

Warped

by Scott McCullar



NATO and Warsaw Pact launch rival war games

United Press International
BONN — NATO and Warsaw Pact forces began two months of rival autumn war games Monday in a giant test of almost one-third of a million troops that could face each other in a divided Europe.
 About 60,000 troops participating in "Shield 84," the biggest East bloc fall maneuver in six years, took the field in Czechoslovakia as almost 58,000 British troops started crossing the English Channel to join in NATO's even larger "Autumn Forge" exercise.
 The annual seven-week NATO exercise being staged from the Norwegian coast to the Black Sea will eventually involve more than 250,000 troops in 24 separate land, sea and air maneuvers.
 In one segment called "Reforger," 17,000 troops will be flown in from

the United States to augment NATO forces. A so-called "Lionheart 84" phase will draw 131,000 troops from five nations to the North German Plain for the most ambitious British-led war game since the end of World War II.
 The NATO command at Mons, Belgium said the main focus of the Western war games will be in the low countries and West Germany, which shares a long border with the East bloc.
 As usual, the rival alliances have swapped observers to keep tabs on each other's activities as a "confidence building measure."
 Rumania, the Warsaw Pact's military maverick, is believed to be participating in the Pact exercise at command and general staff levels, while sticking to its policy of not letting troops participate.

Greece is partly boycotting the NATO naval maneuvers because of its territorial squabble with Turkey while France and Spain traditionally decline to participate in the combined exercises.
 The autumn maneuvers opened just two days after anti-war rallies in the West and somber official ceremonies in the East marked the 44th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II in Europe.
 Czechoslovak Defense Minister Martin Dzur was quoted by his country's official news agency CTK as saying the Warsaw Pact exercise is "especially important in view of the current international situation in which U.S.-led imperialist forces have launched a campaign against socialism."

Vatican attacks analysis

United Press International
VATICAN CITY — The Vatican Monday resumed its attack on Marxist-oriented liberation theologians but said it shares their desire to fight poverty and is open to more discussion.
 The Vatican's top theologian, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of West Germany, formally released a 36-page document denouncing the use of Marxist analysis in defining the Roman Catholic Church's mission among the poor.
 "The document is not a condemnation and they will have room to say what they believe," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of West Germany said at a news conference. "But they must reject certain absurd positions."
 Entitled "Instruction on Certain Aspects of the 'Theology of Liberation,'" it was released five days before Ratzinger was to meet with a leading Brazilian exponent of liberation theology, Rev. Leonard Boff.

Ratzinger, prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, prepared the document on orders from Pope John Paul II, who has ordered priests to stay out of politics.
 Liberation theology was born from the extreme poverty of Latin America and has gained a wide following in the Third World.
 Its exponents work to mobilize the poor politically and some see Jesus as liberator, defining their mission in such Marxist terms as class struggle.

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