

have what they want, almost for free. You want gold? Take it! Uranium? Oil? And so forth.

Sudan's achievements

In Sudan, we consider citizenship—not religion, not ethnic origin, not geographic relations—as the measure for duties and obligations. This is why you have all shades of opinion and religions in the government, the civil service, the military, the police.

In education, eight years ago, we had five universities; now we have 26. All good governments in this world invest in education.

As for the condition of women—a problem in many parts of the world—we now have universities where the girl students outnumber the boy students. Forty-eight percent of the Ministry of Justice labor force are women. In the Supreme Court, the highest legal body in the country, 4 judges out of 10 are women. Just compare this to the rest of the developing world!

We had an economic growth rate of 5.5% in 1997—just compare that to the rates of the other countries in the area. This rate is certified by the IMF, by the way. During the previous government, the rate was \square 1%, certified by that same organization. We reduced inflation from 168% to 28%. And, we pay, monthly, \$5 million to the IMF as debt service on the loans given to the *former* governments, not to this government. This government has not borrowed a single dollar from outside the country. That means, we are repenting for the sins of others. Five million dollars: This is a huge amount of money, and we would know how to manage it very well; we could build a lot of hospitals, a lot of roads, a lot of labs, a lot of schools. But if we don't pay that debt service, we would just provide a justification to those who are running after us, through the economy or military means, or through the media.

This year, we produced 5.3 million tons of food—this is far above the national need for food, so now, we export food. We used to produce at a low level, unfortunately, because of an inefficient government, the darling of some countries. But now, we export.

Many friends are asking us: Will you allow this? Will you allow that? We say, the people will decide these matters. But, believe me, the people of Sudan will never forget the shame and the hurt of being one day starved by their government, to the extent of having to be fed by foreigners in their own land. Never again! It will not happen.

By the end of this year, Sudan will be self-sufficient in petrol, in oil. And, we will start exporting.

All of these accomplishments were made without any connection with the IMF. Without any advice, or money, or assistance programs. And this is a model: Through sheer self-reliance, and by mobilizing your own people, and articulating your own programs, and exploiting your own natural resources, you can make it.

Interview: Natalya Vitrenko

The world needs a New Bretton Woods

Natalya Vitrenko, Doctor of Economic Sciences, is a member of the Supreme Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine from the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine. In February 1997, she co-initiated, with Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche, the "Appeal to President Clinton to Convoke a New Bretton Woods Conference" (see EIR, March 7, 1997). Karl-Michael Vitt of the Schiller Institute interviewed Dr. Vitrenko in Kiev, on Jan. 22.

Q: What do you have to say, as the co-author of the appeal to President Clinton for a New Bretton Woods conference, about the great financial crisis unfolding today in Southeast Asia?

Vitrenko: The outbreak of this crisis has affirmed the theoretical, scientific basis of the LaRouche movement, especially the great service of Lyndon LaRouche in revealing the roots of this crisis, as well as the timeframe in which it would develop.

For us, it is also important to underscore that lying propaganda and horrific censorship have generally concealed from the Ukrainian people the real facts about what is happening in the world, including in finance. My source for full information, on the crisis that is actually going on, is *EIR* magazine, the LaRouche newspapers; there, as an economist, I can see the real scope of this tragedy.

Q: How do you view the financial and economic situation in Ukraine at this time?

Vitrenko: The crisis in Ukraine is deepening, because every economic policy, carried out according to International Monetary Fund prescriptions, is aimed at the destruction of material production.

It must be said again, that the President, and each of our successive governments, are lying to the people about the condition of the economy, by making reference *only* to the monetary curve, using inflation as an artificial measuring rod. Thus, there is constant talk about processes, a process of improvement in the economy, such as the reining in of inflation, or financial stabilization, and it is forecast that 1998 will be the year that economic growth begins in Ukraine. This is forced upon public opinion, in order to get people, first of all,



Dr. Natalya Vitrenko, at a press conference on Dec. 23, 1997, shows LaRouche's "triple curve" graph to illustrate the causes of economic devastation in Ukraine. To her left is fellow leader of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, Volodymyr Marchenko. Dr. Vitrenko, who is widely recognized as the most influential woman in Ukraine, has announced that she will run for President at the earliest opportunity.

to approve the policy, and, second, not to seek any mechanisms for changing the situation.

Our Progressive Socialist Party is the only opposition party in the Parliament, which constantly emphasizes that following the prescriptions of the IMF is a threat to our national sovereignty. One issue of our party's newspaper, *Dosvitny Ognj*, was entirely devoted to countries that have been victims of the IMF. It used the material, illustrations, and interviews from the international conference [of the Schiller Institute, in February 1997] in America, which we attended. The paper featured the appeal to Clinton, which we mobilized forces in our parliament, 53 members in all, to sign.

We tried, but we didn't yet have enough forces, to push through a repudiation of [Ukraine's] agreements with the IMF. This effort was torpedoed by a member of the Communist Party group in the Ukrainian Parliament, who initiated a motion to take the information under advisement—information, that is, on foreign credits, and how they were being stolen by the government. In Ukraine today, it is not only the President who is carrying out the instructions of the IMF, but the IMF also has the support of the Prime Minister, the leader of the Communist Party, and the Socialist Party. The leader of the Socialist Party, [Oleksandr] Moroz, put the other resolution to the vote; it won a majority, which finished off our resolution.

At that very moment, we began to be slandered for our connection with the Schiller Institute. We were said to be financed by an American businessman, while the Schiller Institute was described not as anti-IMF, but as "pro-fascist." One month after our presentation, [PSPU leader] Volodymyr

Marchenko's car was set on fire. We, however, are continuing to fight against the IMF. We have not changed our position.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 23, 1997, at a closed session of Parliament, Ukraine effectively declared bankruptcy.

Q: At the end of World War II, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated, against Churchill, that it was time to end the imperial and colonial system. What advice would you give President Clinton, looking back to this statement by Roosevelt?

Vitrenko: Clinton has a historic chance today, to act as the savior of humanity. There were two superpowers: the United States and the U.S.S.R. With the Soviet Union collapsed, the U.S. remained the sole superpower. America declares to the world, that it is fighting for human rights. All the countries in the world are caught in the spiderweb of the dollar. Thus, America bears economic, financial, and humanitarian responsibility for the world.

Clinton is distancing himself from the IMF. He possesses all the objective data he would need, to act as the savior of humanity: to propose a policy, opposite to the one carried out by the IMF. The idea that Lyndon LaRouche put forward a year ago, for which we collected signatures on the appeal to Clinton—well, the situation has changed since then. The crisis is now in full swing. So, there is the basis for the LaRouche movement to repeat the appeal to Clinton, but in even stronger terms, saying: "Look, you didn't listen to us, and the crisis has begun!" It is time not merely to appeal, for a second time, but to charge him: "We warned you, we appealed a year ago!"

Q: In December the U.S. Congress refused to pass new funding for the IMF. What advice do you have for those senators and representatives, and for elected officials in the Federal Republic of Germany, many of whom signed the appeal?

Vitrenko: First of all, those who signed the appeal should repeat it, saying, "Now we have even more of a moral right to insist on this solution." As for those who have not signed, they should be updated with the new information, so that they might reconsider their decision not to sign.

Parliamentarians today are responsible not only for their own country, but, insofar as the international financial system is a single whole, each member of parliament is responsible for the entire world.

Q: You are currently campaigning in the parliamentary elections. In touring your district, what do you find is the situation of the population, which has been subjected to this policy?

Vitrenko: First of all, I can talk not only about my district, because we have a mixed electoral system in Ukraine now, where we run as a party, not just in a district. Our party is on the ballot throughout Ukraine. We travel and speak throughout the country. In absolutely all our presentations, I always expose the roots of what is happening, the prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund.

The most recent issue of our paper carries my article on

the passage of the budget, in which I expose what a criminal budget has been adopted for 1998 by Moroz and the parliamentary majority. I conclude the article with the following words, "IMF—Out of Ukraine! Take your suitcase and board the train to America!"

The situation for the average household is catastrophic. Wage arrears in Ukraine have surpassed the \$2.5 billion mark. Some people don't receive their wages for months at a time, some for years. The pension arrears are around \$1 billion. While a working-age person can earn a little on the side, by selling at the street market or something like that, the pensioner is condemned to hunger and death.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of suicides. In the six years of IMF-prescribed reforms, there were six times more suicides in Ukraine, than the loss of life by the entire U.S.S.R. in the Afghanistan War.

Nine million jobs, or one-third of the jobs in Ukraine, have been lost. Crime has assumed monstrous dimensions. There has been a war of scandal and counter-scandal between the President and the prime ministers, which makes Watergate look like child's play.

Q: What is the situation with health care?

Vitrenko: The health care system can only develop properly as part of the budget sector, as a state service. Even medical services that people pay for themselves, can never compensate for budget funding. This is the more so, since we can't discuss people paying for health care, when our wage levels are so beggarly. The minimum wage in Ukraine is \$8 per month. People cannot afford health care that they have to pay for, and there is no public health care, because the budget funds are not there. The total budget allocation for health care is approximately \$400 million, while \$1.5 billion is spent on interest on the foreign debt.

This shows that the Ukrainian regime, which is hostile to the people, aims at genocide against its own people, while pumping out resources for the benefit of Western creditors. Understanding that there is a threat of total bankruptcy of Ukraine in the coming months, according to the Dec. 23, 1997 session of the Parliament, and understanding that it is necessary immediately to take responsibility for the state of affairs in the country, the presidium of our party has assigned me to run for President of Ukraine in the next elections.

Q: On occasion, Mr. LaRouche has referred to President William "Hamlet" Clinton. Is there, in Russian or Ukrainian literature, a figure who can be cited in this way?

Vitrenko: I think that LaRouche called Clinton Hamlet, because he is agonizing: "To be or not to be . . .," to do, or not to do. Our political figures today, meaning [President Leonid] Kuchma, [Speaker of the Rada] Moroz, are much weaker than Clinton. They don't even have such a thought: To act or not to act. They do exactly what they are told by the boss, the IMF.

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