

Susnoy Bar leak used to boost 'green police'

by Mark Burdman

Whatever the exact circumstances of the leak from the Sosnoy Bar nuclear reactor 60 miles west of St. Petersburg, the March 24 announcement by the Russian authorities of the problems there will serve to spur the drive for creating a global "ecological intervention force" or "green police," under the control of one or another agency of the United Nations, and with the power to override the sovereignty of nations. Such proposals in these days, are part of the escalating barrage of propaganda in the two months leading up to the ecologists' extravaganza in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 1-12—the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development.

Hours after news reports of the problems in St. Petersburg, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, speaking at a foreign ministers meeting in Helsinki, stressed the necessity for creating a U.N. "green helmets" capability for intervention in ecological crises. Genscher had first argued in the weeks before the outbreak of the Gulf war that since threats to global security were no longer only "military," the deployment of U.N. "blue helmets" to crisis zones should be complemented in the future by "green helmets."

Many such proposals had been circulating in the days before the news about Sosnoy Bar. In an article in the Madrid daily *El País* March 20, Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner, head of the influential malthusian Club of Rome organization, reaffirmed the Club's call for the creation of an "Environmental Security Council" (ESC). That call, first issued in 1989, was repeated in the Club's book, *The First Global Revolution*, last October.

In June 1989, the ESC idea had been backed by the Socialist International, at its 100th anniversary conference in Stockholm. Recently, the Socialist International-tied International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, during its March 17-24 global congress in Caracas, circulated a call for "an international body with the strength to tackle environmental problems effectively," linked to the creation of "rapid deployment units," U.N. multinational environmental teams with real powers of investigation and enforcement."

Petrovsky bares 'Green Cross'

The recent history of such proposals could be said to originate with Vladimir Petrovsky, U.N. deputy director for political affairs, formerly deputy foreign minister of the Soviet

Union. In September 1988, in his latter capacity, Petrovsky pushed for "ecological security" as a key goal of Soviet foreign policy. This concept was later recycled by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and President Mikhail Gorbachev, in their addresses to the U.N. General Assembly.

In spring 1990, Petrovsky authored an article for the Soviet weekly magazine *New Times*, "The 'Green Cross' Brigade." He wrote, "The United Nations has launched preparations for a world conference on the environment and development to be convened in the summer of 1992. The Soviet Union's proposal to hold the conference at political summit level underlines its immense importance. One of the results of the conference could be an international code of ecological ethics. . . . It is necessary to make full use of existing structures of international cooperation in environmental protection and the powerful potential of international organizations, the United Nations first and foremost, and its Environment Program (UNEP). I am convinced that some of the ideas that have rallied broad international support can be translated into reality in the very near future. One such idea is the Soviet proposal to set up a center of ecological emergency service under the U.N." This could be called a "Green Cross brigade," said Petrovsky.

Petrovsky has a new colleague with a similar totalitarian commitment at the U.N.: Richard Thornburgh, former U.S. attorney general, who has also been appointed a U.N. deputy director, in charge of personnel and budget. The U.S. government shifted rapidly into "administrative fascist" forms of rule when he headed Justice Department, and his Thornburgh Doctrine justified invasions of foreign lands with the "legal" argument that U.S. law, as defined by the government in power, stands above international law.

In October 1989, Thornburgh visited Moscow with a high-level Justice Department delegation, talking about cooperation on environmental protection. Thornburgh was governor of Pennsylvania when the March 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear incident occurred in that state, and he blocked independent inquiry into the charges that the reactor was sabotaged. Instead he issued statements to the press which fostered needless panic.

Some weeks before Sosnoy Bar, authorities in Lithuania were forced to shut down one of the two Chernobyl-type reactors at the Ignalina nuclear power plant in the town of Sneckus in northeastern Lithuania, after a leak was found in the reserve cooling system. As the *Baltic Independent* reported in its Feb. 7-13 issue, "even more troublesome" than the loss of energy resulting from the shutdown "was the revelation that an employee of the plant had been arrested and accused of placing a bug into the central computer system of the power plant. The technical engineer is said to have 'consciously tried to disturb the work of the plant.' . . . Fears of sabotage have been haunting the Lithuanian authorities ever since independence was declared in March 1990." Was it a harbinger?