

## Editorial

### *The Russian R&D challenge*

According to senior U.S. intelligence sources, the alarms have, at long last, been sounded in official Washington, of the threat to United States national security posed by the fact that the Russians are rapidly outstripping the U.S.A. in scientific research and development progress.

Even though, still to this day, *applied* Russian science and technology lags significantly behind the United States, the United States, in particular, faces certain dramatic problems which it must address with a sense of great urgency.

One of these problems is that in areas of military and strategic significance, applied Russian science and technology does not lag behind the United States as much as it does in militarily non-significant areas. In fact, in numerous military fields, the Russians may well be ahead.

More alarming is the fact that the Soviet scientific establishment, led by Academicians Y. Velikhov and R. Sagdeev, is focusing on the military strategic significance of new areas of scientific work, most notably in the domain of optical biophysics, electromagnetic radio-frequency weaponry, "high energy" physics, and plasma physics. Some of the more dangerous features of this Soviet work are presented in the pages of this issue of the *EIR*. We shall have more to say on the subject during the weeks ahead.

The most alarming aspect, however, is the assertion, circulating in intelligence community circles in Washington, that at the present time, the Soviet Union is outperforming the United States in basic R&D breakthroughs at a ratio of 3-to-1. According to these reports, a simple linear projection of this current trend into the future produces the conclusion that in not more than 10 years from now, the Soviet Union will have become the world's single, unchallenged imperial superpower, with the ability to dictate its will to all, including the United States.

According to this study, all Moscow needs to do to achieve this result is simply continue doing what it is

now doing in the domain of military-related R&D and ensure that the United States also continue doing what it has been doing.

Right now, there is nothing more important for the United States than to reverse this 3-to-1 Soviet advantage in R&D breakthroughs—and do so fast enough to prevent the consolidation of Russian supremacy in the 1990s.

In short, this is the only truly fundamental issue which will be determined by the direction and outcome of the 1988 U.S. presidential election. The policies of the United States in the areas of fundamental science, research, and development for the first half of the next decade, will be determined by the agreements, "deals," and other such arrangements which ultimately determine the selection of presidential candidates and, finally, the direction of the executive branch of government for the next four or eight years.

This is the proper context of viewing the extraordinary candidacy of Lyndon LaRouche. There is a certain school of thought among senior administrators, which argues that the critical "3-to-1" ratio cannot be reversed by the United States, unless the "LaRouche Reforms" in monetary, economic and industrial policy are finally implemented in some form.

We wish to point to another aspect of this matter: Scientific and technological breakthroughs are willfully caused by policy premeditation, by a certain unique, identifiable, and knowable scientific method, the method associated with the work of Leibniz, Gauss, Riemann, and Cantor, whose ancestor is that method which the Socrates of Plato's dialogues called the "method of my dialogues."

True, without a return of our population to the social practices and ethics of the pre-"post-industrial society" period, no progress can be made in science and technology.

A similar "paradigm shift" will be required, within the ranks of the more thoughtful elements of the policy-shaping elites.