

...rtment the West against itself was adhered to throughout. The fact
the what the plane was a giant Boeing 747 was admitted as well,
ident though no impressions of its "contours" were drawn. The
hatred semblance between a Boeing 747 and an RC-135 is, in
iation fact, very slight. Interestingly, *Pravda* cited critical (of
he door Reagan's position) items from major American papers,
b have been taken from both CBS and NBC, without caring that the
oviet rage of a dissenting press might evoke questions about
during the role of the press in the USSR. They were right, of
course, it would not. Assumptions about the West held by
the majority of Soviet citizens had long-since been formul-
imply led. Ringing nationalistic phrases about preparation to
merican defend "our great country" and familiar clichés like: "To-
the fact day planes are sent over our territory, and tomorrow mis-
A also des may be launched," typified the tone of the Soviet
— but sponse in their major papers five days after the event —
mentioned were reminiscent of exhortations from the days of
reference nin and Stalin.

... saga. **Day five**
) registe More of the same appeared on Tuesday in *Pravda*
, its September 6). A screaming headline, "A Policy of Sabo-
tpt to tage against Peace," was followed by charges against the
The en White House generally for "a wicked anti-Soviet cam-
can schaign," and against President Reagan specifically for his
ation fpathological hatred of the Soviet Union and its people."
by a Sofie "incident," which the situation was called in another
t there rticle (quoting US papers) on the same page, was treated
rom Strictly as a CIA project designed to give Reagan justifica-
This quon for accelerating the arms race. "The inspirers of the
C Natio current anti-Soviet chaos," are trying to deprive the USSR
vening. f "the right to defend its own borders," said journalist V.
akharov, who repeated the assertion that the entire epi-
ode was "pre-planned" espionage. He also echoed all the
ed the earlier statements about no lights and no response to Soviet
Roman attempts to make contact with the "intruder-plane." Now,
forces. However, it was noted that tracer warning shots had been
d, with red across the KAL flight path.

... the Sov **Day six**
referen It was not until September 7 that *Pravda* and Septem-
ons and ber 8 that *Izvestiia* informed their readers that the KAL
"all pla plane had been shot down, or, as the Soviet government
en clea tatement put it, rather euphemistically, an interceptor had
erned. been ordered "to stop the flight." Soviet actions, the state-
gners w ment insisted, were "fully in keeping with the Law of the
w York USSR State Border, which has been published." This was a
y ways eference to a detailed law on borders which had been
the att uted in full in both *Pravda* and *Izvestiia* (taking up
l. Furth early half of the papers) on November 26, 1982. That law,
at "he he first major legislation under Andropov, proclaimed
eality, hat Soviet borders were inviolable and that any attempts
the "co "violate it are resolutely stopped." At that time, readers
the Am vere urged to maintain a "spirit of vigilance." The KAL
nov's pla plane now could be used as proof of the pudding.

... and ass The KAL flight was linked once again to a "malicious
an "an and hostile anti-Soviet campaign" and it was stated une-
ian and quivocally that the plane was on a spy mission, that Soviet
ablishe pilots could not have known that it was civilian, and that
War"); resident Reagan had carefully chosen this moment to
s counts Soviet government expressed "regret over the deaths of
as accus innocent people . . . [but] the entire responsibility for this
printed ragedy rests wholly and completely with the leaders of the
of quot United States of America." No mention was made of the

number of lives which were lost, or of the fact that many of those who perished were American.

The official announcement was surrounded — nearly submerged — by long essays directed almost exclusively at what the Soviet press described as an orchestrated campaign of lies about the USSR. One article, headlined, "Cynical Fabrications," spoke of "pathological" and "troglodyte" anticommunism — and charged the US throughout with every conceivable crime. Sandwiched between this piece and another under the lead, "In the Heat of Anti-Sovietism," was the following caricature:



«...на все руки!»

In the speaker's left hand are banners proclaiming: "Soviet Threat!" "Embargo against the USSR!" and "Crusade against Communism!" The accompanying swastika speaks for itself. The snake-like right hand has "provocation" written on it. Most Pravda issues carry at least one international cartoon, directed in the last two decades nearly entirely against the USA or Israel (or both). During the first week of the KAL crisis, the USA was caricatured repeatedly as a warmonger and, more often, as a source of all falsehoods about the USSR.

"New facts"

Between September 7 and Sunday, September 10, short essays in both major papers continued to associate an "anti-Soviet campaign" in the West with earlier American projects to violate Soviet territorial integrity. "All the New Facts" (*Pravda*, September 8, page 5), for example, included letters from Soviet citizens and selected citations from the Western press to corroborate such themes (including a "Montreal student" who was interviewed for the *Ottawa Citizen* and said that he had travelled on an earlier flight when all internal and external lights had been turned off). Accompanying this item was a caricature of President Reagan which portrayed him as a ruthless hypocrite.

Day nine

The most space allotted to the KAL affair in a single issue of *Pravda* came on September 10 (the next day in *Izvestiia*) when a press conference conducted the day before by a bemedalled Marshall Nikolai Ogarkov, chief of Soviet General Staff and first deputy minister of defence, was reported verbatim. Ogarkov outlined the Soviet ver-