

Rogozin: Put Asteroid Defense on G20 Agenda

April 12—In a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Deputy Prime Minister Dimitri Rogozin urged that the “Strategic Defense of the Earth” be placed high on the agenda of the next G20 meeting. Russia is presently chairing the G20, which will hold its next summit Sept. 8-9 in St. Petersburg.

In the letter, “leaked” to the newspaper *Izvestiya*, Rogozin wrote, “The scale of the task of neutralizing the asteroid threat requires the concentration of global intellectual resources and the scientific potential of Russia, the United States, and other countries of the world. . . . Such a program of coop-

eration will increase trust among nations and, at the same time, create the conditions for ending the confrontation over the missile defense program.” To conduct such a program, Rogozin is calling for the creation of a new structure under the auspices of the United Nations, which Rogozin calls a “space IAEA” [International Atomic Energy Agency].

Rogozin calls this “the project to save civilization from threats in space.”

In October 2011, Rogozin, then Russia’s ambassador to NATO, first proposed a Strategic Defense of Earth, in the context of resolving the conflict between the U.S. and Russia over NATO’s missile defense program. He reiterated the proposal in the immediate wake of the Chelyabinsk meteor incident in February. As far as is known, the U.S. Administration has yet to respond.