

Kissinger Watch by M.T. Upharsin

Soviet big 'likes' Henry

Required reading for those who harbor doubts that Henry A. Kissinger is a Soviet agent of influence, is the first-ever interview with the Western press by Alexander Yakovlev, the *éminence grise* behind new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, with Rodolfo Brancoli, journalist for Italy's *La Repubblica* daily, on May 21.

Before we recount excerpts from that remarkable interview, we present, as prelude, two anecdotes from The Henry Kissinger Dossier.

First, in August 1982, Kissinger advised newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in a private discussion, that "worldwide American power and influence must be reduced to approximately 25% of its post World War II extent."

Second, there is the account by U.S. Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, in his 1976 book, *On Watch*, explaining why "the Kissinger-Zumwalt mutual admiration society began to come unglued." Zumwalt quotes from his own notes, on the subject of Kissinger: "K. feels that U.S. has passed its historic high point like so many earlier civilizations. He believes U.S. is on downhill and cannot be roused by political challenge. He states that his job is to persuade the Russians to give us the best deal we can get, recognizing that the historical forces favor them. He says that he realizes that in the light of history, he will be recognized as one of those who negotiated terms favorable to the Soviets, but that the American people have only themselves to blame because they lack stamina to

stay the course against the Russians who are 'Sparta to our Athens.'"

'Some surprises'

"I knew Kissinger when I studied at Columbia University, and later I met him when he was head of the National Security Council," Alexander Yakovlev tells *La Repubblica*. "To me, he seemed sincere and open, and I liked him."

This ringing endorsement comes from a man who, *Repubblica* claims, is the "éminence grise of the Soviet Union and the closest collaborator of Gorbachov." Yakovlev is further identified, as the leader of the Soviets' most prestigious international-affairs think tank, IMEMO, and the Soviet Academy of Sciences. After studies in history at Columbia University, and tête-à-têtes with Kissinger during the 1950s, Yakovlev became very active in the apparatus of the Central Committee, and, later in the 1970s, was Soviet ambassador in Canada. He accompanied Mikhail Gorbachov during the new Soviet leader's much-heralded early-1984 trip to London.

The interview shows that Yakovlev not only "likes" Kissinger; he endorses Kissinger's worldview—or, better yet, vice versa. "I think that we all have, during the past 40 years, overestimated the political role of the U.S.A.," Yakovlev tells Brancoli, "and in this way we have helped them to behave as they did. . . . The capitalist structure is polycentric. . . . It would be bad politics, to relate exclusively with the U.S.A. . . . There is an increase of the economic and military role of the U.S. allies. This is true for Japan and Europe, and other countries later. The split of Europe and Japan away from the American military strategy is not a fantasy."

Are you not exaggerating the

American decline? Brancoli asks.

"No, on the contrary," Yakovlev responds, "the exaggerating comes from those American conservatives whose patriotism and chauvinism is related to a dramatic vision. . . . But the figures are revealing: for example, the quota of the U.S.A. in world trade indicates a relative decline, and, in the future, we will see the emergence of new centers of power, like Brazil, Canada, Australia, and China."

Yakovlev asserts: "I think in time, we will be in a position to give you some surprises."

'New kind of dialogue'

It didn't take long for Henry Kissinger to answer in kind. In a May 25 speech before the Dutch Atlantic Commission in The Hague, Kissinger, according to a May 27 London *Times* account, "called for a new kind of political dialogue between the superpowers which would not be confined to arms control. They should decide where they wanted to be in 10 years, he said, then work back from there, drawing up a code of conduct to guide East-West relations. . . ."

"Warning the West that in the next decade they could find themselves reflecting on the 1980s as a period of lost opportunity, he said there had been three chances since the Second World War to change fundamentally the West's approach to international affairs: The first after the death of Stalin in the 1950s; the second following the U.S. rapprochement with China in the early 1970s. The third was now, with a new leader in Moscow and fresh faces in the Politburo."

We hope to discover how many of those "fresh faces" have the same kind of gushing admiration for Henry Kissinger as that expressed by Mr. Alexander Yakovlev.