

## Editorial

### *Meeting the Soviet threat*

There has been no let-up in the Soviet threat to West Germany, of which *EIR* has been warning over recent weeks. We write on the 20th of July, the 40th anniversary of the attempt by desperate German patriots to overthrow Adolf Hitler and bring the war to an end in 1944. As we write, the Soviets have stepped up their campaign to create a pretext for a potential invasion of West Germany, including a vicious propaganda barrage against the German resisters to Hitler of the July 20th conspiracy.

The Soviet army paper wrote that the conservative generals who tried to assassinate Hitler and carry out a coup wanted "an alliance with the American imperialists . . . an imperialist united front against the Soviet Union."

This, while Molotov, the man who negotiated the Hitler-Stalin Pact in 1939, is suddenly rehabilitated in Moscow, and while Otto-Ernst Remer, the very same officer who crushed the anti-Hitler rebellion in Berlin on July 20, 1944, boasts that he and the Nazi International, today based in Switzerland, intend to ally with the Soviets to destroy the United States!

On July 10, the Soviet Union delivered a note to the Bonn government with the absurd allegation that a dangerous resurgence of revanchism and aggressive militarism can be observed within the Federal Republic of Germany. The Soviets threatened to enforce—"unilaterally if necessary"—the defunct Potsdam treaty, which they claimed West Germany has violated by sharing in a Western European Union decision to produce long-range bombers and other weapons. Then on July 13, Polish Foreign Minister Olszowski made the totally groundless assertion that a new world war could begin on the banks of the Rhine.

A few days later, the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* added its reading on West German Defense Minister Manfred Wörner's July 10-12 trip to Washington, D.C., to the list of accusations, claiming that the Bonn government was "putting vital German security interests in jeopardy" by considering allowing the construction of "Star Wars bases on German territory for those space weapons which are just now being developed by the United States."

The shock created in the West by the Soviet threat is reflected in the relative lack of response from NATO governments. The Soviet demarche of July 10 was understood at once as a challenge to the alliance as a whole, provoking urgent allied consultations between July 10 and 12. Yet, the only visible result was a defensive statement by the Bonn government that it is totally committed to non-use of force.

Encouraged by this apparent paralysis, the Soviets have not only stepped up propaganda against West Germany, but continued the large-scale military maneuvers which were supposed to end officially on July 7. As the German daily, *Die Welt*, reports, the land maneuvers of the U.S.S.R. forces, the largest in postwar history, were immediately followed by exercises of the Soviet strategic nuclear forces stationed in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and western Poland. Moreover, the commanding general of the Soviet forces in East Germany, General Zaitsev, has rigorously implemented his orders from May that the off-limits zones for Western military observers be extended from 30% to 40% of East German territory.

The Kissinger-influenced Reagan administration's position, that the Soviets cannot be taken seriously on their threat to invade Germany, leaves the United States and Western Europe blind and disarmed for the strategic battles ahead. From the Democratic side, Kissinger's candidate Walter Mondale has made it abundantly clear that his policy is to appease the Soviets on all their demands—with the dismantling of the Strategic Defense Initiative, Europe's only hope for secure defense, at the top of the list.

The July 20 anniversary should make us remember that the German resistance to Hitler had little chance, after British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain appeased Hitler and claimed he had achieved "peace in our time" in Munich in 1938.

We need not rattle missiles in response, every time the Soviets do the same. Rather, we must make the strongest possible reassertion of the defense of Western Europe, especially through the Strategic Defense Initiative. Such a response, in 1938, could have called Hitler's bluff and stopped World War II.