

# International Intelligence

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## Winter alert for Soviet military infrastructure

Marshal Semyon Kurkotkin, chief of the Rear Services of the Soviet Armed Forces, addressed an emergency conference on military logistics and stockpiling in Moscow Jan. 16, during the deep cold wave that hit the Soviet Union. An architect of Marshal Ogarkov's program for making the Soviet economy transferable to a war-footing at a moment's notice, Kurkotkin told the staff meeting:

"The severe winter is a real test for the readiness of the rear forces. . . . Not all garrisons were supplied in requisite amounts with heat, and the rear service troops did not always live up to their tasks."

The marshal's call to draw "practical and political conclusions" from these facts portends a big increase in allocations for military logistics and infrastructure.

On the same day, the Military Council of the Northern Fleet met at the fleet's main base at Severomorsk, near Murmansk, in the far northeast corner of the U.S.S.R. They reviewed the status of heat and water supplies in all garrisons of the fleet, in order to eliminate problem areas and "guarantee the existence of necessary reserve systems."

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## The Queen's bishop battles prime minister

"There are definitely different approaches being taken by Mrs. Thatcher and Archbishop Runcie" on the issue of Middle East hostages and the disappearance of Anglican negotiator Terry Waite, a London insider told *EIR*. Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury and an appointee of the Queen, has admitted having appealed to Iranian Parliament Speaker Rafsanjani for help in securing Waite's release, but Mrs. Thatcher is stressing that her tough line on terrorism would be "applied rigorously" in the Waite case.

The *Times* of London reported on Feb. 3 that, through a Whitehall official, Mrs.

Thatcher released a policy statement which said: "We will do everything we can to locate and help [Waite], but the bottom line is that we are not in the business of doing deals."

Runcie extended his political war with Margaret Thatcher to a second battlefield Feb. 3, with a speech in the House of Lords attacking the government's policy on taxation and the poor. In an article entitled, "Runcie heads for rift with Maggie," the *Daily Mail* said that Runcie's speech "set the Church of England on a new collision course with the Government," and "will further aggravate the sensitive relations between the Church and Downing Street."

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## Soviets bring array of new weapons on line

Soviet representatives at the Geneva arms control talks are dropping heavy hints about the imminence of the development of new nuclear weapons, as Soviet nuclear testing resumes, it was reported Jan. 20. TASS arms control analyst Vladimir Bogachev, asked if the testing resumption meant Moscow was developing new nuclear weapons, replied, "Probably. It would be a logical response to SDI."

Already, the first month of the year has brought several reports of Soviet upgrading of nuclear missile launch systems, making the SALT-II ceilings officially a thing of the past. On Jan. 19, according to Reuter, a U.S. government official said that the Soviets had launched two new submarines from the northern Soviet port of Severodvinsk: a fifth sub of the gigantic Typhoon class, and a fourth of the Delta-IV class submarine. Both are nuclear missile-carrying vessels. Soon to follow, according to UPI, will be the fourth Kiev-class aircraft carrier.

Speaking at a National Press Club luncheon on Jan. 15, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger revealed a further build-up of ground-based Soviet nuclear missile forces as well. Additional bases, capable of supporting about 100 launchers for

the new, mobile SS-25 ICBM, have been constructed, he said; the Soviets had already deployed 72 SS-25 launchers.

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## German defense chief opposes troop withdrawal

NATO's prestigious annual *Wehrkunde* (Military Strategy) conference in Munich opened Jan. 31 with a keynote address by German Defense Minister Manfred Wörner, who warned against naiveté about the chances for a "new phase of détente." Wörner said the Brezhnev era, the "first phase of détente," was also the "period of the biggest arms build-up in peacetime ever."

During this whole period, he stated, "The détente process in East-West relations was characterized by Eastern rhetoric and politics in the West." He advised the West to approach Gorbachov's arms control policy on the basis of experience: "Moscow always knew how to combine armaments with propaganda campaigns for arms control."

He also warned that Soviet military supremacy in Europe does not allow for any U.S. disengagement. Western Europe's alarming exposure of the Warsaw Pact's "offensive capacities and options" would become "even more dramatic by tendencies in the United States to reduce defense expenditures and troop presence in Europe." A European defense without U.S. troops was not possible, warned Wörner.

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## SDI scientist says space 'shield' feasible

Dr. Allan Mense, acting chief scientist of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, told a London audience Jan. 30 that an SDI defense for the United States is "more feasible than we thought it would be a year or two ago." By 1992, he stated, a defensive shield could be demonstrated feasible, according to the *Financial Times* of London and *The Independent*.

Mense said a limited system deployed within the next decade, would not have to

be completely effective to have a dramatic effect on the balance of nuclear power, since "uncertainty is a deterrent."

The *Financial Times*'s Peter Marsh notes that Mense's remarks support recent statements of Defense Secretary Weinberger. But, claims Marsh, Dr. Mense asserted that "on practical grounds," SDI scientists were turning away from x-ray laser weapons, because they require a nuclear explosion to operate, which would blind the sensors that are vital to a defense installation.

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### ***Ruling party spokesman seeks German unification***

An article by the foreign policy spokesman of West Germany's ruling German Christian Democratic Union, Volker Ruehe, has appeared in the Soviet international weekly *New Times*. The article calls for "German reunification," on terms lately proffered by the Kremlin.

The article is the first to appear in a Soviet publication by a spokesman for the government in Bonn in postwar history.

Ruehe, echoing Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, begins by calling for the "zero-option": removal of all medium-range missiles from European soil, leaving Moscow its more than adequate arsenal of shorter range missiles blanketing Europe.

Then, he declares that all must strive for a "peaceful order" in Europe, which would offer the possibility "that the German people, through free self-determination, could regain their national unity," after a "defusing of the East-West conflict" through "dialogue . . . crisis-management, and arms control."

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### ***Soviets steal secret sonar from British sub***

A British nuclear submarine has lost "top-secret tracking equipment in a terrifying encounter with a Soviet sub," *The Mail on Sunday* reported Feb. 1 in a front-page story.

According to the paper, the *HMS Splendid*, a 5,000-ton hunter-killer vessel, was involved in "one of the most frightening British submarine patrols in peacetime," an "astonishing cat-and-mouse game" with a Soviet missile-carrying sub beneath the waters of the Barents Sea.

"And this time the Russians won—by making off with *Splendid*'s towed array sonar system, one of Britain and NATO's most highly-prized secrets. . . . Reports suggest the Russians deliberately rammed the 1,500-metre cable towing *Splendid*'s secret gear in an attempt to sever it. . . . Navy experts believe an accident is unlikely. They say the Russians were either trying to steal or sabotage a vital British secret."

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### ***This time, Marcos charges vote fraud***

Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday that massive fraud was carried out in the referendum conducted by President Corazon Aquino for a new constitution in the Philippines. Marcos reported that Filipinos were being paid between 50 and 100 pesos to vote in support of Aquino, and that Marcos supporters were not being allowed into polling stations.

Most of the ballots from Mindanao were missing, he stated, and many ballots were delivered to the provinces with a "yes" vote already printed on them.

Unofficial returns in Manila showed a landslide victory for Aquino's referendum, but there was an ominously high number of "no" votes from the military. The results from military camps suggest, at best, an even split among the Philippines' 260,000 soldiers. Marcos said that he was told the referendum was voted down by the soldiers at four major military installations.

President Aquino plans to demand sworn allegiance from the restive military on the strength of her landslide victory. According to Philippine government sources, Aquino will make restraining the country's military a high priority, after official election results are announced.

## Briefly

● **ARTIST ILYA GLAZUNOV** hails Fyodor Dostoevsky as "our constant companion in our search for the meaning of life," in the February 1987 *Soviet Life*. "What attracts me to Dostoevsky is . . . his thirst for universal brotherhood"—meaning Russian imperial hegemony. Glazunov's painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son," depicts a Soviet worker in blue-jeans turning away from modern technology to kneel before a Russian priest, the lights of Russia's past—St. Sergei of Radonezh to Dostoevsky—looming in the back.

● **OLIVER TAMBO** said Jan. 30 that his visit to the United States convinced him most Americans support his African National Congress, despite its terrorist tactics and Soviet ties. Tambo said of his meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz, "Perhaps the issues discussed were not as important as the effect of the meeting."

● **ENVIRONMENTALISM** will replace "peace" in Soviet propaganda, says a Danish newspaper, *Weekend Avisen*. After the Soviet-sponsored Copenhagen World Peace Conference in October 1986 turned into a fiasco, it was decided to drop "peace" as a way to mobilize Western institutions. The new catchword is "environment."

● **'GANGS OF TEENAGERS** are roaming Moscow at night beating up punks, hippies, breakdancers, and fans of heavy metal music" as a "defense of the Russian way of life," reports London's *Daily Telegraph*, citing the Soviet magazine *Ogonyok*.

● **MORE THAN 1,500** Melanesian protesters forced a ship carrying the Soviet ambassador to Australia to leave the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia Feb. 1 without letting off its passengers. Protesters scrawled "Russians out of the Pacific" on the ship's hull and began to cut the cable mooring it to the dock.