

Rogozin's Proposal for the Strategic Defense of Earth

Dmitri Rogozin, then Moscow's envoy to NATO, and now deputy prime minister, proposed in October 2011, that the deadlock over the stationing of a U.S. missile defense system in Eastern Europe could be broken with an alternative plan, providing for a joint system capable of protecting the planet both from missile threats and from threats coming from outer space, such as asteroids. His views were reported in the daily *Kommersant* on Oct. 18, and the story was widely covered in other Russian media.

The proposal, dubbed the Strategic Defense of Earth (SDE), would tend in the direction envisioned by Lyndon LaRouche in 1982 and earlier, in his plan for U.S.-Soviet cooperation in bringing an end to the era of Mutually Assured Destruction. The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) adopted by Ronald Reagan in March 1983 embodied LaRouche's proposal, but was rejected by the Soviet Union and sabotaged from within the United States.

According to coverage in the Oct. 18, 2011 *Russia Today*, the point of the current Russian initiative "is to focus on fighting threats coming from space rather than just missiles.... It would be an integration of anti-aircraft, missile, and space defenses.

"The system would be targeted against possible threats to Earth coming from space, including aster-

oids, comet fragments, and other alien bodies.... The system should be capable of both monitoring space and destroying any dangerous objects as they approach our planet."

According to *Kommersant's* sources, "one of the key elements of the Russian proposal is that the new Strategic Defense of Earth concept would have to be under UN control. The reason for this is obvious. Russia, as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, has veto power, and would therefore be able to fully monitor the project's development and prevent its transformation in an undesirable direction."

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev expressed interest in the proposal, and instructed one of his aides, Sergei Prikhodko, to work with Rogozin on it.

The English-language cable TV program "Russia Today" commented on Oct. 18: "The package of proposals has yet to be formalized. The idea has been nicknamed Strategic Defense of Earth, as an allusion to the Strategic Defense Initiative....

"The concept gives an opportunity to propose [to the U.S.] an even more global task to save the world. And also do it together with us rather than on their own, *Kommersant's* informant noted."

On March 5, 2012, Rogozin, who was by then deputy prime minister, said at a meeting with space experts in Korolyov that whereas presently there is no immediate danger posed by asteroids, "We have to imagine that our planet could collide with other celestial bodies, such as meteorites, sometime in the future."