

LaRouche upstages plenum on Moscow TV

by Luba George

Timed with the Soviet Central Committee Plenum, held on Jan. 27 and 28, Soviet television showed a 55-minute film, "Who Killed Olof Palme?" *twice*: at 8 p.m. on the evening of Jan. 27, and again on the morning of the 28th. The film focused on re-running the Soviet TV slander of March 21, 1986, accusing U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche and his Swedish associates, the EAP (European Labor Party) of "involvement" in the murder. The evening showing was especially striking: LaRouche directly preceded the "Vremya" news feature on Gorbachov's Plenum speech.

The film's planning and timing, and one crucial personnel move at the Plenum, were not unrelated. Soviet media policy is determined by the Central Committee secretary in charge of propaganda, Alexander Yakovlev, one of Gorbachov's closest advisers, and a fanatic promoter of the Kremlin policy to stop LaRouche at all costs. The Plenum elevated Yakovlev to candidate Politburo membership.

Yakovlev, together with the "No. 2" on the Politburo, Yegor Ligachov, is responsible for the massive Soviet disinformation campaign targeting LaRouche around the Palme assassination. *EIR's* investigative discoveries exposing the role of the Soviets in the Palme murder have been amply documented.

Yakovlev is well connected to the U.S. Eastern Establishment, having admitted close ties to Brzezinski and Kissinger since the late 1950s. He agrees with Kissinger that a LaRouche presidential candidacy can wreck their strategic "New Yalta" plans. All Soviet slander articles have made this very clear. The Sept. 30, 1986 *Sovetskaya Kultura* stressed that "LaRouche has already declared he is running for President in 1988 . . . [and] is clearly undergoing right now a great period of growth."

The program was previewed extensively in Sweden, and excerpts were shown on Jan. 27, on the Swedish TV news program "Rapport." What was the "evidence" presented? First, the murder weapon, a magnum pistol, was shown with the commentary: "an American weapon, which makes your thoughts go to the neo-fascists, especially the EAP. The EAP, who already in 1984 said that they were going to shoot Olof Palme."

This is followed by clips of old EAP demonstrations, featuring posters of Palme as the "Devil's Devil." The commentary: "They always attacked Palme. . . . They are in 10

countries. . . . and listen to what their leader in the United States, Lyndon LaRouche, says." Then, a Russian actor is trotted out, portraying LaRouche, with the following lines (paraphrase): "Gorbachov tries to fool you. He talks of peace, but really wants war. He wants to attack the West." Strikingly, for Soviet TV, LaRouche was also portrayed calling Gorbachov, "the Devil."

In the "telespectacular" (as *Izvestia* called it), three prominent Soviet actors were used: Vyacheslav Tikhonov, impersonating the Swedish police chief Holmér; the 59-year-old actor Oleg Yefremov, impersonating Olof Palme; and the third, Ion Inguriu, impersonating Lyndon LaRouche. Actor Yefremov, who also directed the show, was recently appointed at the behest of Gorbachov's wife, Raisa, to secretary general of the newly formed All-Union Theater group. He collaborated closely with Raisa to found the Soviet Culture Fund.

The chairman of the Gostelradio (Soviet National TV and Radio network) is Alexander Nikiforovich Aksenov, "officially" in the KGB until 1971. He too, like Yefremov, was involved in founding the Soviet Culture Fund. He was appointed Second Secretary of Byelorussia (1971-78), and later, under Yuri Andropov's tutelage, chairman of the Byelorussian Council of Ministers. Under Gorbachov, he was brought to Moscow to become the new boss of Soviet TV and Radio.

Izvestia on Jan. 24, announcing the TV "premiere," listed its authors: G. Zubkov, Gostelradio's political commentator, V. Gubernatorov, Gostelradio's agent in Sweden, and publicist A. Krasilnikov. All three had been assigned by Yakovlev and Aksenov to produce the "documentary," with the help of the KGB personnel in Sweden.

Invited by Boris Pankin, the Soviet ambassador to Sweden, a select group of Swedish "journalist friends" came to the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm to watch the film. The entire KGB disinformation crew involved in the Palme murder cover-up was there, too, including the Stockholm TASS correspondent and GRU (U.S.S.R. military intelligence) agent N. Vukolov and the above-mentioned V. Gubernatorov. Vukolov was among the authors of the Soviet *New Times* slander (September 1986) against LaRouche. He also accompanied Yakovlev and Gorbachov to Reykjavik.

Boris Pankin in the 1970s was deputy director of one of Russia's *dezinformatsia* agencies, the Soviet Copyright Agency (VAAP). He, together with KGB colonel Vassily Sitnikov and Nikolai Chetverikov, financed and steered anti-American operations in Greece. As the new head of the VAAP, Nikolai Chetverikov came to Sweden mid-December 1986 to work out an arrangement between Gostelradio and Swedish TV for the anti-LaRouche Soviet TV "special." Chetverikov's visit led to some controversy because Chetverikov, formerly expelled from France, was identified by French officials at the time as the boss of the KGB within France.