

Soviet 'ecologism' for export only

by Mark Burdman

While hosting a major world ecology conference in Moscow, the Soviet leadership made it clear that they regard "green" policies as good for the West, but absolutely unacceptable for themselves. This dual attitude is perfectly understandable for a country that is mobilizing wartime levels of military force into the sensitive Transcaucasus region in order to manage the empire in a time of economic breakdown crisis, and which is at the same time unyielding in its commitment to destroy the West by various "irregular" cultural and economic means. What is far less understandable, is the persistent delusion in the Anglo-American Establishment, that Washington and London have some "global ecological deal" with Moscow.

Beginning Jan. 13, a week-long meeting of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival took place in Moscow, on the theme of "Environment and Development for Survival." Over 1,000 people from around the world, reportedly representing 80 countries, are participating. This is the second meeting of the Global Forum; the first, in April 1988 at Oxford University in England, had been devoted to reviving the Mother Earth-worshipping cult of Gaia, and to ending the human race's commitment to scientific and technological progress (see *EIR*, Jan. 12, 1990).

The Moscow event is co-sponsored by the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet-run International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity, and the Russian Orthodox Church. The latter is playing a particularly important role in focusing conference participants on a Gnostic-mystical rejection of Western Judeo-Christian civilization. Metropolitan Pitirim called for a new "ecology of the spirit" to rule the world.

On Jan. 19, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, who undoubtedly has much else on his mind these days, will deliver an address there, which will be televised to 130 countries around the world via satellite. As a propaganda event, the Global Forum is being organized by its Moscow hosts to a significant extent around a commemoration of the fourth anniversary of Gorbachov's Jan. 15, 1986 speech calling for a "nuclear-free world." Gorbachov's personal adviser on disarmament affairs, Yevgeni Velikhov, told participants

Jan. 15 that the same spirit that went into that 1986 proposal, should now be transferred to the "cultural and ecological" realms.

According to Radio Moscow Jan. 15, Velikhov's statement was jointly endorsed by Metropolitan Pitirim and by Dean James Park Morton of New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The latter is one of the key organizing centers internationally for Satanist and Gnostic cults. It works closely with the Lucis (formerly Lucifer) Trust of London/New York/Geneva.

Dean Morton is one of the co-chairmen of the organizing committee of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders for Human Survival. Other co-chairmen include former Peruvian Finance Minister Manuel Ulloa and Sheikh Ahmed Kustaro, the Grand Mufti of Syria.

'Only lip service, I'm afraid'

Such participation and sponsorship indicate that the conference has little intention of discussing the *real* environmental disaster facing the Soviet Union, and how that might be solved. The Russians are much more concerned with spreading gnostic irrationality into the West, through such channels as St. John the Divine and such U.S. Senators as Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), and David Durenburger (R-Minn.), all of whom are in attendance. For such ears, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Petrovsky stated Jan. 14 that the Soviets will propose to the international community a "global code of ecological ethics," that will create a "revolution in the economic and social policies."

But when it comes to the Soviets' *internal* economic-policy orientation, it's a very different story. This becomes clear from a Jan. 16 Radio Moscow discussion with a leading Soviet "green" representative attending the Global Forum meetings. This "green" complained that because of the "composition of the Congress of People's Deputies and Supreme Soviet, the hopes for a better state of ecology [in the Soviet Union] are dim. The Ministry of Power and Engineering," he charged, "has said its chief task is the doubling of electricity output by the year 2005, to solve the country's food and economic problems." He said that such ideas are supported by the "chemical and steel workers. . . . The change of priorities is blocked at the Supreme Soviet level. All of us have become hostages of these departments."

Similarly, the head of Soviet Greenpeace Aleksei Yablokov told Radio Moscow Jan. 16 that Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov's recent statement that the Soviet parliament and government had to "turn green" was "only lip service, I'm afraid." He complained that the newest indications on the Five Year Plan contained "negative tendencies for our ecology" and would continue the "ecologically hazardous" policies of the past years." He and his fellow Soviet "greens" were demanding that 250 billion rubles be invested in "ecology" between now and the end of the century, but they have not received support from official circles for this.