

The Soviets spell out their missile threat

by Rachel Douglas

As reports broke in the U.S. press that the Reagan administration was on the verge of seeking "crash program"-level funding of defensive strategic beam weapons development, Radio Moscow launched new attacks on President Reagan and the United States for "furiously preparing for space wars." In an Oct. 17 broadcast, Radio Moscow attacked White House scientific adviser George Keyworth's statement that both space and ground-based laser defenses would be tested by the end of the 1990s.

While denouncing Reagan, the Soviets threatened, in messages to NATO's European members, all-out nuclear war before the new capabilities are in place, launched by an imminent superpower missile showdown in which Europe would be vaporized. Moscow raised the pitch of these warnings with the threat to terminate arms talks with the United States, on the eve of the Soviet-backed environmentalist and "peace" movement's Oct. 16-22 "hot anti-missile week" in West Germany.

Timed with this escalation of the hot autumn, slated to bring terrorist acts against U.S. and NATO installations, Moscow sent Gen. Nikolai Chervov of the General Staff and party spokesman Leonid Zamyatin to the scene. In Hamburg on Oct. 10, Zamyatin said the stationing of American Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe this year would mean "a qualitatively new situation, a most labile and explosive situation in Europe. . . a status of diminished security" for West Germany and a violation of the German-Soviet "détente" treaties of 1973. When the Pershings are deployed, "there would be no continuation of the Geneva talks," he added. Chervov told another Hamburg audience of a probable early end to those Soviet-American medium-range missile (INF) limitation talks in Geneva.

In an Oct. 13 statement released through Novosti press agency, Warsaw Pact Commander Marshal Viktor Kulikov spelled out the missile threat to both Europe and the United States. "After consultations with our allies," he said, "we shall deploy additional nuclear weapons to offset NATO's growing nuclear might in Europe, and we shall take corresponding measures with regard to U.S. territory. . . . The military threat to the territory of the United States and the Western European countries where new missiles will be deployed will equal the threat that the United States intends to create for the U.S.S.R. and its allies."

The Warsaw Pact consultations began on Oct. 13, when the foreign ministers of member countries convened in Sofia, Bulgaria. Its Oct. 14 communiqué identified the condition for the talks to continue: No stationing of the American weapons, period. As the ministers met, reports circulated in intelligence circles that the U.S.S.R. has already begun to move new short-range SS-21 and SS-22 missiles onto convoys for deployment in Eastern Europe—one of the "countermeasures" threatened by Moscow that will set up a hair-trigger for nuclear war.

The Soviet threats to Europe were surpassed only by the pre-war briefing given to the Soviet population in the popular weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* on Oct. 5. The paper told Soviet writers to move with the World War II slogan "Everything for the front, everything for victory!"—applied today against Ronald Reagan. Arkadii Sakhnin's article, called "The Second Pretender," seconded a recent speech by the Russian chauvinist head of party work in the military, General Yepishhev, in calling Reagan Adolf Hitler's successor. Sakhnin wrote, "The second plenipotentiary of imperialism to lay a claim to world domination has appeared on earth in our days."

Accusing Reagan of wanting to destroy the U.S.S.R. "just because we exist," Sakhnin concluded: "Let us recall . . . Aleksandrov's song 'Arise, Immense Country' came out on the third day of the Great Patriotic War. . . . Are we in a position to say that all Soviet writers today have oriented their creativity against the threat of war? This is the requirement of the times. Today our hearts must echo again: 'Arise, Immense Country!' This applies to every Soviet person. 'Everything for the front, everything for victory!' Under this party slogan the Soviet people labored, forgetful of their own selves. . . . Each one of us must be aware of the thought: My labor consolidates our might. . . . We are the main force called upon to halt the insanity. . . . History has not seen such a worldwide agitation by the peoples against the new American weapons. Their voice cannot be stifled. It will echo ever louder until it turns into a gigantic material force."

In *Izvestiya* on Oct. 7, the new director of Moscow's top think tank, the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), accused Reagan of "great power messianism." Former Ambassador to Canada A. N. Yakovlev wrote, "The messianic idea of ruling the world is characteristic of the American social structure." He quoted Yuri Andropov's statement that recent events have disproved illusions about "the possibility of evolution of the present American administration's policy for the better."

This vitriol was reserved for Reagan, while Moscow remains open to deal with the resurgent international faction of Henry Kissinger and his business associate Lord Carrington. *EIR* learned that Kissingerian Brent Scowcroft, co-author of the "build-down" arms program that would gut the U.S. land-based strategic deterrent and preclude a crash program for defensive weapons, plans a November visit to the U.S.S.R. under auspices of the Dartmouth Conference. Senators John Warner (R-Va.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) are to go, too.