

the country—a young Lebanon which has no wish to perpetuate the feudal system of the last decades, be it in the political or even religious realm. Christian Maronite Patriarch Sfeir, who had to accede to the Vatican's refusal to support Aoun in the nation's darkest hour, has himself been made a target of the demonstrators, who are demanding that "We need a fighting church as in Poland."

This reality has forced a change in the international balance of forces. At last, France decided to move again to support its longtime friend. On Nov. 29, some 40 French parliamentarians left for East Beirut to express their solidarity and support. The same day, another French warship was sent to Lebanon with naval forces and helicopters.

But the ill-fated process begun when a rump of paid-off parliamentarians met at Taif, Saudi Arabia in late October to choose the puppet Moawad, still retains its deadly dynamic. No nation has yet dared to defy both Washington and Moscow by taking a clear stand, demanding an immediate withdrawal of the Syrian troops. On Nov. 29, Paris issued a warning that it will oppose "any of the sides" which takes the initiative "of relaunching the fighting." The statement had the effect of temporarily catching Hrawi and the Syrians off balance, and momentarily decreasing the threat against East Beirut. The United States followed suit by sending urgent letters to Damascus and Moscow, warning against an offensive.

Yet, can anyone believe that this will resolve Lebanon's problems? A freeze of all military operations, without a political solution, will mean a de facto partition of the ravaged country. No Lebanese, and certainly not Aoun, want that. Unless Syria is ordered to get out, sooner or later the confrontation will be inevitable.

Another consideration which might force the great powers to become more active in protecting Lebanon, is the threat that a Syrian onslaught against Aoun might be immediately followed up with an Israeli thrust. On Nov. 23, 25, and 27, the Israeli Air Force conducted pinpoint bombings of several terrorist bases run by Ahmed Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the Bekaa valley, just a few miles from Syrian positions. As of Nov. 30, the forces of General Lahad in South Lebanon started deploying their own tanks and artillery pieces to attack the Syrians in the rear. Israel is also reported to have warned that any deployment of T-72 tanks into Beirut would become a *casus belli*. On the same day, an Israeli spokesman warned Syria against any "military move" which would be a threat to "Israeli interests." Israel's Air Force is reported to be ready to intervene in case Syria deploys its own Air Force into Lebanon.

Hence, the countdown for a new Middle East war may have already started—thanks to the cowardice of the Western powers and their refusal to support in Lebanon, what they claim to be supporting in Eastern Europe, namely, freedom and independence.

## Lev Zaikov assuming powerful Soviet role

by Argus

*Argus is the pen name of a leading U.S. analyst of Soviet policy, especially in the military arena. He has been an observer of Soviet affairs for the last 40 years.*

In the blank below, write the name of the Soviet official who:

- gave an interview to *Newsweek* three years ago in which he stated that he alternately chairs the Politburo, Secretariat, and the Defense Council in Moscow.
- wearing a Lenin-style black peaked cap, smiling and waving to the crowd, and engaged in a tête-à-tête with comrades on either side, was given flattering closeup shots atop the Lenin Mausoleum as he and his Politburo colleagues reviewed the "Bolshevik Revolution" anniversary parade in Red Square on Nov. 7, 1989.
- holds an unprecedented number of high positions for any single official now or at any time in the past.
- supervises a broad range of external/internal security affairs while overseeing administration of the Soviets' military-industrial complex (VPK).
- attends and/or officiates at some of the most important conferences, particularly politically sensitive ones, and other meetings and plenums held under the auspices of the Central Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_ (official's name)

If you wrote "Mikhail Gorbachov" or "Yegor Ligachov," you have been reading the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Washington Times*, the great majority of European newspapers, etc., to the exclusion of mainline Soviet press organs, such as *Pravda* and *Izvestia*, and for that matter, excluding *EIR*.

If you wrote "Lev Zaikov," you are correct. You obviously know that this powerful figure is the real-life symbol of a behind-the-scenes shadow cabinet ruling Soviet Russia today. And even grade school students know that anything or anybody that casts a shadow must be illuminated in some way. Zaikov is definitely in the spotlight. Yet our media, Moscow correspondents, and would-be TV "newsmen" do not or choose not to perceive what is displayed before their very noses.

However, to unbiased, between-the-lines readers of the

Soviet press and tried-and-true Kremlin watchers, Zaikov is clearly a major figure. As suggested in the "bullet" paragraphs above, he is being bathed in limelight, at least for those few observers or government analysts who are not blinded by the reflected light of Gorbymania (and that includes many leading figures within the Bush administration).

Yes, Zaikov holds no fewer than *four* major posts, a record for any past Politburoite. He is: full member of the Politburo; senior secretary in the Secretariat; First Secretary of the Moscow Center party committee; he sits on the Kremlin version of the National Security Committee, the Defense Council (*Sovet Oborony*). In his interview with *Newsweek*, Zaikov revealed (and boasted) that he sometimes chairs the biweekly meetings of the Politburo, the triweekly meetings of the Secretariat, and meetings of the Defense Council (which are held sporadically). He may also sit in on meetings of the Defense Ministry "Kollegium."

What else do we know about Zaikov?

- He is a protégé of the late Marshal Dmitri Ustinov (who, like Zaikov, Zhdanov, Kosygin, et al., hails from Leningrad), who served as military-industrial "defense czar" for over a quarter of a century until his death in 1984. The rigid Ustinov may have first backed Leningrader Grigory Romanov, he of the drunken parties whom Gorbachov purged soon after becoming general secretary. But Ustinov had already obviously fingered Zaikov (e.g., Zaikov was virtually transferred from Leningrad to Moscow Center in 1984) and was strongly backed by Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko (both of whom detested Romanov) when they headed the party briefly from late 1982 until early 1985.

- Zaikov has burst into prominence like a supernova. Gorbachov and/or his handlers had Zaikov moved directly into the Politburo, without the formality of "election," in late 1985. A bit of Kremlinological signaling was revealing: The wording of the official Desk Calendar for 1986 stated under Zaikov's birthday entry that he was a member of the Politburo. Yet the Central Committee plenum that is supposed by the party statute to regularize such appointments was not held until early 1986! The calendar had gone to press in approximately mid-1985, that is, at the time when Zaikov was simply co-opted. He's a valuable member of the *Gorbachevskaya kommanda*, or "team."

- Zaikov, who is 66 (the favored "Class of 1923"), inherited the number-one job in the Moscow City Party Committee from Boris Yeltsin in late 1987. Months later the new Central Committee (CC) monthly, *Izvestia TsK*, published Zaikov's acerbic speech at the CC plenum in fall 1987 that had read the riot act to Yeltsin. Judging by the text, it was obvious that it was Zaikov who had elbowed Yeltsin out of his job just as he had apparently done an end run around Romanov. (The smearing of Yeltsin in *Pravda*, which Zaikov helps oversee, for staging alleged drunken bouts during

his visit to the United States in mid-1989 seems to have been the work of Zaikov the Zapper. *Pravda* later weakly "apologized" in a tiny item that did not really deny the narrative reported by an Italian newspaper, which had borrowed it from a New York tabloid.)

- Just after taking over Moscow, Zaikov announced what his policies would be. Among other things, he said, as he passed quickly over *glasnost*, *perestroika*, "democratization," and other largely meaningless slogans, would be to *upgrade the country's military institutions*—factories, research institutes, aerospace design bureaus, etc.—that are located in the Moscow area in far greater numbers than anywhere else in the Soviet Union. Moscow, he indicated, would be run with an iron hand (i.e., be de-Yeltsinized).

- It was Zaikov who purged the air defense forces in early 1986 following young Mathias Rust's rogue flight and bizarre landing in Red Square, on Yeltsin's watch.

- Zaikov is close to Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, who did not see eye to eye with Romanov on most things, and whom Ustinov admired. There is considerable circumstantial evidence to show that Zaikov backed Ogarkov on high-technology modernization of the Soviet armed forces, to whose process Zaikov, in fact, was specifically assigned in 1985. (Ogarkov still is consulted just as Anatoly Dobrynin is, albeit both are "retired.")

According to TASS Nov. 21, Lev Zaikov has been promoted to deputy chairman of the Defense Council, the Soviet version of the National Security Council. In assuming this high post, Zaikov yielded his position as first secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee to one of his appointees, Second Secretary Yuri Prokofiev, a man in his fifties, who is on the record for having attacked Boris Yeltsin at the time Yeltsin was ousted as Moscow party secretary in October 1987.

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