

Soviet leaders announce crash war-economy plan

by Konstantin George

Two policy documents issued by the heads of the Soviet military-political leadership, wartime commander Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov and Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov, signal that the Soviet Union is entering the decisive phase of the transition toward an all-out war economy.

Marshal Ogarkov's latest book, *History Teaches Us Vigilance*, was published early in June, with great fanfare, by the Soviet defense ministry. In it he emphasizes that the U.S.S.R. can only win a war by "strengthening its economic and military potentials and those of its allies."

Ogarkov is the "father" of Soviet war-planning, of the drive for world domination by the end of this decade. Since September 1984, in the context of a far-ranging pre-war restructuring of the entire Soviet command apparatus, Ogarkov has served as Commander of the Western Theater of War, in charge of all military operations against the United States and its NATO allies.

Ogarkov's theme formed the subject and emphasis of the June 11 keynote speech, by Mikhail Gorbachov, delivered to a specially convened Central Committee conference in Moscow, on the theme of introducing scientific and technological progress into the Soviet economy. Gorbachov insisted that the economy will be ruthlessly restructured and turned upside down, to meet war preparations. The speech is the most blunt Soviet policy document of this type since the days of Stalin, and this also pertains to Gorbachov's announcement of coming intensified purges, to remove all obstacles in the way of the war mobilization.

Gorbachov's call to arms

Gorbachov's June 11 speech at the Central Committee's special conference was one of the most extraordinary Soviet policy documents ever, on a par with such historic speeches as Stalin's famous March 1939 "Chestnuts Out of the Fire" speech before the 18th Party Congress, which signaled the upcoming Hitler-Stalin Pact.

Gorbachov began by stressing the urgency of modernizing and restructuring the economy, in view of the military-strategic situation: "The Politburo decision to hold this meeting was motivated by the need to take urgent measures. . . . It is not just a question of economic growth rates . . . [but] a structural rebuilding of society . . . switching to intensive methods . . . and rapid progress in the strategically important directions."

Gorbachov declared that this recasting of the economy is necessitated by "external circumstances," which mandate that "we are forced to invest the necessary funds into the country's defense."

He proceeded to tell the Central Committee and specialist audience that the Five Year Plan draft for 1986-90 just submitted by the State Planning Commission (Gosplan) is no good, has been thrown by him and the Politburo into the trashbin, and shall be redrafted to conform to the war economy guidelines: "The Politburo was not satisfied with the draft of the guidelines. . . . Serious criticism was expressed. The draft does not yet include measures ensuring for a number of industries, a transition to the rails of predominantly intensive growth."

What followed was the announcement of the most sweeping structural changes in the Soviet economy since the industrialization-collectivization drive of the 1930s. The following specific economic guidelines—to maximalize production increases during the next few years' final "surge" phase of war production—were proclaimed:

- "The main emphasis shall be laid on the technical reequipping of plants, saving of resources, and ensuring a drastic improvement in the quality of products."

- This means concretely, "On a country-wide scale, the share of funds channeled into reconstruction [re-equipment] should be raised from one-third [of all funds invested] to one-half already within the next few years." This means, in ruble terms, a 25% cut in investments allocated for new projects and factories, and a 50% rise in ruble investments for re-equipping existing plants. Gorbachov summed it up: "Some of them [projects under construction] should be speeded up, others suspended or even mothballed."

- Through the combined effects of suspended and mothballed projects, and the growing automation of large plants (a key component of the repeatedly stressed modernization of existing industry), a much larger portion of the workforce than previously, will be moved around.

- "The growth rate in the machine-building sector should be raised by 50-100%" during 1986-90, with "the modernization of this industry a top priority."

If President Reagan "lifted" from Gorbachov's speech the discussion of research and development, and committed the United States to the same levels of funding for R&D crash programs, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the other big defense labs would be opening the champagne by

the case, and the question of America's survival would not be the perilous cliffhanger it now is.

Imagine a declaration by President Reagan saying what Gorbachov said: "The development of fundamental science should be given priority importance. It is this science which is a generator of ideas, makes possible breakthroughs into new fields. . . ." The Soviet Union will "increase the volume of R&D by higher education facilities by 100-150%."

The day before Gorbachov spoke, Anatolii Aleksandrov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, called upon Soviet scientists and economic managers to meet the challenge of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. In an *Izvestia* interview, Aleksandrov said, "These steps by the U.S. demand that we not only strengthen our defenses, but also move to raise the efficiency of our national economy in all directions as fast as possible and independently from the West. . . . Science and industry should immediately put greater creative efforts into changing what in some cases has become excessive orientation toward Western technologies and supplies."

Mass purges threatened

In vintage 1930s-style Russian, Gorbachov attacked by name four ministers and a host of regional Party organization—when it was run by Politburo member Grigori Romanov. After blaming Minister for Building Materials A.I. Yashin for construction failures, and denouncing Minister of Machine Building for Livestock Farming and Fodder Production K.N. Belyak, Gorbachov delivered a long tirade against the Party leadership of the Krasnoyarsk Region of Siberia, "a number of ministries" and, again, the Gosplan.

EIR called the shots

EIR has emphasized over the past year—in stark contrast to the rest of the international news media—that Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov is overseeing a top-down restructuring of the Soviet command for war-fighting. Our readers have been able to follow: 1) the consolidation of the Soviet "command economy" under Ogarkov's direction (see *EIR*, April 10, 1984, "The Soviet economy: everything goes for war build-up"); 2) the rehearsal and perfecting of the doctrine of surprise attack (July 17, 1984, "Threat to Europe: biggest Soviet maneuvers ever"); and 3) the personnel changes in the leadership of the armed forces (March 5, 1985, "Soviet military creates a wartime High Command,").

We have repeatedly warned that all reports of the marshal's "demotion" were either conscious disinformation, or the product of those duped by Soviet disinformation.



EIR featured Marshal Ogarkov on its cover Aug. 28, 1984, a week before his supposed "demotion" on Sept. 6.

Now, with the appearance of Ogarkov's new book, and the rave reviews it is receiving in the controlled Soviet press, other news agencies are being forced into some fancy footwork to concoct a theory of the "rehabilitation" of Ogarkov.

Gorbachov praised the Party leadership of Moscow (run by Politburo member Viktor Grishin): "The Central Committee pins great hopes on Moscow's working class and intelligentsia, and on the capital's powerful scientific and production potential," and, especially, that of Chelyabinsk: "Interesting proposals have been drawn by the Communists of the Chelyabinsk region."

The praise of Chelyabinsk is a political signal: Famous in World War II as "Tankograd," the mainstay of Soviet tank production, it currently is the site of a huge tractor plant, employing 40,000 workers, which is at the fore of the drive for automation and development of industrial robots. During the 1986-90 period, 12,500 of these workers are scheduled to be replaced through automation, and relocated to other industrial facilities.

The Chelyabinsk region also contains the steel industry center of Magnitogorsk (like Chelyabinsk, established by Stalin during the 1930s as a major industrial center), which produces more than 10% of all Soviet steel. These older steel mills are now, and during the next Five Year Plan, going through modernization and reequipping with new blast furnaces.

This conforms to Gorbachov's orders to the steel industry. He attacked the policies of the past 15 years, whereby "50 billion rubles were invested . . . mostly channeled into new, non-integrated projects," and "no attention was given to the technical reequipping of [existing] steel enterprises." In both the 10th and 11th Five Year Plans (1976-85), he said, production quotas "were not met." Raking Steel Industry Minister Ivan Kazanets, over the coals, he concluded: "This state of affairs requires cardinal changes."

Escalating military maneuvers

While Ogarkov and Gorbachov mobilized the U.S.S.R.'s factories and laboratories for the war drive, the Red Army's late spring and summer maneuvers began, with the May 25-31 joint Soviet-Czech rehearsals for a surprise attack on the West, directed by Marshal Ogarkov. Just before and during the Greek elections of June 2, joint Soviet-Bulgarian Air Force maneuvers were held, which included provocative violations of Turkish air space.

During the first week of June, the next round of exercises over Eastern and Central Europe began. The unannounced maneuvers marked the largest combined Air Force, Air Defense, and Naval exercises around the Baltic in post-war history, featuring hundreds of flights by Air Force and Naval Aviation bombers.

The aircraft maneuvers were accompanied by Soviet naval units of the Baltic Fleet, including guided missile cruisers and destroyers, sailing west out of the Bay of Gdansk. Observers see these maneuvers as starting a phase where such movements of bombers from Soviet territory over East Germany, coinciding with westward movements of the Baltic Fleet, will rehearse the pre-positioning for a surprise attack.

Documentation

Soviet mobilization for a war economy

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov's new book, History Teaches Us Vigilance, was hailed in an 1,800-word review by Moscow's Novosti news service, and the Soviet military daily Krasnaya Zvezda on June 11 carried its own favorable review, titled "Tirelessly Increasing Vigilance."

The significance of the marshal's book was not lost in Eastern Europe. We publish here a June 9 commentary by the Moscow bureau of Tanjug, the Yugoslav press service, titled "Marshal Ogarkov Is Back." The analysis was translated by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

History Teaches Us Vigilance is the title of a new book by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov. Foreign observers in Moscow regard the book as an event of considerable significance. In September last year, the Soviet Government relieved him of his post of the first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff of the U.S.S.R. Armed Forces so as to enable him "to take up a new post." Although the nature of his new post has never been announced, it is claimed that Ogarkov was made supreme commander of the U.S.S.R. forces in central Europe.

In the meantime, Marshal Ogarkov attended the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet session as a deputy, was seen at Marshal Ustinov's funeral last December, and was noticed among a group of generals and marshals received by the head of the G.D.R. state and party, Erich Honecker. The West described him as a "strong personality" among the Soviet Army top leaders and his departure from the number two position was interpreted as a desire by the then Soviet leader, Konstantin Chernenko, to replace Yuri Andropov's hard line policy in relations with the United States with a more flexible one, in order to bring about a resumption of a dialogue on arms limitations.

In all Western analyses, Marshal Ogarkov was described as a "firm opponent" of any relaxation in relations with the United States. In his categorical and firm view, there was "no room for a diplomatic compromise with Washington" as re-

gards the end of the arms race. All these arguments can be found in his public statements and particularly in his book *Always Ready To Defend the Fatherland*, published in February 1982. The book's fundamental message is that the Soviet Union "must be prepared for an active defense, in other words, that its most significant goals cannot be realized without a stable central leadership of the country and its armed forces."

As the then first deputy defense minister, he called for the Soviet economy to be modernized, particularly heavy industry, since, in his view, the present level of development is not adequate to solve "major technical problems" and to make it possible for new types of weapons, including those necessary for "a devastating counterattack in any situation and under any conditions" to be developed in a short period of time.

In that book, Ogarkov proposes that political propaganda explain "what must be done to defeat a mighty and technically highly equipped enemy in any situation," and warns of the possible danger of any delay in developing new weapons. He also advocates a "coordinated mobilization of the military force and overall national economy."

Together with Marshal Ustinov, Marshal Ogarkov was the ideological creator and architect of the Soviet "countermeasures" against the U.S. cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe. In other words, he advocated the deployment of the first complex of the tactical-operative missiles on the territory of the G.D.R. [German Democratic Republic—East Germany] and Czechoslovakia. It has, however, remained a mystery to what extent the policy of countermeasures collided with the strategy of "good will" toward the United States initiated by Konstantin Chernenko, who also proposed the resumption of the Geneva negotiations between the two superpowers.

At the moment foreign observers in Moscow, particularly the Western ones, are examining these historical facts in order to determine to what extent the book represents "Marshal Ogarkov's return to the Soviet political scene." The fact that his second book has been published at all and that the publisher is again the U.S.S.R. defense ministry confirms the theory of his return. However, the strongest argument is the fact that the book has received a most commendable review which emphasizes Marshal Ogarkov's view that "there are ways to overcome new threats of war which are looming over mankind" but also his old thesis that the U.S.S.R. will fight successfully for peace only by "strengthening its economic and military potential" and those of its allies. According to his view—given priority in the [Novosti] review—"out of American anti-Sovietism and anticommunism an extremely malicious adventurous policy of the White House is being born which seems to be its only course."

In his latest book, the Soviet marshal also analyzes the military doctrines of the "antagonistic political systems," i.e., of the U.S.S.R. and the United States, in other words of

the East and West. On the basis of this analysis, he makes a conclusion about "the White House's imperialist plans," which, for him, are the "reality" to be fought against by "increasing economic and defense potentials of all peace-loving countries," particularly of the Soviet Union and its allies.

The West German daily Die Welt on June 11 published a guest commentary by Mikhail Voslensky, a Soviet emigrée and Kremlinologist who currently runs a think tank, drawing attention to a remarkable discussion in Pravda of the practice of the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces. Pravda strongly suggests that Soviet forces have already adopted a launch-on-warning alert status and, further, are being prepared for a preemptive strike on the United States. Voslensky points out that Pravda is referring to a launching of Russian missiles prior to NATO missiles.

We publish here excerpts from the May 29 Pravda article, "Behind the Strategic Control Panels," by A. Gorokhov:

Being on duty with the Strategic Rocket Forces is unique.

Standing near the commanders, on a small platform . . . here is what I thought about. The country has entrusted the rocket officers with enormously powerful weapons. This they know. But each officer here also knows the time it takes for a Pershing-2 or Minuteman-3 to reach his specific silo, the so-called flight time. Each officer also knows, that in turning the start key, he will enter into world war.

You will agree, that the consciousness of these and many other circumstances of a military-technical and organizational nature might, at first glance, crush a person and his will. On the other hand, let us put ourselves in the place of a missile officer and start thinking in an everyday fashion: Is this work going to be of use sometime, and is it necessary at all? This is the demagnetizing factor (a term from the rocketmen's lexicon). It is not difficult to evaluate the level of psychophysical burden on these quite ordinary people, who like to give their wives flowers and are bringing up children. And who above all love our Motherland and are ready to defend her at any second. . . .

I once had an opportunity to fly to a missile site with the commander-in-chief of these troops, Army General V. Tolubko (today, Vladimir Fyodorovich has the title of Chief Marshal of Artillery). I remember, that our conversation was precisely about constant combat readiness in peacetime, on the history of these troops and their traditions.

"Combat readiness is a complex, multi-faceted concept," said the commander-in-chief, "It is the capability at any moment, on orders from the Supreme Command, to inflict a crushing retaliatory strike. And to do this in the indicated time period, with the required reliability with respect to hitting the targets of a possible enemy, under any, even the most difficult, conditions. This readiness is measured not in hours, but in seconds."