

country, reports are coming in that a real “buying frenzy” has erupted, and that the Russians are spending their dollars to buy cars, furniture, refrigerators, and other durable goods. Apparently, the psychological bond of the Russian population to the dollar has been broken, and this has been admitted openly by Russian media. Russia’s banks are issuing fewer credits in dollars, while they are increasing their ruble credits. The more this development continues, the less will Russia be affected by a dollar crisis.

## Behind The Threat To Russia’s President Putin

by Mark Burdman

In the late August-early September period, an ominous new threat has been launched, against the life of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The transparent coordinator of this threat is Russian “oligarch” and criminal wheeler-dealer, Boris Berezovsky, who has announced an “Autumn propaganda war” against Putin. As *EIR* has reported, Berezovsky has resolved to have Putin out of power, by the end of the year. *EIR* investigations have determined, that Berezovsky is the tool of powerful American and British intelligence interests, as well as of the networks of mega-speculator George Soros.

The mounting threat must be seen in the context of desperation at the highest levels of the New York-Washington-London financier-political elites, in reaction to the accelerating global economic collapse. As the British oligarchy did a century ago, in such circumstances, in setting the triggers for World War I, these elites react by unleashing “geopolitical” provocations aimed at undermining the keystone powers of Eurasia. Their objective is to prevent the coming-into-being of a Eurasian group, that would respond to the current crisis, by adopting policies in line with the Eurasian Land-Bridge program advocated, today, by Lyndon LaRouche.

In recent months, Putin has shown himself to be a skilled statesman, who has been steering his country away from economic collapse, and bringing Russia into effective relationships with continental Europe and with China, India, and other nations of Asia and Central Asia. Reports from Russia, are that he is bringing former Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, a key architect of a “Eurasian” policy for Russia, into a prominent foreign policy position. As we have been reporting, the Putin government has also been taking measures to phase out dependency on the dollar as a currency, and to reintroduce gold as a key vehicle for savings and monetary transactions.

This combination of policies does not amuse the relevant Anglo-American berserkers. An extremely well-informed British expert on Russian affairs told *EIR* Sept. 5: “I am sure there is a very considerable threat to the life of President Putin.

There are people determined to get rid of him, and Putin knows it. The campaign against him is calculated and organized, and is the key to a plan to destabilize Russia. Putin has proven to be cool, calm, and collected, as a Russian leader, and this has some people very irritated.” This source stressed, that the threats to Putin come at a time when there is a “tumultuous and almost-seismic debate in Russia, over the future of the country; things are delicate. Putin, with great skill, is trying to simultaneously build up relations with Europe and with China.” This is being done, in the face of a chorus of voices from Anglo-American assets, against a “Eurasian” policy for Russia.

### ‘Silence Will Kill Him’

The lead edge of the anti-Putin offensive, is the publication, during the week of Aug. 27, of a 24-page extract, in the scandal-sheet newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, from a book, to be published in October in Russia. The excerpt alleges vast crimes—ranging from terrorism and assassinations of Russian political figures, to instigation of the war in Chechnya in the Northern Caucasus—by the FSB, the successor to the KGB, in the period leading up to, and after, Putin’s 1998 assumption of the position of FSB chief.

The book has been co-authored by one Yuri Felshtinsky, an American citizen, and former FSB Lt. Col. Alexander Litvinenko, who was formally accorded political refugee status in Great Britain in May 2001. But it is known throughout informed Russian circles, that the bankroller and patron of the Felshtinsky-Litvinenko enterprise, is Berezovsky. A senior Russian strategist told *EIR* on Sept. 5, that the *Novaya Gazeta* extract and upcoming book, should be seen as “masterpieces of Berezovsky propaganda.”

Immediately after the *Novaya Gazeta* extract appeared, the Russian daily *Sovietskaya Rossiya* ran an article on the book entitled “Silence Can Be Dangerous,” warning Putin that he must respond to this provocation; this article appeared on the Strana.ru website on Sept. 4. *Sovietskaya Rossiya* wrote: “The book is full of facts, telephone numbers, names, and analytical and operational reports from the FSB. At first glance, the book may seem to be written by Litvinenko. The real authors are Russian businessman in exile Boris Berezovsky and the CIA. The tycoon who hates Putin for his own forced isolation and disgrace has thrown this book at the President like a bomb. It is a shell of enormous destructive force targetted directly at Putin’s Kremlin office. Silence on the President’s [part] will mean that the blast will kill him.”

On Sept. 4, the *Moscow Times* daily ran a piece on the book, including an interview with Felshtinsky from London from the previous week, in which the latter defended the book’s charges, and said, revealingly, that the book “is the story about how the FSB, in a multi-step operation, put an end to [former President Boris] Yeltsin’s reforms.” These “reforms” were the worst sorts of “free market” and “Thatcherite” policies which looted and ruined Russia’s economy in



*Explosive new scandal-threats are thrown at Russian President Putin (at right, at UN signing of U.S.-Russian oil exploration agreement). The threats are transparently aimed at restoring Boris Yeltsin's policy of privatization "reforms," which wrecked Russia to the benefit of speculators and mafias.*

the 1990s; the backers of the attack on Putin want to force a return to those disastrous "reforms."

*Moscow Times* also wrote: "Oleg Gordievsky, a former KGB officer who defected to Britain in 1985, said by telephone from London that he has read the manuscript and trusted the information." Gordievsky, veteran *EIR* readers will remember, was vigorously denounced by LaRouche, in the 1980s, as a conduit for Anglo-American disinformation. Acting in that capacity, Gordievsky wrote a November 2000 article, first published in the Hollinger Corporation-owned London *Daily Telegraph*, entitled, "Putin May Be Worse Than We Think."

### **The George Soros Connection**

The basics of the Litvinenko biography are most interesting. In 1998, soon before Putin became head of the FSB, Litvinenko gave a press conference, claiming that he had received "illegal orders" for certain operations, including to kill Boris Berezovsky! According to high-level Russian sources, he had already been, or was soon thereafter, bought up by Berezovsky. When Putin took over the FSB, Litvinenko was arrested, and released in 2000, under agreement that he would not leave Russia. But, he soon did so, illegally, turning up in Great Britain.

According to Russian press accounts, he was helped to defect from Russia by one Alexander Goldfarb, a Russian emigré and employee of George Soros. Goldfarb directs a Soros-funded program, nominally aimed at fighting tuberculosis. That itself has a certain irony, given that Soros-funded "shock therapy" and "reform" programs in Russia, have been instrumental in expediting the spread of tuberculosis!

When Litvinenko fled Russia in 2000, he teamed up with Goldfarb in Turkey, in what was, most likely, an operation jointly cooked up by Berezovsky and Soros. Officially, Goldfarb served as his interpreter. Beyond that, he arranged for Litvinenko to procure a New York lawyer, and for him to go to Great Britain.

Felshinsky, meanwhile, is a curious bird. He emigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States in 1978, and, after some time, became an American citizen. In 1993, after writing a doctoral dissertation, he became the first citizen of a foreign state to receive the status of "Doctor" from the Russian Academy of Sciences. He has written a handful of books that were published in London, and presumes to be a leading expert on, and manager of key archives about Leon Trotsky.

### **'Berezovsky Is Well-Connected'**

What makes this all the more dangerous, is that Berezovsky is hardly a lone operative. The above-cited Britain-based expert commented to *EIR*: "I find the emergence of this new book to be very ominous. Berezovsky is desperate, as he knows the net is closing in on him, and he has a vendetta against Putin. Worse than that, Berezovsky is very well-connected here in Britain. He has a base of operations in London, an office and a house there, and a vast array of financial contacts."

Preliminary investigations by *EIR*, indicate close connections of Berezovsky to Australian news magnate Rupert Murdoch, and to such U.S.-based creatures as televangelist swindler Pat Robertson, "junk bond king" Michael Milken, and Robert Strauss, who was the "King of Thieves," when he was the senior George Bush's Ambassador in Moscow.