

## LaRouche, classics invoked to save Russia

by John Sigerson

A group of human rights activists in Moscow has issued an urgent call for the formation of a Schiller Institute in Russia, as a part of the growing worldwide network of resistance to the genocidal "shock therapy" policies of the International Monetary Fund. The call, entitled "Can We Permit Ourselves to Miss This Chance? Paths to Overcoming the Crisis in Russia," comes close on the heels of the first demonstration in Moscow to demand the release from prison of Lyndon LaRouche, one of the founders of the Schiller Institute in the United States.

The call opens by urging that Russians, in light of the daily deterioration of living standards, growing tensions in the Army, and possible military conflicts, should "think like Lomonosov and Leibniz, create like Pushkin and Schiller," and "learn economics from Witte and Hamilton!" The first name, which may perhaps be less familiar to western readers than the others, refers to Mikhail Lomonosov, the mid-18th century scientist and classical poet who founded the University of Moscow according to the principles given to Peter the Great by the 17th-century universal mind Gottfried Leibniz. For educated Russians, the invocation of Lomonosov is a powerful reference to the "westernizing" current which has always striven to lift Russia out of the economic and cultural quagmire of feudalism.

### Recovering a 'lost world'

The call explains that "for a prolonged period of time, Russia was a 'lost world,' without real ties to the West, to the ideas of freedom and humanism. Now a deep crisis has afflicted all spheres of the economy and culture. Today's lamentable situation is the result of the false goals and ideals, set by the leaders of the October coup. The state suppressed the freedom of the individual, while ideology suppressed freedom of thought. Now it is perfectly clear, that the future of Russia is linked with the processes of privatization, demilitarization, the creation of a new system of jurisprudence, and with free access to information. . . . Any other policy, serving the goals of the moment, will not suffice to permit the country to occupy the place it should in the modern world, and will not remove the threat of Russia's turning into an underdeveloped, Third World country."

The call laments the "dangerous tendency" that too many

Russian politicians and intellectuals today have swallowed whole the fallacy that the ideals of western capitalism are epitomized by the free market liberalism preached by the Harvard school of economics. "It is especially important to expose pseudo-scientific theories that have no confirmation in practice and do not take into account the specifics of the current situation in Russia, and turn to the world practice of creating a powerful national economy and use the methods of physical economy, which, in the tradition of Leibniz and Hamilton, have been developed for the modern situation by the American economist Lyndon LaRouche."

The call also emphasizes that the real power in Russia still remains with the *nomenklatura*, the powerful families who ruled Russia under communism. The evidence of this is there for all to see: "So far, neither the parliament, nor the government headed by Gaidar, have done anything real for a genuine transformation of property relations in Russia. The simple citizens of Russia, the soldiers returning from eastern Europe, should become owners of land, houses, apartments, and enterprises. But so far, the officials of the old *nomenklatura* and the new bureaucracy are carrying out their own privatization, for themselves, so that in half a year we are going to get capitalism of the harshest and cruelest sort."

But the call reports that opposition to the *nomenklatura* is fragmented, while there is also a troubling growth in "imperial ideology" favoring the idea of a "single and indivisible Russia" on the model of the old Russian Empire. At the same time, economic production has been exhausted by the bureaucratic abuse of communism, while Russia's budget deficit and foreign debt have roughly quadrupled over the past year, with the latter already passing the \$100 billion mark.

In sum, the call states, "We have reached a decisive point in our history. The time has come when the future of Russia, our future, will be decided." If Russia follows the IMF "shock therapy" program drawn up by Jeffrey Sachs, then the very best Russia can expect is to be "on the level of Brazil or India, countries where the [free] market has been reigning for a long time.

If, on the other hand, Russia adopts a policy of "national economic development (dirigism)," as was practiced in America after the 1776 Revolution and in Russia in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, then physical production and infrastructure could be relatively quickly restored. "The ideas of physical economy laid out by Leibniz, who corresponded with Peter I, and developed in the works of Friedrich List, Hamilton, and LaRouche, go to the heart of man's true relationship with nature."

As an immediate goal, the call says, "we must insist on new elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, since it was elected more than two years ago, in a completely different political situation. And at the highest level, the mistakes of the communists must be recognized and communist ideology condemned."