

Gorbachov's 'Peace' Forum: a 'New Yalta' charade

by Konstantin George

The three-day Moscow propaganda circus, titled "International Peace Forum," ended on Feb. 16 with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov addressing the 900 foreign participants from 80 countries. The participants included leading Western bankers, industrialists, clergymen, pro-Soviet political figures from the Socialist International and West Germany's Green Party, and assorted riff-raff from Hollywood and other "entertainment" mafias. Taken together, they compose a more than representative sampling of the pro-Moscow, "New Yalta" section of the Western elites, known in shorthand as "The Trust."

As befitting a propaganda circus, Gorbachov's speech reached new heights in the exercise of "peace" rhetoric and demagoguery, as for example, piously proclaiming: "The Soviet Union is ready to renounce its status as a nuclear power."

Under the heavy overlay of such rhetoric, the speech revealed Moscow's deep concern that its hope of a "New Yalta" agreement with President Reagan, to sell out Europe via a "zero option" deal on Euromissiles, as was nearly signed at the Reykjavik pre-summit, is rapidly going up in the smoke of "Irangate."

Gorbachov chose his words to influence the U.S. factional situation in favor of the liberal Eastern Establishment elite and their "secret government" operatives, such as former National Security Advisers Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, and the Carter administration's "prime minister," former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. A U.S. delegation from the Council on Foreign Relations, led by Kissinger and Vance, had spent the first week of February in Moscow, meeting with Gorbachov and his top advisers.

The Gorbachov speech sought to lend credibility to the Reagan-Gorbachov summit idea worked out with Kissinger and the Council on Foreign Relations delegation. According to Radio Moscow, Gorbachov announced that "revolutionary changes are under way in the Soviet Union," saying: "We want more socialism, and hence, more democracy. Our international policy is determined more than ever by our domestic policy. That's why we need a stable peace."

Gorbachov's "back to Reykjavik" message was embodied in the following passage: "The Reykjavik summit was a breakthrough and not a failure."

When the Kissinger delegation returned from Moscow, they gave Reagan the line that both Reagan and Gorbachov "need a summit." They proclaimed Gorbachov's desire to return to the Reykjavik "arms control" track, featuring a "zero option" agreement on IRBMs (Euromissiles), deep cuts in strategic weapons, an agreement to limit SDI testing and a 10-year moratorium on SDI deployment. Kissinger and Vance employed the lie that the Soviet Union "needs" peace and stability in order to implement "undisturbed" Gorbachov's economic modernization and "social transformation" program inside the Soviet Union.

The vanishing 'Reagan card'

Gorbachov's speech, however, reflected the Soviet intelligence assessment that Moscow's hopes of playing a "Reagan card" are rapidly vanishing. This was conveyed through an overly long harangue, denouncing the SDI. Gorbachov began this by expressing his "regret" over U.S. "attempts to torpedo the ABM Treaty." After saying that the United States

has formally proposed that the superpowers interpret the ABM treaty broadly enough to allow accelerated work on the SDI, the Soviet general secretary charged that the United States is seeking to shatter the treaty.

"Whatever the pretexts used to justify this, the aim is clearly to scrap the treaty," he said. "When the treaty is annulled, the nuclear arms race will acquire new dimensions and will be complemented by an arms race in space."

He continued: "If the arms race spreads to outer space, the very idea of arms control will be compromised." It will create "mutual mistrust and suspicion" and "instability will become a fact and grow more critical in nature."

The SDI would bring about a new, sharply accelerated arms race, "the deployment of ever new kinds of weapons," and the "accidental risk of war would grow several times over." This will bring the world "closer to nuclear catastrophe." "New thinking" is needed in the world "to overcome the dogmas of the past . . . for the sake of the immortality of human civilization."

The Soviet intelligence assessment of "Irangate" was also revealed by the military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (*Red Star*) on Feb. 17, when it chose to highlight the presentation given at the Moscow Forum by West German Social Democratic leader Egon Bahr, one of the ringleaders of the neutralist, "decoupling" faction in Germany. He all but forecast the upcoming demise of the arms control grouping's ability to control an unraveling Reagan administration. Bahr was quoted saying that, given "Irangate," time is rapidly running out to reach a superpower agreement on arms control. He then stated: "The Washington administration will soon be devoid of any authority."

Sakharov, superstar

The Western media focused coverage of the Soviet Union on the Moscow "Peace" Forum, and Gorbachov's calculated release of dissidents, to cultivate an image of Gorbachov as a crusading "reformer," fighting for openness and "peace" against bureaucratic "hard-liners." That was the obvious impression intended when "dissident" physicist Andrei Sakharov was paraded into the hall to play a prominent role in the forum's proceedings.

Sakharov's usefulness for the Kremlin was underscored at the beginning of the proceedings when both U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences President Yuri Marchuk and Vice-President Yevgeni Velikhov walked up to him and shook his hand. After the science panel speeches concluded, Sakharov was the first participant to be called on by the Soviets during the discussion period.

During the Feb. 16 session, Sakharov stated that a major arms deal should not be deterred by the SDI, according to American scientist Prof. Frank von Hippel, who attended a roundtable of scientists during the Moscow Peace Forum with Sakharov featured. "He said they should untie the package and they shouldn't stay hung up on 'Star Wars,'" von

Hippel said. He said Sakharov argued that the SDI was unlikely to reach the deployment stage and should not be a deterrent to strategic weapons cuts. Sakharov maintained the "dissident" image, and is said to have openly disagreed with Andrei Kokoshin, an arms control expert with Moscow's U.S.A. and Canada Institute, who supported the Kremlin's official linking of arms control and SDI. However, Sakharov was absolutely clear that he, too, views the Strategic Defense Initiative as a terrible "threat to peace."

Sakharov's usefulness to the Kremlin in his continuing "dissident" role was again underscored by a report appearing in *U.S. News and World Report*. White House officials, said this report, fear that somebody in Congress will invite Sakharov to come to the United States to testify against the SDI, and that Gorbachov, obviously, will let him come. The newsweekly said that congressional testimony by Sakharov against SDI would "carry double weight," because he "has spent years fighting the Soviet regime."

During the "Peace" Forum, Sakharov was invited to visit West Germany by that country's neo-Nazi Green Party, and he accepted.

The war plan agenda

Even a casual glance at the major Soviet newspapers, and some honest reporting by Western correspondents in Moscow, on the same weekend as the Peace Forum, would have revealed the Soviet Union's hypocrisy on the "disarmament" question. Such talk is for Western consumption. The same weekend as the Moscow Forum, Gorbachov was addressing a closed six-hour meeting of all Soviet media bosses, the chief editors of every major newspaper and magazine, and television and radio. There, with no Westerners in the audience, the Soviet leader was singing a very different tune.

The theme of Gorbachov's presentation was, "We must move forward." Here, he stressed the Second World War as the example of moving forward, the war, as he put it, where Russia "stamped out fascism," with "better steel, better tanks, and better soldiers." The speech also included an assessment of the Stalin era, rather different from that which Western journalists are inclined to report. Gorbachov mentioned that "mistakes" had been made in the 1930s in both the industrialization and collectivization drives, but, Russia, "mistakes" aside, had "moved forward."

While Gorbachov was demanding "better" quality war production, Lev Zaikov, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary in charge of the war industry, began a tour of military aircraft production centers. He first visited aircraft factories in the Volga industrial city of Ulyanovsk. There, Zaikov hailed 1986 as "the first stage in decisive modernization" of Soviet industry, but also stressed that the U.S.S.R. was still "moving too slowly in modernizing industry," and the tempo had to be quickened.

Gorbachov's war build-up will accelerate, and the way one can be sure, is that his talk of "peace" will also accelerate.