

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE PLANET

ITALIAN MILITARY ACTION: Impossible Mission

By PETER FEND

In 380 A.D., Justinian I, Emperor of Rome, split the empire into two parts: East and West. That split still holds. But by 1987 A.D., the empire will be put back together again and there will no longer be an East and West. There will no longer be the polarity which most recently has become manifest as the nuclear confrontation between US and THEM.

The Roman Catholic Church, which can rely generally for support on Protestant and Evangelical faiths as most elaborately organized in the United States Department of Defense, is pitted against the Eastern Church, once headquartered in Constantinople but now (under cover of the brand name "Communism") headquartered in Moscow. Recently the Church decided that a good way to fight the East was to elect a Pope from Poland. Then, with supporting actors like Lech Walesa, all the world could see that the East—the Russian Bear—was encroaching on the West and denying the God of good Catholics. It's not that the Russians deny God (a nuclear-armed Empire under an Orthodox fanatic like Tsar Alexander I would be more dangerous); it's that they are by definition the Other. By a definition handed down from Justinian. Who the hell was Justinian anyway? And how come his inability to cut the mustard as Emperor led us all to two thousand years of squabbles? With an end which reads like the Last Book of the Bible? Very Christian.

Rome is an important city. It has the NATO War College, assorted works of public art and the Pope. It also has the receiving station for all imagery from outer space of the main war zones between East and West: Europe, Israel, Libya, Ethiopia, a lot of Russia and Siberia. And it has the headquarters for the Italian Army, Air Force and Navy.

Rome's mission, should it decide to accept it, is to disregard East or West and re-unite its Empire. This is a way to win World War III without going through a holocaust. It's also a way of beating the Soviets, even if it does leave US out in the cold.

The last time the Romans tried to beat the East was just before the breakup of the Empire into East and West: they lost, badly, to the Persians; soon afterwards, they gave up paganism and kissed the Cross and made one guy the Eastern Emperor and the other guy the Western Emperor. The Western Emperor eventually became the Pope. The Eastern Emperor eventually became Andropov. For all these centuries, Rome's mission has been to get rid of both the Pope and his Byzantine counterpart and to establish a new Mediterranean state which incorporates the territory once held by both.

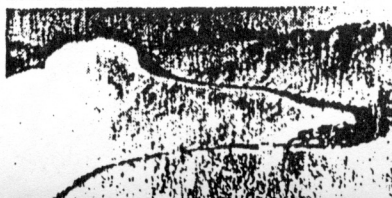
Who, exactly, is going to do this? Well... never mind the characters: here's a script.

Several months ago, in the Eye, I presented a World War III strategy in which the French would develop a SPACE FORCE and effect TELEVISION GOVERNMENT. The slogan: *Raison, Order et Fertilité*. The technique: media blitzkrieg, with observation of us all, live, from outer space. Since that article appeared, the French Government, through its television administration, has contracted with OECD SPACE FORCE, with which the author is associated to let the world look at places which cherish secrecy: like the Soviet Union, and a new country called Israelebanon. Its participants include a group of Germans who call themselves VIDEO BLITZ. The French, the Germans and soon the Italians, will be gangling up on the Soviet Union and leaving US out in the cold. And they will do this with Japanese video and computer technology. And they will do this



cupation. We mean sustainable, ecologically viable administration. The Mediterranean is a dying sea. The Black Sea is even more of one. By now, most of the lands surrounding these seas have been stripped of forests, or even grass, and what soil there was has eroded to the sea. Along with garbage, and herbicides, and nuclear wastes, and plastic compounds inessential to life. The Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea, and all the lands sloping into them, have steadily lost their integrity. Where Libyan sand dunes drift, there used to be cave art and herds of wild animals. Where Athenians choke (in Europe's worst air pollution), there used to be "clear-eyed Athena" as guardian. Where Neapolitans get cholera, there used to be Pompeii's resort. Where Tunisian sheep rip up remaining tufts, there used to be trees and boar, where acid rain destroys the forests of Transylvania, there used to be the terror only of Dracula. Where nuclear wastes flow (quietly) down the Don, there used to be water for Cossacks to drink. Where Egyptians die in droves from a still-water worm, there used to be a fast-flowing Nile. It is time to restore the integrity of the basins.

In 1983, starting in Italy, military forces will be shown how they can guarantee the territorial integrity of the entire Mediterranean/Black Sea concavity. They will be shown how to defend the home turf from people like the Pope, a pastor who thinks people should mimic the sheep who turn savannah to desert, and like Andropov, an Animal Farmer whose slave system cannot make the biggest piece of real estate on earth feed its proportionately modest population. They will be shown how to make the land wild and alive. And as they learn these skills, as they learn to revive their turf as complex ecological systems, they will coincidentally acquire the sense of terrain and ease of maneuver required for defense against intruders. In 1983, agents of OECD will begin to show how the Italian military can warm over the entire Mediterranean system, deep into Bulgaria and the Ukraine, from Gibraltar to the high ridge separating Israel from Arab Jerusalem, all beneath the watchful eyes, nerve-linked to the public, of SPACE FORCE satellites.



army. As the ecological system builds up strength, and as species gain numbers, the site can be modeled as an electronic battlefield, with constantly shifting rates of attrition and conquest. "War, the world's only hygiene," is the Futurists' state of nature. The army can model it, build for it and subsequently conduct hunt/trap/kill campaigns in it. The result, as developed now in Africa by International environment groups, is a method of living-resource development which maintains high numbers of wild animals and plants, in rich variety, with economic yields per acre per year much higher than in any previous system of land-use or animal farms. These testworks in Calabria would be repeated in central Italy, and they would then be linked by a project for the Air Force.

The Air Force drops bombs. For the Italian Air Force, we develop the Eco-Bomb. Wastes from cities and industry are pyrolyzed and degraded to simple hydrocarbons, which then serve as a substance for the growth of certain microorganisms. These organisms are what the Italian, French and British oil companies have all learned to grow on hydrocarbons like oil and gas; they are called "bioproteins." As cultivated now on mined oil and gas, they are sold as feed for domestic animals. But through OECD efforts, we show the Italian Government that such uniform, uncontaminated organisms can be grown on the hydrocarbon gas or oil outflow from the wastes of the Mediterranean Basin. Rather than compost those wastes, or try to separate their components, the Italian munitions industry just combusts them thoroughly to yield the simplest hydrocarbons, on which uniform base entirely new, uniform populations of life-forms can be mass-produced. The organisms are packed into eco-bombs, possibly as drought-resistant and decay-resistant keratins (such as leathers), and they are fed not to domestic animals but to ecological systems at their prime feeding/meeting grounds, at their fertility centers, at their marshes. Deposition of bioproteins would coincide with touchdown times of migratory insects and birds. One day the Air Force drops eco-bombs with pinpoint accuracy on the marsh in Calabria; the next day it drops eco-bombs on the marsh in Abruzzi; on other days, in phase with flights, it drops eco-bombs on sites up and down various migratory paths—into Africa, up the Danube, and Don, along the Nile and up the nutrient-intake requirements of the new marsh-centered species-battlefield systems located throughout the Mediterranean/Black Sea Basin. If Air Force jets can drop eco-bombs, so disposing of burdens from civilization, so it can drop lethal bombs on enemy forces: what works on the hunting grounds can also work in war. We have started to develop, then, a land-air campaign to secure the viability and integrity of the Mediterranean Basin—the Italian home turf.

Next, we consult with the Italian Navy, on a scheme for harvesting the soil that has accumulated since the first years of the Roman Empire. The Marines, or Italian Lagunari, plunge in, and they specialize in construction of the richest nutrient producer and bioproducer sites known: estuarine, saltwater marshes. The Navy systematically surveys and manages all offshore accumulators, and the Marines become experts on every possible landing site. A giant bogas-from-seaweed industry can develop offshore. Military forces become like the hunter-trappers who won the American Revolution: they know the land, they live off the land and sea Basin, they hunt and fish on the land and sea, and they can easily hold their own if

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In Rome, there is an Air Force, an Army, a Navy and a base for a Space Force. My colleagues in the OECD SPACE FORCE will be there this summer, and we will be helping France and Italy develop their military capabilities. We will do this at the European Space Agency, and we will do it in the Abruzzi Mountains, and we will do it in the south, in Calabria. Imagine, for awhile, that you have in your command the entire Italian military force. And imagine, if you can, that you're going to win.

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to gain control of the entire Mediterranean Basin, including its adjunct the Black Sea Basin. By control, we do not mean oc-



cupation. We mean sustainable, ecologically viable administration. The Mediterranean is a dying sea. The Black Sea is even more of one. By now, most of the lands surrounding these seas have been stripped of forests, or even grass, and what soil there was has eroded to the sea. Along with garbage, and herbicides, and nuclear wastes, and plastic compounds inessential to life. The Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea, and all the lands sloping into them, have steadily lost their integrity. Where Libyan sand dunes drift, there used to be cave art and herds of wild animals. Where Athenians choke (in Europe's worst air pollution), there used to be "clear-eyed Athena" as guardian. Where Neapolitans get cholera, there used to be Pompeii's resort. Where Tunisian sheep rip up remaining tufts, there used to be trees and boar. Where acid rain destroys the forests of Transylvania, there used to be the terror only of Dracula. Where nuclear wastes flow (quietly) down the Don, there used to be water for Cossacks to drink. Where Egyptians die in droves from a stillwater worm, there used to be a fast-flowing Nile. It is time to restore the integrity of the basins.

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In Calabria, on a river-bed that occasionally rushes soil to the sea, we construct a pair of convex-disc marshes. They sop up excess waters without letting them stagnate; they create sponges for a variety of species, not just breeding grounds for malarial mosquitoes. If the design works, it can become a standard for river control simultaneous with grassland/forest development. The species that converge on the convex-disc marshes disperse nutrients throughout a hinterland, causing a rich spread of vegetation, and that spread is more stable and dynamic than any tree or crop planting scheme could be. All these constructions can be executed by the

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We build two marsh systems. We develop the eco-bomb. We outline naval policy offshore. We indicate the paths of nutrient bombing which could tie together the basin. The Italian Army, Air Force, and Navy get into action. Always covering terrain, always building up system vigor, always finding ways of dispersing the pure microorganisms derived ultimately from urban wastes. Instead of farms, there are campaigns. Instead of pastoral landscapes and pastoral letters, there are no-man's lands and ecosystem evaluations—largely based on satellite readings. A consolidated Mediterranean military command arises, and so the action spreads into present-day Soviet Union. Shall the populace there heed Moscow and never mind the new productivity of land, or shall they heed Rome? Let them see the Italians get into action, and they will soon forget their Big Brother.