

Soviet agents, witches, and 'peace' forums: strange happenings in the Democratic Party

by Graham Lowry

The drive by Soviet chief Yuri Andropov and the KGB to bring down the United States from within has produced a bizarre new phase of direct intervention into the 1984 U.S. presidential election. Democratic candidates Walter Mondale, John Glenn, Alan Cranston, Gary Hart, and Ernest Hollings were put on display for the national media Aug. 13 at a "peace" forum in Des Moines, Iowa, organized under the direction of Democratic Party assets of the KGB.

The Iowa candidates' forum, restricted to discussion of arms control and disarmament proposals, was sponsored by People Encouraging Arms Control Efforts (PEACE), an umbrella group for 65 Iowa organizations active in the KGB-backed "nuclear freeze" movement.

Established in February, PEACE is headed by Rep. Berkeley Bedell (D-Ia.), and is intended specifically to centralize efforts to dominate the 1984 Iowa presidential preference caucuses with the KGB's agenda for disarming the United States. According to an aide to Bedell, "he recognized the unique opportunity Iowans have in terms of the Iowa caucuses to highlight the arms control issue. The party leadership is committed to getting the influence of the peace movement into the caucuses."

The Moscow-IPS circuit and Peace Links

The Iowa presidential candidates' forum, however, is more significantly the outcome of a series of KGB interventions into American politics this year, beginning with the May 24-29 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Exchange Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Jointly sponsored by Moscow's U.S.A.-Canada Institute and the left-wing Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, the conference featured more than a score of Soviet and Russian Orthodox Church officials and, among their American counterparts, key figures involved in subsequent events on what amounted to a nationwide roadshow for the KGB.

The next major stop was the June 1-3 Women's Leadership Conference on U.S.-Soviet Relations in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Committee for National Security. Besides four Soviet participants from the Minneapolis conference, the personnel overlap with the Washington event

included Richard Barnet of IPS and the Committee for National Security; the committee's director Anne Cahn; and Betty Bumpers, president of Peace Links and the wife of Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.). Peace Links is a "sexual politics" organization which includes among its members the wives of at least 40 congressmen and governors across the country.

Evidence of Peace Links' connections to the KGB was presented on the floor of the U.S. Senate earlier this year by Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.). Denton pointed out that two of the member organizations of Peace Links' National Advisory Council—Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Women's Strike for Peace—have been identified even by the U.S. State Department as Soviet-controlled front groups. The advisory council also includes the Committee for National Security.

If one peers more closely now at the Aug. 13 Iowa forum, something more than acres of corn meets the eye. The keynote speaker was Admiral Gene Larocque of the Center for Defense Information, the military adjunct of Minneapolis conference cosponsor IPS. Larocque was paraded before a Soviet television audience in June to denounce the Reagan administration's "warmongering" attitude toward arms control.

In workshops preceding the arms control panel with the presidential candidates, the Iowa forum featured one on the psychological effects of nuclear weapons on children, led by the wives of Iowa congressmen Bedell and of Jim Leach, the nominal Republican who has been a leading figure in congressional efforts to stop President Reagan's defensive antiballistic beam weapons program from being implemented. Destroying that capability's potential for reversing the strategic and economic collapse of the United States was the constant and strident demand of the KGB and Russian Orthodox Church leaders on tour in the United States, as it has been from Moscow since President Reagan announced the new strategic doctrine on March 23.

Participants in the Women's Leadership Conference stop on the KGB tour included two Iowa members of Betty Bumpers's Peace Links: congressional wives Elinor Bedell and Elisabeth Leach, workshop directors at the Iowa forum.

Another participant in the Women's Leadership Conference was Laurie Daschle, the executive director of Peace Links and the wife of Rep. Tom Daschle (D-N.D.).

Daschle himself has ties to environmentalist Jay Epstein, an attendee at a conference in Hanoi where Soviet officials mapped out a campaign of environmentalist sabotage against the United States. Shortly after his return, Epstein launched the dioxin scare which was used to virtually close down the town of Times Beach, Missouri. Daschle is also the number-two Democrat on the Albosta subcommittee in the House that launched the congressional investigation into "Briefinggate," a campaign to destroy the Reagan administration initiated with KGB complicity following Averell Harriman's return from meeting Andropov in Moscow in early June.

Something was rotten in Des Moines—besides the candidates who appeared.

The KGB "peace" offensive in the United States is working on a timetable for a "hot autumn" here and in Europe.

Mass civil disobedience is to be a cover for terrorism around the issue of the scheduled U.S. deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe at the end of the year. The buildup in the United States is already under way, in collaboration with the Green Party in West Germany, which is backed by the KGB.

'Women's encampments'

Prime KGB assets for pulling off a "hot autumn" in the United States are the radical feminist groups currently staging "women's encampments" at military installations and defense research centers at such locations as Missoula, Montana; Kent, Washington; the defense technology complex in the Silicon Valley in California; Lawrence Livermore Laboratories in San Francisco; and the Seneca Falls Army Depot in upstate New York, where 3,000 encamped women have engaged in repeated acts of civil disobedience and infiltration runs designed to profile military security procedures.



A witch's coven at a 1979 anti-nuclear encampment—the precursors of today's KGB-run 'peace' movement.

The Seneca Falls encampment was organized by Donna Cooper, a national leader of the Communist Party's Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, further belying the FBI's claims this spring that it could find no evidence of KGB control over the U.S. peace movement. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is also a member organization of the National Advisory Council of Peace Links, and has been identified as a Soviet front group by even the U.S. State Department. The Soviet tour of the United States included a trip by some of the delegates to Seneca Falls as a final stop. A number of other organizations involved in Seneca Falls, such as the Fellowship of Reconciliation, are part of the base of support for Peace Links as well.

What is being unleashed with the KGB "peace" offensive is exemplified by the Seneca Falls women's encampment, where internal discipline is run by a lesbian organization called "Sinister Knowledge." Also participating in the camp are lesbian members of the terrorist American Indian Movement. One AIM grouping active there, Akwasasne Notes, is known to be involved in Wicca, a witchcraft cult which has been linked to the 1979-81 Atlanta child murders.

Radical groupings at the Seneca Falls camp are also believed connected to a U.N. "International Feminist Network" headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and Rome. Its quarterly magazine *Isis*, besides promoting lesbianism and witchcraft, devoted its spring issue this year to "Women for Peace," including a plug for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in the United States and coverage of the "model" for women's peace camps internationally at Britain's Greenham Common. *Isis* is perhaps unique in having a numbered Swiss bank account printed on the back of the magazine to which "readers" can send money.

The same issue of *Isis* included a participant's account of the Women's Pentagon Action in the fall of 1981, an attempt to surround the Defense Department Pentagon and block its entrances. "Slowly the four stages of our action emerged—mourning, rage, empowerment, defiance." For the "rage" element, "the drum tempo changed and the majestic rage puppet, in red, moved to the center. The next stage of the action began and we raged and chanted 'We won't take it,' 'No more war,' 'Take the toys from the boys.' . . . I wasn't prepared for how I was transformed by that ritual. It felt as if something reached down inside me, grabbed my tears and pulled them out of me. The feelings inside those other women touched the feelings in me and our rage built together."

As a state-level director for Betty Bumpers's Peace Links put it, "Betty concentrated particularly on women. She felt that women, as mothers and nurturers, could make people understand how dangerous the nuclear arms race really is, where other people with their statistics and their megatons and so forth could not."

Target Seattle and the senatorial trip

The KGB's "educational" offensive is also set to gear up

during the "hot autumn," with Soviet peace propaganda events up to two weeks long already set for a number of cities around the country. The model for many of these was first organized last year by "Target Seattle," an effort at mass manipulation of fears of nuclear war which brought 20,000 people into Seattle's Kingdome stadium last fall. Betty Bumpers made a special trip to Seattle to set up the personnel and staff organization for the project.

Target Seattle is staging a mammoth program entitled "Soviet Realities" from Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, prepared in consultation with Moscow's U.S.A.-Canada Institute. Featured speakers include this summer's KGB-tour coordinator Richard Barnet of the Institute for Policy Studies and Donald Kendall, chairman of Pepsico and a leading figure in the Council for New Initiatives on East-West Trade. The event's planners expect that Georgii Arbatov, head of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute, will head the list of Soviet speakers.

Target Seattle's program summary includes a series of forums with such titles as "Can We Live with the Soviet Union?," "What in the World Does the Soviet Union Want?" and "Who's Planning to Fight a Nuclear War?" After a day of workshops on Russia's "blood and soil" literature, the event concludes with "small-group discussions in 1,000 living rooms, churches, and other places." Seattle's schools will also be provided with "special curriculum units with emphasis on Soviet art and culture."

The entire Washington congressional delegation serves on the advisory committee of Target Seattle. The wives of three of the six representatives—Democrats Mike Lowry and Al Swift and Republican Rod Chandler—are members of Betty Bumpers's Peace Links.

For the last two weeks of August, Betty Bumpers will be in the Soviet Union, where she will meet with Yuri Andropov and other Soviet officials, as part of a delegation of nine Democratic senators and their wives, led by Claiborne Pell (R.I.). Her husband Dale Bumpers (Ark.), Pat Leahy (Vt.), Howard Metzenbaum (Ohio), Don Riegle (Mich.), Paul Sarbanes (Md.), James Sasser (Tenn.), Dennis DeConcini (Ariz.), and Russell Long (La.) will spend Aug. 15-31 in the Soviet Union, discussing "a wide range of issues including East-West trade, human rights, relaxing regional tensions, and arms control."

Will Andropov issue new marching orders for the "hot autumn"? He can certainly expect some attentive listeners. In addition to Betty Bumpers, Senate wives Marcelle Leahy, Shirley Metzenbaum, and Lori Riegle are all members of Peace Links. And given Andropov's instigation of the Briefing assault on President Reagan during his June meeting in Moscow with Averell Harriman, another of his guests on the current Senate junket deserves special attention. Senator DeConcini has been the leading voice for initiating a Briefing investigation in the Senate. Although thwarted in an attempt to gain committee approval before the August recess, DeConcini has vowed to press for it again in September—after he has conferred with Andropov.