

Editor's Note

Previously, *Executive Intelligence Review* presented the case that the Soviet Union had launched a war operation against the Federal Republic of Germany, of which the May 17-18 anti-nuclear riots at Wackersdorf were the opening shot. Now, as we go to press, hundreds of thousands of Moscow-manipulated rioting mobs are gathered at five nuclear power sites in that nation, whose explicit marching orders, distributed in millions of leaflets, are to "tear down the gates," and to perform "all forms of resistance against the nuclear mafia." An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 highly trained, violent provocateurs, which appropriate military equipment, are expected to conduct operations under the cover of the crazed mob of Greenie environmentalists. Law-enforcement authorities in the Federal Republic would not offer any estimate as to what proportion of these violence-sowing provocateurs may be actual Soviet spetsnaz personnel.

EIR, however, has found itself in a highly unusual position: Whereas our evaluation that the current wave of violent rioting is part of a Soviet actual war deployment and not an ordinary radical violent binge, has been not only accepted, but also amply corroborated by civilian and military authorities, these authorities choose to maintain official silence. The subject of Soviet spetsnaz deployments inside nations of Western Europe is officially taboo in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Sweden, the two countries with the highest frequency of spetsnaz deployments. Secretly, however, the spetsnaz issue is the most intensively discussed among law-enforcement and military authorities. Political authorities are enforcing a rule of official silence on the subject for two sets of reasons: first, the influence of factions if appeasers and Russian "fifth columnists" maintained inside these governments by U.S. State Department influence, and second, the simple fact that if the governments under attack acknowledge the attack, they must either take military countermeasures against the aggressor, or lose all remaining authority as governments.

We offer the following general outline of the character of Soviet spetsnaz deployments in anticipation of information imminently to be developed in the aftermath of the new wave of violent riots presently in progress.

Appendix: Soviet 'spetsnaz' units strike Western Europe

The following article by Konstantin George originally appeared in the June 13, 1986 edition of EIR.

What are spetsnaz?

In the recent period, Western Europe, and, above all, West Germany, has been plagued by concerted "Green" violence directed against nuclear-power plant facilities and construction sites, coupled with a wave of terrorism characterized by repeated bombings, arson, and assassinations against key figures in the defense-industrial establishment. In addition to the up-front violent demonstrations at nuclear sites, such as at Wackersdorf in Bavaria, there has been—to cite but one example—at Britain's Sizewell nuclear power plant, a mysterious chain of no fewer than four suspicious "accidents" including fires in the past five months—to many nuclear power plant "mishaps" to possibly be evaluated as "coincidences."

The sabotage, violence, and assassinations that have been hitting Western Europe over the past two years, with ever-growing intensity, are the leading edge of mounting Soviet-directed pre-war covert and "Special Operations" warfare.

Moscow has, for such purposes, an "elite of the elite" commando force, with a peacetime strength of well over 30,000, called in Russian *Spetsialnogo Naznacheniya* (Special Designation)—widely known in the West under its Russian contraction *spetsnaz*. The figure of 30,000-plus is merely the peacetime strength, and, as we shall elaborate later, is irrelevant as a wartime estimate. Total spetsnaz wartime strength is between 100,000 and 120,000.

The spetsnaz forces come under the jurisdiction of the 3rd Department of the GRU's 5th Directorate. The 5th Directorate is commanded by the GRU's first deputy head, its number-two man, Colonel-General Pavlov.

Spetsnaz forces are entrusted with key special missions, both directly preceding and timed with the outbreak of war. Their missions include: 1) The assassination of Western political and military leaders; 2) The destruction of crucial NATO targets, such as nuclear-missile bases, ammunition and fuel depots, pipelines, bridges, tunnels, rail lines, communications nerve centers, both military and civilian, airfields and airports, port installations, and military shipping caught in port at the war's out-

break; 3) The seizure of crucial targets, such as bridges behind enemy lines, to be held until the advancing Red Army regular forces reach them.

Soviet spetsnaz forces are specially selected on criteria not only of physical strength and stamina, but also cleverness and cunning, and, extremely important, language skills. They are given the most rigorous training possible. The training not only includes expertise in the art of silent assassination with silencer pistols, long-range rifles with telescopic sights, and chemical- and gas-spray pistols, and expertise in the use of all types of demolitions, but also extremely rough, long-term survival courses in all types of wilderness—deserts, mountains, arctic climates. A regular feature of the training is the air dropping of a spetsnaz unit in inhospitable terrain, with the orders to reach a designated point up to hundreds of kilometers away, and successfully carry out a sabotage mission there. All spetsnaz soldiers are expert parachutists and swimmers, and those assigned to the four spetsnaz naval brigades are expert divers.



Soviet spetsnaz forces are trained to operate in Arctic climates.

The spetsnaz trainee also receives long and thorough training in which he learns all the physical characteristics of the target of his wartime mission down to the minutest detail. Extensive training is conducted inside the Soviet Union and on Warsaw Pact territory whose terrain features most closely approximate the terrain features of the wartime operation zone in the West.

This "terrain familiarity" is further refined through the following procedure. Spetsnaz troops who go into the spetsnaz reserve, are automatically re-assigned to jobs allowing them to travel in the West, to familiarize themselves first-hand with their future operational area. Examples include their employment as truck drivers, in "tourist groups," as circus and sports performers, etc., who extensively travel through the very regions and towns where, in a future war, they will return as "guides" for the spetsnaz unit deployed to perform sabotage in the region. Likewise, ports and harbors are systematically covered by spetsnaz reservists operating in the Soviet Merchant Marine, and airports by spetsnaz reservists employed by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot.

The Soviet spetsnaz forces are divided into two distinct types of units. The first, and numerically fewer, are the spetsnaz agents, or "sleepers," already in place in the West, long before the commencement of war. They have been systematically infiltrated into Western countries over the past two decades, after thorough training in the arts of killing silently, sabotage and demolition, and language, so that they "blend in" perfectly in their new environment.

Some of these agents, who work on the basis of small teams, get themselves employed by strategically vital firms, such as armaments companies, utilities, the state railroad, harbor jobs, airports, the military, and government posts, to name but a few areas. Others establish their own firms—such as trucking companies, for example, both in West Germany and West Berlin—or choose "hobbies," such as becoming "amateur" pilots—to create an infrastructure to be utilized by the spetsnaz commando brigades and companies when the order comes for them to cross the frontier right before the outbreak of war. Others, who hold relatively innocuous jobs, have the assignment of stockpiling needed weapons and explosives in buried caches, which both the in-place teams and the spetsnaz companies coming from the other side will use to augment their supplies for the pre-war and wartime sabotage missions.

The second, and numerically far greater portion of the spetsnaz, are the 24 spetsnaz brigades, each with 1,300 men. They are allocated on the basis of one spetsnaz brigade for each of the 16 Military Districts inside the Soviet Union, and one brigade for each of the Soviet Groups

of Forces in Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. According to reliable sources, there are already two spetsnaz brigades in place with the "Group of Soviet Forces in Germany" (GSFG), given that a brigade is assigned to a group of Armies forming a "Front," of which, under the peacetime order of battle, there are two in East Germany. The remainder are the four spetsnaz naval brigades, one each for the Soviet Northern Fleet (Murmansk,) the Baltic Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet, and the Pacific Fleet. In addition, there are 41 independent spetsnaz companies, each with 115 men, attached to every Soviet Army.

Main target: West Germany

The greatest single concentration of Soviet spetsnaz forces anywhere in the world is directed against West Germany, followed by Scandinavia. Spetsnaz forces earmarked exclusively against West Germany include the two brigades based in East Germany, the brigade based with the "Northern Group of Forces" in Poland, and the brigade based in the Byelorussian Military District. In addition to these four brigades, at least half of the brigade based with the "Central Group of Forces" in Czechoslovakia, as well as the five independent spetsnaz companies attached to the Armies of the GSFG, the two independent spetsnaz companies attached to the two Armies of the "Central Group," the one company attached to the "Northern Group," and several independent spetsnaz companies based in the Byelorussian Military District, are all earmarked exclusively for wartime missions on German soil.

Thus, not counting the "sleeper" spetsnaz agent teams in place inside the Federal Republic of Germany, there exists a peacetime spetsnaz force of nearly 7,500 professional killers and saboteurs for employment exclusively against targets in West Germany. A "peacetime" spetsnaz force level is, however, irrelevant to the consideration of their actual use, since, obviously, what will hit the Federal Republic will be the spetsnaz's wartime strength. If one multiplies by four, one gets a fair estimate of the actual strength that would be employed for special missions on the soil of the Federal Republic. We are talking about a figure of no fewer than 30,000 spetsnaz in wartime, who would wreak havoc on NATO command control centers, communications and transportation targets, infrastructure such as bridges, tunnels, airports and ports, assassinating military and political leaders, and so on.

The spetsnaz assassination teams (among those stationed on Warsaw Pact territory) are the staff company of each spetsnaz brigade. These personnel are expert assassins and linguists, and would enter the West disguised either as NATO personnel or in civilian guise. The forces of the spetsnaz brigades stationed with the "Groups of Forces" and in Military Districts of the U.S.S.R. never appear in airborne uniform, which is the "parade" uniform of the spetsnaz. They are quartered under various guises, usually as Signal (Communications) troops.

Infiltrating this large force into West Germany is unfortunately not very difficult. Besides the obvious use of parachute drops and helicopter transport, there are long, uninhabited stretches of the inner German border, and numerous points where unnoticed border crossings could occur. The teams would be received by the spetsnaz agents already in place, and transported in a matter of a few hours—overnight, for example—to almost any point in the Federal Republic, or, for that matter, into the Low Countries and France as well. The Berlin transit routes, with their notorious lack of controls for "Western" vehicles, denote another easy means for mass covert infiltration. In addition to trucks and other vehicles owned by in-place spetsnaz agents, East Germany has a large supply of West German cars and vehicles confiscated in the dis-

mantling of many *Fluchthilfe* operations that smuggled refugees out of East Germany over the years.

Next to West Germany, the largest numerical concentration of spetsnaz is facing Scandinavia. These units include the spetsnaz brigades attached to the Baltic and Leningrad Military Districts, as well as the spetsnaz naval brigades attached to the Northern Fleet and the Baltic Fleets. These naval brigades, composed of expert frogmen, are equipped with mini subs, hovercraft, light transport aircraft, and helicopters, to undertake lightning commando raids into Norway and Sweden.



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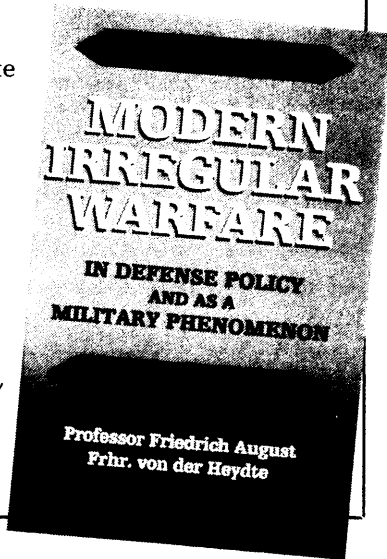
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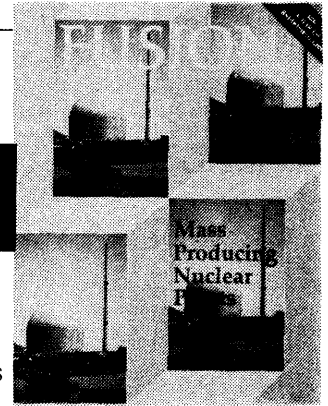
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