

Gorbachev would be perfect for NDP, author says

By TOM RAMAUTARSINGH
Herald Special

Lawrence Martin, Moscow correspondent to the Globe and Mail appeared on a panel which discussed Mr. Gorbachev's reforms recently.

Mr. Martin, who was a correspondent for three years, recently published a book entitled "Breaking with History: The Gorbachev Revolution - An Eyewitness Account."

Mr. Martin described the Soviet economy as a "basket case" and Mr. Gorbachev as a social democrat who "could have made a fine candidate for the NDP a few months ago."

Mr. Martin contends that Perestroika has played a major role in Mr. Gorbachev's attempts to enable the self-determination of peoples. Mr. Gorbachev, according to Mr. Martin, found himself in a paradoxical situation as he tried to follow up on his objective.

Over 100 different peoples make up the USSR and with this policy of self-determination of peoples many annexed territories would free themselves and declare their independence. Mr. Martin cited Georgia, the Ukraine (which has over 50 million people) and the Baltic states are most likely to take advantage of this policy.

Mr. Martin emphasizes the point that Mr. Gorbachev jeopardizes his own career and power base by pushing his policy.


The Soviet Union is an empire with a population of over 230 million. USSR has an abundance of natural resources and can challenge Canada in this economic sphere in the Western world.

Mr. Martin sees the formation of a "multi-national confederation" in a future USSR. Under such a system the Ukraine will be given more political autonomy but will remain in the USSR. He feels, however, that "independence looks very attractive" and the sad state of the Soviet economy would encourage states to leave the USSR.

Mr. Martin states that the Soviet economy has gotten worse since the introduction of Mr. Gorbachev's reforms. He said that the West need to rescue the Soviet Union and to help Mr. Gorbachev in his reforms. He severely criticized the West for its almost

passive role in disarmament and felt that it was time the West took the lead. Instead, he states, that it is Mr. Gorbachev who is leading the disarmament program.

Mr. Martin then discussed why Canada and other NATO allies are still having large numbers of troops in Europe. The troops are there to keep the Soviets in check but "the odds of the Soviet Union invading Europe are about the same as Canada invading Great Britain." He believes that the Soviet threat to Europe no longer exists.



A new spirit of giving

Seminars for the separated

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in Burlington will once again run its Seminars for the Separated, starting April 26. The program, originally scheduled to start April 19, had been inadvertently cancelled.

Seminars for the Separated is a six-week series of lectures with a self-help component aimed at the newly separated. The cost is \$15.

The seminars offer experts speaking on a variety of subjects to help participants deal with their changed circumstances. The large group is divided into

small self-help groups which meet after each lecture to discuss the evening's topic.

The series will be held at St. Luke's Parish Hall at 7 p.m. starting April 26.

To register, or to confirm a previous registration, please call CMHA at 845-5044.



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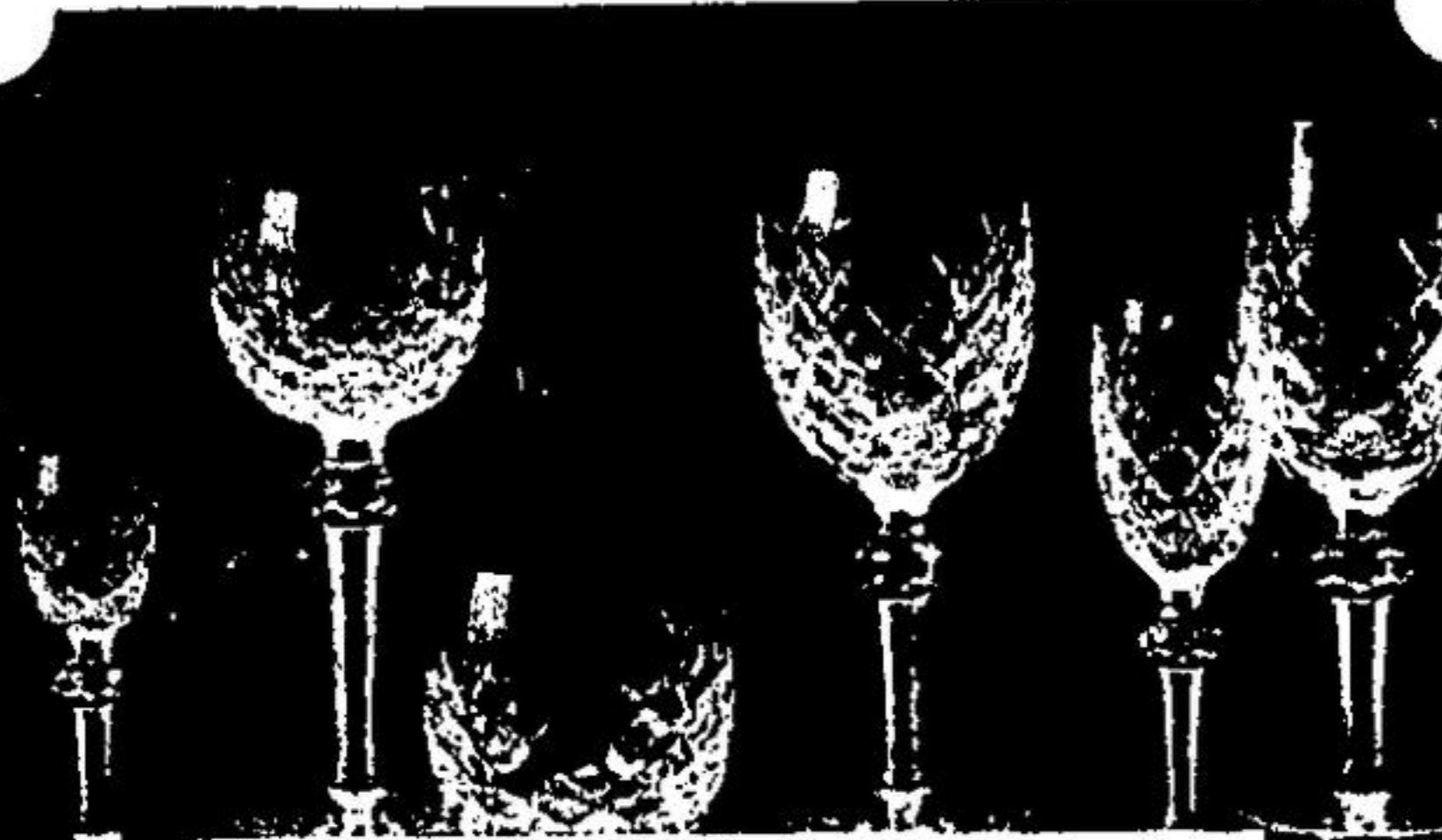


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