

# Soviet war buildup: military moves, economic warfare, propaganda barrage

by Rachel Douglas

*This report chronicles the recent months' escalation of Soviet pressure and threats against Western Europe, both the military and economic warfare deployments, and the accompanying propaganda barrage, aimed particularly against West Germany. That nation has been amassing grain stores through unprecedented levels of food imports, and has withdrawn all military vehicles from their usual participation in the domestic harvest—the first year that this has occurred since 1968, prior to the invasion of Czechoslovakia.*

## Military maneuvers

**February 6:** Soviet, Czechoslovak, and Hungarian troops begin seven-day maneuvers in Czechoslovakia along borders with East and West Germany, announced as practicing coordination in winter conditions.

**February 27:** Report from West German sources on unannounced maneuvers by Soviet and East German forces inside East Germany (GDR).

**February 27:** Warsaw Pact "Druzhiba-84" maneuvers in northwest Poland, testing engineering equipment in difficult terrain and weather.

**March 16:** Warsaw Pact "Soyuz-84" staff maneuver commanded by Marshal V. Kulikov begins in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, lasts five days.

**March 26:** Warsaw Pact maneuvers "Yug-84" by Soviet, East German, and Polish forces begin in southern GDR.

**April 4:** Largest Soviet naval maneuvers in history begin, involving all four fleets in coordinated exercises in the Atlantic, Pacific, Mediterranean, Indian, and Caribbean Oceans. The North Atlantic maneuvers have a big air-war component and simulate Soviet deployment for a global nuclear war.

**May 14:** TASS announces that the U.S.S.R. will station additional missiles in East Germany, in response to NATO missile deployments in Western Europe.

**May 23:** West German federal border troops confirm that in the period since March, the East German army has exploded 20,000 land mines on the border with the West German state of Schleswig-Holstein, creating a 4.5 km. mine-free stretch along the border.

**May 24:** The Soviets are reported to be stationing SA-5 anti-aircraft/anti-missile missiles with a 300 km. range, able to reach targets in East Germany or south Sweden, on the

East German island of Ruegen.

**May 29:** *Die Welt* reports that three of the Soviet armies in East Germany have been equipped with new, 120 km.-range SS-21 missiles and have had their fuel, ammunition, and spare part supplies doubled recently.

**May 30:** *Jane's Defense Weekly* reports construction of new Soviet bases in Czechoslovakia for short-range nuclear missiles aimed at Western Europe.

**May 30:** Warsaw Pact "Summer-84" staff exercises, involving field communications, under way in northwest Poland.

**May 31:** West German sources report that Soviet Mig-25 ("Foxbat") fighters have been "maneuvering" for over a month in unusual fashion, flying at Mach-3 straight for the West German border. These moves have NATO military-intelligence surveillance on constant alert.

**June 28:** Over 60,000 Soviet troops, with half a million involved in back-up and "staff" aspects, begin maneuvers from Czechoslovakia and Poland into East Germany. They practice fast marches and river-crossings "off the march" under combat conditions, rehearsing what the Soviets would do in a strike against West Germany. Slated to end July 5, the maneuvers leave forces in place near the West German borders beyond that time. Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitrii Ustinov commands.

**June 28:** "Danube-84" Warsaw Pact maneuvers by 16,000 men from the Soviet Southern Group of Forces (Hungary) and Czechoslovakia troops begin in Hungary, coordinated with the larger Soviet exercises in East Germany.

**July 11:** East German spy Franz Roski arrested; he was employed at the highest level in West Germany's border guard force's communications center.

**July 18:** The Soviets conduct further maneuvers in East Germany, this time exercising their nuclear forces.

**July 20:** A nine-ton Soviet truck, which Moscow attempted to declare as a "diplomatic pouch," is detained in West Germany, then let go without full inspection of its cargo.

**July 25:** *Jane's Defense Weekly* reports the Soviets are building their first full-size aircraft carrier, to handle 70 fighters, at the Nikolayev yards on the Black Sea.

**July 25:** Soviet cosmonauts do space walk outside the

Salyut-7 lab, test 66-pound tool for metal-cutting, welding, coating, and soldering in space, designed for use in assembling space stations.

**July 29:** *London Sunday Times* reports that the Soviet Navy has tested a high-speed, low-altitude transport plane that is a "quantum leap forward in amphibious warfare," enabling the Soviets to rapidly ferry large numbers of men and equipment during an assault on northern Europe.

**July 31:** *Washington Post* reports that Austria may purchase anti-aircraft missiles from the U.S.S.R., following in the footsteps of Finland, which integrated its air defense system with the Warsaw Pact in late 1983, and Sweden, which has pledged to shoot down NATO cruise missiles crossing Swedish territory en route to the U.S.S.R.

**July 29:** *Pravda* announces that the U.S.S.R. has tested long-range cruise missiles. The propaganda barrage

**April:** *New Times* editor Lev Bezymenskii claims in issue #17 that readers abroad have written him, begging the U.S.S.R. to "deliver a first strike" against American missile bases in West Germany.

**May 5:** The Soviet military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (*Red Star*) asserts that the West German army, the Bundeswehr, is plotting to return to the "1937" borders of Hitler's Third Reich by seizing parts of Poland, East Germany, and the Soviet Union. In *Pravda*, KGB-linked writer Ernst Henry says that a "revanchist faction" in the Bundeswehr may soon acquire nuclear weapons and go out of U.S. control.

**May 9:** In a *Krasnaya Zvezda* article, Soviet Chief of Staff Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov states that there is a revival going on of "revanchist, fascist organizations" in West Germany, which "as on the eve of World War II" spread "nationalism and race hatred and the reestablishment of the German Reich to its 'historical borders.'"

**May 18:** *Krasnaya Zvezda's* Major B. Nikonorov charges that by "remilitarization," West Germany is committing a "violation of the [1945] Potsdam agreements."

**May 20:** West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrives in Moscow amidst a huge Soviet propaganda wave about German "revanchism."

**May 28:** In a speech to the party youth organization of the Armed Forces, Soviet party chief Konstantin Chernenko says Soviet young people should be more military-minded and cultivate "love for the motherland and hatred of its enemies."

**June 11:** The Soviets officially protest to Britain, France, and the United States about West Berlin's participation in European Parliament elections.

**July 5:** Italian communist paper *L'Unità* reports the rehabilitation by Moscow of Vyacheslav Molotov, Stalin's foreign minister and signer of the Ribbentrop-Molotov (Hitler-Stalin) pact of 1939.

**July 10:** Soviet government official statement (démarche) to West Germany, with copies to Britain, France, and the United States, warns West Germany that it is in

violation of the Potsdam accords, regarding German acquisition of offensive capabilities, and advises West Germany to "weigh carefully all the negative consequences."

**July 12:** Prominent Soviet journalist Aleksandr Bovin, in East Germany, says the present situation in Europe is a Cuban missiles crisis in reverse.

**July 21:** Polish Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski blasts "German revanchism," in a speech given in the presence of Soviet Premier Nikolai Tikhonov.

**July 22:** *Krasnaya Zvezda* says West Germany is sliding into an abyss of militarism, attacks Defense Minister Manfred Woerner for saying recent Soviet maneuvers were practicing a surprise attack on West Germany.

**July 25:** A West German defense community source terms the next three to four months very dangerous, fraught with the danger of a Soviet attack on West Germany.

**July 27:** Article in *Pravda* by Lev Bezymenskii denounces "pan-German sentiment," in violent language accusing West Germany of nurturing revanchist designs on East Germany.

**July 27:** *Izvestia* writes there is fascist resurgence in Norway.

**July 29:** Marshal Ustinov and Soviet Navy chief Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, in articles for *Navy Day*, blame United States for "the threat of a nuclear war."

**July 30:** Radio Moscow says arms talks with the United States are "impossible" unless Washington accepts the Soviet agenda, covering space-based weapons only. Economic warfare

**July 27:** Rotterdam sources report Soviets will cut the price of Urals crude oil by a whopping \$1.50 per barrel, to \$27.50 per barrel, undercutting the official OPEC price of \$29.00. Downward pressure on oil prices will cut into revenues of oil-exporters among large debtor nations like Mexico. The Soviets have already been slashing prices of their natural gas exports to Western Europe, to grab more of that market and continue the push to break with the U.S. dollar and integrate Western Europe ever more tightly with the Soviet economy.

**July 29:** The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, founded by Dzhermen Gvishiani of the U.S.S.R. and McGeorge Bundy of the U.S. Eastern Establishment, reported to be preparing an assault on agriculture price-support systems worldwide, with the release of IIASA's second-ever global project, on food.

**July 31:** With new purchases, the Soviets are reported to have bought 4,300,000 metric tons of American wheat and corn this marketing year and are headed for a second-highest ever import total of 38 million tons. For the first time since 1968, the U.S.S.R. has pulled military vehicles from their customary deployment of helping bring in the harvest. The *Washington Times* says that "officials who watch military developments . . . theorize the purchases may indicate a military action by the Soviets this autumn."