



Embassy of Ukraine

Benjamin Deniston (far right) of 21st Century Science & Technology addresses the Vernadsky seminar; Andriy Novikov, Embassy Science Counselor, is seated at the opposite end of the table.

who had annotated the first complete edition of Vernadsky's seminal work, *The Biosphere*. Professor McMenamin presented a review of the basic scientific concepts of Vernadsky, including the role of life processes in the development of the Earth, the notion of life as a cosmic phenomenon, that the universe is governed, not by chance, but by discrete laws, and that human thought is a geological force.

Following this overview presentation, Benjamin Deniston, representing *21st Century Science & Technology*, concentrated on the concept of energy-flux density, as a characteristic of the anti-entropic development of species. This quality of increasing energy-flux density, he demonstrated, is an organizing principle of the biosphere, and represents a fundamental law of the universe, as well as the development of human society, through the noosphere.

Finally, *EIR* Washington Bureau Chief, William Jones, pointed out to the participants, that the building of the Embassy of Ukraine, in which the celebration took place, was the one in which George Washington negotiated with local landowners in 1788, to acquire the land needed to build the new nation's capitol. George Washington, as well as Abraham Lincoln, were revered in the Vernadsky household, Jones reported.

Vernadsky: The American Distortion

The American "misunderstanding" of Vladimir Vernadsky's work was the focus of a recorded video presentation by William Jones, delivered to a conference celebrating the Vernadsky anniversary, on March 15, in Moscow.

Russia and Ukraine Celebrate Vernadsky's Anniversary

By Marsha Freeman

In December of last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the formation of a committee to plan the activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Valdimir Vernadsky's birth, to take place this year. Many activities were planned, including the complete publication of Vernadsky's works in Russian, publication of an English edition of Vernadsky's "Selected Works," and a series of conferences throughout Russia. In Ukraine, where Vernadsky carried out scientific research from 1917-1921, and was the founder and first president of the All-Ukraine Academy of Sciences, celebrations were also planned. The participation of representatives of *21st Century Science & Technology* and *Executive Intelligence Review (EIR)* magazines in a number of these events, brought to light the extraordinary accomplishments of Vernadsky,

from an American viewpoint.

On the anniversary of Vernadsky's birth, March 12th, the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, DC, held a seminar and reception to celebrate the scientist's life and work. Ambassador Olexander Motsyk sent greetings to the symposium, stating that Vernadsky "is considered the founder of at least three separate scientific disciplines—biogeochemistry, geochemistry, and radiogeology." The Ambassador pointed to the major milestones in Vernadsky's scientific career, and reported that in recognition of his fundamental contributions to science, two minerals bear his name, as does a mountain ridge in Antarctica, and the Ukrainian Arctic station.

The Ambassador's welcoming remarks were followed by a presentation by Dr. Mark McMenamin, professor of geology at Mount Holyoke College,

The two-day conference was organized by the Alexander Solzhenitzyn House of Russia Abroad, and brought together a number of Vernadsky scholars, from Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and the United States.

Jones' presentation centered around the "refashioning" of Vernadsky, carried out in the U.S. starting in the 1930s by G. Evelyn Hutchinson, whose characterization of Vernadsky as "the father of ecology," spawned the notion, completely antithetical to Vernadsky's, that man is a pestilence upon the Earth. Substituting Vernadsky's concept of the creative development of the biosphere by man with a zero-growth "green" agenda, to shut down modern industry and reverse man's scientific advancements to improve nature, created the most commonly held view of Vernadsky in the United States. Jones pointed out that the "Biosphere" cover story of *Scientific American* magazine in September, 1970, which main article was written by Hutchinson,

moved this previously more "academic" issue in to the political mainstream, and issued the "clarion call for a green movement."

This purposeful misrepresentation of Vernadsky's scientific breakthroughs to the English-speaking world, was taken up again by Jones, at a celebration of the great scientist's birth, held at the Russian Cultural Center, in Washington, DC, on March 27th. The speakers and audience included prominent Russian scientists, living in the United States.

Chairing the event was Roald Sagdeev, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and former director of the Space Research Institute in Moscow. Sagdeev remarked that Vernadsky was an "organizer of science," and then stressed the importance of improving the conditions of scientific research in Russia, which, for years, has been his great concern.

But a later speaker—Edwin Squiers, a professor of biology from George Washington University—tried to turn

Vernadsky into a "Greenie," making the incredible statement that if he were alive today, having witnessed Hiroshima, Vernadsky would have changed his mind about nuclear power, and been a proponent of solar energy!

Although Jones was not scheduled to speak at the event, he was given the floor, to comment. Vernadsky, Jones said, "was no ecologist, no environmental activist, but a humanist thoroughly committed to the notion of progress, which he saw as an underlying law in the universe." Jones recounted Vernadsky's attacks on Malthus and Darwin, juxtaposing the "survival of the fittest," to Vernadsky's view of development through man's creative breakthroughs in science. Even through two world wars and Stalinism, Jones said, Vernadsky maintained tremendous optimism. It is that spirit of optimism that must guide mankind today, he concluded, to "move man forcefully into space," and defend mankind from the cosmic threats that could end human civilization.

EIR

Executive Intelligence Review
November 30, 2012 Vol. 39 No. 47 www.larouchepub.com \$10.00

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