cheap companies.' It now appears that the 'local' investor chosen by Soros to expand his holdings in Peru is Parque Arauco, of the SAID Group of Chile."

Soros has not been immune to scandal in Peru. In September 1993, in the midst of the war against narco-terrorism, George's brother Paul Soros took out a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times*, which presented Peru with an ultimatum. The government of Peru, said the ad, must dismantle its Armed Forces, in order to restore "investor confidence in democracy." Said Soros: "When one can be certain that it [military influence on the government] is truly ended, investment values will rise 30, 40, even 50%. In Latin America, whenever the army as an institution is part of the power structure, all investments are discounted, because it introduces an element of instability. As an investor, one likes stability." A short time later, Paul Soros undertook a joint investment with the Ecuadoran Army, precisely in the border area where the Peru-Ecuador conflict exploded into war in January 1995.

#### **Drug-Legalizing 'Philanthropy'**

Soros' "philanthropic" support for global drug legalization is the subject of an extensive chapter, and his campaign has been denounced in the United States by former Drug Enforcement Administration chief Tom Constantine and President Bill Clinton's White House anti-drug policy adviser, Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.). As the introduction to the book notes, on Dec. 2, 1996, then-DEA chief Constantine testified before a U.S. Senate committee that George Soros was the primary financier of campaigns in the states of Arizona and California in favor of drug legalization. Constantine said that Soros "gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in California . . . and perhaps double that in Arizona." Constantine also cited statements that "Soros finances various foundations with hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars," which, according to the source cited by Constantine, come "from the drug trade." In the same hearing, McCaffrey confirmed that Soros "participated extensively in the financing of these campaigns" to legalize drugs.

In its Feb. 3, 1997 issue, dedicated to the theme of marijuana legalization, *Newsweek* magazine included an article entitled "The Money Machine: Why Multimillionaire George Soros Is Trying To End the War on Drugs as We Know It." According to *Newsweek*, Soros says he does not agree with "the totalitarian mentality here [in the United States] regarding the war on drugs. I have dedicated myself to fight this mentality in other countries, and I have decided to dedicate myself to this here." In an article in the Feb. 2, 1997 *Washington Post*, Soros the "philanthropist" insists that prohibiting drugs is "totalitarian," and that he supports drug legalization because he wants a totally "open society."

"Is this society, open to drugs, what the one-worldist promoters of Soros want for Peru? This is something that we Peruvian patriots must not permit," the book's introduction concludes.

# Russian 'Media Freedom': Flight of the 'Bergoose'

by Konstantin Cheremnykh

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) introduced a resolution into the U.S. House of Representatives on May 8, demanding Russia's suspension from membership in the G-8 organization of leading industrial nations, until its government "restores press freedoms and respect for human rights." As the chief example of a "free press" suppressed in Russia, Lantos cited Vladimir Gusinsky's NTV, which was forced into bankruptcy for non-payment of its debts to the state-run natural gas concern Gazprom. Its former owner was arrested, once in Moscow and once in Spain. The profile of Gusinsky's political and business interests, including what NTV broadcasts, has little to do with the matter of a free press—as our correspondent comments from St. Petersburg.

The inventors of the electric lightbulb, the cinema camera, and the CRT tube contributed their discoveries to a civilization, which no longer exists. That was the civilization of intellectual courage, scientific insight, and a powerful impetus toward a breakthrough to a future where universal education, and therefore a high level of morality, are the rule—in accord with the heavenly destiny of man. The historically optimistic spirit of that Time of Discoveries, about which I know with some precision from my own grandmother, born in 1897, suggested that technological progress was supposed to perfect the human soul, and to promote victory over the atavistic, merely biological properties of human beings, once and forever.

Those enthusiasts of human reason, if they were miraculously awakened from their eternal sleep today, would be most amazed and terrified at our present global civilization, probably perceiving it as a medieval kingdom, populated with young brainless beasts and egocentric hypochondriacs. What would probably be most painful for them, is to see their glorious inventions being used today for a purpose opposed to their own, not for educating, but for stupefying, depraving, and dooming the population.

They would immediately realize that the international mass media have been transformed from a machine of education into a machine of seduction and perversion, propagating a degraded image of man as merely a species of beast. They would realize that this transformation, as well as the reversal of the economic development paradigm, came about through a banal oligarchical plot, in which the mass media were de-

EIR July 6, 2001 International 61

ployed as the strategic stronghold of resistance against progress. Television, as a weapon of mass destruction, is used on the front lines of the battle against everything human on this planet.

For an unbiased witness from another universe, watching the Earth's civilization through a distortion-free optical device, it would be most obvious that during the last decade of the 20th Century, the major battle on our planet was waged chiefly with TV as the means of mass destruction, designed to establish an allegedly superior globalized world order. The weapon was aimed especially at those parts of the Earth, not yet involved in the globalized system, which is supposed to extinguish any notion of the nation-state, and any concept of national identity or the cultural destiny of a nation, with its sovereign history and sovereign set of values. Through a good space telescope, a decent observer from outside would discern an enormous crowd of brainless dupes, under the control of the oligarchy-owned machine of mass destruction.

#### Fraudulent 'Enlightenment'

A typical representative of the dupes of this would-be more advanced world order, once proudly showed me his calling card, which identified him as a functionary of a "religious" task force called, literally, "Invasion Into the Darkness." His calling card depicted the map of my homeland in pitch black, while a medieval knight, striking at the very heart of Russia with his sword, sparked a tiny bit of light on this spot. To me and millions of other Russians, who view the culture we were raised in as the birthplace of the most advanced discoveries in science, technology, art, poetry, and music, this sort of view appeared absolutely wild and ridiculous.

The person I met, however, was not supposed to listen to any counter-arguments, believing himself to be a modest herald of a noble mission to backward Eastern Europe, called upon to help launch a complete reconstruction of values, starting from zero. The message of these agitated, but not intellectually encumbered "knights" of the new world order, was that Russians should assume themselves as "zero," an underdeveloped *tabula rasa*, on which new words should be written in a rough translation from the American English of a simplified pocket-version of the Bible, in order to produce a "spiritual change" in the Russian mentality.

In practice, here is what this looked like. On June 12 of last year (the artificial holiday of Russian "Independence Day," introduced by Boris Yeltsin), the citizens of St. Petersburg had the chance to see about a hundred people, dressed in bright cucumber and tomato-colored sports jackets, with a multitude of cucumber and tomato-colored balloons in their hands, jumping around in a kind of hypnotic ecstasy outside the Young Spectators' theater. They had two slogans on the balloons: "Christ died for your sake!" on one side, and "Thank

God!" on the other. At the sight of this exotic festivity, any Russian with a normal secondary education—whether a devout Communist or a profound anti-Communist—would experience a sort of physical disgust, immediately concluding that the event was being staged rather for the sake of Satan, than for the sake of Christ. He would cross himself and pass by, with a strange feeling in his "underdeveloped" mind, that something was really wrong in the brains of those teachers, who had arrived here to preach human rights and democracy. The Russian's initial disappointment in the self-styled knights of spiritual liberation, amplified by purely aesthetical revulsion, then gave way to a feeling of being profoundly culturally humiliated.

#### The Trouble with Talking Heads

In October 1993, I arrived in the village where my mother-in-law lives, still reeling from the military operation, carried out by our "democratic" President against the democratic Parliament of Russia. My mother-in-law listened to me and said, "I'll tell you why Yeltsin won, and not Khasbulatov." She meant the Speaker of the just-disbanded Parliament. "Khasbulatov just could not win—"

"Because he is a Chechen?"

"No."

"Because he finally teamed up with the Communists?"

"No. Because he talked too round, and too much." (The southern, non-Muscovite accent is distinguished by its round, resonant vowels in Russian.)

Back in Moscow, an informed, urbane, and refined intellectual offered another explanation of the same events. "You see," he said, "there was just a rivalry of two banks: Kredo Bank, associated with Khasbulatov, and Most Bank, associated with the Moscow bureaucracy. The competition was about who would be the first to introduce a Eurocard. So, Most Bank has won—"

"And Yeltsin?"

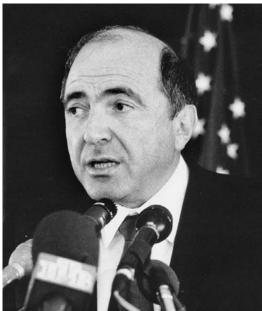
"And Yeltsin has lost a lot of his popularity. So, the next battle will take place between Most and Yeltsin—"

A year later, in 1994, "Black Tuesday" collapsed the ruble, impoverishing millions and bringing enormous fortunes to a number of banks, which were tipped off in advance. Those events sparked the clash between the Moscow bureaucracy clan, and Boris Yeltsin's team.

Ever since that time, two masterminds and two mouthpieces of the two sides, named Boris Berezovsky and Vladimir Gusinsky, have been talking, talking, and talking, addressing not each other, but all Russians, and simultaneously, the West—for both power clans wanted to demonstrate both their concern for the population and the loyalty of their top figures to the international "Christ-has-died-thank-God" idol of the mass media. During this years-long effort, the two mouthpieces, running the two major TV channels, ORT (owned by Berezovsky) and NTV (property, until recently,

62 International EIR July 6, 2001





"The Bergoose." Two now-fled rival oligarchs, who enriched themselves in the 1990s frenzy of privatization and looting of Russia: Vladimir Gusinsky (left), general director of the Russian Most group, and banker Boris Berezovsky.

of Gusinsky), their own complicated personal relations notwithstanding, have unified in the perception of most Russians, into a two-headed creature. Call it the Bergoose, if you will.

This creature, although undoubtedly well educated and rhetorically perfect, has not realized, with all its brains, that its endless self-advertisement has produced an almost clinical allergy among Russians: not only to the contents of the permanent blah-blah—reflecting a strange two-headed sympathy toward Chechen separatist warlords and their foreign sponsors—but to its didactic style of addressing the supposedly underdeveloped and uneducated Russians.

The TV talking heads' habit of demonstrating superiority over the "crowd" of ordinary Russians, was once ridiculed by *Versiya* weekly, which featured Berezovsky in the clothes of a medieval duke. He looked very natural—evidently thanks to his experience as founder of a House of Fashion in London, providing clothes for Her Majesty's servants, where he had the chance to try on all sorts of ancient oligarchic attire.

A little bit of self-criticism, from deep within the Bergoose brains, forced each head, for a certain time, to speak through its own mouthpiece—Berezovsky through Sergei Dorenko, and Gusinsky through Yevgeni Kiselyov (the anchormen for ORT and NTV, respectively). The thoroughly tasked and excessively paid puppets functioned well enough, when they were attacking each other. As soon as the new state power made a decision to close the puppet theater, the puppets became disoriented: One left the scene, banging the door, while the other went on talking, talking, and talking about the human rights of Master Goose, until Goose's Siamese twin,

Master Ber, invited him to his own TV channel, from whence the same hissing can be heard till now, but not so loud as before.

### Where Does Gazprom's 'Blue Stream' Lead?

If Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, the top figure of the powerful Moscow clan of Russian bureaucracy that patronized NTV in its early days, has merged his "Fatherland" movement with President Vladimir Putin's supporters in the election force "Unity," then perhaps the oligarchy's need to keep the two-headed circus geek act running has vanished (public demand having vanished long before). The tireless knights of the globalist public opinion-making, however, keep battering away in the Western mass media at the tragic death of media freedom in Russia.

Meanwhile, my eight-year-old daughter, about whose state of mind those gloomy knights are supposed to be so worried—a child, born in the post-Soviet time and not taught by either schoolteachers or myself to be blindly obedient to the political authorities—asks me during Gusinsky's media campaign, "Why doesn't the government shut down this 'Puppets' program [NTV's take-off on the British satire 'Spitting Image']? They make fun of our President. I don't like it."

Out of the mouths of babes. Even a child of eight sees something unnatural and disgusting in the attempts by the Fourth Estate to prove its superiority over the President, who was elected by the people.

Or, are the international protectors of the precious Bergoose species unaware of the nature of the beast they are so concerned about? Don't tell lies, gentlemen!

As far back as the Summer of 1994, the Wall Street Jour-

EIR July 6, 2001 International 63

nal-Europe published an investigation into the origin of Gusinsky's Most Bank, and the particular role of Gen. Filipp Bobkov, ex-head of the infamous "political" directorate of the U.S.S.R. KGB, in setting up the joint Russian-U.S. "Infex" (Information Export) company, which later became Most. The article dwelt upon the typical racketeer methods used by Most's security forces, and the patronage this company used to enjoy from a number of state officials.

From the Internet publications of the Freelance Bureau, anyone may easily find out the origin of the Most Group's immense fortunes; how much Gusinsky's "independent" structures illegally received from their supporters in the Moscow bureaucracy; how much, therefore, Gusinsky and his companions owe to ordinary Muscovites; and, that a significant part of these fortunes was invested in luxurious villas designed for a select number of NTV journalists, thus keeping them on a short leash of obedience to Master Goose. The list of Most's real estate includes also the mansions of two top figures from Gazprom-although this, certainly, does not quite explain why the Russian gas monopoly earmarked huge loans for Gusinsky's NTV. Especially considering the great advantages obtained by Gusinsky's Most Group from the hands of one-time Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov, known as the man who developed a sophisticated model of assetstripping Gazprom!

Andrei Sotnik, the economics expert at *Moskovskie Novosti*, was so kind as to explain why Gazprom poured over a billion dollars (according to President Putin's statement) into the bottomless pocket of Gusinsky's NTV. Apparently intending to help Gusinsky, Sotnik warned Russian prosecutors that the international influence of the Most Group will be vitally important for the success of Gazprom's Russian-Turkish gas pipeline project, known as "Blue Stream," especially if it is to be extended to Israel. Sotnik wrote:

"For those who are not informed: Vladimir Gusinsky is one of the few Russian businessmen (if not the only one), who is developing business in Israel on the highest level, meeting the international norms of business ethics. The undoubted success of Most Group includes establishing close economic relations with Yaakov Kedmi, Sholom Danckner (Dor Energy), and companies such as Investec Clali Bank Ltd., Bank Hamizrach Nominees Ltd. (Holland), Bank Hapoalim Nominees Ltd., Bank Hapoalim Trust Co. Ltd., Terminus Holdings B.V., Matav, Maariv Holdings Ltd., Israel Land Development Media Ltd., Maariv-Modin Publishing House Ltd., Most Communications Ltd., Danmost Ltd., etc. And through these companies, Most Group was establishing civilized business with representatives of families of Rothschild, Nimrodi, and other world-famous businessmen. Some of these companies are directly involved in the Blue Stream project, especially in the delivery of natural gas to Israel. The importance of Most's participation, for its partners in the Blue Stream, may be illustrated with the fact that Gazprom, the initiator of the Stream, recently paid Most's debt of \$211 million to Crédit Suisse Financial Products. . . . The events in Moscow [Gusinsky's prosecution] directly undercut the interests of Russian business and the Russian government."

The Russian reader is supposed to conclude from Sotnik's article, that if anybody tries to touch Vladimir Gusinsky—no matter what kind of pro-separatist propaganda and anticultural productions he provides—Gazprom will lose its precious, unique, and strategically crucial possibility to extend a natural gas pipeline to Israel (as if this small country were able to consume more gas than all of Europe), and will upset the great Yaakov Nimrodi, the Iran-Contra financier, who has done plenty to keep Israel's relations with Iran in very bad shape. Or, and perhaps this is the really crucial point, the failure of this contract could improve Russia's relations with Iran!

I am really grateful to the *Moskovskie Novosti* author, who so simply explained that the real importance of Master Goose is related primarily to international geopolitical games, in which the Middle East is doomed to permanent tensions between Israel and Iran, Iran and Iraq, Iran and Turkey, Iran and Russia, Russia and Israel, and so forth. Maybe my conclusion sounds naive, compared with the sophisticated interpretations of a Tom Lantos (who had an opportunity to shake hands with Filipp Bobkov at the founding assembly of the Russian Jewish Congress in 1995). But to my mind, the terms of cooperation, dictated to Gazprom by Gusinsky's Media Most, Danckner's Dor Energy, Rothschild-Nimrodi-Kedmi and others, are not profitable at all. Just from the standpoint of the very free-market ideology, which the medieval knights of freedom and human rights (for particular swindlers) promote in Russia.

#### The Distorting Mirror

The President of Russia has not followed the popular public will, which was expressed by my daughter. He merely made clear in public that the Bergoose is not supposed to enjoy any kind of special protection from the law, and thus allowed Gazprom to demand its debts from Gusinsky's Media Most. In the aftermath, Gusinsky would make his bid to be regarded as "Prisoner No. 1," although he spent just two days in privileged conditions of custody, while the Spanish courts kindly protected him from an Interpol warrant. Still, the hullabaloo around his persecution reached the level of the campaigns in support of Academician Sakharov, with the difference that his company could counter-campaign with extraordinary might, accusing the Information Minister of attempting to meddle in a private debt case, while the Prosecutor General was declared guilty, from Gusinsky's villa in Sotogrande, Spain, of having a flat in Moscow.

The second mastermind of political intrigue, Berezovsky, instead of returning to his tailor business for Her Majesty's servants, preferred to travel to the United States, leaving his Moscow partners in trouble. Then, he descended upon Gusin-

64 International EIR July 6, 2001

sky's "exile" villa in Spain, with a noble proposal of assistance, hardly able to conceal the triumph of his long-expected superiority between the two of them.

The two dismantled media dukes realize well enough that their chosen career of dissident is nothing special, and that the privileges available in Washington cannot be compared with the status of top power-brokers they enjoyed in Moscow. No longer pecking at each other, the two heads of the Bergoose creature are now filling the air with a human rights groan in unison. Not that their groaning and hissing brings them more public support. They see the possibility of a political comeback in Russia slipping away. They realize that they are being rejected by Russian culture itself, as an incompatible transplant—just like the "Christ-died-thank-God" worshippers from charismatic Biblical missions.

The concerted groan sounds sincere and natural—unlike the concerted grumble from international mass media, which reiterate the clichés of human-rights-protection rhetoric with the same false and automatized intonation as those Soviet Communist Party members from a textile factory, who were deployed by the Khrushchov leadership to condemn the writings of Boris Pasternak.

"I haven't read Pasternak but I strongly condemn *Doctor Zhivago* as an anti-Soviet novel...."

"I haven't watched NTV, I haven't counted its debts, I am unaware of its connections, but I strongly condemn Putin for oppressing the free media...."

For almost a year, this chorus of the obedient oligarchical media knights, still neglecting the real tragedies of millions of human beings, the unseen tears of innocent victims of starvation, slaughter, and epidemics, has been obsessively focussed on the issue of "the endangered freedom of the mass media in Russia." They have sucked this item as hard as a congenital idiot sucks his toe, or rather more like a serious hysteric imitating an idiot (a disorder described in psychiatry as the Ganser syndrome), who possesses "selective sight," thanks to which everything not desired by or of no concern to his precious ego, is literally erased from his view of the world.

While the orchestra plays funeral music for the sorry fate of "freedom of self-expression," the subject of the whole affair, Vladimir Gusinsky, is conveniently hovering in the clouds of his worldwide glory. From the pedestal of a self-styled martyr, the fat and rosy tycoon, at his leisure in luxury at the Sotogrande villa, commands his obedient slaves to file international complaints against the naughty dictator Putin, demanding a Nuremberg trial against him. The real martyrs of World War II must be rolling in their graves, as the two days of his cozy incarceration in Moscow in Summer 2000, with a personal TV and a personal toilet, are compared with their years of sufferings in Nazi concentration camps.

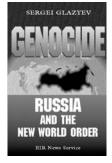
From the standpoint of reason, a person who uses his broadcast media to justify armed separatist warfare, should not be glorified. From the particular standpoint of a reasoning Russian, a person who promotes opening the Pandora's box of the Caucasus, may be even more responsible for the related bloodshed, than its direct participants. From the particular standpoint of a reasoning Jewish person, a Jew who justifies Islamic terrorism is a most degenerate type of a pervert, who should be treated with complete boycott, not deserving even a handshake.

Normal Russians, including normal Russian Jews, regard the oligarchs, and the media tycoons among them, as a community with no ethnic or national identity at all, the ethnic issues they exploit being mere speculation on the feelings of other people. Therefore, Gusinsky's position as a vice president of the World Jewish Congress is not viewed as justification for his actions, nor as a certificate of special immunity, even by top Russian business figures of Jewish origin.

The raw result of the whole scandal around the arrest, flight, arrest, release, and other adventures of the Bergoose species, and the related attempt to organize public unrest about it, is only to have torn the last clothes from the would-be teachers of democracy and human rights. It has exposed them as a rather narrow-minded type of creature, while disclosing the survival potential of the Russian authorities and the Russian business community to build its strategy on real national priorities, rather than the private and geopolitical business of the oligarchic community.

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EIR July 6, 2001 International 65