

Moscow forgets 'glasnost,' defends Hitler-Stalin Pact

by Luba George and Konstantin George

The Soviet Union has now gone on public record saying that it considers the re-drawing of the map of Europe under the secret provisions of the 1939 Hitler-Stalin Pact still valid under international law. This was announced by the Soviet media and press on Aug. 23, the 48th anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, and in the media's denunciations of anti-Soviet demonstrations held in the capitals of the Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Moscow's defense of the Hitler-Stalin Pact was explicit. The Soviet government denounced the demonstrations for "questioning the legality of the 1939 German-Soviet non-aggression treaty." These words have forever wrecked the carefully developed *glasnost* image of Gorbachov, the "liberal" and "reformist." The Bolshevik dynasty of the Russian empire remains what it was, the "Third Rome" ideological twin of Nazism.

The response makes public what Soviet officials had underscored in private earlier this year. An unpublished Soviet declaration adhering to the Hitler-Stalin Pact came in replies to an inquiry on that matter by Lyndon LaRouche. Officials of the Soviet foreign ministry were asked by *EIR* correspondents whether the Soviet leadership under Gorbachov was considering a formal repudiation of the infamous Pact. The response was a firm, *nyet*.

LaRouche had devised a clever trap which the Soviets could not help but fall into. Moscow can never put itself in a position of renouncing the 1939 treaty with Nazi Germany. A look at the map comparing the Soviet Union's western border of 1938 with those of 1940 shows why not.

The three Baltic Republics were part of a vast territory awarded to Stalin under the secret clauses of the Aug. 23, 1939 pact. In addition to allowing the Soviets to annex Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, Poland was partitioned, with Russia acquiring 40% of pre-war Poland; the U.S.S.R. seized the pre-war Romanian provinces of northern Bukovina and Bessarabia. The Pact awarded Finland to the Russian sphere

of influence, and there followed Stalin's autumn 1939 invasion and subsequent annexation of the Karelian and Arctic coast of Finland. Every Soviet territorial expansion that occurred under provisions of the Pact was retained after World War II.

The Baltic demonstrations

The Baltic demonstrators, according to eyewitnesses, totaled more than 20,000. They called for the abrogation of the Pact and its results. The demonstrators also demanded the erection of monuments to the victims of Stalin in the three Baltic Republics and an end to the forced Russification of the region.

Under Stalin, hundreds of thousands of Baltic citizens were murdered or deported to forced labor camps, from which few ever returned. As a consequence of Russian rule, the ethnic populations of Latvia and Estonia have yet to reach their 1938 levels. The Latvians are already a minority in Latvia, and Estonians make up only about 60% of their republic's population.

In the Latvian capital of Riga, a crowd of 5-10,000 demonstrated before the central war memorial at noon Sunday, Aug. 23, shouting the slogan, "Publish the Facts About the Hitler-Stalin Pact." Some in the crowd called for "Freedom and Independence" for Latvia and other Baltic states. Contingents of KGB agents and police cordoned off the Latvian Independence Monument to which the crowd tried to march to lay flowers. While no other direct police intervention occurred, the next day, in Riga, police and KGB arrested 11 organizers of the demonstrations.

In Vilnius, the capital of Catholic Lithuania, a crowd of over 1,000 defied warnings by the authorities. Many wore black arm bands to commemorate the hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians who fell victim to the Russians, and to honor the Lithuanian-born Adam Mickiewicz, the Polish "poet of freedom" and contemporary of Frederic Chopin. This partic-

ular demonstration marked a pointed display of solidarity by captive Catholic Lithuania with Catholic Poland. Lithuania and Poland in the past have existed as a united kingdom and Vilnius, the current capital of Lithuania, was part of the pre-war Polish Republic (1918-39) destroyed by the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

Along with the Baltic nationalities, the main victims of the Hitler-Stalin Pact were Poles and Ukrainians. At the time of the demonstrations, the Polish Catholic weekly *Przegląd Katolicki* of the Warsaw Archdiocese was prevented from publishing an article on the Hitler-Stalin Pact and its partition of Poland. Instead, there appeared an empty page and a short note on censorship. The article was authored by journalist Wojciech Ziembinski and described the September 1939-June 1941 Soviet occupation; the Soviet deportation and murder of 4,000 army officers in the Katyn Forest of eastern Poland; the disappearance of 11,000 other Polish officers; and the deportation of 1 million Poles to slave-labor camps in Siberia.

Undoubtedly a Vatican move, this article represents the first time in postwar Polish history that anyone has attempted to print the truth on Russian policy in Poland.

The Vatican has also inspired the beginnings of open resistance in the Western Ukraine to the atrocities committed by Stalin and subsequent Soviet governments against the Uniate (Catholic) Church. In August 1987, for the first time since 1946, when Stalin banned the Uniate Church and slaughtered its clergy, 2 Uniate Bishops and 23 Uniate priests emerged from the underground and drafted an open letter to Gorbachov demanding the right to reconstitute the church in the Ukraine. A copy was sent to Pope John Paul II.

Moscow blames the West

The Soviet media, before, during, and after the Aug. 23 demonstrations, ran a spate of articles justifying the Hitler-Stalin pact as "protecting the interests of the Soviet Union"—and the Baltic states as well! *Sovetskaya Rossiya* insisted that the strategically important Baltic states "joined" the Soviet Union "of their own free will." The Balts, "threatened by the Nazis," chose the Soviet Union as their "guarantee of survival." TASS denounced "Western sources" for claiming that the countries were coerced. It denounced the "anti-Soviet hate rallies" as "Western-inspired," and accused the West and Western radio stations, Vatican Radio, Voice of America, BBC, and Radio Free Europe, of having repeatedly broadcast the news of the planned demonstrations to mass audiences in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Mikhail Gorbachov toured the Baltic states in February of this year, asserting that "historically" the Baltic Republics "joined" the Soviet Union "on their own." In the Latvian capital of Riga, Gorbachov had delivered a speech hailing the historical role of the Russians as "soldier-liberators" in the Baltic.

Then, in early August, a Soviet media campaign took off.

The line could be summed up as follows: 1) The Baltic republics "voluntarily" asked to "again become part of the Soviet Union." Note the use of the word "again." 2) When the Baltic Republics "joined the Revolution in Russia in 1917," they became Soviet territory until 1918, when "foreign troops," first from "Kaiser Germany," and later Britain, established a "puppet bourgeois nationalist regime . . . against the will of the people." 3) The Baltic states were "historically part of the Tsarist Russia," and, therefore, "clearly are part of the Soviet Union."

These arguments are more than lies and distortions of history. That a territory contested by the Red Army during the period 1918-20 is "historically part of tsarist Russia" is a statement of no less import than Moscow's defense of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. The implications extend far beyond the Baltic republics. The Bolsheviks, 1918-20, were also successfully expelled from Poland and Finland, both of which had also been "historically part of tsarist Russia," in fact, for about the same length of time as the Baltic states. What is now Estonia was annexed to the Russian Empire in 1721, along with the Livland (Riga) Province of Latvia. The rest of Latvia, together with Lithuania and Poland, came under Russian rule during the infamous partitions of Poland between 1772 and 1793.

Soon after that, in 1809, the Russian Empire annexed Finland. As can be seen from this, the Soviet doctrine asserting that "lands of the tsarist empire are part of the Soviet Union" cannot only be extended to Poland, but to nominally neutral Finland as well.

Contrary to Soviet mythology, the 1940 seizure of the Baltic states occurred in the same manner as the tsarist conquest of the Baltic in the late 18th century, both times via a partition of Poland.

Therefore, Soviet policy statements regarding the Baltic states, and Moscow's interpretation of the Baltic region's history, have direct bearing on Soviet policy toward Poland and the Vatican. Moscow's carefully chosen formulations on the Baltic states are a not very subtle warning directed at Poland and Pope John Paul II. The Pope, and the Poles, are being put on notice that Moscow reserves for itself the "right" to reestablish in Poland the direct colonial rule that existed under the tsars.

Another warning came in the form of Soviet authorities' refusal to allow the Pope to visit the 600th anniversary celebrations of the Christianization of Lithuania. The chairman of the Soviet Council of Religious Affairs, Konstantin Kharchev, explained: "We are ready for dialogue with all religious organizations, but it is well known to everyone that the Vatican does not recognize the frontiers of our country and constantly emphasizes this."

Indeed, some of the Vatican's diocesan boundaries have not been altered since 1939. Yes, the Vatican does not recognize the Hitler-Stalin Pact's creation of "the frontiers" of the U.S.S.R.