

# Gorbachov calls for world revolutions

by Luba George

After Mikhail Gorbachov gave his Nov. 2 speech he wasted no time in holding a meeting with leaders from the 170 Communist, Socialist, and Green Parties from the West and the Third World, plus the “national liberation” movements, gathered in Moscow for the Bolshevik Revolution celebration, to issue guidelines for the period ahead—the period of the “general crisis of capitalism.” Gorbachov called for a worldwide “alliance of Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, and all other progressive forces.”

Radio Moscow on Nov. 5 released lengthy excerpts from Gorbachov’s address to this special conference. The “general crisis of capitalism,” said Gorbachov, is “constantly becoming deeper.” There is “an alternative to capitalism, and that alternative is socialism.” He conceded that “the real existing socialism still lags behind capitalism in its technological development,” but declared that “socialism” can, and will “overtake” capitalism.

Then, referring to his Nov. 2 speech, he repeated that as a result of capitalism’s crisis, “two especially dangerous manifestations of capitalism, militarization and the non-equitable exchange with the developing world,” bear close watching. He hailed the success of the Soviet campaign to demolish the existence in the West of the Soviet Union as an enemy image: “We are shattering the fear of the so-called Soviet threat.”

Then, Gorbachov returned to the Western financial crisis: “The alarm signals are also being sounded by the financial system . . . with its astronomical debt. . . . A new liberation impulse is under way in the Third World, which threatens to bring about an explosion, if the new world economic order is not brought into effect. A critical mass is forming in the world process, and this will determine whether civilization is to be or not to be.”

## New Communist Manifesto

Gorbachov’s two speeches confirm the adoption by the Soviet *Nomenklatura* of a policy of avoiding, in this “general crisis of capitalism,” what is recognized as the one crucial error of the policies launched by Stalin—known as the Third Period—at the outbreak of the last Great Depression. The “error” was Stalin’s rejection of alliances with Socialist and

Social Democratic parties in the West for the advancement of Russian strategic aims.

The tip-off appeared in August around the anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, in one of the many articles that flooded the Soviet press in defense of the 1939 Pact. The article appeared in the Latvian youth paper *Sovetskaya Molodezh*, authored by Valentin Berezhkov, the translator for Stalin’s foreign minister, Molotov, during the 1939 talks with the Nazi foreign ministry. Berezhkov defended the Pact, saying Russia “had no choice,” but added, the agony of being forced into a situation with “no other choice” was made inevitable by not allying with the Social Democracies at the onset of the Great Depression, rather than waiting “too late” till 1934-35.

The Gorbachov speeches follow exactly the line signaled by the Berezhkov piece back in August.

Gorbachov’s address also marked a return to revolutionary rhetoric not seen since the 1930s: “The Communist Movement needs rejuvenation. It is especially important that it become an international force. The CPSU does not conceive its internal plans outside of an international context. . . . We have seen how during a period of stagnation the international impulse of socialism declined.” His appeal included a direct pitch to the Greens: “Only jointly can we remove the global danger to the ecology,” and in general to Socialists and Social Democrats: “There will be a need for more advanced cultivation of relations among the forces of progress. . . . We extend an invitation not only to the fraternal parties [CPs], but to the Socialists, the Social Democrats, and to all those forces who want to join with us in working together for a joint quest.”

The policy defined in these speeches is already being put into practice, via the Soviet General Staff. General Colonel Nikolai F. Chervov, head of one of the General Staff’s Directorates, addressed the Max Planck Institute in West Germany on Nov. 4, the same day Gorbachov spoke. What Chervov presented was a verbatim copy of the infamous West German Social Democratic so-called defense policy, known as the von Bülow doctrine, for the SPD’s defense policy spokesman, Andreas von Bülow. Von Bülow’s “doctrine” has called for the elimination of all “offensive capabilities” for the armies of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, including drastic reductions in the number of tanks, aircraft, helicopters, artillery, and the total elimination of all classes of nuclear weapons from German soil.

Chervov called upon NATO and the Warsaw Pact to disarm to such an extent “that an ability to launch an attack is no longer available,” and to set ceilings on manpower and equipment, and “eliminate all nuclear weapons” so that “only defensive capabilities” are existing. To quote Chervov: “Only under the exclusion of nuclear weapons can a guarantee for security be constructed. This is the position of the Soviet Union.” The alliance that the Soviet Union seeks to forge with the Social Democracy is an alliance that will give Moscow Europe without firing a shot.