

lives. While during the first 50 years of the 20th century, 50% of all wartime casualties were civilians, during the last decade of the century (the Kosovo War included), civilians accounted for fully 80% of all casualties, Mishra said.

Mishra continued: "The fact that Russia, China, and India have each expressed disquiet over certain U.S. policies, has led Cold War theorists to visualize a strategic alliance among these nations. Such perceptions reflect arcane thinking. Concerns of Russia, China, and India relate primarily to apprehensions that the post-Cold War period is witnessing a sense of triumphalism and disdain for rules and norms of international behavior. Such concerns have been echoed in Europe, too, including in France and Germany. For China and Russia, these apprehensions are further aggravated by the expansion of NATO and unilateral pursuit by the U.S.A. of its antiballistic-missile capabilities."

The economic crisis is a threat to peace

China's Wang Guangyan, in his speech, had voiced concerns similar to those of India and Russia. He also addressed the need for a profound reform of the existing world economic and financial structures: "Today, the global economy is increasingly becoming a closely linked and inseparable whole. However, at the same time, the gap between the North and South is widening, as is the disparity in wealth. This not only does disservice to developing countries, but also impairs international peace and security.

"China stands for the reform of the existing international economic and financial systems in such a manner as to fully reflect the legitimate concerns and reasonable demands of the developing countries and effectively safeguard their rights and interests. The developing countries should have the right to participate as equal players in the global economic decision-making and in the formulation of the relevant game rules, while developed countries should undertake greater obligations.

"No country should be allowed to undermine the economic security and development of other countries by virtue of its economic, technological, and financial superiority. True global prosperity and stability won't be possible unless the developed and developing countries attain sustainable development together."

Wang's remarks were backed by India's Mishra, who said that in spite of widespread awareness of the problems that became evident in the Asian financial crisis of 1997, solutions are still "elusive" today.

None of the Western participants took up these interventions from China and India for serious debate. It seems that decadent Western strategists are so absorbed by the search for "rogues," that they have no energy left to take a look at the internal problems of their own globalized economic-financial system. The credit for addressing those problems, goes to the Chinese and Indians, but, without the Western nations coming to their senses, the fuse to further conflict is lit.

LaRouche's ideas are scrutinized in Russia

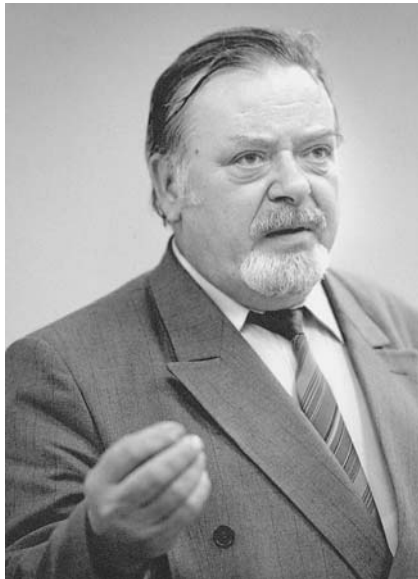
Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche's ideas continue to receive prominent attention in Russia. In a seminar in Moscow in early February, and in an interview reprinted in the Moscow weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* of Feb. 3, LaRouche's ideas were discussed in detail. The coverage came as a number of prominent Russians endorsed LaRouche's Presidential campaign (see *National*, p. 53).

"The Social and Political Situation in Russia" was the theme of a three-hour methodological seminar held during the first week of February at the Institute of Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. More than 100 scientists and staff members from institutes of the Academy and independent, public institutes, including the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture, participated in the event.

There were three keynote reports: "The Results of the Dec. 19 State Duma Elections and Subsequent Political Decisions," by Prof. Dmitri S. Chernavsky; "The Wrong Orientation Toward Globalization and 'Liberal Values,'" by Prof. Taras V. Muranivsky; and "The Importance of the Ideas of American Economist and Political Figure Lyndon LaRouche for an Evaluation of the Situation in Russia," by Karl-Michael Vitt, a leader of the Schiller Institute in Germany.

Professor Chernavsky assessed the resignation of Boris Yeltsin as President of Russia, the appointment of Vladimir Putin as Acting President, the conflict in the State Duma (lower house of parliament), and related events, as simply the consequences of the impressive results achieved by the "Unity" bloc in the Dec. 19 State Duma elections. Ten million voters cast their ballots for a bloc which has no clear program, and calls for neither capitalism nor communism, nor private property, nor democracy. The leaders of "Unity" campaigned on slogans for a "Great Russia," for conducting relations with the West "from a position of strength," for bringing order to the country, for defeating corruption, and so forth. Chernavsky called the alliance of "Unity" and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation in the State Duma, "a patriotic bloc." Their slogans coincide, and together they represent a sort of "national idea," whose leader and purveyor is Putin. Chernavsky considers a stronger role for the state in domestic and foreign policy to be good, but doubts that it will be possible to defeat corruption and other evils in a short period of time. It is evident that far from democratic methods of struggle lie ahead.

Professor Muranivsky, who is president of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture (Moscow), harshly criticized



Prof. Taras Muranivsky addressed the Moscow seminar on "The Wrong Orientation Toward Globalization and 'Liberal Values.'" "

those scientists and politicians, who support the ideology of globalism and advocate so-called "liberal values." Using specific examples, he showed that not only the developing countries, but also a group of countries in western Europe have come out against "free trade," as the Maastricht agreements end in fiasco and the exchange rate of the single European currency, the euro, collapses. With examples from Ibero-America, especially the latest events in Ecuador, Muranivsky showed how dollarization ruins the economy and the finances of a sovereign nation-state. These and other negative processes are occurring under conditions of a world financial crisis, the inevitability and the consequences of which have been forecast by American economist Lyndon LaRouche, who is now campaigning for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Russia ought to study closely the practical experience of such countries as Malaysia, which rejected International Monetary Fund "assistance" and established a system of currency controls.

Vitt reported on the campaign speeches and interviews of LaRouche, in which he has characterized the situation in the world financial system and the related military-political provocations, into which Russia has been dragged. He also summarized LaRouche's recommendations for overcoming the world crisis, including in Russia, and his initiative for a New Bretton Woods system. Vitt showed excerpts from *EIR*'s video featuring LaRouche, "Storm over Asia."

An intense discussion followed the formal presentations, in which 15 people took part. Among them was Prof. Leonid A. Shepin, of the Institute of Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who chaired the seminar. Shepin fundamentally agreed with LaRouche's evaluation of the role of international terrorism in fanning tension in the Caucasus region, and said that the United States is out to break up Russia, a view that was widely held by seminar participants.

Yuri S. Krylov noted the damage done to Russia by liberalism and the open market, which has led to a steep demographic decline.

LaRouche interview reprinted

On Feb. 3, an interview with LaRouche by the New York-based Russian-language paper *Ekspress* was excerpted in the Moscow weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*. The headline, borrowed from the *Ekspress* interviewer's introduction, was "Seven Swims against the Current," which refers to LaRouche's Presidential campaigns since 1976.

The excerpts were introduced by Professor Muranivsky, who explained for Russian readers the volatile and sometimes bizarre practices of American "primaries." He provided concise and pungent identification of the candidates: "Bush, Jr. (political ignoramus, racist), McCain (ex-POW, flaming conservative, gives raving speeches against Russia), Forbes (Wall Street), Sen. Orrin Hatch (Mormon from Utah), Bauer (former Reagan administration functionary), and Keynes (little-known black Republican)," and, on the Democratic side, "Gore (Vice-President, who in his racist, monetarist, and other views is close to the Republican Bush), Bradley (former Senator, who sharply criticizes Gore and Bush), and LaRouche (economist and politician, distinguished by his constructive strategic thinking)."

"Of all these candidates," wrote Muranivsky, "the Democrat LaRouche is of the greatest interest for Russia. . . . He knows Russia well and has ongoing contacts with Russian scientists and politicians. He advocates Russia's territorial integrity, and harshly criticizes both the advocates in the West of colonizing Russia, and Russian politicians who have committed errors and miscalculations."

Muranivsky's introduction described the contortions of the Democratic Party to avoid "polemics with him on matters of principle," and the "pseudo-democratic games" that attend these elections, wherein state party organizations cancel their primaries at will, and the media decline to report to voters on LaRouche's candidacy. At the same time, however, "the broad publicization of the ideas, viewpoints, and practical recommendations of LaRouche, during the campaign, has a certain influence on politicians and elected officials. Last year, President Clinton proposed to take up questions of reorganizing the world financial system, approximately as LaRouche had proposed earlier. His attacks on the ideology of globalism and 'free trade' were widely echoed in the population, abroad, and within international financial organizations."

Concluding his introduction, Professor Muranivsky wrote, "Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche is distinguished from his rivals by the clarity of the programmatic tasks he poses, and his choice of honest and effective means to realize them. His press conferences and interviews take up the most important American and international problems, including Russian-American relations."