

Soviet military: We'll lose nothing

by Rachel Douglas

Moscow is not about to advertise its development of radio frequency weapons or the latest spetsnaz techniques readied for use against Western Europe, but the principle represented by those military programs has begun to surface in the Soviet military press: No vital capabilities, Soviet military officers are being told, will be lost to arms control.

On Nov. 17, the military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (*Red Star*) broached the matter by means of an article on ways in which NATO, it alleged, might skirt the new Intermediate-range Nuclear Force (INF) treaty. It is customary for Soviet military writers to address their own affairs obliquely, by talking about what "the other side" is doing.

The *Krasnaya Zvezda* author, Col. V. Nazarenko, charged that NATO was preparing measures, to compensate for what is sacrificed under the INF accord. He quoted a statement by British Defense Secretary Younger to *The Independent*, about "introducing certain correctives into the forces remaining at the disposal of the North Atlantic Alliance, in order to ensure the preservation of an effective deterrent." This reflects, Nazarenko explained, how for several months NATO military leaders have had "lively discussions about measures of 'compensation' for possible 'loss' of the Euromissiles."

No 'sellout' on SDI

Also in November, the Soviet military went on a campaign about the Strategic Defense Initiative—specifying its demands for restrictions on the U.S. program and, as *EIR* reported last week, quietly letting it be known that Moscow's own strategic defense program is well under way.

Krasnaya Zvezda, on Nov. 13, printed a letter to the editor from one Maj. I. Ogiyenko, who expressed doubts about the preparation for General Secretary Gorbachov's meeting with President Reagan. "The impression is forming," he wrote, "that recently we have compromised in regard to SDI. Is that so? And will not such compromise be detrimental to the Soviet Union's security?"

The matter having been put on the table, the daily's senior

commentator Col. Manki Ponomaryov replied, "I can say with complete confidence, Comrade Ogiyenko, that there are no grounds for such fears. . . . If it proves impossible to change Washington's mind on the SDI question in the present conditions, then the U.S.S.R. insists on a minimum; maintaining strict observance of the ABM Treaty at least for 10 years."

In the September (Russian)/October (English) issue of the Soviet monthly *International Affairs*, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff Gen. Col. V.N. Lobov had spelled out just how much the military would concede to U.S. SDI research. He wrote, "The U.S.S.R. agrees that the research in the sphere of space-based ABM systems be allowed at the laboratory levels, that is on the Earth—in research institutes, on testing grounds, and at manufacturing works, without taking any ABM components to outer space. The Soviet side has said it is prepared to agree on a list of devices that may or may not be placed in outer space."

General Major of Aviation B. T. Surikov, a participant in strategic arms talks, spelled this out in a Nov. 14 interview with the government daily *Izvestia*. "We proceed from the premise," he said, "that in 10 years the Americans will be able to see for themselves the senselessness of SDI. They will be able to carry out some laboratory research, verify what is laid down in their key programs, and see for themselves these weapons are pointless."

Surikov roundly denied that Soviets were working on their own SDI, even as it was reported in Western Europe, that Soviet military officials have acknowledged the existence of an organization called KSO—for Strategic Space Defense or Strategic Defense Command (see *EIR*, Dec. 4, 1987). Indeed, Gorbachov himself, in his Nov. 30 interview with NBC-TV, admitted that the Soviets have their own advanced program of strategic defense research.

Ogarkov in view

The mastermind of the Soviet programs for weapons based on new physical principles and of the military command reorganization, through which Lobov and other commanders of the new school have risen, leaped into prominence during November. After appearing in the Kremlin to receive an award for his 70th birthday, on Oct. 30, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov has publicly toured the region under his direct control—High Command West, defined as the wartime zone encompassing the Soviets' East European fronts against NATO.

Ogarkov attended the celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution, in Poland. Then he turned up in East Germany, where the commander-in-chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG), General of the Army Valeri Belikov, had died on Nov. 12. As the U.S.S.R.'s supreme commander for the European theater, Ogarkov met with top military and political East German leaders when they came to GSFG headquarters to offer condolences.