

## General Scherer, friend of the United States

General Scherer, one of the world's leading experts on the Soviet Union, has had a career as a journalist and a security consultant and was, during the 1970s, the head of the Militärische Abschirmdienst (MAD), the military intelligence and counterintelligence service of the West German Bundeswehr. He was a personal and security adviser to then-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

In recent years, he has visited the United States many times, to brief congressmen, intelligence professionals, and others on the disastrous situation in the Soviet Union and on his view that the Atlantic alliance must absolutely be maintained and strengthened. He has also been an outspoken defender of his friend Lyndon LaRouche.

In testimony presented to the Sept. 9-11, 1987 hearings of the Fact-Finding Committee of the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the United States, Scherer asserted that his professional evaluation was that the Kremlin was waging "a typical, targeted psychological terror campaign of worldwide proportions against the person of Lyndon LaRouche and against his potential influence. . . . LaRouche is without doubt one of their very top targets in the West."

Following LaRouche's conviction in a political frame-up trial and his jailing on Jan. 27, 1989, General Scherer wrote to Helga Zepp-LaRouche that he was "deeply shocked" to learn of the news about her husband. "With profound regret and intense disappointment," he wrote, "we must recognize that in the West, too, moral degeneration of the state and political manipulation of the judiciary, of judges in particular, of the free press with its responsibility for the progress of society, and of the media in general—have gained the upper hand."

In a visit to the United States in January 1990, Scherer emphasized LaRouche's importance to the Kremlin. "We have to remember that in many ways it has been the SDI, or at least the threat of the SDI, that has driven the Russians to the wall," he told a group of strategic analysts. "The SDI, even as a perspective, terrified the Russians. I



*Gen. Paul-Albert Scherer, speaking at a meeting of the international Commission on Human Rights Violations in Boston, Oct. 20, 1987.*

saw a letter to the editor of *Time* magazine, commenting on the issue that had Gorby on the cover. The letter pointed out that the changes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere were not Gorbachov's achievement, but rather Reagan's achievement. There is something to that, but the adequate way to put the matter is to say that it was really not so much Reagan who can take credit, but LaRouche, since it was LaRouche who actually designed the SDI as a policy. LaRouche—maybe along with Reagan—but LaRouche was the one who has now got the Soviets with their backs to the wall."

lowers in the Politburo decided against Gorbachov, their youngest member, and in favor of Konstantin Chernenko, the aged secretary of ideology. For almost a half year, Gorbachov had been allowed to stand in for the bedridden Andropov as general secretary, and had energetically set the direction for perestroika. Additionally, he was, as Central Committee chairman, responsible for agriculture, but, be-

cause of failed harvests, his work was graced with little success.

Previously, in December 1982, after Brezhnev's death and the assumption of power by long-time KGB head Andropov, internal economic investigations were made on the cost framework for the Afghanistan War; the titanic naval and missile buildups, the ambitious space program, and the giant