

Pamyat's 'appeal to the Russian people'

by Luba George

The document published below, titled "An Appeal to the Russian People," was released by the Russian-chauvinist mass organization Pamyat ("Memory") on Dec. 8, 1987. Some of the crucial demands put forward by Pamyat there have now appeared as policy pronouncements in Mikhail Gorbachov's June 28 report to the 19th Soviet Communist Party Conference. In the portions of Gorbachov's speech ignored by the Western media, he singled out for praise "civic organizations," including "societies for the preservation of historical monuments," the category under which Pamyat is listed.

Gorbachov also announced that "a nationwide movement to support *perestroika* is being created," a movement consisting of "party members, non-party members, and [Russian Orthodox] believers." Pamyat on Dec. 8 had called for the creation of "Perestroika People's Committees." Even in what are portrayed as the "reform proposal" passages of Gorbachov's speech, one finds curious echoes of the Pamyat document. Gorbachov called for a new Supreme Soviet chamber to be called "Congress of People's Deputies." A key demand in the Pamyat document reads that a body of "People's Deputies must become operative immediately."

Periodically, the Soviet media feign complaints about Pamyat, but nothing is ever done to hinder its growth. In truth, Pamyat and a myriad of groups closely associated with it are behind the rise of Great Russian chauvinism; it is a *legal* mass organization (see *EIR*, Jan. 8, 1988). It can be likened to the notorious "Black Hundreds" established at the end of the 19th century to carry out pogroms against Jews and non-Russian Orthodox peoples. Like the "Black Hundreds," which was a creation of the Czarist Okhrana secret service, Pamyat is controlled by a committee of the Soviet intelligence establishment, including the KGB and the military GRU. Pamyat's poisoning of the atmosphere with anti-Semitism has led to an upsurge, in the last six months, of assaults against members of Jewish organizations, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, and even the murder of Jews.

During June, a pamphlet was distributed in Moscow, saying that the celebrations of the Millennium of Christianity in Russia should prompt Russians to stand up for their Church and country against the threat posed by Jewry. Despite Pamyat boss Dmitri Vasilyev's denial, many members of the nervous Jewish community are convinced that Pamyat was

involved. Another suspected Pamyat-linked operation is the sudden appearance at the same time of an anti-Semitic organization called "Death to the Jews." According to a recent statement made by Soviet refusenik Yuli Kosharovsky, this organization has been allowed to spread its message in official meetings and workplaces "under the patronage of the Soviet authorities."

Pamyat's appeal to the "patriots" of the Holy Motherland is a far cry from the noble Schillerian republican idea of "patriotism," which is anathema to all forms of tyranny and imperial designs.

The Pamyat call for awakening "the rational and healthy forces in our society," and the polemic that "this *perestroika* bluff cannot continue any further," and heavy attacks against "Zionist conspiracy" and "cosmopolitans," was the precursor to the March 13 issue of *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which published a "Manifesto" by Nina Andreyeva that attacked "cosmopolitans" and the drift that *perestroika* has taken.

Gorbachov's praise at the Party Conference for "societies for the preservation of historical monuments" was received with great applause. Among the pro-Pamyat delegates attending the conference is Anatoli Ivanov, the chief editor of an anti-Semitic youth monthly, *Molodaya Gvardiya*. In addition, Nina Andreyeva has prepared an "Open Manifesto" for the conference, along the lines of her "letter" to *Sovetskaya Rossiya*.

Documentation

Patriots of the World Unite! . . . Several years ago, the world looked once again on Russia with hope. . . . What is really going on in our country?

The atmosphere in the country can be summed up in a single sentence: *We've done some democratizing and that's it!* . . . This *perestroika* bluff cannot continue any further. The world must know *the whole truth*. . . . The activities of the *enemies* who have entrenched themselves in every sector of the *party*—the leading force of the U.S.S.R.—are becoming more and more evident in our country. The dark elements, speculating on Party slogans and Party phraseology, are to all practical purposes waging a struggle against the *indigenous population of the country and destroying the national face of the peoples*. They are reviving Trotskyism so as to discredit socialism, to sow chaos in the state, and open the sluice gates to Western capital and Western ideology.

. . . Pamyat represents and is the expression of *the will of public opinion* in the country. . . . And who would dare act against their own people? Only those who are remote from it and have not known its soul for a long time and are unable to understand it. It is they who are trying to convince

everyone that there are no dark forces in the state and no conspiracy. *No?! Then let them answer the following questions publicly.*

Who has been inciting terror in the country for 70 years? Who is destroying and crushing any independent thinking? Who is flagrantly violating the Constitution and the Law?

Who has blackened our history and culture? Who has destroyed the huge number of monuments of world renown which belong to the Russian people and other peoples? Who has reduced our historical sacred places—our churches, temples, monasteries, and graves of national heroes of our Motherland—to a state of extreme desolation and destruction?

Who has been ruining the economy all this time and destroying agriculture?

Who has reduced the ecology of the country to a catastrophic state?

Who arranged the disaster at Chernobyl and made a vast region of land unusable?

Who is depleting our raw materials and selling off our natural wealth abroad for a mere trifle?

Who is detroying our nation with ideological and alcoholic dope?

Who at the word *Russian* rushes like a watchdog to accuse us of chauvinism and nationalism? Who is trying to change the meaning of the word *Russian* to that of *enemy*?

We are the opposition to all who seek to betray the cause of perestroika and are ready to crucify their own mother for a mess of pottage! . . .

“International Zionism and Freemasonry have removed their visor and gone openly on the offensive against the last remaining islets of spirituality and national consciousness. Three years ago, Pamyat began ringing the *alarm bell!* . . . is the ideological apparatus, which is headed by Politburo member Yakovlev, trying to do away with our Patriotic Association! Because the patriots of Pamyat told Yakovlev of their *distrust* for the Russophobic views he expressed in his memorable article “Against anti-historicism” in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, no. 46, Nov. 15, 1972. Those views have not changed to this day—the press, radio, and television are preaching cosmopolitanism and idolatry towards the West, and excluding what is fundamentally national and belongs to the people.

We accuse Comrade *Yakovlev* of having persecuted Pamyat because of our criticism of him! . . .

We appeal to you compatriots and friends, to use your collective will to make those who have straddled the Party and the Party press subject themselves to the demands of the majority:

1) To terminate the repression, slander and bans on Pamyat!

2) To make public all letters to newspapers, radio, and television defending Pamyat!

3) To award official status to Pamyat Patriotic Association!

4) To provide Pamyat with a platform on central television!

5) To demand that Pamyat publish an independent newspaper with the unshakeable principles of *objectively* reflecting all the processes of life and criticizing, *irrespective of who the target is.*

We call on all honest and courageous people to close ranks around Pamyat and support the healthy forces of the Party who do not separate themselves from the people, and to protect the ideals of the Motherland. . . . We appeal to all patriots in the Committee of State Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Military: “Demand an open meeting with the leaders of Pamyat!” . . . We demand that *all forces be mobilized to explain the danger Zionism represents in our country and that an end be put to the actions of those who are selling their homeland for 30 pieces of silver!*

Stop the Cosmopolitans! . . . Raise up the deepest layers of the history and culture of the Motherland! . . . Demand the resignation of those who are inflicting economic and moral damage on the Motherland! . . . Do not permit any *lack of control!*

. . . *All media are misleading world public opinion.* True, there are exceptions. The two Arab papers *Al-Anba* and *As-Safir* have provided a great deal of honest and objective information about Pamyat. . . . We must pay attention to the experience the Arab people have accumulated in struggling against Zionism. . . .

The practice of people’s deputies proposed by Pamyat must become operative immediately! . . . *The Perestroika People’s Committees, expressing the will of the public, must be independent in their judgment and be subordinated only to the demands of the U.S.S.R. Law and Constitution!*

On the eve of the Millennium of the Christianization of Russia . . . it is time to grant believers total freedom of conscience! We are in favor of separation from the state of atheistic propaganda, like that of the church. This will allow artificially created sects to be destroyed. . . . *We consider it necessary to restore a church service in the heart of Russia—the Uspensky Cathedral in the Kremlin!* . . .

[Pamyat] is the *sole force* capable of withstanding the power of gold, the vanguard of imperialism—*Zionism and Freemasonry*, whose aim is to rip open all frontiers so as to penetrate, paralyze, and destroy the *national* forces of resistance. . . . We see cosmopolitanism invading all that is national with the help of international Zionist capital. Trillions of dollars are spent on an all-absorbing industry of human weaknesses and passions. The world is in a grip of the pursuit of luxury, pleasure, and living-for-the-moment. . . . And out of this labyrinth, nobody but Pamyat and the wisdom of the people will show the way. They will lead the way to salvation—to Nature, to the Land! . . .

(Signed) Chairman of the Council of Pamyat, K. Andreyev. Members of the Council of Pamyat, A. Gladkov, D. Vasilyev, E. Rusanov, A. Barkashov, A. Linev, N. Detkov.