

DIGITAL JOURNAL

Reagan official says U.S. planning first nuclear strike on Russia

By Ralph Lopez
August 10, 2014

Explaining recent incursions by Russian nuclear-armed bombers into sensitive US airspace, an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under President Ronald Reagan has argued that the U.S. is preparing for a first nuclear strike on Russia and perhaps China. The former official says that the Obama administration is taking this course "in order to prevent any challenge to Washington's world hegemony."

Last week USA Today confirmed that there had been an unusual spike in Russian bomber penetration of northwestern U.S. air defense identification zones over 10 days. Dr. Paul Craig Roberts, also a former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal, wrote on his website in June that "The plan is far advanced, and the implementation of the plan is underway."

Dr. Roberts is an economist who was considered influential in creating and implementing "supply-side economics" under Ronald Reagan. He has held numerous university appointments and was a Distinguished Fellow at the Cato Institute, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution.

Dr. Roberts said that Washington's alleged plans explain recent boasts by China of its capacity to hit US cities with its nuclear force, deployed in air, land, and most recently in an upgraded class of nuclear submarines. A translation of the Chinese state Global Times at the US Naval Institute News states that:

"If we launch our DF 31A ICBMs over the North Pole, we can easily destroy a whole list of metropolises on the East Coast and the New England region of the U.S., including Annapolis, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Portland, Baltimore and Norfolk, whose population accounts for about one-eighth of America's total residents."

Dr. Roberts says in his article "Are You Ready For Nuclear War?":
"Washington believes that it can win a nuclear war with little or no damage to the US. This belief makes nuclear war likely."

He then points to Obama's recent escalation in rhetoric against Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin, and the escalation in Obama's promises of NATO weapons and military

aid to countries on or near Russia's borders. In a recent tour of Poland to reaffirm US commitment to its "partners" in Ukraine and other countries in the region, Obama said: "We'll increase the number of American personnel -- Army and Air Force units -- continuously rotating through allied countries in Central and Eastern Europe. And we will be stepping up our partnerships with friends like Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia as they provide for their own defense. I'm calling on Congress to approve up to \$1 billion to support this effort, which will be a powerful demonstration of America's unshakeable commitment to our NATO allies."

Roberts writes:

"US anti-ballistic missile (ABM) bases have been established in Poland on Russia's frontier, and other bases are planned. When completed Russia will be ringed with US missile bases. Anti-ballistic missiles, known as "star wars," are weapons designed to intercept and destroy ICBMs. In Washington's war doctrine, the US hits Russia with a first strike, and whatever retaliatory force Russia might have remaining is prevented from reaching the US by the shield of ABMs....

The Russian government understands that the change in US war doctrine and the US ABM bases on its borders are directed at Russia and are indications that Washington plans a first strike with nuclear weapons on Russia."

Roberts argues that it is folly to believe that any nuclear war can be survived by the US, since Russian and Chinese missiles are deployed on land, in the air in bombers, and in nuclear submarines close to the US. As well, Roberts notes:

"Even if US cities were saved from retaliation by ABMs, the radiation and nuclear winter effects of the weapons that hit Russia and China would destroy the US as well... Washington has created a dangerous situation. As Russia and China are clearly threatened with a first strike, they might decide to strike first themselves. Why should Russia and China sit and await the inevitable while their adversary creates the ability to protect itself by developing its ABM shield?"

Regarding the increase in Russian flights penetrating sensitive airspace near the US, USA Today reported:

"A U.S. air command official acknowledged at least 16 Russian forays around Alaska and northern Canada in the past 10 days, describing them as routine training missions. " However, The Washington Free Beacon said: "other defense officials said the large number of aerial incursions is very unusual and harkens back to the Cold War, when Soviet bombers frequently sought to trigger air defenses along the periphery of U.S. territory as preparation for a nuclear conflict."