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## Interview: Natalia Vitrenko and Volodymyr Marchenko

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# 'Kuchma's election fraud is a time bomb'

*At the end of November, Anatoli Voznytsa asked Ukrainian Presidential candidate and Member of the Supreme Rada (Parliament) Natalia Vitrenko and her fellow Rada colleague Volodymyr Marchenko about the perspectives for Ukraine following the remarkable elections on Nov. 14.*

**Voznytsa:** Mrs. Vitrenko, first of all, I would like to congratulate you and your party for your success in the Presidential elections. You came in fourth in the first round. Congratulations.

**Vitrenko:** Thank you.

**Voznytsa:** How do you see the election results in general?

**Vitrenko:** When we won approximately 1 million votes in the parliamentary elections, it was a surprise for many of our opponents. This time, we had hopes for even greater success, and the fact that we won nearly 3 million votes in the Presidential elections testifies to a growing confidence of Ukrainians in our party, and in me as its chairman.

On the election results on the whole: Leonid Kuchma won



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15 million votes in the second round. This figure alone tells you that 23 million voters did *not* support Kuchma and his reforms. They either voted for [Communist Party head Petro] Symonenko, or they did not vote at all.

But what happened in Ukraine cannot by any means be called "democratic elections." The entire world should know that. There was a veritable crusade of violence, recrimination, and slander against the main rivals of the ruling President. The real victor in the elections is the injustice of what happened. The abuse of state power ensured that 15 million ballot slips miraculously turned up in the election boxes for Kuchma. According to our analyses, at most 3 million people actually and consciously voted for Kuchma.

That means that, in reality, 35 million people are against him. That is a time bomb. Ever larger parts of the population understand that the policies of the International Monetary Fund are destroying the foundations of the state. The IMF is not only forcing Ukraine to pay debts and thus fulfill the conditionalities which are to its own advantage. By virtue of the fact that it is also interfering in our legislation, the IMF is changing the basic functions of the state, and is ruining its foundation.

A shell of a state still seems to exist formally, but in reality Ukraine no longer performs any of the essential domestic and foreign policy functions—political, economic, social functions, and so forth. That is because everything is dictated by the IMF. The policies which the IMF has imposed are threatening the sovereignty of Ukraine. Increasingly greater numbers of people are coming to understand that, and the battle against the IMF will continue.

The elections have solved no problems, nor have they brought about a stabilization and calming of the population. As I already said: It is a time bomb.

**Voznytsa:** How do you see the work of your party in the time up to the parliamentary elections in 2002?

**Vitrenko:** The situation in Ukraine resembles that in Russia. People pretend there are only two camps: on the one hand, the democratic reformers, and then the conservatives, who only want to restore the past. Everything is squeezed into this model. If you are for reforms, you are for the future; if not, you'll pull us back into the past.

Our party was founded and created as a party which fights for progress in society. We do not want to return to the past. We want real reforms, and that means only such reforms which serve our people and again create a strong state.

During our campaigns for the parliamentary and also the Presidential elections, there was a slander campaign against us from all sides. I was persecuted as a proponent of a "third way," because I was a danger to the current regime. Had I had the opportunity to have a direct, open, and honest debate with my opponents, and to explain to voters what I really want, then there would hardly have been anyone who was still convinced that the regime is carrying out real reforms and cares at all



During the Ukrainian Presidential election campaign this fall, candidate Natalia Vitrenko's campaign poster featured Lyndon LaRouche's "typical collapse function" schematic, to show the fate of Ukraine's economy under current policies. The graph shows financial and monetary aggregates growing hyperbolically, while physical production collapses.

about the future.

But even the representatives of the old *nomenklatura* of the communists are against us, because they based their election strategy on the protest vote. They claimed that it was Kuchma himself who created our party, in order to weaken and divide the voting potential of the left. Everywhere they trumpeted that Vitrenko would go with Kuchma in the end, and that she would give him her votes in the second round. They spread this lie all over the country, at all their meetings and assemblies with voters. This lying propaganda cost me many votes—the votes of millions of people who do want progressive changes, but not under the leadership of Kuchma and the IMF.

The election showed which of the parties threw themselves at Kuchma's feet: [former Prime Minister Yevhen] Marchuk as well as the two "Rukhs" [in February, the Rukh party split into factions—ed.] (under [former Foreign Minister Hennadiy] Udovenko and [former Environment Minister Yuriy] Kostenko), as well as the Greens, [United Family group leader Oleksandr] Rzhavsky, and others. We refuted all the slanders thrown against us.

But the election also proved something else. Symonenko and [Socialist Party head Oleksandr] Moroz always loudly proclaimed their intention to change the course of the reforms. But to change this course without taking a distance from the IMF, is simply impossible. Moroz claimed a long time ago that he does not want to put up any resistance to the IMF, and before the second round of elections, both Moroz and Symonenko—i.e., the socialists and the communists—openly said that they had no intent to break ties to the IMF.

Of all the parties represented in Parliament and which put up Presidential candidates, we were and are the only ones in sight—maybe someone else will surface tomorrow?—who are saying a clear "no" to the agreements with the IMF.

We will break ties with the IMF, free ourselves from its dictates, and create a real independence. We will ourselves decide what, when, and how things should be done in the country, and in what way the reforms are to be carried out.

In the immediate future, we want to increase our activities. Many people are coming to us, and we are convinced that there will be more and more.

Our members are by no means demoralized or saddened. On the contrary, we see a growing "demand" or approval in society for our party. People are looking for a force which can give Ukraine a clear perspective, for the development of the country, for the construction of a new, socially just society.

We are now preparing a new issue of our newspaper, and we are having many meetings with the party rank and file. More and more people—not only the members of the party, but also the uncommitted, the "de-ideologized" people—feel that we have to pull our forces together.

**Marchenko:** I would like to add that there were not only the various "dirty tricks" in the election campaign, or the usurpation of all of the mass media by people acting on behalf of the reigning President.

Physical attacks against Natalia Vitrenko were organized and carried out to get rid of her, kill her. In this case, we saw that the interests of international capital and our own domestic capital interests are closely linked and intermeshed.

I believe that Ukrainians will reject the IMF quite con-

sciously, and that our work will bear fruit. We are going to continue to work to build a society with real independence, where reason and social justice will prevail.

**Vitrenko:** We already see the President not keeping his election promises. This pertains, in particular, to the recurrent electricity blackouts all over the country, the continuous rise in prices, and the delays in payment of wages and pensions. The population is going to notice that. We expect we will have a growing number of followers.

**Voznytsa:** As concerns the horrible bomb attack against you [on Oct. 2—see *EIR*, Oct. 15, 1999], I would like to recall that this caused concern among broad layers of the world public. You received many telegrams from all over the world. How are the investigations of the bombing proceeding, which caused so many injuries to so many people?

**Vitrenko:** A few days ago, an attack was carried out against the mayor of Vinnitsa, Dmitro Dvorkis. He was severely injured, and is now lying in a hospital. Following that attack, all the roads were blockaded, and all police forces, not only from the regional capital, but from the entire region, were deployed to find the perpetrators. When the attack was carried out against me on Oct. 2, and 47 people were wounded by hand-grenades, not a single road was blocked, and the suspect, Ivanchenko, was able to comfortably disappear from the Kryvy Rih and the region of Dnipropetrovsk. He even managed to leave Ukraine! There was another attempt on my life on Oct. 8. We were assaulted by another vehicle at a crossroads as we were driving with three cars through the Donetsk region. The last car, which is where I usually sit, was struck. The man who sat in my seat was severely injured, and he has been in the hospital since then. The police began an investigation, but no one has any interest in it any more.

**Voznytsa:** The well-known American economist and politician Lyndon LaRouche is running for President of the U.S.A. Like you, he is for a fundamental change in the world financial system. What recommendations and wishes would you like to address to him?

**Vitrenko:** I wish that he continue, with success, his relentless battle against the IMF. I know Mr. LaRouche very well. We have discussed many issues at various conferences and meetings. I used LaRouche's well-known "Typical Collapse Function" during my own election campaign meetings. It was always impressive when I showed where Ukraine today finds itself on this Triple Curve graph. LaRouche's followers in the U.S.A. must not tire of showing that the IMF is working against the interests of the entire world, and also of the U.S.A. itself.

I wish LaRouche success, much enthusiasm, and strong health. I understand myself quite well what a Presidential election campaign is really like, and I hope he does not have to deal with the "dirty tricks," and for sure not with attempts on his life. And, most especially, I wish him victory.

## Al-Fayed: Prince Philip had Diana, Dodi killed

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Once again, Mohamed al-Fayed has publicly accused Prince Philip and the British secret intelligence services, MI5 and MI6, of having been behind the murders of Princess Diana and al-Fayed's son, Dodi Fayed, on Aug. 31, 1997. He has also named the editor-in-chief of the Hollinger Corp.'s *Sunday Telegraph* as an MI6 asset, who has participated in the cover-up of the Diana-Dodi murders by running a smear campaign against al-Fayed in the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper.

Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed were killed, along with their driver, Henri Paul, in a Paris car crash, shortly after midnight on Aug. 31, 1997. French magistrate Hervé Stephan conducted a two-year investigation into the causes of the crash, and the circumstances surrounding the failure of the French emergency medical team to get Princess Diana, who was alive at the crash site, to a hospital for nearly two hours after they had arrived.

In September of this year, Stephan signed off on a recommendation from the Paris prosecutor to drop all charges against ten paparazzi who had been detained at the crash site and investigated for possible manslaughter and failure to obey France's strict "Good Samaritan" laws. By determining not to bring charges against any of the paparazzi, Stephan also suppressed public release of his own 6,000-page investigative report.

Following the Stephan decision, Mohamed al-Fayed filed an appeal in the French court, to order Stephan to reopen the probe, and pursue a number of important investigative leads:

- Several U.S. intelligence agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the National Security Agency (NSA), have all acknowledged, in response to Freedom of Information Act suits, that they possess classified files related to Princess Diana. Al-Fayed argues that the investigation cannot be considered closed, until the contents of those U.S. documents have been reviewed.

- Numerous eyewitnesses have come forward with reports that the Mercedes carrying Diana and Dodi was targeted by other vehicles, including a still-missing Fiat Uno, and at least one motorcycle. Surveillance cameras in and around the Paris Ritz Hotel, where Diana and Dodi dined just prior to the fatal car ride, showed at least seven suspicious men surveilling the hotel, from the time the couple arrived there, until moments after their departure.