

Strategic Defense of Earth: Russia To Put SDE at Top of Agenda

by Rachel Douglas

April 27—Vitali Davydov, deputy head of the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos), has become the latest Russian official to promote elements of a Strategic Defense of Earth (SDE) policy. Speaking yesterday at a scientific conference titled “Russia’s National Interests in the Context of Global Security,” Davydov proposed the creation of a Russian federal program to neutralize space threats. He said that the Russian Academy of Sciences should coordinate the effort, RIA Novosti reported.

The keynote speaker at the conference, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, announced that Russia will feature this aspect of SDE work at a major global security forum in June. Patrushev’s status as a longtime ally of Vladimir Putin, who will be President of Russia by that time, and as one of the Russian officials who has warned most incisively about the current danger of world war, accentuates the importance of his announcement.

Calling for the development of expanded capabilities against asteroids and comets that potentially present a danger to Earth, Davydov said: “Various means of acting on potentially dangerous space objects should be developed and perfected in space, both those using powerful one-time actions, and those employing weak influence over longer periods of time.” According to the Novosti report, Davydov also proposed that planning begin on research missions to potentially dangerous asteroids and comets, for the purpose of determining, and possibly intervening to change, their trajectories. Recently reported Russian Academy of Sciences recommendations for the Russian space program’s schedule over the next two decades include such a mission to the asteroid Apophis.

Davydov reviewed the various methods currently being studied for affecting asteroids, such as ones using lasers, ion or electron pulses, and gravitational tractors. Since some of these are “dual-use” technologies, he noted that “developing them in individual countries



Vitali Davydov

under national projects would probably lead to further tensions and an arms race in space.” Davydov thus implied the need for international cooperation in this area, as Patrushev also affirmed.

Russia Is Moving with Greater Confidence

An article in today’s issue of *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, the Russian government daily, featured Patrushev’s keynote to the conference, which provides context for Davydov’s speech. The event was held to mark the 20th anniversary of Russia’s Security Council. Noting that the anniversary coincides with Putin’s impending inauguration on May 8, Patrushev said that Russia is moving with greater confidence to participate in addressing global and regional problems. Twice, global security conferences initiated by Russia have been attended by over 50 countries, including the United States and China, he said, pointing to forums held in Sochi and Yekaterinburg in recent years. On their agendas were issues such as international terrorism, food security, and cyber-security. Now the Security Council is preparing a third such forum, which will take place in St. Petersburg on June 6-8.

Rossiyskaya Gazeta continued: “In addition to the traditional international security problems, entirely new threats will be discussed in Petersburg. For example, ones such as counteracting the asteroid danger. This is not a joke and not science fiction. The deputy head of the Federal Space Agency, Vitali Davydov, told the conference yesterday that space junk and the asteroid-comet danger are new challenges to civilization. Davydov noted that scientists have already been able to identify over 8,500 relatively large celestial bodies, mainly asteroids, with orbits passing dangerously close to Earth’s.

“Specialists estimate that a collision between Earth and an asteroid several hundred meters in diameter would lead to major regional destruction, while a strike by an asteroid larger in diameter than 0.8-1 km would

cause so-called ‘asteroid winter’ and the end of civilization. Furthermore, a collision with such a large asteroid would generate seismic waves, which could trigger eruptions of dormant volcanoes, as well as earthquakes. In 2004, the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona discovered an asteroid that will approach Earth at the relatively small distance of around 30,000 km in 2029. Scientists acknowledge that mankind has very limited abilities to combat asteroids, and that this will require the joint efforts of all nations.”

Patrushev’s Warnings

Before becoming Security Council head in 2008, Nikolai Patrushev headed the Federal Security Service (FSB) for nearly a decade. In January, this top Russian intelligence officer said in an interview with *Kommersant* daily, “There is a real danger of a U.S. military strike on Iran. He elaborated: “They use both economic embargo and massive help to the opposition forces,” adding that “for years we have been hearing that the Iranians are going to create an atomic bomb practically next week, [but] still nobody has proven the existence of a military component of Iran’s nuclear program.” He also warned against NATO intervention in Syria.

In a Jan. 12 released titled “What Russia’s Warning Means,” Lyndon LaRouche said: “This means war, thermonuclear war. The intention of Britain and the British-controlled United States, is to get a thermonuclear war, by launching a thermonuclear attack on Russia and China. That’s what these damn fools are playing with.”

One month earlier, in an interview with *Argumenty i Fakty* newspaper, Patrushev had warned of a global nuclear missile crisis. He stated that Moscow has no doubt that Russian and China are the targets of U.S. and NATO anti-ballistic missile systems in Europe.

Patrushev has consistently called for U.S.-Russian cooperation on key issues, his promotion of the SDE being the latest occasion. At the October 2010 Security Council-sponsored forum in Sochi, Russia, Patrushev hosted then-U.S. National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones. Responding to Russia’s longstanding call for serious anti-drug action, Jones told the audience of senior intelligence and enforcement officials from 43 countries that he would embrace an international campaign against multinational organized crime, with its overlap with drug cartels and narco-insurgencies. Jones abruptly left the Obama Administration within 48 hours of his return from Sochi.

A Strategic Defense of Humanity

Were the United States to eject Obama, and reciprocate Russia’s offer for an SDE (Strategic Defense of Earth), we would not only avert the danger of thermonuclear war in the short term, but we would eliminate the reason for humanity to ever go to war again. Peace, is not the negation of conflict; it’s an active commitment among all peoples to “the common aims of mankind.”
An LPAC video presented by Natalie Lovegren (12 minutes).

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