

The INF and START talks were almost doomed to fail from the start because of a number of factors which all came together. There was the new Reagan administration — which had little interest in or knowledge of foreign affairs — the massive Soviet arms buildup, the US desire to rearm and modernize its forces, the need for “extended deterrence” to be reinforced in Europe, the shifting of personalities within the administration, e.g., a change in Secretary of State, in National Security Director and in the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. This was partly balanced by the pressure from the US allies and from Congress to make progress in arms control negotiations and in the reduction in tension between the two superpowers.

This is a disturbing book because it highlights the fact that the objectives of some form of arms control, fair and equitable to the superpowers, is probably unattainable, given the US desire to place US national security, as defined by the US, above all other considerations. It is also an important contribution to understanding one of the most important issues of our time, the avoidance of a nuclear holocaust.

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An important bibliography

by John Greer Nicholson

Soviet-Canadian Relations, 1917-1985. A Bibliography compiled by J.L. Black, Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, Carleton University. Ottawa: Balmuir Book Publishing, 1985, 142 pages, \$10.95.

Well-compiled scholarly bibliographies long retain their interest. Professor Black and Carleton have filled an important gap. It is divided into two main parts or “perspectives” — Soviet and Canadian, according to the sources of the writings. A central (and successful) aim of the Soviet segment is to provide users with a “clear taste of the type and tone of information about Canada which permeates the top echelon of Soviet policy-makers.”

The initial 520 Soviet entries are however marred by at least sixty errors or omissions. Most are trivial, but “vnutrennei” means “of internal” not “external” (Item 351), and “Mirovogo okeana” (Item 360) refers to the oceans of the world, not just the “Pacific.” Further, two Canadians publishing in Russian in Toronto — M.I. Mogiljansky (the correct spelling) and G. Okulevich — should not be included in the *Soviet* listing. On the other hand, the listing is not overly rigid. Thus, under Item 148 it succeeds in capturing a Soviet accusation that Canada is a land of “religious intolerance, harbouring Nazi war criminals and of widespread anti-semitism.”

The “taste” of the Canadian works listed in the second part is naturally much more varied. They include unpublished research theses such as Item 139 on “The CBC’s International Service as a Psychological Instrument of Foreign Policy in the Cold War.” While the titles in the Canadian section are not so monotonously predictable, some do reveal the naiveté of the postwar years.

Relevant cartoons from both sides enliven the listings, although the caption to page 77 wrongly has “Canada” speaking, when it is “Uncle Sam.” The six appendixes, each a useful microcosm in its own right, are just too many and will puzzle the first-time user. The four indexes should be reduced to two, and all names in the appendixes added to them. A second and revised edition of this useful bibliography is clearly needed.

John Greer Nicholson was Professor of Russian Studies at McGill University in Montreal from 1962-79.

Soviet leaders speak

by Carl Reid

Speeches and Writings of Konstantin Chernenko Second enlarged edition, edited by Robert Maxwell. Elmsford, N.Y.: Pergamon Press, 1984, 256 pages, US\$25.00.

Selected Speeches and Writings of Victor Grishin translated by Y.S. Shirkov. Elmsford, N.Y.: Pergamon Press, 1984, 300 pages, US\$40.00.

Peace Now, Peace for the Future by Andrei Gromyko Second edition, translated by Y.S. Shirkov. Elmsford, N.Y.: Pergamon Press, 1984, 306 pages, US\$35.00.

Konstantin Chernenko’s brief and colorless tenure as General Secretary of the CPSU was the culmination of a career devoted to the maintenance and prosperity of the Soviet regime. He was a capable administrator under Leonid Brezhnev and the CPSU’s chief ideologist for Yuri Andropov. The thirteen articles added to this revised edition span the years from 1975 to 1984 and are heavy on ideological instruction. Like many Soviet texts of this kind, this makes for dry reading and primarily is aimed at the party apparat.

Chernenko is adamant that theory and propaganda take a “realistic account” of Soviet needs. Successes should not be exaggerated and in this respect journalists should be “more biting” in their appraisal of economic affairs. Appropriately, the contradictions of socialism must not be given a negative meaning but should be viewed in a positive light so that error will be diminished once actual policies are formulated and applied.

On the subject of foreign affairs Chernenko is predictable. The United States adheres to a policy of brinkman-