

Ogarkov: Soviet subs are off U.S. coast

by Rachel Douglas

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, giving every appearance of being totally in charge of the U.S.S.R., jolted the world on Dec. 5 with a public announcement that the U.S. mainland is being put within under five-minutes' range of Soviet submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). The Soviet chief of staff thus confirmed the warning made by physicist Lowell Wood in Washington Dec. 1, that, *without a crash program for anti-missile beam weapons*, the United States has no defense against the Soviet SLBM capability, already in place, to destroy "all coastal command centers" with a warning time of only three minutes (see article, p. 57).

Speaking at a Moscow press conference, Ogarkov said that the SLBMs are "being deployed in ocean areas and in seas, with an eye to the territory of the U.S.A., [and] will be no less effective than the American weapons being deployed in Europe as regards their range, yield, accuracy, and, most important, the flight time to their targets." He added that unspecified non-missile measures would also be taken—"the capabilities of armed forces are not limited to missiles."

While Ogarkov spoke in Moscow, the defense ministers of the Warsaw Pact were convened in Sofia, Bulgaria to upgrade a bloc-wide mobilization onto a war footing.

The Soviet leadership is gunning for a nuclear showdown with the United States, risking full-scale nuclear war in order to force a U.S. strategic humiliation through a backdown. This has nothing to do with U.S. missile deployments in Europe, as the Russians claim; Soviet actions and statements, including Ogarkov's, point in the direction of unfolding contingency plans to establish Moscow's world domination as the capital of the "Third and Final Roman Empire," daring the United States to fight.

On Dec. 1, Reuters reported that Soviet Gen. Yuri Lebedev, of Ogarkov's General Staff, had talked openly about a Soviet surgical strike against new U.S. Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe. Reuters said that Lebedev, in a Swiss newspaper, "was quoted as saying that new missiles to be deployed in Czechoslovakia and East Germany would be capable of knocking out all U.S. Pershing II and cruise missiles stationed in Western Europe." The Soviets have announced the deployment of SS-22 and SS-23 short-range missiles in those two countries. "They would be aimed at the West European states where the American missiles are stationed," Lebedev said.

Since the Pershings' own short flight time precludes hitting them in retaliation for their use, Lebedev's statement was brandishing the threat of a surgical first strike against their launch-sites.

Threats to West Germany

At their press conference, Ogarkov enunciated a threat both to the United States and to West Germany.

Ogarkov, who of course is briefed in detail on every tribulation of every NATO country's government, aimed a sharp barb at West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is currently faced with a government crisis over the bribery indictment of Economics Minister Lambsdorff.

In reply to a question about the security of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) after the new American missile deployment on West German soil, Ogarkov repeated an insinuation that has appeared in the Soviet press about the future existence of West Germany and sneered at Kohl in particular. Referring to Kohl's support of the U.S. missile

deployment, Ogarkov called it "more than strange and even dangerous . . . for the leader of a country which has unleashed two world wars this century and suffered their consequences" to think that more nuclear weapons will lead to peace. "The nuclear danger also for the FRG will sharply increase, for its territory is being converted into a launching site for missiles and will hence become a target for an immediate retaliatory strike."

Even as Western politicians tried to prove that bending over backwards to placate the Soviets might bring Moscow back to the intermediate-range missile negotiating table (INF) they had walked away from on Nov. 23 in Geneva, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Georgii Korniyenko called it "nothing but a wish" to say that the U.S.S.R. "will return to the Geneva talks, if not today then tomorrow. . . ." Ogarkov added that the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), also being held in Geneva, were "moving in the same direction" as the terminated INF. On Dec. 8, the Soviet delegation at START did decline to set a date for renewing those talks.

Military command

Ogarkov's second press conference in the space of three months was the latest show of power by the Soviet military, displaying its control over a war-footing mobilization of the U.S.S.R. itself and the entire Warsaw Pact. Ogarkov's first, unprecedented press conference was on Sept. 9, immediately after the Soviets shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 7, killing 269 people.

Party spokesman Leonid Zamyatin told the press that party chief Yuri Andropov's health is on the mend, but the press conference was Ogarkov's show. Ogarkov dodged a question about whether Andropov is head of the Supreme Defense Council (as previously identified), and omitted to mention Andropov's name as he later stressed that the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council leads the "system of military command which assures defense from any surprise attack," i.e., controls nuclear forces.

The Soviet military press is playing up the activities of top officers. According to reports in the Soviet armed forces daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (*Red Star*) on Nov. 19 and Nov. 22, five main branches of the Soviet Armed Forces held staff briefings for generals and other top officers to discuss new military "tasks" in the current international situation. Adm. Sergei Gorshkov, Chief Marshal of Aviation P. Kutakhov, Marshal of Aviation A. Koldunov (Air Defense Forces), Chief Marshal of Artillery V. Tolubko (Strategic Missile Forces), and Marshal V. Petrov (Ground Forces) spoke at these "integrated political days."

Eastern European consolidation

On top of the deployment of short-range missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and possibly Bulgaria as well, there are reports of reorganization and upgrading of Warsaw

Pact member countries' defense systems.

In November, the Polish party chief and Prime Minister Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski removed himself as defense minister and took the higher rank of chairman of a new national Defense Committee. *Krasnaya Zvezda* of Nov. 25 played up the importance of this reorganization, by which defense committees were also created in every province.

On Dec. 6, Poland ran a test mobilization of the new structure, conducting nation-wide exercises described as "test responses to a declaration of state of emergency." Internal Defense Department official Gen. Jan Swiatowiec said the exercises were called in response to the "dangerous international tension" caused by the stationing of the U.S. Pershing missiles and "to test the status of defense preparedness in each locale."

Moscow has its hand in these Polish internal developments. On Nov. 25, Jaruzelski received the chairman of the Soviet KGB, Gen. Viktor Chebrikov. On Dec. 5, Polish Interior Minister Gen. T. Kiszczak announced an upgrading of Poland's internal security system and the arrest of a Pole and a West German as U.S. spies. He accused Western spy agencies of waging a campaign to disrupt government relations with the Catholic Church and sabotage the economy.

War on United States in Lebanon

At the same Dec. 5 Moscow press conference, Marshal Ogarkov announced that the Soviet Union now regarded the defense of Syria in Lebanon as a matter of vital national security to the U.S.S.R., and called U.S. and Israeli military actions against the Syrian occupation forces there "an invasion by aggressive forces. . . . Our moral and material support is on the side of the force which is fighting the aggressor, which is the U.S. and Israel." Ogarkov's statements followed by hours violent attacks by Syrian forces on American Marines, resulting in eight deaths, and an unprovoked Syrian attack shooting down two American reconnaissance jets over Lebanon. One day later, a terrorist bombing in Jerusalem by Nazi International assets among the Palestinians killed four Israelis.

These acts of terrorism are backed up by increasing Soviet threats to directly intervene militarily in Lebanon. Beirut sources claimed Dec. 7 that the U.S.S.R. had begun to deploy combat forces into Syria. There are already 7,000 Soviet military advisers in Syria and Lebanon, reinforcing Soviet-supplied SAM-5 and SS-21's. Although not otherwise confirmed, the report by West German sources Dec. 5 that the Soviets had been directly responsible for the shooting down of American reconnaissance jets over Lebanon that day is in keeping with the aggressive profile Moscow is taking there.

The Soviets, with the help of Islamic fundamentalist forces coming out of Teheran, are also active in Damascus, Syria, to bring a hardline-fanatic military government into power in Syria, to fill the vacuum created by the illness of Syrian President Hafez Assad.