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## Interview: Pavlo Movchan and Volodymyr Shovkoshitny

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# Ukrainians view war danger, see unprecedented cruelty

*Pavlo Movchan and Volodymyr Shovkoshitny are members of the parliament of Ukraine. A poet and playwright, Movchan was one of the initiators of Rukh, the Ukrainian independence movement, and has been an official of the Ukrainian Writers Union and the Prosvita society. Shovkoshitny, trained as a geologist and a nuclear engineer, worked at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and leads the International Union of Victims of Chernobyl. Rachel Douglas interviewed Mr. Movchan and Mr. Shovkoshitny on March 22 near Washington, where they participated in the March 20-22 conference of the Schiller Institute.*

**EIR:** I would like to ask you to comment on three areas. The first is the strategic situation as seen from Ukraine, your reactions to events in Moscow, and, lastly, your impressions of the United States during the week you have been here. How do you see the situation inside your own country and in the world?

**Movchan:** It may be, that the sad prognosis of an educator and political figure [American statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche], known to you, will be justified. For indeed there may be a third [world] war, a final war. This is not some frightening speculative notion. This is reality. But far from everybody is conscious of it. The majority of politicians reject it [the possibility], just as, at the beginning of the century, they rejected the First World War, and then they rejected the Second World War. This shows the shortsightedness of those politicians or, otherwise, that they are getting false information.

What is happening in Russia should have been foreseen. All the preconditions for the rebirth of communism or a totalitarian system follow from the fact that the western world, which was calling for democracy and for a reorientation both of mentality and of economic productive forces, did just one thing: They made promises. There was no practical assistance, neither in Russia, nor in Ukraine.

Everything that was linked with the name of [Russian President Boris] Yeltsin came to an end on Aug. 1, or perhaps Jan. 1, 1992, when inflation reared its head in a big way. The inflationary process was whipped forward by a law, adopted earlier by the [Soviet] parliament, in 1987 under [Mikhail] Gorbachov. This was the Law on Enterprise. It untied some hands. It did not regulate state enterprises, and

there were not and could not be any other enterprises. It was automatically extended to the state laws of Russia and Ukraine, which began to work according to this model. This was a slow-action bomb, the author of which was [Grigori] Yavlinsky.

All the democratism of Yavlinsky and the Gorbachov team boiled down to minor corrections, carried out on a system in which nothing was changed. In a paradoxical way, this law fed into the new situation. The activity of the entrepreneur was not subject to control. The CP [Communist Party] of Ukraine didn't do that anymore, the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] did not. The vertical lines of control were gone. The courts, the prosecutors, the responsibility vanished. These were the people who pulled out their party cards and threw them away, because tomorrow they would have thousands and thousands of dollars. They didn't give two hoots about ideas.

This was one of the preconditions for the state the economy ended up in. That, in its turn, inspired social tension, which today is being exploited by those who want a return to the past. The West either did not want [to help], or could not. I would say, that they both could not and did not want to. Could not, because the symptoms of egoism are tangible everywhere. I'm here, and I see them. There is that standard of living, which nobody would like to give up, in their whole lives. There is a standard to which the entire mentality of the American is oriented. He must have a car, he must have a house, he must have this, this, this, and this. The whole array. I have an image of the drawers in a bureau. This goes here, that goes there, the shelves, the drawers, everything has to be equipped just so. Otherwise, he'd have to give up a few drawers, in the name of, in fact, his own well-being.

I stress this. Because the cost will be significantly higher later, just as people had to pay after World War I, and in World War II. America was far away, she was pulled into it, and the consequences were palpable.

Now we are encountering replays of a different quality, which was not there before. The world has not known such cruelty, as is now coming to light along the lines of conflict between the Russian Empire and the other, democratically inclined nations—with Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan. The world has not known such forms of cruelty. This is not comparable with what we know about Vietnam, what we know

about fascism. This is cruelty of another form. The individual person does not exist. He is annihilated. (This echoes the theme of the conference we are taking part in here.) Man does not exist. Man is nothing. I have seen the most horrific videotapes. It's not that they make you reflect. Rather, they evoke in you disgust toward man. Man is destroyed. Man is humiliated, and in his humiliation, he is nobody. This is the degradation of man, to an extreme degree. These are forms of degradation and humiliation of man, for which there are no analogies.

Why am I spending so much time on this point? Because the events now starting have consequences which are unpredictable, for Russia and for Ukraine. Because today, perhaps the only conflict into which the world would be dragged would be a Ukrainian-Russian war. Or Russian-Ukrainian, to be more precise, because Ukraine has no pretensions and lacks that mentality of messianism, those priorities, and that saturation with the ideology [that] Bolshevism was involved with. The Russian was of great value for that system, because it was a weapon of a *big* ideology, a worldwide ideology. It was an experiment on a world scale.

I think that big politics is paying no attention to the fact that today it is really necessary to support Yeltsin, and not sacrifice him the way I, as a politician, believe he has already been sacrificed in effect (as, in his time, Gorbachov was sacrificed). This was also a game on a chessboard, which was lost. I am speaking about this not with sympathy, but as an analyst looking at how a chess game was played out.

I can foresee how events will develop. There will be a military coup, which America will applaud. Then there will follow a chain reaction of coups in other states, Ukraine in particular. This is the worst variant. The game could also be played in a subtler way. But, as a rule, big politics is not subtle. It is very crude.

Therefore, what is now being played out in the Russian parliament should have galvanized the entire world public. A clear position should have been announced, of support for Ukraine. I stress this, because by stabilizing the situation in Ukraine, first and foremost—as a nuclear power with strategic nuclear forces, and as a major European nation with a democratic orientation—it would be possible to stop what is now looming: an inexorable conflict for which no preventive measures will avail.

To stop the national democratic movement in Ukraine, it would now be necessary not only to destroy the opposition, but to inflict devastating destruction and introduce chaos. And that will inexorably lead to consequences, as a chain reaction, in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, etc. It will reach the Paris metro. There will be shoot-outs there. Today, the greatest danger in the criminal world is the mafia from Kiev, from Moscow. All the problems faced today by the security services are problems with these mafias, which steal, which traffic in narcotics, or stolen cars, or stolen commodities.

This is a very serious system, capable of destabilizing

Europe. And this is against the backdrop of a flood of refugees; God forbid that it come to pass. And the world then will not be able to protect itself. To try and think up plans for this variant is insanity. How many refugees will France accept from Ukraine, Poland, or Romania? This is insanity. Because there will be no plans. Everything will be swept away. It won't be like the Second World War. This is a completely different hand to be dealt.

**Shovkoshitny:** Simply a different world.

**Movchan:** Yes. And, I emphasize again, Ukraine is now of the first magnitude, in the geopolitical draw. I say this not because I am Ukrainian, but because I am conscious of this, as a politician. Not Russia! It is necessary to support, to strengthen the security, to give guarantees, to conduct negotiations today, and through Ukraine to influence Russia. Not the other way around. To try and influence Ukraine through Yeltsin means to do him a disservice. The only ploy remaining for Yeltsin in his struggle for power, is to launch a campaign against Ukraine.

**EIR:** Have you found anybody, either in America or in Europe, who understands this the way you do?

**Movchan:** Not yet. We have only found you. Or, we hope we have found someone in you.

There may be such figures. I know of, for example, the jurist Robert McConnell. He heads an organization called Ukraine-2000. And there are perhaps some other politicians, judging by what they have said. I could even name [Zbigniew] Brzezinski, by the way. To pay him his due, he understands this. But it is another question whether Clinton and his entourage understand, whether they want to understand, or if they don't want to, for the reasons LaRouche has stated. He surmises that there will be a big slaughter, to wipe out the population and have fewer people to bother with. This resembles what Stalin did, in his time. If there are no people, there are no problems.

But there are people, there are states, there is Ukraine. This is the shield that can guarantee security for Europe and the world. Therefore I think that politicians who will read my reflections, might in the near future convoke a conference on the security of Ukraine, Europe, and the world.

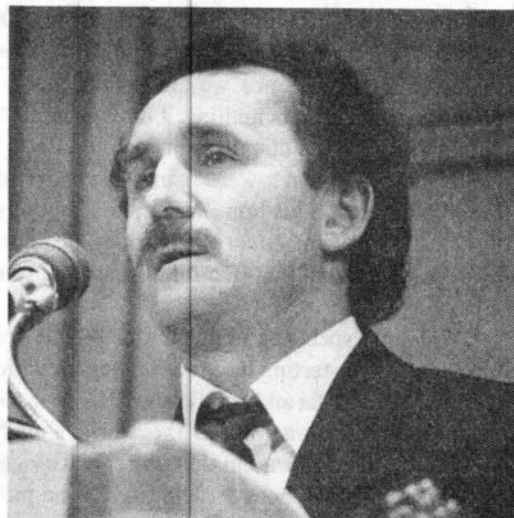
**EIR:** Mr. Shovkoshitny, I think it would be interesting for you to expand on the theme you began to speak about yesterday at the conference. The Russian press has launched propaganda about the supposed inability of Ukrainians to take good care of the nuclear weapons in Ukraine. You have expertise on these matters.

**Shovkoshitny:** I would answer by saying that the Ukrainians at one time made a very big mistake. They permitted the Kievan Prince Yuri Dolgoruky to found Moscow.

I would like to remind you, that no such thing as the 1,000-year history of Russia exists in nature. There exists the 1,500-year history of Ukraine. Kiev is more than 1,500



*Pavlo Movchan (left) and Volodymyr Shovoshitny, members of the Ukrainian Parliament. "The world has not known such cruelty, as is now coming to light along the lines of conflict between the Russian Empire and the other, democratically inclined nations."*



years old. I would also like to say, that at a time when the concept "Moscow" did not exist and there existed no concept of "Russia," Ukrainians had the biggest state in Europe, which was called Kievan Rus. With time, after the invasion of the Tatar Horde, the Muscovite Kingdom was formed, and it proceeded to expand far and wide.

How did this growth start? Not with fighting the Mongol-Tatars. It began by conquest of its only democratic neighbor, the Novgorod Principality. Novgorod had democracy, with a *veche*, a democratic form of rule. Novgorod was destroyed, as was Pskov, which supported Novgorod. That's how it began. And from there followed what they called "The Unification of the Russian Lands." That is, there does not exist some historical territory of Russia. And even the name "Russia," Muscovy stole from Ukraine, from Rus. For Kievan Rus is Ukraine.

And so they became "Russians." These were not the Slavic tribes, which in their time formed the Belarussian people and Ukraine. It is rather a mix of Ugro-Finnic peoples, from Mordvins, Chuvash, with some portion of Slavic peoples. And the Russian state, from its inception, was patterned on despotism of the eastern type, imported from the Tartars. Secondly, the state was formed and expanded exclusively by one method: robbery from neighboring peoples, the seizure of neighboring territories.

Thus, in Ukraine there already existed a democratic state and it was a rare Cossack girl who was illiterate. The Cossacks were literate to a man. Bohdan Khmelnytsky knew six languages. Each of the Cossack elders knew Ukrainian, Polish, Latin, and Turkish.

**Movchan:** And German.

**Shovkoshitny:** Well, many also knew German. But every one of them knew those four languages.

When Bohdan Khmelnytsky signed a treaty with Russia [in the 17th century], establishing an observer from the Muscovite czar in two Ukrainian cities, Czar Aleksei Mikhailov-

ich had a chancellor and a scribe who could sign in writing. All the others were afraid to write, and just put a cross. And now, the descendants of those boyars say that Ukrainians are incapable of creating a great power, that there's something wrong with Ukrainians, that Ukrainians are this, that, and the other.

I am not a Russophobe. I myself lived in that country for a long time. I attended two Moscow institutes. I worked for four years in the Far East. I know that people rather well. But at the level of daily-life consciousness of the Russian, there is genetically embedded a striving to seize the territory of others. A striving to create a great, united, indivisible Russia.

You know very well, that at the moment of disintegration of the Soviet Union, the West had no concept of "Ukrainian," "Kazakh," "Armenian," or "Georgian." They were all "Russian." There was an effort to assimilate all these peoples, so that we all would play the balalaika, and of course drink vodka. That was the genotype of the Soviet person, who was called "Russian."

Then what happened, happened. Independent states were formed, including the Russian state. With the collapse of that empire, Russia took it upon itself to declare willfully that it was the heir and legal successor of the Soviet Union. By this means, Russia obtained a vote on the United Nations Security Council. It grabbed all the property of the former Soviet Union, located abroad. It grabbed the gold reserve of that country, a reserve we had all created together—Georgians, Kazakhs, Ukrainians, Russians, and the others. But when it comes, say, to Chernobyl, then Russia says, "No, here we are not the legal successors. We suffered from Chernobyl."

Furthermore, Russia took the lion's share of the armaments of the former Soviet Union. Now the West proposes that we hand our nuclear weapons over to Russia. Ukraine today is the third nuclear power, in the military sense, in the world. Ukraine is the only nuclear power to have voluntarily

declared its intention to become a non-nuclear power, and a neutral state. Under what circumstances, logically, would this be justified? Only if Ukraine's security, the inviolability of its borders, and its very existence were guaranteed. Only then.

What are we facing today? America, England, and France are pressuring Ukraine, singing along with Russia, to hand over its nuclear weapons to Russia, to a country that has official, territorial pretensions against us. Yeltsin's latest bit of merriment in this connection is to declare that the Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will be Russian. The President announced that, officially. [Russian Vice President Aleksandr] Rutskoy, without working it out with the leadership of Ukraine, flies to Crimea, visits the Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. Deputies from the Russian Parliament show up to fan passions in Crimea, in order to tear Crimea away from Ukraine.

But Crimea is only the visible part of the iceberg. Seven-eighths of the iceberg is under water. Russia has pretensions toward Odessa, Kherson, Nikolayevsk, Lugansk, Donetsk, and even Zaporozhye Oblasts, and of course Kharkov, i.e., toward the entire southeast of Ukraine. In that area, you see, the Russian-speaking population is supposedly being "Ukrainianized" by force. But I will tell you what "Ukrainianization" of the Russian-speaking population means. In Donetsk Oblast, where the population exceeds 1 million, there is one single Ukrainian school, which for two years we have been trying to maintain and protect from dying, which is what the local authorities want. In Lugansk, a city of 1 million, there is not a single Ukrainian school. There is not a single Ukrainian school in Crimea, nor a single official Ukrainian newspaper, nor a single Ukrainian program on television, nor a single radio broadcast. There is *nothing* Ukrainian in all of Crimea. Among the 2.5 million population of Crimea, there live 750,000 Ukrainians. Those are the ones who register themselves as Ukrainians. There are also people who register as Russians, because in the former times of total Russification this was profitable, so as not to feel that one was a second-class person. Only a nationally conscious person, who somewhere in his soul was a patriot, would remain a Ukrainian and say so. Up to the present day, it is very difficult to hear Ukrainian spoken in these regional centers. All the teaching in schools, vocational schools, and at the universities is in Russian. And they are shouting about forced Ukrainianization! Name me even one Ukrainian school for the 7 million Ukrainians in Russia. There are none. Name me an institute. None. Even in the places densely populated by Ukrainians, there are none.

This is how the state of Russian-Ukrainian relations looks today. The world's third nuclear power, Ukraine, has decided to stand up for its normal, human right to sufficient security. If it happens that Ukraine is forced, including as a result of the current composition of the parliament, which has a communist, pro-Moscow majority, to disarm, this inevitably will lead to the conflict, about which my colleague Mr. Movchan was speaking. Having the kind of internal problems that

it does, Russia will be forced to open an emergency stop to let off steam. This is in Machiavelli, it's classic, it's ABC. In America and in Europe, it should be known that Ukrainians learned their ABCs. We have our own alphabet, and many of us have learned the English alphabet as well.

I would like to conclude with some observations. Here, too, at your conference, there was a stereotyped attitude toward Ukraine. Ukraine was greeted with ecstasy at the conference, as a country that had achieved its independence. Independence from whom? From Russia! This should be known and this should be heard. All the dependence, Ukraine's, Georgia's, of the whole Transcaucasus, the Baltic, Central Asia, was from one country—not from the Soviet Union, but from Russia. Because [in the words of the Soviet state hymn], "the unbreakable union of free states was forged forever by *Great Russia!*"

It is from Russia that we became free. And as the metropolis, Russia will constantly strive to take back territory. Without losing a war, Russia lost a huge amount of territory. Whoever may prevail in the conflict for power within Russia just now, Yeltsin or [Speaker of the Parliament Ruslan] Khasbulatov (and Khasbulatov, by the way, would be driven out the minute he took over, because he is a foreigner, he's not Russian, but Chechen; and they already had a Georgian, Dzhugashvili [Stalin], so they've had that experience and they'll never leave Khasbulatov in place; they'll use him, and get rid of him), in that battle between the old *nomenklatura* and the *nomenklatura* of the moment, things will be hard for Ukraine.

We are strongly dependent on Russia for fuels. Russia exploits this, although Russia is also strongly dependent on us, as a customer for those fuels, but also because all the pipes and equipment for the oil pipelines come from us in Ukraine.

It is necessary for the world to accept Ukraine as a self-sufficient geopolitical quantity. But people view Ukraine through the prism of Moscow. Ukraine must be viewed through Kiev. It is a state with a 1,500-year history of civilization. It is the biggest European country, with an enormous scientific and technological potential. It is a barrier on the path of Russia, which historically has always been aggressive, into Europe. Europe ends, dear people, not at the Ural, but along the line of the Don, where Ukraine ends.

The future of the world depends on what happens between Ukraine and Russia. This is not the Balkans, which, incidentally, proved that America and the world community are incapable of defending man, of defending a people; we see what is happening in Bosnia and Hercegovina. Ukraine and Russia together have a population of over 200 million. They are the second and the third nuclear powers in the world. Even if Ukraine's nuclear weapons were carted off to Russia, they would still be the first and the third countries, with regard to the military, in the world. Every politician should take this into account.