

# Taras Muranivsky Is Remembered in Moscow

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

On Dec. 13, a conference dedicated to the memory of Prof. Taras Muranivsky was held in Moscow at the Lebedev Institute of Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (FIAN). The event was co-sponsored by the Schiller Institute, of which Muranivsky was the president in Moscow until his death on July 17, and the standing methodological seminar at FIAN. Some 250 representatives of Russian academic and political life, military and church-related organizations, and press attended the event.

Among the speakers who addressed the announced topic of the memorial event, "Russia's Historical Mission in Light of the World Economic Crisis," were Academician Dmitri Lvov, academic secretary of the Russian Academy of Sciences for economics; Corresponding Academician Sergei Glazyev, who also chairs the State Duma's (lower house of parliament) Committee on Economic Policy and Business; economist Dr. Tatyana Koryagina, who is an adviser to the Ministry of Economics adviser on organized crime; Mikhail Khazin, formerly an economics adviser to the Presidential Administration; and Schiller Institute representatives Dr. Jonathan Tennenbaum and Karl-Michael Vitt.

## A Living Legacy

The latest issue of the economics weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, which regularly published Professor Muranivsky's incisive analyses of international and Russian economic policies and events, was available at the conference. It contains lengthy excerpts of a Russian translation of Lyndon LaRouche's policy memorandum, "Trade Without Currency."

At present, Glazyev and Lvov are involved in framing the dirigist economic policy package, a version of which was presented by Khabarovsk Governor Viktor Ishayev at the Nov. 22 inaugural session of the Russian State Council (see *EIR*, Dec. 8, 2000). In their speeches to the conference, both of these prominent economists acknowledged their debt to the work of Professor Muranivsky personally, and to the Schiller Institute.

Glazyev noted Muranivsky's role in calling attention to the realities of the world financial crisis. First, he said, "the destabilization of nations by speculative capital," specifically "gaining super-profits by destroying national currencies," including during the August 1998 Russian financial crisis. Second, the "concentration of power and capital" in the hands of the "global financial oligarchy" which, through dollarization

and other devices, has been "monopolizing the power to emit currency" and fuelling the speculative financial bubble. Third, the division of the world into a wealthy "core" group of nations, and a "periphery," including Russia and developing countries, which has been submitted to "controlled chaos" and "unfair terms of trade."

Citing his frustrating personal experience in trying to warn the Russian government in advance of the 1998 crisis, Glazyev stated that "speculators will not stop," until the present global speculative bubble explodes. Despite the numerous warnings by LaRouche in his forecasts, Glazyev said, the financial speculators will not change their ways; therefore, there is "the need to prepare ourselves with ideas for a new alternative," when the collapse comes. He urged that Russia see this as a chance to reverse the past ten years' process of economic decline and political marginalization. Being still "a world leader in science and culture," and possessing "unique historical experience in developing backward regions," Russia can take a lead role in proposing and creating "a different type of globalization," based on "an ordered market" with regulation of financial flows, and a "long-term development orientation," he said.

A high point of the proceedings was Academician Lvov's stark and impassioned speech. "If present trends continue, there will be no more people in the place, where Russia once existed," declared this senior Russian economist. More serious even than the epidemics of diseases, drugs, and alcoholism, is an "epidemic of destruction of the fundamental psychological health of the nation," he said. Lvov bitterly denounced the neo-liberal economists, who put forward models of economic development "which are irrelevant, because they don't even know what a human being is." Human labor is being annihilated, and the great natural wealth of Russia, "created by God, is being stolen by the devil." Russian science and technology are no longer being supported, an example of "incredible stupidity."

Academician Lvov stressed the "very serious world situation," which Muranivsky had warned about. In the process of globalization, the so-called "free market capitalism" model first appeared to be more effective than any alternative model of economic development, but "now we see, that it suffers from the same systemic disease which characterized the Soviet Union," said Lvov.

In their presentations to the memorial event, psychologists and demographers Irina Medvedeva, Tatyana Shishova, and Professor Gondarev emphasized the crucial "subjective and cultural" aspects of the Russian crisis, polemicizing against the "materialist" ideology that is still strong in Communist Party milieu. The reasons for the sharp population decline—by 6 to 8 million people over the past ten years—are not merely the objective decline in living standards, but the Russia population's feeling of depression and loss of purpose in living. Conversely, a restoration of positive cultural values will be key to the economic reconstruction of the country.