

# Gorbachov courts Western unionists

by Mark Burdman

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov chose a very special occasion, Oct. 9, to make one of his more strident attacks on the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative program. The occasion was the first visit to the Kremlin by leaders of the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), a group heretofore denounced in the Soviet lexicon as the "CIA Trojan horse" in the international labor movement.

The "CIA Trojan horse" denunciation should always have been taken with a grain of salt. The ICFTU is the creature of Jay Lovestone, founder of the International Department of the AFL-CIO, and once ally and co-thinker of Nikolai Bukharin in the international Communist movement. In recent years, Lovestone has become a central figure in the "Project Democracy" apparatus involved in illicit Iranian arms deals and Contra funding activities, among other things.

Over the same Oct. 9-11 weekend, Soviet historian Yuri Poliakov gave new indications, before a Moscow press conference, that Stalin's old enemy, Bukharin, was about to be rehabilitated in some form.

It all signals that a new phase has been entered in striking an East-West deal to destroy the SDI, and toward other mutually agreed ends.

In his speech, Gorbachov said: "The world is now at a crossroads. Things are moving toward the political stage of real disarmament, and therefore, we want strict controls. . . ."

"We have tabled new proposals to reduce strategic arms at Geneva. . . ."

"Such an agreement to reduce strategic weapons can only occur if both sides agree on interpreting the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. . . . Why can't we go back to before 1983, when neither we nor the United States had any different interpretation of the treaty? With the SDI, obstacles and differences emerged. . . . An arms race in space would be ruinous. [SDI proponents'] idea is to undermine our *perestroika* and bog down our progress. . . . If the United States imposes an arms race in space, all of us will be by far the worse off. . . . I believe, however, it is possible to reach an agreement on strategic weapons with the present U.S. administration."

To "go back to before 1983," one must *destroy* the SDI, and eliminate its main proponents. What can be read in these words, is the personal passion Gorbachov and his advisers have thrown into ensuring the removal of Lyndon LaRouche,

the SDI's intellectual architect, from the American political scene, as a precondition and "sign of good faith" for further U.S.-Soviet deals.

That is why his ICFTU audience is more than interesting. Aside from the longstanding antagonism to LaRouche of Lovestone and his bunch, one member of the ICFTU delegation, *EIR* has learned, was a certain British-origin trade union bureaucrat named Stephen Pursey, from the ICFTU's economic and social policy division and its international secretariat. In March 1987, Pursey confessed, privately, that he had helped in the creation of a special unit at ICFTU headquarters, to monitor and undermine the activities of LaRouche and his associates around the world, particularly in the developing sector. Pursey called this a "global exercise," modeled on work done by the International Metalworkers Federation, under the direction of its head, Herman Rebhan, in Geneva.

## Moscow's cue on LaRouche

In the weeks following, the ICFTU produced a report on LaRouche, filled with hysterical lies about him and his associates, obviously supplied by Soviet-linked sources. Under the title, "The LaRouche Organization," the report has been circulated in several languages around the world, and distributed through ICFTU national affiliates, such as the DGB federation in West Germany, the FO in France, the TUC in Great Britain, the LO in Sweden, the AFL-CIO in the United States, and others.

Accompanying Pursey on the trip to Moscow, were DGB head Ernst Bright, TUC head Norman Willis, Canadian trade union leader Shirley Carr, and trade union leaders from India, Japan, and Panama.

According to official ICFTU sources, the aim of the visit was to explore an ICFTU "Global Initiative" for "disarmament, security, East-West détente, and social and economic progress," originally drawn up two years ago by the group's international executive body.

In essence, the ICFTU campaign is based on the idea that "more disarmament means more development." This is hardly different from the official Gorbachov proposal to the United Nations, and the "International Solidarity Fund" unveiled by the head of the Soviet Communist Party's International Department, Anatoly Dobrynin (Soviet ambassador to the United States for 25 years), during a meeting with German Social Democratic Party leaders Oct. 12.

The ICFTU executive board has presented this "Global Initiative" to United Nations Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, and to NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington. A meeting is being arranged, ICFTU sources say, with President Reagan.

The meeting with Gorbachov was requested in the spring of 1986. On Sept. 7, during the period of Gorbachov's strange disappearance from public life in the U.S.S.R., a message suddenly arrived that he had accepted.