

## Thornburgh courts the Russian legal system

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Imagine you are an average U.S. businessman, the president, say, of a small manufacturing company. You run afoul of environmental requirements governing your activity, because you can't afford the huge expense involved. You are awakened one morning by police, who arrest you, put you in handcuffs, and haul you off to jail. The next thing you know, an official from the prosecutor's office comes to interrogate you. In a strong accent you can't quite place, he berates you for committing "crimes against the environment."

Finally, your curiosity gets the better of your anxiety. You ask him where he's from. "Russia," he says. "Are you an emigré?" you ask. "No," he responds. "I am a Russian lawyer, and I am in the United States helping the authorities to prosecute environmental criminals. This is *glasnost* in action."

Is this a nightmare? Unfortunately, it is grim reality. Under the guise of helping the Soviets develop the "rule of law," the Bush administration and chunks of the U.S. legal community are conspiring to bring about the ruin of U.S. constitutional law, in favor of the totalitarian police state in force in the Soviet bloc.

As part of this effort, there are 17 Soviet legal interns in the United States working not only with law firms and law schools, but with prosecutors' offices in several states, on issues ranging from international trade to environmental crimes.

The astonishing speed with which the U.S. is moving toward convergence with the Soviet legal system was underscored by Attorney General Richard Thornburgh's recent junket to the Soviet Union. Accompanied by a number of high-level Justice Department officials, and John Lawn, acting head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Thornburgh spent five days in the U.S.S.R. in mid-October, where he met with Soviet legal and other officials, including Minister of Justice Yakovlev, Prime Minister Ryzhkov, Deputy

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Lukyanov; Procurator General A.T. Sukharev, Minister of the Interior Bakatin; and, last but not least, KGB chairman Kryuchkov.

Thornburgh summed up the tenor of what he described as his "historic" trip in his account of his meeting with Lukyanov, which took place shortly after Mikhail Gorbachov's scathing attack on reformists in the Soviet press corps. Thornburgh told reporters that Lukyanov had assured him that Gorbachov's comments did not mean the end of *glasnost*, but reflected "frustration" with the press. "Frankly, we could sympathize," Thornburgh said.

Over the course of the five days, the American officials and their Soviet counterparts broke down into seven working groups, which, according to press statements issued by Thornburgh's office, discussed: mutual training and greater exchanges of information on drug cases which cross international borders; criminal, administrative, and other methods of enforcement of environmental law; organized crime control; the changes in commercial and international law that must accompany expansion of trade and credits of the sort envisioned by Secretary of State James Baker; immigration and emigration issues; the eight-year U.S.-Soviet "anti-Nazi" collaboration; and criminal justice statistics collection.

### Police-state collaboration

The net result of the trip was a series of formal and informal agreements for future collaboration that represent a truly frightening move toward scuttling the rule of law in the United States. These include the formal Memorandum of Understanding which Thornburgh and Soviet Procurator General Sukharev cosigned to further U.S.-Soviet collaboration in hunting down alleged Nazi war criminals. This means stepping up the existing joint operation between the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) and the

Soviets, to terrorize into silence the intensely anti-Soviet emigré communities of the “captive nations” by conducting a series of frameups, along the lines of what has already been done in the Karl Linnas and John Demjanjuk cases.

According to Thornburgh’s office, agreements were reached as well on six other “major law enforcement areas,” including narcotics trafficking, “environmental crimes,” and organized crime. The U.S. and Soviets will now regularly exchange information on “legal research, court decisions, and information on the practical implementation of legislation” and “provisions and acts on the structure and rules of procedure of judicial and administrative bodies and other legal institutions.”

Apart from seven working groups that will continue mutual collaboration, Thornburgh and Yakovlev issued a joint statement committing the U.S. Department of Justice and the Soviet Ministry of Justice to a future agenda that includes: “consultations among officials on major legal issues”; “exchanges of specialists”; a “study of the possibilities of concluding agreements on mutual legal crimes”; and periodic meetings of “specialists from their ministries and other relevant government agencies dealing with the formulation and implementation of policies and procedures in the areas of emigration and immigration; criminal law, including organized crime, narcotics trafficking, and terrorism; environmental law; and commercial law.”

The emphases on environmentalism and drugs has special significance. The galloping détente between the Bush administration and Gorbachov is based in large part on their mutual commitment to an ecological-fascist world order, and a concomitant hostility to economic development and national sovereignty in the Third World. It is not too strained to envision the two superpowers deploying a joint global “environmental police,” which will carry out a “legal” assault on industry and agriculture. The Thornburgh-Sukharev statement reported: “Participants in the working group on the environment agreed on the urgent need to develop more effective means of enforcing environmental protection laws in both nations through such measures as criminal sanctions, administrative sanctions, and imposition of economic charges on excess pollution discharges.”

Nor is it hard to envision Bush and Gorbachov joining to topple independent, anti-colonialist Third World leaders, under the guise of eliminating drug dealers—Panama’s General Noriega being a likely first target.

### **The ‘Get LaRouche’ angle**

One aspect of the Thornburgh trip that will be of special interest to *EIR* readers, was the presence in the Attorney General’s entourage of two key men of the Justice Department’s “Get LaRouche” task force—Mark Richard, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, and Robert S. Mueller, assistant to the Attorney General. It was while Mark Richard was “on sabbatical” at Harvard University in

1986, that he is believed to have colluded with U.S. Attorney William Weld to mount a prosecution of LaRouche and his associates that ultimately resulted in a mistrial. Justice Department sources have identified Richard as one of the “most knowledgeable” people in the DoJ on the LaRouche case.

Robert S. Mueller succeeded Weld for a time as Acting U.S. Attorney, and personally supervised prosecutor John Markham in continuing the Boston vendetta against LaRouche. Mueller is believed to have abetted a Soviet disinformation campaign to pin the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme upon LaRouche by leaking the fact that notebooks of LaRouche’s security personnel contained “references” to the Palme murder, the clear implication being that LaRouche was somehow behind the assassination. The notebooks showed that LaRouche’s associates had sought to discover who had killed Palme—and contained several leads to Soviet KGB-connected terrorist groups under suspicion by Swedish intelligence for the Palme slaying.

### **The gulag comes to America**

While Thornburgh was in Moscow, 17 Soviet lawyers and legal scholars were fanning out across the United States to take up public and private legal posts. They are here for six months, under the aegis of a program sponsored by the Soros Foundation and the American Bar Association. An ABA publicity sheet says the program is designed to “provide outstanding young Soviet lawyers with practical experiences in international and American law, business practices, jurisprudence, and legal education,” in “anticipation of growing opportunities for joint Soviet-American business, cultural and other ventures and to foster mutual understanding between lawyers from our two nations.”

Incredible as it may seem, two of them will be working for public prosecutors. Irene Mashlenko, of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Justice, has taken up a post with the State’s Attorney for Montgomery County, Maryland; while Igor Kolesov, a Latvian procurator, is working for the Attorney General of the State of Maine, and will then go on to the District Attorney’s office in Portland, Oregon. Though they will not actually be able to bring a case before a court, they will do everything but, including the interrogation of suspects after their arrest.

Other interns will be working at such prestigious law firms as Arnold and Porter, White and Case, and Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton. One, Tatiana Zaharchenko, is at the University of California’s law school, where she is studying the prosecution of “environmental crimes.”

One of the interns, Anna Meschanskaya, will be spending a three-month stint at the San Diego law firm of Dorazio, Barnhorst and Bonar. This law firm was contracted in 1987 by Democratic Party honcho Sol Price, to prevent LaRouche associates from petitioning or campaigning on the property of his mega-warehouse stores during the campaign to put the anti-AIDS Proposition 69 on the California ballot. The suit was finally settled in favor of the LaRouche associates.