

Russian 'SDI' proposal points to LaRouche

by Paul Gallagher

During the first week of April, while powerful demands for Lyndon LaRouche's freedom arose from Europe and South America, an extraordinary development from Russia brought back to the surface the *reason* that LaRouche was imprisoned.

The central issue is the original form of what became known as President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars" policy. It is now mirrored in a new policy proposal from Russia, featured dramatically on the front page of *Izvestia* on April 2: "On the Eve of Vancouver—Russia Proposes to the U.S. a Joint Plasma Weapons Experiment."

The deepening political and economic crisis in Russia is forcing up demands for the policies LaRouche designed in 1982 and 1989 to avoid the looming danger of world war. The communist regime of Mikhail Gorbachov rejected these policies violently and demanded LaRouche's imprisonment after Reagan adopted his SDI (see *EIR*, March 26, 1993). But Russia today is signalling a "last chance."

At the Vancouver summit between President Boris Yeltsin and President William Clinton on April 3-4, the Russian government proposed to the United States a cooperative program of development of anti-missile "plasma weapons" (see *Documentation*). The proposal, in its key characteristics, reflects the original LaRouche policy-design of a shift to effective defense against nuclear attack based on scientific breakthroughs, the design LaRouche discussed with both the U.S. and Soviet governments throughout 1982.

On April 14, *EIR* representatives in Germany are to give a strategic briefing in Munich to inform government, military, and political circles of the significance of the new Russian policy offer; on April 15, *EIR* presents such a public briefing at Washington's Embassy Row Hotel. *EIR* correspondents have found that only a small fraction of U.S. government offices, and even fewer corporate representatives,

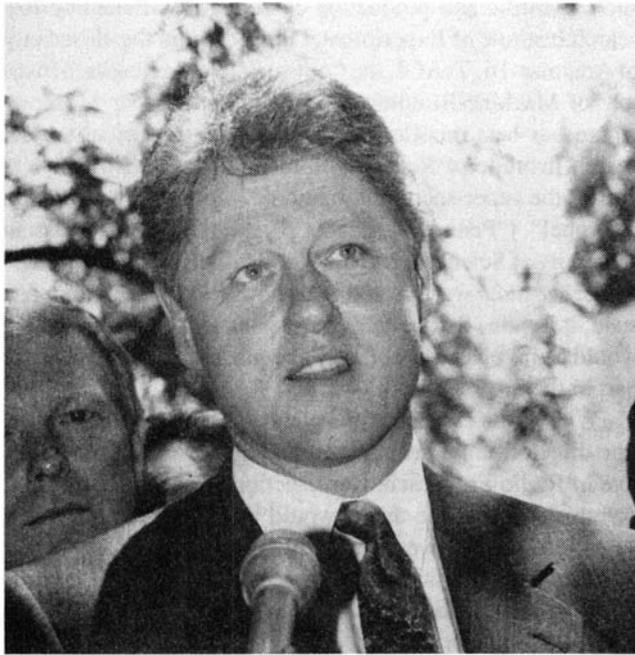
are aware of this extraordinary development.

So far, the western response to the proposal has kept it from the publics of the NATO nations, and many well-informed military, government, and scientific circles also have learned of it only from this news service. The Russian proposal was prominently featured in the newspaper *Izvestia* and the wire service Itar-Tass, on the eve of the Vancouver summit. It was announced by the Russians during widespread publicity about the 10th anniversary of Reagan's SDI. But virtually no public report or comment of it has appeared in the West in the first six days since the *Izvestia* report.

Russian contacts of this news service say that this proposed new scientific and strategic policy was presented at Vancouver in documents signed by Russian Vice Premier Grigory Khizha. As for the Clinton administration response, it was reported that it will study the proposal but make no immediate public response. The proposal was not made public at the summit press conferences.

But when LaRouche associates displayed a banner outside the Vancouver summit, reading "LaRouche Supports U.S.-Russian SDI" (see our cover photo), film footage showing the banner immediately appeared on Russian television, in an indication of the importance placed on the policy proposal by the Russians. In addition, the London *Daily Telegraph*, the only major western paper to have covered the announcement, did so because its Moscow sources strongly insisted to the *Telegraph's* correspondent that the proposal was serious and extremely important.

Lyndon LaRouche, informed of the Russian proposal on April 2, stated: "There is a clarification to be done on the exact meaning of the proposal in terms of its technological features; however, every indication is that it is a very serious policy offer, coming under the present circumstances with



Both President Clinton (left) and President Yeltsin are facing a world in which the old economic structures and strategic arrangements are breaking down. The Russians recognizing this, placed on the negotiating table at the Vancouver summit a proposal for anti-missile defense cooperation. Now, the ball is in Clinton's court.

the kind of discussions which are going back and forth in the environment around Moscow and Washington and elsewhere. I think this has to be treated as very serious. This may be the opening for President Clinton to make a radical change or effect a radical shift in an otherwise rapidly deteriorating world situation."

Invitation for U.S. policy shift

As the *Izvestia* documentation shows, the design and backing for the proposed "new SDI" involve several Russian scientific research institutes, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and military laboratories and construction institutes. Such circles are oriented to the real sovereignty of Russia, its most prized scientific and technological capabilities, and to "cooperation of equals" with the western nations. They are different than the anti-western "hardliners" exploiting the popular discontent with economic collapse and corruption exported from the West to Russia since 1990. Characteristic is the comment of the chief scientific designer of the project, Academician Rimili Avramenko: "This way, the military technology achievements of the two countries will be able to be employed for the common benefit, not of them alone."

The Clinton administration, which does not desire the collapse of Russia into chaos (as the International Monetary Fund seems to), has an opportunity which will not come again. It can respond by changing its own policy entirely and using SDI technologies as a science driver for "Great Projects" of rebuilding eastern Europe's economic infrastructure—precisely LaRouche's "Productive Triangle" proposal

of 1989. Without this combination of the SDI and the Productive Triangle as a new U.S. policy, the world is headed toward war on a scale of the Balkans many times over.

Joint plasma weapons

In an interesting comment, the Russian Federation's deputy chairman on defense industry, Yuri Glybin, says that the proposed experiments—given there the name of "Trust"—are "an alternative to the SDI." The scientists stress that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty does not impede it: "There is not one word there," said Avramenko, "about joint work on global defense against missile attack. Twenty years ago, it could not have entered anyone's mind, that such a thing were possible." This feature, an anti-missile defense based on "new physical principles," was LaRouche's 1982 SDI design. By contrast, today's U.S. SDI program is almost completely concerned with guiding anti-missile missiles, having sharply reduced its efforts in lasers and other directed-energy beams. SDI enthusiast and former Energy Secretary Adm. James Watkins has recently stated that the current SDI program does not reflect its original purpose at all.

In July of last year, SDI officials and scientists were quoted by *Aviation Week* magazine acknowledging the current superior advances of Russian work in increasing the power of lasers, controlling their beam quality. Victor George of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory told the magazine that "the Russians are world leaders in understanding the atmosphere and how to propagate through it." Already at that time, Russian approaches to the American labs, including

Livermore, were under way, and more are now expected.

The *Izvestia* article, by the paper's top military writer, Viktor Litovkin, describes the anti-missile weapon being put forward by the Russians as the generation of "a plasmoid" which can be propagated from the ground in the atmosphere (not in space) against the electronic guidance and controls of any missile.

In the 1984 book *Beam Defense*, written by LaRouche's associates at the Fusion Energy Foundation to explain Reagan's SDI to the public, "plasmoids" are described as a ground-based anti-missile technology of potentially universal effectiveness, but requiring a major scientific and technological effort to develop. A "plasmoid" is essentially a ball of hot, ionized gas, like the plasma gas burning in a fusion energy reactor, but accelerated to a high rate of speed by magnetic fields. High-powered microwaves, produced by a "phased array" of radars on the ground, may be involved in its generation, or in guiding the plasmoid through the atmosphere.

Litovkin gives a picture of the potential working of the anti-missile defense, and how U.S., European, and Russian scientific capabilities could be combined and advanced by it. The Russians propose basing the experiments at the U.S. Kwajalein Atoll test range.

Documentation

Izvestia breaks story on SDI cooperation

On April 2, the Russian daily Izvestia broke the story of Russia's proposed cooperation on strategic and tactical ballistic missile defense experiments with the United States, and possibly with other countries. The Moscow daily Nezavisi-maya Gazeta carried a wire from Tass-Itar the same day. So far, outside Russia, only Britain's Daily Telegraph, Reuters, and EIR have covered this explosive development. The text of the Izvestia article, "On the Eve of Vancouver, Russia Proposes to the U.S.A. a Joint Plasma Weapon Experiment," written by Viktor Litovkin and translated for EIR by Rachel Douglas, follows.

The editorial board has learned that in the course of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's talks at the Vancouver summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton, our country may propose to conduct, on Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, a joint, large experiment on repulsing a missile attack.

Russian scientists, who have worked for a long time in top secret areas of defense, call this experiment "Doveriye" ["Trust"]. Participating in design of the experiment were

such scientific and production centers as the Scientific Research Institute of Experimental Physics from the closed city of Arzamas-16, TsAGI, the Central Scientific Research Institute of Machine-Building from Kaliningrad near Moscow, where our best missiles were produced, the Scientific Research Institute of Radio Equipment Construction which is part of the super-secret international joint-stock corporation "Vympel" ["Pennant"], leading institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and other collectives. ["International" is *mezghosudarstvenny* and means involving more than one state; it implies that people from countries other than Russia would be involved (likely, other countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union).—RBD]

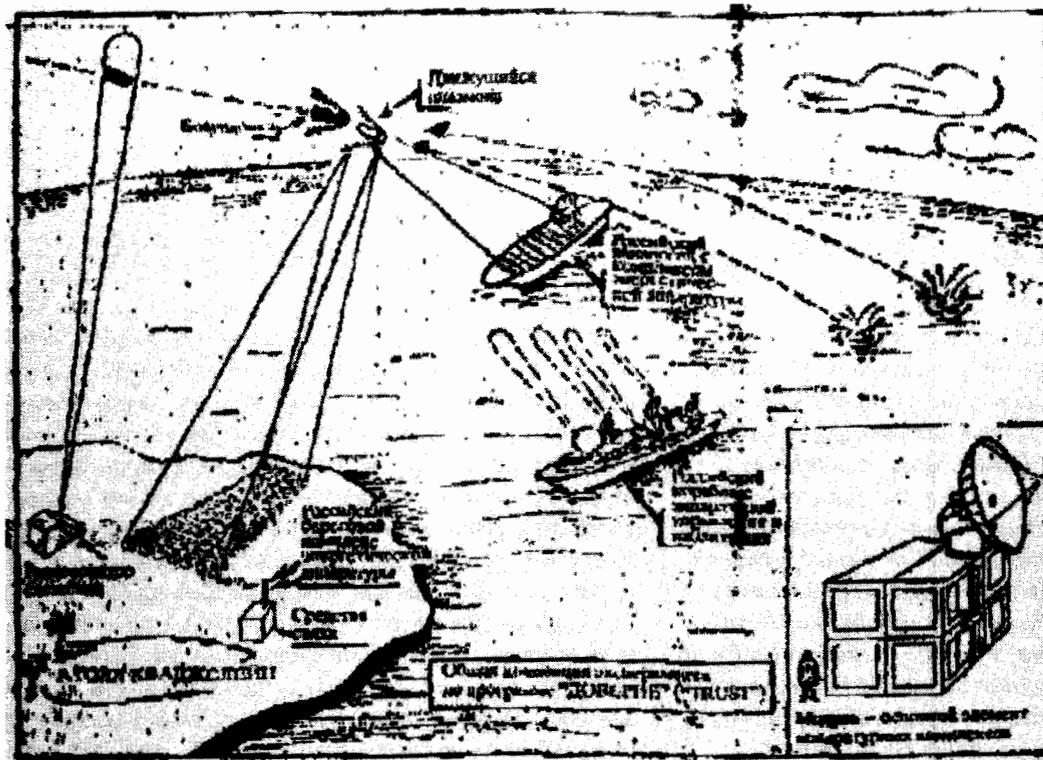
What is the essence of the planned experiment? Its scientific director, chief designer of the Scientific Research Institute of Radio Equipment Construction, Academician Rimili Avramenko, told me that it would be an experiment with a so-called "plasma weapon," which could strike any object moving in the Earth's atmosphere, be it a missile, its war-head, an aircraft, or some other artificial or natural celestial body like a meteor.

This would employ an already-existing technological base, without introducing any new components into space, taking advantage of such an object's own kinetic energy. A sort of electronic backheel [a method of tripping a wrestling opponent—RBD] will be set up for the object by a plasmoid, created by ground-based means—microwave or optical (laser) generators, antennas, and other systems.

The energy directed by the ground-based components of the weapon, as can be seen very well in the drawing we have provided, is concentrated not on the target itself, but on the area of the atmosphere directly in front of it, in its flight trajectory. It ionizes that area and completely disrupts the flight aerodynamics of the missile or aircraft. The object goes off its trajectory and is destroyed by monstrous overloads. It is practically impossible to parry such an effect of ground-based energy.

Academician Avramenko asserts that, in an anti-missile defense and anti-aircraft defense plasma weapon of this type, it becomes possible for the first time to combine in a single complex, the radar tracking means and the means of electronic guidance to the target, with a strike element [*porazhayushchi faktor*] at the speed of light—a plasmoid. This makes the plasmoid a practically invulnerable weapon of guaranteed defense against any attack from space, or from the upper or lower layers of the atmosphere.

Radar tracking means can locate the target or group of targets at a distance of hundreds of kilometers, while the plasmoid will destroy them at altitudes of up to 50 km, depending on the assignment. Furthermore, this does not require construction of big electric power stations; the energy of a few dozen ordinary accumulators for each of the powerful generators comprising the complex is entirely sufficient to make such a defense possible.



This drawing from Izvestia, titled "General Concept of the 'Trust' Experiment," shows a warhead on a trajectory over the Pacific near Kwajalein Atoll (lower left hand of the picture). Force lines are coming from two "power apparatuses," one on the atoll and one on a Russian aircraft carrier, to converge right in front of the warhead, where an open oval is labeled "moving plasmoid." Ground-based and sea-based tracking and guidance equipment is depicted.

Star wars or attacks by nuclear terrorists or other aggressors will be nothing fearsome for a country that possesses such a defensive superweapon. ["Star wars" here refers to SDI as treated in Soviet propaganda, i.e. subsuming a policy of putting offensive weapons into space.—RBD]

As we have already said, it has been created in Russia. Research on it has left the laboratory and entered the stage of full-scale experimentation. But to conduct a full-scale experiment with real targets—ballistic missiles or supersonic aircraft—requires big financial expenditures. So our country is proposing to the United States to pool efforts in this direction, and jointly to create a global system of anti-missile defense.

Rimili Avramenko believes that such an experiment could be conducted on America's Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, where the required material and technological base for this exists and where the U.S. military has already carried out experiments under the SDI program.

Russia would send the required equipment for this there, on its aircraft carriers and other ships. It is well known that it possesses significant achievements and advantages in the area of building powerful microwave generators (potential components of a plasma weapon) and in a new area of science—plasma gas dynamics. The U.S., meanwhile, would provide its solid state electronics and computer technology. The missiles for the experiment could be launched either from the territory of our country, or from U.S. firing ranges.

Such an experiment, in the opinion of the Russian scien-

tist, using our apparatus and proportional financial participation by the U.S. will be relatively inexpensive—only \$300 million. This is two orders of magnitude less than what the American budget provides for work on its plasma weapon. In the opinion of experts, if the U.S. continues to work on this problem independently, it will cost them \$30 billion. And this way, the military technology achievements of the two countries will be able to be employed for the common benefit not of them alone.

I asked the academician, whether the "Trust" project didn't violate the 1972 treaty limiting anti-missile systems [ABM Treaty], signed by both countries.

"No," he replied, "There is not one word there about joint work on global defense against missile attack. Twenty years ago, it could not have entered anyone's mind, that such a thing were possible. Back then, this was not only unscientific, but hostile fiction."

But even fictional projects can become reality. Not only in science and technology, but also in international political relations and even in the realm of international security in the defense sectors. True, some Russian experts doubt that the Americans will accept our proposal for a joint anti-missile experiment. People in the U.S., they say, don't like very much to acknowledge that the Russians are ahead [Rossiiskiyye priority] in a military matter, never mind helping them improve and proliferate such advantages.

But the thought occurs, that such apprehensions also belong to the refrains of yesterday.