

## Mother Russia by Luba George & Carol Greene

### Military and church: one policy

*Second of a series on how the pagan Empire plans to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of the Christianization of Russia.*

In the first column of this series, we showed how Mikhail Gorbachov, admiringly described by the British and U.S. liberal establishment press as “pro-Western,” was in fact picked for his allegiance to the darkest, most anti-Western cult of the blood and soil of Holy Mother Russia. Party Secretary Gorbachov is expected to be the leader in power in 1988, the millennium of the Christianization of Russia, which the Kremlin is planning to celebrate by achieving global predominance by that date.

Now we turn our attention to the real powers behind the throne—the military clique headed by former Chief of Staff Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, and the hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Ogarkov, the overall Soviet wartime military High Command leader, and a representative of the belief structure of a global “mission” for the Russian Empire and the Soviet military, wrote an article for the journal *Communist of the Armed Forces*, describing the role of the Soviet Armed Forces in the “Holy War”—Ogarkov’s term for World War II—as “invincible.” In the article he advises his (military) readers: “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 sacred duty of the Soviet Armed Forces to reliably defend the conquests of socialism and peace on Earth.”

A crucial feature of Ogarkov’s *Communist* article is his praise of Sta-

lin and the role played by him and his high command, the Stavka, in the last “holy war.” Ironically, Soviets like Ogarkov who spare no opportunities to characterize Reagan’s policies as a “crusade” against socialism, are themselves those who often use the crusading language of “holy wars.”

On Feb. 1, Marshal Ogarkov’s twin in Church garb, Moscow Patriarch Pimen, repeated his attack on President Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative in a statement to the Soviet news agency Novosti, saying that “it is the sacred duty of all religious people” to put a halt to the Strategic Defense Initiative. Two days later, ROC Metropolitan Antonii in a Russian-language broadcast repeated the Patriarch’s condemnation of the SDI. The anti-SDI campaign was first begun not by the Russian State but by the Russian Orthodox Church. The first Russian policy pronouncement blasting beam weapons—eight months before President Reagan publicly announced the program—and calling the campaign to stop them a “sacred duty” was delivered in 1982 by Patriarch Pimen.

Recently, a top ROC official, recalling the Stalin years, made the most explicit statement demonstrating the close coordination between the military and the ROC on plans for worldwide hegemony.

On the eve of the Feb. 23 Soviet Armed Forces Day celebrations, the ROC Metropolitan Juvenali of Krutitsi and Kolomna, in an interview for the Vienna-based Catholic Information Agency Kathpress—not reported anywhere in the Western press—de-

clared: “The millennium in 1988 will be a great spiritual festival and in this connection we shall be reminding the Russian people of their ancient traditions of striving towards God and spirituality. . . . This Jubilee will be the celebration of our Holy Faith and Mission.”

In language indistinguishable from any military leader, Juvenali declared in the same interview:

“It is the sacred duty of our Armed Forces to guard the frontiers of our country. Therefore our Armed Forces are always prepared to repel any danger threatening us. Should the Church tell the Army not to defend our holy borders? Should we tell our armed forces to neglect their sacred duty? Under no circumstances would we do so. . . . To hold our Army back from its duty would, in our eyes, be as senseless as the demands made on our government to make unilateral concessions when it has already stated that it would not make a first strike. It is the holy duty of the Church to pray that there will be no attack for us to repel. . . . [However] we are secure, as we see the continuing fulfillment of the Word of Christ in our country, that the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against the [Russian Orthodox] Church. Therefore we are untroubled about the future.”

In the same breath, Juvenali repeated Patriarch Pimen’s call for a moratorium on space-based weapons, adding that the ROC supports all the more the “peace initiatives” of the Soviet government, while “regretting” that “the Western powers are practicing policies which we, as religious leaders, must criticize.” Juvenali, as head of External Church Relations, has played a pivotal role during his frequent trips to the West to meet with Western “religious” leaders in organizing the Nuclear Freeze and anti-SDI movements.