

Evidence Mounts of Threat to Putin's Life

by Mark Burdman and Rachel Douglas

Under conditions of the growing strategic desperation of leading Anglo-American financier-political circles against Eurasian challenges to the IMF system, *EIR* has received evidence, that there is now emerging a live security threat to Russian President Vladimir Putin. This is not surprising, given that Putin has demonstrated forceful leadership, in reinvigorating the Russian Federation, and is now the central figure, because of Russia's role as a uniquely Eurasian nation, in building an important nexus of Euro-Asian political, diplomatic, strategic, and economic ties.

It was in a July 13 interview with the Italian paper *La Repubblica*, that Russian "Oligarch" Boris Berezovsky made his ominous remark, "There will be a new President [of Russia] by the end of the year. I know it will be one of the governors Putin is trying to crush while pursuing the shortsighted goal of achieving centralization." The threatening remark was picked up in Russian newspapers, and coupled there with speculation about growing tension between Putin and the governors, especially in light of Putin's project to revise the Federation treaty. The Russian President attended the inaugural session of the Commission on Delimitation of Duties between the Federation and the Regions, held on July 17.

Also July 17, the magazine *Kommersant-Vlast* reported there have been five unsuccessful assassination attempts against Putin since his becoming President of Russia. The article reportedly writes about the "triple ring of security guards," employed to protect Putin.

At a press conference on July 18, Putin was asked his view of Berezovsky's "efforts to create an opposition to you, and also of his forecast that you will shortly step down?" The President replied that Berezovsky is "an irrepressible and indefatigable person. He keeps appointing some and dethroning others. Let him toil. . . ."

EIR was confronted with the Putin matter, when the magazine's correspondents in Europe began to receive reactions to LaRouche's recent warnings, of a threat to the life of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

One well-placed British strategist, with connections to military-intelligence circles, responded: "I agree that this is a danger. Sharon knows he's a target. What this reminds me of, is what could be done to Putin, by Chechen elements." He later repeated the "Chechen danger" to Putin, noting the interconnections between "Islamic fundamentalist" networks in

the Middle East and "Chechen terrorist" networks in the Caucasus.

Both of these networks are, as *EIR* has often documented, steered by Anglo-American intelligence controllers.

Berezovsky Threatens

Following the discussion with the British source, *EIR* spoke to an Indian Subcontinent expert on Russia and Central Asia, just returned from Russia. He reported seeing Boris Berezovsky on Russian TV, asserting that Putin would be out of power by the end of the year. When the British source's "Chechen scenario" was mentioned to him, he said, "You've put your finger in the right place. Berezovsky has many interests in Chechnya, many of which he developed when he was head of the Russian Security Council, involved in 'pacification' there."

Berezovsky is a very powerful international wheeler-and-dealer, with extensive business/banking links, to Wall Street and the City of London. Putin has made efforts to crack down on his seedy empire.

The Indian expert was all the more apprehensive, as, in mid-July, the leading strategic adviser to Tajikistan President Imomali Rakhmonov, Karim Yuldashev, was assassinated, and he fears this is a sign of "things to come." He is aware of Anglo-American intentions to disrupt Eurasian Land-Bridge dynamics, noting "this goes back to the way they responded to the Berlin-Baghdad Railway developments early in the 20th Century. They are always very troubled by transport and communication links in Eurasia."

Primakov's Warnings

On July 23, former Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov warned in an interview to Interfax, that a provocation is being prepared by "certain people" against himself and President Putin. The trade union publication *Trud* wrote, "Primakov has made it clear that [the provocations] are instigated by such people who state that Putin's Presidency will be over by the end of the year. These people 'intend to isolate the current President, but they will fail to do this,' Primakov thinks."

A second Indian expert on Eurasia said a threat to Putin should be taken seriously, at a time when the "Gang of Five"—Britain, the United States, Australia, and "an increasingly reluctant Canada and New Zealand," as he put it—wants to up-end the trends toward consolidation of the emerging "Russia-China-India triangle"; and, when Putin is "clearly the key person to bring Europe and Asia together, without the British. He is an outstanding leader, who has taken some very tough measures, and who is very popular in Russia."

The British and French press, starting in mid-July, have had a sudden flurry of articles on the Chechnya situation, typified by a lead, two-page feature in the London *Guardian* magazine July 19. The theme in all these articles, is that the West has been ignoring, unwisely, what the big, bad Putin is doing in Chechnya.