

REAGAN'S

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Exercises.  
"RAID"

RUSSIA

PRESIDENT REAGAN has made his first direct challenge to the Soviet Union under the arms agreement covering troop exercises in Europe.

In a move which the Pentagon has so far kept secret, four senior US officers were flown out on a US Air Force plane last Friday to check the number of troops involved in a Soviet manoeuvre taking place in Belorussia.

The right of 'challenge inspection' is permitted for the first time in any arms control agreement. Access to the exercise area must be granted within 36 hours of the challenge being issued, to reduce the possibility of cheating. Inspection teams are allowed a maximum of 48 hours at an exercise. The American officers are due to leave today.

The United States' determined exercise of its rights in this case—expected to lead to a prompt Russian counter-challenge at the

## EXCLUSIVE

IAN MATHER  
Defence Correspondent

next Nato exercise scheduled in West Germany—is clearly meant to signal President Reagan's toughness in the run-up to the nuclear disarmament summit expected this autumn.

Verification remains the key issue of discussion between the Soviet Union and the Americans after

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's announcement last week that West Germany was reluctantly dropping its demand to keep 72 ageing Pershing 1A missiles of its own in any Soviet-US agreement to scrap medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

The dates for the summit, to be held in the US, will almost certainly be agreed at a meeting of the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington from 15 to 17 September. Most likely is

late November, though a report from Moscow said that Gorbachev has set aside the last week in October for a possible summit.

US and Soviet negotiators, working non-stop through the summer in Geneva, have already agreed on two 'daddy' protocols, covering inspection against cheating and the destruction of cruise, Pershing and SS-20 missiles.

A 'data base' of existing missiles and their locations is to be established first, and verified by military inspectors. The two

'declared locations' in Britain are Greenham Common and Molesworth.

Next, the missiles will be cut in half and the erector-launchers dismantled in front of Soviet witnesses.

Under amended verification proposals put forward by the Americans in Geneva last week both superpowers would have the right of 'challenge inspection' on industrial plants where the scrapped missiles have been manufactured to ensure that production lines have not been re-started.

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