

# Gorbachov summons diplomats and spies

by Susan Welsh

During May and June, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov convened a series of extraordinary meetings of the highest levels of the Soviet government apparatus, to hand down the marching orders for both foreign and domestic policy. These follow months of purges throughout the government and Communist Party, of which the ambassadorial shifts which we report below are among the most striking examples. The results of these meetings include such "initiatives" as the deployment of low-intensity warfare against West Germany, and the latest Warsaw Pact arms-control offers, aimed to split the NATO countries.

On May 23, Gorbachov summoned selected ambassadors from around the world to a behind-closed-doors briefing at the foreign ministry. He delivered a speech on the role of Soviet diplomacy and its relation to domestic policy—the details were not released. According to the report by the TASS news agency, he "examined critically and with party-style exactingness" the diplomatic activities of recent years—in other words, he called the staff on the carpet and warned that more heads would roll.

The following week, a two-day secret meeting of the KGB leadership took place, with Gorbachov again in attendance. The London *Times* reported on May 30 that the conference conducted "a sweeping review of the activities of the KGB," and that the meeting was "probably the largest single gathering of the heads of the Soviet Union's secret community. . . . Far from diminishing under Mr. Gorbachov, the internal grip exercised by the KGB appears to have expanded."

Then at the beginning of June, the defense ministry came in for the same treatment, with a special conference convened by Defense Minister Sergei Sokolov, on the theme of "expanding the scope of the military's role in Soviet society." The priority, Sokolov said, was "to review previous work and its results on a principled and self-critical basis from the standpoint of modern demands, to re-evaluate achievements with a view to avoiding the mistakes of the past, and to bring to light and make active use of hitherto unused reserves and potential."

Sokolov made it clear that from the standpoint of the High Command, Soviet war preparations must be stepped up. "On the whole," he said, "the process of reviewing the forms and methods of work is proceeding slowly and must be accelerated." He particularly criticized failures of troop training and logistics.

## Foreign ministry changes

The sweeping changes in the Soviet foreign ministry and diplomatic corps since the beginning of 1986, which we list here, show how swiftly and ruthlessly Gorbachov has moved.

**May 8:** First deputy foreign ministers Georgi Korniyenko and Viktor Maltsev are relieved of their posts.

**May 20:** Yuli Vorontsov (former ambassador to France) and Anatoli Kovalev are named first deputy foreign ministers. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Boris Chaplin are named deputy foreign ministers.

## Ambassadorial shifts

**Cuba—Jan. 14:** Aleksandr Kapto, the ideological secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party, replaces Konstantin Katushev.

**Ethiopia—Feb. 25:** Ambassador Gennadii Andreyev dies suddenly, at the age of 49.

**Federal Republic of Germany—March 8:** Yuli Kvitinskii, top arms negotiator, named to replace Vladimir Semyonov.

**Great Britain—April 25:** Leonid Zamyatin, former Kremlin press spokesman, appointed ambassador.

**Greece—Jan. 31:** Viktor Stukalin replaces Igor Andropov, son of the late Yuri Andropov. Stukalin is a former deputy foreign minister.

**Japan—April 10:** Nikolai Solovyov replaces Petr Abramimov as ambassador. Solovyov is chief of the foreign ministry's second Far East division, and is an expert on Japanese affairs who speaks fluent Japanese.

**Lebanon—May 10:** Vasili Kolotusha replaces Aleksandr Soldatov, the long-time Soviet ambassador, who is retiring.

**Oman—May 5:** Aleksandr Zinchuk, ambassador to Jordan, presents his credentials as nonresident ambassador to Oman (diplomatic relations were established in September 1985).

**People's Republic of China—March 7:** Reporters in the West are told that Oleg Troyanovskii, former U.N. ambassador, will be named envoy to China.

**Poland—Jan. 6:** Vladimir Brovnikov, a former prime minister of Byelorussia, named ambassador.

**Somalia—Jan. 5:** Bakhadyr Abdurazakov appointed ambassador.

**United Arab Emirates—June 1:** Valeri Sohin appointed ambassador (diplomatic relations were established in November 1985).

**United Nations—Feb. 12:** Yuri Dubinin, former ambassador to Spain, is named to replace Oleg Troyanovskii, who for nine years was Soviet ambassador to the U.N.

**United States—May 20:** Yuri Dubinin, ambassador to the United Nations only since February, is named envoy to Washington, replacing Anatoli Dobrynin, who has become head of the Central Committee's international department in charge of relations with non-ruling communist parties and non-communist leftist parties.