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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES & CANADAMOSCOW TV ON 'SOVIET MILITARY POWER' PAMPHLET

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[From the "Vremya" newscast; commentary by "writer" Genrikh Borovik]

[Text] [Announcer] The U.S. Administration, in trying to justify its dangerous course toward spiralling the arms race and the militarization of outer space, is resorting to a deliberate lie, fanning the myth of a Soviet threat. Over to the writer, Genrikh Borovik:

[Begin Borovik recording] Hello, comrades. There was a time when the Pentagon generals -- vainglorious people, one is bound to say -- for 10 months a year, every year, boasted to America and the whole world that America's military might was many times greater than Russia's. Only 2 months a year, also every year, they would say in a panic: The Russians are much stronger than America. Naturally, these 2 months always coincided with the time when Congress was reviewing its new military budget.

So, our supposedly sinister threat to America was, so to speak, of a clearly expressed seasonal nature. However, whichever way you tell a lie, it's a complicated business and will soon get you into hot water. It was thus decided to talk about a Soviet military threat all the year round, with certain ebbs and flows, especially when a permanent threat meant greater profits. But this is where it gets a bit embarrassing.

About a month ago, U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger made a speech in which he pushed the President's star wars program. He said it was only for defense, and that, essentially, it was not for the creation but the liquidation of nuclear weapons, for the development of science and technology, and for the peace and prosperity of all peoples, almost the basis of success for culture and the arts, and, of course, not at all a tool of aggression, but just a shield.

Then a correspondent asked: Mr Weinberger. What would you say if someone told you that the Russians had already created such a defensive space shield for peace and prosperity? The defense secretary could hardly contain himself, saying: God help us, that would be terrible! When he had gathered his thoughts it was already too late. What kind of shield is this if it is so terrible? This is not at all a shield, but a kind of nuclear knuckleduster, a space bludgeon; I don't know what else there is in the world of science and the arts. In a word, he was embarrassed.

Recently, something similar happened, as ill luck would have it, round about 1 April. To mark this date -- which, obviously, the Pentagon holds dear -- they published a pamphlet entitled "Soviet Military Power." In the best traditions it deals with the sinister Russian threat, the unprecedented Russian might. It is all there: The USSR is arming itself faster than the United States; the Pentagon is just catching up; the President is just coming out with his Strategic Defense Initiative while the USSR is already developing it.

Here we must ask the question: If the system is a defensive one, what's so bad about the USSR developing it? Because the Soviets, in their strategic concept, do not rule out the use of nuclear weapons first. True, it is timely here to ask: If the Soviet Union has committed itself not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and the United States refuses to follow our example, then which is the one that is "not ruling out"?

The picture given of armaments is a pretty terrible one all round.

Over the past 10 years, the pamphlet says, the USSR has produced five times as many ballistic missiles as the United States, three times more submarines, twice as many aircraft, and so forth. There are 143 pages in the pamphlet -- 133 of which are devoted to Soviet military programs and only 10 to American. This ratio should speak for itself for the man in the street.

The pamphlet was brought out with a lot of pomp, being publicized at a news conference by Lieutenant General Williams, the head of the Pentagon's intelligence department. He painted for the appalled, ordinary American, a picture of the USSR's complete military superiority over the United States. Then a correspondent crept up quietly and asked, like in an old Krylov fable, so sweetly, almost gasping: What if it was suggested that you, general, exchanged your puny military muscle for the unprecedented might of Russian arms? Would you agree? The general missed the opportunity. He was startled and, unable to contain himself, croaked like a crow at the top of his general's voice: You must be kidding!

It was too late to gather his thoughts. As they say, the cheese had formed; and it turned out to be a large piece of a poorly-made and foul-smelling lie.

Of course, it would have been possible to burst out laughing at the unfortunate man from the Pentagon if it had just been an April Fool's joke, but it wasn't, and the pamphlet, albeit ridiculously and falsely, was published, not just for fun, but to further intimidate the man in the street, to extort more money from him for nuclear, space bludgeons. They want, with his help, to dictate their will to the world, to appoint governments, abrogate revolutions, proclaim colonies; that is, to control history, as though it were a cowboy's horse, to make it halt, come back, and do whatever they want. But this venture, aimed at controlling the world, gets one nowhere; people never have and never will accept it. [end recording]