

## Contention With US Intensifies

# SOVIET UNION GEARS

The Soviet Union (USSR), once the leader of worldwide proletarian revolution, is no longer a socialist country. In 1956 a group of new capitalists who developed inside the Soviet Party and the Soviet State, grabbed political control. These new tsars exercise complete domination over the Soviet working class, and they oppress various nations within the boundaries of their state. Unlike the United States, which has several relatively distinct groupings of capitalists vying with each other, the Soviet Union has developed a form of state monopoly capitalism with a much higher degree of concentration and centralization. The Soviet capitalists have tighter control on the state apparatus through their fascist-type government. Thus they are able to control their economy more directly and are at an advantage over their U.S. counterparts by being able to gear the economy towards increasing militarization.

This militarization finds its expression in military expansion and interference throughout the globe. In the U.S.-Soviet tug-of-war the USSR has become the main danger to world peace; the new standard-bearer of a world war. While both superpowers desire world domination, Western Europe is the focus of their contention. In addition to its markets, labor supply, resources, etc., the U.S.S.R. seeks control of Western Europe so that they can break the backs of their U.S. rivals. U.S. loss of Western Europe as a sphere of influence (large capital investments, markets, political influence), would finish it as a superpower and would temporarily leave the USSR as the dominant power. Let us look at how the Soviet Union is gearing up for war.

### THE NEW TSARS

The new Soviet bourgeoisie is proving to be worthy successors to the old tsars of Russia. Like the old tsars, they seek world control and spare no effort to gain it, including military force. Today the new Tsars have no qualms about threatening the people of Greece by openly anchoring their war vessels off the Greek island of

Kithira and the coasts of Crete. The Soviets have a threefold purpose for stationing these warships off the Grecian coasts to "warn" Greece against extending their territorial waters from 6 to 12 miles in order that the USSR may maintain a close presence to Greece, to oust the U.S. influence from the Mediterranean; to create a state of tension in the Mediterranean and create discord among the Mediterranean countries -- a tension and discord they hope to take advantage of, in much the same way that they fished in the troubled waters of Angola.

In Sweden the Minister of Swedish Defense called on his government to increase Sweden's defense efforts in the face of the growing Soviet menace. He said that, "a persistent threat haunts our country because we are strategically situated between two blocs of strength." And Sweden has good cause to worry since the USSR has recently expanded their military forces on the Kola Peninsula (east of Sweden) to huge proportions. They are not just preparing a defense against Swedish attack.

Since the beginning of 1976, after the much publicized Helsinki Conference, which the Soviets claimed was a major step in the direction of peace, the USSR has staged a number of offensive military maneuvers taking Western Europe as their hypothetical enemy. In the first half of 1976 they staged two large-scale combat exercises in the Balkans and in Northern Europe. In September the USSR and members of its aggressive military bloc, the Warsaw Pact, held a joint exercise in Western Poland called "Shield-76". This was a blatant show of force to Western Europe and an open attempt to scare those countries.

No sooner had the ink dried on the Helsinki

agreements than the Soviets fired rockets into the disputed area of the Barents between Norway and the Soviet Union. In recent months the Soviet Union has moved 6 submarines equipped with nuclear weapons from Murmansk to the Baltic Sea through the Great Belt Strait in Danish territory. The Soviet Union thus gained the "honor" of being the first country to send nuclear submarines into the Baltic Sea. Recently it was found out that the Warsaw Pact bloc had secretly worked out a plan for a three-pronged invasion of West Germany and on the basis of this plan, had held several military exercises in the Elbe region. At the same time, Soviet naval ships have been surveying the depth of canals, rivers and streams and inspecting the lay of the terrain with the aim of determining the most suitable route for a Soviet tank invasion.

Also of course we cannot overlook the fact that the USSR now has over 600,000 troops stationed in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, and that this number is still growing. Of tremendous military advantage to the USSR is the fact that through the Warsaw Pact and its bilateral treaties with each of the East European countries, the new Tsars now control the armed forces of those countries, including munitions production, armament and service of supply and which takes the form of unified command, training and organization and joint maneuvers. The U.S., of course, enjoys no such advantages with regard to NATO, although it has spared no effort in trying to obtain them. And in comparison to its U.S. rival, which spends about 6% of its annual national revenues on military armaments, the USSR spends 19% of its annual national product on military expenditures.

# UP FOR WORLD WAR

This figure surpasses that of Hitler's pre-war Germany.

## THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND RED SEA AREAS

In the South Atlantic area the USSR has established a number of military bases in the Antarctic region. They, of course, have completely free access to Cuban ports and naval bases. They secured this by propping up the price of Cuban sugar and by making Cuba economically and militarily dependent on the USSR. Through their armed intervention in Angola, they were able to establish a military beachhead on the east coast of the south Atlantic. Taken together the USSR has actually effected an encirclement of Latin America by controlling the sea lanes around it. This is obviously a desirable position in their struggle with the United States which has long regarded South America as its private political, economic and military reserve. It is the USSR which is now in a position to dominate the sea routes from the South Atlantic to the Cape of Good Hope.

In the Red Sea area, which joins the Atlantic and Indian oceans and forms a link between Asia, Africa and Europe the USSR has long carried out a policy of expansion, carrying out numerous infiltration and subversive activities in the area. As a result, more than one country has expelled numbers of their spy-diplomat-technicians. When some countries were having military and economic difficulties after throwing off the burden of centuries of colonial domination and were being threatened with imperialist and Israeli intervention, the USSR stepped in as the "socialist" bearer of "military and economic aid."

They thus sought to gain a foothold in those countries from which they could eventually bring them entirely under their domination. Egypt is a good case in point. In return for their military "aid" and "advisors" the Soviets demanded that the Egyptians provide part of Berenice port on the Red Sea and other ports on the Mediterranean for the Soviet navy. They said that their warships should be free to enter the ports without advance notice (such as during a war) while Egyptians would have to secure special permission from Soviet troops to enter their own facilities.

Is it any wonder that the late Egyptian leader, Gamal Nassar, once said of the USSR: "It is simply imperialism". This past year the USSR tried again, by demanding repayment of Egyptian debts at a time when Egypt was experiencing temporary economic and military difficulties. They accompanied this pressure with an actual attempt

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The USSR's rivalry with US imperialism for world domination is focused on Western Europe. Since the 1960's, the new tsars have been calling for a relaxation of tension in Europe. At the same time they have accelerated the speed of their military build up and war preparations there. Today, they are closing in on Western Europe from the land, the sea and air. The threat of a new World War confronts us all

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to subvert the Egyptian government. On March 15, 1976, the Egyptians responded by tearing up the Egyptian-Soviet friendship treaty and closed all port facilities to the Soviet navy.

The USSR has twice instigated and backed unsuccessful coups-de-etat in the Sudan in a vain attempt to gain yet another military foothold in the Red Sea. They have also used the trick of withholding needed military aid to the Yemen Arab Republic and to Saudi Arabia in an effort to get them to make military concessions to them.

More and more Red Sea countries have begun to recognize the menace posed by the USSR. Recently the Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt held a joint summit to discuss questions of joint defense. President Numeri of the Sudan said, "The Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and all other Red Sea littoral countries are considering seriously the problem of security in the Red Sea area. We understand profoundly the importance of the Red Sea as an international passage. We should expel all enemies from this area through military, diplomatic and economic means."

## PEOPLE OF THE WORLD MUST UNITE AND GET PREPARED!

We have presented the facts in this article, not to cause alarm among the working class, but in order to make the workers conscious of the cloud of war which hangs over the world and to make clear the menace of the Soviet Union. Throughout the world more and more countries are becoming aware that the USSR is a social-imperialist country hell-bent on war. As a result they are moving to strengthen their defense capabilities.

The people of Europe especially still bear the painful memories of the last World War. They clearly see the similarity between the Soviet Union of today, and the old Germany of Adolph Hitler. That is why more and more people are demanding an end to the policy of appeasement, or "detente" with the fascist USSR. We too, must fight, to expose the fraud of "detente" as a cover for war preparations, as well as opposing any appeasement with the USSR. History has shown that appeasement inevitably leads to war, rather than to the prevention of war. Most especially must we oppose the policy of providing long-term credits and aid to the USSR, as well as all shipments of grain, technology and machinery. This aid and material only allows the Soviets to maintain and speed-up their frantic military build-up, and brings closer the day when they will unleash a world war. Hitler's Germany also took advantage of such trade to keep their economy geared toward massive military production.

This does not mean that we must support the so-called "hawks" in the U.S. government. It is our task as part of a superpower to fight against its imperialist war preparations and to intensify the struggle to overthrow "our" capitalists one and ALL. If we are unable to pre-

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# War

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vent them from waging a world war with the Soviet Union we are duty bound to turn such a war into a civil war aimed at smashing the capitalist state and putting into power the workers' dictatorship. In this way we contribute to the worldwide united front against both superpowers. This front is our surest guarantee for the prevention of war, for the advancement of the forces of liberation, independence and revolution. ★

