

Two Americans Killed By Red Army

by Robert H. Goldsborough

On September 12, the ex-Soviet republic, Belarus, shot down two American participants in the world's most prestigious long distance balloon race.

Organizers of the Gordon Bennett Balloon Race had obtained permits allowing flight over Belarus air space

ence over former Soviet republics.

Is Belarus Benign or Belligerent

In a just released European Security Study, *Russia's Outer Rim*, Mark Almond explains the military importance of Belarus.

"The strategic position of Belarus astride the direct route between Moscow and the West has always made it important to Russian military planners. As a result, Belarus today possesses more tanks than any West European state. Many of them are Russian-owned, and certainly all are built to the same specifications ..."

Almond paints a disturbing picture of past and present governments of Belarus, describing the 1991 Belarus leadership as an "openly pro-Soviet regime", and noting that little has changed since then. The victor of Belarus' 1994 presidential elections was "Alexander Lukashenko who made no secret of his admiration of KGB heroes like Dzerzhinsky and Andropov", and in the May 1995 parliamentary elections large majorities of the Belarusians voted for

der brutal Soviet tyranny. This conveniently plays into the hands of the current batch of Russia's empire-building leaders who are still closet communists.

In a January 1994 address to Russia's ambassadors, foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev asked rhetorically, "What is wrong with Russia announcing as its goal the gradual reintegration — primarily economic — of the post-Soviet space on a voluntary and

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equal basis?

The countries of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] and the Baltic are the region where Russia's primary vital interests are concentrated. They are also the source of fundamental threats to those interests ... we must not abandon these regions, which have been Russian spheres of interest for centuries."

Expansion and consolidation remain the official Russian policy of today, just as it has been for centuries.

The Trashing of A Treaty

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration, with its patchwork quilt foreign policy, seems unwilling to confront the renewed threat of Russian aggrandizement. Russia has told the U.S. and NATO that it will break the signed 1990 treaty which calls for a substantial reduction — by November 1995 — of the number of Russian tanks, armored



The statue of KGB founder Felix Dzerzhinsky has come down, belying the fact that the KGB is still in control.

personnel carriers, artillery and combat aircraft in Eastern Europe.

In the September 16, *New York Times*, Steven Greenhouse reported "In a concession intended to reduce tensions with Moscow, the United States and its NATO allies decided today to permit Russia to keep more tanks and artillery pieces in the Caucasus regions than would be allowed under a 1990 treaty." U.S. and NATO officials explained that they are allowing Russia to ignore the treaty's weapons limits so as "to preserve the treaty".

Russia states her intent to break the treaty. The

West then excuses Russia from the treaty obligations. Although a treaty broken by one party is no longer a treaty, the West will, of course, still abide by the treaty requirements in the name of "preserving the treaty"!

By agreeing to this "treaty" farce, and by accepting the Belarusian Balloon murders as just an international misunderstanding, the Clinton administration and its CFR-dominated State Department have once again clearly demonstrated to the world their total incompetence in foreign affairs.

Taken from *Washington Dateline*

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but insisted that the order to shoot down the balloonists was appropriate.

The West Waffles

The West seems to be treating this deliberate act of international terrorism as an unfortunate misunderstanding, when it may well have been a test of the West's resolve in the matter of Russia's attempts to reestablish control and influ-

close links with Russia as well as a restoration of Soviet-style symbols.

Gradual Russian Reintegration?

The pro-Russian attitude of the Belarusian people and the pro-Soviet KGB attitude of the Belarusian government demonstrate a readiness of the Belarusians to be absorbed into greater Russia in spite of having suffered decades un-

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