

Russians Invoke LaRouche, Classics To Save Nation

Supporters of the Schiller Institute in Russia have circulated a call to their fellow citizens, under the title Can We Permit Ourselves to Miss This Chance? Paths to Overcoming the Crisis in Russia, excerpts of which follow.

The situation in our country is deteriorating every day. Troubled by the situation that has come about, and believing that Russia should fully utilize both its own rich heritage of ideas and world experience, we appeal to you with the following words:

- **Think like Lomonosov and Leibniz!**
- **Create like Pushkin and Schiller!**
- **Learn economics from Witte and Hamilton!**

For a prolonged period of time, Russia was a "lost world," without real ties to the West, to the ideas of freedom and humanism. Now a deep crisis has afflicted all spheres of the economy and culture. Today's lamentable situation is the result of the false goals and ideals, set by the leaders of the October coup. The state suppressed the freedom of the individual, while ideology suppressed freedom of thought.

Now it is perfectly clear, that the future of Russia is linked with the processes of privatization, demilitarization, the creation of a new system of jurisprudence, and with free access to information. All this will allow us to create a middle class and will make it possible to raise the standard of living of Russians.

Russian politicians and intellectuals today link the future of our country with the ideas of economic liberalism and the free market, preached by the Harvard school of economics. The fact that the policy of shock therapy was not rejected by the majority of our society seems to us to be a dangerous tendency. Now, when Russia is seeking new paths of economic development and integration into the world economy, it is especially important to



EIFRS/Rachel Douglas

Panelists, joint Schiller Institute/Russian State Humanitarian University/Ukrainian University in Moscow conference: "Alternative Approaches to Economic Reform," Moscow, Oct. 30, 1992.

expose pseudo-scientific theories that have no confirmation in practice and do not take into account the specifics of the current situation in Russia, and turn to the world practice of creating a powerful national economy and use the methods of physical economy, which, in the tradition of Leibniz and Hamilton, have been developed for the modern situation by the American economist Lyndon LaRouche.

What We Should Strive For

Let us first look at economic questions and the "shock therapy" policy. The program drawn up by Jeffrey Sachs cannot be implemented without a significant initial reduction of production and growth of unemployment. The IMF demands that the budget be balanced and state subsidies reduced. Then we should devalue the ruble and flood the world with cheap exports, supposedly in order to earn dollars and service our debts. The fact that Russia itself needs oil, coal, and steel does not concern them. Of course, they promise dollar assistance in the future, if these conditions are accepted. This path is not aimed at creating a real national economy and will merely put us on the level of Brazil or India.

Happily, there exist other paths for national economic reconstruction, which have been proven in many countries experiencing a crisis: in America after the revolution of 1776, in Russia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in Japan and Germany after World War II, and in France during the 1950's. These are the directed government policy of national economic development and the Hamiltonian method of creating a National Bank and credits. Such a policy, will make it possible in a fairly short period to restore the production of physical goods. The ideas of physical economy laid out by Leibniz, who corresponded with Peter the Great, and developed in the works of Friedrich List, Hamilton, and LaRouche, go to the heart of man's true relationship with nature.

We now have to understand, that Russia is not a separate world. Events abroad directly influence the situation in our country. We are responsible not only for Russia, but for the world as a whole. And while preserving our national traditions, we should also assimilate the greatest world achievements, in economics as well as in culture.