

Inside the Pentagon by Tecumseh

Military realities go public

EIR's Global Showdown report has accomplished part of its goal, as defense officials defy the arms-control mafia.

A series of auspicious actions by officials of the Department of Defense heralds a long overdue public campaign to awaken the American population to the implications of the current Soviet military build-up.

The offensive has included press briefings delivered by Secretary Weinberger, the release of a study attacking Soviet technological espionage activity, speeches by Deputy Secretary of Defense Taft blasting the sophistry which equates defense spending with the national deficit, memoranda from the service chiefs which provide information to assist officers in refuting the arguments of the budget bashers.

The offensive has included a special public call by a ranking official of the Defense Intelligence Agency, for a popular debate on the Soviet military threat.

On Sept. 18, Weinberger personally released the contents of a report, prepared by Undersecretary of Defense Richard Perle, detailing the extensive use of Western technology in the Soviet military production apparatus, and identifying the large industrial espionage and "reverse engineering" capability developed by the Russian secret services. Both Weinberger and Perle emphasized that the timing of the release of the report had "nothing to do with the preparations of the summit"—i.e., the political sensibilities of the arms-control fanatics and Moscow will no longer constrain the Defense Department in reporting the facts on Soviet military capabilities.

This is a major departure from past

policy, which has always tailored the release of information to the boundaries of the National Intelligence Estimate. The NIE, in turn, has been a hotly contested document which always reflects the influence of the arms-control mafia, and only occasionally reality. Consequently, defense "analysis" as conducted by the pundits of the media, has depended on the oracular statements of the Pugwash crowd, and the only information presented to the public on national security matters has come in the form of detailed criticism of DOD programs subject to audits and inspections.

The lack of public access to the basic information necessary to make informed judgments is now being rectified by Weinberger—the first Secretary of Defense who can be said to be opposed to the entire arms-control hoax. He is responsible for the development of the annual publication *Soviet Military Power*. This in itself required a shake-up at the Pentagon, downgrading those who have fought the release of intelligence information to the public, in order to avoid contradicting the often fraudulent "political" estimates.

Admiral Wesley MacDonald; USN, speaking to *EIR*, expressed the frustrations of many military professionals with this situation: "Unfortunately, we in the services have constraints, and I will point to the intelligence communities right now and say that I think that they, because of the information they have . . . have got to be more realistic in alerting the people

to what the true threat is." Weinberger's actions have taken an important step toward breaking these political restrictions.

The most unusual step in this direction, and in many ways the most interesting, was a speech delivered by A. Denis Clift, deputy director for external affairs at the Defense Intelligence Agency, to the Law and National Security Committee of the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C.

Using material developed in the preparation of *Soviet Military Power*, Clift presented a straightforward account of the explosive growth of Soviet offensive and defensive capabilities, detailing the layered system of satellites, radars, and advanced missile interceptors that has given them the "capability to develop a national anti-ballistic missile defense should they choose. . . ."

He also described the enormous military production apparatus at the command of the Russian general staff, and reiterated DOD assessments of the "imbalance" in ICBM forces. The simple facts stunned the ostensibly well-informed audience, and buttressed Clift's call for a public debate.

This is only the third such public presentation by the DIA, which is still moving with extreme caution in hopes of avoiding the harpies of the media, who will surely label such revelations a "political stunt." Nonetheless, according to DIA insiders, there will be much more of this type of effort in the future.

EIR's now famous *Global Showdown* report has accomplished its goal of forcing this issue into the open. The DOD's actions hold out the possibility of mobilizing a fully informed public in support of the military programs needed to meet the present threat from Moscow.