

Soviets vent fears about LaRouche

by Nancy Spannaus

The March issue of the Soviet foreign affairs monthly *International Affairs* features a new attack on the Western strategic thinker the Russian leadership fears the most—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. There have been more than a dozen Soviet slanders against LaRouche since President Reagan adopted the Strategic Defense Initiative concept LaRouche pioneered in March of 1983. But this time the Soviets are showing their fear of LaRouche's increasing influence on strategic policy in the United States—not in the future, but right now.

In most respects the *International Affairs* article, entitled "Neo-Fascism: Weapon of Reaction," is simply one of the most scurrilous, lying attacks ever written against the Democratic presidential candidate. LaRouche has spent his entire political life, the last 20 years, attacking fascist economics and the proponents of fascism, especially the corporatists in the Socialist International. Yet, the Soviets take liberally from Socialist International rags in order to call LaRouche a "neo-fascist."

The author, Vladimir Pustogarov, concentrates his attack on associates of LaRouche in West Germany, describing the European Labor Party, the Schiller Institute, and the Patriots Party of West Germany as "an organizational center of neo-fascism."

Evidence for this assertion is limited to *Vorwärts*, the weekly of Willy Brandt's Social Democratic Party and to the above-mentioned groupings' promotion of what Pustogarov calls "the American Star Wars program under the demagogic slogan 'Peace through space weapons.'" He even repeats the wild claim that these organizations receive funds from the CIA, and the by-now long-discredited line that associates of LaRouche were implicated in the Palme assassination.

At this point the article introduces the question of LaRouche by name. "The founder of the EWP [European Labor Party] is Lyndon LaRouche, an American neo-fascist who took part in U.S. presidential elections in 1976 and 1984 as candidate from the so-called Workers' Party" (sic).

The material that follows can only be described as name-calling, since the author does not dare mention any of the substantive policies of LaRouche and his European associates on science and economic revival.

"The forms and methods of neo-fascist activity differ depending on the political and national traditions in one or another country. . . . In a bid to gain grassroots support, neo-fascists are casting about for catchy political slogans, for ways to influence various strata of the population, especially young people.

"It is not by chance that Western journalists have dubbed the European Workers' Party and other right-wing extremist organizations 'Nazis without a swastika' [i.e., the same slogan coined by Socialist International-owned drug journalist Dennis King, and used for the Soviets' major slander in *New Times* in the fall of 1986]. The fact that neo-fascism is trying to disguise its true essence and resorts to new methods tends to increase the neo-fascist danger because their 'new image' demagogy, skillfully using topical political and social issues and popular demands, has a better chance of deceiving the masses." (European sources report that Vladimir Pustogarov is a close collaborator of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the agitator for Khomeini, as well as Office of Special Investigations specialist Elizabeth Holtzman.)

What if he became President?

Alluding to the upcoming U.S. presidential elections, Pustogarov writes: "Many Western political scientists shun the very thought of an authoritarian regime in the U.S.A. . . . Think of Sinclair Lewis's well-known novel *It Can't Happen Here* dramatizing a hypothetical fascist takeover in the U.S.A. at the time of the 1936 presidential elections. Although it is political fiction, it does reflect not only the trends in the development of the American society, but concrete events of the time."

But Pustogarov does not stop there. of a "neo-fascist" like LaRouche taking over the presidency, but he's concerned that LaRouche might have power over the presidency already! He writes, "Today there has emerged a new danger, namely, the danger of neo-fascists gaining access to nuclear weapons. . . . One can imagine a neo-fascist political maniac and not a schizophrenic gaining access to the launch button. Neo-fascists might form a group within the circle of people who have access to the nuclear arsenals and might gain control over them. In this way neo-fascists could gain access without seizing political power. It is an unlikely situation in terms of traditional notions, but it is not as far-fetched as it might appear. . . ."

While the specifics are absurd and irresponsible, the concept here shows exactly what the Soviets fear. If forces associated with Secretary of Defense Weinberger, whose views on the SDI converge substantially on LaRouche's, should win President Reagan's loyalty on a broader range of policies, the Soviets would be forced to deal with a United States committed to a position of strength. Clearly, they are hysterically fearful that just such a thing is about to occur; thus their outrageous slander.