

Editorial

Watching Soaps at Newstime Can Be Deadly

The strategic crisis which erupted in August around the destruction of the *Kursk* submarine during Russian naval maneuvers, lay somewhere between the bombing of the Chinese Embassy, and the Cuban Missiles Crisis, in its deadly seriousness and potential consequences. Yet, it has been presented to you as soap-opera entertainment. There has been a near-total blackout by the American media of what Russian military and political leaders were saying and leaking to the media there. World War III nearly began on Aug. 12-13, and you haven't been told.

Presidents Putin and Clinton, in telephone communications initiated by Putin, and supplemented by military deliberations, averted the war threatened by the Russian analysis and conclusion that the *Kursk* had been struck and sunk by a British or American submarine. That is still the analysis of Russian military commissions investigating the crisis.

Recall *EIR*'s review last week of the saber-rattling "Vulcans" of the Bush foreign-policy team, and imagine what the result of the Aug. 12-13 crisis would have been, with George W. Bush on the red telephone, rather than President Clinton.

A powerful Anglo-American financial-political faction, knowing that the global financial crisis is upon them, has determined to act with outrageous abandon against Russia, China, and other nations, risking wars on many fronts. Their purpose is to break any focal points of opposition to their control. There is only one strategic capability that could conceivably challenge that Anglo-American power, and that is the Russian nuclear capability, despite the terrible economic looting of Russia the past decade. Russia's all-ocean maneuvers, only recently renewed after years of neglect, were the target for such provocation.

The content of the two Presidents' conversations in those fateful days is not known. Perhaps President Clinton responded as at Camp David, and offered financial and other kinds of "compensation" for the destroyed submarine. If so, President Putin has not accepted that route, for, to do so, would eliminate the Russian strategic position altogether.

Rather, Putin has counterattacked on another flank

entirely. On Aug. 23, on Russian national television, he launched an attack on the most notorious Russian "oligarchs," the robber-tycoons such as Boris Beresovskiy, who have been the partners of that very powerful Anglo-American faction, in the looting of Russia. At the same time, Putin vowed to build the Russian army, navy, and state back up again, and abruptly took foreign-creditor negotiations out of the hands of the central bank.

These actions are now dramatically changing the political and psychological mood in Russia. These changes, again, are not being reported to you: You are to believe that Putin is weakened and in disgrace over his handling of a "human tragedy." You are supposed to remain unaware that the world war-threatening crisis around the *Kursk* is still continuing, but on the new flank of the change in Russia set off by Putin's leadership.

Listen to the Aug. 22 statement of State Duma (parliament) economist Sergei Glazyev, Communist Party head Gennadi Zyuganov, and 18 leading military, political, and intellectual figures: "The 118 sailors, these best and most honorable men, who perished in the submarine, were participants in the war, which the country is waging for the right to call itself Russia, to control the territory between three oceans. . . . It was no accident with the ship's equipment, no miscalculation by the crew, that caused her death. She went down in the battle which the people, and Russian statehood, are waging today."

The Anglo-American financial faction which has been running the provocations of Russia in the Caucasus and Central Asian republics, even while looting the Russian economy, is immediately nervous about this Russian internal political shift. But they will continue the provocations, because the condition of their bubble, the biggest financial bubble in history, will continue to get closer to explosion.

But the greater danger, is your own acceptance of the "bodyguard of lies" which presents soap-operas at newstime. Think back, if you can, to the Cuban Missiles Crisis of 1962, and what you knew then. This time, the world came to the verge of the beginning of World War III, and you weren't even told about it.