

terpart in Lithuania.

Timed with this media campaign, the various committees announced the formation of an All-U.S.S.R. Committee for National Salvation, to take power in various republics and regions. The self-proclaimed committee head, one Vladimir Voronin, was quoted Jan. 22 in a new Moscow newspaper called *Independent* that the current policy of the Soviet leadership is "leading Russia into a dead-end street, into factional warfare and blood." Voronin declared that "in the coming two-three months," the various committees would "gain the confidence of the people and take power legally."

According to the French daily *Le Monde* of Jan. 23, Voronin's comments were actually made in late November, which would set his deadline between late January and the end of February.

Message to Ukraine

Since mid-January, though unreported in the West, Soviet airborne troops have been arresting hundreds of draft evaders in the western part of Ukraine. Indeed, a Baltic-style reign of terror has descended on Ukraine, the largest of the non-Russian republics. Leaders of last October's student hunger strikes have also been jailed.

Moscow has also activated a Russian-chauvinist anti-independence blackmail operation against Ukraine's territorial integrity. This was done through a Jan. 20 referendum in Crimea, on whether Crimea should become an "autonomous republic" that would "remain in the U.S.S.R." The referendum was a message to Ukrainian nationalists that any attempt to emulate the Baltic republics would mean large losses of territory to Russia, including the vital Black Sea littoral. The referendum had been set originally for February.

Crimea, with a 70% Russian population, is the main bastion of activist Russian chauvinism in Ukraine. A strong "yes" vote for Russia was assured, even with an honest vote. However, according to the official results, an incredible 93.26% voted for Crimea to become an "autonomous republic," with the future option of leaving Ukraine and joining Russia.

Future such "democratic" referenda are planned to truncate and strangle the Baltic republics and Georgia, should they not renounce their demands for independence.

A Lithuanian "Crimea" is already on the agenda. On Jan. 18, the day Lithuanian President Landsbergis was forced to meet with Gen. Boris Gromov, the number two man at the U.S.S.R. Internal Affairs Ministry, and then had to announce his formal agreement to a referendum in Lithuania on the independence question, the following "news" item was highlighted in Soviet TV and domestic radio: "In the city of Klaipeda only 17% of the population support Sajudis [the Lithuanian independence party, to which Landsbergis belongs] and want to leave the Soviet Union." Klaipeda, the former Memel, is Lithuania's main seaport and access to the outside world.

Interview: Maurice Goult-Liiv

Gorbachov is lying on Baltic atrocity

The editor of the Paris-based Les Nouvelles Baltes magazine was interviewed in Paris on Jan. 15 by Christine Bierre.

EIR: Following the Soviet intervention against Lithuania, Gorbachov declared that it was not he who had given the order to shoot, and pretended to be surprised about what happened. Could this mean that Gorbachov is no longer really ruling over the Soviet Union, that he has lost control of his troops? Or is he lying, because he doesn't want to lose all Western economic aid?

Goult-Liiv: It is a total lie, because had he not been informed, he would have immediately gone himself to find out what was happening, which he didn't do. The second thing, is that the forces which were sent over there were not the regular Army forces but those of the Interior Ministry, the KGB, the forces that Gorbachov controls. Besides, if I'm not mistaken, Gorbachov never pretended that he didn't deploy those forces, but only that he didn't give the order to shoot. He gave the order to send the military forces of the Interior Ministry to intervene militarily there, there were shots, there were several dead; therefore to say after that, that he didn't give the order to shoot, is a bit much.

EIR: What is the latest news you have from Lithuania, Latvia, and particularly Estonia, where Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin is still visiting, after having made a joint call with the three Baltic states for the U.N. to postpone the Jan. 15 deadline for the Iraqi evacuation of Kuwait, in order to bring in the question of the sovereignty of the Baltic states?

Goult-Liiv: I prefer to talk only about Estonia because I don't have direct news of the other Baltic states. In Estonia, demonstrations of the Interfront, the Muscovite reactionary movements, are being organized. As usual, these demonstrations are composed 50% by workers of the northwest industries of the country, and the other 50% are military men in plain clothes. Yeltsin is still in Tallinn, which is a very important point because he will be addressing by radio the soldiers in the Army, asking them to reflect and not to obey their officers. I hope that he is addressing the Russians who are demonstrating, to explain to them that their interest is the same as that of the Estonian republic.

EIR: Do you think that if Yeltsin puts all his weight on the

side of the independence of the Baltic and other republics of the U.S.S.R., that this could lead to a civil war in Russia, or do you think that the Soviet population will accept a re-Stalinization?

Goult-Liiv: If Yeltsin continues the action he has started in Estonia to its last consequences, Gorbachov will have to either retreat or else unleash a war which would indeed be a civil war. If he retreats now, he will find himself very much weakened. We should not forget that Yeltsin's aim is to eliminate Gorbachov politically, since he has been humiliated by the latter many times.

EIR: How do you evaluate the Soviet economic situation? Some sources report that the situation is dramatic, that it could drive as many as several million Russians outside of the Soviet Union to find food in neighboring countries or in Western Europe. Recently however, the organization Physicians Without Borders came back from a trip to Russia, saying that this situation had been largely exaggerated and that while there were shortages of food, one could not speak of a near-famine situation.

Goult-Liiv: I do not know what areas of the country the Physicians Without Borders visited. I can tell you there is no famine in the Baltic states. The shops are empty but people are not hungry. In Russia, the large cities are privileged, because they benefit from a whole system of colonial looting, but in the countryside, which is very depopulated, the situation is catastrophic and "famine" is the right term to explain this situation. It is not evident either that the food aid granted to the Soviets is getting to such places. I see it quite well being directed toward Moscow.

EIR: According to certain sources, Russians go over the borders to Estonia to steal food.

Goult-Liiv: Indeed, there are Russians coming over the border to steal food, and as soon as one goes over the border from Estonia into the Soviet Union, the difference in living standards between both countries is very striking. It's even more striking when you see the old Estonian cities which were annexed by Russia, which at the end of the war had the same living standards as Estonia, and to see how miserable they have become.

EIR: Over the last few days, the Bush administration made some statements against the Soviet invasion. Do you expect any significant move in your favor from the U.S. or Europe?

Goult-Liiv: From Bush, not too much. He will only ask from Gorbachov to act more discreetly, because what happened in Lithuania is nonetheless a stab in the Bush's back, so they must not have exchanged gentle words. It is in Europe that a mobilization can occur. The country most sensitive to what can happen in the Soviet Union is united Germany, which has the most to fear from a civil war in the U.S.S.R. Germany has an enormous weight in Europe.

Book Review

More about a true cultural hero

by Nora Hamerman

Filippo Brunelleschi: The Early Works and the Medieval Tradition

by Heinrich Klotz

Rizzoli International Publications, New York, 1990

184 pages, illustrated, hardbound, \$45

At first glance, this appears to be the classic "coffee table book," but that's not what it is. Printed on heavy coated stock, the numerous illustrations are sharp and clear, the large typeface very readable. But this is actually quite an academic book, and for this reviewer, that speaks both for it and against it. For it, in the sense that it contains some real scholarship and not a pileup of opinions as too often characterizes books about legendary geniuses like Brunelleschi; against it, insofar as Klotz fails to touch upon some of the key issues in Brunelleschi, and presumes a surprisingly narrow readership. It was originally published from Dr. Klotz's post-doctoral thesis "on the recommendation of the Arts Faculty of the University of Göttingen," and has been translated, very ably by the way, by Hugh Keith.

All the hallmarks of the German school of architectural history are there, including the minute attention to detail, and unfortunately if you are a novice appreciator of the great Florentine architect, there are no concessions to those not initiated into the technical language and concerns of the trained architectural historian. Thus, this is not the book to buy as your family's "first" book on Brunelleschi. It does not repeat the famous anecdotes about Brunelleschi's hubristic personality, offers no particular theory about how the dazzling accomplishment which was the dome of Florence Cathedral (featured on the cover) was "really" built, does not situate Brunelleschi in the broad context of the history of the Renaissance as one of the seminal geniuses who made it all come about, and does not even cover all of his work.

Indeed, there are not even the normal courtesies to help the reader thread his way through Professor Klotz's often intricate arguments. For example: He develops at length the