

After Korean tragedy: strategic defense is vital

by Nora Hamerman

The Moscow regime's deliberate destruction of the Korean Air Lines commercial jet carrying 269 civilians on Sept. 1—hours before the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II—has sparked in many Americans the “Pearl Harbor” spirit which only days earlier, in an “Open Letter to Yuri Andropov” (see p. 33), former presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. had warned would be kindled in the face of Soviet determination to provoke war.

President Reagan, in a brief speech given as he boarded the plane to fly back to Washington for emergency consultations Sept. 2, stressed that the act of terrorism against the KAL jet by the Soviet Union transgressed the irreducible laws of civilized behavior. The world must be struck by the stark contrast, the President said, between the Soviets' self-portrayal as lovers of peace, and their wanton disregard for human life and “flagrant lying” after Russian MIGs shot down the Korean plane.

If there were any doubt of the insanity prevailing in Moscow, it was dispelled by the U.S.S.R.'s belligerent attitude in official declarations and at the emergency session of the United Nations Security Council called on Sept. 2 to get to the bottom of the incident. Effectively admitting that the slaughter was ordered from the top levels of the Kremlin, the Soviets charged that the KAL flight was a “spy plane,” and had the gall to accuse President Reagan of slander.

For the Soviet-KGB-beloved Averell Harriman wing of the Democratic Party, the image of Andropov as a man of peace and of Reagan as the “warmonger” was shot down in the skies of Asia. That goes especially for the six announced Democratic presidential hopefuls, who had been falling over one another to prove their qualifications to defeat Ronald

Reagan in the 1984 election on the issue of “peace.” With the Soviets' massive funding and control of the nuclear “freeze” movement on the public record, the Soviets' behavior Sept. 1 should suffice to rid public life of the foolish and wicked policies of the so-called peace faction once and for all.

Bringing the phony “peace movement” to its overdue demise, and forcing Moscow to negotiate on President Reagan's *real peace initiative*, the beam-weapons development policy against which this current insanity is deployed, are the two goals to which the “Pearl Harbor spirit” must be directed. Knee-jerk “reprisals,” like those the Kissinger crowd reportedly advocates, will only play into Andropov's game of “thermonuclear chicken.”

LaRouche: Third Rome thesis demonstrated

LaRouche, the leader of the National Democratic Policy Committee, a political action committee within the Democratic Party which has vowed to “throw the KGB Democrats out of the party,” commented in a statement issued the day of the massacre: “To understand the Soviet intentions in this act of cold-blooded, calculated murder, one must understand the ‘Third Rome’ thesis—that the Russian Orthodox Church believes that Moscow will be the headquarters of the ‘Third and Final Roman Empire.’ ”

He noted that the Sept. 1 mid-afternoon release by the Soviet news agency TASS, the first official Soviet comment on the fate of the Korean jetliner, corroborated the two-and-a-half-hour interval of Soviet tracking of the plane that Secretary of State Shultz had previously announced. “Based on what the Soviets have already admitted and if the Soviets did shoot down the jetliner as Shultz has indicated, I assert that

the Soviets have committed cold-blooded calculated murder.”

LaRouche—a candidate for the 1980 Democratic Party presidential nomination who is the subject of a growing “draft” movement for the 1984 race—added that the Soviets had to have known that the prominent U.S. congressman Larry MacDonald, Democrat of Georgia, was on the plane. Thus, the Soviet action “will be directly understood as a personal threat to President Ronald Reagan.”

Congress must ram through real defense

The eruption into view of what LaRouche termed a government in Moscow “run by the brothers Karamazov” occurred right after the renewed assertion by the U.S. administration of its commitment to “Mutually Assured Survival,” the strategic doctrine that would end the age of nuclear terror by developing antiballistic-missile defensive weapons based on directed-energy beam capabilities.

At the international scientists’ meeting on the “Technological Bases for Peace” in Erice, Italy on Aug. 20-23, a team of U.S. scientists led by Reagan adviser Edward Teller vigorously campaigned for the new defense doctrine, and succeeded in wringing an accord from the reluctant Soviet delegation to set up a joint East-West study commission to probe the feasibility of such defense systems. (See *EIR*, Sept. 6.) The notion of a defense shield against nuclear missiles based on the most advanced physical principles was publicized by Dr. Teller and his colleagues through the Italian press, and won the explicit approval of scientists close to the Roman Catholic Church.

This strategic doctrine is identical in all essential aspects to the one publicly advocated by LaRouche since early 1982. In April 1983, shortly after the President’s proclamation of this new U.S. doctrine on March 23, LaRouche urged the Soviets to accept Reagan’s generous offer of peace in several speeches. Otherwise, he foresaw, they would attempt to force the United States to back down by provoking confrontations around the globe no later than late August to early September.

The strategic emergency LaRouche predicted is here. It is indispensable that President Reagan affirm, emphatically and repeatedly, the March 23 beam-defense policy, and ram the necessary support for it through Congress. Prominent European political figures, including a defense expert in the Christian Social Union party of West Germany’s ruling coalition (see Editorial, page 64) and parliamentarians of the Christian Democracy, Italy’s largest party, have asked Western Europe now to support the beam-weapons plan.

A new mood in Washington

Samuel Stratton (D-N.Y.), the third-ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, responded to the slaughter of the Korean jetliner passengers with a blistering message to his party’s Moscow-duped presidential candidates and leadership. In a Sept. 1 statement Stratton said:

“I’m afraid this incident demonstrates the truth of what President Reagan is saying: that the Soviets are an evil soci-

ety. It seems to me that any nation which would direct its fighter pilots to shoot down a civilian commercial aircraft over the ocean has got to be outside the pale as far as civilization is concerned. . . .

“I think what we ought to do now is put away the rose-colored glasses that the Democratic leadership and the liberals in Congress have been viewing the Russians with.

“Every one of the six Democratic candidates for president has said the first thing he would do is run over to Moscow and embrace Yuri Andropov. The Democratic leadership has been poo-pooing the whole Russian thing. The Democratic candidates have been living in a dream world.”

In the hours after news of the tragedy was broadcast, the rosy-eyed candidates were hastening to repair their public image (former Vice-President Walter Mondale denounced the shooting of the aircraft as “barbarous and despicable” and demanded “a full explanation from the Soviet government”). However, at *EIR*’s deadline, none had made the obvious step of rallying to the Commander-in-Chief’s defense policy.

A former Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington, called a press conference Sept. 1. Jackson said eloquently: “There was no clear and present danger to the Soviet Union. Surely they knew it was a non-combative plane. Surely they should have known other ways to get the plane out of Soviet airspace.” He went on to hint at the deeper roots of what he called “a dastardly, barbaric act against humanity . . . conduct that is inconsistent with all rules that apply to human beings on this earth.” He said, “It goes back centuries. The czars kept everyone out. . . . This mentality has nothing to do with communism alone. It is Russian history.”

Hours after he came close to naming the “Third Rome” thesis behind Moscow’s current actions, Senator Jackson died of a massive heart attack the night of Sept. 1.

The State Department problem

The leading problem with U.S. strategic policy has been the combination of the State Department crowd and the bankers’ pressures. When Moscow rejected the March 23, 1983 offer of peace, the effect was to increase the relative influence of Reagan’s foe Henry Kissinger and his cothinkers on all fronts—beginning with falling back to the alternative of Kissinger’s tame Scowcroft Commission and its report. The State Department, which, with certain other factions in Washington, had ferociously if quietly opposed the beam-weapons doctrine all along, has been attempting to maneuver the President into a posture of willingness to “trade off” the beam-weapons policy for a favorable START agreement.

The State Department has also taken persistent action to prevent interference with “Hot Autumn” terrorism in Germany. It has worked to persuade the White House of the false view that the Soviets were genuinely seeking to soften lines in Europe, while intensifying conflict in Central America.

Now, the State Department’s false propaganda could go up in smoke, together with the nuclear freeze movement.