

onto an opponent's territory (and probably take territory), is rejected.⁸⁹ A first deputy commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany also discussed the use of counterattacks (versus counteroffensives), and withdrawal for defensive purposes.⁹⁰ And Lushev (WTO commander-in-chief) confirmed to NATO representatives that defence would be restricted to the WTO's own territory and restoring the territorial integrity of WTO members.⁹¹ These comments by the Soviet military appear to demonstrate the rejection of the idea of a massive counterattack within the context of the Soviet defensive doctrine.

Some civilian analysts such as Alexei Arbatov argue for even more radical unilateral restructuring and reductions than those discussed above. He has suggested that the WTO could maintain an in-depth echeloned defence with one-third of its current forces (reducing down to 50-60 divisions). The Soviet forces should be entirely restructured, along with the airforce and disbanding of aging tactical aircraft. The much cherished Soviet air defence system should be radically reduced. He also argues that the Soviet Union should accept the idea of asymmetry between Soviet and U.S. naval forces, and scrap expensive plans such as building Soviet aircraft carriers to compete with the West. Soviet naval forces should focus on coastal defence, and reject interdiction roles, and search and destroy roles for submarines. His other suggestions include: reducing the military budget (for procurement); increasing the personnel and maintenance budgets (especially in areas related to combat readiness); reforming the military industry, for

⁸⁹ Pierre Darcourt, interview with Akhromeyev, *Le Figaro*, 13 June 1989 in *FBIS-SU*, 15 June 1989, p. 70.

⁹⁰ Col. A. Vasilets, interview with Lt. Gen. M. Kalinin, "Druzhiba-89" ('Friendship-89'), *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 19 March 1989, p. 2. Kalinin goes on to note that counterstrikes would not take place until the enemy had driven a wedge into the defensive zone of the Polish Army.

⁹¹ Lushev's comments to Wolfgang Altenburg are reported in: *The Arms Control Reporter* (hereafter ACR), 18 May 1989, p. 402.B.224. Of course, defending the "territorial integrity" of WTO members is of rather less significance since the revolutions in Eastern Europe.