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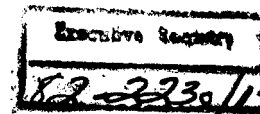
**International
Communication
Agency**

United States of America

Washington, D. C. 20547

Office of the Director

June 23, 1982



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

FROM: Charles Z. Wick *CZW*
Director

SUBJECT: "Soviet Propaganda Alert"
Numbers 7 and 8

Enclosed are the seventh and eighth issues of "Soviet Propaganda Alert" produced by our Office of Research.

As you will note, the seventh issue of the "Alert" is a special edition devoted to a few of the more outrageous charges the Soviet media have made, especially concerning allegations made concerning American involvement in preparations for chemical and biological warfare.

The eighth issue covers major Soviet propaganda themes during the month of May. During this period, the Soviets:

- o Widely attacked President Reagan's arms control proposals contained in his speech at Eureka College and praised President Brezhnev's proposals presented to the Communist Youth Organization Congress. The U.S. was accused of seeking military superiority and stalling the Geneva INF talks. Further, the antinuclear movement in the U.S. was portrayed as strong and growing.
- o Strongly attacked the British position on the Falklands, accusing them of aggression and colonialism, while avoiding support of the Argentine regime per se. The U.S. was accused of seeking military bases in the Falklands. Emphasis was also placed on the alleged damage done to U.S.-Latin American relations by the crisis.

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== Soviet Propaganda Alert ==

No. 7

April 30, 1982

Summary

This special edition of the alert contains some of the more outrageous charges against the U.S. made by Soviet propagandists in the past few months. The term "disinformation" best describes this output, which is distinct from ordinary Soviet propaganda. These accusations cover a variety of topics, but the majority focus on chemical and biological warfare, as has the overall Soviet propaganda effort in this period.

As a reminder to our readers, the Soviet Propaganda Alert is a series of reports on current Soviet external propaganda. These reports are based on cable reporting, primary source material, and secondary sources such as Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) publications. The purpose of the alert is to highlight and analyze major Soviet propaganda themes.

**Office of Research
International Communication Agency**

Washington, D.C.

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DISINFORMATION

Soviet media often use propaganda techniques that are rather refined and sophisticated. The Soviet propagandist generally relies more on distortion, one-sided and slanted presentation of information, insinuation and manipulation of facts, than on outright, blatant falsehood. But the latter is by no means overlooked.

A whole range of methods is brought to bear in disinformation campaigns conducted by the Soviets using both their own and non-Soviet media conduits. Described briefly below are several of the more outrageous fabrications which the Soviets have circulated recently. These items obviously fit in with broader Soviet propaganda objectives--for example, the "CIA kidnappings in Honduras" story is part of the campaign to fuel anti-U.S. sentiment in Latin America, to strengthen the myth of the powerful, evil, and omnipresent CIA, and to create an image of Americans as inhumane exploiters. The first item below appears to be part of Moscow's effort to divert public attention from the evidence of Soviet use of toxins in Afghanistan and Soviet complicity in their use in Southeast Asia.

Moscow Launches Disinformation Offensive against University of Maryland Medical Research Center in Pakistan

The February 3 issue of the popular Soviet weekly Literaturnaia gazeta featured a two-page spread on alleged chemical and biological weapons research and use by the U.S. In addition to a fearsome science-fiction sketch of giant insects hovering over a city skyline, an article appeared entitled "Incubator of Death" which took up three-quarters of one page. This sensationalistic narrative by veteran Soviet correspondent Iona Andronov deals with the University of Maryland's Pakistan Medical Research Center (PMRC) in Lahore. Here, charges Andronov, CIA-sponsored scientists are conducting research on "poisonous mosquitoes" in order to exploit them for "bacteriological warfare."

Andronov's article is fundamentally an account of his mission, undertaken on the spot in Lahore, to investigate the PMRC. Referring to such dubious publications as the Communist Party's Daily World and Philip Agee's Covert Action, Andronov notes by way of introduction that accusations against the Center surfaced over a year ago. According to various sources, such as one Abdul Aziz Danishyar, identified as the editor of the Kabul New Times, the PMRC was actually doing research on "bacteriological warfare" under the guise of studying malaria and similar diseases. One immediate goal of the research was alleged to be the staging of "mosquito military ventures" against Afghanistan--that is, starting epidemics in Afghanistan by infecting nomads and their herds in Pakistan with deadly mosquito-borne viruses which the nomads would transmit to Afghanistan during their seasonal migration there.

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In the course of his story, Andronov hits all the requisite targets--the CIA, imperialistic and racist American attitudes, bloodthirsty and fanatical American researchers. His main themes include the following:

o The activities of the Medical Research Center are funded by the Agency for International Development, which, Andronov glibly declares, is "in essence, the CIA." Offering no evidence whatsoever, Andronov depicts the Center as being under CIA control. The CIA is alleged to be applying PMRC's research in "germ warfare" in Cuba, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. For example, noting the high reproduction rates of female experimental mosquitoes shown him during his tour of the PMRC laboratory, Andronov concludes that only a fraction of the mosquitoes produced can be processed. Therefore, "it's evident that the rest are being sent from there to the CIA's Caribbean sabotage bases near Cuba."

o The Center is harmful to the local Pakistani population. Andronov repeats a story that a year ago, "dozens of Lahore residents were attacked by swarms of mosquitoes belonging to a species unusual in that region. People who were bitten by them came down with yellow fever, hepatitis, and jaundice, and some went insane." The Lahore doctors, Andronov claims, could do nothing to help their doomed patients. But they did find the source of the disaster--"the African *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes [which] were being incubated by the thousands at the PMRC laboratory." Citing more groundless rumors as further evidence, Andronov asserts that the PMRC researchers have exhibited a careless disregard for the local population and have exploited them as human guinea pigs.

o The U.S. personnel running the center are immoral, conniving, personally loathsome individuals totally lacking in respect for human life. Andronov resorts to extremely derogatory and crude descriptions of the two American scientists he dealt with at the center, trying in his physical characterization of them to underscore negative moral traits. They appear in his article as unbelievable caricatures of evil "mad scientists."

This story's unsubstantiated charges have been widely replayed by both Soviet and non-Soviet (especially South Asian) media. To cite just a few examples: TASS (Feb. 11) summarized the Literaturnaia gazeta story; Moscow Radio in an English-language broadcast (March 24) repeated and expanded upon it; a follow-up story was published in Literaturnaia gazeta on March 24; the Austrian Communist Party organ Volksstimme carried on April 3 an APN (Novosti) article containing the allegations against PMRC; the Pakistani mass-circulation daily Jang (in Urdu) printed an article based on Andronov's original; and the Times of India and the Patriot (India) carried on March 9 a Press Trust of India item quoting a TASS version of the story. Much use has been made of the radical Lahore weekly Viewpoint which has long been involved in developing and spreading propaganda against the PMRC.

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The techniques used in "Incubator of Death" are not new or unusual, but Andronov employs them with considerable skill. Several of the most noteworthy are:

- o Incorporating some facts and elements of truth into a disinformation effort. A prime example of this is the impressive-sounding scientific background on malaria and disease-carrying mosquitoes. Such material is designed to enhance the writer's credibility and impart to the whole story, including the most absurd aspects, an air of "scientific truthfulness."
- o Playing on the sensitivities, tears, or prejudices of members of one's audience. Many in third-world--and other--audiences are conditioned to believe charges of "CIA involvement" and respond in a predictable fashion to the cry of "CIA." Another attempt in Andronov's story to play to third-world readers is a description of how he pretends to be "a typical American" in order to get past the guards at the Medical Research Center: "After all, the management here was American and the guards were Pakistanis, which meant that they were probably used to subserviently obeying fair-skinned Yankees. And I was right: The guards stepped back when, thrusting out my chin Texas-style, I walked with a swagger up to the forbidden door."

Short Takes: Samples of Soviet Disinformation

This section presents, in brief form, particularly offensive and/or outrageous offerings from the Soviet media.

- o Repeat play on CIA complicity in Dozier kidnapping. Moscow Radio on February 24 reiterated a charge which originally surfaced immediately after the release of General Dozier by Red Brigade terrorists. The broadcast alleged: ". . . [M]any people in America wonder whether the Dozier case was not from start to finish a provocation by the CIA. . . . Such an operation could have been prepared to direct public attention away from the Pentagon's dangerous plans in Western Europe and to reduce the intensity of the antiwar movement in NATO countries." Incidentally, the Italian daily Corriere della Sera (March 26) noted that another old Soviet line has reappeared in the journal Druzhba narodov ("Friendship of the Peoples")--the absurd charge of CIA complicity in the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro.
- o U.S. staging a "publicity show" around Pentecostal Lidia Vashchenko. The case of the Soviet Pentecostals who sought and obtained refuge in the American Embassy Moscow years ago and are still there, unable to receive visas to emigrate, is a complex problem. U.S. authorities have long tried--and continue to try--to resolve the situation satisfactorily. The recent hunger strike, hospitalization, and eventual return home of one of the Pentecostals, Lidia Vashchenko, was widely reported in the West. The situation--and the publicity accorded it--was a great source

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of embarrassment to Moscow, particularly as it came at a time when Soviet authorities are going to extremes to demonstrate Soviet religious tolerance and win the support of international religious leaders and groups for Moscow's May propaganda-fest, the "World Peace Conference" nominally sponsored by the Russian Orthodox Patriarch. Thus Soviet propagandists, seeking to counter Western coverage, provided their own sketchy report of the Vashchenko episode, slanting it to portray the U.S. as "staging" various actions as "anti-Soviet publicity stunts." However--they noted reassuringly--this U.S. "anti-Soviet effort" was doomed to failure, since thinking people would immediately see through American behavior.

o "Children Kidnapped in Honduras" Reprinted from the FBIS translation (USSR Daily Report, February 23), here is a particularly absurd piece of Soviet disinformation.

Moscow Radio in Spanish to Latin America:

In Honduras, the CIA is kidnapping children of Salvadoran refugees. These operations are being carried out behind the facade of the religious organization, World Vision, which officially performs charitable activities in refugee camps. The shepherds of souls, who are in fact CIA agents, promised the mothers that their children will receive good nourishment and education in the United States. The poor peasants can only acquiesce since their children are threatened with death by starvation. They give their children to World Vision missionaries and thus hundreds of children of both sexes have been taken to camps in unknown places.

Some information about the whereabouts of those Salvadoran children who were sent to the United States has surfaced through delegates to the international encounter of Christian organizations in Cuernavaca, Mexico. One of those delegates, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, reported that those Salvadoran children have been taken to CIA special camps in the United States where they are submitted to tests before being separated in groups. Thus some groups are sent to special brainwashing schools where they are trained to spy and perform terrorist acts. Others who do not qualify for the special training are sent to research establishments of the CIA where the children are used as guinea pigs to test medicines and chemicals capable of changing human consciousness, to practice lobotomies and other experiments.

In the Cuernavaca encounter it was learned that World Vision had performed the same kind of activities in Vietnam.

Prepared by: PGM/R Staff

== Soviet Propaganda Alert ==

No. 8

June 8, 1982

Summary

In May, Soviet external propaganda stressed:

Arms Control and Disarmament. Attacks on proposals made by President Reagan in his Eureka College speech comprised a major portion of Soviet external propaganda. President Brezhnev's proposals in his speech to the Communist Youth Organization Congress were lauded as reasonable and fair in contrast to those of the U.S. The U.S. was accused of trying to force the Soviet Union to disarm unilaterally and of seeking military superiority. The antinuclear movement in the U.S. was portrayed as strong and growing. The U.S. was charged with stalling at the Geneva INF talks.

Falklands Crisis. Soviet propaganda carefully avoided supporting the Argentine regime per se, but came out strongly against the British, accusing them of aggression and colonialism. The U.S. came under attack for allegedly stalling while pretending to be neutral in order to give the British fleet time to get in position. The U.S. was also accused of desiring military bases in the Falklands. Soviet commentators emphasized the damage done to U.S.-Latin American relations, and predicted the collapse of the OAS. Soviet Spanish-language broadcasts to Latin America were especially tendentious.

Chemical and Biological Warfare. Although attention to CBW remained at a high level, with the main emphasis being on alleged U.S. preparations for CBW, few new themes were developed.

Moscow Conference of Religious Workers. Commentary thus far has been low-key, stressing peace and disarmament themes.

NATO Spring Session. Soviets came out swinging as they attacked Secretary Haig for demanding further build-ups in all fields and for allegedly pressuring the NATO allies to get in line with the U.S.'s "aggressive course."

**Office of Research
International Communication Agency
Washington, D.C.**

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ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

Soviet propaganda in May concentrated on arms control and related issues. While Soviet propaganda always pays great attention to this topic, President Reagan's Eureka College and President Brezhnev's Young Communist League Congress speeches raised the salience of arms control and disarmament themes. With new arms control talks a real possibility, a major part of the increased attention can also be attributed to Soviet Party and government use of their media to justify their positions before their own and the world public.

U.S. Build-Up Real, Soviet "Threat" A Myth

Two standard and long-time themes form the background against which Soviet arguments on arms control are made. The first is that the U.S. is engaging in a relentless--although ultimately futile--attempt to achieve military superiority which can be used to blackmail politically or perhaps even annihilate physically the Soviet Union. A typical example is a May 10 Radio Moscow English broadcast taking the U.S. to task for refusing to agree to a total nuclear test ban suggesting that the U.S. plans for "unprecedented" nuclear rearmament in the next few years and is making "energetic preparations for nuclear war."

On the other hand, Soviet propaganda dismisses the idea that the USSR constitutes a nuclear or conventional threat to the West. A Yurii Soltan commentary on Radio Moscow English (May 12) innocently asserted:

The Soviet Union has never initiated an arms race, including a race in nuclear armaments. The Soviet Union has never spent on defense a single ruble beyond what is absolutely necessary to guarantee its own security and that of its allies. The same can be said about the future.

Implicitly contrasting Soviet and U.S. policy, an April 29 S. Vishnevskii Pravda article entitled ". . . Pot Calling The Kettle Black" somewhat more aggressively spoke of:

. . . the strictly defensive nature of Soviet military doctrine which rules out preventive wars and the first-strike concept. And, of course . . . the Soviet Union has never blackmailed anyone with the threat of the use of military force, and still less that of nuclear weapons.

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President's Eureka Speech Dismissed As Propaganda

Apart from the occasional grudging acknowledgment that President Reagan's Eureka College speech signaled a new willingness on the part of the U.S. to negotiate, Soviet commentaries were totally negative--some vociferously so. A Vladislav Koziaikov Radio Moscow English commentary on May 13 was typical:

There are two major points in President Reagan's speech One is the repetition of numerous slanderous accusations against the Soviet Union . . . and the other is the assessment of proposals aimed at achieving unilateral military superiority.

Koziaikov went on to call the U.S. proposals "insincere and intended to conceal the large-scale nuclear rearmament program planned by Washington." He concluded by saying that this "propaganda trick invented by American policy-makers" will not work.

The Soviets make it clear that while they do not view the START proposal as a new or particularly positive development, they regard the Reagan offer to begin START talks as a "step in the right direction."

Leonid Brezhnev's May 18 speech to the Young Communist League Congress provided the first official high-level reaction. Brezhnev reiterated many of the themes in gentler, more subtle terms than those used by media commentators. He also relied heavily on bland, general statements on the Soviet desire for peace, the importance of negotiations, and similar subjects.

In general, Soviet media emphasized the following points:

- o Arms limitation agreements between the U.S. and the USSR must be based on "equality and undiminished security," principles to which the START proposal does not adhere.
- o The U.S. is seeking unilateral advantage: the Reagan proposal tries to exploit force asymmetries, requiring the USSR to reduce its ICBMs considerably while the U.S. makes only symbolic reductions in its missiles.
- o The START proposal is encountering strong criticism from prominent figures in the U.S. and from "the public." Soviet media highlight critical statements from Western sources.
- o "Some critics" of the Reagan proposal see it as "part of a secret plan by advocates of a tough course to sabotage disarmament so that the United States can continue the rearmament programs without hindrance." (Soviet commentators generally promote this theme by carefully citing Western media sources.)

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Antinuclear Movement Highlighted

Almost every commentary on the subject of arms control and disarmament took note of the antinuclear movement in the U.S. and West Europe. The impression given was that the Pentagon and the White House were virtually besieged with demonstrations and protests against present U.S. policy and plans for building up nuclear and conventional forces.

Speaking on Moscow domestic radio's "International Observers' Roundtable" program on May 3, Vitalii Kobysh gave his account of the antiwar movement:

I was in America recently and can say as an eyewitness that America is literally on the boil and gripped by the antiwar movement. It is moving horizontally, gripping one state after another and one town and county after another; and is also moving vertically, gripping various strata and classes of society.

Washington-based Izvestiia correspondent M. Sturua, in a May 29 dispatch, also testifies to the strength of the movement, describing it as "spreading here faster than a forest fire." The driving force behind it is not any mythical Soviet threat, according to Sturua; it represents "a defensive reaction against the intensified playing with nuclear fire which American imperialism is indulging in."

Writing in the May 16 edition of Pravda, Pavel Demchenko reviewed the worldwide antiwar protests which took place on May Day, and noted the "mass demonstrations [which] were held the other day in Washington at the Pentagon's walls. . . ." The demonstrations supposedly culminated peace marches from Los Angeles and New Orleans which passed through many U.S. cities and which were "everywhere greeted warmly by representatives of public and religious organizations."

Soviet observers see the effects of the antinuclear movement perhaps not as forcing the U.S. Administration to change its policies, but certainly as causing it to shift its propaganda strategy. President Reagan's Eureka proposal for arms talks falls into this category, as do alleged Administration attempts to defuse protests against its policies by claiming that it sympathizes with the basic principles of the movement. On the May 9 edition of Radio Moscow's "International Observers' Roundtable," Gennadii Shishkin commented:

Until quite recently, the Washington Administration was not particularly concerned about propaganda ploys to camouflage its militaristic course. . . . Clearly in response to criticism, Washington is now making quite

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an effort to make certain adjustments to its propaganda activity and to try to instill in the public the idea of the peace-lovingness of the Reagan Administration. . . . The President even tried to pass himself off as a peace campaigner, and very nearly as a participant in the anti-war movement! He attempted to seduce the people who have joined this movement with a promise to remember peace. . . .

Resumption of Geneva INF Talks

The resumption on May 20 of the INF talks in Geneva was met by Soviet propaganda with strong assertions of the reasonableness of the Soviet position and the absurdity of that of the U.S. Commentaries drew heavily on President Brezhnev's May 18 Young Communist League speech which set out the Soviet attitude toward disarmament in terms "free from any selective approach to the problem" and--in contrast to the attitude of the U.S.--free from seeking "unilateral advantage for itself."

A flurry of print and broadcast commentaries attempted to portray the Soviet Union as the long-suffering promoter of peace and compromise while painting the U.S. as unreasonable, intransigent, and dishonest. Yurii Soltan, in a May 20 Radio Moscow English program, described U.S. behavior thus:

Unfortunately, during the first phase of the talks, the American delegation mostly used the tactics of procrastination. It kept putting forward proposals they knew were unacceptable to the other side, proposals frankly aimed at ensuring for NATO as much as double superiority in medium-range nuclear weapons.

Soltan concluded by warning that the "reasonable approach" which U.S. delegation leader Paul Nitze said the U.S. had drafted during the break in the talks was welcome, but Nitze's statements to the press "set analysts on their guard."

A very strong element of Soviet propaganda, both with regard to INF and strategic weapons, is that tabling totally new proposals is not acceptable. Speaking of INF in a May 20 Radio Moscow domestic service broadcast, Nikolai Shishkin noted:

Of course, it would be important for both the United States and the countries of NATO . . . to pay attention to the Soviet approach--that we do not want to start these talks with a clean sheet. We want these talks to include everything of value which was gained by efforts over a period of many years within the framework of Moscow-Washington talks on the problems of arms limitations.

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FALKLANDS CRISIS

The Falklands crisis occupied a major place in Soviet reporting and commentary during May. The Soviets were careful not to be seen as supporting the Argentine regime, but rather to be seen as defenders of the principle of decolonialism. While there may have been little overt pro-Argentine slant in Soviet commentary, there was a vociferous anti-British line which absolutely denied any legitimacy to British claims and condemned the British as unreconstructed colonialists.

Early U.S. Neutrality Called Ruse

The British were not the main target of Soviet propaganda, however; that honor was reserved for the U.S. Charging that the U.S. had never really been neutral in the dispute, an Anatolii Gan Radio Moscow English broadcast on May 3 typified this line:

In reality the much-publicized shuttle diplomacy of Secretary of State Alexander Haig was nothing but a screen to cover up the Anglo-American compact against Argentina. Haig moreover was winning time to enable the British naval armada to reach the area of the Falklands.

U.S. Said To Want Falklands As Military Base

The main U.S. motive in "giving Britain the green light" was its desire for control of the South Atlantic, mainly by establishing bases on the Falklands. Writing in Pravda on May 9, Nikolai Prozhogin noted:

Indeed, there can hardly be any question of neutrality when from the very start of the crisis Washington has been trying to get its own hands on the subject of the conflict--the Falkland Islands--and establish itself there under the cover of the transfer of the islands to rule by a "tripartite administration--that is, with the participation of the United States itself."

U.S. Involvement Not Limited To Falklands

But Soviet commentators stress that the U.S. involvement goes beyond the Falklands or even the South Atlantic. Yurii Kornilov, in a May 6 Radio Moscow domestic service broadcast, noted:

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U.S. actions in support of the British militarists fall into the same category as Washington's attacks on Nicaragua, its threats against Cuba and its interference in the affairs of El Salvador. These are all links in the same chain and an integral part of the global imperialist course of the United States, which is based on a reliance on force and attempts to use the big stick to reshape the map of the world, and to dictate its wishes to sovereign countries and peoples.

Yurii Zubkov generalized this theme to the entire Third World in a May 5 Moscow television commentary:

The aggressive actions in the South Atlantic show that [the U.S. and Britain] have need of military might primarily for blackmail and pressure against those developing countries of the Third World which conduct an independent course, and to strengthen and expand the NATO sphere of activity.

Hypocrisy, treachery, brute force--anything will do for the U.S. Administration's diplomacy and actions in order to create yet another military base, in order to consolidate in yet another part of the world, in order to take another step toward military superiority.

Soviets See Possibility Of OAS Collapse

Soviet glee at the damage caused to U.S.-Latin American relations by U.S. support of Britain was barely restrained. Moreover, many commentaries speculated that the U.S. action would lead to the complete collapse of the inter-American alliance. Radio Peace and Progress, broadcasting in Spanish to Latin America on May 11, quoted former Uruguayan Foreign Minister Rovira to that effect, and pushed his idea for replacing the OAS with a regional UN organization for Latin America without the participation of the U.S. Novoe Vremia on May 7 also published a long article entitled "Will President Monroe Spin In His Grave?" which purportedly proved the need for a fundamental reorganization of the OAS.

Other broadcasts and articles pounded away at the theme of the U.S.'s "betrayal" of its hemispheric allies and its failure to live up to its obligations under the Rio Treaty. Yurii Kornilov, in a May 3 TASS commentary, pointed out:

It was not long ago that Washington bristled on every occasion . . . with highfalutin talk to the effect that the United States was all but the most "loyal friend" and "dependable ally" of the Latin

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American countries and that it was prepared, if need be, to honor the commitments assumed and take part in the "collective defense" of these countries.

But now there has emerged a situation in which one of the Latin American states, Argentina, is indeed threatened with the British mailed fist. The Washington "friend" has not only "forgotten" the inter-American assistance treaty, not only pointedly refused to subscribe to the decision of the consultative conference of the foreign ministers of the OAS countries, . . . but openly stated its support for London.

Moscow Spanish Takes The Low Road

Moscow's Spanish-language broadcasts to Latin America were definitely more strident and inflammatory than the Russian or English. For example, a Radio Peace and Progress Spanish broadcast on May 12 speculated on the presence of nuclear weapons aboard British ships. Recalling that the Pentagon had often advocated using nuclear weapons in limited wars, the broadcast pointed out:

The United States in every way approves the aggressive operations carried out by its NATO ally and it may even suggest to England to prove that a nuclear war is feasible.

OTHER MAJOR TOPICS

Chemical and Biological Warfare

There were few noteworthy developments in Soviet themes on chemical and biological warfare (CBW) in May. The usual charges, countercharges, and denials resurfaced (see April "Propaganda Alert"), and no new themes were developed. Several articles and broadcasts discussed alleged U.S. (or U.S.-sponsored) CBW use in Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan.

TASS analyst Askold Biriukov charged that President Reagan's Eureka College comments on U.S. policy regarding CBW had no connection with U.S. deeds:

Neither nice words nor frauds will help Washington cover up preparations for a large-scale chemical warfare which are under way in the United States. The peoples who have still fresh in their memory

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acts of genocide committed by the United States toward the residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, against the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea, are not confident that the United States will not commit new crimes against mankind.

Moscow Conference Of Religious Workers

The Moscow conference of "Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life from Nuclear Catastrophe" came off without a hitch and can be considered a subtle propaganda success for the Soviet Union. While no ringing endorsements of Soviet policy were issued and the U.S. was never directly taken to task, the Soviets accrued some credits by sponsoring the conference. The conference was not given a great deal of play in the media. The propaganda points will probably be scored in the future as the final document is used to support attacks on U.S. weapons policy (among others, it called for a ban on the use of enhanced radiation warheads).

NATO Council Spring Session

The NATO Council session was characterized as being devoted to attempts by the U.S. to bring its allies into line. TASS on May 18 saw the session as:

opening against a background of U.S. and NATO leaders' intensifying pressure on West European countries aimed at forcing them to agree unreservedly to a course of confrontation in the international sphere and the activation of military preparations proclaimed by Washington.

Secretary Haig is said to have demanded a further build-up of NATO military potential in all fields. According to the Soviets, he "unleashed frantic activity" in an effort to whip recalcitrant allies into line with the U.S.'s aggressive course. The final communique--especially the passages on economic sanctions--came in for special condemnation.

AROUND THE WORLD

Western Europe

The U.S. and NATO were accused of attempting to convert Cyprus into a Middle East outpost. Norway was taken to task for acceding to U.S. and NATO plans for making it a jumping-off place for conventional and nuclear attacks on the Soviet Union. Secretary Haig's trip to Greece was portrayed as an attempt to bring the country to heel and return it to the

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NATO fold. The U.S. was accused of intolerable interference in the internal affairs of France when the U.S. Ambassador allegedly criticized the government for permitting communists to become ministers. The machinations of the U.S. and its NATO allies in Poland came in for the usual heavy treatment.

The Netherlands gave the excuse for perhaps the nastiest anti-U.S. comment of the month. Speaking of the monument to slain Dutch journalists in El Salvador placed in front of the U.S. consulate in Amsterdam, Radio Moscow English commentator Viktor Olin spoke of its appropriateness:

The Dutch journalists were killed with United States bullets, fired from United States rifles. They were killed by soldiers trained by United States instructors and led by officers trained at United States schools. They were killed on orders from people fully obedient to Washington.

Latin America

Several commentaries on Cuba stressed the armed blackmail represented by the Ocean Venture-82 exercises.

Asia

Vice President Bush's visit to China commanded heavy attention. Commentaries stressed that, despite allegedly duplicitous U.S. behavior with respect to the Taiwan issue, there was little possibility of a U.S.-PRC split over Taiwan. Japan was described as being turned into a dangerous "springboard for U.S. expansion into the Far East" contrary to the wishes of its people.

Africa

U.S. complicity in South Africa's raids on Angola was allegedly proven by the fact that they took place shortly after a visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Crocker. The U.S. is supposedly turning Kenya into one of its strongholds in the Indian Ocean.

Middle East

Israel's raids into Lebanon were tied to the arrival of U.S. envoy Richard Fairbanks. The U.S. is purportedly exploiting the Iran-Iraq war to widen the split among the Arab countries.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Listed below are representative Soviet press and TASS items on themes discussed in this report. Translations or summaries of virtually all appeared in the FBIS Daily Report (Soviet Union) in late April and May.

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

- "For A Just 'Zero Option'" by Yurii Kornilov, TASS English, May 3.
- ". . . Pot Calling The Kettle Black" by S. Vishnevskii, Pravda, April 29.
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