

# Soviet Military Threat: Reality, Not "Myths"

DEEMING any talk about a Soviet threat taboo, the Kremlin rulers have denounced comments on the new tsars' military menace to other countries on the basis of facts as "fabricated myths." They have alleged that "no Soviet menace exists at all" and "the Soviet Union threatens no one."

Can it be that the new tsars really threaten no one with all their feverish arms expansion and war preparations and their aggression and expansion in all parts of the world?

A mere look at the military situation in Europe in the past year shows that the new tsars' military menace to Western Europe is not a "myth" but stark reality.

In August 1975, when the European security conference was still being acted out, some Western press, comparing the present with the Munich scheme of nearly 40 years ago, noted that they sensed a rather strong Munich smell in Helsinki. It was no European security conference but a European insecurity conference. Developments in the past year point to the fact that the war danger was obviously mounting in Europe as the new tsars increased their military threat against Western Europe.

Barely a month after the European security conference, in September 1975, the Soviet Union tested its rockets over the Barents Sea on Europe's northern flank. The roaring rockets made a bitter mockery of the sanctimonious talk about "detente" at the conference. In August, one year after the European security conference, Soviet missiles again roared over the Barents Sea, deeply worrying the West European public. Now, when the 31st Session of the U.N. General Assembly has just begun and Gromyko is chanting his usual hymn of "disarmament," the new tsars tested their missiles for the third time over the same Barents Sea. One may well ask: How can this sabre-rattling be dismissed as a mere "myth" and not harsh reality?

The Soviet Union has not confined itself to testing guided missiles three times over the northern flank of Europe in a year. The Western press has quoted reliable sources as saying that after the tests the Soviet Union had deployed MIRVs in Central Europe.

Soviet military exercises in North, Central and Southeast Europe are now held more frequently than ever and on an increasing scale. The new tsars' armed forces deployed in Central Europe have been reinforced again and again and now greatly outnumber the NATO forces numerically. Soviet aircraft, guns, tanks and other armour there outstrip NATO's in number and existing Soviet weapons are constantly being replaced with more sophisticated ones.

One may well ask: Is all this "myth" or reality?

Last August, the new tsars dispatched the aircraft carrier *Kiev* to intimidate Western Europe as soon as it was commissioned. It left the Black Sea and entered the Mediterranean through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles Straits. It then cruised westward in the Mediterranean and reached the Soviet Baltic naval base by passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, the North Atlantic and the North Sea. By sending their aircraft carrier to throw its weight around all along the southern, western, northern and eastern coasts of Western Europe, the new tsars taught those who once harboured illusions about the European security conference another lesson.

What is the significance of the cruise of the carrier *Kiev*? An answer to the question was given by Soviet Fleet Admiral S.G. Gorshkov. In his book, *The Sea Power of the State*, which came off the press not long ago, the admiral made some frank remarks on the nature, tasks and role of the Soviet navy which are naturally applicable to the *Kiev*. Following are two typical remarks he made:

"In 1783, the tsarist government, taking advantage of its naval superiority in the Black Sea, annexed the Crimea without war and made it a part of the Russian state, and in 1830, without taking any military action, formed a defence alliance with Turkey in its favour."

"In many cases, a show of naval force without taking armed action may achieve political ends merely by exerting pressure through its latent power or by threatening to take military action."

These remarks by the top dog in the Soviet navy are worth reading as they are franker than the lipservice to "European security," "disarmament" and "detente" paid by the Kremlin demagogues. They serve to shed a revealing light on some of the new tsars' designs:

1. Unleash wars of aggression and annex the territories of others by means of Soviet military strength;
2. Dominate the seas by relying on their naval supremacy and force other countries to conclude unequal treaties with them;
3. Realize their hegemonist political aim by such gangster methods as displaying their "latent power" and "threatening to take military action."

Such a shameless aggressive statement would have caused the old-line imperialists to blush for being far behind the new tsars.

All this is certainly not a "myth" but grim reality. The actions were committed by the new tsars and the words came directly from their own mouths. Still, they

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wanted to dismiss current talk about the Soviet military menace as "myths." As a matter of fact, it is precisely the new tsars who have mouthed so much rubbish.

As such rubbish is wearing thin, many of those in power in Western Europe have begun to realize that "European security" and "detente" are very much like a castle in the air. What is real and pressing is the increased military menace posed by the new tsars, which closes in from all sides, by air, sea and land, on Western Europe. Consequently, the appeasement policy and the Munich mentality have come under ever heavier fire in the West European press. Political circles in West European countries, including many in power, are deeply disturbed by this menace.

The Kremlin masters also have been talking, tongue in cheek, about "materialization of detente" to stimulate the inflow of Western capital and technology. But many in the West have now realized that they have been tricked by Moscow. They have pointed out that the credit and technology granted the new tsars can only serve to aid their arms expansion and war preparations to menace the West. The "materialization of detente" is figuratively described by many as "one-way traffic" with money, grain and technology flowing to the new tsars as gifts.

All aggressors believe that weapons decide everything, and the new tsars are no exception. However, can the people of the world be conquered by a few warships? What was the fate of the British Empire that once ruled the roost over the sea because of its naval superiority? Today, hasn't the dollar empire that has a large number of aircraft carriers found itself in the plight as described by the Chinese verse "flowers fall off, do what one may"? The new tsars have now spent large sums of money in arms expansion and war preparations by fleecing the Soviet people. They have strained themselves to the limit to produce their first aircraft carrier and as soon as it was commissioned, they sent it out to intimidate people in the fond hope of conquering other nations and dominating the world "without taking military action." How pathetic they look!

Today, when the tide against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism is on the upsurge all over the world, anyone who wants to launch a war of aggression, no matter how powerful he is on land or sea, can never escape the punishment which will eventually be meted out to him by the people. Countries want independence; nations want liberation and the people want revolution — this is the most powerful force that can conquer everything in the world today.

(A commentary by Hsinhua  
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