

Soviets train their sights upon West Germany

by Konstantin George

The pattern of Soviet threats and military moves against the West has increased to a threshold not seen since the Berlin and Cuba crises of the early 1960s. On May 20, Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov, "interviewed" by TASS, announced that the Soviet Union had made good its threat to heavily increase the number of missile submarines off the U.S. east coast: "Our missiles can now reach U.S. targets in less than 10 minutes." The London *Daily Express* has since reported that U.S. intelligence services have verified that at least three Soviet Yankee Class nuclear missile submarines had joined the squadron of Delta Class nuclear missile submarines on patrol off the U.S. east coast.

Ustinov also restated the earlier Soviet announcement that new, 625-mile range SS-22 missiles have been stationed in East Germany, adding that they have also been stationed in Czechoslovakia. These missiles, capable of hitting most of France and Great Britain, are above and beyond the continuing buildup of the SS-20 missiles, with over 250 launchers stationed in the European part of the U.S.S.R. and over 150 in Siberia and the Soviet Far East, to say nothing of the near completion of the Soviet program to station the new 300-mile range SS-23 and 70-mile range SS-21 missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia. The United States, in contrast, has a mere 18 Pershing II missiles in place in West Germany (the timetable months behind schedule due to alleged "production delays") and 16 ground cruise missiles each in Britain and Italy. No additions are expected before September.

The Russians' colossal missile buildup has just begun, as Ustinov proclaimed that the number of Soviet missiles will be increased "in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe . . . with each additional shipment of Pershing and cruise missiles." NATO aerial reconnaissance has already spotted operational SS-22 sites in both East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The scope of the Soviet military buildup in East Germany in the last six months, where 20 Soviet divisions are stationed, is indeed alarming. The West German daily *Die Welt* on May 29 cited figures on the Soviet buildup, disclosed by Willi Wimmers, a Christian Democratic member of parliament with access to Western intelligence reports documenting the Soviet military and logistical growth. Wimmers reported that as of March, three of the four Soviet armies stationed in East Germany, the 1st and 7th Guards Armies, and the 3rd Assault Army headquartered in Magdeburg (identified previously in *EIR* as the spearhead shock troops in any future blitzkrieg move against West Germany) had been equipped with the modern precision tactical nuclear missile of 70-mile range, the SS-21, replacing the older FROG class of missiles. By now, three months later, it is expected that the SS-21 deployment has been completed which would give the Russians 482 SS-21 missile launchers in East Germany alone, plus minimally another 100 SS-21s with the six Soviet divisions stationed in Czechoslovakia opposite the West German state of Bavaria. In contrast, the U.S. forces in West Germany have a grand total of 36 Lance missiles, the rough equivalent in range and firepower to the SS-21.

Wimmers also catalogued the Soviet armed forces' logistical buildup, clearly pointing to war preparations. In the past year all 34 fuel depots belonging to the Soviet military in East Germany have been expanded, while seven new ones have been constructed. Ammunition stockpiles have been more than doubled with all nine existing main ammo dumps being significantly expanded in size and seven new ones built. The gross increase is much larger when one takes into account the large amounts of munitions and fuel expended from December through March in the unprecedented volume of both ground and air exercises, plus a big jump in the amount of flight training time mandated for both fixed-wing

combat aircraft and the large helicopter fleet stationed in East Germany.

In addition to the stationing of the new surface-to-surface missiles, the SS-21s, SS-22s, and SS-23s, the Soviets, under the operational control of their Western Military Command in Kiev, have just installed four batteries of the 190-mile range SA-5 Surface-to-Air (SAM) missile on the East German island of Rügen in the Baltic. These nuclear-capable missiles can reach Lübeck, West Germany (the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, the northernmost state of West Germany), or the southern part of Sweden. Rügen, a heavily militarized island, is also the site of one of East Germany's special commando Air Assault Brigades, designed for behind-the-lines seizure and disruption operations in a blitzkrieg or "surgical strike" against Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein.

The danger of such a "surgical strike" into West Germany is no academic "war games" matter. On May 22 the Bundesgrenzschutz (West German border troops) Command reported that border troops of the East German Army have cleared a total of 20,000 land mines since March, making a stretch of border 4.5 kilometers long totally free of mines. The tempo of exploding mines has increased lately, with the Bundesgrenzschutz reporting that over 2,000 mines exploded on May 20 and 21 alone. Experts contacted on this development, while not sure of the reason for the East German actions, affirm that such moves would be undertaken "to prepare an invasion corridor."

'A new situation in the North Sea'

Any Warsaw Pact invasion against NATO's weak and vulnerable Northern Flank (Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark, Norway) would require well-coordinated deployments of the Murmansk-based Soviet Northern Fleet and the Soviet Baltic Fleet, including the satellite East German and Polish navies in the Baltic. This coordination is now being perfected in an ongoing Warsaw Pact naval maneuver in the Norwegian Sea between the Shetland Islands off the north coast of Scotland and the Lofoten Islands off the northern Norwegian coast.

These maneuvers began on May 15 when two Russian guided missile frigates of the Krivak Class, together with an East German guided missile destroyer of the Koni Class and a Polish guided missile destroyer of the Kotlin Class left the Baltic to hook up with units of the Soviet Northern Fleet for joint maneuvers in the Norwegian Sea. This marks the first time in history that units of the satellite navies have participated in exercises outside the Baltic Sea. The exercises, like the recent large-scale ones conducted by the Soviet Northern and Baltic Fleets in the same area (the biggest ever held in the North Atlantic), involved extensive use of Soviet land-based bombers in coordination with the fleet, in the vicinity of the Lofoten Islands.

Danish military sources quoted in the Danish newspaper *Berlinske Tidende* expressed their alarm: "We are faced with a completely new situation in the North Sea. Never before

has there been such close military cooperation between units of the Baltic and Northern Fleets [referring to the satellite participation] . . . the Krivak I Class are some of the newest Soviet frigates, 3,000 tons, armed with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles, twin-barreled 76mm guns and eight 533mm torpedo tubes. . . . All the ships involved have extensive missile firing power, nuclear or conventional."

The exercises also highlight the emergence in recent years of East Germany as the top satellite naval power. Attention was drawn to this phenomenon by Stefano Silvestri, director of the Rome-based Italian Institute for International Affairs, writing for the Italian weekly *Europeo*. Silvestri describes how the East German Navy, the Volksmarine, has grown in recent years from a navy consisting exclusively of coastal patrol craft for operational use in the Baltic, to a significant ocean-capable war fleet featuring newly acquired Soviet-made guided missile frigates and guided missile destroyers. The East German Volksmarine has now surpassed the Polish navy in size and firepower, making it the number one satellite navy in the Warsaw Pact.

Appeasement never pays

Petra Kelly, leader of the radical anti-industrial Green Party of West Germany, who openly espouses pulling Germany out of NATO and the removal of all U.S. forces (which would guarantee Soviet control and occupation of all of Germany), recently wrote a letter to Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko asking him to spell out the conditions under which he would not use nuclear and chemical weapons against West Germany in wartime. Chernenko's reply, reminiscent of the fabled dialogue in children's tales between the wolf and the lamb, amounted to a command to "get rid of the Americans": "The conditions, as we see it, boil down actually to one: On no account should the Federal Republic of Germany ever become a bridgehead for the preparation and perpetration of aggression against the U.S.S.R. and its socialist allies with the use of the means of warfare which you mention [chemical and nuclear warfare] or other ones. This way your country can be fully assured that nothing threatens it."

The problem in West Germany has been that these Soviet threats have been met with appeasement. Let the recent visit of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Moscow serve as a lesson on this score. As even German TV broadcasts commented after the visit, "the foreign minister achieved nothing in Moscow—apart from banging his head against the Kremlin Wall."

Moscow's intended "solution" for West Germany, should appeasement continue, was manifested during the recent visit to Moscow by North Korean Party boss, Kim il Sung, his first appearance in Moscow in 23 years. As Chernenko stressed to Kim, the "Honecker" of that other divided country, whose free part remains so because of the U.S. troops stationed there, the Soviet Union demands "all U.S. troops pull out" to achieve "Korean reunification." This is also Moscow's script for Germany.

'Defend Europe from invasion today'

Colonel Marc Geneste is a 25-year career officer with the French Army who served in World War II, Indochina, and Algeria. Currently vice president of the Center for the Study of Total Strategy in Paris, Geneste is known as the father of the French neutron bomb, which he developed while working for the French Atomic Energy Commission. He is a member of "La France et son Armée," an association formed in 1983 to build European support for the U.S. beam-weapons defense program, as part of an overall defense concept for Western Europe.

Geneste toured the United States in April speaking on behalf of this concept, and was the guest of Lyndon LaRouche's presidential campaign for several public meetings focused on the defense crisis and the urgency of the beam program. He was interviewed in Paris by François Bierre.

EIR: It is now 40 years since D-Day and the liberation of Europe. What do you think is the lesson we ought to draw for our situation today in the West, and in Western Europe?

Geneste: The situation today is totally different, politically and militarily. The "liberation" of Continental Europe (assuming it would be occupied by the Warsaw Pact) would be infinitely more difficult, if not impossible, for two basic reasons:

1) In 1944, the Germans were fighting on two fronts. The bulk of the *Wehrmacht* was tied down in Russia. Nobody knows if Operation Overlord would Germany if the Atlantic Wall had been defended by all of Hitler's strength.

2) Forty years ago, military technology favored offense over defense. Namely, all static defenses like the Maginot Line or the Atlantic Wall could be "saturated" by the concentration of attack: armored divisions, firepower, airborne or seaborne assaults. Conventional warfare favors offense.

Today, the fantastic vulnerability of the main tool of offense—the soldier—to nuclear radiation changes the whole picture. For instance, three neutron shells could wipe out all the soldiers landed on D-Day on Omaha Beach without bothering the defenders in their concrete bunkers. Two dozen

would wipe out all of Eisenhower's forces landed in Normandy after one day of fighting. To say nothing of the vulnerability of surface ships concentrated in the channel! I think that in 1984, such an assault would be physically impossible. In other words, we had better prevent the Soviet Army from boarding the European coastline. Better to prevent invasion of Western Europe, which requires all the strength of the alliance, and no "decoupling" of course.

EIR: How would you view the spreading pacifist tendencies in Western Europe in light of this anniversary of D-Day?

Geneste: The "pacifists" have to think about this military fact. If Europe is invaded, it will be for good. . . . Pacifism is not the best tool against invasion. Remember Chamberlain's "peace in our time."

EIR: Western Europe was liberated then, but what does Soviet conventional and nuclear superiority mean for Western Europe today? What are the tasks facing the West?

Geneste: Soviet alleged conventional and nuclear superiority means today the military capability of taking over continental Europe, if we play the current NATO game. The only way to cope with this threat is to exploit the Achilles heel of their military power, which is the vulnerability of offense to the modern tools of defense. Namely, neutron bombs against land forces and beam weapons against missiles. This is the best deterrent, provided modern technology is clearly backed with the political will to use it, which is not the case today. . . .

EIR: The tactics applied in World War II are thus completely inappropriate to the defense of Western Europe today, but there are apparently widespread illusions in Western Europe which lead, particularly in the Federal Republic of Germany, to tirades of rejection against the U.S. beam-weapon program for the defense of Europe. What would you say is the basis of these illusions, and how is that relevant to the lesson of D-Day?

Geneste: The "conventional deterrent" currently proposed by the United States and apparently widely accepted in some European quarters, especially in Germany, is a suicidal fallacy. It has been the dream of Soviet planners for 30 years to get rid of the threat of NATO tactical nuclear weapons, which have been their nightmare. Their crusade against the "N-bomb" has delayed the building of this defensive asset against land forces for more than 20 years. Today they strive to delay as long as possible the deployment of weapons able to nullify the political and physical power of SS-20s. It is a shame to see that they find so many allies in our own ranks. . . ! Our duty, for the sake of peace, is to defend Europe from invasion, and to defend the Russians from temptation to use their crushing military power. The only cheap solution has to be found in modern military defense technologies. . . . It is as simple as that!