Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and *Izvestiia* the newspaper of the Soviet government, it is appropriate — and ironic — that the latter paper regularly carried verbatim items about the incident one day after they had appeared in *Pravda.*

Day two

The next day (September 3 for *Pravda;* September 4 for *Izvestiia),* a much lengthier piece was printed. The plane was still not identified for the Soviet public, but its flight path was said to be 500 kilometres off-course and the plane itself was said to have been over Kamchatka for more than two hours. "Naturally," Soviet air defence "repeatedly" tried to establish contact, and fired warning shots of tracer shells along its flight path. The plane again was said to have continued on its way toward the Sea of Japan. A full

ХИЩНИК И ЕГО СТАЯ Рисунок Е. МИЛУТКИ.

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The shark is "Imperialism" — its "school" or "pupils" are "blackmail," "lies," "hatred," "exploitation," "aggression" and "threats."

paragraph implied that the aircraft must have been part of a CIA spy operation, and it was noted that it was probably (but not definitely) a civilian aircraft. "Obviously," the article writer went on to say, the "dirty insinuations" from the USA and the "impudent slanderous" statements being made by President Reagan were unfounded. But no information as to what Reagan actually said was offered. Such cases of "deliberate violations" by American plans were not rare, the writer intoned as he concluded with a staggering non sequitur — "in light of these facts" (none had been given), the intrusion by the "aforementioned plane cannot be regarded as anything but a preplanned act." Readers were left somewhat uncertain, however, as to whether the "plan" was a spy mission, or an act of provocation to exacerbate further the international situation. Almost as an afterthought, without its previously having been mentioned that anything dramatic had happened to the plane, it was noted that the "leading circles" of the USSR regretted the loss of human lives in the incident. No numbers were offered or even a hint that civilians had been killed.

Day three

Carefully selected quotes from the foreign press and strong anti-American adjectives were featured in the next day's reports *(Pravda,* September 4; *Izvestiia,* September 5), the main theses of which were alleged links between the "intruder-plane" and the CIA. The State Department accused of "feverish" cover-up attempts and the W House of a "rabid anti-Soviet campaign." President R gan's statements were described as "frenzied hatred malice," (but not quoted) — and the plane's deviation f its original flight path was laid directly at the doo American "schemers." Somewhere it seemed to have b forgotten that the plane was Korean; indeed, Soviet re ers were reminded of this only occasionally during entire reporting on the subject.

American, French, Japanese and Australian pu statements were culled carefully and used to imply there was widespread questioning of the American/ anese accounts from among their own allies. The fact the press from countries other than the USA also demned Soviet actions was never mentioned — but course, no major Soviet action had as yet been mentio to the Soviet public. Nor was there any further referenc loss of life offered on this third day of the KAL saga.

A second report in *Pravda* (not in *Izvestiia)* registe once again Washington's "dirty insinuations," its p pagandistic "hysteria," and its "malicious" attempt to b the matter before the UN Security Council. The en situation, it was alleged, was part of an American sch to justify its own "reckless policy" of preparation f nuclear war. It was in this short notice, written by a So correspondent in New York (A. Tolkunov) that there appeared what was to be a standard defence from So media, i.e., "Who profited from the incident?" This qu was to appear again and again, including in a CBC Nati News interview of a Soviet "expert" the next evening.

Day four

On Monday, September 5, *Pravda* introduced the itary explanation in the person of Col. Gen. S. Roma Chief of the General Staff of the Air Defence Forces. KAL plane was still described as unidentified, with aerial navigation lights, and unresponsive to the So interceptor. But this time, it "crashed." Further referen were made to violations of international regulations an the sophistication of the instruments carried by "all pla of this type." But its "type" had not yet been cle established insofar as Soviet readers were concerned. manov acknowledged, however, that some foreigners w "trying to claim" that it was an "ordinary New York- Seoul trip." Romanov then detailed the many ways which the Soviet interceptor had tried to attract the att tion of the off-course plane crew, all to no avail. Furth more, the Soviet pilot had no way of knowing that "he dealing with a civilian airplane," which, in reality, "sneaking over our territory at night." Indeed, the "c tours" of the plane, he said, "greatly resembled the Am ican RC-135 reconnaissance plane." Thus Romanov's pi presented an almost eerie mixture of admissions and ass tions: the incident was a "deliberate" part of an "a Soviet provocation" mission; the plane was civilian and contours were visible; its identity was/is "unestablishe people lost their lives (as "victims of the Cold War"); a the plane "crashed."

The entire page 5 of *Pravda* was filled with accounts support of Romanov. President Reagan again was accus of "slanderous rhetoric" in one piece that was reprinted *Izvestiia* on Tuesday and in which the practice of quoti