

The condominium strikes back

by Webster G. Tarpley

Back in November, U.S. congressional candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche outlined considerations pointing toward a likely hardening in the political climate in the Soviet empire sometime between Dec. 15 and the frosts of Epiphany. With the official liquidation of the former economic reform policy called perestroika, through the ukase of the Russian military-industrial complex presented by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov on Dec. 13, that prediction has already been fulfilled in spades. Now, with a few days left before Twelfth Night, ominous shadows of Kremlin-directed counterrevolutionary regroupment are lengthening over Eastern Europe as well, putting an end to the euphoria of the October-December revolutionary upswing.

Gorbachov and his Comintern co-thinkers are attempting to stabilize "soft" or "reform" communist regimes—or regimes of communist retreats—in the satellites, under the rubric of the "socialism with democracy" that was the centerpiece of Gorbachov's New Year's address. This momentary impulse takes advantage of the continued Soviet military presence, and of the fact that, whatever has been alleged in public, the repressive and secret police apparatus in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, to say nothing of Poland, Romania, and the other states, remains essentially intact, although perhaps in a "privatized" form. With the demagogic carrot of "democratic socialism," as endorsed by Margaret Thatcher and the Socialist International, and the brutal stick of the Red Army, the neo-Bukharinite "cosmopolitan" faction in the Kremlin is scrambling to reassert its hold over Eastern Europe after the explosions of the autumn.

Moscow's counterrevolutionary hopes depend for their success on the worldwide U.S.-U.S.S.R. alliance that was reaffirmed and extended by the Bush-Gorbachov Malta summit in December. In this sense, the Bush presidency is re-

vealed more than ever as a vehicle for the Moscow-Washington-London power-sharing arrangements represented by British intelligence asset Henry Kissinger. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker are incapable of elaborating policy; the policy comes from Kissinger, specifically in Kissinger's capacity as a conduit for such London oligarchical and merchant banking circles as Chatham House (the Royal Institute for International Affairs) and the friends of Lord Victor Rothschild.

The framework for policy is the *modus vivendi* reached by Kissinger with the late Yuri Andropov, based on Andropov's celebrated interview with Rudolf Augstein's *Der Spiegel* magazine back in April 1983: The Soviet Union is a land power and considers the Eurasian land mass as its sphere of power. The United States is a maritime power with interests in the Western Hemisphere and in other insular and littoral areas. This crude carving up of the globe in the spirit of a New Yalta, which furnished the thesis for Zbigniew Brzezinski's recent book *Gameplan*, is momentarily the matrix of world politics and strategy. The U.S. adventure in Panama thus goes together with the calls from Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) for a cut of 100,000 men in U.S. military strength in Europe.

Despite Bush's repeated pre-Malta lies that he was not acting in the spirit of a New Yalta, this was exactly what happened at the "Seasick Summit." In the wake of Bush's adventure in Panama, experienced central European observers who thought they had seen everything are voicing shock over the cynicism and shallowness Bush showed at Malta. Especially in the Bush-Baker-Gorbachov-Shevardnadze tête-à-tête, these observers report, the following monstrosity was haggled out: On the one hand, Gorbachov was granted *carte blanche* for atrocities within the borders of the

U.S.S.R. The only proviso was a meek request for restraint in the Baltic states, presumably for racial reasons. In the Transcaucasus and the rest of the U.S.S.R., massacres will be studiously ignored by Bush. In the satellites, bloodbaths can be decided on a case-by-case basis. In the case of Romania, for example, the Soviets could have intervened with impunity (and were invited to do so by Baker on Dec. 24), but decided that this was not necessary. In exchange, the United States was granted a free hand in such locations as Panama. Both regimes, according to these observers, agreed on a five-year freeze on any steps toward German reunification, with the U.S. in effect providing a guarantee of the continued existence of East Germany, as signaled by the pre-Christmas Baker visit to East German leader Hans Modrow and by the renewed lockstep of the four victorious powers in their reassertion of controls over West Berlin.

Nevertheless, according to reliable sources, the month of December was catastrophic for Gorbachov, as signaled by his humiliating threat to resign on Dec. 9, and by the disintegration of the Gorbachov group during the Central Committee meeting held on Christmas Day. Gorbachov's only stock in trade is now the Malta package, and his sole argument against those in the *nomenklatura* who regard him as useless ballast, is that it is after all Gorbachov who has the deal with Bush and the Americans, which without him might be open to question.

Gorbachov is tormented by the separatist agitation in the Baltic states. Despite all the threats pronounced by him against the Lithuanians, Dec. 28 saw the formal registration in Vilnius of the breakaway Lithuanian Communist Party of Brazauskas, and an openly secessionist Democratic Party, with the secessionist Social Democratic Party right behind. On the same day, the Latvian Parliament was debating a constitutional amendment to abolish the primacy of the Communist Party in state and society, although a final vote was put off until later. *Pravda* denounced the Lithuanian multi-party system, alleging that this was provoking the Soviet party to take decisions that would end perestroika. Gorbachov is supposed to go to Lithuania to resolve the impasse, but he is clearly not anxious for what is almost sure to be a new debacle for him. Instead, in the first week of the New Year he convoked the Lithuanian Politburo to Moscow for talks.

At the same time, British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock made the interesting revelation that Gorbachov has canceled all meetings with foreign statesmen during January, citing the excuse of pressing internal matters. Kinnock said that this had been the content of a note from Gorbachov calling off a scheduled meeting with him. Such a development is exceptionally ominous for Gorbachov, whose only successes have been his foreign policy swindles. With that cut off, he is left with nothing but the domestic catastrophe he has done so much to create. The great Russian chauvinists of the Red Army's Pamyat milieu have become increasingly

militant, now founding a new election front to carry forward their line of cutting off all contacts with Western imperialist exploiters. Moscow store shelves remained absolutely empty even during the New Year's holiday, with even longer lines than usual.

Rapid-fire developments in Eastern Europe

Salient aspects of Eastern Europe are as follows:

In Romania, additional information corroborates the hypothesis that the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu was the result of a Soviet-directed and Soviet-assisted byzantine palace coup, featuring communist leaders Ion Iliescu, Petre Roman (the rumored former lover of Ceausescu's daughter), Gen. Nicolae Militaru, and General Vlad of the Securitate, and prepared over many months. With these leaders, Romania is now more under Soviet domination than it was under Ceausescu, with the obvious implications for Soviet troop transit toward Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

In Yugoslavia, social tensions are being exacerbated by the heavy austerity, which is being portrayed by the fascist Slobodan Milosevic as a Croatian-Slovenian plot against the Serbs.

As for Baker's incredible *invitatio ad offerendum*, former German Defense Ministry official Lothar Ruehl correctly pointed out in *Die Welt* of Jan. 2 that Baker's remarks amount to a revival of the 1968 Brezhnev Doctrine, asserting limited sovereignty for all Soviet satellites in the Warsaw Pact. Ruehl, with a memory that is somewhat longer than that of the current French government, notes that we are dealing here with the "two hegemonies" rejected by de Gaulle a quarter-century ago.

In Poland, the suicidal fury of the Mazowiecki-Balcerowicz austerity measures is creating optimal conditions for the early destruction of Solidarnosc and the reestablishment of Soviet control. Not much enthusiasm can be expected for the removal of the "people's republic" label, when it accompanied 38% increases in the price of bread, 600% for coal, 400% for electricity, 100% for gasoline, and 75% for sausage, all accompanied by a wage freeze and the 13th (almost weekly) devaluation of the zloty. Rakowski's Communists and their OPZZ trade unions will have a field day against the increasingly hated Solidarnosc ministers. Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski retains control over the state apparatus.

In East Germany, Prime Minister Modrow, Stasi Gen. Markus Wolf, and Communist boss Gregor Gysi remain in de facto control against a fragmented opposition, and are benefiting from an absurd "neo-Nazi" scare concocted with the help of the Anti-Defamation League and British intelligence. The Communists are seeking to re-legalize the allegedly dissolved Stasi secret police even before the May elections, citing the need to combat the neo-Nazi menace! Many Stasi members continue to draw government paychecks, and have access to weapons caches. Four hundred thousand elite Soviet troops remain on the scene.