

# Moscow: accord does not remove war danger

The announcement in Washington that a strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT II) with the Soviet Union is nearly concluded, and will be signed by Presidents Carter and Brezhnev in Vienna in the middle of June, was greeted with restraint in the Soviet press. The government daily *Izvestia* May 12 called the treaty "a triumph of patience and endurance, a triumph of reason"—but cautioned that opposition in the Senate "casts a shadow" over what has been achieved.

A number of commentaries in the Soviet press demonstrate that while Moscow sees a SALT agreement as a necessary and important war-avoidance measure, the mood in the Soviet capital is scarcely euphoric, but rather reflects the grim realization that the Carter Administration remains committed to policies which risk World War III—SALT or no SALT. Especially since the issuing of an important Communist Party Central Committee resolution May 5, the Soviet media have been geared to mobilize the population in the face of the continuing war threat and associated "psychological warfare" being waged by Anglo-American intelligence services.

Of prime concern to the Soviet leaders is the Carter Administration's "China card" policy of using the PRC as a battering ram against the USSR—the same policy, as the Soviet press has pointed out on many occasions, that Great Britain pursued unsuccessfully with Germany in the previous two world wars. Central Committee member Georgi Arbatov, head of the Moscow USA and Canada Institute, said at a press conference in Washington last week that his country fears that the U.S. and China are heading for a military and political alliance, which would mean the collapse of detente. The same message was voiced in the Communist Party daily *Pravda* May 4, which reported information completely blacked out in the U.S. media: that the first-ever U.S. military delegation went to China recently. *Pravda* placed this in the context of the offer made last month by Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to place American espionage equipment in China to monitor Soviet compliance with SALT. *Pravda* also reported the first negotiations by an American firm, Fairchild Industries, with China for arms sales.

As the articles excerpted below demonstrate, Soviet commentators do not see the "China card" and related U.S. policies as coming solely from the most overt anti-Soviet spokesmen within and outside the Administration, like Zbigniew Brzezinski or outgoing NATO

commander Alexander Haig. In fact, these men share with the "Fabian" members of the Administration like Secretary of State Vance the basic goals of "controlled disintegration" of the world economy and confrontation with the Soviet Union in third world hotspot areas. The article "Real and Imaginary Threats," by leading *Izvestia* commentator V. Matveev, (see below) demonstrates by its attack on Vance the understanding of this situation on the part of some Soviet analysts.

## Mobilizing the Soviet population

A major mobilization of the Soviet population around the war danger was announced in the military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* May 12, with the issue of a new poster series entitled "Imperialism is the source of the war danger." The series stresses the need to prevent "the arms race which threatens to place the world at the brink of a nuclear catastrophe." This campaign was sparked by a Central Committee resolution May 5 that called for improved work by the Soviet media to "unmask" western cold-war supporters, and to combat an offensive by Western intelligence services "against the minds of the Soviet people."

A crucial part of this mobilization is to draw upon the Soviet population's experiences of the heroism of World War II and the industrialization drives of the 1930s, as the quality of effort required today to prevent thermonuclear war. In a picture—unprecedented since 1956—*Krasnaya Zvezda* May 5 ran a page-one drawing of Lenin talking to Josef Stalin! This year is the 100th anniversary of Stalin's birth, and some Soviet leaders would like to rehabilitate him as a way of consolidating support today for the positive achievements which the Soviet population associates with his rule: the national commitment to industrialization and scientific progress, and the effort to form foreign policy alliances with continental Europe and the United States against British imperialism. In the drawing Stalin was left unidentified by *Krasnaya Zvezda* and was sketched looking away from the artist; but no Soviet citizen would ever mistake that Georgian mustache.

Recalling the experience of the war, *Izvestia* announced that a street in Moscow is being renamed, "at the request of a group of Soviet war veterans," after the late Marshal Georgi Zhukov, the mastermind of the World War II victories at Stalingrad, Moscow, and Kursk.

—Susan Welsh

## Soviet press on threats from Schlesinger, Vance

"Real and Imaginary Threats," by V. Matveev, *Izvestia May 5*: [U.S. Energy Secretary] J. Schlesinger is vested with considerable authority in the purely civilian domain, but frequently talks as though he headed up the Pentagon, for example in his statements about oil supplies from the Persian Gulf area. He asserts that a situation might arise when the United States is required to "use force" to guarantee such supplies....

Some people in Washington would like to create the impression of "threats" where none really exist, while simultaneously closing their eyes to the real and most serious dangers to the interests of many countries. Official Washington departments have adopted an evasive, ambiguous position on the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam....

None other than U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance, in an interview to a correspondent of the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, admitted that "normalization of relations with China and the conclusion of a new agreement with the Philippines on military bases" represent closely interdependent steps which, according to C. Vance, should "strengthen the strategic positions of the USA in Asia."

"The Great Robbery" by Yuri Gudkov, *New Times, No. 17, April, 1979*: ...Whence this sudden "oil shortage" which Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger has called an "energy Pearl Harbor"?... At the very height of the "oil crisis" the United States imported 11.5 percent more oil than in the corresponding period in 1978.

The conclusion is obvious: the "energy Pearl Harbor" is nothing but a myth, and an ill-timed myth at that....

The "crisis" is designed to make the Administrations [sic] and the millions of consumers more tractable. And it is being skillfully created and maintained....

"The Great Robbery," as the whole thing has been called by the Americans themselves, is not passing unnoticed. Schlesinger, who openly acts as a government lobbyist for the monopolies, has particularly incurred public anger. The scandalous behavior of the "energy czar" caused Senator George McGovern and

then five other Congressmen to demand his dismissal. The White House, however, turned down the demand. And there is a good reason for that.

The "oil crisis" created by the monopolies and whipped up by Schlesinger has proved to be a good camouflage for openly militaristic plans. The dispatch of the aircraft carrier *Constellation* to the Middle East waters, the imposing of arms on Saudi Arabia, the new round in the militarization of Israel and Egypt, and the plans to establish American bases in the Middle East are all ascribed to the looming spectre of "oil hunger" and, consequently, the threat to the "vital interests" of the United States. There is no more truth in that than in the fables spread by the oil barons. But in both cases it is the interests of millions of Americans that are sacrificed.

## On Haig's "destabilization strategy"

"The Hidden Springs of the Anti-Afghan Strategem," by Dmitry Volsky, *New Times, No. 16, April 1979*:...None other than General Alexander Haig, in what might be called a farewell message before retiring from the post of NATO Supreme Allied Commander in Europe which was published in the Belgian *Le Soir*, enjoined the Atlantic bloc to pay attention to the "appearance in Afghanistan, South Yemen and Ethiopia of states with allegiance to the Soviet Union" and to avoid inciting "traditionally friendly Third World countries, such as Saudi Arabia, to adopt an attitude complaisant to those they perceive as the likely winners." From this it can be clearly seen that the strategem for "destabilization" of the situation in Afghanistan—a strategem that has been joined by the Peking accomplices of imperialism—is part of a broader design directed against all the peoples of the Middle East....

...Efforts are being made to fan regional conflicts, to use Pakistan against Afghanistan, to set the Afghan revolution against the Iranian, and to bring the Sunnis and Shiites into collision with each other. To this end the new Kabul government is ascribed with an intention to persecute Islam, despite the fact that it invariably treats Moslem religious sentiment with the utmost respect....