

Zepp-LaRouche champions Renaissance in Moscow

by Rachel Douglas

A Schiller Institute delegation led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche was in Moscow between April 6 and April 10. The centerpiece of the delegation's packed schedule was Mrs. LaRouche's lecture on Nicolaus of Cusa (called Cusanus in English, and in Russian, Nikolai Kuzansky), delivered on April 8 in the central lecture hall of the Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH).

About 55 students and teachers were in attendance, as Zepp-LaRouche introduced the ideas of Cusanus, the greatest thinker of the Golden Renaissance and the first German humanist. Zepp-LaRouche went in depth through the failure of the conciliar movement in the early 15th century, the collapse of the Council of Basel in 1437, and the theological and philosophical dialogue at the Council of Florence, which Cusanus's leadership was able to guide to the proclamation of Union in 1439. Her lecture surely ranks as a unique presentation of the truth of these matters in Russia, in the entire period since the Moscow Metropolitan, Council of Florence signer Cardinal Isidor of Kiev, was arrested by the enraged Muscovite Grand Duke Vasili II in 1441, for having adhered to the Union, and barely escaped from Moscow alive. "Isidor merits a statue in his honor in Russia today, for his courageous fight to bring the Renaissance to Russia," said Zepp-LaRouche.

What principles lead to progress?

She explored the basis in Cusanus's *Concordantia Catholica*, for the concepts of human rights and of national sovereignty. "Since the basis for 500 years of development of western European culture was laid during the Renaissance," she told the Russian audience, "it is very important for us to study, what are the axioms and principles governing a society which progresses, and what are the axioms and principles of

a society which collapses. For example, the common axioms of the ancient Greek Classical period, the Italian Renaissance, and the German Classical period are an image of man, an idea of man's perfectability, and cultural optimism. The Renaissance image of man was the basis for the greatest works of painting, architecture, and poetry, but also for breakthroughs in natural science."

Cusanus's principle that the best achievements of every country must be available to all people in all countries, Zepp-LaRouche said, meant a beautiful "dialogue of cultures." In this, Cusanus can be seen to be "very modern—more modern than any oligarch, for sure." In the lively question period, she developed how apparent conflicts among "the so-called self-interest of nations" may be resolved when, following Cusanus, we can find mutual self-interest at a higher level, because we are all members of mankind.

A student raised the "traditional view" in Russia of the Council of Florence, namely that it would have made the Eastern churches dependent on the Catholic Church. Zepp-LaRouche answered that it was not her purpose to "take sides," but to urge careful study of Cusanus's rigorous argument, that unity would be impossible without reference to the One. She reviewed again, how the Eastern church fathers agreed at Florence, that the *Filioque* (which emphasizes that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father *and from the Son*) was not, in reality, an interpolation to the Nicene Creed.

Zepp-LaRouche was introduced by Prof. Natalya Basovskaya, vice-rector of the RSUH. Thanking her at the conclusion of the lecture, Basovskaya said that the life, work, and ideas of Cusanus were far from sufficiently known in Russia, so that it was of great importance that the Schiller Institute was focusing on "these most humanistic, and human, ideas of the past."

The campaign to free Lyndon LaRouche

The delegation met individually with prominent Moscow human rights activists, to present the international mobilization for American statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche's freedom.

It was always possible to link the LaRouche case to the strategic crisis, especially since nearly everybody in Moscow is aware of the importance of the April 2 *Izvestia* article on the Russian proposal for joint antiballistic-missile defense work with the United States. Besides coverage on Russian TV, the banner proclaiming LaRouche's support for the Russian proposal was pictured in an Itar-Tass wire photo printed in several newspapers, which also was on display as a current leading news photo in the second week in April in the lobby at TASS headquarters in Moscow. Many people are aware of LaRouche's authorship of the original Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) for joint U.S.-Russian cooperation on ballistic-missile defense based on new physical principles. The circulation of the Russian edition of his book *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?* and the weekly delivery of several dozen copies of *EIR* to readers in Moscow have deepened people's familiarity with LaRouche's ideas and the Schiller Institute.

Zepp-LaRouche was interviewed by one Moscow newspaper, and participated in a roundtable of editors and economists for future publication in a monthly journal. She also addressed several groups of political leaders from various tendencies, including a caucus of leaders from several parties of the democratic opposition.

Anxiety, expressed in conversations and visible in people's faces on the street, is even higher in Moscow this spring than during previous Schiller Institute visits. There is great uncertainty about the outcome of the referendum scheduled for April 25. "You are in a country in a situation like Germany in 1933," said one human rights activist. In addition, the daily struggle to survive is becoming more and more difficult. On one day in early April, it was announced that gasoline prices would double. A pensioner's monthly income, now at the level of 6,000 rubles (sometimes less), suffices to cover only housing and some food, but not more than bread and potatoes. On one Friday afternoon, traffic in Moscow was nearly gridlocked, because so many people were heading out to plant something in garden patches in the country.

A development perspective

Zepp-LaRouche told Russians that the tension and worry about the crisis were especially painful for her to witness, because this suffering was completely unnecessary. With the opening of the borders in Europe in 1989, there was a historic opportunity to revive the "American System" method of physical economy. That successful philosophy was concretized in Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for the Paris-Berlin-Vienna "Productive Triangle," later elaborated into a Eurasian development perspective to be powered by massive



Helga Zepp-LaRouche visits Red Square.

high-technology and infrastructure investments within the triangle and linked to outlying areas along corridors of development called "spiral arms."

Instead of being slated for extinction through the "shock therapy" of price liberalization and elimination of subsidies, Zepp-LaRouche said, it would have been essential that the existing productive capacities in the East be utilized to help build up the initial infrastructure for the integrated Eurasian plan. This would have had to be done by agreement among governments, but it would have created the preconditions for private enterprise to function. She analyzed the Anglo-American response to this possibility: geopolitics, and the launching of wars in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans. The International Monetary Fund, she stressed, *never intended* to help Russia or develop any other countries in the East, but rather to rob the newly independent countries, forcing them through their indebtedness and desperation for cash, to dump their commodities onto western markets.

Now, with so much more of industry destroyed in the East and the West alike, it will be more difficult to proceed with these development projects, but the only way out of the crisis is a combined revival of the two great LaRouche initiatives: the Productive Triangle proposal of 1989-90, and the SDI plan of 1982-83. Zepp-LaRouche stressed the importance of the aspects of LaRouche's SDI, never reported in Soviet publications at the time Reagan adopted it: joint work on these technologies by the two superpowers, and transfer of advanced technologies to the civilian economy. Because of the growing awareness of the renewed threat of world war, expressed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and others, there is a brief opportunity to completely change the strategic situation through the SDI/Productive Triangle package, she said.

The delegation encountered great openness to these ideas from many quarters in Moscow.