

Food weapon stokes the fires of war

by Chris White

A Soviet delegation, in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 26 to negotiate grain shipments from the United States, was turned away empty-handed. During the just-concluded Paris summit of the 34 signatory nations of the Treaty on Security and Cooperation in Europe, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker threatened his Soviet counterpart, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, by making U.S. deliveries of food to the famine-threatened cities of the Soviet Union contingent on continued Soviet cooperation in the Bush clique's war aims in the Gulf.

The threats must have seemed odd to the Russian representative's ears, for U.S. food shipments to the Soviet Union have been curtailed dramatically since the Gulf hostilities began in early August. The U.S. refusal to ship food, described even to the *Wall Street Journal* by Daniel Basse, director of marketing for the AgResource Co. of Chicago, as "a de facto embargo by the Bush administration," is not the cause of food shortages or distribution problems in the collapsing Soviet Empire.

It is, however, part of an economic warfare destabilization strategy which is being conducted in parallel with the military occupation of nearly 60% of the world's proven oil reserves in the Arabian peninsula, by U.S. armed forces.

Kissinger pawprints

The food shutoff was adopted between late July and early August when Kissinger associate Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy secretary of state, was appointed to head the administration's efforts to aid the collapsing Russian economy. It is part of the proof that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is the pretext—not the cause—for what is unfolding in the Gulf area. The food cutoff went into effect after German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov met in Gorbachov's hometown, near the city of Stavropol, to

conclude the package of economic agreements which led to Germany's reunification this past October.

Both war in the Persian Gulf and food war were launched as part of an insane Anglo-American geopolitical effort to disrupt and destroy the prospects for the emergence of an integrated economic power in what such geopoliticians as Ray Cline, for example, are accustomed to calling the "heartland" of the Eurasian land mass.

This is illustrated by the conditions which the United States has imposed on delivery of food. The Bush administration insists that the Russians pay cash on the barrelhead for delivery. The Russians demand government-backed guarantees for purchases.

The administration counters that such credits can only be extended to nations accorded Most Favored Nation trading status under U.S. law. The Soviets can only qualify for such status if they pass a law permitting the free emigration of any of their citizens who might wish to leave.

The emigration weapon

Where would hungry and unemployed citizens of the collapsing Soviet empire go? West. From Norway, through Poland and Czechoslovakia, down to Italy by way of Austria, the western part of the Eurasian land mass is girding for the influx of a flood of refugees, in the range, according to official Soviet, Norwegian, and Czechoslovak projections among others, of 4 to 7 million people, in the period after Jan. 1, when the long-delayed emigration law is supposed to be enacted.

In the meantime, the combination of cutbacks in oil, following from the broader disintegration of the Russian economy, and the shutoff of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, along with the disruption of food supplies, can only be understood as economic warfare intended to bring the political systems of

countries east of the Elbe river to their knees.

There are reports circulating from *Washington Post* columnist David Broder, that the Bush administration seems to be ill-prepared for the kind of crisis which is about to erupt inside the Soviet Union, and in the nations of what was the East bloc only a year ago. This is pure cover story: Since the Bush crowd has been instrumental in aggravating the shortages which are driving the development of the crisis, one would better ask just what kind of crisis the Bush crowd is orchestrating around the developments in the Gulf.

Behind the oil grab

Food as a weapon, starvation as an instrument of state policy, ought to be abhorrent to the civilized world under any circumstances. Perhaps that is why the policy has been associated, in the recent 15 to 20 years, with the crowd which backs former Nixon secretary of state Henry Kissinger. Kissinger was the sponsor of the food-as-a-weapon obscenity against nations of the developing sector which, in the 1970s, were fighting for a new, just international economic order, along the lines developed by Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Populorum progressio*.

Against the Pope's view of development as the new name for peace, Kissinger opposed the abominations of starvation and raw materials control, chiefly oil, to maintain the political power of his backers in the London- and New York-centered financial community.

It was the same Kissinger who then drafted, in 1974 and 1975, the plans for the U.S. military takeover of the Saudi Arabian oil fields. The Eagleburger who is now on top of what the administration's Orwellian newspeak calls a "relief" effort for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, was in those days Henry Kissinger's assistant.

Then, the principal target was the underdeveloped nations, where four-fifths of the human population of the planet live, the vast majority on the borderline between survival at barest subsistence; the aim was the annihilation, through preventable economic catastrophes such as the withholding of food, or the manipulation of markets for essential products such as oil.

Kissinger and his backers long considered that there were too many such people, especially those of black, brown, or yellow skin color, and that their numbers should be reduced. Food control, and raw materials warfare, were conducted to that end. Agencies such as the Club of Rome, the New York Council on Foreign Relations, the Draper Fund, the World Wildlife Fund, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, have been quite open about this intent.

So, who are they to talk about putting Saddam Hussein on trial for war crimes? Hitler and company could only have dreamed of genocide on the scale that Kissinger and his buddies like President George Bush have been implementing through their economic policies.

Whom are the missiles aimed at?

But now this abomination is also turned against the Soviet Union and Eastern and Western Europe. What kind of war do Bush and company think they are going to be fighting? Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov did tell U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, during Cheney's last trip to Moscow: "If our missiles are not aimed at you, whom are they aimed at, Venezuela?"

This is ultimately the prospect which the deployment of the food weapon against the Soviet Union, and the insistence on the implementation of the destabilizing emigration law, opens up.

Apparently, this prospect has dawned on Senator Sam Nunn (D) from Georgia, in some form. Nunn warned in a recent *New York Times* commentary that there are far graver crises than the Gulf looming, namely in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and that chaos in that part of the world is something that cannot be tolerated. This is because, he wrote, the Soviets have nuclear weapons. Nunn demanded that Bush waive the Jackson-Vanik link between emigration and trade, and launch a food relief effort, underwritten by Saudi and Kuwaiti money, in exchange for Soviet oil.

It would not have occurred to him that this won't work either. The Russians made clear months ago that they are not about to be opening up raw materials looting concessions of the sort that they did under the Trust arrangements of the 1920s. That plan was sunk in September when the Shatalin "free market" transition from socialism to Thatcherism was junked.

And meanwhile, there are no apparent preparations for emergency food shipments to Russia, though Bush supposedly has been formally asked to waive Jackson-Vanik. No office in the Department of State or Agriculture which would be concerned with such an effort is actually working on it. Nor is there significant funding from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait being discussed. The \$4 billion *loan* to finance food purchases in the United States, no matter what the Russians finally decide to do on the Gulf, will be read as nothing more than another insult.

Then what? It has been clear that India, Brazil, and Mexico are on the same target list as that which produced the U.S. invasion and occupation of Saudi Arabia. It must be considered that the Soviet Union, which is on the same target list, was offered an insane agreement by the Anglo-American crowd which backs Kissinger, namely: As support us in destroying 60% of the world's oil reserves, and we will cut you in, as junior partners, in a new world empire, if you turn over your raw material reserves, and let your unemployed and hungry loose on Western Europe. Then we might consider providing you with food.

If this is what the Bush crowd is up to, then the new year is going to bring something much more dangerous than a military conflict in the Gulf. Behind their use of the food weapon, Kissinger and the Bush crowd are pushing on toward World War III.