

Editorial

Batyushka combats the heretics

The Soviet Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet held their deliberations on June 14 and 15 in the Kremlin. Little Father Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, Batyushka, with Archduke Chernenko, dedicated the proceedings to an elaborate, comprehensive doxology declaring total "ideological war" against "Western imperialism." Under the rubric of "spiritual mobilization" of the masses, Andropov outlined what he considers the six key elements of this spiritual mobilization.

"In the entire educational and propaganda work, it is necessary to constantly take into account the specificity of the given period of history through which mankind is living. And this period is marked by a confrontation, unprecedented in the entire post-war period by its intensity and sharpness, of two diametrically opposite world outlooks, the two political courses, socialism and imperialism. A struggle is going on for the minds and hearts of billions of people in the world. And the future of mankind depends in no small measure on the outcome of this ideological struggle."

Then, "Our entire ideological, educational and propaganda work must be resolutely raised to the level of the big and complex tasks which the party is solving . . . the party committees of all levels, every party organization, must understand that no matter how important are the other questions with which they have to deal (economic, organizational etc.), ideological work is advancing to the fore."

Under the spires of the Kremlin's Uspenskii Cathedral, the Little Father marshaled to action his great divisions of "ideological warfare:" "We have at our disposal a tremendous arsenal of means of education and upbringing. These are the press and radio, television and oral propaganda, and the huge network of educational establishments of various types . . . the matter now is to utilize all these means more correctly, to use them more vigorously, creatively, taking into account, in particular, the increased level of education and requirements of Soviet people. . . . A new, considerably higher standard of ideological and theoretical work in the field of social sciences, of the work of our scientific institutions and of each scientist separately must be ensured . . . the social sciences must become

an effective assistant of the party and the entire people in the solution of these tasks."

Then, the Little Father droned on, "a big role must be played by a change of style in the performance of the network of our political education and mass political study. It is necessary first of all to put an end to formalism, to a mechanical, divested from life memorizing, or reading from prepared texts, of these or those general propositions." Continuing to read from his prepared text, Andropov shifted to economic tasks: "A single scientific-technical policy acquires decisive importance now. A tremendous amount of work awaits us in the creation of machines, mechanisms and technologies both for today and for tomorrow. We will have to automate production, ensure the widest use of computers and robots, and the introduction of flexible technology allowing for a quick and effective readjustment of production for the manufacture of new output. The future of our power industry is in the utilization of the latest atomic reactors and in the future, also the practical solution of the problem of controlled thermonuclear fusion." *But:*

"Unfortunately, comrades, as you all know, it is the introduction of the achievements of science and technology into practice that is a snag for us."

For the Little Father and his legions of necktie-wearing helpers, it is no easier to bust out of their technological-industrial bottleneck, their "snag," than it is to proceed with a "change in style" or to stop "reading from prepared texts." The comrades, therefore, very aware of these, only human failings, decided to play it safe. So, the aging Andrei Gromyko, representing the usual consensus of opinion, the following morning announced to the assembled Supreme Soviet that the just mobilized ideological warmaking machine of the Motherland will dedicate its efforts to support the antinuclear, environmentalist movement of the United States, as an insurance policy just in case the "comrades" can't get past their "snag."

If your local antinuclear environmentalist continues to bore you with his unimaginative exhortations, don't blame him any more. Not even Little Father could let go of his prepared text.