

## The grand coronation of 'Czar Mikhail' Gorbachov

by Konstantin George

The 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union began on Feb. 25 in Moscow with a five-and-a-half-hour keynote speech by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov. An almost mystical power has been attributed to this date by the Western media—Feb. 25 was the date in 1956 on which Nikita Khrushchev delivered his famous speech before the 20th Party Congress, denouncing the crimes of Joseph Stalin. The current Party Congress, filmed by ABC-TV, has become the media event of the American television season.

But events in the real world bear no relation either to astrology or to the fantasy-life of the U.S. television viewer,

The Party Congress will rubber-stamp the policies already being implemented under Gorbachov, policies worked out months ago by the combination of Party leaders in the past associated with former General Secretary Yuri Andropov and the Military High Command—the grouping that brought Gorbachov to power.

The 27th Party Congress is the official coronation of "Czar Mikhail" Gorbachov. It was the first Czar Mikhail, crowned in 1613, who inaugurated the Romanov Dynasty. Under the Romanovs, the Russian Empire expanded from a landlocked power, to an Empire encompassing about one-seventh of the Earth's land surface. Under the post-1917 Soviet Dynasty, the Russian Empire expanded not its own nominal territorial holdings significantly, but added, de facto, the Eastern and Central European Warsaw Pact satellites and Afghanistan, as well as a growing number of client states in the developing sector.

### Gorbachov's war build-up

Gorbachov is being crowned Czar with a mandate to effect a rapid high-technology-based transformation of the Soviet economy—above all the war economy—to ensure 1) that the current huge levels of war production can be main-

tained at peak levels for more than two to three years, without causing major problems in the economy as a whole; and 2) that the already massive Russian strategic defense programs are accelerated, to the point of deployment of a reasonably effective antiballistic missile (ABM) shield before the end of this decade.

By 1988, Russia will have overwhelming strategic superiority in offensive nuclear and general war-fighting capability, with the ability to mount a crippling first strike against the United States. When Russia adds to that capability a moderately effective ABM defense, then, assuming no U.S. ABM shield in place, Russia will have the ability to wage and win a nuclear war, suffering losses not greater than those it experienced in World War II. This strategic superiority would give Moscow the means to dictate terms of surrender to the West.

This is Soviet policy—global domination by the end of the decade. Not the media extravaganza being piped into your living room by ABC television. ABC's "live" coverage of the Party Congress is, in fact, the only thing "new" about the Congress. What better way to convince millions of Americans that there is nothing to worry about concerning Gorbachov's intentions, than by bombarding American audiences with the latest serial of "Dynasty East"—or the Moscow Circus?

### The war economy

For readers of *EIR*, who have followed the crucial policy statements by Gorbachov during his first year in power, his keynote speech contained no real surprises. Gorbachov placed top priority on the modernization of the Soviet economy, emphasizing the military considerations behind this. He announced that in the current Five Year Plan (1986-90), investments earmarked for the modernization of industrial plant

and equipment will *double* the amount invested in the past 10 years.

"The way out, as we see it," he said, "lies in through modernization of the economy. . . . A big step forward is to be made in this direction in the current Five Year period. It is intended to allocate upward of 200 billion rubles of capital investments—more than during the past 10 years—for modernizing and technically re-equipping production. Large-scale introduction of computers and overall automation of production will tremendously influence the rate of technical modernization."

That this modernization is meant to service the needs of the war build-up, was also made clear: "The priority task is to overcome the negative factors in society's socio-economic development as rapidly as possible. . . . This is the only way for us to increase the military might of our country. . . . We will do everything to eliminate the threat hanging over us." Gorbachov added ominously that the Soviet Union is "ready to fight" in "any type of war."

Gorbachov reaffirmed the guidelines governing the Soviet-East bloc economic grouping, Comecon, for 1986-90, emphasizing intra-bloc trade, increased economic integration through more joint energy, raw materials, and industrial projects. This policy is already being implemented, as can be seen in the recently signed Soviet five-year trade protocols with the Warsaw Pact satellites, each of which has called for a huge trade increase between 1986 and 1990.

This policy of forced "integration" began in the early 1980s, accelerated under Andropov, and is now being pushed to achieve top-down Russian control over the satellites, politically and economically. The policy is fully consistent with the Soviet pre-war posture.

### Splitting the Western alliance

These statements followed sharp attacks on the United States, particularly against the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Gorbachov declared that continuation of the SDI "could lead to a nuclear conflict." President Reagan's reply to Gorbachov's proposal concerning negotiations to eliminate the intermediate-range missiles stationed in the European theater was rejected, with Gorbachov stressing that *his* conditions for such talks must be adopted. Gorbachov had demanded that the British Trident nuclear ballistic missile submarine program be scrapped, and that both France and Britain refrain from any increase or modernization of their nuclear forces.

Gorbachov placed great weight on a strategy of splitting the Western alliance, emphasizing the "contradictions" between the United States, Western Europe, and Japan. He proclaimed a Soviet priority of collaboration with the European Social Democracies: "We will join with others in the fight against war. . . . We live in a real world and are ready to make these alliances and ties."

This was a signal to such appeasers as Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and the West German Social Democrat-

ic Party (SPD) led by Willy Brandt and Egon Bahr, that Moscow is ready to join them in removing the United States from Western Europe, under a "New Yalta" arrangement. These new "alliances" and "ties" will be cemented in the coming weeks and months, beginning with the upcoming visit of Palme to Moscow. The European Social Democracies were well-represented in the audience as honored guests, including delegations from the British Labour Party, the Swedish Social Democrats, the French Socialist Party, and the West German SPD.

### In Stalin's footsteps

Gorbachov used his keynote to drive home the message that the Great Purge of party and government officials which he inaugurated during 1985, will continue with even greater tempo. Already before the Party Congress, 46 of 157 regional party leaders had been dumped, along with about half of the 80 cabinet minister-rank government functionaries—to say nothing of thousands of party and government functionaries and plant managers. Before this Party Congress is over, at least half of the Central Committee elected at the last Party Congress in 1981, will no longer hold their posts.

Gorbachov told the 5,000 assembled delegates that "no person, ministry, or region can be fenced off from criticism. . . . Some officials still refuse to understand and accept what is taking place." He attacked "armchair managers," "idlers," "grabbers," "bribe-takers," and "party officials who have lost touch with life."

Gorbachov delivered a stinging indictment of the Brezhnev era: "For a number of years, the deeds and actions of party and government bodies fell behind the needs of the times. . . . [We witnessed] a decline of dynamism in our work and an escalation of bureaucracy. All this was doing no small damage. . . . The situation called for a change, but a peculiar psychology—how to improve things without changing anything—took the upper hand in the central bodies and at local levels as well."

"Czar Mikhail" is walking in the footsteps not only of the Romanovs, but of the founder of the Soviet Dynasty—Josef Stalin. One day before the Party Congress opened, the party paper *Pravda* and the government paper *Izvestia* ran long features praising Stalin's former right-hand man on the Politburo, Andrei Zhdanov. *Pravda* hailed Zhdanov—the man who in 1934 called for the rejection of Western culture in favor of Russian "socialist realism"—as a "patriot" who had exhibited "great organizational talent," and who embodied the industrialization drive of the 1930s. Zhdanov was praised as a man who made "no compromises with any ideology hostile to the Soviet people" and who always showed a "burning hatred for the class enemy." *Pravda* added that the words of Zhdanov "still ring true today."

So much for the televised hoopla about the magical aura of Feb. 25. Stay away from astrology, and never trust what's on your TV set. As P.T. Barnum used to say, "There's a sucker born every minute."

## Gorbachov addresses the Party Congress

*From the keynote speech delivered by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov to the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union:*

**On the reorganization of the domestic economy:** "It is our task," Gorbachov said, "to work out a realistic, thoroughly weighed program of action that will organically blend the grandeur of our aims with the realism of our capabilities. . . ."

"For a number of years, the deeds and actions of party government bodies tailed behind the needs of the times and of life. . . . The problems in the country's development built up more rapidly than they were being solved. Inertia and stiffness in the forms and methods of administration, a decline of dynamism in our work, and a piling up of bureaucracy—all this inflicted no small damage to our society and our cause. Signs of stagnation had begun to surface. . . ."

"It would be wrong to think that the scientific and technological revolution is creating no problems for socialist society. Experience shows that its advance involves improvement of social relations, a change of mentality, the forging of a new psychology. . . . All levels of economic management must change their attitude to the introduction of new methods and technology. . . . It is obvious that economic management requires constant improvement. However, the situation today is such that we cannot limit ourselves to partial improvements. A radical reform is needed. . . ."

"We now unquestionably stand before the most thorough reorganization of the socialist economic mechanism. . . . Every readjustment of the economic mechanism begins, as you know, with a readjustment of thinking, with a rejection of old stereotypes of thought and actions, with a clear understanding of the new tasks. . . ."

Speaking of the practical measures to be taken, Gorbachov said profits and wage incentives would be used to ensure greater productivity. The central state planning authority will be turned into more of a think tank for future economic development, rather than a monitor of performance figures, and ministries will be barred from interfering in the daily work of factories. Moscow, however, will not abandon the role of central planning or allow the growth of a private sector. Gorbachov added that one of his main aims is to

accelerate the modernization of obsolete industries by ensuring that factories be rewarded for producing modern and efficient goods. The finance system will be overhauled to allow easier loans to managers to invest in new infrastructure and computerization, and state funds will be channeled into revitalizing the machine-tool industry. Borrowing from East Germany's system of industrial combines, which group factories in the same sector, Gorbachov said the Soviet Union would introduce a similar program.

Addressing a clear message to the "old guard" in the party, Gorbachov concluded: "We have to part ways with those who hope that everything will settle down and return to the old lines. This will not happen, comrades."

**On the coming international economic collapse:** Gorbachov said that the West is sliding into an "irreversible decline." Citing the United States, the "metropolitan center of imperialism," as responsible for such a collapse, Gorbachov blamed this on the fact that "military interests" are seizing control of political power, "becoming the ugliest and most dangerous monster of the 20th century." He blamed Western capitalists, and in particular U.S. corporations, for Third World poverty, and the "huge international debt problem." All imperialist countries are guilty of "shameless plunder," he said, "but unquestionably U.S. imperialism is doing it with the least consideration. . . ."

**On European-American relations:** Addressing the decoupling of Western Europe from the United States—a situation, Gorbachov said, caused by the fact that "the U.S. ruling circles have lost their bearings"—Gorbachov stated that Western European states are realizing that the United States is going too far in claiming leadership of the world. "Washington should not assume unquestioning obedience to its dictation on the part of its allies. . . ." The emergence of "new capitalist centers" will increase contradictions that will hasten the fall of the capitalist world.

**On superpower relations:** Discussing President Reagan's counterproposal to his own Jan. 15 call for a progressive nuclear disarmament, beginning with the removal of nuclear weapons from Western Europe and the European portion of the U.S.S.R., Gorbachov said: "To put it in a nutshell, it is hard to detect in the letter we have just received, any serious preparedness of the U.S. administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat." A second summit meeting with President Reagan could take place, he said, if Reagan agrees to 1) cease nuclear tests, and/or 2) remove nuclear weapons from East and West Europe. "But there is no sense in holding empty talks." There will be no talks if the preconditions are not met.

Gorbachov delivered sweeping attacks on the United States, ranging from extensive condemnations of the Strategic Defense Initiative, to charges that "ignorance and obscurantism go hand in hand in the capitalist world with lofty achievements of science and culture."