
Book Review

Narco-terrorism seen as Soviet biochemical warfare

by Jeffrey Steinberg

America the Vulnerable

by Joseph D. Douglass, Jr. and Neil C. Livingstone
D.C. Heath and Company, Lexington, Mass.,
1987
204 pages, illustrated, \$19.95

If they had accomplished nothing more than to present the available evidence of Moscow's hand behind the current global plague of narco-terrorism, authors Joseph D. Douglass Jr. and Neil C. Livingstone would have made a timely and worthy contribution to the public literature on Soviet irregular warfare. Fortunately for an American public poorly informed and even at times badly misinformed on the current Russian Bolshevik regime's drive for world empire, the authors of *America the Vulnerable* have gone well beyond the issue of narco-terrorism and presented a terrifying and apparently accurate picture of a United States and NATO alliance poorly equipped to deal with a broad range of new Soviet biological and chemical weapons systems.

The vast majority of these weapons systems require no ICBMs or long-range strategic bombers to deliver their deadly payloads to America's and Western Europe's major population centers and defense installations. If the authors are correct—and this reviewer has no basis for challenging the accuracy of much of the evidence presented—then the Soviets already have in place, deep inside “enemy” territory, stockpiles of chemical, biological, and toxic weapons, ready on a moment's notice to be unleashed by “sleeper” agents long penetrated into the American and European populations.

Drawing upon debriefings of high-ranking Warsaw Pact defectors, Soviet as well as Western published source materials, and the authors' own extensive backgrounds in Soviet military affairs, Douglass and Livingstone have added an important chapter to the mounting public evidence that Moscow's military planners have gone beyond the “ultimate weapon” (i.e., thermonuclear bombs) to develop sophisticated new arsenals of weapons that can be deployed under conditions of both irregular and regular war.

Soviet CBW doctrine

As a whole, *America the Vulnerable* provides an informative chronology of the Soviet integration of biological, chemical, and toxic weapons—including narcotics—into the Warsaw Pact order of battle.

Beginning in the late 1950s, the Warsaw Pact command already began referring to nuclear AND chemical weapons as “weapons of mass destruction.” By 1961, intelligence gathering on Western research and development advances in biological and chemical warfare was defined as a first order priority for both the KGB and the GRU. Thus, by 1964, Marshal A.I. Antonov, then chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact, referencing the emerging prospect of long-term nuclear disarmament, and citing the uselessness of nuclear weapons in dealing with an adversary like the Peoples Republic of China with its vast territory and widely dispersed population, called for an accelerated long-term program for the development and deployment of CBW (chemical/biological warfare) as a cornerstone of Warsaw Pact strategy at every level of engagement from global war to individual cases of “wet” activity (assassinations).

A year earlier, CBW had already been prescribed as “the best route” for seizing Western Europe while keeping industry and infrastructure intact.

A 1967 Warsaw Pact secret planning document, “Long Range Plan for the Next Ten to Fifteen Years and Beyond,” which reflected already the emerging role of Yuri Andropov, just named head of the KGB, specified the use of chemical weapons in combat areas and the exploitation of biological weapons in non-combat areas. By that point, the Soviets had already conducted their first Warsaw Pact-wide maneuver, Voltavia, using CBW capabilities, and had already begun delivery of biological and chemical warfare agents to Soviet client states in the Third World.

Indeed, according to the authors, once Moscow confirmed that Israel had obtained nuclear weapons (with the “plausibly denied” approval of then President Lyndon B. Johnson) in 1967, the U.S.S.R. made CB weapons and training a prominent feature of its military assistance to Iraq and other Arab states.

By 1976, Western military analysts had confirmed that all Warsaw Pact forces were equipped and trained to fight in an environment saturated by chemical and biological weapons.

On a parallel track, by no later than 1970, Dr. Joshua Lederberg, a prominent American scientist, was warning publicly of the mounting threat posed by biological weapons. Indeed, according to Congressional testimony in May 1980 by an East bloc scientist who defected to Western intelligence, Mark Popovskiy, by no later than 1975, under the supervision of Dr. Yuri Ovchinnikov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the Russians were engaged in extensive research on genetic engineering, neuropharmacology, and biological and toxic incapacitants.

By 1977, the Warsaw Pact had already conducted maneuvers based on a takeover of the port of Copenhagen, in which the initial phase of the invasion was a Soviet spetsnaz (special forces) unleashing of biological incapacitants that temporarily knocked out the entire population of the port area of the city, permitting an unchallenged Soviet occupation.

Two years later, as the result of an accident at a biological warfare facility near the Soviet city of Sverdlovsk, somewhere between 200 and 1,000 local residents died from exposure to a deadly cloud of anthrax.

Despite these Soviet advances in the sphere of CBW, in December 1969, President Richard Nixon announced that the United States had unilaterally destroyed all its stockpiles of biological weapons. By 1974, the Chemical Corp of the U.S. Army was officially disbanded. What happened?

According to the authors, a sophisticated Soviet double agent operation centered around a former Russian official at the United Nations, code named "Fedora," had convinced first J. Edgar Hoover, and then President Nixon and his national security advisers that the Soviets were alarmed at the continuing American and NATO work on biological and chemical weapons, and that the Warsaw Pact was "about to launch" a major effort to close the "CBW gap." Anxious to establish momentum on the issue of nuclear disarmament, Nixon, apparently at the strong urging of Henry A. Kissinger, decided to take the unilateral action—without awaiting full verification of the "gap."

Narcotics as CBW

Apart from *EIR*'s own published work on the role of the Soviet bloc in fostering mass drug addiction in the West and then building an international narco-terrorist irregular warfare force, *America the Vulnerable* provides the most comprehensive profile of this vital element of Soviet CBW available to the public.

Indeed, author Douglass, in several earlier articles, as well as in a lengthy chapter in the present book, traces the communist role in the drug trade back to the late 1940s, when the Maoists unleashed a flood of Golden Triangle heroin and opium on American and other western troops sent into Korea

under the United Nations mandate. At that time, the Soviets, Czechs, and North Koreans conducted a comprehensive joint study of the effects of this drug addiction on the combat effectiveness of the Western troops.

According to the testimony of Col. Jan Sejna, the former Secretary of the Czech Defense Council who defected to the West in 1968, Nikita Khrushchov convened a secret meeting of top Warsaw Pact officials in 1962 to praise Mao's Opium War policy and to order Soviet bloc intelligence services to jump into the fray "to accelerate the process of demoralization of Bourgeois Society," particularly by attacking U.S. youth and the American work ethic.

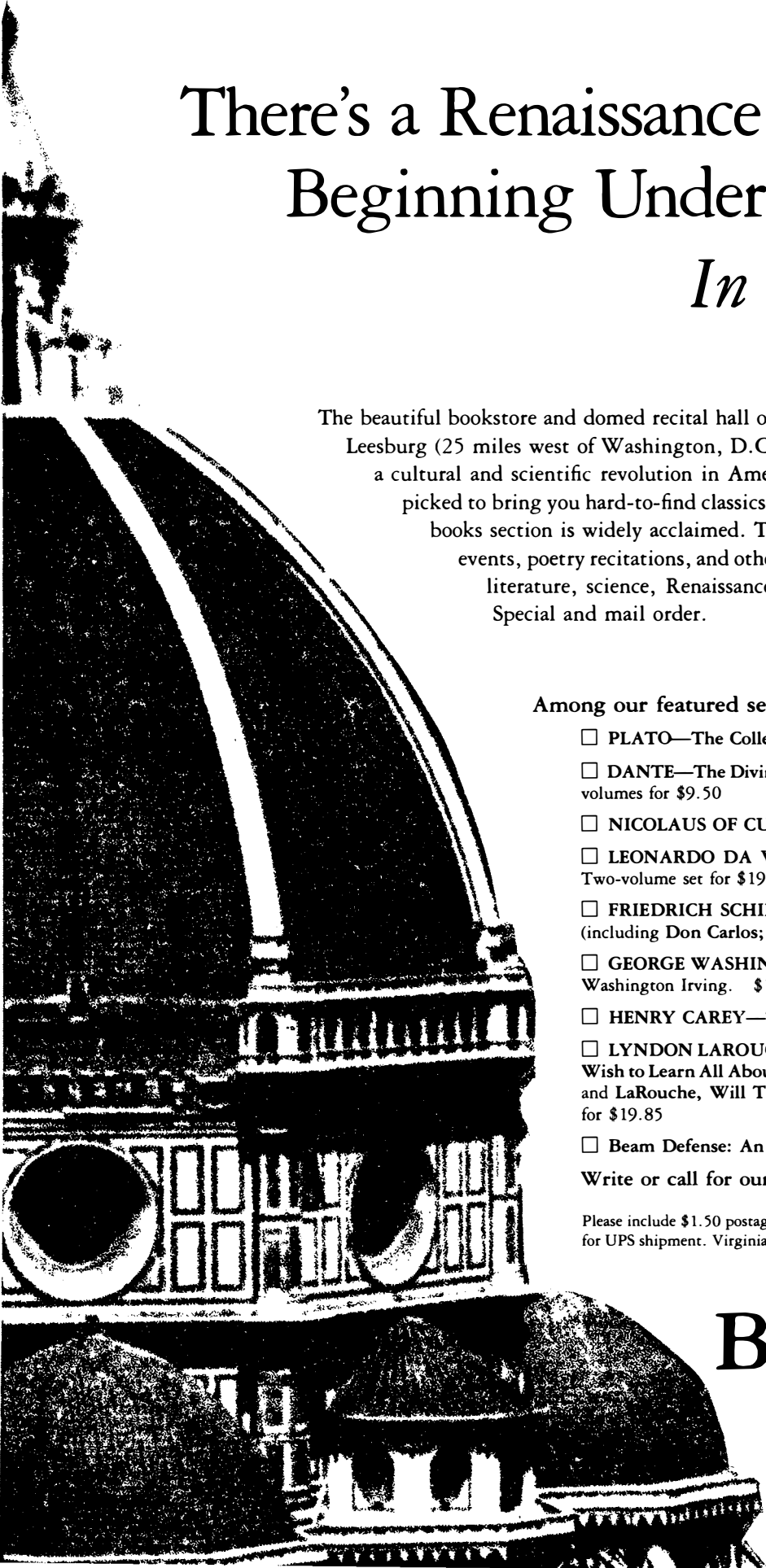
Already, in the summer of 1960, Raúl Castro, the defense minister of Cuba, had been brought to Prague and had come away with a commitment from Czech intelligence to help train and direct the newly formed DGI. One quid pro quo was that Cuba would become a center of East bloc narco-subversion of the United States. Toward this end, under the initial guidance of Czech intelligence, and, later, under the tight supervision of the KGB, the DGI assembled detailed blackmail dossiers on criminal networks, corrupt public officials, police, and military personnel throughout Ibero-America. Cuban agents, over a period of years, penetrated into all of these circles—even those apparently "ideologically" hostile to the Cuban communist regime. Through this process, according to the authors, Cuba and Bulgaria (through its state export-import complex Kintex) are today at the center of the international illicit drug trade and the spin-off structure of international narco-terrorism.

Key issues overlooked

The book has its flaws. As with many of the books proliferating these days on the subject of international terrorism, it leans in the direction of "Israel can do no wrong" in a way that does a disservice to the otherwise quality treatment of Soviet methods and objectives.

At other points along the way, the authors also find themselves resorting to rather superficial attempts to explain Soviet motives through the standard formulas of Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Unfortunately, this oversimplification was most visible in the otherwise extremely important chapter on "Chemical War with Drugs and Narcotics." My guess is that the authors, in an effort to maintain a simple continuity of message, decided to ignore the thorny issues of the western Trust networks, and particularly the role of the Bertrand Russell apparatus, in fostering the drug counterculture from within Western civilization.

And finally, in what can only be described as a conclusion born out of pure frustration at the failure of the Reagan administration's once vaunted War on Drugs, the authors, in the concluding chapter, join the ranks of those who would legalize drug use as a means of removing the profit incentive from the traffickers. So much for Khrushchov's accelerating the collapse of Western society.



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