

## Editorial

### *Four strategic options*

A review of the current world conjuncture indicates that there are four strategic options which are facing us during the first quarter of 1985. The actions taken in the immediate period ahead on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) by the United States will determine whether we successfully avert three variants of disaster, now under preparation by the Soviet Union and its oligarchical allies in the West.

The first option, put on the agenda by the appointment of Socialist International snake Max Kampelman as chief arms negotiator at the upcoming Geneva talks with the Soviet Union, is the possibility that the United States will be convinced to back down on its commitment to the SDI.

Given the repeated commitments of President Reagan and Secretary of Defense Weinberger to the SDI and its full budget allocation of \$3.7 billion, this option currently appears very unlikely. But there is no question but that Kissinger forces like Kampelman and Shultz still have a certain toehold in the foreign policy establishment, and that their allies like Lord Carrington of Great Britain are still committed to trying to sabotage the SDI through economic or diplomatic means.

The second option is that the inordinate pressures put by the Soviet Union on West Germany and France succeed in breaking Western Europe from the United States. That pressure is currently being applied in the most dramatic fashion in postwar history, through the direct deployment of spetsnaz terrorists against NATO installations. The Soviets have great hope that this tactic will force the Western Europeans to either insist that Reagan abandon the SDI, or to break away from the United States for a separate deal with the Soviets.

The strongest moves in tandem with this option are being taken by Great Britain and France. However, currently the Federal Republic is rapidly orienting even more closely to the U.S. position, making this option appear impractical.

The third option—currently discounted by defense “professionals,” but to be ignored at the peril

West—is the possibility of a Soviet military move against Western Europe, or a more global military offensive. Preparations for this eventuality by the Soviets are currently going on in depth, through propaganda campaigns for wartime austerity, shifts in the military command, and strategic deployment.

In other words, the spetsnaz deployment into Western Europe against NATO installations and the SDI projects is not simply a scare tactic. It is a pre-war deployment—should the Soviets believe that they have to go ahead with the war option.

Should the Soviets go ahead with this war option, the West had better be prepared to fight, and win.

Only the fourth option represents a hope for the coming period. That is the option under which the Soviets agree to the Reagan administration's offer of joint development of the technologies to kill nuclear missiles, and thus trade in the framework of mutually assured destruction for mutually assured survival.

Under the current situation, where the Soviets are doing everything possible to kill the SDI and individuals working on its development, this might seem as realistic as Pollyanna. Yet this is the only option which can prevent the world from devolving into a horror show unseen since the Dark Ages.

Nor can it be considered impossible. As demented as the Soviet oligarchy with its delusions of grandeur is, that oligarchy would still rather avoid a war. The Soviet leadership continues to be suitably impressed with the industrial potential of the United States, should that potential be put to work in the industrial revolution represented by the SDI. If the Reagan administration would openly, unequivocally, force through a real crash program for the SDI, the Soviets just might have to accept the SDI as a negotiating framework.

Where does the hope for this option, and humanity, lie? Only in the mass movement of technological optimism which the SDI's power to kill missiles and poverty represents. We must throw all our resources in that direction now.