

susceptible of intellectual and moral cowardice of the sort which they, in fact, have strongly recommended to me. About important questions, only the harshest truths are permissible.

We shall get nowhere, unless I address with ruthless accuracy the specific, visible element of philosophical outlook which has prompted your government to adopt the wicked decision it has adopted on the issue of strategic negotiations.

Unless you recognize that flaw in yourselves, the entire world is destined for early destruction. "Diplomatic" evasions of truth are never a good policy, and often the hallmark of manipulators whose efforts for good must ultimately fail because they lack the courage to pursue a rigorous course of action in support of fundamental principles.

There are three elements chiefly directing you to the

The Soviet media response to beam weapons

A TASS release from Rome, reprinted in the Soviet government paper *Izvestia* of Aug. 26, acknowledged in straightforward coverage the result of the conference of Soviet, American and European scientists held Aug. 20-23 in Erice, Sicily: "The international seminar of physicists in the Italian city of Erice on problems of peace and disarmament, in which scientists from both socialist and capitalist countries took part, has signed a project of agreement on cooperation among the U.S.S.R., U.S.A., and Western Europe. This document provides for the creation of a permanent scientific group which will study proposals on the possibilities and feasibility of developing and creating a global system of defense against nuclear war."

This is the first time since President Reagan's March 23 speech on strategic defense as the means to avoid war, totally blacked out in the Soviet media, that a major Soviet daily has as much as mentioned such an idea as "feasibility of defense against nuclear war." Neither the party paper *Pravda* nor the army paper *Red Star* of the same date published the release.

A sample of earlier Soviet coverage:

***Izvestia*, Aug. 25:** . . . The Heritage Foundation. . . with clearly marked "hawk's plumage," proposes that 400 satellites be put into orbit armed with. . . lethal ray guns for attacking targets on earth. . . . This argument was used in the well known "star wars" speech delivered by. . . Reagan in March. What such "arguments" contain is revealed by Prof. M. Kaku of New York University. . . . They provide "not a security based on peace but a security that is to be produced by a nuclear war that becomes inevitable."

Radio Moscow in English, Aug. 23: . . . We may recall with what alarm the Americans received last March Reagan's program on so-called Star Wars. A group of prominent U.S. scientists and public figures then called on Andropov to assist in banning space weapons.

Moscow Domestic TV, Aug. 20: . . . It really is a terrible danger, because from space the earth looks as if it is in the palm of your hand; . . . it seems indefensible from such weapons as lasers, and all the more because in

space, where there is no atmosphere, laser weapons increase their power and range. . . . We [want to] shake hands in space with U.S. astronauts and not look at each other through gunsights. . . . not exchange laser blows. . . .

Moscow Domestic TV, Aug. 25: . . . The testing of an antisatellite weapon, which the U.S. plans to carry out in the near future, will be the first step leading to war in space. That is the alarming warning issued by the Center for Defense Information, an influential U.S. organization. . . . Admiral Gene LaRocque, director of the Center, described this [Andropov's] peace initiative as a unique opportunity. . . . If it is not taken, the admiral said, an outbreak of war in space, which will inevitably spread to the earth, will become more likely. . . . Three Star Wars films have broken all records. . . . The upshot of this is that Hollywood has gradually carried out the advance brainwashing of public opinion, by preparing the ground for the serious space wars which President Reagan, who began his career in Hollywood, is getting ready for mankind.

Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya (Central Committee daily), Aug. 24: . . . Beam weapons. . . focus energy in a narrow beam. When this is achieved the beam becomes, as the militarist press likes to repeat persistently, a "death ray." . . . But as the well-known American expert K. Tsipis notes, "An effective laser weapon will be of impressive proportions. . . ." It is this last fact which particularly attracts the military-industrial corporations. Incidentally, California's Heliotechnics . . . is actively involved in the development of laser weapons for space. Its biggest shareholders include the notorious "father" of the American hydrogen bomb E. Teller. . . . Well-known American specialists on military-technical problems have made well-founded objections to Reagan's decisions. Some of them describe as the "biggest lie" the President's assurances that sophisticated types of weapons are the key to a humane, peaceful future.

Radio Moscow to North America, Aug. 23: The world is really at a crossroads now. It is time for humanity to choose where to go further: either towards Reagan's star wars that mean an inevitable end to the world or to ban outer space for any weapon, to keep it peaceful for all times. The Soviet Union has made its decision and the question now is what position the United States will adopt.