

THE NOÖSPHERE

## Ukrainian Conference Summons LaRouche in Time of Crisis

by Rachel Douglas

Representatives of Lyndon LaRouche were received with enthusiasm as featured speakers at a conference in Ukraine titled “Physical Economy: Research Methodology and the Global Mission of Ukraine,” held April 9 at the Kiev National Economic University (KNEU). In the midst of world economic breakdown, on the heels of the utter failure of the April 2 London Group of 20 summit to address that crisis, and as guests in a large European country (population, 46 million), which has been written off in too many quarters as a “failed state,” our delegation encountered, both at the April 9 event, and in smaller seminars and private discussions with politicians, scientists, youth activists and other Ukrainian citizens, and guests from Russia, serious searching for innovative ways to address the national and global systemic crisis. It is coupled with hope that something better will be forthcoming from the United States, than at present.

The quality of these discussions contrasted sharply with the farcical outward face of Ukrainian politics since George Soros’s Orange Revolution of December 2004. That period of less than three and a half years has seen three parliamentary elections and four governments, constant squabbling between current President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and a slide into economic depression, especially in eastern Ukraine, with the collapse of the nation’s export markets for steel. At the end of 2008, with

export revenue falling fast, Ukraine turned to the International Monetary Fund for a loan of \$16 billion. As might be expected, it came with strings attached, such as hiring foreign consultants—Soros’s Blackstone Group was chosen—to advise on fiscal decisions, and slashing government spending, including pensions. While our delegation was in Ukraine, April 8-14, the Supreme Rada (Parliament) refused to approve budget cuts demanded as a condition for release of the latest small tranche of the IMF credit, so Tymoshenko’s cabinet enacted the cuts by decree.

It was the perfect moment to concentrate, in contrast, on the most profound and powerful ideas ever to emerge from Ukraine, those of Academician Vladimir I. Vernadsky (1863-1945) of the Russian and Ukrainian Academies of Science. Thus, the main submissions from the LaRouche movement to the April 9 conference were LaRouche’s paper, “The Principle of Mind” (pre-published in *EIR* of April 3, 2009), and the essay by Sky Shields of the LaRouche Youth Movement’s Basement team, “Human Creative Reason as a Fundamental Principle in Physics” (*EIR*, Oct. 17, 2008). Both articles will appear in English, with partial translation into Russian, in the conference proceedings. The LaRouche movement delegates in Kiev were Shields and this author, as *EIR* journalist and a longtime representative of LaRouche and the Schiller Institute in north-central Eurasia.



KNEU/Katerina Nushenko

*Rachel Douglas delivers greetings from Lyndon LaRouche to the Podolynsky conference, in Kiev, Ukraine, April 9, where participants were eager to discuss innovative ways of overcoming the national and global crisis.*

## The Decisive Role of Muranivsky

The “Physical Economy” conference was co-sponsored by the KNEU and the Serhiy Podolynsky Scientific Society, founded in 1995. As chairman of the Podolynsky group, Prof. Volodymyr Shevchuk, reported at a 2001 Schiller Institute conference in Bad Schwalbach, Germany, “Our Society came into being, and is developing, hand in hand with the Schiller Institute.” Shevchuk traces the Podolynsky Society’s agenda of ideas and research topics, in part, to the revival of attention to Podolynsky’s writings, by the Russian scientist and industry organizer Pobisk Kuznetsov, and the famous Ukrainian Soviet-period dissident Mykola Rudenko, both now deceased.

But the decisive impulse came from the late Prof. Taras V. Muranivsky, the Ukrainian-born, Moscow-based economist who allied himself with LaRouche, and led the Schiller Institute in Moscow from 1993 until his death in 2000. Born just two years after the horrific 1933 famine known in Ukraine as the Holodomor (death by starvation), which took millions of lives in Ukraine, Moldova, and southern Russia, during the collectivization of agriculture, Muranivsky always held that LaRouche’s ideas, and Vernadsky’s, were the key to harmonious development of Russia and Ukraine as sister nations. He tirelessly promoted LaRouche’s “sci-

ence of physical economy” in Russia as well as Ukraine, and wrote articles arguing that the best initiatives in the thinking of Podolynsky, Vernadsky, and other associates of the latter, have found their highest realization, to date, in LaRouche’s work.

Podolynsky (1850-91), half a generation older than Vernadsky, influenced the latter’s thinking about the Biosphere and the science of biogeochemistry, especially through Podolynsky’s study of the energetic characteristics of plant life. Current Podolynsky specialists, including some who spoke at the Kiev conference, pay a great deal of attention to Podolynsky’s polemics with Karl Marx about the labor theory of value, against which Podolynsky urged that sunlight through plant life, representing a process having “greater than 100% efficiency,” as Kuznetsov put it, creates new value. One wing of Podolynsky students even describes him as an extension of the physiocratic school of Quesnay et al., insofar as Podolynsky added to the physiocrats’ “bounty of nature,” the “bounty of the Sun.” Indeed, it was during polemics with Kuznetsov over the quantitative treatment of “energy,” that LaRouche decided to shift from saying “negentropy,” to “anti-entropy,” in an attempt to express the kind of change, and creation of new value, which is accomplished typically by human cognition.

Muranivsky, however, always urged that the most important of Podolynsky’s writings was his 1880 essay, “Human Labor and Its Relationship to the Distribution of Energy,” which he believed pointed in the direction of LaRouche’s view of historical increases in the energy flux-density of human economic processes, through technological advance. “Like LaRouche,” Muranivsky wrote in 1993, “Podolynsky analyzes economic processes in their inseparable connection with the development of energy systems (both natural ones, and those involving technology). In particular, he stresses, ‘The productivity of human labor is significantly increased by the use of that labor for transforming lower kinds of energy into higher; for example, by raising working cattle, constructing machines, and so forth.’”

## ‘Physical Economy’ Studied in Ukraine

The term “physical economy” was reintroduced, internationally, by LaRouche, notably in his 1984 book, *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?* (Russian and Ukrainian editions, 1993) and the 1994 essay “Physical Economy as the Platonic Epistemological Basis of All Branches of Human Knowledge” (*EIR*,



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*Rachel Douglas (third from left) is joined, before a monument to the great Ukrainian/Russian scientist V.I. Vernadsky, by (left to right): Lyudmila Vorobyova (Kyiv National Economic University); Sky Shields (LaRouche Youth Movement); Alexander A. Ignatenko (Kremenchuk Museum); Katerina Nuzhnenko (KNEU); and Alexandra I. Sheremetyeva (area rural council head).*

Feb. 25, March 4, and March 11, 1994), which Muranivsky brought out in Russian as a book, *Physical Economy*, in 1997. At KNEU, with added emphasis on the heritage of Podolynsky and Vernadsky, and Rudenko's writings, "physical economy" is a topic-area of growing popularity.

Thus, speakers at the April 9 conference reflected the depth of recognition and the authority of LaRouche in Ukraine. Lyudmila Vorobyova, a KNEU lecturer in economic history whose Ph.D. thesis on "The Ukrainian School of Physical Economy" included a chapter on LaRouche's economic writings, made her presentation on "S. Podolynsky's Energy Theory and the Physi-

cal Economy of Lyndon LaRouche." Col. Alexander A. Ignatenko (ret.), scientific expert of the Kremenchuk Regional Museum, in his speech on "The Development of Podolynsky's Ideas in the Works of V. Vernadsky," cited LaRouche's accurate forecasts, in order to situate the tasks before Ukraine and mankind in the current crisis: the question of "what we ought to know, and what we ought to be able to do, in order even to dare to hope, in our time of truly cosmic transformations of humanity, a time weighted down, moreover, by the world's having entered that global financial and economic crisis, predicted by Lyndon LaRouche back in 1983, because the old model of economics is exhausted."

Academician Anatoli Pavlenko, rector of the KNEU, opened the conference. He announced the participation of guests from Russia, China, and Belarus, as well as the LaRouche delegation from the U.S.A. A second member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, physicist Ihor Yukhnovsky, then read a message of greeting from President Yushchenko, who hailed the conference as "unique," and affirmed his openness to its proposals.

Academician Yukhnovsky also gave one of the keynote presentations, pleading for new initiatives to reverse the collapse of industry and agriculture in Ukraine. One less than inspiring project he mentioned was an effort by teams of Ukrainian physicists and mathematicians to identify new export markets, to replace the disappeared steel market. But the systemic nature of the global crisis did not figure in Yukhnovsky's remarks. More promising was the presentation by Podolynsky Society head Shevchuk, who said

that dealing with the crisis must not be merely a "fashionable" topic. He called to apply the universal ideas of Vernadsky, especially his differentiation of the abiotic, living, and cognitive levels of existence, as an "immortal" gift of Ukrainian science for addressing every problem which may confront humanity. Shevchuk pledged that the conference would generate a package of initiatives for submission to the President of Ukraine as the basis for cooperation with other countries.

After these speeches and that of conference co-chairman Prof. Sergei Stepanenko, vice-rector of the KNEU, came LaRouche's message. I read a Russian translation of LaRouche's greeting, "Science and Soci-



ety Now” (see below), and then showed a Russian-dubbed excerpt from his March 21 webcast, in which LaRouche, in discussing a recent article by the U.S. economist James Galbraith, attacked the fallacy of policy decisions based upon flawed axioms and the past experience of people alive today. That excerpt demonstrated the need for truly creative thinking, as discussed in “The Principle of Mind.” There was enough time to read passages from LaRouche’s conference paper, including the beginning, the conclusion on “What Is Reality?” and a section in the middle, where LaRouche emphasizes the resonance of Vernadsky’s ideas with the policies of his contemporary, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt: “What is crucial . . . in the achievements of Academician Vernadsky, is that these have coincided precisely with what had been those of President Franklin Roosevelt’s commitment to physical-scientific progress in the domain of a science of physical economy, as his policy was later opposed under the leadership provided by the British-led, fascist opinions and policies of such among Roosevelt’s vicious, pro-fascist adversaries as John Maynard Keynes and President Harry S Truman.”

The highlight of the afternoon session was LaRouche Basement team leader Sky Shields’ report to the conference on the method taken by the LaRouche Youth Movement in the current crisis (see below). Although many conference participants may not have realized it immediately, Shields’ presentation was a challenge not only to generally accepted reductionism, but to the systems analysis approaches, rampant in Ukraine and Russia, which purport to be alternatives to reductionism, but are equally hostile to creative thinking.

In closing the April 9 event, Professor Stepanenko pledged to take under consideration the formulation of a conference resolution, including what was presented by this writer in the form of a message from Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche. “She expressed the hope,” I reported to the conference, “that a resolution from this conference, if one is adopted, might exert a healthy influence, while the leaders of almost all countries keep throwing money into a black hole, on the creation of a coalition of countries, intent on finding solutions based on physical economy. It could say that ‘the participants of the conference have recognized the systemic nature of the world financial and economic crisis. They call upon scientists, statesmen, and citizens of all nations to seek solutions based on the ideas of physical economy, in the tradition of Leibniz, Hamil-

ton, Carey, List, Mendeleyev, Podolynsky, Vernadsky, and LaRouche.’”

## From the Black Earth to the Cosmos

LaRouche having referred, in his conference greeting, to the historical strength of Ukraine in its agriculture, its industry, and its science, we were delighted to have the opportunity to visit the central Poltava Region, 300 km down the Dniepr River from Kiev. Its second-largest city, Kremenchuk, is where Vernadsky and his teacher, Dokuchayev, conducted soil research in the 1890s, during which time, Vernadsky began to formulate his concepts of the Biosphere and the Noösphere.

We travelled through the great expanses of *chernozym* (black earth), which is the richest agricultural land on the planet. Like the rich soil in Iowa, it is located in the boundary area of the furthest extent of the last great glaciation, as well as in the basin of an ancient inland sea.

From the *chernozym*, we stepped into Vernadsky’s Noösphere, taking a tour of the regional museum in Kremenchuk. This is the historic heart of Ukraine, where Peter the Great defeated the Hetman Mazepa, who was allied with the Swedes during the Great Northern War, at the turn of the 17th to the 18th Century, and ended the independence of Ukraine. The regional museum was designed on the same principles as the Vernadsky State Geological Museum in Moscow, which LaRouche toured in 2001, and has often mentioned.

The basement of this museum started with the Paleolithic era, or with the geological formations before that, then, the first signs of human culture in these regions. We went through the stages of development of Ukrainian culture and the battles, and different types of social organization, including a moving display on the Great Patriotic War, World War II. This area was completely devastated; 97% of the buildings were destroyed during the War. But, the top floor of the museum is on the space program. Colonel Ignatenko, who gave us this tour, is not only an expert on Vernadsky, but also, the biographer of the Ukrainian space scientist Kondratyuk, an engineer and visionary, who, in the 1920s, wrote a treatise on interplanetary space flight, in which he proposed that the gravitational field of the planets, the Moon, etc., would be used to give a slingshot effect, a gravitational boost to accelerate a spacecraft. And when it came to the American Moon shots, in the 1960s, there were different plans, such as going with a straight shot, to use as little fuel as possible. But a NASA scien-



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tist was tasked with studying everything ever written on potential modes of interplanetary space flight. And in the Library of Congress was this book by Kondratiuk. And it's what we used; it's how we got to the Moon, by using this Ukrainian trajectory.

The presentation of this history by the museum director, with pride and passion in this Ukrainian scientific tradition, summed up the core idea of the dialogue our delegation had throughout the week. We heard technology discussions ranging from electric power generation schemes in the Black Sea, to the use of Ukrainian maglev technologies in Africa. Even tour guides at the museum of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant accident start by stating that there is no alternative to nuclear power.

Other meetings included Kremenchuk city officials (more knowledgeable about President Franklin Roosevelt's 1933 bank holiday policy, than many of their American counterparts), high school students, political party activists, and political analysts. Coverage of LaRouche's intervention at the KNEU/Podolynsky conference appeared on the website of economist Natalia Vitrenko's Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, under a headline paraphrasing LaRouche: "The Economists Who Got the World into This Mess Should Shut Up." The People's Democratic League of Youth reported enthusiastically on its site about the coincidence of their own programs for emphasizing youth leadership and creativity, with what Shields presented about the LYM's current activity. On April 24, the Glavred political club published a full transcript of a roundtable

*LaRouche representatives Douglas and Shields traveled through Ukraine's famous chernozym (black earth) regions, the richest agricultural land on the planet. They visited the Teplichny vegetable-growing complex, in Kalinovka, where they viewed the heating units (left); and observed extensive tomato vines, tended by a worker (below).*



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discussion with Shields and me, held at the club on April 13. It featured the same excerpt from LaRouche's March 21 webcast, along with our verbal update on what LaRouche had presented on April 11: the urgent requirement to defeat the behaviorist economic school of Larry Summers, Peter Orszag, et al., and get the U.S.A. back on the track of FDR and LaRouche.