

## The Russian junta slams Dr. K.'s back channel

by Criton Zoakos

Secretary George P. Shultz was taken aback by the intensity of emotion displayed by Mr. Anatolii Dobrynin during a late-February meeting between the two, as the Soviet ambassador insisted that any negotiations between his country and the Reagan administration will be absolutely and unconditionally out of the question, on arms control or on any other issue.

"As far as my government is concerned," Dobrynin was reported to have said, "President Reagan thinks in private what this man LaRouche says in public," referring to Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Secretary Shultz protested vigorously that this was not the case. Dobrynin stood his ground. As far as his government is concerned, LaRouche is the man with the ideas behind President Reagan's decision to develop anti-missile beam weapons, the single greatest concern of the Soviet government at this time.

Secretary Shultz, in the course of the meeting in question back in late February, was convinced that the advice received from his friend Dr. Henry A. Kissinger was sound, namely that the Soviet leadership would agree to start "back channel" negotiations as soon as they were convinced that first, LaRouche had no influence in the shaping of the administration's anti-missile laser defense policy, and second, that he, Kissinger, was the leading influence behind Washington's shaping of foreign and security policy. Secretary Shultz was also aware that, apart from Ambassador Dobrynin's openly stated concerns about LaRouche, the Soviet government in general was focusing its intense hostility on the Democratic candidate.

Not long before, on Nov. 15, the Soviet government's daily newspaper, *Izvestia*, reported the following on a conference on beam weapons held by Mr. LaRouche in Rome, Italy: "... but all it took was to turn up in that hall and listen

to the speeches [at Mr. LaRouche's conference] and no doubt remained . . . you were among troglodytes. . . . They came to Rome from various countries, on invitation from a certain Lyndon LaRouche. . . . [He] is once again trying to run [for the presidency]. As the hobbyhorse of his electoral campaign LaRouche has chosen . . . space weaponry. The get-together at the Hotel Majestic showed that both Reagan and LaRouche have followers in the Old World."

Against this background, Secretary Shultz tried to convince the Soviet ambassador that none of this is true, that LaRouche is an inconsequential fringe person in U.S. politics, that the beam weapons policy would get nowhere beyond the "research" phase, and that it was urgent to commence the "back channel" negotiations as recommended by Henry Kissinger. Having made his point, Dobrynin demurred and reverted to his customary diplomatic ambiguity.

A euphoric Shultz returned to his office to order a "comprehensive review" of the status of U.S.-Soviet relations. Ambassador Arthur Hartman was brought back from Moscow for emergency consultations with Shultz, Gen. Brent Scowcroft and others outside the government including Henry Kissinger, Winston Lord, and William Hyland. They decided to go ahead with a plan proposed by Kissinger in December 1983, namely, to promote an individual as a special "presidential envoy" to conduct "private," "quiet" diplomacy away from the public view. Kissinger had recommended that Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft specifically be named for this task.

Scowcroft was Kissinger's chief national security aide through the Nixon and Ford administrations and now is associated with the consultant firm Kissinger Associates, Inc. He is also the chairman of the President's bipartisan review panel on strategic weapons.

Shultz's "emergency consultations" during the first week

of March produced a plan of action: Brent Scowcroft would be sent to Moscow armed with a letter (of unknown contents) from President Reagan, to seek a private meeting with General Secretary Chernenko. The Reagan letter in the hands of Scowcroft would serve as a signal to Moscow that Kissinger is in the saddle in Washington. Ambassador Hartman would meet with Foreign Minister Gromyko for the appropriate explanations and arrangements.

Hartman went back to Moscow, and asked for a meeting with Gromyko. He was told it would be on the 12th of March. The following day, Scowcroft was to arrive with four other persons: William Hyland, David Jones, Paul Doty, and Arnold Horelick.

The day arrived. Before leaving the embassy for his appointment with Gromyko, Ambassador Hartman glanced at the morning's *Izvestia*, and there it was, dominating the center of the "international news" page of the Soviet government's newspaper: an article titled "Behind The Scenes of Events: One More Scandal." Datelined "New York, March 11, TASS," the *Izvestia* article described "the scandalous ties of the Reagan administration with LaRouche. . . [which were] exposed in a special report on NBC television. The proof was so weighty that the White House did not even try to deny it. . . . The White House was forced to acknowledge the existence of secret ties which the National Security Council of the United States and the CIA maintain with a neo-fascist organization calling itself the International Caucus of Labor Committees. . . [which,] headed by its 'Führer' Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. is striving to undermine the influence of communists and other left forces among the workers and student youth. . . ."

Hartman went to his meeting with Gromyko anyway. We have reasons to believe that Gromyko rubbed Hartman's face in *Izvestia*'s international news page: "Reagan thinks in private what LaRouche says in public," he could have echoed Dobrynin's complaints to Shultz. At any rate, Gromyko made it clear that there will be no negotiations with the Reagan administration, back channel or no, Kissinger or no. Later, sources reported that Hartman was not given much of a chance to speak at all. He was subjected to "one and a half hours of bristling, unmitigated vitriol," one diplomat said.

The next day, Brent Scowcroft and his team arrived, proudly brandishing a letter from President Reagan and demanding to see Chernenko. He never saw Chernenko. He stayed in Moscow for five days waiting around to see Chernenko. He was told that as a courtesy to a retired American general, he would be permitted to see Deputy Foreign Minister Korniyenko. In the end, Henry Kissinger's "presidential envoy" left Moscow with his tail between his legs.

A week later, the State Department declared itself "slighted." These fellows really know how to take a hint. When, however, somebody spits in their face, it is a different matter. They simply sit there smiling and saying nothing. This is what in fact happened a few days after the "slighting" of Scowcroft.

On March 21, a Soviet tanker, the *Lugansk*, sailing near the coast of Nicaragua, was damaged by a mine laid by anti-Sandinista rebel forces who are in insurrection against the Nicaraguan government. Foreign Minister Gromyko summoned that day U.S. chargé d'affaires Warren Zimmerman to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow and issued an unprecedented charge, as reported by TASS:

"The Soviet government holds the U.S. government responsible for that grave crime, an act of banditry and piracy. . . . The government of the U.S.S.R. reserves the right to demand compensation for the Soviet citizens who suffered injury and the replacement of the material damage done to Soviet property. The government of the U.S.S.R. states its resolute protest to the government of the U.S.A. in connection with the criminal action against the Soviet ship *Lugansk* and warns that the United States will bear the entire responsibility for the consequences with which the continuation of such actions is fraught."

Diplomatically, to blame the U.S.A. for a mine laid by Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista rebels is equivalent to the United States having moved to declare war against the Soviet Union, say, back in the 1960s, because a Vietcong platoon attacked a U.S. Army patrol in South Vietnam.

The State Department, however, decided to do nothing about this matter except quietly "reject the Soviet protest."

The Soviet government's newly articulated foreign policy of "one and sole superpower" which began with its March 12 *Izvestia* attack against the "LaRouche-White House connection," was completely elaborated in an unusual lead editorial of the Communist Party daily *Pravda* on March 23, 1984, the first anniversary of President Reagan's celebrated March 23, 1983 speech announcing a strategy of Strategic Missile Defense based on beam weapons, a strategy widely identified with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

### 'Focus of evil'

We quote from the arrogant *Pravda* editorial: "By continuing to tread the path of preparing for nuclear war on the ground, on the seas, in the air and now in outer space, Washington inevitably places itself in opposition to the fundamental interests of all people and indeed becomes the 'focus of evil' it is so busy trying to locate. . . ."

"For many years now, especially after the coming to office of the Reagan administration, the American side has tried in vain to convince people that the best way to quench a fire is to pour oil on the flames, while the best way to enhance security is to pile up more and more heaps of weapons. And what is the result? This policy is disorganizing international relations, creating crises in the economies of even developed capitalist states, bringing whole continents onto the brink of bankruptcy and confronting the United States itself with insoluble internal problems," *Pravda* said, assuming for the first time the role of champion of the economic interests of both "developed capitalist states," and Third World debtor nations.