

LaRouche's ideas reach Moscow in time of troubles

by Rachel Douglas

In a message sent from prison to his collaborators on Sept. 2, 1991, a fortnight after the failed coup in Russia and Ukraine's declaration of independence set in motion the breakup of the Soviet Union, Lyndon LaRouche urged the rapid expansion of "a broad international movement, which clamors for the kinds of physical-economic reform . . . needed to get the world out of its present mess."

Such a clamor was heard in Moscow on Oct. 30-31, 1992 at a conference on "Alternative Approaches to Economic Reform." Organized by the Schiller Institute, the Russian State Humanitarian University, and the Ukrainian University in Moscow, among others, the event drew participants from Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Latvia, Sweden, Germany, and the United States (see *EIR*, Nov. 13).

Inflation running at more than 4% *per week*, poverty that has engulfed 90% of the population, production and distribution of industrial goods at a standstill—these realities of Russia in late 1992 lent an urgency to the conference discussions on how to craft economic policy. This latest phase of the crisis in Russia resulted from measures adopted by the government of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, to win favor with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Subsidies for industrial production were canceled and prices unfettered, without a competent replacement economic policy being in place.

The IMF prescriptions are more and more detested, but among those eager to exploit the backlash are communists from the old ruling *nomenklatura* and Great Russian chauvinists, who have declared their goal of restoring power within the borders of the former U.S.S.R. The certain resistance to such a drive from the newly sovereign nations, including ones like Ukraine and Kazakhstan that have nuclear weapons, defines a danger of catastrophic war. Eurasia is already dotted by local wars, so that the nightly news on Radio Russia leads with combat reports from half a dozen battlefronts.

Intervening at the conference, Armenian parliamentarian Igor Muradjan reported with the example of his country, on the double curse of war and IMF terms.



At the Moscow conference on "Alternative Approaches to Economic Reform," from left: Jonathan Tennenbaum (in profile), of the Fusion Energy Forum; Prof. Taras Muranivsky, conference co-chairman and rector of the Ukrainian University in Moscow; Anno Hellenbroich, conference co-chairman and representative of the Schiller Institute; translator; Michael Vitt and Michael Liebig of the Schiller Institute.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute, said in her message, read at the conference: "I believe I understand what agony, resignation, and desperation many people in Russia are living through. While a short time ago there was the hope that the opening of the borders of Europe would bring an improvement in conditions of life of the population, this hope has been bitterly disappointed. . . . We are already in the beginning phase of the Third World War, which will probably take the form of a Thirty Years' War, in which local and regional wars spread like wildfire. . . ."

"The decisive question is whether we can overcome this depression—which is already worse than the one in the 1930s, out of which fascism developed, and which this time threatens to become global—with the means which led to the reconstruction in western Europe after World War II. One thing is certain: If we have learned nothing from history, we will be condemned to repeat it as a tragedy. We will be able to escape this tragedy if, from out of this crisis, we are able to free ourselves from the evil which has dominated the entire nineteenth and twentieth centuries: oligarchism and geopolitics."

A theme of the conference, as the following selections from the proceedings show, was that a crisis of this magnitude requires not formulas for solving one or another of its aspects, but a *method* for generating innovative, bold solutions. A major event at the colloquium, therefore, was the distribution of pre-publication copies of Lyndon LaRouche's book *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?* in Russian. Prof. Taras Muranivsky, conference co-chair, is the

scientific editor of the Russian edition.

Dr. Viktor Petrenko, translator of this first book by LaRouche to appear in Russian, briefed the conference on its central concepts. "This book opens up for us a new world," he said, "the world of 'physical economy' and 'natural law.' "

LaRouche's foreword for the Russian edition of his book aptly expresses the sense of the Moscow conference:

"The Russian edition of this textbook appears at the moment the greatest financial bubble in history is collapsing upon us. If we fail to take appropriate corrective action soon, this collapse could become the worst economic disaster in European history. . . . Out of the wreckage of that monetary collapse, a new form of national economy must be constructed, from the remains of the existing industry, farms, and infrastructure. . . ."

"Nations which survive learn two leading rules for shaping of their economic policy. First, it must be recognized that economy is essentially physical economy, and that never again must money be elevated to any higher political authority than merely a means of fostering the production and physical distribution of tangible objects of newly produced wealth. Second, economic policy must be premised upon the fact, that the continued existence of humanity depends absolutely upon the continuation, indefinitely, of those improvements in knowledge, and in capital-intensive, energy-intensive modes of investment in productive techniques which we associate . . . with generalized scientific and technological progress."