9-10-1983

Soviets: Reagan caused hatred, 1983
Abstract
In an “open letter” to President Reagan Saturday, an analyst for the government newspaper Izvestia said Reagan encouraged a “month of hatred” against the Soviets over the downing of a South Korean airliner.

Izvestia political news analyst Stanislav Kondrashov accused the White House of ignoring information that showed the Soviets did not know the airliner was a civilian aircraft.

“You were building up horror and hatred by your description of what happened, by all of your epithets: ‘barbarous destruction, a crime against humanity, a crime of the society which disregards human rights and human values,’ ” Kondrashov wrote.

“Deplorably, the month of hatred assumed a mass character and was a success,” he said.

A Soviet jet fighter shot down the Boeing 747, with 269 people aboard, near the Soviet island of Sakhalin in the Sea of Japan Sept. 1.

The letter asked whether the president knew that the “Soviet pilot was unaware that what he saw was a passenger plane.”

“The information from your intelligence services is evidence that the pilot was unaware of that,” the letter said.