

# Chernomyrdin honored at Bridgeport 'Moonie U.'

by Edward Spannaus

Former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin visited Connecticut on Sept. 28, to be awarded an honorary doctorate degree and to launch a new research center at Bridgeport University. The new research center will be known as the "Chernomyrdin Institute for Studies of Russian-American Economic Relations."

The former Prime Minister might have picked a more reputable place to try to earn his American academic credentials, rather than an institution controlled by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon organization, declared by the European Parliament to be a "dangerous sect" involved in "the drug trade."

Bridgeport University, which dates back to 1927, ran into severe financial and management difficulties in the late 1980s. Over strenuous opposition from alumni groups and the community, it was taken over in 1991 by the Professors' World Peace Academy (PWPA), an arm of Moon's Unification Church.

After the takeover by the PWPA, Bridgeport's enrollment plummeted, as it came to be labelled "Moonie U." Once boasting an enrollment of 11,000 students, it had 7,000 in 1991, which fell to about 1,100 in 1992. The chairman of the Board of Trustees is Neal Salonen, a longtime aide of the Reverend Moon, who came into public prominence during the "Korea-gate" scandal of the 1970s, and a majority of the board are now persons affiliated with the Moon network of organizations.

Chernomyrdin is not the only public figure to prominently associate with the Moon sect.

In 1995, Moon financed a speech-making tour of Japan for George and Barbara Bush, and Bush subsequently appeared at about a dozen Moon events in the United States. In 1996, George Bush spoke at the launching of Moon's *Tiempos del Mundo* newspaper in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and he also toured Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela with Moon.

## Intelligence front

While Bush was accused of simply associating with Moon for the money—he was lavishly compensated for his services—the deeper truth is that Moon does not have to "recruit" those prominent personages who have been associated with one or another of his front organizations. Rather, this should be seen as an "asset-sharing" arrangement with U.S. and British intelligence agencies who created the Moon organization in the first place, and who have continued to use it ever since. (One need look no further than the leak-filled pages of the Moon-owned *Washington Times* newspaper to get a whiff of

how this arrangement works.)

Moon's Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, commonly known as the "Unification Church," was founded in Korea in 1954; Moon had earlier set up a Pentecostal church in Communist North Korea, and was repeatedly arrested for sexual offenses, first in North Korea and later in South Korea. To this day, Moon's doctrine centers around an obsession with the sexual organs and excretory bodily functions.

For example, in his Buenos Aires speech in Argentina on Nov. 23, 1996, Moon said: "When you defecate, do you use a mask? This is no laughing matter, this is serious." He continued, "When you were kids, did you ever taste the cooties from your nose? . . . Why didn't you feel they were dirty? Because they were part of your body." This was minutes after George Bush had praised Moon for his "foresight and vision." (The Buenos Aires speech, complete with all Moon's scatological and sexual references, was reprinted in his *Washington Times*.)

Moon's Unification Church is an outgrowth of the East Asian section of the so-called "Moral Rearmament" (MRA) movement, also known as the "Oxford Group" for its birthplace, Oxford University, in the 1920s. It was headed by Frank Buchman, nominally an American who developed a "convergence" theory aimed at creating a "world unification of religion" movement.

With a host of British and European oligarchic sponsors, the Moral Rearmament movement sought in the 1930s to bring Britain and the United States into an alliance with fascist Germany against the Soviet Union; likewise, Buchman was also promoting an Anglo-Japanese alliance against the Bolsheviks. (It is reported that Germany's Heinrich Himmler and Rudolf Hess were MRA members; when Hess flew to England in 1944, he landed his plane on the estate of a British MRA member.)

In Japan, whence most of Moon's money is said to come, he formed an "anti-communist" alliance with Japanese organized-crime circles. Organizations in Korea which have been identified as the "parents" of the Unification Church are the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League and the Korean Cultural and Freedom Foundation. The latter was created by Moon's right-hand man, Bo Hi Pak, and was closely linked to American CIA and intelligence officials.

Pak joined with Moon in the Unification Church in 1957, and in 1958, Pak and Moon were instrumental in establishing the World Anti-Communist League. Today, among other things, Pak is chief executive of the parent company of the *Washington Times*.

In his Sept. 28 speech in Bridgeport, Chernomyrdin spoke of his continuing work with his "good friend Al Gore." But perhaps the larger meaning of Chernomyrdin's pilgrimage to "Moonie U." is that, seeing Gore going down in flames, he has decided to cast his lot with the Bush camp—and he finds the Moonies the most expedient way to accomplish that objective.