

U.S.-Soviet joint censorship afoot?

by Joseph Brewda

During the middle of the Reagan-Gorbachov summit last December, a select group of senior U.S. and Soviet representatives quietly met at U.S. Information Agency headquarters in Washington, charged with creating an extraordinary joint U.S.-Soviet intergovernmental committee. The purpose of this committee, according to USIA spokesmen, will be to suppress the publication of views either side felt undesirable, in both the United States and Soviet Union, in conformity with "the new way of thinking of glasnost."

Some indication of the serious intent given to the board's formation by both sides was indicated by the participants, including, from the Soviet side, Valentin Falin, the director of Novosti, and Sergei Losov, director general of TASS, both top intelligence hands. U.S. participants included USIA director Charles Wick, and his subordinate, Herb Romerstein, characterized as the U.S. government's top expert on Soviet disinformation. The meeting was commissioned by discussions held between Wick and Gorbachov's propaganda czar Aleksandr Yakovlev in Moscow last June. Immediately following the Washington discussions, Wick met with Gorbachov personally, to arrange for formalizing an accord on the committee in Moscow next spring.

Under the terms of this little-publicized, unprecedented agreement, American citizens can now expect to be "rebutted, disavowed, and apologized for," if the U.S.-Soviet board rules that "slander" has been committed. The origin of such "slander," "will be traced" by the joint board, USIA spokesmen ominously state.

Soviets renounce lying?

Although any sane American would view such an agreement as disastrous, USIA director Charles Wick is euphoric. The United States and Soviet Union "are now abolishing a whole class of weapons in the war of ideas—disinformation," Wick claims. Incredibly, Wick and his subordinates are peddling the line that Gorbachov is committed to "ending Soviet lies and propaganda."

While not admitted by the USIA, the actual origin of the censorship agreement dates back to discussions held between life-long Soviet operative Armand Hammer, the chairman of Occidental Petroleum, with Soviet official Aleksander Yakovlev in 1986. A longtime associate and financial benefactor of Charles Wick's wife, Hammer rammed through a USIA-

administrated "cultural exchange accord," whereby so-called Soviet journalists, spy-novelists, and other dubious characters have been allowed to increasingly travel throughout the United States, even participate in the "peace movement."

Not coincidentally, Hammer is credited with having been central in arranging the near-disastrous 1986 Reykjavik summit, and the recent INF summit. According to no less an authority than former White House staffer Michael Deaver, it was Hammer—and the Wicks—who have been instrumental in manipulating Mrs. Nancy Reagan, and consequently her husband, into believing that Gorbachov is a "man of peace."

Soviet 'truth squad'

While the USIA claims that the joint censorship board will only extend to government-owned media, some flavor of what the accord will mean in practice was indicated one week after the summit by an East-West journalists' conference held in Oslo, Norway, devoted to removing "the enemy image from the media." Moscow and certain treacherous circles in the West are terrified that the truth about Moscow, will be sufficiently disseminated to block Russia's near-term plan for world domination.

There can be no doubt that this publication, and others associated with Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, are the top targets of the Wick-Yakovlev accord. Using the line that LaRouche has "misused" democracy, Soviet publications have been calling for the shut-down of LaRouche-linked publications for the last year. Soviet negotiators Falin and Losev have repeatedly written and commissioned lies that LaRouche is a "Nazi." Losev and Falin's U.S. counterpart, Romerstein, meanwhile peddles the lie that "LaRouche is a Soviet agent."

To facilitate the spreading of this lie, "disinformation specialist" Romerstein, and the USIA, have systematically suppressed the fact that LaRouche is the private Western individual most violently slandered by the Soviet press in postwar history.

Moscow's demand that the United States and Russia jointly suppress the LaRouche-linked publications, as a threat to Soviet plans, was openly stated in Issue No. 42, 1987, of the Soviet organ *New Times*. " 'Western democracy' allows people like LaRouche and his affiliates to act freely on the political scene" and "regularly take part in parliamentary and even presidential elections in various countries, and publish newspapers and other materials imbued with the spirit of hatred and malice" against Moscow. The article promised legal action to silence LaRouche, and significantly added the demand that "other countries can and must take up cases of slander and defamation against Soviet citizens."

Shortly after the Wick-Falin discussions, the British newspaper the *Daily Telegraph* repeated the Soviet line Dec. 15, that LaRouche knows "how to exploit the fine machinery of democracy to his advantage."