

Seminar on LaRouche held at Russian Duma

by Karl-Michael Vitt

On May 24, a seminar took place at the State Duma in Moscow, which presented the work of Lyndon LaRouche on the role of the nation-state. Sponsored by the State Duma's Committee on Geopolitics and its Club for Public Support of the State Duma, the meeting was advertised with a flyer titled, "XXI Century—the Parade of Nationalisms: Analysts and political scientists discuss the work of the American public figure and leader of the International Schiller Institute of Science and Culture, Lyndon LaRouche." The participants were scientists, political scientists, experts, and staff of members of the Duma, the lower house of Parliament.

Prof. Taras Muranivsky, president of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture, Moscow, gave a lengthy speech on LaRouche as a statesman and scientist, and his work on physical economy. Because of the war in the Balkans, Muranivsky concentrated on LaRouche's analysis of the war, "The LaRouche Doctrine" (published in *EIR*, April 16). That document and other Schiller Institute materials in Russian were distributed to the participants.

In the speech of Sergei Smirnov, the role of the nation-state and the necessity of reestablishing national sovereignty, as emphasized by LaRouche, was discussed. Smirnov, an expert attached to the State Duma's Committee on Geopolitics, spoke against supranational institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which destroy national sovereignty, and called for establishing a new system of truly independent states.

The editor-in-chief of the Russian magazine *Ataka* ("Attack"), Sergei Zharikov, analyzed the British role in the history of the 20th century, and in the present situation. Just as London supported Hitler's coming to power to further its own interests, he said, it operates today through people like Vice President Gore or Secretary of State Albright. He compared Gore's would-be taking power through the impeachment process against President Clinton, with Hitler's taking power. He criticized the failure of history books to take into account LaRouche's correct historical view.

Vladimir Marochkin, a writer and professional music critic, described LaRouche's attack on the counterculture of rock music, drugs, and sex. Criticizing what he termed the "police" and "pharmacological" approach to education, imposed upon Russia from the outside in recent years, Marochkin emphasized the need for Classical education. Professor of Psychology Vladimir Kitayev-Smyk highlighted the negative effects of the counterculture on the human organism. Scien-

tific experiments have proven, for example, that rock music disrupts the natural rhythm of the body.

Andrei Ignatyev, Doctor of Social Sciences and Professor of Theology, spoke about the question of true freedom. He agreed with LaRouche's view, that freedom cannot be found in an economy dominated by liberalism. In fact, he argued, liberalism does not provide freedom for the individual, but often makes him more dependent, as can be seen in the status of the narcotics business, as the most flourishing branch of the economy today. Ignatyev also identified the plague of speculation, where paper circulates as a commodity in its own right, and multiplies according to the rules of the market.

Yevgeni Kogan, formerly a member of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and now an adviser to the Duma, also strongly attacked liberalism, as it was imported from the outside in the late '80s and early '90s, and had devastating effects. He called for revitalizing the military-industrial complex, as a means for the civilian economy to recover. Kogan expressed skepticism, however, about whether LaRouche's "physical economy" were suitable for Russia, being an import from abroad, whereas imported economic policies have been disastrous for Russia in recent years. Professor Muranivsky noted during the discussion, that LaRouche called precisely for the mobilization of Russia's advanced aerospace sector as an indispensable measure, already in his 1995 memorandum, "Prospects for Russian Economic Recovery," which has circulated in Russian translation for four years.

Vladimir Snastin, assistant to a Duma deputy, also attacked liberalism, saying that protectionist measures are necessary in order to have a developing economy. He criticized nationalism, as the flip side of liberalism.

During the discussion, a representative of Yegor Gaidar's party, Russia's Democratic Choice, defended liberalism, and said that the United States has a prospering economy, because it adopted the free-market doctrine. His position was not accepted in the discussion, because Russia, pressured by the IMF, is taking down all its tariff barriers, while the United States and the European Union keep very high barriers for certain goods. Some participants were critical of LaRouche's anti-Malthusian views, disagreeing that 25 billion people could live on this planet. The Earth is only capable of securely feeding 4 billion people, it was said. These views were refuted, using arguments of physical economy.

The high-level participation at the seminar, as well as the fact that it was held in the rooms of the Russian Parliament, reflect the high reputation LaRouche has in Russia today. He is the only American political figure the Russians would trust in the current world situation.

Another indication of the attention to LaRouche in Russia is a new book, titled *The Foundations of Physical Economy*, which says that the science of physical economy is based on Plato, Nicolaus of Cusa, and Leibniz, and today is continued by LaRouche in the U.S.A. and Pobisk Kusnetsov in Russia. One of the three authors of the book is a deputy defense minister of Russia.