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## Soviet Union

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# Chernenko calls for 'normality' à la Kissinger

by Rachel Douglas

Just before he was made head of state on April 11, Soviet party chief Konstantin Chernenko waxed nostalgic for the days when Henry Kissinger was U.S. Secretary of State. "Throughout the history of U.S.-Soviet relations we have dealt with various administrations in Washington," Chernenko said in the April 9 issue of *Pravda*, "in those cases when realism and a responsible approach to relations with the Soviet Union were shown . . . matters proceeded normally."

### Guarantor of a weak West

"Normality," for Chernenko, is identified with the Kissinger era. A Soviet journalist in Europe spelled it out: "Kissinger is against the militarization of outer space and every idea which meets the Soviet proposal [for a ban on space-based weapons] will be welcomed. For that reason, the Soviets would welcome Kissinger as the new Secretary of State."

Kissinger, the Russians believe, is their best bet to be guarantor of a weak West—collapsing economically and deploying its forces according to Kissinger's scenario of a NATO in which Western Europe is "decoupled" from the United States. Above all, the Soviets fear that the United States will reinvigorate itself politically and economically through a crash program to develop beam weapons for defense against ICBMs.

When Chernenko denounced the Reagan administration for having "no intention to reach any agreement to ban the militarization of outer space," and scoffed at "peace-loving rhetoric" from Washington, he meant that the Russians were still not persuaded, despite President Reagan's recent deference to Kissinger, that the beam-weapons effort has been stopped.

Not a day goes by without official Soviet media attention to the drive to stop beam-weapons development by the United States. *Pravda's* senior scribbler Yuri Zhukov on April 9 compared the idea of mounting a beam shield to Nazi propaganda claims that the Air Force of the Third Reich could prevent "a single bomb" from hitting Hitler's capital. The government paper *Izvestia* outdid itself on April 6, with an article on "Washington's Star Sickness," solemnly citing as an authoritative source a comment that space weapons would

be "deeply immoral—like a crime against history." The source of the statement was noted to be *Rolling Stone* magazine, a U.S. tabloid promoting narcotics.

### Waiting for Kissinger

Reagan's obeisances to Kissinger's crony Brent Scowcroft and his classification of the American Strategic Defense Initiative as a mere research project, were not unconditional enough for Moscow. Indeed, when Scowcroft was in Moscow in March, bearing a message to Chernenko from Reagan, he was permitted no audience to deliver it.

Still, the Soviet press is putting out the word to be ready for Kissinger. *Izvestia* in March touted his alleged "intellect" and suggested that Reagan might bring his old foe Kissinger back as Secretary of State. The party daily *Pravda* on March 26 identified Kissinger as the man of the hour. Criticizing Kissinger's March 5 *Time* magazine article for advocating a conventional buildup by NATO's European members, *Pravda* also said the following:

"The masters of ceremonies are now trying to rectify the situation" in NATO "by hastily incorporating couplets on love of peace into their scenarios of local nuclear conflicts, Star Wars, and 'crusades' against socialism, but people who are somewhat further removed from the couplet trade but who, on the whole, sympathize with the overall designs of the authors of the said scenarios can see that these additions are not enough and are seeking something a bit more substantial. Former U.S. Secretary of State H. Kissinger is evidently among the latter. . . . In describing the situation within NATO following the 'brilliant successes' of Reagan's policy, Kissinger of course knows what he is talking about. Therefore, it is worth listening to him."

### War maneuvers

While putting out tough words on the diplomatic circuit, the Soviets continued a high level of combat exercises, topping off the huge global naval maneuvers they conducted at the beginning of April. On April 7 and 8, the Soviet cruiser *Leningrad* led two other Soviet ships and a Cuban frigate on maneuvers in the Caribbean, during which they approached the Louisiana coast to within 130 miles, according to U.S. officials.

In Europe, the Soviets stepped up provocative flights in the vicinity of West Berlin, even after a protest by the United States, France, and Britain about Soviet MiG harassment of civilian flights to and from the city (see Report from Bonn, page 41).

Marshal A. Koldunov, the Air Defense chief, wrote in *Pravda* that the demolition of KAL 7, like the famous U-2 incident in 1960, demonstrated a "high level of readiness to fulfill military duties." Soviet combat pilot I. Zhukov, identified in the West as the pilot who shot down the Korean civilian plane, received a special award on the occasion of the holiday.