

Does AP sympathize with terrorism?

Statement of Helga Zepp-LaRouche on the assassination attempt against Natalia Vitrenko, Oct. 6, 1999.

On Oct. 5, the Associated Press news service published a dispatch from its correspondent Sergei Shargorodsky in Kiev, on the attempt on the life of Ukrainian Presidential candidate Natalia Vitrenko, in which 47 people were injured, some of them seriously. The article is chock-full of nothing but half-truths and untruths, and the author quite distinctly allows his regret to come through, that the attack on Dr. Vitrenko miscarried. The publication of the dispatch in this form by AP, must be seen as a threat against Dr. Vitrenko for the remainder of the electoral campaign.

The truth is, that Natalia Vitrenko has warned for a long time of what would be the consequences of Ukraine's submitting to the IMF's reform policy. It is not only the catastrophic state of the Ukrainian economy, that demonstrates how absolutely right she was. Even in the United States and continental Europe, a debate has already broken out on the theme: "Who lost Russia?" in the course of which a whole range of people have expressed their conviction, that the IMF is responsible not only for the economic downfall of Russia after 1991, but also for systematically preparing the soil for corruption and organized crime. The same thing holds true for Ukraine.

Natalia Vitrenko is anything but "anti-Western." On

the contrary, already in February 1997 she co-authored with me an appeal to President Clinton, urging him immediately to convoke an emergency conference for a New Bretton Woods System, in order to overcome the international financial and economic crisis. This Appeal to President Clinton to Convoke a New Bretton Woods Conference was signed by more than 1,500 prominent persons, among them:

José López Portillo, former President of Mexico (1976-82)

Gen. João Baptista Figueiredo (ret.), former President of Brazil (1979-85)

Godfrey Binaisa, former President of Uganda (1979-80)

If Dr. Vitrenko were anti-Western, would she have co-authored this initiative, addressed to the American President, and would she have taken the trouble to seek support for this reorganization, in Ukraine itself and on an international level?

The real grounds for the attack on Dr. Vitrenko are that she is attempting, as a patriot, to defend Ukraine from exploitation by the international financial oligarchy's megaspeculators, and that, as a trained economist, she has arrived at the same analysis as Lyndon LaRouche. In her electoral campaign, she uses the graph of LaRouche's famous "Triple Curve," which illuminates the yawning chasm between the real economy and the speculative bubble. Whoever the criminals in Ukraine may be, who are responsible for the attack, the answer to the question "Cui bono?" points in the direction of the international financial oligarchy.

policy commitments, expressed in memoranda to the IMF throughout this decade.

All the austerity notwithstanding, the foreign debt cannot be paid. This summer, Ukraine has repeatedly been described—by officers of the cabinet and even the President of the country, as well as financial market observers—as "definitely heading for a default," or "on the verge of financial collapse."

Break-out

What to make of Vitrenko's candidacy, which has soared in popularity throughout the summer? The international wire services echoed the Kiev liberal press, in glossing Vitrenko as "the self-styled only true Marxist." The English-language weekly *Kyiv Post* headlined "Vitrenko's Mushroom Cloud," over a denunciation of her advocacy of reconstituting the country's nuclear deterrent (in collaboration with Russia and Belarus), because Ukraine is under attack. The dominant

line in these circles, was that President Leonid Kuchma was quietly bestowing media and other favors upon Vitrenko, in order to split the electorate of Moroz, Communist Party leader Symonenko, and other leftist candidates. The purveyors of this line included some of the same sources, who suggested that Vitrenko had "bombed herself" on Oct. 2, when she was almost killed!

Vitrenko's rating continued to rise, including in the polls of Project Democracy-flavored organizations that hold her in low esteem. She had repeatedly defied media and pollster understatements of her ability to command support, due to her uncompromising opposition to IMF monetarism. Now, the Democratic Initiatives Foundation was showing her with 17.4% support, against Kuchma's 24.3%, in July; in August, Socis-Gallup estimated Vitrenko at 23%, Kuchma at 30.6%, Symonenko at 19.9%. If no candidate wins an absolute majority on Oct. 31, there is to be a run-off. On Sept. 12, the *Kyiv Post* acknowledged that Vitrenko could defeat Pres-