

Anti-science faction rears head in Moscow

by Rachel Douglas, U.S.S.R. Editor

The Moscow weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* (Literary Gazette) carries the portrait of its co-founder, the great 19th-century Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, on the masthead, but lately half its articles would have made Pushkin sick. The poet loved science and wanted civilization to survive; the newspaper is now attacking science and boosting policies that mean the destruction of civilization.

On Dec. 1, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* attacked Dr. Edward Teller as a "cannibal" and "hater of men." This was nothing less than an assault on the proposal to develop beam weapons, the defensive strategic weaponry Teller advocates. As *EIR* reported in our Nov. 30, 1982 Special Report, beam-technology development is the science to prevent nuclear war.

That the U.S.S.R. has a directed-energy beam weapons program is no secret.

EIR founder Lyndon LaRouche has proposed that both superpowers develop the technology, in parallel, and get on with joint efforts to colonize the Moon and Mars and industrialize the Third World as a means toward world economic recovery. This would be in the interest of both the United States and the Soviet Union, but some people in Moscow don't see it that way. Calculating that it's good for the U.S.S.R. if the United States sinks into collapse, they encourage anti-technology mobs in the West in the guise of the "peace" movement.

The fight for beam weapons, waged under the slogan "Don't freeze that missile, kill it!", has become an international issue too hot for the freeze-backers at *Literaturnaya Gazeta* to handle. Or it may be that the editors there were embarrassed by what an honest report on Teller's Oct. 27 National Press Club appearance would have had to say: He deplored the nuclear "balance of terror" on which the world has hung for 30 years. He laid blame for people's understandable fear about nuclear incineration, at the door of Robert Strange McNamara, proponent as Secretary of Defense of the Mutual and Assured Destruction (MAD) doctrine and today of the freeze, of keeping MAD in place. And he said he favored "treaties which start with the word 'do,' which encourage cooperation and which attack not the means of warfare, but the roots of conflict."

None of this reached the pages of *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, which instead had author A. Belskaya's distortion of Teller's

recent *Reader's Digest* article, presented so as to paint him as proponent of nuclear bombings. In calling Teller "Dr. Strangelove," Belskaya followed the format of attacks on him by the *New York Times* and the *London Guardian*.

British radicalism

For a publication that so readily applies the epithet "people-hating," *Literaturnaya Gazeta's* recent performance as a platform for British radical philosophy is extraordinary. The articles it is publishing could be eulogies in advance, for the Anglo-Soviet triple-agent Donald Maclean, who is reportedly dying in a Moscow hospital; the *London Times* aptly recalls about Maclean, that "he loathed the Americans and all that their country stood for." If America stands for the perfection of the human mind and man's mastery of the earth through technology, then *Literaturnaya Gazeta* is right in step with Maclean.

The Dec. 1 issue featured a page on genetic engineering. The contributors were British-born Princeton scientist Freeman Dyson, consultant at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) when McNamara was at Defense, and Ivan Frolov, of the Soviet All-Union Institute of Systems Research, who in the past has heaped praise on that Club of Rome specialist in population elimination, Aurelio Peccei, for his approach to "global problems."

Literaturnaya Gazeta translated a passage from Dyson's book, *Disturbing the Universe*, in which he reviewed lessons learned from H. G. Wells: From Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, he took the classic anti-republican argument of Wells, that technology, the fruits of reason, must be kept out of the hands of common folk; this is the position that rejects the possibility of a republican citizenry, aspiring to develop "divine" powers of mind. *Literaturnaya Gazeta* took from Dyson the following:

Wells posed a question to which those who believe in scientific progress cannot be indifferent: can man play the role of the almighty and not harm himself by reason? The answer is contained in the person of Dr. Moreau and it is a decisive "no." The hero of the novel escapes from the island, returns to the civilized world and cannot forget what he saw there. ". . . My uneasiness took a very strange form: I cannot convince myself, that the men and women I meet, under an outer shell creating a human appearance, are hiding their true essence; that this is a tribe of animals, monsters, forced to throw in their lot with people; and that soon they will begin to regress, exhibiting one after another the features characteristic of animals. . ."

In these lines is all the anguish of man, drawing in his imagination the possible paths of development of modern biology. Scientific progress threatens to deprive humanity of the two "anchors" probably the most necessary for his psychological health: the feeling of uniqueness of the human personality and the feeling of

brotherhood among people. Someone who visits the island of Dr. Moreau loses these "anchors" and can never say with certainty what kind of a being he is. . . .

From Wells and his successors we learned that man cannot play the role of the almighty and remain psychologically healthy and that scientific-technological progress inevitably endows man with power permitting him to play this role. . . ."

Such a tribute to H. G. Wells undoubtedly struck at least some Soviet readers, including ones in high places, as strange. Wells was known and attacked by collaborators of Lenin like G. M. Krzhizhanovskii for wanting to destroy the 1920s Soviet electrification program, which made Wells nearly hysterical. That program was the beginning of the U.S.S.R.'s rise to be a superpower.

But that history did not hinder Ivan Frolov, too, from invoking Wells and also *Frankenstein*-author Mary Shelley on the dangers of "correcting" nature. Frolov also cited the "intellectual-emotional passion" of Fyodor Dostoevskii, who thought that Russia's destiny lay in holy poverty and not industrialization, when Dostoevskii said, "The knowledge of the whole world is not worth the tears of one child." This is Dostoevskii's famous argument against civilizing measures like the deliberate construction of cities, on ground that someone would suffer in the process; he preferred uncivilized "Holy Russia"—disease, famines and all.

Literaturnaya Gazeta's editor-in-chief, Alexander Chakovskii, once wrote a novel about the 1945 Potsdam confer-

ence, in which he rather accurately portrayed Sir Winston Churchill's machinations to demolish what was left of the wartime Soviet-American alliance after Franklin Roosevelt's death. Something drastic has happened to Mr. Chakovskii, who is now the Soviet co-chairman of the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Society.

Another of his recent authors is Ernst Henry (aka Semyon Rostovskii), who from the 1930s worked as a Soviet penetration agent into Social Democratic circles and vice versa. Henry was named by the London *Observer* in 1979 as involved with Maclean and his fellow triple agents, Kim Philby and Guy Burgess, in the late 1940s. He has built a reputation as a journalist expert in factional analysis of Western countries, under which rubric he dishes up all sorts of nonsense.

On Nov. 10, Henry wrote in *Literaturnaya Gazeta* that the main threat to world peace is "the U.S.'s further, most cherished plans for establishing its rule over the entire world and the Americanization of the globe," to be accomplished with a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union. Henry introduced a British scenario-writer's story about Moon-based beam weapons, to say that "some U.S. figures" want to "arm the Moon against the earth." This leap from British scenario to American policy he explained by adding that "the British imperialists see no future for themselves except as the junior partner of the hegemonist U.S."

Soviet-American antagonism is what permits London to manipulate the two great powers, using agents-of-influence like Ernst Henry to fan the flames.

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