

# EIR Mourns a Friend; Murder Rocks Russia

by Mark Burdman

All Russia was shocked by a dreadful event on Aug. 8: The 83-year-old Professor Grigory L. Bondarevsky, one of Russia's highest-ranking intelligence experts and a man deeply respected in many other countries, was brutally murdered in his apartment. According to the first news dispatches, obviously based on police reports, he was bludgeoned on the head with a heavy object, went into a coma with brain injuries, and died in the hospital at 11:00 p.m. that night. There were also reports that computer discs and a mobile phone belonging to him were stolen. The news of his murder was a highlight item throughout the day Aug. 9, and continued to be the subject of commentaries, obituaries, and tributes throughout the week.

The news of his killing was received with great grief, but also outrage and anger, at the offices of *EIR* in Germany. Grigory L. Bondarevsky, known among us as "the Professor," was a long-standing collaborator and friend. This writer had the privilege of having consulted with him many times over a period of more than a decade; the writer, his wife, and many of our colleagues benefitted immeasurably from Bondarevsky's vast historical knowledge and insights, as well as from his uniquely devastating sense of irony and humor.

The Professor was a personal friend of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, and a supporter of many of the LaRouches' initiatives, starting early in the 1990s, with a seminal role in helping catalyze what was to become the LaRouche "Eurasian Land-Bridge" policy. In 2002, he wrote an extremely warm *Festschrift* tribute to LaRouche, on the occasion of LaRouche's 80th birthday.

Professor Bondarevsky's support for crucial LaRouche initiatives continued up to the time of his brutal murder. In recent weeks, he enthusiastically backed LaRouche's efforts to force U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's resignation. That commitment was related to the central elements of Bondarevsky's activity, which made certain forces in Russia and abroad want to see him out of the way at this crucial juncture in world history. LaRouche has commissioned an *EIR* project under the thematic title, "The Murder of a Legend," devoted both to "Professor Bondarevsky as one of the world's highest-ranking intelligence experts," and to "Professor Bondarevsky the man." Therein, we will also demonstrate his unique contributions, both historically and in the present situation, to the Eurasian development perspective.



*Prof. Grigory L. Bondarevsky, noted academician, influential advocate of independent Russian national policy, friend of Lyndon LaRouche, was murdered on Aug. 8 in Moscow.*

## Dumping Cheney: 'This Is the Time'

In Aug. 9 news coverage, Russian television and print media clearly conveyed the evaluation—though not stated in so many words—that Professor Bondarevsky's death was a political murder, not a criminal act. This is of added importance in Russia today, since it has become an unfortunate commonplace for elderly people to be robbed and killed; and, even worse, there has been a pattern, over the past couple of years, of academicians and other scholars being violently killed, often in what are reported to be acts of wanton criminality. This has been a devastating blow to the intellectual power of the Russian nation, since the position and title of "academician" in Russia, is that of an honored member of society, one of the "brains" for the nation, in contrast to the boring, entropic idea of the word "academic" in English.

What Russian national television stressed, at 8:00 p.m. on Aug. 9, was that Bondarevsky had been a staunch and influential opponent of the Iraq war. Attention was also drawn to the fact that computer discs had reportedly been stolen during the murder. *Interfax* cited him insisting that under no conditions should Russia support the American war against Iraq, since Iraq is a serious and promising partner for Russia. To support the United States would, he had said, lead to the "total discrediting of Russia," and the remains of Russia's authority would collapse with terrible force. Media reports also drew attention to the fact that Bondarevsky was working on a sensitive document for the Russian government, on the subject, "Russia and the Caucasus."

At such moments, the important question to be asked is, "Cui bono?" The fact is that Professor Bondarevsky had become a thorn in the side of those American elements around Cheney, and their Russian *mafija*/oligarchical buddies, who are intent on striking a new global arrangement in which Russia will be looted as a degraded junior partner in Cheney's "new American empire."

In the last weeks of his life, Professor Bondarevsky had been devastated by the death of his wife Alexandra, to whom

he had been married for 63 years. It is, therefore, all the more remarkable, how enthusiastically he responded to Lyndon LaRouche's campaign to dump Cheney. On June 11, Bondarevsky exclaimed to this writer, "Mr. LaRouche's idea, to bring about the downfall of Dick Cheney, is an excellent idea, very good, and it comes just at the right time. I consider this exactly the thing to be done now; in fact, I have been myself thinking about the need to move against Cheney, during the past days." He added that "Mr. LaRouche's move will be supported by many Republicans, who resent Cheney. First of all, some financial groupings in the Republican camp are angry about his maneuvers with oil. More than that, there are energy groups, in both the U.S. and Britain, who are angry about how Cheney has used his oil connections, for his own gain, and against them. Cheney can be isolated. . . . It is necessary to divide the Republicans. Bush is the most foolish, but he's not the worst. . . . And I'm sure Colin Powell would be happy to see Cheney go."

The Professor further advised that the timing of LaRouche's move was perfect, at a time when both the United States and Britain are being rocked by the "Iraqi weapons of mass destruction" scandal. "This is the time to move." In ensuing discussions, in June-July, he would proudly affirm that he was one of the leading and most outspoken opponents of Cheney, within Russian policy and advisory institutions.

LaRouche, learning of Professor Bondarevsky's murder, stressed that the crime, whatever its specific details, had to be seen in the context of the *systemic* features of the real conflict now going on in Russia. On the one side, there are "the old Russian elites" who are trying to win President Vladimir Putin over to a Russia-interested policy. But on the other side—referring to Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*—are the Khodorkovsky-Berezovsky "artful dodgers," the "thieves," who come out of "Old Fagin's kitchen," meaning the late Soviet leader Yuri Andropov. This crowd, in an operation typical of the Synarchists since Napoleon was sent into his insane military adventures, *loot for foreigners*, for the merchant bankers. This is all the more crucial now for the Synarchists, since they are financially desperate, and need the loot.

Vice President Cheney recently, and secretly, met Yukos oil chief Khodorkovsky in America. Also, President Bush and others have stepped forward, to defend Khodorkovsky and Berezovsky from Russian charges. The roots of Berezovsky's operation go back to the early-1990s machinations of the International Republican Institute.

### 'A Unique Gift for History'

Pending *EIR*'s commemorative feature on Professor Bondarevsky, the basics of his *curriculum vitae* will give readers an idea of the scope of his activities and contributions. Already in his early 20s, during World War II, he was playing a significant role in the Soviet Union. Yet he was born in

Odessa as a Jew, and it was not easy, to put it mildly, for a Jew to rise in the Soviet structure under Stalin. Those who knew him found it amazing that he always thought of himself as a Soviet Russian, then a Russian patriot, despite this difficulty.

In 1943, he helped prepare the Teheran conference of the American-British-Soviet coalition against Hitler. In 1945, he was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan at the age of 25. It was then that he finished his famous doctoral dissertation on the Berlin-to-Baghdad railway.

Through six decades, Bondarevsky was to advise seven Soviet and then Russian governments, mainly on "oriental" affairs. In 1995, he was elected to the Russian Academy of Social Sciences, and was to become a member of the Russian Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Social-Political Studies, headed by the eminent Russian academician Genady Osipov. Osipov made an emotional tribute to "the Professor," after the murder, stressing his role in helping keep the diverse peoples of Russia together, and working for social peace. This is all the more vital, when the Russian nation is under immense strain from the war in Chechnya in the northern Caucasus, and when all sorts of fissures and cracks can be easily widened. Indeed, in the days following Bondarevsky's death, Russia witnessed a disturbing pattern of assassinations, assassination attempts, and terrorist acts.

Professor Bondarevsky also became deeply involved in, and enamored of, the affairs of many other countries including India, and the republics of Central Asia, the Gulf, and the Caucasus. He had a number of admirers in Great Britain and other western countries. With India, he developed a warm special relationship. He received the International Nehru Award, and, in 2000, President Raman Narayanan received Bondarevsky at his official residence, and awarded him one of India's highest honors, the medal Padma Shri. Bondarevsky said of India, "This country was once a pearl in the crown of the British Empire. But for me, India became a pearl in my heart."

The Professor was the author of 27 books and pamphlets, and many articles on subjects ranging from Central and South Asia, to the Caucasus and the Persian Gulf, to British imperial policy in the Near and Middle East. His daughter, Lyudmila Bondarevskaya, told the newspaper *Izvestia* on Aug. 11, "My father had a unique gift of analyzing history and transferring its lessons into the present time."

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