

Colombian Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo revealed that he had been receiving constant death threats from the drug traffickers, but that he stood firmly opposed to any dialogue with criminals. This stands in sharp contrast to the report, carried by the *Washington Times* of Oct. 20, that U.S. administration sources are now saying Washington would "accept Colombian proposals for plea bargaining in specific cases or partial amnesties if these furthered the goal of stopping the shipment of drugs to the United States." One can only wonder if Kissinger Associates, Inc., reportedly considered for hire by the Colombian drug mob as its public relations and consulting firm, is already on the job.

Documentation

El Espectador demands government protection

El Espectador on Oct. 10 requested an audience with acting President Dr. Carlos Lemos Simmonds, to give him the following declaration:

El Espectador has on several occasions, and despite the tremendous blows it has received—the last being the assassination in Medellín of its administrator Martha Luz López and its circulation manager Miguel Soler—reiterated its decision to continue in defense of the Colombian democratic system.

Such determination, however, does not rely exclusively on the directors or employees of a newspaper, but on the government's fulfillment of its constitutional obligation to "protect the lives, honor, and goods of all persons resident in Colombia, and to assure the fulfillment of the state's social duties," among them the guarantee of freedom of the press, the right and exercise of free enterprise.

There exists the public threat to prevent the circulation of *El Espectador* in Antioquia. That threat should not be seen as solely against this company, but against freedom of the press in the country. The war declared against the drug trade is not merely to silence this daily, but against the Colombian state, upon which depends the freedom of the press and all other freedoms.

El Espectador demands due protection for its company and its employees, and declares that it will only be able to survive as a free newspaper if the government meets its obligation to defend our lives and our goods.

Juan Guillermo Cano, director

Alfonso Cano Isaza, general manager

Fernando Cano B., director

Kremlin sponsors 'New Age' kookery

by Mark Burdman

On Oct. 11, the Soviet Foreign Ministry sponsored a most unusual press conference. With Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov standing by his side, Soviet mystic and faith healer Anatoly Kashpirovsky boasted to journalists about the success of his activities. "They idolize me," he said of the Soviet people. "I can reverse what was thought irreversible. I tap the inner resources of the body."

The next day, Radio Moscow's English-language broadcast lauded Kashpirovsky's "psycho-therapeutic" techniques, saying that Kashpirovsky's show on Soviet television was watched by 200 million viewers, and that he had "cured many of them." He would now be turning his bio-energies to curing AIDS, said Radio Moscow.

On Oct. 12, the London *Daily Telegraph's* Moscow correspondent commented that Kashpirovsky has become a "Soviet superstar, the talk of the land. When his television show is on, the streets are deserted. . . . As faith healer, hypnotist, national comforter and healer of the sick, he has millions hanging on his words."

Kashpirovsky is not the only popular occult game in town. Hundreds of thousands of Soviets, every morning, watch "healing energy" personality Alan Chumak on television. He has been called a "Good Samaritan version of the czarist mystic Rasputin." Chumak claims miracle cures for the multiple crises now facing the U.S.S.R. For example, on the devastating food shortage, he asserts: "Vast amounts of our farm produce just rots before it can get to the stores. Now we're doing an experiment to see if I can radiate the energy that will be a preservative and help store fruits and vegetables."

The Soviet government daily *Izvestia* recently reported that "practically every city now has its popular extrasensory healer. . . . *Glasnost*, miserable medical care, and a certain naive belief in extrasensory powers have led to their remarkable success in the Soviet Union."

The sudden obsession, both in the official media and in the population at large, with phenomena ranging from UFOs to the Abominable Snowman ("Yeti"), has begun to receive attention in the West. Britain's *Sunday Correspondent* re-

ported Oct. 15, under the headline, "Mother Russia Loses Her Marbles," that "regular visitors to Russia believe the country is becoming more unhinged." The paper quotes a woman watching the vast queues for every imaginable consumer good: "Only aliens from outer space can save us now." Noting that "the whole edifice" of the Marxist belief structure of previous regimes has been destroyed under Gorbachov, the paper adds: "Pre-revolutionary Russia was famed for its mystics and faith-healers. The most notorious, the Siberian monk Rasputin, thrived at a similar time of turbulence, in the last years of Czardom."

A Russian Nazi movement?

But such commentaries do not come to grips with *why* the Soviet elites are so blatantly sponsoring occultism, mysticism, and irrationalism. In part, this is an empire's classic reflex in a time of crisis, to provide a combination of cults and "bread and circus" forms of bizarre entertainment, to distract the masses from the misery of their lives. But the cultural engineers ultimately behind this occultism are thinking of something more ambitious and far more dangerous. They are creating the basis for a mass fascist transformation in the U.S.S.R., in the same sense that the proliferation of paganism, Satanism, and occultism in Germany was an essential part in forming the committed Nazi cadre. The greater danger in the Soviet case, is that the transformations occur in a Russian culture that is far more irrational to begin with, than was German culture earlier in this century.

Also, the relevant Russian elites believe that by doing this, and having it adequately publicized in the West, they will reinforce "New Age" movements globally. This has the aim of destroying the values of Western Judeo-Christian civilization. But beyond this, today's cultural managers, like the mystical Tibetan-born millionaire Badmayev and the creators of movements like Madame Blavatsky's theosophy in the 19th century, claim that the "Russian soul" is uniquely attuned to the values associated with the "Age of Aquarius," and that, therefore, Great Mother Russia will ultimately rule a world driven crazy. This belief in the superiority of the "Russian soul" is fully shared by Western leaders in such cult movements as anthroposophy and theosophy.

Applause from Lucifer

It is no accident that the "spiritualist" transformations in the U.S.S.R. are enthusiastically welcomed by the London-based Lucis (originally Lucifer) Trust. During an Oct. 12 discussion, a Lucis official expressed hope that mystical ideas could fill a vacuum in the country, as the popular faith in the Communist system collapses. The Lucis official said the mystical paintings of the late Nicholas Roerich and the writings of Roerich and his wife from earlier in this century, could form a good basis for this kind of spiritual renewal. She reported that Mikhail Gorbachov recently was quoted in an interview in the Soviet press, praising Roerich.

One Roerich follower now touring Britain, Russian-born Barbara Ivanowa, has reportedly been a student and disciple of Lucis founder Alice Bailey; she said. Ivanowa will be a featured participant at an Oct. 21-22 conference on parapsychology in London (see last week's *EIR*). She is one of the leaders of a "Madame Blavatsky revival" in the U.S.S.R. Blavatsky's theosophy, like Roerich's ideas, are used as a bridge between the "Aquarian" movements of East and West, but with the effect of proliferating Russian mysticism in the West.

In mid-October, the U.S.S.R.'s Association of Peace Through Culture sponsored an international conference honoring Roerich. Delegates from India, Mexico, Bulgaria, France, the United States, and other countries were in attendance. The meeting received favorable coverage on Radio Moscow.

Meanwhile, preparations are being geared up for a major Soviet patronized East-West Gnostic extravaganza during the first weeks of 1990. On Jan. 14-20, a thousand people—700 from the Soviet Union and 300 from the West—will be attending the second Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders for Human Survival, taking place in Moscow, on the theme "Environment and Development for Survival." The four-man coordinating committee for the Global Forum includes Peru's former Finance Minister Manuel Ulloa and Rev. James Park Morton from the St. John the Divine Cathedral cult center in New York City. Official co-sponsors on the Soviet side include the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and the Interfaith Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity.

One example of the official Moscow sponsorship of the New Age, should give some insight into the brutality and cynicism underlying the Soviet government's "Operation Occult." The Oct. 12 *Daily Telegraph* of London wrote that, "in an extraordinary demonstration of its new-found faith in transcendental meditation, the Soviet Union has asked 1,000 followers of the Maharishi [Mahesh Yogi] to set up a futuristic domed settlement on the site of an Armenian city devastated by last year's earthquake. The Maharishi Ayar-Ved Foundation, named after the giggling guru who owns Mentmore, Bedfordshire, former home of the Earls of Rosebery, set up a clinic in Moscow earlier this year to teach Russian meditation techniques. Now, with the backing of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Culture, a vast Maharishi delegation will travel to Leninakan, Armenia's second largest city, to teach techniques which the foundation claims will 'create coherence and stability throughout Armenia.' "

The same day that this article appeared, the international media were filled with reports of Soviet Army cadets shooting at Armenians in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenians are being starved out by a road blockade from Azerbaijan, which the Soviet authorities have refused to break. Obviously, this is a source of amusement for the "giggling gurus" at the Ministry of Culture in Moscow.