

THE CONQUEST OF EUROPE ?

Political commentary and analysis is a difficult subject. Events often catch even the most skilled analysts by surprise. It is very clear, however, that Americans urgently need a civil defense system regardless of the course of events. We shall be at risk from natural hazards and man-made technology as long as they and we exist. So many people have asked my opinion of recent events in Europe, that I feel obligated to write an analysis. Remember, however, that I could be very wrong.

During the past few months our world, in my opinion, has become a considerably more dangerous place.

If we accept the notion that the Soviet Empire is falling apart, then the United States government policy of deterrence through "Mutual Assured Destruction" has been weakened substantially. "A rational and stable Soviet Union would not risk retaliation" - so goes the argument. As the Soviet strategic defense and civil defense have grown, this argument has gradually weakened. Now the Soviets are suddenly represented as no longer internally stable.

The Soviets still have more than 10,000 nuclear weapons aimed at the United States. The number of weapons and the effectiveness of their delivery vehicles steadily increases (even today under the "new thinking"). A tyranny armed with the largest military force the world has ever known is dangerous enough. When that tyranny becomes internally unstable, the danger markedly increases.

Are they really unstable and disintegrating? In my opinion, the Soviet Empire is deliberately projecting an illusion of weakness - but that illusion could become reality. There is no doubt that freedom is at war with totalitarianism on a uniquely large scale in the world today. The Soviet war machine is the primary asset of totalitarianism in that war. As the strength of that war machine reaches its technological peak, its use becomes increasingly probable.

A very effective technique of warfare is the pretense of weakness - especially at points of maximum strength. The ancient Chinese military expert Sun Tzu is often quoted in this regard. 'When you are strong, pretend weakness. When you are weak, pretend strength.' Great military commanders often use this technique.

George Washington, for example, with the help of the American spy, John Honeyman, convinced the British general at Trenton that Washington's army was too weak for an attack. The result was British unpreparedness and a victory for Washington.

Julius Caesar repeatedly made use of this technique. His army would, for example, pretend to retreat in disarray during the night. They then turned unexpectedly upon an overconfident enemy. The price of falling for Caesar's tricks was high. Standard treatment