

Congressmen try to undercut beam weapons

by Graham Lowry

The battle on Capitol Hill over President Reagan's defensive beam-weapons program has intensified markedly since President Reagan rejected demands that he negotiate away the beam-weapons program. In a report to Congress April 2, the President announced that there will be no negotiations with the Soviet Union toward a ban on anti-satellite weapons, as demanded by a congressional resolution passed last year as an amendment to the defense appropriations bill. Reagan emphasized that no new arrangements or agreements on military activities in space "have been found to date that are judged to be in the overall interests of the United States and its allies."

Pledge to develop ASATs

The report submitted by the White House also noted that "since the Soviet Union has an operational capacity to destroy satellites while the United States does not, the current situation is destabilizing." Furthermore, the Soviet "tendency toward secrecy" made verification of compliance with any treaty doubtful. The report made clear what the beam-weapons opponents in Congress already feared—that the United States will proceed to develop an anti-satellite weapons system, with a target date for testing it this fall.

The President's refusal to abandon the only defensive strategy that could ensure America's security was generally anticipated as the deadline neared for him to respond to the congressional resolution. Henry Kissinger's stable of flunkies in the State Department reportedly worked around the clock to get the President to declare that an effective arms-control treaty banning space weapons was at least possible.

Soviet Ambassador Izraelyan, Moscow's representative at the United Nations disarmament conference in Geneva, gave the signal for renewed attacks on the President's pro-

gram with the submission March 23 of a draft treaty banning weapons in space. He called on "the peoples of the world" to stop the threat of the "militarization" of space "before it is too late." By March 28, the NATO command had detected that the "peace-loving" Soviet Union was conducting the most massive naval maneuvers in its history, and Moscow announced it had gone to a higher, permanent state of combat-readiness. The same day, the KGB lobby on Capitol Hill launched a new attack on beam weapons, mounting an opposition blatantly labeled "Made in Moscow."

On March 28, Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) announced the formation of the Coalition for the Peaceful Uses of Space (CPUS), a group of congressional appeasers and private support groups for Moscow's ambitions—including both the Senate and House sponsors of the resolution that forced the President's reply, Massachusetts Democrats Sen. Paul Tsongas and Rep. Joe Moakley. Representative Brown reported that he had introduced legislation that would use Henry Kissinger's 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union to ban any development of the directed-energy-beam defensive systems the President called for last year.

Brown also announced that the coalition's founding was intended to "send a message to the President that 'Star Wars' should stay in the movie theaters where it belongs." Toward its goal of "keeping space free of weapons," the CPUS will seek "a funding cap on Department of Defense strategic defense programs aimed at or based in space" and promote "a ban of weapons of all kinds from or directed toward space."

If this sounds like a policy line identical to Moscow's attacks on President Reagan's "Star Wars," it is hardly surprising in light of the composition of CPUS. Among the "public interest group" members of the coalition is the Committee for National Security, sponsors of the June 1983

Women's Leadership Conference in Washington, a major stop on a nationwide tour of KGB and Russian Orthodox Church officials to build the "peace" movement in the United States.

The organizational membership of CPUS also includes Women's Strike for Peace, the old 'anti-war' front for the Communist Party U.S.A. (CPUSA). Another element of the coalition, the Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space (ISCOS), has showcased at least one official of the Soviet government in its public meetings, organized with the objective of banning all space weapons at the top of the agenda.

More 'peace links'

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the notorious environmentalist and anti-nuclear propaganda outfit, is also affiliated with CPUS, as is Richard Garwin, the co-author of the UCS tract wildly attacking the advanced technologies of directed-energy beams, under the strategic dictum that "defense is destabilizing." Garwin's own contributions to strategic thinking are exemplified by his proposal to bury nuclear bombs around the country, to be detonated in the event of Soviet attack, with the resulting flying rocks and debris knocking down the incoming missiles.

Of the 16 members of Congress who are founders of CPUS, all but three were sponsors of the resolution directing the President to bargain away America's strategic capability for survival. The wives of half the members are in Peace Links, the pro-Moscow unilateral disarmament group whose direct Soviet ties have been documented even on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Five of the 16 had the opportunity to personally receive their instructions in Moscow during "peace" junkets last summer to meet with Soviet officials.

The 57 congressional cosponsors of the CPUS anti-beam legislation include Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), the intellectual author of the KGB's dictatorship in Grenada; Joseph Addabbo (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House defense appropriations subcommittee, who has continually sought to eliminate major strategic weapons systems for U.S. defense; Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), Gary Hart's campaign co-chairman, who has fought every strategic weapons modernization program and seeks to reduce U.S. troop strength in Europe; Rep. Jim Leach (R-Iowa), the Kissinger Republican who led the KGB-backed drive for the nuclear freeze; Rep. Jim Markey (D-Mass.), the initiator of the nuclear-freeze resolution in the House; and Norman Dicks (D-Wash.), a leading figure in the Kissinger-Harriman congressional group that repeatedly blackmailed the President into adopting the recommendations of the Scowcroft Commission as administration defense and arms-control policy.

The Scowcroft Commission, headed by Kissinger Associates executive director Brent Scowcroft, recently put its "bipartisan" authority behind Moscow's line by filing a special supplemental report directing the President not to even consider the development and deployment of new defensive



Stuart Lewis/NSIPS

Dr. Richard Garwin, an ally of the Red Army caucus on Capitol Hill.

weapons without exercising "extreme caution," arguing that such development would jeopardize future arms control agreements and violate the 1972 ABM treaty.

Representative Brown, in announcing the founding of the CPUS, noted, "The most recent warning to the President about the importance of the integrity of the ABM Treaty came from the President's own commission on strategic forces, the Scowcroft Commission."

Fears and press blackout

Reagan's refusal to abandon his formal commitment to the development of beam-weapons defensive systems has provoked some public expressions of concern from the Eastern Establishment that the program may acquire sufficient momentum to make it difficult if not impossible to meet Moscow's demand that it be killed. The *Christian Science Monitor* declared editorially April 4, "So much momentum has gathered that it may soon be more a question of *which* defensive system to build, rather than *whether* to build one at all, say experts concerned about the Washington trend. Trying to control so much activity by treaty can only become more difficult."

Such fears were further reflected in the almost total blackout by the U.S. press of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's address to the Nuclear Planning Group during the April 2-4 NATO defense ministers' meeting. Weinberger's speech was entirely devoted to a presentation of the Strategic Defense Initiative—the formal designation now assigned the beam-weapons program, which was also recently reorganized under a new overall director for the program in the Pentagon, Gen. James Abrahamson, working under Weinberger's supervision.