

## Editorial

### Gorbachov's East bloc crisis

International channels are currently saturated with scenarios respecting near-term developments in Poland and other crisis-ridden Eastern European states. All of these involve estimates of the effects of Soviet, Vatican, or other interventions into the currently erupting crises. In all instances heard thus far, such interventions will have no net effect at all.

The essentials are that a combination of events has brought the economy of the East bloc as a whole to the verge of a *general physical-economic breakdown*. The "final straw" bringing those already savagely looted economies to this state of affairs, was the addition of IMF and kindred austerity measures upon nations such as Poland. These measures were part of the East-West trade policies associated with Gorbachov's "glasnost" opening to the West.

Moscow is now faced with two scenarios. Either it halts a physical breakdown of these economies, which can be done only by scrapping IMF-style austerity measures, or, if it continues that austerity for the sake of East-West trade deals, the physical collapse of the East bloc economies sets off a chain-reaction threatening a serious degree of collapse of the Soviet economy itself. To avoid the latter, Moscow must choose the former immediately. Otherwise, an early and savage economic crisis erupts in the Soviet economy itself, with incalculable international consequences.

For these reasons, Lyndon LaRouche has described the Western Establishment as a pack of contenders for the title of the most stupid fools in the known history of mankind. In the U.S., for example, these idiots are drooling so euphorically in greedy lust over the prospect of perhaps \$100 billion in annual trade with the East bloc, that they will not permit anyone around them even to think of the possibility that anything might occur in Moscow to upset such business plans.

In turn, the second rank of policy-shapers, including officials of governments, view Reagan's astrological, if not yet astronomical, appeasement of Moscow as "set in concrete." They limit their assessments of problems to scenarios which do not imply a catastrophic failure of everything the poor U.S. President hopes to

effect on his trip to Moscow.

They have two problems. First, they either have no grasp of economic science, or worse, accept "conventional economics," to the effect that they can not grasp the notion of a physical breakdown process in Eastern Europe.

Second, they have a mechanistic sense of the way that external interventions into Poland, for example, will tend to work. When a process enters a boundary area, a limiting condition, no ordinary sort of action will have any effect but to supply added energy to the unfolding of a predetermined result. This is broadly analogous to the "bouncing ball" pattern in the U.S. monetary crisis.

At the limits of a process of physical-economic breakdown, massive repression of populations revolting against these conditions will have no effect but to accelerate the process of economic breakdown. Similarly, any political concessions to the striking Poles excepting immediate repeal of the austerity conditions imposed, will have no ameliorative effect on the economic crisis.

So, if Moscow elects to avoid a chain-reaction leading quickly into a major failure within the Soviet economy itself, austerity will be lifted and the present East-West deals will be largely scrapped. Glasnost will be scrapped. If Moscow tries to play out its "Reagan card" by not lifting austerity, the Soviet economy will soon be impelled into a set of circumstances most likely to bring the world to the brink of thermonuclear warfare. That is, a situation in which Moscow's economic desperation will impel it to seek the "military alternative."

So do "peaceniks" cause general wars.

We do not assume that Moscow is less insane than the present leadership of the West. They are an oligarchy which will not necessarily respond even to a clear crisis of this sort in a rational way.

Policymakers, East and West, must come to recognize that their only rational option is to dump glasnost and austerity immediately, which might require a symbolic dumping of Gorbachov, and scrapping of the "Reagan card."