SOVIET ABM BREAKOUT?

Photographs made by earth satellites such as the Spot, launched by France in February, 1986, show some evidence that advanced ABM sites are being readied to protect major portions of the Soviet Union, including missile fields, command and communications facilities, and cities. Some believe that the Soviets may have up to 10,000 ABMs on mobile systems that could be quickly dispersed.

The potential for a rapid Soviet breakout of the ABM Treaty was discussed by science writer Blake Powers in a panel on Soviet space activities at the North American Science Fiction Convention, held in Phoenix, September 4-6. The convention is an annual event that attracts scientists, rocket engineers, and space entrepreneurs, along with writers and science fiction fans.

Meanwhile, American dignitaries were reassuring themselves that the Krasnoyarsk radar is shoddy and years from completion. Krasnoyarsk is the site of one of nine similar "battle management" radars; three were discovered just last year near the Polish border.

"I can believe that parts of Krasnoyarsk are unbelievably crude," stated Art Bozlee, an engineer and private analyst. "I've crawled around inside the Soyuz vehicle. I was appalled at the lousy craftsmanship — in places where it doesn't matter. For example, the storage lockers have crude hinges like those in a cheap cabinet shop. But the engines are jewels." Bozlee added that NASA, unlike the Soviets, tends to "gold plate everything." That may be one reason why the Soviets spend half a billion dollars for a space station that would cost NASA $20 billion, he suggested.

When asked about the space panel's assessment of Soviet ABM advances, Bozlee stated that it was plausible, although, as Powers agreed, there is considerable room for error in interpreting satellite photos. (The resolution is 10 to 15 meters — if the satellite can "read license plates on cars [if any] in Moscow," as is frequently asserted — the lettering must be unusually large.) Bozlee also noted that one new Soviet booster has the capability of lifting half a million tons into low earth orbit.

"What do they need that for, if not for their version of SDI?" he queried.

Another effort that could expand the Soviets' ability to intercept ballistic missiles is the development of the SA-12b Giant air defense, possibly intended for point defense of mobile ICBM launchers. Improvements in air defense missile guidance threaten to blur the distinction between missiles capable of intercepting aircraft and tactical cruise missiles, and those capable of intercepting some strategic ballistic missiles, thus making the ABM Treaty "increasingly irrelevant" (Jane's Defence Weekly 8 Aug 87, p. 226).

ARIZONA CALENDAR

Have you built a Kearny fallout meter yet? A workshop will be held on Saturday, October 17, at 3:00 pm, 3615 E Fifth St. Bring a clean 8 oz (tomato sauce) can. Desiccant, other materials, and a copy of the updated Nuclear War Survival Skills by Cresson Kearny, will be supplied. Cost of the workshop is $15 per family.

Need a videotaped program for a meeting? The following are available from the Tucson DDP lending library (call 325-2689): "A Defense that Defends" (13 min) by High Frontier; "Soviet Military Power" (26 min) from FEMA; "The Road to the Wall," "Operation Cue," and "About Fallout" from old DoD films; "Civil Defense" (27 min) by NBC; "Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism" (about 60 min) by Petr Beckmann; and more.
HOW MUCH TIME?

Some people haven't built a shelter yet because "there's lots of time." Later, one might be able to build a more luxurious, dual-use shelter. Some feel that we needn't worry about a Soviet breakout of the ABM Treaty, because once we have verified such a breakout, beyond a shadow of a doubt, there will be plenty of time to respond. How much time do we have? Robert Jastrow has said that America has five years -- for reasons explained in the booklet "How the Soviets Emasculated America's Deterrent" (George C. Marshall Institute, 11 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 506, Washington, D.C. 20036). The Soviets may "soon" (perhaps within a couple of years) be able to deny America access to space, according to G. Harry Stine and other space advocates attending the recent meeting in Phoenix (see p. 1). One potential method might be a powerful ground-based laser. (Why was the infrared sensor on one of our satellites suddenly blinded as it passed over the USSR?) A laser on the Mir space station recently "illuminated" an ICBM during the cruise phase of its flight in space, demonstrating Soviet ability to detect and track a missile, according to Pentagon sources (Washington Inquirer, July 24, 1987). The purpose of Mir may indeed include bringing about "peace" -- Soviet style. "Mir" implies absence of opposition.

"Wake Up America" is thus a timely theme for the fifth annual meeting of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. The program will be held in Mobile, Alabama, on November 7-9. Highlights of the program include a banquet address by Edward Teller and a talk on "Nuclear Blackmail -- Option Number 1" by Nobel laureate Eugene Wigner. Dr. Kenneth Lucas, Phoenix radiation oncologist, will present his independent analysis of the German data from the Hamburg firestorm. Dr. Howard Maccabee will propose a plan that ought to interest farmers: a national food storage program. Other topics include new British civil defense initiatives; KGB "active measures"; the space frontier; recent results from blast testing shelters; and modern triage.

Make your reservations now! For further information, call 602-325-2689, or DDP headquarters in Florida, 904-964-4848.

SHELTER PLANS AVAILABLE

Engineering drawings which a local steel fabricator can use to convert a steel storage tank into a blast shelter are available now for $20 from Fighting Chance, PO Box 1279, Cave Junction, OR 97523. Free telephone consultation is included (503-592-4142). A shelter design book will be published soon.

A videotaped lecture by Dr. Orient on medical self-help for laymen can be ordered for $29.50 postpaid. Fighting Chance supporters who join DDP before November 1 can obtain the tape free of charge.

ADVICE FOR OUR TIME?

Time-tested methods of leading individual soldiers of the Enemy to perdition are recommended by a high-ranking functionary in the Infernal bureaucracy, in correspondence dated near the onset of World War II:

"The use of Fashions in thought is to distract the attentions of men from their real dangers. . . . The game is to have them all running around with fire extinguishers every time there is a flood."

"Flippancy is the best of all."

"It is jargon, not reason, you must rely upon."

"Talk to him about 'moderation in all things.'"

"Inculcate[e] the Historical Point of View, . . . [which], put briefly, means that when a learned man is presented with any statement, . . . the one question he never asks is whether it is true."

"Let him do anything but act."

C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters