

Soviet embassy is caught dictating marching orders to U.S. news media

by Mark Burdman

The American population has since early September been bombarded with a several-days-long NBC-TV series of broadcasts from the Soviet Union, whose cumulative effect was to portray the Soviets and their byzantine imperial leadership as “just plain folks, more or less like us.”

How did such an extraordinary bombardment of deception come spewing over the television airwaves at exactly the moment when the Kremlin is preparing to launch the most dangerous set of war provocations in four decades?

An *EIR* investigative team has learned that the answer is very straightforward. The Soviet Embassy in Washington, run by would-be Russian imperial proconsul for North America and Soviet Central Committee member Anatolli Dobrynin, has been *deploying* leading members of the American media profession to Moscow, as a key aspect of the Soviets’ propaganda campaign to disarm the United States militarily, politically, and culturally.

The investigation has uncovered that Dobrynin has at his disposal a network of American appeasers all too ready to do the Soviet bidding, headed by a heretofore-obscure operative named Ann Catharine Menninger. Via the mediation of Menninger and friends, the Soviet Central Committee and NBC-TV have struck a deal to “change the perceptions of the American population about the Soviet Union.”

Menningers, Astors, and Soviets

Ambassador Dobrynin has not had to spend much energy searching for individuals willing to betray the U.S.A.

At centers like Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, Brown University’s Center for Foreign Policy Development, and the New York Council on Foreign Relations, and within the major television networks as well, projects have been launched during the past 5 to 10 years to “change the perceptions of the American population about the Soviet Union” so that the individuals who run these institutions can implement their delusory “New Yalta” global deal with the Soviet leadership.

The single most important role in this “Road to Moscow” show is Ann Catharine Menninger (see box).

Through her various connections, by marriage and otherwise, Ann Catharine was procured by Dobrynin in 1980 to coordinate a “media exchange” project whereby American journalists would be sent to Moscow, nominally in exchange

for Soviet journalists coming to the United States, but in reality to spew out deception propaganda.

Dobrynin assigned Soviet Press and Information Attaché Valentin Kamenev to be Ann Catharine’s controller. Since the project first began, Kamenev has become the Soviet foreign ministry chief in charge of all liaisons to the foreign press. He has assigned two underlings from state-run Soviet Radio and Television, Ziniava Yevgrathova and Vladimir Popov, to be Ann Catharine’s Moscow connections. Popov, former number three at the embassy in Washington, was code named “Igor” by the CIA several years back for his role in arranging transfer of sensitive U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R. by a renegade CIA operative.

Under Soviet Embassy direction, Ann Catharine has been establishing four regional “task forces” to work out the media-exchange project, in New England, Chicago, and California in the United States, and in London.

Together with Garrison, Austin, Nicholas Monserrat of the Barry, Vermont *Times-Argus*, and Frank Grundstrom of the *Boston Globe*, Ann Catharine has since 1982 been coordinating exchange visits to the United States and Moscow between the New England Society of Newspaper Editors and selected Soviet-KGB journalists. During the most recent meeting in Providence, Rhode Island in August of this year, six Soviet attendees from several newspapers and the Union of Soviet Journalists and the Union of Journalists in Lithuania attended the meetings; “diplomatic observer” Yevgeny Makarov was denied entry into the United States on charges of being a KGB agent.

Earlier in the year, Ann Catharine and the Committee of California Print and Broadcast Journalists, headquartered at the same *Los Angeles Times* offices that recently hired Henry Kissinger as a syndicated columnist, ran a conference in California, at which top officials of NBC-TV were present. It was at this meeting, media sources report, that crucial features of NBC’s fall 1984 media extravaganza in Moscow were preliminarily mapped out.

In London, Ann Catharine’s main interlocutor is David Astor, former editor and trustee of the *London Observer* during the time when that paper’s Beirut correspondent was (now Soviet KGB general) Kim Philby. Astor sold out his interest in the *Observer* to Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) oil company, one of whose directors is Thorton Bradshaw, now

head of NBC's parent company, RCA.

According to a high-level British intelligence source close to Kissinger, Menninger and Astor maintain regular friendly contacts with Victor Matveev, former London correspondent for the Soviet government paper *Izvestia* since the time of the Suez and Hungary crises of the mid-1950s and a KGB operative with strong ties in the Soviet Central Committee. "Mrs. Menninger has been involved in a sense with Matveev," the source asserted. "He's a good friend of hers. . . . He's been informed of her London project, and he likes the idea, he's given the green light for it."

The special case of NBC television

Other British sources, particularly those who have themselves had unusually good contacts with Soviet officials over the past years, are awed by the degree of cooperation that has been achieved by friends of Menninger and the Soviet leadership. A British Broadcasting Corporation Russian Affairs specialist who had been filming a BBC documentary on the Soviet Union at the same time that NBC's crews were in Moscow exclaimed: "NBC's access was tremendous. They seemed to have a lot of political cooperation in high places, probably up to the Central Committee level. This was our understanding from the way Soviet Radio and TV people snapped to attention whenever NBC came around. It was obvious the whole thing was approved. Obviously some fairly senior NBC executives were involved in working this out. We [at BBC] haven't penetrated so high. . . . I was told by someone in Soviet Radio and TV that NBC had got approval for the project within the Soviet Central Committee. Of course, there are always rumors floating around Moscow, but our impression too was that they had high-level cooperation.

"Presumably, the Soviets saw it in their interest to be so helpful," he concluded.

EIR investigations have established that at least three top NBC friends of Ann Catharine Menninger have been instrumental in this extraordinary project. These include:

Gordan Manning, NBC vice-president, described by friends of Dobrynin as "the architect" of the Moscow extravaganza. Manning had at least one meeting with Dobrynin in the June-July period to map out the project.

Lawrence Grossman, recently appointed head of NBC News, who, according to one source, "gave the go-ahead" for Manning. "It was his brainchild," a media insider stated.

Frank Burchholzer, who stayed on beyond the time of the NBC filming "on a special assignment," the same insider reported. "He goes back and forth to the Soviet Union every year, has been doing so for about 15 years. He's very *persona grata* there. They like him personally, he's learned the language. He's one of a kind."

NBC, in any case, has always been "special" for Moscow. As the Cuban Missile Crisis was unfolding in 1962, NBC-TV was just wrapping up the first-ever-in-history American TV show filmed in Moscow. Anatolii Dobrynin had just been appointed proconsul for North America.

Who is Mrs. Menninger?

Ann Catharine Menninger is the ex-wife of Roy Menninger, head of the Topeka, Kansas-based Menninger Foundation and scion of one of the families most responsible for the psycho-sociological profiles of the American population now being used by the Soviets to determine vulnerable points of cultural weakness.

Before their divorce, Roy Menninger, who had been a visiting scholar at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute in the mid-1960s after training in psychological warfare at Harvard University, was a trustee of a Kansas-based organization called "People to People," under whose auspices Anatolii Dobrynin and his wife Irena were "guests" of the Menningers during the 1960s.

Says Ann Catharine: "Anatolii Dobrynin is a good and old friend. . . . I've known his wife for 30 years, 20 years ago she stayed at my house in Kansas, as part of the People-to-People program. I've known the Dobryns ever since."

In that context, she reports, she introduced Anatolii and Irena to such leading U.S. appeasers as Roger Fischer ("Roger is the dearest friend I have on this earth," she reports), head of the "crisis-management" apparatus ensconced in various departments of Harvard. Thanks to his link to Dobrynin, Fischer has set up "joint training seminars in crisis management and prevention" with officials of the Soviet foreign ministry and Soviet embassy.

In the late 1970s-early 1980s, she became prominent in the Committee for East-West Accord in Washington, D.C., and the Forum for U.S.-Soviet Dialogue at St. Anselm's College in New Hampshire.

During that period, she also came under the control of former *New York Times* Moscow correspondent Anthony Austin and Mark Garrison, who had been appointed head of the Soviet Affairs desk at the U.S. State Department under Henry Kissinger before becoming one of the directors of the U.S. embassy in Moscow under Ambassador Tom Watson of IBM. At Watson's behest, Garrison established the Brown Center for Foreign Policy Development, a leading institution in arranging back-channel "crisis-management" talks with Moscow.

Menninger became Dobrynin's pet operative: "Dobrynin introduced me to Valentin Kamenev, director of the press department at the Soviet Embassy. They helped me create this project, quite literally."