

# Teller blasts press blackout of beams

by Mary McCourt

If the United States is to develop the defensive antiballistic missile weapons (beam weapons) essential for its national security, sabotage of the program by the U.S. press must end, Dr. Edward Teller emphasized in two speeches in two days, on Oct. 13 and 14. Teller, President Reagan's leading adviser on the weapons systems, told a meeting of the Accuracy in Media organization in Houston, Texas Oct. 14: "We must stop the campaign of disinformation which is intentionally misleading the American public. I have one question. Did the *New York Times* learn its art of disinformation from the KGB or did the KGB learn its art of disinformation from the *New York Times*?"

The day before, Dr. Teller had attacked the *Times* and NBC-TV for systematically lying about the beam-weapons policy Reagan proposed on March 23. In that speech, delivered to the Dallas World Affairs Council, he called for a "new Manhattan Project" to develop the potential of "defensive nuclear weapon" technologies as rapidly as possible for anti-missile defense. The speech was blacked out of the area's media the next day, to the astonishment of its sponsors. The majority of reporters had walked out of the auditorium when Teller demanded that press coverage of his speech be based only on accurate, verbatim quotes.

Teller cited his experience as a leader of the original Manhattan Project during World War II to urge a total mobilization of technological ingenuity pursue "very recent breakthroughs" in developing energy-beam systems. In Houston, Teller specified that not only Europe but Japan should join the effort, working on weapons of defense to which the Japanese can make great technological contributions.

Teller described the breakthroughs that are "making possible nuclear explosions of a new type, which do not harm human life, but are very destructive against missiles." He described electromagnetic pulse (EMP) phenomena as the broad field in which these developments were taking place. EMP, as many recent technical results and reports have begun to show, involves sharp and powerful, controlled bursts of radiation—x-rays and microwave radiation in particular—generated by small nuclear explosives and aimed to destroy targets. This subsumes the much-discussed x-ray burst, x-ray laser, and microwave beam ABM technologies.

The bottom line, said Dr. Teller, for the first time in such an explicit way, is that the allies can begin to get results from some of the available technologies for immediate anti-missile

defense, and then work for "a decent overall system of protection within 10 years."

Authoritative sources indicate that this is precisely the conclusion of the reports—on beam-weapon technologies and on an ABM strategy—just completed for President Reagan (see article, page 53). Teller predicted that such an effort would force the question of breaking down secrecy classification barriers, and would reunite nuclear fission and nuclear fusion scientists on the path to the predicted "profound technological revolution."

In his Oct. 14 speech, Teller described how, when working on the H-bomb, he often had to criticize his superiors and break rules. Today, survival depends on breaking the rules, he stated, "because according to the customary rules we are doomed. We need miracles."

The West must rid itself of the influence of Bertrand Russell's Pugwash circles and certain U.S. Eastern Establishment figures if it is to deal with the threat to civilization that atomic missiles represent. Dr. Teller summed up the policies of this group in the career of Robert Strange McNamara, who "invented Mutually Assured Destruction [MAD]. The idea is to kill as many innocent people as you can, if you make sure you kill them on both sides."

But, he went on, "fortunately there are young scientists who have some good ideas about how to get out of this. People in this administration have realized we must get away from MAD, and on March 23 Reagan made a remarkable speech, which can be summarized in the quote: 'It is better to save lives than to avenge them....'"

The Pugwashites had their revenge. The media, Teller stated, who couldn't black out or deny that Reagan made the statements, "talked about Star Wars. They said Reagan was a cowboy shooting from the hip, that he was an anti-intellectual."

When he testified in Congress on ABM defense, "I thought the media were there because they were interested in saving the country. What I didn't know was that I was on the front page of the *New York Times* that day ... accused of making profits from a laser company as the reason I was pushing these systems. *Pravda* picked this up right away and began attacking me."

Again emphasizing the need for a crash effort, Teller stated that the U.S. ABM program must be expanded to produce strategic defense and "a profound technological revolution, broader than the revolution set off by the first invention of nuclear weapons."

The contest is as much economic as military, as Teller made clear. "The attacker needs lots of money to build offensive systems," he stated. "The defensive system needs lots of ingenuity. The media has succeeded to a large extent in convincing people that we don't have enough ingenuity in the Free World. Many scientists have come to believe this. We must convince the best people to get involved in the search for defensive weapons."

In an interesting sidelight to his remarks, Teller asserted

that the U.S. Navy was the military service at the center of scientific progress in laser and particle-beam defense, and that Navy Chief of Operations Adm. James Watkins had been the key influence on the President from the Joint Chiefs of Staff in pushing the "March 23 policy" out into the open field of political mobilization.

## What the *Times* says; what the Soviet press says

*On the Soviet shooting down of Korean Airliner 007 Sept. 1:*

**The New York Times, Sept. 4:** The Soviet Union intensified its charges today that the United States was ultimately responsible for the fate of the South Korean airliner. . . .

An account carried by the Soviet press agency TASS . . . followed Friday's assertion that Washington's detailed knowledge of the airliner's flight path and fate point to complicity in a spying mission. To this, today's account supplied considerable fresh evidence drawn almost entirely from Western reports of the incident.

**TASS, Sept. 3:** Issuing forth torrents of vicious abuses, representatives of the U.S. administration want to avoid answering clear questions. . . . U.S. journalists also have been putting these questions to the U.S. administration. . . .

The flimsiness of the attempts of the White House to justify the "appearance of the South Korean in the airspace of the Soviet Union by some technical malfunction" is also made obvious by the statements of the former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Japanese armed forces, at present the military observer of the newspaper *Mainichi Shimbun G. Takeda*: "With Boeing having a computer on board, two pilots, and a system of double-triple checking, the deviation of the plane of the South Korean air company looks more than strange. . . . This is also confirmed by a report published by the *New York Times*."

**The New York Times, Sept. 5:** In an item that assailed President Reagan for the "outrageous rumpus" the United States has made over the incident, TASS quoted a variety of Western commentaries to support its contention that the Korean airliner was on an intelligence-gathering mission. . . .

TASS said a CBS News report on the downing of the Korean airliner had observed that "the U.S.S.R. could have taken the airliner for an American spy plane making flights along the Kamchatka coast."

*On the transfer of National Security Adviser Judge William Clark to Secretary of the Interior:*

**The New York Times, Editorial, "Time for a Pro," Oct. 16:** [Clark only served to] to reinforce Reagan's attitudes toward the world. The two men disdain the Soviet system to the point of shunning communication with its leaders. They

both tend to see most problems only through a cold war prism. They share excessive faith in the diplomacy of force and an excessive mistrust of arms control. . . .

The more amateur the President, the greater his need for a professional briefer. . . . [What's needed now is a professional] like Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski . . . to undo the . . . damage by personal and political amateurs like Clark . . . [such as] mortgaging huge budgets to weapons that provide no early remedy.

**Pravda, Oct. 15:** Most connoisseurs of the Washington political cuisine agree that bellicose adventurer Clark has brought nothing but disgrace to the White House. . . . He looked at the world through the barrel of a Colt. [His appointment as Interior Secretary is a move from an important job to] a third rate ministry.

*On the conference on "Technological Bases for Peace" held in Erice, Italy, Aug. 20-23.*

**The Washington Post, Column, by Mary McGrory, Sept. 18:** It so happened that defensive weapons systems . . . were the subjects of discussion Aug. 19. That was because Edward Teller was the great star of the conference. The Hungarian-born father of the H-bomb is also the godfather of President Reagan's much-mauled "Star Wars" concept of a nuclear shield. Teller . . . is the Kissinger of science. At Erice, he was surrounded by worshippers and protégés. . . .

Soviet delegate Moisey Markov . . . also talked on the first day. He said, laboriously, "Love Thy Neighbor." A Livermorist told me it was "inappropriate."

But what the Livermorists found much more "inappropriate" was opposition to Teller. . . .

On the last day, the conference voted to appoint a committee . . . to study the feasibility of nuclear defense. "It's always the same with Edward," sighed a non-Livermorist. "When its a question of more or less weapons, he always wants more."

**TASS, Aug. 21:** A debate on the problems of peace and nuclear disarmament has begun at an international seminar of scientists currently in progress in the Italian city of Erice, Sicily.

Academician Ye. P. Velikhov . . . drew the assembled company's attention to the Soviet Union's latest peace proposals, noting the enormous importance of the initiative recently put forward by Yu. V. Andropov . . . in conversation with U.S. senators, whereby "the U.S.S.R. the first to put an antisatellite weapon of any kind into outer space." . . .

Clashing completely with the Soviet scientist's address were the remarks of certain representatives of the U.S. delegation, who, contrary to common sense, called for the creation of ultra-sophisticated anti-missile space systems, presenting them as virtually a "safety shield" for the population while to all intents and purposes defending the Washington administration's policy of militarizing outer space.