

From Associated Press reports

Soviet war booklet hits U.S. military

MOSCOW

A glossy booklet on the so-called "U.S. war machine" appears to be Moscow's latest bid to turn Western Europeans against America over the issue

of nuclear armaments.

The 78-page publication, titled "Whence The Threat To Peace," is the Kremlin's latest answer to the Pentagon's own 99-page pamphlet, "Soviet Military Power," which last September depicted the Soviets as having achieved military superiority.

The Soviet booklet released this month accuses the Reagan

administration of launching an extensive arms buildup to attain U.S. military superiority over the Soviet Union "in the next few years."

Maps portray the Soviet Union virtually under siege from U.S. ground bases, vessels and aircraft. Charts purport to show big flows of weapons from American arsenals to overseas allies.

Nuclear weapons of the United States, Britain and France "confront" the Soviets in Europe, the booklet says, while China's nuclear forces "threaten" from the East.

The publication seeks to prove that "rough parity" exists between NATO and the Warsaw Pact in manpower, aircraft, nuclear missiles and other armaments.

The Soviet statements are not new, and the booklet offers no new evidence to buttress assertions — repeated daily in the state-run Soviet media — of U.S. warmongering.

U.S. State Department spokesman Dean Fischer on Monday dismissed the pamphlet as a "slick repackaging job" of standard Soviet propaganda themes.

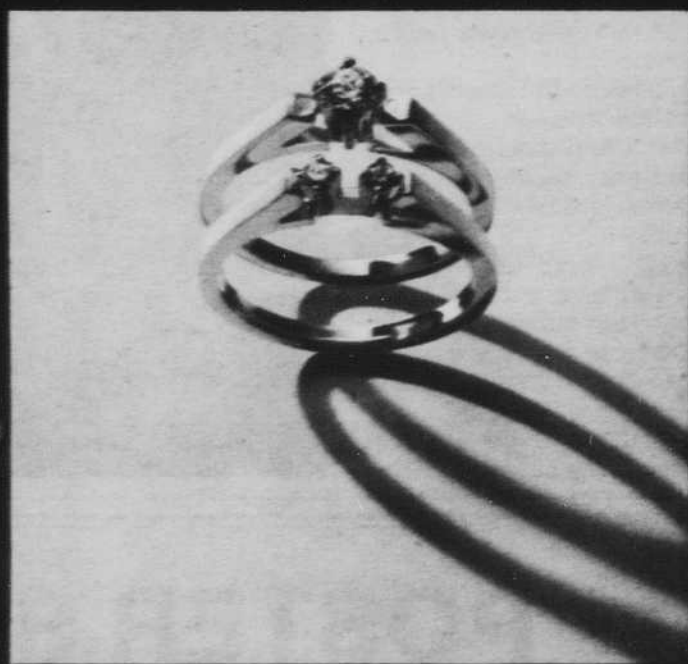
The Soviet pamphlet seems to be aimed at "peace movements" in the Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany



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Polar playground attracts wealthy

RESOLUTE, Northwest Territories

The North Pole is becoming a playground for the idle rich, hardy adventurers and wealthy eccentrics eager to sip champagne for half an hour on the polar ice cap.

"You can go to Hawaii and get a suntan," said Terry Basaraba, base manager for Kenn Borek Air Ltd. in Resolute. "Big deal. Or you can go to the North Pole and freeze . . . and have an experience you'll never forget."

Kenn Borek Air flies charters to the pole and reports that business is booming. Twenty-one people paid for the privilege last year and travel agencies in Vancouver, British Columbia, Seattle and Beverly Hills, Calif., already have booked between 50 and 60 people for the short season — mid-April to mid-May — this year.

The Twin Otter planes must land on the unmarked ice cap, which breaks up after May, making landings dangerous. The visit is limited to a half hour. Any longer and the plane's engines are in danger of freezing.

Basaraba said group charters are the safest, but even after paying between \$6,000 and \$7,000 per person — the airline's price from Resolute — there is no guarantee of seeing the pole if the weather is bad.

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