

Marshal Ogarkov mobilizes for a 'holy war' against the West

by Luba George

The Soviet Union has just voted unanimously for the biggest *official* defense increase in the entire postwar period. The Soviets, of course, have been massively increasing their defense spending all along, but have almost never announced the fact until now.

At the opening session of the Supreme Soviet on Nov. 27, the same week the Western press was playing up "détente" and "arms control" prospects, the assembly of some 1,500 elected Soviet deputies gathered to rubber-stamp the 1985 budget and a plan which includes a whopping 12% increase in publicly acknowledged defense spending. Soviet Finance Minister Vasily Garbuzov justified the 12% increase—a mere fraction of the real Soviet military spending increases—on the grounds that "the Soviet Union will not allow the military-strategic equilibrium to be upset."

At the same ceremonies, the "czar" of the Red Army and the Soviet beam-weapons program, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, re-emerged into full public limelight.

Ogarkov some months ago stepped down from his position as Chief of Staff, amid much speculation in the West over his political demise and demotion, only to reappear as Commander of the Western Theater of War—responsible for all military matters bearing on warfare with the West. Now, the Supreme Soviet session which adopted the unprecedented increase in defense spending was utilized by Soviet television to make official to both the Soviet public and the Western world that Marshal Ogarkov is back in action with a vengeance. Soviet television covering the voting up of the defense budget focused lengthy close-up shots not on any Soviet Politburo member, but on a beaming, strutting Marshal Ogarkov ostentatiously presenting himself as the "man in charge," as if to say: "See, they've adopted my program."

Marshal Ogarkov, who was nominated as the Chief of Command of the Western Theater of War on Sept. 7, has always been a chief advocate of higher military spending, in particular to develop what he calls "new weapons systems, based on new physical principles," the term he uses to refer to beam-weapon anti-missile defense systems.

In view of the current Anglo-Soviet-inspired "arms talks" push in the United States, it would be worth reminding certain people that in the 1960s and early 1970s, Marshal Ogarkov, while totally committed to the Soviet Union's development of beam weapons, actively participated in the arms control talks to scuttle the then blossoming U.S. anti-ballistic missile

(ABM) program. Thanks to Henry Kissinger's connivance, the U.S. research-and-development program for a successful missile defense was severely retarded.

During this period, Ogarkov was head of the Office of Strategic Deception (*maskirovka*) at the General Staff. More recently, before Ogarkov was transferred to his new post as chief of overall Soviet war planning for the West, he is said to have set up a new "special directorate" within the general staff responsible for international "arms control" negotiations.

Another key indication that the Soviets' arms-control gestures are pure *maskirovka* was the speech delivered by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Strategic Rocket Forces, Colonel-General Gorchakov, at the Supreme Soviet session. Addressing the Soviet parliament, Colonel-General Gorchakov outlined the 1985 defense spending perspective and stressed the need to defend the Motherland against "the aggressive circles of imperialism." In his attack, he singled out the United States for allocating \$300 billion for its 1985 defense program, aiming "to achieve military superiority." Echoing Ogarkov in a recent article, he said that the Soviet Union has not forgotten the "lessons of World War II" and "will not permit" the United States and its NATO allies "to achieve military superiority and world hegemony."

"Thanks to the constant care of the Soviet party leadership and the whole Soviet nation, the Soviet Armed Forces," Gorchakov said, "are equipped with first-class military equipment and military technology." He added: "The Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces are in a high-degree of readiness for military use. . . . They are able, at any time, if called upon by the situation, to inflict a retaliatory nuclear strike against the attacker . . . no matter where he is located."

The leaders of the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces have been prominent lately in issuing blood-curdling threats of a Soviet nuclear strike against the West. Colonel-General Gorchakov's boss, General Vishenkov, issued such a threat two weeks ago: Soviet missiles can "hit all the most important strategic targets of the enemy [and] carry out the assigned task in the shortest time and create favorable conditions for the other parts of the armed forces to begin military actions."

Ogarkov's *Jihad* against the West

A recent article written by Ogarkov in the Soviet Armed Forces' journal, *Kommunist Vooruzhonykh Sil*, contains some of the strongest evidence and documentation to date that

“Marshal Ogarkov, while totally committed to the Soviet Union’s development of beam weapons, actively participated in the arms-control talks to scuttle the then blossoming U.S. anti-ballistic missile (ABM) program. Thanks to Henry Kissinger’s connivance, the U.S. research-and-development program for a successful missile defense was severely retarded.”

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, representative of the belief structure of the Soviet military hierarchy, is a dedicated adherent of the religious mystical “Third Rome” doctrine. In addition, ironic, but lawful, is the fact that the Soviets, who spare no opportunities to characterize Reagan’s policies as a “crusade” against socialism, are themselves the ones who use the crusading language of “holy wars.”

In the *Kommunist* article, Ogarkov describes the role of the Soviet Armed Forces in the “holy war” (Ogarkov’s term for World War II) as “invincible.” His polemic in this piece is to build up a justification for the contingency of a preemptive strike, by saying the “maniacal” and “aggressive” Reagan administration’s attempt to “break the existing military balance” by developing beam-weapons is identical with Hitler’s policies. “The lessons of the past war,” concludes Ogarkov, “have enduring significance. And the main one . . . is that you have to fight against war before it is started. . . . The aggressive forces of imperialism have to reckon with the growing weight and influence of our forces, with the power of the united armed forces of the Warsaw Pact. . . . It is the holy [or “sacred”] duty of the Soviet Armed Forces to reliably defend the conquests of socialism and peace on Earth.”

Ogarkov’s use of the term “holy war” and his religious-like commitment to destroy “Western capitalism” can be compared to the terms used by Joseph Stalin who, in 1941, called the Russian people to war to defend “Mother Russia” (*Matushka Rus*) and “Holy Russia” (*Svyataya Rus*). It can also be compared to today’s Khomeiniac Islamic fundamentalists who are ingrained with the mystical belief structure that it is their “sacred duty” to launch “jihad” (holy wars) against Western civilization.

Rehabilitation of Stalin escalates

A crucial feature in Ogarkov’s *Kommunist* article is his praise of Stalin and the role played by him and his *Stavka* in the last “holy war.” Such praise of Stalin by Ogarkov comes

in the context of a process under way in the Soviet Union in recent months toward the rehabilitation and glorification of Stalin, and represents the current peak in that process. The Stalin rehabilitation has gone hand-in-hand with the unprecedented Soviet war and lightning-strike preparations of the last year.

For example, at the culmination of the Soviet June-July maneuvers—the largest held since World War II—which rehearsed a *blitzkrieg* against Western Europe, came the dramatic, complete rehabilitation of the Hitler-Stalin Pact and wartime Foreign Minister V. Molotov. Then, in September, timed with the peak of the Warsaw Pact “Shield 84” maneuvers in Czechoslovakia, came the open praise and defense by name of the Hitler-Stalin pact on the pages of *Pravda* and other Soviet papers.

The dictator himself has been a subject of enormous positive programming footage recently on Soviet television, as well as movies and newspapers. The most hard-line pro-Stalinist line has come from the KGB’s *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, whose Chief Editor, Anatolii Chakovskii, presented a very favorable picture of Stalin in his new book, *An Unfinished Portrait*, which was serialized in the pages of the *Ukrainskaya Pravda*. Stalin is portrayed as a tactful and considerate man, a great diplomat, and a wise military leader. It was the same Chakovskii who began the process—“first straw in the wind”—of Molotov’s rehabilitation with a 1968 novel. And it was his KGB house-organ, *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, which was the first to call President Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative a *casus belli*, and which has been in the forefront of attacks against *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the architect of the Mutually Assured Survival doctrine.

During the last two weeks of November, the entire Soviet population was subjected to two spectaculars on Soviet television, in both of which Stalin was positively and prominently portrayed. One was a five-part fiction-documentary series, aired over three consecutive days (Nov. 15-17), playing up Stalin’s direction and leadership in the Great Patriotic War, as the Soviets call World War II. Then, one week later, the most dramatic yet, Stalin’s famous Nov. 7, 1941 speech to the troops departing for battle to defend “Holy Russia” was aired. In this speech, Stalin speaks with the voice of the mystical Russian Orthodox Church, invoking Russian saints and knights from the time of medieval wars.

An additional wrinkle is the campaign, begun in late November in Soviet press and television, and also carried in at least one satellite country, East Germany, praising Albania. The official reason for Albania’s initial break with the Soviet Union was Albania’s claims that Khrushchev’s de-Stalinization programs had gone much too far. The Supreme Soviet session featuring Ogarkov, for the first time sent a congratulatory telegram to the Albanian government on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Albanian Communist Republic. That same evening, Soviet television aired a 25-minute documentary on Albania’s past and present.