

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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MEMO

Date: 3 June 1975

From: Assistant Chief of Information-02
To: Admiral Zumwalt

Admiral:

Attached are several--all that were released by DOD--memos for correspondents posted in April and May. Also attached is a portion of Mr. Middendorf's address to the Navy League in New Orleans in which he touches on Okean.

RADM Inman's office told me this morning they are putting the finishing touches on a package of Okean material which should be mailed ^{to you} out [^] today also.

I trust that this material will fill your needs.

V. rspy,

D.J. Maynard.

D.J. Maynard
CAPT, USN

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

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ADDRESS BY
HONORABLE J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
NAVY LEAGUE ANNUAL CONVENTION BANQUET
FAIRMONT HOTEL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
FRIDAY, 25 APRIL 1975

On April 25, 1862, U.S. Navy ships, under the command of Flag Officer David Glasgow Farragut, anchored here in New Orleans. Historical accounts tell us that high water in the Mississippi River allowed the ships' guns to dominate the city over the levee top. As a result, the Common Council of New Orleans resolved that:

"... having been advised by the military authorities that the city is indefensible, we declare that no resistance will be made to the forces of the United States."

In the intervening 113 years the City of New Orleans has welcomed the U.S. Navy with open arms and its citizens have been firm and constant supporters of strong U.S. seapower. It is therefore a pleasure for me, as Secretary of the Navy, to be here in New Orleans.

This 1975 National Navy League Convention has reviewed its internal policies and has set what I feel to be the proper course for the coming year.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to comment on the major issues which confront us today and which affect each of us as Americans.

SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE
P4-5

Additionally we observe no diminution in the military capabilities of any of our potential competitors.

With regard to the Soviet Navy, it is a disturbing fact that today the Soviet Navy has twice the number of major surface combatants and submarines as the U.S. Navy. I feel it most important for the American people to be fully aware of the challenge represented by the trend of recent Soviet naval developments.

The five-year training cycle of the Soviet Navy has just completed. Perhaps as an overall evaluation of training effectiveness, ships, aircraft and submarines from all four Soviet fleets (North Fleet, headquartered at Severomorsk; Baltic Fleet, headquartered at Kaliningrad; Black Sea Fleet, headquartered at Sevastopol; and the Pacific Fleet, headquartered at Vladivostok) have recently been engaged in a major, world-wide naval exercise.

More than 220 naval ships, deployed in all the oceans of the world, participated in this exercise. Long-range strike aircraft, assigned to both the Soviet Navy and the Soviet Long Range Air Army, in addition to reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft participated in all exercise phases from bases in the Soviet Union, and from air facilities made available to the Soviets in the Somali Republic, Guinea and Cuba. A large number of nuclear and conventionally powered submarines also took part.

In the Atlantic, more than 50 Soviet deployed from the Baltic, Black Sea, and North Fleet to exercise areas in the Norwegian Sea, and southwest of the British Isles. These surface ships simulated naval task groups and were opposed during the exercise by Soviet aircraft and submarines. Soviet reconnaissance aircraft operating from Cuba and Guinea conducted ocean surveillance over wide areas of the Atlantic.

Soviet naval exercise activity in the Mediterranean was concentrated off the east and southern coasts of Sardinia. Two Soviet cruisers, and supporting destroyers and logistic ships, conducted possible anti-carrier warfare exercises in the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Four Soviet naval task groups were deployed in the western Pacific -- southeast of the Kamchatka Peninsula, south of Japan, east of Japan, and northeast of the Caroline Islands. These task groups were located by Soviet reconnaissance aircraft and were subsequently the targets of simulated strikes by Soviet attack aircraft.



The Soviet Navy also exercised in the Indian Ocean. A Soviet cruiser, a guided-missile equipped destroyer, at least two submarines and support ships operated in the south central Indian Ocean. The exercise activity of these ships was supported by Soviet aircraft flying from Somalia.

The Soviets used the exercise to evaluate:

- (1) Command and control of naval forces world-wide.
- (2) Ocean-surveillance/reconnaissance.
- (3) Anti-carrier, anti-submarine and anti-convoy warfare operations.
- (4) Weapons and electronics systems.

The exercise was observed by ships from the United States, and several Allied navies -- a coordinated NATO effort.

In my view, this Soviet naval exercise clearly demonstrates the fact that the Soviet Navy is capable of operating effectively in all the oceans of the world.

The full measure of a navy -- any navy -- rests in its capability to perform its missions and not in numbers alone. I am fully confident that the U.S. Navy is capable of carrying out its missions today. But I also see an increase in the capabilities of the Soviet Navy, as shown by this recent exercise.

This makes it clear to me that it is absolutely essential that we maintain our national strength and clearly demonstrate our continued determination to both friend and potential foe.

Now, more than ever before, we need the credibility of a strong Navy and a strong defense posture.

Thank you very much.

SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE

released by DoD 18 April 75

The Soviet Navy is conducting a major world-wide fleet exercise that analysts estimate now includes more than 200 ships and could go even higher before it is completed.

The exercise is presently taking place in the North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

An April 10 TASS announcement said the Soviet Union would conduct naval exercises on the "high seas" during the month of April. No official word of the start of that exercise has been made.

But, since the TASS announcement, numerous large combatant naval ships (cruisers and destroyers) and some submarines have been observed departing their homewaters or normal operating areas and entering the North Atlantic, North Sea and Pacific Oceans.

The large number of supporting auxiliaries being deployed, coupled with the deployment of long range reconnaissance aircraft to the Caribbean and West Africa indicate that the naval exercise is world-wide.

Participating in the maneuvers are some of the newest and most heavily armed surface ships in the Soviet Naval inventory; such as KARA and KRESTA II class cruisers and KASHIN, KRIVAK, KILDIN and KANIN class destroyers.

Long range strike, antisubmarine and reconnaissance aircraft and a large number of all types of submarines will also probably play roles in the exercise. In the last two days, several large reconnaissance bombers have been noted flying over the Norwegian Sea.

At least two groups have been observed in the Atlantic, one north of the Portuguese Azore Islands and one to the south of Iceland. An additional task force is operating in the Norwegian Sea northeast of Iceland while a task group, composed entirely of warships, is operating in the central Mediterranean. Four separate groups are operating in the Pacific Ocean with one group southeast of the Kamchatka Peninsula, one to the east of Japan, one northeast of the Caroline Islands and a final group just south of the Sea of Japan.

The roles the various task groups will play and the overall theme of this extensive Soviet naval exercise has not been determined; however, it is likely that the experience gained "OKEAN" 1970 will provide a framework to test and evaluate new weapon systems, tactics and doctrine developed since 1970. Anti-submarine, anti-carrier, anti-shipping, anti-aircraft, amphibious, and convoy operations are expected to be conducted by the surface, subsurface and aviation branches of the Soviet Navy.

In April 1970, the Soviets conducted an extensive naval exercise in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and in the adjoining seas and also in the Mediterranean, the Black and Baltic Seas. That exercise, named "OKEAN" (Russian for "ocean") was designed to test the powerful and modern navy that had been built during the 1960's and to emphasize to all that Soviet Union was a great maritime as well as land power. Surface ships, nuclear and conventional submarines, aircraft and amphibious forces were tested during two weeks of maneuvers.

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to correspondents

1100 Building
20 Apr 70

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Soviet Naval Exercise OCEAN

The worldwide Soviet naval Exercise OCEAN is well under way. Large task forces of ships of all types including many guided-missile surface combatants are now conducting exercises in the Norwegian, Mediterranean, and Philippine Seas and North Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The guided-missile helicopter ship LENINGRAD and four other guided-missile combatants left the Mediterranean last week and are now headed north in the Atlantic. They may join other Soviet ships presently operating in the Norwegian Sea.

Two other groups of ships may soon rendezvous in the Philippine Sea where they will probably engage in antisubmarine warfare exercises. In the Indian Ocean, several Soviet ships are already in ports in Somali in northeast Africa and in the island republic of Mauritius.

Such wide-flung coordinated maneuvers are unprecedented in the history of the Soviet Navy.



OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

PLEASE REPLY BY DATE

FOR CORRESPONDENTS:

April 28, 1970

OX 7-5131

The following briefing was conducted today at Headquarters, U.S. Atlantic Command, Norfolk, Virginia:

'Our purpose here this morning is to update the briefing on the Soviet Naval exercise 'Okean' or 'Ocean' which was presented by a Navy spokesman at a Pentagon press conference last Wednesday. Since a large portion of this exercise is taking place in Atlantic waters, it has been of particular interest to the Atlantic Command and the Atlantic Fleet.

"Soviet Naval' activity reached its all time world-wide high this past month when over 200 naval units were deployed to the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and to the Mediterranean.

"The activity began to build up first in the Mediterranean when some 25 surface combatants, 3 intelligence collection ships, 20 support ships, and accompanying submarines deployed mostly from the Black Sea and conducted one of the most extensive surface combatant naval exercises ever held by the Soviet Navy.

"During the final phases of the Mediterranean activity, Soviet units began to form in the Atlantic and initially included an unusually high number of intelligence collectors and submarines.

"In Mid-April Soviet surface combatants began to deploy into the Norwegian Sea from both the Northern and Baltic Fleets.

"Coincident with this increase in Atlantic operations, and while the Mediterranean force maintained its strength at about 60 units, Soviet Naval activity in the Indian Ocean reached its all time high. Soviet Naval units have been deployed to this area since 1967, but the force had never before reached the April level of 5 missile configured surface combatants, 6 support ships and an accompanying submarine force.

"Soviet Naval activity in the Pacific also began to build up to a high level in Mid-April and reached a total of 32 units by last Friday, which is 2 to 3 times the number noted operating there in the past.

(MORE)

"As all of these Naval forces were deploying to the Oceans of the World, the Soviet News Agency Tass announced that Soviet exercises, code-named 'Okean' or 'Ocean,' would be held in April and May. These exercises were to include submarines, surface ships, Naval Air Force and Marine infantry units. The stated purpose of the exercise was to test and further improve the level of combat skill of the Soviet Navy.

"The most concentrated exercise activity took place in the Atlantic where 30 surface combatants, two dozen support ships, and half as many intelligence collection ships were deployed last week. The high point began 22 April and lasted for three days. The exercise scenario was constructed on a theme that the Leningrad Force, or the Southern Group, simulated an enemy task force which was to penetrate the Iceland-United Kingdom Gap.

"The opposing force consisting of surface combatants, submarines and support ships, moved into position to oppose the Southern aggressors. Thus was the stage set for the most extensive Soviet Naval exercise in history.

"The Southern force conducted replenishment operations prior to engagement with the Northern force. A Sverdlov cruiser in the Northern force was noted flying a Soviet Fleet Commander's flag, probably representing the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Northern Fleet.

"To the East, another larger surface task force was steaming northeast of the Shetland Islands.

"In the North Central Norwegian Sea, anti-submarine exercises were underway, involving a cruiser/destroyer force, coordinated surface and air operations against Soviet subs simulating enemy units occurred in this area.

"The Soviet Naval Air Arm has also been expanding its operations over the past three years at a steady pace.

"Coinciding with the high level Soviet Atlantic surface and submarine activity last week has been the most concentrated Soviet Naval air operation of all time.

"The force presently conducts long-range maritime reconnaissance with TU-95 Bears, medium range maritime reconnaissance, photography and air to surface missile strikes with twin jet Badgers, and anti-submarine warfare operations, which are performed by IL-18 May anti-submarine aircraft and BE-12 Mail ASW amphibious aircraft.

(MORE)

"Commencing on 8 April the Soviets conducted 5 days of round-the-clock flights into the North Atlantic. In addition, as many as 400 flights were conducted last week in the Norwegian Sea area in support of Soviet Naval operations there. This was the most extensive Soviet Air operation in history conducted in support of Naval forces.

"The long-range Bear aircraft conducted extensive reconnaissance for the Northern forces and probably provided locating information to its medium range Badgers which conducted air to surface missile attacks on the Southern group,

"Exercise 'Okean' is now apparently entering a new phase, Leningrad has joined a third task force which sailed from Soviet Baltic Fleet waters and has steamed North off the Northern coast of Norway. This new grouping appears to be oriented toward amphibious operations and an amphibious landing exercise along the North coast of the Soviet Union appears likely in the next two or three days. Since most of these ships are home-ported in the Baltic and Black Seas they will undoubtedly return South after the landings, possibly exercising enroute.

"Some of the surface warships are expected to return to home ports soon but the level of activity will remain high in all fleets for the immediate future. It is possible that elements of the exercise will take place in the Atlantic farther South and West of that yet experienced.

"As the Soviets have publicly stated, this is their first world-wide coordinated Naval exercise. It has resulted in the highest level of Soviet Naval and Naval air activity on record and is in keeping with the continuing growth of the Soviet Union as a Maritime power.

"The Soviets have demonstrated some significant capabilities with their Naval forces, for instance, a capability to fly reconnaissance missions at extended ranges, including at least one non-stop mission to Cuba from the Northern Soviet Union by TU-95 Bear aircraft.

"After refueling in Cuba this type of turboprop aircraft could surveil a vast area of the North Atlantic, including the Caribbean.

"Another capability demonstrated has been the improved ability of Soviet surface forces to maintain large task groups at sea and to replenish them at sea. Additionally the present movement of Soviet amphibious forces from the Baltic to the Barents Sea indicates an increasing long-range amphibious capability.

(MORE)

"In summary, I would like to emphasize three points. First, that 50 percent of the Soviet Navy's ships have been constructed since 1960 and all of its active units have been constructed since World War II. This is in far contrast to any Western Navy, including the United States.

"Second, the Soviets have increased their tempo of open ocean operations almost five times in the past four years and this figure will go even higher in 1970.

"And finally, the reasons why the Soviet Union is pursuing such a prolific rate of Naval growth, namely to become the world's leading maritime power, to counter U. S. and Allied Naval capabilities and to support their political objectives worldwide."

- E N D -

May 5, 1970

SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE OCEAN

The worldwide Soviet naval Exercise OCEAN which began on 14 April apparently ended by 29 April. Most of the participating ships have returned to home waters.

At the peak of activity, over 200 Russian ships were deployed from all four fleets. The exercise ranged over the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans and Mediterranean, Norwegian, North, Barents, Baltic, and Black Seas.

The exercise was coordinated from Naval Headquarters, Moscow, and carried out under a single concept. The worldwide maneuvers were unprecedented in the history of the Soviet Navy.

Almost half of the 200 ships involved in OCEAN operated in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Norwegian Sea. The guided-missile helicopter ship LENINGRAD, on her maiden voyage, left the Mediterranean on 15 April to join this northern force.

MORE

A total of 33 naval ships from the Pacific Ocean Fleet concentrated their operations in the Philippine Sea. This was twice the number ever seen there. From 45 to 50 ships were in the Mediterranean, while at least 17 operated in the Indian Ocean.

Exercise OCEAN demonstrated that the Soviets are capable of deploying and operating their modern sophisticated navy on a global basis.

END