

## Editorial

### *The new foreign minister*

The post of a minister without portfolio is not extraordinary by any means, but a foreign minister without a nation is another story entirely. That seems to be the situation of Eduard Shevardnadze, former foreign minister of the Soviet Union, and now foreign minister of the former Soviet Union.

The news of Shevardnadze's appointment at first appeared to have startled Russian President Boris Yeltsin, since it was done without consultation with the Russian, Ukrainian, or other republics of the former superpower; nonetheless, it was hardly a bone of contention, since the U.S.S.R. is now little more than a legal fiction.

Despite every effort by George Bush and the Major government in Britain to prop up the fiction that the Soviet Union still exists as a sovereign national entity, its days are numbered. Indicative of the actual political reality is the fact that the top leadership of the Soviet Communist Party—members of its Politburo—are now being investigated for possible criminal charges in connection with the failed August coup. While this investigation will not touch Shevardnadze, it certainly does not exempt his so-called boss, Mikhail Gorbachov.

In fact, Shevardnadze's position is no more strange than that of his old buddy Gorbachov who is the first world's President of a stateless empire.

Nobody knows quite what to call the former Union. In one article appearing in the weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the author ironically referred to the former Soviet Union as the S.B.N. The initials stand for Strana Bez Nazvaniya—the Country Without a Name—as described on the wall of a huge bathhouse in Moscow where notices are posted. Perhaps it would have been more correct to reverse the order and refer to the Soviet Union as the Name Without a Country.

All the news from Moscow is that the "Soviet" republics have dissolved, effectively, the Soviet Union. They now have a federation of some nations—not all of them—which were formerly republics of the Soviet Union. They're getting ready to dump the corpse of what used to be the Soviet Union officially, as soon as they elect a new President and constitute a new

arrangement for a governing body which would be a coordinating agency among a group of sovereign republics, chiefly Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

So much for George Bush's attempt to negotiate with a phantom—a non-existent nation.

The timing of Shevardnadze's resumption of the office he quit a year ago is of interest, since it comes just as he lost in his year-long bid to become United Nations Secretary General. This was an attempt by the Anglo-American/Soviet condominium of the past, to openly assert its aim to establish a one-world police state government, run by the superpowers.

On Sept. 27, 1988, Shevardnadze had called for the establishment of a United Nations-run global police state, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly. Key to this was the establishment of a global environmental police force. At that time he said: "The permanent members of the Security Council should set an example in strengthening the authority of the United Nations, enhancing its role, and expanding and enriching its peacemaking functions. We shall enhance the role of the United Nations even more by concerted efforts to combat the threats to our environment."

It seems pretty clear now that Shevardnadze's "political break" with Mikhail Gorbachov one year ago, was cosmetic rather than principled. One can certainly breathe a sigh of relief now, at the way things turned out. Dangerous as things still are, they would have been far worse if the Soviet Union had not been sundered, and had Shevardnadze assumed the top United Nations post.

Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here by George Bush and the Bush Democrats, who are trying to turn the United States into a former superpower, by denying the reality of the deepening economic depression, and refusing to reverse the policies which have led to the economic collapse.

Bush is clinging to the illusion that there is an economic recovery with the same obsessiveness with which he refuses to acknowledge the impotence of his ally Mikhail Gorbachov.