From Croatia, in addition to Prof. Sepa rovic, came Slavica Bilic, former president of the “Mothers for Peace” organization, and Srecko Jurdana, a journalist specializing in military coverage.

From Hungary there were three prominent representatives: Istvan Morvay, titular secretary of state, office of refugee and migration affairs, from the Ministry of the Interior; parliamentarian Denes Janos; and Dr. Tibor Kovats, member of the board of the organization of former political prisoners.

From Russia there were four thinktank members: Dr. Leonid Fitungi, director of the Center for Strategic and Global Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Dr. Yuri S. Kromov, department head at Russia’s Institute for Strategic Studies; Dr. Vasily I. Krivokhizha, deputy director of the above; and Prof. Taras Muranivski, rector of the Ukrainian University in Moscow and scientific editor of the recently released Russian edition of LaRouche’s economics textbook, So, You Wish To Know All About Economics?

Representing other former communist countries were Ivan Stanchov, coordinator of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria; Prof. Aleksander Legatowicz, adviser to the independent Polish trade union Solidarnose 80; and Hrant Khatchatrian, member of the Supreme Soviet of Armenia.

The former labor secretary of Colombia, Jorge Carrillo, and Gen. Paul Albert Scherer, former head of the German Military Intelligence Service, also spoke to the gathering.

The LaRouche Case
The need for action to free political prisoner LaRouche was highlighted throughout the conference. In the concluding resolution, the fourth point appealed “anew to the Clinton administration to release LaRouche from his unjust imprisonment, since the ideas and concept of the author of a Science of Christian Economy are irreplaceable in a life-or-death crisis like that of today, and show a way out of the crisis.”

Thousands Co-Sign Declaration of Independence

Conceived as an “effort to bring our nation and youth back to moral and constitutional principles” by the Rev. James Bevel, the First Annual Declaration of Independence Co-Signers’ Convention (DICC) took place July 2-4 in the City of Philadelphia. All told, 225 churches in the city participated in organizing for the weekend events, along with 130 schools and 70 organizations, including trade unions and civic groups like the NAACP. On Sunday, the Fourth of July, churches throughout the city participated in co-signing the Declaration of Independence.

The weekend events commenced on Friday June 2 with a concert attended by 800 people honoring Marian Anderson at the historic Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. [see accompanying article]

At the concert, James Hughes, acting on behalf of Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, presented DICC Chairman Rev. Bevel with the following citation:

“Whereas, when the Declaration of Independence was originally signed in 1776, citizenship was not extended to all inhabitants of the burgeoning Republic, and

“Whereas, today we stand with those brave men and women who risked their lives to launch a revolutionary experiment and declare that, ‘We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that All Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain Inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men...’

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Concerts Pay Tribute to Marian Anderson

Two historic concerts were held in tribute to Marian Anderson (1897-1993), who died April 8. The first was sponsored by the Schiller Institute in Washington, D.C. at the Ebenezer United Methodist Church on May 29, and the second by the Declaration of Independence Co-signers' Convention in Philadelphia on July 2. Both concerts, with audiences of close to 800, featured much of Anderson's favorite repertoire.

Robert McFerrin, the first Black man to sing at New York City's Metropolitan Opera, two weeks after Anderson made history on Jan. 7, 1955 by singing a major operatic role there, performed in both concerts. George Shirley, who debuted at the Met in 1961 and sang 189 performances there, also appeared.

Co-Signers

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"Whereas, these truths offer us a constitutional and lawful path leading away from slavery, segregation, discrimination, racism, and gender bias. We honor you, who continue to walk that path through your actions on these days of commitment and re-dedication.

"Therefore, the Council of the City of Philadelphia hereby takes a stand with those meeting in this city, July 2 through July 4, 1993 to begin anew the lifelong journey to responsible freedom by co-signing on paper, and inscribing in our hearts, the principle of the Declaration of Independence. We support this great initiative and commend those involved in this important and historic moment."

Fourth Branch of Government

On Saturday, July 3, the convention opened at the Mt. Olivet Tabernacle Baptist Church with nearly 250 people in attendance. The Rev. Bevel told the audience:

"If you say that all men are created equal and endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that 'to secure these rights governments are instituted among men,' first you have to ask yourself the question, 'Do you have these rights?'"

"Let's take life," he continued. "Do old people have the right to life? Well, they seem to lock themselves away behind doors. Do young people have the right to life? Well, look at how many of them die either of drugs or violence in the streets. What about people's wages? What about their own personal and intellectual development?"

"If that is not going on, can you say that you have government? And if you don't have government, is it not your duty to institute it? That's not a question of waiting for someone to do it; that's a question of this fourth branch of government having to be activated."

Resolutions and Awards

Workshops on the historical and philosophical tradition of the Declaration were held in the afternoon, followed by a plenary session during which several resolutions were passed, including one declaring that Lyndon LaRouche's imprisonment is a "violation of human rights in what is supposed to be the most humane country in the world," and urging his unconditional release. Three other resolutions passed, including We Will Feed the Hungry, For a Third National Bank and Promoting Economic Development; and Support Constitutional Government in Europe.

On Saturday evening, an awards ceremony honoring leaders of the Civil Rights movement was attended by more than 300 people. Civil Rights leader and Schiller Institute vice-chairman Amelia Boynton Robinson keynoted the ceremony and then introduced the Rev. Bevel, Mt. Olivet's pastor, the Rev. Marshall L. Shepard Jr., who gave the opening invocation, and the Rev. James Cokley, who led the whole gathering in singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Awards were presented posthumously to fifteen leaders, including Marian Anderson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Baines Johnson.