goes under the code name "Autumn Forge-78."

... It is perfectly obvious that from a political point of view (the maneuvers) are an intentional militaristic demonstration, planned and prepared in NATO headquarters. Their goal is to show the Soviet Union and other socialist states the military might of the North Atlantic bloc, the "unity" of the NATO countries, their readiness to act against the community of socialist states at any moment. In other words, the Atlanticists would like once again to demonstrate their "strategy of intimidation," to exert psychological pressure on the USSR and the other members of the Warsaw Pact, and at the same time to frighten the population of their own countries with the notorious "threat from the East," to carry out their inhuman designs without hindrance....

"NATO's Gendarme Uniform"

NATO's role in intensifying the arms race and attempts to destabilize socialist countries were

detailed in a major Sept. 5 Izvestia article by Yu. Nalin; portions of that piece appear here:

Recent events connected with the activity of the North Atlantic Bloc quite glaringly expose its character. Indeed, the decision to increase military appropriations, the confirmation of new plans for militarist preparations, the mapping out in the next few days of a huge "demonstration of muscle" of NATO from Norway to the Mediterranean Sea, the unbridled propagandistic campaign against the USSR and the socialist countries — all this graphically testifies to the fact that the aggressive forces united in this sinister alliance intend henceforth to act against detente, to intensify the arms race, and to carry out subversive activity against the socialist countries. At the same time NATO is putting up fierce resistance to the growth of progressive tendencies in the capitalist countries as well as the national liberation movements outside the borders of the Bloc....

NATO's activity is full of examples when the more aggressive circles of the alliance, behind which the USA has always stood, have played the role of overseer over their own peoples and sometimes outright gendarme. In the staff headquarters of the bloc, in close cooperation with the CIA, the plans were prepared for military plots of the "Prometheus" type, bringing to power the "black colonels" in Greece. Following that was the unsuccessful coup in Italy in 1964 and the criminal plot against the people of Cyprus with the goal of "adapting" this island to the military-strategic goals of NATO.

And the gross interference of the leadership of the bloc in the internal affairs of post-Salazar Portugal? By means of different methods, from diplomatic demarches and unbridled anti-Portugal propaganda to threats of military interference — the leaders of the bloc exerted pressure on Portugal to roll back the democratization of the country chosen by the Portugese people.

The unceremonious threat of using economic sanctions, right up to the interference of the USA and NATO in the internal affairs of Italy during the parliamentary elections of 1976, can also be recalled. The same blackmail tactic was used this year during the government crisis in Italy and on the threshold of the parliamentary elections in France, when the NATOites once again resorted to the threat of using every possible sanction in case of the success of the leftist forces in these countries....

The leaders of the bloc are trying to create an atmosphere of intolerance toward progressive people.

organizations and movements in the NATO countries. In connection with the kidnapping and murder of Italian political figure A. Moro, the Western press once again spoke of the connections of the terrorists with foreign secret services, maintaining the country in an atmosphere of tension.

In the inner depths of NATO, the Western press reports, are plans worked out long ago for the use of the most extreme measures of influence over "rebel-countries." Even in 1969, U.S. intentions were made public to provide itself "in the case of extraordinary circumstances" with unlimited rights and absolute power in member countries; to bring in and employ on their territory any arms, using the intelligence of the national secret services, to administer justice and inflict punishment at their own discretion, to use local work forces, etc. And all this with the goal of destroying any movement threatening the strategic interests of the USA and the "free world."...

In the NATO apparatus there is a high planning committee in case of an extraordinary civil situation. According to the Austrian "*Volkstimme*," this committee coordinates the work of the security services of the NATO countries. The creation of special mobile units is envisioned for use in the event of serious political disturbances within any NATO member state. In the educational center at Bad-Emse, officers of the NATO armies are prepared for military actions under conditions of "internal tensions."

During military exercises which the West German paper *Bayernkurier* plainly calls "interventionist," methods are worked out for the joint actions of the NATO staffs and local authorities in case of an "extraordinary situation." Thus, the Hilex or Wintex maneuvers were devised on the premise that in Portugal, Italy and France the "threat of seizure of power by the communists" had arisen....

Reappraisal of Values

Recognition of West German alarm over NATO maneuvers appeared in Izvestia. The Sept. 8 article, entitled "Dangerous Myths," reprinted in part below, was written by Soviet Bonn correspondent N. Polyakov.

(NATO Commander) General Haig wrote an article in the publication *NATO-Brief*, trying to base a doctrine on "the new Soviet threat." In reply, Bundeswehr General Christian Krause published an article in the weekly of the Social Democratic Party, *Vorwärts*.

... "Europe," the Bundeswehr General writes, "has more serious concerns than defense from a (mythical) surprise attack by the Russians." The authors of the NATO doctrine do not want to see "that the Soviet Union since 1949 has consistently sought to strengthen the status quo in Europe." It has tried to fix that status quo in international treaties. "It should also not be forgotten," Krause writes, "that it was the Soviets

who advocated the inclusion of the principle of renunciation of the use of force in the Eastern Treaties."

.. along the Rhine, a painful reappraisal of values is occurring. This does not of course mean that good sense now rules in NATO. Just as before the tones of the "hawks" can be heard. But the appearance of the article just cited is in itself quite remarkable.

French warn of World War III

Excerpts follow of an article by former Gaullist Prime Minister of France, Michel Debre, entitled "The Crisis of Detente," published in Le Monde Sept. 9.

The end of the Cold War, that is to say the preparation for a hot war, has been evident for about 20 years. General De Gaulle, after having measured the evolution of the Soviets, affirmed the necessity for detente and beyond, of cooperation and entente . . . Are we witnessing the end of this period?

The least that can be said is that we are witnessing a turning point, whose clearest manifestation is the hardening positions of all the partners in the international game. This hardening is perhaps not the end of detente. It is, at least, a questioning of the conceptions which, since the death of Stalin to the Helsinki Conference, have, come what may, won out over the grave causes and manifestations of opposition and conflict.

Where does this change come from?

A first cause is the Soviet attitude. Detente, as it has many times been described, has given the Soviet Union the opportunity, which it takes, to advance its pawns on the world chess board. The leaders of the great Soviet empire have sometimes, despite their caution, been pulled into supporting the sworn adversaries of the United States and the West . . .

A second cause . . . is Chinese diplomacy and its aims. The conflict between China and Russia is anterior to the cultural revolution and was notably manifest by China's designs on Africa at a time when the two other superpowers only manifested their disinterest . . . Since (the Cultural Revolution ended) the Chinese have been spinning a diplomatic web: good relations with the United States, entente with Japan, support for any European policy that might be marked by growing defiance towards the Russians, support for all the regimes of the world who oppose the communists submitted to Moscow, search for an accord with those in Eastern Europe who are not unconditional (supporters of the Soviet Union). It is in light of this context that the recent trip of the Chinese Prime Minister to Bucharest, Belgrade and Tehran must be appreciated.