

Vitrenko Briefs LaRouche Movement On Crisis and Hope in Ukraine

by Our Wiesbaden Bureau

Oct. 19—During a visit to Wiesbaden, Germany, Dr. Natalia Vitrenko and Vladimir Marchenko, national chairwoman and deputy chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, and signers of Helga Zepp-LaRouche's "Call for a New Bretton Woods" more than ten years ago, gave a seminar yesterday to members and friends of the LaRouche movement. Vitrenko had brought a poster from her 1999 Presidential campaign in Ukraine, depicting her against a background that showed Lyndon LaRouche's "Triple Curve" diagram of a typical collapse function. She reported that during that campaign, in which she presented the LaRouche method as the only one leading out of the crisis, poll ratings several weeks before the election gave her 32%, which meant that "these people would have voted for LaRouche." Vitrenko's increasing popularity has apparently scared the monetarist cabal which had other plans for Ukraine, and, on Oct. 2, 1999, someone threw bombs into a campaign rally of Vitrenko's party, which wounded her, Marchenko, and 42 others.

Vitrenko, who has a PhD in economics, described how, while studying under the Soviet system, she became convinced that something had gone very wrong in the way economic policy was being carried out. In 1994, she met Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, and in 1995, she attended a Schiller Institute conference in Germany. The result was that the program of her new party, the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, called for a fundamental economic reform, a paradigm shift, based on the LaRouche method.

Since then, she and her movement have campaigned against the monetarist colonization of Ukraine—which not only served the purpose of looting Ukraine, but also of turning it into a platform for neo-fascist attacks on Russia. The revival of the fascist traditions of the anti-Soviet period of the Nazi era in Ukraine has taken a boost, Vitrenko reported, from the Orange Revolution coup that put Viktor Yushchenko into the Presidential

seat, without being elected, at the end of 2004. The revival of these Nazi traditions is coordinated with similar developments in the three Baltic republics, which are being fomented by imperialist factions in London, Brussels (NATO and the EU), the IMF, and Wall Street. Her movement has repeatedly staged big rallies protesting against this conspiracy against Ukraine—in Odessa, Sevastopol, Charkov, Lugansk, Donetsk, and Kiev, among other cities.

A Crashing Economy

Ever since Ukraine's elite surrendered to the IMF's austerity conditionalities in 1992, the situation in the country has worsened, to the point that now 70% of working people receive wages at or below the official minimum wage level; that life expectancy is down to 66 years; that 50% of male workers never reach retirement age; and that the population, which was 52 million in 1990 and expected to increase to 59 million by 2009, is down to 46 million, with 7 million living and working abroad. This 13-million-person reduction means that Ukraine lost 25% of its population—a genocidal result which was intended by the monetarist institutions and elites of the West.

The average income of a Ukrainian is 10% of what his or her colleague would earn in Germany, but, as Vitrenko and Marchenko personally saw in Wiesbaden, the prices in Ukraine are 2-3 times those in Germany. Ukraine's new state debt (\$35 billion) is almost equal to the entire fiscal year budget (\$38 billion), and the total foreign debt is \$120 billion, or 85% of annual GDP—a GDP which will shrink by 15% in 2010, experts warn; in 2011, most of this foreign debt of Ukraine will come due, and cannot be repaid. The result is, that the financial interests want to maneuver Ukraine into a position desperate enough to sell out to its creditors, especially to sell out the famous, highly fertile "black soil" which has always made Ukraine a breadbasket.



EIRNS/Christopher Lewis

Natalia Vitrenko, chairwoman of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, in Wiesbaden, Germany on Oct. 18. Behind her is the poster she used during her 1999 Presidential election campaign, which features LaRouche's "Triple Curve" function of a collapsing economy.

Ukraine was once the number two industrialized republic inside the Soviet Union, after Russia, but its production is now only 20% of what it was in 1990, and GDP is only 60%. The loans that Ukraine is taking from the IMF and Western banks, all flow into the Ukrainian banking sector, and not one single dollar is going into the maintenance or new construction of crucial transport, energy and water supply infrastructure, housing, and the like. A class of *nouveaux riches*—traitors—are working with the creditors. Nearly all Members of the Parliament take their own financial cut, through speculation; therefore, it is no big surprise that they don't want changes in this policy. The younger generation has no future in this kind of system, and is falling victim to alcohol and drugs.

Vitrenko's party, which, in the last national elections, in 2007, mysteriously failed to re-enter Parliament by a few hundred votes, was denied a recount, evidently because certain people did not want her and her party in the national Parliament. But the party is strong in several regions, and has more than 1,000 deputies in local and regional parliaments that are highly respected for their role in organizing the defense of Ukraine, its economy, and its population against the imperial monetarists. LaRouche's Triple Curve has become known to many Ukrainians, through her party's work.

Vitrenko also elaborated that her movement is based on science, especially on the work of the great Ukrainian-Russian scientist V.I. Vernadsky, and the latter's view that, to have policies that benefit mankind, reason and science must be at the center of society. That is diametrically opposed to the anti-human policies of the present system.

Press Coverage

Dr. Vitrenko was interviewed by Voice of Russia radio on Oct. 22, and said that, because LaRouche has been right about the global crisis, his proposal for a four-power recovery initiative by the United States, Russia, China, and India should be listened to. The Russian interviewer asked for her impressions of the Wiesbaden seminar and her discussion with LaRouche.

Vitrenko replied: "For me, it was very important that there are any thinking people at all on our planet. This is the only venue, which would bring together specialists in economics, people who understand what's going on, and people who understand how to save the planet. I would like to underscore that the forecasts of Lyndon LaRouche, the American scholar, and my own forecasts, that precisely this kind of global financial and economic crisis would inevitably occur, proved to be correct. Therefore, we have the moral right to condemn those who caused this crisis, and to propose what needs to be done to save the planet."

Vitrenko urged her listeners to understand that a \$1.4 quadrillion speculative bubble cannot be bailed out, even with the \$20 trillion, or more, thrown in to save the banks to date. She denounced as "nonsense" the current claims that a recovery is underway, warning that "today, the world's leading governments—the U.S.A., Russia, China, India—are not doing what is needed to get out of the crisis." Still, Vitrenko said, in accordance with LaRouche's "four powers" perspective, the "main hope" of the world lies with action by those four leading countries, to join efforts to reform the world financial system. This means to "liquidate the financial bubble, and liquidate speculative capital," which these powerful nations can do, together.

"Mankind has little time," before being hit with a global catastrophe, Vitrenko concluded, but there is hope—as long as human beings are alive.