
Global Showdown

EIR's report jolts citizens, governments

by Webster Tarpley

Habent sua fata libelli—books have their destinies. During the second half of 1985, the hottest item being perused and discussed in the chanceries and ministries, in the media across the world was EIR's monumental study, *Global Showdown: The Imperial Russian War Plan for 1988*, commissioned by Lyndon LaRouche. *Global Showdown* highlighted the central importance of the Soviet all-out economic mobilization for war, reflected especially in the building of offensive ICBMs and beam-weapon defense exertions, in the drive to assemble the capabilities necessary for a first-strike surprise attack against the United States and our European and Pacific allies. The report also documented the leading role of Marshal Nikolai Vasilyevich Ogarkov as the author of the now-operative General Staff plan being followed by Moscow.

The French and Swiss governments reached the decision that *Global Showdown* was controversial enough to warrant seizure by customs agents at the border—in the former case, because the document “offends the Soviet Union, a nation friendly to France,” as *Le Figaro* of Paris quoted the functionary involved.

In the United States, the Washington press conference called at the volume's publication on July 25, which was addressed by *Global Showdown* authors Criton Zoakos, Rachel Douglas, and this writer, was attended by uniformed officers from the Pentagon, as well as by representatives of foreign embassies, defense industries, and the media. Many citizens who wanted their congressmen and officials of the White House and the Executive branch kept informed—and accountable—concerning the contents of the book, had endowed pre-publication copies, of which over 600 were duly distributed to the entire Senate, most of the House of Representatives, President and Mrs. Reagan, Vice-President Bush, the National Security Council, the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other federal agencies. Rumors began to circulate during August that *Global Showdown* was under study as early as August by several task groups within the U.S. national security community. A copy was delivered to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, with the compliments of Lyndon LaRouche. About a hundred left-liberal members of the House of Representatives were assigned to a

“hopeless case” list, and received no copies. Among them was Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, who dispatched a legislative aide to complain that the Speaker had not received a copy.

At a meeting of the International Democratic Union held two days later, Margaret Thatcher, Franz-Josef Strauss, Jacques Chirac, and Konstantin Mitsotakis, among others, were seen examining copies of *Global Showdown*. In Western Europe, a series of press conferences for the purpose of presenting the report was undertaken by *Global Showdown* authors Konstantin George and Clifford Gaddy. These were held in London, Paris, Bonn, Rome, West Berlin, Copenhagen, Geneva, Lisbon, and other cities. The main theses of *Global Showdown* were beamed into the Soviet bloc on the Czech language service of the Munich-based Radio Free Europe and broadcast in Scandinavia on Radio Free Stockholm. The paracommunist Rome daily *Paese Sera* responded with a slander of the report and its authors. The leading conservative newspaper of Italy, *Il Giornale*, covered the publication of *Global Showdown* with a news article in August, and then followed up with two full pages authored by prize-winning Italian journalist Maurizio Blondet, appearing on the first two days of the Geneva summit. In response to a letter to *Il Giornale* expressing shock at the strategic realities thus conveyed, editor Indro Montanelli responded that “your emotional impression is justified, since the picture given by Blondet, which is based on very credible information, is extremely disturbing.” The European impact of the report was further enhanced by the publication of an abstract in German and a more lengthy version in Italian.

In the United States, the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) published a shorter abstract of *Global Showdown* and helped to organize a lecture tour in which this writer had the honor to participate. This tour touched 50 cities in 28 states of the United States, during which a slide presentation on *Global Showdown* was viewed by 25 audiences approaching 1,000 persons, many of them candidates and prospective candidates of the NDPC.

The tour provided significant access to radio and state-wide and local television, with a total of almost 30 hours logged on radio talk shows and similar broadcasts. This included a media bombardment of such areas as Chicago (including a live interview on WBBM all-news radio, an hour on WIND talk radio, and two late-night hours on WGN, the classic boomer of the Middle West), Boston (an afternoon hour on WTTP in Natick, followed by an hour each on WBZ and WHDH—with both talk show hosts freaking out), Tacoma-Seattle, St. Louis (an afternoon hour on KMOX radio, a short morning appearance on KSDK television, the NBC affiliate, and a Sunday half-hour on the ABC network's KTVI), the central valley of California, Salt Lake City, central Florida, and in the North Carolina Triad, thanks to WHPE of the Bible Broadcasting Network. *Global Showdown* was

presented on statewide public television in Indiana and Oklahoma, on local TV in San Francisco; Hanford, Washington; Greensboro, South Carolina; Huntsville, Alabama; and Monroe, Louisiana; on the Brian Bex Report on Midwest cable television; and on the network radio syndications of Hal Lindsay and Barry Farber.

American audiences were shocked first of all by the duplicity of their own government, which routinely lies to them about the most fundamental aspects of the Soviet strategic posture. The principal difficulty in understanding the devotion of the Soviet General Staff to a war-winning strategy for general thermonuclear war is the still-pervasive conceptual mythology of Henry Kissinger's Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), which absolutely rules out any thinking about the vast and "unthinkable" range of eventualities that would ensue if deterrence were to fail. The impact of *Global Showdown* has been to prove to key political strata of the United States—most especially the NDPC candidates' movement—that the Soviet General Staff does not regard this topic as unthinkable, but has been thinking about it and preparing for just such a war with every resource at its disposal for well over two decades.

After the London press conference, summaries of the report appeared in the Turkish press. This elicited a livid denunciation of *Global Showdown* by the Soviet ambassador to Turkey. Somewhat earlier, the KGB's own *Literaturnaya Gazeta* had assailed an article by *Global Showdown* author Luba George appearing in the Wiesbaden German-language weekly *Neue Solidarität*, in which Mrs. George developed the thesis that the Russian Orthodox Church is in effect a state church of the Russian imperial regime, as betokened by the massive state-supported preparations for making the upcoming 1988 millennium of the conversion of Prince Vladimir of Kiev into a monster festival of Great Russian racist chauvinism and messianic imperialism. In the *Lit Gaz* article, Mrs. George's charge is denied, whereupon the KGB author proceeds to cite in some detail the evidence that compels precisely the conclusion that Mrs. George had advanced.

The impact in Washington

In Washington, the impact of *Global Showdown* was reflected in a spirited counterattack against the advocates of MAD, on the part of sections of the national security bureaucracy in favor of the Strategic Defense Initiative. During August, President Reagan was on vacation at Rancho del Cielo, California. Did he or top members of the National Security Council spend part of that time reading *Global Showdown*? The answer to this question is not known, but it is certain that during August and September the pro-defense forces grouped around Defense Secretary Weinberger went into a factional offensive. The United States declined a Soviet offer to halt underground nuclear testing that clearly aimed at crippling the U.S. x-ray laser program. One such underground test was

timed to coincide with a visit of the new Soviet foreign minister to the White House. The long-awaited test of the U.S. anti-satellite rocket, delayed three times since March under an ultimatum made by General Secretary Gorbachov and laser physicist Yevgenii Velikhov in London last December, was finally carried out successfully on Sept. 13.

Global Showdown stressed the unprecedented rate of production and deployment of land-based missiles by the Soviets—one a day in the case of the mobile truck-mounted SS-25. In September, a "senior White House official" finally addressed this issue with a series of off-the-record press briefings, in which he asserted that the new Soviet mobile land-based missiles were permitting the Soviets to acquire a first-strike capability, and were thus undermining deterrence. Since the Soviets had a substantial lead in "Star Wars" technology, said the official, the United States must reopen the question of further compliance with the ABM treaty.

Later, Defense Secretary Weinberger addressed the issue of the SS-25 by name. The State Department and the Pentagon co-sponsored the issuance of a white book on Soviet advances in ABM technology. Most significantly, President Reagan himself, in his first press conference after his summer vacation, radically changed the White House "party line" on defense, no longer pointing with pride to his own arms buildup, but viewing with alarm a Soviet predominance in every category of offensive weaponry. "We're playing catch up" in SDI and in other areas, the President said. This reversal of the official White House rhetorical posture generated hysterical criticisms in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and in the Soviet press. The *Global Showdown* view of grand strategy was clearly at work behind the scenes.

The comments of the "senior White House official" unleashed the celebrated controversy over the interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty, which pitted the strict constructionists around Secretary of State Shultz against Robert McFarlane and Weinberger, who rightly argued that the treaty permits everything but actual deployment of SDI. SDI chief Lt.-Gen. James Abrahamson warned that the strict construction would lead to a delayed, more expensive, and inferior SDI product, but White House Chief of Staff Don Regan joined forces with Shultz to impose strict construction and oust McFarlane in the process, after the Geneva summit was concluded.

Global Showdown propounded a war-avoidance policy of launch on warning, the building of 1,000 MX missiles with assembly line methods, a \$200 billion crash program for the SDI with full and sovereign participation by the European and Pacific allies, and a National Defense Emergency mobilization of the U.S. economy. This program has become more urgent than ever, and the fight for its implementation will be a central theme of the 1986 congressional elections, which represent the last chance of marshaling sufficient economic and military power to ward off the Soviet rush to thermonuclear confrontation by 1988.