

Editorial

The rebirth of technological optimism

“Recession for Ten More Years, Says IIASA Scientist; Foresees Rising Unemployment, Financial Breakdown, Dropping Energy Prices.” That was the headline of a press release issued by the Vienna-based International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) on March 24, the day after President Reagan announced that the United States would make a scientific and economic commitment to render nuclear war obsolete.

The IIASA, as *EIR* has documented, is a strategy center for the most evil policy factions East and West. It is overseen by Sir Solly Zuckerman, the science adviser to the British royal family, who is campaigning against directed-beam ABM defense systems; Djermen Gvishiani, a leading Soviet systems analyst, i.e., a Malthusian; Alexander King, who boasts of having created the environmentalist movement through his NATO channels; and McGeorge Bundy, who, when Pope John Paul II affirmed that man’s divine spark is found in scientific and industrial progress, responded that a long life for this pontiff would be undesirable.

The IIASA justified its projections—“some 70 million unemployed in Western countries, a continuation of the recession into the 1990s, the need to write off some \$2 trillion in national and international loans, and further dropping energy prices to as low as \$12 a barrel”—with reference to the “Kondratieff” astrology: “long waves” which inexorably produce periodic economic collapse. In the pre-March 23 United States, there was good reason to fear that Americans would sedate themselves into accepting the permanent depression planned by these negative-growth advocates. Now, we are in a new universe.

The message of hope delivered by the President is reviving Americans’ “technological optimism.” The controlled environment of cultural decay which has led so many citizens to accept the prospect that their children will be less productive, less educated, and less moral than themselves, and that their aging parents must die quickly for reasons of “budgetary constraints,” is now broken.

Defense Secretary Weinberger voiced this optimism when, at a March 24 press conference in Madrid, he pointed to the 1960s’ Apollo NASA moon-shot project as the model for what American commitment and know-how have accomplished, and can again accomplish in achieving an ABM defense. “If both sides [the United States and U.S.S.R.] can acquire the means of rendering impotent these deadly missiles, we would really have advanced the cause of peace and humanity very, very far.” He declared himself “excited and pleased about this initiative because it seems to me the one thing that cuts across all of that sterile doctrinal thinking and gets us to the real possibility of something to work for.”

Mr. Roy Innis, national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), issued a statement to Associated Press and United Press International on March 25 which drew out some of the implications. “The new high-technology systems to destroy incoming Soviet nuclear missiles will provide opportunities for blacks that will create a new economic revolution in black life,” he said. That is true for every segment of the population. Doing what is morally and militarily necessary requires mobilizing all the nation’s resources—and thus creates the freedom for growth and economic opportunity.

Now, it must be added, the dangers of world-financial collapse have become the equivalent of a military threat to the West. Consider what would happen if, in order to carry out the President’s policy, credit expansion and debt reorganization took place on the basis of maximizing industrial recovery, scientific research, and labor upgrading.

Then consider what would happen if the same policy were adopted internationally, so that industrial growth requirements governed credit flows. Anyone seriously concerned about national security and economic recovery will no longer entrust them to the “invisible hand” or the Federal Reserve or the technicians of austerity like Felix Rohatyn.