

EIR Feature

Gorbachov mobilizes for war, as West's economy falls apart

by Edith Vitali

The 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party concluded in Moscow on March 6, consolidating the drive of "Czar Mikhail" Gorbachov to reorganize the Soviet economy for the biggest military build-up since World War II. The sweeping personnel changes which have been under way for the past year, were officially rubber-stamped, as half of the former Central Committee was replaced (134 of the total 319 members). According to the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*, every second CC member now has training as a military engineer! Confirming the emergence of the chauvinistic "Mother Russia" tendency which *EIR* has reported on at length, 97% of Central Committee members are Europeans and 80% are Great Russians, according to *Der Spiegel*.

Contrary to the endless ruminations of the Kremlinologists, the significance of the personnel changes effected by the Congress is quite obvious. The octogenarians and holdovers from the Brezhnev era have been dropped, leaving the engineers, industrial managers, KGB officers, and military men who will oversee the war-economy transformation.

The results of the Congress strikingly confirm the forecast published by *EIR* in July 1985, in our Special Report titled *Global Showdown*. We said that a U.S. drive to implement the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) for antiballistic-missile defense, would threaten to unleash an unprecedented economic recovery in the West, and hence would propel the Soviet leadership to adopt a "brute force" effort to outstrip the United States, by adopting a "Plan B" mode of economic mobilization which would entail "a virtual revolution in Soviet economic policy of practice." This would mean a purge of the Soviet bureaucracy, an attempt to challenge the Soviet people's ingrained resistance to rapid technological progress, and a shift of managerial and investment policy to very high rates of technological progress. Exactly this approach is outlined in the speeches by Gorbachov (excerpted in last week's *EIR*) and by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov (see *Documentation*, below).

Equally clear from the proceedings of the conference, is that the Kremlin leadership is counting on the economic collapse of the West to pave the way for



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The poster pictured here exhorts the Soviet population to fulfill the directives of the Five-Year Plan for economic growth. This photo was taken in 1981; five years later, Gorbachov has revealed that the economic program of the Brezhnev era was a resounding failure. Now the leadership has been overhauled, placing those on the Central Committee who will transform the economy for an extraordinary war build-up.

its own drive for world domination. Gorbachov and other leaders emphasized that sales of Western technology, particularly from Western Europe, will provide a crucial margin of input for the Soviet build-up. As the response of such political figures as West Germany's Helmut Schmidt and Theo Sommer indicates, the western side of Moscow's "New Yalta" arrangement is indeed fast coming into place.

In the dossier which follows, we report some of the more significant changes in the Kremlin leadership under Andropov and Gorbachov.

The new guard

A prime example of the type of party functionary now on the rise, is Central Committee Secretary **Lev Zaikov**, former party chief of Leningrad, a crucial scientific-technological center and bastion of the military-industrial complex in the Soviet Union. Zaikov is the only addition to the Politburo, the main executive body of the party, which includes 12 members now. Zaikov, who began his career as director of a major defense-linked electronics firm in Leningrad, is responsible for the overall military-industrial production of the U.S.S.R. By holding the position of Politburo member and Central Committee secretary simultaneously, he is now basically number three in the Soviet hierarchy, after Gorbachov and Yegor Ligachov, the main organizer of the purges of the past year.

Of the 12 Politburo members, only three rose into this position under Leonid Brezhnev: Andrei Gromyko (78), the President of the U.S.S.R., Dinmukhamed Kunayev (74), first party chief of Kazakhstan, and Vladimir Shcherbitskii

(68), first party chief of the Ukraine. All the others owe their full membership status to either Yurii Andropov or Mikhail Gorbachov. In the period before the Congress, Kunayev and Shcherbitskii had to undergo a humiliating process of criticism and self-criticism, as a precondition for remaining in the leadership. Gromyko had proposed Gorbachov for the post of general secretary in March 1985, and the powerful foreign minister was later "rewarded" by being kicked upstairs into the office of President.

Mainly for age reasons, at the Party Congress the 81-year-old Boris Ponomaryov and the 85-year old Vasiliu Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (formally the second highest position in the hierarchy of the Soviet state), resigned as alternate members of the Politburo. Ponomaryov, a leading functionary of the Communist International under Stalin, headed the powerful International Department of the Central Committee, which cultivates relations to Soviet assets in the West, including socialist and social democratic parties as well as terrorists and "national liberation movements" in the developing countries. **Yurii Solovyov**, the new first party chief of Leningrad, and **Nikolai Slyunkov**, the head of the Byelorussian party organization, were newly elected as alternate members.

With the election of five new Central Committee secretaries, the role of the Secretariat has been strengthened. The five are: **Anatolii Dobrynin** (long-time ambassador in Washington), **Georgii Razumovskii** (chief of the Department of Organizational Party Work), **Alexandra Biryukova** (a trade union secretary and first woman in the leadership since Yekaterina Furtseva, who made her career during the Khrushchov

era), **Vadim Medvedev** (chief of the Department of Science and Educational Institutions), and **Alexander Yakovlev**, former ambassador to Canada and former director of the foreign policy think tank IMEMO, who is now chief of the Central Committee's Propaganda Department. Central Committee Secretary Ivan Kapitonov (71) was deprived of his post, and elected instead to be chief of the party's Central Auditing Commission.

With Dobrynin and Yakovlev, two specialists in the West, and the North American continent in particular, have been added to the Secretariat. It can be expected that they will apply their intimate knowledge of Western politics to intensify Soviet strategy and propaganda aimed at eroding the Western alliance and wrecking President Reagan's SDI.

Gorbachov has at the same time upgraded the role of noted Germany experts, reflecting the fact that breaking West Germany away from NATO is one of the cornerstones of Soviet foreign policy. Shortly before the Party Congress, Gorbachov promoted **Anatolii Chernyayev**, deputy chief of the International Department, to his foreign policy adviser, as a replacement for Andrei Aleksandrov-Agentov, who for 22 years was an aide to Leonid Brezhnev. Chernyayev is considered an expert on West Germany and responsible for building the relationship between the CPSU and Willy Brandt's Social Democratic Party. **Valentin Falin**, longtime ambassador in West Germany in the '70s, has been elevated to chief of the Novosti press agency. **Leonid Zamyatin**, another frequent visitor in Bonn, who is currently chief of the Information Department, might return to his former position as general director of the news agency TASS, according to Soviet "leaks."

Finally, the name of **Yulii Kvitsinskii**, who is heading the space weapon group on the Soviet negotiating team in Geneva, is being mentioned as a possible replacement for the current Soviet ambassador in Bonn, Vladimir Semyonov. Kvitsinskii, whose profession it has become to destroy the SDI and who is the darling of the Western "arms control mafia," would be the perfect man to strengthen the anti-SDI forces in Germany.

Boris Yeltsin, the new first party secretary of Moscow and successor of Gorbachov's 72-year-old rival Viktor Grishin (who was dumped from the Politburo on Feb. 24, together with Konstantin Rusakov, another old-timer who lost his job as Central Committee secretary), announced major structural changes of the Central Committee apparatus. He emphasized strengthening the role of the Department for Organizational Party Work, or Cadre Organization, as it is also called. Yeltsin named the republics of Uzbekistan and Kirgizia as the two main areas where cadre policy had been neglected by those responsible in Moscow. These two republics have been the site of massive purges in the last months.

Yegor Ligachov, Gorbachov's powerful number-two man, made clear that nobody will be "outside control or

outside criticism" in the future. His attack on the editorial board of *Pravda*, which, he said, had gone to the other extreme, by publishing readers' letters criticizing the privileges of party functionaries too strongly, added new fodder to the speculation that *Pravda* Editor-in-Chief Viktor Afanasyev is on the way out. After Ligachov's speech, Afanasyev called a press conference where he confessed: "I agree to Ligachov's criticism." Speculation has it that **Boris Pankin**, currently Soviet ambassador to Stockholm, will become the new editor-in-chief.

Although a full evaluation of the military component of the new Central Committee is not yet available, it is important to note that Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov is still a member—despite speculation by Kremlinologists in the Western press that his replacement as Chief of the General Staff in 1984 represented a "demotion." *EIR* has extensively refuted that claim, and shown how Marshal Ogarkov has been playing a crucial role in leading the Soviet war build-up.

Mother Russia—in the space age

Ligachov's speech gave considerable insight into how the Russian leadership intends to combine the old, oligarchical culture of Russia with the achievements of modern technology—lasers, electronics, and computers. "The party has to care for everything which is dear to the memory of the people," he said, citing the example of the fight to protect the estate of the Tolstoy family from environmental pollution! "Those who are raising their voices in alarm to save the architectural appearance of our famous ancient cities, are absolutely right." It is the duty of the party to "safeguard the national holy things," he said—one reason being that "history . . . is a powerful source for the education of a people."

At the same time, Ligachov called for a "crash development of intermediate and higher education," because scientific-technological progress must be based on the "continuous professional upgrading of the cadres." Workers must be prepared to "work under new conditions." He said that "modern informatics and electronics" must be introduced into all spheres of learning and ideological work. This involves "the creation of major facilities for the production of video-technologies" and "modernizing the technical basis of television."

The counterpoint to Ligachov's demands was put forth by Prime Minister **Nikolai Ryzhkov**, who sharply criticized the stagnation during the Brezhnev era. Outlining the guidelines of social-economic development until the year 2000, Ryzhkov announced that by 1990, the share of atomic energy in the generation of electricity will be doubled, from 10% to 20%. Primary attention will be given to "fundamentally new technologies," including laser and plasma research. Investments in the metal-working industry, a driving motor of scientific-technological progress in production, will increase by 80% in the next five years.