
Interview: Vitali Urazhtsev

What really happened in Moscow on Oct. 3 and 4

This is the second and final installment of our interview with Vitali Urazhtsev, done on Nov. 26, 1993 in Russia. Mr. Urazhtsev is an elected People's Deputy of the Russian Federation, a member of the Supreme Soviet, or Parliament, which was abolished by Boris Yeltsin's Decree No. 1,400 of Sept. 21, 1993. In 1988, he founded Shield, the first independent trade union of Russian military servicemen, and was expelled from the Soviet Army the next year. Just as he opposed Soviet Communist power, Urazhtsev also rejected Yeltsin's imposition of rule-by-decree in September of this year. At the present time, he is in hiding. (See EIR, Dec. 10, p. 29 for Part 1.)

EIR: There are many rumors circulating about the events of Oct. 3 and 4 in Moscow. Please tell us about what you witnessed.

Urazhtsev: My role in these events has been greatly exaggerated. In reality, I had in my hands the Mossovet [Moscow City Council] resolution on people's right to hold peaceful demonstrations and street marches, in support of the constitutional order. This right is guaranteed for the citizens of Russia, by the Constitution.

There were rallies in Smolenskaya Square, at the Barrikadnaya metro station, and in Oktyabrskaya Square. Already on Oct. 2, some 50,000 people gathered at Smolenskaya Square. That evening, I, People's Deputy Ilya Konstantinov, and Mossovet Deputy Andrei Babushkin dispersed people to their homes. They wanted to stay all night on the barricades, but we feared they might be beaten up by the police, so we convinced them to go home for the night. I invited everybody to come to Smolenskaya Square at 10 a.m. on Oct. 3, for a rally and demonstration. But on Oct. 3, the police did not let us into the square, although I showed them the Mossovet resolution. We went over to Oktyabrskaya Square, where 30-40,000 people had already assembled. It was 2 p.m. Oktyabrskaya Square was also ringed by police. There was a huge number of provocateurs.

Suddenly some woman ran up to me and slipped me a note, supposedly from [People's Deputy Viktor] Anpilov, which proposed to bring people to Ilyich Square. But I didn't recognize Anpilov's signature. I couldn't see why such a note had been brought to me. Why take people to Ilyich

Square? Furthermore, I was not the organizer. The organizers were People's Veche and Trudovaya Moskva [Working Moscow]. Ilya Konstantinov came up and said that we should take the people somewhere, in view of the possibility of provocations.

I had people form ranks and led them along Lenin Prospect, from the center of the city. I had a bullhorn. I was leading this huge crowd of people, and going very slowly. Then a young guy told me that the police had cut us off from behind, so that there were only 10,000 people following me. I realized that the police were preparing a trap, and gave an order to turn back to the square. When we returned to the square, I decided to lead people along the Sadovoye Koltso [Garden Ring Road].

When the column got to the Krymsky Bridge, I had to decide whether to continue on the Sadovoye Koltso across the bridge, or to hold a rally at the park. Across the Krymsky Bridge from us were three ranks of OMON [Internal Affairs special forces]. I looked back and saw about 100,000 people coming behind me from Oktyabrskaya Square. I started negotiating with the police colonel, and cited the Mossovet document in asking him to let the demonstrators through. He said he needed 10 minutes to discuss this with higher-ups. Fearing provocations, I told him that was too long, and gave him three minutes, after which we would begin to move.

I was at the head of the column. Singing, it began to move. Then I was hit on the head by an OMON man with a nightstick, and fell. But the police couldn't do anything with such a huge crowd. The OMON fell back, dropping their sticks and shields. People began to throw the sticks and shields into the Moscow River. Helmets and bulletproof vests, too. They started beating the policemen, in retaliation for their violence. I demanded a halt to the beatings, saying that it was not the policemen's fault. Young men, 18 to 25 years old, started putting on the bulletproof vests and helmets and taking the shields.

Then provocateurs among us started throwing tear gas bombs and small explosives at our feet. We sped up, to get away from the clouds of gas and smoke. Another row of policemen loomed up in front of us. They were pouring some kind of caustic liquid across the road, and throwing smoke bombs. We were walking ahead, eyes tearing up so that we

couldn't see anything, and coughing. I ordered people to run, to get past that dangerous area.

We reached Zubovskaya and Smolenskaya Squares. We were chanting slogans: "Rutskoy Is President," "Fascism Will Not Stand," and "Put Yeltsin's Band on Trial." We moved like an avalanche, but in our midst were provocateurs from the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We seized several vehicles, abandoned by the police. We seized police ammunition. There were no weapons. The police didn't have them, nor did we. In Smolenskaya Square, there were barriers of police and trucks. Upon seeing the huge crowd of people, the policemen got scared and started to run away. A large number of trucks, which were positioned across the road, started to turn around at high speed and run people over. Policemen were driving the trucks. Twenty or 30 people might have been killed or badly hurt. They were going to use fire hoses against us in Smolenskaya Square, but they didn't work. There was no water, for some reason.

We reached New Arbat Prospect and turned toward the White House. There were around 100,000 of us at that moment. But since we were moving very fast, all the pensioners, the older people, lagged behind, and there were a lot of young people around me. So it is very wrong to say that it was Communists who came to the defense of the White House. The Communists couldn't move that fast, due to their age.

At 3 p.m. we broke through the thin police lines on the New Arbat and headed for the White House. The White House was separated from us by barbed wire and a row of street-cleaners, packed very close together.

At that moment, the police forces were concentrated at the Mayoralty building, to stop the demonstrators from advancing. It was these provocateurs of [Moscow Mayor] Luzhkov, I think, who opened automatic weapons fire against us. At first I thought they were shooting blanks to threaten us. But people started screaming, and the first wounded cried out. That was the first blood shed. The first to shoot was an officer in an overcoat.

Then the demonstrators tried to take cover in every direction. I hit the ground and hid behind a concrete barrier, right where I had been arrested at 8 a.m. on Aug. 19, 1991 by the KGB. [Urazhtsev was one of the first victims of "preventive" arrest during the August 1991 coup attempt by the Communist Party and KGB figures—ed.] My bodyguard, Sergei, covered me from above, but I made him lie down next to me.

The shooting went on for about 10 minutes. We stood up. People looked horrified and confused. The crowd of about 10,000, now angered and agitated by the blood of their comrades, turned to storm the Mayoralty and the Mir [Peace] Hotel with bare hands. It later became clear that this is where the Internal Affairs staff for the siege of the White House was located. People attacked the Mayoralty building, because they saw that that's where the killers were. Why did people get weapons? Because the police were dropping their weap-

ons. There is no evidence that anybody was killed by citizens using these weapons. People arrested Braginsky, a henchman of Luzhkov. Luzhkov himself wasn't there; he was hiding.

I entered the White House through entrance No. 1. The OMON and Internal troops were retreating in haste. Their bosses were leaving in cars.

We pushed back the special spiral barbed wire with our hands. Many people were injured by this razor wire, which cuts the face and hands at the slightest touch. Within an hour, the blockade of the White House was completely lifted by those who today continue to be smeared as "red-brown" [communist-fascist], crazy people, or drug addicts. Everybody was ecstatic, crying from joy, but there was no violent rampage or fanaticism.

We hadn't been inside the parliament building for five days. The policeman of the White House guard let us in without a document check. He recognized us. There was a light burning, and it was quiet, clean, and cold. Deputies greeted me with hugs and kisses, saying, "Freedom! Freedom!" It echoed through all the floor of the White House.

I went to the third floor, where I ran into Anatoli Milyukov, one of [Speaker of the Parliament] Ruslan Khasbulatov's advisers. He advised me to come in and brief the speaker on what had happened. A minute later, wearing my raincoat and a helmet, I went into the room of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. We embraced. "I should get to the rally," said Khasbulatov. Without donning his coat, he went up the stairs onto the balcony. There were a lot of people on the balcony, and a sea of people on the plaza below. I felt very tired, so I went to my own room, the office of the "Army Reform" parliamentary group.

There are defectors [from the Parliament] to the camp of the President's team, who portray their defection as common sense and a smart move. But treachery is treachery. Every normal person, possessing honor and a conscience, has to make his own choice. Sad for Yeltsin and his team, there was only one honorable person in the government—[Minister of Foreign Economic Ties] Sergei Glazyev, who resigned. All the rest are spiders in a jar, the meaning of whose existence is not higher ideals, not the idea of a rebirth of the Fatherland, but a place at the table, as close as possible to the pie of "people's property," which the Kremlin group dreams of swallowing all by itself.

The next day, Oct. 4, the Congress was supposed to go into session at 10 a.m. We watched TV, and were glad when it went off the air, that lying mouthpiece of Yeltsin.

EIR: What happened on Oct. 4?

Urazhtsev: That was a heavy, oppressive day in my life. I spent that day under the rumble of tank guns, heavy artillery, and automatic weapons fire in the House of Soviets of the Russian Federation, alongside R. Khasbulatov and [Vice President] A. Rutskoy on the fifth floor. I was not able to see and hear very much, because almost the whole time, I was at

the microphone of our amateur radio station. This was an extraordinary, blood-stained day. And I suspect that not all of my impressions are precise and irreproachable. They are scattered and fragmentary, so please forgive me.

I hardly slept at all, the night of the 3rd. First, we were working on proposals from the Army Reform group, about work among servicemen. I took them to A. Ruts koy, whom I found on the fifth floor, surrounded by his staff. The Acting President [of Russia, according to the Constitution abolished by Yeltsin—ed.] was in a good mood, and received me cordially. I read him the document, which he liked. He sent me to his chief of staff, Valeri Krasnov, to prepare an instruction. We worked by candlelight in the dark. This took quite some time.

Nikolai Nikolayevich Gonchar, chairman of Mossovet, came in and gloomily reported what was going on. It was impossible to get anything concrete out of him. "They're shooting, they're killing, they're attacking Ostankino!" the TV center. Mostly he talked about how risky it had been for him to come to the White House. So why had he come to the White House? Just in case. If Yeltsin wins, he was with him. But he was also with Khasbulatov. He helped him. I think that our Russia's woes come from people like Goncharov—ambivalent, spineless people who want just one thing: not to miscalculate, so as to arrange their affairs nicely in life.

I turned from Gonchar to my transistor radio, where there was alarming news. They reported about Ostankino—dozens of dead and wounded. At Mossovet, members of the staff for defense of the constitutional order had been arrested, including Yuri Sedykh-Bondarenko, Viktor Kuzin, and Viktor Bulgakov. All of them are People's Deputies. Their deputy's immunity had not helped.

My documents ready, I went back up to the fifth floor. A. Ruts koy's bodyguard, Volodya, shined a flashlight on me, recognized me, and let me through. Ruts koy was sitting at a desk in the far right corner of his office, talking with some people I didn't know. He was rapidly writing something by candlelight, deep in his office there. I signed my instruction and left.

[Gen.] Albert Makashov was standing in the corridor, giving orders to some servicemen. He asked me where Khasbulatov was. Evidently, Khasbulatov didn't want to have much to do with Makashov. When I went into the office, I heard some not very complimentary remarks from Khasbulatov about Makashov. Makashov did not look like much of a hero at that point.

I went to sleep toward 4 a.m.

In the morning, I was awakened by heart-rending voices and the thunder of heavy artillery. I looked at my watch: It was 7 a.m. I ran along the corridor toward the shooting, and saw three camouflage-painted APCs across from the Supreme Soviet reception area. People were running from the barricades toward the White House to take cover. People in fatigues, from over at the Mir Hotel, were shooting at them with automatic weapons.

Three minutes later, word came that all deputies should assemble in the Council of Nationalities hall, the only well-protected room with no windows. It was loud and rumbling outside, and nobody could say exactly what was going on. I went to see Ruts koy, but found out he was at Khasbulatov's. The chambers of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet were heavily guarded. The entrances were blocked with safes, overturned armchairs, desks, and chairs.

I'll say right here, that A. Ruts koy and R. Khasbulatov acted normally, with a full sense of their responsibility, aware that they would set the moral tone for everybody present. Khasbulatov was collected. He was monitoring the situation. If he saw a weak point, he said so. There was no hysteria. Ruts koy was like a soldier in battle. I think that this is how he was in Afghanistan: quick, dynamic, decisive, active, and bold. Khasbulatov was mainly sitting down—at first, in his office, and then when his office was shelled by heavy artillery, he moved into the corridor. He sat in the hall with the others, and smoked his pipe. He was deep in thought.

I reminded Ruts koy of our conversation two years before. After August 1991, I actively supported the idea of forming a national guard. At the time, he said that the best national guard was the Dzerzhinsky Division. I pointed to the window, telling Ruts koy: Look, that division is storming us.

At 8 a.m. on Oct. 4, Ruts koy proposed that I take the microphone at the radio station. I began to read out an appeal to officers and citizens of Russia: Do not be indifferent, come and help, they're shelling us. Ruts koy periodically reported to me, how many people had been killed. I saw when [President of Ingushetia] Aushev and [President of Kalmykia] Ilyumzhinov came in. But I was at the radio station, and the windows faced the Mayoralty. When big guns fired, bricks flew at us. Ruts koy was afraid they would kill me and his brother in his office.

EIR: What do you think about the appointment of new people to the posts of minister of defense, minister of security, and minister of internal affairs—Achalov, Barannikov, and Dunayev—made by Ruts koy and approved by the Congress?
Urazhtsev: I think these appointments were a mistake. Why do this, when Golushko and Grachov might still be thinking about whose side to take? But that burned the bridges. For me, these appointments were unexpected.

From 8 a.m. on, I was working at the radio station in Ruts koy's office. He had finished writing an appeal to the citizens of Russia, and was reading it over a loudspeaker. "Look what they are doing, these scum. They've sent the Army against us. They're shooting, the scoundrels!" said Ruts koy. There was heavy shooting outside. Ruts koy went somewhere, and I took the transmitter. I began to read the material I was handed, but soon I had to stop because the transmitter overheated.

EIR: When did they start shelling the White House from

tanks? How was this felt by the people inside?

Urazhtsev: The tank shelling started at 11 a.m. or 12 noon. Paratroopers from the 106th Division fired on the White House from machine guns. They arrived at 11 a.m. By an irony of fate, it was in the 51st Guard Regiment of that division, that I began my service as an officer. Now my regiment-mates were firing on me.

Rutskoy was constantly reporting to me the number of dead. He was getting reports from couriers from the first, second, and third floors, which were already seized by the storm forces. They had seized the first floor by 9 a.m. The upper stories were burning. Among the defenders of the White House, not a single deputy fired a shot, although they had weapons. At 3 p.m., I said goodbye to my bodyguard and let him go, so that he could tell what he had seen. I didn't know if I would perish.

Between 12:30 and 1 p.m., there was a lull in the firing, and we received a proposal to surrender. At 3 p.m., Barannikov showed up, tall and broad-shouldered, and with genuine concern on his face. He came into the office where Rutskoy's brother and I were broadcasting. We had resolved to stay to the end.

There were two officers from the Alpha group [Ministry of Security special unit] and the directorate of Yeltsin's guard, with Barannikov. They said they were empowered to negotiate with Khasbulatov and Rutskoy. Barannikov invited our leaders into the office where Rutskoy's brother and I were sitting. And so the talks began, under the echo of gunfire.

One lieutenant colonel said he wanted to help us, and that Alpha had refused to use force and shed blood, although the order was given to raze the White House and annihilate everybody. It was clear that this was coming from Yeltsin and his camarilla. The lieutenant colonel proposed that we hand over our weapons and exit, under Alpha's guaranteed protection, through entrance No. 1, where buses would wait to take us home. I didn't believe a word about "taking us home," of course. Alpha guaranteed a special pathway, where we wouldn't be touched by the military. He warned several times against exiting through entrances No. 8, 14, or 20, since there was a large number of riled up and drunken armed people there.

Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, and Barannikov went into consultation. Khasbulatov was collected and outwardly calm. Rutskoy was stroking his mustache. There was concern, that the lieutenant colonel's promises would be broken. We needed representatives from the foreign embassies. Rutskoy asked me to call my father by radio telephone, and my father, Georgi Urazhtsev, went to the French Embassy. The ambassador did not receive him.

EIR: It was reported in the West that Khasbulatov and Rutskoy supposedly asked the Turkish Embassy for political asylum.

Urazhtsev: We did try to appeal to the Turkish Embassy as well as the French, but not for political asylum. We were

asking for representatives of the embassies of France and Turkey to be present as guarantors of the security of people, among whom there were women and children, as they exited the White House.

The forces that stormed the White House committed real atrocities. They killed the wounded, as well as people who were trying to carry the wounded away. Alpha could not guarantee our security, because they were not acting in coordination with the storm forces. The stormers themselves were shooting each other, and blaming us. The French cameraman, by the way, was killed by OMON troops.

It was obvious that there was no point in remaining in the White House. Khasbulatov and Rutskoy agreed to leave the broken and burned building. We prepared to hand over our weapons. There were a lot of weapons.

I came out through the bright, but cold and unpleasant front entrance. The glass was all broken. The scars of automatic weapons and artillery fire were everywhere. No corpses were in sight, only puddles of blood on the floor. It was about 5 p.m. There were rows of soldiers in front of the first entrance, and about 400-500 people in front of them. These were staffers and defenders of the Parliament.

From over by the Mayoralty, disorganized heavy artillery fire was audible. We went down the steps to the embankment, where the buses were supposed to be waiting. They immediately put Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, Barannikov, Achalov, and Dunayev on the first bus and took them away.

There was more firing from the Mayoralty building. Bullets whistled over our heads. I looked back at the House of Soviets—a terrible sight. The upper part of the building was entirely black. Tongues of flame were shooting from the upper stories.

It became clear that the buses were not coming, so we were let go. I went to a building on the right, where my aunt lives. Right away I saw blood on the floor and a mound of corpses. And some submachine-guns and boxes of booty. They aimed their guns at me. I ran out onto the street, and then got into the courtyard through the entrance that accesses it. I met a group of the people with whom I had exited the White House. All along the walls of that entrance there were bloodied bodies.

At the end of the building, we found a lighted entryway, where we could hide from these thugs. There were about 200 of us. The shooting was still going on. We collapsed onto the stairs. It was clear we couldn't stay there, because we were essentially corralled.

The only way out was along the embankment. In every other direction, there was shooting and searches under way. And so we went. An hour and a half after we left the house on the embankment, I was at the house on Mosfilm Street, where my mother-in-law lives. Nobody was home. Then I started off to my wife's. Just then, several shots at my back sounded from a pistol with a silencer. The shots came from a car standing next to the entrance. I plunged into some

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bushes and jumped into some kind of hole that was there, where I nearly broke my legs. I lucked out, because some strangers gave me refuge, where I could hide for a long time.

EIR: How would you characterize Yeltsin's armed action against the Parliament?

Urazhtsev: It is very important that the storming forces fired three types of cartridges, including bullets with a displaced center of gravity, long ago banned under international law. They also used plastic bullets, which cannot be found by X-rays. And there were bullets with a special chemical filling, which rots the body so that the person dies. We are investigating all this with what forces we have, but it is very difficult. Therefore it is essential, that independent international organizations help in the investigation.

EIR: What do you think of elections under these circumstances?

Urazhtsev: Unquestionably, the results of the elections will be falsified. A. Rutskoy told me that during the referendum of April 25, 1993, some 7 million fake ballots for Yeltsin were slipped in. It is naive to hope that the 1,000 observers, who are coming in for these elections, will be able to monitor anything. Of course they will be well received, wined, and dined.

Remember that today we have one of the worst forms of state—a dictatorship. These people, who value human life at nothing, have no moral standards or decency. In Russian history, this regime is doomed. First and foremost, it is doomed economically. There is no hope that this regime will be stable or last long, especially since Yeltsin does not even have real support even in the structures he would seem to be relying on. The Ministry of Security and the Army realize where Yeltsin is taking them.

What would we expect from the world community? The truth, the truth, and nothing but the truth about the events in Russia. This regime will stop at no annexations, and is prepared to fight anyone to stay in power. Russia's foreign policy today is a policy of adventurism.

The only thing this regime is afraid of, is that the whole world will find out who they really are. I am sure that Mitterrand and Clinton will assess Yeltsin quite differently in their memoirs, unhampered by conjunctural considerations.

Russia is the fuse on the grenade called Earth. Therefore it is clear that the enemies of the world community, in the

person of Russia's rulers, are deranged people. Everything is decided under the collective pseudonym "Yeltsin." We can only guess at who has his hands on the controls of the Russian state. The influence of the military is growing. The Army demands payment for its services. The Ministry of Security demands the same.

I am amazed that the world community placidly watches this comedy called the "elections." Any observer who comes to Russia today, should clearly understand that he is a conscious participant in deception. We have thousands and thousands of electoral precincts in Russia. You have to know the special tricks of our system. For instance, at the Lenin Humanitarian Military Academy, everyone has already voted. The ballot boxes that will be in the precincts will be replaced by other ones, pre-stuffed with the right ballots. This cannot be monitored!

What has Yeltsin gained? The Russian citizen today is immersed in his own problems, and the main problem he has is how to survive. What's the point of elections?

EIR: How do you see the role of the Army and its relations with the regime?

Urazhtsev: I think the country will be militarized.

EIR: Can Yeltsin subordinate the Army to himself?

Urazhtsev: I think not, because the junior and middle officers' corps does not sympathize with him. In connection with this, Yeltsin is carrying out a purge of the General Staff, the Ministry of Security, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The best cadre are being purged, by the way. The pro-*nomenklatura* element in the Army happily went to work for Yeltsin.

EIR: Will Yeltsin repeat the fate of the Bolsheviks, who went to war against their own people?

Urazhtsev: Keep in mind, that that's a very dangerous line, because the Army will split for sure. We will have Reds and Whites again. Now, on civil war: It has already practically become reality, and has reached Moscow. And what is civil war in a country loaded with special production facilities and a nuclear arsenal?!

EIR: Will the coming elections help Yeltsin with the legitimacy and, consequently, the stability of his regime?

Urazhtsev: Yeltsin is 63 years old. His health is poor.

He works only two or three hours a day. You can't run a huge country, where every region has its own situation, like that. The staff Yeltsin has today is incompetent and unprofessional.

The only thing left for Yeltsin is repression. As far as I know, the plan of bloodletting and terror is for many years, for the long term. The latest phase of this plan's implementation is to give the regime a democratic face. This is why the so-called elections were needed, which are also largely for the purpose of deceiving the world community. Twenty-five percent of those who vote, never mind the citizens of Russia as a whole, will not yield legitimate laws, legitimate representation, nor a legitimate Constitution. And this Constitution, moreover, establishes the legal basis for totalitarianism.

The system of centralized management is obsolete. The economic interests of the regions prompt them to distance themselves from the center more and more. Moscow could ultimately be isolated. It will be without electricity, funds, and food. It will turn into an appanage principality. For Moscow is not all Russia. And all Russia is impoverished today.

There are forces who rely on violence, who think to improve their life by killing as many of their fellow citizens as they can. It won't work. Our Army is poor today. It is not separate from the people and will not fight against the people. These people realize that they are being dragged into a bad business. There is no money to pay the Army decently. And not only money is lacking. One needs to have a perspective, a program, an honest evaluation of what happened.

EIR: What tasks did A. Rutskoy give the forces defending the White House?

Urazhtsev: I can say with certainty, that not a single deputy fired a single shot. There was a huge number of provocateurs in the White House. Extreme conditions were created and maintained there for two weeks. Before the shooting started, people had been in isolation for two weeks. They were defaming us. The Yeltsin regime started beating people in the streets, and spilled the first blood. Yeltsin exploded the civic peace. Whole units and divisions of the Army refused to obey his orders. On the night of Oct. 3, Moscow was without any law enforcement. This shows yet again that there were sensible people there, too, who did not want to spill the blood of their fellow citizens. They refused to inflict terror and to act as gendarmes. These people are paying for this today, being fired and deprived of their social guarantees.

EIR: How do you estimate the number of casualties?

Urazhtsev: It is politically very important to determine how many people actually perished. The true casualty figure could fundamentally change people's attitude to what Yeltsin did, including among his supporters. On Oct. 4, I learned the figure of 4,000 killed and wounded.

Sooner or later we will find out the truth, just as it was found out in October 1917. Hundreds of thousands of people knew what happened. And what happened, was that Yeltsin,

realizing that the people had ceased to support him, resorted to force. As a result, he has gotten an embittered public, hard to manage, hard to control.

And now, potential dangers may await Yeltsin from all sides. There are searches going on in Moscow against people from the Caucasus, and the police are shooting to hit. This didn't happen even under the czar. But we will find out the truth, nevertheless. We need an independent investigation. The Shield Union, which I headed, conducted such investigations after the events in Tbilisi, Baku, and Vilnius [violent repressions by Soviet authorities in 1989-91—ed.]. Not one of our findings was ever disproven. But today I am underground, and Shield has been banned by Yeltsin.

EIR: What might continued support for Yeltsin mean for the West?

Urazhtsev: A regime will conduct the same sort of international policy, as it does inside the country. A regime at war against its own people, sooner or later will turn its predatory gaze at neighboring territory. I don't believe it will not desire to reanimate the U.S.S.R., perhaps by force.

Russia today is a hellish explosive device for the world. It is a source of hatred of humanity, nationalism, and hegemonism. It strives to regain superpower status at any price. It has revanchist plans for creating a powerful superpower, which would be a counterweight.

NATO in its majority does not want to admit the countries of the former East European bloc because Russia doesn't want this. It would mean that the East-West confrontation practically approaches the borders of Russia. I am not sure that this showdown between our military men, who are mostly straight-arrow, non-dialectical people, will not lead to bloody clashes. They will also be seduced in this direction by the deterioration of the economic situation. The economy will never come to life under these conditions, because you can't fill a bottomless barrel.

EIR: What ways out of this situation do you see?

Urazhtsev: Any regime that rests on lies and violence is doomed. Yeltsin's popularity rating is falsified. If his popularity is so high, why doesn't he want new presidential elections?

In Russia today, much depends on finding a person who could unite the majority of the citizens. At least 51% of the citizens of Russia would have to support this person, so that he could restructure our political life on new principles. These principles should not be invented by anybody. The world community has already developed the criteria. Without self-cleansing, self-criticism, reevaluation of what they have done, and repentance on the part of the regime, nothing will change for the better. If Khasbulatov and Rutskoy are put on trial, then Yeltsin, too, must be tried. For it would be absurd to try the people who defended the Constitution and the law, and free from responsibility those who crossed beyond the law and became common criminals.