

## Bush 'Trojan horse' usurps U.S. policy toward Russia

by William Jones

President William Clinton, on numerous occasions, perhaps most symbolically in his meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the Franklin Roosevelt home in Hyde Park, New York, in October 1995, announced that he viewed the U.S. relationship with Russia as a "partnership." Harkening back to the Roosevelt policy of the war years, the Clinton administration has attempted to deal with Russia as a sovereign nation, with its own national interests and purpose. The "good intentions" of that policy have, however, taken a back seat to implicit and explicit support for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity policies, policies now pushing Russian industry and agriculture to the point of irremediable collapse.

At the same time, U.S. Republican Party operatives, working through the International Republican Institute (IRI), have been given a free hand to deal with Russia as if it were a colonial satrapy, trying to impose intrusive external controls and preponderant foreign influence in order to force down the throats of the Russian people the IMF-dictated "free-market" austerity policies. As Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche commented recently at an international seminar in Oberwesel, Germany, "The International Republican Institute, which is a Kissinger-related, National Endowment for Democracy-related operation, controlled by Bush-league Republicans, controls most of the politics, street politics, in terms of government, in St. Petersburg and in Moscow. And, the biggest disaster the Clinton administration has, in its relations with Russia, the biggest disaster we have in terms of our dealing with Russia, happens to be these damn Republicans who are running loose there. And, the United States government has no effective counter to the Republican control over most U.S. influence inside Moscow." This includes

the Bush-league U.S. ambassador, Thomas Pickering, a close collaborator of the IRI in Russia. Unless these operations are quickly dismantled, they will spell the ruin of any constructive Russia policy on the part of the Administration.

### What is the IRI?

In 1989, the Berlin Wall came down. The reunification of Germany and the break-up of the Warsaw Pact set off reverberations within the Soviet Union. After the August 1991 coup attempt failed, the nations comprising the Soviet Union moved for independence. One month later, the U.S.-based IRI held a forum in Moscow, entitled "Building the Foundations of Political Pluralism." Working primarily at that time with the Democratic Russia Movement, a loose coalition of some 30 parties and civic organizations, the IRI set up shop in Moscow.

The IRI is the Republican wing of an institution established in 1983 entitled the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The NED describes itself as "a nonprofit, bipartisan, grant-making organization," whose aim is to "strengthen democratic institutions around the world through nongovernmental efforts." Funded by an annual Congressional appropriation, "the Endowment's worldwide grants program assists organizations abroad—including political parties, business, labor, civic education, media, human rights and other groups—that are working for democratic goals." The NED was established as a "private" entity, in order to shield it from Freedom of Information Act inquiries and unpleasant government audits.

As government secret operations were coming under more intense scrutiny by the Congress during the 1970s, it was deemed desirable to "privatize" many intelligence operations,

making them immune to Congressional oversight—and constraints. The legislation establishing the NED created an entirely new entity, called the “quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization,” or quango, for short. Under the legislation, four quangos were set up: the IRI for the Republicans, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs for the Democrats, the Center for International Enterprise for business, and the Free Trade Union Institute for labor.

Although much of the activity of these quangos was still funded through the government-sponsored NED and the U.S. Agency for International Development, the organizations could also accept private monies. The creation of the quangos, however, didn't completely shield their operations from public scrutiny. When it became apparent that elements of the Reagan National Security Council, led by Vice President George Bush, were, in their “democratic” endeavors, financing the drug-running Contras in Nicaragua under the NED umbrella, an outcry led to the Irangate hearings. Calls for dismantling the NED were, unfortunately, defeated in Congress.

## The Bushmen

Under the Bush administration, this apparatus controlled the levers of government power. As the “wall” came down in eastern Europe, the Bush administration, in close collaboration with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, used the quangos to put operations on the ground in the newly independent countries of eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. If “free market” economics were rapidly introduced into the newly independent states, the resources and raw materials of the East could be picked up by Western companies at bargain-basement prices. Prospective “clients” in the East European and CIS states were rapidly brought to the United States for veritable brainwashing, primarily conducted at the Republican think-tanks, while operatives from these same think-tanks with the appropriate linguistic skills were sent to the target countries to proselytize.

Already, prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union, the U.S. Department of Justice, under Bush Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, had begun collaborating with their Soviet counterparts in order to establish what Thornburgh characterized as the “rule of law” in Russia.

This invoking of the “rule of law” was particularly ironic, coming from Thornburgh. His “Thornburgh Doctrine” claimed U.S. supranational sovereignty over other, smaller nations, and led, in Mexico and Panama, to literal kidnappings of targets of the U.S. Department of Justice. Thornburgh left the Attorney General's post when top aides were convicted of cocaine trafficking and use, while serving in the Bush DOJ.

The initial contacts for this collaboration stemmed from far-reaching cooperation set up in the 1970s under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger between Soviet authorities and the Justice Department Office of Special Investigations, the self-proclaimed “Nazi-hunters,” who proceeded to turn over U.S.

citizens of East European origin to Soviet authorities on fraudulent allegations of “war crimes.” In some instances, these U.S. citizens were summarily executed by Soviet authorities.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, the attempt was made to engage in “democracy building” in the individual CIS states, in order to secure a foothold for Western companies to begin looting operations. Much of this activity was done directly through the IRI, but orbiting the IRI were a series of Republican think-tanks, such as the Heritage Foundation, the Cato Institute, and the American Enterprise Institute, all radical free-market proponents of Mont Pelerin Society “gangster capitalism” and the underground economy, which conducted their own operations in the newly independent states.

Russian and eastern European economists were brought to the United States, imbued with the virtues of the British free-market “reforms,” and then sent back to their countries, providing a cadre to build support for the “reform” policy. The pathetic former Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, perhaps one of the great “success stories” of the Heritage Foundation training, told a forum at Heritage's Washington headquarters in 1993: “We remember that Heritage supported us long before it was fashionable to do so in the West.”

## New policy, old faces

One would assume that, with the inauguration of a Democratic President, things would be put under new management. Not so—or, at least, not entirely. The same old faces are still to be seen; the IRI remains the key player. With the demise of the Bush administration, the IRI received an influx of “trained hands” who had extensive contacts from their stint in government, and who were intent on maintaining their leverage in the CIS and eastern European nations. IRI's president, Lorne Craner, for example, led the fight for Contra financing as a Senate aide and served in the Bush administration as deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs and as director of Asian Affairs at the National Security Council.

In fact, the IRI board of directors is a virtual Who's Who of the Bush administration—and Kissinger's closet—including Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser; Lawrence Eagleburger, Bush's deputy secretary of state and one of the key people in establishing the NED; and Janet Mullins, who was assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs in the Bush White House. James Baker III, Bush's secretary of state, received the IRI Freedom Award and was very active in helping monitor elections in Mongolia. His son, James Baker IV, was a member of the IRI delegation to Russia in 1993. Thornburgh, who had been Bush's Attorney General, led several IRI monitoring delegations to the Russian elections, utilizing the legal and judicial networks he had built up while serving as Attorney General.

IRI has established two main offices in Russia, in Moscow and St. Petersburg, concentrating its activity in 15 districts. The Heritage Foundation, one of the many “asteroids” of the Republican network, set up its only office outside the United

States in Moscow, in January 1993. According to its own reports, the Heritage Foundation holds a monthly summit at its Moscow headquarters with reformers, businessmen, and journalists. Initially, the office was run by an American, Jeffrey Gayner. Recently, however, it has "russified" its operations, with Gayner being replaced by a Russian, Yevgeni Volk. The Russian director for the Heritage Moscow operations is Vitali Naishul, an on-again, off-again economics adviser to Gen. Aleksandr Lebed.

## Watchdogs

The IRI has been especially keen on controlling the Russian elections. Already in April 1993, an IRI team was sent to Russia to monitor the referendum that was to endorse a continuation of the Yeltsin Presidency. They then issued a report calling for changes in the Russian election law. Amazingly, the IRI recommendations were published in *Izvestia* and later introduced on the floor of the Duma by some of its "pro-democratic" members. Many of the recommendations were adopted as a part of the Russian election laws. On a trip to Washington on March 29, 1995, in a meeting on Capitol Hill, Aleksandr Ivanchenko, vice chairman of Russian Central Election Commission, commented that "the report provided by IRI's international observer delegation served as the road map for the CEC in making improvements to the election law."

Some of the IRI recommendations were relatively innocuous. Others could only be considered a rather brute force interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. The IRI made it a point to maintain a system of "international observers," making IRI and similar "monitoring" a permanent part of the Russian electoral process to ensure there would be no serious electoral opposition to the IMF policies. This system of "watchdogs," as Thornburgh, head of the IRI "monitors" to the 1995 elections, termed it, "provides an important new check and balance" in Russia.

(Thornburgh played a leading role in the political railroad against U.S. Democratic Presidential candidate LaRouche, which led to a 15-year jail sentence for LaRouche on trumped-up charges. The smear campaign against LaRouche that facilitated the railroad prosecution, was coordinated with senior officials of the NED's "Public Diplomacy" group, including Anglophile banker John Train.)

The IRI also recommended that "military officers should be removed from civic education and all other aspects of the voting process to avoid concerns regarding influence." They even proposed that Russia adopt Racketeering and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) laws, allegedly to deal with the problems of organized crime.

In June 1996, a major scandal erupted when it was revealed that Yeltsin had used a team of U.S. "consultants" and "pollsters" to surreptitiously run his election campaign, a campaign characterized by McCarthy-style "red-baiting." Looking at the extent of the IRI operations in the Duma elec-

tions, one sees that the scandalous case of Yeltsin consultants Richard Dresner and Co. are only the tip of the iceberg.

Is this frenetic activity really generated by concern for "democracy" in Russia, as the perpetrators claim? When one examines the IRI board of directors and its major contributors, including Texaco, Mobil Oil, Chevron, and other major oil and minerals companies, suspicions are raised that the loot provided by the vast amount of raw materials available in Russia at bargain-basement prices is the motivating force for these concerns for "democracy." While IRI focusses on keeping the electoral situation under control, Heritage and other foundations work to influence the laws on privatization, land ownership, and energy policy, all of which would keep Russian patrimony "open for business"—and exploitation.

According to the IRI, 20 of its "trainees" ran for seats in the Duma in 1993. Twelve of these won election. In the December 1995 elections, 400 trainees worked on campaigns, either as candidates or as advisers to candidates.

From 1991 to January 1994, the IRI boasts, 1,300 people participated in 31 IRI seminars and numerous one-on-one consultations. It has trained 45 candidates for local office, and several hundred campaign workers since regional elections began in January 1994. Over 1994-95, it trained more than 3,000 party activists. According to IRI, 35% of the "reformers" in the Duma are beneficiaries of IRI training. Nationwide, it claims that reformers won "nearly half the seats in cities with active IRI programs," although "reformers" won only one-fifth of the Duma seats.

While these Republican "asteroids" in Russia are fanning anti-Americanism, in the United States they are part of the British monarchy's campaign to destroy the institutional power of the U.S. Presidency.

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that President Clinton's appointee to the U.S. embassy in Moscow, Thomas Pickering, was himself deeply involved in the Bush-era Iran-Contra operations, while ambassador to El Salvador. Pickering had also been Bush's UN ambassador, helping to bring together the needed support for the Bush-Thatcher Persian Gulf war. Concerning his old buddies in the IRI, Pickering says, "The embassy continues to work very closely with IRI's Russia office, and we appreciate IRI's excellent work here."

As LaRouche noted in his Oberwesel speech, "The problem is, that in world politics today, there are only two big powers: the United States and China, big nations that have a certain degree of sovereignty against the other big power, the British Commonwealth and its instrument, the world government of the UN. Russia does not have sovereignty; it can achieve sovereignty only with help from the outside, from the United States." If the IRI is permitted to continue its activity in Russia, it will totally discredit U.S. policy in the eyes of the Russian people, who will tend to blame the U.S. President for the operations conducted by his most bitter enemies to deprive Russia of its sovereignty.