

Dialogue of Cultures

Institute Hosts German-Iranian Festival

Two cities in Germany, Düsseldorf and Wiesbaden, were scenes of extraordinary events sponsored by the Schiller Institute and the German-Iranian Theatre Forum on April 20 and April 27, respectively. The theme of both was “Living Dialogue Instead of War of Cultures—A Festival of Persian and German Poetry”—a theme that therefore presented a direct challenge to the ruling “Clash of Civilizations” culture.

In Düsseldorf, 130 people came to participate in a symposium, a discussion, and an evening cultural program. In Wiesbaden, the audience ranged from 80 for the symposium, to 150 for the evening program.

The symposium began with a presentation by Helga Zepp LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute, entitled “Unity in the Manifold: The Culture of

the Silk Road.” She went directly into the middle of the battlefield, so to speak, by taking on Samuel Huntington’s concept of a coming “Clash of Civilizations,” and his thesis that there cannot be an understanding among the different religions. She contrasted this viewpoint to Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa’s concept of unity in manifold, and his dialogue “*De Pace Fidei*” (“On the Peace of Faith”), in which representatives of religions from all over the world are led to discover the basis for collaboration and peace, despite their doctrinal differences.

The next speech, by Vida Bahrami of the German-Iranian Theatre Forum, on the Fourteenth-century poet Muhammad Schams-ad-Din Hafis, was given in Persian, with a very short German translation.

Dr. M. Assemi, publisher of the Ger-

man-Persian magazine *Kaweh*, began his presentation by reciting the opening verses of Schiller’s “Die Glocke” (“The Bell”) in German. Dr. Assemi praised the dialogue of cultures, and warned that religion should not be misused.

The next speaker, Ahmed Rahimi-Nawardamouz, also from the German-Iranian Theatre Forum, was a young man who stated that, in their essence, all Persians are poets—they have a very metaphorical, poetical way of looking at things, and thinking.

The final speaker was the Schiller Institute’s Muriel Mirak Weissbach, who spoke on “World Poetry: Translation as a Means for Understanding Among Peoples.”

The evening program was presented by the “Dichterpflänzchen” (“Budding Poets”), a poetry recitation group spon-

We Need an International Protocol For the Banning of Violent Videos!

On May 1, Helga Zepp LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute and lead candidate of the BueSo Party slate in Germany’s fall elections, issued a call for the banning of violent video games. Excerpts follow.

In the wake of the gruesome massacre committed by 19-year-old Robert Steinhaeuser, responsible citizens can only have one reaction: Germany must call upon the United Nations to establish a protocol for a worldwide ban on the production and sale of films, computer games, and videos glorifying violence. This is necessary, because this “New Violence,” as manifested in the massacre in Erfurt, is by no means a “sociological accident” or a “freak incident.” Rather, it

is a worldwide phenomenon, one which represents as grave a threat to human civilization, as does the outbreak of a new life-threatening epidemic disease.

The ugly reality is, that even if the sale of such satanic computer games were banned tomorrow, this would not repair the damage that has already been done. We must therefore ask ourselves: What has brought a considerable part of our society to the point of tolerating ever more perverse forms of violence in such “action movies” as “Terminator” (Robert Steinhaeuser’s favorite movie), and in such games as “Doom,” “Quake,” and so forth? What is wrong with the axioms in the minds of many adults in our society, who notice only now (if they notice anything at all) that

these products are bestial, and that they aim at producing a bestial outcome?

The idea of molding soldiers into blind obeyers of orders and eager killing machines, comes out of the utopian military doctrine of such people as Samuel Huntington, as he set this forth in his book, *The Soldier and the State*. It runs directly contrary to the tradition of Lazare Carnot and Scharnhorst, who developed the concept of the citizen-soldier, whereby the officer in particular should be of exemplary character, with an especially refined sense of the General Welfare, one who should be able to think for himself, and be able to creatively carry out the assigned objective. . . .

Utopian Military Doctrine

If one takes stock of the past three decades’ history in the United States, it becomes quite evident that the responsibility for this phenomenon of youth violence must be placed at the feet of



EIRNS videograb

Helga Zepp LaRouche addresses Dusseldorf Festival, with panelists Dr. M. Assemi of *Kaweh* magazine (left) and Birgit Vitt of the Schiller Institute (right).

sored by the Schiller Institute, whose members are from Duesseldorf and Wiesbaden, and a small theatre group,

led by Iradj Zohari, which presented excerpts from the fairy tale “Turandot,” after Elias ben Nezami.

those military and elected officials who, despite overwhelming evidence presented by medical and psychological experts, *and* despite the empirical experience of a widespread de-sensitization among youths, did nothing to halt this process of degeneration. Indeed, one cannot help but get the impression that this process was intentionally *encouraged*. After all, how could global military operations be carried out, if it weren't for a steady supply of emotionally immature, trigger-happy young recruits?

Spiritual Demoralization

This plague of violence-glorifying horror films and computer games has now spread around the globe. The fact is likewise inescapable, that this has led to a dangerous state of spiritual desolation and demoralization among a large percentage of those who consume these media products.

A ban on violent videos, and cooper-

ation with responsible representatives of the media, are correct and necessary measures. But these alone will not be sufficient to block access via the Internet or across national borders, nor will it succeed in reversing the effect of those products which are already circulating among our young people, and generally in the population.

Therefore, Germany should propose that the United Nations establish an international protocol for the banning of these violence-glorifying videos.

And, secondly, we will only be able to heal the damage that has already been done in our country, by returning immediately to an educational policy based on the Christian-humanist image of man, in the tradition of Wilhelm von Humboldt. That is the only way we will be able to give our children and young people the spiritual strength to reject these bestial conceptions on their own.

Middle East

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technology to regions and localities of the world in which there is critical lack of sufficient technological inputs.

“These measures must be adopted,” LaRouche said, “not as a matter of taste, but as a matter of survival.”

The Zayed Centre conference was extensively covered throughout the Arab world. Dubai's Business Satellite Channel featured clips of LaRouche speaking, and said, “The discussion was dominated by the events of Sept. 11.” Egypt's *Al-Hayat* cited at length LaRouche's warnings of financial crash and proposals for reorganization of the financial system with long-term credit and trade agreements.

Sao Paulo

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nized jointly by his associates in the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), and the Ibero-American Integration and Identity Movement (MINEII) founded by friends of Argentine Colonel Mohamed Alí Seineldín. The seminar, held at the auditorium of the ADESG in Sao Paulo, opened with a public exchange of ideas between LaRouche and Col. Seineldín, the latter speaking by telephone from his military prison in Argentina.

Helga Zepp LaRouche opened the second panel of this seminar with a presentation on the strategic importance of the Eurasian Land-Bridge for the integration of Ibero-America. Dr. Vasco de Azevedo Neto, former federal Congressman and Presidential candidate, followed her, speaking on the necessity of completing the Great Waterway, his name for the long-overdue project to link the Orinoco, Amazon, and La Plata river basins of South America.

During their visit, Mrs. LaRouche was also invited by the Sao Paulo State Appellate Criminal Court to discuss the threat of the New Violence, and her proposal for international legal action banning the most violent video games [SEE Box, facing page].