
LaRouche Youth Movement

‘Basement’ Leaders Visit Ukraine

by Sky Shields

From Aug. 18 to Aug. 29, 2009, LaRouche Youth Movement members Sky Shields and Michelle Lerner, both veterans of the LaRouche “Basement team,”¹ toured Ukraine, as part of the outreach connected to the establishment of Lyndon LaRouche’s Four Powers initiative—decisive action for a real-growth-based economic system, to be taken by the U.S.A., Russia, China, and India, with other nations quickly joining in. Occurring in the same time period as their colleague Jason Ross’s participation in the Prague, Czech Republic conference on “Kepler’s Heritage in the Space Era” (see accompanying article), the tour by Shields and Lerner deepened the dialogue between the LaRouche movement and important scientific and political layers in Eurasia. In Ukraine, the homeland of Vladimir Vernadsky, their discussions naturally revolved around Vernadsky’s conception of the Noösphere, currently being developed by LaRouche into the creation of a credit system for the development of the Solar System.

The LYM delegates were featured guests at Student Republic 2009, the finale of an annual project held by the People’s Democratic Youth League (NDLM) in Yevpatoriya, Ukraine. This is the group whose Youth Economic Summit was addressed by German BüSo (Civil Rights Solidarity Movement) and LYM leader Stefan Tolksdorf in May (see *Neue Solidarität*, June 10; *EIR*, July 31). The Student Republic 2009 event was held Aug. 21-23, on the Crimean Peninsula, near the town of Yevpatoriya on the Black Sea coast. People in the 18-25 age range, who attended from all 27 regions of Ukraine, had been chosen at feeder events in those regions earlier this year.

In addition to their their presentations, the LYM representatives were interviewed by the event’s own roving reporters. Part of Lerner’s interview was published in the in-house newspaper. It was also broadcast and projected onto a large screen on the beach, amidst various



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Two leaders of the LaRouche Youth Movement Basement project, Sky Shields (left) and Michelle Lerner (right), visited the Odessa State Geological Museum, as guests of Dr. Yuri Yurchenko (center). They are pictured here, standing in front of a copy of the famous Laocoön statue (original, in the Vatican), at the Museum.

activities which went on late into the night. And, as reported in the “Za Dilo” handout, Aug. 22: “For Michelle Lerner of the LaRouche political movement (USA), a nation’s culture is directly connected with its political culture and attitude toward its Constitution. For the USA, this is the foundation. As similarities between Ukrainians and Americans, Michelle notes the cultural orientation toward science and the development of one’s intellectual powers.”

Two other interviews have subsequently been pub-

1. A group of young researchers, working under LaRouche’s direction, is known as the Basement team.

lished by the NDLM and associated groups (see below).

Much of the discussion with the youth centered around the necessity of a Vernadskian view of politics and economics. Only this outlook would allow Ukraine to avoid being used as a pawn in the geopolitical manipulations of the British Empire's George Soros.

Said one of the conference organizers, "Their contribution was wonderful, and every single participant in the Student Republic was aware of their presence, and it made a lot of people start thinking, and put aside the stereotypes they get from the mass media."

The Institute of the Noösphere

After this event, Shields and Lerner traveled 11 hours by train, to the city of Odessa, where they were guests of Dr. Yuri Yurchenko of the Institute of the Noösphere, and visited a laboratory that studies the marine biology of the southern seas.

LaRouche had emphasized that the antidote to the recent foolishness from politicians and economists in Russia is to be found in reviving the scientific tradition of, particularly, Russia and Ukraine. Russia will not survive, he cautioned, by pursuing the empty promise of profiting solely from oil exports, but requires a policy of technological advance, and physical investment in large-scale infrastructure projects organized around the increase of physical productivity. This clear prescription from LaRouche is something which is understood best by those layers in Russia, Ukraine, and elsewhere, who have some degree of scientific competence.

The level of scientific competence among those with whom Shields and Lerner met was thus made most clear by their complete emotional and intellectual attachment to the ideas of LaRouche. At the end of a two-part address by the LYM visitors, Dr. Yurchenko added his impassioned observation that, although he had been studying Vernadsky for years in Ukraine, he had had to travel to the United States in order to find a movement which was actually interested in implementing the ideas of this great Russian-Ukrainian scientist!

From Odessa, the LYM organizers arrived Aug. 26 in Kremenchuk, Poltava Region, where they addressed a group of professors from the Kremenchuk Polytechnical University, at an event cosponsored by the Kremenchuk Regional Museum, run by Vernadsky specialist A.A. Ignatenko, about which we reported in *EIR* of May 1, 2009. The entire audience was intimately familiar with the LaRouche's ideas; people jumped out of

their seats to wave their treasured copies of LaRouche's books and *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine.

Much of the discussion centered around the mass strike ferment within the United States, and LaRouche's leading role. The participants listened attentively and asked serious questions, and it was clearly the case that their understanding of the possibility of organizing the Four Power agreement from the United States hinged on the outcome of this political ferment.

Lerner and Shields took time in Kiev, at the end of their visit, for two days of intense discussions with friends from political and university circles, including some young people who are becoming increasingly active in studying and promoting LaRouche's ideas.

Two Interviews

In the Footsteps of V.I. Vernadsky

LaRouche Youth Movement leaders Sky Shields and Michelle Lerner gave several interviews in Ukraine, which have been published in Russian and Ukrainian. Two of those are printed here. Because the translators had some difficulty with what the LYM representatives were saying, not all of the quotations are accurate. In particular, several of their statements of LaRouche's policy solutions came out in oversimplified form.

From Ukraine, with Hope and Optimism

From the People's Democratic Youth League (NDLM) website, Sept. 9, 2009:

Interview with Sky Shields and Michelle Lerner, leaders of the LaRouche Youth Movement (USA), who visited Ukraine in late August to take part in the finale of Student Republic 2009 in Zaozerny.

Vrinchanu: What is your impression of the youth and youth movements in Ukraine?

Shields: One of the reasons we came to Ukraine is that Ukraine has a very great foundation, a rich scientific and cultural tradition and history, which is especially richly represented in Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky and