

# Soviets prepare new post-Geneva cold war

by Konstantin George

An internal document was recently circulated within the Czech defense ministry, soon after the conclusion of the late October Sofia summit of the Warsaw Pact, West German defense-related sources report. The document lists the Warsaw Pact policy "options" available after the conclusion of the Geneva summit. The conclusion reached—a clear expression of the views of the Soviet military leadership—is that a deterioration in Soviet-U.S. relations is definite, and the document cites as "very probable," that the post-Geneva period will witness a sharp deterioration and return to the Cold War.

The document's existence coheres with two other Soviet policy moves of a distinct Cold War nature in late October-early November. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov sent a private letter to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, warning him not to sign any treaty with the United States that would commit West Germany to participate in the Strategic Defense Initiative. The letter was leaked by the Soviets, and the West German mass-circulation newspaper *Bild Zeitung*, published excerpts. The most damning passages that, according to well-informed sources, contained very crude and vicious blackmail threats against West Germany, were never made public.

Gorbachov's threats and blackmail combined with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's anti-SDI coalition blackmail against Kohl and the CDU have forced Kohl to capitulate on the SDI question. Early in the week of Nov. 11, Bonn announced that an SDI agreement would merely take the form of the U.S. and West German defense ministries exchanging letters. No formal treaty, no parliamentary ratification, in short no legally-binding agreement—a toothless facade.

## Soviet build-up in Central Europe

Timed with the menacing letter, Gorbachov and the Soviet military leadership made another move which *no* West German newspaper has dared to mention: A Soviet Armored Division based at Grossborn in Polish Pomerania, and part of the Soviet Northern Group of Forces in Poland, was moved west across the Oder River, and is permanently stationed in the town of Bernau, slightly north of East Berlin. The division has become part of the Soviet 20th Guards Army (posi-

tioned north and south of Berlin), which has become de facto a Guards Tank Army.

The move, in one step, increases the tank strength of the Soviet forces in East Germany by 200-300 tanks. It results—considering the cumulative reinforcement of Soviet tank strength in East Germany over two years—in a near doubling of the armored strength in the Soviet forces stationed there.

Soviet threats and blackmail against Western Europe were reiterated in a *Pravda* commentary printed on Nov. 13, titled, "Europe—Our Common Home"—an open call on Western Europe to break with the United States, beginning with the SDI question, and join up with Moscow, or else. The threat was contained in the passage that Europe is "simply too small and fragile" to follow a "[U.S.] policy of strength" determined by a "military-industrial complex." This U.S. "military-industrial complex" is trying to get Europe to commit its "scientific research potential" for the "insane Star Wars program." This threatens to not only "increase the danger of war," but also, for Western Europe, "the final decline of its independence."

Moscow openly proposes for "our common house" [Russia and Europe] cooperation against Washington, for whom Europe is "something foreign and a battlefield on the map of the [Pentagon] strategists." Going into Geneva, and looking beyond it, Moscow will escalate with all means possible, its campaign to drive a growing wedge between the United States and Western Europe.

The Russian population is being prepared to expect the worst—a sharp belligerency in Soviet-U.S. relations—after Geneva. On Nov. 12, an article in the government paper, *Izvestia*, by Politburo mouthpiece Aleksander Bovin, stated that the American position going into Geneva "does not nourish any hopes." Editorials in *Pravda* and elsewhere with similar themes, blasting the U.S. in unusually harsh terms, appeared throughout the week.

On Nov. 13, Soviet radio widely played up a declaration by Patriarch Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, given Sunday at the Moscow Cathedral, that "Mikhail Gorbachov truly has the support of the entire population in his peace efforts." The Church joined the Imperial Russian State in telling the population to expect a break at Geneva and a decay in relations afterwards: "U.S. insistence on its Star War plans threatens to wreck the Geneva talks."

On Nov. 14 the returned "defector" Vitali Yurchenko, under clear Politburo direction, gave a press conference in Moscow, a media extravaganza, accusing the U.S. of "brutality," "torture" and pursuing a policy of "state-sponsored terrorism." Earlier in the week, the Soviet head of the Moscow U.S.A.-Canada Institute, Georgii Arbatov, declared in an interview with the Czech News Agency, Ceteka, "Do they want to see the summit collapse, or, do they want to provoke the Soviet Union to do so?" Arbatov's psychological projections aside, the intentions of the Soviet pre-Geneva rampage are clear enough; the patterns of the post-Geneva rampage are becoming clearer by the minute.