

I predict that, if the United States becomes involved in a protracted war with the Arabs in the Middle East, unprotected Americans inside the United States will be killed by chemical weapons. These people would not have to die if their government had provided a proper civil defense. This prediction may be viewed as pessimistic or as optimistic. Optimistic? Yes - because it assumes that the Arabs will only manage a chemical rather than a nuclear counterattack.

SURPRISE NUCLEAR WAR

"It is a staggering thought that even now, in the 5th year of Mr. Gorbachev's time in office, the figures show that one new Soviet submarine is being launched every 6 weeks. Two aircraft, 6 tanks and 1 missile are produced every day. The Soviet defense minister has said that the emphasis is now on quality rather than quantity.....The Soviet navy recorded a record tonnage of new surface ships during 1989. These ships are larger and more powerful than their predecessors, and have longer range and more accurate missiles."

British Defense Secretary, Tom King,
to the House of Commons in 1990
Quoted in Daily News Digest - 8/15/90

Official American scenarios for nuclear war have always been highly improbable. Pentagon war games have tended to concentrate upon a Soviet non-nuclear invasion of Europe which gradually escalates to tactical and then strategic nuclear war. Both sides are drawn unwillingly toward the massive exchange of nuclear weapons in this or some equivalent period of high international tension between the Soviet Union and the United States.

During this period of increasing danger, the American bureaucrats move resolutely to create a civil defense system out of their filing cabinets and cumbersome evacuation plans. (To ensure "continuity of government" the bureaucrats and politicians, of course, move into their publicly funded bomb shelters early in the crisis.)

Victor Suvorov, a former Soviet Army officer, has written in his book, Inside The Soviet Army, that Soviet commanders for many years believed that this American scenario was surely just a propaganda trick to conceal actual American war plans. They believed it impossible that any knowledgeable commander in the nuclear age would risk conceding to his opponent the enormous advantages of a surprise strategic nuclear first strike. Gradually, the Soviets, after observing actual American military preparations, became convinced that the United States did in fact have such a remarkable and self-defeating policy.

In contrast to their enthusiastic adoption of advances in American technology, the Soviets did not adopt American strategy. Their strategy has remained dependent upon more realistic considerations.