

in the USSR and related attempts to drive down the price of gold on the international markets.

Efforts to remove gold from the international monetary system have continued also, he notes, but have never completely succeeded. In this connection, he underlines the progold role of Charles DeGaulle.

The SDR issue

Stadnichenko then launches a polemic against the International Monetary Fund's "paper gold" Special Drawing Rights (SDR). Following a standard antigold argument that the yellow metal is "outdated as a monetary instrument," he writes, the creation of the SDR was accompanied by claims that gold had become inadequate since the volume of world trade so

greatly exceeded the amount of gold reserves. Stadnichenko debunks that argument by pointing out that the question has never been to have exactly as much gold as the volume of world trade. The issue is the clearing function of gold.

Nevertheless, continues Stadnichenko, "many economists saw in the SDR a kind of embryonic form of world money," and insisted all the more that gold had already or would shortly lose its monetary function. "Here, it turned out that there were adherents of this view among Soviet economists as well."

The SDR in fact, counters Stadnichenko, is the main weapon in what he calls "the anti-gold campaign." Its supporters claim wonders for the SDR. "But actual experience of using SDRs has shown that they are not

The debate extends to methodology: 'systems analysis' comes under fire

The Soviet Union was represented at the recent World Philosophy Conference in Düsseldorf, West Germany by Dzhermen Gvishiani, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology and also the son-in-law of Prime Minister Kosygin. A key figure in Soviet trade and other contacts with the West, Gvishiani has also been identified over the years with the advocates of "systems analysis" in the Soviet Union, and he co-heads with McGeorge Bundy the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna. The Institute has been a channel for British reductionism, aimed to infiltrate Soviet thinking in the vital areas of planning and scientific development.

Gvishiani's speech in Düsseldorf may turn out to have been the death knell for the IIASA operation. He asserted that not systems analysis, but the ideas of V.I. Vernadskii, the great Soviet scientist who developed the study of the biosphere and the noosphere, where human creativity becomes the defining element of world development—are fundamental to Soviet science. The truth of Gvishiani's statement is clear, for example, in the progress of the Soviet nuclear program, which received its initial impetus from Vernadskii in the 1920s.

Moreover, Gvishiani's new orientation evidences that the policy debates within important Soviet institutions have penetrated to basic matters of methodology, such that the reductionist doctrines of "Marxism-Leninism" are going to be seriously challenged.

Our correspondent Helmut Böttger reports from Düsseldorf that Gvishiani, speaking on a panel devoted to philosophy and its relation to science and

technology in the future, appeared after a British professor who had defined the difficulties "inherent" in science and technology as practically insoluble. Gvishiani, speaking extemporaneously, stated from the start that Soviet science has no such problems, for Soviet science is based on Vernadskii's idea that nature is not fixed, but is in a process of development.

Although systems analysis is a useful tool for some very specific tasks, Gvishiani continued, Soviet scientists have found that it is inadequate beyond a certain point. They have had to return to philosophy, particularly for the conceptualization of future development of science and technology. Where systems analysis is insufficient, what is important is the genius of the human mind. Gvishiani again linked this to Vernadskii's insistence that the development of the human race is part of the qualitative development of nature.

Gvishiani was emphatic in reminding his audience that, while he was working a good deal at the IIASA and it had government financing, the Institute was a private body, whose opinions are *not* the opinions of the Soviet government.

In conversation with correspondent Böttger following his speech, Gvishiani was pleased to receive a copy of an address on the philosophy of education delivered by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. at the opening last May of the Humanist Academy in Wiesbaden, West Germany. LaRouche, the chairman of the U.S. Labor Party, has frequently included harsh critiques of systems analysis in general, and its advocates in the Soviet Union in particular, in his philosophical writings. Gvishiani noted that LaRouche's ideas were well known and intensively studied in the USSR.