

EIR Science & Technology

Pentagon rips off the mask from Russia's 'glasnost'

The problem has not been to identify the purpose of the Krasnoyarsk radar, but to get the Congress to accept the fact, that the Soviets have an "SDI" which is very close to deployment.

The Soviets attempted a propaganda coup on Labor Day weekend, by inviting a group of U.S. congressmen to visit their supposedly super-secret radar installation at Krasnoyarsk. The half-completed Soviet radar installation, located at the Siberian town of Krasnoyarsk, has normally been off-limits to visitors; however, it has been the subject of U.S. satellite observations.

The importance of the visit, from the Soviet point of view, was underscored by the admitted role of Yevgeni Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and top architect of the Soviet "SDI." This leading scientific-military policy adviser took full credit for arranging the congressmen's

The Pentagon has revealed that, as is usually the case with the new *glasnost*, this is simply another sophisticated deception operation by the Soviets. They decided to take advantage of the fact that they had been caught with their proverbial pants down, to gain a certain propaganda advantage. The truth is that the United States has been keeping the half-constructed site under close satellite observation, because its completion will close the gap in the country-wide radar that country a major step forward in its capability to deploy an effective anti-ballistic missile defense system.

Since 1983, the Pentagon has been warning of the fact that the Soviets are developing all of the elements of an anti-missile defense, including a radar system which will allow the tracking of missiles. For example, in the March 1987

edition of *Soviet Military Power*, published by the Pentagon, the Krasnoyarsk installation was specifically referenced. The Pentagon warned then that Krasnoyarsk and other Soviet radar installations, are in clear violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. The treaty specifically prohibits the inland location of large radar installations.

The fact that the radar is located hundreds of miles inland, provides a key to its purpose. Its of a network stationed to track missiles in order to target them.

The ostensible purpose of the congressional visit was to clear the air—and the Russians even told the visiting American congressmen, that the Soviets might consider stopping construction. This is indeed a viable option for the Soviets, rather than a major concession. According to the Pentagon, the Krasnoyarsk installation is far enough advanced now, to give the Soviets a commanding lead, even with a hiatus in construction.

The American congressmen recognized that completion of construction would be in clear violation of the ABM treaty, but that they were impressed by the opportunity which they were given to view and photograph the site. It was to set the record straight that the Pentagon gave a detailed press briefing on Sept. 10. Among other naive but dangerous impressions brought back by the congressmen, was that shoddy Soviet workmanship gave the United States a clear and commanding lead.

Frank Gaffney, Assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, addressed this issue in the briefing, with the following warning:

"I think it is the case that the Soviets, as a rule, have built with brute force and for massive effect—some call it overkill. We should take no comfort from the fact that, to varying degrees, their proficiency, their skill, their competence seem inferior to ours.

"The reports that a general who was responsible for the Krasnoyarsk construction would, were he in this country, be court-martialed because the concrete flaked or because the construction appeared shoddy is, in my view, the kind of condescending contemptuousness which has caused us often-times to misjudge the real capability of Soviet systems.

"Many of you," Gaffney continued, "will recall the MiG-15 that flew into Japan some years ago and the ridicule that was heaped upon that system when it was discovered that it was enormously heavy, and that it had exposed rivets, and that it had a very early variant of a radar system.

"The fact of the matter is, on closer inspection, it was actually a pretty good aircraft for the mission that it was designed to serve. And the fact that it could be produced in quantity and was being produced in quantity, I think, is something we tend to lose sight of, but we shouldn't—because we can, unfortunately, grossly underestimate the actual threat to defense."

Potemkin Village?

Gaffney closed his press conference with a pointed quip about the typical Soviet practice of spreading disinformation:

"In addition to the closed society with which we are forced to deal, with the Soviets as our adversary, we should remember there's another tradition in the Soviet Union. Indeed, this goes back to the time of the Czars, and that is the phenomenon of showing people what you want them to see.

"And this, perhaps, reached a high-water mark in the time of Catherine the Great and the Potemkin Village, but I think we ought to be cautious in judging on the basis of a very limited data base what may well be the Potemkin radar."

In other words: If the work on the radar station at Krasnoyarsk looks shoddy, maybe that's just because the Soviets want us to see it that way, to lull us into complacency about the threat Russian military power poses to us.

Below is a transcript of the Sept. 10 press conference. We are also including an excerpts from a recent article by Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization based on his testimony to Congress on the Soviet antiballistic-missile defense capability, including emphatically the Krasnoyarsk and eight other similar radar stations now under construction. This, along with a short section from *Soviet Military Power*, verifies that the Soviets did not tell us anything which we did not know already, even if some congressmen do not wish to admit this.

Krasnoyarsk violates heart of ABM treaty

What follows is an edited transcript of the Defense Department briefing by Frank Gaffney, designated Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, and James McCrery, Defense Intelligence Agency, on Soviet non-compliance with the ABM Treaty on Thursday, Sept. 10, 1987.

Mr. Sims: . . . We have with us Frank Gaffney, who is the designated Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, and with him is Jim McCrery of the Defense Intelligence Agency. They are here on a single subject and that is to discuss the Soviets' non-compliance with the ABM Treaty, specifically with regard to the Krasnoyarsk radar. . . .

Sec. Gaffney: . . . As I think you know, there has been some interest expressed in the Krasnoyarsk radar as a result of the Soviets' invitation to several members of Congress to visit the site last week and some activities that have ensued upon the return of those members, and we thought it would be helpful to try to provide you an update on our reading of the Krasnoyarsk situation and to put it into context for you, in particular, in light of some of the comments that have been made by members of Congress and other people traveling with the party, in the light of their visit.

. . . As the result of the trip by our members of Congress, we've had this model made up [see the members of Congress made this trip, and just to give you a sense of the scale of this beast relative to some of the objects you know well. The United States Capitol is here; the Washington Monument here. This is the receiver—rather the transmitter building and the receiver building for the Krasnoyarsk radar, another associated infrastructure. I would point out to you that this model was made without benefit of any insights gained from on-site inspection, such as it was.

It was, in fact, built, based upon the information available to us through national technical means, and I think it can serve as the basis for our discussion here with you this afternoon. . . .

Let me begin by saying that I think there are certain things that we agree with the members of Congress about, and there are certain things that we disagree with them about.

First, we clearly agree that the Soviets are lying now and