

tims of 45 years of communist looting, which they didn't want to see replaced by whatever brand of Western looting or economic mismanagement, they asked for information on how "LaRouche's third way" would work.

Numerous plant managers of the major factories in Berlin, Saxony, and Thuringia invited Patriots candidates to address large groups of management and workers on the Triangle program. The rigorous opposition of the Patriots to the anti-nuclear ecologists was appreciated especially by the 35,000 workers of the uranium mines in southern Thuringia and southern Saxony. The endorsement of nuclear power, considered unpopular by politicians after 20 years of ecologist campaigns in western Germany, meets no opposition worth noting in the eastern part of the country. Even many of the eastern Greens are for, or at least not vehemently against, nuclear power—to the chagrin of their western co-thinkers.

The other flank of the Patriots' campaign was the party's mobilization to stop a war in the Persian Gulf. Here too, Helga Zepp-LaRouche's television broadcast denouncing Bush's war machinations, which was seen by millions on prime time, broke the conspiracy of silence among other parties on the issue.

Another aspect that was entirely missing in the other parties' electioneering but which met a lot of interest, was the issue of civil rights, which is still a much-discussed topic among the 16 million Germans in the east who just liberated themselves from the worst aspects of a communist police-state regime, but are faced with many "moles" of that past regime who are trying every trick to sabotage economic, social, and political progress, to intimidate and discourage the new political leaders of eastern Germany. Forums held on university campuses that were addressed by American civil rights leader Amelia Boynton Robinson, encouraged many students to become more political and to work with the Patriots after the election. Any positive momentum created on campuses will also affect the youth associated with the other political parties, and it is necessary to have a broad citizens movement across party boundaries to create pressure for rapid progress.

Pressure is needed, indeed, to translate the election results of Dec. 2 into a change of political practice, to make an irreversible transition from the era of ecologism and industrial zero-growth to the new era of rapid technological and social-economic progress.

It has been said repeatedly during the past weeks that Chancellor Kohl and his closest advisers "would not have ears to hear" any discussion of the LaRouche "Productive Triangle" until after Dec. 2. Now, with the electioneering over, Kohl and his colleagues will have to listen. The mandate of the voters was for action and for a good program; had it been a mandate for inaction and no program, but a continuation of the current policy of muddling through, the voters would have given preference to Chancellor Kohl's challenger Oskar Lafontaine and his red-green entourage.

Army and KGB dictate Soviet reorganization

by Konstantin George

The Soviet military command and the KGB secret police are getting ready for an internal crackdown on the non-Russian republics of the Soviet Union, and are jousting for more control over foreign policy in the face of the war threat in the Middle East.

The warning signs are there to be read, in the way the military and KGB are dictating President Mikhail Gorbachov's reorganization of the ruling state executive apparatus, which pivots on two changes: the replacement of the disbanded Presidential Council by a Presidential Security Council, and the placing of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, or cabinet, under the President.

On Dec. 2, a major shakeup turned the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with its nationwide militarized police force, into a joint holding of the KGB and the Army. The military-linked political lobby, the Soyuz ("Union") group, which openly agitated for the change in that ministry, is pressing for the replacement of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as well, in an apparent effort to get control of the new Presidential Security Council.

Gorbachov made no bones about upgrading the machinery of repression, when he announced in a Dec. 4 address to the Supreme Soviet: "Measures will be worked out and put into practice to stabilize the situation in the Armed Forces and the law and order authorities, and to strengthen their role and responsibility." The body rubberstamped the plan.

On Dec. 2, it was announced that U.S.S.R. Internal Affairs Minister Vadim Bakatin, a party careerist, had been dumped. Bakatin's replacement is KGB career man Boris Pugo, who served as KGB boss in Latvia until 1984, and later was party first secretary in that Soviet-occupied republic. Nominally a Latvian, Pugo grew up in Russia and can barely speak Latvian. His father served in the forerunners of the KGB, the Cheka and NKVD. Pugo has a career specialty in running KGB operations against freedom fighters in the non-Russian republics, with special expertise concerning the Baltic states.

The new first deputy minister of internal affairs is an Army man: Gen. Col. Boris Gromov, a bitter foe of nationalist independence. Gromov was the last commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. He then served as the commander of the Kiev Military District in Ukraine from February 1989 through November 1990, where he spoke out repeatedly against any form of Ukrainian independence.

Pugo's appointment gives the KGB two crucial posts on the new Presidential Security Council, where he will flank KGB boss Vladimir Kryuchkov.

Military calls the shots

The reshuffle was worked out in advance with the U.S.S.R. military leadership and the Soyuz group of 500 deputies opposed to any republics breaking out of the Soviet Union. The group's membership includes dozens of Army officers.

Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov admitted, in a Dec. 2 interview with the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, that he had received two military leaders of the Soyuz group, Colonels Nikolai Petrushenko and Viktor Alksnis, on Dec. 1. The Soyuz group, lobbying for the military command, had already gone on record demanding Bakatin's ouster. The last straw for them was Bakatin's attempt to create independent police militias in the republics. Yazov told them—24 hours before the TASS announcement that Bakatin had been replaced—that Bakatin was out and Pugo in as new internal affairs minister.

Following the meeting with Yazov, the Soyuz group held a two-day congress. There they reiterated a threat, first issued in November, that if Gorbachov fails to restructure the state executive to their liking and begin taking tough measures against nationalists in the republics, the Soyuz group will present a no-confidence motion against him when the U.S.S.R. Congress of People's Deputies convenes on Dec. 17 to give the final yes or no on Gorbachov's proposed new state structures.

Colonel Alksnis told the Congress: "We can count on at least 50% of the deputies voting for Gorbachov to resign." Such statements are seen as pressure tactics, designed to shape the formation of the new Security Council. Whether or not Soyuz goes ahead with an actual motion of no-confidence, will be decided at the last moment before the Congress of People's Deputies convenes.

As Yazov told *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Soyuz group also wants the scalp of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Colonels Petrushenko and Alksnis told Yazov that Shevardnadze's remaining in office "no longer serves any purpose." They alleged that Shevardnadze might be willing to allow a direct Soviet military involvement in the Persian Gulf. The Soyuz group has announced that it will, on Jan. 5, begin a debate in the Soviet parliament on policy in the Persian Gulf, timed to occur soon before the expiration of the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. A Middle East war would certainly raise new internal security issues for the Soviet Union.

For the Army to tighten the yoke of repression, all it takes is for the KGB and its friends to stir up a pretext. On Dec. 3 a crowd "3,000 Uzbek hooligans" attacked a bus in the Namangan region of Uzbekistan with six unarmed Soviet soldiers on board. Five of them were beaten to death. This

made-to-order provocation occurred only 24 hours after the formal announcement of the Pugo and Gromov appointments. Soviet troops were rushed into the region. On Dec. 2 and 3, bloodshed resumed in the Transcaucasus; at least 15 died. The worst fighting occurred between armed Armenian militia and Azerbaijani police on the border between the two republics.

Russian threats against the Baltic republics also became more menacing in November, after the United States granted Moscow a free hand to repress the Baltics and other freedom-seeking republics, in trade for Soviet backing of the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf.

Undaunted, the Presidents of the three Baltic republics, Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, Anatoli Gorbunovs of Latvia, and Arnold Ruutel of Estonia, presided over the historic first joint session of the three Baltic parliaments in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, on Saturday, Dec. 1. The Presidents and parliaments of the Baltic republics issued a dramatic "appeal to all parliaments in the world," to recognize the independence of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, to support them, and to ensure real independence by pressuring Moscow to withdraw the Soviet Army of occupation from their soil—where those troops have been since the Soviets illegally annexed the three republics under secret agreements in the 1939 Hitler-Stalin Pact.

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