

Editorial

'The orchestra played perfectly'

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Strategic Defense Initiative Office were reported to be elated over the overwhelming success of a Delta rocket-launched SDI experiment conducted Friday morning, Sept. 5.

The experiment, carried out under extremely tight security conditions, dramatically reversed the string of disasters and suspected sabotage which started with the Jan. 28 Challenger explosion, and included the destruction of another Delta on May 3.

Following the successful Delta experiment, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger struck deep into the territory of the enemies of the Strategic Defense Initiative—at Harvard University's 350th Anniversary celebration—with a powerful speech reaffirming President Ronald Reagan's July 25 offer to Gorbachov for technology sharing and joint deployment of the SDI.

The SDI experiment—described by NASA as “as close to perfect as you can get”—involved two satellites launched by a Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral, which tracked each other in an “orbital dog fight” for three hours before one deliberately collided with and destroyed the other. The satellites also tracked the launching of a smaller Aries rocket from New Mexico.

A Pentagon spokesman described the experiments as a “classic textbook success,” saying that they show “we can pick up an object, identify what it is, and then we can home in on an object.” “We feel like we're back in the groove,” said the elated Delta project manager at a press conference after the launch.

Referring to the launch and the flight team, he added: “We let the orchestra play and it played perfectly.”

The Delta rocket, one of three that have been designated for SDI, blasted off at 11:08 a.m. EDT. The smaller Aries was launched at 12:39 p.m. And at 2:50 p.m., Weinberger launched a precision-guided attack on the Soviets and their U.S. appeasers.

Weinberger highlighted the “moral difference” between the U.S. and Soviet governments, and commented that the Soviets are “quite effective in trying to

bring home to molders of our own opinion their own agenda and their own desires as to what we should do.” Soviet military training and doctrine, said Weinberger, “are grounded in a very clear belief that a nuclear war can be won and be won by them.”

The Soviets want arms-control agreements “without much cost to them” which they are manipulating U.S. public opinion to try and get.

Weinberger expressed his confidence that there is “a better way”—the SDI—and displayed optimism “on the basis of our experiments and tests as recent as today . . . I'm convinced we can get it.” He then repeated Reagan's July 25 offer, the same as the proposal made by Lyndon LaRouche in 1982: “The President has said many times—and people, as they frequently do, don't seem to believe him and don't seem to be willing to credit him with meaning what he is saying . . . that, if we could get it, we would indeed share the technology, work out a regime in which it was jointly deployed with the Soviet Union so that there would not be any advantage in the sense of having a clear, firm, thoroughly reliable defense.”

Weinberger concluded with an attack on those who think “we could get peace by weakness,” reminding his listeners of Hitler's invasion of the Rhineland in 1936, “when it was not considered proper policy to make any kind of interference that might lead to confrontation. And yet had we done so at that time and made it clear that Hitler's tiny army had to leave at once, and made it clear by the military strength that could be brought against him, then I think we could have had a different result and perhaps avoided all of World War II.”

So far, the response from the Soviets to the generous Reagan-Weinberger offer continues to be a thundering silence.

But we here at *EIR*, where the new strategic doctrine behind the SDI originated, know how crucial our role has been in making the events of Sept. 5 possible. So, when the orchestra plays perfectly, there is just one thing to do—applaud!