

U.S. allies 'horrified' at prospect of Dukakis

by Mark Burdman and Kathleen Klenetsky

Soviet spokesmen have made it clear over the past few weeks that the Kremlin is solidly behind the candidacy of Michael Dukakis. Particularly since the Atlanta Democratic Party convention, Moscow's propaganda machine has been churning out one puff piece after another touting the Democratic presidential nominee.

The Russians are making no bones about why they prefer Dukakis: As the July 27 issue of *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the unofficial "cultural" journal of the KGB, put it: "He has already stated that he will not support SDI, and that speaks in his favor." The Aug. 10 issue of the same weekly expressed the hope that "the fate of the world will be taken up by the two Michaels"—Michael Dukakis and Mikhail Gorbachov.

The perception that the Soviets want Dukakis to beat Bush is evident to European observers. The French daily *Le Figaro* headlined an article in its Aug. 23 edition, "The Soviet Union Seems to Clearly Prefer Michael Dukakis to George Bush." The article reported that the Soviet press had criticized Bush's speech to the Republican convention, because he affirmed his support for the Strategic Defense Initiative. Furthermore, it said, the Soviet media has taken aim at Bush's running mate, Dan Quayle, for being an "ardent conservative who supports a 'muscled' approach toward the Soviet Union," and who "shares entirely the views of the right wing of the Republicans."

By contrast to the Republican ticket, "Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen can be seen as pro-Soviet, or almost," *Le Figaro* noted. "The polls cited by the Soviet press are favorable to them. Nobody refrains from recalling that the Democratic ticket is hostile to 'fantasies like Star Wars or MX missiles on rails.'" *Le Figaro* also cited recent statements by Gennadi Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet Foreign

Ministry, that the Democratic platform "leads one to think that the supporters of the party significantly support the idea of a bettering of U.S.-Soviet relations."

Soviet computers are already predicting victory for Dukakis, according to Radomir Georgevich Bogdanov, deputy director of Moscow's U.S.A.-Canada Institute. Bogdanov told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* Aug. 13 that a special task force on the Duke has been created at the institute, and suggested that the "two Michaels" will hit it off personally, because they are approximately the same age, are "not preppy," and have "cultural interests."

'Astonishing damage to the West'

"Horrified" and "alarmed" are the reactions most often expressed by leading influentials in Europe, particularly in Great Britain, at the possibility of Michael Dukakis becoming President of the United States. Such individuals see a Dukakis presidency presiding over strategic disasters, particularly in southern Africa and in Western Europe itself.

London sources report that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is greatly worried that the West's strategic raw materials supplies from southern Africa will be jeopardized should Dukakis enter the White House. Said one Conservative Party-linked source Aug. 14, "The most immediate concern about Dukakis, is what he will do in southern Africa. We think a far-reaching deal was reached between Dukakis and Jesse Jackson, involving an explicit commitment by Dukakis to take drastic action during the early part of his presidency. This would do astonishing damage to the interests of the West and the interests of the blacks in southern Africa."

The Aug. 11 passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of bill HR1580, the "Dellums legislation" mandating automatic sanctions against the Republic of South Africa, a

trade and investment boycott, and an end to military and intelligence relations with that country, is a foretaste of things to come. In an interview aired on the British Broadcasting Corporation Aug. 12, Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), the sponsor of the legislation, boasted that Dukakis had already given it 100% support. Dellums exulted that Dukakis, were he to become President, would certainly reverse the veto of the legislation that Ronald Reagan is expected to exercise.

Writing about the Dellums legislation on Aug. 15, the *Daily Express* of London warned that Britain, West Germany, Japan, and other countries could face retaliatory actions from a Dukakis-led United States, if they fail to cooperate with the new U.S. policy toward South Africa outlined in the bill. According to reporter John Ellison, this risks "not merely embarrassment, but one of the most damaging splits for many years in the Western Alliance, and one whose seriousness has not yet been taken on board. It is odd, then, to hear that Dukakis's home state of Massachusetts boasts one of the worst race records in the U.S."

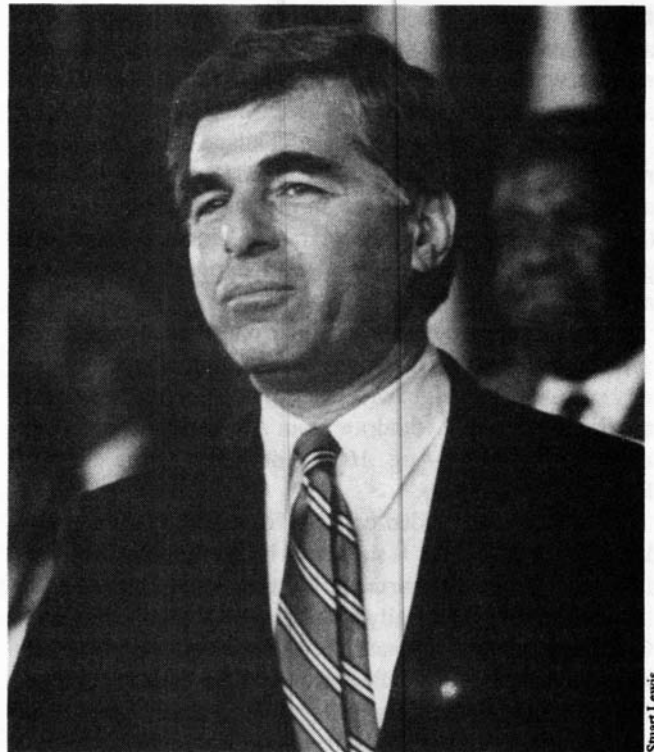
Highly informed British sources report that South African President P.W. Botha and other top South Africans are so angry and disgusted with U.S. policy, that they are prepared to carry out a retaliatory embargo of vital strategic minerals to the United States, with or without an arrangement with the Russians. This could lead to a catastrophic disruption in supply of such minerals, and steep commodity inflation. French press reports from South Africa since Aug. 11, are that the country has put together "war economy" measures to counter the actions being prepared by the United States.

Decoupling from Europe and Asia

In the case of Western Europe, the fears about Dukakis range from the more conservative Thatcherites in Britain, to liberal circles on the continent, in such places as Hamburg. One Hamburg strategist, who maintains close ties to the European "peace movement" and social democracy, told *EIR* on Aug. 14 that Dukakis is perceived as ready to abandon Europe precipitously in the event that he becomes President, and that this perception is causing fear in Europe.

Such fears have been magnified by yet another piece of U.S. legislation: the so-called "burden-sharing" plan put forward by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), and approved by voice vote Aug. 11. One of the legislative architects of the "burden-sharing" lunacy is ultra-liberal Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.). The Nunn-Schroeder scheme involves Europeans paying the difference if costs rise to maintain U.S. troops in Europe. Should the dollar fall significantly, that alone would force a massive European underwriting of the expense.

According to one highly placed Washington, D.C. source, the Soviet military leadership around Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov is already floating a number of "helpful" offers to assist the U.S. in implementing the "burden sharing." One offer would have the Soviets withdraw 60,000 Russian troops from Hungary—in return for a similar pullout of American troops from Western Europe—thereby de facto increasing the pro-



The other Michael

portion of European troops comprising the continental-based NATO force. Bordering on Austria, Yugoslavia, and Romania, Hungary is not pivotal to Moscow's war plan for a "from the barracks" surprise blitzkrieg attack on Europe, the source emphasized.

It is also critical that key advisers to Dukakis, such as former Carter administration White House counsel Lloyd Cutler, are big supporters of the "Europe 1992/Europe integration" project, in league with the European oligarchical crowd that back the likes of European Commission President Jacques Delors. According to a London source, one motivation behind Mrs. Thatcher's attacks on "Europe 1992," is that she fears that the crowd around Dukakis wants to use the propaganda about "European integration" as a pretext for speeding up U.S. withdrawal from Western Europe, using the argument that the Europeans could now "take care of themselves."

Parallel fears are being expressed in Asia. The Nunn-Schroeder "burden-sharing" nonsense is also aimed at South Korea and Japan, with the included feature that the U.S. Senate has mandated absolute limits to the amount of U.S. troops in both countries. Moreover, protectionist trade legislation is supported by both Bush and Dukakis, but more vociferously by leading Democratic Party circles.

Japan's *Yomiuri Shimbun* editorialized July 15 that a Democratic victory would "worsen the U.S.-Japan conflict," especially given Dukakis running-mate Lloyd Bentsen's trade-war policies. The paper cited a Western diplomat in Tokyo,

that the Japanese "are a little bit concerned about another small-state governor coming in [like Jimmy Carter before], not that well versed in foreign policy and trying again to do something like pull the troops out of South Korea."

A columnist for the Bangkok, Thailand daily *The Nation* noted July 21, "It is feared in Thailand that, if elected, Michael Dukakis would impose further protectionism against the Asian countries and downgrade regional defense as a priority." Similar concerns have been expressed at the highest levels in South Korea.

As for another region in Asia, one British source expressed fears that a Dukakis administration would unilaterally end aid to the Afghan resistance, irrespective of whether the Soviets actually withdraw from Afghanistan. This comment was made on Aug. 16, within hours of the death of Pakistan's Zia ul-Haq.

One particular added concern from Britain, is that Dukakis is a backer of, or is supported by, those political forces in the United States, particularly in his home state of Massachusetts, who financially back the Irish Republican Army. One Dukakis-team intimate, Rep. Robert Kennedy, Jr. (D-Mass.), recently toured Belfast, Northern Ireland, and endorsed the IRA cause. The "Kennedy machine" behind Dukakis is critical to international support for the IRA.

This issue is particularly sensitive, since the IRA has gone on a major terrorist offensive since late July, begun more or less immediately after Mrs. Thatcher began attacking the "Europe 1992" project. IRA atrocities have been committed in North London, Northern Ireland, West Germany, and Belgium, and a complex IRA-support apparatus has been traced to Holland.

In what could be viewed as a coded message to Dukakis and the Kennedy machine, Mrs. Thatcher unveiled a plan to "hit IRA finances." A letter issued by the prime minister stated the British government's "intention to broaden and strengthen the existing offenses in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act. The scope of the prohibited conduct will be expanded so that it will more clearly cover the sort of activities and transactions carried on by banks and other financial institutions, and accountants and other financial advisers. Facilitation of the retention or control of terrorist funds will be an offense."

Moscow's 'New Jerusalem'

Among rational political and military circles in Israel, there is mounting fear that a Dukakis electoral victory in November, coupled with an anticipated Likud victory in the autumn Israeli Knesset elections, would virtually guarantee an Israeli annexation of the occupied territories and a mass expulsion of Palestinian residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Emboldened by Michael and Kitty Dukakis's unabashed endorsement of a move of the Israeli capital to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, the Likud, according to these Israeli sources, would move recklessly in the anticipation of unflagging White House support for any Israeli action. Iron-

Three suspects held in assault on EIR's Benton

Three suspects have been arrested by the New Orleans Police Department in connection with the assault on *EIR's* Washington correspondent, Nicholas F. Benton, during the Republican Convention in New Orleans. Benton was attacked and brutally beaten on the evening of Aug. 13, and required stitches and eye surgery as a result of the assault.

According to a spokesman for New Orleans Parish District Attorney Harry Connick, the three suspects were booked on charges of armed robbery and aggravated battery. They are Wayne Jones, Darryl Geise, and Gary Gennaro. Bond was set for the three in the amounts of \$250,000 for Jones, and \$200,000 each for Geise and Gennaro. None had made bond as of Aug. 25, and were still in jail.

Benton attained international prominence after his Aug. 3 question to President Reagan in a White House press conference concerning the refusal of Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis to release his medical records. Benton was subject to some subtle and some not-so-subtle threats as the flap over Dukakis's mental health grew.

Investigators are continuing to probe to determine what other individuals or groups may have been behind the assault on Benton.

ically, these sources added, a Dukakis victory would accelerate Israel's collaboration with the Soviets. This fear of a Dukakis-Shamir combination was underscored by the Reagan-Bush State Department's recent unprecedented harsh diplomatic protest against Israel's mid-August expulsion of 25 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

According to the Milan Catholic daily *Avvenire*, Reagan administration arms control negotiator Max Kampelman secretly conferred with Governor Dukakis concerning Kampelman's back-channel efforts to secure a U.S.-Soviet-Israeli deal to have the two superpowers simultaneously recognize Jerusalem as the legitimate capital of Israel. Such a deal (which would be a virtual certainty under a Dukakis presidency), said the newspaper of the Italian Catholic bishops, would represent a major advance towards the Russian Orthodox Church's centuries old quest to replace Rome as the center of world christianity. Both Israeli and Vatican sources fear that a Dukakis victory would doom the Middle East to a decade of religious wars and chaos—and might even trigger a global war by miscalculation.