

OMNI PARKER HOUSE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS May 12, 1992

Welcome to tonight's New England Circle to discuss with **OLIN ROBISON**, president of The Salzburg Seminar and **YELENA KHANGA**, Institute Fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the challenges and opportunities that now face the former Soviet Union

"When a country disintegrates, there is an immediate need to establish authority and a sense of ownership," says tonight's discussion leader, Olin Robison, one of the few experts on Soviet relations to serve as advisor to both Democratic and Republican administrations. According to Dr. Robison, under Communism there was no real means of establishing ownership, worth or wealth; thus no accountability and responsibility. So now, in the midst of scarcity and uncertainty, each new Republic must deal with the dramatic issue that there are no guidelines: they must make it up as they go along.

"Who is Boris Yeltsin?" asks tonight's moderator, Yelena Khanga and "How do Russions really perceive him?" "Is Western aid the only way to revive the economy?" Ms. Khanga, a Muscovite and journalist, is a former correspondent for Moscow News and the author of the soon to be published Soul to Soul, A Black Russian American Family from 1865 to 1992. Ms. Khanga has many questions. She and Dr. Robison are eager to discuss them with you and to explore other thoughts and ideas at tonight's Circle.

New England Circle invites men and women of different cultures, political persuasions and professions to exchange ideas and opinions. The Circle evolved out of a 19th-century tradition called the Saturday Club, a group of concerned individuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who gathered at the Parker House for lively, informal discussions. Tonight's discussion on Russia Now and in the Future could awaken the spirit of those who inaugurated this tradition.

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"Our purpose is to assemble a diverse group of concerned individuals for discussions of social, political, literary and educational topics; our goal is to exchange challenging ideas and opinions that can lead to constructive change in our lives, our nation and our world"

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New England Circle is a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation for educational purposes.

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For more than sixteen years we have enjoyed a lively and stimulating exchange of views and ideas. Some Circle topics and Discussion Leaders have been:

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