

'Global Showdown' unnerves Izvestia

The release of *EIR*'s Special Report, "Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988," has provoked unusual hysteria from the Soviets and from their appeasement-prone allies in the West.

At a press conference held in Geneva, Switzerland on Aug. 14, two co-authors of Global Showdown, Clifford Gaddy and Konstantin George, were challenged by the agitated correspondent from the Soviet government daily, *Izvestia*: "How dare you say the Soviets are in a war mobilization?" and "You mean, you compare the Soviet Union to Hitler?"

Gaddy and George had called the press conference to counter the propaganda of the Reverend Moon sect's CAUSA International, which was holding a conference of some 200 "Soviet experts" in Geneva at the same time to attempt to prove that the Soviet Empire is "crumbling" and on a conventional war buildup—hence, there's no need for the West's beam-weapons defense program. In contrast, the *EIR* editors showed how the United States delegation to the Geneva arms-reduction talks with the Soviets should conduct the negotiations: strictly around an agreement based upon Mutual Assured Survival, the mutual development and deployment of beam-weapon defensive systems that can knock out nuclear missiles of all types.

It is precisely because the Soviets have violently rejected the offer to move the world out of Mutually Assured Destruction since President Reagan first made it in March 1983, that *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche commissioned the study proving how close the Russians are to achieving world hegemony in time for the 1988 celebrations of the "Christianization" of Russia. Only their determination to go to war, if necessary, to maintain those plans, could explain why they turned down what Reagan had rightly called "the best hope of our time," the shift in U.S. military doctrine later embodied in the Strategic Defense Initiative.

During their European tour, the first week of August, a box full of *EIR*'s "Global Showdown" reports was temporarily impounded by French customs officials at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. French authorities explained themselves, according to the Italian daily *Il Giornale*, by saying, "That book offends Russia, a nation that is the friend of France." The Paris paper *Le Figaro* thought the more likely motive was the report's attacks on French government official Regis Debray, whom it calls "responsible . . . for the

current status of Paris as the leading terrorist safehouse in continental Europe."

Le Figaro titled its article, "Signed, LaRouche." LaRouche's name is a byword for beam defense in Europe.

Global Showdown's co-authors have repeatedly disrupted August vacation drowsiness in Europe, with press conferences on the findings of *EIR*'s study of the Soviet war mobilization.

Their Munich seminar of Aug. 1 was attended by 63 journalists, military officers and religious leaders. Aug. 5, Radio Free Europe broadcast an interview with the two into Czechoslovakia.

Forty-three people came to the press conference in West Berlin on Aug. 13, on the anniversary of the building of the infamous Berlin Wall. Among the participants were five officials of military, government, and consulates, 13 journalists, and representatives of 10 different organizations and institutions from West Berlin.

The *EIR* team has addressed audiences including diplomats, government officials and a fair smattering of Soviet look-outs, in Paris, Brussels, and Rome. Until Geneva, however, the Soviet spokesmen managed to maintain their composure—at least in public.

The Paris event received prominent coverage Aug. 7 in *Le Monde*, which summarized a central finding of the report, that "[General Secretary Mikhail] Gorbachov and [Marshal Nikolai] Ogarkov are part of a unified team," which wants "to obtain an acceleration of economic development of their country and a modernization of its structure, to better prepare the Soviet Army for a rapid intervention war [*blitzkrieg*] against the West, and, at the same time, integrate into the Soviet Armed Forces . . . high-technology weaponry, including lasers and electron beam technology."

Il Giornale, a conservative Rome daily, on Aug. 10, reported on the previous day's press conference there, describing the report's graphics and documentation, and what the authors said about the Soviet reorganization for war and Soviet maneuvers, "not in a defensive plan, but to simulate attacks and invasions."

Il Giornale had trouble with one of Global Showdown's sharpest polemics, the link between the Soviet military mobilization and Moscow's obsession with a Russian empire—in which 1988 is a crucial year, as the 1000th anniversary of Russian Orthodoxy; this, the column calls "verging on political fantasy."

The Italian communist paper *Paese Sera*, also on Aug. 10, could not contain its rage. *Paese Sera* writer Paolo Boccacci went into a rant under the headline: "Attention! The Russians are going to attack!" *Paese Sera* attacked Gaddy and George as American "super-hawks," and expressed particular ire, that *EIR*'s local representative had suggested that citizens buy "Global Showdown" for Prime Minister Craxi and for the Pope.