

eign Minister Maher was asked by *EIR* whether Egypt would not take the initiative in mobilizing forces worldwide around a conference calling for a “dialogue of cultures.” This is being initiated by Iran’s President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami in an attempt to bring together intellectuals from Muslim, Christian, and Jewish cultures to discuss the nature of man, made in the image of God, which unites these different religious beliefs.

EIR’s correspondent asked, “I know there is today a conference in Egypt on this topic. But would it not be an important initiative to counter the effects of the ‘clash of civilizations’ propaganda, and given such widespread propaganda in the mass media, to organize an international conference on the ‘dialogue of cultures’? There would undoubtedly be a positive response to such an initiative from the Vatican, and an invitation might be sent to the appropriate people in Israel, to engage them in such a dialogue concomitant with the political efforts to bring about negotiations on the Middle East.”

Foreign Minister Maher replied, “I think this is an excellent idea that should be taken up, and I promise you that we will look into it, because I think it would be a very, very good thing to have people from different religions, different civilizations, sit and talk to each other.” He added, “Already there have been some efforts at this. I think there has been a call for some conferences in different parts of the world, regionally, and I think they will be helpful. But an international conference should be also very helpful.”

Indeed, a call was issued on Oct. 15 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the Schiller Institute in Germany, urging just such an international conference for a “Dialogue Of Cultures” (see *EIR*, Oct. 26, 2001).

The bombs set off in Jerusalem and Haifa just prior to Prime Minister Sharon’s planned meeting with President Bush on Dec. 10, have, conveniently for Sharon, effectively postponed a major push by the Bush Administration to get the recalcitrant Israeli leader back to the negotiating table. The meeting, in which, according to all preliminary reports, President Bush would have begun exerting the appropriate pressure to get Sharon to cooperate with General Zinni’s mission, was, at Sharon’s request, significantly curtailed, allegedly to allow him to return quickly to Israel to decide on retaliatory measures to the bombings. In the conditions created by the bombing, however, Powell and Bush were able to do little more than caution Sharon against taking any radical measures which would effectively foreclose peace possibilities.

But, given the personal propensities of Ariel Sharon, who would sooner plunge the entire region into war than negotiate with Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, more than cautionary words will be needed. The Bush Administration will have to start exerting a lot more muscle in order to thwart the present plunge toward a new conflagration in the Middle East.

Interview: Tatyana Koryagina

We Must Win The War Vs. The Coup Plotters

Prof. Tatyana Koryagina, an Academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, is Senior Scientist of the Institute for Macroeconomic Research at the Ministry of Economics and Trade Development of the Russian Federation. Her investigations into Russian (and international) organized crime, especially, have made her widely known beyond Russia’s borders. She was one of the speakers at the EIR conference, “What To Do When The Economic-Financial Meltdown Hits,” in Berlin, on Nov. 5 (see EIR, Nov. 16, for her speech). She spoke with Hartmut Cramer on Nov. 8:

EIR: How do you see the situation in Russia, both economically and politically, after Sept. 11?

Koryagina: Of course, the situation in Russia is a highly unusual one. On the one side, we have very good, visible results in the economy: a rather high growth of the GDP, of industrial products, and less unemployment. This year, we created many jobs in different branches of industry, and we therefore experienced growth in many branches of our industry; the same goes for Russia’s agricultural sector. Also, investments in these sectors are quite good; but all of this, of course, has to be seen *relative to last year*.

We have many problems in the social sphere, practically in everything which is connected to the so-called “social infrastructure.” The budgets of our provinces are not sufficient to repair, or even maintain, for example, the infrastructure to deliver hot water, or to pay for the electricity, which the objects of “social infrastructure,” such as hospitals, schools, etc., urgently need. The debts of our municipal powers are really huge: debts owed especially to the central energy conglomerate headed by [ultra-liberal Anatoli] Chubais, which created many difficulties between local powers and the central government. At some point, even the Army had to intervene, to prevent Chubais’ company [UES] from cutting off the electricity from the people. Last year this happened several times; this Autumn, so far, only once.

It is clear, that in such a situation, a social explosion can very easily erupt. If President [Vladimir] Putin cannot solve these problems, which clearly are the results of the process of “liberalization” of the economy, then he will be in trouble. If this Winter is as hard as last year, then Putin will face a very serious situation. The situation is so complex, that you can see in Putin’s policy so many different tendencies.



Dr. Koryagina, at the Nov. 5 seminar in Berlin. "My real wish is, that we win the war against the ugly international coup plotters. They are powerful and dangerous, but they are not invincible; for the sake of humanity, we have to win this war against them."

EIR: You said at the Berlin seminar, that "there are many Putins," not just one. Can you please explain this?

Koryagina: We see one President Putin, when he goes to the simple people; we feel that he really cares for them. But then we see another Putin, who looks to the West, in particular to [President George] Bush, not so much with an "open mouth" full of astonishment, like [former President Mikhail] Gorbachov did, but nevertheless, he looks to the West. And especially our intellectuals, but also our simple people fear, that Putin might be influenced too much by Western politicians, that he will even capitulate to them. Then there is a third Putin, the one of the oligarchs, who managed to push through their tax reform. But, right now, this particular picture is changing, because we might see a new phase, where Putin goes against the oligarchs: He seriously starts to fight corruption, and he even moves against [Boris] Berezovsky, who, on behalf of Putin, is being sought by Interpol.

After Sept. 11, we saw still another Putin, who first allowed the United States to fly its planes with humanitarian cargo over our territory, and then even supported [Uzbekistan President Islam] Karimov, to permit the Americans to use his military bases. So, some people are asking: "What will Putin do next?" They are suspiciously looking at Putin's visit to Bush's ranch in Texas, because they still remember Gorbachov selling out to Bush's father. Maybe the upcoming U.S. visit of Putin will turn out to be good for Russia, but we Russians are very suspicious, after two of our leaders, Gorbachov and [former President Boris] Yeltsin, betrayed our national interest.

EIR: You mentioned at the seminar still another surprising facet of President Putin: that he recently repaid some debts to the International Monetary Fund, or the World Bank, earlier

than necessary. Why do you think he did it?

Koryagina: This was a very strange move, looked at from a very simple economic standpoint. Usually, nobody would pay back his debt earlier than necessary, if he still has enough time to do so. Especially, if one has so many problems in the domestic economy, as we do. And even if not, one would rather invest this money in some productive endeavor, or into the improvement of infrastructure, rather than paying back a debt which is not yet due. So, it *is* strange.

But, maybe, and that is what I think, this step is connected with very unusual new events ahead of us. Sept. 11 was a very unusual event.

EIR: Just to be clear: When exactly did Putin repay this debt to the World Bank, before or after Sept. 11?

Koryagina: After Sept. 11, just recently, end of October; and he did it very suddenly, to the great surprise of all the people around him. It was not a very big sum, just some payment to the World Bank. It was more of a clear political signal by Russia. Something like: "We have no problems in paying back our debt; we are a fully sovereign country."

EIR: What, do you think, is President Putin's strategy in the current situation?

Koryagina: Of course, I speak for myself, here. I am sure, there *is* a coup ongoing, not simply in, and against, the United States of America, but against *all* countries. This coup is being run by a very powerful neo-Malthusian faction, which operates globally; it is a secret society, which at the same time is also a criminal society. These forces wanted to prevent the blowout of the global financial system with "a terrorist knife," so to speak. The attack on Sept. 11 in the U.S. was their first step. Their second step was the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, which, in my view, brings with it the danger that it could turn into the second terrorist war against Russia, through countries such as Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, etc. The first one, the terrorist war in Chechnya, was directed against the territory of Russia directly. This one would indirectly target Russia, by staging major terrorist activities in the territory of the former Soviet Union.

What to do, for Russia, for President Putin? In order to defeat the terrorist forces, you have to be very strong. That is the reason why, in my opinion, Putin decided to cooperate with other states, especially with the U.S., to fight international terrorism. But what happens, if the United States in the future decides to again support these terrorist forces? After all, Washington *did* support the Taliban in the past. And who had financed the Taliban? Their friends were [former U.S. Secretary of State Henry] Kissinger and [Carter National Security Adviser Zbigniew] Brzezinski, who are now claiming, that they are against the Taliban. But tomorrow, these people can change their policy again, and become friends of international terrorists such as the Taliban. I think it is necessary, to take a close look at these persons and their political circles in

Great Britain and the U.S.A.

EIR: Someone who is on the record attacking these forces very strongly, is U.S. 2004 Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Can you describe his influence in Moscow, especially since he appeared before the State Duma [lower house of parliament] at end of June at hearings concerning financial and economic policy?

Koryagina: LaRouche's influence in Russia is growing more and more, above all among scientists; but also among politicians and people in our government. Circles in our government were especially impressed by LaRouche's forecast and analysis of the severe energy crisis hitting California, because we Russians understand these problems very, very well.

Now, another dimension to his credibility was added with his analysis of the coup attempt of Sept. 11 in the U.S. In Russia, only very few people believe that these attacks were carried out by Osama bin Laden. Almost everybody in our elite thinks it was a coup. The only thing which is not clear, is, *what kind of a coup*. I happened to be the first Russian to speak about the danger of a coup in the United States, at parliamentary hearings which were held at the Ministry of External Affairs at the end of April, where I pointed to the fact, that because of the grave financial crisis, this danger could arise, so that with one blow, in one day, everything would change.

EIR: Coming back to the Duma hearing in June: It centered around the global financial and economic crisis, and what to do about it?

Koryagina: Yes, the real problems of the world economy, and the imminence, and unavoidability of a financial crash were presented for the first time publicly in Russia; there even were some journalists present, who wrote about it. Seminars had already been held in March and April, but these were confined only to some people, some specialists. But the Duma hearing at the end of June was an open tribune, so to speak. There, Lyndon LaRouche described the global financial crisis, forecasting it would hit very soon, and detailed what measures Russia and other countries would have to take in such a situation. I even gave a concrete date, Aug. 19, of the coming financial crash, because I foresaw severe financial problems in the U.S. at that time.

These statements created a lot of interest, which resulted in many interviews and articles about this topic in the Russian press. The connection between my own forecast and LaRouche's analysis was always made very clear, also in our mass media. Because of this, LaRouche's credibility in Russia has increased tremendously, and it ranks now very high.

EIR: What perspective do you see for Russia right now? What, do you think, will President Putin do?

Koryagina: For sure, President Putin wants to link up with the West. He wants closer political and economic relations

with your countries. In this situation, there is another dimension to it: The economic and financial crisis goes on despite Sept. 11; it even gets worse and worse. Therefore, the political and economic problems among Europe, Asia, and the U.S. threaten to deteriorate as well. What is to be done in such a situation? If you understand, that there is a coup ongoing against the whole world, then you tend to think about these problems in a different way; you tend to look closely at those persons, who are behind this coup. It is necessary to show, that these forces are very dangerous, that their policy is very

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dangerous, but that the right combination of nations can destroy them.

I think, that Europe, with the official introduction of the euro on Jan. 1, will be in a good position. It can distance itself in some way from a weak dollar. Also, the euro could be combined with the Russian [gold-backed] chervonets, which on Jan. 1, will become official currency in Russia. Our Finance Ministry doesn't talk much about it, but everything is being prepared in this respect, so that, starting Jan. 1, our people can exchange, for example, their U.S. dollars—of which there are many flying around today in Russia—into gold-backed chervonets.

EIR: Is this a defensive measure, or an offensive one, i.e., a first step in the direction of a new gold-backed monetary system? Or, is it both?

Koryagina: I think, it's both. It is impossible for Russia to act alone in this field. Of course, drastic changes in the whole worldwide monetary system are necessary now, and this measure is not sufficient in this respect; but it is an important step. As well as the fact, that our Central Bank in the last period increased the amount of euros in our reserves, from 11%, to 25% right now.

EIR: Professor Koryagina, do you have a final message for our readers?

Koryagina: My real wish is, that we win the war against the ugly international coup plotters. They are powerful and dangerous, but they are not invincible; for the sake of humanity, we *have to win* this war against them.