ARIZONA NEWSLETTER
Doctors for Disaster Preparedness

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SOVIET BUNKER NETWORK REVEALED

The vast Soviet network of shelters and command facilities, under construction for four decades, was recently described in detail by Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci.

The shelters are designed to house the entire Politburo, the Central Committee, and the key leadership of the Ministry of Defense and the KGB. Some are located hundreds of yards beneath the surface, and are connected by secret subway lines, tunnels, and sophisticated communications systems.

"These facilities contradict in steel and concrete Soviet protestations that they share President Reagan's view that nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought," Carlucci said (*Arizona Republic*, April 3, 1988). "These facilities reveal that they are preparing themselves for just the opposite."

The shelters are also protected against chemical warfare agents, and stocked with sufficient supplies to allow the leadership to survive and wage war for months.

In contrast, the limited US shelter system begun in the 1950s has mostly been abandoned.

"To have something comparable, we'd have to have facilities where we could put every governor, mayor, every Cabinet official, and our whole command structure underground with subways running here and there," Carlucci said. "There's just no comparison between the two."

Soviet civil defense, which is celebrating its 56th anniversary, is more than just shelters, according to Sovietologist Leon Goure, who recently spoke at a seminar for young leaders sponsored by the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC. Soviet CD aims to protect the economy, in accord with Soviet doctrine that lack of preparedness in any area imperils the existence of the state. Goure noted that population protection is essential so that the people can supply the army. Soviet values dictate that citizens most valuable to the state are to be protected first.

At Chernobyl, all public services responded quickly. Within 24 hours, 1300 nurses and physicians, 240 ambulances, 250 firefighters, 2000 policeman, and 1100 buses were available. On the other hand, the experience demonstrated that the state of readiness was not as good as previously thought. In particular, civilians were not very well educated at operating radiation monitors. But rather than abandoning the whole idea, the Soviets are engaged in an upsurge of civil defense activities to repair the deficiencies, Goure said.

One contrast between Chernobyl and American nuclear power plants is the blast shelter from which plant workers managed the shutdown of the other reactors near the site. (The Nuclear Regulatory Commission does not require on-site shelter for American power plant workers.)

For further information on Soviet civil and strategic defenses, consult the 1988 edition of *Soviet Military Power*, available on request from the Defense Publications Office, 202-697-5737.

ArMA NUCLEAR PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

To implement the resolution favoring civil defense participation that passed at last year's House of Delegates meeting, nuclear preparedness is part of the Current Perspectives curriculum at the Arizona Medical Association meeting, Thursday, June 9, at Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson. The program will be presented twice, morning and afternoon.

Dr. Orient will summarize weapons effects and protective measures, using slides prepared by the USSR Department of Civil Defense. Phoenix radiation oncologist Kenneth A. Lucas, MD, will present his review of the German data from the Hamburg firestorm. This event, often cited as "proof" that shelters don't work, in actuality demonstrated the opposite. Arthur Robinson, PhD, will discuss fallout protection. Dr. Robinson has reviewed literally thousands of studies at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and has designed steel shelters that can be constructed at very low cost. Petr Beckmann, DrSc will speak on the subject "Chernobyl, Etc.: Nuclear Accidents and Terrorism." Dr. Beckmann publishes the newsletter *Access to Energy*, an important resource for all who are interested in environmental health hazards. (*AtE* readers learned about the indoor radon problem in 1979, long before the popular media caught on.) Dr. Beckmann was an enemy of public hysteria even before the AIDS epidemic. Eugene Zutell, emergency planner in the Arizona Division of Emergency Services, will emphasize long-term weapons effects such as "nuclear winter"

Continuing Medical Education credit is offered. There is no charge to ArMA members; the fee for nonmembers is $50. Advance registration is required. Write to ArMA, 810 W. Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85013.

"Accidental Launch Protection System"

In a speech reported in the *Congressional Record* Feb. 3, 1988, Senator Sam Nunn proposed consideration of a limited ballistic missile defense.

"I believe both superpowers might find common interest in taking out such an 'insurance' policy. This concept...could be coupled with other imaginative steps to help reduce the risk of accidental or inadvertent nuclear war...."

Chinese Oppose SDI

"China as weakest among the second class nuclear countries should speak strongest against SDI . . . We cannot permit China to become strategically obsolete," said Di Hua, a director of the China International Trade and Investment Corporation in Beijing at a symposium sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. (Senator Nunn, are you listening?)

China is thought to have between 300 and 400 nuclear warheads, about 120 missiles, 120 antiquated but still quite effective aircraft, and two submarines capable of launching 12 missiles each.

The Chinese have given qualified support to the INF Treaty, although Zhen-Qiang Pan of the National Defense University in Beijing described the actual reduction in weapons as "insignificant" (*Science* 239:972-973, 1988).

Fuel Shortage as an Arms Control Method

Because tritium breaks down at a rate of 5.5% per year, a continuing supply is necessary simply to maintain existing nuclear warheads. With two of the production reactors broken down and the other three limited to half power, an interruption in supply is a possibility (*Arizona Republic* Nov. 27, 1987). To bring a new tritium reactor on line is estimated to take at least ten years.

Some have suggested a ban on tritium production as a mechanism of arms control. The problem is difficulty with verification. For this reason, others have suggested banning plutonium and weapons-grade uranium production instead, because these metals are easier to monitor.

There is only one US reactor currently producing weapons-grade plutonium. It is 30 years old, and is producing only half its designated output. US commercial power (light water) reactors are unsuitable for this purpose. On the other hand, Soviet Chernobyl-style (graphite moderated) reactors *are* capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium. For the requisite refueling during operation, a great deal of working space is needed above the reactor, which makes it impossible to enclose the system in a containment structure such as that used for American light water reactors (Bernard Cohen, *Am J Phys* 55:1076-1083, 1987).

Frank Gaffney, a former Defense Department official, called the infrastructure on which deterrence relies "a pipeline without a backup." He stated that "robustness and redundancy, once regarded as essential characteristics of a complex so vital to national security, are things of the past; today the US is one crippling breakdown away from incipient structural nuclear disarmament" (*Wall Street Journal*, Mar. 11, 1988.)

The Soviets are under no such constraints.

Morbidity and Mortality

Afghanistan. At a recent visit to Afghan refugee camps, Marty LaVor, a professional photographer, reports that he saw:

11,000 of the 900,000 orphaned children;

9,000 of the more than 400,000 widows;

2,000 of the 70,000 children who lost limbs from bombs, land mines, or explosives disguised as toys;

45,000 of the 3,500,000 made homeless by the Soviet invasion (*Washington Times*, Feb. 8, 1988).

USSR. The Soviet press has criticized practices of some psychiatrists, such as putting away individuals who are troublesome to their relatives, and detaining people who have complained of bureaucratic injustices. About 100 persons, who had been forcibly hospitalized although healthy, were released last year. According to Helsinki Watch, 95 known dissidents are still detained. Estimates of the number of persons hospitalized for political reasons range from 200 to 1000 (*Science* 239:551-554, 1988).

Until recently, Marat Vartanyan, the chief apologist for Soviet psychiatry since the early 1970s, was a highly visible member of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) (see Arizona newsletter, Nov. 1985). IPPNW has generally declared itself to be a "single issue" organization, and has avoided human rights issues for fear of antagonizing Soviet members, and impeding progress toward "arms control."

USA. Still other examples of human beings who may be sacrificed because of Soviet military might and the "arms control" god are inhabitants of the "nuclear free zone" of Takoma Park, Maryland. An ordinance prohibits all city investment in any company that contributes to the development or manufacture of nuclear arms. This requires that all police squad cars be bought from Chrysler Corporation, the only automaker not involved in nuclear weapons production. However, the Chrysler squad cars have been afflicted with malfunction of the steering apparatus, which caused one of the cruisers to spin out of control and hit a tree during a high-speed chase. Other municipalities reported similar serious problems with their Chryslers. The City Council considered purchasing more expensive Volvos, but the Swedish manufacturer ceased production of police cars. A waiver was proposed that would permit them to buy Chevys.

Balancing the risk to police officers' lives against the ideological purity, the City Council voted for ideology and bought Chryslers (*Washington Times Magazine*, Mar. 12, 1987).