

Gorbachov's secret East German agenda

by Konstantin George

On April 23, the East Germany Communist Party newspaper, *Neues Deutschland*, reported matter of factly that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov—who had left East Germany the day before after a seven-day stay—had been seen off at the Berlin-Schönefeld Airport by the East German Politburo and a Soviet military delegation led by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov. *Neues Deutschland* then lists in the send-off delegation, the commander in chief of the “Group of Soviet Forces in Germany” (GSFG), Army Gen. Pyotr Lushev, and the other top commanders of the GSFG.

The *Neues Deutschland* signal confirms the reason for Gorbachov's unprecedentedly long stay. Marshal Ogarkov—the Soviet Union's wartime commander in chief for all military operations against the United States and NATO, and simultaneously wartime commander in chief for any “limited” military operations against Western Europe—was in East Germany during Gorbachov's week-long tour, and is staying on for high-level secret military talks. The signal mention of Marshal Ogarkov also confirms that Gorbachov did not stay so long simply to attend the East German party congress. Gorbachov had a hidden agenda, involving both top level military-strategic talks with Ogarkov and the Soviet military leaders on the scene, and, inspecting some of the Soviet front-line formations.

The GSFG—the spearhead for any future invasion of West Germany—contains nearly 500,000 army and air-force troops, and constitutes by far the single most powerful “Group of Forces” in the Soviet order of battle.

Well-placed sources had informed *EIR* before Gorbachov's arrival, that he would use his extended stay to hold such secret meetings with the leadership of the GSFG, and to visit GSFG military installations.

Mikhail Gorbachov arrived on the morning of April 16, and departed late in the day on April 22, for the return flight to Moscow. Gorbachov had arrived to attend (and address, on Friday, April 19) the East German Socialist Unity Party's XIth Party Congress, which began on April 17, and ended on April 21. Had the Party Congress been his only consideration, then the Soviet leader could have departed any time after he spoke on Friday, or, on Monday at the latest.

April 22 is Lenin's birthday, and habitually a “must” for any Soviet leader to be in Moscow and deliver the traditional keynote address at the festivities. Gorbachov did not return to Moscow for the occasion. Why?

Gorbachov indeed celebrated Lenin's birthday—in the spirit of a leader dedicated to bringing the Soviet Union to readiness to fight and win a nuclear war by the end of the decade. On April 22, the Soviet military radio, Radio Volga, reported that Gorbachov visited “an officers' club” of the GSFG, to hold meetings with General Lushev, GSFG commander in chief; Col.-Gen. Krivosheyev, GSFG chief of staff; Col.-Gen. Moiseyev, the GSFG's chief political officer; and Moiseyev's deputy, Lt.-Gen. Donskoi. Ogarkov's name was conveniently omitted, while no other Soviet or East German media made any mention of Gorbachov's stay at the “officers' club.”

Other top level meetings of Gorbachov, Ogarkov, and the GSFG military leadership were held. Well-placed sources inside East Berlin stressed to *EIR* that, curiously, Gorbachov did not stay at the traditional residence of Niederschönhausen castle (near Pankow in the northwest quadrant of East Berlin), but at the Socialist Unity Party's Guest House in Klein Machnow (in the southeast quadrant of East Berlin), “just a stone's throw away” from the GSFG headquarters located at Zossen-Wuensdorf, south of Berlin.

EIR's sources report that Gorbachov held meetings with the military leadership over the weekend. On his Sunday visit to Cecilienhof in Potsdam—the site of the July 1945 Potsdam Summit between Truman, Stalin, and Churchill, and the Potsdam Accords—Gorbachov was accompanied by General Lushev.

Gorbachov's secret agenda with its stress on Soviet military readiness in Central Europe dovetailed with his public statements. In his speech before the Party Congress, he delivered a sharp attack on the United States and West Germany. Before his departure, the text of a Gorbachov-Honecker joint declaration was released by TASS and the East German news agency, ADN. The language employed against the United States and West Germany was brutal.

Gorbachov and Honecker declared, “. . . the situation on the European continent could be essentially changed for the better if states like the F.R.G. [West Germany] would adopt the path of détente and good neighborly relations. Unfortunately, the policy of the current West German government is running in the opposite direction.” Bonn is then accused of supporting “American plans to militarize outer space,” allowing the stationing of Pershings and cruise missiles, and favoring “the dangerous revanchist forces” (alleged forces inside West Germany who want to seize former revanchist forces) (alleged forces inside West Germany who want to seize former German territory in Eastern Europe).

Taken together with the fact that most of Europe is living in a fool's paradise concerning the Soviet threat, Gorbachov's hidden agenda and the joint declaration are ominous.