Russians Feature LaRouche in I.M.F. Debate

While the Primakov government of Russia has taken steps in the direction of reviving the national economy of the country in opposition to the austerity demands of the International Monetary Fund, economic policy circles and press outlets in Moscow are paying an unprecedented degree of attention to the economic proposals of U.S. economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who in 1994-96 conducted seminars in Moscow with Academicians who are now advising the Primakov government.

On Feb. 4, the Institute of Comparative Political Science of the Russian Academy of Sciences held a seminar on “The Third Phase of World Systemic Crisis,” which featured Prof. Taras Muranivsky, president of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture (Moscow). The seminar was attended by sixty scientists, representatives of industry, and journalists.

Muranivsky summarized LaRouche’s analysis of the terminal phase of the world financial and economic system, noting it has created a revolutionary situation, and reviewed the plans for reorganization of the world financial system which LaRouche has put forward.

Even more extraordinary was the publication, in the Feb. 11 edition of Economic Gazette, a Moscow weekly, of extensive answers by LaRouche on the question of escaping the deadly effects of the foreign debt. Editor Aleksandr Chekalin had previously published an open letter addressed to a number of religious figures, including Pope John Paul II, some heads of state, including Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia, and two scientists, Lyndon LaRouche of the U.S. and Andre Franck of the Netherlands. In response to the question, “What would be the benefit to the peoples of different countries and to humanity as a whole, if existing debts were abolished?” LaRouche wrote:

“To save the world from what would be otherwise an assured ‘new dark age’ for this planet, it is necessary to effect a global debt-reorganization, and a new financial and monetary system, and, also launch a new system of credit devoted to the growth and increased productivity of the physical economy, while suppressing financial speculation and the evils inherent in so-called ‘free trade.’ Any forces which might succeed in resisting this change in affairs, would find themselves soon sitting in a Hell they themselves could not survive. That is already a certain kind of benefit.

“We require the mobilization of large masses of presently idled or otherwise wasted productive potential. Economic recovery of this planet from the present peril of global doom could occur only through relatively vast amounts of long-term new state and private credit, at discount rates of not more than between one and two percent per annum, over medium- and long-term periods extending to between 20 and 30 years into the future. . . .

“In aid of this, the masses of accumulated, honorable forms of debt must be rewritten as long-term debt at low interest rates, and with special terms of deferred payments as may be required. By this device, earlier proposed and used successfully by the first U.S. Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, otherwise useless private and other debt can be held in deposit in banks, as security for the issuance of credit used to promote development of infrastructure, agricultural development, and industry. This use of such restructured debt in aid of such lending, keeps the debt from default, and current. It becomes a sane alternative to bandit and other lunatic forms of desperado ‘privatization,’ as a part of the base-line for developing the private sector’s increasing role in a successfully growing national and world economy.”

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first two movements of Ludwig van Beethoven’s Mass in C, Kathy Wolfe, joined by Philip Ulanowsky at the piano, delighted the audience with a presentation on how music exists “between the notes,” and not simply by banging them out. John Sigerson showed how Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in various pieces, developed ideas he derived from the great composer J.S. Bach.

• Tony Papert and Gerald Rose directed the audience’s attention to ancient culture. Papert discussed the frauds of British archaeology, and the prehistoric maritime culture of the Indian Ocean region, and Rose spoke on the cultural significance of the Homeric epic poems, especially The Iliad.