

Rights commission scores 'KGB justice'

by Marianna Wertz

In October 1986, an international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations was created, in response to the unprecedented police raid against the Leesburg, Virginia offices of publishing companies and political organizations associated with U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. For the commission, 1987 was an extremely active year.

The Commission, headquartered in Paris, France, was called into being by friends and supporters of LaRouche from many countries of the world, who expressed their grave concern that he and his associates are being attacked and harassed unconstitutionally because of their political views, and not because of the alleged "credit card fraud" or "conspiracy to obstruct justice" for which they are under federal indictment in Massachusetts.

The Commission's concern transcends the issue of LaRouche and his constitutional right to campaign as a presidential candidate. Out of full knowledge that no Western nation can defend its freedom if, in the leading Western nation, the United States of America, an "unwanted" candidate can be eliminated through the abuse of legal and constitutional principles, the commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations determined to shed public light on the events surrounding the "LaRouche case."

Therefore, in April 1987, the commission addressed a petition to President Reagan, signed by individuals from the United States, Ibero-America, Europe, and Asia, urging the President to meet and discuss with representatives of the commission, among them many distinguished law professionals. The text of the petition, which President Reagan ignored, was later published with the list of signers in many American newspapers as a paid advertisement.

In May and September 1987, the Commission held three major international conferences, in Paris, France and Washington, D.C., hearing witnesses on the "LaRouche case," and experts on the importance and influence of LaRouche's work. Following these hearings, a fact-finding committee of

the Commission, composed of jurists from several nations, published a two-volume report on its findings, based on a six-month investigation, declaring there to be "prima facie proof of wide-ranging, severe, and systematic violations of human rights in the LaRouche case," including violations of the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments of the United States Constitution; American civil rights laws; the United Nations Charter; and the Helsinki Accords.

Asserting that "KGB- or Gestapo-style police-state brutalities and other excesses have been committed in the name of 'law enforcement,'" the fact-finding committee also cited the report submitted by Brig. Gen. Paul-Albert Scherer (ret.), the former chief of the military counterintelligence service of the Federal Republic of Germany. General Scherer identified the "LaRouche case" as a "typical, targeted psychological terror campaign of worldwide proportions against the person of Lyndon LaRouche and against his potential influence . . . aimed at eliminating an opinion-shaper who is a considerable disruption to the Kremlin's policies, and who can neither be silenced nor influenced by means of the usual financial arrangements."

Perhaps the most extraordinary activity undertaken by the commission to date was to sponsor a Dec. 4 benefit concert by Norbert Brainin, lead violinist of the legendary Amadeus Quartet, and Günter Ludwig, a leading West German pianist. The concert, with works of Mozart, Brahms, and Beethoven, was "dedicated to Mr. Brainin's good friend, Lyndon LaRouche." It was held in Boston's beautiful Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, before an audience of over 500 supporters of Mr. LaRouche from the New England area, and was called an "extraordinarily rewarding recital" in the *Boston Globe's* review the next day.

Also extraordinary was the first conference of the commission held in New Delhi, India on Dec. 12, under the title, "The Fight for the Inalienable Rights of Man: The Constitutional and Political Implications of the Attempt to Silence Presidential Candidate Lyndon LaRouche in the U.S.A." 75 individuals attended, including representatives from scientific and educational institutions, attorneys, the press, and numerous college students.

On Dec. 17, a full 13 months and millions of dollars after the Oct. 6 raid against the offices of LaRouche's associates, the trial of *U.S. v. The LaRouche Campaign, et al.* began in Boston. The commission sent a delegation of four observers to the trial: Col. Jean de la Martinière (ret.), a much-decorated French Air Force veteran of World War II; Dr. Frederick Wills, vice president of the commission and former justice minister of Guyana; Mr. Ricardo F. Martín Mora, former assistant attorney general of Peru; and attorney Larry Lopez-Alexander, a former municipal judge in Colorado. The presence of these and future observers in the courtroom is intended by the commission to bring the kind of sharp international spotlight to bear on this trial, which has the power to counter the "KGB-style" justice prevailing in this case to date.