

Moscow Paper Covers LaRouche Berlin Meet

by Rachel Douglas

The Dec. 23 issue of the Moscow weekly newspaper *Slovo* carried Prof. Stanislav Menshikov's report on the Dec. 9-10 *EIR* seminar in Berlin on the post-Cheney era, under the headline, "The New Program of the American Democrats: The U.S.A., Too, Needs a Recovery." Highlights of the 2,300-word article include Menshikov's report of how LaRouche explained that "Cheney must be removed," as the means to get the policy-change process going, and the professor's forceful argument that the "revolutionary" developments from the Democratic Party can spell the end of neo-liberalism, including in Russia.

Professor Menshikov, who has been one of Russia's top experts on the United States for the past four decades, presented a detailed summary of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's speech at Harvard University, in which she evoked President Kennedy's commitment to put a man on the Moon. He also noted recent speeches by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.). Enumerating the several points of their program, Menshikov emphasized that "the idea is to direct additional government financing into the development of science and technology," and towards creating new jobs.

"Preempting critics who would cynically presume that these Democrats merely want to compete with India and others in the "information" economy, Menshikov wrote, "Many people in the U.S.A. consider the Democrats' new program revolutionary, because for the first time since Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, an influential layer of the American elite is returning to the idea of active government intervention in the economy, and is doing so not merely with respect to measures aimed at overcoming the latest economic crisis, but in connection with a program for the long-term revival and upgrading of industry—and not through an arms race, but by providing incentives for sectors of the civilian economy."

Menshikov then reported: "In early December I once again had an opportunity to take part in the latest international seminar, organized in Berlin by the leading economist and U.S. Democratic Party figure Lyndon LaRouche. Among other questions, the current economic and political situation in the U.S.A. were discussed. It became clear, that behind the speeches of Pelosi and Miller are deeper processes, of which few people outside the U.S.A. are aware." The Rus-

sian economist then summarized LaRouche's account of how things stand in the U.S. auto industry, the collapse of which threatens to wipe out America's remaining machine-tool capabilities. He cited the response to this danger, coming from within the Congress and also from the trade unions, and reported to the readers of *Slovo* on LaRouche's open letter to William Ford. Republicans are also involved, noted the article.

Dumping Cheney Can't Wait

Menshikov quoted LaRouche, to the effect that the change cannot wait three years till the next Presidential election, but must happen now. He summarized what LaRouche said: "The situation brooks no delay. The top-priority task is to remove Vice-President Richard Cheney, who is considered the chief ideologue and strategist of Bush's policies. . . . Cheney's resignation is entirely feasible, LaRouche believes, as long as there is no retreat, but rather a continuation of the offensive against him." Menshikov then reviewed the indictment of Cheney aide Lewis Libby and the continuing investigations by Independent Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald. He cited the precedent of how Vice President Spiro Agnew was removed, before the final assault on President Nixon. The door could be opened, for taking control over the Democratic Party away from Wall Street, and reviving a "government industrial policy."

"Why is it so important, for such a policy coup to take place?" Menshikov answered this question by reminding readers that the U.S.A. has been "the headquarters of economic neo-liberalism," which was also promoted worldwide, with the blessing of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund.

These were the policies imposed on Russia and other former Soviet-bloc countries under the destructive market reforms of Gaidar and Chubais, "and their present-day continuers, Gref and Kudrin." Menshikov noted that when he and other Russian economists attempted to collaborate with Nobel laureates like Wassily Leontieff and James Tobin, against the neo-liberal agenda, "we were scornfully told by the ignorant neo-liberals, to stop praying to the 'idols of the past.'" Meanwhile, for the past 25 years all Nobel prizes in economics have gone exclusively to monetarists, "devotees of the cult of the market."

In conclusion, Menshikov wrote, "A turn in U.S. economic policy would strike a powerful blow against neo-liberalism and would help return world economic science, not only in the U.S.A., to a more progressive direction. . . . Perhaps such a change would help Russia get rid of its own neo-liberals, the high priests of the 'stabilization fund' kitty and sowers of government corruption. We, of course, would manage to deal with them ourselves, sooner or later. But neo-liberalism is a general, worldwide evil. And that should not be forgotten."