

Soviets, Western Trust set Moscow extragavanza

by Konstantin George

In Moscow, on Feb. 14-16, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov staged an unparalleled international "Conference on Peace." According to Radio Moscow, over 850 Westerners, from the United States and Europe, ranging from banking and industry leaders, to West German Green Party national-Bolshevik "peace movement" activists, to a sordid crew of Hollywood actors and actresses, had accepted Moscow's all-expense-paid invitation.

Opening as *EIR* went to press, this was not your run-of-the-mill Moscow "peace" conference. Aside from the novices and comic-opera "entertainers" present, what occurred was a "Central Committee" meeting of the Russian elite, State and Church, and the representatives of the liberal, pro-Moscow, Western policy-making elite, known in shorthand as the "Trust." The conference represents, with full publicity, Gorbachov's opening to the Western "Trust."

Invited leaders of the Western "Trust" include, co-founder and funder of the Trilateral Commission David Rockefeller; Donald Kendall, also a Trilateral Commission member, chairman of Pepsico, and a leader of the U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. Joint Committee on Trade; David Packard, owner of the huge California electronics firm, Hewlett-Packard. Along with Armand Hammer and the late Averell Harriman, this group constituted the gray eminences behind the Kissinger-Nixon era "first phase of détente" policy of accommodation with the Soviet Union: an era highlighted by the SALT and ABM Treaty sell-outs to Moscow, where the conditions were created for Moscow's drive for strategic military superiority.

Europe was sending no less a "star-studded" Trust delegation. Among the European Trust figures expected in Moscow were Jean-Baptiste Doumeng, France's "Red Billionaire" in agriculture and food processing. Doumeng, a confidant of Gorbachov for 20 years, has been the architect, and chief financial beneficiary, of the vast EC bargain-basement-price surplus grain and butter sales to the U.S.S.R. Joining Doumeng from France, would be Jean-Maxim Levèque, di-

rector of Crédit Lyonnais, one of France's largest banks. From Italy, leaders of the big state-owned corporations were expected, and another probable attendee was Fiat owner Gianni Agnelli. From Germany, a veritable Who's Who of banking and industry was expected to make the pilgrimage to Moscow.

The conference was to consist of five panels:

1) **Economics**, chaired by the president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, Yevgeni Pitovranov, and the former head of the Soviet State Bank, Alkhimov. The agenda announced by the Soviets was: The role of the banking system and the world debt crisis; Disarmament and economic security (observers are already dubbing this panel, "Western disarmament and Soviet economic security"); Perfecting economic relations with the Soviet Union (which will include extended talks on Western-Soviet joint ventures). Yevgeni Pitovranov, the panel's chairman, is a KGB general, a fact well known to Western intelligence.

2) **Science**, chaired by Yevgeni Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. This was to focus on upgrading the anti-SDI campaign.

3) **Culture**, chaired by Vladimir Karpov, chairman of the Soviet Writers Union, under the lofty title, "The Role of Culture in Defending Civilization and Human Values." Its real aim is to work out expanded operations against forces and groups in the West that Moscow wants removed from the scene. This was signaled by Karpov in *Izvestia* on Feb. 4, when he wrote that the panel would focus on the question "How enemy stereotypes are created."

This panel will include figures from Soviet publications such as *Literaturnaya Gazeta* and *Sovetskaya Kultura*, which have been in the forefront of printing slanders against U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Also invited were riff-raff from Hollywood, including Gregory Peck and Shirley MacLaine, who were active in the "Hollywood mafia" campaign to defeat the LaRouche-endorsed anti-AIDS ref-

erendum, Proposition 64, in California's November elections.

4) **Social Policy**, chaired by A. Kislov, deputy director of IMEMO.

5) **Religion**, chaired by Yuvenali, the Russian Orthodox Church Metropolitan of Krutitsky and Kolomna, who described this panel as a "roundtable of religious activists," including Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, and Shintoists.

The conference proceedings were closed to the press. The panels are, however, but one part of the event. Far more important were the Moscow-"Trust" discussions in the corridors, between panels, and after the "workshops."

The Kremlin's decision to hold this "Trust" gathering reflects recent decisions taken by the Russian leadership that now the time is ripe, and it is imperative to play all cards to decouple Europe from the United States. The timing has to do with the debate in the United States over deployment of the SDI. Hardly a day goes by without a bitter, angry Soviet radio commentary or article (military or civilian), denouncing Reagan for having followed Weinberger into "early deployment."

Gorbachov and his top foreign policy advisers, Dobrynin, the Central Committee Secretary in charge of the CC's International Department, and Alexander Yakovlev, Gorbachov's propaganda "czar," were adamant, during the Feb. 1-6 Moscow visit of the Council on Foreign Relations delegation, led by Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance, that all possible action had to be taken in the United States to kill the Weinberger-Reagan drive for SDI deployment. Vance stated this quite candidly upon his return to the United States, when he declared that Reagan's plans for early deployment "came up time and time again" in the talks with Gorbachov and other Kremlin leaders.

The post-German election context

A short chronology of events leading up to this Moscow "Trust" conference will explain Gorbachov's confidence in making the grand opening now. The Jan. 25 German national elections resulted in a victory for the liberal FDP appeasement party of German Foreign Minister Genscher. On Jan. 26, Radio Moscow hailed "Genscher's victory." Genscher on the same day announced that the new government's policy statement would contain the elements of a European "East-West security partnership" that he had discussed with Mikhail Gorbachov in Moscow in July 1986.

On Feb. 1, Genscher, in a speech at the annual international symposium in Davos, Switzerland, urged the West to grant all possible economic assistance to ensure the success of Gorbachov's economic modernization policies. Both German and non-German European industry sources have stressed to *EIR* the vital coordinating role being played by Genscher's foreign ministry in organizing for the Feb. 14-16 Moscow conference.

The Moscow conference will occur in the midst of a mobilization by all European appeasement channels against the SDI. Written demands for a U.S. "strict adherence" to the ABM Treaty (featuring non-deployment and a ban on testing in outer space), have been flooding Washington. The protesters include British Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe; West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher; and Volker Rühle, deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group, a leader of the CDU's "Moscow Faction," to name a few.

The Soviet plan for springtime Russian-European summitry to follow up the conference is already well advanced. Thatcher will be visiting Moscow, and Gorbachov will be arriving in Italy. For Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be bypassed. On Feb. 10, Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, Gennadi Gerassimov, in a "guest" article for the mass circulation daily *Bild Zeitung*, invited one of the leaders of the "Trust" in the German Protestant Church (EKD) elite, West German President Richard von Weizsäcker, to Moscow.

Focus on Germany, the key to Europe

The Moscow "Trust" conference was to host a very heavy, top-level West German representation from banking and industry. Every German firm with extensive East-West dealings was to be represented, including the bosses of West Germany's two largest commercial banks, F. Wilhelm Christians of Deutsche Bank, and Wolfgang Roller of Dresdner Bank. Roller is also the newly elected president of the German Banking Association. From industry, the board chairmen of: the natural gas utility Ruhrgas (Klaus Liesen), the recipient of Soviet natural gas; Mannesmann (Werner H. Dieter), the steel giant which exports wide-diameter steel pipe to the U.S.S.R.; Salzgitter (Ernst Pieper), the state-owned steel company; Ferrostaal (Hans Singer); Schloemann-Siemag (Heinrich Weiss), a major engineering firm, specializing in delivery of turnkey plants; and Kloeckner (Joerg A. Henle), another plant and equipment-manufacturing giant.

Also attending would be two of West Germany's own "Armand Hammers," Otto Wolff von Amerongen, the president of the "East Committee of the German Economy," and Berthold Beitz, long-time director of Krupp, now chairman of the Krupp Foundation. In short, everyone and anyone who could be considered the banking and corporate side of the German "Trust," was expected in Moscow.

Look for a great deal of favorable Western media publicity, praising Gorbachov's "openness," "reforms," and so on, in the endless glowing commentaries during and after the Moscow extravaganza.

The one who will gloat the most is Gorbachov. Never have so many high-carat "useful fools" arrived at the Moscow imperial court on one occasion.