

# East German documents vindicate LaRouche analysis on Soviet strategy

by Michael Liebig

February 1, 1992 was a remarkable day. For almost exactly three years, Lyndon LaRouche has been falsely imprisoned. Yet on this day, the first 30-minute speech of this imprisoned presidential candidate was broadcast on ABC television to the entire country. One day before, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had declared before the U.N. Security Council: "The time has come to consider creating a global system for protection of the world community. It could be based on the reorientation of the U.S. SDI program to make use of high technologies developed in Russia's defense complex." On the same day, German Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg presented detailed particulars about the former East German National People's Army (NVA), which prove that up until 1989-90, the strategy of the Warsaw Pact was for a nuclear blitzkrieg against Western Europe.

Since 1979—long before Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative was launched—LaRouche has been a leading fighter for a military strategy in which defense against missiles by beam weapons would play a central role. LaRouche in the 1980s warned consistently against the strategy of nuclear blitzkrieg of the leadership of the Soviet Union. It was precisely LaRouche's steadfastness on these questions of fundamental military strategy, that led to an East-West character assassination campaign against him, whose extent and intensity in retrospect seem the stuff of fantasy. Still, the campaign of character assassination was an essential premise for the political persecution and finally the imprisonment of LaRouche.

## LaRouche, 'the father of the SDI'

On Jan. 21, 1984, LaRouche declared in a national CBS television presentation: "Nearly two years ago, during a two-day seminar in Washington, D.C., I proposed a new strategic doctrine for the United States, to an audience which included Soviet officials as well as representatives of our government agencies. I proposed . . . [to] end the age of thermonuclear terror, through deploying the kinds of anti-missile defenses which science has made possible. . . ."

"With the knowledge of our government, I conducted exploratory discussions privately with Soviet representatives for a period of over 12 months. . . ."

"On March 23, [1983], our President not only announced such a new strategic doctrine for the United States itself, but in that same nationwide television broadcast, he offered to

negotiate with Moscow to bring to an end the age of thermonuclear revenge-weapons. . . ."

With the help of films and pictures, LaRouche explained what a nuclear first strike against the United States would look like in the absence of a missile defense system.

## 'Global Showdown'

Before the end of 1983, LaRouche had given his staff of collaborators the task of conducting a comprehensive investigation into the totality of the potential Soviet military threat, and the economic basis of its war-fighting capacity. LaRouche recognized that since the beginning of the 1980s, the Soviet order of battle had begun to look more and more like a pre-war mobilization, but that just for this reason, it could not be maintained indefinitely. He saw in Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov an extraordinary military-strategic thinker, who ruthlessly and brilliantly shaped the Soviet war plan.

LaRouche gave the study the working title "Global Showdown." In the summer of 1985, a 368-page study was published, in which LaRouche emphasized that the use of offensive nuclear weapons, in the framework of the Ogarkov doctrine, has decisive significance not only on the global strategic level, but also on the operative level of the European war-fighting theater. Ogarkov's plan, to engage in a blitzkrieg against West Germany and Western Europe, is based upon a nuclear spearhead comprised of the SS-20, SS-21, SS-22, and SS-23 (map, page 41).

LaRouche never ceased to emphasize that for Ogarkov, the premise for a policy of military confrontation and blackmail this side of war, was being in fact *ready* for nuclear war, with all its subjective and objective components. Without Europe's creation of its own SDI, to complement the American missile defense on the tactical battlefield level, a credible military defense of Europe, according to LaRouche, would not be possible, and the erosion of Western Europe's will to resist Soviet blackmail pressure would become unstoppable.

## International campaign against LaRouche

In the United States, Europe, and the Soviet Union, the military-strategic judgment and concepts of LaRouche were massively attacked. They were labeled a "provocation," a "boundless exaggeration" of Soviet military potential and of Soviet military-strategic aims, and even "war-mongering."

When in 1984 LaRouche repeatedly pointed to a series of extraordinary Warsaw Pact maneuvers, the liberal German weekly *Der Spiegel*, in May 1984, published an article which expressly agreed with *Izvestia's* characterization of LaRouche in an article on Nov. 15, 1983, which said that LaRouche was a "troglydte," who wished to fill "space with lasers and other total weapons systems."

On Feb. 4, 1985, *Pravda*, describing a military-strategic seminar with LaRouche in Paris, wrote: "For two days there was debate of potential murderers, what the easiest and simplest way might be, to unleash a strike against countries whose political systems were not agreeable to their masters, while maintaining unharmed the mecca of capitalism, the U.S.A."

Not only Moscow, but also Bonn's secretary of state for the Defense Ministry at the time, Dr. Lothar Ruehl, and Brig. Gen. Dr. Dieter Genschel, in 1984 bad-mouthed LaRouche's military-strategic judgments and concepts.

### **Evaluation of the NVA documents**

But now, since the fall of the communist regime in east Germany, the same Dr. Ruehl, writing in the *Österreichischen Militärischen Zeitschrift* of June 1991, published an article about the offensive plan that was Warsaw Pact strategy until 1990. The basis of his article was a study called "Military Planning of the Warsaw Pact in Central Europe," which was the result of the evaluation, conducted under the auspices of German military intelligence, of every aspect of the former East German NVA. On Jan. 31, 1992, the findings were announced to the broader public by the German Defense Ministry. (Dr. Ruehl had access to the work of the Defense Ministry, thanks to the various military posts he has held.)

Both the study of the Defense Ministry and that of Dr. Ruehl agree that the 25,000 NVA documents released comprise at most 80% of the relevant NVA documents. The rest—among them the most sensitive and detailed—were destroyed or taken to the Soviet Union.

In the introduction to his essay, Dr. Ruehl writes: "The only possible conclusion that one can draw from the NVA documents, their equipment, and their supplies of war matériel, points to the planning and preparation for an ambitious offensive war with strategic goals in Western Europe to the Atlantic coast."

A decisive attack was not yet planned, but the structure of Warsaw Pact fighting forces in the German Democratic Republic (G.D.R.), since 1988, was designed exclusively for attack. The NVA documents showed "that until 1988 there did not exist any defense plan for the territory of the G.D.R. and no military defense preparations for the border territory or for larger [defensive] regrouping. Nor were any plans made for border defense, or tactical withdrawal from the border; on the other hand, [the plans did exist], including every detail, for offensive operations against Western Europe, into the whole territory of West Germany, including all

the particulars of forward motion, occupation, and military control of territory, day-to-day garrison expenses, taking over the railways, the regulation of traffic along the axes of forward offense, etc."

### **Continental nuclear blitzkrieg**

With all due caution, writes Dr. Ruehl, it must be said that "in case of war, the NVA was equipped and prepared for a resolute attack strategy within the framework of an offensive Warsaw Pact war in the central region." This offensive war should be carried out with "use of the combined arsenal of destructive means," declared Marshal Kulikov in 1983 at the Warsaw Pact maneuver "Soyuz 83"—i.e., nuclear weapons should be systematically deployed.

On that account, the study by the German Defense Ministry says the following: "In the Warsaw Pact, the use of tactical nuclear weapons was an integral part of training at the theater level of the Army and higher. According to the thinking of the military leadership, this should serve above all, to bring about breaking through the opponents' defense. . . ."

The primary targets for an offensive, in the framework of the planned use of nuclear weapons, were: 1) NATO nuclear installations and delivery systems; 2) installations of the air force and air defense; 3) military headquarters on the division level, including their long-distance communications installations; 4) troops on the battlefield or those in reserve; 5) the fleet command and support points of the German Navy.

As for the evaluation of the plan of attack against the German state of Schleswig-Holstein and Danish Jutland, Dr. Ruehl writes that the Warsaw Pact foresaw a march forward of 100 kilometers in 100 hours at the beginning of the attack, "which without the use of nuclear or chemical weapons would have been unrealistic." Concretely, the plan of attack in the "direction of Jutland" foresaw the use of "87 tactical nuclear weapons of 3 to 100 kilotons, 20 bombs, and up to 67 nuclear rocket corps fighting units for the SS-21 and SCUD for theater support."

The Defense Ministry study further tells us that in the "Armed Brotherhood 80" exercises, nuclear war-fighting was planned along the following lines:

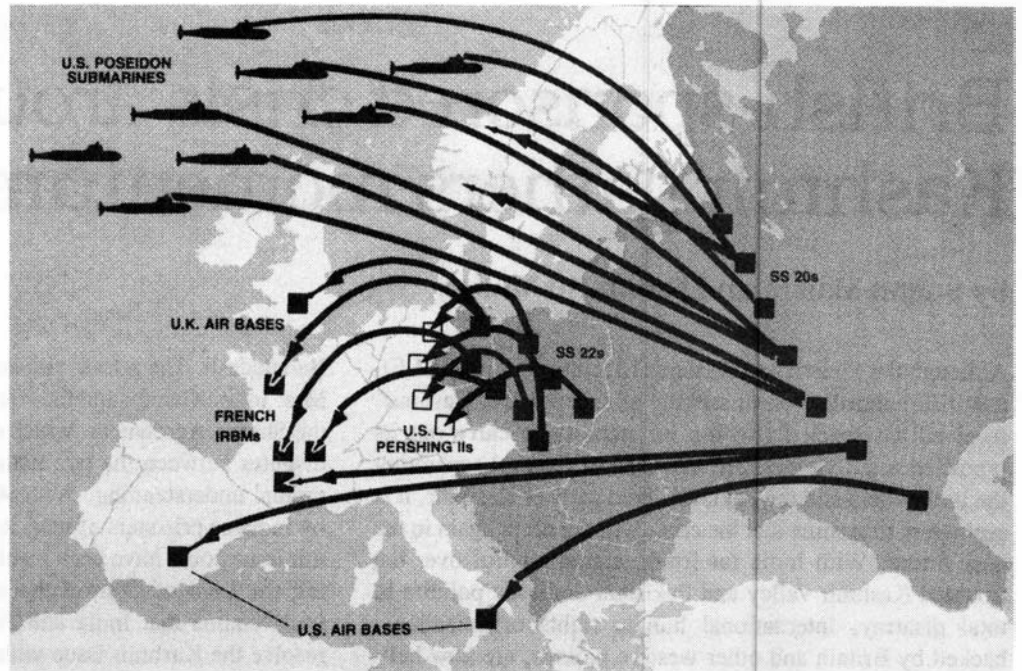
To the first Front (Army group), which would consist of the Soviet Western Group of Forces and the NVA, there would be available for war-fighting some 840 tactical nuclear weapons, no less than 205 operative-tactical army rockets (SCUD), 380 tactical rockets (FROG), and 255 nuclear bombs.

As late as spring of 1990, as is clear from the detailed NVA reports, staff exercises were carried out by the Warsaw Pact in which the offensive use of tactical nuclear weapons on West German territory was played out.

### **Gorbachov's 'new military doctrine'**

The NVA documents provide proof, writes Dr. Ruehl, "that actual military practice, structures, and operative doc-

FIGURE 1



*The first Soviet nuclear salvo against western European strategic assets, in the first minute of a general Soviet "pre-emptive strike."*

Source: EIR, "Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988," July 1985.

trine emphatically depart from the declared military doctrine, in particular from the direction which Soviet military doctrine [should have taken], in the framework of the new political leadership under Gorbachov, regarding a defensive military posture, or the defensive orientation of Soviet military strategy since 1985-86."

This last point is especially worth attention. Since British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "discovered" Gorbachov for the West in 1984, and since President Reagan in 1985 switched course as part of the "Gorbachov thaw," LaRouche's analysis, relative to the fact that the military-strategic orientation of the Soviet Union had remained unchanged, was looked at more and more impatiently.

Today it has been proven that until 1988, there was no significant change in the weaponry, training, and strategy of the Soviet Armed Forces. Even what changes did take place between 1988 and 1989 in Warsaw Pact military strategy, were isolated and contradictory. In 1988 the first large maneuver with a predominantly defensive orientation was conducted by the NVA, "North 88." This exercise ended in a fiasco, since the NVA troops were not capable, neither by training or equipment, to set up engineering corps defenses, such as trenches or field defenses. The "new military policy of adequate defense," under Gorbachov, essentially did not go beyond an opportunity for diplomacy and propaganda. Nothing changed in the Soviet leadership's complete opposition to the concept of strategic-tactical missile defense, as an essential aspect of a new military-strategic basis for East-West relations.

In 1989 the situation changed, but not because the Kremlin pushed through an actual change in military strategy.

Rather, the effect on the population of the increasing domestic economic and political problems since the middle of the 1980s had made a calculable war plan less and less possible. Any idea of a military attack "outward" included the incalculable risk of an exploding civil war domestically. In 1989, the previous military strategy was no longer "practical."

The "peace movement" in Europe and the U.S.A. in the first half of the 1980s was not at all, as can be seen clearly today, aimed only against the stationing of medium-range nuclear missiles. It was directed at the same time, and with increasing intensity, against "Star Wars," that is, the solution to the strategic regime of mutually assured destruction—MAD.

While LaRouche was slandered as a "provocateur and war-monger," the defense minister of the G.D.R., talking about the large-scale "Soyuz 83" maneuvers, declared to the National Defense Council of the G.D.R.:

"This strategic group, made up of troops and naval forces of the armed forces of the U.S.S.R., Poland, the G.D.R. and the C.S.S.R. [Czechoslovakia], are given the following tasks: The primary aims of the first strategic operations with the troops of four Fronts [Army groups] are to advance to the border of France on the 13th to 15th day; and along with that, to conquer the territory of Denmark, the F.R.G. [Federal Republic of Germany], the Netherlands, and Belgium, and to force the exit of these West European states from the war; to further develop the strategic operation by introducing two broader fronts deep in France; to defeat the strategic reserves on its territory; by the 30th to 35th day to reach the Bay of Biscay and the border of Spain, and with the removal of France from the war, to achieve the first goal of the first strategic operation."