

Brazen KGB role in U.S. politics

by Joseph Brewda

Overt Soviet KGB interference in U.S. politics dramatically increased in 1988, while most of the world's press was singing the praises of *glasnost*. Moscow's role in the prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates is documented elsewhere in this issue. Here we focus our attention on KGB efforts to throw the U.S. presidential election to Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis, and efforts to sabotage a Dec. 10-11 Food for Peace conference in Chicago. Both operations were run by the same Soviet ring.

On Sept. 1, John Foster "Chip" Berlet, a former editor of the pro-narcotics magazine *High Times*, and Russ Bellant, a former anti-draft activist, published a wildly libelous pamphlet entitled "Old Nazis, the New Right and the Reagan Administration: The Role of Domestic Fascist Networks in the Republican Party and Their Effect on U.S. Cold War Policies." Despite the fact that this document was based on false charges made by known Soviet assets and agents, its allegations were dutifully carried by the nation's press, beginning Sept. 8. Within a week, at least eight of the targeted Bush campaign officials resigned, including its deputy chairman.

Slanders: made in Moscow

That this pro-Dukakis dirty trick originated at KGB headquarters is incontestable. The pamphlet was almost entirely a rehash of slanders originally published in the 1950s by KGB official and propagandist Ernst Henry (a.k.a. Semyonov Rostovsky) and East German publicist Dr. Julius Mader of the Stasi intelligence service. The main conduit of these slanders to the West has been the West German-based VVN (*Vereinigte Verfolgten des Naziregimes*—United Victims of the Nazi Regime), whose East bloc pedigree is well known to Western governments.

These KGB and Stasi "anti-Nazi" formulations were updated by Charles R. Allen, Jr. of the Communist Party, U.S.A., who wrote a 400-page book in the 1960s claiming that NATO was the reincarnation of Third Reich, and similar drivel put out by the Anti-Defamation League. The only surprise in the recently issued pamphlet, is that it cites such sources directly, including *Searchlight*, the "anti-Nazi" magazine of the British Communist Party.

The Warsaw Pact's hand in the pre-election smear was against Bush's staff was even publicly admitted. The Ro-

manian embassy in Washington, for example, told reporters that it was cooperating with "Nazi hunters" in investigating Nazis in the Bush campaign.

Naturally, the Berlet/Bellant pamphlet lauds the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the "Nazi-hunting" unit which relies almost exclusively on Soviet so-called evidence, and which maintains formal collaborative ties with the KGB, the only U.S. agency to do so. Notable OSI targets have included Dr. Arthur Rudolph, the SDI scientist drummed out of the country in 1985. Every witness against Rudolph was later proven a liar by a West German court. It is no mere coincidence that the OSI has acted as a KGB back-channel in the legal witchhunts against LaRouche.

Food for Peace targeted

The same gaggle of KGB and OSI "Nazi hunters" who ran the effort to elect Dukakis, also got together in the first week of December to attempt to disrupt a conference of the Food for Peace organization.

On Dec. 8, the Justice Department's Community Relations Service joined with the Iowa state government's Civil Rights Commission to sponsor an emergency meeting with the admitted purpose of attempting to block the Food for Peace event, scheduled that weekend. The meeting was organized by Donald Burger, the St. Louis, Missouri regional director of CRS; the executive director of the Iowa state Civil Rights Division; the Iowa Attorney General's office, and upwards of 40-50 overtly Soviet-linked church and "social action" organizations involved in operations against any whom they choose to accuse of "hate-bigotry activities, anti-Semitism, and racial bigotry." Among those acting as a public spokesman for this grouping is "Prairie Fire" activist Dan Levitas, and his sidekick, Lenny Zeskind.

Following the emergency meeting, Soviet asset Dan Levitas held a press conference on behalf of this KGB-DoJ coalition, to denounce LaRouche as a "fascist," and ranted that LaRouche was attempting to "recruit unsuspecting people into . . . a far-right anti-democratic political movement based on paranoia and an extreme cold war mentality." This formulation should be no surprise: Levitas is known to work closely with Berlet, Bellant, *Searchlight*, and the VVN.

Neither CRS official Donald Burger, nor the Justice Department as a whole, could reasonably claim that the pedigree of Levitas, Zeskind, and allied members of their "Get LaRouche coalition" is unknown.

Levitas's associate Lenny Zeskind, for example, directs the Atlanta-based Committee for Democratic Renewal, formed by Lynn Wells, an activist of the Communist Party, U.S.A., who later helped lead the Maoist October League. As in the case of Levitas, Zeskind's slanders against LaRouche can be shown to have originated with East Germany's Julius Mader, or the KGB's Ernst Henry, the controllers of *Searchlight* and the VVN.