

Eastern Establishment in all-out push to wreck SDI

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Not long after President Reagan's decisive victory over Walter Mondale in their Oct. 21 televised debate, McGeorge Bundy warned that should Reagan be re-elected, his powerful Eastern Establishment would launch an "extraordinary effort" to kill the President's beam-weapon defense program, the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). That extraordinary offensive has now been launched. The entire array of factions opposed to the SDI—from the liberal Democrats to Kissinger-linked elements inside the administration—has gone into action. According to intelligence-community sources, the fate of the SDI will be decided by inauguration day, Jan. 21, 1985.

The tenor and tempo of activity by Bundy's hounds make it absolutely clear that they will stop at nothing—including assassination—to accomplish the objective. John F. Kennedy was preparing to deliver a speech attacking the Mutually Assured Destruction framework which Bundy and associates had provided for "arms control" talks when Kennedy was murdered in Dallas.

The Kremlin, in the persons of Western Theater Commander Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov and the KGB's Fyodor Burlatskii, the latter most recently through an open letter to George Kennan of the Council on Foreign Relations, has communicated to its Western collaborators that a precondition for negotiations following the early January meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Secretary of State George Shultz is U.S. willingness to bargain away the SDI. As former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance told a journalist Nov. 30: "My view is that if the administration were to take a strong stand and stick to the SDI, then there

will be no negotiations in Geneva. The only Soviet precondition for the talks is that the SDI is negotiable. Negotiability is the key. If there isn't negotiability, there won't be talks."

Vance was in Chicago for a meeting of the Palme Commission, one of the key channels for the Establishment's imperial "New Yalta" agreement with the Kremlin. According to Vance, the end-of-November meeting, which included Soviet representatives Gen. Mikhail Milstein and Georgii Arbatov, was devoted entirely to the "dangers posed by the SDI." It was only one of the gatherings—Aspen Institute, Pugwash, etc.—taking place during this period.

Drop 'Star Wars'—or else

The American elite issued its formal declaration of war against the President and his program Nov. 26, with the release of a major article, "The President's Choice: Star Wars or Arms Control," scheduled for publication in the Council on Foreign Relations' journal, *Foreign Affairs*. Authored by Bundy, Robert McNamara, Gerard Smith, and George Kennan, the article is a thinly veiled threat to Reagan: Stop the SDI—or else.

"The re-election of Ronald Reagan makes the future of his Strategic Defense Initiative the most important question of nuclear-arms competition and arms control on the national agenda since 1972. Sharing the gravest reservations about this undertaking, and believing that unless it is radically constrained during the next four years it will bring vast new costs and dangers to our country and to mankind, we think it urgent to offer an assessment of the nature and hazards of this initiative, to call for the closest vigilance by Congress and

the public, and even to invite the victorious President to reconsider.”

Unveiled at a Washington, D.C., press conference sponsored by the Arms Control Association Nov. 26, the article attempts to portray Reagan as fantasy ridden, stupid, out of touch with reality and—worst of all—guilty of “technological hubris” for calling for the development of a defense against nuclear attack. Should Reagan persist in this “fanciful vision,” it warns, the arms-control mafia will unleash every asset at its disposal, from Congress to the media, to break him.

Secretary of State George Shultz, according to informed sources, has succeeded in persuading the President to allow the SDI to be included in the “umbrella” arms-control talks in January. White House spokesman Larry Speakes announced at a White House briefing Nov. 27: “I think this [SDI] would all be a matter of discussion within the context of the arms-control talks that we hope to enter into.” State Department spokesman Robert Dean told the Palme Commission meeting the same.

The appointment of Bernard Kalb as chief spokesman for the State Department is also a direct anti-SDI move. Kalb, a Kissinger intimate, is the chief diplomatic correspondent for NBC, which last September set up shop in Moscow and broadcast a series of specials on the “New Cold War,” prominently targeting the beam-weapons program.

But according to Speakes, the President will instruct Shultz to discuss the SDI with the Soviets solely in terms of Reagan’s original, “Mutually Assured Survival” offer, as he reiterated it in the final campaign debate: to share U.S. beam-weapon technology with them. This offer gives the lie to all “first strike” propaganda claims against “Star Wars.”

Speakes said that it “is certainly our position” that the SDI holds out the prospect for greater nuclear stability, and that “we will make those views known to the Soviet Union.” The White House also issued a written response to the *Foreign Affairs* article, stating that the program represents a necessary response to a massive Soviet ABM effort and a “powerful deterrent to a Soviet breakout of the ABM treaty.” In the long term, the statement said, the SDI “may be the means by which the United States and the Soviet Union can safely agree to very deep reductions, and perhaps someday even the elimination, of offensive nuclear arms.”

Kissinger ‘whittling away’

That the President is not likely to be moved is underscored by a recent Lou Harris poll which showed that 75% of Americans who voted for his re-election did so because they approve of “Star Wars.” The authors of the *Foreign Affairs* diatribe themselves pointed to this problem: “As long as the American people believe that Star Wars offers real hope of reaching the President’s asserted goal, it will have a level of political support unrelated to reality.” They then called for a massive media campaign to “re-educate” the American pub-

lic, accompanied by an anti-SDI mobilization on Capitol Hill.

One flank now being hit is the use of the budget deficit to force Reagan into sharp funding cuts in the SDI. Henry Kissinger himself bluntly confided to a journalist on Nov. 28: “The SDI has no future. The President will push it, but it has no future. The funds will be whittled away, bit by bit.”

“Henry is right,” said an arms control spokesman. “The Strategic Defense Initiative will be ‘whittled away’. . . . The job will be done in Congress. And it will be certain conservatives who will do it. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) will take a leading role; he’s dead set against this program.”

The Capitol Hill side of the anti-SDI mobilization is already well under way. Liberal Democrats and Kissinger Republicans, and the White House “Palace Guard,” have formed an alliance to force cuts in funding for defense, in general, and the SDI in particular.

On Nov. 29, several of Dole’s Republicans met with Reagan and warned that “painful cuts” must be made in military spending. The most vocal were Sen. Robert Packwood (Oreg.) and House Republican leader Robert Michel (Ill.). Packwood, who will take over the chairmanship of the powerful Finance Committee, said: “Folks, let’s face up to it. If we’re going to get it down on spending, we’re not talking about 5% off this or 6% off that. We’re talking about eliminating programs.”

Escalation against LaRouche

Kissinger’s “whittling away” remarks were made at a gala 70th birthday party celebration for the *New Republic* magazine. The forum was appropriate, in that the magazine published a major article in its Nov. 19 issue, “The LaRouche Connection,” rancorously reporting that *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., broadly credited with being the “intellectual architect” of the beam-weapon program, had played a key role in getting Reagan to adopt the SDI.

The article, which demanded that the LaRouche-Reagan link be broken, was the signal for a massive offensive against LaRouche, involving the freezing of his supporters’ bank accounts and other financial warfare clearly aimed at stripping the former independent presidential candidate’s security. Other articles and editorials echoing the *New Republic*’s themes included a syndicated column by Jody Powell, published in newspapers across the country, and in at least one location, under the headline “LaRouche’s Rantings Must Be Silenced.”

Bundy’s hounds are notably not campaigning against the Soviet Union’s rapid ABM research and development program. In recent congressional testimony, Dr. Robert Cooper, head of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Administration (DARPA), admitted that the Soviet Union is ahead of the U.S. in many areas of advanced weaponry, including possibly x-ray lasers, “which could be used for advanced BMD technology.”