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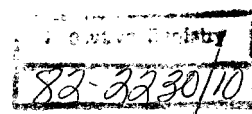
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**International
Communication
Agency**

United States of America

Washington, D. C. 20547

Office of the Director



March 30, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR The Honorable
 William J. Casey
 Director, Central Intelligence Agency

FROM: Gilbert A. Robinson *gsil*

SUBJECT: "Soviet Propaganda Alert Number 5"

WJC
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Enclosed is the fifth issue of "Soviet Propaganda Alert" produced by our Office of Research.

In February, the Soviets:

- o Contended that the U.S. is not sincere at the Geneva talks and is using them as a "smokescreen" for a massive military buildup.
- o Intensified their attacks on U.S. chemical weapons policy, alleging that the U.S. intends to store chemical weapons in Europe despite objections by NATO allies; is ready to use chemical munitions in a "limited war" in Europe; and has used and is providing chemical weapons for use in the Third World.
- o Stressed the familiar theme that Washington is trying to disrupt "normalization" in Poland through subversion and hostile propaganda and continued to denounce the "Let Poland Be Poland" telecast.
- o Charged that the U.S. resorts to subversion, military adventurism, and "assistance to bloody, repressive regimes" to protect American imperialist interests in Latin America. President Reagan's OAS speech was characterized by Soviet commentators as a "rehash of the Monroe Doctrine."
- o Continued to blame the U.S. and Israel for tensions in the Middle East and suggested that Egyptian President Mubarak is uncomfortable with close ties to the U.S. and is seeking to distance himself from Washington.

== Soviet Propaganda Alert ==

No. 5

March 26, 1982

Summary

During February, Soviet international propaganda emphasized:

- o U.S. arms control negotiating behavior. Soviet media contended that the U.S. lacks sincere intent to negotiate at Geneva on INF and is using the talks as a "smokescreen" for a massive U.S. military buildup. Conflict between the U.S. and its NATO allies on INF--as well as a myriad of other issues--was played up.
- o Chemical weapons. The Soviets intensified their attacks on U.S. chemical weapons policy. Soviet propaganda alleged that the U.S. intends to store chemical weapons in Europe despite objections by NATO allies; is ready to use chemical munitions in a "limited war" in Europe; and has used and is providing chemical weapons for use in the Third World. The Soviets also accused the U.S. of refusing to take part in negotiations to ban chemical weapons, and of "concocting lies" about Soviet use of chemical warfare to divert attention from U.S. activities.
- o Poland. Soviet propaganda stressed the familiar theme that Washington is trying to disrupt "normalization" in Poland through subversion and hostile propaganda. The "Let Poland Be Poland" telecast was repeatedly denounced, as were foreign radio broadcasts alleged to be sending "coded instructions" to counter-revolutionaries in Poland. The U.S. was condemned for "shedding crocodile tears" over Poland while enacting sanctions that hurt the Polish people. The Soviet media also criticized the U.S. for allegedly seeking to turn the Madrid CSCE meeting into an "arena of confrontation" over Poland.
- o Latin America. To protect American imperialist interests, argued the Soviets, the U.S. resorts to subversion, military adventurism, and "assistance to bloody, repressive regimes." The U.S. was charged with trying to halt the revolutionary process in Nicaragua and Cuba by preparing terrorist groups of exiles for subversive actions and eventual invasions. Direct U.S. complicity in atrocities in El Salvador was also alleged. Soviet news commentators dismissed President Reagan's OAS speech as a "rehash of the Monroe Doctrine." They also claimed that Washington is exaggerating problems in Poland to divert attention from El Salvador.
- o Middle East. Soviet media suggested that Egyptian President Mubarak, uncomfortable with close ties to the U.S., is seeking to distance himself from Washington. Soviet commentaries treated Mubarak favorably and expressed a cautious optimism regarding developments in Soviet-Egyptian relations. The U.S. and Israel were blamed, as is customary, for tensions in the Middle East.

**Office of Research
International Communication Agency**

Washington, D.C.

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ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS

Soviet Line on Geneva Talks

Soviet media focused directly on the Geneva INF talks or tied most general discussions of international security and strategic matters to Geneva. Some attention was also paid to the Vienna MBFR talks. While no fundamentally new themes emerged, familiar ones were adapted for application to Geneva:

- o The U.S. went to Geneva reluctantly only under pressure of international (especially European) public opinion and is not making a serious negotiating effort.
- o The U.S. is using the Geneva talks to create the impression that it strives for peace, favors arms control and reduction, and tries to deal with the Soviet Union. To develop this image, U.S. tactics are to make clearly unreasonable proposals, counting on their rejection, then blame the Soviet side for obstructionism. At the same time the U.S. ignores reasonable Soviet proposals.
- o Using Geneva as a "smokescreen," the U.S. is carrying out an immense military buildup--increasing the defense budget, developing new types of weapons, and expanding its resources abroad.

According to the Soviets, U.S. "stalling" at Geneva fits into the overall strategy of Washington's drive for political-military superiority: "the U.S. opposes any concrete results which might hinder the siting of new U.S. missiles [in Europe] and spoil the Pentagon's plans for the United States to achieve military superiority" (TASS, Feb. 11). American "obstructionism" at Geneva was related to increases in the military budget, to interventions throughout the world aimed at shoring up or expanding U.S. power, to confrontation with the Soviet Union, and to the "doctrine of the acceptability of 'limited nuclear war'."

The Soviets maintained that the USSR, in contrast to the U.S., adheres to a "peace-loving" policy and consistently supports arms control and reduction. But, in the interests of security and progress, the USSR cannot and will not permit the U.S. to achieve the world domination it seeks. Thus if the U.S. is determined to escalate the arms race, Moscow has no choice but to keep pace.

Greater Media Attention to Geneva

Soviet media coverage of Geneva in December was sparse and avoided direct comment on U.S. negotiating behavior. Treatment of the subject increased in January, but a decision to "go public" on the issue of negotiating positions was clearly indicated only on February 9 with the release of an authoritative TASS commentary on the Soviet stance, repeated the following day in the central press. Subsequently, remarks on INF made by Leonid Brezhnev were widely

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reported as indications of Moscow's offering of new "concrete" proposals.

Soviet media handling of Geneva was intended partly to counter the impact of President Reagan's February 4 announcement of the U.S. draft of an INF treaty. Western analysts suggested that Moscow felt it was necessary to generate pressure from public opinion to moderate the U.S. position at the negotiations. They also speculated that Moscow's decision was influenced by East-West tensions over the Polish situation and Soviet anxiousness to discredit the U.S. policy of linkage.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Soviet propaganda on chemical weapons increased and became more strident in February. In addition to a barrage of domestic and international press and radio items devoted to the subject, criticisms of U.S. chemical munitions policy frequently appeared in treatments of other subjects, such as American foreign policy in general, CSCE, and the U.N. To some extent, the intensification of Soviet propaganda appeared to be a response to Western coverage of Soviet complicity in lethal chemical weapons use in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. The Soviets also charged the U.S. with developing lethal biological weapons--a form of warfare which the U.S. has repudiated.

Techniques in Treating the Chemical Weapons Theme

Soviet propaganda strove for effect with dramatic descriptions of the chemical weapons allegedly being produced or planned for production by the U.S. Nothing was said about Soviet possession of lethal chemical and biological agents. Soviet reports criticized the U.S. for already having the "world's greatest arsenal of 'silent death'" yet preparing to spend "billions of dollars more" on chemical weaponry.

The Soviets also relied on a one-sided piling up of facts and figures--some accurate, some not, many attributed to Western sources--on chemical weapons: what types of munitions the U.S. has, how much of various types, budget allocations for binary chemical weapons, "case studies" of American use of chemical agents, and so forth. Soviet propaganda continued to deny charges leveled against the USSR regarding chemical and biological weapons use.

Chemical Weapons in Europe

The Soviets stressed that the U.S. is "proceeding with plans to turn Europe into a storehouse of binary chemical weapons" despite objections of the European NATO allies. Just as with "limited nuclear war," contended Soviet commentators, the U.S. envisions Europe as a potential theater for chemical war and has little regard for European fears of this: "The United States' new binary munitions are first-strike weapons meant for use on the European territory." (TASS, Feb. 9)

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Parallels were drawn with other cases of the U.S. "forcing" Europe to accept certain weaponry, e.g., new American medium-range nuclear missiles and the ERW.

Chemical Weapons in Third World Trouble Spots

Soviet media alleged that in addition to the European theater, the U.S. plans to deploy chemical weapons in Asia and the Middle East. Soviet regional radio broadcasts emphasized U.S. intentions to bring chemical weapons to those regions. Propaganda for Middle Eastern audiences, for example, stressed that eventually chemical weapons are to be placed in Israel for use in "localized conflicts." (Moscow Radio's Hebrew as well as Arabic broadcasts warned of potential ruin of the area by chemical war.)

Sharply denying American charges that the USSR is responsible for chemical and biological weapon use in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia, the Soviets countered with accusations of American use of such agents in those and other areas. According to the Soviet line, the U.S. is trying to justify and/or divert attention from its own chemical weapons policy by fabricating groundless charges against the Soviet Union--"irresponsible claims [which] were shown to be false following enquiries" (Radio Moscow in English, Feb. 3). Soviet commentators vehemently attacked and ridiculed Sterling Seagrave's book Yellow Rain and U.S. State Department evidence of Soviet complicity in chemical/biological weapon use in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan.

Soviet media accused the U.S. of waging biological as well as chemical warfare against Cuba. They listed diseases supposedly caused by the U.S., ranging from swine fever in 1971 and a fungus affecting sugar cane in 1972 to dengue fever in 1981.

A particularly bizarre story spread by the Soviet media claimed that the U.S. is testing virus-carrying mosquitoes on innocent citizens in Lahore, Pakistan, planning to export the "killer mosquitoes" to Afghanistan and elsewhere.

International Controls on Chemical Warfare

Soviet commentators criticized the U.S. for "invariably refusing" to hold talks aimed at banning chemical arms. At Geneva, complained the Soviets, the U.S. has refused since last summer to proceed with negotiations on chemical weapons. The Soviet explanation of this was the "U.S. drive for military superiority" and rejection of any constraints on this drive. There was no mention of the U.S. and Western European position on the necessity for verification and compliance safeguards in any chemical weapons agreement.

Soviet propaganda accused the U.S. of violating the spirit of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and alluded to the U.S. abstention from a U.N. resolution noting the need to activate talks on chemical

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weapons in the Disarmament Committee as indicative of the U.S. position. For their part, the Soviets professed willingness to take part in any negotiations aimed at reaching international agreements on chemical weapons.

POLAND

Propaganda on Poland continued in the same vein as in prior months. According to the Soviet line, Washington is still disturbed that the attempt to overthrow socialism in Poland was thwarted and the situation there is normalizing. The Soviets alleged that the U.S. continues to interfere in Polish internal affairs, trying to disrupt improving conditions there and to exacerbate international tensions. Some Soviet commentators charged that the U.S. is seeking to "break down the postwar system" established at Yalta by challenging the principle of "the inviolability of borders."

Soviet examples of the U.S. disruptive effort include:

o Economic sanctions. Washington's hypocrisy is evidenced by its imposition of sanctions that will make life more difficult for Poles at the very time U.S. leaders are professing "solidarity" with the Polish people. Soviet media characterized the sanctions as "inhumane" and also "naive" (historically proven to be a futile method of exerting pressure).

o Polish issue at Madrid. The U.S. and certain other delegations were accused of trying to use the Polish issue to stir up anti-detente feeling and to transform the CSCE Madrid meeting into an arena of East-West confrontation. Western intent, argued the Soviets, was to divert attention from the real problems at hand-- such as ensuring military security--by raising a fuss over Poland, a subject which has no place at Madrid.

o Showing of "Let Poland Be Poland." By mid-month the propaganda blitz aimed at discrediting the program had somewhat abated, but references to it as a "provocation" which turned out to be "a total failure" persisted. Soviet media condemned efforts by the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw to hold a "provocative screening" of the program at the Embassy. As an indication of extreme Soviet sensitivity on "Let Poland Be Poland," the Soviets denounced the singing group ABBA (hugely popular and until now officially approved in the USSR) because ABBA taped a segment for the program--even though the segment was never shown.

o Western radio broadcasts. Allegations that RFE is broadcasting coded instructions to counterrevolutionaries inside Poland were repeated. VOA and foreign radio in general were condemned for interfering in Polish internal affairs.

o CIA. Quoting heavily from official Polish sources, Soviet media charged that the CIA is linked with Polish subversive groups. The Soviets lost no time in working up stories of the

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CIA in Poland and tying these in with the favorite Soviet theme of the CIA as the sinister, ruthless and ubiquitous U.S. "special service" involved in virtually everything evil in the world.

Another Soviet theme related to the so-called "U.S. anti-Polish campaign" was U.S. pressuring of reluctant European allies to follow American initiatives. The Soviets dwelt in particular on allegations of "desperate but fruitless" U.S. efforts to stop the Soviet-West European gas pipeline.

A particularly virulent article entitled "White Scorpions" appeared in Pravda on February 15. Essentially, the article blamed Polish problems on the influence of Western decadence (nihilistic attitudes, consumerism, etc.) which had grown dangerously in Poland over the past two decades. The "white scorpion" of American propaganda was attacked, as was a sweeping range of U.S. foreign and domestic policies.

LATIN AMERICA

Soviet propagandists argued that Washington's actions in Latin America are but one part of a worldwide U.S. policy of using "lies, threats and sanctions" to pressure and weaken revolutionary movements. Pravda on February 4, in a piece on Nicaragua, charged that "almost every day Washington cabinet members make announcements containing threats to take 'sanctions' or 'measures' against one or another state."

El Salvador

Soviet media relied almost exclusively on selective use of material from Western sources which they adapted to fit their own needs. Soviet propaganda stressed that the U.S. has entered what is essentially a civil war in El Salvador in order to protect U.S. imperialist interests in the area; the U.S. naturally sides with the oppressors of the common people. The Soviets charged the U.S. with direct complicity in the murders of innocent civilians by Salvadoran "cutthroat" squads on "punitive missions."

Soviet media repeated and added to connections drawn by Western journalists between El Salvador and Vietnam. One Soviet commentary on the attitude of the U.S. military toward El Salvador asserted that "the Pentagon generals have long been straining to take revenge for Vietnam" (Moscow domestic radio, Feb. 12). Other commentators noted that, as in Vietnam, U.S. involvement is escalating despite strong protest from U.S. citizens, and the U.S. role is growing gradually and "sneakily" under the "pretext of resisting foreign intervention." Drawing another analogy to Vietnam, the Soviets criticized El Salvador's upcoming elections

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as a dubious exercise staged solely to legitimize the present government.

Cuba and Nicaragua

Soviet propagandists complained of a stepped-up U.S. campaign to reverse the process of revolutionary transformation in "progressive" Latin American states. They accused the U.S. of training "terrorist groups" of Cuban and Nicaraguan exiles for subversive actions and eventual invasions.

President Reagan was charged with making "an avalanche of insinuations" about Cuban participation in Caribbean drug and arms smuggling designed to create pretexts for aggressive acts against Cuba. Soviet media asserted that the U.S. has shown no proof of Cuban smuggling or "export of violent revolution."

The Soviet media also accused the U.S. of CIA-directed chemical and biological warfare against Cuba (see page 3) and in El Salvador.

President Reagan's OAS Speech

Labeling President Reagan's speech a "rehash of the Monroe Doctrine," Soviet propagandists described his Caribbean basin initiative as "a package of military-political and economic measures, directed at suppressing the mounting struggle of the Latin American peoples for freedom and independence [and] at consolidating pro-Washington regimes and military dictatorships which have given a free hand to American corporations in plundering their national wealth...." (TASS English, Feb. 24).

Miscellaneous Charges

Much of Soviet propaganda on Latin America--especially but not exclusively that intended for Latin American audiences--contained various details and elaborations on the major themes. Among these were:

- o Washington organized the Central American Democratic Community to further its plans for creation of a regional military bloc composed of reactionary regimes.
- o U.S. has plans to use Chilean military forces to intervene in Central America.
- o Expansion of the Peace Corps in Latin America means more CIA agents will be sent out under that cover.
- o Senior U.S. military officials have made "provocative visits" to Guatemala to emphasize USG concern over the situation there.
- o U.S. military exercises in Panama were staged to say "Do not forget who is the real master of the Panama Canal Zone" (Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish, Feb. 15).

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MIDDLE EAST

Soviets View U.S.-Egyptian Relations

A spate of media items dealt approvingly with Egyptian President Mubarak, pointing to Egyptian internal reforms, an evident inclination to seek better relations with other Arab states, and a decline in the amount of "anti-Soviet propaganda" in Egypt. Soviet commentators expressed a vague cautious optimism regarding prospects for improved Soviet-Egyptian relations.

Soviet media treated U.S.-Egyptian relations cautiously but at some length. They emphasized that President Mubarak is uncomfortable with a close relationship with the U.S. and is seeking to distance himself from Washington. As one Soviet commentator stated, "Mubarak's visits to the West European capitals are... viewed as a desire to attribute a more balanced character to Egypt's foreign policy and eliminate the far too strong tilt toward Washington. Already a word like 'desadatization' is being used." (Moscow Domestic Television, "International Panorama," Feb. 6). The U.S. was depicted as pressuring Egypt to stay in line on Camp David and to serve as a base for U.S. "aggressive military designs."

U.S. and Israel Blamed for Mideast Tension

Predictably, U.S. policy was denounced as the "real reason" for tension in the Mideast. The U.S. was taken to task for "black-mailing" the U.N. on the Golan Heights vote. Soviet media claimed that U.S. behavior on this issue is an indication that the "U.S. wants to maintain tension in the Middle East" and "essentially instigates Israel to new aggressive actions against Arab states" (TASS, Feb. 4).

The Soviets asserted that Secretary Weinberger's trip to the Middle East was a disappointment for Washington. They reported that he did not want to hear what he was told by Arab leaders--which was that Israel is the real threat in the region--and he was unhappy to find his interlocutors did not want to talk about strategic cooperation with the U.S. or about a "mythical Soviet threat."

Prepared by: PGM/R Staff

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