

He can always say, "What do you want from me? I really wanted this, but could not force it through." So he is in an advantageous position in the West.

But I would see Gorbachov's star as a single one. Gorbachov personally thinks that he could replace Yeltsin. He has said that. He offers himself, he says, "Look, this other guy is incompetent, I will come back." So there is a public controversy, which has a certain effect, between the two. They took away Gorbachov's big car, his armored limousine, and forced him to take this old, small, rusty car, a Volga. Gorbachov is in a very bad mood because he does not have his big car anymore. Yeltsin also reduced Gorbachov's pension by about 40%. Gorbachov has this foundation or institute, and Yeltsin forced them to leave the palatial quarters of the former Central Committee and to go into some old tumbledown shanty. There are two telephones and very primitive conditions otherwise.

Q: Can you describe the role and strength of the pan-Slav and Russian Orthodox Church factions?

Scherer: Pan-Slavism is actually an experience of the nineteenth century. That was its big moment. It was this southern Russian expansionism. The idea was that the Serbians would be an auxiliary against the Ottoman Empire. It was basically something that started in the mid-1850s after the Crimean War. Pan-Slavism became the expansionist ideology of a certain tendency in the Russian upper classes. . . . You have one thrust of pan-Slavism in the southern expansion of the empire, but then there is also a second line which goes in the direction of Germany. The Communist International (Comintern) leadership, after the civil war in Russia in 1921-22, Comrade Radek leading the way, played this kind of pan-Slavic card in Germany.

There was also a pan-Slavic element in the fact that [Georgi] Dimitrov from Bulgaria was called in to become the head of the Communist International. After 1929, the idea was that this southern expansionism ought to be downplayed in favor of the defense of the existing Soviet bastion. After the Second World War, pan-Slavism was calmed down a lot, because it was not needed. Now, in the most recent history, there it is again.

It started with a smaller group, but it has gotten bigger and bigger, with some of the people who think about being Great Russians and nationalists. You have to add, though, that in the universities, there is no pan-Slavic idea.

The main expression of pan-Slavism as it exists today, is the support of Serbia by the Russians. The weakness of this whole pan-Slavic thing, is that the "pan" does not pan out. The Russians are blocked, because first of all the Poles are the absolute enemies of all this.

The Southern Slavs developed in such a diverse and divided way, that you cannot get them all in pan-Slavism. You can only get the Serbs; and the necessity of taking care of nationalist impulses of the 98 peoples of the former Soviet

World press covers Scherer's warning

One week before the Congress of People's Deputies stripped Russian President Boris Yeltsin of many powers, Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.), one of the founders of West Germany's postwar army and former head of its military intelligence service (the Militärische Abschirmdienst, or MAD), warned at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on March 9 that "Yeltsin is finished." Scherer's forecast was the subject of featured coverage in several papers around the world.

In a front-page article entitled "German Spy Chief: Yeltsin Set to Fall," the March 10 *Washington Times* described Scherer's forecast as follows:

"Boris Yeltsin's days as Russian President are numbered and an army takeover is a distinct possibility, the former head of German military intelligence has warned the Clinton administration.

"Gen. Paul A. Scherer, one of the founders of West Germany's postwar army, said yesterday his assessment is based on the reports of several western European intelligence agencies with which he has maintained contact. . . .

"He said he submitted his findings to Clinton aides, members of the U.S. intelligence community and congressional leaders. . . . In Washington, General Scherer . . . became a sought after personality after predicting the fall of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov, whom he described as an 'administrator of bankruptcy,' the disintegration of

Union, meant that you had to play down pan-Slavism. After 1989, you have 25 million Russians on the way from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and the Transcaucasus, all leaving the other non-Russian republics. They are all refugees. And so Moscow center could not propose old pan-Slavism as some kind of ideology.

But from my point of view, the concept of pan-Slavism means *nothing* today. The Russians do not say that the Serbs are pan-Slavs; they simply say these are Slavs like us. They say that the Serbs have the right to have a big empire.

I want to stress that the concept of pan-Slavism is just not current, it is a red herring.

Q: What is your estimate of the potential for Schiller Institute collaboration in Russia?

Scherer: I would say that the potential is there, not only in Russia, but also especially in Ukraine. Let us look at the

the Soviet Union and the explosion in Yugoslavia.”

The *Washington Times* quoted General Scherer saying that Russian military leaders are increasingly embittered, while “reforms are being defeated by the inability of reformers to reform.” “*Russia must explode*,” the general stressed.

General Scherer said that the failure of western powers to halt the carnage in former Yugoslavia might embolden Russian generals, who first gave the green light for building Greater Serbia. “The next crisis area” will be the Baltic states. Scherer asked: “If the West cannot cope in the Balkans, what can it do in the Baltics?” Already, Scherer said, a “Russian attack division” of special forces has been deployed near Latvia and Estonia.

Coverage in Britain

On March 14, the London *Sunday Telegraph* covered Scherer’s assessment in an item by Ambrose Evans-Pritchard entitled “Blind Loyalty to Boris Puts Clinton’s Future on the Line.” The article began:

“The mood at the White House has gone from calm, to worried, to apocalyptic in short order. First the CIA unsettled the Clinton administration with a string of warnings about the creeping coup by nationalists in Russia; then the Pentagon’s own intelligence branch, the DIA, lobbed its bombshell into the Oval Office, predicting that Yeltsin’s days in power were fast coming to an end.

“As if that were not enough, the former chief of German military intelligence, General Paul Scherer, passed through Washington declaring that Boris Yeltsin was ‘finished,’ and that ‘Russia must explode.’ He told White House aides that a division of Russian elite forces had been deployed near the borders of Estonia and Latvia.”

Coverage in Germany

On March 13, the *Hamburger Abendblatt* covered Scherer under the title “Coup Very Likely,” apparently based on reports of his Washington press conference from the Springer Auslandsdienst news agency. It reported that General Scherer had been meeting in Washington with advisers to President Bill Clinton and CIA experts, telling them that a military coup in Russia was “a very probable possibility.”

“Scherer, who takes credit for having predicted the collapse of Gorbachov, the collapse of the former U.S.S.R. and the war in Yugoslavia . . . [said:] ‘Yeltsin is a man of good will and apparently pro-West, but we must start from the assumption that he is finished.’

“In the opinion of the former MAD chief, many Russian generals see the failure of the West in Yugoslavia as an invitation for their own provocations. . . . Scherer called the Baltics and the Ukraine ‘the next crisis regions.’ ” The paper also quoted Scherer saying that there is “a progressive paralysis of Russian military power,” and that this situation could “force the Russian military into action earlier than anyone would expect.”

What all this coverage avoided, however, was that throughout his tour, General Scherer stressed the crucial role of jailed statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. The papers culled all references to LaRouche’s role as the leading architect of the Strategic Defense Initiative adopted by President Ronald Reagan, as well as LaRouche’s “Productive Triangle” proposal for massive infrastructure investment, centered in the area Paris-Berlin-Vienna. In his talks, Scherer referred to this program as a means of avoiding the global chaos that he otherwise forecast.

—Scott Thompson

strategic potentials. In the current borders of Russia, you have 145 million Russians, and 25 million Russians are left outside, among the other peoples. Ukraine has 53 million inhabitants, but of these 10 million are Russians. Kazakhstan has approximately 20 million inhabitants, but 12 million Russians. I won’t go through all of the smaller republics. What I want to just focus on, is the relative population strength of Russia and Ukraine.

These Russian and Ukrainian populations, in particular—if it comes to a question of appreciating a need for a Renaissance, of the need of reconceptualizing traditional values—they are actually much closer to that than western Europe. Imagine thousands of people coming together to hear a poem being read. That you will not find anywhere in the western world; but in Russia you will find it; and in Ukraine. People are concerned with living politics. They are people who love poetry. . . .

That is the tendency. The Russian individually is, first of all, quite musical. He has a tremendous alcohol problem, however. Very bad. That is the national disease. The Russians, of course, have this tremendous need to “make up for” the whole historical experience that the West actually could have offered them. There was no Reformation, no Counter-Reformation, no Romantic movement, etc. So their interest in the West is relatively big. Use that, and then you are on the right road.

I would say that the greatest potential anywhere in the world for the LaRouche organization would be in Ukraine. But you have to move fast, because in the meantime there are 200 sects that are at work. Why? Seventy-three years of atheist and anti-religious propaganda have simply left behind a kind of vacuum, and the people want to believe. A large part is willing to become superstitious. It is a promising kind of terrain to cultivate.