

## Editorial

### *Stop IMF genocide*

On July 7-9, more than 60 Ukrainian parliamentarians and political supporters staged a hunger strike in front of the parliament building in Kiev, calling for an end to their government's support for the International Monetary Fund's murderous austerity conditionalities. The strike was conducted by the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, under the leadership of its chairman, Dr. Natalya Vitrenko, a deputy in the Supreme Rada (parliament).

With this courageous action, a new flank has been opened in the international battle against the IMF's genocide.

Dr. Vitrenko is well known to readers of *EIR*. In February of this year, she addressed an FDR-PAC forum in Washington, D.C., entitled "Why IMF Policy Toward Eastern Europe and Russia Must Be Scrapped." Her speech, documenting the economic and social collapse of Ukraine under the IMF program, was printed as part of *EIR*'s March 14 cover story. She also joined with Helga Zepp LaRouche, circulating an appeal to President Clinton to convene a New Bretton Woods Conference, to replace the bankrupt world monetary system with a new one, oriented toward economic development.

The appeal, which was published in *EIR* on April 18, called for a global debt reorganization, the establishment of fixed-parity exchange rates, and a new set of trade and tariff agreements. Under a New Bretton Woods system, sovereign governments would have exclusive responsibility for the emission of currency and the creation of credit; they would make available cheap and long-term credit lines for large-scale investments in infrastructure, industry, and agriculture.

The appeal has been signed by hundreds of political leaders on all continents, including more than 50 Ukrainian parliamentarians. Three former Presidents of nations have signed: Uganda's Godfrey Binaisa, Brazil's Gen. João Baptista Figueiredo, and Mexico's José López Portillo. Dr. Vitrenko and fellow Ukraine parliamentarian Volodymyr Marchenko presented the appeal at a press conference in Kiev on Feb. 25; she also gave

a speech in parliament on Feb. 28, calling upon her colleagues to sign the call.

Mrs. LaRouche, in a statement on July 10, gave full backing to the Ukrainian hunger strikers, and called for an international mobilization in support of their demands. "This action must become the takeoff point for an expanded global fight to replace the IMF, through the convening of a New Bretton Woods conference," she said. "Dr. Vitrenko joined with me, back in February of this year, in appealing to President Clinton to convene such a conference, precisely because of the fact that the IMF is ripping nations apart so violently that civilization itself is threatened. Now, with Dr. Vitrenko's action, it is time to escalate.

"I call upon citizens everywhere, to demonstrate in front of IMF offices, branches of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, and other institutions which implement IMF policies, in support of the actions taken by Dr. Vitrenko and her political party.

"The actions of the IMF in Ukraine are typical of their assaults on living standards everywhere," Mrs. LaRouche explained. "The IMF bureaucrats have demanded measures of budget-balancing and privatization which have led to large arrears in the payment of wages and pensions, as well as to bankruptcies and joblessness. Dr. Vitrenko has demanded an immediate elimination of wage and pension arrears, and immediate measures to create full employment in current jobs, and create new jobs. These demands represent provisions for the general welfare, which all people can support.

"But even as we roll back the IMF assault, we must dramatically increase the support for a new monetary system based on the best elements of the Bretton Woods System, combined with the launching of great projects such as the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and the re-establishment of the Machine-Tool Principle of scientific and technological progress which my husband has identified as critical to reversing the world depression."

*EIR* endorses Mrs. LaRouche's call. Messages of support can be faxed to the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, at 011-380-44-228-5492.