

## Moscow regroupes to crush democratic revolutions

by Konstantin George

An era of East-West strategic confrontation has begun, with the simultaneous decision by the Eastern Slavic military, political, and Orthodox Church elites of Russia, Bulgaria, and Serbia to create new, dictatorial-imperial leaderships, based on Great Russian, Greater Bulgarian, and Greater Serbian chauvinist and anti-Western movements. These movements are components of a counteroffensive orchestrated by Moscow against the democratic revolutions in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and the democratic revolutionary potential in the rest of the East bloc, which has created the world-historic opportunity for destroying Bolshevism and sparking a renaissance based on truly sovereign nation-states, including a reunified, independent Germany.

The “clever” calculations of George Bush and Margaret Thatcher, who think that they are managing and manipulating the Soviets, are exposed as total delusions. The Soviet circles that are moving toward a world empire are on the ascendancy, and if anything, it is they who are manipulating the “useful fools” of the West. But with the Soviet economy at breaking point, and the demand for freedom growing in every satellite and subjugated republic, the situation that is emerging is one nobody will be able to control. That is what makes the coming period so very dangerous.

The chauvinist upsurge that is being unleashed, with its Pan-Slavic overtones, is an operation being conducted behind the cover of so-called “multi-party systems.” In Russia, the mass Russian chauvinist organization Pamyat and nine of its sister organizations created, on Dec. 29, a de facto Great Russian political party, the Bloc of Social-Patriotic Organizations of Russia, to run candidates in the March 4 elections in the Russian Federation. The bloc’s program de-

mands the elimination of “Western influences,” foreign investment, private property, cooperatives—i.e., a complete break with the perestroika reform policies of the past years. Its proclaimed mission is to save the Russian Empire from dissolution, by rallying the Russian population to fight secessionist tendencies in the Baltic, Transcaucasus, and Ukraine.

The same phenomenon is occurring in the Balkans. A “nationalist opposition,” backed by the Army and Bulgarian Orthodox Church, has arisen in Bulgaria, leading the mass anti-Turkish demonstrations under the slogan, “Bulgaria for the Bulgarians.” In Yugoslavia, the same turning point began in December, when Serbia’s President, the demagogue Slobodan Milosevic, agreed to transform Yugoslavia into a “multi-party system,” which, based on demographics, would be dominated by a Greater Serbian coalition of that country’s Eastern Slavic majority of Serbs, Montenegrins, and Macedonians.

The ugly turn in Moscow, set off against the systemic crisis and economic breakdown shaking the Russian Empire, is reflected in events occurring in the Balkans, Central Europe, and the Transcaucasus along the borders with Iran and Turkey. In the Soviet Union, a new grouping is rapidly coming to power. It is centered on an alliance of the military-industrial complex, the military command, and the security organs, and fueled by a mass-based Russian chauvinist upsurge. It may rule with or without Gorbachov as its nominal head. A decisive policy turn, however, is under way, and with it, the old Gorbachov era, as such, is dead.

A look at the various “fronts” on the map shows the policy turn in the making, and the strategic crisis being generated.

Yardsticks of how fast the parallel growth of Serbian

chauvinism and Yugoslavia's disintegration are proceeding, were provided on Jan. 8, when, in a postwar first, a Serbian chauvinist party, called Serbian Popular Renewal, and a Croatian nationalist party, the Croatian Democratic Society, were founded at respective party conferences in the Serbian region of Vojvodina, between the Danube and Hungary, and in the Croatian port of Split on the Adriatic.

### **Turn in East Germany**

Beyond the Balkan theater, the Moscow-ordered counteroffensive is clearly visible in the arrogant behavior of the Soviet puppet party, the SED, in East Germany. The post-October period of SED retreat before the democratic revolution in the Soviet-occupied part of Germany, has, at least for the present, ended, and a counteroffensive has been launched. The SED's counteroffensive is relying on the blackmail capability provided by the 380,000 Soviet troops on German soil.

The communist regime of Prime Minister Hans Modrow has drawn the line on further concessions to the population. It has not only announced categorically and repeatedly since the New Year that the Stasi (state security apparatus) will not only *not* be disbanded, but went out of its way to arrogantly proclaim on Jan. 8 that the state security apparatus will be kept at a strength of 60,000 full-time salaried personnel. This figure does not convey the full strength of the hated Stasi structure. The Stasi also maintains an army of tens of thousands of stringers and informants throughout the German Democratic Republic.

The SED counteroffensive reflects a Moscow policy, a point vividly demonstrated by a signal article in the Jan. 8 *Pravda* by Markus Wolf, officially the head of East German intelligence (the Stasi's Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung) until February 1986, and unofficially, at present, the general director of the East German counterrevolution. In *Pravda*, Wolf asserted in a confident tone that "the SED-PDS" as the SED now calls itself after its December Party Congress, "possesses sufficient strength for radical renewal," emphasizing that now, the SED "must firm up its ranks," and profile itself as the party that can deal with the problems of daily life.

In this campaign, the SED will make full use of its total media monopoly and its unbroken control of the state apparatus, two fronts where it has refused to make any concessions. The SED will give away nothing. As has been the case till now, only when a mass movement gives it no other choice, will the SED concede.

### **New explosions in the Transcaucasus**

The mass eruptions that began on Dec. 31 along the Soviet-Iranian border in Azerbaijan, later extended to the Soviet-Turkish border, have internationalized the crisis in the Transcaucasus, and thus raise crucial questions. One aspect of the developing crisis there, is deliberate KGB complicity in preparing the groundwork for a possible north-

south split of Iran in the near future.

Moscow, by its own admission, had one month's advance warning that, by Dec. 31, action would be taken to demolish border installations. Azerbaijani protesters in early December had given a deadline of Dec. 31 for opening the Soviet-Iranian border.

Yet, no action was taken, allowing a full-scale crisis to explode, with international ramifications. Why? Soviet media waited three days, until Jan. 2, when Azeri-Armenian violence resumed in the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, to report the destruction of border facilities and the Karabakh inter-ethnic violence. By Jan. 4, as documented in *Izvestia*, Moscow asserted that the mass outbreaks in Azerbaijan were a movement for "Azerbaijan reunification," i.e., the incorporation of Iranian Azerbaijan into Soviet Azerbaijan. Why did *Izvestia* thus influence events in such a potentially dangerous direction?

The same "benign neglect" policy existed during December toward the boiling situation in the Georgian region of South Ossetia, a region in continual turmoil since the end of November. Yet, only on the weekend of Jan. 6-7, after the Azerbaijan outbreak, did Moscow highlight this crisis, and dispatch more troops into Georgia. Finally, on Dec. 15, the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers endorsed a Supreme Soviet commission's recommendations that the Meshketian Turkish minority (the victims of the Uzbekistan pogrom who were evacuated from Uzbekistan last June) be resettled in their old homeland in Georgia along the Turkish border.

Implementing this decision guarantees an instant Georgian versus Meshketian crisis along the Soviet-Turkish border. Has Moscow decided to create a perpetual crisis zone facing Iran and Turkey?

### **Balkan coups**

A crucial move in Moscow's counteroffensive was the Dec. 22 Army coup in Romania that toppled and executed Nicolae Ceausescu. That coup, and its results, in no way reflect the "we've had it with communism" wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Romanian people. The National Salvation Front regime the coup installed is a group of Soviet puppet communists, all stemming from the fewer than 1,000 families that formed the pre-war Romanian Communist Party. The NSF's leader, Ion Iliescu, is also a decades' long personal friend of Mikhail Gorbachov.

The Romanian coup, together with the mass anti-Turkish demonstrations in Bulgaria, and the fragmentation of Yugoslavia in Slovenia and Croatia's reaction to the rise of the "Greater Serbia" threat, have increased the danger of a conflagration in the Balkans. As in past Balkan crises, most notably that of 1910-14, which formed the trigger to World War I, the 1990 Balkan crisis could be the precursor to a general strategic crisis.

The dimensions matters have reached in the Balkans are already quite alarming. In Bulgaria on Jan. 5, unusual state-