
The Real Story of the SDI

Soviets demanded LaRouche's jailing, wrecking chance to avoid world war

by Paul Gallagher

The following chronology shows how the Soviets demanded, and the United States agreed to the imprisonment of Lyndon LaRouche as the author of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

August 1979. Lyndon LaRouche and representatives engage in first discussions with Ronald Reagan campaign personnel concerning "relativistic beam weapons" systems of antiballistic-missile defense, which LaRouche had advanced politically since 1976-77.

January-February 1981. LaRouche and his representatives discuss the policy to end the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) with "new scientific principles," in Reagan transition period meetings with Energy Secretary Donald Hodel, Interior Secretary James Watt, Science Adviser Dr. George Keyworth, and State Department official Richard Morris. Later that year Lyndon and Helga Zepp-LaRouche meet with CIA Deputy Director Robert Inman.

April 1981. Soviet representatives at the U.N. approach representatives of LaRouche several times, seeking discussion of his assessment of the incoming Reagan administration, and on strategic questions.

Fall 1981. LaRouche and representatives regularly meet with U.S. intelligence representatives to discuss LaRouche's "beam weapons" military strategy and five other policy areas, according to later court testimony by one of those officials.

December 1981. The Reagan administration through intelligence agencies, requests that LaRouche attempt "back-channel" discussions with Soviet representatives, about the science/military strategy policy represented by LaRouche, and how the Soviets would react if this policy were adopted.

February 1982. Public *EIR* conference on anti-missile defense policy is attended by 300 in Washington, D.C., including Soviet and East bloc representatives; LaRouche gives keynote on "relativistic beam weapons."

February 1982. In private meetings around this public conference, LaRouche opens the desired back-channel discussions through Soviet Washington embassy official Yevgeny Shershnev. The subject: possible adoption by Reagan administration of LaRouche's proposed new "beam weapons" military doctrine. Over the ensuing months, continuing

back-channel meetings take place in the Soviet embassy in Washington.

October-November 1982. Henry Kissinger and others in his circle, on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), send letters and memos to FBI Director William Webster asking for investigation and prosecution of LaRouche. The PFIAB and other intelligence agencies adopt a secret intelligence assessment (declassified in February 1993) which acknowledges Soviet buildup of nuclear war capabilities, but does not acknowledge any possibility that the United States might abandon the MAD doctrine.

Dec. 22, 1982. *EIR* publishes LaRouche's "Reply to Soviet Critics," a detailed warning to the Soviet leadership not to reject the new doctrine and not to refuse cooperative development of new energy and particle beam military technologies.

Jan. 1, 1983. Following months of LaRouche back-channel meetings with the Soviet designate and U.S. officials, LaRouche tells a national political conference in New York City, that the Reagan administration *must* scrap MAD doctrine "within 90 days" or the world is on a course toward war.

January-February 1983. LaRouche meets with European military officials and scientists about "relativistic beam weapons" and possible new U.S. military doctrine.

February 1983. Shershnev details to LaRouche the Soviet objection to his doctrine: It would work, but would be to the advantage of the West's superior scientific-productivity capabilities; therefore, the Soviets would reject such a new doctrine by Reagan.

February 1983. LaRouche, just returned from Europe, shuttles between U.S. officials and Soviet representative in intensive phase of back-channel negotiations. He warns the Soviets that a military buildup will destroy their economy and break up their empire within five years (i.e., by 1988), unless they accept the new "science driver" represented by relativistic beam technologies.

February 1983. Soviet representative tells LaRouche the Soviet leadership has been assured and is confident, that the Democratic Party leadership and co-thinking "moderate" Republican forces will block any intention by Reagan, to

adopt a new military doctrine abandoning MAD and developing beam-weapons defenses.

March 1983. LaRouche scientific representative Uwe Parpart meets with National Security Council scientists and consultants on possible Reagan announcement of new military doctrine.

March 16, 1983. LaRouche representatives meet with representatives of Air Force and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; they are told the Pentagon is unaware of any prospect of a new strategic policy.

March 23, 1983. Ronald Reagan concludes a nationally televised address on the Soviet military buildup, by announcing the new doctrine known as the Strategic Defense Initiative. The form of anti-missile defense doctrine Reagan announces is uniquely that of LaRouche, calling for fundamentally new beam technologies rather than the old interceptor missiles. He offers to share these technologies with the Soviets, in a cooperative effort to end MAD and make the new defensive technologies available to all countries: distinctly LaRouche's policy of anti-missile defense. Yuri Andropov's Soviet leadership is shocked and attributes vastly greater influence to LaRouche; the American Joint Chiefs of Staff are "floored" (according to public admission 10 years later by former Secretary of State George Shultz).

April 8, 1983. LaRouche keynotes a Fusion Energy Foundation conference in Washington, D.C. on the Strategic Defense Initiative, attended by 800 representatives of administration, Congress, business, and the diplomatic community, including 16 East bloc representatives. Representatives from the Soviet embassy and press attend, but then stage a walkout. (Soviet representatives in Japan repeat this tactic in April 1986, at a Fusion Energy Foundation conference in Tokyo to stimulate U.S.-Japan cooperation on the SDI.)

April 1983. Soviet designate Shershnev informs LaRouche that he has been ordered from the highest level to terminate the discussions with him. Shershnev had reacted to the Reagan announcement by seeking to have senior Soviet KGB "America expert" Georgi Arbatov meet with LaRouche; this was rejected and Shershnev was ordered back to Russia.

April 1983. Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, in an interview with *Der Spiegel* magazine, rejects Reagan's offer and instead suggests that the U.S. and U.S.S.R. agree to divide the world into spheres of influence, and that each allow the other free rein with the countries in its sphere.

May 24-28, 1983. A high-powered KGB delegation of 25, including some Russian Orthodox Church prelates since acknowledged to be KGB agents, comes to Minneapolis, Minnesota to hold a "peace conference" with leading Democratic associates of Walter Mondale. The purpose of this "U.S.-U.S.S.R. Bilateral Exchange Conference" is to declare war on the SDI. Soviet delegation is sponsored by Georgi Arbatov, head of the U.S.A. and Canada Institute of the U.S.S.R., and is headed by KGB publisher and journalist



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov at the United Nations. In 1986, Gorbachov demanded LaRouche's imprisonment as a condition of good superpower relations, at the Reykjavik summit with President Ronald Reagan.

Fyodor Burlatsky, a confidant of future President Mikhail Gorbachov.

Aug. 10, 1983. Burlatsky, in the weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, attacks the SDI, and by implication LaRouche, as a *casus belli*: "In other words, space weapons are provocative weapons; they are, absolutely, a *casus belli* for nuclear war."

August 1983. Democratic Party National Chairman Charles Manatt publicly declares war on Reagan's SDI policy, and says "all" Democratic candidates for President in 1984 will totally oppose SDI, despite its broad popular support.

September 1983. LaRouche announces his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for President, to back the SDI and rally Democratic voter support for it.

Oct. 26, 1983. Burlatsky, in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, reiterates his *casus belli* statement on the SDI and attacks "the American LaRouche" in this connection.

Nov. 14, 1983. Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* attacks LaRouche for his speeches in Europe, "by which Ronald Reagan is trying to tie Europe tightly to his criminal doctrine."

March 1984. NBC's prime-time half-hour program "First Camera" attacks "the LaRouche factor in the Reagan administration." Later the *New Republic* magazine repeats the same attack in a cover story.

March 8, 1984. Democratic Party Chairman Manatt holds a Chicago press conference to demand that Reagan immediately break all administration contact with La-



Soviet press spokesman Aleksandr Bovin (right, with EIR in hand) at the Reykjavik summit, October 1986. Bovin calls EIR "a dirty, dirty magazine." On the left is EIR correspondent Poul Rasmussen.

Rouche or his associates.

March 12, 1984. *Izvestia* demands that Reagan break all administration contact with LaRouche, which *Izvestia* calls "a scandal" which "the White House does not even try to deny." Implies that this is the condition for Soviet leadership talks with the Reagan administration.

April 2, 1984. Soviet Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* attacks a Paris meeting of LaRouche associates on the SDI, as "a colloquium of murderers."

April 1984. The author of one of the printed Soviet attacks on LaRouche (in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*) meets with LaRouche representatives in Paris, demanding to know whether LaRouche intends to continue his presidential campaign after the Democratic primaries, and what LaRouche's chances in the election are.

September 1984. LaRouche, in a national TV broadcast, denounces Walter Mondale as "an agent of KGB influence" for his campaign against the SDI.

October 1984. The Department of Justice begins its first attempt to prosecute LaRouche and his associates, just before the presidential election.

November 1984. Mondale is overwhelmingly defeated by Reagan.

July 1985. *EIR* publishes *Global Showdown*, a Special Report on the Soviet military buildup, by which Moscow is trying to defeat the SDI policy. LaRouche's 1983 warning to the Soviet leadership is repeated in much greater detail: East bloc economies will break down under this military buildup by 1988, unless the Soviets accept the new scientific and technological "driver" offered by development of SDI against MAD.

February 1986. The Department of Justice launches a new campaign to suppress LaRouche's movement, holding a nationwide meeting of law enforcement officials in Boston to solicit prosecutions. Circulation of anti-LaRouche slanders becomes a "Project Democracy" policy of elements of the U.S. government and private intelligence networks under Executive Order 12333.

March 1986. After a relative interlude during the "caretaker" regime of Soviet figurehead Konstantin Chernenko has ended, and Gorbachov has taken over, attacks resume on LaRouche. The KGB conducts an international "dirty trick," attempting to blame LaRouche for the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. The campaign features two Soviet TV broadcasts in 1986, and an international KGB disinformation campaign about LaRouche and

the murder of Palme, as is later admitted in a 1992 book by two former top East German communist intelligence officials. The U.S. Department of Justice, the Anti-Defamation League, and NBC all collaborate in this slander campaign.

March 1986: LaRouche candidates win second and third positions in the Illinois Democratic Party primary on March 18. The *Washington Post* and NBC conduit Soviet KGB lies against LaRouche on Palme case.

May 1986. Ronald Reagan repeats in writing to Mikhail Gorbachov the original SDI offer that the new technologies essential to anti-missile defenses can be shared with the Soviets and offered to other countries; Reagan reiterates this in a speech at the United Nations.

July-October 1986. Soviet press repeatedly calls for investigation and prosecution of LaRouche.

Fall 1986. Gorbachov and Soviet military leadership plan and debate how to use upcoming Reykjavik summit with Reagan to force abandonment of the SDI (as detailed in admissions by former Soviet officials at a conference at Princeton University in February 1993).

Sept. 24, 1986. Georgi Arbatov, in a pre-summit press briefing in Reykjavik, according to the Danish press, "maintained his friendly facade only until Mr. Rasmussen of *EIR* asked a question." Arbatov then denounces *EIR* as "LaRouche fascists," and closes down his "friendly" press conference.

Sept. 30, 1986. *Sovetskaya Kultura* magazine denounces LaRouche's policy inputs to the Reagan administration, accuses him of tax fraud, and demands, "Why isn't the Internal Revenue Service interested" in prosecuting LaRouche?

Oct. 3, 1986. Gorbachov, speaking in East Berlin, denounces "hidden Nazis without swastikas," the phrase used by Soviet publications to describe LaRouche, and "the hidden viruses of militarist, aggressive fascism."

Oct. 6, 1986. A massive raid on LaRouche publications' headquarters is conducted by 400 armed agents of the FBI, IRS, Virginia State Police, and other agencies. LaRouche's residence is completely surrounded by armed agents, armored cars, personnel carriers, and helicopters; a shootout and killing of LaRouche remains possible throughout the day. Leaders of LaRouche's movement are indicted, and U.S. Attorney in Boston William Weld attempts to get indictments of LaRouche himself.

Oct. 8, 1986. Secretary of State Shultz emerges from all-day summit sessions in Reykjavik, Iceland, to say that broad arms control agreements could be had, but are being blocked only by Soviet insistence that the United States give up the SDI. Until that moment, all international press except *EIR* had insisted that SDI was *not* an issue at this summit.

Oct. 7, 1986. In Reykjavik, Georgi Arbatov again shouts "fascists, LaRouche fascists" at *EIR* correspondents in front of hundreds of international journalists. Soviet Academy of Sciences official Yevgeni Velikhov tells the press that the Soviets cannot accept the American SDI. Soviet press

spokesman Aleksandr Bovin calls *EIR* "a dirty, dirty magazine."

Oct. 7, 1986. While 1,000 journalists wait outside the summit meetings in Reykjavik, Cable News Network entertains them by replaying films of the massive anti-LaRouche raids in Leesburg, Virginia the previous day.

'Lost second chance' to avoid war: LaRouche's proposals of 1988-89

Oct. 12, 1988. LaRouche, in a Berlin press conference, forecasts the breakup of Soviet control of eastern Europe and the reunification of Germany. For the third time, he details that the Soviet bloc cannot go beyond 1988 in its military buildup; a deepening food crisis and strikes would bring down the Iron Curtain. LaRouche says this is the West's opportunity to rebuild the East starting with "Food for Peace" in Poland.

Oct. 14, 1988. LaRouche is indicted for the second time.

Oct. 31, 1988. LaRouche's Berlin proposal is broadcast in the United States as part of a national prime-time campaign broadcast; LaRouche adds that if the West lets the Soviet empire collapse and tries to loot it economically, the result will be general war spreading from the cockpit of the Balkans.

Jan. 27, 1989. LaRouche is imprisoned with a 15-year sentence.

October-November 1989. Massive demonstrations in Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia lead to the opening of the Berlin Wall and eventually the unification of Germany, as LaRouche had forecast.

November 1989. Soviet General Staff documents (made public in 1992) show that active attempts to train for a first strike and nuclear blitzkrieg against Europe are still continuing as Soviet military doctrine.

November 1989. LaRouche from prison begins to elaborate his Paris-Vienna-Berlin "Productive Triangle" proposal for rapid, high-technology rebuilding of economic infrastructure across Europe.

1990-91. LaRouche's Productive Triangle proposal is discussed at conferences across Europe, with scores of parliamentarians, hundreds of economists, labor leaders, and former East European resistance fighters. But because of U.S. and British campaigns against any German leadership role in Europe, governments do not adopt the "Productive Triangle" or any large-scale, high-technology infrastructure program for the East.

December 1990-January 1991. U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher pull Europe and Japan into support and extensive payment for Operation Desert Storm attack on Iraq.

April 1991. Serbian attacks on Slovenia and Croatia start a spreading Balkan war, after public encouragement of Serbian aims by Secretary of State James Baker in a visit to Belgrade.