

# Soviet lawyers pushing for environmental laws

## Dangerous pesticides come from U.S.



Alexandre Timoshenko

By Dan Eisler  
Emerald Reporter

The Law Center hosted a lunchtime discussion Thursday with two of the Soviet Union's top environmental lawyers.

Alexandre Timoshenko and Mikhail Brinchuk, on the last stop of a U.S. tour, answered questions from University law students about Soviet environmental legislation and environmental problems, including pesticides, recycling, toxic and nuclear waste.

Timoshenko is Director of the

Sector on Ecological Problems of the Institute of State and Law in the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and a regular adviser to the Supreme Soviet on environmental matters.

Brinchuk is a research fellow at the Sector on Ecological Problems of the Institute of State and Law in the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Timoshenko and Brinchuk helped draft the new national environmental laws being considered by the Supreme Soviet.

The new laws will consolidate some of the powers of the Soviet Union's new environmental protection agency, established about a year ago. "We want to make it an independent institution," Timoshenko said.

The new law also would al-

However, the two have been "two months away from country and we're poorly aware of what's happening in the Supreme Soviet," Timoshenko said.

The environmental legislation should also contain a provision allowing for future revisions and expansions, Timoshenko said, adding that legal traditions should not be followed in dealing with environmental matters.

Public protest helped save Lake Baykal, located in Siberia, from nearby industrial development, and prevented a government project to divert the country's northern rivers to the arid southern region bordering Iran and Afghanistan, Timoshenko said.

"The research showed this would be an absolutely absurd ecological disaster," he said.

Another ecologically danger-



Mikhail Brinchuk

In the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, elimination of a number of dangerous pesticides used and protested against by the public was slowed because of this problem, Timoshenko said. "If the state chemical

*'If the state chemical commission weren't in agriculture it would be much easier to (ban pesticides).'*

— Alexandre Timoshenko

low citizens to sue the state for enforcement of environmental laws if the state fails to do so.

Although regulations cover major projects financed by the central government, industry is currently unregulated for the environmental impact of its projects, Brinchuk said.

Timoshenko said legal provisions were being created to correct a lack of safeguards against environmental damage, including a public referendum that

does not exist anywhere else in the world, Timoshenko said.

ous problem in the Soviet Union is the use of pesticides, Brinchuk said.

The Soviet Union uses about 300 different pesticides, whose use is regulated by a state chemical commission created under the agriculture ministry and headed by the agriculture minister, Brinchuk said.

The most dangerous pesticides are banned, Brinchuk said, but the agriculture ministry prefers to use pesticides, which creates a problem for the commission.

commission weren't in agriculture it would be much easier to (ban pesticides)."

The pesticides are mainly manufactured in the Soviet Union, but the most dangerous ones come from the United States and other foreign countries, Brinchuk said.

Like the United States, the Soviet Union has national wilderness reserves and wildlife protection, in addition to recognizing endangered species on various international commissions, Timoshenko said.

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