

Fifth column and 'shadow government' oppose beams

by Paul Gallagher

Since the widespread international press reports one month ago that the United States had the technology to develop beam-weapon anti-missile defenses within three to five years, a rigid silence has descended upon all potential administration and military spokesmen on the question of the beam-weapons program. The gag order hides an intense fight among administration and congressional factions over how much the U.S. program will be geared up, and how fast. This fight continues despite a recent CIA assessment that the Soviets are no more than four years away from deploying anti-missile and anti-satellite lasers on their space stations.

The official silence was imposed on order of White House and Department of Defense spokesmen who were taken unawares by the massive press "leaks" of the Fletcher Commission beam-weapons technology report. It was indicated to be a "30-day shutdown" while final decisions on the program were made by the President. On Nov. 15-17, the DOD conducted a 500-person classified session on "Directed Energy Weapons" with the American Defense Preparedness Association, and the "shutdown" may end with an announcement by Secretary Weinberger of the funding levels the beam program will require in fiscal 1984 and 1985.

What is going on behind this silence, despite the President's total commitment to his anti-missile development decision, is a bitter fight over the political and economic impact the program will be allowed to have, and over the funds require to expand it into a crash program.

Soviet sympathizers in the Congress, led by Sen. Paul Tsongas and Rep. Larry Pressler, are using the "pause" to

throw up every conceivable technical barrier to expanded beam-weapons funding. Certain military officials with investments in both the MAD doctrine, which rules out strategic defensive systems, and in offensive weapons research and development, are blocking with simple-minded pro-defense congressmen against shifts of military R&D funds to weapons which are actually defensive in nature and function.

While the White House debates over the other essential part—funding—of the March 23 doctrine, the only sources of public information in the United States or Europe have been the organizations associated with *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, and Reagan's closest science adviser, Dr. Edward Teller.

In Rome Nov. 9, the entire Italian political-military elite attended an all-day session keynoted by LaRouche (see speech, page 54) on the implications of the U.S. beam weapons strategy shift for Western Europe.

On Nov. 10 in Colorado Springs, near the new Air Force Space Command Headquarters and the Air Force Academy, 15 major television, radio, and newspaper outlets from across Colorado covered Dr. Steven Bardwell's release of a new book, *Beam Defense*, written by the Fusion Energy Foundation. *Beam Defense* is the first popular work on the subject since the President's speech. Bardwell said that "within three to five years, either both superpowers will have deployed beam weapon anti-missile defenses, or only the Soviets will have done so," and explained beam weapons technologies to the assembled media for nearly an hour. A similar release of *Beam Defense* in Washington two weeks earlier had resulted

in UPI, CBS, and NBC radio stories about the book, which is intended to mobilize citizen understanding and support for ending MAD with beam weapons.

But as the *Denver Post* reported in its coverage of the new book the next day, when an official of the Air Force Space Command, present at the meeting, was asked to comment, he could say only "laser defense is a classified subject, on which I cannot comment."

The clash in Congress

On the day of Bardwell's Colorado press conference, Rep. Ken Kramer and Sen. William Armstrong of that state held the first hearings on their legislation to create a "crash program" agency for beam weapons, the "People Protection Act." Kramer opened his own hearings with a resounding call for "a new Manhattan Project for peace"; later Dr. Edward Teller called the Kramer-Armstrong Bill the first major public cause for hope of rapid development of beam weapons, since the President's March 23 speech itself.

In stark contrast, all observers at the Kramer hearings noted, was the testimony of Defense Undersecretary for Research Dr. Richard DeLauer, a cold fish on beam weapons since well before March 23. DeLauer refused even to commit the administration to the increases recommended in the Fletcher Commission report, to \$1.9 billion in fiscal 1984 and \$2.3 billion in fiscal 1985.

While DeLauer predicted spending of \$25 billion over the next five fiscal years, this is still insignificant for the task. In the field of energy beam technologies, the most rapidly advancing area of technological breakthroughs in U.S. national and industrial labs, *what is spent this year and next is all-important*. Ten billion per year could easily be absorbed productively and would produce crude, *deployable* anti-missile weapons almost immediately, as LaRouche has stressed and Teller has, more recently, publicly stated.

What is happening instead is that much smaller amounts of funds requested for FY84 nine months ago, before the President's television announcement, are being shifted from longstanding chemical infrared laser weapon development to more advanced, shorter wavelength laser technologies like the x-ray laser, without the necessary funding increase. "Too few funds for too many technologies," all making rapid progress, was one observer's characterization.

As a result, the Rockwell Rocketdyne Division's space laser work is actually in some danger of temporary shutdown due to loss of funds shifted elsewhere. The Navy-TRW "Miracle" infrared laser program, which has built the most powerful single-beam laser in the United States, just received its first trickle of funds in six months, not enough for major development activity.

Congressional intimates of honorary Politburo member Averell Harriman have jumped in to try to mine the road to a crash beam-weapons program. The Senate on Nov. 7 passed

Paul Tsongas's amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill which demands the White House file a report by next May 15 stating its defensive weapons objectives, answering a series of screwball questions such as "Will this split the Western alliance?" and "Will this lead to a race to develop these weapons which we might lose?"

And pro-defense members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, wrote language into the appropriations bill seeking to block the administration from shifting military R&D funds from other programs into beam weapons. Certain military circles are using the events in Grenada and the Mideast to insist, perversely, that "beam weapons can wait" while we equip the navy and land forces with new conventional "smart weapons."

This can be reversed quickly, of course, by a decisive White House move to link publicly a beam weapons gear-up to the urgent need to check the Soviet drive toward worldwide confrontation. Recent events in Europe—the extraordinary success of the LaRouche conference in Rome, and the revelation by French Defense Minister Hernu in the National Assembly that France is pursuing beam weaponry—show that the Western allies are ready for an all-out joint effort.

The 'shadow government'

The *New York Times* of Nov. 16 contained a lengthy article on some of the forces behind opposition to a beam weapon defense and economic program for the United States: an alliance of scientists and political advisors which the *New York Times* openly called the "shadow government." This group, many of whose members meet weekly in the offices of Rep. Joe Moakley (D-Mass.), sponsor of legislation to ban all military-related space activity, is led by Richard Garwin, IBM scientist, advisor to the Robert McNamara wing of the Defense Department, and designer of the weapons tests in Vietnam; George Rathjens, MIT physicist, director of Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under Jimmy Carter; Jack Ruina—MIT physicist in Carter's ACDA; Robert Bowman, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who heads the Institute for Space and Security Studies, funded by the Rockefeller family.

This is the Pugwash Conference disarmament mafia which advised Henry Kissinger on the ABM treaty, which wrote SALT I and SALT II, and which has opposed every advanced technology project proposed in the United States over the past 25 years—including the NASA Apollo program (described by members of the shadow government as a "circus stunt"), the supersonic transport, nuclear energy for both domestic use and export, and, today, laser and particle beam weapons.

These are also the past and present advisers to the Mondale wing of the Democratic Party, who have used their credibility as scientists to cover for the KGB effort to disarm and destroy the United States.

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