

# Was Soviet Culture Fund's Ustinov complicit in Gandhi murder?

by Mark Burdman

Peter Ustinov, one of the original troubadours of Western appeasement to the Soviet Union, has now joined forces with Raisa Gorbachova's Soviet Cultural Fund, *EIR* has learned. Ustinov has rented a hotel near Interlaken, Switzerland, from Oct. 19-21 of this year for a meeting of the "Issyk Kul Forum," a sub-branch of Raisa Gorbachova's Soviet Culture Fund. This meeting, to be followed by a press conference by Forum participants at the United Nations' Geneva headquarters Oct. 22, is being labeled, "Issyk Kul II."

This information adds further proof to conjectures that Ustinov is a cultivated asset of the Soviet Union. This lends added interest to Ustinov's presence on the scene of the Oct. 31, 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. On the morning on which she was murdered in her garden by two Sikh security guards, Ustinov was in a small building in the garden awaiting an appointment. The purpose: to film an interview with Mrs. Gandhi. That appointment and Ustinov's three days of journeying with Mrs. Gandhi that week served to "pin down" Mrs. Gandhi in time and place—a crucial point in assassinating a major political figure. Russian complicity in the Gandhi assassination, had been signaled by a Sept. 26 article in *Pravda* announcing Soviet withdrawal of political support for the prime minister, a fact that was elaborated in the *EIR* book *Derivative Assassination*. Reports circulated in the immediate aftermath of the assassination that Ustinov's film crew, from the British Broadcasting Company, had filmed the entire assassination, but the report was squelched and the film, if it ever existed, was never made public.

Ustinov's deep connections with the Russians and the British place in the same "Trust" networks that executed the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi, through their assets within and outside of India, including Anti-Defamation League networks in Washington. Ustinov is also a close associate of Count Ignatiev of the Foreign Ministry in Canada, another "Trust" figure from a Russian noble family who has played a key back-channel role between East and West.

Ustinov himself has long been part of a political-cultural circuit of Communist Party fellow-travelers in the United States, which included his long-time friend Theodore Bikel. Bikel's manager in the 1950s and 1960s was Harold Leventhal, the manager of the Weavers, Pete Seeger, and other

leftist "folk" stars. The circuit also included the Highwaymen of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" fame. One such Highwaymen songster, Stephen Trott, traveled on to the role of Associate Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice from where he led operations against presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche and played a key role in the cover-up of diversion of funds to the Contras.

Ustinov, sources report, comes from the same Russian noble family as the late Soviet Defense Minister Dimitri Ustinov. Certainly, he has built his career on cultural operations on behalf of the Greater Russian Empire. In an Associated Press interview on Sept. 16, 1984, Ustinov proclaimed his defense of the Soviet Union: "We're told that the Soviet Union is an evil empire. I believe no word of it. I have no evidence for it. I don't feel when I'm having lunch in the Soviet Union I'm having lunch at the heart of an evil empire." In the same interview, Ustinov denounced nationalism, "a disapproval he thinks he picked up from his international childhood."

In his 1983 book, *My Russia*, Ustinov defended the Yalta agreement which handed Eastern Europe over to the Soviet Union, stating: "Russia is, and always has been, acutely conscious of her security, and for the very best of reasons, bitter experience. She has lost far more men and material on her own soil than on anyone else's!"

And in defense of Russian expansionism, he declares: "An American statesman has claimed that the Soviet Union is the last imperialist predator, preying on smaller nations. This is merely to say that, in some respects, the Soviet Union is old-fashioned. . . . This is no place to analyze the morality of empires in general. Suffice it to say that what today is a dirty word, was, a mere half-century ago, a clarion-call of ennobling righteousness.

"The rulers of what is glibly called the 'free world' point to the Soviet tanks in Budapest and in Prague, and the invasion of Afghanistan, to say nothing of the Cubans in Angola and the Horn of Africa and Central America, as proof of Russia's aggressive intention to break free of encirclement and preach its own gospel in parts of the world classically denied to it. Naturally the Russians, stung by the holier-than-thou nature of such accusations, point back at the tragedy of Vietnam and Kampuchea, at the Dominican Republic, and

at the United States' unswerving if avuncular devotion to the cantankerous and mischievous policies of Israel. . . . It can also point at Western countries' close relations with shabby dictators and corrupt governments in their hemisphere, apparently as part of a grandiose doctrine formulated by President Monroe. . . .

"There is a salutary skepticism in the air, and it is perhaps just the right time to examine the history of prejudice to which a nation has been the victim from early in her history to the present day."

### The fellow-travelers

Sources in the industry in the United States now report that the Soviet Cultural Fund invited both Bikel and Ustinov to sign up for the "Issyk Kul Forum," and both assented.

The first Issyk Kul Forum was launched in October 1986, almost simultaneous with the official launching of the Culture Fund. The originating meeting of the forum was held, by the Soviet lake in Kirghizia from which the group took its name. At that time, Mikhail Gorbachov himself greeted the participants, expressing hope that its work would be crucial for the "new thinking" toward the next millennium.

The meeting with Gorbachov was covered in the *Literaturnaya Gazeta* weekly Nov. 5, 1986, under the heading, "Our Age Demands New Thinking." One participant, Ethiopian painter Afewerk Tekle, said discussion topics ranged "from ecology to culture, from politics to linguistics. . . . The Issyk Kul brainstorming was the beginning of a new movement."

Characteristically, the first act of the group, was to write a letter to President Reagan, urging abandonment of the Strategic Defense Initiative!

Such activities, indeed, reinforce the image that the Issyk Kul group is just a 1980s repeat of the kind of "cultural" fronts the Soviet intelligence services used to set up in the 1930s, to organize western degenerates into "anti-war congresses" under the tutelage of Maxim Gorky, Ilya Ehrenburg, etc. That "image problem" is where Ustinov comes in. As he privately avows, his intent, in arranging and patronizing the Switzerland get-together, is because "it is vital to have a meeting *outside* Russia," so that the group won't get a "certain color."

The Issyk Kul group is also known as the Aitmatov Forum, after the Soviet Central Asian *glasnost* writer Gingham Aitmatov, who coordinated the October 1986 meeting. Aitmatov is rapidly becoming a cult figure in those Western circles who are worshipping at the altar of Mother Russia. Aitmatov specializes in writing what might be called "Cosmic Borscht," sentimental, romantic novels extolling the never-changing virtues of life on the Russian steppes, and projecting this never-changing reality on to efforts at space exploration and, for that matter, to the entire universe. It is a world of pessimism and stasis, of hopelessness in the face of authority, and therefore perfect for the oligarchical/imperial

worldview. Aitmatov has spearheaded the "ecological" campaign in the U.S.S.R. to stop Central Asian river diversion projects.

He will be the featured Soviet participant at the mid-October 1987 meeting near Lake Interlaken.

Not surprisingly, one of the prominent figures who has congregated around Aitmatov has been Dr. Alexander King, co-founder of the malthusian Club of Rome. King attended the October 1986 meeting, and is a featured invitee to the next Ustinov-sponsored event.

Another key figure in the Issyk Kul forum process is Alvin Toffler, *Future Shock* author, proponent of a "post-industrial" society, and profiler, on behalf of Club of Rome circles, of *EIR* founding editor LaRouche. On the U.S. side, two other prominent participants include playwright Arthur Miller and homosexual-existentialist author James Baldwin. According to reports received by *EIR*, Miller, Baldwin, and Toffler are involved in efforts to establish a "U.S. Secretariat" of the Issyk-Kul/Aitmatov Forum.

### Mayor Zaragoza and the Venice connection

The main organizer of the Swiss meeting, on behalf of Ustinov, is Spanish microbiologist named Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Spanish Minister of Education and former deputy director of UNESCO, whose work in Spain is patronized by a number of foundations that are ultimately under the control of Spain's Duke of Alba, the former Jesuit priest Jesús Aguirre.

The busy Mayor Zaragoza has spent good portions of the past years frequenting scientific planning meetings of UNESCO, the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, the policy advisory board of Helmut Schmidt's Inter-Action Council, and other world-federalist bodies. Characteristically, he is part of a UNESCO project based out of UNESCO's Venice headquarters, to map out long-term research-strategy for governments, fulfilling thereby, he asserts, the same role today as the Temple of Apollo at Delphi used to play in former times. In recent weeks, Mayor Zaragoza has, in fact, become a candidate for the post of next secretary-general of UNESCO. He is also a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

In March 1987, he made a presentation before a group in Spain called META, a self-professed "intellectual action group," in which he reportedly praised Mikhail Gorbachov as an "extravagant" personality, eager for the creation of "new ideas." He referenced the Issyk Kul I meeting of Western figures with Gorbachov, at which, said Mayor Zaragoza, Gorbachov proclaimed "the need for creating a new focus with which to look at reality." Mayor Zaragoza also told META, that he was not in agreement with those who do not trust Gorbachov, and declared the latter to be "better for the arms race than his predecessors had been." His suggestion was that the META group, as a whole, join the Issyk Kul forum, as an associate entity.