

Mother Russia by Luba George

Soviet authorities push fascist movement

Why "deranged dissident" Gennadii Shimanov and his Russian chauvinist almanac have not been suppressed.

A publication called *Mnogaya Leta*, spawned by the Russian Orthodox Church and the Soviet military to generate a mass Russian chauvinist anti-Semitic movement, is currently on the rise in the Soviet Union. British intelligence sources say that *Mnogaya Leta*, which advocates a concordat between the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) and the Soviet state "has the potential to unite the Solzhenitsyns and the Ogarkovs of Russia" and "lay the basis for a grass-roots Third Rome movement."

Ogarkov is the chief of staff, leader of the military junta now running the Soviet Union. The writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, now in exile in Vermont, is a champion of the cult of Russian "blood and soil." The doctrine they share is that of the Russian Empire and Russian Orthodox Church, that Moscow must inevitably rule as the "Third and Final Rome," capital of a world empire.

The author of the "concordat" idea is Gennadii Shimanov, described by one expert at Keston College, England as a "deranged Soviet dissident, recently let out of a KGB-controlled psychiatric ward."

John Dunlop, reviewing Shimanov's thesis in the Keston College magazine, reports that *Mnogaya Leta* warns that the "spiritual danger" to Mother Russia is not the Soviet regime, but the West, particularly the United States. Shimanov's tracts characterize the United States as the "New Babylon," where "disintegration of natural ties, moral vacuum, al-

ienation, terror, consumerism," reign. Hate propaganda identical with Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is typical for Shimanov: "America and the West are the rotting victims of a terrible Jewish-masonic-plutocratic conspiracy."

Why has a "deranged dissident" been allowed to circulate his 200-page *Mnogaya Leta* almanacs ever since 1980? While other *samizdat* (self-publishing) groups have been suppressed, Shimanov has suffered neither arrest nor harassment.

The answer is that *Mnogaya Leta* has patrons in high places, such as the top Soviet military figures—Ogarkov, Warsaw Pact commander Marshal Kulikov, and Armed Forces political commissar General Yepishev have been frequently named—who also sponsor chauvinist associations like the Rossiya Society for monument preservation and the "Russian Party," spanning official magazines, officers' clubs, and other institutions.

Extremely anti-Semitic articles emerged last August in the military press, just when Yuri Andropov disappeared and the military assumed pre-eminence. The daily *Red Star* denounced "world Jewish capital."

The new, military-approved party boss Konstantin Chernenko, a 1930s veteran of the ruthless NKVD security apparatus, is himself known as an anti-Semitic thug. The Spanish paper *El Diario* has reported that Chernenko ran the rehabilitation of Semyon Ignatyev (recently deceased), the NKVD author of the "Jewish Doctors' Plot" of Stalin's last months. The same pa-

per noted that Chernenko has promoted the anti-Semitic diatribes of Lev Korneyev, the Soviet propagandist who, like *Mnogaya Leta*, writes that Jews are behind a complex of American military-industrial "death concerns" threatening Mother Russia.

The Chernenko-backed Korneyev and *Red Star* are in tune with Shimanov, who echoes the deranged lies of Hitler, Himmler, and Alfred Rosenberg: "The author of the Jewish-masonic-plutocratic conspiracy is the devil himself. . . . Judaism deceives the Jewish people. . . . The most important task of Zionism is to bring the Jewish people and as much of humanity as possible under the power of the Anti-Christ. . . ."

Dunlop calls Shimanov's concordat thesis a "clear-cut neo-Josephite tendency," referring to Joseph (Sanin) of Volokomansk Monastery, a late-15th-century Russian Orthodox chronicler who wrote against the "Judaizer conspiracy" and was one of the architects of Moscow's claims, after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, to eventual political and religious world domination as "the Third Rome."

Anyone who dared bring "foreign ideas" into Mother Russia was anathemized as a "Judaizer" by Joseph of Volokomansk. This created extremely xenophobic rejection of "Western ideas" and bolstered the blood-and-soil ideology on which the Russian Church-state regime rested.

No wonder Shimanov called his almanac *Mnogaya Leta* ("Many Years")—an old Slavonic chant. Today's "Josephites," chanting along with Shimanov in praise of Mother Russia's unique mission, are to be found in the "Russian Party" and its mass-circulation literary outlets—*Molodaya Gvardiya*, *Aurora*, *Ogonyok*, *Nash Sovremenik*—and in the Rossiya Society with its 14 million members. A big chorus indeed.