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SPECIAL REPORTS

Soviet Union Offensive Against Threat Of World War

Oct. 8 (NSIPS) — The government of the Soviet Union has warned, in an extensive memorandum on disarmament submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, that without speedy action “the shadow of military catastrophe will loom larger over all peoples.” The new document augments the Soviets’ strenuous effort to avert a world war at this juncture, an effort which Soviet party leader Leonid Brezhnev took to the Western European public Oct. 5 in a highly unusual interview given to French television, and broadcast across the continent. “It is necessary to curb the arms race,” said Brezhnev, “otherwise, one fine day we can lose much of what we have gained by our great efforts.”

A second proposal circulated by the USSR at the UN this week links the reduction of arms budgets to potential economic development — which disarmament could make possible.

Brezhnev’s appeal to the peoples and governments of Western Europe was seconded by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko who, upon leaving the United Nations, began a Western European tour. In visits to Belgium and Denmark, Gromyko pushed for immediate progress at the Central Europe Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks in Vienna (MBFR) and organized support for the Soviets’ Middle East Geneva peace conference initiative.

Western European receptivity to the Soviets’ push, in the midst of the broad anti-Atlanticist revolt there, was indicated Oct. 5 in a syndicated editorial by the French daily *Le Monde*’s André Fontaine. Fontaine, questioning whether the U.S. and NATO are of any use at all to Western European defense, recommended that the best defense for Europe is none at all — a stand which implies a readiness for general disarmament agreements of the type the Soviets are putting forward.

Gromyko:

“The Soviet Union Will Struggle For Consolidation of Peace”

Oct. 8 (NSIPS) — Following are excerpts of a speech delivered by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Brussels, Belgium, Oct. 5. The speech was printed in the Soviet Communist Party daily *Pravda*, from a Tass release, Oct. 6.

...Disorders, especially those of a military nature, are not new to Europe. History has shown more than once that the political climate in the whole world depends, to a large degree, on the situation in Europe....The Final Act signed at Helsinki, the principles and other positions contained in it, have great significance for strengthening of security, for development of multi-lateral mutually beneficial cooperation, respect and friendship between peoples, for overcoming relapses into the “Cold War.” It is our conviction that the furthering of all-European cooperation in the areas of environmental preservation, transport and energy would have great political significance.

The tasks of lessening military confrontation in Europe dictate the necessity for moving forward with the Vienna negotiations (on Mutual Balanced Force Reduction-ed.), solving the questions of reducing armed forces and armaments in Central Europe on the sole realistic basis, that is, without harm to the security of any side whatsoever.

It would be a serious omission not to mention the fact that, at the present time, there exists two independent sovereign German states — the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. All states of Europe, and not only of Europe, must construct their policies taking this factor into account. Anyone who would try to construct policies without doing so would risk cutting himself off from the real situation in Europe.

The goal of the foreign policy activity of the Soviet Union has been and remains the struggle for consolidation of peace, for eliminating the danger of a new world war. The interests of peace demand the activation of efforts for liquidating the remaining military hot-spots. This means especially the need for achieving a just and lasting settlement in the Mideast. The reconvening of the work of the Geneva Conference is what must serve this task.

I would like especially to draw attention to the need for solving the key problems of the Mideast at this conference....

Soviet Union, Denmark Sign Protocol for Peaceful Relations

Oct. 8 (NSIPS) — Radio Moscow yesterday reported the signing of a protocol between the Soviet Union and Denmark at the conclusion of a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to Denmark. The following is the text of that report.

Both sides called for the deepening of détente, saying that a political relaxation goes with a military one. They supported the development of relations between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon-ed.) and the European Economic Community (EEC-ed.), as well as between the Baltic states. They expressed concern over the Mideast situation, and called for the reconvening of the Geneva Conference.

Brezhnev:

“The Struggle Against Build-up Of Arms Has Become Urgent”

The following is excerpted from an interview given by Soviet party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev to Yves Mourousi of the French television company TF-1. The Oct. 5 interview was broadcast in Western Europe on the Eurovision network.

Uppermost in the minds of Soviet people is the concern for lasting peace.... We do not conceal that the plans for the internal development of the Soviet Union count on the expectation that peaceful international conditions can be safeguarded, and that we therefore benefit from relaxation of tensions. But does peace threaten other peoples with anything bad? Is there any people who can hope to win anything from the unleashing of a world war using modern means of mass annihilation?... It is necessary to curb the arms race, to set a limit to it and then to scale it down. Otherwise, one fine day we may lose much of what we have gained through great efforts....

We are surprised at the stand of Western governments on this question. It appears that nobody fails to pay lip service to the importance of reducing armaments, while in fact, so to speak, a wrench is being put in the works. Certain circles in the West persistently spread allegations about a Soviet menace and then play on this fear which they themselves assiduously arouse.

The Soviet Union has impressive armed forces, indeed. But we state clearly that the Soviet Union has never threatened and is not threatening anyone and is ready at any time to reduce armed forces on a reciprocal basis.

We are forced to perfect our defenses — forced to, I repeat — because of the arms race which confronts us.

If people are really worried about the level of the Soviet armed forces, then it would seem that the other side must have increasingly more reason to sit down in earnest to reduce armaments.... We are ready to work out binding international agreements and we have made specific proposals to this effect at the United Nations — I shall not repeat them. I shall only say that the struggle against the build-up of armaments has become urgent. Therefore, it merits special attention from top leaders of states.

“Strange Games of The NATO Generals”

Following are excerpts from an article by senior Soviet commentator Yuri Zhukov in Pravda, Oct. 3, under the title, “Strange Games of the NATO Generals.”

People of older generation remember how a quarter of a century ago, at the height of the “cold war,” the editors of the American journal “Colliers” created a scandal — they put out a special “political fantasy” issue on ... the Third World War, deftly describing the march of U.S. armed forces on Moscow. This affair ended badly for those who invented it: all over the world, including in the United States, it evoked indignation; readers stopped buying the journal, and the matter silently and ingloriously came to an end.

Now is another time, and the same anti-Soviet western publications do not risk resorting to such “political fantasy.” But — what do you know! — it turns out that fans of this genre

still exist in the Brussels NATO Headquarters.

According to Reuters news agency, a document stamped “NATO: Secret,” in the spirit and style of the old “Colliers” story, was circulated among the senior officers who participated in the “gigantic military maneuvers” which were held by NATO recently in the North Atlantic, the North Sea and Norway.

The military maneuvers looked quite ordinary: anonymous “blue” troops were fighting anonymous “orange” ones. But, Reuters points out, “to give the maneuvers realism”(!) the authors of the secret document set forth a “hypothetical situation” which, you see, is based on what NATO considers possible and even likely.”

And so the commanders of the military maneuvers, code-named “Teamwork-76,” in which 80,000 soldiers and officers, 275 ships and 900 planes took part, were presented with an unlikely cocktail of fantastic reports concerning whom to direct their strikes against and why.

It is all done “in fun,” like a fascinating game, but the jokes are bad. The “orange” troops, it turns out, are not orange at all. All the participants in the “blue” armada that stormed the Norwegian coast had to imagine was that before them were Soviet troops.

And so the authors of this secret document threw all prudence to the winds, so to speak. Their introductory instructions draw pictures each one more frightening than the last: “The political situation on which these maneuvers are premised,” reports Reuters, begins with the Soviet Union supposedly “calling on Norway and Denmark to leave NATO and ally themselves (!) with the Baltic states of Eastern Europe” and threatening to “take measures” if they do not agree. And there’s more. The Soviet Union “warns the United States and Canada that they must keep out of the deepening dispute between East and West.”...

“Tension is rising ... Crowds are attacking the embassies of NATO member countries in the Warsaw Pact countries, and the police, it is supposed, are taking no measures to disperse the demonstrators ... Pro-Soviet (!) trade unions in western countries are beginning a work slow-down, especially in the ports and vitally important military factories ... Fires and explosions, secretly breaking out on military installations and in industrial centers, are thought to be the work of saboteurs, and are weakening the defense potential of the West.”...

The God-fearing leaders of NATO tolerate all of this — they just demand the convening of a Security Council session. But then, they go on to say, Soviet ships attack a “caravan of NATO ships heading north from the Shetland Islands,” and there was no choice, they had to start a war....

Delirium! — exclaims the reader, and he is right. However it must be realized that these delirious falsifications are contained in the text of a perfectly official NATO document....

It might be asked whether it is worth it to take seriously the games of generals who want to color in the grayness of possible actions with graphic details. Unfortunately, it is necessary! Because these writings, first of all, throw light on the whole direction of NATO activity, and secondly, they convincingly indicate the state of mind of the leaders of that bloc....