

Air Force, the Navy, the border troops, and the so-called OMON troops (these are domestic security troops responsible to the Interior Ministry)—are all being subjected to a process of fragmentation set off among them by the most highly decorated officer of the Afghanistan war. I'm an old soldier myself; I know what's at stake here, and for 40 years and longer I have studied the Russian or Soviet Army and so forth. This is an *absolutely* new development, whose consequences we will only first experience in the coming days and weeks.

It would be tea-leaf reading for anyone to say right now which way the various parts of the Army are going to go. It is certain that there will be widely divergent paths: the Air Force, the tank corps, the missile troops, the Navy—for example, those in the Black Sea fleet, large numbers of whom have sworn oaths of allegiance to the Ukrainians, but who

are now saying, "What are we Russians doing, sticking with the Ukrainians? We want to go back!" We will have to watch this development very carefully.

I advise you especially to watch the military developments, not because I'm a former soldier, but because this is the key to the period ahead. For, here we are dealing with the last apparatus which remains more or less intact. And it will be of crucial importance where it lets itself be led—with or without disobedience. It is what will decide which politicians will wield power, and which revolutionaries will end up seducing the people.

Thus I have attempted to lay out to you a comprehensive picture of the great quantum leap this autumn, of the beginnings of the revolution from below, and of the poisoning of the last organizational apparatus which up to now has staved off anarchy. And now I come back to the reason why there are only two options for the Russians.

Rutskoy calls for the military to revolt

Gen. Aleksandr Rutskoy has issued a series of statements calling upon soldiers to oppose the Yeltsin regime. The following decree, "On the Neutralization of Anti-Constitutional Actions," was released on Sept. 29. Rutskoy signed it as Acting President and Commander in Chief of the Russian Federation (R.F.):

In order to neutralize anti-constitutional actions, I have decided:

1) to urge the R.F. Defense Ministry, commanders in chief of all branches of military, commanders of military regions and fleets, commanders of formations and units to undertake necessary actions in respect to those who violated the Constitution of the R.F., the law of the R.F. and their oath.

2) to recommend all servicemen of the Defense Ministry of the R.F., the Interior Ministry of the R.F., the Ministry of Security of the R.F. to strictly follow in their actions the Constitution of the R.F., the law of the R.F. and their oath.

Servicemen of the Ministry of Defense of R.F., the Interior Ministry of the R.F. and the Ministry of Security of the R.F. who were forced to carry out illegal and criminal orders but who did not cause harsh consequences and terminated fulfillment of those orders the moment this decree was issued, are freed from responsibility.

No prospect for democracy now

There is absolutely no possibility that we can expect democracy in the near future. The *babushkas*, the women, are basically saying now, "We have no use for democracy." You have to consider the woman's position in Russia differently than we would in the West. It is somewhat similar to the Italian situation: The woman has a relatively pace-setting function, despite her job, in society and in the family. The older she becomes, the more influence she has over the family. And these women are all saying, "I've had enough of your democracy. It doesn't fill our stomachs, and right now we don't want to have anything to do with this western devility."

You must know that the Russians were initially quite ready to accept the West; in fact, they wanted to kiss the Americans' feet. This was a most fortunate state of affairs immediately following the shift in 1985. As I said before, they had a great curiosity toward this superior western civilization. It was similar to what the Russian soldiers experienced when they first came to Germany [at the end of World War II]: For the first time they saw houses which were not made of wood, and saw superhighways, subways, etc. Despite Germany's destroyed condition, they became convinced that "this is something entirely different from what we have at home." These same respectful and curious glances toward America, toward the American way of life, this basic attitude regarding the outside world, to what exists, was quite compelling.

And what remains of this today? This friendship, this respect, this openness and readiness to acquire new beliefs after the old belief had failed, this development has been slowly reversed—after all, it has been eight years now, during which Russians have gone through unbelievable changes. And their most significant impression now is, "Things were better under Stalin than they are now, even though that son of a bitch cost us 40 million lives." And that, of course, is a